

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# J.N. "Ding" Darling

*National Wildlife Refuge*

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*Bird Checklist*

*Sanibel-Captiva Islands  
and Surrounding Areas*



*Welcome to the J.N.  
“Ding” Darling National  
Wildlife Refuge. The  
6,400 acres of the Refuge  
contain a variety of  
subtropical habitats,  
including the upland  
ridges and freshwater  
swales of the Island’s  
interior ecosystem,  
mangrove forests, and  
the seagrass beds of its  
estuarine mangrove  
fringes. Resident and  
migratory birds depend  
on these various habitats  
for their existence.*

## How To Use Your Checklist

The bird checklist includes 245 species and is designed to be informative and simple to use. Symbols which appear in this checklist represent the following:

### Seasonal Appearance

F..... Fall (September-November)  
W ..... Winter (December-February)  
Sp..... Spring (March- May)  
S..... Summer (June- August)

### Seasonal Abundance

a abundant (a very common species most likely to be seen)  
c common (likely to be seen in suitable habitat)  
u uncommon (usually present but not certain to be seen)  
o occasional (seen only a few times during a season)  
r rare or accidental (seen only a very few times during the past ten years)

The abundance designations shown above are for the Refuge, Sanibel and Captiva Islands, the surrounding waters of the Gulf, estuaries, and area beaches (including the Sanibel Causeway and Bunche Beach). Some species will be more or less common in different habitats, and tide levels will influence the number of shorebirds and wading birds to be found.



Cameron Michael

Mangrove Cuckoo

You may want to check the birds you are able to find and identify. If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We will appreciate your help in updating our records.

	F	W	Sp	S
<b>Waterfowl</b>				
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	r	r	r	r
Snow Goose		r		
Muscovy Duck	r	r	r	r
Wood Duck	r	r	r	r
Gadwall	r	r	r	
American Wigeon	r	r	r	
Mallard		r		
Mottled Duck	a	a	a	a
Blue-winged Teal	c	c	c	
Northern Shoveler		r	r	
Northern Pintail		r	r	
Green-winged Teal		r	r	
Redhead		r		
Ring-necked Duck		r	r	
Lesser Scaup		r	r	
Black Scoter		r	r	
Bufflehead		r		
Hooded Merganser	r	u	r	
Common Merganser		r		
Red-breasted Merganser	o	c	c	
Ruddy Duck	r			
<b>Loons and Grebes</b>				
Common Loon	o	u	u	
Pied-billed Grebe	c	a	c	r
Horned Grebe		u		
<b>Frigatebirds and Gannets</b>				
Magnificent Frigatebird	u	o	c	c
Northern Gannet	r		r	
<b>Cormorants and Anhingas</b>				
Double-crested Cormorant	a	a	a	a
Anhinga	a	a	a	a
<b>Pelicans</b>				
American White Pelican	u	a	c	r
Brown Pelican	a	a	a	a
<b>Limpkins</b>				
Limpkin	r	r	r	r
<b>Cranes</b>				
Sandhill Crane	r	r	r	r

	F	W	Sp	S
<b>Wading Birds</b>				
American Flamingo	r	r	r	r
Wood Stork	u	c	u	u
American Bittern	r	o	r	
Least Bittern	r	r	r	r
Great Blue Heron	c	a	c	c
Great Egret	a	a	a	a
Snowy Egret	c	a	a	c
Little Blue Heron	c	a	a	c
Tricolored Heron	c	a	a	c
Reddish Egret	c	c	c	c
Cattle Egret	u	c	u	u
Green Heron	c	c	c	c
Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	u	u	u
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	c
White Ibis	a	a	a	c
Glossy Ibis	r	r	r	r
Roseate Spoonbill	c	c	c	c
<b>Vultures, Kites, Hawks, and Falcons</b>				
Black Vulture	u	u	u	o
Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	u
Osprey	a	a	a	a
Swallow-tailed Kite	o		u	u
Northern Harrier	o	o	o	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o	o	o	
Cooper's Hawk	o	o	o	r
Bald Eagle	c	c	c	u
Red-shouldered Hawk	c	c	c	c
Broad-winged Hawk	o			
Short-tailed Hawk	o	o	o	o
Red-tailed Hawk	r	r	r	r
American Kestrel	c	c	c	r
Merlin	u	u	u	
Peregrine Falcon	u	u	u	
<b>Rails, Gallinules, and Coots</b>				
Clapper Rail	r	o	o	
King Rail		r	r	
Virginia Rail		r	r	
Sora	r	u	o	
Common Gallinule	c	c	c	o
American Coot	c	c	c	r

	F	W	Sp	S
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## Shorebirds

Black-bellied Plover	a	a	a	u
Snowy Plover	u	u	u	u
Wilson's Plover	u	u	u	u
Semipalmated Plover	c	c	c	u
Piping Plover	u	u	o	
Killdeer	c	c	c	c
American Oystercatcher	u	u	u	o
Black-necked Stilt			c	c
American Avocet	r	r	r	
Spotted Sandpiper	c	c	c	r
Solitary Sandpiper			r	
Greater Yellowlegs	u	c	c	
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	c	u	
Willet	a	a	a	u
Whimbrel	r	r	r	
Long-billed Curlew	o	o	o	o
Marbled Godwit	u	c	u	u
Ruddy Turnstone	c	c	c	u
Red Knot	u	c	c	
Sanderling	a	a	a	a
Semipalmated Sandpiper	r		r	
Western Sandpiper	c	c	c	r
Least Sandpiper	c	c	c	r
White-rumped Sandpiper	r		r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	r		r	
Dunlin	c	a	c	r
Stilt Sandpiper	r	r	r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	a	a	a	c
Long-billed Dowitcher	r	r	r	
Wilson's Snipe	r	o	o	

## Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers

Bonaparte's Gull	r	r	r	
Laughing Gull	a	a	a	a
Ring-billed Gull	c	a	c	r
Herring Gull	c	c	c	r
Lesser Black-backed Gull	r	o	r	
Great Black-backed Gull	r	o	r	
Least Tern	u		u	c
Gull-billed Tern	r		r	
Caspian Tern	r	r	r	r
Black Tern	r			r
Common Tern	r			
Forster's Tern	c	c	c	r
Royal Tern	c	a	c	c
Sandwich Tern	c	c	c	o
Black Skimmer	a	a	a	c

	F	W	Sp	S
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## Razorbills

Razorbill		r		
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## Pigeons and Doves

Rock Pigeon	r	r	r	r
White-crowned Pigeon	r	r	r	r
Eurasian Collared-Dove	c	c	c	c
White-winged Dove	o	o	o	o
Mourning Dove	a	a	a	a
Common Ground-Dove	c	c	c	c

## Cuckoos and Anis

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	o		u	r
Mangrove Cuckoo	o	r	o	o
Black-billed Cuckoo			r	
Smooth-billed Ani	r	r	r	

## Owls

Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
Eastern Screech-Owl	c	c	c	c
Great Horned Owl	o	o	o	o
Barred Owl	r	r	r	r

## Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk	o		o	o
Chuck-will's-widow	o		u	u
Eastern Whip-poor-will	r		r	

## Swifts

Chimney Swift	u		c	u
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## Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	r	r	r	r
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## Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	r
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## Woodpeckers

Red-bellied Woodpecker	a	a	a	a
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o	o	o	
Downy Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
Hairy Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
Northern Flicker	r	r	r	r
Pileated Woodpecker	c	c	c	c

	F	W	Sp	S
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## Flycatchers

Eastern Wood-Pewee	r		r	
Acadian Flycatcher	r		r	
Least Flycatcher	r		r	
Eastern Phoebe	u	c	u	
Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	c	c
Western Kingbird			r	
Eastern Kingbird	r		o	
Gray Kingbird	r		u	u
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	r		r	

## Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	u
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## Vireos

White-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	c
Yellow-throated Vireo	r		r	
Blue-headed Vireo	u	u	u	
Red-eyed Vireo	o		u	r
Black-whiskered Vireo			r	o

## Jays and Crows

Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
American Crow	r	r	r	r
Fish Crow	a	a	a	a

## Swallows

Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u		u	r
Purple Martin	o		u	u
Tree Swallow	c	a	a	r
Bank Swallow			r	
Barn Swallow	u		u	o
Cliff Swallow	r		r	

## Titmice

Tufted Titmouse	r	r	r	r
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## Wrens

House Wren	r	o	o	
Sedge Wren		r		
Marsh Wren	r	r	o	
Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c

## Gnatcatchers and Kinglets

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	a	c	o
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r	r	r	

	F	W	Sp	S
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## Thrushes

Eastern Bluebird	r	r	r	r
Veery	r		r	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	r		r	
Swainson's Thrush	r		o	
Hermit Thrush	r	r	r	
Wood Thrush	r		r	
American Robin	r	o	o	

## Catbirds, Mockingbirds, and Thrashers

Gray Catbird	c	a	a	
Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	u
Brown Thrasher	o	o	o	o

## Starlings

European Starling	c	c	c	c
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## Pipits

American Pipit	r	r	r	
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## Waxwings

Cedar Waxwing	r	u	u	
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## Warblers

Ovenbird	o	o	o	
Worm-eating Warbler	r		r	
Louisiana Waterthrush	r		r	
Northern Waterthrush	r		r	
Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	
Golden-winged Warbler			r	
Black-and-white Warbler	u	u	u	o
Prothonotary Warbler	r		r	r
Swainson's Warbler	r		r	
Tennessee Warbler			r	
Orange-crowned Warbler		r		
Nashville Warbler			r	
Kentucky Warbler			r	
Common Yellowthroat	u	c	u	o
Hooded Warbler	r		o	
American Redstart	o	r	o	
Cape May Warbler	r		o	
Cerulean Warbler			r	
Northern Parula	o	o	c	c
Magnolia Warbler			o	
Bay-breasted Warbler	r		r	
Blackburnian Warbler			r	
Yellow Warbler			r	
Chestnut-sided Warbler			r	

Blackpoll Warbler	r		u	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		o	
Palm Warbler	u	c	c	
Pine Warbler	r	r	r	r
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	a	c	
Yellow-throated Warbler	u	u	u	o
Prairie Warbler	u	u	c	c
Black-throated Green Warbler	r	r	o	

## Towhees and Sparrows

Eastern Towhee	r	r	r	r
Bachman's Sparrow	r	r	r	r
Chipping Sparrow	r	r	r	
Savannah Sparrow	r	r	r	
Grasshopper Sparrow	r	r	r	
Lincoln's Sparrow			r	
Swamp Sparrow	r	o	u	

## Tanagers

Summer Tanager	r	r	o	r
Scarlet Tanager	r		o	

## Cardinals and Grosbeaks

Northern Cardinal	a	a	a	a
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r		o	
Blue Grosbeak	r		u	

## Buntings, Dickcissels, and Finches

Indigo Bunting	o	r	u	
Painted Bunting	r	r	r	
Dickcissel			r	
House Finch	r	r	r	r
American Goldfinch	r	r	r	

## Blackbirds, Grackles, and Orioles

Bobolink	r		r	
Red-winged Blackbird	o	o	o	o
Eastern Meadowlark	r	r	r	
Common Grackle	a	a	a	a
Boat-tailed Grackle	c	c	c	c
Shiny Cowbird	r		r	
Brown-headed Cowbird	o	o	o	o
Orchard Oriole	r		o	
Baltimore Oriole	o	r	o	

## Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow	r	r	r	r
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## Birding Information

Favorite area birding sites are the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge (Wildlife Drive, Bailey Tract, Indigo Trail, Calusa Shell Mound Trail, and Tarpon Bay); the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation properties (including Sanibel Gardens); Gulf beaches; the Lighthouse area; the Causeway islands; Blind Pass; and Bunche Beach.

## Birding Ethics

When visiting public or private lands, it is important that you practice and promote ethical behavior while viewing and photographing wildlife. Although you may not think your individual actions are harmful to wildlife, the cumulative effect of individual actions can jeopardize wildlife's ability to survive.

- Do not disturb nesting, feeding, or resting birds and other wildlife.
- When photographing birds, do not "push" too close or "linger" too long.
- Do not use recorded calls or make other alarming noises on the Refuge.
- Do not feed wildlife on the Refuge.
- Do not litter: Many birds and other wildlife die after becoming entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage, especially plastic, for food.



Wayne Kliever

Roseate Spoonbill

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**scan me!**



*Cover photograph of Osprey with Spotted Seatrout by Al Hoffacker*