

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

Bird Checklist



*Where the rare
is commonplace.*



Kissimmee Prairie Preserve protects the largest remaining tract of the unique Florida dry prairie ecosystem, one of the biologically richest grasslands in the world.

Its 54,000 acres contain a mosaic of dry prairie, wet prairie, marshes, sloughs, cabbage palm and oak hammocks, and flood plain—no less than 14 distinct natural communities—which support a vast and diverse array of flora and fauna, including a number of threatened or endangered species. Dry Prairie is home to a unique assemblage of birds, including Crested Caracara, Burrowing Owl, White-tailed Kite, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Bobwhite and the rare Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (*pictured*).

This checklist was originally compiled through the efforts of former Kissimmee Prairie Preserve biologist **Paul Miller**.

CHECKLIST KEY

SEASONS

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| (Sp) | Spring | March–May |
| (Su) | Summer | June–July |
| (F) | Fall | August–November |
| (W) | Winter | December–February |

STATUS

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| + | Breeding | Confirmed |
| * | Breeding | Postulated but unconfirmed |
| <i>Italic</i> | Listed | Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern |

OCCURRENCE

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|--|
| C | Common | Certain to be found in suitable habitat |
| U | Uncommon | Usually present; not certain to be found |
| O | Occasional | Seen only a few times during a season |
| R | Rare | Not to be expected |
| – | | Does not occur during season |

HABITAT (HAB)

| | | |
|----------|----------------|---|
| P | Prairie | Wiregrass and palmetto |
| H | Hammock | Hardwoods and palms |
| A | Aerial | Applies to birds seen mostly on the wing |
| W | Wet | Slough, riverine, marshes |
| R | Ruderal | Disturbed areas such as pasture and roads |

Bird Checklist

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| Species | Sp | Su | F | W | Hab |
|---|----|----|---|---|-----|
| DUCKS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Whistling Duck | O | U | O | – | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck | R | O | – | – | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal | O | – | O | O | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon | R | – | R | R | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mottled Duck+ | U | O | U | U | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rink-necked Duck | R | – | – | R | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser | R | – | R | O | W |
| NEW WORLD QUAIL | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite+ | C | C | C | U | PR |
| TURKEYS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey+ | C | C | C | C | HPR |
| GREBES | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe+ | O | R | R | U | W |
| PIGEONS & DOVES | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon | R | – | – | – | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eurasian Collared-Dove+ | C | C | C | C | AR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Ground-Dove+ | C | C | C | C | APR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Dove* | O | O | O | O | AR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove+ | C | C | C | C | APR |
| CUCKOOS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo | O | R | R | – | H |
| GOATSUCKERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk+ | U | C | C | – | APR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chuck-will's-widow* | U | R | – | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Whip-poor-will | O | – | R | O | H |
| SWIFTS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift | R | R | R | – | A |
| HUMMINGBIRDS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird* | R | R | R | – | H |
| RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Rail | R | – | – | R | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> King Rail+ | R | C | U | O | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail | R | – | – | R | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sora | – | – | – | R | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Gallinule+ | U | U | O | O | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Gallinule+ | U | U | O | O | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Coot | O | – | – | O | WR |

| Species | Sp | Su | F | W | Hab |
|---|----|----|---|---|-----|
| LIMPKINS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Limpkin</i> + | C | C | O | R | W |
| CRANES | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sandhill Crane</i> + | U | U | U | C | APR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Whooping Crane</i> | R | – | – | R | WP |
| STILTS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-necked Stilt* | R | O | R | – | AW |
| PLOVERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Plover | R | – | R | – | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer+ | C | C | C | C | WR |
| SANDPIPERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper | R | – | – | – | WPR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stilt Sandpiper | R | R | R | – | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper | R | – | R | R | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper | R | – | R | – | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Sandpiper | R | – | R | – | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Dowitcher | – | – | – | O | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe | O | – | O | C | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper | O | – | O | – | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper | R | – | R | – | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs | U | O | O | U | WR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs | U | O | O | U | WR |
| GULLS & TERNS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laughing Gull | R | – | R | R | A |
| STORKS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wood Stork</i> * | U | U | U | U | AW |
| CORMORANTS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant | U | O | U | O | AW |
| DARTERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anhinga+ | C | C | C | C | AW |
| PELICANS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican | R | – | – | – | AW |
| BITTERN, HERONS AND EGRETS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern | R | – | U | O | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least Bittern* | R | R | R | – | W |

| Species | Sp | Su | F | W | Hab |
|--|----|----|---|---|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron+ | C | C | C | C | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret+ | C | C | C | C | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Snowy Egret</i> + | C | C | C | C | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Little Blue Heron</i> + | C | C | C | C | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tricolored Heron</i> + | C | C | C | C | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle Egret+ | C | C | C | C | AWR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron+ | U | C | U | U | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-Heron+ | C | C | C | C | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-crowned Night-Heron+ | R | O | O | O | AW |
| IBISES AND SPOONBILLS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>White Ibis</i> * | C | C | C | C | AWR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glossy Ibis | R | U | O | R | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Roseate Spoonbill</i> | O | U | O | R | AWR |
| NEW WORLD VULTURES | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Vulture+ | C | C | C | C | AHR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture+ | C | C | C | C | AHR |
| OSPREYS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey | U | O | O | O | AW |
| KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed Kite+ | U | U | U | U | APH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swallow-tailed Kite+ | U | U | – | R | AHP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier | U | R | U | C | AP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk | R | – | R | R | AHP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk | O | R | O | O | AHP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle+ | O | – | O | O | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Snail Kite</i> * | O | R | R | R | AW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk+ | C | C | C | C | AHP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk | R | – | R | – | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short-tailed Hawk | O | R | R | R | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk+ | O | O | O | O | AP |
| BARN & TYPICAL OWLS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl+ | U | U | U | U | PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech-Owl* | R | – | R | R | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl* | O | O | O | O | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Burrowing Owl</i> + | U | U | U | U | PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl+ | C | C | C | C | HR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl | R | R | R | – | PR |

| Species | Sp | Su | F | W | Hab |
|---|---------|----|---|---|------|
| KINGFISHERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher | U | – | C | C | AW |
| WOODPECKERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker | R | R | R | R | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker+ | C | C | C | C | HP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | R | – | O | U | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker+ | U | U | U | U | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker+ | C | U | U | U | AH |
| CARACARAS & FALCONS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Crested Caracara</i> + | U | C | U | U | APR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>American Kestrel</i> | O | – | C | C | APR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merlin | O | – | O | U | APR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Peregrine Falcon</i> | R | – | R | O | A |
| PARROTS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolina Parakeet + | EXTINCT | | | | |
| TYRANT FLYCATCHERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher+ | C | C | U | U | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird | – | – | R | – | R |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird+ | U | O | O | R | APR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | R | – | R | – | HR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-pewee | – | – | O | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acadian Flycatcher | R | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe | U | – | U | C | HPR |
| SHRIKES | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike+ | C | C | C | C | PR |
| VIREOS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-eyed Vireo+ | C | C | C | C | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo | R | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo | O | – | R | O | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo | R | – | O | – | H |
| CROWS & JAYS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay | U | U | U | O | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Florida Scrub-Jay</i> + | R | R | R | R | P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Crow+ | C | C | C | C | APHR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Crow | R | R | R | R | PHWR |
| SWALLOWS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin | O | R | O | O | A |

| Species | Sp | Su | F | W | Hab |
|--|----|----|---|---|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow | U | – | U | C | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> N. Rough-winged Swallow | R | O | O | – | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow | R | – | O | – | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow | – | O | U | – | A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow | C | O | C | – | A |
| TITMICE | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse+ | U | U | U | U | H |
| WRENS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Wren | R | – | O | O | PH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren | O | – | O | U | WP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren | R | – | R | R | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolina Wren+ | C | C | C | C | H |
| GNATCATCHERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher+ | C | C | C | C | H |
| KINGLETS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet | O | – | O | U | H |
| THRUSHES | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird* | R | R | R | R | AH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veery | R | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicknell's Thrush | R | – | – | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush | O | – | R | O | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Robin | U | – | O | C | APH |
| MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird | O | – | U | U | HP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher+ | U | U | O | O | HP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird+ | C | C | C | C | APR |
| STARLINGS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> European Starling | U | R | R | O | AR |
| WAXWINGS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing | R | – | R | R | AH |
| OLD WORLD SPARROWS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow | R | – | – | – | R |
| PIPITS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit | – | – | R | – | RW |

C – Common U – Uncommon O – Occasional R – Rare

| Species | Sp | Su | F | W | Hab |
|--|----|----|---|---|------|
| FINCHES | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Finch | – | – | R | – | R |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch | O | – | R | U | AH |
| EMBERIZIDS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bunting | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting | R | – | R | – | A |
| CHATS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat | – | – | R | – | H |
| BLACKBIRDS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink | O | – | – | – | AP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark+ | C | C | C | C | APR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird+ | C | C | C | U | WRP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird* | O | O | O | O | PRWH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle+ | U | O | O | O | P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat-tailed Grackle+ | U | U | U | U | PRW |
| WOOD-WARBLEDERS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird | U | – | C | U | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worm-eating Warbler | O | – | U | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler | R | – | – | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler | U | – | U | U | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prothonotary Warbler | R | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Warbler | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler | R | – | – | R | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Warbler | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat+ | C | C | C | C | PH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler | – | – | O | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart | C | – | C | O | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler | O | – | – | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula+ | C | C | C | O | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler | O | – | O | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler | O | – | – | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler | C | – | C | C | APHR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler | R | – | R | – | H |

| Species | Sp | Su | F | W | Hab |
|---|----|----|---|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler | U | – | U | C | APHR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Warbler | R | – | U | U | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Warbler | O | R | U | O | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Blue Warbler | O | – | U | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler | R | – | – | – | H |
| CARDINALS, TANAGERS & ALLIES | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Tanager | R | R | – | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal+ | C | C | C | C | HP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak | – | – | R | – | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grosbeak | R | – | – | – | H |
| NEW WORLD SPARROWS | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee+ | C | C | C | C | P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bachman's Sparrow</i> + | C | C | C | U | P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow | – | – | R | R | PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow | R | – | – | – | P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow | R | – | R | R | PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow | – | – | R | – | PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow | C | – | O | C | PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow | C | – | U | C | PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Florida Grasshopper Sparrow</i> + | R | R | R | R | P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow | U | R | O | C | PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LeConte's Sparrow | R | – | – | R | P |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow | – | – | – | R | WP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow | O | – | O | C | WP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow | – | – | R | – | P |

Accidental (or **vagrant**) species are birds found outside their normal range. Hurricanes and powerful storms carry some unexpected birds inland to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve, including a **Sooty Tern** in 2004, and a **Pomarine Jaeger** in 2015.

This is a living document and subject to change. We encourage visitors to report sightings in the Preserve—especially those of previously undocumented bird species and unusual seasonal occurrences to the Preserve biologist or email info@kissimmeeprairiefriends.org.

February 2021. The names and species order in this list follow *Clements/eBird Taxonomy v2019*, Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Photographs Courtesy of Christina Evans and Stan Czaplicki

Eleven Breeding Birds of the Kissimmee Prairie

A short guide on where and when to see them.



The striking, unmistakable **Crested Caracara** is a signature species at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve. You may see them hunting or scavenging along the road, in the campground, or in recently burned prairie—they like barbecue!



The **Eastern Meadowlark** (*left*) and **Eastern Towhee** (*right*) are seen (and often heard) in the prairie throughout the year.



Watch for **Burrowing Owls** in prairie or pasture, on fence posts, or along the road just after dark.

Listen for the “Here, kitty, kitty, kitty” call of the **Bachman’s Sparrow** during spring and summer.

Common Nighthawks

are summer residents. Often sleeping on fence posts—when dusk comes, they fly around bat-like, making a nasal *peent* call as they feed.



The **Common Yellowthroat's** "*witchety-witchety-witchety*" song is often heard before it is seen.



A **Northern Bobwhite** calls out his name, "bob-white!" They are usually seen in pairs or coveys.



Swallowtailed Kites arrive in spring and depart in fall. You may see them soaring gracefully over hammocks or perched on snags early in the morning.



Loggerhead Shrikes (nicknamed *butcher birds*) hunt near barbed wire or thorns on which they impale prey.



Red-shouldered Hawks are usually seen along the road, and a pair often nest in the campground.



Friends of
Kissimmee Prairie
Preserve

Where the rare is commonplace.

**Friends of Kissimmee
Prairie Preserve wants you!**

Your membership will include invitations to special events such as prairie walks and buggy tours, access to our member pages, where you can interact with other members, share photos in your own member album, and stay informed about the Preserve and events through periodic newsletters and emails.

But the main benefit of membership is being an important part of the effort to support and benefit Kissimmee Prairie Preserve and its unique, irreplaceable ecosystem.

Visit us online and join today at
KissimmeePrairieFriends.org
www.kissimmeeprairiefriends.org
Thank you for your support!

Kissimmee
Prairie
Preserve
State Park

**Bird
Checklist**

**Kissimmee Prairie
Preserve State Park**

33104 NW 192nd Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 462-5360

[www.floridastateparks.org/park/
Kissimmee-Prairie](http://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Kissimmee-Prairie)