

Little River

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds



**Welcome to
Birding at
Little River
National Wildlife
Refuge**

Little River National Wildlife Refuge was established on February 10, 1987 to protect the largest remaining tract of bottomland hardwood forest in the state of Oklahoma. Currently it comprises 15,000 acres. The bottomland hardwood forest on the refuge is dissected by an intricate system of creeks, sloughs and oxbow lakes that creates a dynamic wetland forest environment extremely rich in wildlife abundance and diversity.

The refuge supports a large diversity of bird species that use the wetland forests as a place to nest and forage. The refuge is home to over 191 species of birds that spend all or part of the year here. The most colorful and abundant species present from spring to fall are the neotropical migrant songbirds. These birds utilize the diverse habitats on the refuge as migratory stopover sites and to nest and raise their young. Birders might view or hear the rare Swainson's warbler among the many birds on the refuge. This forest is one of the few known nesting locations in Oklahoma for this secretive songbird that winters in the Carribean. The large cypress trees, found along the sloughs and oxbow lakes, provide nesting habitat for great blue herons and egrets during spring and summer. The refuge also serves as the only Oklahoma destination for viewing nesting anhingas.

The checklist that follows is based on refuge observations and studies reported since 1941. Help us expand our list. If you see an unlisted or rare species during your visit, contact the Refuge Headquarters and provide a description and location of the observed bird. Birds do not recognize traditional calendar seasons, therefore, seasonal designations are intended as general guidelines. The 191 species are listed in accordance

with the 7th edition (1998) A.O.U. checklist and the 45th Supplement (July 2004). Eighty-five species have been documented as nesting on the refuge.



Great Egret with young.

Photograph by Paul W. Bozzo/SDWI.net

How to use your checklist

Symbols used in this list follow:

Occurrence

Sp Spring March - May

S Summer June - July

F Fall August - November

W Winter December - February

* Nesting species
(85 species).

Italics Federally endangered
or threatened species.

Abundance

A Abundant

A very numerous species.

C Common

Likely to be seen or heard in
suitable habitats.

U Uncommon

Present, not certain to be seen.

O Occasional

Seen only a few times during the
season.

R Rare

Unexpected, seen at intervals
of 2 to 5 years.

X Accidental

Fewer than 3 records; vagrants
outside their usual range.

Habitats

a Upland oak-pine forest

b Bottomland swamps oxbows

c Rivers, streams, or shoreline

d Marshes

e Old clear cuts or brush

f Open grasslands or fields

m Migrates overhead

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Ducks, Geese, and Swans					
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	O		O	O	m
___ Snow Goose	O		O	O	m
___ Canada Goose	O		O	O	m
___ Wood Duck*	C	U	C	C	b,c,d
___ Gadwall	U		C	C	b,c,d
___ American Wigeon	U		C	C	b,c,d
___ Mallard	U		C	C	b,c,d
___ Blue-winged Teal	U		U		b,c,d
___ Northern Shoveler	U		U	O	b,c,d
___ Northern Pintail	O		O	O	b,c,d
___ Green-winged Teal	U		U	U	b,c,d
___ Ring-necked Duck	O		O	O	c
___ Lesser Scaup	O		O	O	c
___ Bufflehead	O		O	O	c
___ Common Goldeneye	O		O	O	c
___ Hooded Merganser	U		U	U	b,c,d
___ Ruddy Duck	O		O	O	b,c,d
Turkeys					
___ Wild Turkey*	U	U	U	U	a,b,e,f
New World Quail					
___ Northern Bobwhite*	O	O	O	O	e,f
Grebes					
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	O		O	O	c
Pelicans					
___ American White Pelican	O		O		m



Anhinga, a common sight at Little River NWR.

Photograph by Berlin Heck

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Cormorants					
__Double-crested Cormorant	U		U	U	c
Aningas					
__Anhinga*	O	O	O		b,c,d
Herons, Bitterns, and Egrets					
__American Bittern	R		R		d
__Least Bittern	R		R		d
__Great Blue Heron*	C	C	C	O	b,c,d
__Great Egret*	U	U	U		b,c,d
__Snowy Egret	O	O	O		b,d
__Little Blue Heron*	U	U	U		b,d
__Cattle Egret	U	U	U		b,c,d
__Green Heron	U	U	U		b,d
__Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	O	O	O		b,c,d
Ibis					
__White-faced Ibis	R		R		d
Vultures					
__Black Vulture*	C	C	C	C	a,b,f
__Turkey Vulture*	C	C	C	C	a,b,f
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies					
__Osprey	O		O		c
__Mississippi Kite*	U	U	U		a,b
__Bald Eagle	O		O	O	c,e,f
__Northern Harrier	R		R		d,f
__Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U	a,b
__Cooper's Hawk	U		U	U	a,b
__Red-shouldered Hawk*	C	U	C	C	b
__Broad-winged Hawk	O		O		a
__Swainson's Hawk	O		O		m
__Red-tailed Hawk*	U	U	U	U	a,b
__Golden Eagle	O		O		m
Falcons					
__American Kestrel	O	O	O	O	f
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots					
__Virginia Rail	R		R	O	d
__Sora	R		R		d
__American Coot	O		O	O	b,c,d
Plovers					
__Killdeer*	U	U	U	O	d,f
Sandpipers and Allies					
__Greater Yellowlegs	R		R		d
__Lesser Yellowlegs	R		R		d
__Solitary Sandpiper	R		R		b,c,d
__Spotted Sandpiper	R		R		d
__Least Sandpiper	R		R		d
__American Woodcock*	O	R	O	O	b,d,e,f
Gulls and Terns					
__Franklin's Gull	O		O		m
__Ring-billed Gull	O		O		m

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Pigeons and Doves					
___Mourning Dove*	U	U	U	U	e,f
Cuckoos and Roadrunners					
___Black-billed Cuckoo	O		O		a,b
___Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	C	C	C		a,b
Typical Owls					
___Eastern Screech-Owl*	O	O	O	O	a
___Great Horned Owl*	O	O	O	O	a
___Barred Owl*	C	C	C	C	a,b
Goatsuckers					
___Common Nighthawk*	U	C	U		f
___Chuck-will's-widow*	C	C	C		a,b
Swifts					
___Chimney Swift*	U	U	U		a
Hummingbirds					
___Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	C	C	C		a,b,e
Kingfishers					
___Belted Kingfisher*	O	O	O	O	b,c
Woodpeckers					
___Red-headed Woodpecker*	O	O	O	O	a,b
___Red-bellied Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C	a,b
___Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U	a,b
___Downy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C	a,b
___Hairy Woodpecker*	O	O	O	O	a,b
___Northern Flicker*	C	U	C	C	a,b
___Pileated Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U	a,b
Tyrant Flycatchers					
___Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O		a,b
___Eastern Wood-Pewee*	C	C	C		a,b,c
___Acadian Flycatcher*	C	C	U		b
___Least Flycatcher	O		O		a,b,e
___Eastern Phoebe*	U	O	U	U	a,b,e
___Great Crested Flycatcher*	C	C	C		a,b
___Eastern Kingbird*	C	C	U		a,e
___Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	U	U	U		e,f
Shrikes					
___Loggerhead Shrike	R	R	R	R	f
Vireos					
___White-eyed Vireo*	C	C	U		b,e
___Bell's Vireo*	O	R	O		e
___Blue-headed Vireo	O		O	O	a,b
___Yellow-throated Vireo*	U	U	U		a,b
___Warbling Vireo*	U	U	U		a,b,e
___Philadelphia Vireo	R		R		a,b
___Red-eyed Vireo*	C	C	U		a,b
Crows and Jays					
___Blue Jay*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e
___American Crow*	C	C	C	C	a,e
___Fish Crow*	C	C	C	O	b,c,d

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Swallows					
___ Purple Martin*	U	U	U		f
___ Tree Swallow	U		U		m
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O		O		f
___ Bank Swallow	U		U		m
___ Cliff Swallow	O		O		f
___ Barn Swallow	U		U		f
Chickadees and Titmice					
___ Carolina Chickadee*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e,f
___ Tufted Titmouse*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e,f
Nuthatches					
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	O		O	O	a
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	U	U	U	U	a,b
Creepers					
___ Brown Creeper	U		U	U	a,b
Wrens					
___ Carolina Wren*	C	C	C	U	a,b,e
___ Bewick's Wren	O		O	O	a,b,e
___ House Wren	O		O		a,b,e
___ Winter Wren	U		U	U	b
___ Sedge Wren	R		R	R	d
___ Marsh Wren	R		R	R	d
Kinglets					
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U	a,b,e
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C	a,b,e
Gnatcatchers					
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	C	C	U		a,b,e



Painted Bunting.

Photography by Charles H. Heck.

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Thrushes					
___ Eastern Bluebird*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e
___ Veery	R		R		a,b
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	R		R		a,b
___ Swainson's Thrush	C		U		a,b
___ Hermit Thrush	C		C	C	a,b
___ Wood Thrush*	U	U	U		a,b
___ American Robin*	C	C	U	C	a,b,f
Mockingbirds and Thrashers					
___ Gray Catbird*	U	U	U	R	b,e
___ Northern Mockingbird*	O	O	O	O	e,f
___ Brown Thrasher*	C	C	C	U	a,b,e,f
Waxwings					
___ Cedar Waxwing	U	U		U	a,b
Starlings					
___ European Starling*	O	O	O	O	f
Wood-Warblers					
___ Blue-winged Warbler	R		R		b,c
___ Tennessee Warbler	U		O		a
___ Golden-winged Warbler	R		R		a,b
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	O	a,b,e
___ Nashville Warbler	U		U		a,b,e
___ Northern Parula*	C	U	O		a,b
___ Yellow Warbler	O		O		a,b,e
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	O		O		a,b,e
___ Magnolia Warbler	O		O		a,b,e
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	U		C	U	a,b,e
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	U		O		a,b,e
___ Blackburnian Warbler	O		O		a,b,e
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	C	U	U		a,b,e
___ Pine Warbler*	C	U	C	C	a
___ Prairie Warbler*	O	O	O		a,b,e
___ Blackpoll Warbler	R		R		a,b,e
___ Cerulean Warbler	R	R			a,b,e
___ Black-and-white Warbler*	C	U	U		a,b,e
___ American Redstart*	U	O	U		a,b,e
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	C	C	U		b,c
___ Worm-eating Warbler	R		R		b,c
___ Swainson's Warbler*	U	U	R		b,c
___ Ovenbird	U		U		b,c
___ Northern Waterthrush	O		O		b,c
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*	U	U	U		b,c
___ Kentucky Warbler*	C	C	U		b,c
___ Mourning Warbler	R		R		a,b,e
___ Common Yellowthroat*	U	U	U	R	b,c,d
___ Hooded Warbler*	C	C	C		b,c
___ Wilson's Warbler	O		O		b,c
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	C	C	O		e,f

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Hab.
Tanagers					
___ Summer Tanager*	C	C	C		a,b
___ Scarlet Tanager	R		R		a,b
Towhees, Sparrows, and Allies					
___ Eastern Towhee	U		U	U	e,f
___ Spotted Towhee	O		O	O	e,f
___ Chipping Sparrow*	U	U	U	O	e,f
___ Field Sparrow*	U	U	U	U	e,f
___ Lark Sparrow*	R	R	R		e,f
___ Savannah Sparrow	O		R	R	e,f
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	R		R	R	a,e,f
___ Fox Sparrow	O		U	U	a,b,e,f
___ Song Sparrow	C		C	C	a,b,e,f
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	O	a,b,e,f
___ Swamp Sparrow	U		U	U	b,d,e,f
___ White-thr. Sparrow	C		C	C	a,b,e,f
___ White-cr. Sparrow	O		O	O	a,b,e,f
___ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	a,b,e,f
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings					
___ Northern Cardinal*	C	C	C	C	a,b,e
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	O		O		a,b
___ Blue Grosbeak*	U	U	O		a,b,e
___ Indigo Bunting*	C	C	C		a,b,e
___ Painted Bunting	R		R		a,b,e
Blackbirds					
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	C	U	C	C	c,d,e,f
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	O	O	O	O	f
___ Rusty Blackbird	O		O	O	b,c,d,f
___ Common Grackle*	C	C	C	O	b,d,e,f
___ Brown-hd. Cowbird*	U	U	U	U	a,d,e,f
___ Orchard Oriole*	U	U	O		a,b,e,f
___ Baltimore Oriole*	U	U	O		a,b,e
Finches					
___ Purple Finch	O		U	U	a,b,e,f
___ Pine Siskin	O		O	U	a,b,e,f
___ American Goldfinch*	U	U	U	U	a,b,e,f
___ House Finch	R	R	R	R	a,b,e,f



Pine Warbler

Photograph by Paul W. Bozzo/SDWI.net

Little River National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 340
Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74728
580/584-6211
580/584-2034 Fax

Oklahoma State Relay Service
1 800/722-0353

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://southwest.fws.gov>

For information on the
National Wildlife Refuge System
1 800/344-WILD

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Yellow-rumped Warbler
Photograph © by Charles H. Heck

