

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Tennessee

*National Wildlife Refuge  
Bird List*



*The Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is located in west Tennessee, along beautiful Kentucky Lake. Its 50,000 acres of 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 benefiting wading birds and shorebirds. An aggressive forest management program is underway to improve habitat for forest-dwelling migratory birds, including nesting and migrant wood warblers and thrushes.*

Tennessee  
National  
Wildlife  
Refuge



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

*How to use your checklist:*

*Seasonal appearance:*

*Seasonal abundance:*

*cover photo:  
Steve Maslowski*



photo: USFWS



photo: Clayton Ferrell

The refuge headquarters office is located just northeast of Paris, Tennessee off of Highway 79. 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 Big Sandy Unit is located 12 miles north of the town of Big Sandy and is at the junction of the Big Sandy and the Tennessee Rivers. The Busseltown 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 was designed to be informative and simple to use. Symbols which appear in this checklist represent the following:

Sp - Spring, March-May

S - Summer, June-July

F - Fall, August-November

W - Winter, December-February

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 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)

\* - known or suspected to nest on refuge

This bird list includes 301 species of birds and is based on observations by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists and birders. If you should find an unlisted, rare or accidental species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We appreciate your help in updating our records.

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Loons</b>				
_____ Red-throated Loon	o		o	o
_____ Pacific Loon	o		o	o
_____ Common Loon	u		c	c
<b>Grebes</b>				
_____ 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	
<b>Pelicans</b>				
_____ American White Pelican	o	o	u	u
<b>Cormorants</b>				
_____ Double-crested Cormorant*	c	c	a	a
<b>Bitterns and Herons</b>				
_____ American Bittern	u		u	
_____ Least Bittern	o	o	o	
_____ Great Blue Heron*	a	a	a	c
_____ Great Egret*	c	c	c	o
_____ Snowy Egret	r	o	r	
_____ Little Blue Heron	u	u	u	
_____ Tricolored Heron		x	x	
_____ Cattle Egret	o	o	o	
_____ Green Heron*	c	c	c	
_____ Black-crowned Night Heron	u	u	u	r
_____ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	u	u	u	
<b>Ibises</b>				
_____ White Ibis		r	r	
<b>Storks</b>				
_____ Wood Stork		x	x	
<b>Vultures</b>				
_____ Black Vulture*	c	c	c	c
_____ Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Waterfowl</b>				
_____ Greater White-fronted Goose	u		u	u
_____ Snow Goose	o	x	u	u
_____ Ross's Goose	o		o	o
_____ Canada Goose*	c	c	a	a
_____ Tundra Swan			r	r
_____ Wood Duck*	c	c	c	u
_____ Gadwall	u		a	a
_____ American Wigeon	u		c	c
_____ American Black Duck	c	x	c	c
_____ Mallard*	c	u	a	a
_____ Blue-winged Teal	c	o	c	r
_____ Northern Shoveler	u		u	u
_____ Northern Pintail	c	x	c	c
_____ Green-winged Teal	c	x	c	c
_____ Canvasback	u		u	c
_____ Redhead	u		u	u
_____ Ring-necked Duck	u		c	c
_____ Greater Scaup	o		u	u
_____ Lesser Scaup	u		u	c
_____ Surf Scoter	o		o	r
_____ White-winged Scoter	r		r	r
_____ Black Scoter			r	r
_____ Oldsquaw	r		r	r
_____ Bufflehead	u		u	c
_____ Common Goldeneye	u		u	u
_____ Hooded Merganser*	u	u	c	c
_____ Common Merganser	r		o	o
_____ Red-breasted Merganser	o		u	u
_____ Ruddy Duck	u		c	c
<b>Hawks and Allies</b>				
_____ Osprey*	u	c	u	
_____ Bald Eagle*	u	u	u	c
_____ Northern Harrier	u	x	u	c
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	u
_____ Cooper's Hawk*	u	o	u	u
_____ Red-shouldered Hawk*	u	u	u	u
_____ Broad-winged Hawk*	u	o	u	
_____ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	c
_____ Rough-legged Hawk				r
_____ Golden Eagle	r		o	u
_____ American Kestrel*	u	o	u	u
_____ Merlin	r		r	r
_____ Peregrine Falcon	r		o	r
<b>Turkey and Quail</b>				
_____ Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u
_____ Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Rails, Gallinules and Coots</b>				
_____ Yellow Rail			r	
_____ King Rail*	o	o	o	
_____ Virginia Rail	o		o	
_____ Sora	u		c	
_____ Common Moorhen	r	r	r	
_____ American Coot	c	r	a	c
<b>Cranes</b>				
_____ Sandhill Crane			u	o
<b>Shorebirds</b>				
_____ Black-bellied Plover	r		o	
_____ American Golden-Plover	o		r	
_____ Semipalmated Plover	u		u	
_____ Piping Plover			r	
_____ Killdeer*	c	c	c	c
_____ Black-necked Stilt	r	x	x	
_____ American Avocet	x	x	r	
_____ Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	r
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	x
_____ Solitary Sandpiper	c	o	c	
_____ Willet	r		r	
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	u	r	u	
_____ Upland Sandpiper	r		r	
_____ Marbled Godwit	x		r	
_____ Ruddy Turnstone	x		r	
_____ Red Knot			r	
_____ Sanderling			o	x
_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper	c		c	
_____ Western Sandpiper	o	o	u	
_____ Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	r
_____ White-rumped Sandpiper	o		r	
_____ Baird's Sandpiper	r		o	
_____ Pectoral Sandpiper	c	u	c	
_____ Dunlin	o		o	o
_____ Stilt Sandpiper	o		u	
_____ Buff-breasted Sandpiper			o	
_____ Short-billed Dowitcher	u	o	u	
_____ Long-billed Dowitcher	r	o	o	
_____ Common Snipe	c		c	u
_____ American Woodcock*	u	o	o	o
_____ Wilson's Phalarope	o		o	
_____ Red-necked Phalarope	x		r	
<b>Gulls and Terns</b>				
_____ Laughing Gull	r		o	r
_____ Franklin's Gull	r		o	r
_____ Bonaparte's Gull	u		u	c
_____ Ring-billed Gull	a	r	a	a
_____ Herring Gull	u		u	c
_____ Thayer's Gull			r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Lesser Black-backed Gull			o	o
_____ Great Black-backed Gull			r	r
_____ Caspian Tern	u	u	c	
_____ Common Tern	o	o	o	
_____ Forster's Tern	o	r	u	r
_____ Least Tern	r	r	r	
_____ Black Tern	o	r	c	
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
_____ Rock Dove*	o	o	o	o
_____ Mourning Dove*	c	c	a	c
<b>Cuckoos</b>				
_____ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r	
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	c	
<b>Owls</b>				
_____ Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
_____ Eastern Screech Owl*	c	c	c	c
_____ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
_____ Barred Owl*	c	c	c	c
_____ Long-eared Owl	r		r	r
_____ Short-eared Owl	r		r	o
<b>Nightjars</b>				
_____ Common Nighthawk*	u	o	u	
_____ Chuck-will's-widow*	u	u	u	
_____ Whip-poor-will*	u	u	u	
<b>Swifts</b>				
_____ Chimney Swift*	u	u	u	
<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>Flycatchers</b>				
_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o	
_____ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		r	
_____ Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	c	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Alder Flycatcher	r		r	
_____ Willow Flycatcher*	o	o	o	
_____ Least Flycatcher	r		r	
_____ Eastern Phoebe*	u	u	u	o
_____ Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
_____ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	
<b>Shrike</b>				
_____ Loggerhead Shrike*	u	o	u	u
<b>Vireos</b>				
_____ White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
_____ Blue-headed Vireo	u	x	u	x
_____ Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	u	
_____ Philadelphia Vireo	o		o	
_____ Warbling Vireo*	u	u	u	
_____ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
<b>Jays and Crows</b>				
_____ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
_____ American Crow*	c	c	c	c
<b>Larks</b>				
_____ Horned Lark*	u	u	u	u
<b>Swallows</b>				
_____ Purple Martin	c	c	u	
_____ Tree Swallow*	c	c	c	x
_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	c	c	c	
_____ Bank Swallow	o	r	o	
_____ Cliff Swallow*	c	c	c	
_____ Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	
<b>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*	u	c	u	u
<b>Creepers</b>				
_____ Brown Creeper	u		u	u
<b>Wrens</b>				
_____ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
_____ Bewick's Wren	r	r	r	r
_____ House Wren	o	r	o	r
_____ Winter Wren	u		u	u
_____ Sedge Wren	u	r	u	r
_____ Marsh Wren	o		u	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Kinglets and Gnatcatchers</b>				
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	
<b>Thrushes</b>				
_____ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
_____ Veery	o		o	
_____ 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>Mimic Thrashers</b>				
_____ Gray Catbird*	u	u	u	
_____ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
_____ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	u
<b>Starlings</b>				
_____ European Starling*	c	c	c	a
<b>Pipits</b>				
_____ American Pipit	u		u	u
<b>Waxwings</b>				
_____ Cedar Waxwing	u	r	u	u
<b>Warblers</b>				
_____ Blue-winged Warbler	o	r	o	
_____ Golden-winged Warbler	o		o	
_____ Tennessee Warbler	c		c	
_____ Orange-crowned Warbler	r		o	r
_____ Nashville Warbler	u		u	
_____ Northern Parula*	u	u	u	
_____ Yellow Warbler*	u	o	u	
_____ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
_____ Magnolia Warbler	u		u	
_____ Cape May Warbler	u		u	
_____ Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	u
_____ Black-throated Green Warbler	c		c	
_____ Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
_____ Yellow-throated Warbler*	u	u	u	
_____ Pine Warbler*	u	u	u	u
_____ Prairie Warbler*	u	u	u	
_____ Palm Warbler	u		u	
_____ Bay-breasted Warbler	u		u	
_____ Blackpoll Warbler	c		r	
_____ Cerulean Warbler	u	r	o	
_____ Black-and-white Warbler*	u	o	u	
_____ American Redstart*	u	o	u	
_____ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	c	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
_____ Worm-eating Warbler*	u	u	u	
_____ Swainson's Warbler	r	r	r	
_____ Ovenbird*	u	u	u	
_____ Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
_____ Louisiana Waterthrush*	u	u	u	
_____ Kentucky Warbler*	u	u	u	
_____ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	x
_____ Hooded Warbler*	u	o	u	
_____ Wilson's Warbler	o		o	
_____ Canada Warbler	o		o	
_____ Yellow-breasted Chat*	c	c	c	

### Tanagers

_____ Summer Tanager*	c	c	c	
_____ Scarlet Tanager*	c	c	c	

### Towhees, Sparrows and Longspurs

_____ Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	c
_____ American Tree Sparrow	r		r	r
_____ Chipping Sparrow*	u	u	u	r
_____ Field Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
_____ Vesper Sparrow	u		u	r
_____ Lark Sparrow	r	r		
_____ Savannah Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow	o	r	o	
_____ Henslow's Sparrow			r	
_____ Le Conte's Sparrow	o		o	u
_____ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	r		r	
_____ Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Song Sparrow	c	r	c	c
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	r
_____ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
_____ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
_____ Lapland Longspur			r	o

### Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies

_____ 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 and Allies

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

*SP S F W*

**Old World Finches**

_____ Purple Finch	u		u	u
_____ House Finch*	c	u	u	c
_____ Pine Siskin	o		o	o
_____ American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c
_____ Evening Grosbeak	r		r	r

**Weaver Finches**

_____ 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 very old:

Yellow-billed Loon	Parasitic Jaeger
Anhinga	Long-tailed Jaeger
Glossy Ibis	Little Gull
Roseate Spoonbill	Black-headed Gull
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	California Gull
Barnacle Goose	Iceland Gull
Brant	Glaucous Gull
Eurasian Wigeon	Sooty Tern
Cinnamon Teal	Common Ground-Dove
Northern Goshawk	Mourning Warbler
Swainson's Hawk	Spotted Towhee
Whooping Crane	Harris's Sparrow
Red Phalarope	McCown's Longspur
Pomarine Jaeger	Yellow-headed Blackbird

**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.

Certain areas of the refuge are closed from November 15 through March 15 to minimize bird disturbance. Please observe all refuge signs.

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 notify us at the Refuge Headquarters.

White-faced Ibis	Northern Saw-wet Owl
Mississippi Kite	Fish Crow
Purple Gallinule	Connecticut Warbler
Whimbrel	Bachman's Sparrow
Eurasian Collared-Dove	

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1 800/344 WILD**

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