

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sunkhaze Meadows
National Wildlife Refuge
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Sunkhaze Meadows

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds

Black Duck
© Mark Wilson

Introduction



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Refuge System.

Sunkhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is located in east-central Maine about 15 miles north of Bangor in the town of Milford. Over 10,000 acres in size, the refuge encompasses the second largest peat bog in the state, with forested wetlands and uplands surrounding the bog. This diversity of habitats attracts a myriad of bird species which use the area for nesting and migration.

Early summer is the best time to bird watch on the refuge. The woods are filled with the songs of neotropical migrants - songbirds such as warblers that winter in Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America and return to nest at Sunkhaze Meadows. The stream hosts waterfowl species such as American black ducks and hooded mergansers, in addition to American bitterns and common snipe. Ospreys soar overhead.



This brochure contains nearly 200 birds that have been identified on or near the refuge since its establishment in 1988. This list is in accordance with the Seventh American Ornithologist's Union Checklist.

Season

Most birds are migratory, therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

Sp	spring	March – May
S	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge.

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a species which is very numerous
c	common	likely 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 a season
r	rare	may be present but not every year

	Sp	S	F	W
Loons				
___ Common Loon _____	o	o	o	
Grebes				
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	o	u	o	
Cormorants				
___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	c	c	
Bitterns – Herons – Egrets				
___ • American Bittern _____	c	c	c	
___ • Least Bittern _____	r	r		
___ Great Blue Heron _____	c	c	c	
___ • Green Heron _____	o	o	o	
___ Black-crowned Night Heron _____	r	r		
Ibises				
___ Glossy Ibis _____		r		
New World Vultures				
___ Turkey Vulture _____	o	o	o	

Sp S F W

Swans – Geese – Ducks

_____ Canada Goose _____	o	o	o	
• Wood Duck _____	c	c	c	
_____ Gadwall _____	r		r	
_____ American Wigeon _____	r		r	
• American Black Duck _____	c	c	c	
• Mallard _____	c	c	c	
• Blue-winged Teal _____	c	c	c	
• Green-winged Teal _____	o	u	u	
_____ Northern Shoveler _____	r		r	
_____ Northern Pintail _____	o	r	o	
• Ring-necked Duck _____	c	u	o	
_____ Bufflehead _____	o		r	
_____ Common Goldeneye _____	o		r	
• Hooded Merganser _____	c	c	c	
_____ Common Merganser _____	o	r	o	

Osprey – Hawks – Eagles

_____ • Osprey _____	c	c	c	
_____ Bald Eagle _____	o	o	o	o
_____ • Northern Harrier _____	c	c	c	r
_____ • Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u	u	u	u
_____ Cooper’s Hawk _____	u	u	u	o
_____ • Northern Goshawk _____	u	u	u	u
_____ • Red-shouldered Hawk _____	u	u	u	
_____ • Broad-winged Hawk _____	c	u	c	
_____ Red-tailed Hawk _____	o	o	o	o
_____ Rough-legged Hawk _____	r		r	r
_____ Golden Eagle _____	r	r	r	r

Falcons

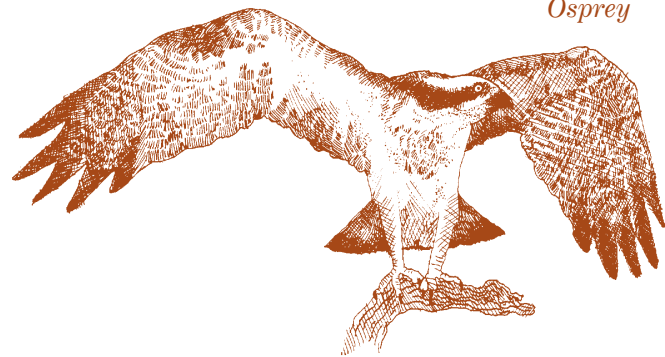
_____ American Kestrel _____	o	o	o	r
_____ Merlin _____		o	u	r
_____ Peregrine Falcon _____	o		o	r

Gallinaceous Bird

_____ • Ruffed Grouse _____	c	c	c	c
_____ • Spruce Grouse _____	o	o	o	o
_____ • Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	u



Blue winged teal



Osprey

Sp S F W

Rails

_____ Yellow Rail _____	r		r	
_____ • Virginia Rail _____	c	c	c	
_____ • Sora _____	o	o	o	

Plovers

_____ Black-bellied Plover _____			r	
_____ • Killdeer _____	o	o	o	

Sandpipers

_____ Greater Yellowlegs _____	o	u	o	
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	o		o	
_____ Solitary Sandpiper _____	c		c	
_____ • Spotted Sandpiper _____	c	c	c	
_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	o	u	u	
_____ Least Sandpiper _____	o	u	u	
_____ • Common Snipe _____	a	a	a	
_____ • American Woodcock _____	c	c	c	

Gulls – Terns

_____ Ring-billed Gull _____	o	o	o	
_____ Herring Gull _____	o	o	o	o
_____ Great Black-backed Gull _____	o	o	o	o

Doves

_____ Rock Dove _____	o	o	o	o
_____ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	o

Cuckoos

_____ • Black-billed Cuckoo _____		u	o	
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____		r	r	

Sp S F W

Typical Owls

___ • Great Horned Owl _____	o	o	o	o
___ Northern Hawk Owl _____	r		r	r
___ • Barred Owl _____	c	c	c	o
___ Long-eared Owl _____		r		
___ Short-eared Owl _____			r	
___ Boreal Owl _____	r		r	r
___ • Northern Saw-whet Owl _____	u	u	u	u

Nightjars

___ • Common Nighthawk _____	o	o	o	
___ Whip-poor-will _____		r	r	

Swifts

___ Chimney Swift _____	c	c	c	
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Hummingbirds

___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	u	u	u	
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Kingfishers

___ • Belted Kingfisher _____	c	c	c	
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Woodpeckers

___ • Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	a	a	c	
___ • Downy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Hairy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Black-backed Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Northern Flicker _____	c	c	a	
___ • Pileated Woodpecker _____	o	o	o	o



Flicker



Chickadee

Sp S F W

Tyrant Flycatchers

___ • Olive-sided Flycatcher _____	o	o	r	
___ • Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	o	o	o	
___ • Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	u	c	o	
___ • Alder Flycatcher _____	u	c	o	
___ • Willow Flycatcher _____		o		
___ • Least Flycatcher _____	c	c	u	
___ • Eastern Phoebe _____	c	c	c	
___ • Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	u	
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____	c	c	u	

Shrikes

___ Northern Shrike _____	r			r
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Vireos

___ • Blue-headed Vireo _____	c	c	o	
___ • Warbling Vireo _____	c	c	u	
___ Philadelphia Vireo _____		o	o	
___ • Red-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	c	

Jays – Crows

___ • Gray Jay _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Blue Jay _____	a	a	a	a
___ • American Crow _____	a	a	a	c
___ • Common Raven _____	c	c	c	c

Swallows

___ Purple Martin _____		o		
___ • Tree Swallow _____	a	a	a	
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	u	u		
___ Bank Swallow _____	o	o	o	
___ Cliff Swallow _____	c	c		
___ Barn Swallow _____	c	c	o	

Chickadees – Titmice

___ • Black-capped Chickadee _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Boreal Chickadee _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____	u	u	u	

Nuthatchers

___ • Red-breasted Nuthatch _____	a	a	a	a
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____	u	u	u	u

Sp S F W



Northern parula

Creepers

• Brown Creeper _____ o o o o

Wrens

• House Wren _____ o o o
 • Winter Wren _____ c c c
 Sedge Wren _____ r
 • Marsh Wren _____ c

Kinglets

• Golden-crowned Kinglet _____ c c c c
 • Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____ c u c

Old World Warblers

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____ r r

Thrushes

• Eastern Bluebird _____ o o o
 • Veery _____ c c u
 Gray-cheeked Thrush _____ o o
 • Swainson's Thrush _____ u u
 • Hermit Thrush _____ c c u
 • Wood Thrush _____ u u
 • American Robin _____ c c c u

Mimic Thrushes

• Gray Catbird _____ c c c
 • Northern Mockingbird _____ u
 • Brown Thrasher _____ u u u

Starlings

• European Starling _____ c c c c

Pipits

American Pipit _____ r r

Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing _____ r r
 • Cedar Waxwing _____ c c c r

Wood Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler _____ r
 • Tennessee Warbler _____ u u u
 • Nashville Warbler _____ c c u
 • Northern Parula _____ c c u
 • Yellow Warbler _____ c c u
 • Chestnut-sided Warbler _____ c c u

Sp S F W

• Magnolia Warbler _____ c c u
 • Cape May Warbler _____ u u u
 • Black-throated Blue Warbler _____ o o u
 • Yellow-rumped Warbler _____ c c c
 • Black-throated Green Warbler _____ c c u
 • Blackburnian Warbler _____ c c u
 • Pine Warbler _____ o o u
 • Palm Warbler _____ o a c
 • Bay-breasted Warbler _____ u u u
 • Blackpoll Warbler _____ u u u
 • Black-and-white Warbler _____ c c u
 • American Redstart _____ c c u
 • Ovenbird _____ c c u
 • Northern Waterthrush _____ c c u
 • Mourning Warbler _____ u u u
 • Common Yellowthroat _____ a a c
 • Wilson's Warbler _____ u c u
 • Canada Warbler _____ o o u

Pine warbler



Tanagers

• Scarlet Tanager _____ u u u
 Eastern Towhee _____ r r

Sparrows – Towhees

American Tree Sparrow _____ c o c
 Chipping Sparrow _____ c c u
 • Field Sparrow _____ o o
 Savannah Sparrow _____ u u o
 • Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow _____ u
 Fox Sparrow _____ u u
 • Song Sparrow _____ c a c r
 • Lincoln's Sparrow _____ o c o
 • Swamp Sparrow _____ a a a

Sp	S	F	W
a	a	a	r
u		u	
c	u	a	o
			o

- White-throated Sparrow _____
- White-crowned Sparrow _____
- Dark-eyed Junco _____
- Snow Bunting _____

Cardinals – Grosbeaks – Allies

- Northern Cardinal _____
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____
- Indigo Bunting _____

o	o	o	
c	c	u	
u	u	u	

Blackbirds – Orioles

- Bobolink _____
- Red-winged Blackbird _____
- Eastern Meadowlark _____
- Rusty Blackbird _____
- Common Grackle _____
- Brown-headed Cowbird _____
- Orchard Oriole _____
- Baltimore Oriole _____

c	c	u	
a	a	c	
r	r	r	
u		u	
c	c	c	
c	c	o	
r	r	r	
u	u	u	



Goldfinch

Finches

- Pine Grosbeak _____
- Purple Finch _____
- House Finch _____
- Red Crossbill _____
- White-winged Crossbill _____
- Common Redpoll _____
- Hoary Redpoll _____
- Pine Siskin _____
- American Goldfinch _____
- Evening Grosbeak _____

u			u
c	c	c	c
u	u		
u	u	u	u
u	u	u	u
o			o
			u
c	u	c	c
c	c	c	c
o		o	o

Old World Sparrows

- House Sparrow _____

o	o	o	o
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Wood duck

Sunkhaze Meadows is one of over 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represents the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.

The Service also manages National Fish Hatcheries and provides Federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance and the conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

Notes

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____
