

The South Mountains Game Land is a state-owned, 21,647-acre game land in Burke, McDowell, Rutherford, and Cleveland counties. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission actively manages the tract 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.

Driving Directions: To the Morganton Depot tract: From I-40 take exit 103 toward US 64W/Burkemont Ave. Drive on US 64W heading south of interstate for 0.7 miles. Turn left onto Salem Road and drive 1.1 miles. Turn left onto Burkemont Road and drive 1.0 miles. Turn left onto Western Avenue and drive 1.1 miles. Parking area is to the right.

*Suggested bird walk: A 1.5 mile, clockwise loop. Start in parking lot and walk along dirt road that passes by both ponds. Walk up the hill to the treeline. Head west across the fields and upon reaching treeline head south to the bottom of the fields. The dirt road picks back up and takes you into the bottomlands. Once you arrive at the creek, turn right (NE) and follow the edge of the fields until the road crosses the creek. Cross the creek and make your way on the road, up the hill and back to the parking lot.

To Lone Mountain Tract: From I-40 take exit 103 toward US 64W/Burkemont Ave. Drive on US 64W heading south of interstate for 14.9 miles. Turn right toward NC-226 S. Turn left on to NC-226 S and drive 2.5 miles. Turn right into unmarked gravel driveway entrance to parking area.

*Suggested bird walk: 2 miles out and back from the parking lot. Walk behind gate along gravel road and walk along road for about 1 mile before turning around and retracing steps. The road does continue further than a mile but the best birding is within the first mile of the road.

This list contains 134 species of birds observed by biologists with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. 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.

Find additional information about birding in North Carolina:

- N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's website, ncwildlife.org/Outdoor-Activities/Outdoor-Activities-in-North-Carolina
- N.C. Birding Trail website, ncbirdingtrail.org



Find additional information about hunting seasons in North Carolina:

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's website, ncwildlife.org/hunting/hunting-in-North-Carolina

Observer(s) _____

Date _____ Start/End Times _____ / _____

Weather Conditions _____

Stationary or Traveling? _____ Distance Traveled _____

Locations _____

Remarks: _____

BIRDS OF SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND



Seasonal Occurrences and Relative Abundance of Bird Species on South Mountains 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>

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	U	U	U	U	P
___ Wood Duck		O		O	P
___ Hooded Merganser				O	M
New World Quails					
___ Northern Bobwhite				R	P
Grouse and Allies					
___ Ruffed Grouse				R	P
___ Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	P
Pigeons and Doves					
___ Rock Pigeon			O	O	P
___ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C	P



A publication of the
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Cuckoos	Sp	S	F	W	Res
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	C	F		S
Goatsuckers					
___ Chuck-will's-widow	U	U			S
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will	O	O			S
Swifts, Hummingbirds					
___ Chimney Swift	C	F	C		S
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		S
Plovers, Sandpipers					
___ Killdeer	C	C	C	C	P
___ Spotted Sandpiper	R				M
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets					
___ Great Blue Heron	O				P
New World Vultures					
___ Black Vulture	O	O	O		P
___ Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C	P
Ospreys, Kites, Eagles, Hawks					
___ Northern Harrier				O	W
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O	O	O		P
___ Cooper's Hawk	F	F	F	F	P
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C	P
___ Broad-winged Hawk	F	F			S
___ Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	P
Owls					
___ Eastern Screech-Owl				O	P
___ Great Horned Owl	O			O	P
Woodpeckers					
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	O	U		W
___ Red-headed Woodpecker	F	F			P
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	P
___ Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	P
___ Hairy Woodpecker	F	F	F	F	P
___ Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	P
___ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	P
Falcons					
___ American Kestrel	U	F	F		P
___ Merlin	O	O			M

Flycatchers	Sp	S	F	W	Res
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		S
___ Acadian Flycatcher	C	F	F		S
___ Alder Flycatcher			R		M
___ Willow Flycatcher			R		M
___ Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	C	P
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C			S
___ Eastern Kingbird	F	F	U		S
Vireos					
___ White-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		S
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	C	C	C		S
___ Blue-headed Vireo	C	F	C		S
___ Warbling Vireo	R				M
___ Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	C	S
Jays, Crows, Ravens					
___ Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	P
___ American Crow	C	C	C	C	P
___ Fish Crow	U	U		U	P
___ Common Raven	U			U	P
Swallows					
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	F	U	U		S
___ Purple Martin	R				M
___ Tree Swallow	F	F	C		S
___ Barn Swallow	C	C			S
Chickadees, Titmice					
___ Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C	P
___ Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	P
Nuthatches					
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	P
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch				R	P
Gnatcatchers					
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C		S
Wrens					
___ House Wren			F		M
___ Winter Wren			U	F	W
___ Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C	P
Kinglets					
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet		F	C		W
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	U	F		W

Thrushes	Sp	S	F	W	Res
___ Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C	P
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush			U		M
___ Swainson's Thrush	O	C			M
___ Hermit Thrush	U	O	U		W
___ Wood Thrush	C	C	C		S
___ American Robin	C	C	C	C	P
Mockingbirds, Thrashers					
___ Gray Catbird	C	C	C		S
___ Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	U	P
___ Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C	P
Starlings					
___ European Starling	C	C	C	C	P
Waxwings					
___ Cedar Waxwing	F	F	F	F	P
Finches					
___ House Finch	U		U		P
___ Red Crossbill		R			M
___ American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	P
Wood Warblers					
___ Ovenbird	C		U		S
___ Worm-eating Warbler	C	F			S
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	C	C			S
___ Northern Waterthrush	O		O		M
___ Black-and-White Warbler	C	C	C		S
___ Swainson's Warbler	F	U			S
___ Tennessee Warbler			F		M
___ Orange-Crowned Warbler			O	O	M
___ Nashville Warbler	R				M
___ Kentucky Warbler	F	F			S
___ Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		S
___ Hooded Warbler	C	C	C		S
___ American Redstart	C	C	C		S
___ Cape May Warbler	O		U		M
___ Cerulean Warbler	R				S
___ Northern Parula	C	C	C		S
___ Magnolia Warbler	O		F		M
___ Bay-breasted Warbler			U		M
___ Blackburnian Warbler			U		M
___ Yellow Warbler			R		M
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	C			M
___ Blackpoll Warbler	O				M
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler		R			M

	Sp	S	F	W	Res
___ Palm Warbler			C		M
___ Pine Warbler	C	C	F	U	P
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	U		U	F	W
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	O		F		S
___ Prairie Warbler	C	C	F		S
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	C	C	F		S
___ Canada Warbler				U	M
Old World Sparrows					
___ House Sparrow	U	U	U	U	P
Pipits					
___ American Pipit				R	M
Towhees, Sparrows					
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	O				M
___ Chipping Sparrow	F		U	U	P
___ Field Sparrow	C	C	C	C	P
___ Fox Sparrow			O	O	W
___ White-crowned Sparrow			U	U	W
___ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	C	W
___ Savannah Sparrow	O		O		W
___ Song Sparrow	C	C	C	C	P
___ Lincoln's Sparrow			R		M
___ Swamp Sparrow	O		O		W
___ Eastern Towhee	C	C	C	C	P
Chats					
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	C	C	U		S
Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeak					
___ Summer Tanager	O		O		S
___ Scarlet Tanager	C	C	C		S
___ Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	P
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C		C		M
___ Blue Grosbeak	C	C	F		S
___ Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		S
Blackbirds, Orioles					
___ Eastern Meadowlark	F	F	F	F	P
___ Orchard Oriole	F	U			S
___ Red-winged Blackbird	U	U	U		P
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	C	F			P
___ Common Grackle	U	U			P