

DAUPHIN ISLAND AUDUBON BIRD SANCTUARY BIRD SIGHTING CHECKLIST

LOONS

- Red-throated Loon
- Arctic/Pacific Loon
- Common Loon

GREBES

- Pied-billed Grebe*
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe
- Eared Grebe
- Western Grebe

SHEARWATERS, PETRELS

- Wilson’s Storm-petrel
- Cory’s Shearwater
- Greater Shearwater
- Sooty Shearwater
- Manx Shearwater
- Audubon’s Shearwater

TROPICBIRDS

- White-tailed Tropicbird

BOOBIES & GANNETS

- Masked Booby
- Brown Booby
- Northern Gannet

PELICANS & ALLIES

- American White Pelican
- Brown Pelican*
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Olivaceous Cormorant
- Great Cormorant
- Anhinga*
- Magnificent Frigatebird

HERONS, EGRETS & ALLIES

- American Bittern
- Least Bittern*
- Great Blue Heron*
- Great Egret*
- Snowy Egret*
- Little Blue Heron*
- Tricolored Heron*
- Reddish Egret*
- Cattle Egret*
- Green Heron*
- Black-crowned Night-Heron*
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*

IBISES, SPOONBILL, STORK

- Glossy Ibis*
- White Ibis*
- White-faced Ibis*
- Roseate Spoonbill
- Wood Stork

WATERFOWL

- Fulvous Whistling-Duck
- Tundra Swan
- White-Fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck*
- Green-winged Teal
- American Black Duck
- Mottled Duck*
- Mallard*
- White-cheeked Pintail
- Northern Pintail
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- Harlequin Duck
- Oldsquaw
- Black Scoter
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Common Goldeneye
- Bufflehead
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck

VULTURES, HAWKS & ALLIES

- Black Vulture*
- Turkey Vulture*
- Osprey*
- American Swallow-tailed Kite*
- White-tailed Kite
- Mississippi Kite*
- Bald Eagle*
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper’s Hawk*
- Red-shouldered Hawk*
- Broad-winged Hawk*
- Short-tailed Hawk
- Swainson’s Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk*
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Golden Eagle
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

- Northern Bobwhite*

SHOREBIRDS

- Black-bellied Plover
- American Golden Plover
- Snowy Plover*
- Wilson’s Plover*
- Semipalmated Plover
- Piping Plover
- Killdeer*
- Mountain Plover*
- American Oystercatcher*
- Black-necked Stilt*
- American Avocet
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Willet*
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Upland Sandpiper
- Whimbrel
- Long-billed Curlew
- Hudsonian Godwit
- Marbled Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- White-rumped Sandpiper
- Baird’s Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Common Snipe
- American Woodcock*
- Wilson’s Phalarope
- Red-necked Phalarope
- Red Phalarope
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Laughing Gull*
- Franklin’s Gull
- Bonaparte’s Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull*
- Iceland Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Sabine’s Gull
- Gull-billed Tern*
- Caspian Tern*
- Royal Tern*
- Sandwich Tern*
- Roseate Tern
- Common Tern*
- Forster’s Tern*
- Least Tern*
- Bridled Tern

- Sooty Tern
- Black Tern
- Black Skimmer*
- Brown Noddy

RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS & CRANES

- Yellow Rail
- Black Rail
- Clapper Rail*
- King Rail*
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- Purple Gallinule*
- Common Moorhen*
- American Coot*
- Sandhill Crane

PIGEONS, DOVES

- Rock Dove*
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- White-winged Dove
- Mourning Dove*
- Common Ground-Dove*

CUCKOOS

- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo*
- Groove-billed Ani

OWLS

- Barn Owl*
- Eastern Screech-Owl*
- Great Horned Owl*
- Snowy Owl
- Burrowing Owl
- Barred Owl*
- Long-eared Owl
- Short-eared Owl

GOATSUCKERS

- Lesser Nighthawk
- Common Nighthawk*
- Chuck-will’s-widow*
- Whip-poor-will

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS

- Chimney Swift*
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird*
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

- Belted Kingfisher*

WOODPECKERS

- Red-headed Woodpecker*
- Red-bellied Woodpecker*
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker*
- Hairy Woodpecker*
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker*
- Northern Flicker*
- Pileated Woodpecker*

FLYCATCHERS

- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Eastern Wood-Pewee*
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Acadian Flycatcher*
- Alder Flycatcher
- Willow Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe
- Say’s Phoebe
- Vermilion Flycatcher
- Ash-throated Flycatcher
- Great Crested Flycatcher*
- Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher*
- Tropical/Couch’s Kingbird
- Western Kingbird
- Eastern Kingbird*
- Gray Kingbird*
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher

MARTINS & SWALLOWS

- Purple Martin*
- Tree Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow*
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow*
- Cave Swallow
- Barn Swallow*

JAYS & CROWS

- Blue Jay*
- American Crow
- Fish Crow*

CHICKADEES & TITMICE

- Carolina Chickadee*
- Tufted Titmouse*

NUTHATCHES

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch*
- Brown-headed Nuthatch*

CREEPERS

- Brown Creeper

WRENS

- Rock Wren
- Carolina Wren*
- Bewick’s Wren
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren*

KINGLETS & GNATCATCHERS

- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*

BLUEBIRDS, THRUSHES & ROBINS

- Northern Wheatear
- Eastern Bluebird*
- Veery
- Gray-cheeked Thrush
- Swainson’s Thrush
- Hermit Thrush
- Wood Thrush*
- American Robin*

THRASHERS

- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird*
- Sage Thrasher
- Brown Thrasher*

PIPITS

- American Pipit
- Sprague’s Pipit

WAXWINGS

- Cedar Waxwing

STARLINGS

- European Starling*

SHRIKES

- Loggerhead Shrike*

VIREOS

- White-eyed Vireo*
- Bell’s Vireo
- Solitary Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo*
- Warbling Vireo
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo*
- Black-whiskered Vireo

WARBLERS

- Bachman’s Warbler
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Northern Parula*
- Yellow Warbler
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Magnolia Warbler
- Cape May Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler*
- Pine Warbler*
- Prairie Warbler*
- Palm Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Cerulean Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler*
- American Redstart*
- Prothonotary Warbler*
- Worm-eating Warbler
- Swainson’s Warbler*
- Ovenbird
- Northern Waterthrush
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Kentucky Warbler*
- Connecticut Warbler
- Mourning Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat*
- Hooded Warbler*
- Wilson’s Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat*

TANAGERS

- Summer Tanager*
- Scarlet Tanager
- Western Tanager

NEW WORLD FINCHES

- Northern Cardinal*
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak
- Indigo Bunting*
- Painted Bunting*
- Dickcissel*

OLD WORLD FINCHES

- Purple Finch
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch*
- Evening Grosbeak

SPARROWS

- Green-tailed Towhee
- Rufous-sided Towhee*
- Bachman’s Sparrow*
- American Tree Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Field Sparrow*
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Lark Bunting
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Henslow’s Sparrow
- Le Conte’s Sparrow
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- Seaside Sparrow*
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln’s Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Harris’ Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Lapland Longspur
- Smith’s Longspur

BLACKBIRDS, GRACKLES, COWBIRDS & ORIOLES

- Bobolink
- Red-winged Blackbird*
- Eastern Meadowlark*
- Western Meadowlark
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Brewer’s Blackbird
- Boat-tailed Grackle*
- Common Grackle*
- Bronze Cowbird
- Brown-headed Cowbird*
- Orchard Oriole*
- Northern Oriole

WEAVER FINCH

(Order Passeriformes)

- House Sparrow*

* known or suspected to have nested in sanctuary or known to nest locally

DAUPHIN ISLAND AUDUBON BIRD SANCTUARY

TRAIL GUIDE & CHECKLIST



DAUPHIN ISLAND PARK & BEACH

Surround Yourself



DAUPHIN ISLAND AUDUBON BIRD SANCTUARY TRAIL SYSTEM



Lake Loop Trail	0.6 Miles
Campground Trail	0.4 Miles
Dune Edge Trail	0.3 Miles
Swamp Overlook Trail	0.8 Miles
Upper Woodlands Trail	1.7 Miles
To Fort Gaines	0.5 Miles

Entire trail system is approximately 4.3 miles including walk to Fort Gaines.

Lake Loop Trail (Handicapped Access)

The Trail takes the visitor through the maritime forest, where the dominant plants are Loblolly and Slash Pines, Live Oak, Southern Magnolia and Tupelo Gum. It leads by slightly elevated boardwalk from the parking lot to Gaillard Lake, where turtles, an occasional alligator and wading birds can be seen. Those wanting to go further can cross the Dune Edge Trail at the southern western corner of the lake and cross a boardwalk to the beach.

Campground Trails

These trails start at the campground and visitors can enter the Sanctuary through a pedestrian only entrance. One trail joins at the Lake Loop Trail. While the other ends at a pavilion on the beach. Once visitors make their way to the beach they can then walk along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to visit historic Fort Gaines.

Dune Edge Trail

This trail follows the beach meadow which is behind the primary dune and is made up of a variety of flowering weeds, grasses and woody plants. This trail runs from the Swamp Overlook along the primary dune and passes by the southern end of Gaillard Lake.

Swamp Overlook Trail

This is a short trail leading from the Banding Area to an overlook at the Swamp. Sometimes the Swamp may be dry due to the climate. This is a great spot for viewing wintering woodland species.

Upper Woodland Trail

The Upper Woodland Trail starts at the north-west corner of the Lake Loop Trail and follows the firebreak along a wide path. It then bears left (South) from the firebreak and meanders through a pine forest, interspersed with Magnolia, Wax Myrtle and Yaupon. It rejoins the southern most firebreak and returns to the Lake Loop Trail at the southern end of Gaillard Lake.



Painted Redstart. Photo by T. Hartley

Birding on the Island

Dauphin Island has been named one of the four top locations in North America for bird viewing. The Bird Sanctuary has been recognized by the National Audubon Society as being "Globally Important" for bird migrations. Birding on the Island is best during the migrations. The Spring migration is from the middle of March through the first part of May. The Fall migration typically runs from mid-September through October. During the Winter months visitors will be able to see some interesting waterfowl, wading birds and wintering woodland species.



For more information please visit us at one of the following locations:

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