



Photo courtesy of Michael Gray, GCBO ©

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler

Vermivora peregrina

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Uncommon
When found: April–May; September–October
Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest
Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island

Notes: On some fall days, this can be the most abundant warbler in the woods.



Photo courtesy of Dave Hawkins Photography©

Orange-crowned Warbler

Vermivora celata

- Status: Winter resident
Abundance: Fairly common
When found: November–March
Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest, pine savanna
Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Bayou Heron Road

Notes: This species is very nondescript and frequently overlooked.

Northern Parula

Parula americana

- Status: Summer resident,
nests at Grand Bay
- Abundance: Fairly common
- When found: March–October
- Habitat: Oak hammock,
maritime forest,
swamps
and bottomland
hardwoods
- Best locations: Oak Grove
Birding Trail,
Escatawpa Trail,
West Pecan Road



Photo courtesy of Pamela Johnson ©

Notes: Though just a migrant through most of the Reserve, Northern Parulas breed in the Grand Bay NWR along the Escatawpa River and along Franklin Creek.

Yellow Warbler

Dendroica petechia

- Status: Transient
- Abundance: Uncommon
- When found: April; July–
September
- Habitat: Oak hammock,
maritime forest
- Best locations: Oak Grove Birding
Trail, Kenny's Island

Notes: Migrating in late summer, this species is the earliest of all the fall migrant warblers to pass through the Reserve.



Photo courtesy of
Dave Hawkins Photography©



Photo courtesy of Bill Stripling ©

Magnolia Warbler

Dendroica magnolia

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Uncommon
When found: April–early May;
September–October
Habitat: Oak hammock,
maritime forest
Best locations: Oak Grove Birding
Trail, Kenny’s Island

Notes: In the fall, look for the wide black band at the tip of the tail to tell this bird from other nondescript warblers.



Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Black-throated Green Warbler

Dendroica virens

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Uncommon
When found: April–mid-May;
September–
late October
Habitat: Oak hammock,
maritime forest
Best locations: Oak Grove
Birding Trail,
Kenny’s Island

Notes: These warblers come with the first waves of migrants in the spring and are some of the last to go through in the fall.



Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Blackburnian Warbler

Dendroica fusca

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Uncommon
When found: April–mid-May; September–mid-October
Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest
Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island

Notes: The male Blackburnian Warbler has a blazing orange throat. Look high in the treetops for this bird.

Palm Warbler

Dendroica palmarum

- Status: Winter resident
Abundance: Fairly common
When found: October–April
Habitat: Pine savanna,
maritime forest
Best locations: Bayou Heron Road,
Kenny’s Island



Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Notes: The race of Palm Warbler most often observed in the Reserve area is the brown, or “western”, rather than the yellow, or “eastern” race.

Cerulean Warbler

Dendroica cerulea

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Uncommon
When found: Mid-April–mid-May; August–mid-October
Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest
Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island



Notes: This species typically sticks to the treetops where it seldom offers bird-watchers satisfying views.

Photo courtesy of
Dave Hawkins Photography©



Black-and-white Warbler

Mniotilta varia

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Fairly common
When found: April–May; September–October
Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest
Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island

Notes: Individuals of this species probably winter in the Reserve in small numbers but have not been documented.

Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

American Redstart

Setophaga ruticilla

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Fairly common
When found: Mid-April–mid-May; September–mid-October
Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest
Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island

Notes: Although warblers typically glean insects from leaves, this species is frequently observed behaving more like a flycatcher, “hawking” insects in mid-air.

Photo courtesy of Michael Gray, GCBO ©

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea

- Status: Summer resident,
nests at Grand Bay
- Abundance: Fairly common
- When found: April–mid-October
- Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest,
swamps and bottomland hardwoods
- Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island, Escatawpa Trail

Notes: This is the only warbler species that nests in tree cavities or artificial nest boxes.

Photo courtesy of Danny Johnson ©

*“It is often said that there is a certain
disconnect between man and nature.
If this is true, then for me, the Grand Bay
NERR is the reconnect.”*

Scott A. Rush
Ph.D. Candidate
University of Georgia





Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Worm-eating Warbler

Helmitheros vermivorum

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Uncommon
When found: Mid-April–mid-May; September–mid-October
Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest
Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island

Notes: This brown and tan warbler is often observed feeding on the ground, where it scratches at leaves, exposing insects.

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla

Status:	Transient
Abundance:	Uncommon
When found:	April–mid-May
Habitat:	Oak hammock, maritime forest
Best locations:	Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny's Island

Notes: The species name, aurocapilla, refers to the broad, orange crown patch, which can sometimes be obscured.



Photo courtesy of
Dave Hawkins Photography©

Kentucky Warbler

Oporornis formosus

Status:	Transient
Abundance:	Uncommon
When found:	April; September– mid-October
Habitat:	Oak hammock, maritime forest
Best locations:	Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny's Island

Notes: This warbler is probably much more common during spring and fall migration than currently documented.



Photo courtesy of
Michael Gray, GCBO ©



Photo courtesy of Michael Gray, GCBO ©

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

- Status: Possible permanent resident, nests at Grand Bay
- Abundance: Uncommon year round, but common in April, May, and October
- When found: Year round
- Habitat: Maritime forest, brackish and freshwater marsh, pine savanna
- Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny's Island

Notes: Although this species has been found here year round, no specific individuals have been documented as year round residents.

“I am an educator and a life-long resident of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. My husband, Moe, and I always seek opportunities to experience the natural beauty and wildlife of our coastal area. One of our most enjoyable experiences occurred on a nature-tourism adventure at the Grand Bay Reserve that involved bird banding on a forested midden adjacent to Bayou Cumbest. This adventure was extremely fun and educational. We can’t wait to experience more outdoor activities at the Reserve in the future.”

Rose Pouriraji, Educator



Birding Adventure – Photos courtesy of the Pouriraji's ©



Photo courtesy of Donna McDonald-Bailey ©

Hooded Warbler

Wilsonia citrina

Status:	Transient
Abundance:	Fairly common
When found:	April–mid May; September– mid-October
Habitat:	Oak hammock, maritime forest, swamps and bottomland hardwoods

Best locations: Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island, Escatawpa Trail

Notes: Though considered a migrant, this species may nest on parts of the Grand Bay NWR.



Photo courtesy of Dave Hawkins Photography ©

Yellow-breasted Chat

Icteria virens

Status:	Summer resident, nests at Grand Bay
Abundance:	Fairly common
When found:	April– mid-October
Habitat:	Pine savanna during summer; maritime forest during spring & fall

Best locations: Bayou Heron Road, Coastal Resources Center Savannas, Oak Grove Birding Trail, Kenny’s Island

Notes: A cacophonous racket coming from an overgrown savanna indicates the presence of this species.