

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mackay Island

*National Wildlife Refuge
Bird List*



Tim Cooper ©

Wood Duck

Located along the Atlantic Flyway in northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia, Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge, provides a sanctuary for thousands of migratory waterfowl, with emphasis on the greater snow goose. Every fall and winter, ducks, geese, and swans fill the marshes and bays of the refuge. Many other migratory birds and resident wildlife call this area home as well.

The Knotts Island Causeway (NC Rt. 615) crosses the refuge, offering observation points for many of the bird species present in the Back Bay and Currituck Sound Area.

The refuge headquarters is located 1.2 miles south of the VA/NC state-line. Other locations to visit on the refuge include the Kuralt Site Overlook, the Great Marsh Loop Trail, and Mackay Island Road.



*Tundra Swan*

How To Use Your Checklist

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. The birds under major headings are arranged in alphabetical order. Symbols that 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 (likely 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)

* - nesting may occur on the refuge

*Yellow-rumped Warbler*

This checklist includes 154 species of birds and is based on observations by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists. If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We will appreciate your help in updating our records.

*Bald Eagle*

| | <i>SP</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>W</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Loon and Grebes | | | | |
| __Common Loon | | | o | o |
| __Red-throated Loon | | | r | r |
| __Horned Grebe | o | | | |
| __Pied-billed Grebe | o | o | c | c |
| __Red-necked Grebe | | | | r |
| Pelicans and Cormorants | | | | |
| __Double-crested Cormorant | o | o | c | c |
| Bitterns, Egrets, and Herons | | | | |
| __American Bittern* | u | u | u | u |
| __Least Bittern* | u | u | u | u |
| __Cattle Egret | c | c | o | |
| __Great Egret | c | c | c | c |
| __Snowy Egret | u | u | o | o |
| __Black-crowned Night-Heron | | o | o | o |
| __Great Blue Heron | c | c | c | c |
| __Green-backed Heron* | c | u | u | r |
| __Little Blue Heron | u | u | o | |
| __Tri-colored Heron | | o | o | o |
| __Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | | r | r | r |
| Ibises | | | | |
| __Glossy Ibis | u | u | o | o |
| __White Ibis | | o | | |
| Ducks, Geese and Swans | | | | |
| __Black Duck* | c | o | a | a |
| __Ring-necked Duck | | | u | u |
| __Ruddy Duck | | | c | c |
| __Wood Duck* | c | c | c | u |
| __Common Goldeneye | | | r | r |
| __Common Merganser | | | u | u |
| __Hooded Merganser* | r | r | u | u |
| __Red-breasted Merganser | | | u | u |
| __Greater Scaup | | | r | r |
| __Lesser Scaup | o | | u | u |
| __Blue-winged Teal | c | | c | c |
| __Green-winged Teal | c | | c | c |
| __American Widgeon | u | | c | c |
| __Eurasian Widgeon | | | r | r |
| __Bufflehead | | | o | u |
| __Canvasback | o | | o | o |
| __Gadwall | | | a | a |
| __Mallard* | a | u | a | a |
| __Northern Shoveler | u | | u | u |
| __Northern Pintail | o | | c | c |
| __Redhead | | | u | u |
| __Canada Goose* | c | c | c | u |
| __Snow Goose | c | r | c | a |
| __Whistling Swan | r | r | c | c |

| | <i>SP</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>W</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Vultures | | | | |
| __Black Vulture | r | r | o | o |
| __Turkey Vulture | c | c | a | a |
| Osprey, Kites, Eagles, Hawks, and Falcons | | | | |
| __Osprey* | c | c | c | r |
| __Northern Harrier | c | | c | c |
| __Bald Eagle * | u | u | u | u |
| __Golden Eagle | | | r | r |
| __Broad-winged Hawk | | u | u | |
| __Cooper's Hawk | o | | u | u |
| __Red-shouldered Hawk | o | o | o | o |
| __Red-tailed Hawk* | u | u | u | u |
| __Rough-legged Hawk | | | r | |
| __Sharp-shinned Hawk | | u | u | u |
| __American Kestrel | c | | c | c |
| __Merlin | | | o | o |
| __Peregrine Falcon | | | o | o |
| Gallinaceous Birds | | | | |
| __Northern Bobwhite* | c | c | c | c |
| Rails, Cranes, Gallinules, and Coots | | | | |
| __Black Rail | r | r | | |
| __Clapper Rail | o | r | r | r |
| __King Rail* | c | c | c | c |
| __Sora* | u | r | r | u |
| __Virginia Rail* | u | o | u | c |
| __Purple Gallinule | r | r | | |
| __American Coot* | c | r | c | c |
| __Common Moorhen* | o | o | o | o |
| Shorebirds | | | | |
| __Short-billed Dowitcher | u | | u | |
| __Long-billed Dowitcher | o | | o | |
| __Black-bellied Plover | o | | o | |
| __Semipalmated Plover | u | | u | |
| __Least Sandpiper | c | | c | o |
| __Semipalmated Sandpiper | c | | c | o |
| __Solitary Sandpiper | o | | r | |
| __Spotted Sandpiper | u | o | u | o |
| __Western Sandpiper | o | | o | |
| __Greater Yellowlegs | c | | c | |
| __Lesser Yellowlegs | c | | c | o |
| __American Woodcock | o | r | o | r |
| __Black-necked Stilt | o | | o | |
| __Common Snipe | u | | u | u |
| __Dunlin | o | | o | |
| __Killdeer | c | c | u | u |
| __Ruddy Turnstone | o | | o | |
| __Willet | u | | u | |

| | <i>SP</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>W</i> |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Gulls and Terns | | | | |
| __Bonaparte's Gull | | | o | o |
| __Great Black-backed Gull | u | | u | u |
| __Herring Gull | u | u | u | u |
| __Laughing Gull | u | u | c | c |
| __Ring-billed Gull | u | | u | u |
| __Black Tern | | u | | |
| __Caspian Tern | o | o | o | |
| __Common Tern | u | c | u | |
| __Forster's Tern | | r | o | o |
| __Least Tern | | o | o | |
| __Royal Tern | r | r | | |
| __Sooty Tern | | | r | |
| Doves | | | | |
| __Mourning Dove | c | c | c | c |
| __Rock Dove | o | o | o | o |
| Cuckoos | | | | |
| __Black-billed Cuckoo | | | r | r |
| __Yellow-billed Cuckoo* | | c | c | c |
| Owls | | | | |
| __Barred Owl | | | r | r |
| __Common Barn Owl* | r | r | r | r |
| __Eastern Screech Owl* | c | c | c | c |
| __Great Horned Owl* | u | u | u | u |
| __Short-eared Owl* | r | r | r | r |
| __Snowy Owl | | | r | r |
| Goatsuckers | | | | |
| __Chuck-will's widow* | u | u | | |
| __Common Nighthawk | r | r | | |
| Swifts, Hummingbirds, and Kingfishers | | | | |
| __Chimney Swift | u | o | o | |
| __Belted Kingfisher* | c | c | c | c |
| __Ruby-throated Hummingbird* | u | u | | |
| Woodpeckers | | | | |
| __Common Flicker* | c | c | a | c |
| __Downy Woodpecker | u | u | u | u |
| __Hairy Woodpecker | u | r | r | r |
| __Pileated Woodpecker* | u | u | u | u |
| __Red-bellied Woodpecker | u | u | u | o |
| __Red-headed Woodpecker | o | o | o | r |
| __Yellow-bellied Woodpecker | o | o | o | o |
| Flycatchers | | | | |
| __Acadian Flycatcher | o | | o | |
| __Great Crested Flycatcher* | c | u | u | |
| __Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | r | | r | |

| | <i>SP</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>W</i> |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| __Eastern Kingbird* | u | u | u | |
| __Eastern Phoebe | u | u | c | o |
| __Eastern Wood-Pewee* | c | o | o | |
| Martins and Swallows | | | | |
| __Purple Martin* | u | u | u | |
| __Barn Swallow* | c | c | c | |
| __Northern Rough-winged Swallow | r | r | r | |
| __Tree Swallow* | c | c | a | o |
| Jays and Crows | | | | |
| __Blue Jay* | u | u | c | u |
| __American Crow* | c | c | c | c |
| __Fish Crow | u | u | u | |
| Chickadees and Titmice | | | | |
| __Carolina Chickadee* | c | c | c | c |
| __Tufted Titmose* | u | c | c | |
| Nuthatches and Creepers | | | | |
| __White-breasted Nuthatch | | | o | o |
| __Brown-headed Nuthatch* | u | u | u | u |
| __Brown Creeper | o | | | o |
| Wrens | | | | |
| __Carolina Wren* | c | c | c | c |
| __House Wren* | u | u | o | |
| __Marsh Wren* | c | c | c | c |
| Kinglets and Gnatcatchers | | | | |
| __Golden-crowned Kinglet | u | | u | u |
| __Ruby-crowned Kinglet | u | | u | o |
| __Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | u | u | o | |
| Thrushes, Robins, and Bluebirds | | | | |
| __Hermit Thrush | | | | u |
| __Wood Thrush | u | o | u | |
| __American Robin* | c | c | c | o |
| __Eastern Bluebird* | c | c | c | u |
| Thrashers, Mocking Birds, and Catbird | | | | |
| __Brown Thrasher* | c | c | c | c |
| __Mockingbird* | c | c | c | c |
| __Catbird* | u | u | u | u |
| Waxwings and Starlings | | | | |
| __Cedar Waxwing | u | | u | u |
| __European Starling* | c | c | c | u |
| Vireos | | | | |
| __Red-eyed Vireo* | o | o | | |
| __White-eyed Vireo* | u | c | u | |

| | <i>SP</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>W</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Warblers | | | | |
| __American Redstart | u | | u | |
| __Black-and-white Warbler | u | | u | |
| __Blackpoll Warbler | o | | | |
| __Black-throated Green Warbler | o | | | |
| __Common Yellowthroat* | c | c | c | |
| __Hooded Warbler | o | | | |
| __Magnolia Warbler | u | | u | |
| __Northern Parula | r | | | |
| __Ovenbird | c | o | o | |
| __Palm Warbler | u | | c | |
| __Pine Warbler* | c | c | c | o |
| __Prairie Warbler* | c | c | | |
| __Prothonotary Warbler | c | c | o | |
| __Yellow-rumped Warbler | c | o | a | a |
| __Yellow-throated Warbler | o | r | | |
| __Yellow Warbler | u | | u | |
| __Yellow-breasted Chat | u | u | o | |
| Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, and Tanagers | | | | |
| __Northern Cardinal* | c | c | c | c |
| __Blue Grosbeak* | u | u | o | |
| __Rose-breasted Grosbeak | o | | o | o |
| __Indigo Bunting* | u | u | u | |
| __Summer Tanager | o | | o | |
| Sparrows | | | | |
| __Chipping Sparrow* | c | c | c | u |
| __Dark-eyed Junco | u | | u | u |
| __Field Sparrow | c | | c | u |
| __Fox Sparrow | | | | u |
| __Eastern Towhee* | c | c | c | c |
| __Savannah Sparrow* | c | c | c | c |
| __Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | r | | |
| __Song Sparrow* | c | c | c | c |
| __Swamp Sparrow | | | c | c |
| __White-crowned Sparrow | | | o | |
| __White-throated Sparrow | c | | c | c |
| __Seaside Sparrow | u | u | u | o |
| Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, Orioles, and Cowbirds | | | | |
| __Boat-tailed Grackle* | a | a | a | c |
| __Bobolink | o | | o | |
| __Brown-headed Cowbird* | c | c | c | c |
| __Common Grackle* | c | c | c | c |
| __Eastern Meadowlark* | c | c | c | u |
| __Northern Oriole | o | | | |
| __Orchard Oriole* | u | u | o | |
| __Red-winged Blackbird* | a | a | a | a |

Finches

__American Goldfinch

__Purple Finch

Weaver Finches

__House Sparrow*

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Snow Geese

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King Rail

Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

No. of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks



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



Tim Cooper©

Great Blue Heron

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