

The Pond Mountain Game Land is a state-owned, 3,000-acre game land in Ashe County. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission actively manages the property with prescribed fire to provide quality early successional habitat. This area is home to several of North Carolina's bird species of Greatest Conservation Need. [Pond Mountain Game Land map](#)

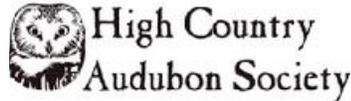
Driving Directions: From Boone take HWY 421 N for 37 miles. Turn right onto TN-167 N/Forge Creek Road and travel 7.5 miles. Turn left onto South Flatwoods Road and drive 6.6 miles. Turn right onto Rock Fence Road and drive 0.9 miles. Kiosk and entrance to Pond Mountain Game Land on the left. Lower gate is open April 1 - January 1. Second gate is open September 1 to January 1 and during Turkey Season. Gate by hangar is closed year-round.

Suggested Bird Walk: A 3-mile out-and-back walk along main game land road. The turn around point is at the highest point of the ridge near an old airplane hangar. Birders can continue even further along this road into the backcountry section of Pond Mountain if they would like a 5-mile out-and-back walk.

This list contains 122 species of birds observed by biologists with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and birders from the High Country Audubon Society. Some species were observed on land adjacent to the game land. Bird data for the game land are incomplete, and the checklist may not contain all credible sightings. We encourage birders to use eBird and to visit the High Country Audubon Society website (highcountryaudubon.org).

Find additional information about hunting seasons in North Carolina: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's website, ncwildlife.org/hunting/hunting-in-North-Carolina

- Find additional information about birding in North Carolina:
- N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's website, ncwildlife.org/Outdoor-Activities/Outdoor-Activities-in-North-Carolina
 - High Country Audubon Society, highcountryaudubon.org
 - N.C. Birding Trail website, ncbirdingtrail.org



Observer(s) _____

Date _____

Start/End Times _____ / _____

Weather Conditions _____

Stationary or Traveling? _____

Distance Traveled _____

Locations _____

Remarks: _____

BIRDS OF POND MOUNTAIN GAME LAND



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Cover art: Vesper Sparrow by Jan Hayes

Seasonal Occurrences and Relative Abundance of Bird Species on Pond Mountain Game Land

S- Spring	March-May
s-Summer	June-August
F-Fall	September-November
W-Winter	December-February
C-Common	Detected regularly in suitable habitat
F-Fairly Common	Likely to be detected in suitable habitat
U-Uncommon	Present, but may not be detected
O-Occasional	Detected only a few times during a season
R-Rare	Not detected every year
A-Accidental	Detected only once
<i>W-Winter Resident</i>	
<i>S-Summer Resident</i>	
<i>P-Permanent Resident</i>	
<i>M-Spring/Fall Migrant</i>	
<i>W/S/M-Present year round but not permanent resident</i>	
<i>*Suspected Resident</i>	

Species in **bold text** indicate Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the [NC Wildlife Action Plan](#) (ncwildlife.org/plan).

	Sp	S	F	W	Res
Ducks, Geese, Swans					
____ Canada Goose		R			W/S/M
____ Wood Duck		R			S
New World Quails					
____ Northern Bobwhite		O			S
Grouse and Allies					
____ Ruffed Grouse		U	U	U	P
____ Wild Turkey		C	C	C	P
Pigeons and Doves					
____ Mourning Dove		C	C	C	P
Cuckoos					
____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U	U	U	S

	Sp	S	F	W	Res
Black-billed Cuckoo		R			S
Swifts, Hummingbirds					
___ Chimney Swift	F	F	F		S
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	F	F	F		S
Sandpipers, Snipes, Woodcocks					
___ Solitary Sandpiper	R				M
___ Wilson's Snipe	R				M
___ American Woodcock	R				S
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets					
___ Great Blue Heron	R	R			M
New World Vultures					
___ Black Vulture	O				M
___ Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	F	P
Ospreys, Kites, Eagles, Hawks					
___ Osprey	U	O			M
___ Bald Eagle	R			R	M
___ Northern Harrier			F	U	W
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U	O	P
___ Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	O	P
___ Rough-legged Hawk			O	O	W
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	F	U	U		S
___ Broad-winged Hawk	F	F	F		S
___ Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	P
___ Golden Eagle			O	O	W
Owls					
___ Eastern Screech-Owl			O		P*
___ Barred Owl	U	U	O	O	P
___ Short-eared Owl			R		M
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl	O				S
Woodpeckers					
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	F	F	F	F	P
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	O	U	U	W/S/M
___ Downy Woodpecker	F	F	F	F	P
___ Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	P
___ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	P
___ Pileated Woodpecker	F	F	U	U	P

	Sp	S	F	W	Res
Falcons					
___ American Kestrel			U		M
___ Merlin	O				M
Flycatchers					
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	U		S
___ Acadian Flycatcher	F				M
___ Alder Flycatcher	F	F			S
___ Least Flycatcher	F	C			S
___ Eastern Phoebe	F	F	F		P*
Vireos					
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	O				M
___ Blue-headed Vireo	C	C	C		S
___ Philadelphia Vireo			U		M
___ Red-eyed Vireo	C	C			S
Jays, Crows, Ravens					
___ Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	P
___ American Crow	C	C	C	C	P
___ Common Raven	C	C	C	C	P
Swallows					
___ Tree Swallow	U	F	U		S
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	F			S
___ Barn Swallow	F	C			S
Chickadees, Titmice					
___ Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C	P
___ Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	P
Nuthatches					
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	O	O	O		W*
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	P
Treecreepers					
___ Brown Creeper			R		W*
Wrens					
___ House Wren	F	F	F		S
___ Winter Wren		F			S
___ Carolina Wren	R		U		W/S
Kinglets					
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	U	F	U	W/S/M

	Sp	S	F	W	Res
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet			F	U	W
Thrushes					
___ Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U		P*
___ Veery	C	C			S
___ Swainson's Thrush			U		M
___ Hermit Thrush	U	F			S
___ Wood Thrush	U	F			S
___ American Robin	C	C	C		P*
Mockingbirds, Thrashers					
___ Gray Catbird	C	C	F		S
___ Brown Thrasher	C	C	U		S
___ Northern Mockingbird			R		M
Starlings					
___ European Starling			U		M
Waxwings					
___ American Pipit			U		M
___ Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C		P*
Finches					
___ House Finch			R		M
___ Red Crossbill			R		M
___ Pine Siskin	U		U	U	W
___ American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	P
Wood Warblers					
___ Ovenbird	U	U	U		S
___ Golden-winged Warbler	R				S
___ Brewster's Warbler	R				S
___ Black-and-White Warbler	C	F			S
___ Tennessee Warbler			F		M
___ Nashville Warbler			O		M
___ Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		S
___ Hooded Warbler	U	U			S
___ American Redstart			R	O	M
___ Cape May Warbler			U		M
___ Northern Parula	F	U	U		S
___ Bay-breasted Warbler			U		M
___ Blackburnian Warbler	R				S
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	C	F		S
___ Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		M
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	C	F	U		S

	Sp	S	F	W	Res
___ Palm Warbler			F		M
___ Pine Warbler			O		M
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler			O		M
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	C	F	U		S
___ Canada Warbler	C	F			S
Towhees, Sparrows					
___ Eastern Towhee	C	C	C	C	P
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	R	R			M
___ Chipping Sparrow	F	F	U		P*
___ Field Sparrow	C	C	C	F	P
___ Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		P*
___ Savannah Sparrow	O		F		M
___ Fox Sparrow			O	O	W
___ Song Sparrow	C	C	C	F	P
___ Lincoln's Sparrow			O		M
___ White-crowned Sparrow	O		O		M
___ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	C	W
___ Dark-eyed Junco	C	C	C	C	W/S/M
Tanagers, Cardinals, Grobeaks					
___ Scarlet Tanager	C	C			S
___ Northern Cardinal	C	F	C	C	P
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		S
___ Blue Grosbeak		R			S
___ Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		S
Blackbirds, Orioles					
___ Red-winged Blackbird	C	C			S
___ Eastern Meadowlark			O		M
___ Common Grackle	R				M
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	C	U			S
___ Rusty Blackbird			R		M