

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
8231 Beach Road
P.O. Box 62
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336-0062
757/336 6122
FAX: 757/336 5273
email: R5RW_CHNWR@mail.fws.gov

Virginia Relay Center
1 800/828 1120 TDD
1 800/828 1140 voice

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD

October 1999



Fish & Wildlife Service

Chincoteague

*National
Wildlife Refuge*

Birds



Introduction



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

The topography of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge consists of wide, sandy beach backed by a series of low dunes which fall away to extensive salt marshes bordering Chincoteague Bay. Some parts of the refuge, particularly the southern end, also contain extensive areas of pine and oak interspersed with ponds and potholes. Over 2600 acres of shallow freshwater moist soil management units were developed to make the refuge more attractive to waterfowl.

Thousands of brant, geese, and ducks winter on the refuge. Shorebirds are an outstanding feature during spring and fall migrations. Large numbers of herons and egrets can usually be found in the moist soil management units from mid-spring to late fall.

Most of the Maryland portion of Assateague Island is managed by the National Park Service whose policies emphasize maintaining natural habitats. Birds found on the Virginia portion of the island may also be observed in Maryland. Because of the freshwater moist soil management units, however, the Virginia portion tends to attract larger numbers of birds.



Snow geese

This brochure lists 324 birds that have been identified on the refuge, and is in accordance with the Sixth American Ornithologists' Union Checklist.

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

Season

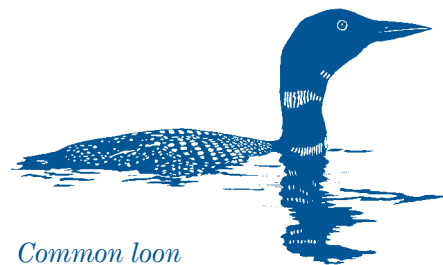
Sp	spring	March – May
Su	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

- 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 |



Common loon

COMMON NAME

Loons – Grebes

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Red-throated Loon _____	u		u	u
___ Common Loon _____	c	r	c	c
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	c	u	c	c
___ Horned Grebe _____	c		c	c
___ Red-necked Grebe _____	r		r	r
___ Eared Grebe _____			r	

Shearwaters – Storm – Petrels

___ Cory's Shearwater _____	r	r	u	
___ Greater Shearwater _____	r	r	u	
___ Sooty Shearwater _____	r	r	u	
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel _____	r	r	u	

COMMON NAME	Sp	Su	F	W	COMMON NAME	Sp	Su	F	W
Gannet–Pelicans–Cormorants									
___ Northern Gannet _____	r				___ Surf Scoter _____	u		u	u
___ American White Pelican _____	o	o	o	o	___ White-winged Scoter _____	u		u	u
___ Brown Pelican _____	u	c	u		___ Common Goldeneye _____	u		u	u
___ Great Cormorant _____	r		r	r	___ Bufflehead _____	c	r	c	c
___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	a	c	a	c	___ Hooded Merganser _____	u		u	u
Bitterns–Hérons–Ibises									
___ American Bittern _____	o	o	o	o	___ Common Merganser _____			u	u
• Least Bittern _____	u	c	u		___ Red-breasted Merganser _____	c	r	c	c
___ Great Blue Heron _____	c	u	c	c	___ Ruddy Duck _____	u	o	u	u
___ Great Egret _____	c	a	c	u	Vultures–Hawks–Falcons				
___ Snowy Egret _____	c	a	a	o	___ Black Vulture _____	o	u	u	o
___ Little Blue Heron _____	c	c	c	o	___ Turkey Vulture _____	u	u	u	u
___ Tricolored Heron _____	u	c	c	r	• Osprey _____	c	c	c	
___ Cattle Egret _____	u	u	c		• <i>Bald Eagle</i> _____	u	o	u	u
• Green Heron _____	u	u	u		• Northern Harrier _____	u	o	u	u
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	c	u	u	___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u		c	u
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	o	u	o		___ Cooper’s Hawk _____	u		u	u
___ White Ibis _____	r	r	r		___ Red-shouldered Hawk _____	o		o	o
___ Glossy Ibis _____	c	a	c	r	• Red-tailed Hawk _____	u	o	u	u
Swans–Geese–Ducks									
___ Tundra Swan _____	c		c	c	___ Rough-legged Hawk _____				r
• Mute Swan _____	c	c	c	c	___ American Kestrel _____	o	r	u	o
___ Greater White-fronted Goose _____				r	___ Merlin _____	o		u	o
___ Greater Snow Goose _____	c	r	a	a	• <i>Peregrine Falcon</i> _____	u	u	u	u
___ Brant _____	c	r	c	c	Grouse–Quail–Turkey				
• Canada Goose _____	c	c	c	c	___ • Northern Bobwhite _____	a	a	a	a
• Wood Duck _____	u	u	u	r	Rails–Cranes				
___ Green-winged Teal _____	c	r	c	c	___ Yellow Rail _____				r
• American Black Duck _____	c	c	c	c	___ Black Rail _____	r	r	r	
• Mallard _____	c	c	c	c	• Clapper Rail _____	c	c	c	u
___ Northern Pintail _____	c	r	c	c	___ King Rail _____	u	u	u	u
• Blue-winged Teal _____	c	u	c	r	• Virginia Rail _____	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Shoveler _____	c	o	c	c	___ Sora _____	o		o	
• Gadwall _____	c	c	c	c	___ Purple Gallinule _____		r	r	
___ Eurasian Wigeon _____			r	r	___ Common Moorhen _____	r	o	o	
___ American Wigeon _____	c	r	c	c	___ American Coot _____	u	r	u	u
___ Canvasback _____	r		r	r	Plovers–Sandpipers				
___ Redhead _____	r		r	r	___ Black-bellied Plover _____	c	c	c	u
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	r		u	u	___ American Golden-Plover _____	r	o	u	
___ Greater Scaup _____	u		u	u	• Wilson’s Plover _____	u	u		
___ Lesser Scaup _____	u		u	u	___ Semipalmated Plover _____	a	a	c	
___ Common Eider _____			r	r	• <i>Piping Plover</i> _____	u	u	u	
___ Oldsquaw _____	u		u	u	• Killdeer _____	u	c	u	o
___ Black Scoter _____	u		u	u	• American Oystercatcher _____	c	c	c	c
					___ Black-necked Stilt _____	r	r	r	

COMMON NAME	Sp	Su	F	W	COMMON NAME	Sp	Su	F	W
American Avocet	o	o	u	r	• Least Tern	c	c		
Greater Yellowlegs	u	c	c	u	Black Tern	r	o	o	
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	c	c	o	• Black Skimmer	u	c	c	r
Solitary Sandpiper	o	o	o		Doves – Cuckoos – Owls – Swifts – Hummingbirds				
• Willet	c	c	u	r	Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	r	• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Upland Sandpiper		r	r		• Black-billed Cuckoo	o	r	o	
Whimbrel	c	c	u	r	• Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	c	c	r
Hudsonian Godwit		u	o		• Barn Owl	o	o	o	o
Marbled Godwit	r	u	o		• Eastern Screech-Owl	c	c	c	c
Ruddy Turnstone	a	c	c	u	• Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
Red Knot	c	c	u	r	Snowy Owl				r
Sanderling	a	a	c	c	Long-eared Owl			o	c
Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	a	c		Short-eared Owl			o	o
Western Sandpiper	r	c	c	o	Common Nighthawk	u	c	u	
Least Sandpiper	a	c	c	o	• Chuck-will's Widow	c	c		
White-rumped Sandpiper	c	u	u		• Chimney Swift	c	c	c	
Baird's Sandpiper	r	r	o		• Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	u	u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	r	c	c	r	Belted Kingfisher	u	o	c	u
Dunlin	a	o	a	a	Woodpeckers – Flycatchers				
Curlew Sandpiper	r	r	r		• Red-headed Woodpecker	o	o	o	
Stilt Sandpiper	o	c	c		Red-bellied Woodpecker	o	o	u	u
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		o	u		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o		o	
Ruff	r	r	r		• Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
Short-billed Dowitcher	a	a	c	c	Hairy Woodpecker	o		o	o
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	r	u	o	• Northern Flicker	c	c	a	c
Common Snipe	u	r	u	u	• Pileated Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
• American Woodcock	u	u	u	o	Olive-sided Flycatcher	r			
Wilson's Phalarope	r	r	r		• Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	
Red-necked Phalarope	o	r	r		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	o			
Jaegerss – Gulls – Terns – Auks					• Acadian Flycatcher	u	u		
• Laughing Gull	a	a	a	r	Willow Flycatcher	u	r		
Black-headed Gull	r		r		Least Flycatcher	r		r	
Bonaparte's Gull	u		o	u	• Eastern Phoebe	u	r	c	o
Ring-billed Gull	a	c	a	a	• Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	c	
Herring Gull	c	c	a	a	Western Kingbird			r	
Lesser Black-backed Gull			o		• Eastern Kingbird	a	a	c	
Great Black-backed Gull	c	c	c	c	Larks – Swallows – Jays – Crows				
Gull-billed Tern	u	u	o		• Horned Lark	c	u	c	c
Caspian Tern	o	u	c		Purple Martin	c	c		
Royal Tern	c	c	c	r	• Tree Swallow	a	c	a	o
Sandwich Tern	r	o	o		Northern Rough-winged Swallow		r	r	
Roseate Tern		r			Bank Swallow	u	o	r	
• Common Tern	c	c	c	o					
Arctic Tern	r								
• Forster's Tern	c	c	c	r					

COMMON NAME	Sp	Su	F	W	COMMON NAME	Sp	Su	F	W
• Barn Swallow _____	a	a	a		_____ Tennessee Warbler _____			r	
• Blue Jay _____	o	o	o	o	_____ Orange-crowned Warbler _____			r	r
• American Crow _____	c	c	c	c	_____ Nashville Warbler _____			r	
• Fish Crow _____	c	c	u	u	_____ • Northern Parula _____	o	r	o	
Titmice – Nuthatches – Wrens					_____ • Yellow Warbler _____	c	c	r	
• Carolina Chickadee _____	c	c	c	c	_____ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	r		r	
_____ Tufted Titmouse _____			r		_____ Magnolia Warbler _____	u		c	
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____	o	r	o	o	_____ Cape May Warbler _____			c	
_____ White-breasted Nuthatch _____			r	r	_____ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	o		c	
• Brown-headed Nuthatch _____	u	u	u	u	_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	a	r	a	a
_____ Brown Creeper _____		r	u	u	_____ Black-throated Green Warbler _____	r	r	r	
• Carolina Wren _____	c	c	c	c	_____ Blackburnian Warbler _____	r	r	r	
• House Wren _____	c	c	c	r	_____ Yellow-throated Warbler _____	u	u		
_____ Winter Wren _____	u		c	u	_____ • Pine Warbler _____	a	a	a	o
_____ Sedge Wren _____	o		u	u	_____ • Prairie Warbler _____	c	c		
_____ Marsh Wren _____	u	u	u		_____ Palm Warbler _____	o		a	o
Kinglets – Thrushes – Thrashers					_____ Bay-breasted Warbler _____	r		r	
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	c	r	c	c	_____ Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		u	
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	c	r	c	c	_____ Cerulean Warbler _____	r		r	
• Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	u	u	u		_____ Black-and-white Warbler _____	u	u	c	
• Eastern Bluebird _____	r	r	r	r	_____ American Redstart _____	u		a	
_____ Veery _____	r		u		_____ Prothonotary Warbler _____	r	r		
_____ Bicknell's Thrush _____	o		c		_____ Worm-eating Warbler _____	r		r	
_____ Swainson's Thrush _____			c		_____ Swainson's Warbler _____	r		r	
_____ Hermit Thrush _____	u		c	c	_____ • Ovenbird _____	u	c	c	
_____ Wood Thrush _____	u		u		_____ Northern Waterthrush _____	u	c	c	
• American Robin _____	c	c	a	u	_____ Louisiana Waterthrush _____	r		r	
• Gray Catbird _____	c	c	c	u	_____ Kentucky Warbler _____	r	r		
• Northern Mockingbird _____	u	u	u	o	_____ Connecticut Warbler _____	r		r	
• Brown Thrasher _____	c	c	c	u	_____ • Common Yellowthroat _____	a	a	a	u
Waxwings – Shrikes – Starlings					_____ Hooded Warbler _____	r			
_____ American Pipit _____	o		o	o	_____ Wilson's Warbler _____			o	
_____ Cedar Waxwing _____	u	u	c	u	_____ Canada Warbler _____	r	r	r	
• European Starling _____	c	c	a	a	_____ • Yellow-breasted Chat _____	u	u	o	r
Vireos – Wood Warblers					Tanagers – Sparrows				
• White-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	c		_____ • Summer Tanager _____	o	o	r	
_____ Solitary Vireo _____	r		r		_____ Scarlet Tanager _____	o	r	u	
_____ Yellow-throated Vireo _____	r				_____ • Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
_____ Warbling Vireo _____	r				_____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u		u	
_____ Philadelphia Vireo _____	r				_____ • Blue Grosbeak _____	u	o	o	
• Red-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	c		_____ • Indigo Bunting _____	u	u	u	
_____ Blue-winged Warbler _____	r		r		_____ Dickcissel _____		r	r	
_____ Golden-winged Warbler _____	r		r		_____ • Eastern Towhee _____	c	c	c	c
					_____ American Tree Sparrow _____				o
					_____ • Chipping Sparrow _____	c	o	c	

COMMON NAME

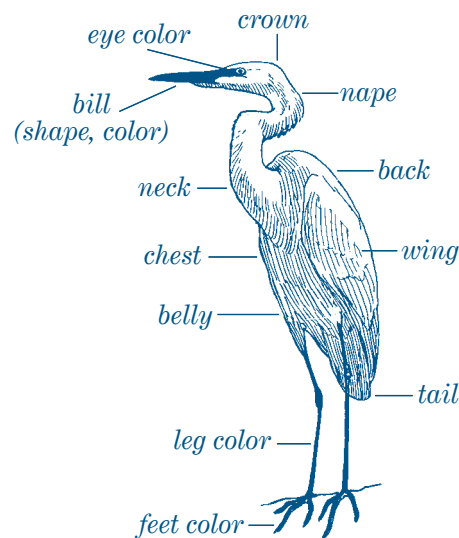
	Sp	Su	F	W
•Clay-colored Sparrow _____			r	
•Field Sparrow _____	c	c	c	o
Vesper Sparrow _____			o	u
Lark Sparrow _____		r	r	
Savannah Sparrow _____	c	u	c	c
Grasshopper Sparrow _____		r	r	
Henslow's Sparrow _____	r		r	
•Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow _____	o	c	u	u
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow _____				r
•Seaside Sparrow _____	c	c	c	o
Fox Sparrow _____	u		u	u
•Song Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow _____	r		r	
Swamp Sparrow _____	c	r	c	c
White-throated Sparrow _____	c		c	c
White-crowned Sparrow _____	r	o	o	o
Dark-eyed Junco _____	u		c	u
Lapland Longspur _____				o
Snow Bunting _____	o		u	u

Blackbirds–Finches

Bobolink _____	o		u	u
•Red-winged Blackbird _____	a	a	a	a
•Eastern Meadowlark _____	c	c	c	c
Yellow-headed Blackbird _____	r		r	
Rusty Blackbird _____			o	o
•Boat-tailed Grackle _____	c	c	c	c
•Common Grackle _____	c	c	c	c
•Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	u
•Orchard Oriole _____	o	o	o	
Baltimore Oriole _____	o	o	c	
Purple Finch _____	r		o	
•House Finch _____	u	o	u	
Red Crossbill _____	r			r
Common Redpoll _____	r			r
Pine Siskin _____	o		o	o
•American Goldfinch _____	c	c	c	c
Evening Grosbeak _____	r			r

Tips for Field I.D.

The identification of birds is greatly aided by simply noting a few key field marks. The diagram opposite top 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.



Accidental Species

These additional 30 species have been seen only once or twice on the refuge:

White-faced Ibis	Elegant Tern
Ross' Goose	Dovekie
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Atlantic Puffin
Broad-winged Hawk	Common Ground Dove
Swainson's Hawk	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Golden Eagle	Gray Kingbird
Mountain Plover	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Purple Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow
Pomarine Jaeger	Northern Wheatear
Parasitic Jaeger	Northern Shrike
Long-tailed Jaeger	Black-headed Grosbeak
Little Gull	Le Conte's Sparrow
Iceland Gull	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Glaucous Gull	House Sparrow

Notes

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____
