



## Birds of Conservation Concern in Michigan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Birds of Conservation Concern (2008) report identifies "species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This report is intended to stimulate coordinated and proactive conservation actions among federal, state, and private partners. Effective planning now can help ensure the long-term conservation of these species and remove threats that may contribute to the future need for listing under the ESA. We encourage project planners to develop and implement protective measures for the Birds of Conservation Concern as well as other high priority species in need of conservation action.

Many species of birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and eagles are also protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act). In addition, the Kirtland's warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) and the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*, Great Lakes population) are listed as endangered species and protected under the federal ESA.

In order to further promote the conservation of migratory bird populations and their habitats, federal agencies should implement those strategies directed by Executive Order 13186, "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds" (Clinton 2001).

Work that could lead to the take of a migratory bird or eagle, their young, eggs, or nests (for example, working



*Prothonotary Warbler by USFWS*

in the vicinity of a nest or removing habitat where birds are likely to be actively nesting), should be coordinated with our office before any actions are taken to help ensure the requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Eagle Act are met.

The Birds of Conservation Concern report delineates geographical areas known as Bird Conservation Regions (BCR). Michigan includes three regions: BCR 12 (Boreal Hardwood Transition), BCR 22 (Eastern Tallgrass Prairie), and BCR 23 (Prairie Hardwood Transition). Within Michigan, 37 bird species of conservation concern utilize these regions as breeding grounds, pass through during migration, or live there throughout the year. Table 1



*Bird Conservation Regions in Michigan.*

lists the species of conservation concern along with the regions where they can be found, their habitat preference, and possible threats.

In Table 1, we have identified Birds of Conservation Concern that are also conservation “Surrogate Species.”

Surrogate species can represent multiple species or aspects of the environment, allowing resource managers to target those species and maximize overall conservation gains. Surrogate species are identified by Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. At this time, only the “Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big River” Landscape Conservation Cooperative has identified surrogate species. Table 1 also indicates the status of the birds under the Endangered Species Act of the State of Michigan (Part 365 of PA 451, 1994 Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act), which lists Endangered (E), Threatened (T), and Probably Extirpated (X) animal species of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also identifies “species of Special Concern (SC). According to the Michigan DNR, “Protection of Special Concern species now, before they reach dangerously low population levels, would prevent the need to list them in the future by maintaining adequate numbers of self-sustaining populations within Michigan. Some other potentially rare species are listed as Special Concern pending more precise information on their status in the state; when such information becomes available, they could be moved to threatened or endangered status or deleted from the list.”

For assistance with project planning:

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## References

- Michigan Department of Natural Resources. 2005. Michigan’s Wildlife Action Plan SGCN Status & Species-Specific issues, Birds. Lansing, Michigan. 50 pp. [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/birds\\_326069\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/birds_326069_7.pdf)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2014. Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture web site: <http://www.uppermississgreatlakesjv.org/Background.htm>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Birds of Conservation Concern 2008. United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, Virginia. 85 pp. [http://library.fws.gov/Bird\\_Publications/BCC2008.pdf](http://library.fws.gov/Bird_Publications/BCC2008.pdf)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2013. Surrogate Species Version 1.0 Status Report, Draft – November 26, 2013.
- United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3 (Midwest Region), Bloomington, Minnesota. 104 pp. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/science/surrogatespecies/documents/MidwestStatusReport.pdf>

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**Table 1: Birds of conservation concern that occur in the state of Michigan**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Bird Conservation Region (BCR)</b>	<b>State Status</b>	<b>FWS Surrogate Species</b>	<b>Primary Habitat Type(s) from MI Wildlife Action Plan</b>	<b>Possible Threats identified in Michigan Wildlife Action Plan</b>
Acadian Flycatcher <i>Empidonax vireescens</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Hardwood, riparian-floodplain corridor	fragmentation, invasive plants and animals
American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23	SC		Prairie, Lowland shrub, bog, wetland	conversion to agricultural land, wetland alteration
Bald Eagle (delisted) <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 23	SC		Hardwood, conifer, dunes, inland lakes,	conversion to agricultural land, dams, dredging
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23	SC		Wetlands, inland lakes, ponds	conversion to agricultural land, competition
Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Pastures, forests	conversion to agricultural land, grazing patterns
Black-crowned Night-heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Lowland shrub, wetland, inland lakes	conversion to agricultural land, grazing patterns
Blue-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora pinus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Shrub, hardwood, conifer, forest opening	incompatible resource mgmt., invasive species
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23		Grassland Habitat of ETPBR <sup>1</sup>	Prairie, hayland, wetlands, fields	altered fire regimes, fragmentation, grazing patterns
Brown Thrasher <i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			shrub, hardwood, conifer, forest opening	altered fire regimes, biological interactions
Canada Warbler <i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	BCR 12, BCR 23			shrub, hardwood, conifer, floodplain corridor	conversion to agricultural land, altered fire regime
Cerulean warbler <i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Hardwood, floodplain corridor	conversion to agricultural land, fragmentation
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23	T		Wetlands, inland lakes, dunes, floodplain corridor	parasites, altered hydrologic regimes, competition
Dickeissel <i>Spiza americana</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Prairie, hayland, fence row	grazing/mowing patterns, pesticides, invasive species
Field Sparrow <i>Spizella pusilla</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Prairie, fence row, shrub, forest opening	altered fire regime, grazing patterns, industrialization
Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Shrub, hardwood, forest opening, bog	conversion to agricultural land, altered fire regimes
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23	SC	Grassland Habitat of ETPBR <sup>1</sup>	Prairie, hayland, pasture	conversion to agricultural land, altered fire regimes
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23	E	Grassland Habitat of ETPBR <sup>1</sup>	Prairie, hayland, pasture	conversion to agricultural land, altered fire regimes
Horned Grebe nonbreeding <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Prairie, wetlands, inland lakes, ponds	conversion to agricultural land
Kentucky Warbler <i>Oporomis formosus</i>	BCR 23			Hardwood, forest opening, swamp	Fragmentation, invasive plants and animals
Least Bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	BCR 12, BCR 23			Lowland shrub, wetland, inland lakes	conversion to agricultural land, dredging, parasites
Marsh Wren <i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Wetlands, ponds, inland lakes	conversion to agricultural land, grazing patterns
Migrant loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i>	BCR 12, BCR 23			Pasture, shrub, hardwood	conversion to agricultural land, altered fire regime
Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Pasture, wetland, hardwood, conifer, swamp	biological interactions (nest site competition)

Species	Bird Conservation Region (BCR)	State Status	FWS Surrogate Species	Primary Habitat Type(s) from MI Wildlife Action Plan	Possible Threats identified in Michigan Wildlife Action Plan
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i>	BCR 12			Hardwood, conifer, wetlands, inland lakes	conversion to agricultural land, altered fire regime
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Great Lakes nearshore, floodplain corridor	disease, parasites, industrialization, pesticides
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Wetlands, inland lakes, ponds, floodplain corridor	climate change, conversion to agricultural land
Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	BCR 23			Hardwood, swamp, floodplain corridor	invasive species, wetland alterations
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Prairie, hardwood, conifer, forest opening	conversion to agricultural land, altered fire regime
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> nonbreeding	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Ponds, wetlands, shrubby shoreline	conversion to agricultural land
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> nonbreeding	BCR 12, BCR 23			Mudflats, creeks	conversion to agricultural land
Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 23	E		Prairie, pasture, bog, wetland, hayland	conversion to agricultural land, fragmentation
Solitary Sandpiper <i>Tringa solitaria</i> nonbreeding	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Swamps, ponds, woodland streams	conversion to agricultural land
Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	BCR 12, BCR 23		Grassland Habitat of ETPBR <sup>1</sup>	Pastures, fields, grasslands	grazing/mowing patterns, pesticides, invasive species
Whip-poor-will <i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Hardwood, conifer, forest opening	conversion to agricultural land, competition
Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Swamps, pastures, lakeshores	conversion to agricultural land
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	BCR 12, BCR 22, BCR 23			Hardwood, swamp, floodplain corridor	fragmentation, invasive plants and animals
Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	BCR 12			Hayland, bog, wetland, fen	altered fire & hydrologic regime, urbanization

<sup>1</sup> ETPBR – Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers Landscape Conservation Cooperative

State Status :

E = Endangered  
T = Threatened  
SC = Special Concern

Bird Conservation Regions in Michigan

BCR 12 = Boreal Hardwood Transition  
BCR 22 = Eastern Tallgrass Prairie  
BCR 23 = Prairie Hardwood Transition