

SEBASTIAN INLET STATE PARK

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Sebastian Inlet State Park is located on the east coast of Florida, on the barrier island south of Melbourne Beach and north of Wabasso Beach. The island was split east to west by the construction of Sebastian Inlet which connects the Atlantic Ocean (on the east) with the Indian River (on the west). The park has a cross-section of biological communities including open water, beach, dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock and mangrove swamp.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This checklist has been made possible by the long-term dedication of Indian River Audubon Society (Brevard Co.) and Pelican Island Audubon Society (Indian River Co.) members, who have spent numerous hours surveying the park.

TAXONOMY

The taxonomy follows *Florida Bird Species, An Annotated List* by W. B. Robertson, Jr., and G. E. Woolfenden, 1992. Horizontal lines separate each family of birds. (E) after the name indicates an established exotic.

SEASONS

General periods in which to expect the various species:

Spring (SP): March, April, May
Summer (SU): June, July, August
Fall (F): September, October, November
Winter (W): December, January, February

CATEGORIES OF ABUNDANCE

These designations apply to the relative abundance of species seen or heard in the appropriate habitat.

C Common: Certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat.

U Uncommon: Usually present in small numbers, observed infrequently, not certain to be seen.

O Occasional: Seen only a few times a season

R Rare: Not to be expected; observed at intervals of 2-5 years.

X Accidental: No regular pattern of Occurrence; may also apply to out-of-Season records of "regular" species.

These categories are only relative, subjective indices of bird abundance. Used in conjunction with habitat categories, they should indicate the relative distribution and abundance of birds within the recreation area. The list is based on actual sightings of birds at Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area or offshore waters and reflects the chances of seeing a particular species.

HABITAT CLASSIFICATION (HAB)

These are general and sometimes broad habitat categories. The letters associated with an individual species of bird are listed according to the likelihood of occurrence from most common to least commonly used habitat types.

A Aerial: Applies to birds most often seen in flight; soaring.

B Beach: Includes beach, sand bars, mud flats, dunes and coastal strand.

D Developed/Disturbed: Areas with facilities, disturbed areas.

H Maritime Hammock: Upland forest dominated by broadleaf trees.

O Open Water: Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway, small ponds, any open water.

S Tidal Swamp: Mangrove areas along Intracoastal Waterway.

SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W	HAB
LOONS					
Red-throated Loon	---	---	---	X	O
Common Loon	U	---	U	U	O
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	U	O	U	U	OS
Horned Grebe	R	---	R	R	O

SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W	HAB
GANNETS					
Northern Gannet	C	---	U	C	O
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	U	---	U	C	O
Brown Pelican	C	C	C	C	O
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	C	O
DARTERS					
Anhinga	C	C	C	C	O
FRIGATEBIRDS					
Magnificent Frigatebird	U	U	U	U	A
HERONS					
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	OSB
Great Egret	C	C	C	C	OS
Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C	OS
Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	OS
Tricolored Heron	C	C	C	C	OS
Reddish Egret	U	U	U	---	OS
Cattle Egret	U	U	U	U	D
Green Heron	C	C	C	C	S
Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C	C	S
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	U	S
IBISES AND SPOONBILLS					
White Ibis	C	C	C	C	OS
Glossy Ibis	R	---	---	R	OS
Roseate Spoonbill	U	C	R	R	OS
STORKS					
Wood Stork	C	C	C	C	OS
AMERICAN VULTURES					
Black Vulture	U	U	U	U	A
Turkey Vulture	U	U	C	C	A
DUCKS					
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	R	---	---	R	O
Wood Duck	R	R	R	R	O
Green-winged Teal	O	---	O	O	O
Mottled Duck	C	C	C	C	O
Northern Pintail	O	---	O	O	O
Blue-winged Teal	O	---	O	O	O
Northern Shoveler	R	---	R	R	O
Gadwall	R	---	R	R	O
American Wigeon	R	---	R	R	O
Canvasback	R	---	R	R	O
Redhead	R	---	R	R	O
Ring-necked Duck	R	---	R	R	O
Greater Scaup	R	---	R	R	O
Lesser Scaup	R	---	R	R	O
Black Scoter	R	---	---	R	O
Surf Scoter	R	---	---	R	O
White-winged Scoter	R	---	---	R	O
Hooded Merganser	R	---	R	O	O
Red-breasted Merganser	U	---	U	C	O

SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W	HAB
HAWKS AND ALLIES					
Osprey	C	C	C	C	OB
Bald Eagle	R	---	R	R	A
Northern Harrier	R	---	R	R	B
Sharp-shinned Hawk	O	---	O	O	H
Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	O	H
Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O	O	O	H
Broad-winged Hawk	R	---	R	R	A
Red-tailed Hawk	O	O	O	O	A
American Kestrel	C	---	C	C	D
Merlin	O	---	O	O	H
Peregrine Falcon	O	---	U	R	B
RAILS					
Clapper Rail	O	O	O	O	S
Sora	O	---	-	-	S
PLOVERS					
Black-bellied Plover	C	U	C	C	B
Wilson's Plover	O	O	O	O	B
Semipalmated Plover	C	U	C	C	B
Piping Plover	---	R	---	---	B
Killdeer	U	U	U	U	DB
OYSTERCATCHERS					
American Oystercatcher	O	O	O	O	B
STILTS					
Black-necked Stilt	---	---	R	---	O
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Greater Yellowlegs	U	R	U	U	B
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U	U	B
Willet	C	C	C	C	B
Spotted Sandpiper	O	---	O	O	B
Whimbrel	R	R	R	---	B
Long-billed Curlew	---	---	R	---	B
Marbled Godwit	O	O	O	R	B
Ruddy Turnstone	C	C	C	C	B
Red Knot	R	---	R	R	B
Sanderling	C	U	C	C	B
Semipalmated Sandpiper	O	U	O	---	B
Western Sandpiper	O	U	O	O	B
Least Sandpiper	O	U	O	O	B
Dunlin	O	R	O	O	B
Short-billed Dowitcher	O	O	O	O	B
GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS					
Laughing Gull	C	C	C	C	BO
Bonaparte's Gull	O	---	---	U	BO
Ring-billed Gull	C	O	U	C	BO
Herring Gull	U	O	U	C	BO
Glaucous Gull	---	---	---	R	BO
Great Black-backed Gull	U	---	O	U	BO
Gull-billed Tern	O	O	O	R	B
Caspian Tern	U	---	O	U	B
Royal Tern	C	C	C	C	B
Sandwich Tern	U	C	C	C	B

Field Checklist to the Birds of Sebastian Inlet State Park

SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W	HAB
Roseate Tern	R	---	R	---	B
Common Tern	O	O	O	R	B
Forster's Tern	U	O	U	C	B
Least Tern	U	C	O	---	B
Black Tern	O	O	O	---	B
Black Skimmer	C	C	C	C	B
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Rock Dove (E)	O	O	O	O	D
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C	DH
Common Ground-Dove	C	C	C	C	D
NEW WORLD CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	R	R	R	R	H
TYPICAL OWLS					
Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U	H
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	H
GOATSUCKERS					
Common Nighthawk	U	---	U	---	A
Chuck-will's-widow	U	U	U	R	H
Whip-poor-will	O	---	O	O	H
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	O	O	R	---	A
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	R	R	R	R	HD
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfishers	C	O	C	C	OS
WOODPECKERS					
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	HD
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	---	O	U	H
Downy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	HD
Northern Flicker	U	U	U	U	HD
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	HD
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS					
Eastern Wood-Pewee	O	---	---	---	H
Eastern Phoebe	U	---	O	U	D
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	O	O	H
Eastern Kingbird	R	R	R	---	D
SWALLOWS					
Purple Martin	O	O	---	---	A
Tree Swallow	O	---	O	C	A
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O	---	O	---	A
Barn Swallow	U	O	U	---	A
JAYS AND CROWS					
Blue Jay	U	U	U	U	HD
American Crow	---	---	---	O	DHB
Fish Crow	C	C	C	C	DHB
WRENS					
Carolina Wren	C	C	U	U	H
House Wren	U	---	U	U	H
MUSCICAPADS					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O	---	O	O	H

SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W	HAB
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	---	U	C	H
Hermit Thrush	O	---	O	O	H
American Robin	U	---	O	C	HDS
MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS AND ALLIES					
Gray Catbird	U	---	C	C	HDS
Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C	DHS
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	U	H
WAXWINGS					
Cedar Waxwing	O	---	O	U	HSD
SHRIKES					
Loggerhead Shrike	O	O	O	O	D
STARLINGS					
European Starling (E)	C	C	C	C	D
VIREOS					
White-eyed Vireo	U	O	U	U	H
Solitary Vireo	O	---	O	O	H
Red-eyed Vireo	O	---	O	---	H
EMBERIZIDS					
WOOD WARBLERS					
Blue-winged Warbler	---	---	R	---	H
Tennessee Warbler	---	---	R	---	H
Orange-crowned Warbler	O	---	O	U	H
Northern Parula	U	R	U	O	H
Yellow Warbler	R	---	---	R	H
Magnolia Warbler	O	---	O	R	H
Cape May Warbler	U	---	U	R	H
Black-throated Blue Warbler	U	---	U	R	H
Yellow-rumped Warbler	U	---	U	C	H
Yellow-throated Warbler	O	---	O	O	H
Pine Warbler	R	---	R	R	H
Prairie Warbler	U	O	U	U	H
Palm Warbler	U	---	U	U	H
Blackpoll Warbler	O	---	O	---	H
Black-and-white Warbler	U	---	U	O	H
American Redstart	U	---	U	R	H
Worm-eating Warbler	O	---	O	---	H
Ovenbird	O	---	O	O	H
Northern Waterthrush	O	---	O	R	SOH
Common Yellowthroat	C	R	C	C	SO
CARDINALS, GROSBEAK AND BUNTINGS					
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	HD
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	O	---	O	---	H
Painted Bunting	O	---	R	O	H
Indigo Bunting	O	---	---	---	H
EMBERIZINES					
Rufous-sided Towhee	C	C	C	C	HDB
Savannah Sparrow	O	---	---	O	BD
White-throated Sparrow	---	---	---	O	HD
White-crowned Sparrow	O	---	---	O	HD
BLACKBIRDS AND ALLIES					
Bobolink	U	---	U	---	HSB
Red-winged Blackbird	U	U	U	U	D

SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W	HAB
Boat-tailed Grackle	---	---	---	O	DS
Common Grackle	---	O	---	---	DH
Brown-headed Cowbird	---	O	---	---	D
Northern Oriole	O	---	O	R	H
CARDUELINE FINCHES AND ALLIES					
Pine Siskin	R	---	---	R	H
American Goldfinch	O	---	---	O	H
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow (E)	C	C	C	C	D

These birds may be seen offshore from Sebastian Inlet:

Sooty Shearwater	Pomarine Jaeger
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Parasitic Jaeger
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Black-legged Kittiwake
White-tailed Tropicbird	Bridled Tern

There are birds that appear on a previous checklist for the area, but have not recently been observed here. Please report any observations of any of these species, as well as, any rare or unlisted birds or those found at times other than indicated in the checklist.

American Black Duck	Black-billed Cuckoo
Mallard	Mangrove Cuckoo
Harlequin Duck	Smooth-billed Ani
Oldsquaw	Horned Lark
Ruddy Duck	Bank Swallow
Northern Bobwhite	Cliff Swallow
Black Rail	Gray-cheeked Thrush
King Rail	Swainson's Thrush
Virginia Rail	Philadelphia Vireo
Common Moorhen	Blackburnian Warbler
Pectoral Sandpiper	Cerulean Warbler
Purple Sandpiper	Prothonotary Warbler
Stilt Sandpiper	Louisiana Waterthrush
Sooty Tern	Le Conte's Sparrow

Area(s) Birded: _____

Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observer(s): _____

Notes: _____



**Florida Department of
Environmental Protection**