

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pee Dee

*National Wildlife Refuge
Bird List*



photo: Dr. William C. Alexander

Welcome to Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge! The refuge, located in the southern Piedmont of North Carolina, consists of 8,443 acres of pine and hardwood covered rolling hills sloping gently to the broad bottomland hardwood forest of Brown Creek and the floodplains of the Pee Dee River. The river flows through the refuge for nearly five miles between Anson and Richmond counties. Headquarters is located on US Highway 52, seven miles north of Wadesboro, NC.

Near the current refuge was the once famous "Lockhart Gaddy Wild Goose Refuge." Mr. Gaddy was an avid goose hunter of the Pee Dee River valley, but in 1934 he decided he would rather provide food, shelter and sanctuary for these magnificent, migratory, Southern James Bay Canada Geese. By the early 1950's, his flock had grown to about 10,000. His refuge was closed to the public after Mr. Gaddy's death. In the early 1960's, the numbers of waterfowl in south central NC began to decline. The lands bordering the Pee Dee River and Brown Creek had great potential for waterfowl habitat development. In October 1963, with local and state support, the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide habitat for migrating waterfowl. It is currently the only National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina's Piedmont region. In 2001, Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge was designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society by qualifying under winter waterfowl abundance of over 10,000 birds.

Pee Dee NWR consists of a variety of habitats supporting a wide diversity of birds and other wildlife. Brown Creek's floodplain contains a regionally significant bottomland hardwood forest, including nearly 3,000 acres. This mature hardwood community is the best example of its kind in the southern Piedmont of NC (NC Natural Heritage Program). There are also about 1,200 acres of upland pine forest and a 4,300 acre mosaic of crop land, old fields, moist-soil units and mixed pine-hardwood forests that intermingle with creeks, pristine ponds and the Pee Dee River.

The refuge provides interesting birding throughout the year. Waterfowl abound in flooded farm fields and raptors are also abundant in the winter. Brushy fields provide prime sparrow habitat. Though not in the heart of a migration path, considerable numbers of migrating songbirds pass through the refuge in both Spring and Fall. There are a number of interesting breeding species such as Blue Grosbeak, Hooded Warbler, Woodthrush, and Summer Tanager. The refuge formerly was home to the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The last of this species on the refuge was a male that died in the winter of 2000. Suitable habitat remains and hopefully, Red-

cockadededs may again be seen in the future . Bald Eagles from several nearby nest sites are frequently seen soaring over the refuge.

There are many good birding sites on the refuge. The Wildlife Drive behind headquarters is a good start. You can access two nature trails from the drive. Other good spots include the Gaddy's Covered Bridge Trail and Arrowhead Lake. Keep in mind that some areas are closed seasonally. The refuge is also closed to public entry during gun hunts for deer. Consult the current refuge general brochure and hunting regulations for maps and closure information.

For further information contact:
Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Box 92
Highway 52 North
Wadesboro, North Carolina 28170
704/694 4424

The checklist includes 188 species found with varying regularity on the refuge, 18 accidentals reported only once or twice and 92 breeding/probable breeding species. The list is a work-in-progress. The refuge staff welcomes information on any sightings of "O", "R", or accidental species or any species not included in either list.

Seasonal Appearance:

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 environment:

- 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 of 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 has 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>BRD</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Species appearing with varying regularity					
Grebes					
Pied-billed Grebe	C		U	C	C
Cormorants					
Double-crested Cormorant	U			U	U
Darters					
Anhinga	O		O		
Bitterns and Herons					
Least Bittern			R		
American Bittern					R
Green Heron	B	C	C	C	
Little Blue Heron			O	O	
Cattle Egret		U	U		
Great Egret			U	U	
Great Blue Heron	PB	C	C	C	C
New World Vultures					
Turkey Vulture	PB	C	C	C	C
Black Vulture	PB	C	C	C	C
Ducks, Geese and Swans					
Snow Goose		R		R	R
Canada Goose		O		C	C
Canada Goose (resident)	B	C	C	C	C
Tundra Swan		U		U	U
Wood Duck	B	C	U	C	C
Gadwall		C		C	C
American Wigeon		U		U	C
American Black Duck		C		C	C
Mallard		O		C	A
Mallard (resident)	B	A	C	A	A
Blue-winged Teal		C		C	O
Northern Shoveler		C		U	C
Northern Pintail		C		O	C
Green-winged Teal		C		U	C
Canvasback					R
Redhead					R
Ring-necked Duck		C		C	A
Lesser Scaup		R		R	O
Bufflehead					U
Common Goldeneye					R
Red-breasted Merganser					R
Hooded Merganser		C		C	C
Ruddy Duck				O	O
Hawks, Kites and Eagles					
Osprey		U	C	U	
Mississippi Kite		R			
Northern Harrier		C		C	C
Bald Eagle		U	O	O	U

	<i>BRD</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	U	U	U		
Cooper's Hawk.....	PB	U	O	U	U
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	B	C	C	C	C
Broad-winged Hawk.....		O	R	O	
Red-tailed Hawk.....	B	C	C	C	C
Caracaras and Falcons					
American Kestrel.....		U	U	U	U
Grouse, Turkeys					
Wild Turkey.....	B	C	C	C	C
New World Quail					
Northern Bobwhite.....	B	C	C	C	C
Rails, Gallinules, Coots					
Sora.....				R	
American Coot.....		C		C	C
Plovers					
Killdeer.....	B	C	U	C	C
Sandpipers, Phalaropes					
Lesser Yellowlegs.....		U		U	
Solitary Sandpiper.....		C		O	
Spotted Sandpiper.....		C		O	
Upland Sandpiper.....				R	
Least Sandpiper.....		O	O	O	
Wilson's Snipe.....		U		C	C
American Woodcock.....	PB	C	O	C	C
Skuas, Gulls, Terns					
Bonaparte's Gull.....					O
Ring-billed Gull.....		U		U	C
Black Tern.....		R		R	
Pigeons and Doves					
Rock Dove.....	B	U	U	U	U
Mourning Dove.....	B	A	A	A	A
Cuckoos					
Black-billed Cuckoo.....		R		R	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	B	C	C	C	
Barn Owls					
Barn Owl.....		R	R	R	R
Typical Owls					
Eastern Screech-Owl.....	B	U	U	U	U
Great Horned Owl.....	B	C	C	C	C
Barred Owl.....	B	C	C	C	C

Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk	B	U	U	U	
Chuck-will's-widow	B	C	C		
Whip-poor-will	B	C	C		

Swifts

Chimney Swift	B	C	C	C	
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Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	C	C	C	
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Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher	B	C	C	C	C
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Woodpeckers

Red-headed Woodpecker	B	C		C	C
Red-bellied Woodpecker	B	C	C	C	C
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		C		C	C
Downy Woodpecker	B	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker	B	U	U	U	U
Northern Flicker	B	C	C	C	C
Pileated Woodpecker	B	C	C	C	C

Tyrant Flycatchers

Eastern Wood-Pewee	B	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				R	
Acadian Flycatcher	B	C	C	C	
Eastern Phoebe	B	C	C	C	U
Great Crested Flycatcher	B	C	C	U	
Eastern Kingbird	B	C	C	U	

Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike	B	U	U	U	U
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Vireos

White-eyed Vireo	B	C	C	C	
Yellow-throated Vireo	B	U	U	U	
Blue-headed Vireo	PB	U	O	U	O
Red-eyed Vireo	B	C	C	C	

Jays and Crows

Blue Jay	B	C	C	C	C
American Crow	B	A	A	A	A
Fish Crow	B	U	U	U	

Larks

Horned Lark		O		O	O
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Swallows

Purple Martin	B	C	C		
Tree Swallow		U		U	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow .	B	U	U		

	<i>BRD</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Bank Swallow		R		R	
Cliff Swallow	B	U	U		
Barn Swallow	B	C	C	C	
Chickadees and Titmice					
Carolina Chickadee	B	C	C	C	C
Tufted Titmouse	B	C	C	C	C
Nuthatches					
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	B	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Nuthatch		O		O	O
Brown-headed Nuthatch	B	C	C	C	C
Creepers					
Brown Creeper		U		U	U
Wrens					
Carolina Wren	B	C	C	C	C
House Wren	B	U		U	U
Winter Wren		O		O	U
Sedge Wren				R	R
Marsh Wren		U		U	
Kinglets					
Golden-crowned Kinglet		C		C	C
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		C		C	C
Gnatcatchers					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	B	C	C	C	
Thrushes					
Eastern Bluebird	B	C	C	C	C
Gray-cheeked Thrush				U	
Swainson's Thrush.....		U		U	
Hermit Thrush		U		U	C
Wood Thrush	B	C	C	U	
American Robin	B	C	C	C	C
Mockingbirds, Thrashers					
Gray Catbird	B	C	C	C	R
Northern Mockingbird	B	C	C	C	C
Brown Thrasher	B	C	C	C	U
Starlings					
European Starling	B	A	A	A	A
Wagtails and Pipits					
American Pipit		U		U	C
Waxwings					
Cedar Waxwing		U		U	C

	<i>BRD</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Wood-Warblers					
Blue-winged Warbler		R			
Golden-winged Warbler		R			
Northern Parula	B	C	C	C	
Yellow Warbler	PB	U	U	U	
Chestnut-sided Warbler		R			
Magnolia Warbler		R		O	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		A		A	A
Black-throated Green Warbler		O			
Blackburnian Warbler		R			
Black-and-white Warbler	B	C	C	C	
Black-throated Blue Warbler		U		U	
Yellow-throated Warbler	B	C	C	U	
Pine Warbler	B	C	C	C	C
Palm Warbler		O		U	R
Prairie Warbler	B	C	C	C	
Blackpoll Warbler		O		O	
Prothonotary Warbler	B	C	C	C	
American Redstart	PB	U	U	U	
Worm-eating Warbler	PB	U	U	U	
Swainson's Warbler		R			
Ovenbird	B	C	C	C	
Northern Waterthrush		O		O	
Louisiana Waterthrush	B	U	U	U	
Kentucky Warbler	B	U	U	U	
Common Yellowthroat	B	C	C	C	R
Hooded Warbler	B	C	C	C	
Canada Warbler		U		U	
Yellow-breasted Chat	B	C	C	O	
Tanagers					
Summer Tanager	B	C	C	U	
Scarlet Tanager		U		U	
Emberzids					
Eastern Towhee	B	C	C	C	C
Chipping Sparrow	B	C	C	C	C
Field Sparrow	B	C	C	C	C
Vesper Sparrow		O		O	O
Savannah Sparrow		C		C	C
Grasshopper Sparrow		O	O	O	R
Fox Sparrow		U		U	U
Song Sparrow		C		C	A
Lincoln's Sparrow				O	
Swamp Sparrow		C		C	C
White-throated Sparrow		C		C	A
White-crowned Sparrow		O		O	O
Dark-eyed Junco		A		A	A
Cardinals					
Northern Cardinal	B	C	C	C	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		U		U	

	<i>BRD</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Blue Grosbeak	B	C	C	C	
Indigo Bunting	B	C	C	C	
Blackbirds					
Bobolink		O		O	
Red-winged Blackbird	B	C	C	C	A
Eastern Meadowlark	B	C	C	C	C
Rusty Blackbird		O		O	O
Common Grackle		C	C	C	A
Brown-headed Cowbird	B	C	C	C	A
Orchard Oriole	B	C	C	U	
Baltimore Oriole		O	R	O	
Northern Finches					
Purple Finch		R		R	R
House Finch	B	C	C	C	C
Pine Siskin		R		R	R
American Goldfinch	B	C	C	C	C
Evening Grosbeak		R		R	R
Old World Sparrows					
House Sparrow	B	C	C	C	C
Species Whose appearance is considered Accidental					
Tricolored Heron			X		
White Ibis			X		
Glossy Ibis			X		
Wood Stork			X		
Sandhill Crane		X			X
Greater White-fronted Goose					X
Brant		X			X
Greater Scaup					X
Golden Eagle		X			X
Merlin					X
Peregrine Falcon				X	X
Purple Gallinule		X	X		
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X
Bachman's Sparrow					X
American Tree Sparrow					X
Lark Sparrow					X
Henslow's Sparrow					X
LeConte's sparrow					X
Smith's Longspur					X

For further information contact:
Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Box 92, HWY 52 North
Wadesboro, NC 28170
(704) 694 4424

Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

No. of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks



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

Pee Dee
National Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Box 92
Highway 52 N.
Wadesboro, North Carolina

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

December 2003



CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION

The Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge wishes to dedicate our bird list in memory to Mr. Richard "Dick" Burk of Pinehurst, NC. His life long compassion for birds was revealed in his dedicated commitment and leadership in bird conservation, bird identification and this species list for the refuge. He will always be appreciated and remembered.