

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Atchafalaya

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Bird List



Walter Clifton



prothonotary warbler

Walter Clifton



eastern kingbird

Walter Clifton



wood duck

USFWS



great egret

Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge (including Sherburne WMA)

Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 540 national wildlife refuges, managing over 94 million acres of land. The refuge is adjacent to the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area. Public use is managed through a cooperative agreement with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as Sherburne Wildlife Management Area. P.O. Box 127, Krotz Springs, LA 70750, 337/566 2251.

Located in St. Martin and Iberville Parishes, the refuge is 30 miles west of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1 mile east of Krotz Springs, Louisiana and just east of the Atchafalaya River. To access from Interstate 10, take the Whiskey Bay Exit onto highway 975 (gravel road) nine miles north to the management area headquarters. From Highway 190, exit at the east toe of the Atchafalaya River Levee on Hwy 975. Head south for 2.5 miles to the management area headquarters.

Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge was established by Congress on October 26, 1984 (Public Law 98-396) with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased 15,220 acres in 1986 from the Iberville Land Company. The refuge's name originated from its location within the Atchafalaya River Basin, the largest bottomland swamp in the USA.

The climate is mild with subtropical weather throughout the year. Average rainfall is approximately 54 inches.

The refuge manages for any and all threatened and endangered wildlife and plants that inhabit the refuge including the American Bald Eagle and Louisiana Black Bear. Secondary management is for waterfowl and other migratory birds, all other

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tufted titmouse

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*yellow-crowned
night heron*

Walter Clifton



belted kingfisher

Nancy Camel©



little blue heron

Donna Bush©



*swallow-tailed
kite*

indigenous wildlife, and to provide wildlife oriented recreation, education, and demonstration.

Opportunities exist for bird-watching on the refuge. The refuge was identified as a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy. The bottomland hardwood forests and the mix of bayous, oxbow lakes, sloughs, and swamps create a diversity of habitats important to a wide range of bird species. Neotropical migrants abound during the fall and spring migrations, and many species nest on the refuge. The refuge supports a number of small wading bird rookeries. Each winter, several thousand waterfowl make their home on the refuge. Wood Ducks are common summer nesters.

The Swallow-tailed Kite nests on the refuge.

The following bird list contains 206 species, representing observations by refuge and state WMA personnel, local birders, researchers, and volunteers.

Sightings of unlisted species should be reported to:

Refuge Manager
Southeast Louisiana Refuges
61389 Highway 434
Lacombe, Louisiana 70445

Seasons

SP-Spring	March-May
S-Summer	June-July
F-Fall	August-November
W-Winter	December-February

Habitat where found (H)

W - Open water
 S - Swamp
 F - Field
 M - Marsh/Mud flat
 A - Aerial/flyover
 f - forest
 s - scrub-shrub
 E - forest Edge

a-abundant – Many individuals per day in appropriate habitat and season (>100/day)

c-common – Certain to be seen in suitable habitat (10-100/day)

u-uncommon – Usually present in suitable habitat (<10/day)

r-rare – Seen only a few times during a season (<1/day)

o-occasional – Only seen every few years

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>H</i>
Grebes					
___ Pied-billed Grebe	r		c	c	W
Cormorants					
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	o	c	c	W
Aningas					
___ Anhinga	u	c	u	r	W
Hérons & Bitterns					
___ Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c	S
___ Great Egret	a	a	c	c	S
___ Snowy Egret	c	c	c	u	S
___ Little Blue Heron*	c	c	c	o	S
___ Tricolored Heron*	c	a	r		S
___ Cattle Egret	a	a	a	r	F
___ Green Heron	u	u	u		S
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	u	u	u	r	M
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	a	a			S
Ibises					
___ White Ibis	a	a	c	c	M
___ Roseate Spoonbill	o	o	o	o	M
Storks					
___ Wood Stork*		u	c		M
American Vultures					
___ Black Vulture	c	c	c	c	A
___ Turkey Vulture	c	u	c	c	A
Waterfowl					
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	o	r	o	o	W
___ Snow (Blue) Goose	o	r	o	u	W
___ Wood Duck	c	c	c	a	S
___ Gadwall	u		r	u	W
___ American Wigeon	u		u	c	W
___ Mallard	c		c	c	W
___ Blue-winged Teal	u	o	u	u	W

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>H</i>
___ Northern Shoveler	u		u	c	W
___ Northern Pintail	u		u	c	W
___ Green-winged Teal	r		o	o	W
___ Canvasback	r		r	u	W
___ Redhead	r		r	u	W
___ Ring-necked Duck	u		u	c	W
___ Lesser Scaup	c		c	c	W
___ Bufflehead	r		r	u	W
___ Hooded Merganser	u	r	u	c	W
___ Red-breasted Merganser	o		o	o	W
___ Ruddy Duck	c		c	c	W
Hawks					
___ Osprey	u	r	u	r	W
___ Swallow-tailed Kite*	u	u	u		A
___ Mississippi Kite*	a	a	c		A
___ Bald Eagle*	r		r	r	W
___ Northern Harrier*	u		u	u	F
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk*	u		u	u	f
___ Cooper's Hawk*	u		u	u	f
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	c	c	c	c	S
___ Broad-winged Hawk	c	u	c		f
___ Red-tailed Hawk	c	o	c	c	F
Falcons					
___ American Kestrel*	c		c	c	F
___ Merlin	o		o	r	F
___ Peregrine Falcon*	r		r	o	F
Turkeys					
___ Wild Turkey	c	c	c	c	F
Rails					
___ King Rail	c	u	c	c	S
___ Virginia Rail	u		u	u	M
___ Sora	u		u	c	M
___ Purple Gallinule	u	u	r		S
___ Common Moorhen (Gallinule)	u	u	r		M
___ American Coot	c		c	c	W
Plovers					
___ Black-bellied Plover	r		r		M
___ Semipalmated Plover	o		o		M
___ Killdeer	c	c	c	c	F
Stilts					
___ Black-necked Stilt	c	c	c	u	M
Sandpipers					
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c		c		M
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	u		u	u	M
___ Solitary Sandpiper*	u	r	u		S

SP S F W H

___ Spotted Sandpiper	u		u	u	S
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper*	u		u		M
___ Western Sandpiper	r	r	r	r	M
___ Least Sandpiper*	u		u	c	M
___ Pectoral Sandpiper*	u		u	r	M
___ Dunlin*	u		u	r	M
___ Stilt Sandpiper*	r		r	r	M
___ Wilson's Snipe	u		u	c	M
___ American Woodcock	u	u	c	c	s
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	r	M

Doves

___ Rock Dove				u	A
___ Eurasian Collared-dove			o		A
___ Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c	F

Cuckoos

___ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r		s
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	c		s

Barn Owls

___ Barn Owl	o	o	o	o	F
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Owls

___ Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	u	u	f
___ Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u	F
___ Barred Owl	c	c	c	c	S

Nightjars

___ Common Nighthawk	c	u	c		A
___ Chuck-will's-widow*	u		u		f
___ Whip-poor-will*	o		o	o	f

Swifts

___ Chimney Swift	c	c	c		A
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Hummingbirds

___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	c		E
___ Rufous Hummingbird			u		E

Kingfishers

___ Belted Kingfisher	c	r	c	c	W
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Woodpeckers

___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	r	f
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	f
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		c	c	f
___ Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	f
___ Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u	f
___ Northern Flicker	c	r	c	c	E
___ Pileated Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	f

SP S F W H

Flycatchers

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o		f
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	u		u		f
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			r		s
___ Acadian Flycatcher	c	c	c		f
___ Alder Flycatcher			u		S
___ Least Flycatcher			u		s
___ Eastern Phoebe	c		c	c	s
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	r	r	r	r	E
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	u	u	u		E
___ Eastern Kingbird*	r	r	r		E
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	o				F

Vireos

___ White-eyed Vireo*	a	a	a	r	E
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	u	u	r		E
___ Blue-headed Vireo	u		u	c	f
___ Warbling Vireo	o	o	o		f
___ Philadelphia Vireo	r		u		f
___ Red-eyed Vireo	a	a	a		f

Jays and Crows

___ Blue Jay	c	c	c	c	f
___ American Crow	a	a	a	a	F
___ Fish Crow	c	c	c	c	F

Swallows

___ Purple Martin	c	c	o		A
___ Tree Swallow	c		c	c	A
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	c	u	c		A
___ Bank Swallow	u		u		A
___ Cliff Swallow	u	u	u		A
___ Barn Swallow	c	u	c		A

Titmice

___ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c	f
___ Tufted Titmouse	c	c	c	c	f

Nuthatches

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch			o	o	f
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Creepers

___ Brown Creeper	u		u	u	f
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Wrens

___ Carolina Wren	a	a	a	a	s
___ House Wren	u		u	u	s
___ Winter Wren	u		u	u	s

Kinglets

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		c	u	f
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	a		a	a	s

Gnatcatchers___Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *c c c u f***Thrushes**___Eastern Bluebird *u u u u F*___Veery *u u f*___Gray-cheeked Thrush *u u f*___Swainson's Thrush *u u f*___Hermit Thrush *u c c f*___Wood Thrush* *c c c s*___American Robin *a a a F***Shrikes**___Loggerhead Shrike* *u u u u F***Mockingbirds and Thrashers**___Gray Catbird* *c c u s*___Northern Mockingbird *c u c c s*___Brown Thrasher* *u u u s***Starlings**___European Starling (exotic) *c c c a F***Pipits**___American Pipit *u u u F***Waxwings**___Cedar Waxing *a u a f***Wood Warblers**___Blue-winged Warbler *u u s*___Golden-winged Warbler *r r s*___Tennessee Warbler *c c s*___Orange-crowned Warbler *u u c s*___Nashville Warbler *u u s*___Northern Parula* *a a f*___Yellow Warbler *u o c s*___Yellow-throated Warbler *u u r S*___Chestnut-sided Warbler *u u s*___Magnolia Warbler *u c s*___Yellow-rumped Warbler *a a a s*___Black-throated Green Warbler *u c f*___Blackburnian Warbler *u r f*___Pine Warbler *r u u f*___Prairie Warbler *o r s*___Palm Warbler* *o u u F*___Bay-breasted Warbler *u r f*___Cerulean Warbler* *u f*___Black-and-White Warbler *u u o f*___American Redstart *a a c f*___Prothonotary Warbler* *a a r S*___Worm-eating Warbler* *u u s*___Swainson's Warbler* *c c r s*

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>H</i>
___ Ovenbird	u		u		s
___ Northern Waterthrush	u		u		S
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*	u		u		S
___ Kentucky Warbler*	c	c	u		s
___ Mourning Warbler			u		s
___ Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	c	s
___ Hooded Warbler	c	c	c		s
___ Wilson's Warbler	u		u	r	s
___ Canada Warbler	r		u		s
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	a	a	c	o	s

Tanagers

___ Summer Tanager	c	c	c		f
___ Scarlet Tanager	u		u		f

Grosbeaks, Sparrows, Buntings

___ Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	c	s
___ Fox Sparrow	r		r	u	s
___ Song Sparrow	u		u	c	s
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	r		c	c	s
___ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c	M
___ White-throated Sparrow	a		a	a	E
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u		r	u	s
___ Dark-eyed Junco	u		r	u	E
___ Northern Cardinal	a	a	a	a	f
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u		f
___ Blue Grosbeak	u	r	c	u	s
___ Indigo Bunting	c	c	c		s
___ Painted Bunting*	c	c	u		E
___ Dickcissel*	u	r	u		F

Blackbirds and Orioles

___ Bobolink		u			F
___ Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	a	a	M
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c	F
___ Rusty Blackbird*	u		r	u	S
___ Common Grackle	a	a	a	a	F
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	a	a	c	a	F
___ Orchard Oriole*	u	u	o		s
___ Baltimore Oriole*	u		u		f
___ Purple Finch	u		r	u	f
___ House Finch	u	o	u	u	F
___ American Goldfinch	c		u	a	F

* Species of concern, due to declining populations

Ethics of Birdwatching

Take care not to disturb nesting birds, exposing eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation.

Do not litter! Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.



yellow-billed cuckoo
Photo by Walter Clifton

Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

No. of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks



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

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

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CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION

wood thrush
Photo by Walter Clifton