

A BIRD Checklist for Fort Fisher State Recreation Area 246 taxa

Of the 473 species known from North Carolina, 246 have been recorded at the state park. Of these, 8 species are known to nest within the park. 16 are suspected of nesting. We would appreciate any report of sightings that increase our knowledge of the park's bird life.

**For more information, contact:
Fort Fisher State Recreation Area**

**(910) 458-5798
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Notes

BIRD CHECKLIST Fort Fisher State Recreation Area



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>

246 BIRD taxa**ANATIDAE: Swans, Geese & Ducks [26]**

___ Snow Goose	- - - -
<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	
___ Brant	- - - X
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	
___ Canada Goose	- - - -
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	
___ Mute Swan	- - - -
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	
___ Tundra Swan	- - R -
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	
___ Blue-winged Teal	- - - -
<i>Spatula discors</i>	
___ Northern Shoveler	- - - -
<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	
___ Gadwall	- - - -
<i>Mareca strepera</i>	
___ Mallard	- - - -
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
___ American Black Duck	- - - -
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	
___ Mottled Duck	- - - -
<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	
___ Green-winged Teal	- - - -
<i>Anas crecca</i>	
___ Redhead	- - - -
<i>Aythya americana</i>	
___ Greater Scaup	- - - -
<i>Aythya marila</i>	
___ Lesser Scaup	- - - -
<i>Aythya affinis</i>	
___ Common Eider	- - V -
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	
___ Harlequin Duck	- - - -
<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	
___ Surf Scoter	- - - -
<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	
___ White-winged Scoter	- - - -
<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>	
___ Black Scoter	- - - -
<i>Melanitta americana</i>	
___ Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)	- - - -
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	

ANATIDAE: Swans, Geese & Ducks [26]

___ Bufflehead	- - - -
<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	
___ 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>	

PODICIPEDIDAE: Grebes [4]

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

COLUMBIDAE: Doves [5]

___ Rock Pigeon, Rock Dove	- - - -
<i>Columba livia</i>	
___ ~Eurasian Collared-dove	- - - -
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
___ Common Ground Dove	- - - -
<i>Columbina passerina</i>	
___ White-winged Dove	- - - -
<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	
___ ~Mourning Dove	- - - -
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	

CUCULIDAE: Cuckoos, Roadrunner & Anis [2]

___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	- - - -
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	- - - -
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	

CAPRIMULGIDAE: Goatsuckers [1]

___ Common Nighthawk	- - - -
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	

TROCHILIDAE: Hummingbirds [1]

___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	- - - -
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	

RALLIDAE: Rails [7]

___ ~Black Rail	- - - -
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	

RALLIDAE: Rails [7]

___ Clapper Rail	- - - -
<i>Rallus crepitans</i>	
___ King Rail	- - - -
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	
___ *Virginia Rail	- - - -
<i>Rallus limicola</i>	
___ Sora	- - - -
<i>Porzana carolina</i>	
___ Purple Gallinule	- - - -
<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	
___ Common Gallinule	- - - -
<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	

GRUIDAE: Cranes [1]

___ Sandhill Crane	- - - -
<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	

RECURVIROSTRIDAE: Stilt & Avocet [1]

___ American Avocet	- - - -
<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	

HAEMATOPODIDAE: Oystercatchers [1]

___ American Oystercatcher	F F V V
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	

CHARADRIIDAE: Plovers [6]

___ Black-bellied Plover	- - - -
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
___ American Golden-plover	- - - -
<i>Pluvialis dominica</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 [24]

___ Whimbrel	- - - -
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
___ Long-billed Curlew	- - - -
<i>Numenius americanus</i>	
___ Hudsonian Godwit	- - - -
<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	
___ Marbled Godwit	- - - -
<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	

SCOLOPACIDAE: Sandpipers [24]

__ Ruddy Turnstone	- - - -
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
__ Red Knot	- - - -
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
__ ~Sanderling	- - - -
<i>Calidris alba</i>	
__ Dunlin	- - - -
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
__ Purple Sandpiper	- - x -
<i>Calidris maritima</i>	
__ Least Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	
__ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	
__ Semipalmated Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	
__ Western Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Calidris mauri</i>	
__ Short-billed Dowitcher	- - - -
<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	
__ Long-billed Dowitcher	- - - -
<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	
__ American Woodcock	- - - -
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	
__ Wilson's Snipe	- - - -
<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	
__ Spotted Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Actitis macularius</i>	
__ Solitary Sandpiper	- - - -
<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	
__ Lesser Yellowlegs	- - - -
<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	
__ *Willet	- - - -
<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	
__ Greater Yellowlegs	- - - -
<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	
__ Wilson's Phalarope	- - v -
<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	
__ Red-necked Phalarope	- - - -
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	
STERCORARIIDAE: Skuas [1]	
__ Parasitic Jaeger	- - - U
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	

ALCIDAE: Auks [2]

__ Dovekie	- - - -
<i>Alle alle</i>	
__ Razorbill	- - - -
<i>Alca torda</i>	

LARIDAE: Gulls & Terns [16]

__ Bonaparte's Gull	- - - -
<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	
__ *Laughing Gull	- - - -
<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>	
__ Glaucous Gull	- - - -
<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	
__ Great Black-backed Gull	- - - -
<i>Larus marinus</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>	
__ 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 [3]	
__ Red-throated Loon	- - - -
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	
__ Pacific Loon	- - - v
<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	
__ Common Loon	- - - -
<i>Gavia immer</i>	

PROCELLARIIDAE: Shearwaters [4]

__ Cory's Shearwater	- - - -
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	
__ Sooty Shearwater	- - - -
<i>Ardeanna grisea</i>	
__ Great Shearwater	- - - -
<i>Ardeanna gravis</i>	
__ Manx Shearwater	- - - -
<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	

HYDROBATIDAE: Storm-Petrels [2]

__ Wilson's Storm-petrel	- - - -
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	
__ Leach's Storm-petrel	- - - -
<i>Hydrobates leucorhous</i>	

FREGATIDAE: Frigatebirds [1]

__ Magnificent Frigatebird	- - - -
<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	

SULIDAE: Boobies [1]

__ Northern Gannet	F I F C
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	

PHALACROCORACIDAE: Cormorants [2]

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

PELECANIDAE: Pelicans [2]

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

ARDEIDAE: Herons [11]

__ American Bittern	- - - -
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	
__ ~Least Bittern	- - - -
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	
__ Great Blue Heron	- - - -
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	
__ Great Egret	- - - -
<i>Ardea alba</i>	
__ Snowy Egret	- - - -
<i>Egretta thula</i>	
__ Little Blue Heron	- - - -
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	
__ ~Tricolored Heron	- - - -
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	

ARDEIDAE: Herons [11]

__ Reddish Egret	- - - V
<i>Egretta rufescens</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 [3]

__ White Ibis	- - - -
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	
__ Glossy Ibis	- - - -
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	
__ Roseate Spoonbill	- - - -
<i>Platalea ajaja</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 [7]

__ Swallow-tailed Kite	- - R -
<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	
__ Bald Eagle	- - - -
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	
__ Northern Harrier	- - C C
<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>	

TYTONIDAE: Barn-owl [1]

__ Barn Owl	- - - -
<i>Tyto alba</i>	

STRIGIDAE: Owls [3]

__ Great Horned Owl	- - - -
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	

STRIGIDAE: Owls [3]

__ Snowy Owl	- - - -
<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	
__ Northern Saw-whet Owl	- - - -
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	

ALCEDINIDAE: Kingfisher [1]

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

PICIDAE: Woodpeckers [7]

__ Red-headed Woodpecker	- - R -
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	
__ Red-bellied Woodpecker	- - O -
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	
__ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	- - R -
<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	V X U U
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
__ Peregrine Falcon	- - - -
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	

TYRANNIDAE: Flycatchers [9]

__ Olive-sided Flycatcher	- - - -
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	
__ Eastern Wood-pewee	- - - -
<i>Contopus virens</i>	
__ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	- - - -
<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	
__ Least Flycatcher	- - - -
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	
__ Eastern Phoebe	- - - -
<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	
__ Great Crested Flycatcher	- - - -
<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	
__ Western Kingbird	- - - -
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	

TYRANNIDAE: Flycatchers [9]

__ Eastern Kingbird	- - - -
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	
__ Gray Kingbird	- - - -
<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</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>	
__ Blue-headed (or Solitary) Vireo	- - - -
<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	
__ Philadelphia Vireo	- - - -
<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	
__ Warbling Vireo	- - X -
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	
__ Red-eyed Vireo	- - - -
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	

CORVIDAE: Jays & Crows [3]

__ Blue Jay	- - - -
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	
__ American Crow	- - - -
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	
__ Fish Crow	- - - -
<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	

HIRUNDINIDAE: Swallows [4]

__ Purple Martin	- - - -
<i>Progne subis</i>	
__ Tree Swallow	- - F -
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	
__ Bank Swallow	- - - -
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
__ Barn Swallow	- - - -
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	

PARIDAE: Chickadees & Titmice [2]

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

POLIOPTILIDAE: Gnatcatchers [1]

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

REGULIDAE: Kinglets [2]

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

TURDIDAE: Thrushes [2]

__ Eastern Bluebird	- - - -
<i>Sialia sialis</i>	
__ American Robin	- - - -
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	

MIMIDAE: Mockingbirds & Thrashers [3]

__ ~Gray Catbird	- - - -
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	
__ Brown Thrasher	- - - -
<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	
__ ~Northern Mockingbird	- - - -
<i>Mimus polyglottus</i>	

STURNIDAE: Starling [1]

__ European Starling	- - - -
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	

BOMBYCILLIDAE: Waxwings [1]

__ Cedar Waxwing	- - - -
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	

PASSERIDAE: Old World Sparrows [1]

__ House Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	

MOTACILLIDAE: Wagtails & Pipits [1]

__ American Pipit	- - - -
<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	

FRINGILLIDAE: Finches [3]

__ House Finch	- - - -
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	

FRINGILLIDAE: Finches [3]

__ Pine Siskin	- - - -
<i>Spinus pinus</i>	
__ ~American Goldfinch	- - - -
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	

CALCARIIDAE: Longspurs and Snow Bunting [3]

__ Lapland Longspur	- - x -
<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	
__ Chestnut-collared Longspur	- - - -
<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	
__ Snow Bunting	- - - -
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	

PASSERELLIDAE: [15]

__ Eastern Towhee	- - - -
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	
__ ~Chipping Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	
__ Clay-colored Sparrow	- - R -
<i>Spizella pallida</i>	
__ Lark Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	
__ Savannah Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	
__ Grasshopper Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	
__ Le Conte's Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	
__ Nelson's Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	
__ Saltmarsh Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i>	
__ Seaside Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>	
__ Song Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	
__ Lincoln's Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	
__ Swamp Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	
__ White-throated Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	
__ White-crowned Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	

ICTERIDAE: Blackbirds & Orioles [4]

__ Eastern Meadowlark	- - - -
<i>Sturnella magna</i>	

PASSERELLIDAE: [15]

__ (Ipswich) Sparrow	- - - -
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis (in part)</i>	

ICTERIDAE: Blackbirds & Orioles [4]

__ ~Red-winged Blackbird	- - - -
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	
__ ~Brown-headed Cowbird	- - - -
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	
__ Common Grackle	- - - -
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	
__ ~Boat-tailed Grackle	- - - -
<i>Quiscalus major</i>	

PARULIDAE: Warblers [19]

__ Ovenbird	- - - -
<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	
__ Black-and-white Warbler	- - - -
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	
__ Prothonotary Warbler	- - - -
<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	
__ Orange-crowned Warbler	- - - v
<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	
__ Nashville Warbler	- - v -
<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>	
__ Connecticut Warbler	- - - -
<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	
__ Common Yellowthroat	- - - -
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	
__ American Redstart	- - - -
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	
__ Cape May Warbler	- - - -
<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>	
__ Northern Parula	- - - -
<i>Setophaga americana</i>	
__ Yellow Warbler	- - - -
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	
__ Chestnut-sided Warbler	- - - -
<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	
__ Blackpoll Warbler	- - - -
<i>Setophaga striata</i>	
__ Black-throated Blue Warbler	- - - -
<i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>	
__ Palm Warbler	- - - -
<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>	
__ Pine Warbler	- - - -
<i>Setophaga pinus</i>	

PARULIDAE: Warblers [19]

- Yellow-rumped Warbler - - - -
Setophaga coronata
- Prairie Warbler - - - v
Setophaga discolor
- Black-throated Green Warbler - - - -
Setophaga virens

CARDINALIDAE: Grosbeaks & Buntings [5]

- ~Northern Cardinal - - - -
Cardinalis cardinalis
- Blue Grosbeak - - - -
Passerina caerulea
- Indigo Bunting - - - -
Passerina cyanea
- ~Painted Bunting - - - -
Passerina ciris
- Dickcissel - - - -
Spiza americana