

Florida Keys

National Wildlife Refuges Bird List



Welcome to the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges. There are three Refuges in the lower Florida Keys: Key West, Great White Heron and National Key Deer National Wildlife Refuges. These refuges are part of a subtropical ecoregion and provide habitat for many species of birds, some of which are unique to the Florida Keys and south Florida. Combined, the refuges total approximately 23,000 acres of land. However, the open water within the boundaries of Key West and Great White Heron Refuges, covers an area of about 400,000 acres. All of the refuges were established to protect wildlife and their habitat. Key West National Wildlife Refuge and Great White Heron Refuge were established in 1908 and 1938 respectively, to protect herons and egrets from plume hunters. National Key Deer Refuge was established in 1957 to protect the endangered Key Deer and other wildlife.

The best times for birding are during the spring and fall migration. Some of the more unique birds that can be seen are great white herons, antillean nighthawk, gray kingbird, black-whiskered vireo, white-crowned pigeon and the elusive mangrove cuckoo. Together, these three Refuges protect habitat for 285 species of birds.

Key West and Great White Heron Refuges are composed of many small islands locally known as the Backcountry. Key West National Wildlife Refuge lies west of Key West. Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge encompasses many of the Keys north of U.S. Highway 1 from Key West to just west of Marathon. These two Refuges are accessible only by boat. National Key Deer Refuge and surrounding non-refuge lands also afford the best opportunities for birding. Respect private property - if the property is privately owned you must obtain permission to enter. It is recommended that you lock your car and lock your valuables in the trunk or take them with you when you leave it.

Directions (north, south, east, and west) are given relative to compass headings, not to directions on US 1.

Bahia Honda State Park (MM 37.5): An entrance fee is required. Continue through the gate, go right, and then park in the lot on the left. Walk the beach for shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Go to the parking area on the right - warblers may be seen in trees near the old store. Other birds can be found along the beach at the east end and along the road past the camping area.

East end of West Summerland Key (MM 34.9): just west of the Bahia Honda Bridge, turn north and follow to the "Donut" (a manmade cove). This is a good area for shorebirds, terns, and gulls. Snowy plovers have been seen here.

Big Pine Key (MM 32.9): just after entering onto the Key, turn south onto Long Beach Drive and stop along the road at any convenient spot. Ovenbirds, warblers, waterthrushes, siskins, buntings, and orioles may be present during migration and in winter.

Big Pine Key (MM 30.2): turn north at the traffic light and then an immediate left onto Key Deer Blvd. (the Refuge office is in the shopping center on the right). Short-tailed hawk and turkey vultures may be observed soaring overhead. At the Blue Hole, 2.5 miles north on Key Deer Blvd., pied-billed grebes and green-backed herons may be present. The masked duck and least grebe also have been seen here so it is worth a visit. Opposite the Blue Hole, travel onto Big Pine St. and then left onto Koehn Blvd. Shorebirds may be present at the mud flats near the end of the road and at the boat ramp.

To go to No Name Key, go east on Watson Blvd., left at the stop sign, and follow Watson Blvd. over the large bridge to No Name Key. Yellow headed blackbird, dark-eyed junco, cave swallow, and Swainsons warbler have been found here. The end of the road is also a good location for mangrove cuckoo and black-whiskered vireo.

Before leaving Big Pine a good spot to look for antillean nighthawks is in the vicinity of the west end of Watson Blvd and along Narcissus Ave. Antilleans are frequently present late in the day during spring and summer.

**Florida Keys
National Wildlife Refuges**
179 Key Deer Blvd.
Big Pine Key Plaza
Big Pine Key, Florida 33043
305/872 0774
<http://southeast.fws.gov>
nationalkeydeer@fws.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

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Summerland Key (MM 25): Take the first left after the bridge and a salt pond is on your right. Ibis and egrets can be found here. Take a right onto Margaret St and then the next left. A fresh water pond is on the left. Ducks, least bittern, sora rail, and white-crowned pigeon are found here. Moorhens nest here.

Sugarloaf Key (MM 17): Turn south at traffic light and drive slowly to the end of the road. Hawks, harriers, woodpeckers can be seen along here. There is the possibility of ducks on the pond on the right and pine siskin, indigo bunting, and grosbeak in the pine trees after crossing the bridge.

How to use your checklist

The checklist is arranged in the order established by the *American Ornithologist's Union Checklist of North American Birds*, 7th edition, 1984, with supplements. This list reviewed by Philip Hughes and Chuck Hunter, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Recommended birding areas were provided by Marge Brown with the assistance of Wayne Hoffman, W. B. Robertson, and refuge staff.

If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at the Refuge Visitor Center, in the Big Pine Key Plaza, Key Deer Blvd., Big Pine Key, FL 33043, or you can call us at 305/872 0774. We appreciate your help in updating our records.

Ethics of Bird Watching

Birders on the refuge are expected to adhere to the Code of Birding Ethics set forth by the American Birding Association to promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- Do not disturb nesting birds. This could lead to exposing eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation.
- Likewise do not disturb wintering, resting, and feeding birds. They need their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh weather, migration, and hunting for food.
- Possession of migratory birds, their feathers, nests or eggs is against the law. Use of tape recordings to attract birds is permitted on Refuge lands. However, birders are required to limit the use to attracting the bird and not prolonging the bird's presence.
- Do not litter! Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash.
- Injured birds may be reported to the refuge at 305/872 0774.

Key To Symbols

Seasonal appearance

Sp-Spring: March, April, and May

S-Summer: June, July, and August

F -Fall: September, October, and November

W -Winter: December, January, and February

Seasonal abundance

c-common (commonly observed in proper habitat).

u-uncommon (uncommonly observed in proper habitat).

r-rare (rarely observed).

o-occasional (observed fewer than ten times). Please report all sightings. Confirmed breeding in checklist area.

*-nests here

Support the protection of important bird habitat

Stay on roads, trails and paths. Cutting through vegetation damages vegetation and puts you at risk of injury from uneven terrain and rattlesnakes.

Do not enter closed areas on the refuge. Areas are closed to protect wildlife resources and visitors from hazardous areas..

This publication funded by the Friends and Volunteers of Refuges.



	SP	S	F	W
Loons				
___ Red-throated Loon	o		o	o
___ Common Loon	u		u	u
Grebes				
___ Least Grebe			o	
___ Pied-billed Grebe *	u	u	u	u
___ Horned Grebe	o			o
Shearwaters and Petrels				
___ Greater Shearwater		o		
___ Sooty Shearwater	o			o
___ Audubon's Shearwater		o		o
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel		o		
___ Band-rumped Storm-Petrel			o	
Tropicbirds				
___ White-tailed Tropicbird	o			
Boobies and Gannets				
___ Masked Booby	o		o	o
___ Brown Booby	r	r	r	r
___ Northern Gannet	r	r	r	u
Pelicans				
___ American White Pelican		r	r	r
___ Brown Pelican *	c	c	c	c
Darters and Cormorants				
___ Double-crested Cormorant *	c	c	c	c
___ Anhinga	u	r	u	u
Frigatebirds				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird	c	c	c	c
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets and Their Allies				
___ American Bittern	o			
___ Least Bittern *	r	r	r	r
___ Great Blue Heron *	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret *	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Egret *	u	u	u	u
___ Little Blue Heron *	u	u	u	u
___ Tricolored Heron *	c	u	c	u
___ Reddish Egret *	c	c	c	c
___ Cattle Egret	c	c	c	c

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	SP	S	F	W		SP	S	F	W
___ Green Heron *	c	c	c	c	___ Purple Gallinule *	r	r	r	r
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	r		r	r	___ Common Moorhen *	u	u	u	u
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *	c	c	c	c	___ American Coot *	c	r	c	c
Ibises and Spoonbills					Limpkins				
___ White Ibis *	c	c	c	c	___ Limpkin	r	r	r	r
___ Glossy Ibis	o	o	o	o	Plovers				
___ Roseate Spoonbill	u	u	r	r	___ Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
Storks					___ Lesser Golden-Plover	r		r	r
___ Wood Stork			o	o	___ Snowy Plover	o			o
Flamingos					___ Wilson's Plover *	c	c	c	c
___ Greater Flamingo	o		o	o	___ Semipalmated Plover	c		c	c
Ducks, Geese, Swans					___ Piping Plover	r		r	r
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	o		o	o	___ Killdeer *	u	r	u	u
___ Canada Goose				o	___ Mountain Plover				o
___ Snow Goose			o	o	Oystercatchers				
___ Wood Duck			o		___ American Oystercatcher	o		o	
___ Green-winged Teal	r		r	r	Stilts and Avocets				
___ White-cheeked Pintail	o			o	___ Black-necked Stilt *	u	u	u	
___ Northern Pintail	u		u	u	___ American Avocet	o		o	o
___ Blue-winged Teal	c		c	c	Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
___ Northern Shoveler	u		u	u	___ Greater Yellowlegs	u		u	u
___ Gadwall				o	___ Lesser Yellowlegs	u		u	u
___ American Wigeon	c		c	c	___ Solitary Sandpiper	u		r	
___ Ring-necked Duck	u		u	u	___ Willet *	c		c	c
___ Lesser Scaup	u		u	u	___ Spotted Sandpiper	u		u	u
___ Longtailed duck			o		___ Upland Sandpiper	r		r	
___ Black Scoter			o	o	___ Whimbrel	r		r	c
___ Hooded Merganser				o	___ Ruddy Turnstone	c	u	c	c
___ Common Merganser				o	___ Red Knot	u	r	u	r
___ Red-breasted Merganser	u	r	c	c	___ Sanderling	c	r	c	c
___ Masked Duck	o				___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	r	r	r	r
Vultures					___ Western Sandpiper	c	r	c	c
___ Black Vulture		o	o	o	___ Least Sandpiper	c	r	c	c
___ Turkey Vulture *	c	c	c	c	___ White-rumped Sandpiper	u			
Osprey, Kites, Eagles, and Harriers					___ Pectoral Sandpiper	r	r	r	
___ Osprey *	c	c	c	c	___ Purple Sandpiper				r
___ Swallow-tailed Kite	r	r	r	r	___ Dunlin	u		c	u
___ Mississippi Kite			o	o	___ Stilt Sandpiper	r		r	r
___ Bald Eagle *	u	u	u	u	___ Short-billed Dowitcher	c	u	c	c
___ Northern Harrier	u		u	u	___ Common Snipe			r	r
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	c		c	c	___ Wilson's Phalarope	o		o	o
___ Cooper's Hawk	u		u	u	___ Red-necked Phalarope		o		
___ Red-Shouldered Hawk *	u	u	u	u	Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
___ Broad-winged Hawk	c		c	c	___ Pomarine Jaeger	o		o	o
___ Short-tailed Hawk	r		c	u	___ Parasitic Jaeger	o		o	o
___ Swainson's Hawk	r		c	r	___ Laughing Gull *	c	c	c	c
___ Red-tailed Hawk	r		r	r	___ Bonaparte's Gull	r		r	r
___ Zone-tailed Hawk			o	o	___ Ringed-billed Gull	c	r	c	c
Falcons					___ Herring Gull	u	r	c	c
___ American Kestrel	c		c	c	___ Lesser Black-backed Gull			r	r
___ Merlin	u		c	u	___ Great Black-backed Gull	r		r	r
___ Peregrine Falcon	u		c	u	___ Black-legged Kittiwake				o
Rails, Gallinules, Coots					(specimen)				
___ Black Rail	u	u	u	u	___ Gull billed Tern	o			
___ Clapper Rail *	u	u	u	u	___ Caspian Tern	u		u	c
___ Virginia Rail	o		o	o	___ Royal Tern	c	c	c	c
___ Sora Rail	r		r	r	___ Roseate Tern*		u		
					___ Sandwich Tern *	u		u	u

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	SP	S	F	W		SP	S	F	W
___ Common Tern	u		u	u	___ Eastern Phoebe	r	r	r	r
___ Forster's Tern	u		c	c	___ LaSagra's Flycatcher		o	o	
___ Least Tern *	u	c	c		___ Brown-crested Flycatcher	o			o
___ Bridled Tern	r	r	r		___ Loggerhead Kingbird	o			
___ Sooty Tern	r	r	r		___ Western Kingbird	u		u	u
___ Black Tern	r	r			___ Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	
___ Brown Noddy	o	o			___ Gray Kingbird *	c	c	c	u
___ Black Skimmer				u	___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	u		u	u
Alcids					Swallows				
___ Dovekie				o	___ Purple Martin	c	c	c	
Pigeons and Doves					___ Cuban Martin	o			
___ Rock Dove *	c	c	c	c	___ Southern Martin		o		
___ White-crowned Pigeon *	u	c	u	u	___ Tree Swallow	c		c	u
___ Eurasian collared Dove *	c	c	c	c	___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	r		r	r
___ White-winged Dove *	u	u	u	u	___ Bahama Swallow	o	o		o
___ Mourning Dove *	c	c	c	c	___ Bank Swallow	r		r	r
___ Common Ground-Dove *	u	u	u	u	___ Cave Swallow	o			
___ Inca Dove (nested 1963-80, Key West, probably extirpated)					___ Barn Swallow	c	c	c	r
___ Ruddy Quail-Dove (1 captured, Key West)	o				___ Cliff Swallow				o
___ Key West Quail Dove			o		Jays and Crows				
Cuckoos and Anis					___ Blue Jay	o	o		
___ Blacked-billed Cuckoo	r		r		___ American Crow	o	o	o	o
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo *	u	u	u		___ Fish Crow	r		r	r
___ Mangrove Cuckoo *	u	u	r	r	Wrens				
___ Smooth-billed Ani	r	r	r	r	___ Carolina Wren			o	
Owls					___ House Wren	r		r	r
___ Eastern Screech Owl	o				Old World Warblers				
___ Burrowing Owl	o		o	o	___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet				o
___ Barred Owl		o			___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	u	c	c
___ Long-eared Owl			o		___ Veery	r			
___ Short-eared Owl	r	u	r	r	Thrushes				
Barn Owls					___ Gray-checked Thrush	r		r	
___ Barn owls	r	r	r	r	___ Swainson's Thrush	r		u	
Goatsuckers					___ Hermit Thrush				o
___ Common Nighthawk *	c	c	c		___ Wood Thrush	r		r	
___ Antillean Nighthawk *	c	c	c		___ American Robin	r		r	r
___ Chuck-will's Widow	u	u	u	r	Mockingbirds & Thrashers				
___ Whip-poor-will	r			r	___ Gray Catbird	c		c	c
Swifts					___ Northern Mockingbird *	c	c	c	c
___ Chimney Swift	r		u		___ Bahama Mockingbird	o	o	o	
___ Antillean Palm Swift		o			___ Brown Thrasher *	u	u	u	u
Hummingbirds					Pipits				
Black-chinned Hummingbird	o				___ American Pipit	o			o
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	r	u	u	Waxwings				
Kingfishers					___ Cedar Waxwing	c		c	c
___ Belted Kingfisher	c	u	c	c	Shrikes				
Woodpeckers					___ Loggerhead Shrike				r
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker *	c	c	c	c	Starling & Allies				
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u	___ European Starling *	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Flicker			o	o	Vireos				
Tyrant Flycatchers					___ White-eyed Vireo *	c	c	c	c
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher				o	___ Bell's Vireo			o	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	r	u	u		___ Blue-headed Vireo	u		r	r
					___ Philadelphia Vireo	o		o	
					___ Yellow-throated Vireo	u		u	u

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	SP	S	F	W
___ Red-eyed Vireo	c		c	
___ Black-whiskered Vireo *	c	c	r	
___ Thick-billed Vireo			o	u

Wood Warblers

___ Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	r
___ Golden-winged Warbler	o		o	
___ Tennessee Warbler	u		u	r
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u	r	u	
___ Nashville Warbler	o		o	
___ Northern Parula Warbler	c		c	c
___ Yellow Warbler Cuban subspecies *	u	u	u	u
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		r	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		u	r
___ Cape May Warbler	u		u	u
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	c		c	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		c	u
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	c		c	c
___ Pine Warbler	o		o	o
___ Prairie Warbler *	c	c	c	c
___ Palm Warbler	c		c	c
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	r		r	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	c		r	
___ Cerulean Warbler	r		r	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	c		c	c
___ American Redstart	c		c	u
___ Prothonotary Warbler	u		u	
___ Worm-eating Warbler	u		u	r
___ Swainson's Warbler	u		u	o
___ Ovenbird	c		c	u
___ Norther Waterthrush	c		c	u
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	r		r	
___ Kentucky Warbler	u		u	
___ Connecticut Warbler	r		r	
___ Common Yellowthroat	c		c	c
___ Hooded Warbler	u		u	
___ Wilson's Warbler	r		r	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat				o

Tanagers

___ Summer Tanager	u	u	r	
___ Scarlet Tanager	u		u	

Cardinals and Buntings

___ Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u	
___ Blue Grosbeak	u		u	
___ Indigo Bunting	u		c	r
___ Painted Bunting	u		u	u
___ Dickcissel	r		r	r

Sparrows

___ Eastern Towhee				o
___ Chipping Sparrow			o	o
___ Clay colored Sparrow			o	o
___ Vesper Sparrow	o			o
___ Lark Sparrow			o	o
___ Savannah Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	r		r	r
___ LeConte's Sparrow				o
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				o

	SP	S	F	W
___ Swamp Sparrow			r	r
___ White-crowned Sparrow				o
___ Dark-eyed Junco	o			o

Blackbirds and Orioles

___ Bobolink	u			u
___ Red-winged Blackbird *	c	c	c	c
___ Tawny-shouldered Blackbird				o
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird				o
___ Brewer's Blackbird				o
___ Common Grackle *	c	c	r	r
___ Shiny Cowbird	u			
___ Brown-headed Cowbird		o	o	o
___ Orchard Oriole	c		c	
___ Baltimore Oriole	c		c	u

Finches

___ Pine Siskin (irruptive)	r		r	r
___ American Goldfinch			c	u

Old World Sparrows

___ House Sparrow*	u	u	u	u
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Sighting Notes

Date: _____

Time: _____

To: _____

Weather: _____

No. of Species: _____

Route or area: _____

Observers: _____

Remarks: _____
