

FORT
RALEIGH
NHS



BIRDS

of the

Outer Banks

PEA
ISLAND
NWR



NORTH CAROLINA



BIRDS *of the* OUTER BANKS

Over 400 species of birds have been sighted within Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. This impressive number is due to several factors, which include: the rich diversity of habitats; the fact that the ocean off the Banks is biologically rich, in part because of the mixing of subtropical waters from the south with the temperate waters from the mid-Atlantic; and the limited extent of land, which tends to concentrate vagrants. In spite of its rich potential, the Banks is actually underbirded. In fact, sometimes a visiting birder discovers a species that has never been recorded in this area before.

The area covered by this list includes all of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, from Nags Head south to Ocracoke village, to include Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Also included is the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site on Roanoke Island. Note that the bar-graph statuses provided in this list are based on the sites where species are easiest to find. For instance, the statuses given for most waterfowl species are based on their abundances at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Some resident landbird species that are easy to find at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site are much harder to find further south on the Banks, e.g. Brown-headed Nuthatch.

WHEN *and* WHERE

Birding is always exciting on the Outer Banks though the greatest variety of species occurs during spring and fall migrations. For those seeking out migratory shorebirds, the various inlet tidal flats, the ponds at Pea Island and Bodie Island, and the salt pond at Cape Hatteras Point offer the greatest concentrations. However, the ponds at Pea Island and Bodie Island offer the greatest variety, and typically the best chance of seeing one of the rarer species.

Landbird migration in fall can be excellent, but typically only after strong cold fronts. The best areas to look for these migrants is along the dikes at Pea Island; the northern tip of Pea Island, near the Oregon Inlet bridge; and at Fort Raleigh, especially in and around the Elizabethan Gardens and along the section of the hiking trail that ends at Croatan Sound.

In winter, ocean-watching is generally best from Cape Hatteras northward. Occasionally in winter, especially in severe weather, Cape Hatteras Point may be almost blanketed with gulls, providing the opportunity to see several of the rarer species. Often in late May, impressive numbers of pelagic birds—storm-petrels, shearwaters, jaegers—may be seen in northward migration passing just off the tip of Cape Hatteras Point.

Even if you visit the Outer Banks during a slower period, don't forget that exciting birds can turn up any time.

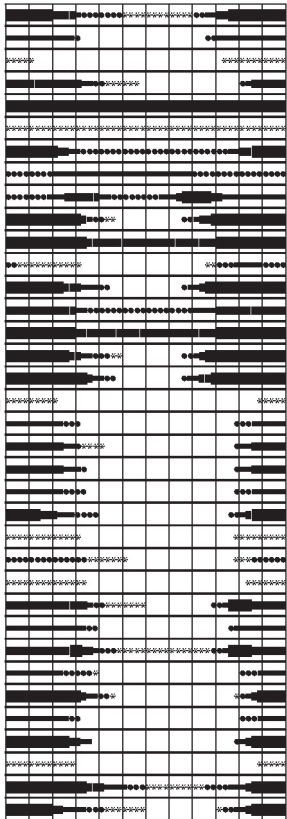
ABUNDANCE DESIGNATIONS

- *COMMON*: Certain to be found in proper habitat
- *FAIRLY COMMON*: Will usually be found
- *UNCOMMON*: Present, but will often be missed
-** *OCCASIONAL*: May require several visits to find
- *** *RARE*: Not recorded every year
- *VERY RARE TO ACCIDENTAL*:
Found less often than five times a decade.
See separate list at end of checklist

J F M A M J J A S O N D

GEESE & DUCKS

- ___ Snow Goose
- ___ "Blue" Snow Goose
- ___ Ross's Goose
- ___ Brant
- ___ Canada Goose
- ___ Mute Swan
- ___ Tundra Swan
- ___ Wood Duck
- ___ Blue-winged Teal
- ___ Northern Shoveler
- ___ Gadwall
- ___ Eurasian Wigeon
- ___ American Wigeon
- ___ Mallard
- ___ American Black Duck
- ___ Northern Pintail
- ___ Green-winged Teal
- ___ "Common" Green-winged Teal
- ___ Canvasback
- ___ Redhead
- ___ Ring-necked Duck
- ___ Greater Scaup
- ___ Lesser Scaup
- ___ King Eider
- ___ Common Eider
- ___ Harlequin Duck
- ___ Surf Scoter
- ___ White-winged Scoter
- ___ Black Scoter
- ___ Long-tailed Duck
- ___ Bufflehead
- ___ Common Goldeneye
- ___ Hooded Merganser
- ___ Common Merganser
- ___ Red-breasted Merganser
- ___ Ruddy Duck



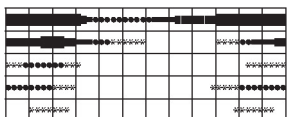
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

- ___ Northern Bobwhite



GREBES

- ___ Pied-billed Grebe
- ___ Horned Grebe
- ___ Red-necked Grebe
- ___ Eared Grebe
- ___ Western Grebe

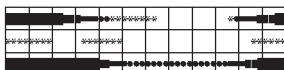


J F M A M J J A S O N D

LOONS

- Red-throated Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon

J F M A M J J A S O N D



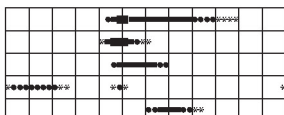
STORM-PETRELS

- Wilson's Storm-Petrel
- Leach's Storm-Petrel



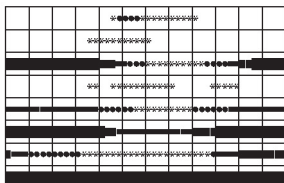
SHEARWATERS

- Cory's Shearwater
- Sooty Shearwater
- Great Shearwater
- Manx Shearwater
- Audubon's Shearwater



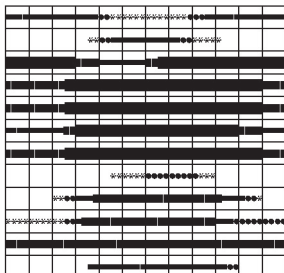
PELICANS & ALLIES

- Magnificent Frigatebird
- Brown Booby
- Northern Gannet
- Anhinga
- Great Cormorant
- Double-crested Cormorant
- American White Pelican
- Brown Pelican



BITTERNS & HERONS

- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Tricolored Heron
- Reddish Egret
- Cattle Egret
- Green Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron



IBISES

- White Ibis
- Glossy Ibis



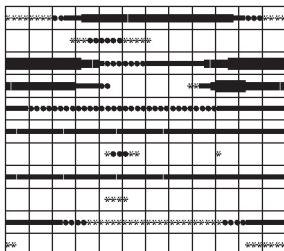
VULTURES

- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture



HAWKS & EAGLES

- Osprey
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Mississippi Kite
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk



J F M A M J J A S O N D

J F M A M J J A S O N D

DOVES

- ___ Rock Pigeon
- ___ Eurasian Collared-Dove
- ___ White-winged Dove
- ___ Mourning Dove



CUCKOOS

- ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- ___ Black-billed Cuckoo



NIGHTJARS

- ___ Common Nighthawk
- ___ Chuck-will's-widow



SWIFTS

- ___ Chimney Swift



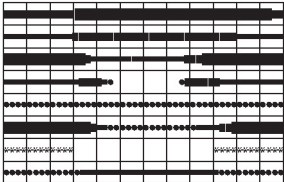
HUMMINGBIRDS

- ___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- ___ Rufous Hummingbird



RAILS & ALLIES

- ___ Clapper Rail
- ___ King Rail
- ___ Virginia Rail
- ___ Sora
- ___ Common Gallinule
- ___ American Coot
- ___ Yellow Rail
- ___ Black Rail



CRANES

- ___ Sandhill Crane



AVOCETS & STILTS

- ___ Black-necked Stilt
- ___ American Avocet



OYSTERCATCHERS

- ___ American Oystercatcher



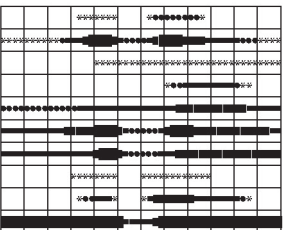
PLOVERS

- ___ Black-bellied Plover
- ___ American Golden-Plover
- ___ Killdeer
- ___ Semipalmated Plover
- ___ Piping Plover
- ___ Wilson's Plover



SANDPIPERS

- ___ Upland Sandpiper
- ___ Whimbrel
- ___ Long-billed Curlew
- ___ Hudsonian Godwit
- ___ Marbled Godwit
- ___ Ruddy Turnstone
- ___ Red Knot
- ___ Ruff
- ___ Stilt Sandpiper
- ___ Sanderling

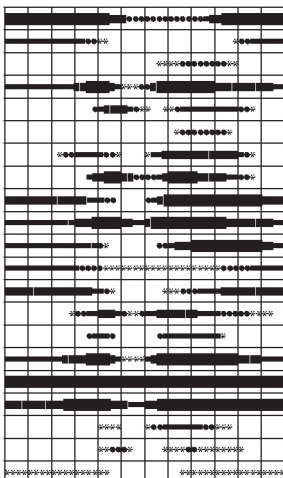


J F M A M J J A S O N D

SANDPIPERS (CON'T)

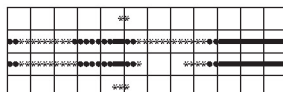
- ___ Dunlin
- ___ Purple Sandpiper
- ___ Baird's Sandpiper
- ___ Least Sandpiper
- ___ White-rumped Sandpiper
- ___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- ___ Pectoral Sandpiper
- ___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
- ___ Western Sandpiper
- ___ Short-billed Dowitcher
- ___ Long-billed Dowitcher
- ___ American Woodcock
- ___ Wilson's Snipe
- ___ Spotted Sandpiper
- ___ Solitary Sandpiper
- ___ Lesser Yellowlegs
- ___ Willet
- ___ Greater Yellowlegs
- ___ Wilson's Phalarope
- ___ Red-necked Phalarope
- ___ Red Phalarope

J F M A M J J A S O N D



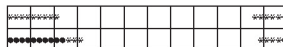
JAEGERS

- ___ South Polar Skua
- ___ Pomarine Jaeger
- ___ Parasitic Jaeger
- ___ Long-tailed Jaeger



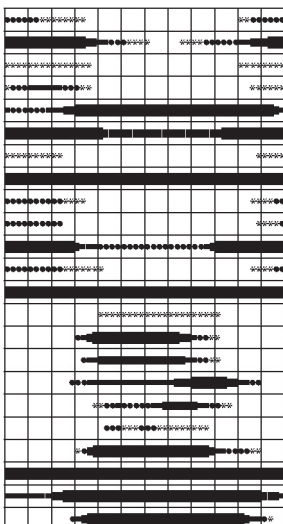
ALCIDS

- ___ Dovekie
- ___ Razorbill



GULLS & TERNS

- ___ Black-legged Kittiwake
- ___ Bonaparte's Gull
- ___ Black-headed Gull
- ___ Little Gull
- ___ Laughing Gull
- ___ Ring-billed Gull
- ___ California Gull
- ___ Herring Gull
- ___ Iceland Gull
- ___ "Thayer's" Iceland Gull
- ___ Lesser Black-backed Gull
- ___ Glaucous Gull
- ___ Great Black-backed Gull
- ___ Sooty Tern
- ___ Least Tern
- ___ Gull-billed Tern
- ___ Caspian Tern
- ___ Black Tern
- ___ Roseate Tern
- ___ Common Tern
- ___ Forster's Tern
- ___ Royal Tern
- ___ Sandwich Tern



SKIMMERS

- ___ Black Skimmer

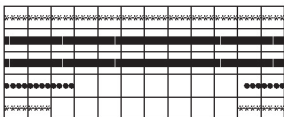


J F M A M J J A S O N D

OWLS

- ___ Barn Owl
- ___ Eastern Screech-Owl
- ___ Great Horned Owl
- ___ Short-eared Owl
- ___ Northern Saw-whet Owl

J F M A M J J A S O N D



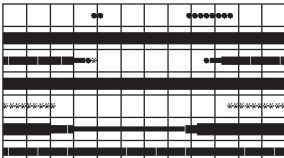
KINGFISHERS

- ___ Belted Kingfisher



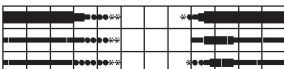
WOODPECKERS

- ___ Red-headed Woodpecker
- ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker
- ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- ___ Downy Woodpecker
- ___ Hairy Woodpecker
- ___ Northern Flicker
- ___ Pileated Woodpecker



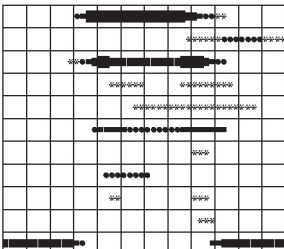
FALCONS

- ___ American Kestrel
- ___ Merlin
- ___ Peregrine Falcon



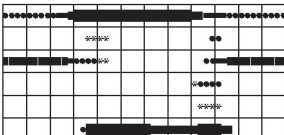
FLYCATCHERS

- ___ Great Crested Flycatcher
- ___ Western Kingbird
- ___ Eastern Kingbird
- ___ Gray Kingbird
- ___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- ___ Eastern Wood-Pewee
- ___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- ___ Acadian Flycatcher
- ___ Alder/Willow Flycatcher
- ___ Least Flycatcher
- ___ Eastern Phoebe



VIREOS

- ___ White-eyed Vireo
- ___ Yellow-throated Vireo
- ___ Blue-headed Vireo
- ___ Philadelphia Vireo
- ___ Warbling Vireo
- ___ Red-eyed Vireo



JAYS & CROWS

- ___ Blue Jay
- ___ American Crow
- ___ Fish Crow



CHICKADEES & TITMICE

- ___ Carolina Chickadee
- ___ Tufted Titmouse



LARKS

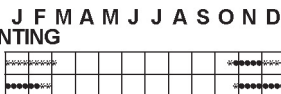
- ___ Horned Lark



J F M A M J J A S O N D

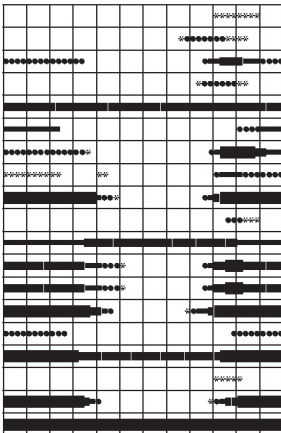
LONGSPURS & SNOW BUNTING

- ___ Lapland Longspur
- ___ Snow Bunting



SPARROWS & ALLIES

- ___ Grasshopper Sparrow
- ___ Lark Sparrow
- ___ Chipping Sparrow
- ___ Clay-colored Sparrow
- ___ Field Sparrow
- ___ Fox Sparrow
- ___ Dark-eyed Junco
- ___ White-crowned Sparrow
- ___ White-throated Sparrow
- ___ Vesper Sparrow
- ___ Seaside Sparrow
- ___ Nelson's Sparrow
- ___ Saltmarsh Sparrow
- ___ Savannah Sparrow
- ___ "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow
- ___ Song Sparrow
- ___ Lincoln's Sparrow
- ___ Swamp Sparrow
- ___ Eastern Towhee



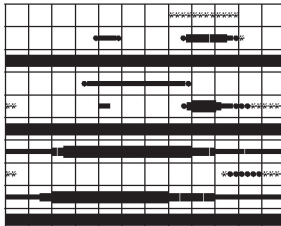
CHATS

- ___ Yellow-breasted Chat



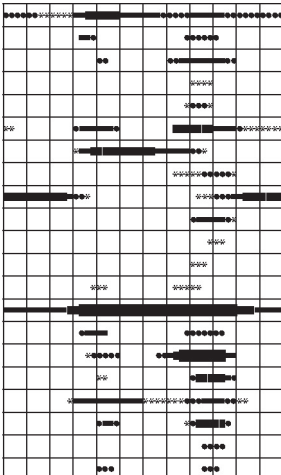
BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

- ___ Yellow-headed Blackbird
- ___ Bobolink
- ___ Eastern Meadowlark
- ___ Orchard Oriole
- ___ Baltimore Oriole
- ___ Red-winged Blackbird
- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird
- ___ Rusty Blackbird
- ___ Common Grackle
- ___ Boat-tailed Grackle



WARBLERS

- ___ Ovenbird
- ___ Worm-eating Warbler
- ___ Northern Waterthrush
- ___ Golden-winged Warbler
- ___ Blue-winged Warbler
- ___ Black-and-white Warbler
- ___ Prothonotary Warbler
- ___ Tennessee Warbler
- ___ Orange-crowned Warbler
- ___ Nashville Warbler
- ___ Connecticut Warbler
- ___ Mourning Warbler
- ___ Kentucky Warbler
- ___ Common Yellowthroat
- ___ Hooded Warbler
- ___ American Redstart
- ___ Cape May Warbler
- ___ Northern Parula
- ___ Magnolia Warbler
- ___ Bay-breasted Warbler
- ___ Blackburnian Warbler

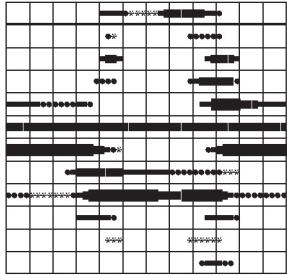


J F M A M J J A S O N D

WARBLERS (CON'T)

- ___ Yellow Warbler
- ___ Chestnut-sided Warbler
- ___ Blackpoll Warbler
- ___ Black-throated Blue Warbler
- ___ Palm Warbler
- ___ Pine Warbler
- ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- ___ Yellow-throated Warbler
- ___ Prairie Warbler
- ___ Black-throated Green Warbler
- ___ Canada Warbler
- ___ Wilson's Warbler

J F M A M J J A S O N D



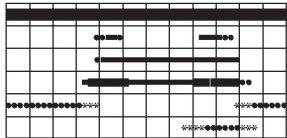
TANAGERS

- ___ Summer Tanager
- ___ Scarlet Tanager



CARDINALS & ALLIES

- ___ Northern Cardinal
- ___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- ___ Blue Grosbeak
- ___ Indigo Bunting
- ___ Painted Bunting
- ___ Dickcissel



J F M A M J J A S O N D

FIELD NOTES

VERY RARE / ACCIDENTAL SPECIES

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	"Great White Heron"
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	White-faced Ibis
Greater White-fronted Goose	Roseate Spoonbill
Cackling Goose	Golden Eagle
Garganey	Northern Goshawk
Cinnamon Teal	Swainson's Hawk
White-cheeked Pintail	Snowy Owl
Ring-necked Pheasant	Burrowing Owl
Clark's Grebe	Long-eared Owl
Common Ground-Dove	Crested Caracara
Antillean Nighthawk	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Tropical Kingbird
Common Swift	Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Anna's Hummingbird	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Purple Gallinule	Say's Phoebe
Pacific Golden-Plover	Vermilion Flycatcher
Common Ringed Plover	Black-whiskered Vireo
Snowy Plover	Loggerhead Shrike
"Eurasian" Whimbrel	Northern Shrike
Bar-tailed Godwit	Common Raven
Black-tailed Godwit	White-breasted Nuthatch
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Bewick's Wren
Curlew Sandpiper	Sage Thrasher
Little Stint	Northern Wheatear
Spotted Redshank	Sprague's Pipit
Great Skua	Evening Grosbeak
Common Murre	Common Redpoll
Thick-billed Murre	Red Crossbill
Atlantic Puffin	White-winged Crossbill
Sabine's Gull	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Franklin's Gull	Thick-billed Longspur
Heermann's Gull	Lark Bunting
Common Gull	American Tree Sparrow
Bridled Tern	Harris's Sparrow
White-winged Tern	LeConte's Sparrow
Arctic Tern	Western Meadowlark
"Cayenne" Tern	Shiny Cowbird
White-tailed Tropicbird	Brewer's Blackbird
Red-billed Tropicbird	Louisiana Waterthrush
Yellow-nosed Albatross	Swainson's Warbler
White-faced Storm-Petrel	Cerulean Warbler
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Northern Fulmar	Townsend's Warbler
Black-capped Petrel	Painted Redstart
Wood Stork	Western Tanager
Masked Booby	

Date: _____

Observers: _____

Location: _____

Please report unusual sightings at the
Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center
or at the Hatteras Island Ranger Station.

Compiled By:
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April 2023

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Please Visit Our Websites At:
Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/pea-island/>

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
<http://www.nps.gov/caha>

