

Bon Secour

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List



Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge was established by legislative act in 1980 to protect and preserve rapidly vanishing coastal barrier habitat. The maritime forests, coastal marsh, beaches and open waters of the refuge provide essential habitat for an amazing diversity of birds. The refuge's strategic location along the flyway of millions of spring and fall migrants, combined with the habitat provided, makes Bon Secour one of the most important refuges in the refuge system.

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 which appear in this checklist represent the following:

Seasonal appearance

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

Seasonal abundance

- a. abundant (a common species which is very numerous)
- 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 at intervals of 2 to 5 years)
- x. vagrant (less than 10 valid records)
- * not recorded on refuge but may occur based on nearby records.
- known or suspected to have nested on refuge or known to nest locally.

This checklist includes 373 species of birds and is based on observations by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists. If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We will appreciate your help in updating our records.

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
___ Red-throated Loon	*			r
___ Arctic/Pacific Loon	*			x
___ Common Loon	u	r	u	a
Grebes				
___ • Pied-billed Grebe	u	o	u	u
___ Horned Grebe	u		u	c
___ Red-necked Grebe				*
___ Eared Grebe	r		*	r
___ Western Grebe	*			*
Shearwaters, Petrels				
___ Wilson's Storm-petrel	*	x	*	
___ Cory's Shearwater	*		*	
___ Greater Shearwater		*	x	
___ Sooty Shearwater			*	x
___ Manx Shearwater				*
___ Audubon's Shearwater		*		*
Tropicbirds				
___ White-tailed Tropicbird	*			
Boobies and Gannets				
___ Masked Booby	*	r	x	*
___ Brown Booby	x	r		
___ Northern Gannet	u	r	u	c
Pelicans and their allies				
___ American White Pelican	o	r	o	o
___ • Brown Pelican	a	c	a	a
___ Double-crested Cormorant	a	c	a	a
___ Olivaceous Cormorant			x	
___ Great Cormorant	x			x
___ • Anhinga	u	o	u	r
___ Magnificent Frigatebird	u	u	u	r
Hérons, egrets and allies				
___ American Bittern	u		u	u
___ • Least Bittern	u	u	u	r
___ • Great Blue Heron	a	a	a	a
___ • Great Egret	c	c	c	c
___ • Snowy Egret	a	c	a	a
___ • Little Blue Heron	u	c	c	o
___ • Tricolored Heron	c	c	c	c
___ • Reddish Egret	u	u	u	u
___ • Cattle Egret	a	c	c	u
___ • Green-backed Heron	c	c	c	o
___ • Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	u	u	u
___ • Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Ibises, Spoonbill, Stork				
___ •Glossy Ibis	o	o	o	
___ •White Ibis	u	o	u	o
___ •White-faced Ibis	*	o	*	
___ Roseate Spoonbill		*	*	
___ Wood Stork	*	o		*

Waterfowl

___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	x		x	
___ Tundra Swan				*
___ White-fronted Goose			o	o
___ Snow Goose	o		u	o
___ Ross' Goose				*
___ Brant			*	*
___ Canada Goose	o		o	o
___ •Wood Duck	u	u	u	u
___ Green-winged Teal	u		u	u
___ American Black Duck	*			*
___ •Mottled Duck	r	r	r	r
___ •Mallard	o	o	o	u
___ White-cheeked Pintail	*			*
___ Northern Pintail	o		o	u
___ Blue-winged Teal	a		a	c
___ Northern Shoveler	u		u	u
___ Gadwall	u		u	c
___ American Wigeon	o		o	u
___ Canvasback	o			u
___ Redhead	o			u
___ Ring-necked Duck	o		u	u
___ Greater Scaup	u			u
___ Lesser Scaup	u		u	c
___ Harlequin Duck				x
___ Oldsquaw	o			u
___ Black Scoter	o			u
___ Surf Scoter	o			o
___ White-winged Scoter				r
___ Common Goldeneye	o			u
___ Bufflehead	u			u
___ Hooded Merganser	o		o	u
___ Common Merganser	r			r
___ Red-breasted Merganser	c	o	c	a
___ Ruddy Duck	u		u	u

Vultures, Hawks and Allies

___ •Black Vulture	u	o	u	u
___ •Turkey Vulture	u	o	u	u
___ •Osprey	c	c	c	o
___ •American Swallow-tailed Kite	u	r		
___ Black-shouldered Kite			x	x

SP S F W

___ •Mississippi Kite	u	o	u	
___ •Bald Eagle	r	r	o	
___ Northern Harrier	c		u	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		c	u
___ •Cooper's Hawk	u	o	c	u
___ •Red-shouldered Hawk	u	o	c	u
___ •Broad-winged Hawk	c	o	a	*
___ Short-tailed Hawk		*		
___ Swainson's Hawk			x	*
___ •Red-tailed Hawk	c	o	c	c
___ Ferruginous Hawk				*
___ Rough-legged Hawk	*		x	x
___ Golden Eagle			x	x
___ American Kestrel	c		c	a
___ Merlin	o		u	o
___ Peregrine Falcon	u		u	o

Gallinaceous Birds (Quail, Turkey and Allies)

___ •Wild Turkey	*	*	*	*
___ •Northern Bobwhite	u	u	u	u

Rails, Gallinules, Coots and Cranes

___ Yellow Rail	*			*
___ Black Rail	x		x	
___ •Clapper Rail	c	c	c	c
___ •King Rail	u	o	u	u
___ Virginia Rail	u		u	u
___ Sora	c	o	c	c
___ •Purple Gallinule	u	o	u	*
___ •Common Moorhen	c	c	c	u
___ •American Coot	c	*	c	a
___ Sandhill Crane			r	r

Shorebirds

___ Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
___ Lesser Golden-Plover	u		u	
___ •Snowy Plover	o	o	o	o
___ •Wilson's Plover	u	u	u	
___ Semipalmated Plover	u		c	c
___ Piping Plover	u		u	u
___ •Killdeer	a	a	a	a
___ Mountain Plover	*			*
___ •American Oystercatcher	u	u	u	u
___ •Black-necked Stilt	u		u	*
___ American Avocet	u		u	o
___ Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	c	u
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	u
___ Solitary Sandpiper	u	o	u	*

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ •Willet	c	c	c	c
___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	u	c	o
___ Upland Sandpiper	c	o	c	
___ Whimbrel	u		u	r
___ Long-billed Curlew	x	x	x	x
___ Hudsonian Godwit	x		*	
___ Marbled Godwit	r		r	x
___ Ruddy Turnstone	u		u	u
___ Red Knot	u	o	u	u
___ Sanderling	a	u	a	a
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	u	u	
___ Western Sandpiper	u	u	u	u
___ Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	u
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	o	o	o	
___ Baird's Sandpiper	r	r	r	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	u	o	c	
___ Dunlin	c		c	c
___ Curlew Sandpiper	*		*	
___ Stilt Sandpiper	o	o	o	*
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	o	r	u	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	c	o	c	c
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	u	o	u	u
___ Common Snipe	c	o	c	c
___ •American Woodcock	u	*	u	u
___ Wilson's Phalarope	r		o	
___ Red-necked Phalarope		*	*	*
___ Red Phalarope		*	*	*
___ Pomarine Jaeger	o		o	o
___ Parasitic Jaeger	o		o	o
___ Long-tailed Jaeger	*			
___ •Laughing Gull	a	a	a	c
___ Franklin's Gull	r		r	*
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u		r	c
___ Ring-billed Gull	c	o	c	a
___ •Herring Gull	u	o	u	c
___ Iceland Gull	x			
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull	x		x	x
___ Glaucous Gull	x		*	x
___ Great Black-backed Gull	*		*	x
___ Black-legged Kittiwake				x
___ Sabine's Gull	x	*	x	
___ Little Gull				x
___ •Gull-billed Tern	u	u	u	r
___ •Caspian Tern	u	o	u	u
___ •Royal Tern	c	u	c	c
___ •Sandwich Tern	u	u	c	u
___ Roseate Tern	x		*	
___ •Common Tern	c	o	c	o
___ •Forster's Tern	c	u	c	a

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ •Least Tern	c	u	c	*
___ Bridled Tern	*	*	*	
___ Sooty Tern	*	*	*	
___ Black Tern	c	a	a	r
___ •Black Skimmer	c	u	c	c
___ Brown Noddy			*	

Pigeons, Doves

___ •Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
___ Band-tailed Pigeon			*	
___ White-winged Dove	o		o	r
___ •Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
___ •Common Ground-Dove	u	u	u	u
___ Eurasian-collared Dove	c	c	c	c
___ Ring-Turtle Dove				x

Cuckoos

___ Black-billed Cuckoo	u		u	
___ •Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	u	c	
___ Groove-billed Ani			x	x

Owls

___ •Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
___ •Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	c	c
___ •Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Owl	*			
___ Burrowing Owl	r		r	r
___ •Barred Owl	o	o	o	u
___ Long-eared Owl			x	*
___ Short-eared Owl			r	r

Goatsuckers

___ Lesser Nighthawk	x			*
___ •Common Nighthawk	c	c	a	
___ •Chuck-will's-widow	c	c	c	x
___ Whip-poor-will	u		u	o

Swifts, Hummingbirds

___ •Chimney Swift	c	u	c	
___ •Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	u	c	
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird*			*	
___ Rufous Hummingbird	x		x	x

Kingfishers

___ •Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c
------------------------	---	---	---	---

Woodpeckers

___ •Red-headed				
___ Woodpecker	c	u	c	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ •Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	c		c	c
___ •Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ •Hairy Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
___ •Red-cockaded				
___ Woodpecker	*	*	*	x
___ •Northern Flicker	c	o	c	c
___ •Pileated Woodpecker	c	u	c	c

Flycatchers

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	*	r	
___ •Eastern Wood-Pewee	u	o	u	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	o		o	
___ •Acadian Flycatcher	u	o	u	
___ Alder Flycatcher	x	x	*	
___ Willow Flycatcher	x	*	x	
___ Least Flycatcher	u		u	
___ Eastern Phoebe	c		c	c
___ Say's Phoebe			x	
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	x		x	x
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	r		r	
___ •Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	c	
___ •Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher			x	
___ Tropical/Couch's Kingbird			x	
___ Western Kingbird	u	r	c	r
___ •Eastern Kingbird	a	u	a	
___ •Gray Kingbird	u	u	u	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	u	x	u	r
___ Fork-tailed Flycatcher	x			
___ Brown-Headed Flycatcher				x

Martins and Swallows

___ •Purple Martin	a	a	c	
___ Tree Swallow	a	r	c	c
___ •Northern Rough-winged				
___ Swallow	u	o	u	r
___ Bank Swallow	c	u	c	
___ •Cliff Swallow	u	o	u	
___ Cave Swallow	r			
___ •Barn Swallow	a	u	a	r

Jays and Crows

___ •Blue Jay	c	u	a	c
___ American Crow	*	*	*	*
___ •Fish Crow	c	c	c	c

Chickadees and Titmice

___ •Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c
___ •Tufted Titmouse	c	c	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	r		r	r
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch	*	*	*	*
___ • Brown-headed Nuthatch	c	c	c	c
Creepers				
___ Brown Creeper	r		r	u
Wrens				
___ Rock Wren			*	*
___ • Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
___ Bewick's Wren	r		r	r
___ House Wren	c		a	c
___ Winter Wren	r		r	r
___ Sedge Wren	c		c	c
___ • Marsh Wren	c	u	c	c
Kinglets and Gnatcatchers				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	o		o	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	a
___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	a	o	a	c
Bluebirds, Thrushes and Robin				
___ Northern Wheatear				x
___ • Eastern Bluebird	u	u	u	u
___ Veery	u		u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		u	
___ Bicknell's Thrush	u		u	
___ Swainson's Thrush	c		c	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		u	c
___ • Wood Thrush	c	u	c	
___ • American Robin	c	r	c	a
Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird	a		a	c
___ • Northern Mockingbird	a	a	a	a
___ Sage Thrasher			x	
___ • Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	c
Pipits				
___ American Pipit	c		c	c
___ Sprague's Pipit	*		*	x
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing	c		c	c
Starling				
___ • European Starling	a	a	a	a

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Shrike				
___ •Loggerhead Shrike	c	u	c	c
Vireos				
___ •White-eyed Vireo	a	c	a	u
___ Bell's Vireo	*		x	
___ Blue-Headed Vireo	u		u	u
___ •Yellow-throated Vireo	u	u	u	*
___ Warbling Vireo	r		r	
___ Philadelphia Vireo	u		u	
___ •Red-eyed Vireo	a		u	
___ Black-whiskered Vireo	o		x	
___ Yellow-Green Vireo				x
Warblers				
___ Bachman's Warbler	*			
___ Blue-winged Warbler	u		u	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	u		u	
___ Tennessee Warbler	u		c	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	u
___ Nashville Warbler	o		o	
___ •Northern Parula	a	u	a	x
___ Yellow Warbler	u		c	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		c	
___ Cape May Warbler	u		r	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	o		o	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	a
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler	*		r	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		c	*
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
___ •Yellow-throated Warbler	c	u	c	o
___ •Pine Warbler	c	c	c	c
___ •Prairie Warbler	u	u	u	
___ Palm Warbler	u		c	u
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	u		u	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u		*	
___ Cerulean Warbler	u	r	u	
___ •Black-and-white Warbler	a		a	
___ •American Redstart	c		a	
___ •Prothonotary Warbler	c	u	c	
___ Worm-eating Warbler	u		u	
___ •Swainson's Warbler	o	o	o	
___ Ovenbird	c	u	c	
___ Northern Waterthrush	u		c	x
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	u	u	u	
___ •Kentucky Warbler	c	o	c	
___ Connecticut Warbler	*		*	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Mourning Warbler	*		r	
___ •Common Yellowthroat	a	u	a	a
___ •Hooded Warbler	a	u	c	
___ Wilson's Warbler	o		u	x
___ Canada Warbler	u	u	u	
___ •Yellow-breasted Chat	u	u	u	x

Tanagers

___ •Summer Tanager	a		a	
___ Scarlet Tanager	a		a	
___ Western Tanager	*		x	x

New World Finches

___ •Northern Cardinal	a	a	a	a
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	c		c	*
___ Black-headed Grosbeak	x		x	x
___ Blue Grosbeak	c	u	c	o
___ •Indigo Bunting	a	u	a	x
___ •Painted Bunting	u	o	u	
___ •Dickcissel	u		c	o

Sparrows

___ Green-tailed Towhee			*	*
___ •Rufous-sided Towhee	a	a	a	a
___ •Bachman's Sparrow	o	*	o	*
___ American Tree Sparrow	x			
___ Chipping Sparrow	u	o	c	u
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	o		o	o
___ •Field Sparrow	u	o	u	u
___ Vesper Sparrow	u		c	u
___ Lark Sparrow	o		u	o
___ Lark Bunting		x		
___ Savannah Sparrow	c		c	a
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Henslow's Sparrow	*		*	*
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
___ •Seaside Sparrow	u	u	u	u
___ Fox Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Song Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
___ White-throated Sparrow	c	*	c	a
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Harris' Sparrow	x			x
___ Dark-eyed Junco	o		o	o
___ Lapland Longspur				*
___ Smith's Longspur				*

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds and Orioles				
___ Bobolink		c		u
___ •Red-winged Blackbird	a	c	a	a
___ •Eastern Meadowlark	a	a	a	a
___ Western Meadowlark	x		x	x
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	o		o	x
___ Rusty Blackbird	r		r	r
___ Brewer's Blackbird	r		r	r
___ •Boat-tailed Grackle	u	u	u	u
___ •Common Grackle	c	c	c	c
___ Bronzed Cowbird				x
___ •Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	c
___ •Orchard Oriole	a	u	c	x
___ Northern Oriole	u		u	
Old World Finches				
___ Purple Finch	o		o	u
___ Pine Siskin	o		o	o
___ •American Goldfinch	c	r	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak	*			*
Weaver Finches				
___ •House Sparrow	a	a	a	a



Ethics for Birdwatching

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

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.

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.*

Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

No. of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks

*For additional
information
contact:
Refuge Manager
Bon Secour NWR
P.O. Box 1650
Gulf Shores, AL
36542*

**Bon Secour
National Wildlife Refuge
12295 Street, Highway 180
Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542
334/540 7720
<http://www.fws.gov/~r4eao>**

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

August 1998

