

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Tennessee

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List



Clayton Ferrell

The Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is located in west Tennessee, along beautiful Kentucky Lake. Its 50,000 acres of wetlands, woodlands and agricultural fields provide foraging, nesting and resting habitat for a myriad of birds. Established in 1945 for migratory birds, the wetlands and agricultural fields are managed for wintering waterfowl, while benefiting wading birds and shorebirds. An aggressive forest management program is underway to improve habitat for forest-dwelling migratory birds, including nesting and migrant wood warblers and thrushes.

*Tennessee
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



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

*How to use your
checklist:*

*Seasonal
appearance:*

*Seasonal
abundance:*



woodduck



mockingbird



prothonotary warbler

The refuge headquarters office is located just northeast of Paris, Tennessee off of Highway 79. The Duck River Unit, the largest of the three units, is located in Humphreys and Benton Counties at the junction of the Duck and Tennessee Rivers. The sub-headquarters of this unit is located one and one-half miles south of Hustburg, Tennessee. The Big Sandy Unit is located 12 miles north of the town of Big Sandy and is at the junction of the Big Sandy and the Tennessee Rivers. The Busseltown Unit is located in Decatur County along the western bank of the Tennessee River, the entrance to the unit being 5 miles northeast of Parsons, Tennessee.

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. Symbols which appear in this checklist represent the following:

Sp - Spring, March-May

S - Summer, June-July

F - Fall, August-November

W - Winter, December-February

a - abundant (a common species which is very numerous)

c - common (certain to be seen in suitable habitat)

u - uncommon (present but not certain to be seen)

o - occasional (seen only a few times during a season)

r - rare (seen only once or twice a year; some years not at all)

x - accidental (has been observed on refuge less than three times in a specified season)

* - known or suspected to nest on refuge

This bird list includes 303 species of birds and is based on observations by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists and birders. If you should find an unlisted, rare or accidental species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We appreciate your help in updating our records.

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
_____ Red-throated Loon	o		o	o
_____ Pacific Loon	o		o	o
_____ Common Loon	u		c	c
Grebes				
_____ Pied-billed Grebe	c	r	c	c
_____ Horned Grebe	u		c	c
_____ Red-necked Grebe			r	r
_____ Eared Grebe	r		r	r
_____ Western Grebe	x		r	r
Pelicans				
_____ American White Pelican	o	o	u	u
Cormorants				
_____ Double-crested Cormorant*	c	c	a	a
Bitterns and Herons				
_____ American Bittern	u		u	
_____ Least Bittern	o	o	o	
_____ Great Blue Heron*	a	a	a	c
_____ Great Egret*	c	c	c	o
_____ Snowy Egret	r	o	r	
_____ Little Blue Heron	u	u	u	
_____ Tricolored Heron		x	x	
_____ Cattle Egret	o	o	o	
_____ Green Heron*	c	c	c	
_____ Black-crowned Night Heron	u	u	u	r
_____ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	u	u	u	
Ibises				
_____ White Ibis		r	r	
_____ Glossy Ibis			x	
Storks				
_____ Wood Stork		x	x	
Vultures				
_____ Black Vulture*	c	c	c	c
_____ Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Waterfowl				
_____ Greater White-fronted Goose	u		u	u
_____ Snow Goose	o	x	u	u
_____ Ross's Goose	o		o	o
_____ Cackling Goose	o		u	u
_____ Canada Goose*	c	c	c	c
_____ Tundra Swan			r	r
_____ Wood Duck*	c	c	c	u
_____ Gadwall	u		a	a
_____ American Wigeon	u		c	c
_____ American Black Duck	c	x	c	c
_____ Mallard*	c	u	a	a
_____ Blue-winged Teal	c	o	c	r
_____ Northern Shoveler	u		u	u
_____ Northern Pintail	c	x	c	c
_____ Green-winged Teal	c	x	c	c
_____ Canvasback	u		u	c
_____ Redhead	u		u	u
_____ Ring-necked Duck	u		c	c
_____ Greater Scaup	o		u	u
_____ Lesser Scaup	u		u	c
_____ Surf Scoter	o		o	r
_____ White-winged Scoter	r		r	r
_____ Black Scoter			r	r
_____ Oldsquaw	r		r	r
_____ Bufflehead	u		u	c
_____ Common Goldeneye	u		u	u
_____ Hooded Merganser*	u	u	c	c
_____ Common Merganser	r		o	o
_____ Red-breasted Merganser	o		u	u
_____ Ruddy Duck	u		c	c
Hawks and Allies				
_____ Osprey*	u	c	u	
_____ Bald Eagle*	u	u	u	c
_____ Northern Harrier	u	x	u	c
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	u
_____ Cooper's Hawk*	u	o	u	u
_____ Red-shouldered Hawk*	u	u	u	u
_____ Broad-winged Hawk*	u	o	u	
_____ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	c
_____ Rough-legged Hawk				r
_____ Golden Eagle	r		o	u
_____ American Kestrel*	u	o	u	u
_____ Merlin	r		r	r
_____ Peregrine Falcon	r		o	r
Turkey and Quail				
_____ Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u
_____ Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Rails, Gallinules and Coots				
_____ Yellow Rail			r	
_____ King Rail*	o	o	o	
_____ Virginia Rail	o		o	
_____ Sora	u		c	
_____ Common Moorhen	r	r	r	
_____ American Coot	c	r	a	c
Cranes				
_____ Sandhill Crane			u	o
Shorebirds				
_____ Black-bellied Plover	r		o	
_____ American Golden-Plover	o		r	
_____ Semipalmated Plover	u		u	
_____ Piping Plover			r	
_____ Killdeer*	c	c	c	c
_____ Black-necked Stilt	r	x	x	
_____ American Avocet	x	x	r	
_____ Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	r
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	x
_____ Solitary Sandpiper	c	o	c	
_____ Willet	r		r	
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	u	r	u	
_____ Upland Sandpiper	r		r	
_____ Marbled Godwit	x		r	
_____ Ruddy Turnstone	x		r	
_____ Red Knot			r	
_____ Sanderling			o	x
_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper	c		c	
_____ Western Sandpiper	o	o	u	
_____ Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	u
_____ White-rumped Sandpiper	o		o	
_____ Baird's Sandpiper	r		o	
_____ Pectoral Sandpiper	c	u	c	
_____ Dunlin	o		u	o
_____ Stilt Sandpiper	o		u	
_____ Buff-breasted Sandpiper			o	
_____ Short-billed Dowitcher	u	o	u	
_____ Long-billed Dowitcher	r	o	o	o
_____ Common Snipe	c		c	u
_____ American Woodcock*	u	o	o	o
_____ Wilson's Phalarope	o		o	
_____ Red-necked Phalarope	x		r	
Gulls and Terns				
_____ Laughing Gull	r		o	r
_____ Franklin's Gull	r		o	r
_____ Bonaparte's Gull	u		u	c
_____ Ring-billed Gull	a	r	a	a
_____ Herring Gull	u		u	c
_____ Thayer's Gull			r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Lesser Black-backed Gull			o	o
_____ Great Black-backed Gull			r	r
_____ Caspian Tern	c	u	u	c
_____ Common Tern	o	o	o	
_____ Forster's Tern	o	r	u	r
_____ Least Tern	r	r	r	
_____ Black Tern	u	r	c	

Pigeons and Doves

_____ Rock Dove*	o	o	o	o
_____ Mourning Dove*	c	c	a	c

Cuckoos

_____ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r	
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	c	

Owls

_____ Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
_____ Eastern Screech Owl*	c	c	c	c
_____ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
_____ Barred Owl*	c	c	c	c
_____ Long-eared Owl	r		r	r
_____ Short-eared Owl	r		r	o

Nightjars

_____ Common Nighthawk*	u	o	u	
_____ Chuck-will's-widow*	u	u	u	
_____ Whip-poor-will*	u	u	u	

Swifts

_____ Chimney Swift*	u	u	u	
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Hummingbirds

_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	c	
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Kingfishers

_____ Belted Kingfisher*	u	u	u	u
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Woodpeckers

_____ Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
_____ Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
_____ Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
_____ Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	c
_____ Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u

Flycatchers

_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o	
_____ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		r	
_____ Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	c	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Alder Flycatcher	r		r	
_____ Willow Flycatcher*	o	o	o	
_____ Least Flycatcher	r		r	
_____ Eastern Phoebe*	u	u	u	o
_____ Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
_____ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	
Shrike				
_____ Loggerhead Shrike*	u	o	u	u
Vireos				
_____ White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
_____ Blue-headed Vireo	u	x	u	x
_____ Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	u	
_____ Philadelphia Vireo	o		o	
_____ Warbling Vireo*	u	u	u	
_____ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
Jays and Crows				
_____ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
_____ American Crow*	c	c	c	c
Larks				
_____ Horned Lark*	u	u	u	u
Swallows				
_____ Purple Martin	c	c	u	
_____ Tree Swallow*	c	c	c	x
_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	c	c	c	
_____ Bank Swallow	o	r	o	
_____ Cliff Swallow*	c	c	c	
_____ Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	
Chickadees and Titmice				
_____ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
_____ Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches				
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		o	o
_____ White-breasted Nuthatch*	u	c	u	u
Creepers				
_____ Brown Creeper	u		u	u
Wrens				
_____ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
_____ Bewick's Wren	r	r	r	r
_____ House Wren	o	r	o	r
_____ Winter Wren	u		u	u
_____ Sedge Wren	u	r	u	r
_____ Marsh Wren	o		u	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Kinglets and Gnatcatchers				
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	
Thrushes				
_____ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
_____ Veery	o		o	
_____ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		u	
_____ Swainson's Thrush	c		c	
_____ Hermit Thrush	o		u	u
_____ Wood Thrush*	c	c	c	
_____ American Robin*	c	c	c	c
Mimic Thrashers				
_____ Gray Catbird*	u	u	u	
_____ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
_____ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	u
Starlings				
_____ European Starling*	c	c	c	a
Pipits				
_____ American Pipit	u		u	u
Waxwings				
_____ Cedar Waxwing*	u	o	u	u
Warblers				
_____ Blue-winged Warbler	o	r	o	
_____ Golden-winged Warbler	o		o	
_____ Tennessee Warbler	c		c	
_____ Orange-crowned Warbler	r		o	r
_____ Nashville Warbler	u		u	
_____ Northern Parula*	u	u	u	
_____ Yellow Warbler*	u	o	u	
_____ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
_____ Magnolia Warbler	u		u	
_____ Cape May Warbler	u		u	
_____ Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	u
_____ Black-throated Green Warbler	c		c	
_____ Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
_____ Yellow-throated Warbler*	u	u	u	
_____ Pine Warbler*	u	u	u	u
_____ Prairie Warbler*	u	u	u	
_____ Palm Warbler	u		u	
_____ Bay-breasted Warbler	u		u	
_____ Blackpoll Warbler	c		r	
_____ Cerulean Warbler	u	r	o	
_____ Black-and-white Warbler*	u	o	u	
_____ American Redstart*	u	o	u	
_____ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	c	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Worm-eating Warbler*	u	u	u	
_____ Swainson's Warbler	r	r	r	
_____ Ovenbird*	u	u	u	
_____ Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
_____ Louisiana Waterthrush*	u	u	u	
_____ Kentucky Warbler*	u	u	u	
_____ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	x
_____ Hooded Warbler*	u	o	u	
_____ Wilson's Warbler	o		o	
_____ Canada Warbler	o		o	
_____ Yellow-breasted Chat*	c	c	c	

Tanagers

_____ Summer Tanager*	c	c	c	
_____ Scarlet Tanager*	c	c	c	

Towhees, Sparrows and Longspurs

_____ Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	c
_____ American Tree Sparrow	r		r	r
_____ Chipping Sparrow*	u	u	u	r
_____ Field Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
_____ Vesper Sparrow	u		u	r
_____ Lark Sparrow	r	r		
_____ Savannah Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow	o	r	o	
_____ Henslow's Sparrow			r	
_____ Le Conte's Sparrow	o		o	u
_____ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	r		r	
_____ Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Song Sparrow	c	r	c	c
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	r
_____ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
_____ Lapland Longspur			r	o

Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies

_____ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
_____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u	
_____ Blue Grosbeak*	u	u	u	
_____ Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	
_____ Dickcissel*	u	u	u	

Blackbirds and Allies

_____ Bobolink	u		o	
_____ Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	a	a
_____ Eastern Meadowlark*	u	u	u	u
_____ Rusty Blackbird	u		u	u
_____ Brewer's Blackbird	r		r	r
_____ Common Grackle*	c	c	c	c
_____ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	c
_____ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	u	
_____ Northern Oriole*	u	o	o	

Old World Finches

_____ Purple Finch	u		u	u
_____ House Finch*	c	u	u	c
_____ Pine Siskin	o		o	o
_____ American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c
_____ Evening Grosbeak	r		r	r

Weaver Finches

_____ House Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
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Accidental Birds:

These species have been recorded on the refuge only once or twice or the records of occurrence are very old:

Yellow-billed Loon	Parasitic Jaeger
Anhinga	Long-tailed Jaeger
Roseate Spoonbill	Little Gull
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Black-headed Gull
Barnacle Goose	California Gull
Brant	Iceland Gull
Eurasian Wigeon	Glaucous Gull
Cinnamon Teal	Sooty Tern
Northern Goshawk	Common Ground-Dove
Swainson's Hawk	Mourning Warbler
Whooping Crane	Spotted Towhee
Curlew Sandpiper	Harris's Sparrow
Red Phalarope	McCown's Longspur
Pomarine Jaeger	Yellow-headed Blackbird

Ethics for Birdwatching:

Take care not to disturb nesting birds, exposing eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation. 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.

Certain areas of the refuge are closed from November 15 through March 15 to minimize bird disturbance. Please observe all refuge signs.

Birdwatchers visiting the Refuge are asked to look for the following species that might occur in the area but have yet to be documented on the refuge. If positive observations are made, please notify us at the Refuge Headquarters.

White-faced Ibis	Northern Saw-wet Owl
Mississippi Kite	Fish Crow
Purple Gallinule	Connecticut Warbler
Whimbrel	Bachman's Sparrow
Eurasian Collared-Dove	

**Tennessee
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3006 Dinkins Lane
Paris, Tennessee 38242
731/642 2091
<http://www.fws.gov/tennesseerefuge>**

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

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