**Birds of Big Thicket National Preserve and Vicinity**

**Abundance**

*The occurrence of some species varies significantly from north to south within the preserve area, and the occurrences shown assume that all areas of the preserve were visited.*

**A** Abundant: a common species which is very numerous  
**C** Common: certain to be seen in suitable habitat  
**U** Uncommon: present, but not certain to be seen  
**R** Rare: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 per year  
**\*** Nests in preserve or vicinity

**Seasons**

*Some species may be present for only a short period within the indicated season.*

**SP** Spring  
**SU** Summer  
**FA** Fall  
**WI** Winter

**Habitats**

**AE** Aerial  
**F** Mixed hardwood forests  
**GR** Grasslands  
**M** Marshes, wet edges  
**O** Open areas  
**PI** Upland pine  
**S** Shorelines  
**TH** Thickets  
**OW** Open water (oxbows, bayous, swamps, streams, reservoirs)

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| SWANS, GEESE, AND DUCKS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Greater white-fronted goose |  |  |  | U | OW, GR |
| Snow goose |  |  |  | R | AE, O |
| Canada goose |  |  |  | R | AE, O |
| Wood duck\* | C | C | C | C | OW |
| Gadwall |  |  |  | U | OW |
| American wigeon |  |  |  | U/C | OW |
| Mallard | R |  |  | R | OW |
| Mottled duck\* | R | R | R | R | OW, S |
| Blue-winged teal | R |  | R | R | OW, S |
| Northern shoveler | R |  | R | C | OW |
| Green-winged teal |  |  |  | U/C | OW |
| Canvasback |  |  |  | C | OW |
| Redhead | C |  | C | U | OW |
| Ring-necked duck |  |  |  | U/C | OW |
| Lesser scaup |  |  |  | C | OW |
| Bufflehead |  |  |  | R | OW |
| Hooded merganser |  |  |  | C | OW |
| Ruddy duck |  | R |  | C | OW |

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| PHEASANTS, TURKEYS, AND QUAIL | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Northern bobwhite\* | R | R | R | R | TH |

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| GREBES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Pied-billed grebe\* | U |  | U | U | OW |
| Horned grebe |  |  |  | R | OW |
| Eared grebe |  | C |  | U | OW, M |

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| STORKS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Wood stork |  | R | R |  | S |

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| CORMORANTS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Double-crested cormorant | C |  | R | A | OW |

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| ANHINGA | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Anhinga\* | U/C | C | U/C | U/C | OW |

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| PELICANS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| American white pelican | U | R | U | C | OW |

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| BITTERNS AND HERONS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| American bittern | R |  | R | R | S |
| Least bittern\* |  | R |  |  | M |
| Great blue heron\* | C | C | C | C | S |
| Great egret\* | C | C | C | C | S |
| Snowy egret\* | C | C | C | C | S |
| Little blue heron\* | C | C | U/C | U/C | S |
| Tricolored heron\* | R | R | R | R | S |
| Cattle egret | C | C | C |  | O, S |
| Green heron\* | C | C | U/C |  | M, S |
| Black-crowned night heron |  |  |  | U/C | S |
| Yellow-crowned night heron | C | C | U/C |  | S |

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| IBISES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| White ibis\* | U/C | U/C | U/C | C | S |

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| VULTURES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Black vulture\* | A | A | A | A | AE, O |
| Turkey vulture\* | A | A | A | A | AE, O |

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| KITES, EAGLES, AND HAWKS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Osprey | U |  | U | C | S |
| American swallow-tailed kite\* | U/C | U/C |  |  | AE, OW |
| White-tailed kite |  |  |  | R | O, GR |
| Mississippi kite | R | R | R |  | AE |
| Bald eagle | R |  |  | C | AE, OW |
| Northern harrier |  |  |  | C | GR |
| Sharp-shinned hawk | U |  | U | U | F, PI |
| Cooper’s hawk\* | R | R | R | U | F, PI |
| Red-shouldered hawk\* | C | C | C | C | AE, F |
| Broad-winged hawk | U | U | U |  | AE, PI |
| Swainson’s hawk | C | U | U |  | GR, O |
| Red-tailed hawk | U | R | U | C | AE, O |

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| FALCONS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| American kestrel | R |  | U | C | O |
| Merlin |  |  |  | R | F, PI |

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| RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Common gallinule |  |  | R |  | M |
| American coot | U/C | R | U/C | A | OW, M |

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| PLOVERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| American golden-plover | R |  |  |  | M |
| Killdeer\* | C | C | C | A | O, S |

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| SANDPIPERS AND PHALAROPES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Spotted sandpiper |  |  |  | U | S |
| Greater yellowlegs | C | R | U | C | M, GR |
| Upland sandpiper | R |  | R |  | GR |
| Wilson’s snipe | R |  | R | U | M, TH |
| American woodcock | R |  | R | U | F, PI |

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| GULLS AND TERNS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Bonaparte’s gull |  |  |  | R | OW |
| Franklin’s gull | R |  | R |  | OW |
| Northern pintail |  |  |  | U | OW, M |
| Ring-billed gull |  |  |  | R | OW |
| Herring gull |  |  |  | R | OW |
| Caspian tern |  |  |  | U | OW |
| Black tern | U |  | U |  | OW |
| Forster’s tern | U | U | U | C | OW |

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| PIGEONS AND DOVES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Rock pigeon | C | C | C | C | O |
| Eurasian collared-dove | U | U | U | U | O |
| White-winged dove | U | U | U | U | O |
| Mourning dove\* | A | A | A | A | O, TH |
| Inca dove\* | R | R | R | R | O |

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| CUCKOOS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Yellow-billed cuckoo\* | C | C | C |  | PI, F |

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| ROADRUNNERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Greater roadrunner\* | U | U | U | U | TH |

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| OWLS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Eastern screech owl\* | C | C | C | C | PI, F |
| Great horned owl\* | U | U | U | U | PI, O |
| Barred owl\* | C | C | C | C | F |

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| GOATSUCKERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Common nighthawk\* | U | U | U |  | AE, O |
| Chuck-will’s widow\* | R | R | R |  | AE, O |

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| SWIFTS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Chimney swift\* | A | A | A |  | AE |

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| HUMMINGBIRDS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Ruby-throated hummingbird\* | C | C |  |  | F, TH |
| Rufous hummingbird | R |  |  | R | F, TH |

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| KINGFISHERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Belted kingfisher\* | C | U | C | C | OW |

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| WOODPECKERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Red-headed woodpecker\* | C | C | C | C | O, F |
| Red-bellied woodpecker\* | A | A | A | A | PI, F |
| Yellow-bellied sapsucker | R |  | R | A | F, PI |
| Downy woodpecker\* | A | A | A | A | F, PI |
| Hairy woodpecker\* | U | U | U | U | F, PI |
| Northern flicker\* | C | R | C | C | PI, O |
| Pileated woodpecker\* | C | C | C | C | F, PI |

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| FLYCATCHERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Olive-sided flycatcher | U |  | U |  | PI, TH, F |
| Eastern wood pewee\* | C | U | C |  | F, PI |
| Yellow-bellied flycatcher | R |  | R |  | F |
| Acadian flycatcher\* | C | C | C |  | F |
| Eastern phoebe | C |  | C | C | TH, W |
| Vermilion flycatcher |  |  |  | R |  |
| Great crested flycatcher\* | C | C | U |  | PI, F |
| Eastern kingbird | U | U | U |  | O |
| Scissor-tailed flycatcher | R | U | R |  | O |

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| SHRIKES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Loggerhead shrike\* | R | R | R | U | O |

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| VIREOS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| White-eyed vireo\* | A | A | A | R | TH |
| Yellow-throated vireo\* | A | A | C |  | PI, F |
| Blue-headed vireo | U |  | U | C | F, PI |
| Warbling vireo | R | R | R |  | F |
| Philadelphia vireo | R |  |  |  | O |
| Red-eyed vireo\* | A | A | A |  | F, PI |

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| JAYS AND CROWS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Blue jay\* | A | A | A | A | PI, F |
| American crow\* | A | A | A | A | F, PI |
| Fish crow\* | C | C | C | C | S |

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| SWALLOWS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Purple martin\* | A | A |  | R | AE, O |
| Tree swallow\* | R |  | R | U | AE, OW |
| Northern rough-winged swallow | U |  | U |  | AE, OW |
| Bank swallow | U |  | U |  | AE, OW |
| Cliff swallow | R |  | R |  | AE, OW |
| Barn swallow\* | U | U | U |  | AE |

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| CHICKADEES AND TITMICE | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Carolina chickadee\* | A | A | A | A | PI, F |
| Tufted titmouse\* | A | A | A | A | F, PI |

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| NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Red-breasted nuthatch | R |  | R | R | PI |
| White-breasted nuthatch\* | R | R | R | R | F |
| Brown headed nuthatch\* | C | C | C | C | PI |
| Brown creeper | U |  | R | U | F, PI |

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| WRENS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Carolina wren\* | A | A | A | A | F, PI |
| House wren | U |  | U | U | TH |
| Winter wren | R |  | R | R | F, TH |
| Sedge wren | R |  | R | U | M, GR |

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| KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Blue-gray gnatcatcher\* | C | U | C | C | R, PI |
| Golden-crowned kinglet | U |  | U | C | F, PI |
| Ruby-crowned kinglet | C |  | C | A | F, PI |

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| THRUSHES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Eastern bluebird\* | C | C | C | A | O |
| Veery | R |  |  |  | F, TH |
| Gray-cheeked thrush | R |  | R |  | F, PI |
| Swainson’s thrush | R |  | R |  | F, PI |
| Hermit thrush | R |  |  | C | F, PI |
| Wood thrush\* | U | U | U | R | PI, F |
| American robin\* | C | U | C | A | O, TH |

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| MIMIC THRUSHES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Gray catbird\* | U |  | U | U | TH |
| Northern mockingbird\* | A | A | A | A | O, TH |
| Brown thrasher\* | C |  | C | C | TH |

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| STARLINGS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| European starling\* | U | U | U | U | O |

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| PIPITS AND WAGTAILS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| American pipit |  |  |  | R | M |

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| WAXWINGS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Cedar waxwing | U |  |  | C | PI, F |

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| WARBLERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Ovenbird | U |  | U |  | PI, F |
| Worm-eating warbler\* | U | R | U |  | PI, F |
| Louisiana waterthrush\* | U | U | U |  | F, S |
| Northern waterthrush | R |  |  | R | TH, S |
| Black-and-white warbler\* | U | C | U | R | PI, F |
| Blue-winged warbler | R |  |  |  | TH |
| Prothonotary warbler\* | C | C | C |  | F |
| Swainson’s warbler\* | C | C | C |  | F |
| Orange-crowned warbler | U |  | R | C | F, TH |
| Kentucky warbler\* | U | C | U |  | PI, F |
| Common yellowthroat\* | U | U | U | U | TH, S |
| Hooded warbler | C | A | C |  | F, TH |
| American redstart\* | U | R | U | R | F |
| Northern parula warbler\* | A | A | R |  | F, PI |
| Magnolia warbler | U |  | R |  | F, PI |
| Bay-breasted warbler | R |  |  |  | F, PI |
| Blackburnian warbler | R |  |  |  | F, TH |
| Yellow warbler | R |  | R | R | M, TH |
| Chestnut-sided warbler | R |  |  |  | F, PI |
| Blackpoll warbler | R |  |  |  | F, PI |
| Palm warbler |  |  |  | R | M, TH |
| Pine warbler\* | A | A | A | A | PI |
| Yellow-rumped Myrtle warbler | A |  | C | A | TH |
| Prairie warbler\* | U | C | R |  | TH |
| Black-throated green warbler | R |  | R |  | PI |
| Wilson’s warbler | R |  | R | R | TH |
| Yellow breasted chat\* | C | C | U |  | TH |

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| SPARROWS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Eastern towhee | U |  | U | U | TH |
| Bachman’s sparrow\* | U | U |  | R | PI |
| Chipping sparrow\* | C | U | U | A | PI |
| Field sparrow |  |  |  | C | TH |
| Vesper sparrow |  |  |  | R | GR |
| Lark sparrow |  |  |  | R | GR |
| Savannah sparrow |  |  | R | R | GR |
| Grasshopper sparrow |  |  |  | R | GR |
| Henslow’s sparrow |  |  |  | R | GR |
| LeConte’s sparrow |  |  |  | R | GR |
| Fox sparrow |  |  |  | U | TH, F |
| Song sparrow |  |  |  | C | TH, S |
| Lincoln’s sparrow |  |  |  | U | TH |
| Swamp sparrow |  |  |  | C | S, TH |
| White-throated sparrow | A |  |  | A | PI, TH |
| White-crowned sparrow | R |  |  | R | F, TH |
| Dark-eyed slate-colored junco |  |  |  | C | PI |

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| TANAGERS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Summer tanager\* | C | C | C |  | PI, F |
| Scarlet tanager | R |  |  |  | F |

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| CARDINALS AND GROSBEAKS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Northern cardinal\* | A | A | A | A | TH |
| Rose-breasted grosbeak | R |  |  |  | TH |
| Blue grosbeak\* | U | C | U |  | TH |
| Indigo bunting\* | C | C | C |  | TH |
| Painted bunting\* | U | C | U | U | TH |

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| BLACKBIRDS | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Red-winged blackbird\* | C | C | C | C | S, O |
| Eastern meadowlark\* | C | C | C | C | GR |
| Rusty blackbird |  |  |  | R | M |
| Brewer’s blackbird |  |  |  | R | O |
| Common grackle\* | C | C | C | C | O |
| Great-tailed grackle | U | U | U | U | O |
| Brown-headed cowbird\* | C | C | C | C | O |
| Orchard oriole\* | U | U | U |  | O, TH |
| Baltimore oriole | U |  | U |  | OW |

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| FINCHES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| Purple finch |  |  |  | U | F, PI |
| House finch | U | U | U | U |  |
| Pine siskin |  |  |  | U | PI, F, TH |
| American goldfinch | C |  | C | A | PI, F |
| Evening grosbeak | R |  |  | R | PI, F |

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| WEAVER FINCHES | SP | SU | FA | WI | Habitat |
| House sparrow\* | U | U | U | U | O |