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1 800/344 WILD

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Chincoteague

*National  
Wildlife Refuge*

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*Birds*



## Introduction



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Refuge System.

The topography of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge consists of wide, sandy beach backed by a series of low dunes which fall away to extensive salt marshes bordering Chincoteague Bay. Some parts of the refuge, particularly the southern end, also contain extensive areas of pine and oak interspersed with ponds and potholes. Over 2600 acres of shallow freshwater moist soil management units were developed to make the refuge more attractive to waterfowl.

Thousands of brant, geese, and ducks winter on the refuge. Shorebirds are an outstanding feature during spring and fall migrations. Large numbers of herons and egrets can usually be found in the moist soil management units from mid-spring to late fall.

Most of the Maryland portion of Assateague Island is managed by the National Park Service whose policies emphasize maintaining natural habitats. Birds found on the Virginia portion of the island may also be observed in Maryland. Because of the freshwater moist soil management units, however, the Virginia portion tends to attract larger numbers of birds.



Snow geese

This brochure lists 324 birds that have been identified on the refuge, and is in accordance with the Sixth American Ornithologists' Union Checklist.

Most birds are migratory, therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

### Season

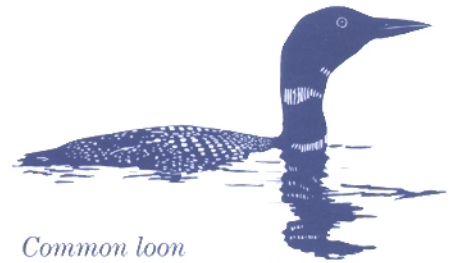
Sp	spring	March – May
Su	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge  
*Italics indicate threatened/endangered species*

### Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a species which is very numerous
c	common	likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
u	uncommon	present, but not certain to be seen
o	occasional	seen only a few times during a season
r	rare	may be present but not every year



Common loon

### COMMON NAME

#### Loons – Grebes

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Red-throated Loon _____	u		u	u
___ Common Loon _____	c	r	c	c
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	c	u	c	c
___ Horned Grebe _____	c		c	c
___ Red-necked Grebe _____	r		r	r
___ Eared Grebe _____			r	

#### Shearwaters – Storm – Petrels

___ Cory's Shearwater _____	r	r	u	
___ Greater Shearwater _____	r	r	u	
___ Sooty Shearwater _____	r	r	u	
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel _____	r	r	u	

**COMMON NAME**      **Sp**   **Su**   **F**   **W**

**Gannet–Pelicans–Cormorants**

___ Northern Gannet _____	r			
___ American White Pelican _____	o	o	o	o
___ Brown Pelican _____	u	c	u	
___ Great Cormorant _____	r		r	r
___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	a	c	a	c

**Bitterns–Herons–Ibises**

___ American Bittern _____	o	o	o	o
• Least Bittern _____	u	c	u	
___ Great Blue Heron _____	c	u	c	c
___ Great Egret _____	c	a	c	u
___ Snowy Egret _____	c	a	a	o
___ Little Blue Heron _____	c	c	c	o
___ Tricolored Heron _____	u	c	c	r
___ Cattle Egret _____	u	u	c	
• Green Heron _____	u	u	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	c	u	u
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	o	u	o	
___ White Ibis _____	r	r	r	
___ Glossy Ibis _____	c	a	c	r

**Swans–Geese–Ducks**

___ Tundra Swan _____	c		c	c
• Mute Swan _____	c	c	c	c
___ Greater White-fronted Goose _____				r
___ Greater Snow Goose _____	c	r	a	a
___ Brant _____	c	r	c	c
• Canada Goose _____	c	c	c	c
• Wood Duck _____	u	u	u	r
___ Green-winged Teal _____	c	r	c	c
• American Black Duck _____	c	c	c	c
• Mallard _____	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Pintail _____	c	r	c	c
• Blue-winged Teal _____	c	u	c	r
___ Northern Shoveler _____	c	o	c	c
• Gadwall _____	c	c	c	c
___ Eurasian Wigeon _____			r	r
___ American Wigeon _____	c	r	c	c
___ Canvasback _____	r		r	r
___ Redhead _____	r		r	r
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	r		u	u
___ Greater Scaup _____	u		u	u
___ Lesser Scaup _____	u		u	u
___ Common Eider _____			r	r
___ Oldsquaw _____	u		u	u
___ Black Scoter _____	u		u	u

**COMMON NAME**      **Sp**   **Su**   **F**   **W**

___ Surf Scoter _____	u		u	u
___ White-winged Scoter _____	u		u	u
___ Common Goldeneye _____	u		u	u
___ Bufflehead _____	c	r	c	c
___ Hooded Merganser _____	u		u	u
___ Common Merganser _____			u	u
___ Red-breasted Merganser _____	c	r	c	c
___ Ruddy Duck _____	u	o	u	u

**Vultures–Hawks–Falcons**

___ Black Vulture _____	o	u	u	o
___ Turkey Vulture _____	u	u	u	u
• Osprey _____	c	c	c	
• <i>Bald Eagle</i> _____	u	o	u	u
• Northern Harrier _____	u	o	u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u		c	u
___ Cooper's Hawk _____	u		u	u
___ Red-shouldered Hawk _____	o		o	o
• Red-tailed Hawk _____	u	o	u	u
___ Rough-legged Hawk _____				r
___ American Kestrel _____	o	r	u	o
___ Merlin _____	o		u	o
• <i>Peregrine Falcon</i> _____	u	u	u	u

**Grouse–Quail–Turkey**

• Northern Bobwhite _____	a	a	a	a
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**Rails–Cranes**

___ Yellow Rail _____				r
___ Black Rail _____	r	r	r	
• Clapper Rail _____	c	c	c	u
___ King Rail _____	u	u	u	u
• Virginia Rail _____	u	u	u	u
___ Sora _____	o		o	
___ Purple Gallinule _____			r	r
___ Common Moorhen _____	r	o	o	
___ American Coot _____	u	r	u	u

**Plovers–Sandpipers**

___ Black-bellied Plover _____	c	c	c	u
___ American Golden-Plover _____	r	o	u	
• Wilson's Plover _____	u	u		
___ Semipalmated Plover _____	a	a	c	
• <i>Piping Plover</i> _____	u	u	u	
• Killdeer _____	u	c	u	o
• American Oystercatcher _____	c	c	c	c
___ Black-necked Stilt _____	r	r	r	

**COMMON NAME**      **Sp**   **Su**   **F**   **W**

___ American Avocet _____	o	o	u	r
___ Greater Yellowlegs _____	u	c	c	u
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	u	c	c	o
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	o	o	o	
___ • Willet _____	c	c	u	r
___ Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	r
___ Upland Sandpiper _____		r	r	
___ Whimbrel _____	c	c	u	r
___ Hudsonian Godwit _____		u	o	
___ Marbled Godwit _____	r	u	o	
___ Ruddy Turnstone _____	a	c	c	u
___ Red Knot _____	c	c	u	r
___ Sanderling _____	a	a	c	c
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	a	a	c	
___ Western Sandpiper _____	r	c	c	o
___ Least Sandpiper _____	a	c	c	o
___ White-rumped Sandpiper _____	c	u	u	
___ Baird's Sandpiper _____	r	r	o	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper _____	r	c	c	r
___ Dunlin _____	a	o	a	a
___ Curlew Sandpiper _____	r	r	r	
___ Stilt Sandpiper _____	o	c	c	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper _____		o	u	
___ Ruff _____	r	r	r	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____	a	a	c	c
___ Long-billed Dowitcher _____	u	r	u	o
___ Common Snipe _____	u	r	u	u
___ • American Woodcock _____	u	u	u	o
___ Wilson's Phalarope _____	r	r	r	
___ Red-necked Phalarope _____	o	r	r	

**Jaegers – Gulls – Terns – Auks**

___ • Laughing Gull _____	a	a	a	r
___ Black-headed Gull _____	r		r	
___ Bonaparte's Gull _____	u		o	u
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	a	c	a	a
___ Herring Gull _____	c	c	a	a
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____			o	
___ Great Black-backed Gull _____	c	c	c	c
___ Gull-billed Tern _____	u	u	o	
___ Caspian Tern _____	o	u	c	
___ Royal Tern _____	c	c	c	r
___ Sandwich Tern _____	r	o	o	
___ Roseate Tern _____		r		
___ • Common Tern _____	c	c	c	o
___ Arctic Tern _____	r			
___ • Forster's Tern _____	c	c	c	r

**COMMON NAME**      **Sp**   **Su**   **F**   **W**

___ • Least Tern _____	c	c		
___ Black Tern _____	r	o	o	
___ • Black Skimmer _____	u	c	c	r

**Doves – Cuckoos – Owls – Swifts – Hummingbirds**

___ Rock Dove _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o	r	o	
___ • Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	c	r
___ • Barn Owl _____	o	o	o	o
___ • Eastern Screech-Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Great Horned Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Owl _____				r
___ Long-eared Owl _____				o
___ Short-eared Owl _____				o
___ Common Nighthawk _____	u	c	u	
___ • Chuck-will's Widow _____	c	c		
___ • Chimney Swift _____	c	c	c	
___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	u	u	u	
___ Belted Kingfisher _____	u	o	c	u

**Woodpeckers – Flycatchers**

___ • Red-headed Woodpecker _____	o	o	o	
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	o	o	u	u
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	o		o	
___ • Downy Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u
___ Hairy Woodpecker _____	o		o	o
___ • Northern Flicker _____	c	c	a	c
___ • Pileated Woodpecker _____	r	r	r	r
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher _____	r			
___ • Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	c	c	c	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	o			
___ • Acadian Flycatcher _____	u	u		
___ Willow Flycatcher _____	u	r		
___ Least Flycatcher _____	r		r	
___ • Eastern Phoebe _____	u	r	c	o
___ • Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	c	
___ Western Kingbird _____				r
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____	a	a	c	

**Larks – Swallows – Jays – Crows**

___ • Horned Lark _____	c	u	c	c
___ Purple Martin _____	c	c		
___ • Tree Swallow _____	a	c	a	o
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____		r	r	
___ Bank Swallow _____	u	o	r	

**COMMON NAME**      **Sp**   **Su**   **F**   **W**

• Barn Swallow	a	a	a	
• Blue Jay	o	o	o	o
• American Crow	c	c	c	c
• Fish Crow	c	c	u	u

**Titmice – Nuthatches – Wrens**

• Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c
Tufted Titmouse			r	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	o	r	o	o
White-breasted Nuthatch			r	r
• Brown-headed Nuthatch	u	u	u	u
Brown Creeper		r	u	u
• Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
• House Wren	c	c	c	r
Winter Wren	u		c	u
Sedge Wren	o		u	u
Marsh Wren	u	u	u	

**Kinglets – Thrushes – Thrashers**

Golden-crowned Kinglet	c	r	c	c
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c	r	c	c
• Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	u	u	u	
• Eastern Bluebird	r	r	r	r
Veery	r		u	
Bicknell's Thrush	o		c	
Swainson's Thrush			c	
Hermit Thrush	u		c	c
Wood Thrush	u		u	
• American Robin	c	c	a	u
• Gray Catbird	c	c	c	u
• Northern Mockingbird	u	u	u	o
• Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	u

**Waxwings – Shrikes – Starlings**

American Pipit	o		o	o
Cedar Waxwing	u	u	c	u
• European Starling	c	c	a	a

**Vireos – Wood Warblers**

• White-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	
Solitary Vireo	r		r	
Yellow-throated Vireo	r			
Warbling Vireo	r			
Philadelphia Vireo	r			
• Red-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	
Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	
Golden-winged Warbler	r		r	

**COMMON NAME**      **Sp**   **Su**   **F**   **W**

Tennessee Warbler			r	
Orange-crowned Warbler			r	r
Nashville Warbler			r	
• Northern Parula	o	r	o	
• Yellow Warbler	c	c	r	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		r	
Magnolia Warbler	u		c	
Cape May Warbler			c	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	o		c	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	a	r	a	a
Black-throated Green Warbler	r	r	r	
Blackburnian Warbler	r	r	r	
Yellow-throated Warbler	u	u		
• Pine Warbler	a	a	a	o
• Prairie Warbler	c	c		
Palm Warbler	o		a	o
Bay-breasted Warbler	r		r	
Blackpoll Warbler	u		u	
Cerulean Warbler	r		r	
Black-and-white Warbler	u	u	c	
American Redstart	u		a	
Prothonotary Warbler	r	r		
Worm-eating Warbler	r		r	
Swainson's Warbler	r		r	
• Ovenbird	u	c	c	
Northern Waterthrush	u	c	c	
Louisiana Waterthrush	r		r	
Kentucky Warbler	r	r		
Connecticut Warbler	r		r	
• Common Yellowthroat	a	a	a	u
Hooded Warbler	r			
Wilson's Warbler				o
Canada Warbler	r	r	r	
• Yellow-breasted Chat	u	u	o	r

**Tanagers – Sparrows**

• Summer Tanager	o	o	r	
Scarlet Tanager	o	r	u	
• Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u	
• Blue Grosbeak	u	o	o	
• Indigo Bunting	u	u	u	
Dickcissel		r	r	
• Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	c
American Tree Sparrow				o
• Chipping Sparrow	c	o	c	

**COMMON NAME**

	Sp	Su	F	W
• Clay-colored Sparrow _____			r	
• Field Sparrow _____	c	c	c	o
Vesper Sparrow _____			o	u
Lark Sparrow _____		r	r	
Savannah Sparrow _____	c	u	c	c
Grasshopper Sparrow _____		r	r	
Henslow's Sparrow _____	r		r	
• Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow _____	o	c	u	u
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow _____				r
• Seaside Sparrow _____	c	c	c	o
Fox Sparrow _____	u		u	u
• Song Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow _____	r		r	
Swamp Sparrow _____	e	r	c	c
White-throated Sparrow _____	e		c	c
White-crowned Sparrow _____	r	o	o	o
Dark-eyed Junco _____	u		c	u
Lapland Longspur _____				o
Snow Bunting _____	o		u	u

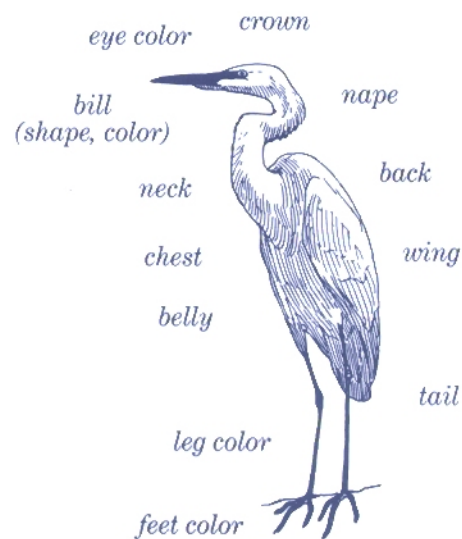
**Blackbirds–Finches**

Bobolink _____	o		u	u
• Red-winged Blackbird _____	a	a	a	a
• Eastern Meadowlark _____	c	c	c	c
Yellow-headed Blackbird _____	r		r	
Rusty Blackbird _____			o	o
• Boat-tailed Grackle _____	c	c	c	c
• Common Grackle _____	c	c	c	c
• Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	u
• Orchard Oriole _____	o	o	o	
Baltimore Oriole _____	o	o	c	
Purple Finch _____	r		o	
• House Finch _____	u	o	u	
Red Crossbill _____	r			r
Common Redpoll _____	r			r
Pine Siskin _____	o		o	o
• American Goldfinch _____	c	c	c	c
Evening Grosbeak _____	r			r

**Tips for Field I.D.**

The identification of birds is greatly aided by simply noting a few key field marks. The diagram opposite top illustrates several of these. In addition, general size, color, habitat, song and behavior help narrow down the options.

Remember, use more than one field mark, as many species are similar and can only be distinguished by using a combination of several marks.


**Accidental Species**

These additional 30 species have been seen only once or twice on the refuge:

White-faced Ibis	Elegant Tern
Ross' Goose	Dovekie
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Atlantic Puffin
Broad-winged Hawk	Common Ground Dove
Swainson's Hawk	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Golden Eagle	Gray Kingbird
Mountain Plover	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Purple Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow
Pomarine Jaeger	Northern Wheatear
Parasitic Jaeger	Northern Shrike
Long-tailed Jaeger	Black-headed Grosbeak
Little Gull	Le Conte's Sparrow
Iceland Gull	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Glaucous Gull	House Sparrow

**Notes**

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Observers \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

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