

# Dauphin Island Migration | Species List

## April 10 – 15, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



Migration for this year's tour was rather slow with a number of expected species missing and numbers low. Although conducted during the historical best two weeks the weather worked against us. Sunny days and light to medium southerly winds prevailed, and while making for nice birding weather, such weather enables many birds to continue on their journey to the mainland, rather than stopping at the first land they see. While this is good news for the birds, and so we welcome it, it isn't great for birders looking to see lots of species and numbers.

**Common Name: Scientific Name**

### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: ANATIDAE**

**Black-bellied Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—Two pairs seen, first in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta then a few days at the Shell Mounds.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*— Seen twice on Dauphin Island, including a flyover flock of 28, and in the Delta.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*— Both normal wild-looking feral and hybridized with Mottled duck.

**Mottled Duck** *Anas fulvigula*— Seen twice, a single on the water at the DI pier and a pair at the DI airport

### **GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE**

**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*— A pair in breeding plumage, unusual for so far south, on DI.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*—

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*— Common

### **CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE**

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*— Seen most days in Shell Mounds.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*— One newly arrived and tired individual in Shell Mounds.

### **SWIFTS: APODIDAE**

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*— Mobile County River Delta Marina and DI.

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*— Unusually low in numbers but one or two seen most days.

### **RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: RALLIDAE**

**Clapper Rail** *Rallus crepitans*— Great views seen on several occasions on DI and one at Lightning Point, Bayou la Batre.

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* — Common in the Delta on both visits.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*— Seen on both Delta visits.

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*— Seen on DI, the Delta outings and at Lightning Point.

**Snowy Plover** *Charadrius nivosus*— Three on Pelican Island including a bird banded locally.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*— On the beach and Pelican.

**Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*— Several seen on the beach including two banded Great Lakes birds.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*— DI airport on a nest, the Delta and Lightning Point.

### **SANDPIPERS AND SNIPE: SCOLOPACIDAE**

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*— A flock of 12 birds at Lightning Point.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*— One bird at Lightning Point.



**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*— Abundant on the beach/Pelican.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*— Common on the beach and 2 at lightning Point.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*— A small flock at Lightning Point.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*— Individuals on the beach and a flock of 20 at Lightning Point.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*— One at Lightning Point.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*— One each on one Delta trip and at Mobile County River Delta Marina.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*— Beach and Lightning Point.

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata*— Common on beach where Western dominated but Eastern were heard and occasionally seen flying, and Eastern were seen and heard at Lightning Point.

### **GULLS AND TERNS: LARIDAE**

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*— Abundant everywhere.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*— Several stragglers on beach.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*— Common in low numbers on DI and at Lightning Point, mostly first and second winters.

**Lesser Black-backed gull** *Larus fuscus*— One immature on Pelican.

**Least Tern** *Sternula antillarum*— A few on DI and on the Delta trips.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*— One on Pelican.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*— Common on DI, Delta trip and Lightning Point.

**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*— Common in the Delta and one on DI.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*— Common to abundant coastally.

#### **LOONS: GAVIIDAE**

**Common Loon** *Gavia immer*— A few on DI and at Lightning Point.

#### **ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE**

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*— Seen on the Delta trips.

#### **CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE**

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*— Several seen at each coastal location.

#### **PELICANS: PELICANIDAE**

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*— Common coastally, seen daily.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: ARDEIDAE**

**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus*— One on the second Delta trip.

**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis*— Seen on both Delta trips.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— Common coastally, seen daily.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*— DI, Delta, MCRD Marina and Lightning Point.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*— One at Lightning Point and on DI.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*— Several seen in DI and in the Delta.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*— Seen on first day only.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*— Several seen on DI and one in the Delta.

**Yellow-crowned Night-heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*— A couple in the Delta and a group of 7 in the DI Audubon Sanctuary.

#### **IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*— 20 seen in the Delta.

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: CARTHARTIDAE**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*— One seen on the first Delta trip.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*— Seen on off-island trips.

#### **OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*— Commonly coastally seen daily.

#### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: ACCIPITRIDAE**

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus*— One each on the second Delta trip and at MCRD Marina.

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*— One seen on the second Delta trip.

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*— Several seen on DI, Lightning Point, 5 in the Delta and one on at Fowl River.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*— One seen on the first Delta trip.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*— One seen on mainland.



#### **OWLS: STRIGIDAE**

**Barred Owl** *Strix varia*— One heard calling on the first Delta trip.

**KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*— Seen several times on DI.

**WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE**

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*— A couple seen at the Shell Mounds.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*— Seen and heard daily on DI and in the Delta.

**Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*— Seen both in the Delta and on DI.

**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*— One heard in the Delta.

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE**

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*— One seen on Pelican Island.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— A couple seen on DI.

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE**

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*— Common, seen and heard daily on DI and in the Delta.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*— Seen most days in DDI and in the Delta.

**SHRIKES: LANIIDAE**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*— Same bird seen on two occasions.

**VIREOS: VIREONIDAE**

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*— Common throughout the tour.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*— A couple seen in the Shell Mounds.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*— Along with White-eyed the sound of the Shell Mounds!

**CROWS AND JAYS: CORVIDAE**

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*— Several seen and heard daily in the Shell Mounds and elsewhere.

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*— Seen and heard on mainland to/from Splinter Hill and the Delta.

**Fish Crow** *Corvus ossifragus*— Commonly seen and heard at all coastal locations.

**TITS AND CHICKADEES: PARIDAE**

**Carolina Chickadee** *Poecile carolinensis*— Heard at Fowl River, the Delta and Splinter Hill.

**Tufted Titmouse** *Baeolophus bicolor*— Heard in the Delta.

**NUTHATCHES: SITTIDAE**

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** *Sitta pusilla*— Heard and quickly seen on DI and well seen at Splinter Hill.

**SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: HIRUNDINIDAE**

**Northern rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— Common in the Delta, a few seen on DI.

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis*— Common on DI.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*— One seen by Mina only.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*— Common on DI, also seen in the Delta.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*— Some 100 birds at a colony under the I65 bridge crossing Mobile Bay.

**KINGLETS: REGULIDAE**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*— A couple seen at the Shell Mounds.

**GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*— Several seen on the Delta trips.

**WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE**

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*— One seen and heard at the Shell Mounds.

**Sedge Wren** *Cistothorus platensis*— One pished up on Pelican.

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*— Seen and heard at DI airport and in the Delta.

**Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*— Commonly heard and seen at all locations.

#### **STARLINGS: STURNIDAE**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*— Common on DI and also seen at Lightning Point.

#### **WAXWINGS: BOMBYCILLIDAE**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombcilla cedrorum*— Seen at MCRD Marina.

#### **FINCHES AND ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE**

**House Finch** *Haemorrhous mexicanus*— A few on DI.

#### **MOCKINGBIRDS: MIMIDAE**

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*— Several seen and heard in the Shell Mounds.

**Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum*— Seen at most locations especially the Shell Mounds.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*— Everywhere.

#### **THRUSHES: TURDIDAE**

**Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis*— Common on DI.

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*— Small flock at the DI airport.

#### **NEW WORLD ORIOLES AND BLACKBIRDS: ICTERIDAE**

**Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*— Nice male enjoyed at close range at private house on DI.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*— Seen several times on DI and at MCRD Marina.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*— Common on DI and in the Delta.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*— Seen at Fowl River and MCRD Marina.

**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula*— Common at all locations.

**Boat-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus major*— Seen on both Delta trips and at Lightning Point.



#### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: EMBERIZIDAE**

**Bachman's Sparrow** *Peucaea aestivalis*— One seen and two others heard at Splinter Hill Bog.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** *Ammodramus savannarum*— One seen at the DI Estuarium.

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*— Seen in dunes on pelican and near pier.

**Eastern Towhee** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*— Seen at Fowl River and Splinter Hill

#### **WOOD-WARBLERS: PARULIDAE**

**Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum*— One see at the Shell Mounds.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*— A couple at the Shell Mounds.

**Black-and-White Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*— A couple seen at the Shell Mounds and Grant St.

**Prothonatory Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*— Common in the Shell Mounds and common in the Delta.

**Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii*— One cooperative bird at the Shell Mounds.  
**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*— Several in the Delta.  
**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*— Common in Shell Mounds and at MCRD Marina.  
**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*— Unusually just one seen at the Shell Mounds.  
**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*— Several in the Delta, MCRD Marina and at the Shell Mounds.  
**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum*— One at the Shell Mounds.  
**Pine Warbler** *Setophaga pinus*— Seen at Fowl River and Meaher State Park.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*— A few at the Shell Mounds.

#### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND BUNTINGS: CARDINALIDAE**

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*— Common at the Shell Mounds.  
**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*— Several at the Shell Mounds.  
**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*— Common at all locations.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*— A few seen, mostly females, at the Shell Mounds.  
**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea*— A few at the Shell Mounds.  
**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris*— One seen by the Marches at the hotel.  
**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*— Heard and seen daily at the Shell Mounds.

#### **OTHER:**

**Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*—  
**Common Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*—  
**Green Anole** *Anolis carolinensis*—  
**5-lined Skink** *Plestiodon fasciatus*—  
**Broad-headed Skink** *Plestiodon laticeps*—  
**American Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis*—  
**Gulf Coast Slider Turtle** *Trachemys scripta*—  
**Florida Softshell Turtle** *Apalone ferox*—  
**Southern Toad** *Anaxyrus terrestris*—

Semipalmated Plover, Royal Tern, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Parula photos by Andrew Haffenden