

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
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Swanton, VT 05488
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www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi

Federal Relay Service
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1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

October 2016

Missisquoi

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds



Wood duck drake
Craig Ledoux

Welcome



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

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a federal agency. The NWRS is a network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Established in 1943, Missisquoi is on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain near the Canadian border in northwestern Vermont. The refuge headquarters is five miles west of Swanton on Tabor Road 1/4 mile off of Route 78. Several diverse habitats make up the 6,760 acre refuge. The flood plain, sloughs and marshes of the Missisquoi River delta provide major nesting grounds for migratory waterfowl. Beds of wild rice (often called "duck candy"), stands of arrowhead, bulrush and wild celery along with frogs and fish provide plentiful sources of food. In addition to 5,000 acres of natural marsh, the refuge includes 1,200 acres of managed wetlands formed by three diked impoundments. These pools offer additional sources of food, cover and nesting habitat for waterfowl. The refuge provides habitat for over 200 species of birds.

Upland forested areas contain a mixture of hardwood species including white and red oak, white ash, white pine, American beech, hickory and butternut. By far, the majority of forested communities on the refuge are comprised of flood tolerant species such as swamp white oak, silver and red maple, cottonwood, and green ash. The refuge also maintains areas of early successional hardwoods such as alders, birch and poplar for migratory song birds and American woodcock.

Shad island, at the mouth of the river delta, is home to one of the largest great blue heron rookeries in Vermont. The refuge provides nesting habitat for all of Vermont's nesting black terns. Artificial nesting box structures distributed in suitable habitats throughout the refuge supplement natural tree cavities and augment productivity of cavity nesting species such as wood ducks, goldeneye and hooded mergansers. Other species such as Northern flying squirrels, screech owls and pileated woodpeckers occasionally use the nesting boxes as well. Initial success with constructed nesting platforms and tripods allowed osprey numbers to increase on the refuge which now are common and find abundant natural habitat on refuge lands.

This checklist includes more than 200 species of birds and is based on observations by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists. If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at refuge headquarters. We appreciate your help in updating our records.

Five trails totaling 75 miles access a variety of refuge habitats and provide good opportunities for bird observation. Insect repellent may be useful during the warmer months.

Most of the refuge is accessible only by boat. Public boat ramps on the refuge are located at Louie's Landing and Mac's Bend. Visitors are advised to consult the general refuge brochure for the boat ramp access and trail locations. Birders, whether on foot or in boats, need to observe refuge signs and cooperate with efforts to minimize disturbances to all wildlife while birding.

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. The list is arranged in the order established by the American Ornithological Union. Symbols which appear in this checklist represent the following:

Seasonal appearance

Sp	Spring	March-May
S	Summer	June - August
F	Fall	September - November
W	Winter	December - February

Seasonal abundance

a	abundant	a common species which is very numerous
c	common	certain to be seen in suitable habitat
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 to 5 years

- Birds known or suspected to have nested on the refuge or known to nest locally.
- Italics indicate Federally threatened/endangered species.*

Swans, Geese and Ducks

	Sp	S	F	W
— Snow Goose	u		u	
— Brant	r		r	
— •Canada Goose	o	u	c	r
— •Wood Duck	a	a	a	
— Gadwall	o	o	c	
= American-Wigeon	o	o	c	
— •American Black Duck	c	c	c	r
— •Mallard	a	a	a	r
= •Blue-winged Teal	c	c	u	
— 'Northern Shoveler	c	o	c	
- Northern Pintail	c	o	c	
= •Green-winged Teal	c	o	c	
— Canvasback	o		c	
— Redhead			o	
= Ring-necked Duck	c	o	c	
- Greater Scaup	u		u	
- Lesser Scaup	c		c	
— Surf Scoter			r	r
= White-winged Scoter			o	
— Black Scoter			o	
— Long-tailed Duck			o	
— Bufflehead	u		o	
= •Common Goldeneye	c	c	c	o
— •Hooded Merganser	c	c	c	
— Common Merganser	c	o	c	o
— Red-breasted Merganser	r		r	
— Ruddy Duck	o		o	

Gallinaceous Birds

— •Ruffed Grouse	u	u	u	u
= •Wild Turkey	u	u	u	u

Grebes

— •Pied-billed Grebe	u	c	u	
— Horned Grebe	o	o	o	
— Red-necked Grebe	o		o	

Pigeons and Doves

— •Rock Pigeon	c	c	c	c
— •Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c

Cuckoos and Anis

— Black-billed Cuckoo	u	u	u	
— Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	u	u	

Nightjars

— Common Nighthawk	o	o	r	
— Eastern Whip-poor-will	r	r	r	

Swifts

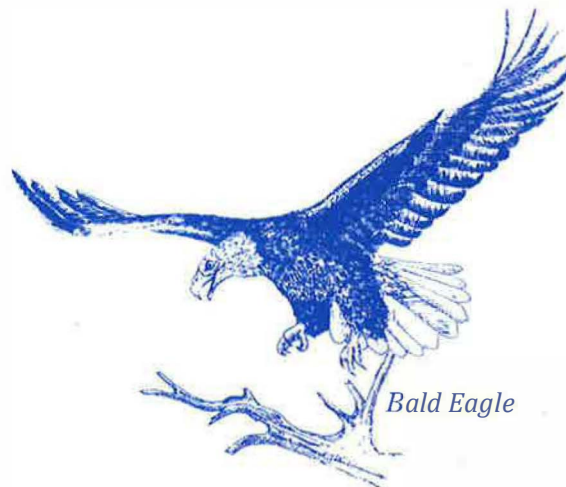
— •Chimney Swift	o	o	o	
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Hummingbirds

— •Ruby-throated Hummingbird	o	c	o	
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Rails

— •Virginia Rail	o	c	c	
— •Sora	o	o	o	
— •Common Gallinule	c	c	o	
— American Coot	o	r	c	



Tyrant Flycatchers

- Olive-sided Flycatcher	o	u	o
- •Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c
- •Alder Flycatcher	c	c	o
- •Willow Flycatcher	u	u	o
- •Least Flycatcher	c	c	o
- •Eastern Phoebe	c	c	c
- •Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	o
- •Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c

Shrikes

- Northern Shrike	u	r	u	u
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Vireos

- Yellow-throated Vireo	o	c	o
- •Blue-headed Vireo	u	u	u
- •Warbling Vireo	o	c	o
- Philadelphia Vireo	o	o	r
- •Red-eyed Vireo	c	c	o

Crows, Jays and Magpies

- •Blue Jay	c	c	c	o
- •American Crow	c	c	c	o
- •Raven	o	o	o	o

Larks

- Horned Lark	o	o	o	o
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Swallows

- Purple Martin	o	c	o
- •Tree Swallow	c	a	c
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u

- •Bank Swallow	c	c	o
- Cliff Swallow	o	o	
- •Barn Swallow	c	c	o

Titmice and Chickadees

- •Black-capped Chickadee	a	c	c	a
- Boreal Chickadee			r	r
- Tufted Titmouse	u	u	u	

Nuthatches

- Red-breasted Nuthatch	r	r	r	r
- White-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c

Creepers

- •Brown Creeper	c	u	c	c
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Wrens

- •House Wren	o	u	u
- Winter Wren	r	r	r
- •Marsh Wren	o	c	o

Kinglets

- Golden-crowned Kinglet	_____
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet	_____

Old World Warblers

- •Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	u	c	
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Thrushes

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

Mimic Thrushes

- •Gray Catbird	c	c	o
- Northern Mockingbird	r	r	
- Brown Thrasher	o	o	o

Starlings

- •European Starling	a	c	a	c
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Wagtails and Pipits

- American Pipit	u	o	u
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Waxwings

- Bohemian Waxwing				r
- •Cedar Waxwing	o	c	c	

Sp S F W

c c o
o o
c c o

a c c a
r r
u u u

r r r r
c c c c

c u c c

o u u
r r r
o c o

o r o
u r u r

u c

r r r
c c o
r r
c c c
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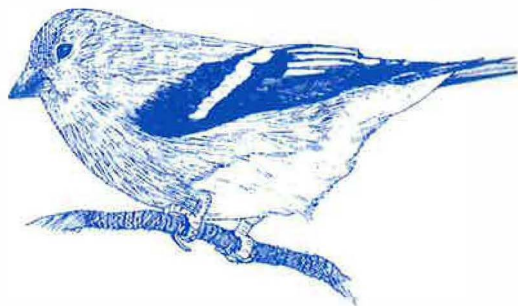
c c o
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r

American Goldfinch



Old World Sparrows

- House Sparrow

Finches

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

Sparrows and Towhees

- Eastern Towhee
- American Tree Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Clay Colored Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco

Sp S F W

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

Snowbuntings

- Snow bunting

Wood Warblers

- Ovenbird
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Northern Waterthrush
- Black-and-white Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Mourning Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- American Redstart
- Cape May Warbler
- Northern Parula
- Magnolia Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow Warbler
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Canada Warbler

Sp S F W

o o
o u
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r r r
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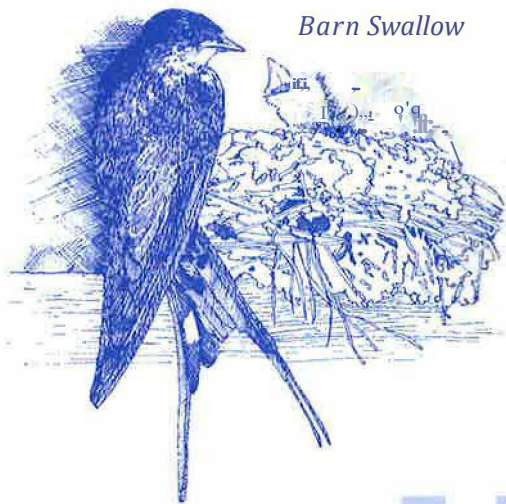
Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies

- Scarlet Tanager
- Northern Cardinal
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Indigo Bunting

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



Northern Cardinal



Barn Swallow

Blackbirds and Orioles

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

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



Baltimore Oriole

Birding Ethics

The membership of the American Birding Association believes that all birders have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others and asks that all birders adhere to the following guidelines of good birding behavior.

I. Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife.

In keeping with this principle, we will:

- Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.
- Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds.
- Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb the birds or expose them to danger.
- Disturb wintering wildlife as little as possible, particularly during critical feeding and resting periods. They need all their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh winter and migration.

II. Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment.

In keeping with this principle, we will:

- Stay on existing roads, trails and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling.
- Leave all habitat as it was found. Many birds die when they become entangled in discarded fishing lines, 6 pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

III. Birders must always respect the rights of others.

*In keeping with this principle,
we will:*

- Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs.
- Observe all laws and the rules and regulations that govern public use of birding areas.
- Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.

IV. Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities.

As group members, we shall:

- Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.
- Act in consideration of the group's interest, as well as our own.
- Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader(s) for the conduct of the group.

As group leaders, we will:

- Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.
- Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations or conduct applicable to the area or habitat being visited.
- Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquility of others.
- Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.



*Great Blue
Heron*

Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

No. of species

Route of area

Observers

Remarks