

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin

*National Wildlife Refuge
Bird List*



Lee Karpney

Welcome to the Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge! The Refuge is located in the “Low Country” of South Carolina, approximately 25 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina. Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR consists of more than 11,815 acres of fresh, brackish, and salt marsh, managed impoundments, mixed pine and hardwood forests, bottomland hardwoods, and old agricultural fields. The refuge is divided into two units: the Edisto Unit and the Combahee Unit. The Edisto Unit, as its name implies lies along the South Edisto River and includes the Refuge Headquarters – The Grove Plantation. The Combahee Unit lies along the Combahee River and includes property on both the north and south sides of the river.

The Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge has long been known for its tremendous diversity of wildlife. The intricate networks of marshes tidal creeks, uplands and wetlands support an abundance of plants and animals. The Refuge is home to a vast array of waterfowl, songbirds, fish, shellfish, and upland animals. Because the Refuge lies along the Atlantic Flyway it is rich in birdlife year-round. Vast numbers of waterfowl, shorebirds, neotropical songbirds, and birds of prey migrate from their nesting grounds to wintering areas throughout eastern North America.

Beginning in late fall and into early spring, the refuge is a haven for wood ducks, pintails, shovelers, mallards and widgeon, to name a few of the approximately 20 species of waterfowl that winter at the Refuge. Also during the winter months, the refuge's old fields provide food and cover for many species of sparrows and wrens including Vesper, Lincoln, and Henslow's sparrows, and Sedge wrens. During the spring, summer, and early fall neotropical songbirds call the refuge their home. These small, colorful birds venture thousands of miles from their wintering areas in Central and South America. Prothonotary warblers, painted buntings, and ruby-throated hummingbirds are just a few that use the refuge as summer breeding habitat.

Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR is crucial to the survival of many threatened and endangered species including the wood stork. The threatened bald eagle nests on the refuge, as well as using areas of the refuge for feeding.

A vast assortment of other bird species also call the refuge home. Wading birds such as egrets, herons, and ibis can frequently be seen within the impoundment as water is being drawn down. It is not uncommon to see wild turkey scratching in the pine straw under the long leaf pines, or to hear bobwhite quail calling from along the edge of old farm fields.

The Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR has been recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by both the American Bird Conservancy and the National Audubon Society, mainly because of the Refuge's on-going efforts to conserve wild birds and their habitats. Being named as an IBA draws attention to the significance of the Refuge for birds and for the people who visit each year.

There are many good birding sites around the refuge. One of the best is around the Grove Plantation where there are numerous trails that lead through a variety of

habitats. A trail map can be obtained from the refuge headquarters. Please keep in mind that some trails may be closed seasonally to protect sensitive wildlife areas or because of special deer hunts. Consult the refuge general brochure and hunting regulations for closure information.

For further information contact:

Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 848
Hollywood, SC 29449
843/889 3084

This checklist includes 291 species found with varying regularity on the refuge. Fifty-five of the 291 are considered accidentals, meaning they have been reported only once or twice. A total of 96 species are known to nest on the refuge. This list is a work-in-progress. The Refuge staff welcomes information on any sightings of "O", "R", or accidental species, or any other species not included in either list.

Special thanks to Refuge Volunteer Michaelle Aldenderfer for compiling this species list.

Season Appearances:

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

Seasonal Abundance

(A) Abundant - A common species that should be seen in numbers on each visit.

(C) Common - Always present and certain to be seen in suitable habitat.

(U) Uncommon - Generally present but not certain to be seen on each visit.

(O) Occasional - Seen only a few times during the season.

(R) Rare - Not present every year.

Accidental - Has been seen no more than once or twice (listed separately).

* Known or suspected to have nested on refuge or known to nest locally.

Birding Ethics

Birders on the refuge are expected to adhere to the Code of Birding Ethics set forth by the American Birding Association to promote the welfare of birds and their environments:

Support the protection of important bird habitat.

Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered or Special Concern, or is rare in the local area.

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming or recording, use a blind or hide and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized and permission had been obtained from the landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities at the refuge headquarters.

Stay on roads, trails and paths where they exist. Otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing the use of roads and public areas.

Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
GREBES				
Grebe, Pied-billed*	C	U	C	C
PELICANS and Allies				
Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C	C
Anhinga	C	C	U	U
Pelican, American White	U	U	—	U
Pelican, Brown	R	R	R	R
HERONS, EGRETS, AND Allies				
Bittern, American	U	U	U	O
Bittern, Least *	U	C	U	R
Heron, Green-backed*	C	C	C	U
Egret, Cattle*	U	C	U	—
Egret, Great*	C	C	C	C
Egret, Snowy*	C	C	C	C
Heron, Little Blue*	C	C	C	C
Heron, Tri-colored*	C	C	C	C
Heron, Great Blue*	C	C	C	C
Black-crowned Night Heron*	C	C	C	C
Yellow-crowned Night Heron*	U	U	O	O
IBISES and STORKS				
Ibis, White*	C	C	C	U
Ibis, Glossy*	U	U	O	R
Stork, Wood*	C	C	C	U
NEW WORLD VULTURES				
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C
Black Vulture	C	C	C	C
DUCKS, GEESE, and SWANS				
Snow Goose	R	—	R	R
Canada Goose	O	—	O	O
Wood Duck*	C	C	C	A
Gadwall	R	—	R	O
American Wigeon	O	—	R	U
Eurasian Wigeon	R	—	—	R
American Black Duck	R	—	R	O
Mallard	O	—	U	C
Blue-Winged Teal	U	R	C	C
Northern Shoveler	U	—	R	C
Northern Pintail	O	—	U	U
Green-Winged Teal	U	—	C	C
Canvasback	R	—	—	R
Redhead	R	—	—	R
Ring-necked Duck	O	—	O	U
Lesser Scaup	R	—	R	O
Bufflehead	O	—	O	O
Hooded Merganser	U	—	O	U
Ruddy Duck	R	—	R	O

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Mottled Duck*	U	U	U	U
Fulvous Whistling Duck	R	—	R	R
Black-bellied Whistling Duck*	R	R	R	R
HAWKS, KITES, and EAGLES				
Osprey*	C	C	C	R
American Swallow-Tailed Kite*	O	U	R	--
Mississippi Kite*	C	C	R	--
Eagle, Bald*	C	U	U	C
Golden Eagle	R	--	--	O
Harrier, Northern	C	--	C	C
Hawk, Sharp-Shinned	C	R	C	C
Hawk, Cooper's	O	O	O	O
Hawk, Broad-Winged	--	--	R	R
Hawk, Red-Shouldered*	C	C	C	C
Hawk, Red-Tailed	C	O	C	C
FALCONS				
Kestrel, American	C	R	O	C
Merlin	R	—	R	R
Falcon, Peregrine	R	—	O	R
TURKEYS				
Turkey, Wild*	C	C	C	C
NEW WORLD QUAIL				
Bobwhite, Northern*	U	C	U	U
RAILS, GALLINULES, and COOT				
King Rail *	O	O	O	O
Clapper Rail*	C	C	C	C
(Heard mostly)				
Yellow Rail	--	--	R	R
Virginia Rail	R	--	R	R
Black Rail*	R	R	—	R
Sora	O	--	U	O
Moorhen, Common*	C	C	C	C
Coot, American	U	--	U	C
PLOVERS				
Killdeer*	C	O	C	C
Plover, Black-Bellied	O	R	R	R
Plover, Semipalmated	C	C	C	
SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES				
Stilt, Black-Necked*	C	C	--	--
Avocet, American	R	--	--	R
Yellow-Legs, Greater	C	R	C	C
Yellow-Legs, Lesser	C	--	C	C
Sandpiper, Solitary	C	--	--	R
Willet*	O	O	—	—
Sandpiper, Spotted	C	--	O	--

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Sandpiper, Least	C	U	U	C
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	R	--	R	--
Sandpiper, Western	C	U	C	C
Sandpiper, White-Rumped	O	--	O	--
Sandpiper, Pectoral	U	O	U	R
Dunlin	C	--	U	C
Dowitcher, Long-Billed	R	--	--	O
Dowitcher, Short-Billed	C	—	O	U
Snipe, Wilson's	O	—	O	C
Woodcock, American	C	O	C	C
GULLS and TERNS				
Gull, Laughing	A	A	C	O
Gull, Ring-Billed	C	O	C	A
Gull, Bonaparte's	--	--	—	O
Tern, Least*	--	C	R	—
Tern, Common	--	U	—	—
Tern, Forster's	C	--	O	C
Tern, Royal*	C	C	C	C
Tern, Caspian	O	U	U	C
Tern, Gull-Billed	C	C	--	--
Tern, Black	--	R	O	--
Tern, Sandwich	O	O	O	R
Skimmer, Black*	C	C	C	C
PIGEONS and DOVES				
Mourning Dove*	C	C	C	C
Ground Dove	O	O	O	
CUCKOOS				
Cuckoo, Black-Billed	R	--	R	--
Cuckoo, Yellow-Billed *	C	C	C	--
BARN OWLS				
Barn Owl*	R	R	R	R
TYPICAL OWLS				
Eastern Screech Owl*	U	U	U	U
Great Horned Owl*	C	C	C	C
Barred Owl*	C	C	C	C
GOATSUCKERS				
Nighthawk, Common	U	U	U	—
Chuck-Will's Widow*	C	C	C	—
Whip-Poor-Will	—	—	—	U
SWIFTS				
Swift, Chimney*	C	C	C	—
HUMMINGBIRDS				
Hummingbird, Ruby-Throated*	C	C	C	--

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
KINGFISHERS				
Kingfisher, Belted*	C	--	C	C
WOODPECKERS				
Red-headed Woodpecker*	C	O	O	C
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	--	U	U
Downy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
Northern Flicker	C	O	C	C
Pileated Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
Pewee, Eastern Wood Flycatcher, Acadian*	A	A	C	—
Phoebe, Eastern Flycatcher, Great-Crested*	A	A	C	—
Phoebe, Eastern	U	—	U	C
Flycatcher, Great-Crested*	C	C	U	--
Kingbird, Eastern*	C	C	U	—
SHRIKES				
Loggerhead Shrike	U	U	U	U
VIREOS				
White-eyed Vireo*	C	A	C	--
Yellow-throated Vireo*	C	C	U	--
Blue-headed Vireo	O	--	--	U
Red-eyed Vireo*	A	A	C	--
JAYS and CROWS				
Blue Jay*	A	A	A	A
American Crow*	A	A	A	A
Fish Crow*	C	C	C	C
SWALLOWS				
Martin, Purple*	U	U	—	—
Swallow, Tree	U	--	A	A
Swallow, Northern Rough-Winged*	O	C	O	--
Swallow, Bank	U	--	C	--
Swallow, Barn	C	C	U	R
Swallow, Cliff	R	--	R	--
CHICKADEES and TITMICE				
Carolina Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
Tufted Titmouse*	A	A	A	A
NUTHATCHES				
White-breasted Nuthatch*	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Nuthatch	--	--	--	R
Brown-headed Nuthatch*	C	C	C	C
CREEPERS				
Brown Creeper	R	--	R	R

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
WRENS				
Carolina Wren*	A	A	A	A
House Wren	U	--	O	C
Winter Wren	R	--	R	O
Sedge Wren	R	--	O	C
Marsh Wren*	U	U	U	U
KINGLETS				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	--	--	R	O
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	--	C	C
GNATCATCHERS				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	A	A	C	R
THRUSHES				
Eastern Bluebird*	C	C	C	C
Veery	O	--	O	--
Gray-cheeked Thrush	--	--	R	--
Swainson's Thrush	R	--	R	--
Hermit Thrush	U	--	U	C
Wood Thrush*	C	C	U	--
American Robin	C	R	U	C
MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS				
Gray Catbird*	O	O	C	C
Northern Mockingbird*	C	C	C	C
Brown Thrasher*	C	C	C	U
STARLINGS				
European Starling*	R	R	R	R
PIPITS				
American Pipit	O	--	R	U
WAXWINGS				
Cedar Waxwing	U	--	O	C
WOOD WARBLERS				
Blue-winged Warbler	R	--	--	--
Golden-winged Warbler	R	--	--	--
Orange-crowned Warbler	R	--	--	O
Nashville Warbler	R	--	R	--
Northern Parula*	C	C	C	--
Yellow Warbler	O	--	R	--
Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	--	R	--
Magnolia Warbler	R	--	O	--
Cape May Warbler	R	--	U	--
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	A	--	C	A
Black-throated Green Warbler	O	R	R	—
Warbler, Blackburnian	R	—	—	—
Black-and-white Warbler*	O	--	U	U
Black-throated Blue Warbler	U	--	U	--
Warbler, Yellow-Throated*	A	C	C	O

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Warbler, Pine*	A	A	A	A
Warbler, Prairie*	O	O	O	--
Warbler, Palm	O	—	U	U
Warbler, Bay-Breasted	R	—	R	--
Warbler, Blackpoll	O	—	R	—
Warbler, Prothonotary*	U	U	O	—
American Redstart	U	O	C	—
Warbler, Worm-Eating*	U	O	R	—
Warbler, Swainson's*	R	R	—	—
Ovenbird*	C	U	U	—
Water-Thrush, Northern	R	--	C	--
Water-Thrush, Louisiana	R	--	C	—
Warbler, Kentucky*	U	U	U	--
Common Yellowthroat*	C	C	C	C
Hooded Warbler*	C	U	O	—
Canada Warbler	R	—	R	—
Yellow-breasted Chat*	C	C	R	--
Wilson's Warbler	R	--	--	R

TANAGERS

Summer Tanager*	A	A	U	—
Scarlet Tanager	U	--	U	—

EMBERZIDS

Towhee, Eastern*	C	C	C	C
Sparrow, Bachman's*	U	R	R	O
Sparrow, Chipping*	C	C	U	U
Sparrow, Field	R	R	R	U
Sparrow, Vesper	U	--	R	R
Sparrow, Savannah	O	C	C	C
Sparrow, Grasshopper	-	—	—	R
Sparrow, Henslow's	--	--	--	O
Sparrow, Sharp-Tailed	O	--	O	O
Sparrow, Seaside*	U	U	O	R
Sparrow, Fox	--	--	U	U
Sparrow, Song	A	--	C	A
Sparrow, Lincoln's	--	--	--	O
Sparrow, Swamp	C	--	C	C
Sparrow, White-Throated	C	--	C	C
Junco, Dark-Eyed	--	--	U	U

NEW WORLD FINCHES

Northern Cardinal*	C	C	C	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	--	U	--
Blue Grosbeak*	U	C	U	--
Indigo Bunting*	U	C	U	--
Painted Bunting*	U	C	U	

BLACKBIRDS

Bobolink	O	--	O	--
Blackbird, Red-Winged*	A	A	A	A
Eastern Meadowlark	O	--	U	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Blackbird, Rusty	O	--	--	O
Common Grackle	C	C	C	A
Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	C	C	U
Blackbird, Brewer's	R	--	R	R
Grackle, Boat-Tailed*	C	C	C	C
Oriole, Orchard*	C	O	O	--
Oriole, Baltimore	O	R	O	--

NORTHERN FINCHES

Purple Finch	R	--	--	R
Pine Siskin	R	--	--	R
American Goldfinch	C	--	O	C

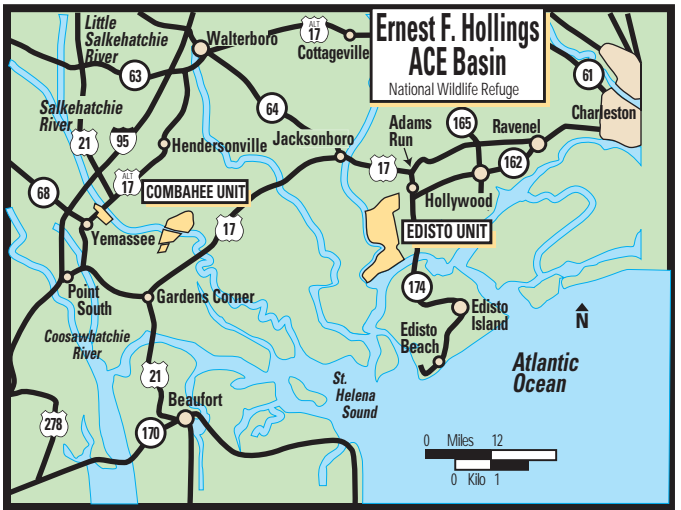
ACCIDENTALS

Common Loon, Great Cormorant, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill Tundra Swan, Mute Swan, White-fronted goose, Northern Goshawk, Swainson's Hawk, Fuerte's Hawk, Krider's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, American Golden Plover, Wilson's Plover, American Oyster Catcher, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, Roseate Tern, Rock Dove, Short-eared Owl, Saw Whet Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, Cerulean Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Dickcissel, Clay-colored Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Shiny Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow, Whooping Cranes



Dave Menke

Ryan Hagerty



Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of Species _____

Route or Area _____



**Ernest F. Hollings
ACE Basin
National Wildlife Refuge
8675 Willtown Road
Hollywood, SC 29449
843/889 3084
<http://acebasin.fws.gov>**

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

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