

White River

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird List



Wood Pewee by Richard E. Hines

White River NWR is one of over 550 refuges in the U.S. The refuge lies in the counties of Arkansas, Desha, Monroe, and Phillips. Within the refuge boundary are 160,000 acres of bottomland forest, upland forest, 300 lakes, natural bayous, and 92 miles of the White River. White River NWR is one of the largest tracts of bottomland hardwood forest remaining in public ownership within the Lower Mississippi River Valley and is designated as part of the Big Woods of Arkansas.

Biologically, the site lies within the Mississippi Alluvial Flood Plain with a small portion of uplands on the Grand Prairie Escarpment. Habitat within the bottomland forests range from back swamps with cypress and tupelo, to low flats of overcup oak, and ridge and swale topography dominated by nuttall oak, willow oak, sugarberry, and pecan. Within the bottoms, elevational changes of only one foot will influence forest composition. The refuge also has representative upland forest habitat and approximately 400 acres of farm land managed for high energy waterfowl foods.

Both current and past management includes forest thinning, moist soil impoundments, green tree reservoirs and cooperative farming. The driving force that determines the results of all habitat management is the annual flooding cycle which typically occurs from December through June when water depths can range from a few inches to more than 15 feet deep over 95% of the refuge.

The refuge provides nesting habitat for dozens of species of neotropical migrant songbirds, water birds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. White River NWR has been designated a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area.

The refuge office/visitor center is located off of Highway 1 in St. Charles.

The following list which follows The American Ornithologists Union 7th Edition Check List contains 273 species of birds observed by refuge personnel and ornithologists since the refuge was established in 1935.

Seasonal Appearance

Sp Spring March-May
S Summer June-August
F Fall September-November
W Winter December-February

Seasonal Abundance

A abundant
(common species - very numerous)
C common
(certain to be seen in suitable habitat)
U uncommon
(present but not certain to be seen)
O occasional
(seen only a few times a season)
R rare
(seen at intervals of two to five years)
R* extremely rare
(reports still unverified)
N not expected or documented during this season



White River National Wildlife Refuge
57 South CC Camp Road
St. Charles, AR 72140

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
September 2007

	SP	S	F	W		SP	S	F	W
Ducks and Geese					Yellow-crowned Night Heron	U	U	U	N
___ Fulvous Whistling duck	R	R	R	N	___ White Ibis	N	U	U	N
___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck	R	R	R	N	___ White-Faced Ibis	U	U	R	N
___ Greater White-Fronted Goose	O	N	A	A	___ Roseate Spoonbill	N	R	R	N
___ Snow Goose (white morph)	C	N	C	A	___ Wood Stork	N	U	O	N
___ Snow Goose (blue morph)	O	N	O	O	___ Turkey Vulture	U	U	U	U
___ Ross's Goose	O	N	C	C	___ Black Vulture	U	U	U	U
___ Cackling Goose	O	N	O	O					
___ Canada Goose	O	O	O	O	Kites, Hawks, Falcons, Eagles				
___ Wood Duck	C	N	C	C	___ Osprey	C	R	C	N
___ Gadwall	C	N	C	A	___ Swallow-tailed Kite	O	O	R	N
___ American Wigeon	C	N	C	A	___ Mississippi Kite	O	C	C	N
___ American Black Duck	O	N	U	U	___ Bald Eagle	U	U	U	U
___ Mallard	A	O	A	A	___ Northern Harrier	C	N	R	C
___ Blue-winged Teal	C	O	C	R	___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O	N	O	O
___ Northern Shoveler	C	N	C	A	___ Coopers Hawk	O	O	O	U
___ Northern Pintail	O	N	U	C	___ Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C
___ Green-winged Teal	C	N	C	C	___ Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C	N
___ Canvasback	O	N	O	O	___ Swainson's Hawk	O	N	O	N
___ Redhead	U	N	R	R	___ Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
___ Ring-necked Duck	O	N	A	A	___ Rough-legged Hawk	O	N	O	O
___ Greater Scaup	O	N	O	O	___ Golden Eagle	O	N	O	O
___ Lesser Scaup	O	N	C	C	___ American Kestrel	C	O	C	C
___ Bufflehead	O	N	O	O	___ Merlin	R	N	R	R
___ Common Goldeneye	O	N	O	O	___ Peregrine Falcon	R	N	R	R
___ Hooded Merganser	U	U	C	C					
___ Common Merganser	R	N	R	O	Rails, Cranes				
___ Red Breasted Merganser	R	N	R	R	___ King Rail	R	R	O	R
___ Ruddy Duck	U	N	R	R	___ Virginia Rail	R	N	R	R
					___ Sora	U	N	U	U
Turkey and Quail					___ Purple Gallinule	R	O	O	N
___ Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	___ Common Moorhen	U	U	R	N
___ Northern Bobwhite	U	U	U	U	___ American Coot	U	R	C	C
					___ Sandhill Crane	R	N	O	N
Loons									
___ Common Loon	O	N	O	O	Shorebirds				
					___ Black Bellied Plover	R	R	R	N
Grebes					___ American Golden Plover	R	R	R	N
___ Pie-billed Grebe	U	N	U	U	___ Semipalmated Plover	R	R	R	N
___ Horned Grebe	U	N	U	U	___ Killdeer	C	C	C	C
___ Eared Grebe	U	N	U	U	___ Black-necked Stilt	R	R	R	N
					___ Greater Yellowlegs	C	C	C	O
Pelican and Anhinga					___ Lesser Yellowlegs	C	O	C	O
___ American White Pelican	O	N	O	U	___ Solitary Sandpiper	R	R	R	N
___ Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	O	___ Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	C	R
___ Anhinga	O	O	O	N	___ Upland Sandpiper	R	R	R	N
					___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	R	R	R	N
Hérons, Bitterns, Egrets, Ibises, Storks, Vultures					___ Western Sandpiper	R	R	R	R
___ American Bittern	U	R	U	R	___ Least Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
___ Least Bittern	O	O	O	N	___ Pectoral Sandpiper	U	U	U	N
___ Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	___ Stilt Sandpiper	R	R	R	N
___ Great Egret	A	A	C	R	___ Shortbilled Dowitcher	R	R	R	N
___ Snowy Egret	C	C	O	N	___ American Avocet	N	N	R	N
___ Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	N	___ Longbilled Dowitcher	O	R	U	O
___ Tri-colored Heron	R	R	R	N	___ Common Snipe	C	O	C	C
___ Cattle Egret	C	C	O	N	___ American Woodcock	O	O	O	U
___ Green Heron	A	A	A	N	___ Wilson's Phalarope	R	R	R	N
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	O	O	O	N					

	SP	S	F	W		SP	S	F	W
Gulls and Terns									
___ Laughing Gull	N	N	N	R	___ Alder Flycatcher	R	R	R	N
___ Franklins Gull	N	R	U	N	___ Willow Flycatcher	R	N	R	N
___ Bonaparte's Gull	U	N	U	U	___ Least Flycatcher	C	N	O	N
___ Ring-billed Gull	C	N	U	C	___ Eastern Phoebe	C	N	O	C
___ Herring Gull	U	N	U	U	___ Great-crested Flycatcher	C	C	O	N
___ Caspian Tern	R	R	R	N	___ Eastern Kingbird	C	U	C	N
___ Least Tern	O	O	R	N	___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	N	O	O	N
___ Forester's Tern	U	R	U	R	___ Loggerhead Shrike	O	O	O	O
					___ White-eyed Vireo	C	A	C	N
					___ Bell's Vireo	O	O	O	N
Doves and Cuckoos					___ Yellow-throated Vireo	U	C	C	N
___ Eurasian Collared-dove	O	O	O	O	___ Warbling Vireo	O	R	O	N
___ White-winged Dove	N	N	R	R	___ Red-eyed Vireo	C	A	C	N
___ Mourning Dove	A	A	A	A					
___ Inca Dove	N	R	N	N	Jay and Crows				
___ Common Ground Dove	N	N	R	N	___ Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
___ Rock Dove	O	O	O	O	___ American Crow	O	R	O	O
					___ Fish Crow	U	U	U	O
Cuckoos									
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	R	N	R	N	Larks				
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	C	C	N	___ Horned Lark	C	U	C	A
Owls					Swallows and Martins				
___ Barn Owl	U	U	U	U	___ Purple Martin	U	C	O	N
___ Eastern Screech Owl	C	C	C	C	___ Tree Swallow	U	C	C	N
___ Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	C	C	N
___ Barred Owl	C	C	C	C	___ Bank Swallow	U	O	C	N
___ Long-eared Owl	R	N	R	R	___ Cliff Swallow	R	R	R	N
___ Short-eared Owl	R	N	O	O	___ Barn Swallow	C	C	C	N
Nighthawks					Chickadee and titmouse				
___ Common Nighthawk	U	U	U	N	___ Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C
___ Chuck-wills-widow	U	U	U	N	___ Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C
___ Whip-poor-will	O	R	O	N					
					Nuthatches and Creeper				
Swift and Hummingbirds					___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	N	N	N	R
___ Chimney Swift	C	A	A	N	___ White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	N	C	C	N	___ Brown Creeper	O	N	O	U
___ Rufous Hummingbird	N	N	R	N					
___ Anna's Hummingbird	N	N	R	N	Wrens				
					___ Carolina Wren	A	A	A	A
Woodpeckers					___ Bewick's Wren	U	N	U	U
___ Red-headed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	___ House Wren	O	N	O	O
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	A	A	A	___ Winter Wren	C	N	C	C
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	N	N	U	C	___ Sedge Wren	O	R	O	R
___ Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	___ Marsh Wren	O	N	O	O
___ Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U					
___ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	Gnatcatchers and Kinglets				
___ Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	N	U	C
___ Ivory-billed Woodpecker	R*	R*	R*	R*	___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	N	C	C
					___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	A	C	N
Kingfisher									
___ Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	C	Thrushes, Mockingbirds, Thrashers and Pipits				
					___ Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C
Flycatchers					___ Veery	R	N	R	N
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	N	___ Gray-Cheeked Thrush	N	N	O	N
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	R	N	R	N	___ Swainson's Thrush	U	N	U	N
___ Acadian Flycatcher	O	A	O	N	___ Hermit Thrush	C	N	U	C

	SP	S	F	W		SP	S	F	W
___ Wood Thrush	U	C	U	N	___ Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	U	U
___ American Robin	C	U	C	A	___ Henslow's Sparrow	R	N	R	N
___ Gray Catbird	O	C	O	R	___ Le Conte's Sparrow	U	N	U	U
___ Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C	___ Fox Sparrow	U	N	U	U
___ Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	C	___ Song Sparrow	C	N	A	A
___ European Starling	A	C	A	A	___ Lincoln's Sparrow	C	N	C	C
___ American Pipit	O	N	C	C	___ Swamp Sparrow	C	N	C	C
___ Sprague's Pipit	O	N	O	O	___ White-throated Sparrow	A	N	A	A
___ Cedar Waxwing	C	N	O	C	___ White Crowned Sparrow	C	N	C	C
					___ Dark-eyed Junco	C	N	C	C
Warblers					___ Lapland Longspur	O	N	O	C
___ Blue-winged Warbler	R	N	R	N	___ Northern Cardinal	A	A	A	A
___ Tennessee Warbler	C	N	C	N	___ Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	U	N	U	N
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	O	N	O	U	___ Blue Grosbeak	O	O	O	N
___ Nashville Warbler	C	O	C	N	___ Indigo Bunting	A	A	C	N
___ Northern Parula	O	C	O	N	___ Painted Bunting	O	O	O	N
___ Yellow Warbler	O	O	O	N	___ Dickcissel	A	A	O	N
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	N	R	N					
___ Magnolia Warbler	O	N	R	N	Blackbirds, Orioles, and Meadowlarks				
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	N	C	A	___ Bobolink	U	N	N	N
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	O	N	O	N	___ Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A	A
___ Blackburnian Warbler	R	N	R	N	___ Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	C	C	C	N	___ Western Meadowlark	N	N	N	R
___ Pine Warbler	O	O	O	U	___ Rusty Blackbird	C	N	C	C
___ Prairie Warbler	O	U	O	N	___ Brewers Blackbird	C	N	C	A
___ Palm Warbler	R	N	R	N	___ Common Grackle	A	A	A	A
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	R	N	R	N	___ Brown-headed Cowbird	A	A	A	A
___ Blackpoll Warbler	R	N	N	N	___ Orchard Oriole	A	A	C	N
___ Cerulean Warbler	U	U	U	N	___ Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	N
___ Black and White Warbler	C	O	C	N					
___ American Redstart	U	O	U	N	Finches and Crossbills				
___ Prothonotary Warbler	C	A	O	N	___ Purple Finch	U	N	R	U
___ Worm-eating Warbler	U	U	U	N	___ House Finch	O	O	O	O
___ Swainson's Warbler	U	U	O	N	___ Red Crossbill	O	N	R	O
___ Ovenbird	C	R	C	N	___ Pine Siskin	O	N	U	U
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	U	U	U	N	___ American Goldfinch	C	R	C	C
___ Kentucky Warbler	C	C	U	N					
___ Connecticut Warbler	R	N	N	N	House Sparrow				
___ Morning Warbler	O	N	R	N	House Sparrow	O	O	O	O
___ Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	N					
___ Hooded Warbler	C	C	U	N	Incidentals				
___ Wilson's Warbler	R	N	R	N	Brown Pelican				
___ Canada Warbler	R	N	R	N	Cinnamon Teal				
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	C	C	C	N	Yellow Rail				
					Black Rail				
Tanagers					Northern Goshawk				
___ Summer Tanager	C	C	O	N	Boat-tailed Grackle				
___ Scarlet Tanager	O	N	R	N	White-winged Scoter				
Sparrows, Towhee, Buntings									
___ Eastern Towhee	C	C	C	C					
___ American Tree Sparrow	N	N	N	R					
___ Chipping Sparrow	C	U	C	U					
___ Clay-Colored Sparrow	R	N	R	N					
___ Field Sparrow	C	U	C	C					
___ Vesper Sparrow	O	N	U	U					
___ Lark Sparrow	R	R	R	N					
___ Savannah Sparrow	C	N	A	A					

Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

Number of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks