

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Carolina Sandhills

*National Wildlife Refuge*

*Bird List*



*The Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1939, is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior.*

*The 45,348 acres within its boundaries are part of a wide band of sandhills sandwiched between the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Piedmont Plateau.*

*Rolling beds of deep, sandy soils provide the foundation for Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, one of the last great vestiges of the longleaf pine ecosystem. Home to the rare and the ordinary, this refuge typifies the unique biological diversity of the longleaf ecosystem. The rare pine barrens treefrog and the ordinary bobwhite quail share the spotlight along with over 140 groups of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, the largest population found within the Refuge System.*

*Carolina  
Sandhills  
National  
Wildlife  
Refuge*



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

The mosaic of unique habitats, including pinelands, pocosin bottoms, freshwater ponds and lakes, and wildlife openings, provides a haven for nearly 200 species of birds. In addition, 66 species of reptiles and amphibians, 42 mammal species, and over 750 plant species have been identified on the refuge.

Migrating ducks and geese begin to arrive in October and remain through early March. Wood ducks and a small flock of Canada geese are resident on the refuge and nest here in spring and summer. Many species of water birds, raptors and songbirds are found on the refuge throughout the year.

Carolina Sandhills has one of the largest remaining populations of red-cockaded woodpeckers, an endangered species that builds its nesting cavity in living pine trees.

This folder lists 196 species that have been recorded by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists since the refuge was established.

Another 17 species of accidental or extremely rare occurrence have been added at the end. It is requested that unusual sightings be reported to the Refuge Manager.

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 that appear in this checklist represent the following:



*prothonotary warbler*



*red-cockaded woodpecker*

*carolina chickadee**green-wing teal*

**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)  
**\*** nests on the refuge

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Loons</b>				
___ Common Loon				r
<b>Grebes</b>				
___ Pied-billed Grebe	c	o	c	c
___ Horned Grebe	o			o
<b>Pelicans and their Allies</b>				
___ Double-crested Cormorant				r
___ Anhinga	r	o	o	
<b>Hérons, Egrets and Allies</b>				
___ American Bittern				u
___ Least Bittern		r		
___ Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret	r	o	o	r
___ Snowy Egret	r	r	r	r
___ Little Blue Heron	o	o	o	o
___ Cattle Egret	o	u	r	r
___ Green Heron	c	c	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron		o		
<b>Ibises, Spoonbill, and Stork</b>				
___ White Ibis		o		
___ Wood Stork		o		
<b>Vultures</b>				
___ *Black Vulture	c	c	c	c
___ *Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Waterfowl</b>				
___ Greater White-fronted Goose			r	r
___ Snow Goose			r	r
___ *Canada Goose	c	u	c	c
___ *Wood Duck	c	c	c	c
___ Gadwall			o	o
___ American Wigeon	u		c	c
___ American Black Duck	o		c	c
___ Mallard	u	o	c	c
___ Blue-winged Teal	o		u	u
___ Northern Shoveler			r	r
___ Northern Pintail			u	u
___ Green-winged Teal	o		u	u
___ Canvasback			r	r
___ Redhead	r		r	r
___ Ring-necked Duck	o		u	u
___ Lesser Scaup			o	o
___ Bufflehead			o	o
___ Common Goldeneye				r
___ Hooded Merganser	o	o	u	u
___ Ruddy Duck			r	r
<b>Hawks and Allies</b>				
___ Osprey	o		r	r
___ Bald Eagle	o	o	o	o
___ Northern Harrier	u		u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ *Red-shouldered Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk		o	o	
___ *Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
___ Golden Eagle			r	r
___ *American Kestrel	c	c	c	c
<b>Gallinaceous Birds (Quail, Turkey and Allies)</b>				
___ *Wild Turkey	c	c	c	c
___ *Northern Bobwhite	c	c	c	c
<b>Rails, Gallinules, Coots and Cranes</b>				
___ King Rail	r	r	r	r
___ Virginia Rail				r
___ American Coot	o		u	u
<b>Shorebirds</b>				
___ *Killdeer	c	c	c	c
___ Greater Yellowlegs	o	o	r	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	o		r	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	o	o	r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	o	o
___ Upland Sandpiper	r		r	
___ Least Sandpiper	r	r	r	



	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	r		r	
___ Wilson's Snipe	o	r	u	u
___ *American Woodcock	o	o	o	o
___ Ring-billed Gull	r		r	r
___ Herring Gull	r		r	r

### **Pigeons, Doves**

___ *Mourning Dove	a	a	a	a
___ *Common Ground-Dove	r	r	r	r

### **Cuckoos**

___ Black-billed Cuckoo	r		r	
___ *Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	c		

### **Owls**

___ *Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
___ *Eastern Screech-Owl	c	c	c	c
___ *Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
___ *Barred Owl	u	u	u	u
___ Long-eared Owl				r
___ Short-eared Owl				r

### **Nightjars**

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

### **Swifts, Hummingbirds**

___ *Chimney Swift	c	c	c	
___ *Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	c	c	

### **Kingfishers**

___ *Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c
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### **Woodpeckers**

___ *Red-headed Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		c	c
___ Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ *Red-cockaded Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ *Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
___ *Pileated Woodpecker	u	u	u	o

### **Flycatchers**

___ *Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	
___ *Acadian Flycatcher	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Phoebe	c	c	c	c
___ *Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	u	
___ *Eastern Kingbird	c	c		

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Shrikes</b>				
___ *Loggerhead Shrike	c	c	c	c
<b>Vireos</b>				
___ *White-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	
___ Blue-headed Vireo				o
___ *Yellow-throated Vireo.	o	o	o	
___ *Red-eyed Vireo	u	c	o	
<b>Jays and Crows</b>				
___ *Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
___ *American Crow	c	c	c	c
___ *Fish Crow	c	c	c	c
<b>Martins and Swallows</b>				
___ *Purple Martin	c	c	c	
___ Tree Swallow	c		c	c
___ *Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c	c	
___ *Barn Swallow	o	u	o	
<b>Chickadees and Titmice</b>				
___ *Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c
___ *Tufted Titmouse.	c	c	c	c
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		r	o
___ *White-breasted Nuthatch	o	o	o	o
___ *Brown-headed Nuthatch	a	a	a	a
<b>Creepers</b>				
___ Brown Creeper				u
<b>Wrens</b>				
___ *Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
___ House Wren	o			o
___ Winter Wren	o			o
___ Sedge Wren				r
___ Marsh Wren	r			r
<b>Kinglets and Gnatcatchers</b>				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet				o
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c
___ *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	c	u	
<b>Bluebirds, Thrushes and Robin</b>				
___ *Eastern Bluebird	c	c	c	c
___ Veery	r		r	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	r		r	
___ Swainson's Thrush	r		r	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Hermit Thrush	u		c	c
___ *Wood Thrush	c	c	c	
___ *American Robin	c	u	c	c
<b>Thrashers</b>				
___ *Gray Catbird	c	c	c	
___ *Northern Mockingbird	a	a	a	a
___ *Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	c
<b>Starlings</b>				
___ *European Starling	c	c	c	c
<b>Pipits</b>				
___ American Pipit				o
<b>Waxwings</b>				
___ Cedar Waxwing	o		o	u
<b>Warblers</b>				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Tennessee Warbler	r		r	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	r		r	
___ *Northern Parula	c	c	c	
___ Yellow Warbler	o	o	o	
___ Magnolia Warbler	r		r	
___ Cape May Warbler	o		o	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	o		o	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	o		o	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	r		r	
___ *Yellow-throated Warbler	c	c	c	
___ *Pine Warbler	a	a	a	o
___ *Prairie Warbler	c	c	c	
___ Palm Warbler	c		c	u
___ Blackpoll Warbler	r		r	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	c		r	
___ American Redstart	o	o	o	
___ *Prothonotary Warbler	c	c	c	
___ Swainson's Warbler	o	o	o	
___ Ovenbird	u	o	o	
___ Northern Waterthrush	o		o	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	o	o	o	
___ Kentucky Warbler	o	o	o	
___ *Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
___ *Hooded Warbler	c	c	c	
___ Canada Warbler	r		r	
___ *Yellow-breasted Chat	c	c	c	



	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Tanagers</b>				
___ *Summer Tanager	c	c	c	
___ Scarlet Tanager	o		o	
<b>Sparrows</b>				
___ *Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	c
___ *Bachman's Sparrow	u	u	u	
___ *Chipping Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ *Field Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Vesper Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Henslow's Sparrow	r	r	r	
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	r	r	r	
___ Savannah Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Fox Sparrow				c
___ Song Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Swamp Sparrow	u			u
___ White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
___ White-crowned Sparrow				u
___ Dark-eyed Junco	u		c	c
<b>Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings</b>				
___ *Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
___ *Blue Grosbeak	c	c	c	
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		c	
___ *Indigo Bunting	c	c	c	
<b>Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds and Orioles</b>				
___ Bobolink	o		o	
___ *Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c
___ *Eastern Meadowlark	c	c	c	c
___ Rusty Blackbird			u	u
___ *Common Grackle	c	c	u	c
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	u	u
___ *Orchard Oriole	c	c	c	
___ Baltimore Oriole	r		r	
<b>Finches</b>				
___ Purple Finch			r	r
___ House Finch	c	c	c	c
___ Pine Siskin				r
___ American Goldfinch	c	r	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak				r
<b>Introduced Non-native Species</b>				
___ *House Sparrow	c	c	c	c

These additional 17 species of birds have been seen on the refuge only once or twice and are listed as accidental visitors.

Tundra Swan	Merlin
Barnacle Goose	Sora
Oldsquaw	Common Moorhen
Common Merganser	American Golden Plover
Red-breasted Merganser	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Tri colored Heron	Black Tern
Rough-legged Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull
Peregrine Falcon	Horned Lark
Short-billed Dowitcher	

## **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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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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*cover photo: wild turkey  
Dr. William C. Alexander*