

**LISTED SPECIES OF THE
MERRITT ISLAND
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

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LISTED SPECIES OF THE MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Listed species are plants or animals that have been “listed” by a State and/or Federal agency with special protection or conservation designations, however, some may be listed by a non-governmental agency that do not have regulatory protection. Those species with regulatory protection, such as State and Federal Endangered and Threatened species, are protected by law. State Species of Special Concern (SSC) are afforded special protection, recognition, or consideration (Florida Administrative Code 39-1.004). Nongame Birds of Management Concern are those bird species that are being considered for listing by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Office of Migratory Bird Management 1995).

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Types of Designations

Agencies Listing Species

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (**FWC**)
 Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (**FDA**)
 US Fish & Wildlife Service (**FWS**)

Listing Designation

Endangered (E) means “without special management efforts, these species are considered rare enough to become extinct.” (Federal and State)

Threatened (T) means “without special management efforts, these species may become endangered of becoming extinct. (Federal and State)

Species of Special Concern (SSC) means that the species warrants special protection because of concern that it could become threatened. (State)

Nongame Birds of Management Concern (SMC) is similar to SSC, in that without additional conservation action, they are likely to become candidates of listing under the Endangered Species Act. This designation promotes management actions for the species and is not a regulatory designation. (Federal).

Former FWS Candidate Species (UR) are species that were previously listed as candidates of becoming formally listed as Threatened or Endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

FNAI means that the species has been ranked by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory.

CITES means that the species is listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

FCREPA means the species is listed by Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals.

Based the listing designations, there are presently 20 State and Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered animals on the Merritt Island NWR. There are an additional 41 animal species designated as species of “Special Concern” by State or Federal agencies. There are 31 plant species listed by the State as Threatened, Endangered, or commercially exploited (5 species), however, there are no known Federally listed plant species on Merritt Island NWR. Included in the list are 17 additional plant species that have special designations (e.g., UR, FNAI, CITES, or FCREPA). Some plant species may have both a State and special designation.

A total of 109 species are listed here including: 1 fish, 1 amphibian, 10 reptiles, 45 birds, 4 mammals, and 48 plants. There may be species in Florida that are protected but not listed here because the species either has not been confirmed or has been extirpated.

Number of plants and animals at Merritt Island NWR by special designation category.

Animal Spp.	Federal			State			
	E	T	SSC	E	T	SSC	Other Designation
Fishes	0	0	0	0	0	1	na
Amphibians	0	0	0	0	0	1	na
Reptiles	4	4	0	4	3	3	na
Birds	2	4	30	3	6	10	na
Mammals	1	1	0	1	2	1	na
Plants	0	0	10 ¹	15	11	5	40 ²
TOTAL	7	9	40	23	22	21	40

¹ Former FWS Candidate Species (UR)

² FNAI, CITES, or FCREPA

Listed Species of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Scientific Names	Common Names	Agency Status	
		FWC	FWS
<u>Fish</u>			
<i>Centropomus undecimalis</i>	Common snook	SSC	
<u>Amphibians</u>			
<i>Rana capito</i>	Gopher (=craw fish) frog	SSC	
<u>Reptiles</u>			
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American alligator ¹	SSC	T(S/A) ¹
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Atlantic loggerhead turtle	T	T
<i>Chelonia mydas mydas</i>	Atlantic green turtle	E	E
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback (=leathery) turtle	E	E
<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	Eastern indigo snake	T	T
<i>Lepidochelys kemp</i>	Atlantic ridley turtle ³	E	E

Scientific Names	Common Names	FWC	FWS
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata imbratica</i>	Atlantic hawksbill turtle ³	E	E
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher tortoise	SSC	
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	Florida Pine Snake ⁴	SSC	
<i>Nerodia fasciata taeniata</i>	Atlantic salt marsh snake ²	T	T

1 (S/A) means species was listed due to “similarity of appearance” with the American crocodile.

2 Within species home range, not officially recorded (Moler 1992, Blihovde 1996, Seigel and Seigel 2000).

3 Ehrhart 1983.

4 R. Seigel (personel communication)

Birds

<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field sparrow		SMC
<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Henslow’s sparrow		SMC
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman’s sparrow		SMC
<i>Passerina ciris</i>	Painted bunting		SMC
<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern meadowlark		SMC
<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Bobolink		SMC
<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Prairie warbler		SMC
<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Chestnut-sided warbler		SMC
<i>Lymnophylis swainsonii</i>	Swainson’s warbler		SMC
<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	Black-whiskered Vireo		SMC
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike		SMC
<i>Cistothorus platenis</i>	Sedge wren		SMC
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood thrush		SMC
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Veery		SMC
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker		SMC
<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Ground dove		SMC
<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	Florida scrub-jay	T	T
<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	Limpkin	SSC	SMC
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping plover	T	T
<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	Wilson’s Plover		SMC
<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	Roseate spoonbill	SSC	
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern		SMC
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern		SMC
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little blue heron	SSC	
<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Reddish egret	SSC	SMC
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy egret	SSC	
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricolored (=Louisiana) heron	SSC	
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	White ibis	SSC	

Scientific Names	Common Names	FWC	FWS
<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	Arctic peregrine falcon	E	
<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Swallow-tailed kite		SMC
<i>Rosthrhamus sociabilis</i>	Snail kite	E	E
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier		SMC
<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida sandhill crane	T	
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	American oystercatcher	SSC	
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood stork	E	E
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common Loon		SMC
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown pelican	SSC	SMC
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	Black rail		SMC
<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Black skimmer	SSC	
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least tern	T	SMC
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate tern	T	T
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black tern		SMC
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn owl		SMC
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl		SMC
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	T	T

Mammals

<i>Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris</i>	Southeastern beach mouse	T	T
<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	Florida mouse	SSC	
<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	West Indian (=Florida) manatee	E	E
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida black bear	T	

PLANTS¹

GENUS	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	FDA	FWS	OTHER
<i>Amyris</i>	<i>balsamifera</i>	Balsam torchwood			FNAI
<i>Asclepias</i>	<i>curtissii</i>	Curtiss milkweed	E		FNAI
<i>Avicennia</i>	<i>germinans</i>	Black mangrove			FCREPA
<i>Calamovilfa</i>	<i>curtissii</i>	Curtiss reedgrass	T	UR	FNAI
<i>Calopogon</i>	<i>barbatus</i>	Grass pink (unnamed)			CITES
<i>Calopogon</i>	<i>multiflorus</i>	Many-flowered grass pink	E		CITES
<i>Calopogon</i>	<i>tuberosus</i>	Grass pink (unnamed)			CITES
<i>Cereus</i>	<i>gracilis, var. simpsonii</i>	Prickly apple			CITES
<i>Cereus</i>	<i>undatus</i>	Night-blooming cereus			CITES
<i>Chamaesyce</i>	<i>cumulicola</i>	Sand dune spurge	E	UR	FNAI
<i>Chrysophyllum</i>	<i>oliviforme</i>	Stainleaf	T		
<i>Encyclia</i>	<i>tampensis</i>	Butte rfly orchid	C ²		CITES
<i>Epidendrum</i>	<i>canopseum</i>	Greenfly orchid	C ²		CITES

GENUS	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	FDA	FWS	OTHER
<i>Eulophia</i>	<i>ecristata</i>	False coco	T		CITES, FNAI
<i>Habenaria</i>	<i>repens</i>	Water spider orchid			CITES
<i>Harrisella</i>	<i>filiformis</i>	Orchid (unnamed)	T		CITES
<i>Hexalectris</i>	<i>spicata</i>	Crested coralroot			CITES
<i>Lantana</i>	<i>depressa</i> var. <i>floridana</i>	East coast lantana	E	UR	FNAI
<i>Lechea</i>	<i>cernua</i>	Nodding pinweed	T	UR	FNAI
<i>Lechea</i>	<i>divaricata</i>	Pine pinweed	E	UR	FNAI
<i>Lilium</i>	<i>catesbaei</i>	Catesby lily	T		FNAI
<i>Malaxis</i>	<i>spicata</i>	Florida malaxis			CITES
<i>Myrcianthes</i>	<i>fragrans</i>	Nakedwood	T	UR	FNAI
<i>Ophioglossum</i>	<i>palmatum</i>	Adder's tongue fern (unnamed)	E		FCREPA, FNAI
<i>Opuntia</i>	<i>compressa</i>	Prickly pear cactus (unnamed)			CITES
<i>Opuntia</i>	<i>stricta</i>	Prickly pear cactus (unnamed)	T		CITES
<i>Osmunda</i>	<i>cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon fern	C ²		
<i>Osmunda</i>	<i>regalis</i> , var. <i>spectabilis</i>	Royal fern	C ²		
<i>Pavonia</i>	<i>spinifex</i>	Yellow Hibiscus			FNAI
<i>Peperomia</i>	<i>humilis</i>	Pepper (unnamed)	E		FNAI
<i>Peperomia</i>	<i>obtusifolia</i>	Florida peperomia	E		FNAI
<i>Pereskia</i>	<i>aculeata</i>	Lemon vine			CITES
<i>Persea</i>	<i>humilis</i>	Scrub bay			FNAI
<i>Pogonia</i>	<i>ophioglossoides</i>	Rose pogonia	T		CITES
<i>Polypodium</i>	<i>plumula</i>	Polypody fern (unnamed)	E		
<i>Ponthieva</i>	<i>racemosa</i>	Shadow witch			CITES
<i>Remirea</i>	<i>maritima</i>	Beach-star	E		
<i>Rhizophora</i>	<i>mangle</i>	Red mangrove			FCREPA
<i>Rhynchosia</i>	<i>cinerea</i>	Brown-haired snoutbean		UR	
<i>Scaevola</i>	<i>plumieri</i>	Scaevola	T		
<i>Sophora</i>	<i>tomentosa</i>	Necklace pod			FNAI
<i>Spiranthes</i>	<i>laciniata</i>	Lace-lip ladies'-tresses; lace-lip spiraea orchid	T		CITES
<i>Tephrosia</i>	<i>angustissima</i> var. <i>curtissii</i>	Narrow-leaved hoary pea; coastal hoary pea	E	UR	FNAI
<i>Tillandsia</i>	<i>utriculata</i>	Giant wild pine; giant air plant	E		
<i>Tournefortia</i>	<i>gnaphalodes</i>	Sea lavender	E		FCREPA, FNAI
<i>Verbena</i>	<i>maritima</i>	Coastal vervain	E	UR	FNAI
<i>Verbena</i>	<i>tampensis</i>	Tampa vervain	E	UR	FNAI
<i>Zamia</i>	<i>pumila</i>	East coast coontie	C ²		CITES, FCREPA

¹ Mostly from Schmalzer and Hinkle 1990; and, P. Schmalzer, personal communication

² "C" means commercially exploited.

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