

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Piedmont

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List

*photo: Northern Cardinal
Nick Milam*

Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge is located in the wild and beautiful rolling clay hills of the lower Georgia Piedmont. The Refuge, which contains 36, 000 acres, was purchased under the Resettlement Act in the 1930's when erosion, the boll weevil, and finally the great depression made it impossible for the small farms to provide a living for their owners.

*Piedmont
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



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

Today, through the efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge is once again a forest. It hosts loblolly pines on the ridges with hardwoods found along the creek bottoms and in scattered upland coves. Clear streams and beaver ponds provide the ideal wetlands for migrating waterfowl. Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge now serves as a model of forest ecosystem management for wildlife.

Except for a short time during managed deer and turkey hunts, most of the refuge is open for bird watching. The public use facilities at the Visitor Center and Allison Lake are open year round. Access to most parts of the Refuge is by gravel road and foot travel paths.



*photo: White throated
Sparrow
Nick Milam*



*photo: Red-cockaded
Woodpecker
USFWS*

A parking area and three wildlife trails are located adjacent to Allison Lake. The 0.9 mile Allison Lake Trail provides viewing opportunities for wintering waterfowl along the lake. Wood ducks utilize the artificial nest structures in Allison Lake and their broods may be seen during

spring and summer months. An observation platform and a photo blind is found along the trail and is best for viewing wintering waterfowl and wading birds. The Pine and Creek Trails make up a 1.3 mile loop that leaves the Visitor Center and passes through rich habitats of pine and bottomland hardwoods to connect with the Allison Lake Trail. This trail involves some moderate walking.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker Trail starts at Allison Lake and travels through an active cluster site. Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity trees are characterized by accumulations

of pitch at the entrance to the cavity and are marked by a painted white stripe at the base of the tree. Red-cockadededs are more active around the cluster site during April-July. The trail also provides opportunities to observe the songbirds that use various forest habitats. The trail is 2.9 miles round-trip and involves some moderate walking.

Viewing Tips

The observation of birds in their natural habitats is becoming an increasingly popular recreational activity. Viewing entertainment can be greatly enhanced if binoculars or a spotting scope is used. This equipment assists in bird identification and enables one to observe the birds from a distance, thus minimizing disturbance. Birds are most active during the early morning and late afternoon periods, so this is the best time to birdwatch.

Checklist Notes

The following list contains over 200 species of birds confirmed as occurring on the Refuge. Besides U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel, reliable volunteers in the field have contributed many of the observations recorded. This list will be updated periodically to include new sightings or changes. Visitors making noteworthy observations are urged to inform the Refuge Manager of details such as observers, dates, site of observation, and the species seen.

Season Symbols

SP - Spring, March through May
S - Summer, June through August
F - Fall, September through November
W - Winter, December through February

Abundance Symbols

C - Common; certain to be seen in suitable habitat
O - Occasional; seen only a few times during season
U - Uncommon; present, but not certain to be seen
R - Rare; seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years
* - Endangered Species

Grebes

___ Pied-billed Grebe u u u u

Cormorants and Darters

___ Double crested Cormorant r r

___ Anhinga. r

Bitterns, Herons and Ibises

___ American Bittern r

___ Least Bittern r

___ Great Blue Heron. u u u

___ Great Egret o o o

___ Snowy Egret o o

___ Little Blue Heron r o o

___ Tricolored Heron r

___ Cattle Egret o

___ Green Heron o o r

___ Black crowned Night Heron o r

___ Yellow crowned Night Heron r

___ White Ibis. o

Geese and Ducks

___ Snow Goose r

___ Canada Goose o o

___ Wood Duck c c c

___ Green winged Teal o u o

___ American Black Duck u c c

___ Mallard c o c c

___ Northern Pintail o o r

___ Blue winged Teal u

___ Green winged Teal u u

___ Northern Shoveler o o

___ Gadwall o o

___ American Wigeon o o

___ Canvasback o o

___ Redhead r o r

___ Ring necked Duck c c c

___ Lesser Scaup o o

___ Bufflehead o o o

___ Common Merganser r r

___ Hooded Merganser o r u c

___ Red breasted Merganser r r

___ Ruddy Duck o o

Vultures, Hawks and Eagles

___ Black Vulture c c c c

___ Turkey Vulture c c c c

___ Osprey o o o

___ Bald Eagle o

___ Northern Harrier u u u

___ Sharp shinned Hawk o u u

___ Cooper's Hawk o r o o

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Red shouldered Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ Broad winged Hawk	r	o	r	
___ Red-tailed Hawk	c	u	c	c
___ Golden Eagle	r			o
___ American Kestrel	o	r	o	o

Turkeys and New World Quail

___ Wild Turkey	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Bobwhite	c	c	c	c

Rails, Gallinules, Coots and Cranes

___ King Rail	r	r		
___ Purple Gallinule		r		
___ Common Moorhen		r		
___ American Coot	o		o	o
___ Sandhill Crane	o		o	o

Plovers, Sandpipers and Phalaropes

___ Killdeer	o	o	o	o
___ Spotted Sandpiper	u	o	u	u
___ Solitary Sandpiper	o		o	
___ Upland Sandpiper	o	r	r	
___ Least Sandpiper	o	o	o	
___ Common Snipe	o		o	o
___ American Woodcock	o	o	o	o
___ Greater Yellowlegs	o		r	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	o		r	

Gulls

___ Ring billed Gull				o
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Pigeons and Doves

___ Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
___ Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c

Cuckoos

___ Yellow billed Cuckoo	u	u	u	
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Owls

___ Eastern Screech Owl	u	u	u	u
___ Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
___ Barred Owl	u	u	u	u

Nightjars

___ Common Nighthawk	o	o	u	
___ Chuck will's Widow	c	c	c	
___ Whip poor will	o	u	u	

Swifts

___ Chimney Swift	c	c	c	
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	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Hummingbirds				
___ Ruby throated Hummingbird	o	o	o	
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c
Woodpeckers				
___ Red headed Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ Red bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
___ Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
___ Pileated Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Red cockaded Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___ Eastern Wood Pewee	c	c	c	
___ Acadian Flycatcher	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Phoebe	c		c	c
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	
Shrikes				
___ Loggerhead Shrike	o	o	o	o
Swallows				
___ Purple Martin	u	u	u	
___ Tree Swallow	r	r		
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	o	o	o	
___ Barn Swallow	o	o	o	
Vireos				
___ White eyed Vireo	c	c	c	r
___ Yellow throated Vireo	c	c	c	
___ Blue headed Vireo	c	u	c	o
___ Red-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	
Jays and Crows				
___ Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
___ American Crow	c	c	c	c
___ Fish Crow	u	u		
Chickadees and Titmice				
___ Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches and Creepers				
___ Red breasted Nuthatch			r	r
___ White breasted Nuthatch	r	r	r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Brown headed Nuthatch	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Creeper	u		u	u

Wrens

___ Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
___ Bewick's Wren	r		r	r
___ House Wren	o		r	o
___ Winter Wren	o		o	o
___ Sedge Wren	r			
___ Marsh Wren				o

Gnatcatchers, Kinglets and Thrushes

___ Golden crowned Kinglet	u		o	u
___ Ruby crowned Kinglet	c		u	c
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Bluebird	c	c	c	c
___ Veery	o		o	
___ Gray cheeked Thrush	r		o	
___ Swainson's Thrush	u		u	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
___ Wood Thrush	c	c	c	
___ American Robin	c	o	o	c

Mockingbirds and Thrashers

___ Gray Catbird	u	u	u	r
___ Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	c

Pipits

___ American Pipit				r
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Waxwings

___ Cedar Waxwing	u		u	u
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Starlings

___ European Starling	o	o	o	o
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Wood Warblers

___ Golden winged Warbler	u		u	
___ Tennessee Warbler	r		u	
___ Northern Parula	o	o	o	
___ Yellow Warbler	r		r	
___ Chestnut sided Warbler	o		o	
___ Magnolia Warbler	r	r		
___ Cape May Warbler	r		r	
___ Black throated Blue Warbler	o		o	
___ Yellow rumped Warbler	c		c	c
___ Black throated Green Warbler	u		u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler			o	
___ Yellow throated Warbler	u	u	u	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Pine Warbler	c	c	c	c
___ Prairie Warbler	c	c	c	
___ Palm Warbler	c		c	
___ Bay breasted Warbler	r		r	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u		u	
___ Cerulean Warbler	r		r	
___ Black and white Warbler	u		u	
___ American Redstart	u		u	
___ Prothonotary Warbler	o			
___ Worm eating Warbler	u		u	
___ Ovenbird	r		r	
___ Northern Waterthrush	r		r	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	u	u	u	
___ Kentucky Warbler	u	u	u	
___ Common Yellowthroat	u	u	u	u
___ Hooded Warbler	c	c	c	
___ Yellow breasted Chat	o	o	o	

Tanagers

___ Summer Tanager	c	c	c	
___ Scarlet Tanager	o		o	

Grosbeaks, Sparrows and Buntings

___ Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
___ Rose breasted Grosbeak	r		r	
___ Blue Grosbeak	u	u	u	
___ Indigo Bunting	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	c
___ Bachman's Sparrow	u	u	u	u
___ Chipping Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Field Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Vesper Sparrow			o	o
___ Savannah Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Fox Sparrow			o	o
___ Song Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
___ White throated Sparrow	c		c	c
___ White crowned Sparrow	r			
___ Dark eyed Junco	c		c	c

Blackbirds and Orioles

___ Bobolink	u		o	
___ Red winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c
___ Eastern Meadowlark	c	c	c	c
___ Rusty Blackbird	o			u
___ Common Grackle	u	u	u	c
___ Brown headed Cowbird	u	o	o	u
___ Orchard Oriole	u	u		

SP

S

F

W

Finches

- ___ Purple Finch u
- ___ House Finch
- ___ Pine Siskin
- ___ American Goldfinch c
- ___ Evening Grosbeak

o	u
r	r
o	o
o	c
	r

Old World Sparrows

- ___ House Sparrow o

o	o	o
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Accidental or casual occurrence and have been seen only once or twice:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Wood Stork | Tundra Swan |
| Merlin | Yellow Rail |
| Red-necked Phalarope | Laughing Gull |
| Scissor Tailed Flycatcher | Northern Oriole |

Sighting Notes

Date _____ Time _____ Weather _____

No. of species _____

Route or area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____



*photo: Great Blue Heron
Herb Stein*

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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April 2001

