



Swallow-tailed Kites are often seen above the canopy, their forked tails being a dead giveaway. They catch their food in midair and eat it while flying.

Photo by Don Wuori



The most obvious trait of the White Ibis is its long curving bill. Juveniles can be entirely brown or have a mixture of brown and white on them.

Photo by Mark Eden



Yellow-billed Cuckoos stay high in the canopy, one of their favorite foods is caterpillars. Their call is similar to the ticking of a clock speeding up.

Photo by Mark Sittner



Yellow-crowned Night Herons are a medium sized heron. They nest over the water, below the canopy, and their juveniles are brown.

Photo by Aaron Angel

The cover photo is of a male Summer Tanager by Megumi Aita

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Audubon Center and Sanctuary at Francis Beidler Forest



Summer Bird Checklist of Four Holes Swamp

South Carolina Audubon at Francis Beidler Forest manages over 18,000 acres of land for birds. Part of the sanctuary is one of only two remaining virgin forests left in the state, and we are also restoring Longleaf Pine savannahs and grassland habitats to ensure that even more species have protected places to grow and thrive in. Across the state we work to ensure that birds' habitats are protected. We have been designated both an **Important Bird Area** and a **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance**.

Over 80 different species of birds frequent our property during the summer. On average the water is the lowest during this time of year, which makes the region attractive for wading birds like Yellow-crowned Night Herons and White Ibis. Prothonotary Warblers are fledging and putting on weight for their great migration south to Colombia.

See how many of our **summer** species you can locate during your visit!

This list contains birds found in habitats across the sanctuary during the **summer**. While some species confine themselves to the deep swamp, some prefer the swamp edges, some like the second growth forest of the parking area and others frequent the open fields of our grassland-woodland trail.

We've categorized our species based on rarity (as they are seen locally) and preferred habitats.

Explanation of Symbols

- C** - Commonly seen
- U** - Uncommonly seen
- O** - Occasionally seen
- R** - Rarely seen
- V** - Very Rarely seen (maybe only once!)
- ☁** - Skies - Anywhere above
Is especially seen above the canopy
- ☀** - Fields - Grassland-woodland Trail
Wildflower fields, roads, & powerlines
- 🌲** - Pines - Grassland-woodland Trail
Longleaf savannah & loblolly timberland
- 🌳** - Forest - Boardwalk Trail & Parking Lot
Bottomland hardwoods, palmettos, & vine tangles
- 🌿** - Swamp - Boardwalk Trail
Cypress tupelo swamp & streams
- 🌊** - Lake - Boardwalk Trail
On the water, the shore, or canopy above lakes

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) **U** ☀
- ___ Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) **C** ☁ ☀ 🌲 🌳 🌿
- ___ Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) **R** ☀
- ___ Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) **C** ☁ ☀ 🌲 🌳

CARDINALS & ALLIES

- ___ Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) **C** ☀ 🌲
- ___ Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) **C** ☀ 🌲
- ___ Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) **C** ☀ 🌲 🌳 🌿
- ___ Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) **C** ☀ 🌲

CORMORANTS & ANHINGAS

- ___ Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) **U** ☁ 🌊

CRANES & ALLIES

- ___ Limpkin (*Aramus guarana*) **V** 🌳 🌊

CUCKOOS

- ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) **C** 🌲 🌳 🌿

DOVES

- ___ Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) **C** ☀ 🌲

FINCHES & ALLIES

- ___ House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) **U** ☀ 🌲

FLYCATCHERS

- ___ Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*) **C** 🌲 🌳 🌿
- ___ Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) **U** ☀
- ___ Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*) **V** ☀ 🌲 🌳
- ___ Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) **C** 🌲 🌳 🌿
- ___ Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) **V** 🌲 🌳 🌿



Male Blue Grosbeaks have rusty stripes on their wings that stand out against their blue and black feathers, whereas female Blue Grosbeaks are mostly brown.

Photo by Melissa James



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HERONS & IBISES

___ Cattle Egret (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)	R	☀	
___ Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)	C	🌐	🏠🚰
___ Great Egret (<i>Ardea alba</i>)	C	🌐	🏠🚰
___ Green Heron (<i>Butorides virescens</i>)	R		🏠🚰
___ Little Blue Heron (<i>Egretta caerulea</i>)	O		🏠🚰
___ Roseate Spoonbill (<i>Platalea ajaja</i>)	V	🌐	🚰
___ White Ibis (<i>Eudocimus albus</i>)	U	🌐	🏠🚰
___ Wood Stork (<i>Mycteria americana</i>)	U	🌐	🏠🚰
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron (<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>)	C		🏠🚰

HUMMINGBIRDS

___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird (<i>Archilochus colubris</i>)	C	☀	🌐🏠
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JAYS & CROWS

___ American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	C	🌐☀🏠🚰	🏠🚰
___ Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)	U	☀🏠🚰	
___ Fish Crow (<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>)	O	🌐☀🏠🚰	🏠🚰

KINGFISHERS

___ Belted Kingfisher (<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>)	U		🏠🚰
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MIMICS

___ Brown Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>)	O	☀🏠	
___ Northern Mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	U	☀🏠🚰	

NIGHTJARS & SWIFTS

___ Chimney Swift (<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>)	C	🌐☀🏠🚰	🏠🚰
___ Chuck Will's-widow (<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>)	R	☀🏠🚰	

NUTHATCHES & CREEPERS

___ Brown-headed Nuthatch (<i>Sitta pusilla</i>)	U		🏠🚰
___ White-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>)	U		🏠🚰

OWLS

___ Barred Owl (<i>Strix varia</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)	R	☀🏠🚰	

PLOVERS & SANDPIPERS

___ American Woodcock (<i>Scolopax minor</i>)	R	☀🏠🚰	
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RAPTORS & FALCONS

___ American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	R	🌐☀	
___ Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	U	🌐☀	
___ Mississippi Kite (<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>)	C	🌐☀	
___ Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	U	🌐☀	🚰
___ Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>)	C	🌐☀🏠🚰	🏠🚰
___ Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	U	🌐☀	
___ Swallow-tailed Kite (<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>)	U	🌐☀	

SHRIKES

___ Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	R	☀	
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SPARROWS

___ Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella passerina</i>)	C	☀	
___ Eastern Towhee (<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>)	C	☀🌐	

STARLINGS

___ European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	R	🌐	
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SWALLOWS

___ Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	U	🌐☀	
___ Purple Martin (<i>Progne subis</i>)	U	🌐☀	🏠🚰

TANAGERS

___ Summer Tanager (<i>Piranga rubra</i>)	C		🏠🚰
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THRUSHES & ALLIES

___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>)	C		🏠🚰
___ Eastern Bluebird (<i>Sialia sialis</i>)	U	☀🏠🚰	
___ Wood Thrush (<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>)	U		🏠🚰

TITMICE & CHICKADEES

___ Carolina Chickadee (<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Tufted Titmouse (<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰

TURKEY & QUAIL

___ Northern Bobwhite (<i>Colinus virginianus</i>)	R	☀🏠	
___ Wild Turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	O	☀🏠🚰	

VIRES

___ Red-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ White-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo griseus</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Yellow-throated Vireo (<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰

VULTURE

___ Black Vulture (<i>Coragyps atratus</i>)	C	🌐☀	
___ Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	C	🌐☀	

WARBLERS

___ Black & White Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)	U		☀🏠🚰
___ Common Yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)	U		☀🏠🚰🚰
___ Hooded Warbler (<i>Setophaga citrina</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Kentucky Warbler (<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>)	R		☀🏠🚰
___ Louisiana Waterthrush (<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>)	U		🏠🚰
___ Northern Parula (<i>Setophaga americana</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Ovenbird (<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>)	O		☀🏠🚰
___ Pine Warbler (<i>Setophaga pinus</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Prothonotary Warbler (<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>)	C		🏠🚰🚰
___ Swainson's Warbler (<i>Limnithlypis swainsonii</i>)	O		🌐
___ Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>)	R	☀	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler (<i>Setophaga dominica</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰

WATERFOWL

___ Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)	C	🌐	🏠🚰
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WOODPECKERS

___ Downy Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>)	O		☀🏠🚰
___ Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>)	C		☀🏠🚰
___ Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	O		☀🏠🚰

WRENS

___ Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>)	C	☀🏠🚰	
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The Great-crested Flycatcher is a scrappy bird, their warning calls of challenge to each other can be heard commonly in forested areas.

Photo by Gary Rasmussen



This is a male Hooded Warbler. The female does not have any black on her head at all and at first glance may be confused for a female Prothonotary Warbler.

Photo by Adam Brandemuhl



Louisiana Waterthrushes look very similar to Northern Waterthrushes, except they have less streaking and do not habitually bob their tails like Northern's do.

Photo by Darla J. Oathout



Male Painted Buntings are hard to miss, however the females are an olive color and blend into the background very well. Both enjoy our fields and bird feeders.

Photo by Jack Rogers