

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Chassahowitzka and Crystal River

*National Wildlife Refuges
Bird List*



Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge was established on August 17, 1983. The refuge is comprised of several islands, totaling 46 acres. They are surrounded by the crystal clear, spring fed waters of Kings Bay. The refuge was established for the protection of the endangered West Indian manatees. Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge provides critical winter habitat for approximately twenty percent of the nation's manatee population.

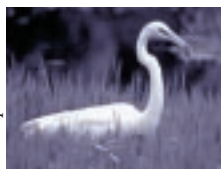
Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1943. The refuge is comprised of 31,000 acres of saltwater bays, estuaries and brackish marshes with a fringe of hardwood swamps along the eastern boundary. This unspoiled estuarine habitat along Florida's west coast serves as important breeding and feeding ground for marine life. The refuge provides habitat for over 200 species of birds.

*Chassahowitzka
and
Crystal River
National
Wildlife
Refuges*



*The Blue Goose
is the symbol of
the National
Wildlife Refuge
System.*

cover photo: USFWS



*How to use your
checklist*

*Seasonal
appearance*

*Seasonal
abundance*

photo: Nick Milam



photo: USFWS



*cover photo:
Mike Haramis*

This checklist includes 207 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 appreciate your help in updating our records.

Note: This list contains only coastal birds expected or seen on the refuge and does not include a lot of endemic land birds.

The refuges are accessible only by boat. Public boat ramps in the areas of the refuges are limited, so visitors are advised to consult general refuge leaflets for the boat ramp access. Commercial guides are available in the towns of Crystal River, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka for boat tours on the refuges.

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. The list is arranged in the order established by the American Ornithological Union. Symbols which appear in this checklist represent the following:

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

- a. abundant (a common species which is 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 during a season)
- r. rare (seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years)
- * known or suspected to have nested on refuge or known to nest locally.

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
___ Common Loon	u	r	u	u
Grebes				
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	a	u	a	a
___ Horned Grebe	u		u	u
___ Eared Grebe	r		r	r
Pelicans				
___ American White Pelican	c	r	c	c
___ Brown Pelican*	a	a	a	a
Cormorants				
___ Double-crested Cormorant*	a	a	a	a
Darters				
___ Anhinga*	c	c	c	c
Frigatebirds				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird	u	u	u	u
Hérons and Bitterns				
___ American Bittern	o	o	o	u
___ Least Bittern*	u	u	u	
___ Great Blue Heron*	a	a	a	a
___ 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
___ Reddish Egret*	o	o	o	o
___ Cattle Egret*	u	c	c	c
___ Green Heron*	c	c	c	c
___ Black-crowned Night Heron *	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron*	u	u	u	
Ibises and Spoonbills				
___ White Ibis*	a	a	a	a
___ Glossy Ibis	r	r	r	r
___ Roseate Spoonbill	r	r	r	r
Storks				
___ Wood Stork*	c	c	c	c
Swans, Geese, and Ducks				
___ Snow Goose	r			r
___ Wood Duck*	c	c	c	c
___ Green-winged Teal	o		u	u
___ American Black Duck	o		o	o
___ Mottled Duck*	c	c	c	c
___ Mallard	u		o	c
___ Northern Pintail	u		u	u
___ Blue-winged Teal	c	o	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Northern Shoveler	o	r	o	o
___ Gadwall	o	r	o	o
___ American Wigeon	c	o	c	c
___ Canvasback	o	r	o	o
___ Redhead	u	o	u	u
___ Ring-necked Duck	u	o	o	u
___ Greater Scaup (Coastal)	u		o	u
___ Lesser Scaup	o		c	c
___ Bufflehead	u		o	u
___ Hooded Merganser	u	o	o	u
___ Red-breasted Merganser	c	u	c	c
___ Ruddy Duck	r	r	r	r
Vultures				
___ Black Vulture*	a	a	a	a
___ Turkey Vulture*	a	a	a	a
Hawks				
___ Osprey*	c	c	c	c
___ American Swallow-tailed Kite*	c	c		
___ Bald Eagle*	u	o	u	u
___ Northern Harrier	c	o	c	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	c		c	c
___ Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	a	a	a	a
___ Broad-winged Hawk	u	u	c	
___ Short-tailed Hawk	r	r		
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	u	u	u	u
Falcons				
___ American Kestrel*	c	u	c	c
___ Peregrine Falcon	o	r	o	o
Turkey and Quail				
___ Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Bobwhite*	c	c	c	c
Rails, Gallinules, Coots, and Cranes				
___ Yellow Rail	r		r	r
___ Black Rail*	o	o	o	o
___ Clapper Rail*	c	c	c	c
___ King Rail*	u	u	u	u
___ Virginia Rail	u		u	u
___ Sora	c		c	c
___ Common Moorhen*	a	a	a	a
___ American Coot*	u	u	u	u
___ Limpkin*	r	r	r	r
___ Sandhill Crane*	u	u	u	u
___ Whooping Crane	u	u	u	u
(introduced to Chassahowitzka in year 2002)				

Plovers

___ Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
___ Snowy Plover	u	u	u	u
___ Wilson's Plover*	u	u	u	u
___ Semipalmated Plover	u	r	u	u
___ Killdeer*	a	c	a	a

Oystercatchers

___ American Oystercatcher*	o	o	o	o
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Stilts and Avocets

___ Black-necked Stilt*	r		r	r
___ American Avocet	r	r	r	r

Sandpipers

___ Greater Yellowlegs	r		c	r
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	o	a	c
___ Solitary Sandpiper	r	u	r	r
___ Willet*	u	u	u	u
___ Spotted Sandpiper	r		u	r
___ Whimbrel	u	r	r	u
___ Long-billed Curlew	r		r	r
___ Marbled Godwit	o	o	o	o
___ Ruddy Turnstone	u	o	u	u
___ Red Knot	u	u	u	u
___ Sanderling	c	u	u	c
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	u	u	
___ Western Sandpiper	c	u	o	c
___ Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	c
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	u	u	u	o
___ Dunlin	u		u	u
___ Stilt Sandpiper	u	u		
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	c
___ Common Snipe	u	r	r	u

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers

___ Laughing Gull*	a	a	a	a
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u		u	c
___ Ring-billed Gull	a	u	c	a
___ Herring Gull	c	c	u	c
___ Caspian Tern*	u	r	u	u
___ Royal Tern*	c	o	c	c
___ Sandwich Tern*	o	r	r	o
___ Common Tern	r	u	u	r
___ Forster's Tern	u	r	u	u
___ Least Tern		u	u	
___ Black Tern	o	u	u	r
___ Black Skimmer	u	u	u	u

Pigeons and Doves

- ___ White-winged Dove
- ___ Mourning Dove
- ___ Common Ground-dove

r a c
a a c
c c c
r a c
a a c

Owls

- ___ Barn Owl*
- ___ Eastern Screech Owl*
- ___ Great Horned Owl*
- ___ Barred Owl*

u c u
u c u
u c u
c c c
u c u
c c c

Goatsuckers

- ___ Common Nighthawk*
- ___ Chuck-will's-widow*

a a
r c c
r

Swifts

- ___ Chimney Swift*

u c u

Hummingbirds

- ___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

u u u r

Kingfishers

- ___ Belted Kingfisher*

c u u c

Woodpeckers

- ___ Red-headed Woodpecker*
- ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*
- ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- ___ Downy Woodpecker
- ___ Hairy Woodpecker*
- ___ Northern Flicker*
- ___ Pileated Woodpecker*

u a u
a a a
u u u
c c c
u u u
c c c
c c c
u u u
a a a
u u u
c c c
c c c

Flycatchers

- ___ Eastern Phoebe*
- ___ Great-crested Flycatcher*
- ___ Eastern Kingbird*
- ___ Gray Kingbird*

c c c
c c c
u c c
c c u r

Swallows

- ___ Purple Martin
- ___ Tree Swallow
- ___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*
- ___ Bank Swallow
- ___ Barn Swallow*

a a c u
u u a a
u c u r
r r u r
u c c r

Jays and Crows

- ___ Blue Jay*
- ___ American Crow*
- ___ Fish Crow*

a a a a
a a a a
a a a a

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Chickadees and Titmice				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	a	a	a	a
___ Tufted Titmouse*	a	a	a	a
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren*	a	a	a	a
___ House Wren	u	o	c	c
___ Marsh Wren*	c	c	c	c
Kinglets and Gnatcatchers				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	u			u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c			c
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	u	c	c
Thrushes				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
___ Veery	u		u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	r		r	
___ Swainson's Thrush	r		r	
___ Hermit Thrush	c		c	
___ Wood Thrush*		c	c	
___ American Robin	u	u	c	a
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird*	u	o	a	a
___ Northern Mockingbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	c
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing	c		u	c
Shrikes				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	c	c	c	c
Vireos				
___ White-eyed Vireo*	a	a	a	a
___ Solitary Vireo	u			u
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	c	u	r
___ Red-eyed Vireo*		c	c	
Warblers				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	r		o	o
___ Northern Parula	c	c	c	o
___ Yellow Warbler	r	r	c	r
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	c		c	r
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	a		a	a
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	c	c	c	u
___ Pine Warbler*	a	a	a	a
___ Prairie Warbler*	c	c	c	c
___ Palm Warbler	u		a	a
___ Black and White Warbler	c		c	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ American Redstart	c		c	u
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	u	r
___ Ovenbird	c		c	r
___ Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	c
Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings				
___ Summer Tanager	o	c	u	o
___ Scarlet Tanager	o		r	
___ Cardinal	a	a	a	a
___ Blue Grosbeak*	c	c	u	r
___ Indigo Bunting*	c	c	u	r
___ Eastern Towhee*	a	a	a	a
Sparrows				
___ Chipping Sparrow	u	r	a	a
___ Seaside Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Song Sparrow*	r		c	c
___ Swamp Sparrow			c	c
___ White-throated Sparrow			c	c
___ Dark-eyed Junco			c	c
Blackbirds				
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	a	a	a	a
___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	a	a	a	a
___ Common Grackle*	a	a	a	a
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	u	u	c	c
___ Baltimore Oriole	u		u	u
Finches				
___ American Goldfinch	c			c
Introduced Non-native Species				
___ Muscovy Duck	u	u	u	u
___ Monk Parakeet	u	u	u	u
___ Rock Dove*	a	a	a	a
___ Eurasian Collared-dove*	u	u	u	u
___ European Starling	c	c	c	c
___ House Sparrow	c	c	c	c

For further information contact:

Refuge Manager

Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge

1502 SE Kings Bay Drive

Crystal River, Florida 34429

352/563 2088

Birding Ethics

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

IV Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities.

As group members, we shall:

Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.

Act in consideration of the group's interest, as well as our own.

Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader(s) for the conduct of the group.

As group leaders, we will:

Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.

Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations, or conduct applicable to the area, or habitat being visited.

Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquility of others.

Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.

Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of species _____

Route or area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____

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**www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_nwr/fl_chass.htm
www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_nwr/fl_cryst.htm**

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

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