

BIRDS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SANDHILLS

The Carolina Sandhills is an area about 120 miles long and 40 miles wide extending from the vicinity of Lillington, NC in the northeast to near Columbia, SC in the southwest. In North Carolina it includes part of or all of Cumberland, Lee, Harnett, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties.

The habitat is varied with many streams bordered by boggy shrub dominated areas. Upland areas are dominated by longleaf pines with a wiregrass ground cover. Weymouth Woods, and nearby Ft. Bragg, provide excellent examples of Sandhills' habitats.

This checklist covers 226 regularly occurring species with 66 additional species that have been recorded at least once. They are considered accidental. Thus the total species recorded is 292. Seasonal distribution represents a compromise and should be used as a general guideline.

Abundance:

C - Common, certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat.

F - Fairly common, present but may not be seen or heard.

U - Uncommon, seen only a few times during a season.

R - Rare, seen less than once a year.

I - Irregular, variable from year to year.

A - Reported only one or two times.

Status:

* - Known to breed.

+ - Probable breeder.

Federally Endangered in **Bold**.

Seasons:

Spring - March to May

Summer - June and July

Fall - August to November

Winter - December to February

Loons/Grebes

	SP	SU	FA	W
___ Common Loon.....	U	R	U	F
___ Pied-billed Grebe+.....	F	R	F	C
___ Horned Grebe.....	U		U	U

Cormorants/Anhinga

___ Anhinga.....	R	R	R	
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	F	R	U	U

Bitterns/Herons/Ibis

___ American Bittern.....	R		R	A
___ Least Bittern*.....	R			
___ Great Blue Heron+.....	F	F	F	F
___ Great Egret.....	U	U	U	A
___ Snowy Egret.....	R	R	R	
___ Little Blue Heron.....	R	R	R	
___ Cattle Egret.....	U	U	U	
___ Green Heron*.....	F	C	F	A
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron.....	R	A	A	

Swans/Ducks/Geese

___ Tundra Swan.....	A		A	R
___ Mute Swan*.....	R	R	R	R
___ Snow Goose.....	A		A	R
___ Canada Goose*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Wood Duck*.....	F	F	F	F

	SP	SU	FA	W
___ Green-winged Teal.....	U		U	U
___ American Black Duck.....	U		U	U
___ Mallard*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Northern Pintail.....	R		U	U
___ Blue-winged Teal.....	U		U	R
___ Northern Shoveler.....	R		U	U
___ Gadwall.....	R		U	F
___ American Wigeon.....	U		U	U
___ Canvasback.....	R		U	U
___ Redhead.....	R		R	R
___ Ring-necked Duck.....	C	A	C	C
___ Greater Scaup.....	R		R	R
___ Lesser Scaup.....	U		U	U
___ Long-tailed Duck.....				R
___ Common Goldeneye.....	A		A	R
___ Bufflehead.....	F		F	C
___ Hooded Merganser.....	F		F	F
___ Common Merganser.....	R		A	R
___ Red-breasted Merganser.....	U		U	R
___ Ruddy Duck.....	F	A	F	C

Vulture/Hawks/Eagles

___ Black Vulture*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Turkey Vulture*.....	C	C	C	U
___ Osprey.....	F	R	U	R
___ Mississippi Kite*.....	U	U	R	
___ Bald Eagle+.....	U	R	U	U
___ Northern Harrier.....	U	A	U	F
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk*.....	U	U	F	F
___ Coopers Hawk*.....	U	U	F	F
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Broad-winged Hawk*.....	U	U	R	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*.....	C	C	C	C
___ American Kestrel*.....	F	U	F	F
___ Merlin.....	R		A	U
___ Peregrine Falcon.....	A		R	A

Quail/Grouse/Turkey

___ Wild Turkey*.....	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Bobwhite*.....	U	U	U	U

Rails/Coots

___ Sora.....	R		R	A
___ American Coot.....	C	R	C	C

Plovers

___ Black-bellied Plover.....	R		R	
___ Lesser-Golden Plover.....	A		R	
___ Semipalmated Plover.....	U	A	U	
___ Killdeer*.....	C	C	C	C

Sandpipers/Phalaropes

___ Greater Yellowlegs.....	U	R	U	R
___ Lesser Yellowlegs.....	U	R	U	R
___ Solitary Sandpiper.....	F	R	F	
___ Spotted Sandpiper.....	F	R	R	R
___ Upland Sandpiper.....	A	A	R	
___ Sanderling.....	A		A	A
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	A	A	U	
___ Least Sandpiper.....	U	R	F	R
___ Pectoral Sandpiper.....	R	R	U	A
___ Stilt Sandpiper.....		A	R	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....			R	
___ Common Snipe.....	U	A	U	U
___ American Woodcock.....	U	U	U	U

Gulls/Terns

___ Bonaparte's Gull.....	R		U	U
___ Ringed-billed Gull.....	U		F	F
___ Herring Gull.....	R		R	R
___ Caspian Tern.....	U	A	R	
___ Common Tern.....	R	R	R	
___ Black Tern.....	R	R	U	

Pigeons/Doves

___ Rock Dove*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Mourning Dove*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Eurasian Collared Dove*.....	U	U	U	U

Cuckoos

___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*.....	F	F	F	
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Owls/Goatsucker's

___ Eastern Screech Owl*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Great Horned Owl*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Barred Owl*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Common Nighthawk*.....	F	F	F	
___ Chuck-wills-widow*.....	C	C	F	
___ Whip-poor-will*.....	C	C	F	A

Swifts/Hummingbirds

___ Chimney Swift*.....	C	C	C	
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*.....	C	C	C	A
___ Rufous Hummingbird*.....			R	R

Kingfisher/Woodpeckers

___ Belted Kingfisher*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*.....	C	C	F	F
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	U		F	F
___ Downy Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Hairy Woodpecker*.....	U	U	U	U
___ Red-cockaded Woodpecker*	F	F	F	F
___ Northern Flicker*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Pileated Woodpecker*.....	F	F	F	F

Flycatchers

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	A		R	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*.....	R	R	R	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*.....	C	C	C	
___ Acadian Flycatcher*.....	C	C	C	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....			R	
___ Eastern Phoebe*.....	F	U	F	F
___ Great-crested Flycatcher*.....	C	C	C	
___ Western Kingbird.....			R	A
___ Eastern Kingbird*.....	F	C	F	

Larks/Swallows

___ Horned Lark*.....	U	U	U	U
___ Purple Martin*.....	F	F	U	
___ Tree Swallow.....	F	R	U	
___ Northern Rough-Winged Swallow*.....	F	F	U	
___ Bank Swallow.....	U	R	U	
___ Cliff Swallow.....	U	A	A	
___ Barn Swallow*.....	C	C	F	

Jays/Crows

SP SU FA W

___ Blue Jay*.....	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Fish Crow*.....	C	C	C	R

Titmice/Nuthatches

___ Carolina Chickadee*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Tufted Titmouse*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	I		I	I
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch*.....	C	C	C	C

Creepers/Wrens/Kinglets

___ Brown Creeper.....	U		U	U
___ Carolina Wren*.....	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren*.....	U	R	U	U
___ Winter Wren.....	U		U	F
___ Marsh Wren.....	R			
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	F		F	C
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C		C	C
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*.....	C	C	C	A

Thrushes/Thrashers

___ Eastern Bluebird*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Veery.....	U		U	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	U		U	
___ Swainson’s Thrush.....	U		F	
___ Hermit Thrush.....	F		F	C
___ Bicknell’s Thrush.....			R	
___ Wood Thrush*.....	C	C	F	
___ American Robin*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Gray Catbird*.....	C	C	F	U
___ Northern Mockingbird*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Brown Thrasher*.....	C	C	C	U

Waxwings/Pipits

___ American Pipit.....	U		R	F
___ Cedar Waxwing+.....	F	U	F	F

Shrikes/Starlings

___ Loggerhead Shrike*.....	F	F	F	F
___ European Starling*.....	C	C	C	C

Vireos

___ White-eyed Vireo*.....	C	C	F	R
___ Blue-headed Vireo*.....	F	U	F	U
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*.....	F	F	F	
___ Warbling Vireo.....	R		R	
___ Philadelphia Vireo.....	A		R	
___ Red-eyed Vireo*.....	C	C	C	

Warblers

___ Blue-winged Warbler.....	U		U	
___ Golden-winged Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Tennessee Warbler.....	R		U	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....	A		R	R
___ Nashville Warbler.....			R	
___ Northern Parula*.....	F	F	F	A
___ Yellow Warbler*.....	U	A	U	A
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	R		U	
___ Magnolia Warbler.....	R		F	
___ Cape May Warbler.....	U		U	A
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	SP	SU	FA	W
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	F		F	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	C		C	C

___ Black-throated Green Warbler.....	U		U	
___ Blackburnian Warbler.....	R		U	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*.....	C	C	F	
___ Pine Warbler*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Prairie Warbler*.....	C	C	F	
___ Palm Warbler.....	U		U	U
___ Bay-breasted Warbler.....	U		R	
___ Blackpoll Warbler.....	U		R	
___ Black-and-white Warbler*.....	F	U	F	
___ American Redstart*.....	C	U	F	C
___ Prothonotary Warbler*.....	C	C	F	
___ Worm-eating Warbler*.....	U	R	U	
___ Swainson’s Warbler*.....	U	U		
___ Ovenbird*.....	C	C	F	
___ Northern Waterthrush.....	U		U	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*.....	U	U	R	
___ Kentucky Warbler*.....	U	U	U	
___ Common Yellowthroat*.....	C	C	C	U
___ Hooded Warbler*.....	F	F	F	
___ Wilson’s Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Canada Warbler.....	U		U	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*.....	F	F	U	

Tanagers/Sparrow

___ Summer Tanager*.....	C	C	F	
___ Scarlet Tanager*.....	U	U	U	
___ Northern Cardinal*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	U		U	
___ Blue Grosbeak*.....	C	C	C	A
___ Indigo Bunting*.....	C	C	F	
___ Eastern Towhee*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Bachman’s Sparrow*.....	F	F	U	U
___ Chipping Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	F
___ Field Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Vesper Sparrow.....	R		R	R
___ Lark Sparrow*.....	R	R		
___ Savannah Sparrow.....	C		F	C
___ Grasshopper Sparrow*.....	U	F	U	R
___ Fox Sparrow.....	U		U	F
___ Song Sparrow.....	C	A	C	C
___ Lincoln’s Sparrow.....			R	
___ Swamp Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ White-throated Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ White-crowned Sparrow.....			R	R
___ Dark-eyed Junco.....	C		C	C
___ Lapland Longspur.....	A		A	R

Blackbirds/Finches

___ Bobolink.....	R		R	
___ Red-winged Blackbird*.....	C	C	C	F
___ Eastern Meadowlark*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Rusty Blackbird.....	U		R	U
___ Common Grackle*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*.....	C	C	F	F
___ Orchard Oriole*.....	F	F	U	
___ Baltimore Oriole.....	U		U	R
___ Purple Finch.....	I		I	I
___ House Finch*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Red Crossbill.....	I	I	I	I
___ Pine Siskin.....	I	A	I	I
___ American Goldfinch*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Evening Grosbeak.....	I		I	I
___ House Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	C

ACCIDENTALS

___ Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	F			
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	C			

Storm Petrels

___ Wilson’s Storm Petrel.....				
___ Leach’s Storm Petrel.....				

Bitterns/Herons/Ibis

___ Tricolored Heron.....				
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.....				
___ White Ibis.....				
___ Glossy Ibis.....				

Storks

___ Wood Stork.....				
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Ducks/Geese

___ Brant.....				
___ White-fronted Goose.....				
___ Fulvous Whistling Duck.....				
___ Black Scoter.....				
___ Surf Scoter.....				
___ White-winged Scoter.....				

Hawks/Eagles/Kites

___ Golden Eagle.....				
___ Northern Goshawk.....				
___ Swallow-tailed Kite.....				

Rails/Gallinules

___ Clapper Rail.....				
___ King Rail.....				
___ Purple Gallinule.....				
___ Common Moorhen.....				

Cranes

___ Sandhill Crane.....				
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Avocet

___ American Avocet.....				
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Sandpipers

___ Piping Plover.....				
___ Willet.....				
___ Whimbrel.....				
___ Ruddy Turnstone.....				
___ Red Knot.....				
___ Western Sandpiper.....				
___ White-rumped Sandpiper.....				
___ Baird’s Sandpiper.....				
___ Dunlin.....				
___ Short-billed Dowitcher.....				

Gulls/Terns

___ Laughing Gull.....				
___ Franklin’s Gull.....				
___ Royal Tern.....				
___ Sandwich Tern.....				
___ Forester’s Tern.....				
___ Least Tern.....				
___ Bridled Tern.....				
___ Sooty Tern.....				

Cuckoo

___ Black-billed Cuckoo.....				
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Flycatchers

___ Brown-crested Flycatcher.....				
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Owls

___ Barn Owl.....				
___ Short-eared Owl.....				
___ Northern Saw-Whet Owl.....				

Hummingbirds

___ Black-chinned Hummingbird.....				
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Wrens

___ Sedge Wren.....				
___ Bewick’s Wren.....				

Thrush/Thrashers

___ Sage Thrasher.....				
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Warblers

___ Brewster’s Warbler.....				
___ Mourning Warbler.....				
___ Cerulean Warbler.....				

Tanagers/Sparrows

___ Western Tanager.....				
___ Black-headed Grosbeak.....				
___ Painted Bunting.....				
___ Dickcissel.....				
___ Clay-colored Sparrow.....				
___ Henslow’s Sparrow.....				
___ Le Conte’s Sparrow.....				
___ Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow.....				
___ Snow Bunting.....				

Blackbirds/Oriole

___ Brewer’s Blackbird.....				
___ Bullock’s Oriole.....				

Loons/Grebes

___ Red-necked Grebe.....				
___ Eared Grebe.....				