

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
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Wells, ME 04090
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Hearing impaired visitors may call the Maine Relay
Center at 1 800/437 1220 TDD/1 800/457 1220 voice.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/>

Rachel Carson is one of over 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represents the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.

The Service also manages National Fish Hatcheries, and provides Federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance and the conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

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PAM FILE

Rachel Carson

National Wildlife

Refuge

Birds

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Introduction



This goose, designed by J.N. Ding Darling, has become a symbol of the Refuge System.

Welcome to Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge consists of ten separate divisions which are located on the coast between Portland and Kittery in southern Maine. Nearly 5,000 acres have been acquired, approximately two-thirds of the current acquisition boundary. When completed, each refuge division will include a tidal waterway, the surrounding marsh and adjacent uplands. Ninety percent of the habitat protected as refuge is coastal wetland.

Bird activity on the refuge is highlighted by shorebird migrations in the spring and summer; waterfowl concentrations in the winter and early spring, and raptor migrations in the early fall.

Great Blue Heron



This brochure lists 250 species that have been identified on or seen from the refuge, and is in accordance with the sixth American Ornithologists Union Checklist. An additional thirteen species have been seen only once or at intervals of five or more years and have been listed as accidentals.

Most birds are migratory, therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

Season

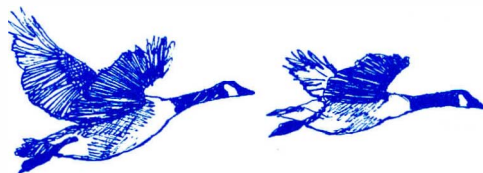
s	spring	March – May
S	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge
Italics indicate threatened/endangered species

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a species which is very numerous
c	common	likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
u	uncommon	present, but not certain to be seen
o	occasional	seen only a few times during a season
r	rare	may be present but not every year



s S F W

LOONS – GREBES

—	Red-throated Loon	o		o	u
—	Common Loon	c	o	c	c
—	Pied-billed Grebe	o	o	o	
—	Horned Grebe	u		o	u
—	Red-necked Grebe	o		u	u

STORM -PETRELS

—	Wilson's Storm-Petrel		r	r	
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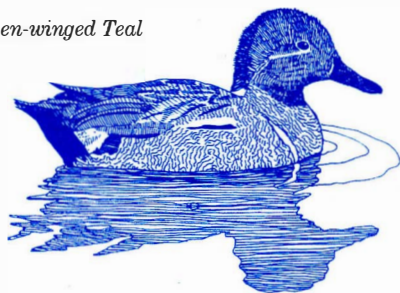
GANNET – PELICANS – CORMORANTS

—	Northern Gannet	o	u	o	
—	Great Cormorant	u		u	o
—	Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	o

s S F W

BITTERNS – HERONS – IBISES

American Bittern	u	u	u	
Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	o
Great Egret	o	o	o	
Snowy Egret	c	c	c	
Little Blue Heron	o	u	u	
Tricolored Heron	o	o	o	
Cattle Egret	r			
• Green-backed Heron	u	c	u	
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	c	c	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r	r	r	
Glossy Ibis	u	u	r	

Green-winged Teal**SWANS – GEESE – DUCKS**

Snow Goose	o		r	
Brant	o		o	
• Canada Goose	c	o	c	u
• Wood Duck	o	o	u	
• Green-winged Teal	u	o	c	o
• American Black Duck	c	c	c	c
• Mallard	c	c	c	c
Northern Pintail	u		u	o
• Blue-winged Teal	u	o	u	
Northern Shoveler	o			
Gadwall	r	r	r	
American Wigeon	o		o	
Ring-necked Duck	o		o	
Greater Scaup	o		o	o
• Common Eider	u	u	u	c
King Eider			r	
Oldsquaw	u		o	u
Black Scoter	u		u	u
Surf Scoter	u		u	u
White-winged Scoter	u		u	u
Common Goldeneye	c		u	c
Barrow's Goldeneye			r	r
Bufflehead	c		c	c
Hooded Merganser	o	o	o	
Common Merganser	o		o	o
Red-breasted Merganser	c		c	c

VULTURES – HAWKS – FALCONS

Turkey Vulture	o		o	
Osprey	u	o	u	
<i>Bald Eagle</i>				o
Northern Harrier	u	o	u	u
• Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	o	c	o
• Cooper's Hawk	o		o	
Northern Goshawk	o	o	o	
Red-shouldered Hawk	o	o	o	o
Broad-winged Hawk	u	u	c	
Red-tailed Hawk	u	o	u	o
Rough-legged Hawk	o			o
American Kestrel	u	u	u	o
Merlin	o			o
<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>			u	

GROUSE – QUAIL – TURKEY

• Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	u	u
• Ruffed Grouse	u	u	u	u

RAILS – CRANES

Virginia Rail	o		o	
Sora	o		o	
Common Moorhen	r		r	
American Coot	r		r	

Killdeer**PLOVERS – SANDPIPERS**

Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	
Lesser Golden-Plover		o	o	
Semipalmated Plover	c	u	c	
• <i>Piping Plover</i>	o	u	o	
• Killdeer	u	c	u	o
American Avocet	r			
Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	c	
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	c	
Solitary Sandpiper	o	u	u	
• Willet	u	c	o	
• Spotted Sandpiper	u	c	u	
Upland Sandpiper		r	r	
Whimbrel	u	o	u	
Hudsonian Godwit		o	o	
Marbled Godwit		r	r	

	s	S	F	W
Ruddy Turnstone	o	o	o	r
Red Knot	o	o	o	
Sanderling	u	o	u	o
Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	c	a	
Western Sandpiper		u	u	
Least Sandpiper	u	u	c	
White-rumped Sandpiper	u	o	u	
Baird's Sandpiper		r	r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Purple Sandpiper	o	o	u	
Dunlin	u	o	c	
Curlew Sandpiper		r	r	
Stilt Sandpiper		o	o	
Ruff		r	r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	r	c	c	
Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	
Common Snipe	u	o	u	
American Woodcock	u	u	u	
Wilson's Phalarope	o	o	o	
Red-necked Phalarope	r	r	r	

American
Woodcock



JAEGERs – GULLs – TERNs – AUKS

Laughing Gull	o	o	o	
Bonaparte's Gull	u	u	u	r
• Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	c
• Herring Gull	a	a	a	a
Iceland Gull	o		r	o
Glaucous Gull	o		r	o
• Great Black-backed Gull	c	c	c	c
• Roseate Tern	r	r		
• Common Tern	o	o	o	
Arctic Tern	u	u	u	
• Least Tern		r		
Black Tern	r			r
Dovekie				r
Common Murre				r
Thick-billed Murre				r
Razorbill				r
Black Guillemot	r			r

DOVES – CUCKOOS – OWLS – SWIFTS – HUMMINGBIRDS

Rock Dove	c	c	c	c
• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
• Black-billed Cuckoo	u	u	o	
• Yellow-billed Cuckoo	o	o	o	
• Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
Snowy Owl	r			r
• Barred Owl	u	u	u	u
Short-eared Owl	r	r	r	o
Northern Saw-whet Owl	o	o	o	o
Common Nighthawk			u	
• Whip-poor-will	u	u	u	
Chimney Swift	u	u		
• Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	o	u	
• Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	o

WOODPECKERS – FLYCATCHERS

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	
• Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
• Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
• Pileated Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
Olive-sided Flycatcher	o	o		
• Eastern Wood-Pewee	u	u	u	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	o		u	
Alder Flycatcher	u	u		
• Willow Flycatcher	o	u	o	
Least Flycatcher	u	u	u	
• Eastern Phoebe	c	c	c	
• Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	c	
Western Kingbird				r
• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	



Downy
Woodpecker

LARKS – SWALLOWS – JAYS – CROWS

— • Horned Lark	u	u	u	u
— • Purple Martin	c	c		
— • Tree Swallow	c	c	o	
— • Northern Rough-winged Swallow	o	o		
— • Bank Swallow	u	u	u	
— • Cliff Swallow	u	u	o	
— • Barn Swallow	c	c	o	
— • Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
— • American Crow	c	c	c	c

TITMICE – NUTHATCHES – WRENS

— • Black-capped Chickadee	c	c	c	c
— • Boreal Chickadee				r
— • Tufted Titmouse	o	o	o	o
— • Red-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c
— • White-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c
— • Brown Creeper	c	c	c	c
— • House Wren	o	u	o	
— • Marsh Wren	o		o	
— • Winter Wren		u	u	u



*Eastern
Bluebird*

KINGLETS – THRUSHES – THRASHERS

— • Golden-crowned Kinglet		c	u	
— • Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c	c		
— • Eastern Bluebird	o	o	o	
— • Veery	c	c	o	
— • Gray-cheeked Thrush		o	o	
— • Swainson's Thrush	u		o	
— • Hermit Thrush	c	u	u	
— • Wood Thrush	c	c	o	
— • American Robin	c	c	c	u
— • Gray Catbird	c	c	c	
— • Northern Mockingbird	u	u	u	
— • Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	

WAXWINGS – SHRIKES – STARLINGS

— • American Pipit	u		u	
— • Cedar Waxwing	u	c	c	
— • Northern Shrike	o		o	o
— • European Starling	a	a	a	c

VIREOS – WOOD WARBLERS

— • Solitary Vireo	u	u	u	
— • Warbling Vireo	o	o	r	
— • Philadelphia Vireo	o	o	r	
— • Red-eyed Vireo	u	c	u	
— • Tennessee Warbler	u	u	u	
— • Nashville Warbler	u	u	u	
— • Northern Parula	u	u	u	
— • Yellow Warbler	c	c	o	
— • Chestnut-sided Warbler	u	o	u	
— • Magnolia Warbler	u	u	u	
— • Cape May Warbler	u	o	u	
— • Black-throated Blue Warbler	u	o	u	
— • Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	u	a	
— • Black-throated Green Warbler	c	c	u	
— • Blackburnian Warbler	u	u	u	
— • Pine Warbler	u	u	u	
— • Prairie Warbler	o	o	o	
— • Palm Warbler	u		u	
— • Bay-breasted Warbler	u	u	u	
— • Blackpoll Warbler	u		u	
— • Black-and-white Warbler	c	c	c	
— • American Redstart	c	c	c	
— • Ovenbird	u	u	u	
— • Northern Waterthrush	u	u		
— • Louisiana Waterthrush		r		
— • Mourning Warbler	o	o	o	
— • Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
— • Wilson's Warbler	u	u	u	
— • Canada Warbler	c	u	u	
— • Yellow-breasted Chat	o	o		

TANAGERS – SPARROWS

— • Scarlet Tanager	u	u	u	
— • Northern Cardinal	u	u	u	u
— • Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u	u	o	
— • Indigo Bunting	u	u	u	
— • Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	r
— • American Tree Sparrow	c		c	c
— • Chipping Sparrow	c	u	c	
— • Field Sparrow	u	u	u	
— • Vesper Sparrow	o		u	
— • Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c	o
— • Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	c	c	c	
— • Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	c	c	c	

s S F W

Fox Sparrow	u		u	
• Song Sparrow	c	c	c	u
Lincoln's Sparrow	o		o	
• Swamp Sparrow	u	u	u	
• White-throated Sparrow	c	u	c	
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
Lapland Longspur	o		o	o
Snow Bunting	u		u	u

NOTES

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

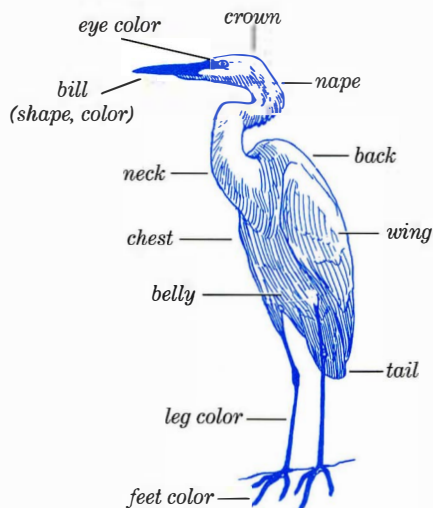
BLACKBIRDS – FINCHES

• Bobolink	c	u		
• Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	c	
• Eastern Meadowlark	u	u	u	o
Rusty Blackbird	o		u	
• Common Grackle	a	c	c	
• Brown-headed Cowbird	a	c	c	o
• Baltimore Oriole	u	u	u	
Pine Grosbeak			o	o
• Purple Finch	u	u	c	u
• House Finch	c	c	c	c
Red Crossbill				o
White-winged Crossbill				o
Common Redpoll	o		o	o
Pine Siskin	o		o	o
• American Goldfinch	c	c	c	c
• Evening Grosbeak	c		u	c
• House Sparrow	u	c	c	u



TIPS FOR FIELD I.D.

The identification of birds is greatly aided by simply noting a few key field marks. The diagram below illustrates several of these. In addition, general size, color, habitat, song and behavior help narrow down the options. Remember, use more than one field mark, as many species are similar and can only be distinguished by using a combination of several marks.



ACCIDENTALS

These additional 12 species are considered accidentals:

Tundra Swan	Black Skimmer
Canvasback	Great Gray Owl
Ruddy Duck	Gray Jay
Sooty Tern	Worm-eating Warbler
Royal Tern	Dickcissel
Caspian Tern	Hoary Redpoll