

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1936, contains over 6,226 acres of rolling prairies, rich wetlands and bottomland forests which support a variety of wildlife. A link in the chain of refuges along the Mississippi Flyway extending from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, Trempealeau was set aside as a resting and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

The isolated backwaters of the refuge provide critical habitat for migrating waterfowl and other birds during peak spring and fall migrations. Large rafts of dabblers and divers such as ruddy ducks, ring-necked ducks, scaup, and blue-winged teal can often be seen during migration from the observation deck spotting scopes adjacent to the refuge office. Also in the fall, the refuge plays host to tundra swans and white pelicans, a birdwatcher’s favorite. Birders may also catch a glimpse of a variety of migrating songbirds, such as yellow-rumped warblers, orchard orioles and Henslow’s sparrows. The refuge offers excellent birding opportunities year round to both the serious and casual birder. Current bird sighting information is available by calling 608/539-2311, then accessing the refuge information line.

This bird list contains 263 species which have been recorded by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists. Another 21 birds, listed under “Accidental” birds have been reported but are not normally expected to be present.

This bird list is in accordance with the Sixth American Ornithologist’s Union Checklist of North American birds as amended.

Legend

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

a.....Abundant-Common species that is very numerous
c..... Common-Certain to be seen or heard in suitablehabitat
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 nesting species

| Common Name | S | s | F | W |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Swans, Geese, and Ducks | | | | |
| Snow Goose | u | | u | |
| Canada Goose (migrant)* | a | c | a | c |
| Trumpeter Swan | r | r | u | r |
| Tundra Swan | a | | a | o |
| Wood Duck* | a | a | a | r |
| Gadwall | c | u | c | |
| American Wigeon | a | u | a | |
| American Black Duck* | c | u | c | r |
| Mallard* | a | a | a | c |
| Blue-winged Teal* | c | u | a | |
| Northern Shoveler | c | u | c | |
| Northern Pintail | u | r | u | r |
| Green-winged Teal | c | u | c | r |
| Canvasback | c | r | c | r |
| Redhead | u | | u | |
| Ring-necked Duck | a | | a | |
| Greater Scaup | u | | u | |
| Lesser Scaup | a | r | a | u |
| Bufflehead | c | | c | r |
| Common Goldeneye | c | | c | u |
| Hooded Merganser* | c | u | c | r |
| Common Merganser | c | | c | u |
| Red-breasted Merganser | u | | u | r |
| Ruddy Duck..... | u | | c | o |

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|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Grouse & Turkeys | | | | |
| Ring-necked Pheasant* | u | u | u | u |
| Ruffed Grouse* | o | o | o | o |
| Wild Turkey* | c | c | c | c |

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|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Quail | | | | |
| Northern Bobwhite* | r | r | r | r |

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|------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Loons | | | | |
| Common Loon..... | u | | u | |

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|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Grebes | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe* | c | u | c | |
| Horned Grebe | u | | u | |
| Red-necked Grebe..... | r | | r | |

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|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Pelicans | | | | |
| American White Pelican..... | o | a | a | |

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| Cormorants | | | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant* | c | c | c | |

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| Herons and Bitterns | | | | |
| American Bittern* | o | o | o | |
| Least Bittern*..... | u | u | u | u |
| Great Blue Heron* | a | a | a | |

| Common Name | S | s | F | W |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Great Egret* | a | a | a | |
| Snowy Egret | r | r | | |
| Little Blue Heron | u | | u | |
| Cattle Egret | u | r | u | |
| Green Heron* | c | c | c | |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron* | u | u | u | |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | r | r | r | |

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| Vultures | | | | |
| Turkey Vulture..... | c | c | u | |

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| Hawks & Eagles | | | | |
| Osprey* | c | c | c | |
| Bald Eagle* | c | c | c | c |
| Northern Harrier* | u | u | u | u |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | c | u | c | o |
| Cooper’s Hawk | u | u | o | o |
| Northern Goshawk | | o | o | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk* | u | u | u | r |
| Broad-winged Hawk* | u | u | c | |
| Swainson’s Hawk..... | | r | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk* | c | c | c | c |
| Rough-legged Hawk | | u | u | |
| Golden Eagle..... | r | | u | r |

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| Falcons | | | | |
| American Kestrel* | u | u | u | r |
| Merlin..... | o | | u | |
| Peregrine Falcon..... | o | o | o | |

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| Rails & Coots | | | | |
| King Rail..... | r | r | | |
| Virginia Rail* | u | u | u | |
| Sora* | c | u | c | |
| Common Moorhen* | u | u | u | |
| American Coot* | a | c | a | |

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| Cranes | | | | |
| Sandhill Crane* | c | u | u | |

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| Plovers | | | | |
| Black-bellied Plover | u | | u | |
| American Golden-Plover..... | u | | u | |
| Semipalmated Plover..... | u | u | u | |
| Killdeer* | c | c | c | |

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| Avocets & Stilts | | | | |
| American Avocet..... | u | | u | |

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| Sandpipers | | | | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | u | u | u | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | c | c | c | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | u | u | u | |

| Common Name | S | s | F | W |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Willet | r | r | r | |
| Spotted Sandpiper* | c | c | c | |
| Upland Sandpiper*..... | u | u | | |
| Hudsonian Godwit | r | | | |
| Marbled Godwit | r | | | |
| Ruddy Turnstone..... | | | u | |
| Sanderling | u | u | u | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | c | c | c | |
| Western Sandpiper | r | | | |
| Least Sandpiper | c | c | c | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | u | u | u | |
| Baird’s Sandpiper..... | u | u | c | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | c | c | c | |
| Dunlin..... | u | u | u | |
| Stilt Sandpiper..... | u | u | u | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | u | u | u | |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | u | | | u |
| American Woodcock* | | u | u | |
| Wilson’s Phalarope | u | u | u | |
| Common Snipe..... | u | u | u | |

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| Gulls & Terns | | | | |
| Franklin’s Gull | u | | u | |
| Bonaparte’s Gull | u | | u | |
| Ring-billed Gull..... | c | c | c | u |
| Herring Gull..... | c | c | c | u |
| Caspian Tern..... | c | u | u | |
| Common Tern | u | u | u | |
| Forster’s Tern* | c | c | u | |
| Black Tern* | c | c | u | |

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| Pigeons & Doves | | | | |
| Rock Pigeon | u | u | u | u |
| Mourning Dove* | c | c | c | u |

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| Cuckoos | | | | |
| Black-billed Cuckoo* | c | c | u | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo* | c | c | u | |

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| Owls | | | | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl* | u | u | u | u |
| Great Horned Owl* | c | c | c | c |
| Snowy Owl..... | r | | o | o |
| Barred Owl* | c | c | c | c |
| Long-eared Owl | r | | r | r |
| Short-eared Owl | u | | u | u |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl* | r | | r | r |

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| Nightjars | | | | |
| Common Nighthawk* | c | c | u | |
| Whip-poor-will* | u | u | u | |

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

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| Kingfishers | | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher* | c | c | u | o |

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| Woodpeckers | | | | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker* | c | c | c | u |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker* | c | c | c | c |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* | c | c | c | |
| Downy Woodpecker*..... | c | c | c | c |
| Hairy Woodpecker* | c | c | c | c |
| Northern Flicker* | c | c | c | u |
| Pileated Woodpecker* | c | c | c | c |

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| Flycatchers | | | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | u | u | u | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee* | c | c | c | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | r | | | |
| Alder Flycatcher | u | | | u |
| Willow Flycatcher*..... | c | c | u | |
| Least Flycatcher* | a | a | c | |
| Eastern Phoebe* | c | c | c | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher* | a | a | u | |
| Eastern Kingbird* | c | c | u | |

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| Shrikes | | | | |
| Loggerhead Shrike* | u | u | u | |
| Northern Shrike | r | | o | o |

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| Vireos | | | | |
| White-eyed Vireo | r | r | | |
| Bell’s Vireo* | o | o | | |
| Blue-headed Vireo | u | u | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo*..... | u | u | | |
| Blue-headed Vireo | u | u | u | |
| Warbling Vireo* | a | a | a | |
| Philadelphia Vireo | r | | r | |
| Red-eyed Vireo* | c | c | a | |

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| Crows & Jays | | | | |
| Blue Jay* | c | c | c | c |
| American Crow* | c | c | c | c |

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| Larks | | | | |
| Horned Lark* | u | u | u | r |

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| Swallows | | | | |
| Purple Martin* | u | u | r | |
| Tree Swallow* | a | a | c | |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow* | c | c | u | |

