

APPENDIX 1

Table A1. Sea and diving ducks (20 species) reported from northern Gulf of Mexico (e.g., Clapp *et al.* 1982b).<sup>a</sup>

Common Name	Scientific name	IUCN, ESA, and or state-listed status	Abundance status of species	Seasonal occurrence	BOEM planning area (PA)	Gulf breeding status	Documentation, notes, and source(s)
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Least Concern	Uncommon to Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Uncommon (EPA and CPA) to common (WPA) winter resident (October-April) in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Accidental from May-September in CPA and WPA. Not expected in Gulf open waters ≥5 km offshore.
<sup>b</sup> Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Uncommon to common but localized winter resident (October-April) across all PAs in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Rare (WPA) to casual (CPA and EPA) other seasons (May-September). Not expected in Gulf open waters ≥5 km offshore.
<sup>b</sup> Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Common winter resident (October-April) across all PAs in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Casual to rare in other seasons (May-September). Not expected in Gulf open waters, but to ≥70 km offshore (e.g., 30 October 2021; <a href="https://ebird.org/tx/checklist/S97325209">https://ebird.org/tx/checklist/S97325209</a> ).
<sup>c</sup> Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Least Concern	Uncommon	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Uncommon winter resident (November-April) across all PAs in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Casual to rare in late spring (May-June). Accidental to casual in summer through mid-fall (July-October). Not expected in Gulf open waters, but to ≥70 km offshore (e.g., 30 October 2021; <a href="https://ebird.org/tx/checklist/S97325209">https://ebird.org/tx/checklist/S97325209</a> ).
<sup>b</sup> Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Common winter resident (October-May) across all PAs in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Casual to rare June-September. Not expected in open Gulf waters ≥5 km offshore.
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Accidental winter and spring visitor (December-May; one FL report 16 June 1972) in each PA in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Not expected in Gulf open waters ≥5 km offshore.
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Near Threatened	Accidental	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Accidental winter visitor (November-May) in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Accidental WPA (one report, shot by hunter, northern Laguna Madre, 8 January 2007) and EPA along FL Gulf coast (one report 16 August 2013). Apparently unreported from CPA. Not expected in Gulf open waters ≥5 km offshore.
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Accidental visitor to each PA. Earlier reports from FL panhandle, an AL coastal report, an old report from LA (Lowery 1974), and three sight reports from coastal TX (summarized in Clapp <i>et al.</i> 1982b: 335). Several more recent eBird

							reports from FL (Alligator Point, Ft. Pickens), AL (Dauphin Island), and TX (Port Aransas, South Padre Island).
<sup>b</sup> Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Least Concerned	Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Rare winter visitor (November-April) to each PA in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Casual to accidental May-October. Not expected in Gulf open waters, but to $\geq 75$ km offshore (e.g., 20 November 2016; <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S154261941">https://ebird.org/checklist/S154261941</a> ).
<sup>b</sup> White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>	Least Concerned	Casual to Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Rare to casual winter visitor (November-April) to each PA in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Accidental May-October. Not expected in Gulf open waters, but to $\geq 50$ km offshore (e.g., 14 April 2016; <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S28959780">https://ebird.org/checklist/S28959780</a> ).
<sup>b</sup> Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>	Near Threatened	Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Rare winter visitor (November-April) to each PA (but more regular in western CPA and EPA) in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Casual to accidental May-October. Not expected in Gulf open waters, but to $\geq 20$ km offshore (e.g., 15 November 2020; <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S76350294">https://ebird.org/checklist/S76350294</a> ).
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Vulnerable	Casual to Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Rare winter visitor (November-April) to WPA and EPA, casual winter visitor to CPA, in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Accidental in all PAs May-October. Not expected in Gulf open waters $\geq 5$ km offshore.
<sup>b</sup> Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Common winter resident (November-April) across all PAs in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Casual to rare May-October. Not expected in Gulf open waters $\geq 5$ km offshore.
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Least Concern	Uncommon	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Uncommon winter resident (November-April) across all PAs in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Accidental May-October. Not expected in Gulf open waters $\geq 5$ km offshore.
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi	Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Accidental to WPA. A report (with photographs) from upper Texas coastal plain, 1-31 December 1991 ( <a href="https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/158644">https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/158644</a> ). Not expected in Gulf open waters $\geq 5$ km offshore.
Hooded Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Least Concern	Uncommon	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Uncommon winter resident (November-March) across all PAs in sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf coastal plain. Casual to accidental April-October in EPA and CPA, accidental in WPA. Not expected in Gulf open waters $\geq 5$ km offshore.
<sup>b</sup> Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Common winter resident (November-May) across all PAs in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Casual to accidental June-October. Not expected in Gulf open waters $\geq 5$ km offshore.
<sup>b</sup> Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Least Concern	Accidental to Casual	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Accidental (WPA) to casual winter visitor (CPA and EPA) in November-March on sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf coastal plain; accidental October, April, May. Mostly absent Gulf-wide June-September. Not expected in Gulf open waters $\geq 5$ km offshore.

Masked Duck	<i>Nomonyx dominicus</i>	Least Concern	Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Western	Breeding; permanent resident	Rare permanent resident and accidental breeder in WPA (Anderson & Tacha 1999), especially lower Texas coast and Galveston Bay region ( <a href="https://txtbba.tamu.edu/species-accounts/masked-duck/">https://txtbba.tamu.edu/species-accounts/masked-duck/</a> ). Accidental to casual in other PAs (eBird; Clapp <i>et al.</i> 1982b). Freshwater and estuarine habitats; not expected in Gulf open waters ≥5 km offshore.
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Common winter resident (October-May) across all PAs in near-coast waters, sounds, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf. Casual to rare June-September, most frequent this season in WPA. Not expected in Gulf open waters ≥5 km offshore.

<sup>a</sup> Criteria for inclusion was based on eBird and Gulf-wide literature syntheses, plus a web-based search conducted for each individual accidental and casual species to improve likelihood of complete listing. Except for migratory (including trans-Gulf) movements or vagrancy, not typically detected during surveys over the Gulf’s open shelf, slope, and pelagic waters >5–10 km from land. At times such species may occur in nearshore waters within state jurisdiction, however, and thus overlap with project siting for nearshore oil, gas, wind, and other renewable energy projects. <sup>b</sup>Species detected on nearshore aerial surveys conducted during GoMMAPPS = Gulf of Mexico Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (2017-2019); IUCN = the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; ESA = U.S. Endangered Species Act. <sup>c</sup>Scaup are difficult to differentiate on aerial surveys, so unidentified reports on aerial surveys may have included this species. Nomenclature follows Chesser *et al.* (2023).

**Table A2.** Additional marine bird taxa (41 species) having primarily coastal affinities reported from the northern Gulf of Mexico region.<sup>a</sup>

Common Name	Scientific name	IUCN, ESA, and or state-listed status	Abundance status of species	Seasonal occurrence	BOEM planning area (PA)	Gulf breeding status	Documentation, notes, and source(s)
Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	Least Concern	Uncommon to Accidental	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Uncommon but widespread permanent resident along coastal plain and wetlands of WPA. Accidental in CPA (two reports, 14 December 1947 and 1-18 December 1978; Clapp <i>et al.</i> 1982a) and EPA (one report: 3 March 1990, Collier County; <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S98553906">https://ebird.org/checklist/S98553906</a> ). No reports from the Gulf's open waters ≥5 km offshore.
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Common permanent resident along coastal plain beaches, estuaries, wetlands, and bays of northern Gulf in all PAs. Rare-to-accidental occurrences ≥5 km offshore are likely trans-Gulf migrants, although foraging-type behavior has been reported ( <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S8870067">https://ebird.org/checklist/S8870067</a> ).
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Vulnerable	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident	Winter resident (November-April) coastal plain, bays, bayous, and sounds of northern Gulf. Common in EPA and CPA, uncommon on upper TX coast and rare on lower TX coast sections of WPA. Accidental to casual along northern Gulf other seasons (May-October). Casually detected on Gulf vessel surveys in nearshore open waters (NRDA 6; Haney <i>et al.</i> 2019).
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Accidental to casual winter visitor (October-April) to coastal plain, bays, bayous, and sounds of northern Gulf. Only a handful of documented reports (e.g., photos) from each PA. Additional unverified sight reports may suggest rare status. No reports from the Gulf's open waters ≥5 km offshore.
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Least Concern	Common to Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident and migrant	Common winter resident and migratory visitor (September-May) to coastal plain, bays, bayous, and sounds of northern Gulf. Common in WPA (especially central and lower TX coast; casual in summer), rare in CPA (accidental in summer) and EPA. One report from Gulf open waters ~3 km offshore Holly Beach, LA ( <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S21496380">https://ebird.org/checklist/S21496380</a> ).
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Least Concern	Casual to Accidental	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter resident and migrant	Casual (WPA) to accidental (CPA and EPA) winter visitor and migratory visitor (October-May) to coastal plain, bays, bayous, and sounds of northern Gulf. No reports from the Gulf's open waters ≥5 km offshore.
Gray-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi	Eastern	Non-breeding; extra-limital visitor	One report from EPA. Photos of an adult in alternate plumage, St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, Franklin County, FL (26 December 1998 only). One previous report (undocumented) from Panama, and one subsequent report (24 July-5 August 2011; with photographs) from NY. McNair (1999), Banks <i>et al.</i> (2002), <a href="https://ebird.org/news/ebird-and-the-gray-hooded-gull">https://ebird.org/news/ebird-and-the-gray-hooded-gull</a> . Vagrant of South American or African origin.
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi	Eastern	Non-breeding; extra-limital winter visitor	Multiple reports. Photos and a specimen from five locations in EPA along FL Gulf coast (3 December-18 February) since 1990. No coastal reports from other Gulf states or PAs. Vagrant from Greenland, Europe, or Asia.

Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Least Concern	Accidental to Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital winter visitor	Multiple reports. Accidental in EPA (unsubstantiated: one eBird report from 26 April 1964, <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S8686054">https://ebird.org/checklist/S8686054</a> ); casual in CPA (photos: at least 9 eBird reports from coastal AL and LA, 27 October-21 May); casual to rare in the WPA along entire TX coastline (photos: at least 16 eBird reports, 13 October-18 April). Winter visitor from Hudson Bay, Canada, the Great Lakes, or Europe and Asia.
Gray Gull	<i>Leucophaeus modestus</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Su, Fa	Eastern	Non-breeding; extra-limital visitor	One report. Photos of likely the same bird in 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle alternate plumage from near Dauphin Island to Orange Beach, AL (CPA), and from Perdido Key to Rosemary Beach, FL (EPA)(5 June 2023-at least 14 October 2024). Although first record for United States (e.g., see: <a href="https://www.birdguides.com/news/first-grey-gull-for-usa-discovered-in-florida/">https://www.birdguides.com/news/first-grey-gull-for-usa-discovered-in-florida/</a> ), reported twice earlier in the southern Gulf of Mexico from states of Yucatan (7 January 2009; <a href="https://www.birdguides.com/news/first-grey-gull-for-usa-discovered-in-florida/">https://www.birdguides.com/news/first-grey-gull-for-usa-discovered-in-florida/</a> ) and Campeche, Mexico (9 October 2021; <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S95887290">https://ebird.org/checklist/S95887290</a> ). Vagrant from Humboldt Current region of Pacific Ocean, South America.
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	Least Concern; BCC	Uncommon to Common	Fa, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; migrant	Uncommon (EPA and CPA) to common (WPA) passage trans-Gulf migrant and visitor to near-coast waters, beaches, and bays. Casual visitor during fall, mostly in the WPA, e.g., one report from Gulf shelf during large vessel surveys (Haney <i>et al.</i> 2019). Breeds in interior prairie marshes of northern U.S. and west-central Canada.
Belcher's Gull	<i>Larus belcheri</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Su, Fa, Wi	Eastern	Non-breeding; extra-limital visitor	At least four EPA reports (Olson 1976, Stevenson <i>et al.</i> 1980). Photos from FL Gulf coast (September 1968, Escambia County; 6 June 1970, 11 November 1974-29 January 1975, and January-11 February 1976, all Collier County). Vagrant from Humboldt Current region, eastern Pacific Ocean, South America.
Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi, Sp	Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital visitor	Two reports from the TX coastal plain in WPA. Photos from near Brownsville (13 February-15 March 1999) and near Corpus Christi (4 March 2004). Vagrant from eastern Asia.
Heerman's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	Near Threatened; BCC	Accidental to Casual	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital visitor	At least nine reports. Accidental in WPA (25-31 March 2016), casual since 2000 in EPA (8 reports; all months but mostly fall and winter), unrecorded in CPA. No non-coastal records in the northern Gulf. Two reports with photographs from southern Gulf, Quintana Roo, Mexico (August and October 2018); at least 40-50 reports (most with photos) on the Atlantic Ocean coast of FL north to RI. Vagrant, near endemic to the Baja region, Mexico, in the eastern Pacific Ocean (e.g., Gulf of California).
Short-billed Gull	<i>Larus brachyrhynchus</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi, Sp	Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital visitor	Four reports. Accidental on the coastal plain of WPA, with photos from near Galveston, Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi, and Delta Lake Park, TX (27 October-6 April). Two inland reports from CPA (Louisiana). No reports from EPA. Vagrant from northwest North America.
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern,	Non-breeding; winter resident	Common coastal resident and uncommon summer visitor across the entire northern Gulf; widespread in all three PAs. Generally rare in pelagic waters far

					Central, Western		from land (GoMMAPPS), mostly in winter (e.g., associated with fishing vessels). Breeds on freshwater wetlands in interior North America.
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Least Concern; BCC	Accidental	Fa	Western	Non-breeding; extra- limital visitor	Three reports. Accidental on the coastal plain of WPA. Three reports with photos from near Port Aransas, Corpus Christi, and La Sal del Rey, Lower Rio Grande NWR, TX (25 October-28 November). No reports from either CPA or EPA. Vagrant from Pacific Ocean of western North America.
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Least Concern; BCC	Accidental to Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; extra- limital winter visitor	Multiple reports. Accidental along the coastal plain, beaches, and bays in EPA (26 September-16 March), rare fall through spring in CPA (1 September-14 May; accidental in summer), and rare fall through spring in WPA (5 September-25 May; accidental in summer). One boat-based report from Louisiana nearshore waters (8 February 2013). Breeds in interior lakes and rivers of north-western North America.
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi, Sp	Western	Non-breeding; extra- limital visitor	Two WPA reports, with photos (2003 and 2004). Accidental near Corpus Christi, TX (30 January-20 March). Vagrant from western Europe.
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Least Concern	Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; extra- limital winter visitor	Many reports from the coastal plain, beaches, and bays of WPA (rare to uncommon: 24 October-8 May), CPA (rare: 11 October-28 May), and EPA (rare: 10 October-17 April). A single non-coastal report near the WR1 buoy, Alligator Point, FL. Mid-winter visitor from Arctic Canada and Greenland.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Least Concern	Uncommon	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding	Many reports from the coastal plain, beaches, and bays of all three PAs (all months; most frequent October-April, rare in summer). Rare away from the coast (e.g., associated with fishing vessels). Presumed vagrant from Europe, but an enigmatically widespread and regular Gulf visitor.
Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Fa, Wi	Eastern, Western	Non-breeding; extra- limital visitor	Five reports. Photos from panhandle (16 November 2021) and Key West, FL in EPA (8 August 2002-6 May 2003), and along TX coastal plain in WPA (near Brownsville, 8-22 February 1992; Corpus Christi, 21-24 December 2003; and Houston, 1-21 February 2007). Unreported CPA. Vagrant from coastal waters of northwest Pacific Ocean, northeast Asia.
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi	Central	Non-breeding; extra- limital visitor	One report from CPA. Photo from AL coastal plain (4 January 2008). Vagrant from Pacific Ocean coastal waters, northwest North America.
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Least Concern	Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; extra- limital winter visitor	Many reports from coastal plain, beaches, and bays of northern Gulf (13 September-29 May; accidental in summer). Less frequent and widespread in EPA. One report from shelf waters of southwest FL (31 December 2004). Mid-winter visitor from Arctic regions of the Northern Hemisphere.
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Least Concern	Casual to Uncommon	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; extra- limital winter visitor	Many reports from the coastal plain, beaches, and bays in all three PAs (4 September-24 May). Sparse and local across northern Gulf, more frequent in FL. Casual in fall, uncommon in winter and spring, accidental to casual in summer. Accidental to casual in shelf waters (e.g., 25.113°, -82.492°; Laakkonen 2021, NRDA 6, GoMMAPPS). Breeds in eastern Canada and northeastern U.S.

Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital visitor	Nine reports, most with photos. One from EPA (28 December 2010-8 January 2011), four in CPA (7-8 July 1989, 5 June 1992, 26 June-23 July 1994 [four individuals], and 17 April 1999), and four in WPA (4 January 1996-17 April 1997, 12 January 2006, 8 November-19 December 2008, 20-21 April 2022). Rare local breeder, hybridizing with Herring Gull, in coastal LA (Dittmann & Cardiff 2005, Fontenot <i>et al.</i> 2012). One report 37 km offshore of Port Fourchon, LA, with other gulls at a trawler. Vagrant from coastal waters of South America.
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Least Concern; BCC; LA-state endangered; MS-state endangered; FL-threatened	Common	Sp, Su, Fa	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Common and widespread breeder along the coastal plain, beaches, estuaries, and bays of entire northern Gulf (5 March-18 October, mostly late March to early September). Generally absent from shelf waters when breeding (Visser & Peterson 1994). Casual to accidental far from land during post-breeding dispersal and trans-Gulf migration when sometimes joins mixed-species tern flocks (GoMMAPPS). During late fall (November) and winter, casual to rare in the WPA, accidental in CPA and EPA.
Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Su, Fa	Eastern	Non-breeding; extra-limital visitor	One report (photos). A bird on the Gulf coastal plain of Collier County, FL in the EPA (20 July 2023-at least mid-September 2024). Two other 2023 reports from elsewhere in FL. Vagrant from inland rivers and freshwater lakes of South America.
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Least Concern; BCC	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Common and widespread breeder along the coastal plain, beaches, estuaries, and enclosed bays of the entire northern Gulf. Present year-round. Rarely seen away from the immediate coast; accidental over shelf waters during post-breeding dispersal and trans-Gulf movements when it may occasionally associate with fishing trawlers (GoMMAPPS, NRDA 6, Haney <i>et al.</i> 2019).
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Common and widespread year-round along the coastal plain, beaches, estuaries, and bays of the entire northern Gulf. Breeding colonies partial to artificial habitat (e.g., dredge-material islands). Nesting widespread in WPA along TX coastline; sparse and/or local breeder in the CPA and EPAs (McNair (2000). Casual to rare ≥20 km offshore during post-breeding dispersal and trans-Gulf migration (eBird, NRDA 6, GoMMAPPS).
Forster’s Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Least Concern; BCC	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Common year-round in all PAs. Breeds on coastal islands and marshlands of the WPA, CPA, and extreme northwest portion of EPA. Does not regularly breed in peninsular FL. Absent far from land when breeding (Visser & Peterson 1994). Casual to uncommon >5-20 km offshore during post-breeding dispersal and trans-Gulf migration (Haney <i>et al.</i> 2019, GoMMAPPS).
Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>	Near Threatened; BCC	Casual to Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital	Multiple reports, many with photos. Rare in EPA (~25 reports nearly year-round, especially central FL Gulf coast; 30 September-24 July). Casual in WPA (~10 reports, upper and central TX coast; 10 September-19 December, 15 April, 10-25 July). Unreported from CPA. Five reports from southern Gulf, in states of Veracruz and Campeche, Mexico (eBird). Vagrant from western Mexico, eastern Pacific Ocean (e.g., Gulf of California).



Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	BCC; Least Concern FL-species of special concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Common and widespread breeder along the coastal plain, beaches, estuaries, and bays of entire northern Gulf in each PA. Absent from shelf waters during breeding. Casual to accidental far from land during trans-Gulf migration.
Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Least Concern	Rare to Uncommon	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital winter visitor	Multiple reports (including photos). Rare in the WPA ( $\geq 18$ reports; 11 November-14 June) and CPA ( $\geq 18$ reports; 12 November-5 May), uncommon in the EPA, especially along FL panhandle ( $\geq 70$ reports; 10 November-17 June). Two detections during large-scale vessel surveys in near-coast waters off MS (GoMMAPPS).
Arctic Loon	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Least Concern	Accidental	Wi	Eastern	Non-breeding; extra-limital winter visitor	At least four reports from FL Gulf coastal plain, EPA. Three specimens: 14 December 1971, Wakulla County; 20 April 1975, Dry Tortugas, Monroe County (GEW/USF #5000); 12 April 1976, Pinellas County (GEW/USF #5024), and a sight report with sketch by Robert Crawford, 15 December 1979, Wakulla County ( <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S96991730">https://ebird.org/checklist/S96991730</a> )(Kittleson 1976, Hopkins & Woolfenden 1977).
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	Least Concern	Rare	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital winter visitor	Many reports (including photos). Rare during winter in the WPA ( $\geq 40$ reports; 22 October-25 May; casual in summer), CPA ( $\geq 20$ reports; 15 November-15 May), and EPA ( $\geq 50$ reports; 21 November-28 May; accidental in summer).
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Least Concern	Casual	Fa, Wi, Sp	Eastern, Central	Non-breeding; extra-limital winter visitor	Multiple reports. Photos from widely scattered locations. Casual to rare along the west Florida coast in EPA (especially near Tampa Bay), accidental in CPA (7 October-7 May; Clapp <i>et al.</i> 1982a, eBird). Unreported over shelf waters, and in summer anywhere from the Gulf of Mexico.
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Common widespread breeder and year-round resident along the coastal plain, beaches, estuaries, and bays of all three PAs. Casual to accidental in open waters >3-20 km from land, usually in flight or associated with buoys, channel markers, oil and gas platforms, and other fixed structures (NRDA 6, GoMMAPPS). One carcass retrieved from shelf waters in southwest FL during <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> oil spill (26.63221°, -82.92253°).
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	Least Concern	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Breeding	Common widespread breeder and year-round resident along the coastal plain, beaches, estuaries, and bays of WPA and the more western portions of the CPA. Very local accidental to casual visitor in EPA (e.g., St. Marks NWR, southwest FL, and outer Keys). Accidental in offshore waters to 20 km from coast (eBird, NRDA 6, GoMMAPPS). One carcass retrieved from shelf waters in panhandle FL during <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> oil spill (29.92147°, -85.65432°).
?[Red-legged Cormorant]	?[ <i>Poikilocarbo gaimardi</i> ]	Near Threatened	Accidental	Wi	Western	Non-breeding; extra-limital winter visitor	A South American Pacific coast species described and reported from the WPA at Galveston, Texas, 28 December 1946 (Oberholser 1974: 94). If identification was correct, Clapp <i>et al.</i> (1982a) considered report an escaped captive bird, but it did not present as ill or disabled, and flew off under observation.



American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Least Concern; BCC	Common	Fa, Wi, Sp, Su	Eastern, Central, Western	Non-breeding; winter visitor	Common winter resident (September-May) along the coastal plain, beaches, estuaries, and bays of the entire northern Gulf, in all three PAs. Uncommon in summer. Casual to accidental in open marine waters far from land (eBird).
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<sup>a</sup> Criteria for inclusion was based on eBird and Gulf-wide literature syntheses, plus a web-based search conducted for each individual accidental and casual species to improve likelihood of complete listing. Except for migratory (including trans-Gulf) movements or vagrancy, not typically detected during vessel or aerial surveys over the Gulf’s open shelf, slope, and pelagic habitats >5–10 km from land (i.e., waters under federal jurisdiction). Such species may at times occur in nearshore waters within state jurisdiction, however, and thus overlap with project siting for nearshore oil, gas, wind and other renewable energy projects. NRDA 6 = *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Bird Study 6 (2010-2011); GoMMAPPS = Gulf of Mexico Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (2017-2019); VSAD = Vessel Surveys for Abundance and Distribution (2023-2024); IUCN = the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; ESA = U.S. Endangered Species Act. Nomenclature follows Chesser *et al.* (2023). State status as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern after Burger (2017).

**TABLE A3****Marine and aquatic birds of the northern Gulf of Mexico designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in the five Gulf state wildlife action plans**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>Mississippi</b>	<b>Alabama</b>	<b>Florida</b>
Canvasback		X			
Redhead		X			
Lesser Scaup		X	X		X
Franklin's Gull	X				
Brown Noddy					X
Sooty Tern	X	X			X
Least Tern	X	X	X		X
Gull-billed Tern	X	X	X	X	X
Caspian Tern		X			
Black Tern	X				
Roseate Tern					X
Common Tern		X			
Forster's Tern	X	X			
Royal Tern		X	X		
Sandwich Tern		X	X		
Black Skimmer	X	X	X		X
Magnificent Frigatebird					X
Masked Booby					X
American White Pelican	X				
Brown Pelican	X	X	X		X

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