

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rachel Carson

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds



Introduction



This goose, designed by J.N. Ding Darling, has become a symbol of the Refuge System.

Welcome to Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge consists of ten separate divisions which are located on the coast between Portland and Kittery in southern Maine. Nearly 5,000 acres have been acquired, approximately two-thirds of the current acquisition boundary. When completed, each refuge division will include a tidal waterway, the surrounding marsh and adjacent uplands. Ninety percent of the habitat protected as refuge is coastal wetland.

Bird activity on the refuge is highlighted by shorebird migrations in the spring and summer, waterfowl concentrations in the winter and early spring, and raptor migrations in the early fall.

Great Blue Heron



This brochure lists 250 species that have been identified on or seen from the refuge, and is in accordance with the sixth American Ornithologists Union Checklist. An additional thirteen species have been seen only once or at intervals of five or more years and have been listed as accidentals.

Most birds are migratory, therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

Season

s	spring	March – May
S	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge
Italics indicate threatened/endangered species

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a species which is very numerous
c	common	likely 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	may be present but not every year



	s	S	F	W
LOONS – GREBES				
___ Red-throated Loon	o		o	u
___ Common Loon	c	o	c	c
___ Pied-billed Grebe	o	o	o	
___ Horned Grebe	u		o	u
___ Red-necked Grebe	o		u	u

STORM -PETRELS

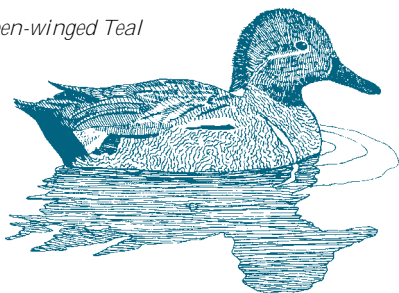
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel		r	r	
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GANNET – PELICANS – CORMORANTS

___ Northern Gannet	o	u	o	
___ Great Cormorant	u		u	o
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	o

BITTERNs – HERONS – IBISES

—	American Bittern	u	u	u	
—	Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	o
—	Great Egret	o	o	o	
—	Snowy Egret	c	c	c	
—	Little Blue Heron	o	u	u	
—	Tricolored Heron	o	o	o	
—	Cattle Egret	r			
—	• Green-backed Heron	u	c	u	
—	• Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	c	c	
—	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r	r	r	
—	Glossy Ibis	u	u	r	

Green-winged Teal

SWANS – GEESE – DUCKS

—	Snow Goose	o		r	
—	Brant	o		o	
—	• Canada Goose	c	o	c	u
—	• Wood Duck	o	o	u	
—	• Green-winged Teal	u	o	c	o
—	• American Black Duck	c	c	c	c
—	• Mallard	c	c	c	c
—	Northern Pintail	u		u	o
—	• Blue-winged Teal	u	o	u	
—	Northern Shoveler	o			
—	Gadwall	r	r	r	
—	American Wigeon	o		o	
—	Ring-necked Duck	o		o	
—	Greater Scaup	o		o	o
—	• Common Eider	u	u	u	c
—	King Eider				r
—	Oldsquaw	u		o	u
—	Black Scoter	u		u	u
—	Surf Scoter	u		u	u
—	White-winged Scoter	u		u	u
—	Common Goldeneye	c		u	c
—	Barrow's Goldeneye			r	r
—	Bufflehead	c		c	c
—	Hooded Merganser	o	o	o	
—	Common Merganser	o		o	o
—	Red-breasted Merganser	c		c	c

VULTURES – HAWKS – FALCONS

___	Turkey Vulture	o		o	
___	Osprey	u	o	u	
___	<i>Bald Eagle</i>				o
___	Northern Harrier	u	o	u	u
___	• Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	o	c	o
___	• Cooper's Hawk	o		o	
___	Northern Goshawk	o	o	o	
___	Red-shouldered Hawk	o	o	o	o
___	Broad-winged Hawk	u	u	c	
___	Red-tailed Hawk	u	o	u	o
___	Rough-legged Hawk	o			o
___	American Kestrel	u	u	u	o
___	Merlin	o		o	
___	<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>				u

GROUSE – QUAIL – TURKEY

___	• Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	u	u
___	• Ruffed Grouse	u	u	u	u

RAILS – CRANES

___	Virginia Rail	o		o	
___	Sora	o		o	
___	Common Moorhen	r		r	
___	American Coot	r		r	

Killdeer



PLOVERS – SANDPIPERS

___	Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	
___	Lesser Golden-Plover		o	o	
___	Semipalmated Plover	c	u	c	
___	• <i>Piping Plover</i>	o	u	o	
___	• Killdeer	u	c	u	o
___	American Avocet	r			
___	Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	c	
___	Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	c	
___	Solitary Sandpiper	o	u	u	
___	• Willet	u	c	o	
___	• Spotted Sandpiper	u	c	u	
___	Upland Sandpiper		r	r	
___	Whimbrel	u	o	u	
___	Hudsonian Godwit		o	o	
___	Marbled Godwit		r	r	

	s	S	F	W
___ Ruddy Turnstone	o	o	o	r
___ Red Knot	o	o	o	
___ Sanderling	u	o	u	o
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	c	a	
___ Western Sandpiper		u	u	
___ Least Sandpiper	u	u	c	
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	u	o	u	
___ Baird's Sandpiper		r	r	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	u	u	u	
___ Purple Sandpiper	o		o	u
___ Dunlin	u	o	c	
___ Curlew Sandpiper		r	r	
___ Stilt Sandpiper		o	o	
___ Ruff		r	r	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	r	c	c	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	
___ Common Snipe	u	o	u	
___ • American Woodcock	u	u	u	
___ Wilson's Phalarope	o	o	o	
___ Red-necked Phalarope	r	r	r	

*American
Woodcock*



JAEGERS – GULLS – TERNS – AUKS

___ Laughing Gull	o	o	o	
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u	u	u	r
___ • Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	c
___ • Herring Gull	a	a	a	a
___ Iceland Gull	o		r	o
___ Glaucous Gull	o		r	o
___ • Great Black-backed Gull	c	c	c	c
___ • <i>Roseate Tern</i>	r	r		
___ • Common Tern	o	o	o	
___ Arctic Tern	u	u	u	
___ • <i>Least Tern</i>		r		
___ Black Tern	r			r
___ Dovekie				r
___ Common Murre				r
___ Thick-billed Murre				r
___ Razorbill				r
___ Black Guillemot	r			r

DOVES – CUCKOOS – OWLS – SWIFTS – HUMMINGBIRDS

___	Rock Dove	c	c	c	c
___	• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
___	• Black-billed Cuckoo	u	u	o	
___	• Yellow-billed Cuckoo	o	o	o	
___	• Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
___	Snowy Owl	r			r
___	• Barred Owl	u	u	u	u
___	Short-eared Owl	r	r	r	o
___	Northern Saw-whet Owl	o	o	o	o
___	Common Nighthawk			u	
___	• Whip-poor-will	u	u	u	
___	Chimney Swift	u	u		
___	• Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	o	u	
___	• Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	o

WOODPECKERS – FLYCATCHERS

___	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	
___	• Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___	• Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___	• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
___	• Pileated Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
___	Olive-sided Flycatcher	o	o		
___	• Eastern Wood-Pewee	u	u	u	
___	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	o		u	
___	Alder Flycatcher	u	u		
___	• Willow Flycatcher	o	u	o	
___	Least Flycatcher	u	u	u	
___	• Eastern Phoebe	c	c	c	
___	• Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	c	
___	Western Kingbird			r	
___	• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	



*Downy
Woodpecker*

LARKS – SWALLOWS – JAYS – CROWS

___	• Horned Lark	u	u	u	u
___	• Purple Martin	c	c		
___	• Tree Swallow	c	c	o	
___	• Northern Rough-winged Swallow	o	o		
___	• Bank Swallow	u	u	u	
___	• Cliff Swallow	u	u	o	
___	• Barn Swallow	c	c	o	
___	• Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
___	• American Crow	c	c	c	c

TITMICE – NUTHATCHES – WRENS

___	• Black-capped Chickadee	c	c	c	c
___	• Boreal Chickadee				r
___	• Tufted Titmouse	o	o	o	o
___	• Red-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c
___	• White-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c
___	• Brown Creeper	c	c	c	c
___	• House Wren	o	u	o	
___	• Marsh Wren	o		o	
___	• Winter Wren		u	u	u



*Eastern
Bluebird*

KINGLETS – THRUSHES – THRASHERS

___	• Golden-crowned Kinglet			c	u
___	• Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	
___	• Eastern Bluebird	o	o	o	
___	• Veery	c	c	o	
___	• Gray-cheeked Thrush		o	o	
___	• Swainson's Thrush	u		o	
___	• Hermit Thrush	c	u	u	
___	• Wood Thrush	c	c	o	
___	• American Robin	c	c	c	u
___	• Gray Catbird	c	c	c	
___	• Northern Mockingbird	u	u	u	
___	• Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	

WAXWINGS – SHRIKES – STARLINGS

___	American Pipit	u		u	
___	• Cedar Waxwing	u	c	c	
___	Northern Shrike	o		o	o
___	• European Starling	a	a	a	c

VIREOS – WOOD WARBLERS

___	• Solitary Vireo	u	u	u	
___	Warbling Vireo	o	o	r	
___	Philadelphia Vireo	o	o	r	
___	• Red-eyed Vireo	u	c	u	
___	Tennessee Warbler	u	u	u	
___	• Nashville Warbler	u	u	u	
___	Northern Parula	u	u	u	
___	• Yellow Warbler	c	c	o	
___	• Chestnut-sided Warbler	u	o	u	
___	• Magnolia Warbler	u	u	u	
___	Cape May Warbler	u	o	u	
___	Black-throated Blue Warbler	u	o	u	
___	Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	u	a	
___	• Black-throated Green Warbler	c	c	u	
___	Blackburnian Warbler	u	u	u	
___	• Pine Warbler	u	u	u	
___	Prairie Warbler	o	o	o	
___	Palm Warbler	u		u	
___	Bay-breasted Warbler	u	u	u	
___	Blackpoll Warbler	u		u	
___	• Black-and-white Warbler	c	c	c	
___	• American Redstart	c	c	c	
___	• Ovenbird	u	u	u	
___	Northern Waterthrush	u	u		
___	Louisiana Waterthrush		r		
___	Mourning Warbler	o	o	o	
___	• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
___	Wilson's Warbler	u	u	u	
___	• Canada Warbler	c	u	u	
___	Yellow-breasted Chat	o	o		

TANAGERS – SPARROWS

___	• Scarlet Tanager	u	u	u	
___	• Northern Cardinal	u	u	u	u
___	• Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u	u	o	
___	• Indigo Bunting	u	u	u	
___	• Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	r
___	American Tree Sparrow	c		c	c
___	• Chipping Sparrow	c	u	c	
___	• Field Sparrow	u	u	u	
___	Vesper Sparrow	o		u	
___	• Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c	o
___	• Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	c	c	c	
___	• Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	c	c	c	

	s	S	F	W
___ Fox Sparrow	u		u	
___ • Song Sparrow	c	c	c	u
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	o		o	
___ • Swamp Sparrow	u	u	u	
___ • White-throated Sparrow	c	u	c	
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
___ Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
___ Lapland Longspur	o		o	o
___ Snow Bunting	u		u	u

BLACKBIRDS – FINCHES

___ • Bobolink	c	u		
___ • Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	c	
___ • Eastern Meadowlark	u	u	u	o
___ Rusty Blackbird	o		u	
___ • Common Grackle	a	c	c	
___ • Brown-headed Cowbird	a	c	c	o
___ • Baltimore Oriole	u	u	u	
___ Pine Grosbeak			o	o
___ • Purple Finch	u	u	c	u
___ • House Finch	c	c	c	c
___ Red Crossbill				o
___ White-winged Crossbill				o
___ Common Redpoll	o		o	o
___ Pine Siskin	o		o	o
___ • American Goldfinch	c	c	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak	c		u	c
___ • House Sparrow	u	c	c	u



*Red-winged
Blackbird*

ACCIDENTALS

These additional 12 species are considered accidentals:

Tundra Swan
Canvasback
Ruddy Duck
Sooty Tern
Royal Tern
Caspian Tern

Black Skimmer
Great Gray Owl
Gray Jay
Worm-eating Warbler
Dickcissel
Hoary Redpoll

NOTES

Location _____

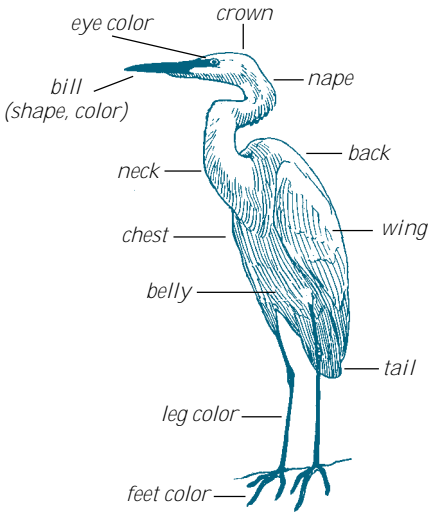
Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

TIPS FOR FIELD I.D.

The identification of birds is greatly aided by simply noting a few key field marks. The diagram below illustrates several of these. In addition, general size, color, habitat, song and behavior help narrow down the options. Remember, use more than one field mark, as many species are similar and can only be distinguished by using a combination of several marks.



Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
321 Port Road
Wells, ME 04090
Telephone: 207/646 9226
Fax: 207/646 6554

Hearing impaired visitors may call the Maine Relay Center at 1 800/437 1220 TDD/1 800/457 1220 voice.

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

Rachel Carson is one of over 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represents the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.

The Service also manages National Fish Hatcheries, and provides Federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance and the conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

August 1999

