

Georgia Coastal Birding: Little St. Simon's Island & Savannah Species List | April 24 – May 1, 2025 With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Kent Skaggs. Our clients included Ann & Mike, Linda & Don and Lois & Sandy.

Nature enthusiasts from Arizona, Colorado and Tennessee joined Naturalist Journeys to explore the Colonial Coast Birding Trail in Georgia, with the highlight being three 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 six were heard only (HO) and one was 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 | April 24-May 1, 2025 | 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) Seen at Tom Triplett Park and at Norm's Pond and Goose Pond on Little St. Simons Island (LSSI).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* — (2) Seen on St. Simons Island (SSI) while en route to the north end of the island.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* — (1) HO, a female was heard calling at Tom Triplett Park.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* — (1) A pair was seen on a small pond at the end of the boardwalk that leads to the main beach area on LSSI.

Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula* — (2) Seen at Goose Pond, Myrtle Pond and the small pond near the main beach on LSSI.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* — (7) Widespread, seen or heard at most locations.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* — (3) Heard near the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Visitor Center, again at Harris Neck NWR and heard and briefly seen in flight on LSSI.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* — (1) Several seen in flight near Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Chuck-will's-widow *Antrostomus carolinensis* — (1) HO, a few were near the staff housing area on LSSI.

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* — (4) Seen at Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI, on Jekyll Island and on LSSI.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* — (2) Seen on Jekyll Island and at the feeders on LSSI.

RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae

Clapper Rail *Rallus crepitans* — (6) Heard at several locations and eventually seen on LSSI.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* — (4) Seen at Savannah NWR, Altamaha Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and on LSSI.

American Coot *Fulica americana* — (1) Seen at Savannah NWR.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* — (1) Seen at Savannah NWR.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* — (2) Several seen at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* — (1) Seen at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* — (4) Seen at Gould's Inlet, the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and on the main beach on LSSI.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* — (4) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI, the Jekyll Island Boat Tour, the LSSI Boat Tour and at the main beach on LSSI.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and the main beach on LSSI.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* — (2) Approximately 100 seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and the main beach on LSSI.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* — (3) Seen at Harris Neck NWR and on LSSI.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI, several on the LSSI Boat Tour and on LSSI.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* — (1) Two seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour, on the LSSI Boat Tour and at the main beach on LSSI.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* — (2) Seen on the main beach on LSSI.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* — (4) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and the main beach on LSSI.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* — (2) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* — (2) Seen on the LSSI Boat Tour and on LSSI.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* — (4) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI, on the LSSI Boat Tour and on LSSI.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* — (1) Single bird seen at Goose Pond on LSSI.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* — (2) Seen on the LSSI Boat Tour and on LSSI.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* — (1) Seen at Goose Pond on LSSI.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* — (1) Seen at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* — (2) Seen at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour, on the LSSI

Boat Tour and on LSSI.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* — (1) Seen 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* — (2) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and at the main beach on LSSI.

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* — (4) Seen at Savannah NWR, at Gould's Inlet on SSI and Myrtle Pond and the main beach on LSSI.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* — (2) A single bird was seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI and a pair was seen at Goose Pond on LSSI.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* — (1) A single bird was seen on the beach during the Jekyll Island Boat Tour.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour, Myrtle Pond on LSSI and the LSSI Boat Tour.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* — (4) Seen at multiple locations along the coast with larger numbers at Gould's Inlet on SSI, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and at the main beach on LSSI.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and at Myrtle Pond 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 Savannah NWR, Harris Neck NWR and multiple locations on LSSI.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

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

PELICANS: Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* — (5) Seen at Gould's Inlet on SSI, the Jekyll Island Welcome Center, Jekyll Island Boat Tour and the main beach on LSSI.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* — (1) A single bird was seen at Goose Pond on LSSI.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* — (1) Individual birds were seen at Goose Pond and three locations at Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

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

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (6) Common, seen at multiple locations.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* — (6) Common, seen at multiple locations.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* — (3) Seen at Tom Triplett Park, Harris Neck NWR and Myrtle Pond on LSSI.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* — (6) Seen at multiple locations.

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

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* — (3) Seen at multiple locations with a high count of nine at Goose Pond on LSSI.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* — (2) Seen at Norm's Pond on LSSI.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* — (2) Seen at multiple locations on LSSI.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* — (2) Seen at Harris Neck NWR, Altamaha WMA and Goose Pond on LSSI.
Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* — (2) Seen at multiple locations 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* — (4) Seen at multiple locations near water.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* — (1) Seen at Tom Triplett Park.
Cooper's Hawk *Astur cooperii* — (1) One flew in front of the van on Jekyll Island.
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* — (4) Seen at multiple locations.
Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* — (1) One seen in flight at Tom Triplett Park.
Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* — (4) Seen at multiple locations.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* — (1) Seen at Tom Triplett Park.
Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* — (6) Common, seen and heard at multiple locations.
Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens* — (4) Seen at Tom Triplett Park, Harris Neck NWR, Jekyll Island and the lodge area on LSSI.
Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* — (5) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

Merlin *Falco columbarius* — (1) One seen at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* — (3) Heard at Harris Neck NWR and seen on LSSI.
Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* — (5) Common, heard at multiple locations but seen at Tom Triplett Park, Harris Neck NWR and Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI.
Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* — (2) Seen at Savannah NWR and on the dock at LSSI.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* — (6) Heard at multiple locations, but seen at Savannah NWR Visitor Center, Harris Neck NWR and Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI.
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* — (1) HO, at Harris Neck NWR.
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* — (1) HO, at Harris Neck NWR.

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* — (1) One was seen on Jekyll Island.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* — (4) Seen at Savannah NWR Visitor Center and Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and heard at Harris Neck NWR and Gould's Inlet on SSI.
American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* — (1) Seen at Tom Triplett Park.
Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* — (3) Seen and heard at Gould's Inlet on SSI and on Jekyll Island.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

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

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor* — (4) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Purple Martin *Progne subis* — (1) Two seen in flight over Tom Triplett Park.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (5) Seen at multiple locations.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Brown-headed Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla* — (2) Seen at Harris Neck NWR and heard at Tom Triplett Park and on Jekyll Island.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* — (6) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* — (2) Seen from the viewing platform at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center and on the LSSI Boat Tour.

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 Tom Triplett Park.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* — (1) One seen at the St. Simons Inn by the Lighthouse on SSI.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* — (2) Seen at Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and on Jekyll Island.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* — (7) Common, seen at multiple locations.

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* — (3) Seen at Tom Triplett Park, Cannon's Point Preserve and Fort Frederica National Monument on SSI and on Jekyll Island.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus* — (4) Seen on Jekyll Island and the lodge area on LSSI.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae

Nelson's Sparrow *Ammodramus nelsoni* — (1) Seen on the LSSI Boat Tour.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* — (1) Seen at Altamaha WMA.

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

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* — (1) Seen and heard at Harris Neck NWR.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* — (1) Seen at Savannah NWR.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* — (4) Heard at Savannah NWR and seen near the lodge area on LSSI.

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

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* — (6) Seen at multiple locations.
Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* — (2) Seen at Savannah NWR and Tom Triplett Park.
Boat-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus major* — (7) Common near water, seen at multiple locations.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* — (1) One seen on Jekyll Island.
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* — (2) Heard at Tom Triplett Park and seen at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center.
Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina* — (1) HO, at the Savannah NWR Visitor Center.
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* — (1) A male was seen at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center.
Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* — (1) A male was seen on Jekyll Island.
Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* — (6) Seen and heard at multiple locations. Plentiful at Harris Neck NWR, with fewer numbers elsewhere.
Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens* — (1) A male was seen on Jekyll Island.
Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus* — (3) HO, at Savannah NWR Visitor Center, Tom Triplett Park, Harris Neck NWR and Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI.
Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* — (5) Seen at Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and Jekyll Island and heard at Tom Triplett Park, Harris Neck NWR and Fort Frederica National Monument.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* — (4) Heard at Savannah NWR Visitor Center, Harris Neck NWR and Fort Frederica National Monument and seen at Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI.
Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* — (7) Common, seen at multiple locations.
Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* — (1) One was heard then seen outside of our accommodations on LSSI.
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* — (2) Seen outside of our accommodations on LSSI.
Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* — (6) Seen at Harris Neck NWR, heard at Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI and seen at the feeders outside our accommodations on LSSI.

MAMMALS

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus* — (1) One was seen at Harris Neck NWR.
Marsh Rabbit *Sylvilagus palustris* — (1) Seen at multiple locations on LSSI.
Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* — (4) Seen at multiple locations.
Tamanend's Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops erebennus* — (3) Seen at Gould's Inlet, on the Jekyll Island Boat Tour and the LSSI Boat Tour.
Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor* — (3) Seen on LSSI.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* — (5) Seen at Savannah NWR, Harris Neck NWR and on LSSI.
Pond Slider *Tachemys scripta* — (1) Seen at Tom Triplett Park.
Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis* — (4) Seen at Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI, Jekyll Island and on LSSI.
Broad-headed Skink *Plestiodon laticeps* — (1) Seen at Harris Neck NWR.
Five-lined Skink *Eumeces fasciatus* — (2) Seen at Gould's Inlet and on LSSI.
Treefrog species — (1) Seen on LSSI.

OTHER SPECIES OF INTEREST

Atlantic Horseshoe Crab *Limulus polyphemus* — (1) Seen on the LSSI Boat Tour.

LOCATIONS FOR 2025:

April 24 – Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
April 25 – Tom Triplett Park / Harris Neck NWR / Altamaha Wildlife Management Area / St. Simons Island (SSI)
April 26 – Gould's Inlet on SSI / Cannon's Point Preserve on SSI / Fort Frederica National Monument on SSI
April 27 – Jekyll Island Welcome Center / Jekyll Island Boat Tour / Jekyll Island / Little St. Simons Island (LSSI)
April 28 – LSSI
April 29 – LSSI
April 30 – LSSI / Savannah
May 1 – Savannah / Departures

Favorite bird/s of the trip:

Ann - Nelson's Sparrow
Don - Mississippi Kite
Linda - Painted Bunting
Lois - Wood Stork & Yellow-throated Warbler
Mike - Tricolored Heron & Black-bellied Whistling Ducks
Sandy - Mississippi Kite, Wood Stork & Common Gallinule