

A BIRD Checklist for Carolina Beach State Park 248 taxa

Of the 473 species known from North Carolina, 248 have been recorded at the state park. Of these, 23 species are known to nest within the park. 12 are suspected of nesting. We would appreciate any report of sightings that increase our knowledge of the park's bird life.

Several coastal ecosystems are present in the park. Forests dominated by longleaf pine, turkey oak, and live oak occupy the dry, coarse soil of a series of relict sand dunes. Between the dunes are dense shrub swamps, called pocosins, populated by pond pines, loblolly and sweet bay, yaupon and evergreen shrubs. Brackish marshes consisting primarily of cordgrasses and sedges can be found beyond the relict dunes adjacent to the river.

Carolina Beach State Park is a great place for bird watching. Brown pelicans thrive in the coastal environment, and warblers, sparrows, and woodpeckers fill the woods. In summer, painted buntings, common yellowthroats and prairie warblers can be seen in the forest while ospreys populate Snow's Cut.

Besides providing habitat for resident land birds during the winter and summer, Carolina Beach State Park also is located along an important migration corridor and attracts many birds during their migrations.

**For more information, contact:
Carolina Beach State Park**

**(910) 458-8206
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Notes

BIRD CHECKLIST Carolina Beach State Park



Seasons:

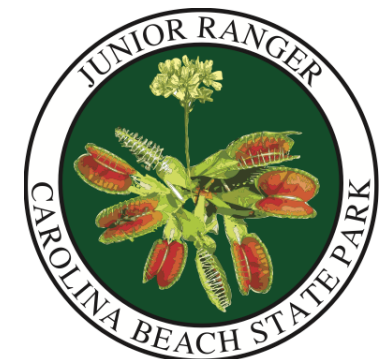
Spring - March to May
Summer - June to August
Fall - September to November
Winter - December to February

A - Abundant, always present in large numbers.
C - Common, almost always present in good numbers in proper habitat.
F - Fairly common, usually present and seen most days in proper habitat.
U - Uncommon, usually present, but not seen most days.
O - Occasional, often present, but not seen most weeks or only in limited area.
R - Rare, not seen most years, or seen only in very low numbers in limited area.
V - Very Rare, usually not present, seen once every five or more years.
I - Irregular, highly variable from year to year.
X - Accidental, not to be expected.
E - Escaped from captivity.
* - Known to breed.
~ - Suspected of breeding.

Web Links

NC Birds Website
<<https://carolinabirdclub.org/ncbirds/index.html>>

Resources



<https://www.ncparks.gov/junior-rangers>

248 BIRD taxa**ANATIDAE: Swans, Geese & Ducks [25]**

__ Snow Goose	- - - -
<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	
__ Brant	- - - -
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	
__ Canada Goose	- - - -
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	
__ Wood Duck	- - - -
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	
__ Blue-winged Teal	- - - -
<i>Spatula discors</i>	
__ Northern Shoveler	- - - -
<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	
__ Gadwall	- - - -
<i>Mareca strepera</i>	
__ American Wigeon	- - - -
<i>Mareca americana</i>	
__ Mallard	- - - -
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
__ American Black Duck	- - - -
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	
__ Northern Pintail	- - - -
<i>Anas acuta</i>	
__ Green-winged Teal	- - - -
<i>Anas crecca</i>	
__ Canvasback	- - - -
<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	
__ Redhead	- - - -
<i>Aythya americana</i>	
__ Ring-necked Duck	- - - -
<i>Aythya collaris</i>	
__ Greater Scaup	- - - -
<i>Aythya marila</i>	
__ Lesser Scaup	- - - -
<i>Aythya affinis</i>	
__ White-winged Scoter	- - - -
<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>	
__ Black Scoter	- - - -
<i>Melanitta americana</i>	
__ Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)	- - - -
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	
__ Bufflehead	- - - -
<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	

ANATIDAE: Swans, Geese & Ducks [25]

__ Common Goldeneye	- - - -
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
__ Hooded Merganser	- - - -
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	
__ Red-breasted Merganser	- - - -
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
__ Ruddy Duck	- - - -
<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	

ODONTOPHORIDAE: Quail [1]

__ Northern Bobwhite	- - - -
<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	

PHASIANIDAE: Grouse [1]

__ Wild Turkey	- - - -
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	

PODICIPEDIDAE: Grebes [3]

__ Pied-billed Grebe	- - - -
<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	
__ Horned Grebe	- - - -
<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	
__ Red-necked Grebe	- - - -
<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	

COLUMBIDAE: Doves [2]

__ Rock Pigeon, Rock Dove	- - - -
<i>Columba livia</i>	
__ *Mourning Dove	C C C F
<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	

CUCULIDAE: Cuckoos, Roadrunner & Anis [1]

__ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	F C F -
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	

CAPRIMULGIDAE: Goatsuckers [3]

__ ~Common Nighthawk	C A F U
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	
__ *Chuck-will's-widow	F A F U
<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>	
__ Eastern whip-poor-will	- - - -
<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>	

APODIDAE: Swifts [1]

__ Chimney Swift	- - - -
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	

TROCHILIDAE: Hummingbirds [2]

__ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	- - - -
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	
__ Rufous Hummingbird	- - - -
<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	

RALLIDAE: Rails [5]

__ Clapper Rail	- - - -
<i>Rallus crepitans</i>	
__ King Rail	- - - -
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	
__ Virginia Rail	- - - -
<i>Rallus limicola</i>	
__ Sora	- - - -
<i>Porzana carolina</i>	
__ American Coot	- - - -
<i>Fulica americana</i>	

HAEMATOPODIDAE: Oystercatchers [1]

__ American Oystercatcher	- - - -
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	

CHARADRIIDAE: Plovers [5]

__ Black-bellied Plover	- - - -
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
__ Wilson's Plover	- - - -
<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	
__ Semipalmated Plover	- - - -
<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	
__ Piping Plover	- - - -
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	
__ Killdeer	- - - -
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	

SCOLOPACIDAE: Sandpipers [18]

__ Whimbrel	- - - -
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
__ Marbled Godwit	- - - -
<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	
__ Ruddy Turnstone	- - - -
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
__ Red Knot	- - - -
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
__ Stilt Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	
__ Sanderling	- - - -
<i>Calidris alba</i>	
__ Dunlin	- - - -
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
__ Least Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	
__ Semipalmated Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	

SCOLOPACIDAE: Sandpipers [18]

__ Western Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Calidris mauri</i>	
__ Short-billed Dowitcher	- - - -
<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	
__ American Woodcock	- - - -
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	
__ Wilson's Snipe	- - - -
<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	
__ Spotted Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Actitis macularia</i>	
__ Solitary Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	
__ Lesser Yellowlegs	- - - -
<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	
__ Willet	- - - -
<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	
__ Greater Yellowlegs	- - - -
<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	

LARIDAE: Gulls & Terns [16]

__ Bonaparte's Gull	- - - -
<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	
__ ~Laughing Gull	C C C C
<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	
__ Ring-billed Gull	- - - -
<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	
__ Herring Gull	- - - -
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
__ Lesser Black-backed Gull	- - - -
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
__ Great Black-backed Gull	- - - -
<i>Larus marinus</i>	
__ Bridled Tern	- - - -
<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	
__ Least Tern	- - - -
<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	
__ Gull-billed Tern	- - - -
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	
__ Caspian Tern	- - - -
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	
__ Black Tern	- - - -
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	
__ Common Tern	- - - -
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	

LARIDAE: Gulls & Terns [16]

__ Forster's Tern	- - - -
<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	
__ Royal Tern	- - - -
<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	
__ Sandwich Tern	- - - -
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	
__ Black Skimmer	- - - -
<i>Rynchops niger</i>	

GAVIIDAE: Loons [2]

__ Red-throated Loon	- - - 0
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	
__ Common Loon	- - - -
<i>Gavia immer</i>	

PROCELLARIIDAE: Shearwaters [1]

__ Great Shearwater	- - - -
<i>Ardenna gravis</i>	

CICONIIDAE: Stork [1]

__ Wood Stork	- - - -
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	

SULIDAE: Boobies [1]

__ Northern Gannet	- - - -
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	

PHALACROCORACIDAE: Cormorants [2]

__ Double-crested Cormorant	- - - -
<i>Nannopterum auritus</i>	
__ Great Cormorant	- - - -
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	

ANHINGIDAE: Anhinga [1]

__ ~Anhinga	- F - -
<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	

PELECANIDAE: Pelicans [2]

__ American White Pelican	- - - V
<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	
__ Brown Pelican	C C C -
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	

ARDEIDAE: Herons [10]

__ American Bittern	- - - -
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	
__ Great Blue Heron	- - - -
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	
__ *Great Egret	C C C -
<i>Ardea alba</i>	
__ Snowy Egret	- - - -
<i>Egretta thula</i>	

ARDEIDAE: Herons [10]

__ Little Blue Heron	- - - -
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	
__ Tricolored Heron	- - - -
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	
__ Cattle Egret	- - - -
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
__ Green Heron	- - - -
<i>Butorides virescens</i>	
__ Black-crowned Night-heron	- - - -
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
__ Yellow-crowned Night-heron	- - - -
<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	

THRESKIORNITHIDAE: Ibis [2]

__ White Ibis	- - - -
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	
__ Glossy Ibis	- - - -
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	

CATHARTIDAE: New World Vultures [2]

__ ~Black Vulture	- - - -
<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	
__ Turkey Vulture	- - - -
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	

PANDIONIDAE: Osprey [1]

__ ~Osprey	- - - -
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	

ACCIPITRIDAE: Eagles, Kites & Hawks [8]

__ Swallow-tailed Kite	V V - -
<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	
__ *Mississippi Kite	- - - -
<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	
__ *Bald Eagle	F C F O
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	
__ Northern Harrier	- - - -
<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	- - - -
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	
__ Cooper's Hawk	- - - -
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	
__ ~Red-shouldered Hawk	- - - -
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	
__ Red-tailed Hawk	- - - -
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	

STRIGIDAE: Owls [3]

__ Eastern Screech-owl	C C C F
<i>Megascops asio</i>	

STRIGIDAE: Owls [3]

__ *Great Horned Owl	- - - -
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	
__ Barred Owl	- - - -
<i>Strix varia</i>	

ALCEDINIDAE: Kingfisher [1]

__ Belted Kingfisher	- - - -
<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	

PICIDAE: Woodpeckers [7]

__ Red-headed Woodpecker	- - - -
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	
__ ~Red-bellied Woodpecker	- - - -
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	
__ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	- - - -
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	
__ Downy Woodpecker	- - - -
<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	
__ Hairy Woodpecker	- - - -
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	
__ Northern Flicker	- - - -
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	
__ *Pileated Woodpecker	- - - -
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	

FALCONIDAE: Falcons [3]

__ American Kestrel	- - - -
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	
__ Merlin	- - - -
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
__ Peregrine Falcon	- - - -
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	

TYRANNIDAE: Flycatchers [7]

__ Eastern Wood-pewee	- - - -
<i>Contopus virens</i>	
__ Acadian Flycatcher	- - - -
<i>Empidonax vireescens</i>	
__ Willow Flycatcher	- - v -
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	
__ Least Flycatcher	- - - -
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	
__ Eastern Phoebe	- - - -
<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	
__ *Great Crested Flycatcher	F A F U
<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	
__ ~Eastern Kingbird	- - - -
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	

LANIIDAE: Shrikes [1]

__ Loggerhead Shrike	- - - -
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	

VIREONIDAE: Vireos [6]

__ *White-eyed Vireo	- - - -
<i>Vireo griseus</i>	
__ Bell's Vireo	- - x -
<i>Vireo bellii</i>	
__ Yellow-throated Vireo	- - - -
<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	
__ Blue-headed (or Solitary) Vireo	- - - -
<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	
__ Philadelphia Vireo	- - v -
<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	
__ *Red-eyed Vireo	- - - -
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	

CORVIDAE: Jays & Crows [3]

__ *Blue Jay	C A C F
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	
__ *American Crow	C A C F
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	
__ ~Fish Crow	C A C F
<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	

HIRUNDINIDAE: Swallows [5]

__ Purple Martin	- - - -
<i>Progne subis</i>	
__ Tree Swallow	- - - -
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	
__ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	- - - -
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	
__ Bank Swallow	- - - -
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
__ Barn Swallow	F A F U
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	

PARIDAE: Chickadees & Titmice [2]

__ Carolina Chickadee	- - - -
<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	
__ *Tufted Titmouse	- - - -
<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	

SITTIDAE: Nuthatches [3]

__ Red-breasted Nuthatch	- - - -
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	
__ White-breasted Nuthatch	- - - -
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	

SITTIDAE: Nuthatches [3]

__ *Brown-headed Nuthatch	F A F U
<i>Sitta pusilla</i>	

CERTHIIDAE: Creeper [1]

__ Brown Creeper	- - - -
<i>Certhia americana</i>	

TROGLODYTIDAE: Wrens [5]

__ House Wren	- - - -
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	
__ Winter Wren	- - - -
<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	
__ Sedge Wren	- - - -
<i>Cistothorus stellaris</i>	
__ Marsh Wren	- - - -
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	
__ *Carolina Wren	- A - -
<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	

POLIOPTILIDAE: Gnatcatchers [1]

__ ~Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	- C - -
<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	

REGULIDAE: Kinglets [2]

__ Golden-crowned Kinglet	- - - -
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	
__ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	- - - -
<i>Corthylio calendula</i>	

TURDIDAE: Thrushes [7]

__ Eastern Bluebird	- - - -
<i>Sialia sialis</i>	
__ Veery	- - - -
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	
__ Gray-cheeked Thrush	- - - -
<i>Catharus minimus</i>	
__ Swainson's Thrush	- - - -
<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	
__ Hermit Thrush	- - - -
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	
__ Wood Thrush	- - - -
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	
__ American Robin	- - - -
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	

MIMIDAE: Mockingbirds & Thrashers [3]

__ *Gray Catbird	- A - -
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	
__ Brown Thrasher	- - - -
<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	

MIMIDAE: Mockingbirds & Thrashers [3]

__ Northern Mockingbird - - - -
Mimus polyglottos

STURNIDAE: Starling [1]

__ European Starling - - - -
Sturnus vulgaris

BOMBYCILLIDAE: Waxwings [1]

__ Cedar Waxwing - - - -
Bombycilla cedrorum

PASSERIDAE: Old World Sparrows [1]

__ House Sparrow - - - -
Passer domesticus

MOTACILLIDAE: Wagtails & Pipits [1]

__ American Pipit - - - -
Anthus rubescens

FRINGILLIDAE: Finches [4]

__ Evening Grosbeak - - - -
Coccothraustes vespertinus

__ House Finch - - - -
Haemorhous mexicanus

__ Purple Finch - - - -
Haemorhous purpureus

__ *American Goldfinch - - - -
Spinus tristis

CALCARIIDAE: Longspurs and Snow Bunting [1]

__ Snow Bunting - - - -
Plectrophenax nivalis

PARULIDAE: Warblers [30]

__ Worm-eating Warbler (Coastal Plain
population)..... - - - -
Helmitheros vermivorum pop. 1

PASSERELLIDAE: [12]

__ Eastern Towhee - - - -
Pipilo erythrophthalmus

__ Chipping Sparrow - - - -
Spizella passerina

__ Field Sparrow - - - -
Spizella pusilla

__ Savannah Sparrow - - - -
Passerculus sandwichensis

__ Grasshopper Sparrow - - - -
Ammodramus savannarum

__ Seaside Sparrow - - - -
Ammodramus maritimus

PASSERELLIDAE: [12]

__ Fox Sparrow - - - -
Passerella iliaca

__ Song Sparrow - - - -
Melospiza melodia

__ Swamp Sparrow - - - -
Melospiza georgiana

__ White-throated Sparrow - - - -
Zonotrichia albicollis

__ White-crowned Sparrow - - - -
Zonotrichia leucophrys

__ Dark-eyed Junco - - - -
Junco hyemalis

ICTERIIDAE: [1]

__ Yellow-breasted Chat - - - -
Icteria virens

ICTERIDAE: Blackbirds & Orioles [10]

__ Yellow-headed Blackbird - - x -
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

__ Bobolink - - - -
Dolichonyx oryzivorus

__ Eastern Meadowlark - - - -
Sturnella magna

__ Orchard Oriole - - - -
Icterus spurius

__ Baltimore Oriole - - - -
Icterus galbula

__ ~Red-winged Blackbird - - - -
Agelaius phoeniceus

__ Brown-headed Cowbird - - - -
Molothrus ater

__ Rusty Blackbird - - - -
Euphagus carolinus

__ Common Grackle - - - -
Quiscalus quiscula

__ Boat-tailed Grackle - - - -
Quiscalus major

PARULIDAE: Warblers [30]

__ Ovenbird - - - -
Seiurus aurocapilla

__ Northern Waterthrush - - - -
Parkesia noveboracensis

__ Golden-winged Warbler - - - -
Vermivora chrysoptera

PARULIDAE: Warblers [30]

__ Blue-winged Warbler - - - -
Vermivora cyanoptera

__ Black-and-white Warbler - - - -
Mniotilta varia

__ *Prothonotary Warbler - c - -
Protonotaria citrea

__ Tennessee Warbler - - - -
Leiothlypis peregrina

__ Orange-crowned Warbler - - - -
Leiothlypis celata

__ Nashville Warbler - - - -
Leiothlypis ruficapilla

__ Kentucky Warbler - - - -
Geothlypis formosa

__ *Common Yellowthroat - c - -
Geothlypis trichas

__ Hooded Warbler - - - -
Setophaga citrina

__ American Redstart - - - -
Setophaga ruticilla

__ Cape May Warbler - - - -
Setophaga tigrina

__ Cerulean Warbler v - - -
Setophaga cerulea

__ Northern Parula - - - -
Setophaga americana

__ Magnolia Warbler - - - -
Setophaga magnolia

__ Bay-breasted Warbler - - - -
Setophaga castanea

__ Blackburnian Warbler - - - -
Setophaga fusca

__ Yellow Warbler - - - -
Setophaga petechia

__ Chestnut-sided Warbler - - - -
Setophaga pensylvanica

__ Blackpoll Warbler - - - -
Setophaga striata

__ Black-throated Blue Warbler - - - -
Setophaga caerulescens

__ Palm Warbler - - - -
Setophaga palmarum

__ *Pine Warbler - a - -
Setophaga pinus

PARULIDAE: Warblers [30]

- Yellow-rumped Warbler - - - -
Setophaga coronata
- *Yellow-throated Warbler - A - -
Setophaga dominica
- Prairie Warbler - - - -
Setophaga discolor
- Black-throated Green Warbler - - - -
Setophaga virens
- Canada Warbler - - - -
Cardellina canadensis

CARDINALIDAE: Grosbeaks & Buntings [8]

- *Summer Tanager O C O U
Piranga rubra
- Scarlet Tanager - - - -
Piranga olivacea
- Western Tanager - - V -
Piranga ludoviciana
- Northern Cardinal - - - -
Cardinalis cardinalis
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak - - - -
Pheucticus ludovicianus
- Blue Grosbeak - - - -
Passerina caerulea
- ~Indigo Bunting O C O U
Passerina cyanea
- *Painted Bunting O F U -
Passerina ciris