

## A BIRD Checklist for Fort Fisher State Recreation Area 245 taxa

Of the 473 species known from North Carolina, 245 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  
[fort.fisher@ncparks.gov](mailto:fort.fisher@ncparks.gov)

### 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>](https://carolinabirdclub.org/ncbirds/index.html)

### Resources



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

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

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

**ANATIDAE: Swans, Geese & Ducks [26]**

- Bufflehead ..... - - -
- Bucephala albeola*
- Common Goldeneye ..... - - -
- Bucephala clangula*
- Hooded Merganser ..... - - -
- Lophodytes cucullatus*
- Red-breasted Merganser ..... - - -
- Mergus serrator*
- Ruddy Duck ..... - - -
- Oxyura jamaicensis*
- PODICIPEDIDAE: Grebes [4]**
- Pied-billed Grebe ..... - - -
- Podilymbus podiceps*
- Horned Grebe ..... - - -
- Podiceps auritus*
- Red-necked Grebe ..... - - -
- Podiceps grisegena*
- Eared Grebe ..... - - -
- Podiceps nigricollis*
- COLUMBIDAE: Doves [5]**
- Rock Pigeon, Rock Dove ..... - - -
- Columba livia*
- Eurasian Collared-dove ..... - - -
- Streptopelia decaocto*
- Common Ground Dove ..... - - -
- Columbina passerina*
- White-winged Dove ..... - - -
- Zenaida asiatica*
- Mourning Dove ..... - - -
- Zenaida macroura*
- CUCULIDAE: Cuckoos, Roadrunner & Anis [2]**
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo ..... - - -
- Coccyzus americanus*
- Black-billed Cuckoo ..... - - -
- Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*
- CAPRIMULGIDAE: Goatsuckers [1]**
- Common Nighthawk ..... - - -
- Chordeiles minor*
- TROCHILIDAE: Hummingbirds [1]**
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..... - - -
- Archilochus colubris*
- RALLIDAE: Rails [7]**
- Black Rail ..... - - -
- Laterallus jamaicensis*

**RALLIDAE: Rails [7]**

- Clapper Rail ..... - - -
- Rallus crepitans*
- King Rail ..... - - -
- Rallus elegans*
- \*Virginia Rail ..... - - -
- Rallus limicola*
- Sora ..... - - -
- Porzana carolina*
- Purple Gallinule ..... - - -
- Porphyrio martinicus*
- Common Gallinule ..... - - -
- Gallinula galeata*
- GRUIDAE: Cranes [1]**
- Sandhill Crane ..... - - -
- Antigone canadensis*
- RECURVIROSTRIDAE: Stilt & Avocet [1]**
- American Avocet ..... - - -
- Recurvirostra americana*
- HAEMATOPODIDAE: Oystercatchers [1]**
- American Oystercatcher ..... F F V V
- Haematopus palliatus*
- CHARADRIIDAE: Plovers [6]**
- Black-bellied Plover ..... - - -
- Pluvialis squatarola*
- American Golden-plover ..... - - -
- Pluvialis dominica*
- Wilson's Plover ..... - - -
- Charadrius wilsonia*
- Semipalmated Plover ..... - - -
- Charadrius semipalmatus*
- Piping Plover ..... - - -
- Charadrius melanotos*
- Killdeer ..... - - -
- Charadrius vociferus*
- SCOLOPACIDAE: Sandpipers [24]**
- Whimbrel ..... - - -
- Numenius phaeopus*
- Long-billed Curlew ..... - - -
- Numenius americanus*
- Hudsonian Godwit ..... - - -
- Limosa haemastica*
- Marbled Godwit ..... - - -
- Limosa fedoa*

**SCOLOPACIDAE: Sandpipers [24]**

- Ruddy Turnstone ..... - - -
- Arenaria interpres*
- Red Knot ..... - - -
- Calidris canutus*
- ~Sanderling ..... - - -
- Calidris alba*
- Dunlin ..... - - -
- Calidris alpina*
- Purple Sandpiper ..... - - x -
- Calidris maritima*
- Least Sandpiper ..... - - -
- Calidris minutilla*
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper ..... - - -
- Calidris subruficollis*
- Semipalmated Sandpiper ..... - - -
- Calidris pusilla*
- Western Sandpiper ..... - - -
- Calidris mauri*
- Short-billed Dowitcher ..... - - -
- Limnodromus griseus*
- Long-billed Dowitcher ..... - - -
- Limnodromus scolopaceus*
- American Woodcock ..... - - -
- Scolopax minor*
- Wilson's Snipe ..... - - -
- Gallinago delicata*
- Spotted Sandpiper ..... - - -
- Actitis macularius*
- Solitary Sandpiper ..... - - -
- Tringa solitaria*
- Lesser Yellowlegs ..... - - -
- Tringa flavipes*
- \*Willet ..... - - -
- Tringa semipalmata*
- Greater Yellowlegs ..... - - -
- Tringa melanoleuca*
- Wilson's Phalarope ..... - - v -
- Phalaropus tricolor*
- Red-necked Phalarope ..... - - -
- Phalaropus lobatus*

**STERCORARIIDAE: Skuas [1]**

- Parasitic Jaeger ..... - - - u
- Stercorarius parasiticus*

**ALCIDAE: Auks [2]**

- Dovekie ..... - - -
  - Alle alle*
  - Razorbill ..... - - -
  - Razorbill*
  - Alca torda
- LARIDAE: Gulls & Terns [16]**
- Bonaparte's Gull ..... - - -
  - Chroicocephalus philadelphia*
  - \*Laughing Gull ..... - - -
  - Leucophaeus atricilla*
  - Ring-billed Gull ..... - - -
  - Larus delawarensis*
  - Herring Gull ..... - - -
  - Larus argentatus*
  - Lesser Black-backed Gull ..... - - -
  - Larus fuscus*
  - Glaucous Gull ..... - - -
  - Larus hyperboreus*
  - Great Black-backed Gull ..... - - -
  - Larus marinus*
  - ~Least Tern ..... - - -
  - Sternula antillarum*
  - Gull-billed Tern ..... - - -
  - Gelochelidon nilotica*
  - Caspian Tern ..... - - -
  - Hydroprogne caspia*
  - Black Tern ..... - - -
  - Chlidonias niger*
  - \*Common Tern ..... - - -
  - Sterna hirundo*
  - Forster's Tern ..... - - -
  - Sterna forsteri*
  - Royal Tern ..... - - -
  - Thalasseus maximus*
  - Sandwich Tern ..... - - -
  - Thalasseus sandvicensis*
  - \*Black Skimmer ..... - - -
  - Rynchops niger*
- GAVIIDAE: Loons [3]**
- Red-throated Loon ..... - - -
  - Gavia stellata*
  - Pacific Loon ..... - - - v
  - Gavia pacifica*
  - Common Loon ..... - - -
  - Gavia immer*

**PROCELLARIIDAE: Shearwaters [4]**

- Cory's Shearwater ..... - - -
  - Calonectris diomedea*
  - Sooty Shearwater ..... - - -
  - Ardenna grisea*
  - Great Shearwater ..... - - -
  - Ardenna gravis*
  - Manx Shearwater ..... - - -
  - Puffinus puffinus*
- HYDROBATIDAE: Storm-Petrels [2]**
- Wilson's Storm-petrel ..... - - -
  - Oceanites oceanicus*
  - Leach's Storm-petrel ..... - - -
  - Hydrobates leucorhous*
- FREGATIDAE: Frigatebirds [1]**
- Magnificent Frigatebird ..... - - -
  - Fregata magnificens*
- SULIDAE: Boobies [1]**
- Northern Gannet ..... F I F C
  - Morus bassanus*
- PHALACROCORACIDAE: Cormorants [2]**
- Double-crested Cormorant ..... A C A A
  - Nannopterum auritus*
  - Great Cormorant ..... - - -
  - Phalacrocorax carbo*
- PELECANIDAE: Pelicans [2]**
- American White Pelican ..... - - -
  - Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*
  - \*Brown Pelican ..... c c c c
  - Pelecanus occidentalis*
- ARDEIDAE: Herons [11]**
- American Bittern ..... - - -
  - Botaurus lentiginosus*
  - ~Least Bittern ..... - - -
  - Ixobrychus exilis*
  - Great Blue Heron ..... - - -
  - Ardea herodias*
  - Great Egret ..... - - -
  - Ardea alba*
  - Snowy Egret ..... - - -
  - Egretta thula*
  - Little Blue Heron ..... - - -
  - Egretta caerulea*
  - ~Tricolored Heron ..... - - -
  - Egretta tricolor*

**ARDEIDAE: Herons [11]**

- Reddish Egret ..... - - - v
- Egretta rufescens*
- Green Heron ..... - - -
- Butorides virescens*
- Black-crowned Night-heron ..... - - -
- Nycticorax nycticorax*
- Yellow-crowned Night-heron ..... - - -
- Nyctanassa violacea*

**THRESKIORNITHIDAE: Ibis [3]**

- White Ibis ..... - - -
- Eudocimus albus*
- Glossy Ibis ..... - - -
- Plegadis falcinellus*
- Roseate Spoonbill ..... - - -
- Platalea ajaja*

**CATHARTIDAE: New World Vultures [2]**

- Black Vulture ..... - - -
- Coragyps atratus*
- Turkey Vulture ..... - - -
- Cathartes aura*

**PANDIONIDAE: Osprey [1]**

- Osprey ..... - - -
- Pandion haliaetus*

**ACCIPITRIDAE: Eagles, Kites & Hawks [7]**

- Swallow-tailed Kite ..... - - R
- Elanoides forficatus*
- Bald Eagle ..... - - -
- Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
- Northern Harrier ..... - - C C
- Circus hudsonius*
- Sharp-shinned Hawk ..... - - -
- Accipiter striatus*
- Cooper's Hawk ..... - - -
- Accipiter cooperii*
- Red-shouldered Hawk ..... - - -
- Buteo lineatus*
- Red-tailed Hawk ..... - - -
- Buteo jamaicensis*

**TYTONIDAE: Barn-owl [1]**

- Barn Owl ..... - - -
- Tyto alba*

**STRIGIDAE: Owls [3]**

- Great Horned Owl ..... - - -
- Bubo virginianus*

**STRIGIDAE: Owls [3]**

- Snowy Owl ..... - - -
- Bubo scandiacus*
- Northern Saw-whet Owl ..... - - -
- Aegolius acadicus*

**ALCEDINIDAE: Kingfisher [1]**

- Belted Kingfisher ..... - - -
- Megaceryle alcyon*

**PICIDAE: Woodpeckers [7]**

- Red-headed Woodpecker ..... - - R
- Melanerpes erythrocephalus*
- Red-bellied Woodpecker ..... - - O
- Melanerpes carolinus*
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ..... - - R
- Sphyrapicus varius*
- Downy Woodpecker ..... - - -
- Dryobates pubescens*
- Hairy Woodpecker ..... - - -
- Picoides villosus*
- Northern Flicker ..... - - -
- Colaptes auratus*
- Pileated Woodpecker ..... - - -
- Dryocopus pileatus*

**FALCONIDAE: Falcons [3]**

- American Kestrel ..... - - -
- Falco sparverius*
- Merlin ..... v x u u
- Falco columbarius*
- Peregrine Falcon ..... - - -
- Falco peregrinus*

**TYRANNIDAE: Flycatchers [9]**

- Olive-sided Flycatcher ..... - - -
- Contopus cooperi*
- Eastern Wood-peewee ..... - - -
- Contopus virens*
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher ..... - - -
- Empidonax flaviventris*
- Least Flycatcher ..... - - -
- Empidonax minimus*
- Eastern Phoebe ..... - - -
- Sayornis phoebe*
- Great Crested Flycatcher ..... - - -
- Myiarchus crinitus*
- Western Kingbird ..... - - -
- Tyrannus verticalis*

**TYRANNIDAE: Flycatchers [9]**

- Eastern Kingbird ..... - - -
- Tyrannus tyrannus*
- Gray Kingbird ..... - - -
- Tyrannus dominicensis*

**LANIIDAE: Shrikes [1]**

- \*Loggerhead Shrike ..... - - -
- Lanius ludovicianus*

**VIREONIDAE: Vireos [6]**

- White-eyed Vireo ..... - - -
- Vireo griseus*
- Bell's Vireo ..... - - X
- Vireo bellii*
- Blue-headed (or Solitary) Vireo ..... - - -
- Vireo solitarius*
- Philadelphia Vireo ..... - - -
- Vireo philadelphicus*
- Warbling Vireo ..... - - X
- Vireo gilvus*
- Red-eyed Vireo ..... - - -
- Vireo olivaceus*

**CORVIDAE: Jays & Crows [3]**

- Blue Jay ..... - - -
- Cyanocitta cristata*
- American Crow ..... - - -
- Corvus brachyrhynchos*
- Fish Crow ..... - - -
- Corvus ossifragus*

**HIRUNDINIDAE: Swallows [3]**

- Purple Martin ..... - - -
- Progne subis*
- Tree Swallow ..... - - F
- Tachycineta bicolor*
- Barn Swallow ..... - - -
- Hirundo rustica*

**PARIDAE: Chickadees & Titmice [2]**

- Carolina Chickadee ..... - - -
- Poecile carolinensis*
- Tufted Titmouse ..... - - -
- Baeolophus bicolor*

**CERTHIIDAE: Creeper [1]**

- Brown Creeper ..... - - -
- Certhia americana*

**TROGLODYTIDAE: Wrens [5]**

- House Wren ..... - - -
- Troglodytes aedon*

**TROGLODYTIDAE: Wrens [5]**

- Winter Wren ..... - - - -
- Troglodytes hiemalis*
- Sedge Wren ..... - - - -
- Cistothorus stellaris*
- Marsh Wren ..... - - - -
- Cistothorus palustris*
- Carolina Wren ..... - - - -
- Thryothorus ludovicianus*

**POLIOPTILIDAE: Gnatcatchers [1]**

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher ..... - - - -
- Polioptila caerulea*

**REGULIDAE: Kinglets [2]**

- Golden-crowned Kinglet ..... - - - -
- Regulus satrapa*
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet ..... - - - -
- Corthylio calendula*

**TURDIDAE: Thrushes [2]**

- Eastern Bluebird ..... - - - -
- Sialia sialis*
- American Robin ..... - - - -
- Turdus migratorius*

**MIMIDAE: Mockingbirds & Thrashers [3]**

- Gray Catbird ..... - - - -
- Dumetella carolinensis*
- Brown Thrasher ..... - - - -
- Toxostoma rufum*
- 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 [3]**

- House Finch ..... - - - -
- Haemorhous mexicanus*

**FRINGILLIDAE: Finches [3]**

- Pine Siskin ..... - - - -
- Spinus pinus*
- ~American Goldfinch ..... - - - -
- Spinus tristis*

**CALCARIIDAE: Longspurs and Snow Bunting [3]**

- Lapland Longspur ..... - - x -
- Calcarius lapponicus*
- Chestnut-collared Longspur ..... - - - -
- Calcarius ornatus*
- Snow Bunting ..... - - - -
- Plectrophenax nivalis*

**PASSERELLIDAE: [15]**

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

**ICTERIDAE: Blackbirds & Orioles [4]**

- Eastern Meadowlark ..... - - - -
- Sturnella magna*

**PASSERELLIDAE: [15]**

- (Ipswich) Sparrow ..... - - - -
- Passerculus sandwichensis (in part)*

**ICTERIDAE: Blackbirds & Orioles [4]**

- ~Red-winged Blackbird ..... - - - -
- Agelaius phoeniceus*
- ~Brown-headed Cowbird ..... - - - -
- Molothrus ater*
- Common Grackle ..... - - - -
- Quiscalus quiscula*
- ~Boat-tailed Grackle ..... - - - -
- Quiscalus major*

**PARULIDAE: Warblers [19]**

- Ovenbird ..... - - - -
- Seiurus aurocapilla*
- Black-and-white Warbler ..... - - - -
- Mniotilla varia*
- Prothonotary Warbler ..... - - - -
- Protonotaria citrea*
- Orange-crowned Warbler ..... - - v -
- Leiothlypis celata*
- Nashville Warbler ..... - - v -
- Leiothlypis ruficapilla*
- Connecticut Warbler ..... - - - -
- Oporornis agilis*
- Common Yellowthroat ..... - - - -
- Geothlypis trichas*
- American Redstart ..... - - - -
- Setophaga ruticilla*
- Cape May Warbler ..... - - - -
- Setophaga tigrina*
- Northern Parula ..... - - - -
- Setophaga americana*
- 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 ..... - - - -
- Setophaga pinus*

**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*