

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
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Necedah, WI 54646
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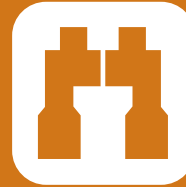
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/>



Necedah

*National Wildlife Refuge
Wildlife Viewing "Hot Spots"*



Oak Savannas

Oak savannas are a habitat with diverse herbaceous, shrub and overstory layers. They provide homes for many rare species including the massasauga rattlesnake, loggerhead shrike, phlox moth, Blanding's turtle, and the endangered Karner blue butterfly. They are also used as nesting habitat by over 100 species of migratory birds.

Many plant species are found in savannas, but blueberries, sweetfern and goldenrod are the most common plants. They are characterized by interspersed open areas, shrubby appearance and a few tall trees.

Savannas are restored by timber harvesting, followed by prescribed burning to set back succession. Historically, there were 4 million acres of savannas in Wisconsin; only about 5 thousand acres remain today.

Wetlands

Wetlands are utilized by waterfowl and many other animals such as sandhill cranes, herons, eagles, osprey, and shorebirds. Smartweed, arrowhead, bidens, rice cutgrass, and duckweed provide high energy food for waterfowl.

Water levels are manipulated to accommodate waterfowl needs. This provides optimal feeding, nesting, and resting areas for the birds. Wetlands have been restored throughout the refuge since 1940. This effort has created over 11,000 wetland acres on the refuge.

Notice the different color of the water in the ditches. The yellow water is caused by the high mineral/iron content. Necedah is a Native American word meaning "*land of yellow water*."

Sedge Meadows

Sedge meadows have soils which are wet. They are home to marsh hawks, sedge wrens, and sora rails, as well as dozens of other bird and animal species. These meadows are easily

recognizable by the dominance of willow and various sedges, with little or no open water.

Grasslands

Grasslands are managed by mowing or burning to maintain nesting and grazing sites for ducks, geese, sandhill cranes and white-tailed deer.

Oak/Pine Woodlands

Oak and Pine Woodlands provide excellent habitat for neo-tropical migratory birds such as the scarlet tanager, eastern wood-pewee, and ovenbird. Dominant tree species are the Hill's oak, aspen, and jack pine, with a scattering of other pines, oaks, and willow. These forests are the result of uncontrolled succession. Originally the land in the area was very open; kept open by frequent, naturally-occurring fires. With the coming of the era of "fire prevention", succession occurred in most of the forests in the area. This created closed canopy forests where savannas once occurred.

Plantations are the second forest type and are ideal nesting areas for Cooper's hawks, but provide habitat that is of little use of other wildlife species. Dominant tree species are red and white pine. These forests were originally planted in the late 1920's and 1930's to reclaim the land. Management includes selective cutting to increase diversity.

Special Use Conditions

- n Bicycles and motorized vehicles including ATV's and snowmobiles are not permitted off township road rights of way. Check local laws for restrictions.
- n Refuge parking is permitted in designated areas only. Do not block gates.
- n Camping and picnicking are not permitted on the refuge. Several areas close by offer sites for these activities. Call the office for suggestions.

The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset.

- n Open fires and charcoal fires are not permitted on the refuge.
- n Pets must be leashed at all times.
- n The speed limit is 25mph unless otherwise posted.
- n Boats *without motors* may be used for fishing on Sprague and Goose Pools. Boats with motors may be used for hunting and fishing on Suk Cerney Flowage.

Activities

Hiking is permitted on designated trails and township roads.

Hiking



X-Country Skiing



Cross-country skiing is permitted throughout the refuge December 15 - March 31.

Auto Touring



Auto touring is permitted along township roads only. Roads are unpaved and can be rendered impassable due to weather conditions. Please check at refuge headquarters for current conditions.

Hunting

Hunting is permitted in certain areas of the refuge during portions of the state hunting seasons. A hunting brochure is available at refuge headquarters. *In the interest of safety, no public activity other than hunting is permitted on the refuge during the state gun-deer season.*

Fishing



Fishing is permitted on certain refuge waters. A fishing brochure is available at refuge headquarters which identifies open waters, seasons, and boating restrictions.

Other Activities

Berry picking, birding and hiking are permitted refuge-wide, July 1 - August 15. No other plant material may be taken from the refuge. This includes flowers, seeds and root stock.

Prohibited Activities

Activities not expressly permitted are prohibited. If you have any questions, please check with refuge staff at the refuge headquarters.

Various refuge brochures are available in many locations around the perimeter of the refuge.

Bluebirds

Bluebirds can be seen on savannas and grasslands. Early arrivals appear in March, while peak migration occurs in April.



Bluebird, D. Menke, USFWS

Karner Blue Butterflies

Karner blue butterflies can be seen on oak savannas which have an abundance of wild lupine. Each year, two generations of this butterfly hatch, and adult butterflies emerge in late May/early June and in late July/early August. Wild lupine is critical to the butterfly because the Karner larvae feed exclusively on lupine and the adults rely on a lupine and a variety of other wildflowers for their food, feeding on the nectar. *The Karner blue butterfly is an endangered species. Killing or molesting the butterfly or destroying its habitat is a federal offense; fines of up to \$10,000 and/or 1 year in jail can be levied*

Karner Blue Butterfly, J. & K Hollingsworth





*Trumpeter Swan,
USFWS Photo*

Swans

Swans can be seen on the refuge during spring and fall. There are three species that spend time on the refuge; the trumpeter, tundra and mute swan. The most abundant are the tundra swans, which don't nest here, but can be seen during the migration. Mute swans are a "non-native" species. Trumpeters were non-existent in Wisconsin in the early 1900s. In 1994, 25 cygnets were reared on the refuge in hopes of establishing a breeding population. Eggs were removed from nests in Alaska and transported to the Milwaukee Zoo where they were hatched in incubators.



*Sandhill Crane,
J. Mattsson, USFWS*

Sandhill Cranes

Sandhill cranes are common on the refuge and can be seen near wetlands or in open fields. They arrive in mid to late March and leave in October - November for warmer climates.



*Bald Eagle, USFWS
Photo*

Eagles

Eagles are common on the refuge. Bald eagles are the most common and can be seen year-round near the open water. Golden eagles are present year-round, but are more likely to be seen in fall and winter.



*Great Horned Owl,
D. Menke, USFWS*

Hawks and Owls

Hawks and owls are common sights during spring, summer and fall. Red-tailed hawks, harriers and kestrels are the most abundant. Great-horned owls are present throughout the year, and can be seen or heard most often at dawn or dusk.



*Lesser Scaup,
USFWS Photo*

Ducks

Ducks are very common on the refuge. Nesting species include the mallard, wood duck, blue winged teal, and black duck. Large numbers of ducks congregate on the refuge during the fall. They can be seen on the Sprague and Goose Pools and from the observation tower.



Wood Duck, Tom Kerr, USFWS

White-tailed deer

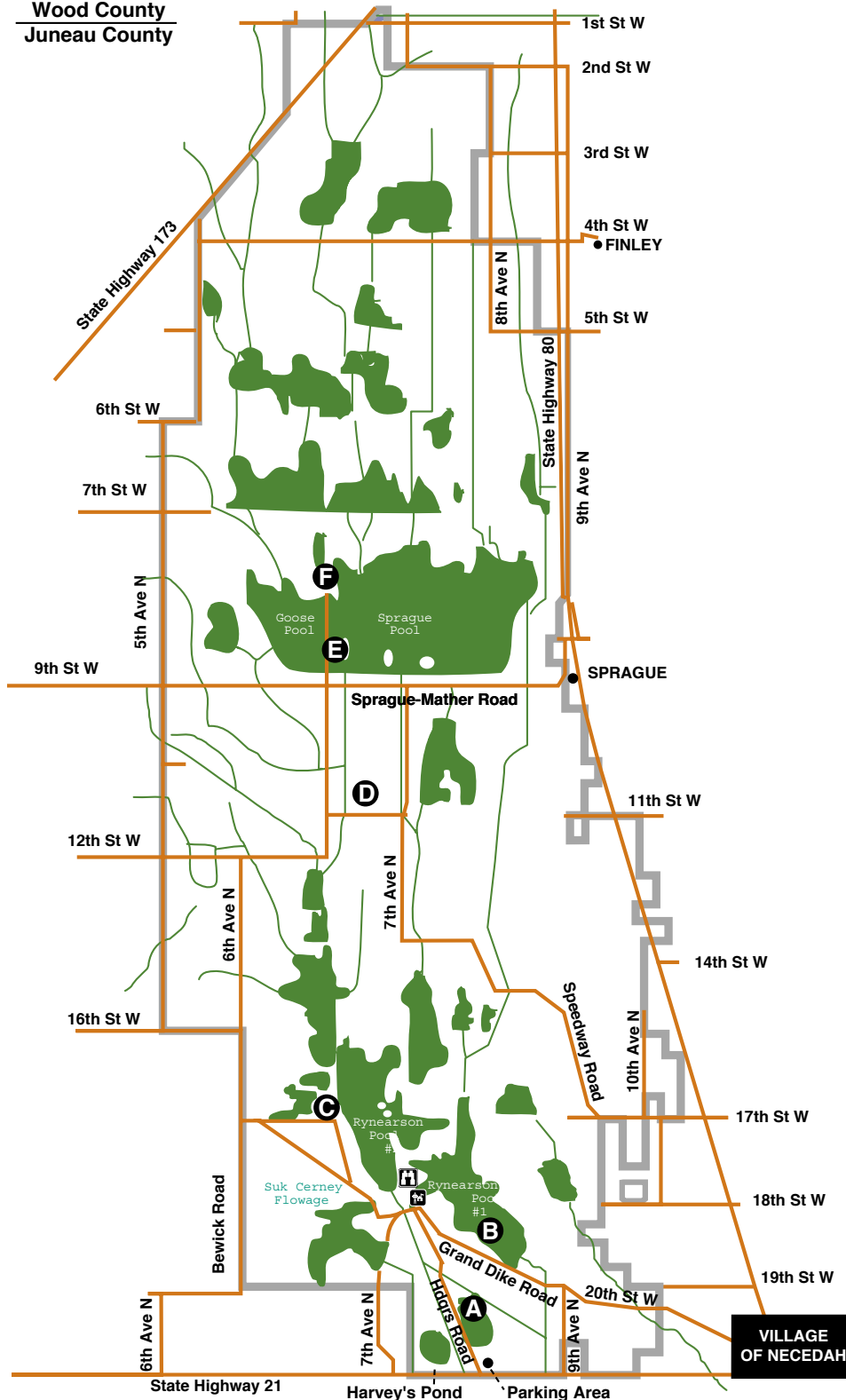
White-tailed deer can be seen in fields, on the roadsides, and in refuge savannas year-round.



*Fawn, J. Hennen,
USFWS*

Songbirds

Songbirds can be found throughout the refuge. Ground nesting birds such as bobolink and field sparrow, and shrub nesters, like the gray catbird and brown thrasher, are common during mid-June. Canopy nesting species such as the northern oriole, scarlet tanager, and wood peewee can also be seen.



Public Roads

Ditch

Pools

Refuge Boundary

Refuge Headquarters

Photo Blinds

- A Wetlands Observation Deck**
Look for ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, osprey and marsh hawks, bobolinks and other waterfowl.
- B Rynearson Wetlands Observation Tower and Trail**
Look for ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, eagles, swans and other waterfowl. The tower is closed during snow and ice conditions. Open Dec. 15-Oct31.
- C Pair Ponds Trail**
Walk the trail and look for waterfowl, shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians, herons, turkeys, and deer. Open Dec. 15-Oct31.
- D Canfields**
Look for bluebirds and turkey.
- E Sprague Pool**
Look for eagles, osprey, ducks, herons, geese and other waterfowl.
- F Lupine Loop**
Walk the trail and look for lupine and endangered Karner blue butterflies. Open Dec. 15-Oct31.

Photo blind: This blind, located on a savanna ridge between wetlands, provides views of swans, eagles, waterfowl, and occasionally, wolves. The blind is a 0.6-mile hike from the headquarters parking area.