How to Use this Bird Guide & Checklist

All the birds in this guide are commonly seen on the Wildlife Refuge. Common identifiers (what to look or listen for) are listed. Examples: colors and patterns have arrows pointed to the area to look at; a bird’s song or sound is written so it can be read similar to how it sounds.

Habitat Key:
Look for these symbols to determine that bird's preferred habitat:

- Forest
- Prairie
- Wetland

Checklist:
Find these symbols and put an X by the right symbol if you see the bird or hear the bird.

Did You:
- See It
- Hear It
American Robin

**Habitat:** Forest.
Commonly seen on the ground.

**Size:** Robin size

**Look For:** Orange or rust color breast and a dark gray back

**Sound or Song:** Musical whistle

**Food:** berries, worms and insects

**Season:** Robins generally visit the Refuge in the spring, summer, and fall months. They are sometimes seen flocked together during winter.

**Did You:**
- See It ______
- **🎵** Hear It ______

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American Goldfinch

**Habitat:** Forest.
Commonly in trees, at bird feeders, and in open fields

**Size:** Sparrow size

**Look For:** Bright yellow body, black cap on head, and black white striped wings

**Sound or Song:** Musical whistle

**Food:** Seed, sometimes insects

**Season:** The goldfinch is a year round resident. In the spring and summer the male is a vibrant yellow, in the winter he is a dull yellow-brown.

**Did You:**
- See It ______
- **🎵** Hear It ______
Baltimore Oriole

**Habitat:** Forest. Commonly in trees feeding on insects attracted to feeders with nectar or fruit

**Size:** Robin size

**Look For:** Bright orange and black. Usually the oriole's song is heard before it is seen

**Sound or Song:** Rich musical piping notes

**Food:** Insects, fruit, and nectar

**Season:** Spring through summer

**Did You:** 🐦 See It _____

♫ Hear It _____

Cardinal

**Habitat:** Forest. Commonly seen in trees and frequently visits the refuge feeder

**Size:** Robin size

**Look For:** All red body with a black mask on face, red bill, and distinctive crest on top of head

**Sound or Song:** Musical; many songs

**Food:** Insects, berries

**Season:** Year-round

**Did You:** 🐦 See It _____

♫ Hear It _____
Blue Jay

Habitat: Forest.
Commonly seen in trees, such as oaks

Size: Robin size

Look For: Large bright blue and white bird with a white face, gray belly, and crest on top of head

Sound or Song: Harsh cry of “Jayy,” also musical notes of “queedle, queedle”

Food: Insects, fruits, seeds; visits bird feeders

Season: Year-round

Did You: See It _____
Hear It _____

Phoebe

Habitat: Forest.
Commonly on top of dead tree branches

Size: Sparrow size

Look For: Gray-brown body, breast and belly light in color; easier to hear than see; pumps tail up and down and spreads tail when perched

Sound or Song: Musical whistle - it says its name

Food: Insects

Season: Late spring and summer

Did You: See It _____
Hear It _____
Song Sparrow

Habitat: Forest. Commonly in thick shrubs and on the ground feeding

Size: Sparrow size

Look For: Heavily-streaked chest that forms a dark spot

Sound or Song: Series of musical and buzzing notes

Food: Insects and seeds

Season: Late spring to late summer/early fall

Did You: 🦉 See It _____
🎵 Hear It _____

Black-capped Chickadee

Habitat: Forest. Commonly seen in trees

Size: Sparrow size

Look For: Black cap on top of head and patch on throat; gray and white body; tail and wings darker in color

Sound or Song: Sings its name: "Chick-a-dee dee dee"

Food: Seeds and fruit; visits bird feeders

Season: Year-round

Did You: 🦉 See It _____
🎵 Hear It _____
Pileated Woodpecker

- **Habitat:** Forest. Commonly seen in trees and often visits suet feeders
- **Size:** Crow size
- **Look For:** All black with red crest on head; black wings with white underwing; long gray bill
- **Sound or Song:** Listen for a loud drumming as it pecks at trees; the song sounds like laughter
- **Food:** Insects, suet
- **Season:** Year-round

**Did You:**
- **See It:** _____
- **Hear It:** _____

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Downy Woodpecker

- **Habitat:** Forest. Commonly seen in trees and often visits suet feeders
- **Size:** Sparrow to Robin size
- **Look For:** All white belly with black and white-spotted wings; black spots on the tail; black stripe behind eyes; small black bill. The male downy has a red patch on its head
- **Sound or Song:** Rapid whinny
- **Food:** Insects, seeds
- **Season:** Year-round

**Did You:**
- **See It:** _____
- **Hear It:** _____
Red-bellied Woodpecker
(often confused with the red-headed woodpecker)

**Habitat:** Forest. Commonly seen in trees and often visits suet feeders

**Size:** Robin size

**Look For:** Red head; black wings with many white spots (almost zebra-like stripes); breast has some red coloring; white rump

**Sound or Song:** Deep trill

**Food:** Insects, nuts, berries

**Season:** Year-round

**Did You:**

- See It _____
- Hear It _____

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Eastern Bluebird

**Habitat:** Prairie. Commonly seen in open fields with nearby trees.

**Size:** Sparrow size

**Look For:** Bright blue body and rusty or cinnamon colored neck

**Sound or Song:** Musical

**Food:** Insects, berries

**Season:** Late spring and summer

**Did You:**

- See It _____
- Hear It _____
Barn Swallow

Habitat: Prairie. Commonly seen in open to semi-open land like fields and marshes. Will nest on building ledges, with a mud built nest.

Size: Sparrow size

Look For: Blue black body with a rust color breast and belly

Sound or Song: Soft or anxious notes

Food: Beetles and flying insects

Season: Late spring to late summer/early fall

Did You: 🎵 See It ______
🎵 Hear It ______

White-breasted Nuthatch


Size: Sparrow size

Look For: Sparrow size bird hopping head first up-side-down on sides of trees

Sound or Song: Rapid low whistled notes “wha, wha, wha”

Food: Seeds and suet

Season: Year-round

Did You: 🎵 See It ______
🎵 Hear It ______
Killdeer

**Habitat:** Prairie. Commonly on the ground nesting in grassy areas. Upland shore bird, usually not near the water.

**Size:** Robin size

**Look For:** Two black bands around the neck; brown back and a white belly; rump appears reddish orange; performs a broken wing dance used to protect nestlings

**Sound or Song:** Warning call

**Food:** Insects

**Season:** Late spring to late summer/early fall

**Did You:**

- See It _____
- Hear It _____

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Red-winged Blackbird

**Habitat:** Wetland. Commonly seen in marshy areas in flocks early spring & late fall

**Size:** Robin size

**Look For:** Red, orange, and yellow on the wing; shiny black body

**Sound or Song:** Loud check; gurgling trill

**Food:** seeds, grains, insects, spiders, and snails

**Season:** Spring through fall

**Did You:**

- See It _____
- Hear It _____