

Little River

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds



Welcome to Birding at Little River National Wildlife Refuge

Little River National Wildlife Refuge was established on February 10, 1987 to protect the largest remaining tract of bottomland hardwood forest in the state of Oklahoma. Currently it comprises 15,000 acres. The bottomland hardwood forest on the refuge is dissected by an intricate system of creeks, sloughs and oxbow lakes that creates a dynamic wetland forest environment extremely rich in wildlife abundance and diversity.

The refuge supports a large diversity of bird species that use the wetland forests as a place to nest and forage. The refuge is home to over 191 species of birds that spend all or part of the year here. The most colorful and abundant species present from spring to fall are the neotropical migrant songbirds. These birds utilize the diverse habitats on the refuge as migratory stopover sites and to nest and raise their young. Birders might view or hear the rare Swainson's warbler among the many birds on the refuge. This forest is one of the few known nesting locations in Oklahoma for this secretive songbird that winters in the Carribean. The large cypress trees, found along the sloughs and oxbow lakes, provide nesting habitat for great blue herons and egrets during spring and summer. The refuge also serves as the only Oklahoma destination for viewing nesting anhingas.

The checklist that follows is based on refuge observations and studies reported since 1941. Help us expand our list. If you see an unlisted or rare species during your visit, contact the Refuge Headquarters and provide a description and location of the observed bird. Birds do not recognize traditional calendar seasons, therefore, seasonal designations are intended as general guidelines. The 191 species are listed

in accordance with the 7th edition (1998) A.O.U. checklist and the 45th Supplement (July 2004). Eighty-five species have been documented as nesting on the refuge.



Great Egret with young.
Photograph by Paul W. Bozzo/SDWI.net

How to use your checklist

Symbols used in this list follow:

Occurrence

Sp Spring March - May

S Summer June - July

F Fall August - November

W Winter December - February

* Nesting species
(85 species).

Italics Federally endangered
or threatened species.

Abundance

A Abundant

A very numerous species.

C Common

Likely to be seen or heard in
suitable habitats.

U Uncommon

Present, not certain to be seen.

O Occasional

Seen only a few times during the
season.

R Rare

Unexpected, seen at intervals
of 2 to 5 years.

X Accidental

Fewer than 3 records; vagrants
outside their usual range.

Habitats

a Upland oak-pine forest

b Bottomland swamps oxbows

c Rivers, streams, or shoreline

d Marshes

e Old clear cuts or brush

f Open grasslands or fields

m Migrates overhead

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Ducks, Geese, and Swans					
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	O		O	O	m
___ Snow Goose	O		O	O	m
___ Canada Goose	O		O	O	m
___ Wood Duck*	C	U	C	C	b,c,d
___ Gadwall	U		C	C	b,c,d
___ American Wigeon	U		C	C	b,c,d
___ Mallard	U		C	C	b,c,d
___ Blue-winged Teal	U		U		b,c,d
___ Northern Shoveler	U		U	O	b,c,d
___ Northern Pintail	O		O	O	b,c,d
___ Green-winged Teal	U		U	U	b,c,d
___ Ring-necked Duck	O		O	O	c
___ Lesser Scaup	O		O	O	c
___ Bufflehead	O		O	O	c
___ Common Goldeneye	O		O	O	c
___ Hooded Merganser	U		U	U	b,c,d
___ Ruddy Duck	O		O	O	b,c,d
Turkeys					
___ Wild Turkey*	U	U	U	U	a,b,e,f
New World Quail					
___ Northern Bobwhite*	O	O	O	O	e,f
Grebes					
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	O		O	O	c
Pelicans					
___ American White Pelican	O		O		m



Anhinga, a common sight at Little River NWR.

Photograph by Berlin Heck

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Cormorants					
__ Double-crested Cormorant	U		U	U	c
Anhingas					
__ Anhinga*	O	O	O		b,c,d
Herons, Bitterns, and Egrets					
__ American Bittern	R		R		d
__ Least Bittern	R		R		d
__ Great Blue Heron*	C	C	C	O	b,c,d
__ Great Egret*	U	U	U		b,c,d
__ Snowy Egret	O	O	O		b,d
__ Little Blue Heron*	U	U	U		b,d
__ Cattle Egret	U	U	U		b,c,d
__ Green Heron	U	U	U		b,d
__ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	O	O	O		b,c,d
Ibis					
__ White-faced Ibis	R		R		d
Vultures					
__ Black Vulture*	C	C	C	C	a,b,f
__ Turkey Vulture*	C	C	C	C	a,b,f
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies					
__ Osprey	O		O		c
__ Mississippi Kite*	U	U	U		a,b
__ Bald Eagle	O		O	O	c,e,f
__ Northern Harrier	R		R		d,f
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U	a,b
__ Cooper's Hawk	U		U	U	a,b
__ Red-shouldered Hawk*	C	U	C	C	b
__ Broad-winged Hawk	O		O		a
__ Swainson's Hawk	O		O		m
__ Red-tailed Hawk*	U	U	U	U	a,b
__ Golden Eagle	O		O		m
Falcons					
__ American Kestrel	O	O	O	O	f
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots					
__ Virginia Rail	R		R	O	d
__ Sora	R		R		d
__ American Coot	O		O	O	b,c,d
Plovers					
__ Killdeer*	U	U	U	O	d,f
Sandpipers and Allies					
__ Greater Yellowlegs	R		R		d
__ Lesser Yellowlegs	R		R		d
__ Solitary Sandpiper	R		R		b,c,d
__ Spotted Sandpiper	R		R		d
__ Least Sandpiper	R		R		d
__ American Woodcock*	O	R	O	O	b,d,e,f
Gulls and Terns					
__ Franklin's Gull	O		O		m
__ Ring-billed Gull	O		O		m

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Pigeons and Doves					
___ Mourning Dove*	U	U	U	U	e,f
Cuckoos and Roadrunners					
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	O		O		a,b
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	C	C	C		a,b
Typical Owls					
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	O	O	O	O	a
___ Great Horned Owl*	O	O	O	O	a
___ Barred Owl*	C	C	C	C	a,b
Goatsuckers					
___ Common Nighthawk*	U	C	U		f
___ Chuck-will's-widow*	C	C	C		a,b
Swifts					
___ Chimney Swift*	U	U	U		a
Hummingbirds					
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	C	C	C		a,b,e
Kingfishers					
___ Belted Kingfisher*	O	O	O	O	b,c
Woodpeckers					
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	O	O	O	O	a,b
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C	a,b
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U	a,b
___ Downy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C	a,b
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	O	O	O	O	a,b
___ Northern Flicker*	C	U	C	C	a,b
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U	a,b
Tyrant Flycatchers					
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O		a,b
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	C	C	C		a,b,c
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	C	C	U		b
___ Least Flycatcher	O		O		a,b,e
___ Eastern Phoebe*	U	O	U	U	a,b,e
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	C	C	C		a,b
___ Eastern Kingbird*	C	C	U		a,e
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	U	U	U		e,f
Shrikes					
___ Loggerhead Shrike	R	R	R	R	f
Vireos					
___ White-eyed Vireo*	C	C	U		b,e
___ Bell's Vireo*	O	R	O		e
___ Blue-headed Vireo	O		O	O	a,b
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	U	U	U		a,b
___ Warbling Vireo*	U	U	U		a,b,e
___ Philadelphia Vireo	R		R		a,b
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	C	C	U		a,b
Crows and Jays					
___ Blue Jay*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e
___ American Crow*	C	C	C	C	a,e
___ Fish Crow*	C	C	C	O	b,c,d

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Swallows					
___ Purple Martin*	U	U	U		f
___ Tree Swallow	U		U		m
___ No. Rough-winged Swallow	O		O		f
___ Bank Swallow	U		U		m
___ Cliff Swallow	O		O		f
___ Barn Swallow	U		U		f
Chickadees and Titmice					
___ Carolina Chickadee*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e,f
___ Tufted Titmouse*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e,f
Nuthatches					
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	O		O	O	a
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	U	U	U	U	a,b
Creepers					
___ Brown Creeper	U		U	U	a,b
Wrens					
___ Carolina Wren*	C	C	C	U	a,b,e
___ Bewick's Wren	O		O	O	a,b,e
___ House Wren	O		O		a,b,e
___ Winter Wren	U		U	U	b
___ Sedge Wren	R		R	R	d
___ Marsh Wren	R		R	R	d
Kinglets					
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U	a,b,e
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C	a,b,e
Gnatcatchers					
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	C	C	U		a,b,e



Painted Bunting.
Photography by Charles H. Heck.

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Thrushes					
___ Eastern Bluebird*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e
___ Veery	R		R		a,b
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	R		R		a,b
___ Swainson's Thrush	C		U		a,b
___ Hermit Thrush	C		C	C	a,b
___ Wood Thrush*	U	U	U		a,b
___ American Robin*	C	C	U	C	a,b,f
Mockingbirds and Thrashers					
___ Gray Catbird*	U	U	U	R	b,e
___ Northern Mockingbird*	O	O	O	O	e,f
___ Brown Thrasher*	C	C	C	U	a,b,e,f
Waxwings					
___ Cedar Waxwing	U	U		U	a,b
Starlings					
___ European Starling*	O	O	O	O	f
Wood-Warblers					
___ Blue-winged Warbler	R		R		b,c
___ Tennessee Warbler	U		O		a
___ Golden-winged Warbler	R		R		a,b
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	O	a,b,e
___ Nashville Warbler	U		U		a,b,e
___ Northern Parula*	C	U	O		a,b
___ Yellow Warbler	O		O		a,b,e
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	O		O		a,b,e
___ Magnolia Warbler	O		O		a,b,e
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	U		C	U	a,b,e
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	U		O		a,b,e
___ Blackburnian Warbler	O		O		a,b,e
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	C	U	U		a,b,e
___ Pine Warbler*	C	U	C	C	a
___ Prairie Warbler*	O	O	O		a,b,e
___ Blackpoll Warbler	R		R		a,b,e
___ Cerulean Warbler	R	R			a,b,e
___ Black-and-white Warbler*	C	U	U		a,b,e
___ American Redstart*	U	O	U		a,b,e
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	C	C	U		b,c
___ Worm-eating Warbler	R		R		b,c
___ Swainson's Warbler*	U	U	R		b,c
___ Ovenbird	U		U		b,c
___ Northern Waterthrush	O		O		b,c
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*	U	U	U		b,c
___ Kentucky Warbler*	C	C	U		b,c
___ Mourning Warbler	R		R		a,b,e
___ Common Yellowthroat*	U	U	U	R	b,c,d
___ Hooded Warbler*	C	C	C		b,c
___ Wilson's Warbler	O		O		b,c
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	C	C	O		e,f

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Tanagers					
___ Summer Tanager*	C	C	C		a,b
___ Scarlet Tanager	R		R		a,b
Towhees, Sparrows, and Allies					
___ Eastern Towhee	U		U	U	e,f
___ Spotted Towhee	O		O	O	e,f
___ Chipping Sparrow*	U	U	U	O	e,f
___ Field Sparrow*	U	U	U	U	e,f
___ Lark Sparrow*	R	R	R		e,f
___ Savannah Sparrow	O		R	R	e,f
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	R		R	R	a,e,f
___ Fox Sparrow	O		U	U	a,b,e,f
___ Song Sparrow	C		C	C	a,b,e,f
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	O	a,b,e,f
___ Swamp Sparrow	U		U	U	b,d,e,f
___ White-thr. Sparrow	C		C	C	a,b,e,f
___ White-cr. Sparrow	O		O	O	a,b,e,f
___ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	a,b,e,f
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings					
___ Northern Cardinal*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	O		O		a,b
___ Blue Grosbeak*	U	U	O		a,b,e
___ Indigo Bunting*	C	C	C		a,b,e
___ Painted Bunting	R		R		a,b,e
Blackbirds					
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	C	U	C	C	c,d,e,f
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	O	O	O	O	f
___ Rusty Blackbird	O		O	O	b,c,d,f
___ Common Grackle*	C	C	C	O	b,d,e,f
___ Brown-hd. Cowbird*	U	U	U	U	a,d,e,f
___ Orchard Oriole*	U	U	O		a,b,e,f
___ Baltimore Oriole*	U	U	O		a,b,e
Finches					
___ Purple Finch	O		U	U	a,b,e,f
___ Pine Siskin	O		O	U	a,b,e,f
___ American Goldfinch*	U	U	U	U	a,b,e,f
___ House Finch	R	R	R	R	a,b,e,f



Pine Warbler

Photograph by Paul W. Bozzo/SDWI.net

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://southwest.fws.gov>

For information on the
National Wildlife Refuge System
1 800/344-WILD

August 2005

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Photograph © by Charles H. Heck

