

Georgia Coastal Birding: Little St. Simon's Island & Savannah Species List | April 26 – May 3, 2024 With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Kent Skaggs. Our clients included Peg, Sharon & Bob.

Nature enthusiasts from Massachusetts and Oregon joined Naturalist Journeys to explore the Colonial Coast Birding Trail in Georgia, with the highlight being four nights on Little St. Simons Island. With a wide array of habitats including maritime forests, salt marsh, tidal creeks, river shorelines and beach, wildlife was not in short supply. To see what was encountered on the tour, please keep reading.

BIRDS - 122 species were recorded of which 11 were heard only (HO) and 4 were introduced (I). Details are included below. (#) after the species indicates the number of days the species was seen on the tour.

The eBird link below details the 122 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Georgia Coastal Birding: Little St. Simon's Island & Savannah | April 26 – May 3, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

The following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

Family or Species Common Name: Scientific Name

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* — (2) First seen at Altamaha Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and again at Goose Pond on Little St. Simons Island (LSSI).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* — (1) A pair seen on St. Simons Island (SSI) en route to the Hampton River Marina.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* — (4) Seen at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Altamaha WMA and at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — (1) Lone male seen with Mottled Ducks at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula* — (5) Seen at Savannah NWR, Altamaha WMA and at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Black Scoter *Melanitta americana* — (2) Single bird seen on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and a flock of approximately 25 riding the waves off the main beach on LSSI.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* — (1) HO, one heard at Harris Neck NWR.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia* — (1) Seen en route in Savannah.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (I) *Streptopelia decaocto* — (1) Seen en route in Savannah.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* — (6) Widespread, seen or heard at most locations.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* — (1) HO, at Tom Triplett Park and at Harris Neck NWR.

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* — (5) Seen in Savannah, Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and on LSSI.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* — (4) Seen each day at the feeders on LSSI.

RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae

Clapper Rail *Rallus crepitans* — (3) Mostly heard, but also seen most days on LSSI.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* — (4) Seen at Savannah NWR and on all of the ponds visited on LSSI.

American Coot *Fulica americana* — (1) Seen at Altamaha WMA.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* — (3) Several seen at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* — (1) Single bird seen at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* — (3) Seen on the main beach on LSSI and on the LSSI Boat Tour.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and at the main beach on LSSI.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* — (2) Seen at the main beach on LSSI.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* — (4) Seen at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center and several locations on LSSI.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* — (2) Seen at Savannah NWR and on LSSI.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* — (4) Seen at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and at several locations on LSSI.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — (2) Seen on the LSSI Boat Tour and at the main beach on LSSI.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and the main beach on LSSI.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and the main beach on LSSI.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and the main beach on LSSI.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* — (1) Seen at the main beach on LSSI.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* — (1) Seen on the creek bank across from the lodge area on LSSI.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* — (3) Seen at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center, on the LSSI Boat Tour and at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* — (1) Single bird seen at Harris Neck NWR.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* — (2) Seen along waterways on LSSI.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* — (1) Seen at Savannah NWR and at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* — (3) Seen at Savannah NWR, Jekyll Island Welcome Center and while kayaking on Mosquito Creek on LSSI.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* — (4) Seen at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and at several locations on LSSI.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* — (4) Seen at Savannah NWR and at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* — (5) Common along the coast, seen at multiple locations.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* — (3) Seen on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and at the main beach on LSSI.

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* — (4) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and near water on LSSI.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* — (2) A pair was seen at the main beach and at Goose Pond on LSSI. Presumably the same birds due to close proximity of sightings.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* — (5) Seen on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and inland near water on LSSI.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and at the main beach on LSSI.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* — (1) Two were seen hanging out with Royal Terns at the main beach on LSSI.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and at the main beach on LSSI.

STORKS: Ciconiidae

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* — (7) Common, with largest numbers seen at the Woody Pond rookery at Harris Neck NWR and at the rookery at Norm's Pond on LSSI.

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* — (6) Seen at multiple locations near water.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Double-crested Cormorant *Nannopterum auritum* — (6) Seen at multiple locations near water.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet and Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI, the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and the main beach on LSSI.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* — (3) Seen while kayaking on Mosquito Creek and multiple times at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* — (6) Seen at multiple locations.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (7) Common, seen at multiple locations.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* — (7) Common, seen at multiple locations.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* — (5) Seen at Savannah NWR, Harris Neck NWR, from the boardwalk to the main beach on LSSI and flying overhead at Forsyth Park in Savannah.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* — (5) Seen at Savannah NWR, Harris Neck NWR and multiple locations on LSSI.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* — (4) Seen at Harris Neck NWR and at Norm's and Goose Ponds on LSSI.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* — (5) Seen at Savannah NWR, Harris Neck NWR, Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI, the LSSI Boat Tour and at Goose and Myrtle Ponds on LSSI.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* — (4) Seen at Harris Neck NWR and at Norm's and Goose Ponds on LSSI.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* — (2) Seen at Savannah NWR and Harris Neck NWR.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* — (5) Seen at Savannah NWR, Harris Neck NWR and multiple locations on LSSI.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* — (4) Seen at Harris Neck NWR and at Norm's and Myrtle Ponds on LSSI.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* — (6) Common, seen in multiple locations.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* — (7) Common, seen in multiple locations.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* — (5) Common near water, seen at multiple locations.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* — (2) Seen at Tom Triplett Park and Forsyth Park in Savannah.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* — (5) Seen at multiple locations.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* — (1) HO, one heard at Tom Triplett Park.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* — (3) Seen at Tom Triplett Park, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and on LSSI.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* — (2) Seen while kayaking on Mosquito Creek and near the dock on LSSI.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* — (3) Seen at Tom Triplett Park and the lodge area on LSSI.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* — (7) Common, seen and heard at multiple locations.

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens* — (4) Seen at Tom Triplett Park, the lodge area on LSSI and Forsyth Park in Savannah.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* — (2) Seen at Tom Triplett Park and heard near the lodge area on LSSI.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

Merlin *Falco columbarius* — (1) One seen at the main beach and at Myrtle Pond on LSSI. Possibly the same bird.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* — (4) HO, heard at Harris Neck NWR, Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and on LSSI.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* — (6) Common, seen at multiple locations but mostly heard.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* — (2) Seen at Savannah NWR, Tom Triplett Park and Harris Neck NWR.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* — (7) Mostly heard at multiple locations, but one seen at Harris Neck NWR.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* — (1) HO, heard at Harris Neck NWR.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* — (1) HO, heard at Harris Neck NWR.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* — (3) Heard at Savannah NWR and Tom Triplett Park and seen at Forsyth Park in Savannah.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* — (1) HO, heard at Tom Triplett Park.

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* — (4) Heard at Tom Triplett Park and Harris Neck NWR and seen on LSSI.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis* — (5) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor* — (3) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Purple Martin *Progne subis* — (1) One seen high over Tom Triplett Park.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* — (2) Seen at Savannah NWR and at Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (3) Seen at multiple locations.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* — (2) Seen at Tom Triplett Park and Forsyth Park in Savannah.

Brown-headed Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla* — (1) HO, heard at Tom Triplett Park.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* — (7) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* — (5) HO, heard at multiple locations.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* — (7) Common, seen and heard at multiple locations.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris* — (1) Surprisingly only recorded at Forsyth Park in Savannah.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* — (3) Seen on Harris Neck NWR and on LSSI.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* — (2) Seen at Tom Triplett Park and at Colonial Park Cemetery in downtown Savannah.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* — (5) Seen at Tom Triplett Park, en route on SSI, at the lodge area on LSSI and at Forsyth Park in Savannah.

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* — (3) Seen at Tom Triplett Park, Harris Neck NWR and the lodge area on LSSI.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* — (1) Seen at Forsyth Park in Savannah.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* — (1) Seen at Tom Triplett Park.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus* — (1) Seen at Forsyth Park in Savannah.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus* — (4) Seen at the lodge area on LSSI and Forsyth Park in Savannah.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* — (4) HO, heard at Harris Neck NWR, Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and on LSSI.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* — (1) Seen near Norm's Pond on LSSI.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* — (1) Several were seen foraging together at Harris Neck NWR.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* — (5) Seen at Savannah NWR and multiple locations on LSSI.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* — (7) Common, seen at multiple locations.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* — (5) Seen at multiple locations.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* — (4) Seen at Savannah NWR and on LSSI.

Boat-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus major* — (7) Common near water, seen at multiple locations.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* — (1) Seen at Colonial Park Cemetery in downtown Savannah.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* — (2) Seen on LSSI and at Forsyth Park in Savannah.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* — (1) A male was seen on LSSI.

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* — (1) Seen at lodge area on LSSI.

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* — (6) Numerous at Harris Neck NWR and Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI, with fewer numbers on LSSI. Mostly heard with a few seen.

Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus* — (3) HO, heard at Harris Neck NWR, Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and on LSSI.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* — (6) Seen at Harris Neck NWR, Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and the lodge area on LSSI.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* — (3) Heard at Harris Neck NWR and Cannon's Point Preserve and seen on LSSI.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* — (7) Common, seen at multiple locations.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* — (1) Seen at Savannah NWR.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* — (1) Seen at Savannah NWR.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* — (6) Heard at Savannah NWR and seen at Harris Neck NWR, Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and the lodge area at LSSI.

MAMMALS

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus* — (2) Seen on LSSI.

Marsh Rabbit *Sylvilagus palustris* — (1) Seen at Norm's Pond on LSSI.

Hispid Cotton Rat *Sigmodon hispidus* — (3) Seen on LSSI.

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* — (6) Seen at multiple locations.

Tamanend's Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops erebennus* — (2) Seen on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and the LSSI Boat Tour.

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor* — (1) Seen on LSSI.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* — (5) Seen at Savannah NWR, Tom Triplett Park, Harris Neck NWR and on LSSI.

Pond Slider *Tachemys scripta* — (1) Seen at Tom Triplett Park.

Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis* — (2) Seen on LSSI.

Broad-headed Skink *Plestiodon laticeps* — (1) Seen at Harris Neck NWR.

Five-lined Skink *Eumeces fasciatus* — (1) Seen on LSSI.

Squirrel Tree Frog *Hyla squirella* — (1) Seen on LSSI.

Eastern Rat Snake *Pantherophis alleghaniensis* — (1) Seen at Savannah NWR.

Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake *Crotalus adamanteus* — (1) Seen on LSSI.

LOCATIONS FOR 2024:

April 26 – Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

April 27 – Tom Triplett Park / Harris Neck NWR / Altamaha Wildlife Management Area / St. Simons Island (SSI)

April 28 – Gould's Inlet on SSI / Jekyll Island Welcome Center / Jekyll Island Boat Tour / Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI / Little St. Simons Island (LSSI)

April 29 – LSSI

April 30 – LSSI

May 1 – LSSI

May 2 – LSSI / Forsyth Park / Savannah

May 3 – Savannah / Departures

Favorite bird of the trip: Peg - Painted Bunting; Sharon - Northern Bobwhite; Bob - Northern Parula