



# Chincoteague

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Birds

#### Introduction

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge consists of sandy beach backed by a series of low dunes. During the summer our beaches become a nesting area for various species including the American oystercatcher, least terns, black skimmers, and the threatened piping plover. Chincoteague NWR is one of the country's top five shorebird migration staging areas east of the Rocky Mountains.

Behind the dunes, shrub habitat extends north and south gradually merging into an upland forest community. The shrub habitat and upland forest support landbirds and game birds including the northern flicker, eastern towhee, and northern bobwhite.

Leaving the forest for the west edge of the island, the landscape falls away to expansive salt marshes that border the Chincoteague Bay. Secretive marsh birds including the clapper rail and green heron are outstanding marvels of the salt marsh.

Another facet of the refuge is the fresh-water impoundments. More than 2,600 acres of shallow freshwater moist soil impoundments are managed to provide wetland vegetation and mudflats as year round foraging areas and cover for varieties of waterfowl, shorebirds, and other waterbirds during migrations. Along with roadside ditches, impoundments provide resting, feeding, and brood-rearing habitat for wading birds such as great blue herons and snowy egrets.

This brochure lists 277 birds that have been identified on the refuge since 2008 and is in accordance with the Seventh American Ornithologists' Union Checklist.



Bill Thompson/USFWS

Least sandpiper

Most birds are migratory, therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

#### Season

<b>Sp</b>	spring	March – May
<b>S</b>	summer	June – August
<b>F</b>	fall	September – November
<b>W</b>	winter	December – February

\*Birds known to nest on or near the refuge

*Italics indicate threatened/ endangered species*

#### Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

- a abundant: a species which is very numerous
- c common: likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
- u uncommon: present, but not certain to be seen
- o occasional: seen only a few times during a season
- r rare: may be present but not every year

#### Ducks, Geese, & Swans

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Greater White-fronted Goose				r
___ Greater Snow Goose	c	r	c	c
___ Ross's Goose	r		r	u
___ Brant	c	r	c	c
___ Cackling Goose	u	u		
___ Canada Goose*	c	c	a	c
___ Mute Swan*	o	o	o	o
___ Tundra Swan	c		c	c
___ Wood Duck*	u	u	u	r
___ Gadwall*	c	o	c	c
___ Eurasian Wigeon			r	r
___ American Wigeon	c	r	c	c
___ American Black Duck*	c	c	c	c
___ Mallard*	c	c	c	a
___ Blue-winged Teal*	c	u	c	o
___ Northern Shoveler	c	o	c	c
___ Northern Pintail	c	r	c	c
___ Green-winged Teal	c	o	c	c
___ Canvasback				r
___ Redhead				r
___ Ring-necked Duck				u
___ Greater Scaup	r		r	
___ Lesser Scaup	r		u	
___ Common Eider			r	
___ White-winged Scoter	u		u	c



Great egret

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Surf Scoter	o	o	o	
___ Black Scoter	u	u	c	
___ Long-tailed Duck			o	
___ Bufflehead	c	o	c	c
___ Common Goldeneye			o	o
___ Hooded Merganser	o	u	o	
___ Common Merganser			r	r
___ Red-breasted Merganser	u	r	o	c
___ Ruddy Duck	u	r	o	c
<b>Turkey &amp; Quail</b>				
___ Wild Turkey*	o	o	o	o
___ Northern Bobwhite*	u	c	o	o
<b>Loons &amp; Grebes</b>				
___ Red-throated Loon	c	u	c	
___ Common Loon	c	r	c	c
___ Pied-billed Grebe	u	u	c	
___ Horned Grebe	u	r	u	c
___ Red-necked Grebe			r	
<b>Shearwaters &amp; Storm-Petrels</b>				
___ Cory's Shearwater	r	r	r	
___ Sooty Shearwater		r	r	
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel	r	r		
<b>Gannet, Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>				
___ Northern Gannet	c	o	o	u
___ American White Pelican	r	r	r	r
___ Brown Pelican*	u	c	o	u
___ Double-crested Cormorant*	a	a	a	u
___ Great Cormorant	r	r	r	r
<b>Bitterns, Herons &amp; Ibises</b>				
___ American Bittern	o	o	o	
___ Least Bittern*	r	r		
___ Great Blue Heron*	a	c	a	a
___ Great Egret*	a	a	a	a
___ Snowy Egret*	c	a	a	u
___ Little Blue Heron*	c	c	c	u
___ Tricolored Heron*	c	c	c	o
___ Cattle Egret*	o	c	c	
___ White Egret sp.		r	r	
___ Green Heron*	o	a	c	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	o	o	o	o

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	r	u	r	
___ White Ibis*	u	c	u	u
___ Glossy Ibis*	c	a	o	u
___ White-faced Ibis	r	r		
<b>Vultures, Hawks &amp; Falcons</b>				
___ Black Vulture*	o	o	o	o
___ Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c
___ Osprey*	c	c	c	r
___ Bald Eagle*	o	o	c	c
___ Northern Harrier*	u	r	c	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	o	o	u	c
___ Cooper's Hawk	o	o	o	
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	o	o	u	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	o	o	o	c
___ American Kestrel	o	r	o	o
___ Merlin	u	r	o	u
___ Peregrine Falcon	u	u	o	u
<b>Rails &amp; Cranes</b>				
___ Clapper Rail*	o	u	o	o
___ King Rail	r	r	r	r
___ Virginia Rail*	r	r	r	r
___ Sora	r	r		
___ Common Gallinule	r			
___ American Coot	o	u	o	
<b>Plovers &amp; Sandpipers</b>				
___ Black-bellied Plover	c	c	c	c
___ American Golden-Plover	r	r		
___ Wilson's Plover*		r		
___ Semipalmated Plover	c	a	c	r
___ Piping Plover*	o	o	o	
___ Killdeer*	o	o	u	u
___ American Oystercatcher*	c	c	c	o
___ Black-necked Stilt*	o	u		
___ American Avocet	o	u	o	o
___ Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	o	
___ Solitary Sandpiper		o	o	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	c	c
___ Willet*	c	c	c	c
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	u	u
___ Whimbrel	u	u	o	
___ Black-tailed Godwit	r	r		
___ Hudsonian Godwit		r	o	
___ Marbled Godwit	u	u	u	u
___ Ruddy Turnstone	o	c	o	o
___ Red Knot	r	o	r	r
___ Sanderling	u	c	o	o
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	c	u	
___ Western Sandpiper	o	r	o	o
___ Least Sandpiper	c	c	u	
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	o	o	r	
___ Baird's Sandpiper		r	r	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	o	o	u	
___ Dunlin	c	o	u	c
___ Stilt Sandpiper	r	o		
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r	r		
___ Ruff	r	r		
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	u	c	u	u
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	r	r	r	o
___ Wilson's Snipe	r	r	r	u
___ American Woodcock*			r	
___ Wilson's Phalarope		r	r	
___ Red-necked Phalarope		r		
<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Auks</b>				
___ Bonaparte's Gull	r	r	u	
___ Black-headed Gull	o	o	o	
___ Laughing Gull*	a	a	c	r



Bald eagle

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	a
___ Herring Gull*	c	c	c	a
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull	u	u	u	o
___ Great Black-backed Gull*	c	c	c	c
___ Least Tern*	c	r		
___ Gull-billed Tern*	o	o	r	r
___ Caspian Tern*	r	o	c	
___ Black Tern		u	r	
___ Royal Tern*	u	c	c	
___ Sandwich Tern*		u	o	
___ Common Tern*	o	c	o	
___ Forster's Tern*	a	a	a	u
___ Black Skimmer*	u	c	o	
___ Dovekie		r	r	
___ Razorbill				r
<b>Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, Swifts &amp; Hummingbirds</b>				
___ Rock Pigeon	o	o	o	o
___ Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	r	o	o	
___ Black-billed Cuckoo*	r	u	r	r
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl			o	o
___ Barn Owl*	r	r	r	r
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	o	o	o	o
___ Great Horned Owl*	o	o	o	o
___ Snowy Owl				r
___ Barred Owl*	o	o	o	o
___ Long-eared Owl				r
___ Short-eared Owl				o
___ Common Nighthawk		o		
___ Chuck-will's-widow*	o	o		
___ Chimney Swift*		o	r	
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	r	o	r	
___ Belted Kingfisher*	c	r	c	c
<b>Woodpeckers &amp; Flycatchers</b>				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	r	o	r	
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	o	o	o	o
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	r	o	o	
___ Downy Woodpecker*	r	o	r	r
___ Hairy Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
___ Northern Flicker*	o	o	c	o

	Sp	S	F	W										
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	o	o	c	o	___ Yellow-throated Warbler	r	r	r	___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	c	a	u	o	
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	r				___ Pine Warbler*	o	o	o	o	___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	u	o	r	r
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	u	u	o		___ Prairie Warbler*	r	r	r	r	___ Orchard Oriole*	r	o	r	
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	r	r			___ Palm Warbler	r		o	r	___ Baltimore Oriole	r	r	r	
___ Eastern Phoebe*	r	o	o	r	___ Bay-breasted Warbler	r				___ Purple Finch	r	r		
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	u	o	o		___ Blackpoll Warbler	r	r			___ House Finch*	o	o	o	o
___ Eastern Kingbird*	u	o	o		___ Black-and-white Warbler		r	o		___ Pine Siskin			r	r
<b>Vireos</b>					___ American Redstart	r		o		___ American Goldfinch*	o	c	o	o
___ White-eyed Vireo*	r	o	r		___ Prothonotary Warbler	r	r	r	r	___ House Sparrow	r	o	r	r
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	r	r	r		___ Worm-eating Warbler	r								
___ Blue-headed Vireo	r		r		___ Ovenbird*	r	o	r		<b>Accidental Species</b>				
___ Philadelphia Vireo			r		___ Northern Waterthrush			r		These additional 21 species have been seen				
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	o	o	o		___ Louisiana Waterthrush			r		only once or twice on the refuge:				
<b>Jays, Crows, Larks &amp; Swallows</b>					___ Common Yellowthroat*	o	o	o	r	___ Eared Grebe				
___ Blue Jay*	o	o	u	o	___ Hooded Warbler		r			___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck				
___ American Crow*	u	u	u	u	___ Wilson's Warbler			r		___ Greater White-fronted Goose				
___ Fish Crow*	u	c	o	o	___ Canada Warbler	r				___ King Eider				
___ Horned Lark *	r	r	r	r	___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	r	o	o		___ White-cheeked Pintail				
___ Purple Martin*	o	o	r		<b>Tanagers, Sparrows &amp; Allies</b>					___ Little Egret				
___ Tree Swallow *	c	c	u	r	___ Scarlet Tanager	r	r	r		___ Great Shearwater				
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow	r	r	r		___ Summer Tanager*	r	o	o		___ Rough-legged Hawk				
___ Bank Swallow	r	r			___ Eastern Towhee*	o	o	o	o	___ Black Rail				
___ Barn Swallow	c	a	r		___ American Tree Sparrow	r				___ Purple Gallinule				
<b>Chickadees, Nuthatches &amp; Wrens</b>					___ Chipping Sparrow*	o	o	o	r	___ Curlew Sandpiper				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	o	o	o	o	___ Clay-colored Sparrow			r		___ Red Phalarope				
___ Tufted Titmouse	o	o	r	r	___ Field Sparrow*	r	o	o	r	___ Iceland Gull				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	r		u	o	___ Lark Sparrow			r		___ Eastern whip-poor-will				
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	o	o	o	o	___ Savannah Sparrow	o	r	o	o	___ Willow Flycatcher				
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch*	u	u	u	u	___ Grasshopper Sparrow	r		r		___ Western Kingbird				
___ Brown Creeper	o	o	o	o	___ Nelson's Sparrow	r		r		___ Warbling Vireo				
___ Carolina Wren*	o	o	o	o	___ Saltmarsh Sparrow*	r	o	o	r	___ Cave Swallow				
___ House Wren*	u	u	u	u	___ Seaside Sparrow*	o	o	o	o	___ Golden-winged Warbler				
___ Winter Wren				o	___ Fox Sparrow	o		o	o	___ Vesper Sparrow				
___ Sedge Wren	r		r		___ Song Sparrow*	o	o	o	c	___ Dickcissel				
___ Marsh Wren	r	r	r		___ Lincoln's Sparrow	r		r		<b>Notes</b>				
<b>Kinglets, Thrushes &amp; Thrashers</b>					___ Swamp Sparrow	o		o	u	Location _____				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		o		___ White-throated Sparrow	o		o	c	Date _____ Time _____				
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r		r		___ White-crowned Sparrow			r	r	Observers _____				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	r	r	r		___ Dark-eyed Junco	r	r	o	o	Weather _____				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	r	r	r	r	___ Snow Bunting				r	_____				
___ Veery			r		___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c	_____				
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	r		r		___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r		r		_____				
___ Swainson's Thrush			o		___ Blue Grosbeak*	o	o	o		_____				
___ Hermit Thrush	r		o	o	___ Indigo Bunting*	u	c	o		_____				
___ Wood Thrush*	r	o	r	r	<b>Blackbirds &amp; Finches</b>					_____				
___ American Robin*	c	c	o	o	___ Bobolink				r	_____				
___ Gray Catbird*	o	o	o	u	___ Red-winged Blackbird*	c	a	c	c	<b>Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge</b>				
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	o	o	o	___ Eastern Meadowlark*	o	r	o	r	<b>8231 Beach Road</b>				
___ Brown Thrasher*	o	o	o	o	___ Rusty Blackbird			r	r	<b>P.O. Box 62</b>				
<b>Starlings, Pipits &amp; Waxwings</b>					___ Common Grackle*	o	a	o	o	<b>Chincoteague Island, VA 23336-0062</b>				
___ European Starling*	o	o	o	o						<b>757/336 6122</b>				
___ American Pipit			r	o						<b>757/336 5273 Fax</b>				
___ Cedar Waxwing	r	o	o	r						<b>email: fw5rw_cnwr@fws.gov</b>				
<b>Warblers</b>										<b>www.fws.gov/refuge/Chincoteague</b>				
___ Blue-Winged Warbler			r							<b>Virginia Relay Center</b>				
___ Tennessee Warbler			r							<b>1 800/828 1120 TDD</b>				
___ Nashville Warbler			r							<b>1 800/828 1140 voice</b>				
___ Northern Parula*	r		r							<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>				
___ Yellow Warbler*	r	o	r							<b>http://www.fws.gov</b>				
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		r							<b>For Refuge Information</b>				
___ Magnolia Warbler	r		o							<b>1 800/344 WILD</b>				
___ Cape May Warbler			r							<b>March 2015</b>				
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	r	o	o											
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	a										
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	r		r											
___ Blackburnian Warbler	r		o											



Northern cardinal

Bill Thompson/USFWS