

Rachel Carson  
321 Port Road  
Wells, ME 04090  
207/646 9226  
207/646 6554 Fax

Federal Relay Center  
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing  
1 800/877 8339

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

September 2011



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Rachel Carson

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### *Birds*



Saltmarsh Sparrow  
Brian C. Harris

## Introduction



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

Welcome to Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge consists of eleven separate divisions located on the coast between Portland and Kittery in southern Maine. Approximately 5,400 acres have been acquired out of the 14,684 acre current acquisition boundary. When completed, each refuge division will include a tidal waterway, the surrounding marsh and adjacent uplands. Forty-five percent of the habitat protected as refuge is coastal and freshwater wetlands, the remaining habitat is upland, forest, fields and shrublands.



*Great blue heron*

Highlights of bird activity on the refuge include shorebird migrations in the spring and summer, waterfowl concentrations in the winter and early spring, and raptor migrations in the early fall.

This brochure lists more than 260 species that have been identified on or seen from the refuge, and is in accordance with the seventh American Ornithologists Union Checklist. An additional twenty-six 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

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

• Birds known to nest on or near the refuge

\* Probable or irregular breeder on or near refuge

*Italics indicate threatened/ endangered species*

“(A)” = accidental/casual in AOU area

“(I)” = introduced into AOU area

## Relative Abundance

Relative abundance suggests how frequently you might see or hear a particular bird in its favored habitat.

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

*Geese in flight*



## SWANS - GEESE - DUCKS

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Snow Goose _____	o		o	
___ Brant (Atlantic) _____	o	r	u	r
___ • Canada Goose _____	a	a	a	o
___ • Mute Swan (I) _____	o	o	o	o
___ • Wood Duck _____	o	o	o	
___ Gadwall _____	o	r	o	
___ American Wigeon _____	o		o	r
___ • American Black Duck _____	a	u	a	r
___ • Mallard _____	c	u	c	c
___ *Blue-winged Teal _____	o	o	o	o
___ Northern Shoveler _____	o		r	
___ Northern Pintail _____	o		u	c
___ *Green-winged Teal _____	u	o	c	
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	o		o	r
___ Greater Scaup _____	r		o	
___ King Eider _____	r		r	r
___ • Common Eider _____	c	u	u	a
___ Harlequin Duck _____				r
___ Surf Scoter _____	o	r	u	c
___ White-winged Scoter _____	u	r	u	c
___ Black Scoter _____	o	r	u	c
___ Long-tailed Duck _____	u		o	o
___ Bufflehead _____	c		c	c
___ Common Goldeneye _____	u		u	c



*Ruffed grouse*

	Sp	S	F	W
Barrow's Goldeneye _____	r		r	r
*Hooded Merganser _____	o	o	o	o
Common Merganser _____	o	r	o	o
Red-breasted Merganser _____	c	o	a	c

### GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

* Ring-necked Pheasant (I) _____	r	r	r	r
* Ruffed Grouse _____	o	o	o	o
* Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	u

### LOONS

Red-throated Loon _____	o	r	u	u
Common Loon _____	c	o	c	c

### GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe _____	o	o	o	
Horned Grebe _____	o	r	o	u
Red-necked Grebe _____	o	r	o	u

### SHEARWATERS

Cory's Shearwater _____		r	r	
Great Shearwater _____		r	r	
Sooty Shearwater _____		r	r	
Manx Shearwater _____		r	r	

### STORM-PETRELS

Wilson's Storm-Petrel _____		o	r	
Leach's Storm-Petrel _____		r	r	

### BOOBIES - GANNETS

Northern Gannet _____	u	o	u	o
-----------------------	---	---	---	---

### CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	a	c	r
Great Cormorant _____	o		o	u

### BITTERNS - HERONS - EGRETS

American Bittern _____	o	o	o	
Great Blue Heron _____	c	a	c	o
Great Egret _____	u	a	c	

Snowy Egret _____	c	a	c	
Little Blue Heron _____	o	o	o	
Tricolored Heron _____	r	o	r	
* Green Heron _____	u	c	o	

* Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	o	c	u	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	r	r	r	

### IBISES

Glossy Ibis _____	o	u	r	
-------------------	---	---	---	--

### NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture _____	o	u	c	r
----------------------	---	---	---	---

### OSPREY - HAWKS - EAGLES

* Osprey _____	u	c	u	
Bald Eagle _____	o	o	o	o
Northern Harrier _____	o	o	u	o
* Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	o	o	u	o
* Cooper's Hawk _____	u	o	u	u
* Northern Goshawk _____	o	o	o	o
* Red-shouldered Hawk _____	o	o	o	r
* Broad-winged Hawk _____	o	o	o	
* Red-tailed Hawk _____	u	c	u	u
Rough-legged Hawk _____	r		r	o



*Kestrel*

### FALCONS

* American Kestrel _____	o	o	o	
Merlin _____	o	o	u	r
Peregrine Falcon _____	o	o	o	r

### RAILS

Virginia Rail _____		o	o	
Sora _____		r	o	
American Coot _____	r		r	

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>PLOVERS</b>				
___ Black-bellied Plover _____	u	c	a	
___ American Golden-Plover _____	r	o	o	
___ Semipalmated Plover _____	u	a	c	
• Piping Plover _____	o	u	o	
• Killdeer _____	u	c	u	r
<b>OYSTERCATCHERS</b>				
___ • American Oystercatcher _____	o	o		
<b>SANDPIPERS - PHALAROPES</b>				
___ • Spotted Sandpiper _____	o	u	o	
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	o	o	o	
___ Greater Yellowlegs _____	u	c	c	
• Willet (Eastern) _____	c	c	o	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	u	u	c	
___ Upland Sandpiper _____		r		
___ Whimbrel _____	r	u	o	
___ Hudsonian Godwit _____		o	o	
___ Marbled Godwit _____		o	o	
___ Ruddy Turnstone _____	o	u	o	r
___ Red Knot _____	o	o	o	
___ Sanderling _____	o	u	u	r
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	u	a	c	
___ Western Sandpiper _____		o	o	
___ Least Sandpiper _____	u	a	c	
___ White-rumped Sandpiper _____		u	u	
___ Baird's Sandpiper _____		r	o	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper _____	o	o	u	
___ Purple Sandpiper _____	r		r	r
___ Dunlin _____	o	r	c	r
___ Stilt Sandpiper _____		o	o	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper _____		r	r	
___ Ruff _____	r	r	r	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____	u	a	c	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher _____		o	o	



Killdeer

	Sp	S	F	W
___ * Wilson's Snipe _____	o	r	o	r
• American Woodcock _____	o	o	o	r
___ Wilson's Phalarope _____	o	o	o	
___ Red-necked Phalarope _____	r	r	r	
<b>GULLS - TERNS</b>				
___ Black-legged Kittiwake _____	r		r	r
___ Bonaparte's Gull _____	o	u	u	r
___ Little Gull _____		o	o	
___ Laughing Gull _____	o	o	o	
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	a	c	a	a
___ Herring Gull _____	a	a	a	a
___ Iceland Gull _____	o		r	o
___ Glaucous Gull _____	r			r
___ Great Blacked backed Gull _____	a	a	a	a
• Least Tern _____	o	c		
___ Black Tern _____	r	o	r	
___ Roseate Tern _____	o	o		
• Common Tern _____	u	c	u	
___ Arctic Tern _____	o	o		
___ Forster's Tern _____	r	r	o	
<b>SQUAS - JAEGRS</b>				
___ Parasitic Jaeger _____		r	r	
<b>AUKS - PUFFINS</b>				
___ Dovekie _____				r
___ Common Murre _____				r
___ Thick-billed Murre _____				r
___ Razorbill _____	r			r
___ Black Guillemot _____	r			r
<b>PIGEONS - DOVES</b>				
___ • Rock Pigeon (I) _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Mourning Dove _____	a	a	a	c
<b>CUCKOOS - ANIS</b>				
___ • Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	r	r	o	
___ • Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o	u	o	
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>				
___ • Great Horned Owl _____	u	u	u	u
___ Snowy Owl _____	r		r	r
• Barred Owl _____	u	u	u	u
___ Long-eared Owl _____	r			r
___ Short-eared Owl _____	r		r	o
___ * Northern Saw-whet Owl _____	o	o	u	o

## NIGHTJARS

\_\_\_ Common Nighthawk \_\_\_\_\_ r o o  
 \_\_\_ • Whip-poor-will \_\_\_\_\_ r o

## SWIFTS

\_\_\_ Chimney Swift \_\_\_\_\_ o u r

## HUMMINGBIRDS

\_\_\_ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird \_\_\_ o u u

## KINGFISHERS

\_\_\_ • Belted Kingfisher \_\_\_\_\_ u c c r

## WOODPECKERS

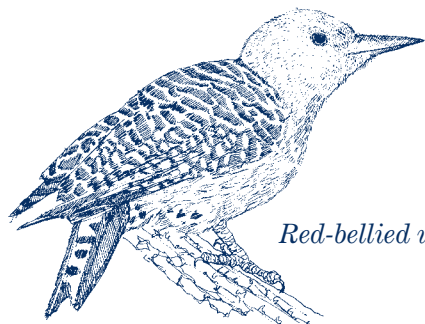
\_\_\_ • Red-bellied Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ o o o u  
 \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker \_\_\_\_\_ o r u r  
 \_\_\_ • Downy Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ a c a a  
 \_\_\_ • Hairy Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ u u u u  
 \_\_\_ • Northern Flicker \_\_\_\_\_ u c c r  
 \_\_\_ • Pileated Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ u o o o

## TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

\_\_\_ Olive-sided Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ o o  
 \_\_\_ • Eastern Wood-pewee \_\_\_\_\_ o c r  
 \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ r r r  
 \_\_\_ • Alder Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ o u r  
 \_\_\_ • Willow Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ u u r  
 \_\_\_ \* Least Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ u u o  
 \_\_\_ • Eastern Phoebe \_\_\_\_\_ u c u  
 \_\_\_ • Great-crested Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ u c o  
 \_\_\_ Western Kingbird \_\_\_\_\_ r  
 \_\_\_ • Eastern Kingbird \_\_\_\_\_ u c o

## SHRIKES

\_\_\_ Northern Shrike \_\_\_\_\_ r r o



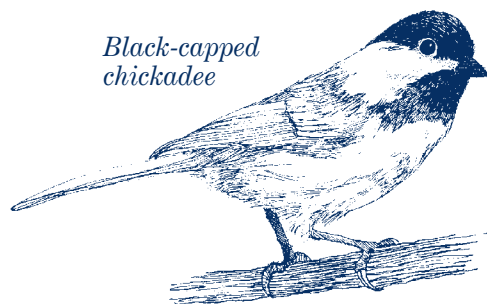
*Red-bellied woodpecker*

## VIREOS

\_\_\_ Yellow-throated Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ r r  
 \_\_\_ • Blue-headed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ u u u  
 \_\_\_ Warbling Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ r o  
 \_\_\_ Philadelphia Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ r o  
 \_\_\_ • Red-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ o c c

## CROWS - JAYS

\_\_\_ • Blue Jay \_\_\_\_\_ a a a a



*Black-capped chickadee*

\_\_\_ • American Crow \_\_\_\_\_ a a a a  
 \_\_\_ \* Fish Crow \_\_\_\_\_ o o o  
 \_\_\_ \* Common Raven \_\_\_\_\_ o o o u

## LARKS

\_\_\_ • Horned Lark \_\_\_\_\_ o o u

## SWALLOWS

\_\_\_ • Purple Martin \_\_\_\_\_ o o  
 \_\_\_ • Tree Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ u a c  
 \_\_\_ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ o u  
 \_\_\_ • Bank Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ o u o  
 \_\_\_ • Cliff Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ o o  
 \_\_\_ • Barn Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ o c u

## CHICKADEES - TITMICE

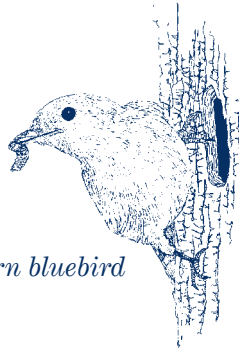
\_\_\_ • Black-capped Chickadee \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c  
 \_\_\_ • Tufted Titmouse \_\_\_\_\_ u u u u

## NUTHATCHES

\_\_\_ • Red-breasted Nuthatch \_\_\_\_\_ c o u c  
 \_\_\_ • White-breasted Nuthatch \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c

## CREEPERS

\_\_\_ • Brown Creeper \_\_\_\_\_ u o u o



*Eastern bluebird*

### WRENS

- \_\_\_ • Carolina Wren \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • House Wren \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ \* Winter Wren \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Marsh Wren \_\_\_\_\_

### KINGLETS

- \_\_\_ \* Golden-crowned Kinglet \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Ruby-crowned Kinglet \_\_\_\_\_

### GNATCATCHERS

- \_\_\_ \* Blue-gray Gnatcatcher \_\_\_\_\_

### THRUSHES

- \_\_\_ • Eastern Bluebird \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Veery \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Swainson's Thrush \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Hermit Thrush \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Wood Thrush \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • American Robin \_\_\_\_\_

### MOCKINGBIRDS - THRASHERS

- \_\_\_ • Gray Catbird \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Northern Mockingbird \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Brown Thrasher \_\_\_\_\_



*American robin  
feeding young*

Sp	S	F	W
o	u	u	o
o	u	o	
o	o	o	
o	o	o	
o	r	c	o
o	r	u	r
r	r	r	
o	u	u	o
o	u	o	
o		o	
u	u	u	r
o	u	r	
c	a	a	u
c	a	c	r
u	c	u	o
u	u	o	

### STARLINGS

- \_\_\_ • European Starling (I) \_\_\_\_\_

### PIPIT

- \_\_\_ American Pipit \_\_\_\_\_

### WAXWINGS

- \_\_\_ Bohemian Waxwing \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Cedar Waxwing \_\_\_\_\_

### WOOD WARBLERS

- \_\_\_ \* Blue-winged Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Tennessee Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Orange-crowned Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Nashville Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Northern Parula \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Yellow Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Chestnut-sided Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Magnolia Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Cape May Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ \* Black-throated Blue Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ \* Yellow-rumped Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Black-throated Green Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ \* Blackburnian Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Pine Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ \* Prairie Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Palm Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Bay-breasted Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Blackpoll Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Black-and-White Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • American Redstart \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Ovenbird \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Northern Waterthrush \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ \* Louisiana Waterthrush \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Mourning Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Common Yellowthroat \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Wilson's Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Canada Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Yellow-breasted Chat \_\_\_\_\_

### SPARROWS - TOWHEES

- \_\_\_ • Eastern Towhee \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ American Tree Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Chipping Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Clay-colored Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ • Field Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Vesper Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_

Sp	S	F	W
a	a	a	c
o		u	r
r			r
o	a	c	u
r	r	r	
o		o	
		o	r
u	u	u	
u	o	u	
u	a	o	
o	u	u	
u	u	u	
o		o	
u	o	u	o
c	u	a	
c	c	u	
o	o	u	
u	c	u	
o	o	o	
u		u	
o		o	
u		u	
u	c	u	
u	c	u	
o	c	o	
o	o	r	
r	r		
r	r	r	
u	a	c	
o	r	u	
o	o	o	
		r	r
u	c	u	r
o		u	c
u	c	c	
		o	
o	o	u	
r	r	o	

	Sp	S	F	W
• Savannah Sparrow _____	u	c	u	r
• Nelson's Sparrow _____	o	c	o	
• Saltmarsh Sparrow _____	o	c	r	
Seaside Sparrow _____		r		
Fox Sparrow _____	o		o	r
• Song Sparrow _____	c	a	c	u
Lincoln's Sparrow _____	o		u	
• Swamp Sparrow _____	o	u	u	r
• White-throated Sparrow _____	u	o	c	o
White-crowned Sparrow _____	o		u	r
* Dark-eyed Junco _____	c	o	c	a
Lapland Longspur _____	o		o	r
Snow Bunting _____	u		u	o

### CARDINALS - GROSBEAKS - ALLIES

• Scarlet Tanager _____	o	u	o	
• Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
• Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u	u	o	
• Indigo Bunting _____	o	u	o	
Dickcissel _____			o	r

### BLACKBIRDS - ORIOLES

• Bobolink _____	u	c	o	
• Red-winged Blackbird _____	a	a	c	r
• Eastern Meadowlark _____	o	o	o	r
Rusty Blackbird _____	o	r	o	
• Common Grackle _____	a	a	c	r



*Red-winged blackbird*



*American goldfinch*

	Sp	S	F	W
• Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	r
* Orchard Oriole _____	r	o		
• Baltimore Oriole _____	o	u	o	

### FINCHES

• Pine Grosbeak _____	r		r	r
• Purple Finch _____	u	u	c	o
• House Finch _____	c	a	a	u
* Red Crossbill _____	r	r	r	r
* White-winged Crossbill _____	r	r	r	r
Common Redpoll _____	r		r	r
* Pine Siskin _____	o	r	o	o
• American Goldfinch _____	c	a	a	c
• Evening Grosbeak _____	o	o	o	o

### OLD WORLD SPARROWS

• House Sparrow (I) _____	a	a	a	c
---------------------------	---	---	---	---

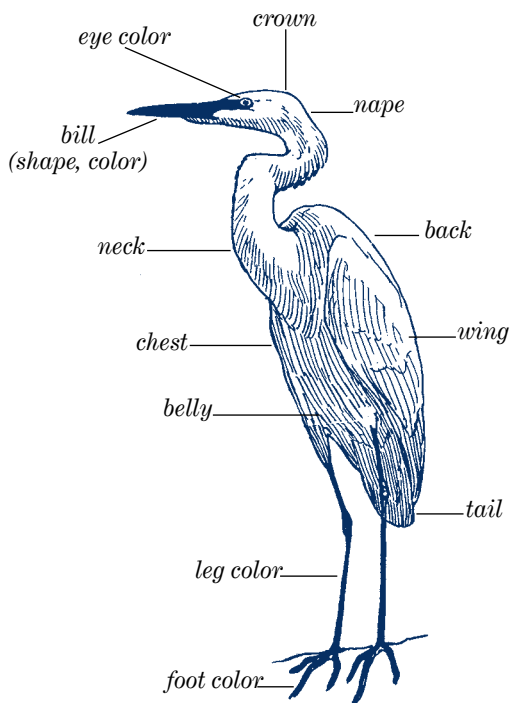
## ACCIDENTALS

These additional 26 species are considered accidentals:

Tundra Swan	White-winged Tern (A)
Canvasback	Royal Tern
Ruddy Duck	Black Skimmer
Northern Bobwhite	Great Gray Owl
Cattle Egret	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Clapper Rail	Gray Jay
Common Moorhen	Cave Swallow
Pacific Golden-Plover	Boreal Chickadee
American Avocet	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Curlew Sandpiper	Bicknell's Thrush
Black-headed Gull	Worm-eating Warbler
Sooty Tern	Summer Tanager
Caspian Tern	Hoary Redpoll

## 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.



## NOTES

Location \_\_\_\_\_

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

Observers \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_