

Pocosin Lakes

*National Wildlife Refuge
Wildlife List*



Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is located in eastern North Carolina and is divided between three counties, Washington, Tyrrell, and Hyde. Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is one of 512 National Wildlife Refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats. By accomplishing this goal, the Service helps protect a healthy environment for people to enjoy.

*Pocosin
Lakes
National
Wildlife
Refuge*

The Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge was acquired under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956. In 1989, the Conservation Fund in conjunction with the Richard King Mellon

Foundation purchased more than 104,000 acres of wetlands between Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds. In 1990, the Conservation Fund donated over 93,000 acres to Pocosin Lakes. This led to the establishment of Pocosin Lakes

National Wildlife Refuge, which includes this donated land in combination with the adjacent 12,000 acres, formerly Pungo National Wildlife Refuge.

Pocosin lakes includes over 2,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests, 1,230 acres of agricultural farm fields, 7,300 acres of lakes, ponds, and impoundments, and over 100,000 acres of pocosin habitats. Pocosin, also known as southeast scrub bog, is characterized by a very dense growth of mostly evergreen shrubs and scattered pond pine. Organic soils occur on the majority of the refuge. These normally waterlogged soils range from 4 feet to over 10 feet in depths.

The wildlife checklist is provided to inform refuge visitors about amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds that inhabit Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The list was compiled from past wildlife surveys and field guides. During your visit, please be aware of the refuge signs. Some sections of the refuge are closed to the public to protect fragile habitat and wildlife. These areas will be posted with 'area closed signs'.

photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: Bruce Eilerts



photo: Palmiseno



photo: USFWS



Observing wildlife can be exciting and informative. Field guides and binoculars are recommended. Please report any unusual or rare sightings to the refuge office.

Amphibians

The class Amphibia is derived from the greek 'amphibia' meaning both life. Typically, amphibians have a thin moist skin, lay a shell-less egg and pass through an aquatic or semi-terrestrial larval stage. Amphibians are very sensitive to habitat changes and are thus excellent indicators for environmental health. Amphibians include frogs, toads, salamanders, and caecilians.

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge provides habitat for 36 species of amphibians.

Salmanders

Lesser Siren	Greater Siren
Eastern Newt	Dwarf Mudpuppy
Two-toed Amphiuma	Mabee's Salamander
Spotted Salamander	Marbled Salamander
Southern Duskey Salamander	Two-line Salamander
Three-lined Salamander	Dwarf Salamander
Redback Salamander	Slimey Salamander
Mud Salamander	Many-lined Salamander

Frogs and Toads

Eastern Spadefoot toad	
Southern Toad	Pickerel Frog
Eastern Narrowmouth Toad	Squirrel Treefrog
Oak Toad	Carpenter Frog
Fowler's Toad	Southern Leopard Frog
Southern Cricket Frog	Gray Treefrog
Green Treefrog	Spring Peeper
Pine Woods Treefrog	Barking Treefrog
Little Grass Frog	Brimley's Chorus Frog
Southern Chorus Frog	Ornate Chorus Frog
Bullfrog	Green Frog

Reptiles

The class Reptilia include turtles, lizards, snakes, and the alligators. Reptiles are air-breathers and have a dry outer covering of scales or scutes which provides protection from dehydration. Over 40 species of reptiles may be found in Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

Alligators

American Alligator

Turtles

Snapping Turtle	Eastern Mud Turtle
Eastern Musk Turtle	Florida Cooter

Painted Turtle
Spotted Turtle

Yellowbelly Slider
Eastern Box Turtle

Lizards

Carolina Anole
Five-lined Skink
Broadhead Skink
Six-lined Racerunner
Eastern Glass Lizard

Eastern Fence Lizard
Southeastern Five-lined Skink
Ground Skink
Slender Glass Lizard

Snakes

Worm Snake
Ringneck Snake
Rat Snake
Rainbow Snake
Eastern Kingsnake
Banded Water Snake
Brown Water Snake
Glossy Crayfish Snake
Black Swamp Snake
Redbelly Snake
Eastern Garner Snake
Cottonmouth
Pigmy Rattlesnake

Black Rat Snake
Corn Snake
Mud Snake
Eastern Hognose Snake
Redbelly Water Snake
Northern Water Snake
Rough Green Snake
Pine Woods Snake
Brown Snake
Eastern Ribbon Snake
Copperhead
Timber Rattlesnake

Mammals

Mammals are warm-blooded animals and have an outer covering of fur or hair. Pocosin Lakes provides habitats for over 40 mammal species. Many mammals are active mostly at night (nocturnal). The signs of their presence can be observed in their scat, tracks, fur, and scrape marks.

Marsupials

Virginia Opossum

Insectivores

Southeastern Shrew
Least Shrew
Shorttail Shrew
Dismal Swamp Southeastern Shrew
Star-nosed Mole
Eastern Mole

Bats

Southeastern Myotis
Silver-haired Bat
Eastern Pipistrel
Red Bat
Big Brown Bat
Hoary Bat
Seminole Bat
Evening Bat
Eastern Big-eared Bat

Carnivores

Black Bear
Red Wolf
Raccoon
Long-tailed Weasel
Mink
Red Fox
Gray Fox
Coyote
Bobcat
River Otter

Rodents

Gray Squirrel
Southern Flying Squirrel
Golden Mouse
Cotton Mouse
Eastern Harvest Mouse
House Mouse
Hispid Cotton Rat
Norway Rat
Marsh Rice Rat
Muskrat
Nutria
Meadow Vole
Beaver
Black Rat
White-footed Mouse

Rabbits

Eastern Cottontail
Marsh Rabbit

Hoofed Mammals

White-tailed Deer



photo: Michelle Hoggard

Birds

Birds, like mammals are warm-blooded. Their outer covering consists of feathers. Pocosin Lakes provides wintering habitat for thousands of ducks, geese and swans. Throughout the year over 200 species of birds occur in the abundant habitats found at Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The bird check list is based on past surveys and information from field guides. The seasonal occurrence and abundance of these species are coded as follows:

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 (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)

* - nests on the refuge

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
Common loon	r			r
Grebes				
Pied-billed grebe	u	u	c	c
Pelicans and Allies				
Double-crested Cormorant	c	u	c	c
Hérons, Egrets, and Allies				
American Bittern*	u	u	u	u
Least Bittern*	u	u		
Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
Snowy Egret	u	o	o	u
Little Blue Heron	u	u	u	
Cattle Egret	o	u	o	r
Great Egret	u	u	u	u
Green-backed Heron*	c	c	u	
Tri-colored Heron	o	o	o	
Black-crowned Night Heron	u	u	u	u
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	r	r		
Ibises				
Glossy Ibis	o	o		
White Ibis		o		

SP S F W

Waterfowl

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

Vultures, Hawks, and Allies

Black Vulture*	u	u	u	u
Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c
Osprey*	o	o	o	
Bald Eagle	o	r	o	o
Golden Eagle				r
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	c	u	c	c
Cooper's Hawk	o	o	o	o
Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	c
Northern Harrier	o		c	c
Broad-winged Hawk			o	
Merlin	o		c	c
American Kestrel	c		c	c
Peregrine Falcon			o	o

Gallinaceous Birds (quail, turkey, and allies)

Northern Bobwhite	a	a	a	a
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Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Cranes

Yellow Rail				u
King Rail*	u	u	u	u
Virginia Rail*			u	u
Sora	o		o	o
Black Rail	r		r	r
Common Moorhen	u	u	r	r
American Coot	c	o	c	a

SP S F W

Shorebirds

Black-bellied Plover	r		o	r
Killdeer*	u	u	u	o
Golden Plover			r	
American Avocet		r		
Black-necked Stilt		r		
Greater Yellowlegs	u	u		u
Lesser Yellowlegs	o		o	o
Solitary Sandpiper	r		r	
Upland Sandpiper			o	
Willet	u		o	o
Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	o		u	
Western Sandpiper	r		u	
Least Sandpiper	o		o	o
Pectoral Sandpiper	r		r	
Dunlinr				
Short-billed Dowitcher	r		r	r
Long-billed Dowitcher	o		o	r
Common Snipe	u		u	u
American Woodcock	o	o	u	c
Laughing Gull	c	o	o	r
Bonaparte's Gull				r
Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	c
Herring Gull	c	o	c	o
Greater Black-backed Gull	r		r	
Royal Tern		r		
Forster's Tern	r		r	
Common Tern		o		
Caspian Tern	o		o	
Black Tern	r		r	

Pigions,Doves

Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
Rock Dove	o	o	o	o
Ground Dove			r	

Cuckoos

Black-billed Cuckoo	r		r	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	u	u		

Owls

Barn Owl*	u	u	u	u
Long-eared Owl				r
Eastern Screech Owl*	u	u	u	u
Great Horned Owl*.				
Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u
Saw Whet Owl	r	r	r	r

Nightjars

Common Nighthawk		u	u	
Chuck-will's-widow		o	o	
Whip-poor-will	o	o	o	o

SP S F W

Swifts, Hummingbirds

Chimney Swift*
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

o o
u u

Kingfisher

Belted Kingfisher

c c c c

Woodpeckers

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

o o o o
u u u u
u u u u
u u u u
u u u u
c c c c
u u u u

Flycatcher

Eastern Wood Pewee
Acadian Flycatcher*
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher*
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird*

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

Larks

Horned Lark

r

Martins and Swallows

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

c c o
c c c u
o o
u u
u u

Jays and Crows

Blue Jay*
Common Crow*
Fish Crow*

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

Chickadees and Titmice

Carolina Chickadee*
Tufted Titmouse*

c c c c
u u u u

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch*
Brown-headed Nuthatch*

r r
u u u r
u u u u

Creepers

Brown Creeper

o o

SP S F W

Wrens

Sedge Wren			u	u
Carolina Wren*	u	u	c	c
House Wren*	u	u	u	
Marsh Wren*	u	u	u	u
Winter Wren				o

Kinglets and Gnatcatchers

Golden-crowned Kinglet			o	o
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			o	o
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	o	o	o	o

Bluebirds, Thrushes, and Robins

Eastern Bluebird*	o	o	o	o
Swainson's Thrush	o		o	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
Wood Thrush*	c	c	u	
American Robin*	a	a	a	a

Thrushes

Gray Catbird*	c	c	c	u
Northern Mockingbird*	a	a	a	a
Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	c

Pipits

Water Pipits				u
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Waxwings

Cedar Waxwings	o		o	o
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Starling

European Starling*	a	a	a	a
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Shrike

Loggerhead Shrike	o	o	o	o
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Vireos

White-eyed Vireo*	u	u	u	
Yellow-throated Vireo	r	u		
Red-eyed Vireo*	u	u		
Solitary Vireo				r

Warblers

Orange-crowned Warbler				r
Northern Parula	o	o		
Yellow Warbler*	o	o		
Magnolia Warbler	r			
Yellow-throated Warbler*	u	u		
Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	u	u
Pine Warbler*	u	o	u	u
Prairie Warbler*	u	u		
Palm Warbler			r	r
Black and White Warbler	r	r		

photo: David Kitts



American Redstart		c	c	
Prothonotary Warbler*	u	u		
Worm-eating Warbler	r			
Swainson's Warbler	o	o		
Ovenbird		r		
Northern Waterthrush	r		r	
Hooded Warbler*	u	u		
Yellow-breasted Chat	o	o	o	
Tanagers				
Summer Tanager	u	u		
New World Seedeaters				
Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
Indigo Bunting*	u	u		
Blue Grosbeak*	u	u		
Snow Bunting				r
Purple Finch				u
House Finch				u
Pine Siskin	u			u
American Goldfinch			o	o
Evening Grosbeak			o	o
Rufous-sided Towhee*	c	c	c	c
Chipping Sparrow	u	u	u	u
Field Sparrow	u	u	u	u
Vesper Sparrow				o
Savannah Sparrow	u		u	c
Grasshopper Sparrow				o
Seaside Sparrow				
Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
Swamp Sparrow	u		u	c
Song Sparrow	u		u	c
White-throated Sparrow	u		c	c
White-crowned Sparrow			u	u
Lincoln's Sparrow				u
Le Conte's Sparrow				r
House Sparrow	r	r	r	r
Clay-colored Sparrow				r
Dark-eyed Junco	u		u	c
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Blackbird, Grackles, Cowbirds, Orioles				
Bobolink	o		o	
Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	a
Eastern Meadowlark*	a	a	c	a
Rusty Blackbird				o
Brewer's Blackbird				r
Boat-tailed Grackle	u	u	u	u
Common Grackle*	a	a	a	a
Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	c
Orchard Oriole*	u			
Northern Orioler				

Weaver Finches

House Sparrow*	u	u	u	u
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*probably nests on refuge based on habitats available and references from field guides. However, breeding bird surveys have not been conducted to confirm nests as of the writing of this list.

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.



photo: David Kitts

Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

No. of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks



The blue goose, designed by Ding Darling, has become a symbol of the Refuge System.

For additional information contact:

*Refuge Manager
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photo: USFWS



photo: David Kitts



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

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