



## BIRDS OF THE SABINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



The Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, containing over 142,000 acres, is in Cameron Parish in extreme southwestern Louisiana. Established in 1937 and administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the Department of the Interior, this area is one of the primary wintering refuges for waterfowl in the Mississippi Flyway.

Two large, brackish lakes are the dominant topographic features of the area. Sabine Lake forms the western boundary, while Calcasieu Lake bisects the east portion of the refuge. The southern boundary lies parallel to and about 5 miles from the Gulf. Three fresh-water impoundments, covering approximately 33,000 acres, attract large numbers of waterfowl and marshbirds. A surprisingly wide range of habitats is provided by numerous ridges, bayous, man-made canals and levees, ponds, lakes, and wooded islands that break up the extensive marsh areas.

Abundant throughout the winter, waterfowl reach their peak numbers usually during December and January. Huge flocks of Blue and Snow Geese are commonly seen feeding on marshes adjacent to State Highway 27, the only road through the refuge. Canada and White-fronted Geese are uncommon and are generally on the less accessible areas. The most abundant ducks are Mallards, Pintails, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal and American Widgeon. Many species other than waterfowl are present during the winter months. In past years, the Christmas Bird Count on and adjacent to Sabine Refuge has ranked high in the nation, usually with more than 150 species recorded.

Transient shorebirds are abundant along the lake shores and in shallow ponds during April, May and September. Cold fronts during March, April, and May sometimes produce spectacular waves of migrant warblers and other songbirds that are rarely seen otherwise. Nesting birds include many species of herons and egrets, Olivaceous Cormorants, Anhingas, Roseate Spoonbills, Common and Purple Gallinules, Mottled Ducks, Clapper Rails and Black-necked Stilts.

The following bird list contains 242 species. Another 22 species of rare or accidental occurrence are listed on the last page, as are another 44 species which have been found in the immediate vicinity of the refuge. Those marked with an \* may remain in reduced numbers in the winter. Those marked with a #, normally winter or transient visitors, may remain during the summer in variable numbers. This list, using species names, is in accordance with the Fifth (1957) A.O.U. Check-list. The status and abundance symbols are defined as follows:

<u>Status</u>	<u>Abundance</u>
PR - Permanent Resident	a - abundant
SR - Summer Resident	c - common
WR - Winter Resident	u - uncommon
WV - Winter Visitor	o - occasional
SV - Summer Visitor	r - rare
TV - Transient Visitor	
CV - Casual Visitor	

Common Loon		WR-u	Red-shouldered Hawk		WV-u
Horned Grebe		WV-o	Broad-winged Hawk		TV-o
Pied-billed Grebe	#	WR-c	Bald Eagle		WR-o
White Pelican	#	WR-c	Marsh Hawk		WR-c
Brown Pelican		PR-o	Osprey		TV-o
Double-crested Cormorant	#	WR-c	Peregrine Falcon		WV-o
Olivaceous Cormorant		PR-c	Pigeon Hawk		WV-o
Anhinga	*	SR-u	Sparrow Hawk		WR-c
Magnificent Frigate-bird		CV-o	Bobwhite		CV-o
Great Blue Heron		PR-c	King Rail		PR-u
Green Heron	*	SR-a	Clapper Rail		PR-a
Little Blue Heron		PR-c	Virginia Rail		WR-c
Cattle Egret		PR-u	Sora		WR-c
Reddish Egret	*	SV-r	Purple Callinule	*	SR-c
Common Egret		PR-c	Common Gallinule		PR-c
Snowy Egret		PR-c	American Coot	#	WR-c
Louisiana Heron		PR-c	Semipalmated Plover	*	TV-u
Black-crowned Night Heron		PR-u	Wilson's Plover		SR-o
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	*	SR-u	Killdeer		PR-c
Least Bittern	*	SR-a	American Golden Plover		TV-r
American Bittern		WR-c	Black-bellied Plover	#	WV-c
Wood Ibis		SV-u	Ruddy Turnstone	*	TV-u
White-faced Ibis		PR-c	American Woodcock		WV-r
White Ibis		PR-c	Common Snipe		WR-a
Roseate Spoonbill		PR-u	Long-billed Curlew	*	TV-u
Canada Goose		WR-u	Whimbrel		TV-u
White-fronted Goose		WR-u	Upland Plover		TV-r
Snow Goose		WR-a	Spotted Sandpiper	*	TV-c
Blue Goose		WR-a	Solitary Sandpiper	#	TV-u
Fulvous Tree Duck		TV-u	Willet		PR-u
Mallard		WR-a	Greater Yellowlegs	*	TV-a
Black Duck		WR-c	Lesser Yellowlegs	*	TV-a
Mottled Duck		PR-c	Knot		TV-r
Gadwall		WR-a	Pectoral Sandpiper		TV-u
Pintail		WR-a	White-rumped Sandpiper		TV-c
Green-winged Teal		WR-a	Least Sandpiper	#	WV-c
Blue-winged Teal		WR-a	Dunlin		WR-c
American Widgeon		WR-a	Short-billed Dowitcher	#	WR-c
Shoveler		WR-a	Long-billed Dowitcher	#	WR-u
Wood Duck	#	WV-u	Stilt Sandpiper		TV-o
Redhead		WR-u	Semipalmated Sandpiper	*	TV-a
Ring-necked Duck		WR-u	Western Sandpiper	#	WR-c
Canvasback		WR-u	Marbled Godwit	*	TV-o
Lesser Scaup	#	WR-c	Sanderling	*	TV-u
Common Goldeneye		WV-o	American Avocet		WV-o
Bufflehead		WR-u	Black-necked Stilt	*	SR-c
Ruddy Duck		WR-u	Herring Gull		WR-c
Hooded Merganser		WR-u	Ring-billed Gull		WR-c
Common Merganser		WV-r	Laughing Gull		PR-c
Red-breasted Merganser		WR-u	Franklin's Gull		TV-r
Turkey Vulture		PR-c	Bonaparte's Gull		WV-u
Black Vulture		PR-c	Gull-billed Tern		PR-u
Sharp-shinned Hawk		WV-c	Forster's Tern		PR-c
Cooper's Hawk		WV-u	Common Tern		WV-u
Red-tailed Hawk		WR-u	Least Tern		SR-u



Royal Tern		PR-u	Eastern Bluebird	*	TV-u
Caspian Tern		PR-u	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	*	SR-c
Black Tern	#	TV-a	Golden-crowned Kinglet		WV-u
Black Skimmer		PR-c	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		WR-c
Mourning Dove		PR-o	Water Pipit		WR-a
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		SR-u	Cedar Waxwing		WV-u
Black-billed Cuckoo		TV-r	Loggerhead Shrike		PR-c
Barn Owl		PR-r	Starling		WR-c
Screech Owl		CV-r	White-eyed Vireo	#	TV-u
Great Horned Owl		CV-r	Yellow-throated Vireo		TV-o
Burrowing Owl		WV-o	Solitary Vireo		WV-o
Short-eared Owl		WV-o	Red-eyed Vireo		TV-u
Chuck-will's-widow		TV-o	Warbling Vireo		TV-r
Common Nighthawk		SR-c	Black-and-white Warbler		TV-c
Chimney Swift		SR-o	Prothonotary Warbler	#	TV-o
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		TV-u	Worm-eating Warbler		TV-r
Belted Kingfisher		PR-c	Golden-winged Warbler		TV-r
Yellow-shafted Flicker	#	WR-u	Blue-winged Warbler		TV-o
Red-headed Woodpecker		CV-o	Tennessee Warbler		TV-o
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		WV-o	Orange-crowned Warbler		WV-u
Downy Woodpecker		CV-r	Nashville Warbler		TV-r
Eastern Kingbird		SR-c	Parula Warbler		TV-u
Western Kingbird		TV-r	Yellow Warbler		TV-u
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		TV-o	Magnolia Warbler		TV-u
Great Crested Flycatcher		TV-u	Myrtle Warbler		WV-c
Eastern Phoebe		WR-c	Black-throated Green Warbler		TV-u
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		TV-r	Cerulean Warbler		TV-o
Acadian Flycatcher		TV-u	Blackburnian Warbler		TV-u
Eastern Wood Pewee		TV-u	Yellow-throated Warbler		TV-u
Olive-sided Flycatcher		TV-r	Chestnut-sided Warbler		TV-u
Vermilion Flycatcher		WV-r	Bay-breasted Warbler		TV-u
Tree Swallow	*	TV-a	Blackpoll Warbler		TV-u
Bank Swallow		TV-c	Prairie Warbler		TV-o
Rough-winged Swallow		TV-u	Palm Warbler		WV-r
Barn Swallow	#	TV-a	Northern Waterthrush		TV-o
Cliff Swallow		TV-c	Louisiana Waterthrush		TV-o
Purple Martin		SR-u	Kentucky Warbler		TV-u
Blue Jay		CV-r	Mourning Warbler		TV-r
Fish Crow		PR-u	Yellowthroat		PR-c
Red-breasted Nuthatch		WV-r	Yellow-breasted Chat		TV-o
Brown Creeper		WV-u	Hooded Warbler		TV-u
House Wren		WV-r	Wilson's Warbler		TV-u
Winter Wren		WV-u	Canada Warbler		TV-o
Carolina Wren		PR-o	American Redstart		TV-c
Long-billed Marsh Wren		PR-a	House Sparrow		PR-u
Short-billed Marsh Wren		WR-c	Eastern Meadowlark		PR-a
Mockingbird		PR-u	Redwinged Blackbird		PR-a
Catbird	*	TV-u	Orchard Oriole		SR-c
Brown Thrasher		WR-u	Baltimore Oriole		TV-u
Robin		WR-u	Rusty Blackbird		WV-r
Wood Thrush		TV-u	Boat-tailed Grackle		PR-a
Hermit Thrush		WV-u	Common Grackle		TV-r
Swainson's Thrush		TV-u	Brown-headed Cowbird		WV-u
Gray-cheeked Thrush		TV-u	Scarlet Tanager		TV-u
Veery		TV-o	Summer Tanager		TV-u



Cardinal	PR-u	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	WR-u
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	TV-u	Seaside Sparrow	PR-a
Blue Grosbeak	TV-o	Vesper Sparrow	WV-o
Indigo Bunting	TV-u	Lark Sparrow	TV-r
Painted Bunting	TV-o	Slate-colored Junco	WV-u
Dickcissel	TV-o	White-crowned Sparrow	WV-o
Purple Finch	WV-o	White-throated Sparrow	WV-u
American Goldfinch	WV-o	Fox Sparrow	WV-o
Rufous-sided Towhee	WV-o	Lincoln's Sparrow	WV-u
Savannah Sparrow	WR-c	Swamp Sparrow	WR-c
Le Conte's Sparrow	WV-u	Song Sparrow	WR-c

The following 22 species are of accidental occurrence and in most instances have been seen on the refuge only one or two times. No recent records exist for the Sandhill Crane, formerly a local permanent resident.

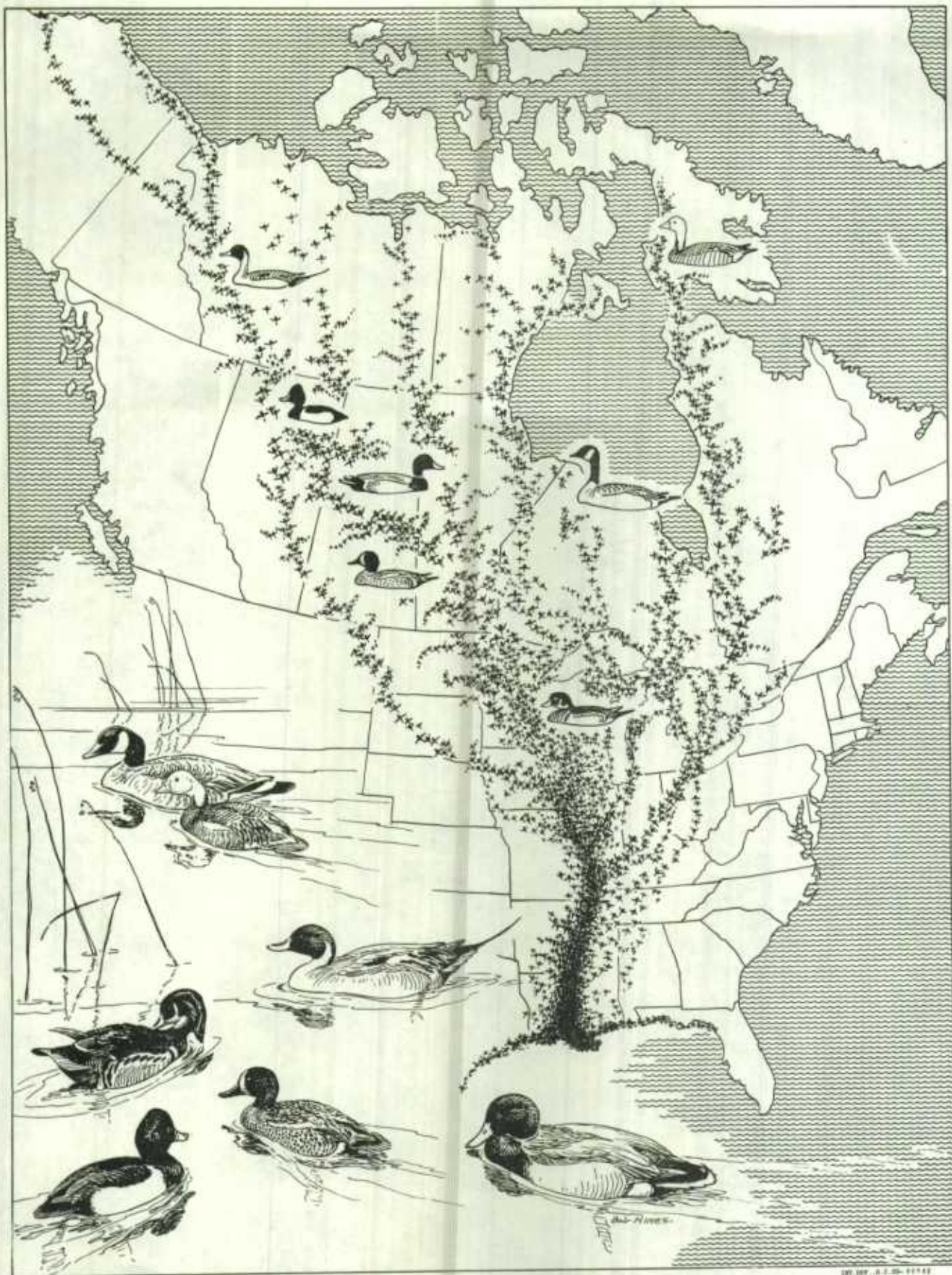
Eared Grebe	Sandhill Crane	Swainson's Warbler
Blue-faced Booby	Black Rail	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Sooty Tern	Bobolink
Oldsquaw	Noddy Tern	Yellow-headed Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	White-winged Dove	Bullock's Oriole
Rough-legged Hawk	Ground Dove	Pine Siskin
Golden Eagle	Sprague's Pipit	Chipping Sparrow
Caracara		

These additional 44 species have been recorded in the immediate vicinity, but not on the refuge. The primary sources for this list include the annual Christmas Bird Count, which covers portions of the Cameron and Hackberry areas as well as part of the refuge, and frequent field trips to the Cameron and Johnson Bayou areas by members of the Louisiana Ornithological Society.

Audubon's Shearwater	Groove-billed Ani	Pine Warbler
Greater Scaup	Barred Owl	Western Meadowlark
Surf Scoter	Lesser Nighthawk	Scott's Oriole
Harlan's Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brewer's Blackbird
Swainson's Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Western Tanager
Piping Plover	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Black-headed Grosbeak
Snowy Plover	Least Flycatcher	Lesser Goldfinch
Baird's Sandpiper	Horned Lark	Green-tailed Towhee
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Common Crow	Grasshopper Sparrow
Hudsonian Godwit	Carolina Chickadee	Tree Sparrow
Red Phalarope	Tufted Titmouse	Clay-colored Sparrow
Kittiwake	Bewick's Wren	Brewer's Sparrow
Bridled Tern	Philadelphia Vireo	Field Sparrow
Sandwich Tern	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Harris' Sparrow
Smooth-billed Ani	Audubon's Warbler	



# MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY



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