

Tennessee  
National Wildlife Refuge  
1371 Wildlife Drive  
Springville, TN 38256  
731/642 2091  
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Tennessee

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### *Bird List*



photo: Clayton Ferrell



*photo: Richard Graves*

The Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is located in west Tennessee, along beautiful Kentucky Lake. Its 51,358 acres of waters, wetlands, woodlands, and agricultural fields provide foraging, nesting and resting habitat for a myriad of birds. Established in 1945 for migratory birds, the wetlands and agricultural fields are managed for wintering waterfowl, while benefitting wading birds and shorebirds.

The refuge headquarters office is located on the Britton Ford/Sulphur Well section of the Big Sandy Unit northeast of Paris, Tennessee. The Big Sandy Unit is located 12 miles north of the town of Big Sandy and at the junction of the Big Sandy and the Tennessee Rivers. The Duck River Unit, the largest of the three units, is located in Humphreys and Benton Counties at the junction of the Duck and Tennessee Rivers. The sub-headquarters of this unit is located one and one-half miles south of Hustburg, Tennessee. The Busselton Unit is located in Decatur County along the western bank of the Tennessee River, the entrance to the unit being 5 miles northeast of Parsons, Tennessee.

The bird checklist is designed to be informative and simple to use. Seasonal symbols that appear in this checklist represent the following:

Sp - Spring, March-May

S - Summer, June-July

F - Fall, August-November

W - Winter, December-February

The following abundance codes indicate the likelihood of a bird being encountered. These codes are listed by season for each species. Keep in mind that the months within a season may not match migration timing and a bird may only be present in the early or later part of a season.

a - abundant (a common species in which a hundred or more individuals are likely to be seen in any one location in suitable habitat.)

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 only once or twice a year; some years not at all)

x - accidental (has been observed on refuge less than three times in a specified season, within the last ten years)

\* - known or suspected to nest on refuge

This bird list includes 317 species of birds and is based on observations by refuge personnel, visiting ornithologists and birders. If you should find an unlisted, rare or accidental species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters or record your sighting in eBird. We appreciate your help in updating our records.

### Waterfowl

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
____ Snow Goose	u	x	u	a
____ Ross's Goose	o		u	u
____ Greater White-fronted Goose	u		c	a
____ Cackling Goose	o		c	a
____ Canada Goose*	c	c	a	a
____ Mute Swan				r
____ Tundra Swan			r	r
____ Wood Duck*	c	c	c	u
____ Blue-winged Teal	c	o	c	r
____ Northern Shoveler	c		c	c
____ Gadwall	c		a	a
____ Eurasian Wigeon				r
____ American Wigeon	u		c	a
____ Mallard*	c	u	a	a
____ American Black Duck	u	x	u	c
____ Northern Pintail	c	x	c	a
____ Green-winged Teal	c	x	c	a
____ Canvasback	u		u	c
____ Redhead	u		u	u
____ Ring-necked Duck	c		c	a
____ Greater Scaup	u		u	u
____ Lesser Scaup	c		c	a
____ Surf Scoter	o		o	r
____ White-winged Scoter	r		r	r
____ Black Scoter			r	r
____ Long-tailed Duck	r		r	r
____ Bufflehead	c		c	c
____ Common Goldeneye	u		u	c
____ Hooded Merganser*	c	u	c	c
____ Common Merganser			r	o
____ Red-breasted Merganser	o		u	u
____ Ruddy Duck	u		c	c
<b>Grouse, Quail, and Allies</b>				
____ Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u
____ Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Loons and Grebes</b>				
___ Red-throated Loon	o		o	o
___ Pacific Loon	o		o	o
___ Common Loon	u		c	c
___ Pied-billed Grebe	c	r	c	c
___ Horned Grebe	u		c	c
___ Red-necked Grebe			r	r
___ Eared Grebe	r		r	r
___ Western Grebe	x		r	r

### Storks

___ Wood Stork		r	r	
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### Cormorants and Anhingas

___ Double-crested Cormorant*	a	c	a	c
___ Anhinga*		r	r	

### Pelicans

___ American White Pelican	c	o	a	c
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### Hérons, Ibis and Allies

___ American Bittern	u		u	
___ Least Bittern	o	o	o	
___ Great Blue Heron*	a	a	a	c
___ Great Egret*	c	c	c	o
___ Snowy Egret	o	u	o	
___ Little Blue Heron	u	u	u	
___ Tricolored Heron	x	x	x	
___ Cattle Egret	u	u	u	
___ Green Heron*	c	c	c	
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	o	o	o	r
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	o	o	o	
___ White Ibis		r	r	
___ Glossy Ibis	r		r	
___ White-faced Ibis			r	x
___ Roseate Spoonbill		r	r	

### Vultures, Hawks and Allies

___ Black Vulture*	c	c	c	c
___ Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c
___ Osprey*	c	c	u	
___ Golden Eagle	r		u	u
___ Mississippi Kite	r	o	o	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Northern Harrier	u	x	c	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk*	u	o	u	u
___ Bald Eagle*	c	u	c	c
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	c	c	c	c
___ Broad-winged Hawk*	u	o	u	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	c
___ Rough-legged Hawk			x	x

### Rails, Gallinules and Allies

___ Yellow Rail			r	
___ King Rail*	r	r	r	
___ Virginia Rail	o		o	
___ Sora	u		c	
___ Common Gallinule	r	r	r	
___ American Coot	c	r	a	a

### Cranes

___ Sandhill Crane	r	r	u	u
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### Shorebirds

___ Black-necked Stilt	r	x	x	
___ American Avocet	r	r	r	
___ Black-bellied Plover	r		o	
___ American Golden-Plover	o	r	r	
___ Semipalmated Plover	u	o	u	
___ Piping Plover		r	x	
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	c
___ Upland Sandpiper	r	r	o	
___ Marbled Godwit	x	x	r	
___ Ruddy Turnstone	x	x	r	
___ Red Knot			x	
___ Stilt Sandpiper	u	r	u	
___ Sanderling		x	o	x
___ Dunlin	r		u	o
___ Baird's Sandpiper	r	r	o	
___ Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	u
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	u	r	r	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper			r	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	c	u	c	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	u	c	
___ Western Sandpiper	o		u	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	u	r	u	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	r	x	o	o
___ American Woodcock*	o	r	o	o
___ Wilson's Snipe	c	x	c	u
___ Wilson's Phalarope	r		r	
___ Red-necked Phalarope	x		r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	o	c	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	c	o	c	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	r
___ Willet	r	r	r	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	x
<b>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</b>				
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u		c	c
___ Laughing Gull	o		o	r
___ Franklin's Gull	r		o	r
___ Ring-billed Gull	a	o	a	a
___ Herring Gull	u		c	c
___ Iceland Gull				r
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull			u	u
___ Glaucous Gull				r
___ Great Black-backed Gull			r	r
___ Least Tern	r	r	r	
___ Caspian Tern	c	u	c	
___ Black Tern	u	r	c	
___ Common Tern	o	o	o	
___ Forster's Tern	o	r	u	o
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
___ Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)*	o	o	o	o
___ Eurasian Collared Dove	o	o	o	o
___ Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
<b>Cuckoos</b>				
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	c	
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r	
<b>Owls</b>				
___ Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
___ Eastern Screech Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Barred Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Short-eared Owl	r		r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Nightjars</b>				
___ Common Nighthawk*	u	r	u	
___ Chuck-will's-widow*	o	r	o	
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will*	o	r	o	
<b>Swifts</b>				
___ Chimney Swift*	c	c	c	
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	c	
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
___ Belted Kingfisher*	u	u	u	u
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
___ Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	c
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
<b>Falcons and Caracaras</b>				
___ American Kestrel*	u	o	u	u
___ Merlin	r		o	o
___ Peregrine Falcon	o		o	o
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers: Pewees, Kingbirds and Allies</b>				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		r	
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
___ Alder Flycatcher	o		r	
___ Willow Flycatcher*	o	o	o	
___ Least Flycatcher	o		o	
___ Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	u
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	r			
<b>Shrike</b>				
___ Loggerhead Shrike	x		r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Vireos</b>				
___ White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	u	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	u	x	u	x
___ Philadelphia Vireo	o		o	
___ Warbling Vireo*	c	c	u	
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
<b>Jays, Magpies, Crows and Ravens</b>				
___ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
___ American Crow*	c	c	a	a
___ Fish Crow	o	r	r	
<b>Larks</b>				
___ Horned Lark*	u	u	u	u
<b>Martins and Swallows</b>				
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	c	c	c	
___ Purple Martin*	c	c	u	
___ Tree Swallow*	c	c	c	o
___ Bank Swallow	o	r	o	
___ Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	
___ Cliff Swallow*	c	c	c	
<b>Tits, Chickadees and Titmice</b>				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		o	o
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
<b>Tree Creepers</b>				
___ Brown Creeper	u		u	u
<b>Wrens</b>				
___ House Wren	o	o	o	r
___ Winter Wren	u		u	u
___ Sedge Wren	u	r	u	r
___ Marsh Wren	o		u	r
___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
<b>Gnatcatchers</b>				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Kinglets</b>				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
<b>Thrushes</b>				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
___ Veery	u		u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		u	
___ Swainson's Thrush	c		c	
___ Hermit Thrush	o		u	u
___ Wood Thrush*	c	c	c	
___ American Robin*	c	c	c	c
<b>Catbirds, Mockingbirds and Thrushes</b>				
___ Gray Catbird*	u	u	u	
___ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
<b>Starlings and Mynas</b>				
___ European Starling*	c	c	c	a
<b>Wagtails and Pipits</b>				
___ American Pipit	u		u	c
<b>Waxwings</b>				
___ Cedar Waxwing*	u	o	u	u
<b>Longspurs</b>				
___ Lapland Longspur			r	r
<b>Wood-Warblers</b>				
___ Ovenbird*	u	u	u	
___ Worm-eating Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*	u	u	u	
___ Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	o		o	
___ Blue-winged Warbler	u	r	u	
___ Black-and-white Warbler*	u	o	u	
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	c	
___ Swainson's Warbler	r	r	r	
___ Tennessee Warbler	c		c	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	r		o	r
___ Nashville Warbler	u		u	
___ Mourning Warbler	r		r	

	SP	S	F	W
___ Kentucky Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	x
___ Hooded Warbler*	u	o	u	
___ American Redstart*	u	o	u	
___ Cape May Warbler	o			
___ Cerulean Warbler	r		r	
___ Northern Parula*	c	u	u	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		c	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	u		u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
___ Yellow Warbler*	u	o	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	c		r	
___ Palm Warbler	u		u	o
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	u
___ Prairie Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		u	
___ Canada Warbler	o		o	
___ Wilson's Warbler	o		o	
<b>New World Sparrows</b>				
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	o	r	o	
___ Henslow's Sparrow			r	
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	o		u	u
___ Nelson's Sparrow	r		r	
___ American Tree Sparrow			r	r
___ Chipping Sparrow*	u	u	u	r
___ Clay-colored Sparrow			r	
___ Field Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
___ Lark Sparrow	r	r		
___ Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
___ White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Vesper Sparrow	o		o	r
___ Savannah Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Song Sparrow	c	r	c	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	r
___ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	c

### Yellow-breasted Chat

	SP	S	F	W
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	c	c	u	

### Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies

___ Summer Tanager*	c	c	c	
___ Scarlet Tanager*	c	c	c	
___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u	
___ Blue Grosbeak*	u	u	u	
___ Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	
___ Dickcissel*	u	u	u	

### Blackbirds

___ Bobolink	c		o	
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	u	u	u	c
___ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	u	
___ Baltimore Oriole*	u	o	o	
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	a	a
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Rusty Blackbird	u		u	u
___ Brewer's Blackbird	r		r	r
___ Common Grackle*	c	c	c	a

### Finches, Euphonias and Allies

___ House Finch*	u	u	u	u
___ Purple Finch	o		o	o
___ Pine Siskin	o		o	o
___ American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c

### Old World Sparrow

___ House Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
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**Accidental Birds:**

These species have been recorded on the refuge only once or twice or the records of occurrence are greater than 10 years old:

Black-bellied Whistling Duck  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck  
Brant  
Barnacle Goose  
Cinnamon Teal  
Mottled Duck  
Barrow's Goldeneye  
Yellow-billed Loon  
Brown Booby  
Brown Pelican  
Neotropic Cormorant  
Swallow-tailed Kite  
Northern Goshawk  
Swainson's Hawk  
Purple Gallinule  
Whooping Crane  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Curlew Sandpiper  
Red Phalarope  
Pomarine Jaeger  
Parasitic Jaeger  
Long-tailed Jaeger  
Sabine's Gull  
Little Gull  
Black-headed Gull  
California Gull  
Sooty Tern  
Common Ground-Dove  
Long-eared Owl  
Western Kingbird  
Bachman's Sparrow  
Harris's Sparrow  
Spotted Towhee  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Bewick's Wren  
Western Meadowlark

**Ethics for Birdwatching:**

At Tennessee NWR, we encourage birders and all visitors to respectfully enjoy wildlife at a safe distance. However, occasionally some visitors go to extra lengths to enhance their experience without regard to the health and safety of wildlife and their habitat. This often results in the disturbance or harassment of wildlife. Disturbance or harassment of wildlife is defined as any activity that alters or changes the natural behavior of wildlife, which can be detrimental to the animal's health, safety, or productivity. We ask all visitors to carefully consider the impacts of

their actions on the wildlife they are attempting to view and enjoy, as well as how their actions are affecting the enjoyment of the refuge by other visitors. Disturbing or attempting to disturb wildlife on a national wildlife refuge is a prohibitive act and the person causing the disturbance is subject to prosecution.

We encourage birding throughout the refuge unless the area is closed to all public access. Several key areas are closed from November 15-March 15 each year to all forms of public entry to protect wintering waterfowl and other birds from disturbance. "Area Closed" signs are present in many locations to identify the closed areas, but we suggest that visitors reference the Tennessee NWR General Brochure map for specific descriptions of the closed areas on the refuge.

Some more specific birding practices that cause excessive disturbance and are not permitted on the refuge are the following: 1) The use of the technique referred to as "jug lining" is prohibited on the refuge. This technique involves the use of plastic jugs or other objects strung on a rope/cable/chain pulled between two or more individuals with the intent to flush up secretive birds. This technique is normally only used by researchers to flush secretive marsh birds for surveys and/or banding and is rarely done in the same area more than once a season. 2) The practice of forming a line of observers that walk through habitat with the intent to flush secretive birds causes a similar level of disturbance as the jug line technique and is prohibited. 3) The use of playback calls for King Rails is prohibited on the refuge during the breeding season (April 1-August 31). Researchers use this technique for surveys on a limited basis. Overuse can cause birds to stop responding to the playbacks, thus interfering with surveys. It also may have the potential to affect the productivity of breeding King Rails.

**Birds to Look For:**

Birdwatchers visiting the Refuge are asked to look for the following species that might occur in the area but have yet to be documented on the refuge. If positive observations are made, please record your sighting in eBird or notify the Refuge Headquarters.

Trumpeter Swan  
Whimbrel  
Northern Saw-wet Owl  
Connecticut Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Evening Grosbeak