

# **B**irds

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.

Management of the refuge's unique blend of pinelands, pocosin bottoms, freshwater ponds and lakes, croplands, openings and small food plots provide havens for almost 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, predacious 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 a living pine tree suffering from red heart disease.

This folder lists 192 species that have been recorded by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists since the refuge was established.

Another 18 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, Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, Route 2, Box 100, McBee, South Carolina 29101

## *How to use your checklist*

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:

### *Seasonal Appearance*

<b>Sp</b> - Spring	March-May
<b>S</b> - Summer	June-August
<b>F</b> - Fall	September-November
<b>W</b> - Winter	December-February

### *Seasonal Abundance*

<b>a</b> -- abundant (a common species which is very numerous)
<b>c</b> -- common (certain to be seen in suitable habitat)
<b>u</b> -- uncommon (present but not certain to be seen)
<b>o</b> -- occasional (seen only a few times during a season)
<b>r</b> -- rare (seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years)
<b>*</b> -- nests on the refuge

Note: If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We appreciate your help in updating our records.

SP   S   F   W

### *Loons*

Common Loon.....					r
------------------	--	--	--	--	---

### *Grebes*

Pied-billed Grebe.....	c	o	c	c	
Horned Grebe.....	o				o

### *Pelicans and their Allies*

Double-crested Cormorant.....					r
Anhinga.....	r	o	o		

### *Herons, Egrets and Allies*

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			

*Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge*

*Ibises, Spoonbill, and Stork*

\_\_ White Ibis..... o

*Vultures*

\_\_ \*Black Vulture..... c c c c  
 \_\_ \*Turkey Vulture..... c c c c

*Waterfowl*

\_\_ 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 o  
 \_\_ Bufflehead..... o o o  
 \_\_ Common Goldeneye..... r r  
 \_\_ Hooded Merganser..... o o u u  
 \_\_ Ruddy Duck..... r r

*Hawks and Allies*

\_\_ 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  
 \_\_ \*Red-shouldered Hawk..... u u u  
 \_\_ Broad-winged Hawk..... o o o  
 \_\_ \*Red-tailed Hawk..... c c c c  
 \_\_ Golden Eagle..... r r  
 \_\_ \*American Kestrel..... c c c c

*Gallinaceous Birds (Quail, Turkey and Allies)*

\_\_ \*Wild Turkey..... c c c c  
 \_\_ \*Northern Bobwhite..... c c c c

*Rails, Gallinules, Coots and Cranes*

\_\_ King Rail..... r r r r  
 \_\_ Virginia Rail..... r r  
 \_\_ American Coot..... o u u

*Shorebirds*

\_\_ \*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  
 \_\_ Pectoral Sandpiper..... r r  
 \_\_ Common 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

*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

*Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge*

	<u>SP</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>		<u>SP</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>
<i>Flycatchers</i>					<i>Bluebirds, Thrushes and Robin</i>				
___*Eastern Wood-Pewee.....	c		c	c	___*Eastern Bluebird.....	c	c	c	c
___*Acadian Flycatcher.....	c	c	c		___Veery.....		r		r
___Eastern Phoebe.....	c	c	c	c	___Gray-cheeked Thrush.....		r		r
___*Great Crested Flycatcher.....	c	c	u		___Swainson's Thrush.....		r		r
___*Eastern Kingbird.....	c	c			___Hermit Thrush.....	u		c	c
<i>Shrike</i>					___*Wood Thrush.....c c c				
___*Loggerhead Shrike.....	c	c	c	c	___*American Robin.....	c	u	c	c
<i>Vireos</i>					<i>Thrashers</i>				
___*White-eyed Vireo.....		c	c	c	___*Gray Catbird.....	c	c	c	
___Blue-headed Vireo.....				o	___*Northern Mockingbird.....	a	a	a	a
___*Yellow-throated Vireo.....	o	o	o		___*Brown Thrasher.....	c	c	c	c
___*Red-eyed Vireo.....	u	c	o		<i>Starlings</i>				
<i>Jays and Crows</i>					___*European Starling..... c c c c				
___*Blue Jay.....	c	c	c	c	<i>Pipits</i>				
___*American Crow.....	c	c	c	c	___American Pipit.....				o
___*Fish Crow.....	c	c	c	c	<i>Waxwings</i>				
<i>Martins and Swallows</i>					___Cedar Waxwing..... o o u				
___*Purple Martin.....	c	c	c		<i>Warblers</i>				
___Tree Swallow.....	c		c	c	___Blue-winged Warbler.....		r		r
___*Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c	c	c	___Golden-winged Warbler.....		r		r
___Barn Swallow.....	o	u	o	o	___Tennessee Warbler.....		r		r
<i>Chickadees and Titmice</i>					___Orange-crowned Warbler..... r r				
___*Carolina Chickadee.....	c	c	c	c	___*Northern Parula.....	c	c	c	
___*Tufted Titmouse.....	c	c	c	c	___Yellow Warbler.....	o	o	o	
<i>Nuthatches</i>					___Magnolia Warbler.....r r				
___Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	o		r	o	___Cape May Warbler.....	o		o	
___*White-breasted Nuthatch.....	o	o	o	o	___Black-throated Blue Warbler....	o		o	
___*Brown-headed Nuthatch.....	a	a	a	a	___Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	c		c	c
<i>Creepers</i>					___Black-throated Green Warbler..o o				
___Brown Creeper.....				u	___Blackburnian Warbler.....		r		r
<i>Wrens</i>					___*Yellow-throated Warbler..... c c c				
___*Carolina Wren.....	c	c	c	c	___*Pine Warbler.....	a	a	a	o
___House Wren.....	o			o	___*Prairie Warbler.....		c	c	c
___Winter Wren.....	o			o	___Palm Warbler.....	c		c	u
___Sedge Wren.....				r	___Blackpoll Warbler.....	r		r	
___Marsh Wren.....	r			r	___Black-and-white Warbler.....		c		r
<i>Kinglets and Gnatcatchers</i>					___American Redstart.....o o o				
___Golden-crowned Kinglet.....				o	___*Prothonotary Warbler.....		c	c	c
___Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	c		c	c	___Swainson's Warbler.....		o	o	o
___*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	c	c	u	u	___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

*Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge*

SP   S   F   W

*Tanagers*

__ *Summer Tanager.....	c	c	c	
__ Scarlet Tanager.....		o		o

*Accidental Visitors*

These additional 18 species of birds have been seen on the refuge only once or twice and are listed as accidental visitors.

*Sparrows*

__ *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
__ Savannah Sparrow.....	c		c	c
__ Fox Sparrow.....				c
__ Song Sparrow.....	c		c	c
__ Swamp Sparrow.....				u
__ White-throated Sparrow.....	c		c	c
__ White-crowned Sparrow.....				u
__ Dark-eyed Junco.....	u		c	c

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	Rose-breasted Grosbeak

*Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings*

__ *Northern Cardinal.....	c	c	c	c
__ *Blue Grosbeak.....		c	c	c
__ *Indigo Bunting.....		c	c	c

*Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds and Orioles*

__ Bobolink.....				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

*Finches*

__ Purple Finch.....			r	r
__ House Finch.....	c	c	c	c
__ Pine Siskin.....				r
__ American Goldfinch.....	c	r	c	c
__ Evening Grosbeak.....				r

*Introduced Non-native Species*

__ *House Sparrow.....	c	c	c	c
------------------------	---	---	---	---

# Birding Ethics

The membership of the American Birding Association believes that all birders have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others. They 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: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of species: \_\_\_\_\_

Route or area: \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: