

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Muscatatuck

*National Wildlife Refuge*

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*Bird Checklist*



## **Birds of Muscatatuck**

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1966 to provide habitat for migratory birds and endangered species. This 7,724-acre refuge near Seymour is recognized as a “Continentially Important” bird area. A 78-acre parcel near Bloomington, also part of Muscatatuck NWR, is known as the Restle Unit.

The mission of Muscatatuck NWR is to restore, preserve, and manage a mix of forest, wetland, and grassland habitat for fish, wildlife, and people. Water management is an important tool at Muscatatuck and refuge moist soil units, green tree units, and permanent marshes provide feeding and nesting areas for many kinds of birds.

A wide variety of birds can be found year-round at Muscatatuck. Winter attracts a variety of ducks to the refuge, and birds like tundra swans and bald eagles visit regularly. In spring, wood ducks, Canada geese, and mallards begin nesting while most other migratory waterfowl depart. In April, great blue herons nest and great egrets visit the refuge. Migrating warblers pass through in May. Geese and wood duck broods are common in June. By August, early migrant blue-wing teal arrive to mark the beginning of fall migration. In the fall, osprey and cormorants appear over the big lakes, sandhill cranes fly over the refuge on their way south, and the winter songbirds return.

Following is a list of 279 species which have been reported on the refuge. The information is obtained from refuge personnel and other interested birders, such as yourself. Species names and taxonomic order follow the American Ornithologist’s Union’s Checklist of North American Birds. If you see something rare or unusual, please share the information with the refuge staff.

### **Legend**

Sp .... Spring, March-May

S ..... Summer, June-August

F ..... Fall, September-November

W ..... Winter, December-February

c ..... Common – Certain to be seen in suitable habitat

u ..... Uncommon – May or may not be present

r ..... Rare – Seen at intervals of 2-5 years

x ..... Very Rare – seen only a few times/decade

\* ..... Breeds on refuge

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>Loons</b>				
___ Common loon	r		r	
___ Red-throated loon			x	
<b>Grebes</b>				
___ Pied-billed grebe*	c	u	c	c
___ Horned grebe	r		r	
___ Red-necked grebe	r		r	r
___ Eared grebe	r			
<b>Cormorants</b>				
___ Double crested cormorant	c	u	c	u
<b>Hérons and Bitterns</b>				
___ American white pelican	x			x
___ American bittern	u		u	
___ Least bittern*	r	r	r	
___ Great blue heron*	c	c	c	u
___ Great egret	u	u	u	
___ Snowy egret	r	x	r	
___ Little blue heron	r	r	r	
___ Tricolored heron		x	x	
___ Cattle egret	x		x	
___ Green heron*	c	c	u	
___ Black-crowned night heron*	r	r	r	
___ Yellow-crowned night heron	x	x	x	
___ Glossy Ibis	x			
___ White-faced ibis	x	x		
___ White ibis		x		
<b>Vultures</b>				
___ Black vulture*	c	c	c	u
___ Turkey vulture*	c	c	c	u
<b>Swans, Geese and Ducks</b>				
___ Greater white-fronted goose				r
___ Snow goose				r
___ Ross' goose	u		r	
___ Cackling goose			u	u
___ Canada goose*	c	c	c	c
___ Mute swan			r	r
___ Tundra swan				u
___ Trumpeter swan				u
___ Wood duck*	c	c	c	u
___ Gadwall	c	r	c	u
___ American wigeon	c		c	u
___ American black duck	c	r	c	u
___ Mallard*	c	u	c	c
___ Blue-winged teal*	c	u	c	r
___ Northern shoveler	c		c	c
___ Northern pintail	u		u	r
___ Green-winged teal	c		u	r
___ Canvasback	u		u	r

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
—Redhead	u		u	u
—Ring-necked duck	c		c	u
—Greater scaup	u		u	r
—Lesser scaup	c		c	u
—White-winged scoter	x			
—Long-tailed duck	x			x
—Fulvous whistling duck	x			
—Bufflehead	u		u	u
—Common goldeneye	u		u	r
—Hooded merganser*	u	u	u	u
—Common merganser	u		r	
—Red-breasted merganser	r		r	
—Ruddy duck	u		u	u
<b>Hawk and Eagles</b>				
—Osprey	r		r	
—Mississippi kite		x		
—Bald eagle*	u	u	u	u
—Northern harrier	u	r	u	c
—Sharp-shinned hawk*	u	u	u	u
—Cooper's hawk*	c	c	c	c
—Northern goshawk	x		x	x
—Red-shouldered hawk*	c	c	c	c
—Broad-winged hawk	r		r	
—Red-tailed hawk*	c	c	c	c
—Rough-legged hawk	r		r	r
—Golden eagle	r		r	r
<b>Falcons</b>				
—American kestrel*	u	u	u	u
—Merlin	u		u	r
—Peregrine falcon	u		u	
<b>Upland Game Birds</b>				
—Ruffed grouse	x	x	x	x
—Wild turkey*	c	c	c	c
—Northern bobwhite*	r	r	r	r
—Ruffed grouse	x	x	x	x
<b>Rails and Coots</b>				
—Yellow rail	x		x	
—King rail*	x	x	x	
—Virginia rail*	u	o	u	
—Sora rail*	u	c	u	
—Black rail	x		x	
—Common gallinule*	u	u		
—American coot*	c	r	c	u
<b>Cranes</b>				
—Sandhill crane	c	r	u	c
—Whooping crane	x		x	x



*American  
Kestrel*

Dave Menke,  
USFWS

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Shorebirds</b>				
—Black-bellied plover	r	r	r	
—Semipalmated plover	r	r	u	
—American golden plover	x			
—Killdeer*	c	c	c	r
—Greater yellowlegs	c	c	c	
—Lesser yellowlegs	c	c	c	
—Solitary sandpiper	c	c	c	
—Willet			u	
—Spotted sandpiper*	u	r	u	
—Upland sandpiper	x	x	x	
—Ruddy turnstone	x	x	x	
—Sanderling	r			
—Semipalmated sandpiper	u	u	u	
—Western sandpiper	x	x	x	
—Least sandpiper	u	r	c	
—White-rumped sandpiper	r	r	r	
—Baird's sandpiper	r	r	r	
—Pectoral sandpiper	c	c	c	
—Dunlin	u	u	u	
—Stilt sandpiper	u	u	u	
—Short-billed dowitcher	u	r	r	
—Long-billed dowitcher	r	r	r	
—Wilson's snipe	c	c	c	u
—American woodcock*	c	u	u	u
—Wilson's phalarope	r	r	r	
<b>Gulls and Terns</b>				
—Franklin's gull			r	r
—Bonaparte's gull	r		r	
—Ring-billed gull	r	r	r	r
—Herring gull	r		r	
—Caspian tern	r		r	
—Common tern	r		r	
—Forster's tern	r		r	
—Least tern	r		r	
—Black tern	r		r	
<b>Doves</b>				
—Rock pigeon*	u	u	u	u
—Mourning dove*	c	c	c	c
<b>Cuckoos</b>				
—Black-billed cuckoo*	r	r	u	
—Yellow-billed cuckoo*	u	c	c	
<b>Owls</b>				
—Barn owl	x	x	x	x
—Eastern screech owl*	u	u	u	u
—Great horned owl*	c	c	c	c
—Barred owl*	c	c	c	c
—Long-eared owl	x			x
—Short-eared owl	x		x	x
—Northern saw-whet owl	r		r	r

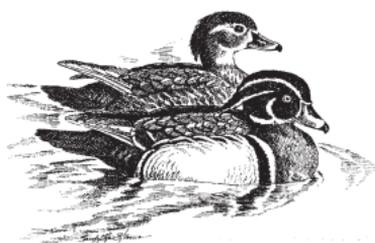
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>Nighthawks and Nightjars</b>				
___Common nighthawk*	u	c	u	
___Chuck-will's-widow*	r	r		
___Whip-poor-will*	r	r	r	
<b>Swifts</b>				
___Chimney swift*	c	c	c	
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
___Ruby-throated hummingbird*	c	c	c	
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
___Belted kingfisher*	c	c	c	u
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
___Red-headed woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___Red-bellied woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___Yellow-bellied sapsucker	u		u	u
___Downy woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___Hairy woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___Northern flicker*	c	c	c	c
___Pileated woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
<b>Flycatchers</b>				
___Olive-sided flycatcher	r		r	
___Eastern wood-pewee*	c	c	c	
___Yellow-bellied flycatcher	u		u	
___Acadian flycatcher*	c	c	c	
___Alder flycatcher	x			
___Willow flycatcher*	c	c	c	
___Least flycatcher*	u	r	u	
___Eastern phoebe*	c	c	c	
___Great crested flycatcher*	c	c	c	
___Eastern kingbird*	c	c	c	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
___Loggerhead shrike	r	r	r	r
___Northern shrike				r
<b>Vireos</b>				
___White-eyed vireo*	c	c	c	
___Bell's vireo*	r	r		
___Yellow-throated vireo*	c	c	c	
___Blue-headed vireo	u		r	
___Warbling vireo*	c	c	c	
___Philadelphia vireo	u		u	
___Red-eyed vireo*	c	c	c	
<b>Jays, Magpies and Crows</b>				
___Blue jay*	c	c	c	c
___American crow*	c	c	c	c
<b>Larks</b>				
___Horned lark*	u	u	u	u

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Swallows</b>				
___Purple martin*	u	u	u	
___Tree swallow*	c	c	c	
___Northern rough-winged swallow*	u	u	u	
___Bank swallow*	r	r	r	
___Cliff swallow*	r	r	r	
___Barn swallow*	u	u	u	
<b>Chickadees and Titmice</b>				
___Carolina chickadee*	c	c	c	c
___Black-capped chickadee	x	x	x	x
___Tufted titmouse*	c	c	c	c
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
___Red-breasted nuthatch	u	r	u	u
___White-breasted nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
<b>Creepers</b>				
___Brown creeper*	u	r	u	u
<b>Wrens</b>				
___Carolina wren*	c	c	c	c
___Bewick's wren	x	x	x	
___House wren*	c	c	u	
___Winter wren	u		u	u
___Sedge wren*	c	c	c	
___Marsh wren*	u	r	u	
<b>Kinglets, Bluebirds and Thrushes</b>				
___Golden-crowned kinglet	c		c	u
___Ruby-crowned kinglet	c		c	u
___Blue-gray gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	
___Eastern bluebird*	c	c	c	c
___Veery	u		u	
___Gray-cheeked thrush	u		u	
___Swainson's thrush	c		c	
___Hermit thrush	c		c	u
___Wood thrush*	c	c	c	r
___American robin*	c	c	c	c
<b>Mimics</b>				
___Gray catbird*	c	c	c	
___Northern mockingbird*	c	c	c	u
___Brown thrasher*	c	c	c	u
<b>Starlings</b>				
___European starling*	c	c	c	c
<b>Pipits</b>				
___American pipit	r		u	r
<b>Waxwings</b>				
___Cedar waxwing*	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Warblers</b>				
—Blue-winged warbler*	c	c	c	
—Golden-winged warbler	r		r	
—Tennessee warbler	c		c	
—Orange-crowned warbler	r		r	
—Nashville warbler	c		c	
—Northern parula*	c	u	u	
—Yellow warbler*	c	c	c	
—Chestnut-sided warbler	u		u	
—Magnolia warbler	c		c	
—Cape May warbler	u		u	
—Black-throated blue warbler	u		u	
—Yellow-rumped warbler	c		c	u
—Black-throated green warbler	c		c	
—Blackburnian warbler	u		u	
—Yellow-throated warbler*	c	c	u	
—Pine warbler*	u	u	u	r
—Prairie warbler*	c	c	u	
—Palm warbler	c		c	
—Bay-breasted warbler	u		c	
—Blackpoll warbler	c		c	
—Cerulean warbler*	u	u	u	
—Black-and-white warbler	c		c	
—American redstart*	c	c	c	
—Kirtland's warbler	x		x	
—Prothonotary warbler*	c	c	c	
—Worm-eating warbler*	r	r	r	
—Ovenbird*	u	u	u	
—Northern waterthrush	r		r	
—Louisiana waterthrush*	u	u	u	
—Kentucky warbler*	c	c	c	
—Connecticut warbler	r		r	
—Mourning warbler	r		r	
—Common yellowthroat*	c	c	c	r
—Hooded warbler*	r	r	r	
—Wilson's warbler	r		r	
—Canada warbler	r		r	
—Yellow-breasted chat*	c	c	c	

## Tanagers

—Summer tanager*	c	c	c	
—Scarlet tanager*	c	c	c	



<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>Sparrows, Buntings and Grosbeaks</b>				
—Eastern towhee*	c	c	c	u
—American tree sparrow	u		c	c
—Chipping sparrow*	c	c	c	
—Clay-colored sparrow	x		x	
—Field sparrow*	c	c	c	u
—Lark sparrow	x	x	x	
—Vesper sparrow	u	r	u	r
—Savannah sparrow*	c	r	c	r
—Grasshopper sparrow*	r	r	r	
—Henslow's sparrow*	r	r	r	
—Le Conte's sparrow	r		r	
—Fox sparrow	c		c	c
—Song sparrow*	c	c	c	c
—Lincoln's sparrow	c		c	r
—Swamp sparrow*	c		c	c
—White-throated sparrow	c		c	c
—White-crowned sparrow	c		c	c
—Dark-eyed junco	c		c	c
—Lapland longspur				r
—Snow bunting				r
—Northern cardinal*	c	c	c	c
—Rose-breasted grosbeak	u	r	u	
—Blue grosbeak*	u	u	u	
—Indigo bunting*	c	c	c	
—Dickcissel*	r	u	r	
<b>Blackbirds and Orioles</b>				
—Bobolink	r		r	
—Red-winged blackbird*	c	c	c	u
—Eastern meadowlark*	c	c	c	u
—Rusty blackbird	u		u	u
—Brewer's blackbird	r		r	
—Common grackle*	c	c	c	u
—Brown-headed cowbird*	c	c	c	u
—Orchard oriole*	c	c	c	
—Baltimore oriole*	c	c	c	
<b>Finches</b>				
—Purple finch	u		u	u
—House finch*	c	c	c	c
—Red crossbill				x
—White-winged crossbill				x
—Common redpoll				x
—Pine siskin	u		u	u
—American goldfinch*	c	c	c	c
—Evening grosbeak				x
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
—House sparrow*	c	c	c	c

**Extremely Rare or Accidental**

Western Grebe

Ruddy Shelduck

Black Scoter

Surf Scoter

Paradise Shelduck

American Swallow-tailed Kite

Ruff

Brambling

Fish crow

Varied Thrush

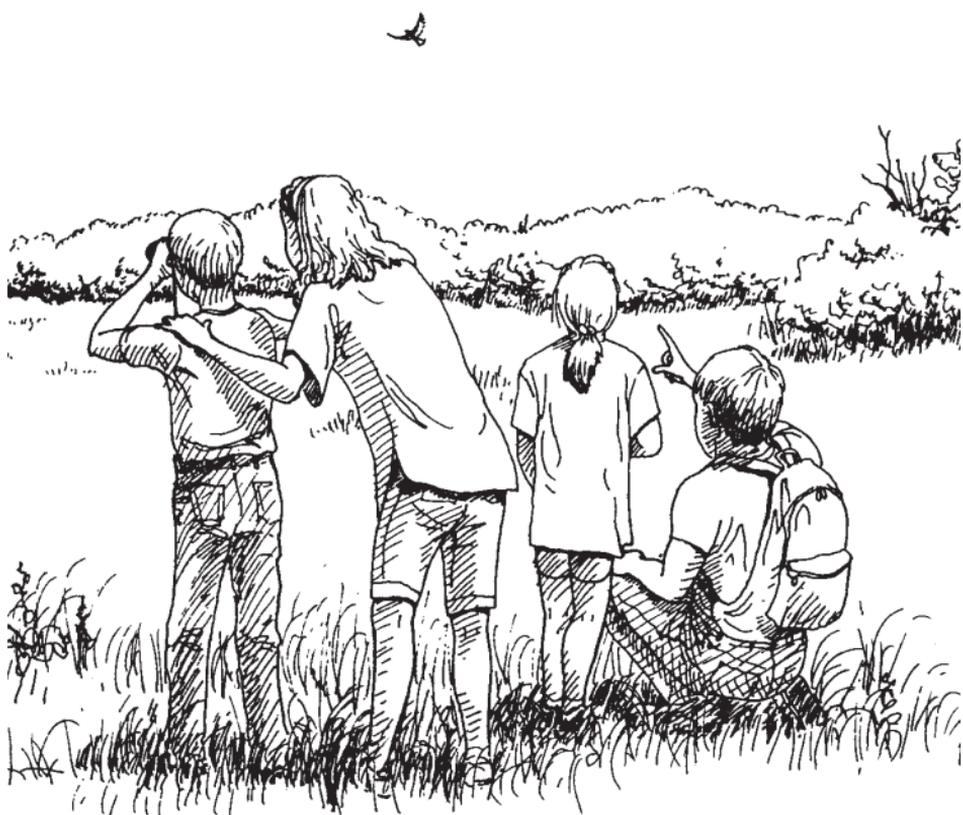
Harris Sparrow

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Laughing Gull

**Birdwatching is encouraged.**

**Please obey posted signs.**



**Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge**  
**12985 E. U.S. Highway 50**  
**Seymour, IN 4727**  
**812-522-4352**  
**muscatatuck@fws.gov**  
**www.fws.gov/refuge/muscatatuck**

**People with hearing impairments can reach  
Muscatatuck through the Federal Information Relay  
System at 1-800-743-3333**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800-344-WILD (9453)**  
**www.fws.gov**

