

Check List of Birds
Wakulla Springs State Park
Revised March 31, 2003

This is a list of the 175 birds that are observed one or more times per year at Wakulla Springs. Please refer to the key definitions below for seasonal abundance and nesting.

Enjoy your visit!

Key Definitions:

Seasons

- Sp = Spring (March to May)
- Su = Summer (June to August)
- F = Fall (September to November)
- W = Winter (December to February)

Abundance

- A = Abundant: Observed daily or in great numbers
- C = Common: Observed weekly or many times a season
- U = Uncommon: Observed only a few times a season
- R = Rare: Observed once or twice per year

Nesting

- * = Nests within the park.

	<u>Sp</u>	<u>Su</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>
BITTERNs				
__ American Bittern	R	-	R	R
__ Least Bittern	U	U	R	-
BLACKBIRDS and ALLIES				
__ Boat-tailed Grackle	R	R	U	U
__ Brown-headed Cowbird *	C	A	U	C
__ Common Grackle *	C	C	C	A
__ Red-winged Blackbird *	C	C	A	A
__ Rusty Blackbird	R	-	R	U
BLUEBIRDS				
__ Eastern Bluebird *	C	C	U	C
BUNTINGS				
__ Indigo Bunting *	C	-	U	-
CARDINALS				
__ Northern Cardinal *	A	A	A	A
CHICKADEES				
__ Carolina Chickadee *	A	A	A	A
COOTS				
__ American Coot	A	R	A	A
CORMORANTS				
__ Double-crested Cormorant *	A	A	C	C

	<u>Sp</u>	<u>Su</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>
CREEPERS				
__ Brown Creeper	-	-	R	R
CROWS				
__ American Crow *	C	C	C	C
__ Fish Crow *	A	A	A	A
CUCKOOS				
__ Yellow-billed Cuckoo *	A	A	U	-
DARTERS				
__ Anhinga *	A	A	A	A
DOVES				
__ Common Ground-Dove *	U	C	U	U
__ Mourning Dove *	A	A	A	A
DUCKs				
__ American Black Duck	R	-	R	R
__ American Wigeon	A	-	C	A
__ Blue-winged Teal	U	-	C	C
__ Bufflehead	R	-	R	R
__ Eurasian Wigeon	R	-	R	R
__ Gadwall	U	-	U	U
__ Greater Scaup	R	-	R	R
__ Green-winged Teal	R	-	U	U
__ Hooded Merganser	U	-	U	C
__ Lesser Scaup	A	-	C	A
__ Mallard	R	-	R	R
__ Northern Pintail	R	-	R	R
__ Northern Shoveler	R	-	R	R
__ Red-breasted Merganser	R	-	-	R
__ Ring-necked Duck	U	-	R	R
__ Wood Duck *	A	A	A	A
EAGLES				
__ Bald Eagle *	U	U	U	U
EGRETS See HERONS				
FINCHES and ALLIES				
__ American Goldfinch	U	-	U	C
__ Pine Siskinldfinch	R	-	R	R
__ Purple Finch	R	-	-	R
FLYCATCHERS				
__ Acadian Flycatcher *	C	C	-	-
__ Eastern Kingbird	U	U	-	-
__ Eastern Phoebe	C		C	A
__ Eastern Wood-Pewee *	C	C	U	-
__ Great Crested Flycatcher *	A	A	R	-
GALLINULES				
__ Common Moorhen *	A	A	A	A
__ Purple Gallinule *	C	A	U	-

	<u>Sp</u>	<u>Su</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>
GNATCATCHERS				
__ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	C	A	C	U
GOATSUCKERS				
__ Chuck-will's-widow *	C	A	-	-
__ Common Nighthawk	C	A	-	-
__ Whip-poor-will	R	-	R	U
GREBES				
__ Horned Grebe	R	-	R	R
__ Pied-billed Grebe *	A	A	A	A
GROSBEAKS				
__ Blue Grosbeak *	R	-	-	-
__ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	-	U	-
GULLS				
__ Laughing Gull	U	U	U	U
__ Ring-billed Gull	U	-	R	C
HAWKS and ALLIES				
__ American Kestrel	R	-	R	U
__ Broad-winged Hawk *	C	C	R	-
__ Cooper's Hawk	R	R	R	R
__ Merlin	R	-	R	R
__ Northern Harrier	R	-	R	R
__ Osprey *	A	A	C	R
__ Peregrine Falcon	R	-	R	R
__ Red-shouldered Hawk *	C	A	C	C
__ Red-tailed Hawk *	C	C	C	U
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	-	C	C
HERONS				
__ Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	U
__ Cattle Egret *	U	C	U	-
__ Great Blue Heron *	C	C	C	C
__ Great Egret *	C	C	C	C
__ Green Heron *	A	A	C	U
__ Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	U
__ Snowy Egret *	C	C	C	C
__ Tricolor Heron	C	C	C	C
__ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	A	A	C	C
HUMMINGBIRDS				
__ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	C	A	-	-
IBISES				
__ White Ibis	U	C	C	C
JAYS				
__ Blue Jay *	A	A	A	A
KINGFISHERS				
__ Belted Kingfisher	U	U	A	C

	<u>Sp</u>	<u>Su</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>
KINGLETS				
__ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	-	U	C
__ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	-	C	A
KITES				
__ American Swallow-tailed Kite *	U	C	-	-
__ Mississippi Kite *	U	C	-	-
LIMPKINS				
__ Limpkin	R	R	R	R
MARTINS				
__ Purple Martin	U	C	U	R
NUTHATCHES				
__ Brown-headed Nuthatch *	C	C	C	U
__ Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	R	R
__ White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	R	R
ORIOLES				
__ Orchard Oriole	U	U	R	-
OWLS				
__ Barn Owl	R	R	R	R
__ Barred Owl *	A	A	A	A
__ Eastern Screech-Owl *	C	C	C	A
__ Great Horned Owl *	C	C	C	A
PELICANS				
__ Brown Pelican	-	-	R	R
PLOVERS				
__ Killdeer	U	R	U	U
QUAIL				
__ Northern Bobwhite *	U	U	U	U
RAILS				
__ Sora	R	-	R	U
ROBINS				
__ American Robin	C	-	A	A
SANDPIPERS and ALLIES				
__ American Woodcock	U	R	U	U
__ Common Snipe	R	-	R	R
__ Solitary Sandpiper	R	-	R	-
__ Spotted Sandpiper	A	-	U	U
SHRIKES				
__ Loggerhead Shrike	U	U	U	U
SPARROWS				
__ Chipping Sparrow	C	-	A	A
__ Field Sparrow	C	-	C	C
__ Fox Sparrow	R	-	R	R
__ House Sparrow	R	R	R	R
__ Song Sparrow	U	-	U	C
__ Swamp Sparrow	U	-	U	C
__ White-throated Sparrow	C	-	A	A

	Sp	Su	F	W
STARLINGS				
__ European Starling*	C	A	U	C
STORKS				
__ Wood Stork	R	R	R	R
SWALLOWS				
__ Bank Swallow	R	-	R	-
__ Barn Swallow	C	U	C	-
__ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	-	U	-
__ Tree Swallow	C	-	U	C
SWIFTS				
__ Chimney Swift	C	A	U	-
TANAGERS				
__ Scarlet Tanager	U	-	U	-
__ Summer Tanager *	C	C	U	-
TERNs				
__ Forster's Tern	U	U	C	C
THRASHERS and ALLIES				
__ Brown Thrasher*	C	A	C	U
__ Gray Catbird	C	-	C	A
__ Northern Mockingbird *	A	A	A	A
THRUSHES				
__ Gray-cheeked Thrush	U	-	U	-
__ Hermit Thrush	C	-	U	A
__ Swainson's Thrush	C	-	C	-
__ Wood Thrush	U	U	U	U
TITMICE				
__ Tufted Titmouse*	A	A	A	A
TOWHEES				
__ Dark-eyed Junco	U	-	C	C
__ Eastern Towhee *	A	A	A	A
TURKEYS				
__ Wild Turkey *	A	A	A	A
VEERIES				
__ Veery	U	-	U	-
VIREOS				
__ Red-eyed Vireo *	C	A	C	-
__ Solitary Vireo	U	-	U	C
__ White-eyed Vireo *	C	A	C	C
__ Yellow-throated Vireo *	U	U	-	U
VULTURES				
__ Black Vulture	A	A	A	A
__ Turkey Vulture	A	A	A	A
WARBLERS				
__ American Redstart	C	R	C	-
__ Black-and-white Warbler	C	-	C	C

	Sp	Su	F	W
__ Blue-winged Warbler	-	R	R	-
__ Cerulean Warbler	R	-	R	-
__ Blue-winged Warbler	-	R	R	-
__ Cerulean Warbler	R	-	R	-
__ Chestnut-sided Warbler	R	-	R	-
__ Common Yellowthroat *	U	U	U	U
__ Golden-winged Warbler	R	-	R	-
__ Hooded Warbler *	U	A	U	-
__ Kentucky Warbler*	R	R	R	-
__ Louisiana Waterthrush	R	R	R	-
__ Magnolia Warbler	C	-	U	-
__ Northern Parula*	A	A	C	-
__ Northern Waterthrush	U	-	U	-
__ Orange-crowned Warbler	U	-	U	C
__ Ovenbird	U	-	U	R
__ Palm Warbler	C	-	C	U
__ Pine Warbler *	A	A	A	A
__ Prairie Warbler	U	-	U	U
__ Prothonotary Warbler *	A	A	U	-
__ Tennessee Warbler	U	-	U	-
__ Wilson's warbler	R	-	R	-
__ Worm-eating Warbler	U	-	U	-
__ Yellow-rumped Warbler	A	-	A	A
__ Yellow-throated Warbler *	C	C	C	C
WAXWINGS				
__ Cedar Waxwing	C	-	U	A
WOODPECKERS and ALLIES				
__ Downy Woodpecker *	A	A	A	A
__ Hairy Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U
__ Northern Flicker	C	U	C	C
__ Pileated Woodpecker *	A	A	A	A
__ Red-bellied Woodpecker *	A	A	A	A
__ Red-headed Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U
__ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	-	C	C
WRENS				
__ Carolina Wren*	A	A	A	A
__ House Wren	C	-	C	A
__ Sedge Wren	U	-	U	R
__ Winter Wren	R	-	-	U

Wakulla Springs has been a birding Mecca for decades. The following birds are no longer found here because of extinction, drastic range reduction, or changes in migration patterns:

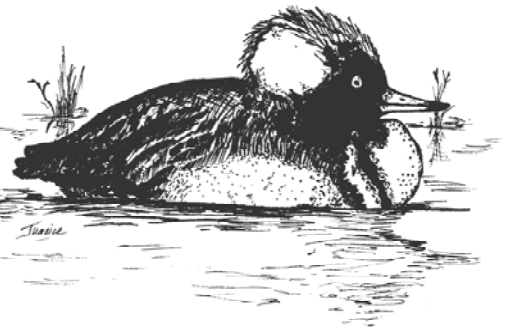
- *Canada Goose*: Not recorded since the 1950's
- *Snail Kite*: Wakulla Springs was named as the westernmost limit of the Snail Kite in Florida in 1932.
- *Ivory-billed Woodpecker*: Now believed by many to be extinct in the U.S., sightings were reported as late as 1918 at Wakulla.
- *Carolina Parakeet*: Extinct in Florida after 1920, correspondence mentions parakeets along the Wakulla River as late as 1838.

Limpkin ... Gone Forever?

At one time the limpkin was abundant here, but lately this brown and white spangled bird has been scarce. Its departure is directly related to the disappearance of the apple snail, the limpkin's main source of food. Like the limpkin, apple snails were once abundant along the river, but are now nearly gone.

Many believe that *Hydrilla*, a non-native invasive aquatic weed is to blame. First found in the river and spring in 1997, this fast growing weed had virtually taken over the river, crowding out native plants and wildlife. Or maybe apple snails are gone because of previous river flooding. Apple snails only live about one year. They lay their eggs above the water line to prevent embryos from drowning. But high flood waters may have drowned an entire breeding season of eggs.

Whatever the reason, until the apple snails return, the lonesome call of the limpkin will be sorely missed.



Artwork donated by Juanice Johnson



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Birds of the Wakulla Springs State Park