

Southwest Louisiana

National Wildlife Refuge Complex Bird List

Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine



Roseate Spoonbill by Ryan Hager

The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges. Together these refuges total over 184,000 acres and are located in the extreme southwestern portion of Louisiana in Cameron Parish.

The Complex also manages a private, state and federal venture known as the Cameron Creole Watershed Project consisting of an additional 49,000 acres. The diversity of habitat enhances the value of these southwest Louisiana coastal refuges to a great variety of migratory birds utilizing the Central and Mississippi Flyways.

The Refuge Complex consists of a diversity of habitats including fresh and saltwater marshes, coastal prairie, bottomland hardwoods, numerous ridges and levees, wooded islands, tidal bayous and canals, ponds, and lakes. Additionally, some areas are managed for moist soil plants and agricultural crops to provide desirable waterfowl foods.

This list of birds recorded on the Complex includes 313 species, of which 22 are incidentals, very rarely seen on the Complex with only one or two sightings. This checklist has been designed to be informative and simple to use. The list is arranged in the order established by the American Ornithological Union.

Symbols which 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

Seasonal Abundance

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 within a season)

r - rare
(seen at intervals of two to five years)

* - nests within the Refuge Complex



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	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>		<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons					___ Green-winged Teal	<i>c</i>		<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
___ Common Loon	<i>o</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	___ Canvasback	<i>r</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
					___ Redhead	<i>r</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
Grebes					___ Greater Scaup	<i>u</i>		<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	<i>c</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ Ring-necked Duck	<i>c</i>		<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ Eared Grebe	<i>r</i>		<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	___ Common Goldeneye	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>
___ Horned Grebe	<i>r</i>		<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	___ Bufflehead	<i>u</i>		<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>
Pelicans					___ Ruddy Duck	<i>u</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>r</i>
___ American White Pelican	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ Hooded Merganser	<i>o</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Brown Pelican	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	___ Red-breasted Merganser	<i>o</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>u</i>
					___ Common Merganser	<i>r</i>			<i>r</i>
Frigatebird					Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, and Vultures				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird		<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>		___ Black Vulture	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
					___ Turkey Vulture*	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
Aningas and Cormorants					___ Osprey	<i>o</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Anhinga*	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>o</i>	___ White-tailed Kite	<i>o</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Double-crested Cormorant	<i>o</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>		___ Mississippi Kite	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	
___ Neotropic Cormorant*	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>o</i>		<i>u</i>	<i>o</i>
Wading Birds-Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets					___ Cooper's Hawk	<i>o</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>o</i>
___ American Bittern*	<i>u</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	___ Northern Harrier	<i>u</i>		<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ Least Bittern*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>r</i>	___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>
___ Great Blue Heron*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ Broad-winged Hawk	<i>o</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>u</i>	
___ Great Egret*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ Red-tailed Hawk	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ Snowy Egret*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ Golden Eagle	<i>o</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Reddish Egret	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	___ Bald Eagle	<i>r</i>		<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>
___ Little Blue Heron*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>u</i>	___ Crested Caracara	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ Tricolored Heron*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ American Kestrel	<i>u</i>		<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>
___ Cattle Egret*	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	___ Merlin	<i>o</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Green Heron*	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	___ Peregrine Falcon	<i>o</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>u</i>	Upland Game Birds				
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>r</i>	___ Northern Bobwhite*	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Glossy Ibis*	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Cranes				
___ White-faced Ibis*	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ Clapper Rail*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ White Ibis*	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ King Rail*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ Roseate Spoonbill*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	___ Virginia Rail	<i>o</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Wood Stork		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>		___ Sora	<i>c</i>		<i>u</i>	<i>c</i>
Geese					___ Yellow Rail	<i>o</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>c</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	___ Black Rail	<i>r</i>		<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>
___ Ross' Goose	<i>r</i>		<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	___ Common Moorhen*	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
___ Snow Goose	<i>a</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	___ Purple Gallinule*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>r</i>
___ Canada Goose	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	___ American Coot*	<i>a</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
					___ Sandhill Crane	<i>r</i>		<i>r</i>	<i>o</i>
Ducks and Mergansers					Shorebirds				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck*	<i>c</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	___ Black-bellied Plover	<i>c</i>		<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck*	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>r</i>	___ American Golden-Plover	<i>o</i>		<i>r</i>	
___ Wood Duck*	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	___ Killdeer*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ Mallard	<i>c</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	___ Semipalmated Plover	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ American Black Duck	<i>r</i>		<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	___ Wilson's Plover	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>
___ Mottled Duck*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ Black-necked Stilt*	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>u</i>
___ Gadwall	<i>c</i>		<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ American Avocet	<i>u</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>
___ Northern Pintail	<i>c</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	___ Greater Yellowlegs	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ American Wigeon	<i>c</i>		<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	___ Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
___ Northern Shoveler	<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	___ Solitary Sandpiper	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>r</i>
___ Blue-winged Teal*	<i>c</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	___ Spotted Sandpiper	<i>c</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>u</i>
___ Cinnamon Teal	<i>r</i>		<i>r</i>	<i>r</i>					

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>		<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Willet	c	c	c	c	Nighthawks, Nightjars, and Swifts				
___ Marbled Godwit	o	r	o	o	___ Common Nighthawk*	c	c	c	
___ Hudsonian Godwit	r				___ Chuck-will's-widow	o		o	r
___ Whimbrel	o	r	o	o	___ Whip-poor-will	o		o	r
___ Long-billed Curlew	o	r	u	u	___ Chimney Swift*	o	o	o	
___ Upland Sandpiper	o	o	o		Hummingbirds				
___ Ruddy Turnstone	o	r	u	o	___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	u	c	r
___ Sanderling	c	o	u	u	___ Black Chinned Hummingbird			o	r
___ Red Knot	r	r	r	r	___ Rufous Hummingbird			o	r
___ Dunlin	c	u	c	c	___ Buff-bellied Hummingbird	r		r	r
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	u	o	u	r	Kingfishers				
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	c	o			___ Belted Kingfisher	c	u	c	c
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	u	c		Woodpeckers				
___ Western Sandpiper	c	o	c	c	___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o		o	o
___ Least Sandpiper	c	o	c	c	___ Red-headed Woodpecker	o	r	o	r
___ Stilt Sandpiper	u	r	u	o	___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	c		c	c	___ Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	c	u	c	c	___ Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ Wilson's Snipe	c		c	a	___ Northern Flicker*	c	o	c	c
___ American Woodcock	r		r	r	___ Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	o	o
___ Wilson's Phalarope	r		r		Flycatchers, Phoebes, and Kingbirds				
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers					___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	r	r	
___ Bonaparte's Gull	o		o	u	___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	u	o	u	
___ Laughing Gull	c	c	c	c	___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		r	
___ Franklin's Gull	r	r	r	r	___ Acadian Flycatcher	u	u	u	
___ Ring-billed Gull	u	o	u	c	___ Least Flycatcher	r	r	o	c
___ Herring Gull	u	o	u	u	___ Eastern Phoebe	c		c	c
___ Black Tern	c	c	c		___ Vermillion Flycatcher	r		r	r
___ Caspian Tern	u	u	u	o	___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	r		r	r
___ Gull-billed Tern	u	u	u	u	___ Great Crested Flycatcher	o	o	o	
___ Royal Tern	o	o	o	o	___ Western Kingbird	r	r	r	r
___ Common Tern	r	r	r	r	___ Eastern Kingbird*	a	a		a
___ Forester's Tern*	c	c	c	c	___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	o	o	o	r
___ Least Tern	o	u	o		Shrikes and Vireos				
___ Black Skimmer	u	u	u	u	___ Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u
Pigeons and Doves					___ Warbling Vireo	r		r	
___ Rock Dove	o	o	o	o	___ Philadelphia Vireo		u		c
___ White-winged Dove	o	o	o	r	___ White-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	o
___ Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c	___ Red-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	
___ Inca Dove	u	u	u	u	___ Yellow-throated Vireo	o		o	
___ Common Ground-Dove	r	r	r	r	___ Blue-headed Vireo	o		u	u
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*	u	u	u	u	Jays and Crows				
___ Cuckoos					___ Blue Jay*	u	u	u	u
___ Black-billed Cuckoo*	o		o		___ American Crow	o	o	o	o
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	u		___ Fish Crow	u	u	u	u
___ Groove-billed Ani	o	r		o	Swallows				
Owls					___ Barn Swallow*	a	a	a	
___ Barn Owl*	u	u	u	u	___ Cliff Swallow*	c	u	c	
___ Short-eared Owl	r		r	r	___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c		c	r
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	u	u	u	u	___ Bank Swallow	u	o	u	
___ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u	___ Tree Swallow	a		a	a
___ Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u	___ Purple Martin*	c	c	u	
___ Burrowing Owl				r					

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>		<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Chickadees, Nuthatches, Titmice					___ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	u	
___ Carolina Chickadee*	u	u	u	u	___ Worm-eating Warbler	o		o	
___ Brown Creeper	r		o	o	___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse	u	u	u	u	___ Mourning Warbler	r		o	
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch		r	r		___ Kentucky Warbler	c	r	u	
Wrens					___ Northern Waterthrush	u	r	u	
___ Marsh Wren*	a	c	a	a	___ Louisiana Waterthrush	o	r	o	
___ Sedge Wren	u		u	c	___ Ovenbird	c	r	o	
___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c	___ Canada Warbler	o	o	u	
___ House Wren	u		u	u	___ Hooded Warbler	c	u	u	
___ Winter Wren		o	u		___ Wilson's Warbler	o		o	o
					___ Yellow-breasted Chat	u	o	u	r
Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes and Allies					Tanagers, Cardinals and their Allies				
___ Goleen-crowned Kinglet	o		o	o	___ Scarlet Tanager*	u		o	
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c	___ Summer Tanager*	c	u	c	
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	o	c	u	___ Western Tanager	r		r	
___ Eastern Bluebird	u	u	r	r	___ Dickcissel	u	o	o	
___ Swainson's Thrush	c		u		___ Blue Grosbeak	c	o	u	
___ Veery	u		o		___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	c		u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		o		___ Indigo bunting	c	o	u	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		u	u	___ Painted Bunting	u	u	u	r
___ Wood Thrush	u		u	r	___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
___ American Robin	u		u	u	Sparrows and their Allies				
Thrashers, Pipits, Waxwings, and Starlings					___ Eastern Towhee	o	o	o	o
___ Gray Catbird*	u	r	u	u	___ Chipping Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c	___ Field Sparrow	o		u	u
___ Brown Thrasher*	u	u	u	u	___ Vesper Sparrow	r		o	o
___ American Pipit	u		u	u	___ Lark Sparrow	o	r	o	o
___ Sprague's Pipit	r		r	r	___ Le Conte's Sparrow	o		u	u
___ Cedar Waxwing	u		u	u	___ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
___ European Starling*	c	c	c	a	___ Seaside Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
Wood Warbler					___ Savannah Sparrow	a		a	a
___ Tennessee Warbler	c		c		___ Song Sparrow	u		c	c
___ Nashville Warbler	o		u		___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	c	___ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Blue-winged Warbler	o		o		___ Fox Sparrow		o	o	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	r		r		___ White-crowned Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Northern Parula*	u	u	u	r	___ White-throated Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Yellow Warbler	u	r	u		___ Dark-eyed Junco		o	o	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u		___ Lapland Longspur			r	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		u		Blackbirds and their Allies				
___ Cape May Warbler	r		r		___ Baltimore Oriole	u	o	u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u		r		___ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	u	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r		___ Eastern Meadowlark*	a	a	a	a
___ Cerulean Warbler	u		r		___ Western Meadowlark		r	r	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		u		___ Bobolink	u		r	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	a	___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Palm Warbler	u		u	u	___ Yellow-headed Blackbird		r	r	
___ Pine Warbler	u		u	u	___ Rusty Blackbird	r		r	r
___ Prairie Warbler	o		o		___ Brewer's Blackbird	o		o	u
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u				___ Common Grackle	o	o	o	u
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	c		u		___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	a	a	a	a
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	u	o	o	r	___ Great-tailed Grackle	u	u	u	u
___ Black-and-White Warbler	c		c	r	___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	u	u	u	c
___ American Redstart	c		c						

Chart of the Seasonal Occurrences of Birds on the Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges

Finches and Old World Sparrows

	SP	S	F	W
House Sparrow*	u	u	u	u
American Goldfinch	o		o	c
House Finch	o		o	u
Purple Finch		r	r	

These additional 22 species are considered accidental, very rarely seen on the Complex with only one or two sightings.	
Brant	Black swan
Oldsquaw	Masked duck
White-winged scoter	Masked Booby
Northern Gannet	Bell's Vireo
Brown Crested Flycatcher	Rough-legged Hawk
Swallow-tailed Kite	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Swainson's Warbler	Black Francolin
American Tree Sparrow	Sooty Tern
Brown Noddy	Pine Siskin
Whooping Crane	Western Grebe
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Lesser Nighthawk

Ethics for Birdwatching

Observe birds without disturbing them. Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds. Electronic call devices should be used sparingly even when they are permitted.

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.

Leave habitats as they are found. Many birds die when they become entangled in fish lines, crab strings, six-pack rings, and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

Acknowledgements

This Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Bird List was compiled by USFWS volunteer and birder, Sharon Wallace. Sharon worked with refuge staffs and area ornithologists to develop one comprehensive bird list for the refuge complex. Species names and seasonal abundance codes were updated throughout the process.

To report unusual sightings, or for further information, contact:

Visitor Services Manager
 SW Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters
 Cameron Prairie NWR, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, LA 70630
 337/598 2216



Chart of the Seasonal Occurrences of Birds on the Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges

Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

Number of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks