

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pelican Island

*National Wildlife Refuge
Bird List*



photo: Atlee Hargis/USFWS

Habitat Diversity Attracts A Variety of Birds



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

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, which is situated on a barrier island, sandwiched between the Indian River Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean, is a small but significant sanctuary established for the protection of nesting birds. Pelican Island holds the distinction of being the very first National Wildlife Refuge, after President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated it with a simple executive action in 1903.

Today Pelican Island proper, including the nearby saltmarsh, mangrove islands, and impoundments, make up the 5,445 acre Refuge which is home to more than a dozen species of nesting birds, including the Wood Stork, Anhinga, and Brown Pelican. Roseate Spoonbills, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Osprey, Reddish Egrets, White Ibis, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Great Blue Herons can be seen throughout the Refuge impoundments and trails year-round.

In Fall and Winter, Belted Kingfishers, Bald Eagles, American White Pelicans, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers return to the Refuge in greater numbers. A variety of migratory species, like the Peregrine Falcon, utilize the Refuge prior to their long journey over the Gulf of Mexico toward wintering grounds in South America.

About this Checklist

The 218 species listed in this brochure have all been observed on the Refuge. This list follows the format of the "Checklist of Florida Birds" as updated by the Florida Ornithological Society's Records Committee through December 31, 2015. If you observe any species not listed in this brochure please provide a detailed report to staff or volunteers.

Seasons

Sp Spring (March-May)
S Summer (June-August)
F Fall (September-November)
W Winter (December-February)

*Seasonal
Abundance*

C - Common - These birds are present in large numbers, are widespread, and should be seen if you look in the correct habitat.

U - Uncommon - These birds are present, but because of their low numbers, behavior, habitat, or distribution, they are not usually seen.

O - Occasional - These birds are present in low numbers and are not expected to be seen without a special effort to find them.

R- Rare - These birds are not expected to be seen every year. They occur in low numbers, may also be secretive or hard to identify, and may be unreported for several years.

*-- **Nests** on the Refuge.

Accessibility

The Centennial Trail

3/4-mile round trip; observation tower to view the Pelican Island rookery from a distance; ADA accessible.

Joe Michael Memorial Trail

Three-mile loop; salt marsh habitat; observation platform in the marsh impoundment.

Bird's Impoundment Trail

Three-mile loop; salt marsh habitat.

The Pelican Island rookery is also viewable from a closer distance by boat or kayak, but from outside the *Closed Area* signs posted around the island (410 feet away).

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck				r
Wood Duck	o	o	o	o
Blue-winged Teal	c	u	o	c
Northern Shoveler	c		o	c
Gadwall	o			u
American Wigeon	o		u	u
Mallard	o			r
Mottled Duck*	c	c	c	c
Northern Pintail	r			r
Green-winged Teal	u			u
Canvasback				r
Redhead	r			r
Ring-necked Duck	o		o	o
Lesser Scaup	c		o	u
Surf Scoter	r			r
Bufflehead	o			u
Hooded Merganser	u		o	u
Red-breasted Merganser	c		o	c
Ruddy Duck	r			r
Upland Game Birds				
Northern Bobwhite	r	r		
Loons				
Common Loon	o			o
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe	c	r	u	c
Horned Grebe	o			o
Storks				
Wood Stork*	c	c	c	c
Frigatebirds				
Magnificent Frigatebird*	u	o	o	o
Boobies and Gannets				
Northern Gannet	o	r		u
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant*	c	c	c	c
Darters				
Anhinga*	c	c	c	c
Pelicans				
American White Pelican	o			c
Brown Pelican*	c	c	c	c

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Hérons, Bitterns, and Allies				
American Bittern	r			r
Least Bittern			r	r
Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
Great Egret*	c	c	c	c
Snowy Egret*	c	c	c	c
Little Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
Tricolored Heron*	c	c	c	c
Reddish Egret*	u	c	c	u
Cattle Egret*	u	u	u	u
Green Heron*	o	c	u	o
Black-crowned Night Heron*	u	c	u	u
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	o	u	o	o
Ibises and Spoonbills				
White Ibis*	c	c	c	c
Glossy Ibis	o	u		
Roseate Spoonbill*	c	u	u	c
New World Vultures				
Black Vulture	c	c	c	c
Turkey Vulture	c	u	o	c
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies				
Osprey*	c	u	c	c
Swallow-tailed Kite	o	o		
Snail Kite	r		r	r
Bald Eagle	o	r	r	o
Northern Harrier	o			o
Sharp-shinned Hawk	r		r	r
Cooper's Hawk	o	r	o	o
Red-shouldered Hawk	c	c	c	c
Broad-winged Hawk	r		r	r
Red-tailed Hawk	u	o	u	u
Caracaras and Falcons				
Crested Caracara	r		r	r
American Kestrel	o		u	u
Merlin	o		u	r
Peregrine Falcon	r		u	r
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
Clapper Rail	r	r	r	r
King Rail	r			r
Virginia Rail				r
Sora	r			r
Purple Gallinule	r	r	r	r
Common Gallinule	u	o	u	u
American Coot	u	r	r	u

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Limpkins				
— Limpkin	r	r	r	r
Cranes				
— Sandhill Crane	r	r	r	r
Lapwings and Plovers				
— Black-bellied Plover	u	o	o	u
— Wilson's Plover	r	r	r	r
— Semipalmated Plover	o	r	u	o
— Killdeer	o	r	r	o
Oystercatchers				
— American Oystercatcher*	o	o	o	o
Stilts and Avocets				
— Black-necked Stilt	r	r	r	
— American Avocet	r	r		r
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies				
— Spotted Sandpiper	o	r	u	o
— Solitary Sandpiper	r	r	r	
— Greater Yellowlegs	u	r	o	o
— Willet	c	o	u	c
— Lesser Yellowlegs	u	r	r	u
— Whimbrel	r		r	
— Marbled Godwit	r		r	r
— Ruddy Turnstone	c	u	c	c
— Red Knot	r		r	r
— Sanderling	c	o	c	c
— Semipalmated Sandpiper	o		o	
— Western Sandpiper	r	r	r	r
— Least Sandpiper	u	r	o	o
— Pectoral Sandpiper	r		r	
— Dunlin	u		r	o
— Stilt Sandpiper	r		r	r
— Short-billed Dowitcher	r		r	r
— Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	r
— Wilson's Snipe	o		r	r
Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
— Bonaparte's Gull	o		o	u
— Laughing Gull	c	c	c	c
— Ring-billed Gull	c	o	u	c
— Herring Gull	c	r	u	c
— Lesser Black-backed Gull	o		o	u
— Great Black-backed Gull	o		o	u
— Least Tern	u	c	u	
— Caspian Tern	o	r	o	u
— Black Tern		u	o	r

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Common Tern	r	o	o	o
Forster's Tern	c	o	u	c
Royal Tern	c	c	c	c
Sandwich Tern	u	o	c	u
Black Skimmer	c	o	u	c
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
Eurasian Collared-Dove	u	u	u	u
White-winged Dove	r	r	r	r
Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Common Ground-Dove	c	c	c	c
Cuckoos and Anis				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	o	r	r	
Barn Owls				
Barn Owl		r	r	
Typical Owls				
Eastern Screech-Owl	r	r	r	r
Great Horned Owl	r		r	r
Barred Owl	r	r	r	r
Nightjars (Goatsuckers)				
Common Nighthawk	r	r	r	
Chuck-will's-widow	r	r	r	
Eastern Whip-poor-will	r			
Swifts				
Chimney Swift	o	c	o	
Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	r		r	r
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	u	o	c	c
Woodpeckers and Allies				
Red-headed Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o		o	o
Downy Woodpecker	o	r	o	o
Northern Flicker	r	r	r	r
Pileated Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Eastern Wood-Pewee			r	
Least Flycatcher			r	r

Tyrant Flycatchers, *continued on next page*

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tyrant Flycatchers , <i>continued from previous page</i>				
Eastern Phoebe	c		o	c
Great Crested Flycatcher	c	u	u	o
Eastern Kingbird	o		o	
Gray Kingbird	o	o	o	
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike	o	r	o	o
Vireos				
White-eyed Vireo	o		u	o
Yellow-throated Vireo	r		r	r
Blue-headed Vireo	o		o	o
Red-eyed Vireo	o		u	
Jays and Crows				
Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
Florida Scrub-jay	r	r	r	r
American Crow	r	r	r	r
Fish Crow	c	c	u	u
Swallows and Martins				
Tree Swallow	u	r	o	o
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	r	r	r	r
Bank Swallow	r	r	r	
Cliff Swallow	r	r	r	
Barn Swallow	o	o	u	r
Chickadees and Titmice				
Carolina Chickadee			r	r
Tufted Titmouse	r			
Wrens				
Carolina Wren	o	r	o	o
House Wren	o		r	o
Sedge Wren			r	r
Marsh Wren	r		r	r
Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	o	r	c	u
Kinglets				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r		r	r
Thrushes				
Eastern Bluebird	r			r
Veery			r	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	r			

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swainson's Thrush	r		r	
Hermit Thrush	r			
Wood Thrush			r	
American Robin	r			r
Mimics (Mockingbirds, Thrashers, and Catbirds)				
Gray Catbird	c		o	u
Brown Thrasher	r	r	r	r
Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
Starlings				
European Starling	o	o	o	o
Wagtails and Pipits				
American Pipit				r
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing	r	r		r
Wood-Warblers				
Ovenbird	o		u	r
Louisiana Waterthrush	r		r	
Northern Waterthrush	o		o	r
Blue-winged Warbler			r	
Black-and-White Warbler	u		u	u
Tennessee Warbler			r	r
Orange-crowned Warbler	o		r	o
Connecticut Warbler	r			
Common Yellowthroat	c	r	c	u
American Redstart	u		o	o
Hooded Warbler	r			
Cape May Warbler	o		o	r
Northern Parula	u		u	o
Magnolia Warbler	r		r	r
Yellow Warbler	r	r	r	r
Blackpoll Warbler	o		o	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	o		o	r
Palm Warbler	c		c	c
Pine Warbler	r		r	r
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		o	u
Yellow-throated Warbler	o	r	u	o
Prairie Warbler	u	u	u	u
Black-throated Green Warbler	r		r	r

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sparrows, Towhees, and Allies				
Eastern Towhee	r	r	r	r
Chipping Sparrow	r		r	r
Savannah Sparrow	r		r	r
Grasshopper Sparrow	r			r
Song Sparrow	r			
Swamp Sparrow	r		r	r
White-throated Sparrow				r
White-crowned Sparrow	r			r
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, and Allies				
Summer Tanager	r		r	
Scarlet Tanager	r		r	
Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	u
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	o		o	
Indigo Bunting	u		u	r
Painted Bunting	o		o	r
Bobolink	o		o	
Red-winged Blackbird	o	r	r	r
Common Grackle	c	c	c	c
Boat-tailed Grackle	c	c	c	c
Brown-headed Cowbird	r			
Baltimore Oriole	r		r	r
Finches and Allies				
American Goldfinch	o			o
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow	o	o	r	o

Date _____ Time _____ Total _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Notes



photo: Atlee Hargis/USFWS

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge
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