

Rachel Carson Reserve

BIRD CHECKLIST



The Rachel Carson component of the North Carolina Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve is home to a variety of avian wildlife. This bird checklist includes birds observed throughout the year within the boundaries of the Rachel Carson Reserve. The checklist was compiled by Coastal Reserve staff and John O. Fussell III. For more information about the Reserve please visit the website at www.nccoastalreserve.net. To report unusual species or bird behavior, please contact Central Sites Manager [Paula Gillikin](mailto:Paula.Gillikin@ncdcr.gov) at 252-838-0886. Enjoy birding at the Rachel Carson Reserve!

Abundance

| | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| C | Common | Easily seen in the proper habitat |
| F | Fairly common | Seen most of the time in the proper habitat |
| U | Uncommon | Not certain to be seen |
| O | Occasional | Seen only a few times each year |
| R | Rare | Not seen every year |

Note: Abundance levels are an average for the season, and often do not apply to an entire season. This is especially true of summer. During this season, many species that occur as migrants in July and August may be scarce or absent in June. There has been limited investigation of the status of migrant landbirds in the Reserve, so don't be surprised if you observe a species that is not present on the checklist.

Habitat

| | | |
|---|----------|---|
| A | Aerial | Species that feed over various habitats |
| B | Bare | Bare to sparsely vegetated dredge spoil sites and dunes |
| F | Flats | Tidal sandflats and mudflats (either flooded or exposed), the inlet beach, and exposed shoals in Beaufort Inlet |
| M | Marsh | Salt marshes, including marsh borders (grassy but not often flooded by tides), and interior tidal creeks |
| T | Thickets | Shrub thickets, including patches of young maritime forest |
| W | Waters | Open waters of Beaufort Inlet, Back Sound, North River, & Taylor's Creek |

| | S | S | F | W | Habitat |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------|
| WATERFOWL | | | | | |
| _____ Brant | - | - | - | R | F,W |
| _____ Canada Goose | O | O | O | O | F,W |
| _____ Gadwall | O | - | O | O | F,M |
| _____ American Wigeon | O | - | O | O | F,M |
| _____ American Black Duck | R | - | O | O | F,M |
| _____ *Mallard | U | U | U | U | F,M |
| _____ Blue-winged Teal | U | O | U | - | F,M |
| _____ Northern Shoveler | O | - | R | - | F,M |
| _____ Northern Pintail | R | - | R | R | F,M |
| _____ Green-winged Teal | O | - | O | U | F,M |
| _____ Redhead | O | - | - | O | W |
| _____ Greater Scaup | O | - | - | O | W |
| _____ Lesser Scaup | U | - | O | U | W |
| _____ Common Eider | R | - | - | R | W |
| _____ Surf Scoter | O | - | O | O | W |
| _____ White-winged Scoter | R | - | - | R | W |

* Birds observed nesting at the Rachel Carson Reserve

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| _____ Black Scoter | U | R | O | O | W |
| _____ Long-tailed Duck | - | - | - | R | W |
| _____ Bufflehead | U | - | O | C | F,M,W |
| _____ Common Goldeneye | O | - | - | O | F,W |
| _____ Hooded Merganser | O | - | O | F | F,M |
| _____ Red-breasted Merganser | C | O | U | C | F,M,W |
| _____ Ruddy Duck | - | - | - | O | W |
| LOONS THROUGH PELICANS | | | | | |
| _____ Red-throated Loon | O | - | - | U | W |
| _____ Common Loon | F | O | U | C | W |
| _____ Pied-billed Grebe | O | - | U | U | M |
| _____ Horned Grebe | U | - | O | U | W |
| _____ Sooty Shearwater | O | O | - | - | W |
| _____ Audubon's Shearwater | - | O | - | - | W |
| _____ Wilson's Storm-Petrel | O | O | - | - | W |

| | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---|---|-----|-----|
| _____ | Magnificent Frigatebird R | R | - | - | A |
| _____ | Northern Gannet | F | - | O F | W |
| _____ | Double-crested Cormorant | C | O | C C | W |
| _____ | Great Cormorant | - | - | R R | W |
| _____ | American White Pelican | R | R | R O | F,W |
| _____ | Brown Pelican | C | C | C C | F,W |

WADING BIRDS

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|---|---|-----|-------|
| _____ | American Bittern | O | - | O R | M |
| _____ | Least Bittern | O | O | O - | M |
| _____ | Great Blue Heron | F | U | F C | F,M |
| _____ | *Great Egret | C | C | C F | F,M |
| _____ | *Snowy Egret | C | C | C F | F,M |
| _____ | *Little Blue Heron | F | F | F U | F,M |
| _____ | *Tricolored Heron | C | C | C F | F,M |
| _____ | Reddish Egret | R | O | O - | F,M |
| _____ | *Cattle Egret | U | U | O - | B,F,M |
| _____ | *Green Heron | F | F | U - | M |
| _____ | *Black-crowned Night-Heron | F | F | C C | F,M |
| _____ | Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | O | U | O - | M |
| _____ | *White Ibis | C | C | C C | F,M |
| _____ | *Glossy Ibis | O | U | O - | M |

VULTURE, OSPREY, HAWKS, RAILS

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|---|---|-----|-------|
| _____ | Turkey Vulture | C | C | C C | A |
| _____ | *Osprey | F | C | F O | F,M,W |
| _____ | Bald Eagle | O | O | O O | A |
| _____ | Northern Harrier | U | R | F F | B,M |
| _____ | Sharp-shinned Hawk | O | - | F F | T |
| _____ | Cooper's Hawk | O | - | U F | T |
| _____ | Red-tailed Hawk | O | - | U F | A |
| _____ | *Clapper Rail | C | C | C F | M |
| _____ | Virginia Rail | O | - | U R | M |
| _____ | Sora | U | - | U R | M |
| _____ | American Coot | - | - | O O | M |

SHOREBIRDS

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---|---|-----|-----|
| _____ | Black-bellied Plover | C | F | C C | F |
| _____ | American Golden-Plover | - | - | O - | F |
| _____ | *Wilson's Plover | F | C | U O | F |
| _____ | Semipalmated Plover | C | F | C C | F |
| _____ | Piping Plover | U | O | F F | F |
| _____ | *Killdeer | F | F | F F | B,F |
| _____ | *American Oyster-catcher | C | C | C C | F |
| _____ | American Avocet | - | - | R R | F |
| _____ | Spotted Sandpiper | U | U | O - | F,M |
| _____ | Solitary Sandpiper | O | O | O - | F |

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---|---|-----|-----|
| _____ | Greater Yellowlegs | F | F | C C | F,M |
| _____ | *Willet | C | C | C C | F,M |
| _____ | Lesser Yellowlegs | O | O | O - | F |
| _____ | Whimbrel | C | F | U O | F |
| _____ | Long-billed Curlew | R | R | R R | F |
| _____ | Marbled Godwit | F | O | C C | F |
| _____ | Ruddy Turnstone | C | F | C C | F |
| _____ | Red Knot | U | U | U U | F |
| _____ | Sanderling | C | U | C C | F |
| _____ | Semipalmated Sandpiper | F | U | U - | F |
| _____ | Western Sandpiper | F | F | C C | F |
| _____ | Least Sandpiper | F | F | F U | F,M |
| _____ | White-rumped Sandpiper | O | O | R - | F |
| _____ | Pectoral Sandpiper | O | O | O - | F,M |
| _____ | Dunlin | C | O | F C | F |
| _____ | Stilt Sandpiper | R | O | R - | F |
| _____ | Short-billed Dowitcher | C | C | C C | F |
| _____ | Long-billed Dowitcher | - | - | R R | F |
| _____ | Wilson's Snipe | O | - | O O | M |
| _____ | American Woodcock | - | - | O O | T |
| _____ | Wilson's Phalarope | - | R | R - | F |
| _____ | Red-necked Phalarope | R | R | - - | F |

GULLS THROUGH RAZORBILL

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---|---|-----|-------|
| _____ | Bonaparte's Gull | F | - | O F | F,W |
| _____ | Little Gull | R | - | - R | F,W |
| _____ | Laughing Gull | C | C | C U | F,W |
| _____ | Ring-billed Gull | C | F | C C | F,W |
| _____ | Herring Gull | C | F | C C | F,W |
| _____ | Iceland Gull | - | - | - R | F,W |
| _____ | Lesser Black-backed Gull | U | O | U U | F,W |
| _____ | Glaucous Gull | - | - | - R | F,W |
| _____ | Great Black-backed Gull | C | F | C C | F,W |
| _____ | *Least Tern | F | C | O - | F,W |
| _____ | Gull-billed Tern | U | U | O - | B,F,M |
| _____ | Caspian Tern | R | U | F - | F,W |
| _____ | Black Tern | R | U | O - | F,W |
| _____ | *Common Tern | U | F | O - | F,W |
| _____ | *Forster's Tern | C | C | C C | F,W |
| _____ | Royal Tern | C | C | C U | F,W |
| _____ | Sandwich Tern | C | C | C - | F,W |
| _____ | *Black Skimmer | F | C | C O | F,W |
| _____ | Pomarine Jaeger | R | - | R - | W |
| _____ | Parasitic Jaeger | R | - | R R | W |
| _____ | Razorbill | - | - | - R | W |

DOVES THROUGH FALCONS

| | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| _____ | Rock Pigeon | C | C | C | C | B |
| _____ | Eurasian Collared-Dove | C | C | C | C | T |
| _____ | *Mourning Dove | C | C | C | C | B,T |
| _____ | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | O | O | O | - | T |
| _____ | Black-billed Cuckoo | - | - | R | - | T |
| _____ | Barn Owl | R | - | R | R | B,M |
| _____ | Great Horned Owl | U | U | U | U | T |
| _____ | Short-eared Owl | R | - | R | R | B,M |
| _____ | *Common Nighthawk | U | U | O | - | A |
| _____ | Chuck-will's-widow | O | O | - | - | T |
| _____ | Chimney Swift | C | C | U | - | A |
| _____ | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | O | O | O | - | T |
| _____ | Belted Kingfisher | U | U | F | C | M |
| _____ | Red-headed Woodpecker | O | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Red-bellied Woodpecker | U | O | U | U | T |
| _____ | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | O | - | U | U | T |
| _____ | Downy Woodpecker | O | O | U | U | T |
| _____ | Northern Flicker | U | O | F | C | B,T |
| _____ | American Kestrel | O | - | U | U | B |
| _____ | Merlin | O | - | U | U | B,F,M |
| _____ | Peregrine Falcon | O | - | U | U | F |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| _____ | Eastern Phoebe | - | - | U | O | T |
| _____ | *Great Crested Flycatcher | F | U | - | - | T |
| _____ | Eastern Kingbird | O | O | U | - | B,T |
| _____ | White-eyed Vireo | O | O | O | - | T |
| _____ | Red-eyed Vireo | - | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | *Blue Jay | C | C | C | C | T |
| _____ | *Fish Crow | C | C | U | U | F,M,T |
| _____ | Purple Martin | C | C | O | - | A |
| _____ | Tree Swallow | O | - | F | U | A |
| _____ | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | U | O | - | - | A |
| _____ | Bank Swallow | O | O | O | - | A |
| _____ | Cliff Swallow | - | O | - | - | A |
| _____ | Barn Swallow | C | C | F | - | A |
| _____ | *Carolina Chickadee | C | C | C | C | T |
| _____ | Tufted Titmouse | U | U | U | U | T |
| _____ | Red-breasted Nuthatch | - | - | R | - | T |
| _____ | House Wren | U | - | F | C | T |
| _____ | Winter Wren | - | - | O | O | T |
| _____ | Sedge Wren | U | - | F | F | M |
| _____ | Marsh Wren | U | - | U | U | M |
| _____ | *Carolina Wren | C | C | C | C | T |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| _____ | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | O | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Golden-crowned Kinglet | - | - | O | O | T |
| _____ | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | O | - | F | F | T |
| _____ | Eastern Bluebird | O | - | O | U | B,T |
| _____ | Hermit Thrush | O | - | O | U | T |
| _____ | American Robin | U | O | O | F | T |
| _____ | *Gray Catbird | C | C | C | C | T |
| _____ | *Northern Mockingbird | C | C | C | C | B,T |
| _____ | *Brown Thrasher | C | C | C | C | T |
| _____ | European Starling | C | C | C | C | B,T |
| _____ | American Pipit | - | - | O | O | B,F |
| _____ | Cedar Waxwing | U | - | O | U | T |
| _____ | Snow Bunting | - | - | R | R | B,F |

WARBLERS

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| _____ | Northern Waterthrush | - | O | O | - | T |
| _____ | Black-and-white Warbler | - | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Prothonotary Warbler | - | R | - | - | T |
| _____ | Orange-crowned Warbler | O | - | O | F | T |
| _____ | Nashville Warbler | - | - | R | - | T |
| _____ | Common Yellowthroat | O | O | F | U | M,T |
| _____ | American Redstart | - | O | U | - | T |
| _____ | Cape May Warbler | - | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Northern Parula | - | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Magnolia Warbler | - | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Yellow Warbler | O | O | O | - | T |
| _____ | Blackpoll Warbler | O | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Black-throated Blue Warbler | - | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Palm Warbler | O | - | F | U | B,T |
| _____ | Pine Warbler | - | - | O | O | T |
| _____ | Yellow-rumped Warbler | F | - | F | C | T |
| _____ | Prairie Warbler | O | O | U | - | T |
| _____ | Wilson's Warbler | - | - | R | - | T |
| _____ | Yellow-breasted Chat | O | O | O | - | T |

TOWHEE THROUGH OLD WORLD SPARROWS

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| _____ | *Eastern Towhee | C | C | C | C | T |
| _____ | Chipping Sparrow | - | - | O | O | B,T |
| _____ | Field Sparrow | - | - | O | O | B,T |
| _____ | Savannah Sparrow | F | - | F | C | B,M |
| _____ | "Ipswich Sparrow" | O | - | U | U | B,M |
| _____ | Nelson's Sparrow | F | - | F | F | M |
| _____ | Saltmarsh Sparrow | F | - | F | F | M |
| _____ | Seaside Sparrow | O | O | F | U | M |
| _____ | Fox Sparrow | - | - | - | O | T |
| _____ | Song Sparrow | U | - | F | C | T |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| _____ | Swamp Sparrow | F | - | F | C | M |
| _____ | White-throated Sparrow | F | - | U | F | T |
| _____ | White-crowned Sparrow | - | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Dark-eyed Junco | - | - | O | O | T |
| _____ | *Northern Cardinal | C | C | C | C | T |
| _____ | Blue Grosbeak | O | O | O | - | T |
| _____ | Indigo Bunting | O | O | U | - | T |
| _____ | *Painted Bunting | F | U | O | - | T |
| _____ | Bobolink | O | O | U | - | B |
| _____ | *Red-winged Blackbird | C | C | F | F | M |
| _____ | Eastern Meadowlark | R | R | O | O | B |
| _____ | *Common Grackle | C | F | O | U | T |
| _____ | *Boat-tailed Grackle | C | C | C | C | F,M,T |
| _____ | *Brown-headed Cowbird | F | C | O | O | B |
| _____ | *Orchard Oriole | F | F | - | - | T |
| _____ | Baltimore Oriole | R | - | O | - | T |
| _____ | Purple Finch | - | - | - | R | B |
| _____ | *House Finch | C | C | C | C | B,T |
| _____ | Pine Siskin | - | - | R | R | B |
| _____ | American Goldfinch | O | - | O | O | B |
| _____ | House Sparrow | F | F | F | F | B |

SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF EXTREMELY RARE SPECIES (recorded five or fewer times)

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| _____ | Snow Goose |
| _____ | Tundra Swan |
| _____ | Wood Duck |
| _____ | King Eider |
| _____ | Harlequin Duck |
| _____ | Common Merganser |
| _____ | Northern Bobwhite |
| _____ | Red-necked Grebe |
| _____ | Cory's Shearwater |
| _____ | Great Shearwater |
| _____ | Roseate Spoonbill |
| _____ | Black Vulture |
| _____ | Sandhill Crane |
| _____ | Black-necked Stilt |
| _____ | Hudsonian Godwit |
| _____ | Purple Sandpiper |
| _____ | Curlew Sandpiper |
| _____ | Ruff |
| _____ | Red Phalarope |
| _____ | Black-legged Kittiwake |
| _____ | Black-headed Gull |
| _____ | Brown Noddy |
| _____ | Sooty Tern |
| _____ | Bridled Tern |
| _____ | Roseate Tern |
| _____ | Arctic Tern |
| _____ | Dovekie |
| _____ | Lapland Longspur |
| _____ | Lincoln's Sparrow |