

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Carolina Sandhills

*National Wildlife Refuge
Bird List*



The Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1939, is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

The 45,348 acres within its boundaries are part of a wide band of sandhills sandwiched between the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Piedmont Plateau.

Rolling beds of deep, sandy soils provide the foundation for Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, one of the last great vestiges of the longleaf pine ecosystem. Home to the rare and the ordinary, this refuge typifies the unique biological diversity of the longleaf ecosystem. The rare pine barrens treefrog and the ordinary bobwhite quail share the spotlight along with over 140 groups of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, the largest population found within the Refuge System.

*Carolina
Sandhills
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



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

The mosaic of unique habitats, including pinelands, pocosin bottoms, freshwater ponds and lakes, and wildlife openings, provides a haven for nearly 200 species of birds. In addition, 66 species of reptiles and amphibians, 42 mammal species, and over 750 plant species have been identified on the refuge.

Migrating ducks and geese begin to arrive in October and remain through early March. Wood ducks and a small flock of Canada geese are resident on the refuge and nest here in spring and summer. Many species of water birds, raptors and songbirds are found on the refuge throughout the year.

Carolina Sandhills has one of the largest remaining populations of red-cockaded woodpeckers, an endangered species that builds its nesting cavity in living pine trees.

This folder lists 196 species that have been recorded by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists since the refuge was established.

Another 17 species of accidental or extremely rare occurrence have been added at the end. It is requested that unusual sightings be reported to the Refuge Manager.

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. The list is arranged in the order established by the American Ornithological Union. Symbols that appear in this checklist represent the following:



prothonotary warbler



red-cockaded woodpecker

*carolina chickadee**green-wing teal*

Sp - Spring March-May
S - Summer June-August
F - Fall September-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 at intervals of 2 to 5 years)
***** nests on the refuge

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
___ Common Loon				r
Grebes				
___ Pied-billed Grebe	c	o	c	c
___ Horned Grebe	o			o
Pelicans and their Allies				
___ Double-crested Cormorant				r
___ Anhinga	r	o	o	
Hérons, Egrets and Allies				
___ American Bittern				u
___ Least Bittern		r		
___ Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret	r	o	o	r
___ Snowy Egret	r	r	r	r
___ Little Blue Heron	o	o	o	o
___ Cattle Egret	o	u	r	r
___ Green Heron	c	c	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron		o		
Ibises, Spoonbill, and Stork				
___ White Ibis		o		
___ Wood Stork		o		
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			r	r
___ Snow Goose			r	r
___ *Canada Goose	c	u	c	c
___ *Wood Duck	c	c	c	c
___ Gadwall			o	o
___ American Wigeon	u		c	c
___ American Black Duck	o		c	c
___ Mallard	u	o	c	c
___ Blue-winged Teal	o		u	u
___ Northern Shoveler			r	r
___ Northern Pintail			u	u
___ Green-winged Teal	o		u	u
___ Canvasback			r	r
___ Redhead	r		r	r
___ Ring-necked Duck	o		u	u
___ Lesser Scaup			o	o
___ Bufflehead			o	o
___ Common Goldeneye				r
___ Hooded Merganser	o	o	u	u
___ Ruddy Duck			r	r
Hawks and Allies				
___ Osprey	o		r	r
___ Bald Eagle	o	o	o	o
___ Northern Harrier	u		u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ *Red-shouldered Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk		o	o	
___ *Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
___ Golden Eagle			r	r
___ *American Kestrel	c	c	c	c
Gallinaceous Birds (Quail, Turkey and Allies)				
___ *Wild Turkey	c	c	c	c
___ *Northern Bobwhite	c	c	c	c
Rails, Gallinules, Coots and Cranes				
___ King Rail	r	r	r	r
___ Virginia Rail				r
___ American Coot	o		u	u
Shorebirds				
___ *Killdeer	c	c	c	c
___ Greater Yellowlegs	o	o	r	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	o		r	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	o	o	r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	o	o
___ Upland Sandpiper	r		r	
___ Least Sandpiper	r	r	r	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	r		r	
___ Wilson's Snipe	o	r	u	u
___ *American Woodcock	o	o	o	o
___ Ring-billed Gull	r		r	r
___ Herring Gull	r		r	r

Pigeons, Doves

___ *Mourning Dove	a	a	a	a
___ *Common Ground-Dove	r	r	r	r

Cuckoos

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

Owls

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

Nightjars

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

Swifts, Hummingbirds

___ *Chimney Swift	c	c	c	
___ *Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	c	c	

Kingfishers

___ *Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c
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Woodpeckers

___ *Red-headed Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		c	c
___ Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ *Red-cockaded Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
___ *Pileated Woodpecker	u	u	u	o

Flycatchers

___ *Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	
___ *Acadian Flycatcher	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Phoebe	c	c	c	c
___ *Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	u	
___ *Eastern Kingbird	c	c		

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Shrikes				
___ *Loggerhead Shrike	c	c	c	c
Vireos				
___ *White-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	
___ Blue-headed Vireo				o
___ *Yellow-throated Vireo.	o	o	o	
___ *Red-eyed Vireo	u	c	o	
Jays and Crows				
___ *Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
___ *American Crow	c	c	c	c
___ *Fish Crow	c	c	c	c
Martins and Swallows				
___ *Purple Martin	c	c	c	
___ Tree Swallow	c		c	c
___ *Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c	c	
___ *Barn Swallow	o	u	o	
Chickadees and Titmice				
___ *Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c
___ *Tufted Titmouse.	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		r	o
___ *White-breasted Nuthatch	o	o	o	o
___ *Brown-headed Nuthatch	a	a	a	a
Creepers				
___ Brown Creeper				u
Wrens				
___ *Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
___ House Wren	o			o
___ Winter Wren	o			o
___ Sedge Wren				r
___ Marsh Wren	r			r
Kinglets and Gnatcatchers				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet				o
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c
___ *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	c	u	
Bluebirds, Thrushes and Robin				
___ *Eastern Bluebird	c	c	c	c
___ Veery	r		r	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	r		r	
___ Swainson's Thrush	r		r	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Hermit Thrush	u		c	c
___ *Wood Thrush	c	c	c	
___ *American Robin	c	u	c	c
Thrashers				
___ *Gray Catbird	c	c	c	
___ *Northern Mockingbird	a	a	a	a
___ *Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	c
Starlings				
___ *European Starling	c	c	c	c
Pipits				
___ American Pipit				o
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing	o		o	u
Warblers				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Tennessee Warbler	r		r	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	r		r	
___ *Northern Parula	c	c	c	
___ Yellow Warbler	o	o	o	
___ Magnolia Warbler	r		r	
___ Cape May Warbler	o		o	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	o		o	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	o		o	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	r		r	
___ *Yellow-throated Warbler	c	c	c	
___ *Pine Warbler	a	a	a	o
___ *Prairie Warbler	c	c	c	
___ Palm Warbler	c		c	u
___ Blackpoll Warbler	r		r	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	c		r	
___ American Redstart	o	o	o	
___ *Prothonotary Warbler	c	c	c	
___ Swainson's Warbler	o	o	o	
___ Ovenbird	u	o	o	
___ Northern Waterthrush	o		o	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	o	o	o	
___ Kentucky Warbler	o	o	o	
___ *Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
___ *Hooded Warbler	c	c	c	
___ Canada Warbler	r		r	
___ *Yellow-breasted Chat	c	c	c	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Tanagers				
___ *Summer Tanager	c	c	c	
___ Scarlet Tanager	o		o	
Sparrows				
___ *Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	c
___ *Bachman's Sparrow	u	u	u	
___ *Chipping Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ *Field Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Vesper Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Henslow's Sparrow	r	r	r	
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	r	r	r	
___ Savannah Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Fox Sparrow				c
___ Song Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Swamp Sparrow	u			u
___ White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
___ White-crowned Sparrow				u
___ Dark-eyed Junco	u		c	c
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings				
___ *Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
___ *Blue Grosbeak	c	c	c	
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		c	
___ *Indigo Bunting	c	c	c	
Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds and Orioles				
___ Bobolink	o		o	
___ *Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c
___ *Eastern Meadowlark	c	c	c	c
___ Rusty Blackbird			u	u
___ *Common Grackle	c	c	u	c
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	u	u
___ *Orchard Oriole	c	c	c	
___ Baltimore Oriole	r		r	
Finches				
___ Purple Finch			r	r
___ House Finch	c	c	c	c
___ Pine Siskin				r
___ American Goldfinch	c	r	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak				r
Introduced Non-native Species				
___ *House Sparrow	c	c	c	c

These additional 17 species of birds have been seen on the refuge only once or twice and are listed as accidental visitors.

Tundra Swan	Merlin
Barnacle Goose	Sora
Oldsquaw	Common Moorhen
Common Merganser	American Golden Plover
Red-breasted Merganser	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Tri colored Heron	Black Tern
Rough-legged Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull
Peregrine Falcon	Horned Lark
Short-billed Dowitcher	

Birding Ethics

The membership of the American Birding Association believe that all birders have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others and ask that all birders adhere to the following general guidelines of good birding behavior.

I. 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.

II. 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.

III. 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.

IV. Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities

As group members, we shall: Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.

Act in consideration of the group's interest, as well as our own.

Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader (s) for the conduct of the group.

As group leaders, we will: Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.

Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations, or conduct applicable to the area, or habitat being visited.

Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquility of others.

Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.

Sighting Notes

Date _____ *Time* _____ *Weather* _____

No. of species _____

Route or area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____

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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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March 2008



*cover photo: wild turkey
Dr. William C. Alexander*