

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge  
3100 Desert Road  
Suffolk, VA 23434  
757/986 3705  
757/986 2353 Fax  
[www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp)  
[facebook.com/greatdismalswamp](https://www.facebook.com/greatdismalswamp)

Federal Relay Service  
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing  
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>

October 2012



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Great Dismal Swamp

*National Wildlife  
Refuge*

*Birds*



Swainson's warbler  
USFWS

## Introduction



This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

*Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 550 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The refuge, established by Congress in 1974, consists of over 112,000 acres of forested wetlands. Lake Drummond, at 3,100 acres is the larger of two natural lakes found in Virginia, lies at the refuge's center. The refuge was established to protect and restore the biologically important Great Dismal Swamp ecosystem. Within that mission a primary concern is to provide protected habitat for migratory birds.*

*Birding is popular in the refuge April through June, but is best from early-April to late-May, the peak of the spring neo-tropical bird migration. As many as thirty five species of warblers have been observed and provide the principal attraction.*

*Downy Woodpecker*



David Schneider

This brochure lists more than 210 birds that have been identified on the refuge, and is in accordance with the Seventh American Ornithologists Union Checklist.

Most birds are migratory and their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are 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

### Relative Abundance

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

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

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Snow Goose _____	c		u	c
_____ • Canada Goose _____	c	u	c	c
_____ Brant _____		r	r	
_____ Tundra Swan _____	c		u	c
_____ • Wood Duck _____	c	c	c	c
_____ Gadwall _____	o		o	o
_____ American Wigeon _____	o		o	o
_____ American Black Duck _____	u	o	c	c
_____ • Mallard _____	u		u	u
_____ Blue-winged Teal _____	r		u	r
_____ Northern Pintail _____	o		o	o
_____ Green-winged Teal _____	u		u	u
_____ Canvasback _____	r		r	o
_____ Redhead _____	r		o	o
_____ Ring-necked Duck _____	c		c	c
_____ Lesser Scaup _____	c		u	c
_____ Bufflehead _____	u		u	o
_____ Common Goldeneye _____	r			
_____ • Hooded Merganser _____	c	r	c	c
_____ Common Merganser _____	o			o
_____ Red-breasted Merganser _____	o			o
_____ Ruddy Duck _____	u		c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Gallinaceous Birds</b>				
___ • Wild Turkey _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Bobwhite _____	c	c	c	c
<b>Loons</b>				
___ Common Loon _____	o		r	o
<b>Grebes</b>				
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u		u	u
___ Horned Grebe _____	r		r	o
<b>Cormorants</b>				
___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	c	c	c
<b>Anhingas</b>				
___ Anhinga _____	o	r		



*Brown-headed nuthatch*

<b>Bitterns – Herons – Egrets</b>				
___ American Bittern _____	r	r	r	r
___ • Great Blue Heron _____	c	a	c	c
___ • Great Egret _____	c	a	o	o
___ Snowy Egret _____	o	o		
___ Little Blue Heron _____	r			
___ Cattle Egret _____	o	o	r	
___ • Green Heron _____	c	c	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	u		
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	o	o		
<b>Ibises</b>				
___ White Ibis _____	r	r	r	
<b>New World Vultures</b>				
___ • Black Vulture _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Turkey Vulture _____	a	a	a	a



*Mourning dove*

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Osprey - Kites - Hawks - Eagles</b>				
___ Osprey _____	u	r	r	
___ Swallow-tailed Kite _____	r			
___ Mississippi Kite _____	r	o		
___ • Bald Eagle _____	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Harrier _____	u		o	
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u		c	u
___ • Cooper's Hawk _____	u	r	c	u
___ • Red-shouldered Hawk _____	c	c	c	c
___ Broad-winged Hawk _____	u	u	u	
___ • Red-tailed Hawk _____	u	u		c
___ Golden Eagle _____			r	r
<b>Falcons</b>				
___ • American Kestrel _____	c	r	u	c
___ Merlin _____	r			
<b>Rails</b>				
___ King Rail _____	r	r	r	r
___ Virginia Rail _____				r
___ Sora _____	r	r		
___ American Coot _____	o			o
<b>Plovers</b>				
___ Semipalmated Plover _____	r		r	
___ • Killdeer _____	c	c	c	c
<b>Avocets</b>				
___ American Avocet _____				acc
<b>Sandpipers - Phalaropes</b>				
___ Greater Yellowlegs _____	r		r	r
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	o		o	o
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	r		r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Whimbrel _____	r			
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	r		r	
___ Western Sandpiper _____				r

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Least Sandpiper _____			r	r
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____			r	
___ Common Snipe _____	o		o	o
___ • American Woodcock _____	u	u	u	r

### Skuas - Jaegers – Gulls – Terns

___ Laughing Gull _____	u	u		
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	c		c	c
___ Herring Gull _____	u			u
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____				o
___ Great Black-backed Gull _____	o			o
___ Caspian Tern _____	o		u	
___ Royal Tern _____	o		u	
___ Common Tern _____				o
___ Forster's Tern _____				o
___ Black Tern _____			r	
___ Bonaparte's Gull _____				o

### Doves

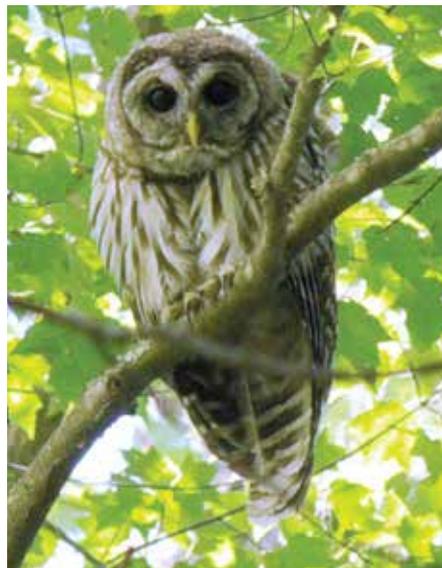
___ Rock Pigeon _____	r	r		
___ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c

### Cuckoos

___ Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o		o	
___ • Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	u	

### Typical Owls

___ • Eastern Screech-Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Great Horned Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Barred Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl _____				r



Barred owl

USFWS

### Nightjars

___ Common Nighthawk _____	r		r	
___ • Chuck-will's-widow _____	u	u	u	
___ • Whip-poor-will _____	o	o		

### Swifts

___ • Chimney Swift _____	c	c	c	
---------------------------	---	---	---	--

### Hummingbirds

___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	u	
---------------------------------------	---	---	---	--

### Kingfishers

___ • Belted Kingfisher _____	c	c	c	c
-------------------------------	---	---	---	---



Eastern Kingbird

USFWS

### Woodpeckers

___ • Red-headed Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	a	a	a	a
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	c		o	c
___ • Downy Woodpecker _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Hairy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Flicker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Pileated Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c

### Tyrant Flycatchers

___ • Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	a	a		
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	r			
___ • Acadian Flycatcher _____	c	c		
___ Alder Flycatcher _____	r			
___ Willow Flycatcher _____	r			
___ Least Flycatcher _____	r			
___ • Eastern Phoebe _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	c	
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____	u	u	u	

### Vireos

___ • White-eyed Vireo _____	a	a	c	u
___ • Yellow-throated Vireo _____	c	c	u	
___ Blue-headed Vireo _____	u		u	c
___ Warbling Vireo _____	o		r	
___ Philadelphia Vireo _____	o		r	
___ • Red-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	u	

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Crows - Jays</b>				
___ • Blue Jay _____	c	c	c	c
___ • American Crow _____	c	c	c	c
___ Fish Crow _____	c	u	u	c

<b>Swallows</b>				
___ Purple Martin _____	u	u		
___ • Tree Swallow _____	u	o	u	
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	r	r	o	
___ Bank Swallow _____	r			
___ Cliff Swallow _____	r		r	
___ • Barn Swallow _____	c	c		

<b>Titmice – Chickadees</b>				
___ • Carolina Chickadee _____	a	a	a	a
___ Black-capped Chickadee _____			r	r
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____	c	c	c	c

<b>Nuthatches</b>				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____			o	
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Brown-headed Nuthatch _____	u	u	u	u

<b>Creepers</b>				
___ Brown Creeper _____	u		u	u

<b>Wrens</b>				
___ • Carolina Wren _____	a	a	a	a
___ House Wren _____	o			
___ Winter Wren _____	u		u	u
___ Marsh Wren _____			r	r

<b>Kinglets</b>				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u		o	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	c		u	c

<b>Old World Warblers</b>				
___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	c	c	u	

<b>Thrushes</b>				
___ • Eastern Bluebird _____	u	o	u	u
___ Veery _____	u			
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	u		o	
___ Bicknell's Thrush _____	r			
___ Swainson's Thrush _____	u		o	
___ Hermit Thrush _____	c		u	c
___ • Wood Thrush _____	c	c		
___ • American Robin _____	a	c	a	a

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Mimic Thrushes</b>				
___ • Gray Catbird _____	c	a	a	c
___ • Northern Mockingbird _____	u	c	u	u
___ • Brown Thrasher _____	u	c	c	u

<b>Starlings</b>				
___ European Starling _____	u	o	u	u

<b>Pipits</b>				
___ American Pipit _____	r			r

<b>Waxwings</b>				
___ Cedar Waxwing _____	c	u	u	c

<b>Wood Warblers</b>				
___ Blue-winged Warbler _____	u		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler _____	r			
___ Tennessee Warbler _____	r		o	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler _____	u		u	c
___ Nashville Warbler _____	r		o	
___ • Northern Parula _____	c	c	u	
___ • Yellow Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	u		o	
___ Magnolia Warbler _____	u		u	
___ Cape May Warbler _____	u		u	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	c		c	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	c		c	c
___ • Black-throated Green Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler _____	o		o	
___ • Yellow-throated Warbler _____	c	c	u	
___ • Pine Warbler _____	a	c	c	c
___ • Prairie Warbler _____	a	a	u	r
___ Palm Warbler _____	u			u



*Prairie warbler*



USFWS

*Prothonotary warbler*

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Bay-breasted Warbler _____	o		o	u
___ Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		o	
___ Cerulean Warbler _____	o			
• Black-and-white Warbler _____	c	c	c	u
• American Redstart _____	c	c		
• Prothonotary Warbler _____	a	a	c	
• Worm-eating Warbler _____	c	c	u	
• Swainson's Warbler _____	c	c	u	
• Ovenbird _____	a	a	c	
___ Northern Waterthrush _____	c		r	
• Louisiana Waterthrush _____	c	c	u	
___ Kentucky Warbler _____	r	r	r	
___ Mourning Warbler _____	r			
• Common Yellowthroat _____	a	a	c	u
• Hooded Warbler _____	a	a	c	
___ Wilson's Warbler _____	r		r	
___ Canada Warbler _____	o		o	
• Yellow-breasted Chat _____	c	c	u	

### Tanagers

___ • Summer Tanager _____	c	c	u	
___ • Scarlet Tanager _____	u	r	u	

### Sparrows - Towhees

___ • Eastern Towhee _____	a	a	a	a
___ • American Tree Sparrow _____			r	r
___ • Chipping Sparrow _____	u	u	o	c
___ • Field Sparrow _____	u			u
___ • Vesper Sparrow _____			r	r
___ • Savannah Sparrow _____	u		u	u
___ • Fox Sparrow _____	u			u
• Song Sparrow _____	c	u	c	c
___ • Lincoln's Sparrow _____	o			o
___ • Swamp Sparrow _____	c	r	c	c
___ • White-throated Sparrow _____	a		c	a
___ • White-crowned Sparrow _____	o			o
___ • Dark-eyed Junco _____	a		c	a

### Cardinals - Grosbeaks - Allies

	Sp	S	F	W
___ • Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u			
___ • Blue Grosbeak _____	u	u	u	
___ • Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	u	

### Blackbirds - Orioles

___ • Bobolink _____	u		u	
___ • Red-winged Blackbird _____	c	u	c	a
___ • Eastern Meadowlark _____	r	o	o	o
___ • Rusty Blackbird _____	u		u	u
___ • Brewer's Blackbird _____	r			r
___ • Common Grackle _____	c	c	c	a
___ • Boat-tailed Grackle _____	o		o	o
___ • Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Orchard Oriole _____	u	u		
___ • Baltimore Oriole _____	u		o	r

### Finches

___ • Purple Finch _____	o			o
___ • House Finch _____	u	o		u
___ • Pine Siskin _____	o			o
___ • American Goldfinch _____	c	u	c	c

### Notes

Trail(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Observers \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

We hope you enjoy your visit. Post your special sightings on our facebook page or send us an email to our website. Be sure to include your name, date, time, and location.



USFWS

*White-throated sparrow*