

# 2008 CHECKLIST OF FLORIDA'S BIRDS

Prepared by  
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
(Edited for Internet Use)

Florida's wild places are home to an incredible diversity of birds. More than 80 natural community types support this diversity from the pine flatwoods of Apalachicola National Forest, to the scrub communities of the Lake Wales Ridge, to the vast sawgrass prairies, mangrove swamps and cypress domes of Everglades National Park. Our natural areas harbor many bird species seen nowhere else in the United States including the Florida Scrub-Jay, Mangrove Cuckoo and Snail Kite to name just a few. In addition, Florida's birdlife is ever changing with the cycle of the seasons. A constant turnover of breeding, wintering and migratory species provides new birding experiences year-round.

To help you keep track of the spectacular range of birdlife the state has to offer, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) has published this checklist of Florida's birds. This booklet is the official checklist of the "Wings Over Florida" birding certificate program. "Wings Over Florida" awards full-color certificates at five different achievement levels to birders who report their Florida life lists to the Commission. This program is a free service for Florida residents and nonresidents. For more information, visit [www.myfwc.com/wof/](http://www.myfwc.com/wof/) or write to Wings Over Florida Certificate Program, Office of Recreation Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 S. Meridian Street 5B4, Tallahassee, FL, 32399-1600, and ask for an application packet. If you wish to receive only the "Checklist of Florida's Birds," write to Bird Checklist at the same address.

The "Checklist of Florida's Birds" was first prepared by Dr. Henry M. Stevenson in 1986. During his lifetime, Dr. Stevenson made many invaluable contributions to the field of ornithology, culminating with his writing *The Birdlife of Florida* with Bruce H. Anderson (1994). This book offers the most comprehensive information published on the lives of Florida's birds.

This current checklist is based on "verified" records of native birds and established exotics from the book, *Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List*, published by the Florida Ornithological Society (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). Verified species are defined as those whose presence can be confirmed by reference to specimens, photographs or voice recordings. In addition, more recently verified species were added from the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth reports of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (Bowman 2000, Bowman 2004, Bowman and Greenlaw 2006). Five additional species were officially added in 2007 and 2008. Recent taxonomic changes were included from the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's *Checklist of North American Birds* (1998) and the forty-eighth supplement to the checklist (AOU 2007). At the publishing of this checklist, 502 verified species have been documented within the state of Florida in historical time (i.e., since European discovery). This total includes 13 established exotics and four species now considered extinct in

Florida. We thank the Florida Ornithological Society for their assistance in updating this list.

Symbols used in the checklist are as follows:

B — A species that is (or formerly was) a breeder in Florida.

BI — Species for which breeding is limited to introduced components of the population. For example, Mallards winter in Florida in low numbers, but the only Mallards breeding here are introduced birds that are permanent residents in the state. It is not known whether Whooping Cranes ever bred in Florida historically. Breeding today is limited to individuals introduced to create a non-migratory population.

E — Established exotic — nonnative birds with stable or increasing breeding populations in Florida. **[NOTE: Nonnatives are *not* countable towards Wings Over Florida certificates.]**

† — Extinct

R — Rare birds that should be documented and reported to the Florida Ornithological Society. Send records to Andy Kratter, Secretary, Archbold Biological Station, P. O. Box 2057, Lake Placid, FL 33862.

Birding is always more enjoyable when you have information on where to go and what species to look for. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission developed the Great Florida Birding Trail to help you find Florida's birding hot spots. To download or request your free copies of these trail guides, visit [www.floridabirdingtrail.com](http://www.floridabirdingtrail.com). Another source of information on the regional status and seasonal occurrence of Florida's birds (and where to find them) is Bill Pranty's *A Birder's Guide to Florida* published by the American Birding Association (2005).

Good luck and good birding!



## LITERATURE CITED

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# 2008 CHECKLIST OF FLORIDA'S BIRDS

## **ANATIDAE — DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS**

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck B
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck B
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Ross's Goose R
- Brant
- Cackling Goose R
- Canada Goose Bl
- Tundra Swan
- Muscovy Duck E, B
- Wood Duck B
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon
- American Wigeon
- American Black Duck
- Mallard Bl
- Mottled Duck B
- Blue-winged Teal B
- Cinnamon Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- White-cheeked Pintail R
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck B
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup B
- King Eider R
- Common Eider
- Harlequin Duck
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser B
- Common Merganser R
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Masked Duck R
- Ruddy Duck B

## **PHASIANIDAE — TURKEYS & OLD WORLD QUAIL**

- Wild Turkey B

## **ODONTOPHORIDAE — NEW WORLD QUAIL**

- Northern Bobwhite B

## **GAVIIDAE — LOONS**

- Red-throated Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon

## **PODICIPEDIDAE — GREBES**

- Least Grebe R
- Pied-billed Grebe B
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe R
- Eared Grebe
- Western Grebe R

## **DIOMEDEIDAE — ALBATROSSES**

- Yellow-nosed Albatross R

## **PROCELLARIIDAE — PETRELS & SHEARWATERS**

- Northern Fulmar R
- Black-capped Petrel
- Cory's Shearwater
- Greater Shearwater
- Sooty Shearwater
- Short-tailed Shearwater R
- Manx Shearwater
- Audubon's Shearwater

## **HYDROBATIDAE — STORM-PETRELS**

- Wilson's Storm-Petrel
- Leach's Storm-Petrel
- Band-rumped Storm-Petrel

## **PHAETHONTIDAE — TROPICBIRDS**

- White-tailed Tropicbird
- Red-billed Tropicbird R

## **SULIDAE — BOOBIES & GANNETS**

- Masked Booby B
- Brown Booby
- Red-footed Booby
- Northern Gannet

## **PELECANIDAE — PELICANS**

- American White Pelican
- Brown Pelican B

## **PHALACROCORACIDAE — CORMORANTS**

- Neotropic Cormorant R
- Great Cormorant
- Double-crested Cormorant B

## **ANHINGIDAE — DARTERS**

- Anhinga B

## **FREGATIDAE — FRIGATEBIRDS**

- Magnificent Frigatebird B

## **ARDEIDAE — HERONS, BITTERN & ALLIES**

- American Bittern
- Least Bittern B

- Great Blue Heron B
- Great Egret B
- Snowy Egret B
- Little Blue Heron B
- Tricolored Heron B
- Reddish Egret B
- Cattle Egret B
- Green Heron B
- Black-crowned Night-Heron B
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron B

**THRESKIORNITHIDAE — IBISES & SPOONBILLS**

- White Ibis B
- Scarlet Ibis B, R
- Glossy Ibis B
- White-faced Ibis B, R
- Roseate Spoonbill B

**CICONIIDAE — STORKS**

- Wood Stork B

**CATHARTIDAE — NEW WORLD VULTURES**

- Black Vulture B
- Turkey Vulture B

**PHOENICOPTERIDAE — FLAMINGOS**

- Greater Flamingo

**ACCIPITRIDAE — HAWKS, KITES, & EAGLES**

- Osprey B
- Swallow-tailed Kite B
- White-tailed Kite B
- Snail Kite B
- Mississippi Kite B
- Bald Eagle B
- Northern Harrier B
- Sharp-shinned Hawk B
- Cooper's Hawk B
- Northern Goshawk R
- Red-shouldered Hawk B
- Broad-winged Hawk B
- Short-tailed Hawk B
- Swainson's Hawk
- Zone-tailed Hawk R
- Red-tailed Hawk B
- Ferruginous Hawk R
- Rough-legged Hawk R
- Golden Eagle

**FALCONIDAE — CARACARAS & FALCONS**

- Crested Caracara B
- Eurasian Kestrel R
- American Kestrel B

- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon

**RALLIDAE — RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS**

- Yellow Rail
- Black Rail B
- Clapper Rail B
- King Rail B
- Virginia Rail B
- Sora
- Purple Gallinule B
- Common Moorhen B
- American Coot B

**ARAMIDAE — LIMPKINS**

- Limpkin B

**GRUIDAE — CRANES**

- Sandhill Crane B
- Whooping Crane B

**CHARADRIIDAE — LAPWINGS & PLOVERS**

- Northern Lapwing R
- Black-bellied Plover
- American Golden-Plover
- Lesser Sand-Plover R
- Snowy Plover B
- Wilson's Plover B
- Semipalmated Plover
- Piping Plover
- Killdeer B
- Mountain Plover R

**HAEMATOPODIDAE - OSYTERCATCHERS**

- American Oystercatcher B

**RECURVIROSTRIDAE – STILTS & AVOCETS**

- Black-necked Stilt B
- American Avocet

**SCOLOPACIDAE — SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES & ALLIES**

- Spotted Sandpiper
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Willet B
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Upland Sandpiper
- Whimbrel
- Long-billed Curlew
- Black-tailed Godwit R
- Hudsonian Godwit
- Bar-tailed Godwit R
- Marbled Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone

- Surfbird R
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- White-rumped Sandpiper
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper R
- Purple Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Ruff
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Wilson's Snipe
- American Woodcock B
- Wilson's Phalarope
- Red-necked Phalarope
- Red Phalarope

#### **LARIDAE— GULLS & TERNS**

- Laughing Gull B
- Franklin's Gull
- Little Gull R
- Black-headed Gull R
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Heermann's Gull R
- Gray-hooded Gull R
- Belcher's Gull R
- Ring-billed Gull
- California Gull R
- Herring Gull
- Thayer's Gull R
- Iceland Gull R
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Slaty-backed Gull R
- Glaucous Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Sabine's Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Brown Noddy B
- Black Noddy
- Sooty Tern B
- Bridled Tern B
- Least Tern B
- Gull-billed Tern B
- Caspian Tern B
- Black Tern
- Roseate Tern B
- Common Tern B
- Arctic Tern

- Forster's Tern
- Royal Tern B
- Sandwich Tern B
- Elegant Tern R
- Black Skimmer B

#### **STERCORARIIDAE — SKUAS & JAEGERS**

- South Polar Skua R
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger

#### **ALCIDAE — AUKS, MURRES & PUFFINS**

- Dovekie
- Thick-billed Murre R
- Razorbill R
- Long-billed Murrelet R
- Atlantic Puffin R

#### **COLUMBIDAE — PIGEONS & DOVES**

- Rock Pigeon E, B
- Scaly-naped Pigeon R
- White-crowned Pigeon B
- Band-tailed Pigeon R
- European Turtle-Dove R
- Eurasian Collared-Dove E, B
- White-winged Dove BI
- Zenaida Dove R
- Mourning Dove B
- Passenger Pigeon †
- Common Ground-Dove B
- White-tipped Dove R
- Key West Quail-Dove
- Ruddy Quail-Dove R

#### **PSITTACIDAE — PARAKEETS & PARROTS**

- Budgerigar E, B
- Monk Parakeet E, B
- Carolina Parakeet †, B
- Black-hooded Parakeet E
- White-winged Parakeet E, B

#### **CUCULIDAE — CUCKOOS & ANIS**

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo B
- Mangrove Cuckoo B
- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Smooth-billed Ani B
- Groove-billed Ani

#### **TYTONIDAE — BARN OWLS**

- Barn Owl B

#### **STRIGIDAE — TYPICAL OWLS**

- Flammulated Owl R
- Eastern Screech-Owl B

- Great Horned Owl B
- Snowy Owl R
- Burrowing Owl B
- Barred Owl B
- Long-eared Owl R
- Short-eared Owl
- Northern Saw-whet Owl R

#### **CAPRIMULGIDAE — NIGHTJARS**

- Lesser Nighthawk
- Common Nighthawk B
- Antillean Nighthawk B
- Chuck-will's-widow B
- Whip-poor-will

#### **APODIDAE — SWIFTS**

- White-collared Swift R
- Chimney Swift B
- Vaux's Swift R
- Antillean Palm-Swift R

#### **TROCHILIDAE — HUMMINGBIRDS**

- Broad-billed Hummingbird R
- Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- Bahama Woodstar R
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird B
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Anna's Hummingbird R
- Calliope Hummingbird R
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird R
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Allen's Hummingbird R

#### **ALCEDINIDAE — KINGFISHERS**

- Belted Kingfisher B

#### **PICIDAE — WOODPECKERS & ALLIES**

- Red-headed Woodpecker B
- Golden-fronted Woodpecker R
- Red-bellied Woodpecker B
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker B
- Hairy Woodpecker B
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker B
- Northern Flicker B
- Pileated Woodpecker B
- Ivory-billed Woodpecker †, B

#### **TYRANNIDAE — TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Western Wood-Pewee R
- Eastern Wood-Pewee B
- Cuban Pewee R
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Acadian Flycatcher B

- Alder Flycatcher R
- Willow Flycatcher R
- Least Flycatcher
- Hammond's Flycatcher R
- Black Phoebe R
- Eastern Phoebe
- Say's Phoebe R
- Vermilion Flycatcher
- Ash-throated Flycatcher
- Great Crested Flycatcher B
- Brown-crested Flycatcher
- La Sagra's Flycatcher
- Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher R
- Piratic Flycatcher R
- Tropical Kingbird R
- Cassin's Kingbird R
- Western Kingbird
- Eastern Kingbird B
- Loggerhead Kingbird R
- Gray Kingbird B
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher

#### **LANIIDAE — SHRIKES**

- Loggerhead Shrike B

#### **VIREONIDAE — VIREOS**

- White-eyed Vireo B
- Thick-billed Vireo R
- Bell's Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo B
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo B
- Yellow-green Vireo R
- Black-whiskered Vireo B

#### **CORVIDAE — CROWS & JAYS**

- Blue Jay B
- Florida Scrub-Jay B
- American Crow B
- Fish Crow B

#### **ALAUDIDAE — LARKS**

- Horned Lark

#### **HIRUNDINIDAE — SWALLOWS**

- Purple Martin B
- Cuban Martin R
- Southern Martin R
- Tree Swallow
- Mangrove Swallow R
- Bahama Swallow R
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow B

- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow B
- Cave Swallow B
- Barn Swallow B

**PARIDAE — CHICKADEES & TITMICE**

- Carolina Chickadee B
- Tufted Titmouse B

**SITTIDAE — NUTHATCHES**

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch B
- Brown-headed Nuthatch B

**CERTHIIDAE — CREEPERS**

- Brown Creeper

**TROGLODYTIDAE — WRENS**

- Rock Wren R
- Carolina Wren B
- Bewick's Wren R
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren B

**PYCNONOTIDAE — BULBULS**

- Red-whiskered Bulbul E, B

**REGULIDAE — KINGLETS**

- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet

**SYLVIIDAE — GNATCATCHERS**

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher B

**TURDIDAE — THRUSHES**

- Northern Wheatear R
- Eastern Bluebird B
- Mountain Bluebird R
- Veery
- Gray-cheeked Thrush
- Bicknell's Thrush
- Swainson's Thrush
- Hermit Thrush
- Wood Thrush B
- American Robin B
- Varied Thrush R

**MIMIDAE — MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS**

- Gray Catbird B
- Northern Mockingbird B
- Bahama Mockingbird
- Sage Thrasher R

- Brown Thrasher B
- Curve-billed Thrasher R

**STURNIDAE — STARLINGS**

- Common Myna E
- European Starling E, B

**MOTACILLIDAE — WAGTAILS & PIPITS**

- White Wagtail R
- American Pipit
- Sprague's Pipit

**BOMBYCILLIDAE — WAXWINGS**

- Cedar Waxwing

**PARULIDAE — WOOD-WARBLERS**

- Bachman's Warbler †
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Northern Parula B
- Yellow Warbler B
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Magnolia Warbler
- Cape May Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler  
("Audubon's" Warbler D. c. auduboni) R
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Golden-cheeked Warbler R
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Townsend's Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler B
- Pine Warbler B
- Kirtland's Warbler R
- Prairie Warbler B
- Palm Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Cerulean Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler
- American Redstart B
- Prothonotary Warbler B
- Worm-eating Warbler B
- Swainson's Warbler B
- Ovenbird
- Northern Waterthrush
- Louisiana Waterthrush B
- Kentucky Warbler B
- Connecticut Warbler
- Mourning Warbler
- MacGillivray's Warbler R

- Common Yellowthroat B
- Hooded Warbler B
- Wilson's Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat B

- Lazuli Bunting R
- Varied Bunting R
- Indigo Bunting B
- Painted Bunting B
- Dickcissel

**INCERTAE SEDIS — BANANAQUITS**

- Bananaquit

**THRAUPIDAE — TANAGERS**

- Summer Tanager B
- Scarlet Tanager
- Western Tanager
- Western Spindalis

**EMBERIZIDAE — EMBERIZIDS**

- Yellow-faced Grassquit R
- Black-faced Grassquit R
- Green-tailed Towhee R
- Spotted Towhee R
- Eastern Towhee B
- Bachman's Sparrow B
- American Tree Sparrow R
- Chipping Sparrow B
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Field Sparrow B
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Black-throated Sparrow R
- Lark Bunting R
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow B
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Le Conte's Sparrow
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- Seaside Sparrow B
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Harris's Sparrow R
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow R
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Lapland Longspur
- Chestnut-collared Longspur R
- Snow Bunting

**CARDINALIDAE — CARDINALS & ALLIES**

- Northern Cardinal B
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak B

**ICTERIDAE — BLACKBIRDS**

- Bobolink
- Red-winged Blackbird B
- Tawny-shouldered Blackbird R
- Eastern Meadowlark B
- Western Meadowlark R
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Common Grackle B
- Boat-tailed Grackle B
- Shiny Cowbird
- Bronzed Cowbird
- Brown-headed Cowbird B
- Orchard Oriole B
- Hooded Oriole R
- Bullock's Oriole R
- Spot-breasted Oriole E, B
- Baltimore Oriole

**FRINGILLIDAE — FINCHES & ALLIES**

- Purple Finch
- House Finch E, B
- Red Crossbill R
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch
- Evening Grosbeak

**PASSERIDAE — OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

- House Sparrow E, B

**ADDITIONAL SPECIES**

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