

Seney National Wildlife Refuge
1674 Refuge Entrance Road
Seney, MI 49883
906/586 9851

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Michigan's State Relay System at
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Seney

National Wildlife Refuge

Whitefish Point Unit

Bird Checklist



**Welcome to
Seney National Wildlife Refuge
Whitefish Point Unit**



Piping Plover,
Jim Mattsson,
USFWS

The Whitefish Point Unit of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge was acquired in 1998 and is located nearly 80 miles away from the headquarters. This 33 acre tract is renowned for its concentrations of birds during migration. Each year thousands of raptors, passerines and waterbirds funnel through the point, stopping here to replenish energy reserves before or after venturing across Lake Superior. The Whitefish Point Bird Observatory was established to document and study migratory birds and their habitats in the Great Lakes Region. The data collected by the Observatory has led to the area being recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area for birds migrating between the US and Canada.

Over the years numerous small foot paths have been carved on the landscape. While this may allow you to get a closer look at birds, the dune habitat is very fragile and easily damaged. Please stay on current trails and off the dunes.

All of the refuge property at Whitefish Point has been designated as critical habitat for the piping plover which is an endangered species in the northern Great Lakes region. Please obey all signs and respect any beach closures to protect nesting piping plovers.

Parking and restroom facilities are provided by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society (GLSHS) which administers the former Coast Guard buildings, including the lighthouse, and gift shop. The GLSHS interprets the maritime significance of Whitefish Point. The Whitefish Point Bird Observatory maintains a small visitor contact station which has a bird feeding station, exhibit area, and a gift shop.

This list includes birds known to be found on the Whitefish Point Unit and surrounding lands. Primary sources for this list include the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory and the Seney Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

Legend

#endangered

*****known to nest in the area

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

xaccidental - recorded at least once.

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swans, Geese, and Ducks				
— Greater White-fronted Goose.....	r	r	r	-
— Snow Goose.....	o	o	o	-
— Ross's Goose.....	r	-	r	-
— Brant.....	r	-	r	-
— Cackling Goose.....	u	u	u	u
— Canada Goose*.....	c	c	c	u
— Mute Swan.....	u	u	u	r
— Trumpeter Swan.....	r	u	u	-
— Tundra Swan.....	u	-	c	u
— Wood Duck*.....	u	u	c	o
— Gadwall*.....	c	u	c	o
— American Wigeon*.....	c	u	c	u
— American Black Duck*.....	u	u	u	u
— Mallard*.....	a	c	a	u
— Blue-winged Teal*.....	c	u	c	-
— Northern Shoveler.....	c	r	c	-
— Northern Pintail.....	c	r	c	-
— Green-winged Teal*.....	c	u	c	-
— Canvasback.....	u	r	u	-
— Redhead*.....	c	u	c	u
— Ring-necked Duck*.....	u	u	u	-
— Greater Scaup.....	c	o	c	u
— Lesser Scaup*.....	c	u	c	u
— Common Eider.....	x			
— King Eider.....	r	-	r	r
— Harlequin Duck.....	r	-	r	-
— Surf Scoter.....	c	r	c	r
— White-winged Scoter.....	c	r	c	r
— Black Scoter.....	u	r	u	r
— Long-tailed Duck.....	c	r	c	u
— Bufflehead.....	c	u	c	r
— Common Goldeneye*.....	c	u	c	u
— Hooded Merganser*.....	c	u	c	u
— Common Merganser*.....	c	c	c	u
— Red-breasted Merganser*.....	c	c	c	u
— Ruddy Duck.....	r	-	r	-
Grouse and Turkeys				
— Ruffed Grouse*.....	c	c	c	c
— Spruce Grouse*.....	u	u	u	u
— Sharp-tailed Grouse*.....	u	u	u	u
Loons				
— Red-throated Loon.....	c	-	c	-
— Pacific Loon.....	r	-	r	-
— Common Loon*.....	c	c	c	-
Grebes				
— Western Grebe.....	r	r	r	-
— Pied-billed Grebe*.....	u	u	u	-
— Horned Grebe.....	c	u	c	-
— Red-necked Grebe*.....	c	c	a	-
— Eared Grebe.....	r	-	r	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cormorants				
— Double-crested Cormorant*.....	c	c	c	-
Pelicans				
— American White Pelican.....	r	-	r	-
Hérons and Bitterns				
— American Bittern*.....	o	o	o	-
— Great Blue Heron*.....	u	u	u	-
— Great Egret.....	r	r	r	-
— Snowy Egret.....	r	r	r	-
— Tricolored Heron.....	x			
— Cattle Egret.....	x			
— Green Heron.....	r	r	r	-
Ibises				
— Glossy Ibis.....	x			
— White-faced Ibis.....	x			
Vultures				
— Black Vulture.....	x			
— Turkey Vulture*.....	c	c	c	-
Ospreys				
— Osprey*.....	u	u	u	-
Hawks and Eagles				
— Mississippi Kite.....	x			
— Bald Eagle*.....	c	c	c	r
— Northern Harrier*.....	c	u	c	-
— Sharp-shinned Hawk*.....	a	c	c	-
— Cooper's Hawk.....	u	u	u	-
— Northern Goshawk*.....	c	u	u	-
— Red-shouldered Hawk.....	c	u	r	-
— Broad-winged Hawk*.....	c	u	u	-
— Swainson's Hawk.....	o	r	r	-
— Red-tailed Hawk*.....	c	c	c	u
— Ferruginous Hawk.....	r	-	-	-
— Rough-legged Hawk.....	c	-	u	u
— Golden Eagle.....	u	r	r	-
Falcons				
— American Kestrel*.....	c	c	c	-
— Merlin*.....	c	u	u	-
— Gyrfalcon.....	r	-	-	r
— Peregrine Falcon.....	c	r	r	r
— Prairie Falcon.....	r	-	-	-
Rails and Coots				
— Yellow Rail.....	x			
— Virginia Rail.....	r	r	r	-
— Sora*.....	r	r	r	-
— American Coot*.....	u	r	u	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cranes				
—Sandhill Crane*	c	u	c	-
Plovers				
—Black-bellied Plover	u	u	u	-
—American Golden-Plover	o	-	o	-
—Wilson's Plover	o	-	o	-
—Semipalmated Plover*	c	r	c	-
—Piping Plover(Great Lakes)#*	u	u	r	-
—Killdeer*	c	c	c	r
Avocets and Stilts				
—American Avocet	r	-	r	-
Sandpipers				
—Spotted Sandpiper*	c	c	c	-
—Solitary Sandpiper	u	r	u	-
—Greater Yellowlegs	c	-	c	-
—Willet.....	o	o	o	-
—Lesser Yellowlegs.....	c	r	c	-
—Upland Sandpiper	o	o	o	-
—Whimbrel.....	u	o	u	-
—Hudsonian Godwit.....	o	-	o	-
—Marbled Godwit.....	o	-	o	-
—Ruddy Turnstone	u	-	u	-
—Red Knot	o	-	o	-
—Sanderling.....	c	o	c	-
—Semipalmated Sandpiper*	c	o	c	-
—Western Sandpiper	-	-	o	-
—Least Sandpiper*	c	o	c	-
—White-rumped Sandpiper	u	o	r	-
—Baird's Sandpiper	o	r	o	-
—Pectoral Sandpiper.....	u	r	u	-
—Purple Sandpiper	r	-	r	r
—Dunlin	c	o	c	-
—Stilt Sandpiper.....	-	-	o	-
—Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	-	-	o	-
—Short-billed Dowitcher	u	-	u	-
—Long-billed Dowitcher.....	o	-	o	-
—Wilson's (Common) Snipe*	u	u	u	-
—American Woodcock*	u	u	u	-
—Wilson's Phalarope.....	o	o	-	-
—Red-necked Phalarope	-	o	-	-
—Red Phalarope	r	-	r	-
Gulls and Terns				
—Black-legged Kittiwake	o	-	o	-
—Sabine's Gull	o	-	o	-
—Bonaparte's Gull.....	c	o	c	o
—Little Gull.....	r	r	r	-
—Laughing Gull.....	r	-	-	-
—Franklin's Gull	r	r	r	-
—Ring-billed Gull*	a	a	a	u
—Herring Gull*	a	a	a	u

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
—Thayer's Gull	o	-	o	o
—Iceland Gull.....	o	-	o	o
—Lesser Black-backed Gull	o	-	-	-
—Glaucous Gull.....	u	r	u	o
—Great Black-backed Gull	u	r	-	u
—Least Tern (interior).....	x	-	-	-
—Caspian Tern*.....	u	u	u	-
—Black Tern.....	o	o	o	-
—Common Tern*	u	u	u	-
—Forster's Tern.....	r	r	r	-
—Arctic Tern.....	x	-	-	-
Jaegers				
—Pomarine Jaeger	o	-	o	-
—Parasitic Jaeger.....	o	-	o	-
—Long-tailed Jaeger.....	o	-	o	-
Murrelets				
—Ancient Murrelet.....	r	-	r	r
Pigeons and Doves				
—Rock Pigeon*	u	u	u	u
—White-winged Dove.....	r	-	r	-
—Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
—Common Ground-dove.....	x	-	-	-
—Inca Dove	x	-	-	-
Cuckoos				
—Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	o	o	o	-
—Black-billed Cuckoo*	u	u	u	-
Owls				
—Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	r
—Snowy Owl.....	o	-	o	o
—Northern Hawk Owl.....	o	r	o	o
—Barred Owl*	u	u	u	r
—Great Gray Owl*	o	-	o	o
—Long-eared Owl.....	u	-	u	o
—Short-eared Owl	u	r	u	-
—Boreal Owl.....	o	r	o	o
—Northern Saw-whet Owl*	c	c	c	o
Nightjars				
—Common Nighthawk*	o	u	o	-
—Chuck-will's-widow	x	-	-	-
—Eastern Whip-poor-will*	o	u	o	-
Swifts				
—Chimney Swift*	u	u	u	-
Hummingbirds				
—Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	u	c	u	-
Kingfishers				
—Belted Kingfisher*	c	c	c	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Woodpeckers				
— Lewis's Woodpecker	x			
— Red-headed Woodpecker	x			
— Red-bellied Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
— Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*	u	u	u	r
— Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
— Hairy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
— American Three-toed Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
— Black-backed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
— Northern Flicker*	a	c	a	-
— Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u

Flycatchers

— Olive-sided Flycatcher*	u	u	-	-
— Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	-
— Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*	u	u	u	-
— Alder Flycatcher*	c	c	c	-
— Least Flycatcher*	c	c	c	-
— Willow Flycatcher*	u	u	u	-
— Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	-
— Say's Phoebe	x			
— Ash-throated Flycatcher	r	r	r	-
— Great Crested Flycatcher*	u	c	u	-
— Western Kingbird	x			
— Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	-
— Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	x			

Shrikes

— Loggerhead Shrike	x			
— Northern Shrike	u	-	u	u

Vireos

— White-eyed Vireo	x			
— Yellow-throated Vireo	u	u	u	-
— Blue-headed Vireo*	c	c	c	-
— Warbling Vireo*	c	c	c	-
— Philadelphia Vireo	u	o	u	-
— Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	-

Jays and Crows

— Blue Jay*	a	c	a	c
— Gray Jay*	u	u	u	u
— Clark's Nutcracker	x			
— Black-billed Magpie	x			
— American Crow*	c	c	c	c
— Common Raven*	c	c	c	c

Larks

— Horned Lark*	a	u	a	o
— Swallows				
— Purple Martin	u	u	u	-
— Tree Swallow*	c	c	c	-
— N. Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	-
— Bank Swallow	u	u	u	-
— Cliff Swallow*	u	u	u	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
— Cave Swallow	x			
— Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	-
Chickadees and Titmice				
— Black-capped Chickadee*	a	c	a	c
— Boreal Chickadee*	u	u	u	u
Nuthatches				
— Red-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
— White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c

Creepers

— Brown Creeper*	u	u	u	o
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Wrens

— Rock Wren	x			
— Carolina Wren	x			
— House Wren*	o	o	o	r
— Winter Wren*	u	u	u	o
— Sedge Wren*	u	u	u	-
— Marsh Wren*	u	u	u	-

Gnatcatchers

— Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	u	u	u	-
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Kinglets

— Golden-crowned Kinglet*	c	o	c	o
— Ruby-crowned Kinglet*	c	o	c	o

Wheaters

— Northern Wheater	x			
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Thrushes

— Eastern Bluebird*	u	u	u	-
— Mountain Bluebird	x			
— Townsend's Solitaire	x			
— Veery*	u	u	u	-
— Gray-cheeked Thrush	u	o	u	-
— Swainson's Thrush*	u	u	u	-
— Hermit Thrush*	c	c	c	-
— Wood Thrush*	u	u	u	-
— American Robin*	a	c	a	r

Mockingbirds and Thrashers

— Gray Catbird*	c	c	c	-
— Northern Mockingbird	o	o	o	-
— Sage Thrasher	x			
— Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	-

Starlings

— European Starling*	c	c	c	o
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Pipits

— American Pipit	u	o	u	-
— Sprague's Pipit	xl			

Common Name **Sp** **S** **F** **W**

Waxwings

— Bohemian Waxwing..... o - o o
 — Cedar Waxwing* c c c u

Longspurs

— McCown's Longspur..... x
 — Lapland Longspur u - u u
 — Chestnut-collared Longspur o - o o
 — Smith's Longspur..... x

Wood Warblers

— Blue-winged Warbler..... o o r -
 — Golden-winged Warbler..... u u r -
 — Tennessee Warbler*..... c u c -
 — Orange-crowned Warbler..... u - u -
 — Nashville Warbler* c u c -
 — Northern Parula*..... u u u -
 — Yellow Warbler*..... c u u -
 — Chestnut-sided Warbler* c u u -
 — Magnolia Warbler*..... c u c -
 — Cape May Warbler* u u u -
 — Black-throated Blue Warbler* c u u -
 — Yellow-rumped Warbler*..... c c c o
 — Black-throated Green Warbler*... c u u -
 — Townsend's Warbler..... x
 — Blackburnian Warbler* c u u -
 — Pine Warbler*..... c c c o
 — Prairie Warbler..... r - r -
 — Palm Warbler* c o c -
 — Bay-breasted Warbler* u u u -
 — Blackpoll Warbler u - u -
 — Cerulean Warbler..... r - - -
 — Black-and-white Warbler* c c u -
 — Worm-eating Warbler..... x
 — American Redstart* c c c -
 — Ovenbird* c c u -
 — Northern Waterthrush* c c u -
 — Connecticut Warbler* o o r -
 — Mourning Warbler* u u u -
 — Common Yellowthroat* c c c -
 — Wilson's Warbler* u u u -
 — Canada Warbler*..... c c u -
 — Yellow-breasted Chat..... r r r -

Sparrows

— Green-tailed Towhee..... x
 — Spotted Towhee x
 — Eastern Towhee* u u u -
 — American Tree Sparrow c - c c
 — Chipping Sparrow* c c u -
 — Clay-colored Sparrow*..... u u u -
 — Brewer's Sparrow..... x
 — Field Sparrow..... u u u -
 — Vesper Sparrow* c c u -
 — Lark Sparrow x

Common Name **Sp** **S** **F** **W**

— Black-throated Sparrow..... x
 — Lark Bunting x
 — Savannah Sparrow* c c u -
 — Grasshopper Sparrow o o r -
 — Le Conte's Sparrow o o o -
 — Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow x
 — Fox Sparrow..... u - u -
 — Song Sparrow* c c c u
 — Lincoln's Sparrow o o o -
 — Swamp Sparrow* u u u -
 — White-throated Sparrow* a a a o
 — Harris's Sparrow..... o r o -
 — White-crowned Sparrow a u a -
 — Golden-crowned Sparrow x
 — Dark-eyed Junco* c a c c

Tanagers and Buntings

— Summer Tanager..... x
 — Scarlet Tanager u u u -
 — Western Tanager..... x
 — Northern Cardinal o o o r
 — Rose-breasted Grosbeak* c c u r
 — Blue Grosbeak x
 — Indigo Bunting* c c u -
 — Snow Bunting c - c c
 — Dickcissel..... o o o -

Blackbirds and Orioles

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

Finches

— Pine Grosbeak u - u u
 — Purple Finch* c c c u
 — House Finch* u u u u
 — Red Crossbill* u u u u
 — White-winged Crossbill* u u u u
 — Common Redpoll..... u - u u
 — Hoary Redpoll o - o o
 — Pine Siskin* c u c c
 — American Goldfinch* c c c c
 — Evening Grosbeak* u - u u

Old World Sparrows

— House Sparrow* u u u u