

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Florida Keys

*National Wildlife Refuges
Bird List*



Welcome to the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges. There are three Refuges in the lower Florida Keys: Key West, Great White Heron and National Key Deer National Wildlife Refuges. These refuges are part of a subtropical ecoregion and provide habitat for many species of birds, some of which are unique to the Florida Keys and south Florida. Combined, the refuges total approximately 23,000 acres of land. However, the open water within the boundaries of Key West and Great White Heron Refuges, covers an area of about 400,000 acres. All of the refuges were established to protect wildlife and their habitat. Key West National Wildlife Refuge and Great White Heron Refuge were established in 1908 and 1938 respectively, to protect herons and egrets from plume hunters. National Key Deer Refuge was established in 1957 to protect the endangered Key Deer and other wildlife.



The best times for birding are during the spring and fall migration. Some of the more unique birds that can be seen are great white herons, antillean nighthawk, gray kingbird, black-whiskered vireo, white-crowned pigeon and the elusive mangrove cuckoo. Together, these three Refuges protect habitat for 285 species of birds.

Key West and Great White Heron Refuges are composed of many small islands locally known as the Backcountry. Key West National Wildlife Refuge lies west of Key West. Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge encompasses many of the Keys north of U.S. Highway 1 from Key West to just west of Marathon. These two Refuges are accessible only by boat. National Key Deer Refuge and surrounding non-refuge lands also afford the

best opportunities for birding. Respect private property - if the property is privately owned you must obtain permission to enter. It is recommended that you lock your car and lock your valuables in the trunk or take them with you when you leave it.

Directions (north, south, east, and west) are given relative to compass headings, not to directions on US 1.

Bahia Honda State Park (MM 37.5): An entrance fee is required. Continue through the gate, go right, and then park in the lot on the left. Walk the beach for shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Go to the parking area on the right - warblers may be seen in trees near the old store. Other birds can be found along the beach at the east end and along the road past the camping area.

East end of West Summerland Key (MM 34.9): just west of the Bahia Honda Bridge, turn north and follow to the "Donut" (a manmade cove). This is a good area for shorebirds, terns, and gulls. Snowy plovers have been seen here.

Big Pine Key (MM 32.9): just after entering onto the Key, turn south onto Long Beach Drive and stop along the road at any convenient spot. Ovenbirds, warblers, waterthrushes, siskins, buntings, and orioles may be present during migration and in winter.

Big Pine Key (MM 30.2): turn north at the traffic light and then an immediate left onto Key Deer Blvd. (the Refuge office is in the shopping center on the right). Short-tailed hawk and turkey vultures may be observed soaring overhead. At the Blue Hole, 2.5 miles north on Key Deer Blvd., pied-billed grebes and green-backed herons may be present. The masked duck and least grebe also have been seen here so it is worth a visit. Opposite the Blue Hole, travel onto Big Pine St. and then left onto Koehn Blvd. Shorebirds may be present at the mud flats near the end of the road and at the boat ramp.

To go to No Name Key, go east on Watson Blvd., left at the stop sign, and follow Watson Blvd. over the large bridge to No Name Key. Yellow headed blackbird, dark-eyed junco, cave swallow, and Swainsons warbler have been found here. The end of the road is also a good location for mangrove cuckoo and black-whiskered vireo.

Before leaving Big Pine a good spot to look for antillean nighthawks is in the vicinity of the west end of Watson Blvd and along Narcissus Ave. Antilleans are frequently present late in the day during spring and summer.

Summerland Key (MM 25): Take the first left after the bridge and a salt pond is on your right. Ibis and egrets can be found here. Take a right onto Margaret St and then the next left. A fresh water pond is on the left. Ducks, least bittern, sora rail, and white-crowned pigeon are found here. Moorhens nest here.

Sugarloaf Key (MM 17): Turn south at traffic light and drive slowly to the end of the road. Hawks, harriers, woodpeckers can be seen along here. There is the possibility of ducks on the pond on the right and pine siskin, indigo bunting, and grosbeak in the pine trees after crossing the bridge.

How to use your checklist

The checklist is arranged in the order established by the *American Ornithologist's Union Checklist of North American Birds*, 7th edition, 1984, with supplements. This list reviewed by Philip Hughes and Chuck Hunter, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Recommended birding areas were provided by Marge Brown with the assistance of Wayne Hoffman, W. B. Robertson, and refuge staff.

If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at the Refuge Visitor Center, in the Big Pine Key Plaza, Key Deer Blvd., Big Pine Key, FL 33043, or you can call us at 305/872 0774. We appreciate your help in updating our records.

Ethics of Bird Watching

Birders on the refuge are expected to adhere to the Code of Birding Ethics set forth by the American Birding Association to promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- Do not disturb nesting birds. This could lead to exposing eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation.
- Likewise do not disturb wintering, resting, and feeding birds. They need their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh weather, migration, and hunting for food.
- Possession of migratory birds, their feathers, nests or eggs is against the law. Use of tape recordings to attract birds is permitted on Refuge lands. However, birders are required to limit the use to attracting the bird and not prolonging the bird's presence.

- Do not litter! Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash.
- Injured birds may be reported to the refuge at (305) 872-0774.

Key To Symbols

Seasonal appearance

Sp-Spring: March, April, and May

S-Summer: June, July, and August

F -Fall: September, October, and November

W -Winter: December, January, and February

Seasonal abundance

c-common (commonly observed in proper habitat).

u-uncommon (uncommonly observed in proper habitat).

r-rare (rarely observed).

o-occasional (observed fewer than ten times). Please report all sightings. Confirmed breeding in checklist area.

*-nests here

Support the protection of important bird habitat

Stay on roads, trails and paths. Cutting through vegetation damages vegetation and puts you at risk of injury from uneven terrain and rattlesnakes.

Do not enter closed areas on the refuge. Areas are closed to protect wildlife resources and visitors from hazardous areas.



First weekend in October.



This publication funded by the Friends and Volunteers of Refuges

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
___ Red-throated Loon	o		o	o
___ Common Loon	u		u	u
Grebes				
___ Least Grebe			o	
___ Pied-billed Grebe *	u	u	u	u
___ Horned Grebe	o			o
Shearwaters and Petrels				
___ Greater Shearwater		o		
___ Sooty Shearwater	o			o
___ Audubon's Shearwater		o		o
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel		o		
___ Band-rumped Storm-Petrel			o	
Tropicbirds				
___ White-tailed Tropicbird	o			
Boobies and Gannets				
___ Masked Booby	o		o	o
___ Brown Booby	r	r	r	r
___ Northern Gannet	r	r	r	u
Pelicans				
___ American White Pelican		r	r	r
___ Brown Pelican *	c	c	c	c
Darters and Cormorants				
___ Double-crested Cormorant *	c	c	c	c
___ Anhinga	u	r	u	u
Frigatebirds				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird	c	c	c	c
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets and Their Allies				
___ American Bittern	o			
___ Least Bittern *	r	r	r	r
___ Great Blue Heron *	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret *	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Egret *	u	u	u	u
___ Little Blue Heron *	u	u	u	u
___ Tricolored Heron *	c	u	c	u
___ Reddish Egret *	c	c	c	c
___ Cattle Egret	c	c	c	c
___ Green Heron *	c	c	c	c
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	r		r	r
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *	c	c	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Ibises and Spoonbills				
___ White Ibis *	c	c	c	c
___ Glossy Ibis	o	o	o	o
___ Roseate Spoonbill	u	u	r	r
Storks				
___ Wood Stork			o	o
Flamingos				
___ Greater Flamingo	o		o	o
Ducks, Geese, Swans				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	o		o	o
___ Canada Goose				o
___ Snow Goose			o	o
___ Wood Duck			o	
___ Green-winged Teal	r		r	r
___ White-cheeked Pintail	o			o
___ Northern Pintail	u		u	u
___ Blue-winged Teal	c		c	c
___ Northern Shoveler	u		u	u
___ Gadwall				o
___ American Wigeon	c		c	c
___ Ring-necked Duck	u		u	u
___ Lesser Scaup	u		u	u
___ Longtailed duck			o	
___ Black Scoter			o	o
___ Hooded Merganser				o
___ Common Merganser			o	o
___ Red-breasted Merganser	u	r	c	c
___ Masked Duck	o			
Vultures				
___ Black Vulture		o	o	o
___ Turkey Vulture *	c	c	c	c
Osprey, Kites, Eagles, and Harriers				
___ Osprey *	c	c	c	c
___ Swallow-tailed Kite	r	r	r	r
___ Mississippi Kite			o	o
___ Bald Eagle *	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Harrier	u		u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	c		c	c
___ Cooper's Hawk	u		u	u
___ Red-Shouldered Hawk *	u	u	u	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk	c		c	c
___ Short-tailed Hawk	r		c	u
___ Swainson's Hawk	r		c	r
___ Red-tailed Hawk	r		r	r
___ Zone-tailed Hawk			o	o

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Falcons				
___ American Kestrel	c		c	c
___ Merlin	u		c	u
___ Peregrine Falcon	u		c	u
Rails, Gallinules, Coots				
___ Black Rail	u	u	u	u
___ Clapper Rail *	u	u	u	u
___ Virginia Rail	o		o	o
___ Sora Rail	r		r	r
___ Purple Gallinule *	r	r	r	r
___ Common Moorhen *	u	u	u	u
___ American Coot *	c	r	c	c
Limpkins				
___ Limpkin	r	r	r	r
Plovers				
___ Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
___ Lesser Golden-Plover	r		r	r
___ Snowy Plover	o			o
___ Wilson's Plover *	c	c	c	c
___ Semipalmated Plover	c		c	c
___ Piping Plover	r		r	r
___ Killdeer *	u	r	u	u
___ Mountain Plover				o
Oystercatchers				
___ American Oystercatcher	o		o	
Stilts and Avocets				
___ Black-necked Stilt *	u	u	u	
___ American Avocet	o		o	o
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
___ Greater Yellowlegs	u		u	u
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	u		u	u
___ Solitary Sandpiper	u		r	
___ Willet *	c		c	c
___ Spotted Sandpiper	u		u	u
___ Upland Sandpiper	r		r	
___ Whimbrel	r		r	c
___ Ruddy Turnstone	c	u	c	c
___ Red Knot	u	r	u	r
___ Sanderling	c	r	c	c
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	r	r	r	r
___ Western Sandpiper	c	r	c	c
___ Least Sandpiper	c	r	c	c
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	u			
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	r	r	r	
___ Purple Sandpiper				r
___ Dunlin	u		c	u
___ Stilt Sandpiper	r		r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	c	u	c	c
___ Common Snipe			r	r
___ Wilson's Phalarope	o		o	o
___ Red-necked Phalarope		o		
Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
___ Pomarine Jaeger	o		o	o
___ Parasitic Jaeger	o		o	o
___ Laughing Gull *	c	c	c	c
___ Bonaparte's Gull	r		r	r
___ Ringed-billed Gull	c	r	c	c
___ Herring Gull	u	r	c	c
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull			r	r
___ Great Black-backed Gull	r		r	r
___ Black-legged Kittiwake (specimen)				o
___ Gull billed Tern	o			
___ Caspian Tern	u		u	c
___ Royal Tern	c	c	c	c
___ Roseate Tern*		u		
___ Sandwich Tern *	u		u	u
___ Common Tern	u		u	u
___ Forster's Tern	u		c	c
___ Least Tern *	u	c	c	
___ Bridled Tern	r	r	r	
___ Sooty Tern	r	r	r	
___ Black Tern	r	r		
___ Brown Noddy	o	o		
___ Black Skimmer				u
Alcids				
___ Dovekie				o
Pigeons and Doves				
___ Rock Dove *	c	c	c	c
___ White-crowned Pigeon *	u	c	u	u
___ Eurasian collared Dove *	c	c	c	c
___ White-winged Dove *	u	u	u	u
___ Mourning Dove *	c	c	c	c
___ Common Ground-Dove *	u	u	u	u
___ Inca Dove (nested 1963-80, Key West, probably extirpated)				
___ Ruddy Quail-Dove (1 captured, Key West)	o			
___ Key West Quail Dove			o	
Cuckoos and Anis				
___ Blacked-billed Cuckoo	r		r	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo *	u	u	u	
___ Mangrove Cuckoo *	u	u	r	r
___ Smooth-billed Ani	r	r	r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Owls				
___ Eastern Screech Owl	o			
___ Burrowing Owl	o		o	o
___ Barred Owl		o		
___ Long-eared Owl			o	
___ Short-eared Owl	r	u	r	r
Barn Owls				
___ Barn owls	r	r	r	r
Goatsuckers				
___ Common Nighthawk *	c	c	c	
___ Antillean Nighthawk *	c	c	c	
___ Chuck-will's Widow	u	u	u	r
___ Whip-poor-will	r			r
Swifts				
___ Chimney Swift	r		u	
___ Antillean Palm Swift		o		
Hummingbirds				
Black-chinned Hummingbird	o			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	r	u	u
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher	c	u	c	c
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker *	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
___ Northern Flicker			o	o
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher				o
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	r	u	u	
___ Eastern Phoebe	r	r	r	r
___ LaSagra's Flycatcher		o	o	
___ Brown-crested Flycatcher	o			o
___ Loggerhead Kingbird	o			
___ Western Kingbird	u		u	u
___ Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	
___ Gray Kingbird *	c	c	c	u
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	u		u	u
Swallows				
___ Purple Martin	c	c	c	
___ Cuban Martin	o			
___ Southern Martin		o		
___ Tree Swallow	c		c	u
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	r		r	r
___ Bahama Swallow	o	o		o
___ Bank Swallow	r		r	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Cave Swallow	o			
___ Barn Swallow	c	c	c	r
___ Cliff Swallow				o
Jays and Crows				
___ Blue Jay	o	o		
___ American Crow	o	o	o	o
___ Fish Crow	r		r	r
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren			o	
___ House Wren	r		r	r
Old World Warblers				
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet				o
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	u	c	c
___ Veery	r			
Thrushes				
___ Gray-checked Thrush	r		r	
___ Swainson's Thrush	r		u	
___ Hermit Thrush				o
___ Wood Thrush	r		r	
___ American Robin	r		r	r
Mockingbirds & Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird	c		c	c
___ Northern Mockingbird *	c	c	c	c
___ Bahama Mockingbird	o	o	o	
___ Brown Thrasher *	u	u	u	u
Pipits				
___ American Pipit	o			o
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing	c		c	c
Shrikes				
___ Loggerhead Shrike				r
Starling & Allies				
___ European Starling *	u	u	u	u
Vireos				
___ White-eyed Vireo *	c	c	c	c
___ Bell's Vireo			o	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	u		r	r
___ Philadelphia Vireo	o		o	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	u		u	u
___ Red-eyed Vireo	c		c	
___ Black-whiskered Vireo *	c	c	r	
___ Thick-billed Vireo			o	u

Wood Warblers

___ Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	r
___ Golden-winged Warbler	o		o	
___ Tennessee Warbler	u		u	r
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u	r	u	
___ Nashville Warbler	o		o	
___ Northern Parula Warbler	c		c	c
___ Yellow Warbler Cuban subspecies *	u	u	u	u
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		r	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		u	r
___ Cape May Warbler	u		u	u
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	c		c	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		c	u
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	c		c	c
___ Pine Warbler	o		o	o
___ Prairie Warbler *	c	c	c	c
___ Palm Warbler	c		c	c
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	r		r	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	c		r	
___ Cerulean Warbler	r		r	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	c		c	c
___ American Redstart	c		c	u
___ Prothonotary Warbler	u		u	
___ Worm-eating Warbler	u		u	r
___ Swainson's Warbler	u		u	o
___ Ovenbird	c		c	u
___ Norther Waterthrush	c		c	u
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	r		r	
___ Kentucky Warbler	u		u	
___ Connecticut Warbler	r		r	
___ Common Yellowthroat	c		c	c
___ Hooded Warbler	u		u	
___ Wilson's Warbler	r		r	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat				o

Tanagers

___ Summer Tanager	u	u	r	
___ Scarlet Tanager	u		u	

Cardinals and Buntings

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

Sparrows

___ Eastern Towhee				o
___ Chipping Sparrow			o	o

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Clay colored Sparrow			o	o
___ Vesper Sparrow	o			o
___ Lark Sparrow			o	o
___ Savannah Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	r		r	r
___ LeConte's Sparrow				o
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				o
___ Swamp Sparrow			r	r
___ White-crowned Sparrow				o
___ Dark-eyed Junco	o			o

Blackbirds and Orioles

___ Bobolink	u		u	
___ Red-winged Blackbird *	c	c	c	c
___ Tawny-shouldered Blackbird				o
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird			o	o
___ Brewer's Blackbird			o	
___ Common Grackle *	c	c	r	r
___ Shiny Cowbird	u			
___ Brown-headed Cowbird		o	o	o
___ Orchard Oriole	c		c	
___ Baltimore Oriole	c		c	u

Finches

___ Pine Siskin (irruptive)	r		r	r
___ American Goldfinch			c	u

Old World Sparrows

___ House Sparrow*	u	u	u	u
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Sighting Notes

Date: _____

Time: _____

To: _____

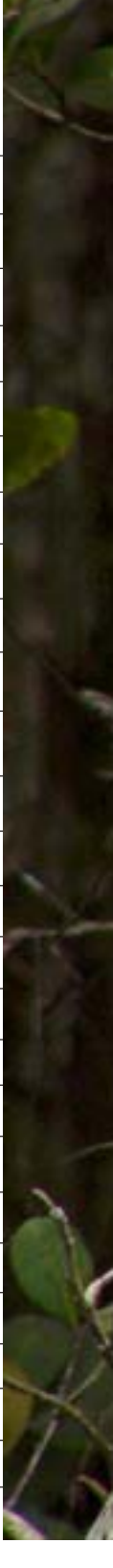
Weather: _____

No. of Species: _____

Route or area: _____

Observers: _____

Remarks: _____





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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD**

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