

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
14000 W. State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ottawa

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List



The Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex, located 15 miles east of Toledo, Ohio, contains remnants of a vast marsh that once bordered western Lake Erie. The complex is comprised of three wildlife refuges: Ottawa NWR, Cedar Point NWR, and West Sister Island NWR.

The Ottawa NWR complex consists of over 9000 acres of marshes, wooded wetlands, coastal wetlands, shrublands, grasslands, and an estuary that support a variety of wildlife communities. The complex is recognized as an important stopover area for migratory songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Dramatic flights of migratory birds may be seen at Ottawa NWR, notably the spring migration of warblers, and the autumn passage of waterfowl. West Sister Island is home to the largest wading bird colony in the U.S. Great Lakes. These birds may be observed feeding in coastal marshes. The Ottawa NWR complex has received recognition as being a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy, and is part of the Western Lake Erie Regional Shorebird Reserve in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The Ottawa NWR complex is regularly recognized as one of the top birding sites in the nation, receiving recognition most recently as a Top 10 birding destination from "Birder's World" magazine.

The common names used and the taxonomic order are in accordance with the American Ornithologists' Union "Checklist of North American Birds", 7th Edition, through the 45th Supplement. Family names follow the American Birding Association checklist convention.

The 308 species listed here include both common species and irregular visitors. Seasonal occurrence information is derived from numerous sources, including the monthly bird survey at Ottawa NWR (1969-present), Black Swamp Bird Observatory banding stations and surveys, Toledo Naturalist Association surveys, Refuge staff surveys, and expert opinion. Due to changes in species occurrence over time, data from 1990-2004 were used for seasonal occurrence to most accurately represent the current likelihood of seeing a bird. Data from 1969-2004 were used to document the occurrence of rare birds.

The likelihood of observing a species may be lower or higher than the occurrence listed here, due to natural variability within seasons and among years, timing of your visit in relation to peaks in migration, habitats observed during your visit, and differences in detectability between species.

Visiting birders are encouraged to share their rare sightings with refuge staff.

Bird Legend

C common-seen on 90% of visits
 F fairly common-seen on 50-90%
 U uncommon-20-50%
 R rare-less than 20% of visits
 X extremely rare-fewer than 6 times since 1969
 - no records
 * has nested on Refuge since 1990

Spring March through May
 Summer June and July
 Fall August through November
 Winter December through February

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Ducks, Geese & Swans				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	-	X	-	-
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	X	-	R	R
___ Snow Goose	U	X	U	F
___ Ross's Goose.....	X	-	-	X
___ Brant.....	X	-	X	-
___ Cackling Goose	X	-	R	X
___ Canada Goose*	C	C	C	C
___ Mute Swan*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Trumpeter Swan* (release).....	F	C	C	F
___ Tundra Swan	U	X	F	F
___ Wood Duck*	F	C	C	U
___ Gadwall*	C	U	C	F
___ Eurasian Wigeon.....	X	-	X	-
___ American Wigeon	C	U	C	F
___ American Black Duck*	F	F	C	C
___ Mallard*	C	C	C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal*	F	C	C	X
___ Cinnamon Teal.....	X	-	X	-
___ Northern Shoveler*	C	U	C	U
___ Northern Pintail*	F	R	C	F
___ Green-winged Teal*	C	F	C	U
___ Canvasback*	U	R	U	U
___ Redhead*	F	R	U	U
___ Ring-necked Duck.....	F	-	U	R
___ Greater Scaup.....	U	-	R	X
___ Lesser Scaup.....	C	R	R	U
___ King Eider.....	-	-	-	X
___ Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	X
___ Surf Scoter	X	-	X	-
___ White-winged Scoter	X	X	X	X
___ Black Scoter.....	X	-	X	-
___ Long-tailed Duck.....	-	-	X	X
___ Bufflehead	F	-	U	U
___ Common Goldeneye	F	X	R	F
___ Hooded Merganser*	C	F	F	F
___ Common Merganser	C	-	R	F
___ Red-breasted Merganser	F	X	U	U
___ Ruddy Duck*	F	U	F	U

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys & Old World Quail				
— Ring-necked Pheasant*	F	F	U	U
New World Quail				
— Northern Bobwhite	X	X	X	-
Loons				
— Common Loon	X	X	R	X
Grebes				
— Pied-billed Grebe*	C	C	C	U
— Horned Grebe	U	-	R	X
— Red-necked Grebe	X	-	X	-
— Eared Grebe	X	-	-	-
— Western Grebe	-	-	X	-
Pelicans				
— American White Pelican	X	X	R	-
Cormorants				
— Double-crested Cormorant*	C	C	C	R
Bitterns, Herons & Allies				
— American Bittern*	R	U	R	X
— Least Bittern*	R	U	R	-
— Great Blue Heron*	C	C	C	F
— Great Egret*	F	C	C	R
— Snowy Egret*	U	F	F	-
— Little Blue Heron*	R	R	R	-
— Tricolored Heron	X	-	X	-
— Cattle Egret*	R	R	U	-
— Green Heron*	F	F	F	-
— Black-crowned Night-Heron*	F	C	C	X
— Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	X	X	X	-
Ibises & Spoonbills				
— Glossy Ibis	X	X	-	-
— White-faced Ibis	X	-	-	-
New World Vultures				
— Turkey Vulture	U	U	X	X
Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Allies				
— Osprey	R	R	R	X
— Bald Eagle*	C	C	C	C
— Northern Harrier	F	R	F	F
— Sharp-shinned Hawk	F	X	U	R
— Cooper's Hawk*	U	R	U	U
— Northern Goshawk	X	-	-	X
— Red-shouldered Hawk	U	X	R	X
— Broad-winged Hawk	R	X	X	X
— Swainson's Hawk	X	X	X	-

Common Name	S	s	F	W
— Red-tailed Hawk*	C	C	C	C
— Rough-legged Hawk	U	-	R	F
— Golden Eagle	R	-	X	X
Caracaras & Falcons				
— American Kestrel*	F	F	F	C
— Merlin	R	X	R	-
— Gyrfalcon	X	-	X	X
— Peregrine Falcon	R	X	U	X
Rails, Gallinules and Coots				
— Yellow Rail	-	-	R	-
— King Rail*	X	X	X	-
— Virginia Rail*	U	U	U	X
— Sora*	U	U	U	-
— Common Moorhen*	R	F	U	X
— American Coot*	C	F	C	F
Cranes				
— Sandhill Crane	R	-	X	X
Lapwings & Plovers				
— Black-bellied Plover	U	R	F	X
— American Golden-Plover	R	X	U	-
— Snowy Plover	-	-	X	-
— Semipalmated Plover	U	U	F	X
— Piping Plover	X	-	X	-
— Killdeer*	C	C	C	U
Stilts & Avocets				
— Black-necked Stilt	X	X	-	-
— American Avocet	X	-	R	-
Sandpipers, Phalaropes & Allies				
— Greater Yellowlegs	F	F	C	X
— Lesser Yellowlegs	F	F	C	X
— Solitary Sandpiper	U	R	U	-
— Willet	X	X	R	X
— Spotted Sandpiper*	F	C	F	-
— Upland Sandpiper	R	R	R	-
— Whimbrel	X	X	R	-
— Hudsonian Godwit	X	X	R	-
— Marbled Godwit	X	X	R	-
— Ruddy Turnstone	R	U	R	-
— Red Knot	X	X	U	-
— Sanderling	U	X	U	X
— Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	U	F	-
— Western Sandpiper	R	X	R	-
— Least Sandpiper	F	F	F	X
— White-rumped Sandpiper	R	R	R	-
— Baird's Sandpiper	R	R	R	-
— Pectoral Sandpiper	F	U	C	X

Common Name	S	s	F	W
___ Dunlin	F	F	F	R
___ Curlew Sandpiper.....	-	-	X	-
___ Stilt Sandpiper.....	R	U	U	-
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	X	-	R	-
___ Ruff.....	X	X	X	-
___ Short-billed Dowitcher.....	F	F	F	-
___ Long-billed Dowitcher.....	R	R	F	X
___ Wilson's Snipe.....	F	R	F	R
___ American Woodcock*.....	U	U	U	-
___ Wilson's Phalarope.....	R	R	R	-
___ Red-necked Phalarope.....	X	X	R	-
___ Red Phalarope.....	-	-	X	X

Skuas, Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

___ Pomarine Jaeger.....	-	-	-	X
___ Long-tailed Jaeger.....	-	X	-	-
___ Franklin's Gull.....	X	X	X	-
___ Little Gull.....	X	-	X	-
___ Black-headed Gull.....	-	X	-	X
___ Bonaparte's Gull.....	F	R	C	U
___ Ring-billed Gull.....	C	C	C	C
___ Herring Gull*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Iceland Gull.....	X	X	-	-
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull.....	X	-	X	X
___ Glaucous Gull.....	X	-	-	X
___ Great Black-backed Gull.....	U	R	U	F
___ Black-legged Kittiwake.....	X	-	X	X
___ Caspian Tern.....	F	U	F	-
___ Common Tern*.....	U	C	F	X
___ Forster's Tern.....	U	U	F	X
___ Black Tern*.....	R	U	R	-

Pigeons & Doves

___ Rock Pigeon*.....	F	F	F	U
___ Mourning Dove*.....	C	C	C	C

Cuckoos, Roadrunners & Anis

___ Black-billed Cuckoo*.....	R	R	R	-
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*.....	U	F	F	-

Barn Owls

___ Barn Owl.....	X	X	-	-
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Typical Owls

___ Eastern Screech-Owl*.....	U	R	U	U
___ Great Horned Owl*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Snowy Owl.....	X	-	X	R
___ Long-eared Owl.....	R	-	R	R
___ Short-eared Owl.....	R	-	R	R
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	R	-	X	X

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Goatsuckers				
___ Common Nighthawk.....	R	X	R	-
___ Whip-poor-will.....	R	-	X	-
Swifts				
___ Chimney Swift.....	U	F	F	-
Hummingbirds				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*.....	U	F	U	-
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher.....	F	U	F	R

Woodpeckers & Allies

___ Red-headed Woodpecker*.....	U	U	U	R
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	R	-	U	X
___ Downy Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Hairy Woodpecker*.....	U	R	U	F
___ Northern Flicker*.....	C	C	C	U
___ Pileated Woodpecker.....	X	-	-	-

Tyrant Flycatchers

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	R	R	R	-
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*.....	U	C	F	-
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	R	R	R	-
___ Acadian Flycatcher*.....	R	R	R	-
___ Alder Flycatcher.....	R	R	-	-
___ Willow Flycatcher*.....	U	C	U	-
___ Least Flycatcher.....	U	R	U	-
___ Eastern Phoebe*.....	F	F	F	-
___ Vermilion Flycatcher.....	-	-	X	X
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*.....	U	C	U	-
___ Western Kingbird.....	-	-	X	-
___ Eastern Kingbird*.....	U	C	F	-
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	X	-	-	-

Shrikes

___ Loggerhead Shrike.....	R	-	X	X
___ Northern Shrike.....	U	-	R	U

Vireos

___ White-eyed Vireo*.....	R	R	R	-
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*.....	R	X	R	-
___ Blue-headed Vireo.....	U	X	U	-
___ Warbling Vireo*.....	U	C	F	-
___ Philadelphia Vireo.....	U	R	R	-
___ Red-eyed Vireo*.....	F	C	F	-

Jays & Crows

___ Blue Jay*.....	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow.....	F	R	U	U

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Larks				
___ Horned Lark*	C	F	F	F
Swallows				
___ Purple Martin*	F	C	F	-
___ Tree Swallow*	C	C	C	X
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	U	U	R	-
___ Bank Swallow	U	U	U	-
___ Cliff Swallow*	U	R	R	-
___ Barn Swallow*	U	C	F	-
Chickadees & Titmice				
___ Black-capped Chickadee*	U	R	U	U
___ Tufted Titmouse*	C	F	F	C
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	X	U	X
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	F	U	F	F
Creepers				
___ Brown Creeper	F	-	U	F
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren*	F	C	F	F
___ House Wren*	F	C	F	-
___ Winter Wren	U	-	U	U
___ Sedge Wren*	X	R	X	-
___ Marsh Wren*	U	C	U	R
Kinglets				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	F	-	F	U
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	-	C	X
Old World Warblers & Gnatcatchers				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	F	U	R	-
Thrushes				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	U	U	R	X
___ Veery*	F	U	R	-
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	X	F	-
___ Bicknell's Thrush	-	-	X	-
___ Swainson's Thrush	F	R	F	-
___ Hermit Thrush	F	-	F	X
___ Wood Thrush*	F	F	U	-
___ American Robin*	C	C	C	U
Mockingbirds & Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird*	C	C	C	X
___ Northern Mockingbird	R	X	R	R
___ Brown Thrasher*	F	U	U	X

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Starlings				
___ European Starling*	C	C	C	C
Wagtails & Pipits				
___ American Pipit	U	-	R	X
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing*	F	C	C	R
Wood-Warblers				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	U	R	R	-
___ Golden-winged Warbler	R	-	X	-
___ Tennessee Warbler	F	X	F	-
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	R	-	R	X
___ Nashville Warbler	F	-	F	-
___ Northern Parula	U	X	R	-
___ Yellow Warbler*	C	C	F	-
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler*	F	R	U	-
___ Magnolia Warbler	C	R	F	-
___ Cape May Warbler	U	X	F	-
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	F	X	F	-
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	X	C	R
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	F	X	U	-
___ Blackburnian Warbler	U	X	U	-
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	X	-	-	-
___ Pine Warbler	R	-	R	-
___ Kirtland's Warbler	X	-	-	-
___ Prairie Warbler	X	-	X	-
___ Palm Warbler	C	-	F	-
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	F	X	F	-
___ Blackpoll Warbler	U	R	F	-
___ Cerulean Warbler	R	-	X	-
___ Black-and-white Warbler*	C	R	F	-
___ American Redstart*	F	U	F	-
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	U	R	R	-
___ Worm-eating Warbler	X	X	X	-
___ Swainson's Warbler	X	-	-	-
___ Ovenbird*	F	X	U	-
___ Northern Waterthrush	F	X	U	X
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	R	-	X	-
___ Kentucky Warbler	R	-	X	-
___ Connecticut Warbler	R	X	R	-
___ Mourning Warbler	U	R	R	-
___ Common Yellowthroat*	C	C	F	R
___ Hooded Warbler*	R	X	X	-
___ Wilson's Warbler	F	R	F	-
___ Canada Warbler	U	R	R	-
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	R	R	X	-
Tanagers				
___ Summer Tanager	R	-	-	-
___ Scarlet Tanager*	R	R	R	-

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Emberizids				
___ Spotted Towhee	X	-	-	-
___ Eastern Towhee*	U	R	R	R
___ American Tree Sparrow	F	-	U	C
___ Chipping Sparrow*	U	F	U	-
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	X	-	-	-
___ Field Sparrow*	F	C	F	R
___ Vesper Sparrow*	U	U	R	-
___ Lark Sparrow	-	-	X	-
___ Savannah Sparrow*	U	F	U	X
___ Grasshopper Sparrow*	R	U	R	-
___ Henslow's Sparrow	R	X	X	-
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	X	-	-	-
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	X	-
___ Fox Sparrow	U	-	U	X
___ Song Sparrow*	C	C	C	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	U	X	U	-
___ Swamp Sparrow*	F	C	F	F
___ White-throated Sparrow	C	X	C	R
___ Harris's Sparrow	X	-	-	-
___ White-crowned Sparrow	U	X	F	R
___ Dark-eyed Junco	F	-	F	F
___ Lapland Longspur	R	-	R	R
___ Smith's Longspur	X	-	-	-
___ Snow Bunting	U	-	U	U
Cardinals, Saltators & Allies				
___ Northern Cardinal*	C	C	C	C
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	U	U	U	-
___ Blue Grosbeak	X	-	-	-
___ Indigo Bunting*	F	C	F	-
___ Dickcissel*	X	U	R	-
Blackbirds				
___ Bobolink*	U	U	F	-
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	C	C	C	F
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	F	F	U	U
___ Western Meadowlark	X	X	-	-
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird*	R	R	X	X
___ Rusty Blackbird	F	X	U	U
___ Brewer's Blackbird	X	-	X	X
___ Common Grackle*	C	C	C	U
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	C	F	U
___ Orchard Oriole*	U	F	U	-
___ Baltimore Oriole*	F	C	F	-

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Fringilline, Cardueline Finches & Allies				
___ Purple Finch	R	-	R	X
___ House Finch*	F	F	F	F
___ White-winged Crossbill	-	-	X	-
___ Common Redpoll	R	-	X	R
___ Pine Siskin	X	-	R	X
___ American Goldfinch*	C	C	C	C
___ Evening Grosbeak	X	-	X	X
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow*	F	C	C	F

Field Notes

Date: _____

No. Species: _____

Time: _____

Observers: _____

Weather: _____

Route: _____

Notes:
