



Gray Catbirds have black across the top of their head and a dull reddish underneath the tail. They have meow-like calls and like to sing from dense thickets and cover.

Photo by Will Stuart



Pine Siskins have a line of yellow on their wings and tails. They will hang upside down on branches to get access to the seeds inside hanging pinecones.

Photo by Judith Roan



Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers leave their tell-tale sign of horizontal rows of holes encircling live trees. Males have a red throat while female have white.

Photo by Kevin Lash



Yellow-rumped Warblers are known for the yellow patch on their lower back. The females have a brown head compared to the white and black of the males'.

Photo by Jordan West

The cover photo is of a Cedar Waxwing by Cathy Miller

Was this checklist helpful? Please consider donating to Francis Beidler Forest. All of your donation will go towards helping us manage this sanctuary. The QR code to the right will take you to our donation page.



Thank you! **Donate**



Audubon Center and Sanctuary at Francis Beidler Forest



Winter 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 winter. One of our most notable and busy winter residents are Yellow-rumped Warblers, but we also get Winter Wrens and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Winter is an ideal season for viewing woodpeckers, as the trees are bare, and our Barred Owls also don't mind showing off.

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

This list contains birds found in habitats across the sanctuary during the **winter**. 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

 - Commonly seen

 - Uncommonly seen

 - Occasionally seen

 - Rarely seen

 - 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 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Baltimore Oriole (<i>Icterus galbula</i>) |  |  |  |
| ___ Brown-headed Cowbird (<i>Molothrus ater</i>) |  |  | |
| ___ Common Grackle (<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>) |  |  |  |
| ___ Eastern Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella magna</i>) |  |  | |
| ___ Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>) |  |  |  |
| ___ Rusty Blackbird (<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>) |  | |  |
| CARDINALS & ALLIES | | | |
| ___ Northern Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>) |  |  |  |
| CORMORANTS & ANHINGAS | | | |
| ___ Anhinga (<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>) |  |  |  |
| ___ Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>) |  |  |  |
| DOVES | | | |
| ___ Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>) |  |  |  |
| FINCHES & ALLIES | | | |
| ___ American Goldfinch (<i>Spinus tristis</i>) |  |  |  |
| ___ House Finch (<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>) |  |  | |
| ___ Pine Siskin (<i>Spinus pinus</i>) |  |  |  |
| ___ Purple Finch (<i>Haemorhous purpureus</i>) |  |  |  |
| FLYCATCHERS | | | |
| ___ Eastern Phoebe (<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>) |  |  |  |
| GREBES | | | |
| ___ Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>) |  | |  |
| HERONS & IBISES | | | |
| ___ Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>) |  |  |  |
| ___ Great Egret (<i>Ardea alba</i>) |  |  |  |
| ___ White Ibis (<i>Eudocimus albus</i>) |  |  |  |

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 | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

MIMICS

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Brown Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>) | O | | | | | | |
| — Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Northern Mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>) | U | | | | | | |

NUTHATCHES & CREEPERS

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Brown Creeper (<i>Certhia americana</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — 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

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Killdeer (<i>Chadarius vociferus</i>) | R | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

RAPTORS & FALCONS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>) | R | | | | | | |
| — Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Northern Harrier (<i>Circus hudsonius</i>) | R | | | | | | |
| — Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>) | O | | | | | | |

SHRIKES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>) | R | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

SPARROWS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella passerina</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Dark Eyed Junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>) | O | | | | | | |
| — Eastern Towhee (<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Field Sparrow (<i>Spizella pusilla</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>) | O | | | | | | |
| — Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>) | V | | | | | | |
| — Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Swamp Sparrow (<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — White-throated Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>) | C | | | | | | |

STARLINGS

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) | R | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

SWALLOWS

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Purple Martin (<i>Progne subis</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Tree Swallow (<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>) | O | | | | | | |

THRUSHES & ALLIES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Eastern Bluebird (<i>Sialia sialis</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Golden-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus satrapa</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Hermit Thrush (<i>Catharus guttatus</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Ruby-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus calendula</i>) | C | | | | | | |

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 | | | | | | |

VIREOS

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Blue-headed Vireo (<i>Vireo solitarius</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — White-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo griseus</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 | | | | | | |
| — Orange-crowned Warbler (<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>) | U | | | | | | |
| — Palm Warbler (<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>) | O | | | | | | |
| — Pine Warbler (<i>Setophaga pinus</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Yellow-rumped Warbler (<i>Setophaga coronata</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Yellow-throated Warbler (<i>Setophaga dominica</i>) | C | | | | | | |

WATERFOWL

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Hooded Merganser (<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>) | V | | | | | | |
| — Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>) | C | | | | | | |

WAXWINGS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Cedar Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>) | U | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

WOODPECKERS

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Downy Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>) | O | | | | | | |
| — Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Red-bellied Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>) | O | | | | | | |
| — Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>) | C | | | | | | |

WRENS

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| — Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>) | C | | | | | | |
| — House Wren (<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>) | O | | | | | | |
| — Sedge Wren (<i>Cistothorus stellaris</i>) | O | | | | | | |
| — Winter Wren (<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>) | U | | | | | | |



Brown-headed Nuthatches are one of the few birds that will climb down a tree instead of always climbing up. Their call is similar to that of a squeak toy.

Photo by Denise Massie



Eastern Phoebes habitually twitch their tails, which has two well-rounded edges, similar to the top of a heart but upside down. They catch their food in midair.

Photo by Andrea Hedblom



Fox Sparrows are easily distinguished from other sparrows by their red or brown speckles on their chest. They spend most of their time on the ground.

Photo by David Boltz



Golden-crowned Kinglets are named for the yellow feathers on top of their head. They can have a little bit of red or orange in addition to yellow within their “crown.”

Photo by Paul Kusmin



The red crown on these birds are not always visible, an easy way to tell the difference from a Golden-crowned Kinglet is that they don't have a black cap.

Photo by Linda Pizer