

Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge
10728 County Road X61
Wapello, IA 52653
319/523 6982

People with hearing impairments may
contact the refuge through the Federal
Relay Number at 1 800/877 8339.

Web: www.fws.gov/refuge/port_louisa

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
www.fws.gov



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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Port Louisa

National Wildlife Refuge Bird Checklist





This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling in the 1930s, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Welcome to Port Louisa NWR!

Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1958 as a part of a complex of national wildlife refuges along the Mississippi River for the protection of migratory birds. The refuge encompasses approximately 8,400 acres, and is divided into four divisions on the Iowa and Mississippi Rivers. In addition, Port Louisa NWR includes approximately 10,000 acres of land along the Iowa River Corridor in east central Iowa, which is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. A bird checklist for the Iowa River Corridor can be found at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/port_louisa.

Habitat types found on the refuge include wetlands, open water, bottomland forests, and bottomland prairies that support a large diversity of bird species. In particular, wetland habitats can support large concentrations of waterbird species during spring and fall migrations. Also, many songbird species, especially warblers, can be found in the forest habitat during migration.

A variety of roads, trails, and observation decks provide excellent birding opportunities. Portions of the refuge are closed to public access to serve as a sanctuary for wildlife during fall migration. Please refer to the refuge brochure for seasonal closure information. Special birding events are offered and tours are available. Please contact the office for more information.

This list includes birds known to be found on the refuge and surrounding lands. If you should find an interesting or unusual species, please stop by the office and let us know. *Photos are always appreciated!*

Birding Tips

If you are searching for a specific bird, a little research into its favorite habitat and typical behaviors may be helpful. Please keep these wildlife observation tips in mind while visiting the refuge



- Observe and photograph wildlife without chasing or repeatedly flushing the animal.
- Stay an appropriate distance from nests so the parents are not scared away, leaving the chicks exposed to danger.
- Overwintering birds need all their energy to survive. Avoid disturbing them if possible.
- Birds and other wildlife depend on plants such as berries and seeds for food. Please be considerate of these needs.
- Stay on existing roads, trails and pathways to avoid trampling habitat.
- Be sure to take all trash with you, as wildlife has been known to die when becoming entangled in fishing line or after consuming litter.
- Respect all signs, laws and regulations. Areas may be closed to reduce disturbance to nesting or migrating birds.

Bird List Legend

Sp March - May

S June - August

F September - November

W December - February

a abundant a common species
which is very numerous

c common certain to be seen or
heard in suitable habitat,
not in large numbers

u uncommon present, but not always
seen

o occasional seen only a few times
during the season

r rare seen every 2 to 5 years

endangered

***** known to nest in the area

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swans, Geese and Ducks				
___ Greater White-fronted Goose.....	u		u	o
___ Snow Goose	c		u	o
___ Ross's Goose				r
___ Canada Goose*	a	a	a	c
___ Cackling Goose	a		u	o
___ Trumpeter Swan.....	r		o	
___ Tundra Swan.....	r		r	
___ Wood Duck*	a	a	a	r
___ Gadwall	c		c	r
___ American Wigeon.....	a		a	r
___ American Black Duck.....	u		u	o
___ Mallard*	a	u	a	c
___ Blue-winged Teal.....	a		a	
___ Northern Shoveler.....	a		a	r
___ Northern Pintail.....	a		a	r
___ Green-winged Teal.....	a		a	r
___ Canvasback	c		c	o
___ Redhead.....	o		o	
___ Ring-necked Duck.....	a		a	o
___ Greater Scaup.....	o		o	r
___ Lesser Scaup	a		a	o
___ Bufflehead	u		o	r
___ Common Goldeneye.....	a		c	a
___ Hooded Merganser*	c	u	c	r
___ Common Merganser	c		c	c
___ Red-breasted Merganser.....	r		r	r
___ Ruddy Duck	c		o	r

Grouse and Turkeys

___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	c	c	c	c
___ Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u

Quails

___ Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u
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Loons

___ Common Loon	r		r	r
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Grebes

___ Pied-billed Grebe*	c	u	c	u
___ Horned Grebe.....	o		o	o
___ Eared Grebe	r			

Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant*	a	o	a	r
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Pelicans

___ American White Pelican	c	u	c	
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Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Hérons and Bitterns				
___ American Bittern*	u	o	o	
___ Least Bittern	o	o	o	
___ Great Blue Heron.....	c	c	c	u
___ Great Egret.....	c	e	c	
___ Snowy Egret.....	r	r		
___ Little Blue Heron.....	r	r	r	
___ Cattle Egret.....	o	o	o	
___ Green Heron*	u	u	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron.....	o	o	o	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.....	u	o	u	

Vultures

___ Turkey Vulture.....	c	c	c	
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Ospreys

___ Osprey	o	o	o	
___ Mississippi Kite	o	o		

Hawks and Eagles

___ Bald Eagle*.....	c	o	c	a
___ Northern Harrier.....	u	r	u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Goshawk	r		r	r
___ Red-shouldered Hawk.....	o	o	o	r
___ Broad-winged Hawk.....	o	o	o	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	c
___ Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	u
___ Golden Eagle			r	r

Falcons

___ American Kestrel*	c	c	c	c
___ Merlin	r		r	
___ Peregrine Falcon	r	r	r	r

Rails and Coots

___ King Rail	o	o	o	
___ Virginia Rail.....	o	o	r	
___ Sora	u	o	c	
___ Common Moorhen.....	r	r	r	
___ American Coot*	a	u	a	r

Cranes

___ Sandhill Crane.....	o	r	o	
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Plovers

___ Black-bellied Plover.....	o		o	
___ American Golden-Plover	o		o	
___ Semipalmated Plover.....	u	u	u	
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	r

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sandpipers				
— American Avocet	r		r	
— Black-necked Stilt	r		r	
— Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	u	
— Lesser Yellowlegs	c	c	c	
— Solitary Sandpiper	c	c	c	
— Willet	r	r	r	
— Spotted Sandpiper*	c	c	c	
— Sanderling			r	
— Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	c	u	
— Western Sandpiper			r	
— Least Sandpiper	c	c	c	
— Baird's Sandpiper	o	o	o	
— Pectoral Sandpiper	c	c	c	
— Dunlin	r	r	r	
— Stilt Sandpiper	r	o	o	
— Buff-breasted Sandpiper		r	r	
— Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	
— Long-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	
— Wilson's Snipe	u	r	u	o
— American Woodcock	u	o	o	
— Wilson's Phalarope	r	r	r	
— Red-necked Phalarope	r		r	

Gulls and Terns

— Franklin's Gull	o		o	r
— Bonaparte's Gull	u		u	r
— Ring-billed Gull	a	u	a	c
— Herring Gull	a	r	a	a
— Thayer's Gull	r		r	r
— Glaucous Gull	r			r
— Caspian Tern	u	o	u	
— Common Tern	o	r	o	
— Forster's Tern	u	o	u	
— Least Tern			o	
— Black Tern	u	r	o	

Pigeons and Doves

— Rock Pigeon*	o	o	o	o
— Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c

Cuckoos

— Black-billed Cuckoo	o	r	o	
— Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	u	c	u	



Canada Geese, Alex Galt, USFWS

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Owls				
— Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
— Eastern Screech Owl*	o	o	o	o
— Great Horned Owl*	c	c	c	c
— Barred Owl*	c	c	c	c
— Long-eared Owl			r	r
— Short-eared Owl	r		r	o

Nightjars

— Common Nighthawk*	u	c	c	
— Whip-poor-will*	o	r		
— Chuck-will's-Widow	r	r	r	

Swifts

— Chimney Swift*	c	c	c	
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Hummingbirds

— Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	u	
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Kingfishers

— Belted Kingfisher*	u	u	u	o
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Woodpeckers

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

Flycatchers

— Olive-sided Flycatcher	o	r	o	
— Eastern Wood-Pewee*	u	c	u	
— Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	u	o	u	
— Acadian Flycatcher*	r	r	r	
— Alder Flycatcher	r	r	r	
— Willow Flycatcher*	o	o	o	
— Least Flycatcher	u	o	u	
— Eastern Phoebe*	u	u	u	
— Great-crested Flycatcher*	u	c	u	
— Eastern Kingbird*	u	u	u	

Shrikes

— Loggerhead Shrike*	r	r	r	
— Northern Shrike				r

Vireos

— White-eyed Vireo*	o	o	r	
— Bell's Vireo*	o	o	r	
— Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	u	
— Blue-headed Vireo	u	r	u	
— Warbling Vireo*	c	c	c	
— Philadelphia Vireo	o	r	o	
— Red-eyed Vireo*	c	u	c	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Jays and Crows				
___Blue Jay*	a	a	a	c
___American Crow*	c	c	c	c
___Fish Crow	r			
Larks				
___Horned Lark*	c	c	c	u
Swallows				
___Purple Martin*	u	u	o	
___Tree Swallow*	c	a	a	
___Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	c	n	c	
___Bank Swallow*	u	c	u	
___Cliff Swallow*	u	c	u	
___Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	
Chickadees and Titmice				
___Black-capped Chickadee*	a	a	a	a
___Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches				
___Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		o	o
___White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
Creepers				
___Brown Creeper*	u	o	u	u
Wrens				
___Carolina Wren*	u	u	u	o
___House Wren*	c	a	c	
___Winter Wren	u		u	o
___Sedge Wren*	o	o	o	
___Marsh Wren*	o	o	o	
Kinglets				
___Golden-crowned Kinglet	c		c	o
___Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	r
___Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	u	u	u	
Thrushes				
___Eastern Bluebird*	u	u	u	o
___Veery	o	o	o	
___Gray-cheeked Thrush	u	o	u	
___Swainson's Thrush	u	o	u	
___Hermit Thrush	u		u	r
___Wood Thrush	o	u	o	
___American Robin*	a	a	a	o
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
___Gray Catbird*	c	c	c	
___Northern Mockingbird*	o	o	o	r
___Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	r

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Starlings				
___European Starling*	a	a	a	a
Pipits				
___American Pipit	r		r	
Waxwings				
___Cedar Waxwing*	c	u	c	u
Longspurs				
___Lapland Longspur	o		o	o
___Snow Bunting	r		o	o
Wood Warblers				
___Blue-winged Warbler	o	r	o	
___Golden-winged Warbler	o	r	o	
___Tennessee Warbler	c	o	c	
___Orange-crowned Warbler	o		o	
___Nashville Warbler	c	o	c	
___Northern Parula*	u	u	o	
___Yellow Warbler*	u	u	u	
___Chestnut-sided Warbler	u	o	u	
___Magnolia Warbler	u	o	u	
___Cape May Warbler	o		o	
___Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
___Yellow-rumped Warbler	a		a	r
___Black-throated Green Warbler	u	o	u	
___Blackburnian Warbler	o	r	o	
___Yellow-throated Warbler*	o	o	o	
___Pine Warbler	r		r	
___Palm Warbler	c	o	c	
___Bay-breasted Warbler	o	r	u	
___Blackpoll Warbler	u		o	
___Cerulean Warbler*	o	r	r	
___Black-and-white Warbler	c	o	c	
___American Redstart*	c	c	c	
___Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	u	
___Worm-eating Warbler	r	r	r	
___Ovenbird*	u	o	u	
___Northern Waterthrush	u	o	u	
___Louisiana Waterthrush*	o	r	r	
___Kentucky Warbler	o	r	r	
___Connecticut Warbler	r		r	
___Mourning Warbler	o	r	r	
___Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	
___Hooded Warbler	r	r	r	
___Wilson's Warbler	o	o	o	
___Canada Warbler	o	o	o	
___Yellow-breasted Chat*	r	o	o	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Sparrows

— Eastern Towhee*	u	u	u	r
— American Tree Sparrow	a		a	a
— Chipping Sparrow*	c	c	c	
— Clay-colored Sparrow	r		r	
— Field Sparrow*	u	u	u	r
— Vesper Sparrow*	u	u	u	
— Lark Sparrow*	o	o	o	
— Savannah Sparrow*	u	o	u	
— Grasshopper Sparrow*	o	o	o	
— Henslow's Sparrow*	r	r	r	
— Fox Sparrow	u		u	o
— Song Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
— Lincoln's Sparrow	o	r	o	r
— Swamp Sparrow*	u	o	u	u
— White-throated Sparrow	a		a	o
— Harris's Sparrow	r		r	r
— White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	o
— Dark-eyed Junco	a		a	a

Tanagers and Buntings

— Summer Tanager*	r	r	r	
— Scarlet Tanager*	u	u	u	
— Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
— Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	u	u	u	
— Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	
— Dickcissel*	c	c	c	

Blackbirds and Orioles

— Bobolink*	u	o	o	
— Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	u
— Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	r
— Western Meadowlark*	u	u	u	r
— Yellow-headed Blackbird	r	r	r	
— Rusty Blackbird	u		u	r
— Brewer's Blackbird	r		r	r
— Common Grackle*	a	a	a	u
— Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	o
— Orchard Oriole*	u	o	o	
— Baltimore Oriole*	c	c	c	

Finches

— Purple Finch	u		u	u
— House Finch*	c	c	c	c
— Common Redpoll	r			r
— Pine Siskin	o		o	o
— American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c
— Evening Grosbeak	r		r	r

Old World Sparrows

— House Sparrow*	a	a	a	a
— Eurasian Tree Sparrow*	c	c	c	c



Dickcissel, Alex Galt, USFWS

Accidental Species

Mute Swan	California Gull
White-faced Ibis	Greater Black-backed Gull
Cinnamon Teal	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Surf Scoter	Barn Owl
Swainson's Hawk	Snowy Owl
Ferruginous Hawk	Western Kingbird
Prairie Falcon	Bewick's Wren
Gray Partridge	Blue Grosbeak
Western Grebe	LeConte's Sparrow
Yellow Rail	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Iceland Gull	Red Crossbill
	White-winged Crossbill

