

# 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](http://www.nccoastalreserve.net). To report unusual species or bird behavior, please contact Central Sites Manager [Paula Gillikin](mailto:Paula.Gillikin) 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

### Season

S	Spring
S	Summer
F	Fall
W	Winter

**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
<b>WATERFOWL</b>					
___ 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

	S	S	F	W	Habitat
___ 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
<b>LOONS THROUGH PELICANS</b>					
___ 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

	S	S	F	W	Habitat
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

	S	S	F	W	Habitat
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

	S	S	F	W	Habitat
<b>DOVES THROUGH FALCONS</b>					
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

	S	S	F	W	Habitat
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

	S	S	F	W	Habitat
_____ 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