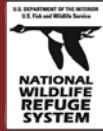


Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge
22996 290th Street NE
Middle River, MN 56737
218/449 4115

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Agassiz/>

TTY users can reach Agassiz through the
Federal Information Relay System at:
1-800-877 8339.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Agassiz

National Wildlife Refuge Bird Checklist



Welcome

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), established in 1937, consists of 61,500 acres of wetland and upland habitats located in northwestern Minnesota. The refuge lies in the aspen parkland transition zone between the boreal forest to the north and east and the tallgrass prairie to the south and west. Twenty-six wetland impoundments that range in size from 30 to 9,000 acres provide a variety of habitats for both nesting and migrating birds. Additionally, two natural lakes lie within 4,000 acres of black spruce-tamarack bog that has been designated as **Wilderness** by the National Wilderness Preservation System. Additional habitats include oak- and aspen-dominated woodlands, willow-dominated shrublands, and limited grassland areas. Agassiz NWR is located within the Mississippi Flyway and is one of over 540 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge has been designated a **Globally Important Bird Area** for its efforts to conserve wild birds and their habitats. The best opportunities for bird observation are spring, summer, and fall. Canada geese typically lead the northward flight of waterfowl in late March and are followed shortly thereafter by mallards, northern pintails, and a variety of diving duck species. Impressive flocks of phalaropes, sandpipers, and plovers buzz mudflats during late spring amid the constant din of up to 20,000 pairs of Franklin's gulls that are establishing colonies in isolated emergent marsh areas. Breeding vocalizations of numerous sparrow species interrupt the early morning quiet in June. Several thousand stately American white pelicans can be seen foraging on various impoundments, and a true natural resources success story can be witnessed by nesting bald eagles which returned to Agassiz NWR in 1992. July mornings showcase numerous squadrons of ducklings scattered along shorelines and areas of emergent vegetation, as well as a patchwork of molting waterfowl in open water areas. Not long after the mass of fall migrating shorebirds have filled up on protein-rich invertebrates and headed to more southerly locations, Agassiz NWR is invaded with a variety of south-bound waterfowl. As many as 75,000 ducks, 15,000 geese, and 1,500 greater sandhill cranes use the refuge as a migratory stopover site. In late fall once the marshes have frozen solid and fields are snow-filled, resident birds search for food and winter cover along with winter migrants, including rough-legged hawks, snow buntings, and an occasional snowy owl.

Checklist

The following checklist includes 300 species which have been observed and 137 species that nest or have nested at Agassiz NWR. This list is arranged in taxonomic order. All species names are in accordance with the American Ornithologists' Union, 1998, Checklist of North American Birds. 7th ed. Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, D.C. Five species on the list are not native to North America. They include the European starling, gray partridge, house sparrow, ring-necked pheasant, and rock pigeon. Visiting birders are encouraged to share their rare or unusual sightings with refuge staff!

Legend

Because many birds are migratory, their occurrence and relative abundance are divided into four periods as follows:

- Sp..... Spring (March-May)
S..... Summer (June-July)
F..... Fall (August-November)
W..... Winter (December-February)
- c.... Common..... Likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat.
u ... Uncommon..... Present, but may not be seen or heard.
o.... Occasional..... May or may not be present in any one year, regardless of how difficult to find.
r.... Rare..... Has occurred at least once, and may or may not be expected to occur again. Includes casual and accidental species.
i ... Irregular..... Abundance varies dramatically from one year to the next.
• Nesting record (includes species which may have only nested once or nest irregularly)
..... State threatened or endangered species



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Swans, Geese, and Ducks

Greater White-fronted Goose	u			o
Snow Goose	u	o		c
Ross's Goose	r			r
Brant				r
Cackling Goose	u			c
Canada Goose	c	c		c
Trumpeter Swan	#	o	o	o
Tundra Swan	c	r		c
Wood Duck	u	u		u
Gadwall	c	c		c
Eurasian Wigeon	r			
American Wigeon	c	c		c
American Black Duck	u	o		u
Mallard	c	c		c
Blue-winged Teal	c	c		c
Cinnamon Teal	r			
Northern Shoveler	c	c		c
Northern Pintail	c	u		c
Green-winged Teal	c	c		c
Canvasback	c	c		u
Redhead	c	c		c
Ring-necked Duck	c	c		c
Greater Scaup	u			u
Lesser Scaup	c	u		c
Surf Scoter				r
White-winged Scoter	r			o
Long-tailed Duck	r	r		r
Bufflehead	c	u		u
Common Goldeneye	c	o		u
Hooded Merganser	c	u		u
Common Merganser	u	o		u
Red-breasted Merganser	o			
Ruddy Duck	c	c		c

Gallinaceous Birds

Gray Partridge	o	o	o	o
Ring-necked Pheasant	r	r	r	r
Ruffed Grouse	c	c	c	c
Sharp-tailed Grouse	u	u	u	u
Greater Prairie-Chicken	r	r	r	r
Wild Turkey				r

Loons

Common Loon	o	o		o
-------------	---	---	--	---

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe	c	c		c
Horned Grebe	#	u	o	u
Red-necked Grebe	c	c		c
Eared Grebe	u	u		o
Western Grebe	u	u		u
Clark's Grebe	o	r		r

Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant	c	c		c
--------------------------	---	---	--	---

Pelicans

American White Pelican	c	c		c
------------------------	---	---	--	---

Hérons and Bitterns

American Bittern	c	c		c
Least Bittern	u	u		u
Great Blue Heron	c	c		c
Great Egret	o	o		u
Snowy Egret	o	r		r
Little Blue Heron	r	r		
Tricolored Heron	r	r		r
Cattle Egret	r	r		r
Green Heron	u	u		u
Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c		c
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r			

Ibises

White-faced Ibis	r			
------------------	---	--	--	--

Vultures

Turkey Vulture	o	o		u
----------------	---	---	--	---

Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles

Osprey	o	o		o
Mississippi Kite	r			
Bald Eagle	#	<small>Federally de-listed 2007</small>	c	c
Northern Harrier	c	c		c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	o		c
Cooper's Hawk	u	o		u
Northern Goshawk	o	r		o
Red-shouldered Hawk	o	r		
Broad-winged Hawk	u	o		u
Swainson's Hawk	o	r		o
Red-tailed Hawk	c	c		c
Ferruginous Hawk	r			
Rough-legged Hawk	c	c		u
Golden Eagle	o	o		o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Rails

Yellow Rail •	u	u	o	
King Rail#	r			
Virginia Rail •	c	u	c	
Sora •	c	c	c	
Common Moorhen	r	r	r	
American Coot •	c	c	c	

Cranes

Sandhill Crane •	c	c	c	
Whooping Crane#	r			

Stilts and Avocets

Black-necked Stilt	r			
American Avocet •	u	o	o	

Plovers

Black-bellied Plover	u	o	u	
American Golden-Plover	u	r	u	
Snowy Plover	r			
Semipalmated Plover	u	u	u	
Piping Plover# •	r	r		
Killdeer •	c	c	c	



American Bittern, ©Steve Maxson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Sandpipers and Phalaropes

Spotted Sandpiper •	c	c	c	
Solitary Sandpiper	u	o	u	
Greater Yellowlegs	u	o	u	
Willet	o	o	o	
Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	
Upland Sandpiper •	o	o		
Whimbrel	r			
Hudsonian Godwit	u		o	
Marbled Godwit •	c	c	o	
Ruddy Turnstone	u	r	u	
Red Knot	o		o	
Sanderling	o	r	u	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	u	c	
Western Sandpiper	r			
Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	
White-rumped Sandpiper	u	u	r	
Baird's Sandpiper	u	o	u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	c	u	c	
Dunlin	u	o	u	
Stilt Sandpiper	o	o	u	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r	r	o	
Ruff	r			
Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	o	
Long-billed Dowitcher	u		u	
Wilson's Snipe •	c	c	c	
American Woodcock •	u	u	u	
Wilson's Phalarope • #	u	u	u	
Red-necked Phalarope	o	o	u	



Yellow Warbler; Ivars Kraft

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Jaegers, Gulls and Terns

Long-tailed Jaeger			r	
Sabine's Gull	r		r	
Bonaparte's Gull	u	r	u	
Little Gull	r			
Ross's Gull	r			
Franklin's Gull	c	c	u	
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	
California Gull	r			
Herring Gull	u		u	
Least Tern	r			
Caspian Tern	o	r	o	
Black Tern	c	c	c	
Common Tern#	o		o	
Forster's Tern	c	c	c	

Pigeons and Doves

Rock Pigeon	o	u	o	o
Mourning Dove	c	c	c	r

Cuckoos

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	i	o	o	r
Black-billed Cuckoo	i	u	u	u

Owls

Eastern Screech-Owl	r			
Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
Snowy Owl (i)	o		u	u
Northern Hawk Owl	i			r
Barred Owl	o	o	o	o
Great Gray Owl	i	r	r	o
Long-eared Owl	o	o	o	
Short-eared Owl	i	u	u	u
Boreal Owl	i	r		r
Northern Saw-whet Owl	u	o	o	r

Nightjars

Common Nighthawk	u	u	u	
Eastern Whip-poor-will	u	u	o	

Swifts

Chimney Swift	o	o		
---------------	---	---	--	--

Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	i	u	u	u
---------------------------	---	---	---	---

Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher	u	u	u	
-------------------	---	---	---	--

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Woodpeckers

Red-headed Woodpecker	o	o	o	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	r			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u	u	u	
Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Black-backed Woodpecker	r	r	o	o
Northern Flicker	c	c	c	
Pileated Woodpecker	u	u	u	u

Falcons

American Kestrel	u	c	u	
Merlin	o	o	u	
Gyr Falcon	r		r	o
Peregrine Falcon#	u	o	u	
Prairie Falcon	r		r	

Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher	u	o	u	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	o	r	o	
Alder Flycatcher	u	u	u	
Willow Flycatcher	o	o	o	
Least Flycatcher	c	c	c	
Eastern Phoebe	u	c	u	
Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	c	
Western Kingbird	u	o	u	
Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	

Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike	r			
Northern Shrike	# i	u	o	u

Vireos

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

Jays, Magpies, and Crows

Gray Jay	r	r	o	o
Blue Jay	c	c	c	u
Black-billed Magpie	u	u	u	u
American Crow	c	c	c	u
Common Raven	u	u	u	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Larks

Horned Lark • <i>i</i>	u	u	u	o
------------------------------	---	---	---	---

Swallows

Purple Martin •	u	u	u	
Tree Swallow •	c	c	c	c
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	o	u	
Bank Swallow	u	o	u	
Cliff Swallow •	c	c	c	c
Barn Swallow •	c	c	c	c

Chickadees

Black-capped Chickadee •	c	c	c	c
Boreal Chickadee	o	o	o	o

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch	u	u	u	o
White-breasted Nuthatch •	c	c	c	c

Creepers

Brown Creeper	u	o	u	r
---------------------	---	---	---	---

Wrens

House Wren •	c	c	c	c
Winter Wren	o	r	o	
Sedge Wren •	c	c	c	c
Marsh Wren •	c	c	c	c

Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet •	c	u	c	c
Ruby-crowned Kinglet •	c	u	c	c

Bluebirds and Thrushes

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

Mimics

Gray Catbird •	c	c	c	c
Brown Thrasher •	u	u	u	u
Sage Thrasher	r			
Northern Mockingbird	o			

Savanna Sparrow,
©Steve Maxson



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Starlings

European Starling•uuuo

Pipits

American Pipitou

Sprague's Pipit #rr

Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing (i)ooo

Cedar Waxwing•(i)ccc

Longspurs and Buntings

Lapland Longspur *i*uco

Smith's Longspuro

Snow Bunting *i*uuu

Wood Warblers

Ovenbird•cuc

Northern Waterthrushuou

Golden-winged Warbleroo

Black-and-white Warbleruuu

Prothonotary Warblerr

Tennessee Warblercc

Orange-crowned Warbleruu

Nashville Warbler•cuc

Connecticut Warbler•oor

Mourning Warbleruou

Common Yellowthroat•ccc

American Redstart•ccc

Cape May Warbleruu

Northern Parulaoo

Magnolia Warbleruu

Bay-breasted Warbleruu

Blackburnian Warbler•uru

Yellow Warbler•ccc

Chestnut-sided Warbler•uuu

Blackpoll Warbleruu

Black-throated Blue Warbleroo

Palm Warblercc

Pine Warbleroo

Yellow-rumped Warblercuc

Yellow-throated Warblerr

Black-throated Green Warbler ...uou

Wilson's Warbleruu

Canada Warbleruu

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
-------------	----	---	---	---

Sparrows

Eastern Towheeooo

American Tree Sparrowcco

Chipping Sparrow•ccc

Clay-colored Sparrow•ccc

Field Sparrowrr

Vesper Sparrow•uuu

Lark Bunting *i*or

Savannah Sparrow•ucu

Grasshopper Sparrowoo

Le Conte's Sparrow• *i*uuu

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow• uuo

Fox Sparrowuu

Song Sparrow•ccc

Lincoln's Sparrowuu

Swamp Sparrow•ccc

White-throated Sparrow•ccc

Harris's Sparrowuu

White-crowned Sparrowuu

Dark-eyed Juncocco

Tanagers

Scarlet Tanageruou

Western Tanagerrr

Grosbeaks and Buntings

Northern Cardinalrrr

Rose-breasted Grosbeak•ccu

Indigo Buntinguuu

Dickcissel *i*rr

Blackbirds and Orioles

Bobolink•uuu

Red-winged Blackbird•ccc

Western Meadowlark•uuu

Yellow-headed Blackbird•ccc

Rusty Blackbirdcc

Brewer's Blackbird•uoo

Common Grackle•ccc

Brown-headed Cowbird•ccu

Orchard Oriolerr

Baltimore Oriole•cuc

Finches

Pine Grosbeak *i*oou

House Finchuuor

Purple Finch•uouo

Red Crossbill *i*ooo

White-winged Crossbillooo

Common Redpoll *i*uuc

Hoary Redpoll *i*ooo



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Pine Siskin <i>i</i>	u	u	u	c
American Goldfinch • <i>i</i>	c	c	c	o
Evening Grosbeak.....	o		o	o
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow •	u	u	u	u

Field Notes

Birds Observed/Heard & Location on Refuge

Date

Time

Observers

Weather

Thanks to Kim Eckert, Jeanie Joppru and Peder Svingen for their assistance in compiling this bird checklist information.

Redhead pair;
©Steve Maxson