

Birds of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District

In 1958, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service initiated the Small Wetlands Program to protect critical waterfowl and wildlife habitat. Since that time, some 166 parcels of land totaling more than 43,000 acres in Becker, Clay, Mahnomen, Norman, and Polk Counties in northwestern Minnesota have been preserved in the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD). These areas are known as Waterfowl Production Areas and range in size from 9 acres to nearly 2,000 acres.

The Detroit Lakes WMD is located in a transition zone where the tallgrass prairie meets the edges of both northern hardwood and boreal forest ecosystems. The variety of habitats found in this region offer excellent birding opportunities.

The following list of 289 species has been developed from past and existing records and from first-hand knowledge of local and visiting birding enthusiasts. We invite visiting birders to stop in at our WMD office near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota to share their bird sightings and learn more about specific birding locations. Enjoy your visit. Good birding!

Legend

S..... Spring..... March - May
s..... Summer..... June - July
F..... Fall..... August - November
W..... Winter..... December - February

a..... Abundant-Species that is very numerous
c..... Common-Certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
u Uncommon-Present but not certain to be seen
o..... Occasional-Seen only a few times during the season
r..... Rare-Seen at intervals of 2-5 years
ac... Accidental
*Denotes species nesting in the WMD
(I) .. Denotes species introduced into the area

Common Name **S s F W**

Swans, Geese, and Ducks

Greater White-fronted Goose	r	r		
Snow Goose	o			
Ross's Goose.....	r	r		
Canada Goose*.....	a	a	a	u
Mute Swan(I).....	r	r	r	
Trumpeter Swan.....	c	c	c	c
Tundra Swan	c			
Wood Duck*	a	a		
Gadwall*	c	o	c	
American Wigeon	c	r	c	
American Black Duck	o			
Mallard*.....	a	a		o
Blue-winged Teal*	a	a		
Northern Shoveler*	c	u	c	

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Green-winged Teal*	a	u	a	
Canvasback*	c	c	c	
Redhead*	c	u	c	
Ring-necked Duck*	a	c	a	
Greater Scaup	r		r	
Lesser Scaup*	c	r	c	
White-winged Scoter.....	o	o	r	o
Black Scoter			r	
Long-tailed Duck.....				r
Bufflehead	c		c	
Common Goldeneye*	c	u	c	
Hooded Merganser*	c	c	c	
Common Merganser	u		u	
Red-breasted Merganser	u		r	
Ruddy Duck*	c	c	c	

Grouse and Turkeys

Gray Partridge*(I)	o	o	o	o
Ring-necked Pheasant*(I)	u	u	u	u
Ruffed Grouse*	c	c	c	c
Sharp-tailed Grouse*	o	o	o	o
Greater Prairie-Chicken*	c	c	c	c
Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u

Loons

Common Loon*	c	c	c	
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Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe*	c	c	c	
Horned Grebe	o	ac	o	
Red-necked Grebe*	c	c	c	
Eared Grebe.....	o	ac	o	
Western Grebe*	o	r	o	
Clark's Grebe	ac		ac	

Pelicans

American White Pelican	u	u	u	
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Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant*	c	c	c	
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Herons and Bitterns

American Bittern*	c	c	c	
Least Bittern*	o	o	o	
Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	
Great Egret*	c	c	o	
Cattle Egret	r	r	r	
Green Heron*	c	c	u	
Black-crowned Night-Heron*	o	r	o	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r	r	r	

Vultures

Turkey Vulture.....	c	c	c	
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Common Name	S	s	F	W
Hawks and Eagles				
Osprey*	c	c	u	
Bald Eagle*	c	c	c	u
Northern Harrier*	c	c	c	
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	u	u	u	r
Cooper's Hawk*	u	u	u	r
Northern Goshawk.....	r	r	r	o
Red-shouldered Hawk*	o	o	o	
Broad-winged Hawk*	c	c	c	
Swainson's Hawk.....	r		r	
Red-tailed Hawk*	a	a	a	r
Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	r
Golden Eagle.....	r		r	r

Falcons

American Kestrel*	c	c	c	r
Merlin.....	o	o	o	
Gyr Falcon				ac
Peregrine Falcon.....	u	u	u	
Prairie Falcon.....	r		r	

Rails and Coots

Yellow Rail*	o	o	r	
Virginia Rail*	u	u	u	
Sora*	c	c	c	
Common Moorhen.....	ac	ac		
American Coot*	a	c	a	

Cranes

Sandhill Crane*	c	c	c	
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Plovers

Black-bellied Plover	o		o	
American Golden-Plover	o		o	
Semipalmated Plover	o		o	
Piping Plover.....	ac		ac	
Killdeer*	c	c	c	

Avocet

American Avocet*	o	o	o	
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Sandpipers

Greater Yellowlegs	c	o	c	
Lesser Yellowlegs	c	o	c	
Solitary Sandpiper	o		o	
Willet	r		r	
Spotted Sandpiper*.....	c	c	c	
Upland Sandpiper*	u	u	u	
Whimbrel	ac		ac	
Hudsonian Godwit.....	o		o	
Marbled Godwit*	c	c	c	
Ruddy Turnstone.....	o		o	
Red Knot	ac		ac	

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Sanderling	o		o	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	o		o	
Least Sandpiper	o	r	o	
White-rumped Sandpiper.....	r	o		
Baird's Sandpiper.....	o		o	
Pectoral Sandpiper	o		o	
Dunlin.....	o		o	
Stilt Sandpiper	o		o	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r		r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	o		o	
Long-billed Dowitcher	o		o	
Wilson's Snipe*	c	c	c	
American Woodcock*	u	u	u	
Wilson's Phalarope*	u	o	u	
Red-necked Phalarope.....	o		o	

Gulls and Terns

Franklin's Gull	o	r	o	
Bonaparte's Gull	o	r	o	
Ring-billed Gull.....	c	c	c	
Herring Gull.....	o	r	o	
Caspian Tern	o	r	o	
Common Tern*	o	r	o	
Forster's Tern*	o	o	o	
Black Tern*	c	c	c	

Pigeons & Doves

Rock Pigeon*(I).....	c	c	c	c
Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	o

Cuckoos

Black-billed Cuckoo*	o	o	o	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	r	r	r	

Owls

Eastern Screech-Owl*	r	r	r	r
Great Horned Owl*	c	c	c	c
Snowy Owl.....				o
Northern Hawk Owl				r
Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u
Great Gray Owl*	r	r	r	r
Long-eared Owl*	o	r	o	r
Short-eared Owl*	o	r	o	r
Boreal Owl.....				ac
Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	r	r	r	o

Nightjars

Common Nighthawk*	c	c	c	
Whip-poor-will	r	r	r	

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Swifts				
Chimney Swift*	c	c	c	
Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	c	

Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher*	c	c	c	
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Woodpeckers

Red-headed Woodpecker*	o	o	o	
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*	c	c	c	
Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
American Three-toed Woodpecker	r			r
Black-backed Woodpecker	r			r
Northern Flicker*	a	c	a	r
Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u

Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher	o	o	o	
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		r	
Alder Flycatcher*	u	u	u	
Willow Flycatcher	r	r	r	
Least Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	
Say's Phoebe	ac	ac		
Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
Western Kingbird*	u	u	u	
Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	

Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike	o	o	o	
Northern Shrike	o		o	o

Vireos

White-eyed Vireo.....	ac	ac		
Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	u	u
Blue-headed Vireo				u
Warbling Vireo*	c	c	c	
Philadelphia Vireo	u		u	
Red-eyed Vireo*	c	a	u	

Crows and Jays

Gray Jay	r		r	r
Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
Black-billed Magpie*	c	c	c	c
American Crow*	a	a	a	u
Common Raven.....	u	o	u	c

Larks

Horned Lark*	c	u	u	r
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