



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Partners in Flight WatchList



*Catch the  
Migration  
Sensation*

*International  
Migratory Bird  
Day is May 8th*

## What is the WatchList?

The *Partners in Flight* WatchList was introduced in 1996 to draw attention to those species of migratory birds in the United States that are most in need of conservation action. The WatchList does not include federally threatened or endangered species. Rather, it identifies those species that are still fairly common, but that—without proper attention—will probably someday occupy an unenviable place on the endangered species list. The species on the 1998-1999 WatchList are those that have declined precipitously over the past several decades, occupy habitats that are under severe threat, are found in low numbers, or have such narrowly restricted ranges that their existence is tenuous.

## Why is Preventing Species from Becoming Endangered So Important?

There are three main reasons why we should strive to keep species from declining to the point that they become endangered. First, migratory birds play important roles in maintaining the health of the environment. From insect pest control, to plant pollinators and seed dispersers, to critical links in the food web, birds help keep ecosystems functioning in a balanced manner.

Second, healthy bird populations account for massive economic benefits to society, both directly and indirectly. For example, forest birds control leaf-damaging insect populations on marketable trees, thereby directly preventing hundreds of millions of dollars in economic losses of natural resources. In addition, migratory birds are one of the greatest tourist and backyard attractions in North America. Birdwatchers and other wildlife watchers contribute \$29 billion to the economy of the United States each year simply for the pleasure of observing these winged wonders.

Finally, to recover a species *once it becomes endangered* is very expensive compared to what it takes to keep healthy bird populations...healthy. Endangered species also have been seen by some as disruptive to certain land uses. In contrast, land use plans that already incorporate bird population needs can maintain those populations with little extra effort. *Hence, from biological and economical standpoints, 'keeping common birds common' is the most promising approach. The WatchList identifies those species that are not likely to remain common for much longer without direct attention.*

## How Often Will the WatchList be Updated?

The WatchList can be used to measure conservation success: as species are removed from the WatchList we know that their populations are more secure. The WatchList will be updated every two years, so look for it again in 2001.

## Need More Information about the WatchList?

For more information about how the WatchList was developed and the status of WatchList species, please contact: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA 22203 (703/358-1714).

## Partners in Flight 1998-1999 WatchList

Black-capped Petrel	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Worm-eating Warbler
Black-vented Shearwater	Lucifer Hummingbird	Swainson's Warbler
Ashy Storm-Petrel	Rufous Hummingbird	Kentucky Warbler
Black Storm-Petrel	Allen's Hummingbird	Abert's Towhee
Red-faced Cormorant	Lewis' Woodpecker	Bachman's Sparrow
Xantus' Murrelet	Red-headed Woodpecker	Botteri's Sparrow
Whiskered Auklet	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Cassin's Sparrow
Reddish Egret	Strickland's Woodpecker	Rufous-winged Sparrow
Trumpeter Swan	White-headed Woodpecker	Clay-colored Sparrow
Ross' Goose	Gilded Flicker	Brewer's Sparrow
Emperor Goose	Greater Pewee	Black-chinned Sparrow
Brant	Island Scrub-Jay	Sage Sparrow
Mottled Duck	Oak Titmouse	Lark Bunting
American Black Duck	Bridled Titmouse	Baird's Sparrow
Swallow-tailed Kite	Red-faced Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Snail Kite	Olive Warbler	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Short-tailed Kite	Painted Bunting	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Yellow Rail	Dickcissel	Seaside Sparrow
Black Rail	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Harris' Sparrow
Snowy Plover	Bicknell's Thrush	McCown's Longspur
Mountain Plover	Wood Thrush	Smith's Longspur
Black Oystercatcher	Long-billed Thrasher	McKay's Bunting
Willet	Bendire's Thrasher	Bobolink
Bristle-thighed Curlew	Curve-billed Thrasher	Audubon's Oriole
Red Knot	California Thrasher	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Rock Sandpiper	Le Conte's Thrasher	
Stilt Sandpiper	Sprague's Pipit	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	
Short-billed Dowitcher	Gray Vireo	
Long-billed Curlew	Golden-winged Warbler	
Hudsonian Godwit	Virginia's Warbler	
Black Turnstone	Colima Warbler	
Surfbird	Lucy's Warbler	
Franklin's Gull	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Heermann's Gull	Hermit Warbler	
Yellow-footed Gull	Prairie Warbler	
White-crowned Pigeon	Cerulean Warbler	
Band-tailed Pigeon	Prothonotary Warbler	
Elf Owl		
Short-eared Owl		
Chuck-Will's-Widow		
Black Swift		

## Examples for Each State

*Note: These species do not necessarily represent the highest priority species in each state. The list is meant to provide state-by-state examples of species that are of National concern.*

### Alabama

Swallow-tailed Kite  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Prairie Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
American Oyster Catcher  
Bachman's Sparrow

### Alaska

Emperor Goose  
Black Oystercatcher  
Red Knot  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Stilt Sandpiper  
Smith's Longspur

### Arizona

Blue Throated Hummingbird  
Bendire's Thrasher  
Gray Vireo  
Lucy's Warbler  
Rufous-winged Sparrow  
Black-chinned Sparrow

### Arkansas

Chuck-Will's-Widow  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Prairie Warbler  
Swainson's Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Painted Bunting

### California

Black Oystercatcher  
Yellow Rail  
Allen's Hummingbird  
Le Conte's Thrasher

Black-chinned Sparrow  
Lawrence's Goldfinch

### Colorado

Mountain Plover  
Trumpeter Swan  
Black Swift  
Lewis's Woodpecker  
Lark Bunting  
Sage Sparrow

### Connecticut

American Black Duck  
Wood Thrush  
Golden-winged Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow  
Seaside Sparrow

### Delaware

Wood Thrush  
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow  
Kentucky Warbler  
Worm-eating Warbler  
Black Rail

### Florida

Swallow-tailed Kite  
Short-tailed Hawk  
White-crowned Pigeon

Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Painted Bunting  
Reddish Egret

### Georgia

Black Rail  
Bachman's Sparrow  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Prairie Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Painted Bunting

### Idaho

Long-billed Curlew  
Short-eared Owl  
Lewis's Woodpecker  
Brewer's Sparrow  
White-headed Woodpecker  
Franklin's Gull

### Illinois

Red-headed Woodpecker  
Wood Thrush  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Dickcissel  
Bobolink

### Indiana

Black Rail  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Bell's Vireo  
Work-eating Warbler

Dickcissel  
Bobolink

### Iowa

Franklin's Gull  
Bell's Vireo  
Baird's Sparrow  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Dickcissel  
Bobolink

### Kansas

Snowy Plover  
Prairie Warbler  
Cassin's Sparrow  
Dickcissel  
Lark Bunting  
Mountain Plover

### Kentucky

Kentucky Warbler  
Wood Thrush  
Chuck-Will's Widow  
Prairie Warbler  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Cerulean Warbler

<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>New Hampshire</b>	Lark Bunting	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>Virginia</b>
Reddish Egret	Franklin's Gull	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Bobolink	Swainson's Warbler	Seaside Sparrow
Swallow-tailed Kite	Golden-winged Warbler	American Black Duck	Baird's Sparrow	Painted Bunting	Wood Thrush
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Bell's Vireo	Bicknell's Thrush	<b>Ohio</b>	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Swainson's Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler	Dickcissel	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow	Wood Thrush	Prairie Warbler
Painted Bunting	Bobolink	Bobolink	Red-headed Woodpecker	Prothonotary Warbler	Prothonotary Warbler
Audubon's Oriole	Clay-colored Sparrow	Golden-winged Warbler	Cerulean Warbler	Black Rail	Kentucky Warbler
<b>Maine</b>	<b>Mississippi</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>	Wood Thrush	<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>Washington</b>
American Black Duck	Swallow-tailed Kite	American Black Duck	Dickcissel	Franklin's Gull	Black Oystercatcher
Bicknell's Thrush	Red-headed Woodpecker	Seaside Sparrow	Bobolink	Willet	White-headed Woodpecker
Bobolink	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Wood Thrush	<b>Oklahoma</b>	Lark Bunting	Band-tailed Pigeon
Prairie Warbler	Prairie Warbler	Red-headed Woodpecker	Red-headed Woodpecker	McCown's Longspur	Rufous Hummingbird
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Bell's Vireo	Prairie Warbler	Mountain Plover	Dickcissel	Sage Sparrow
Wood Thrush	Painted Bunting	Black Rail	Prairie Warbler	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Brewer's Sparrow
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>Missouri</b>	<b>New Mexico</b>	Painted Bunting	<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>West Virginia</b>
Black Rail	Bell's Vireo	Mountain Plover	Cassin's Sparrow	Cerulean Warbler	Golden-winged Warbler
Wood Thrush	Red-headed Woodpecker	Lewis' Woodpecker	Dickcissel	Chuck-Will's-Widow	Kentucky Warbler
Swainson's Warbler	Wood Thrush	Elf Owl	<b>Oregon</b>	Hooded Warbler	Kentucky Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler	Prairie Warbler	Bridled Tit Mouse	Black Oystercatcher	Kentucky Warbler	Swainson's Warbler
Seaside Sparrow	Prothonotary Warbler	Black-chinned Sparrow	Xantus' Murrelet	Prairie Warbler	Wood Thrush
American Black Duck	Dickcissel	Gray Vireo	Lewis' Woodpecker	Prothonotary Warbler	Worm-eating Warbler
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>Montana</b>	<b>New York</b>	Rufous Hummingbird	<b>Texas</b>	Prairie Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Mountain Plover	Cerulean Warbler	Hermit Warbler	Lucifer Hummingbird	<b>Wisconsin</b>
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Long-billed Curlew	Wood Thrush	Allen's Hummingbird	Curve-billed Thrasher	Yellow Rail
Wood Thrush	Brewer's Sparrow	Black-throated Blue Warbler	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Trumpeter Swan
Golden-winged Warbler	Lewis's Woodpecker	Golden-winged Warbler	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Painted Bunting	Bell's Vireo
Prairie Warbler	Black Swift	Bobolink	American Black Duck	Dickcissel	Golden-winged Warbler
Bicknell's Thrush	Sprague's Pipit	American Black Duck	Kentucky Warbler	Audubon's Oriole	Dickcissel
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>North Carolina</b>	Wood Thrush	<b>Utah</b>	Bobolink
Yellow Rail	Trumpeter Swan	Painted Bunting	Golden-winged Warbler	Long-billed Curlew	<b>Wyoming</b>
Trumpeter Swan	Bell's Vireo	Black Rail	Worm-eating Warbler	Sage Sparrow	Mountain Plover
Red-headed Woodpecker	Dickcissel	Wood Thrush	<b>Rhode Island</b>	Bendire's Thrasher	Black Swift
Golden-winged Warbler	Lark Bunting	Kentucky Warbler	American Black Duck	Gray Vireo	Lewis' Woodpecker
Henslow's Sparrow	Bobolink	Prairie Warbler	Seaside Sparrow	Short-eared Owl	Lark Bunting
Bobolink	Worm-eating Warbler	Prothonotary Warbler	Wood Thrush	Snowy Plover	Long-billed Curlew
	<b>Nevada</b>	<b>North Dakota</b>	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	<b>Vermont</b>	Brewer's Sparrow
	Elf Owl	Franklin's Gull	Prairie Warbler	Golden-winged Warbler	
	Lewis' Woodpecker	Sprague's Pipit	Red-headed Woodpecker	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
	Gray Vireo	Willet		Wood Thrush	
	Brewer's Sparrow	Long-billed Curlew		Bicknell's Thrush	
	Sage Sparrow			Bobolink	
	Bendire's Thrasher			Henslow's Sparrow	
	Abert's Towhee				