



**BEACH & ISLAND
BIRDS of
Mississippi**

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

BIRDS OF GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

PHOTOS OF ISLAND AND BEACH BIRDS OF THE GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE TAKEN BY DR. OLIVIA GRAVES. PHOTOS WERE TAKEN ON WEST SHIP ISLAND, HORN ISLAND, DEER ISLAND AND THE BEACHES AND MARSHES ALONG THE MAINLAND. THE ACCEPTED COMMON NAME IS GIVEN FOLLOWED BY SEASONAL OCCURRENCE AND RELATIVE ABUNDANCE. EXAMPLE WITH ABBREVIATIONS BELOW:



ROYAL TERN

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

Seasonal Occurrence

SP – Spring, March-May

S – Summer, June-August

F – Fall, September-November

W – Winter, December-February

Abundance

C – common, 5-25/day

U – uncommon, few/day

O – occasional, 1/year or less

**R – rare, reported at least
once**



COMMON LOON

SP-C S-O F-U W-C
PARTIAL BREEDING PLUMAGE

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



COMMON LOON

SP-C S-O F-U W-C
WINTER PLUMAGE

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

A Pied-billed Grebe is shown in its breeding plumage, swimming in a body of water. The bird has a dark, almost black head with a prominent white patch around its eye and a dark, hooked bill. Its neck and body are a rich, dark brown color. The water around it is rippled, reflecting light in shades of blue and brown.

Pied-billed Grebe

SP-C S-R F-U W-C
BREEDING PLUMAGE

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

A photograph of five Horned Grebes swimming in blue water. The birds have dark bodies with white necks and a distinctive red patch near their eyes. They are scattered across the frame, with some facing left and others facing right. The water has a textured, wavy surface.

HORNED GREBE

SP-O S-F W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



WHITE PELICAN

SP-C S-R F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



WHITE PELICANS

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



BROWN PELICAN

SP-C SC F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

SP-C S-R F-C W-C



PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD

SP-O S-U F-U W-R

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



GREAT BLUE HERON

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES





GREAT EGRET

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



GREAT EGRET

SP-C S-C F-C W-C



SNOWY EGRET

SP-C SC FC W-C

PHOTOS BY OLIVIA GRAVES



LITTLE BLUE HERON

BREEDING PLUMAGE

SP- U S- U F- U W- U

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



TRICOLORED HERON

BREEDING PLUMAGE
SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



REDDISH EGRET

SP-U S-U F-U W-U

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

GREEN HERON

SP-U S-C F-C W-O



PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



MOTTLED DUCK

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

SP- O S-U F-U W-C



MALE

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

FEMALE

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

OSPREY

SP-C S-C F-C W-C



PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES





NORTHERN HARRIER HAWK

SP-U S-F-U W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

American Kestrel

SP-U S-U F-U W-C



PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

COMMON MOORHEN

SP-U S-U F-U W-O





AMERICAN COOT

SP-C S-O F-C W-C



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA CRAVES

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

SP-C S- F-C W-C

PARTIAL BREEDING PLUMAGE



WINTER PLUMAGE



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA GRAVES



BREEDING PLUMAGE



NON-BREEDING PLUMAGE

SNOWY PLOVER

SP-U S-U F-U W-U



SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

SP-C S-R F-C W-C



BREEDING PLUMAGE



NON-BREEDING PLUMAGE

WILSON'S PLOVER

S P - C S - C F - O W -



AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

SP-U S-U F-U W-U

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



**GREATER
YELLOWLEGS**

SP-O S-F-O W-U

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



WILLET

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



SPOTTED SANDPIPER

SP-U S-F-U W-R

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

A photograph of three Whimbrel birds wading in shallow water. The birds have long, downward-curved bills and mottled brown and grey plumage. They are standing in clear, shallow water that reflects the sky. In the background, there is a sandy bank with sparse green vegetation and a dense line of taller grasses.

WHIMBREL

SP-O S-F-W-O

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



MARBLLED GODWIT

SP-R S-R F-R W-O

LONG-BILLED CURLEW

SP- S- F-R W-O

PHOTOS BY OLIVIA GRAVES



MARBLED GODWIT

PHOTOS BY OLIVIA GRAVES



RUDDY TURNSTONE

SP-C S-O F-C W-C

BREEDING PLUMAGE

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



RED KNOTS

SP-C S- F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



SANDERLING

SP-C S-U F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



LEAST SANDPIPER

SP-U S-U F-U W-U

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

A photograph of four Dunlin birds in winter plumage standing on a dark, pebbly beach near the water's edge. The birds have brown upperparts and white underparts. The water is blue and rippling in the background.

DUNLIN

WINTER PLUMAGE

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



DUNLIN

TRANSITIONAL PLUMAGE

SP-C S-M F-C W-C



SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

SP-C S- F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



LAUGHING GULL

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

SUMMER PLUMAGE

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



LAUGHING GULL
winter

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



BONAPARTE'S GULL

SP-C S - F - W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

RING-BILLED GULL

SP-C S-U F-U W-C



PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

A photograph of two Gull-billed Terns standing on a sandy beach. The birds are white with black caps and long, pointed bills. They are facing each other, with one slightly ahead of the other. The background shows the ocean and a sandy dune under a clear sky.

GULL-BILLED TERN

SP-U S-U F-W

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



ROYAL TERNS

BREEDING PLUMAGE

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



SANDWICH TERNS

BREEDING PLUMAGE

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



FORSTER'S TERN

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

LEAST TERN

SP-C S-C F-U W-



PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

A photograph of two Least Terns on a sandy beach. The birds are white with black caps and yellow bills. They are standing on the sand, with the ocean waves visible in the background. The text 'LEAST TERN' is overlaid in large, bold, blue letters at the bottom of the image.

LEAST TERN

SP-C S-C F-U W-

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES



BLACK TERNS

SP-U S-U F-C W-R

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

BLACK SKIMMER

SP-C S-C F-C W-C



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA GRAVES



MARSH WREN

SP-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTO BY OLIVIA GRAVES

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD



Male



Female

S-P-C S-C F-C W-C

PHOTOS BY OLIVIA GRAVES