

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Santee

*National Wildlife Refuge
Bird List*



photo: Bill Alexander



photo: Bill Alexander

*Santee
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



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

Santee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 to alleviate the loss of natural waterfowl and wildlife habitat caused by the construction of hydroelectric projects on the Santee and Cooper Rivers.

Stretching for eighteen miles along the northern shore of Lake Marion, the refuge encompasses 15,095 acres of mixed hardwoods, pine-hardwoods, pine plantations, marsh, croplands, old fields, ponds, impoundments and open waters. This diversity of habitats support a myriad of wildlife species including 296 bird species recorded on the refuge.

Excellent birding opportunities exist on all four units of Santee Refuge. A walk along the one-mile Wrights Bluff Nature Trail affords visitors the chance to observe songbirds, wading birds, and several species of waterfowl. Dingle Pond is home to a Carolina Bay and provides unique habitat for several wetland species including a great diversity of songbirds, wading birds, and waterfowl. Visitors may utilize a one-mile trail to get a closer look at wildlife.

The Pine Island and Cuddo Units provide the greatest diversity of habitats of the four units. Visitor access on Pine Island is limited to foot and bicycle traffic only. A wildlife drive on the Cuddo Unit provides numerous wildlife observation opportunities along with access to 3-1/2 miles of hiking trails.

An automatic gate on the Cuddo Unit controls hours of access to minimize disturbance to wildlife during critical periods. Current visitor use hours are posted at the entrance gate or may be obtained by contacting the refuge office. Visitor access on all refuge units may be limited to provide total sanctuary for wintering ducks and geese.

This checklist is based on records and observations by refuge personnel, state biologists, and visiting birders as well as a information gleaned from numerous publications. Since we try to keep our list up-to-date, it is important that persons who see a bird not listed, report this sighting to the refuge manager at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, 2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148 (Telephone: (803)478 2217).

How to use your checklist

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. The names for birds used comply with recommendations of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). Species are listed in the order set by the AOU's Checklist of North American Birds, 7th Edition (1998). 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 (common species - 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 a season)

r — rare (seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years)

ac — very rarely seen with only one or two sightings within the past ten years

* — breeds on the refuge

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
___ Red-throated Loon	ac		ac	
___ Common Loon				u
Grebes				
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	u	o	c	a
___ Horned Grebe				u
___ Red-necked Grebe				ac
___ Eared Grebe				ac
Pelicans, Cormorants & Darters				
___ American White Pelican				ac
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	u	c	a
___ Anhinga	c	a	c	u
Bitterns, Herons & Egrets				
___ American Bittern	r			u
___ Least Bittern*	u	u	u	
___ Great Blue Heron*	c	c	a	c
___ Great Egret	c	c	a	c
___ Snowy Egret	o	u	u	r
___ Little Blue Heron	o	u	u	r
___ Tricolored Heron	u	u	u	ac
___ Cattle Egret	a	a	a	r
___ Green Heron*	a	a	a	r
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	r	r	r	ac
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	
Ibises				
___ White Ibis	o	o	o	r
___ Glossy Ibis	ac		ac	
Storks				
___ Wood Stork	r	r	o	ac
New World Vultures				
___ Black Vulture	u	u	u	u
___ Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c
Waterfowl				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck				ac
___ Greater White-fronted Goose				o
___ Snow Goose				u
___ Ross's Goose				ac
___ Canada Goose				c
___ Barnacle Goose				ac
___ Mute Swan				ac
___ Tundra Swan				u
___ Wood Duck*	a	a	a	a
___ Gadwall				c
___ Eurasian Wigeon				ac
___ American Wigeon				c
___ American Black Duck	r			o

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Mallard	o	o	u	a
___ Blue-winged Teal	o		c	o
___ Cinnamon Teal				ac
___ Northern Shoveler	r			c
___ Northern Pintail				o
___ Green-winged Teal	r			a
___ Canvasback				u
___ Redhead				u
___ Ring-necked Duck	r			c
___ Greater Scaup				r
___ Lesser Scaup				o
___ White-winged Scoter				ac
___ Bufflehead				c
___ Common Goldeneye				r
___ Hooded Merganser				c
___ Common Merganser				ac
___ Red-breasted Merganser				o
___ Ruddy Duck				o

Hawks, Eagles and Kites

___ Osprey	c	c	c	u
___ Swallow-tailed Kite	ac		ac	
___ Mississippi Kite	o	o		
___ Bald Eagle*	c	u	u	c
___ Northern Harrier	o		o	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		o	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	r	r	r	u
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	c	c	c	c
___ Broad-winged Hawk	o		o	ac
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	c
___ Rough-legged Hawk				ac
___ Golden Eagle				ac

True Falcons

___ American Kestrel	r		o	c
___ Merlin	r		r	ac
___ Peregrine Falcon	r		r	r

Turkey and New World Quail

___ Wild turkey*	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u

Rails, Gallinules, Coots & Cranes

___ Yellow Rail	ac			ac
___ Black Rail	ac			ac
___ King Rail*	o	o	o	o
___ Virginia Rail	r			o
___ Sora	r			
___ Purple Gallinule*	u	u		
___ Common Moorhen*	a	a	a	c
___ American Coot	u	o	o	a
___ Sandhill Crane				ac

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Plovers				
___ Black-bellied Plover	r		r	
___ American Golden-Plover	ac		ac	
___ Wilson's Plover	ac		ac	
___ Semipalmated Plover	u		u	
___ Piping Plover	ac		ac	
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	c
Sandpipers				
___ American Avocet				ac
___ Greater Yellowlegs	o		o	o
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	r		r	r
___ Solitary Sandpiper	o		o	
___ Willet	r		r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	o		o	r
___ Upland Sandpiper	o		o	
___ Whimbrel	ac		ac	
___ Marbled Godwit	ac		ac	
___ Ruddy Turnstone	ac		ac	
___ Red Knot	ac		ac	
___ Sanderling	ac		ac	
___ Semipalmated Plover	r		r	
___ Western Sandpiper	r			
___ Least Sandpiper	u		u	r
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	r		r	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	o		u	
___ Dunlin	r		r	ac
___ Stilt Sandpiper	r		r	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	ac		ac	
___ Ruff	ac		ac	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	u		u	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher				ac
___ Wilson's Snipe	o		r	c
___ American Woodcock*	o	o	o	u
___ Wilson's Phalarope	ac		ac	
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers				
___ Laughing Gull	o	o	u	r
___ Franklin's Gull				ac
___ Bonaparte's Gull	r			u
___ Ring-billed Gull	c	r	c	c
___ Herring Gull	u	r	u	u
___ Caspian Tern	o		o	r
___ Royal Tern	r		r	
___ Common tern	ac		ac	ac
___ Forster's Tern	r		o	u
___ Least Tern	o	r	o	
___ Black Tern	r		r	
___ Black Skimmer			ac	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Pigeons and Doves				
___ Rock Pigeon*	c	c	c	c
___ Mourning Dove*	a	a	a	a
___ Common Ground Dove	ac	ac	ac	ac
Cuckoos				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	ac		ac	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	u	u	
Owls				
___ Barn Owl*	o	o	o	o
___ Eastern Screech Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Great Horned Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Barred Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Long-eared Owl				ac
___ Short-eared Owl	ac			ac
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl				ac
Nightjars & Swifts				
___ Common Nighthawk*	u	o	u	
___ Chuck-will's Widow*	c	c	u	
___ Whip-por-will*	c	c	u	ac
___ Chimney Swift*	c	c	c	ac
Hummingbirds				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	u	c	
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher*	u	o	u	c
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o		r	c
___ Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Red-cockaded Woodpecker	ac	ac	ac	ac
___ Northern Flicker*	c	u	c	a
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___ Oliver-sided Flycatcher	ac		ac	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	ac		ac	
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
___ Willow Flycatcher	r		r	
___ Least Flycatcher	ac		ac	
___ Eastern Phoebe	o		o	c
___ Vermillion Flycatcher			ac	
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
___ Western Kingbird			ac	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	
___ Gray Kingbird				ac
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				ac
Shrikes				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u
Vireos				
___ White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	c
___ Bell's Vireo			ac	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	c	c	c	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	o		o	c
___ Warbling Vireo	o	o	o	
___ Philadelphia Vireo			ac	
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
Jays & Crows				
___ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
___ American Crow*	a	a	a	a
___ Fish Crow*	a	a	c	r
Larks & Swallows				
___ Horned Lark				ac
___ Purple Martin*	c	c	u	
___ Tree Swallow	a	ac	a	r
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	u	u	u	
___ Bank Swallow	o	u	o	
___ Cliff Swallow	o	u	o	
___ Barn Swallow*	a	a	a	
Titmice & Chickadees				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches & Creepers				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch*				r
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	u	u	u	u
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Creeper				u
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
___ Bewick's Wren			ac	
___ House Wren	o			c
___ Winter Wren				u
___ Sedge Wren	o			u
___ Marsh Wren*	u	u	u	u
Kinglets & Gnatcatchers				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet			o	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		o	a
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Thrushes				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
___ Veery	u		u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	r		r	
___ Bicknell's Thrush	r		r	
___ Swainson's Thrush	u		u	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		o	c
___ Wood Thrush*	c	c	c	c
___ American Robin	u	u	c	c
Mockingbirds & Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird	u	o	u	u
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	c
Starling				
___ European Starling*	c	c	a	a
Pipits				
___ American Pipit	r		o	u
___ Sprague's Pipit			ac	
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing	o		r	c
Wood Warblers				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Tennessee Warbler	o		u	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	o		r	u
___ Nashville Warbler	r		r	
___ Northern Parula*	c	c	c	
___ Yellow Warbler	c		c	ac
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	o		u	
___ Magnolia Warbler	o		u	
___ Cape May Warbler	o		u	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	o		u	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	o		o	a
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	o		u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	o		u	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	c	c	c	r
___ Pine Warbler*	c	c	c	c
___ Kirkland's Warbler	ac		ac	
___ Prairie Warbler*	c	u	u	r
___ Palm Warbler	o		o	u
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	o		u	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u		r	
___ Cerulean Warbler	r		r	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	u	o	u	o
___ American Redstart	u	r	u	
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	c	
___ Worm-eating Warbler	u		u	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Swainson's Warbler*	u	u	o	
___ Ovenbird	u		u	
___ Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*	u	u	u	
___ Kentucky Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Connecticut Warbler			r	
___ Mourning Warbler	r		r	
___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	c
___ Hooded Warbler*	c	c	c	
___ Wilson's Warbler	o		o	r
___ Canada Warbler	u		u	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	c	c	u	
Tanagers				
___ Summer Tanager*	c	c	c	
___ Scarlet Tanager	o		u	
___ Western Tanager				ac
Emberizids				
___ Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	c
___ Bachman's Sparrow*	r	r	r	ac
___ Chipping Sparrow*	c	u	c	c
___ Clay-colored Sparrow				ac
___ Field Sparrow*	c	u	c	c
___ Vesper Sparrow				o
___ Lark Sparrow			ac	
___ Savannah Sparrow	u		u	c
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	ac			ac
___ Henslow's Sparrow	ac			ac
___ LeConte's Sparrow	r			r
___ Fox Sparrow			r	r
___ Song Sparrow	o		o	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow				r
___ Swamp Sparrow	o		o	c
___ White-throated Sparrow	o		o	c
___ White-crowned Sparrow				r
___ Dark-eyed Junco	o		r	c
Cardinals & Allies				
___ Northern Cardinal*	a	a	a	a
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u	
___ Blue Grosbeak*	c	c	c	
___ Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	
___ Painted Bunting*	u	u	o	
___ Dickcissel	r	r	r	
Blackbirds				
___ Bobolink	u		u	
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	c	u
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	u	u	u	u
___ Western Meadowlark			ac	
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird			ac	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Rusty Blackbird	o			u
___ Brewer's Blackbird				ac
___ Common Grackle*	c	c	c	a
___ Boat-tailed Grackle	r	r	r	ac
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	a
___ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	c	
___ Baltimore Oriole	o		o	

Northern Finches

___ Purple Finch				o
___ House Finch*	u	u	u	u
___ Pine Siskin	r			o
___ American Goldfinch	r	r	r	c
___ Evening Grosbeak				r

Old World Sparrows

___ House Sparrow	o	o	o	o
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Birding Ethics

The membership of the American Birding Association believes that all birders have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others. They 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.



Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of Species _____

Route or Area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____

Check out the American Birding Association's website at <http://www.aba.org> for additional information on birding ethics.



photo: USFWS

**Santee
National Wildlife Refuge
2125 Fort Watson Road
Summerton, South Carolina 29148**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD**

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