

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge  
3100 Desert Road  
Suffolk, VA 23434  
757/986 3705  
757/986 2353 Fax  
[www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp)

Federal Relay Service  
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# Great Dismal Swamp

*National Wildlife  
Refuge*

*Birds*



Pine Warbler  
David Schneider

## Introduction



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

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, established by Congress in 1974, consists of over 111,200 acres of forested wetlands. Lake Drummond, at 3,100 acres is the larger of two natural lakes found in Virginia, lies at the refuge's center. The refuge was established to protect and restore the biologically important Great Dismal Swamp ecosystem. Within that mission a primary concern is to provide protected habitat for migratory birds.

Birding is popular in the refuge from April through June, but is best from mid-April to mid-May, the peak of the spring neo-tropical bird migration. As many as thirty five species of warblers have been observed and provide the principal attraction.

Downy Woodpecker



David Schneider

This brochure list 213 birds that have been identified on the refuge, and is in accordance with the Seventh American Ornithologists Union Checklist.

Most birds are migratory and their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are coded as follows:

### Season

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

### 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
acc	accidental	seen only once

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

### Swans – Geese – Ducks

	Sp	S	F	W
___ West Indian Whistling-Duck _____	acc			
___ Snow Goose _____	c		u	c
___ • Canada Goose _____	c	u	c	c
___ Brant _____		r	r	
___ Tundra Swan _____	c		u	c
___ • Wood Duck _____	c	c	c	c
___ Gadwall _____	o		o	o
___ American Wigeon _____	o		o	o
___ American Black Duck _____	u	o	u	u
___ • Mallard _____	u		u	u
___ Blue-winged Teal _____	r		u	r
___ Northern Pintail _____	o		o	o
___ Green-winged Teal _____	u		u	u
___ Canvasback _____	r		r	o
___ Redhead _____	r		o	o
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	c		c	c
___ Lesser Scaup _____	c		u	c
___ Bufflehead _____	u		u	o
___ Common Goldeneye _____	r			
___ • Hooded Merganser _____	c	r	c	c
___ Common Merganser _____	o			o

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Red-breasted Merganser _____	o			o
___ Ruddy Duck _____	u		c	c

### Gallinaceous Birds

___ • Wild Turkey _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Bobwhite _____	c	c	c	c

### Loons

___ Common Loon _____	o		r	o
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### Grebes

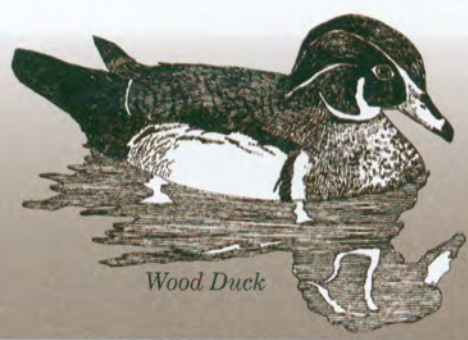
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u		u	u
___ Horned Grebe _____	r		r	o

### Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	c	c	c
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### Anhingas

___ Anhinga _____	o	r		
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Wood Duck

### Bitterns - Herons - Egrets

___ American Bittern _____	r	r	r	r
___ • Great Blue Heron _____	c	a	c	c
___ • Great Egret _____	c	a	o	o
___ Snowy Egret _____	o	o		
___ Little Blue Heron _____	r			
___ Cattle Egret _____	o	o	r	
___ • Green Heron _____	c	c	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	u		
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	o	o		

### Ibises

___ White Ibis _____	r	r	r	
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### New World Vultures

	Sp	S	F	W
___ • Black Vulture _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Turkey Vulture _____	a	a	a	a



Bald Eagle

### Osprey - Kites - Hawks - Eagles

___ Osprey _____	u			r
___ Swallow-tailed Kite _____	r			
___ Mississippi Kite _____	r	o		
___ • Bald Eagle _____	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Harrier _____	u		o	
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u		c	u
___ • Cooper's Hawk _____	u	r	c	u
___ • Red-shouldered Hawk _____	c	c	c	c
___ Broad-winged Hawk _____	u	u	u	
___ • Red-tailed Hawk _____	u	u		c
___ Golden Eagle _____				r

### Falcons

___ • American Kestrel _____	c	r	u	c
___ Merlin _____	r			

### Rails

___ • King Rail _____	r	r	r	r
___ Virginia Rail _____				r
___ Sora _____	r	r		
___ American Coot _____	o			o

### Plovers

___ Semipalmated Plover _____	r		r	
___ Killdeer _____	c	c	c	c

### Avocets

___ American Avocet _____				acc
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### Sandpipers - Phalaropes

___ Greater Yellowlegs _____			o	o
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____			o	o
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	r		r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Whimbrel _____	r			
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	r		r	
___ Western Sandpiper _____				r

	Sp	S	F	W
Least Sandpiper _____			r	r
Short-billed Dowitcher _____			r	r
Common Snipe _____	o		o	o
• American Woodcock _____	u	u	u	r
Red-necked Phalarope _____	acc			

### Skuas - Jaegers - Gulls - Terns

Laughing Gull _____	u	u		
Ring-billed Gull _____	c		c	c
Herring Gull _____	u			u
Lesser Black-backed Gull _____				o
Great Black-backed Gull _____	o			o
Caspian Tern _____	o			
Royal Tern _____	o		u	
Common Tern _____			o	
Forster's Tern _____			o	
Black Tern _____			r	
Bonaparte's Gull _____				o

### Doves

Rock Pigeon _____	r	o		
• Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c

### Cuckoos

Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o		o	
• Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	u	

### Typical Owls

• Eastern Screech-Owl _____	c	c	c	c
• Great Horned Owl _____	c	c	c	c
• Barred Owl _____	c	c	c	c
Northern Saw-whet Owl _____				r

### Nightjars

Common Nighthawk _____	r		r	
• Chuck-will's-widow _____	u	u	u	
Whip-poor-will _____	o	o		



Wild Turkey

### Swifts

• Chimney Swift _____	c	c	c	c
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### Hummingbirds

• Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	u	
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### Kingfishers

• Belted Kingfisher _____	c	c	c	c
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Screech Owl

### Woodpeckers

• Red-headed Woodpecker _____	o	o	o	o
• Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	a	a	a	a
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	c		o	c
• Downy Woodpecker _____	a	a	a	a
• Hairy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
• Northern Flicker _____	c	c	c	c
• Pileated Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c

### Tyrant Flycatchers

• Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	a	a		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	r			
• Acadian Flycatcher _____	c	c		
Alder Flycatcher _____	r			
Willow Flycatcher _____	r			
Least Flycatcher _____	r			
• Eastern Phoebe _____	u	u	u	u
• Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	c	
• Eastern Kingbird _____	u	u	u	

### Vireos

• White-eyed Vireo _____	a	a	c	u
• Yellow-throated Vireo _____	c	c	u	
Blue-headed Vireo _____	u		u	u
Warbling Vireo _____	o		r	
Philadelphia Vireo _____	o		r	
• Red-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	u	

### Crows - Jays

• Blue Jay _____	c	c	c	c
• American Crow _____	c	c	c	c
Fish Crow _____	c	u	u	c

## Swallows

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Purple Martin _____	u	u		
___ • Tree Swallow _____	u	o	u	
___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	u	u	o	
___ Bank Swallow _____	r			
___ Cliff Swallow _____	r		r	
___ • Barn Swallow _____	c	c		

## Titmice – Chickadees

___ • Carolina Chickadee _____	a	a	a	a
___ Black-capped Chickadee _____			r	r
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____	c	c	c	c

## Nuthatches

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____				o
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Brown-headed Nuthatch _____	u	u	u	u

## Creepers

___ Brown Creeper _____	u		u	u
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## Wrens

___ • Carolina Wren _____	a	a	a	a
___ House Wren _____	o			
___ Winter Wren _____	u		u	u
___ Marsh Wren _____			r	r



## Kinglets

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u		o	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	c		u	c

## Old World Warblers

___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	c	c	u	
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## Thrushes

___ • Eastern Bluebird _____	u	o	u	u
___ Veery _____	u			
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	u		o	
___ Bicknell's Thrush _____	r			
___ Swainson's Thrush _____	u		o	
___ Hermit Thrush _____	e		u	c
___ • Wood Thrush _____	c	c		
___ • American Robin _____	a	u	a	a

## Mimic Thrushes

___ • Gray Catbird _____	c	a	a	c
___ • Northern Mockingbird _____	u	c	u	u
___ • Brown Thrasher _____	u	c	c	u

## Starlings

___ • European Starling _____	u	o	u	u
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## Pipits

___ American Pipit _____	r			r
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## Waxwings

___ Cedar Waxwing _____	c	u	u	c
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## Wood Warblers

___ Blue-winged Warbler _____	u		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler _____	r			
___ Tennessee Warbler _____	r		o	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler _____	u		u	u
___ Nashville Warbler _____	r		o	
___ • Northern Parula _____	c	c	u	
___ • Yellow Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	u		o	
___ Magnolia Warbler _____	u		u	
___ Cape May Warbler _____	u		u	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	c		c	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	c		c	c
___ • Black-throated Green Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler _____	o		o	
___ • Yellow-throated Warbler _____	c	c	u	
___ • Pine Warbler _____	a	c	c	c
___ • Prairie Warbler _____	a	a	u	r
___ Palm Warbler _____	u			u



	Sp	S	F	W
Bay-breasted Warbler _____	o		o	u
Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		o	
Cerulean Warbler _____	o			
• Black-and-white Warbler _____	c	c	c	u
• American Redstart _____	c	c		
• Prothonotary Warbler _____	a	a	c	
• Worm-eating Warbler _____	c	c	u	
• Swainson's Warbler _____	c	c	u	
• Ovenbird _____	a	a	e	
Northern Waterthrush _____	c		r	
• Louisiana Waterthrush _____	c	c	u	
Kentucky Warbler _____	r	r	r	
Mourning Warbler _____	r			
• Common Yellowthroat _____	a	a	e	u
• Hooded Warbler _____	a	a	e	
Wilson's Warbler _____	r		r	
Canada Warbler _____	o		o	
• Yellow-breasted Chat _____	c	c	u	

### Tanagers

• Summer Tanager _____	c	c	u	
Scarlet Tanager _____	u	r	u	

### Sparrows - Towhees

• Eastern Towhee _____	a	a	a	a
American Tree Sparrow _____			r	r
• Chipping Sparrow _____	u	u	o	c
Field Sparrow _____	u			u
Vesper Sparrow _____			r	r
Savannah Sparrow _____	u		u	u
Fox Sparrow _____	u			u
• Song Sparrow _____	e	u	e	e
Lincoln's Sparrow _____	o			o
Swamp Sparrow _____	e	r	e	e
White-throated Sparrow _____	a		c	a
White-crowned Sparrow _____	o			o
Dark-eyed Junco _____	a		e	a

### Cardinals - Grosbeaks - Allies

• Northern Cardinal _____	c	e	e	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u			
• Blue Grosbeak _____	u	u	u	
• Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	u	

### Blackbirds - Orioles

Bobolink _____	u		u	
• Red-winged Blackbird _____	c	u	c	a
Eastern Meadowlark _____	r	o	o	o
Rusty Blackbird _____	u		u	u
Brewer's Blackbird _____	r			r
• Common Grackle _____	c	c	e	a
Boat-tailed Grackle _____	o		o	o
• Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	e	e

• Orchard Oriole _____	u	u		
Baltimore Oriole _____	u		o	r

### Finches

Purple Finch _____	o		o	
• House Finch _____	u	o	u	
Pine Siskin _____	o		o	
• American Goldfinch _____	e	u	e	e

*Red-tailed  
Hawk*



### NOTES

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Observers \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

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We hope you enjoy your visit. Please send us notice of your special sightings by mail, or email to our web site. Be sure to include your name, date, time, and location.

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*Great Dismal Swamp Coalition,*  
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