

St. Marks

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List



St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is on the shores of Apalachee Bay, in northwestern Florida, about 20 miles south of Tallahassee. Established in 1931, the refuge contains about 66,000 acres of salt and brackish marshes, hardwood swamps, pine flatwoods, and pine-oak uplands; parts of which are in Taylor, Jefferson, and Wakulla Counties. An additional 31,700 acres of water in Apalachee Bay are included as part of the refuge through a Presidential Proclamation. St. Marks Refuge provides an extensive wintering habitat for waterfowl and is one of the earliest such areas acquired by the Government.



Barred Owl

*St. Marks
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



USFWS

Wood ducks

The seasons bring about marked changes in both species and abundance of birdlife. Best opportunities for observing the greatest variety and number of birds are during the fall and spring. Waterfowl are most easily seen on the refuge from mid-November through late December. Shore birds are most common during late spring and early fall.

This list is in accordance with the A.O.U. Checklist as amended. Enjoy your visit!

*Symbols used in
this list are
defined as
follows*

Sp-Spring - March-May
S-Summer - June-August
F-Fall - September-November
W-Winter - December-February
***** Nest on Refuge

a-abundant a common species which is very numerous



*This blue goose,
designed by
“Ding Darling,”
has become a
symbol of the
Refuge System.*

c-common certain to be seen or heard 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

This folder lists 274 species of birds that are considered part of the refuge's fauna. The following are additional species that are of such accidental or rare occurrence on the refuge that they have been recorded

only one or a few times and are generally considered out of their normal range:

Eared Grebe	Cave Swallow
Cory's Shearwater	Horned Lark
American Flamingo	White-breasted Nuthatch
Brant	Sprague's Pipit
Mottled Duck	Bell's Vireo
White-winged Scoter	Warbling Vireo
White-tailed Kite	Connecticut Warbler
Short-tailed Hawk	Canada Warbler
Rough-legged Hawk	Clay-colored Sparrow
Hudsonian Godwit	Lark Bunting
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	LeConte's Sparrow
Baird's Sandpiper	Fox Sparrow
Bridled Tern	Lapland Longspur
Sooty Tern	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Inca Dove	Pine Siskin
Budgerigar	Evening Grosbeak
Short-eared Owl	

If you observe any accidental or discontinued birds, please notify a refuge employee.

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
_____ Red-throated Loon				r
_____ Common Loon	c		u	c
Grebes				
_____ Pied-billed Grebe*	c	c	a	a
_____ Horned Grebe	c	r	u	c
_____ Red-necked Grebe			r	r
Pelicans and their Allies				
_____ Northern Gannet	o		o	o
_____ American White Pelican	u	r	u	u
_____ Brown Pelican	c	c	c	c
_____ Double-crested Cormorant	a	a	a	a
_____ Anhinga*	c	c	c	c
_____ Magnificent Frigatebird		r		
Hérons, Egrets and their Allies				
_____ American Bittern	o		o	o
_____ Least Bittern*	c	c	u	r
_____ Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
_____ Great Egret*	a	a	a	a
_____ Snowy Egret*	a	a	a	a
_____ Little Blue Heron*	a	a	a	a
_____ Tricolored Heron*	a	a	a	a

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Reddish Egret	o	u	u	o
_____ Cattle Egret*	c	c	c	r
_____ Green Heron*	c	c	u	u
_____ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	c	u	u	c
_____ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	u	u	r	r

Ibises, Spoonbill, Stork

_____ Glossy Ibis	u	u	u	c
_____ White Ibis*	a	a	c	c
_____ Roseate Spoonbill	r	r	r	
_____ Wood Stork	u	u	u	r

Waterfowl

_____ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	r		r	r
_____ Tundra Swan			r	r
_____ Greater White-fronted Goose			r	r
_____ Snow Goose			u	o
_____ Canada Goose	r		r	r
_____ Wood Duck*	c	c	a	a
_____ Green-winged Teal	c		c	c
_____ American Black Duck	u		u	u
_____ Mallard	u		u	c
_____ Northern Pintail	c		c	c
_____ Blue-winged Teal	c	u	c	c
_____ Cinnamon Teal			r	r
_____ Northern Shoveler	c	r	c	c
_____ Gadwall	c		c	c
_____ Eurasian Wigeon			r	r
_____ American Wigeon	c	r	c	c
_____ Canvasback	u		u	u
_____ Redhead	u	r	a	a
_____ Ring-necked Duck	c		c	c
_____ Greater Scaup	u	o	c	c
_____ Lesser Scaup	c	o	c	c
_____ Oldsquaw			r	r
_____ Black Scoter	r		r	r
_____ Surf Scoter	r		r	r
_____ Common Goldeneye	u		u	u
_____ Bufflehead	u		c	c
_____ Hooded Merganser			c	c
_____ Common Merganser	r			r
_____ Red-breasted Merganser	c	r	c	c
_____ Ruddy Duck	u	r	u	u

Vultures, Hawks and Allies

_____ Black Vulture*	u	u	c	c
_____ Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c
_____ Osprey*	c	c	u	o
_____ Swallow-tailed Kite*	u	u		
_____ Mississippi Kite*	u	u		
_____ Bald Eagle*	u	o	u	c
_____ Northern Harrier	c	r	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	r		u	u
_____ Cooper's Hawk	r		u	o
_____ Red-shouldered Hawk*	c	c	c	c
_____ Broad-winged Hawk*	u	u	u	
_____ Red-tailed Hawk*	u	u	c	c
_____ Golden Eagle	r			r
_____ American Kestrel	u		u	u
_____ Merlin	o		o	o
_____ Peregrine Falcon	r		o	o

Gallinaceous birds (Quail, Turkey and Allies)

_____ Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u
_____ Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u

Rails, Gallinules, Coots and Cranes

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

Shorebirds

_____ Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
_____ American Golden-Plover	r		r	
_____ Wilson's Plover*	u	u	u	u
_____ Semipalmated Plover	c	u	c	c
_____ Piping Plover	r	r	r	
_____ Killdeer*	c	r	c	u
_____ American Oystercatcher*	u	u	u	u
_____ Black-necked Stilt*	o	o	o	
_____ American Avocet		o	o	o
_____ Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	u
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	u
_____ Solitary Sandpiper	o	o	o	
_____ Willet*	c	c	a	a
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	o
_____ Upland Sandpiper	r	r	r	
_____ Whimbrel	u	u	u	u
_____ Long-billed Curlew	r		r	
_____ Marbled Godwit	o	r	o	r
_____ Ruddy Turnstone	c	u	c	u
_____ Red Knot	o	r	o	
_____ Sanderling	u	u	u	u
_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	u	c	
_____ Western Sandpiper	c	c	a	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Least Sandpiper	c	c	c	c
_____ White-rumped Sandpiper	o	r		
_____ Pectoral Sandpiper	o		o	
_____ Dunlin	a	r	c	a
_____ Stilt Sandpiper	o		o	
_____ Short-billed Dowitcher	c	c	a	a
_____ Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	r
_____ Common Snipe	u		c	u
_____ American Woodcock	u		u	u
_____ Wilson's Phalarope	r	r		
_____ Laughing Gull*	c	a	c	o
_____ Bonaparte's Gull	o		o	o
_____ Ring-billed Gull	a	o	a	a
_____ Herring Gull	c	o	c	c
_____ Great Black-backed Gull	r			r
_____ Gull-billed Tern	r	r	r	
_____ Caspian Tern	r	r	r	r
_____ Royal Tern	o	o	o	o
_____ Sandwich Tern	o	o	o	
_____ Common Tern	u	u	u	
_____ Forster's Tern	c	c	c	c
_____ Least Tern*	c	u	u	
_____ Black Tern	o	u	o	
_____ Black Skimmer	o	o	o	o

Pigeons, Doves

_____ Rock Dove	r	r	r	r
_____ Eurasian Collared Dove	o	o	o	o
_____ White-winged Dove			o	
_____ Mourning Dove*	u	u	c	u
_____ Common Ground-Dove*	u	u	u	u

Cuckoos

_____ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r	
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	c	
_____ Groove-billed Ani			r	r

Owls

_____ Common Barn Owl*	r	r	r	r
_____ Eastern Screech-Owl*	u	u	u	u
_____ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
_____ Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u

Nightjars

_____ Common Nighthawk*	c	c	c	
_____ Chuck-will's-widow*	c	c	u	
_____ Whip-poor-will	o		o	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Swifts, Hummingbirds				
_____ Chimney Swift*	u	u	u	
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	u	o	u	
Kingfishers				
_____ Belted Kingfisher*	c	c	c	c
Woodpeckers				
_____ Red-headed Woodpecker*	o	o	o	o
_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
_____ Downy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
_____ Hairy Woodpecker*	o	o	o	o
_____ Red-cockaded Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
_____ Northern Flicker*	c	u	c	c
_____ Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Flycatchers				
_____ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	u	u	u	
_____ Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	u	
_____ Eastern Phoebe	u		c	c
_____ Vermilion Flycatcher	r		o	o
_____ Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	o	
_____ Western Kingbird	r		o	
_____ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	
_____ Gray Kingbird*	c	c	u	
_____ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	r		r	
Martins and Swallows				
_____ Purple Martin*	c	c	u	u
_____ Tree Swallow	a	u	a	a
_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	u	u	r
_____ Bank Swallow	o	o	o	
_____ Cliff Swallow			r	
_____ Barn Swallow	c	c	c	r
Jays and Crows				
_____ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
_____ American Crow*	c	c	c	c
_____ Fish Crow*	c	c	c	u
Chickadees and Titmice				
_____ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
_____ Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches				
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch				r
_____ Brown-headed Nuthatch*	u	u	u	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Creepers				
_____ Brown Creeper	r		r	r
Wrens				
_____ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
_____ House Wren	u		c	u
_____ Winter Wren	u		u	u
_____ Sedge Wren	u		c	c
_____ Marsh Wren*	c	c	c	c
Kinglets and Gnatcatchers				
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c
_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	u
Bluebirds, Thrushes and Robin				
_____ Eastern Bluebird*	u	r	u	u
_____ Veery	o		u	
_____ Gray-cheeked Thrush	o		u	
_____ Swainson's Thrush	o		u	
_____ Hermit Thrush	o		u	u
_____ Wood Thrush	o		u	
_____ American Robin	a		c	a
Thrashers				
_____ Gray Catbird	c		a	c
_____ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
_____ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	a	c
Pipits				
_____ American Pipit	u		u	u
Waxwings				
_____ Cedar Waxwing	u		u	u
Starling				
_____ Starling*	u	u	u	c
Shrike				
_____ Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u
Vireos				
_____ White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	u
_____ Plumbeous Vireo	u		u	u
_____ Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	u	
_____ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	u	c	
Warblers				
_____ Blue-winged Warbler	r	r	r	
_____ Golden-winged Warbler		r	r	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Tennessee Warbler	r		u	
Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	u
Northern Parula*	c	c	u	
Yellow Warbler	o	c	c	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		o	
Magnolia Warbler	r		u	
Cape May Warbler	u			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	a		a	a
Black-throated Green Warbler	r		r	
Blackburnian Warbler	r		r	
Yellow-throated Warbler*	c	c	u	o
Pine Warbler*	c	c	c	c
Prairie Warbler	c	c	c	r
Palm Warbler	c		c	r
Blackpoll Warbler	u			
Cerulean Warbler		r	r	
Black-and-white Warbler	u	u	u	u
American Redstart	o	r	o	
Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	u	
Worm-eating Warbler	r	r	r	
Swainson's Warbler*	r	r	r	
Ovenbird	r		r	
Northern Waterthrush	r	r	r	
Louisiana Waterthrush	r	r	r	
Kentucky Warbler*	u	u	r	
Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	c
Hooded Warbler*	u	u	u	
Yellow-breasted Chat*	c	c	r	r

Tanagers

Summer Tanager*	c	c	c	
Scarlet Tanager	r		o	

New World Finches

Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r		o	
Blue Grosbeak*	u	u	u	
Indigo Bunting*	c	u	c	
Painted Bunting	r		r	
Dickcissel	r		r	

Sparrows

Eastern Towhee*	a	a	a	a
Bachman's Sparrow*	u	u	u	u
Chipping Sparrow	u		u	u
Field Sparrow	u		u	u
Vesper Sparrow	u		u	u
Savannah Sparrow	u		u	u
Henslow's Sparrow				r
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Song Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ White-crowned Sparrow			r	
_____ Dark-eyed Junco	r		o	o
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow	r		r	
_____ Seaside Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Lark Sparrow			r	

Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds and Orioles

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

Old World Finches

_____ Purple Finch	r		r	u
_____ American Goldfinch	c		c	c

Weaver Finches

_____ House Sparrow	r	r	r	r
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Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of species _____

Route or area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____

**St. Marks
National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 68
St. Marks, Florida 32355
850/925 6121
R4RW_FL.SMK@mail.gov**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/r4eao>**

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Ethics for Birdwatching

Take care not to disturb nesting birds, exposing eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation.

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.

Do not litter! Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

For further information, contact:

Refuge Manager
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 68
St. Marks, Florida 32355
850/925 6121