

Santee

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List



How to use your checklist

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. Taxonomy and arrangement follow: American Ornithologists' Union. 2010. Fifty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 127:726-744. Symbols that appear in this checklist represent the following:

Seasonal Appearance

Sp - Spring (March-May)

S - Summer (June-August)

F - Fall (September-November)

W - Winter (December-February)

Abundance Designation

a – abundant: This species is present in large numbers and widespread across the area.

c - common: These birds are present should be seen if you look in the right habitat.

u - uncommon: These are present, but because of their low numbers, behavior, habitat, or distribution, they are not usually seen. However, an average bird watcher should be able to find them by looking in the right places at the right time.

o - occasional: These birds are present in low numbers and are not expected to be seen without a special effort to find them. At least a few are seen each year.

r - rare: These birds are not expected to be seen every year. They occur in low numbers, may also be secretive or hard to identify, and may be unreported for several years.

*** - breeds on the refuge**

This checklist is based on records and observations by refuge personnel, state biologists, and visiting birders as well as information gleaned from numerous publications. Since we try to keep our list up-to-date, it is important that persons who see a bird not listed, report this sighting to the refuge manager at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, 2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148 Telephone: (803)478 2217.

*Santee
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



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

Santee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 to alleviate the loss of natural waterfowl and wildlife habitat caused by the construction of hydroelectric projects on the Santee and Cooper Rivers. Stretching for eighteen miles along the northern shore of Lake Marion, the refuge encompasses just over 13,000 acres of mixed hardwoods, pine hardwoods, pine plantations, marsh, croplands, old fields, ponds, impoundments and open waters. This diversity of habitats support a myriad of wildlife species including nearly 300 bird species recorded on the refuge.

Excellent birding opportunities exist on all four units of the refuge.

A walk along the one-mile Wrights Bluff Nature Trail affords visitors the chance to observe songbirds, wading birds, and several species of waterfowl. Dingle Pond is home to a Carolina Bay and provides unique habitat for several wetland species including a great diversity of songbirds, wading birds, and waterfowl. Visitors may utilize a one-mile trail with an observation tower and boardwalk to get a closer look at wildlife.

The Pine Island and Cuddo Units provide the greatest diversity of habitats of the four units. Visitor access on Pine Island is limited to foot and bicycle traffic only. A 7-1/2 mile wildlife drive on the Cuddo Unit provides numerous wildlife observation opportunities with access to miles of hiking and bicycling trails.

An automatic gate on the Cuddo Unit controls hours of access to minimize disturbance to wildlife during critical periods. Current visitor use hours are posted at the entrance gate or may be obtained by contacting the refuge office. Visitor access on portions of the refuge is limited seasonally as a migratory bird sanctuary; please abide by all closure signs on the refuge.

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Waterfowl				
Greater White-fronted Goose	--	--	--	O
Snow Goose	--	--	O	U
Ross's Goose	--	--	--	R
Canada Goose*	C	C	C	C
Tundra Swan	--	--	R	U
Wood Duck*	A	A	A	A
Gadwall	--	--	--	C
American Wigeon	--	--	--	C
American Black Duck	R	--	--	U
Mallard*	O	O	U	A
Blue-winged Teal	O	--	C	O
Northern Shoveler	R	--	--	C
Northern Pintail	--	--	--	O
Green-winged Teal	R	--	--	A
Canvasback	--	--	--	U
Redhead	--	--	--	U
Ring-necked Duck	R	--	--	C
Greater Scaup	--	--	--	R
Lesser Scaup	--	--	--	O
White-winged Scoter	--	--	--	R
Bufflehead	--	--	--	C
Common Goldeneye	--	--	--	R
Hooded Merganser	--	--	U	C
Red-breasted Merganser	--	--	O	O
Ruddy Duck	--	--	--	O
New World Quail				
Northern Bobwhite*	U	U	U	U
Turkey				
Wild Turkey*	U	U	U	U
Loons				
Common Loon	--	--	--	U
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe*	U	O	C	A
Horned Grebe	R	--	--	U
Storks				
Wood Stork	U	U	O	--
Cormorants & Darter				
Double-crested Cormorant	C	R	C	A
Anhinga*	C	A	C	U
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets & Ibis				
American Bittern	R	--	--	U
Least Bittern*	U	U	U	--
Great Blue Heron*	C	C	A	C
Great Egret*	C	C	A	C
Snowy Egret*	O	U	U	R

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Little Blue Heron*	O	C	U	R
Tricolored Heron	U	U	U	U
Cattle Egret*	A	A	A	R
Green Heron*	A	A	A	R
Black-crowned Night-Heron	R	R	R	R
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C	--
White Ibis*	C	C	C	R
Glossy Ibis	--	O	O	--
Hawks Kites, Eagles & Allies				
Black Vulture	U	U	U	U
Turkey Vulture*	C	C	C	C
Osprey*	C	C	C	U
Mississippi Kite	O	O	--	--
Bald Eagle*	C	O	U	C
Northern Harrier	O	--	O	C
Sharp-shinned Hawk	O	--	O	U
Cooper's Hawk	R	R	R	U
Red-shouldered Hawk*	C	C	C	C
Broad-winged Hawk	O	--	O	--
Red-tailed Hawk*	C	C	C	C
Falcons				
American Kestrel	R	--	O	C
Merlin	R	--	R	R
Peregrine Falcon	R	--	R	R
Rails & Allies				
Yellow Rail	R	--	--	R
Black Rail	R	--	--	R
King Rail*	O	O	O	O
Virginia Rail	R	--	--	O
Sora	R	--	--	--
Purple Gallinule*	U	U	--	--
Common Moorhen*	A	A	A	C
American Coot*	U	O	O	A
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	--	--	O	U
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	R	--	R	--
Semipalmated Plover	U	--	U	--
Killdeer*	C	C	C	C
Avocets				
American Avocet	--	--	R	--
Sandpipers				
Spotted Sandpiper	O	--	O	R
Solitary Sandpiper	O	--	O	--
Greater Yellowlegs	O	--	O	O
Willet	O	--	O	--

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	R	--	R	R
Upland Sandpiper	O	--	O	--
Semipalmated Sandpiper	R	--	R	--
Western Sandpiper	R	--	--	--
Least Sandpiper	U	--	U	R
White-rumped Sandpiper	R	--	R	--
Pectoral Sandpiper	O	--	U	--
Dunlin	R	R	--	--
Stilt Sandpiper	R	--	R	--
Short-billed Dowitcher	U	--	U	--
Wilson's Snipe	O	--	R	C
American Woodcock	O	O	O	U
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers				
Bonaparte's Gull	R	--	--	--
Laughing Gull	O	O	U	R
Ring-billed Gull	C	R	C	C
Herring Gull	U	R	U	U
Least Tern	O	R	O	--
Caspian Tern	O	--	O	R
Black Tern	R	--	R	--
Forster's Tern	R	--	O	U
Pigeons & Doves				
Rock Pigeon*	C	C	C	C
Mourning Dove*	A	A	A	A
Common Ground-Dove	O	O	O	--
Cuckoos				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	U	U	U	--
Owls				
Barn Owl*	O	O	O	O
Eastern Screech-Owl*	C	C	C	C
Great Horned Owl*	C	C	C	C
Barred Owl*	C	C	C	C
Nightjars & Swifts				
Common Nighthawk*	U	U	U	--
Chuck-will's Widow*	C	C	U	--
Eastern Whip-poor-will*	C	C	C	--
Chimney Swift*	C	C	C	--
Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	C	U	C	--
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher*	U	U	U	C
Woodpeckers				
Red-headed Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	R	C	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Downy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U
Northern Flicker*	C	U	C	A
Pileated Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
Flycatchers				
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	C	C	C	--
Acadian Flycatcher*	C	C	C	--
Willow Flycatcher	R	--	R	--
Eastern Phoebe	O	--	O	C
Great Crested Flycatcher*	C	C	C	--
Eastern Kingbird*	C	C	C	--
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike*	U	U	U	U
Vireos				
White-eyed Vireo*	C	C	C	O
Yellow-throated Vireo*	C	C	C	--
Blue-headed Vireo	O	--	O	C
Warbling Vireo*	R	R	R	--
Red-eyed Vireo*	C	C	C	--
Jays & Crows				
Blue Jay*	C	C	C	C
American Crow*	A	A	A	A
Fish Crow*	A	A	C	R
Larks				
Horned Lark	O	--	O	O
Swallows				
Purple Martin*	C	C	U	--
Tree Swallow*	A	--	C	U
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	U	U	U	--
Bank Swallow	O	--	O	--
Cliff Swallow	O	--	O	--
Barn Swallow*	A	A	A	--
Titmice & Chickadees				
Carolina Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
Tufted Titmouse*	C	C	C	C
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	--	--	--	R
White-breasted Nuthatch*	U	U	U	U
Brown-headed Nuthatch*	C	C	C	C
Creepers				
Brown Creeper	--	--	--	U

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Wrens				
Carolina Wren*	C	C	C	C
House Wren	U	--	U	U
Winter Wren	--	--	--	U
Sedge Wren	O	--	U	--
Marsh Wren*	U	U	U	U
Gnatcatchers & Kinglets				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	C	C	C	U
Golden-crowned Kinglet	--	--	O	U
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	--	O	A
Thrushes				
Eastern Bluebird*	C	C	C	C
Veery	U	--	U	--
Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	--	R	--
Bicknell's Thrush	R	--	R	--
Swainson's Thrush	U	--	U	--
Hermit Thrush	U	--	O	C
Wood Thrush*	C	C	C	--
American Robin	U	U	C	C
Mockingbirds & Thrashers				
Gray Catbird*	U	O	U	U
Northern Mockingbird*	C	C	C	C
Brown Thrasher*	C	C	C	C
Starlings				
European Starling*	C	C	C	C
Pipits				
American Pipit	R	--	O	U
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing	O	--	R	C
Warblers				
Blue-winged Warbler	R	--	R	--
Golden-winged Warbler	R	--	R	--
Tennessee Warbler	O	--	U	--
Orange-crowned Warbler	O	--	R	U
Nashville Warbler	R	--	R	--
Northern Parula*	C	C	C	--
Yellow Warbler	C	--	C	--
Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	--	U	--
Magnolia Warbler	O	--	U	--
Cape May Warbler	O	--	U	--
Black-throated Blue Warbler	O	--	U	--
Yellow-rumped Warbler	O	--	O	A
Black-throated Green Warbler	O	--	U	--
Blackburnian Warbler	O	--	U	--
Yellow-throated Warbler*	C	C	C	O
Pine Warbler*	C	C	C	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Prairie Warbler*	C	U	U	R
Palm Warbler	O	--	O	U
Bay-breasted Warbler	O	--	U	--
Blackpoll Warbler	U	--	R	--
Cerulean Warbler	R	--	R	--
Black-and-white Warbler	U	O	U	U
American Redstart	U	R	U	--
Prothonotary Warbler*	C	C	C	--
Worm-eating Warbler	U	--	U	--
Swainson's Warbler*	U	U	O	--
Ovenbird	U	--	U	--
Northern Waterthrush	U	--	U	--
Louisiana Waterthrush*	U	R	U	--
Kentucky Warbler*	U	U	U	--
Connecticut Warbler	--	--	R	--
Mourning Warbler	R	--	R	--
Common Yellowthroat*	C	C	C	C
Hooded Warbler*	C	C	C	--
Wilson's Warbler	O	--	O	R
Canada Warbler	U	--	U	--
Yellow-breasted Chat*	C	C	U	--

Sparrows

Eastern Towhee*	C	C	C	C
Bachman's Sparrow*	R	R	R	--
Chipping Sparrow*	C	U	C	C
Field Sparrow*	C	U	C	C
Vesper Sparrow	--	--	--	O
Savannah Sparrow	U	--	U	C
Grasshopper Sparrow	--	--	--	U
Henslow's Sparrow	--	--	--	O
LeConte's Sparrow	U	--	--	U
Fox Sparrow	--	--	O	O
Song Sparrow	O	--	O	C
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	--	--	R
Swamp Sparrow	O	--	O	C
White-throated Sparrow	O	--	O	C
White-crowned Sparrow	--	--	--	R
Dark-eyed Junco	O	--	R	C

Cardinals & Allies

Summer Tanager*	C	C	C	--
Scarlet Tanager	O	--	O	--
Northern Cardinal*	A	A	A	A
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	--	U	--
Blue Grosbeak*	C	C	C	--
Indigo Bunting*	C	C	C	--
Painted Bunting*	U	U	U	--
Dickcissel*	R	R	R	--

Blackbirds

Bobolink	U	--	U	--
Red-winged Blackbird*	C	C	C	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Eastern Meadowlark*	U	U	U	U
Rusty Blackbird	O	--	--	U
Common Grackle*	C	C	C	C
Boat-tailed Grackle*	O	O	O	--
Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	C	C	A
Orchard Oriole*	C	C	C	--
Baltimore Oriole	O	--	--	O

Cardueline Finches

Purple Finch	--	--	--	O
House Finch*	U	U	U	U
Pine Siskin	R	--	--	O
American Goldfinch	R	R	O	U
Evening Grosbeak	--	--	--	R

Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow*	O	O	O	O
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This is a list of very rare, accidentals, extirpated and extinct species known from the refuge.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck
 Barnacle Goose
 Mute Swan
 Eurasian Wigeon
 American White Pelican
 Swallow-tailed Kite
 White-tailed Kite
 Rough-legged Hawk
 Golden Eagle
 Marbled Godwit
 Short-eared Owl
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker
 Vermillion Flycatcher
 Gray Kingbird
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Bell's Vireo
 Cave Swallow
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Brewer's Blackbird

Birding Ethics

We believe that all birders have an obligation to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others. We ask that birders adhere to the following general guidelines of good birding behavior.

Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife. In keeping with this principle, we will:

Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way;

Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds;

Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb the birds or expose them to danger;

Disturb wintering wildlife as little as possible, particularly during critical feeding and resting periods. They need all of their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh weather and migration.

Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment. In keeping with this principle, we will:

Stay on existing roads, trails and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling;

Leave all habitat as it was found. Many birds die when they become entangled in discarded fishing lines, 6 pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

Birders must always respect the rights of others. In keeping with this principle, we will:

Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs;

Observe all laws and the rules and regulations that govern public use of birding areas;

Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.

Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of Species _____

Visited Area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____

**Santee
National Wildlife Refuge
2125 Fort Watson Road
Summerton, South Carolina 29148
(803)478 2217
www.fws.gov/santee**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD**

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photo: Brenda Lewis