

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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August 2011



Erie

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds



Blue Jay
Dave Menke

Introduction

Erie National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1959, is located in Crawford County in northwestern Pennsylvania. The refuge consists of two separate land units. The Sugar Lake Division, containing 5,206 acres, is 10 miles east of Meadville on the outskirts of the village of Guys Mills. The Seneca Division, containing 3,594 acres, is 10 miles north of the Sugar Lake Division, near Cambridge Springs

Forests, swamps, beaver ponds, man-made impoundments, grasslands and croplands make up the diverse habitats that have attracted more than 230 species of birds. An additional 18 species have been observed only one or two times and are listed separately as accidentals.

Waterfowl migrations occur in March to early April and again from September to November. There are more wood ducks nesting on the refuge than any other duck; a good place to watch them during the spring migration is from our observation blind. In the spring, goslings and their parents also can be seen as they travel back and forth from Pool C to the Entrance Road Pond.

Spring and summer are the times to look for nesting songbirds. Look for Henslow's sparrow, a rare bird in most areas of the United States. This sparrow is secretive and usually sings its "slick" song from a low perch in an open field.

Shorebirds, such as sandpipers and yellowlegs, can be seen in small groups feeding on mudflats during summer and fall. On a winter walk, black-capped chickadees, nuthatches, downy woodpeckers and dark-eyed juncos are easy to spot.

This list follows the Fifty-first Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds.

Most birds are migratory and their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are coded as follows:

Season

Sp	spring	March – May
S	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	very numerous and readily seen
c	common	likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
u	uncommon	present, but not certain to be seen
o	occasional	seen only a few times during a season
r	rare	may be present but not every year

	Sp	S	F	W
Geese – Swans – Ducks				
___ Snow Goose _____	r		r	r
___ • Canada Goose _____	c	c	c	c
___ Tundra Swan _____	c		c	o
___ • Wood Duck _____	c	c	c	o
___ Gadwall _____	c		c	r
___ American Wigeon _____	c	r	c	r
___ • American Black Duck _____	o	o	o	u
___ • Mallard _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Blue-winged Teal _____	c	u	c	r
___ Northern Shoveler _____	u		u	r
___ Northern Pintail _____	u		o	u
___ Green-winged Teal _____	c		c	u
___ Canvasback _____	o		o	r
___ Redhead _____	o		o	r
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	c	r	c	o
___ Greater Scaup _____	r		r	r
___ Lesser Scaup _____	o		o	r
___ Long-tailed Duck _____	r		r	
___ Bufflehead _____	c		c	o
___ Common Goldeneye _____	o		o	o
___ • Hooded Merganser _____	c	c	c	r

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Common Merganser _____	o	r	o	
___ Red-breasted Merganser _____	o		o	r
___ Ruddy Duck _____	o		o	r

Grouse – Allies

___ Northern Bobwhite _____	r	r	r	r
___ • Ring-necked Pheasant _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Ruffed Grouse _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Wild Turkey _____	c	c	c	c

Loons – Grebes

___ Common Loon _____	o		o	
___ • Pied-billed Grebe _____	c	u	u	r
___ Horned Grebe _____	o		o	

Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	o		o	
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Bitterns – Herons – Egrets

___ • American Bittern _____	u	r	u	
___ • Least Bittern _____	r	r		
___ • Great Blue Heron _____	c	c	c	u
___ Great Egret _____	o	o	o	
___ Little Blue Heron _____	r			
___ • Green Heron _____	u	c	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	r	r	r	

Vultures – Hawks – Falcons

___ • Turkey Vulture _____	c	c	c	
___ Osprey _____	o		o	
___ • Bald Eagle _____	c	c	c	o
___ • Northern Harrier _____	o	r	r	r
___ • Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Cooper's Hawk _____	c	c	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Northern Goshawk _____	r	r	r	r
___ • Red-shouldered Hawk _____	c	c	c	o
___ • Broad-winged Hawk _____	u	u	u	
___ • Red-tailed Hawk _____	c	c	c	c
___ Rough-legged Hawk _____				r
___ Golden Eagle _____		r		
___ • American Kestrel _____	o	o	o	r
___ Merlin _____	r		r	r
___ Peregrine Falcon _____	r		r	r

Rails – Cranes

___ • Virginia Rail _____	u	u	u	
___ • Sora _____	u	u	u	
___ • Common Gallinule _____	o	o	o	
___ • American Coot _____	o	o	o	r
___ • Sandhill Crane _____	o	o	o	



Plovers – Sandpipers

___ Black-bellied Plover _____				r
___ American Golden-Plover _____				r
___ Semipalmated Plover _____	u			u
___ • Killdeer _____	c	c	c	r
___ • Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	u	o	u	
___ Greater Yellowlegs _____	u	o	u	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	u	o	u	
___ Upland Sandpiper _____	r	r		
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	r			u
___ Least Sandpiper _____	u			u
___ Pectoral Sandpiper _____	u			u
___ Dunlin _____	u			u
___ Stilt Sandpiper _____		r	r	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____	u			u
___ Long-billed Dowitcher _____				r
___ • Wilson's Snipe _____	c	u	u	
___ • American Woodcock _____	c	u	c	

Gulls – Terns

___ Bonaparte's Gull _____	o		o	
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	o		o	r

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Herring Gull _____	o		o	
_____ Black Tern _____	r		r	
_____ Common Tern _____	r		r	
_____ Forster's Tern _____	r		r	



Great Horned Owl

Doves – Cuckoos

_____ • Rock Pigeon _____	c	c	c	c
_____ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c
_____ • Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	u	u	u	
_____ • Black-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	c	

Owls – Nightjars

_____ • Barn Owl _____	r	r	r	r
_____ • Eastern Screech-Owl _____	u	u	u	u
_____ • Great Horned Owl _____	c	c	c	c
_____ Snowy Owl _____				r
_____ • Barred Owl _____	c	c	c	c
_____ Long-eared Owl _____	r	r	r	r
_____ Short-eared Owl _____	r		r	r
_____ Northern Saw-whet Owl _____	r	r	u	r
_____ • Common Nighthawk _____	r	r	r	
_____ Eastern Whip-poor-will _____		r		

Swifts – Hummingbirds – Kingfishers

_____ • Chimney Swift _____	c	c	c	
_____ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	c	
_____ • Belted Kingfisher _____	c	c	c	o

Woodpeckers

_____ • Red-headed Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	
_____ • Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
_____ • Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	o	c	c	r
_____ • Downy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
_____ • Hairy Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ • Northern Flicker _____	c	c	c	u
_____ • Pileated Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u

Flycatchers

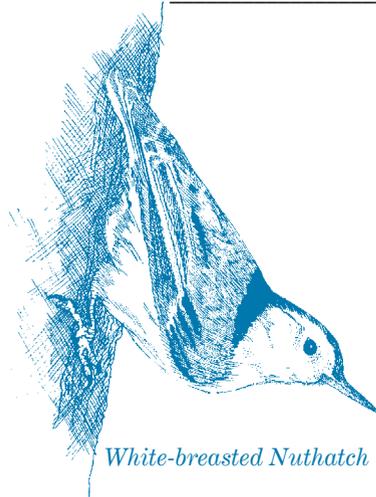
_____ • Olive-sided Flycatcher _____	r			r
_____ • Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	c	c	c	
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	r			r
_____ • Acadian Flycatcher _____	c	c	c	
_____ • Alder Flycatcher _____	o	o	o	
_____ • Willow Flycatcher _____	c	c	c	
_____ • Least Flycatcher _____	c	u	c	
_____ • Eastern Phoebe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

Shrikes – Vireos

_____ Northern Shrike _____				r
_____ • White-eyed Vireo _____	r	o	r	
_____ • Yellow-throated Vireo _____	o	o	o	
_____ • Blue-headed Vireo _____	c	c	c	
_____ • Warbling Vireo _____	u	c	u	
_____ Philadelphia Vireo _____	r		r	
_____ • Red-eyed Vireo _____	a	a	a	

Jays – Crows – Larks – Swallows

_____ • Blue Jay _____	a	a	a	a
_____ • American Crow _____	a	a	a	a
_____ Common Raven _____	u	u	u	u
_____ • Horned Lark _____	u	o	u	o
_____ • Purple Martin _____	u	c	c	
_____ • Tree Swallow _____	a	a	a	
_____ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	u	c	u	
_____ • Bank Swallow _____	c	c	c	
_____ Cliff Swallow _____	r	r	r	
_____ • Barn Swallow _____	c	a	a	



White-breasted Nuthatch

Chickadees – Titmice – Nuthatches – Creepers – Wrens

	Sp	S	F	W
• Black-capped Chickadee _____	a	a	a	a
• Tufted Titmouse _____	u	u	u	u
• Red-breasted Nuthatch _____	u	r	u	u
• White-breasted Nuthatch _____	c	c	c	c
• Brown Creeper _____	u	u	u	u
• Carolina Wren _____	o	o	o	o
• House Wren _____	c	c	c	c
• Winter Wren _____	o	r	o	o
• Sedge Wren _____		r		
• Marsh Wren _____		u		



Eastern Bluebird

Kinglets – Gnatcatchers – Thrushes – Mimic-Thrushes – Starlings – Pipits – Waxwings

• Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u	r	c	u
• Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	u		c	r
• Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	u	u	u	
• Eastern Bluebird _____	c	c	c	o
• Veery _____	c	c	c	
• Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	o		o	
• Swainson's Thrush _____	c		c	
• Hermit Thrush _____	c	r	c	
• Wood Thrush _____	c	c	c	
• American Robin _____	a	a	a	o
• Gray Catbird _____	c	a	c	r
• Northern Mockingbird _____	r	r	r	r
• Brown Thrasher _____	u	u	u	
• European Starling _____	a	a	a	a
• American Pipit _____	r		r	
• Cedar Waxwing _____	c	a	a	u

Snow Bunting

	Sp	S	F	W
• Snow Bunting _____			o	o

Wood Warblers

• Blue-winged Warbler _____	c	c	c	
• Golden-winged Warbler _____	r	r		
• Tennessee Warbler _____	u		u	
• Orange-crowned Warbler _____			r	
• Nashville Warbler _____	c	r	c	
• Northern Parula _____	o		o	
• Yellow Warbler _____	c	c	c	
• Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	c	c	c	
• Magnolia Warbler _____	c	c	c	
• Cape May Warbler _____	o		u	
• Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	u	r	u	
• Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	a	r	a	o
• Black-throated Green Warbler _____	c	c	c	
• Blackburnian Warbler _____	c	u	c	
• Pine Warbler _____	r	r	r	
• Prairie Warbler _____	r		r	
• Palm Warbler _____	u		u	
• Bay-breasted Warbler _____	u		u	
• Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		c	
• Cerulean Warbler _____	r	r	r	
• Black-and-white Warbler _____	u	o	u	
• American Redstart _____	c	c	c	
• Prothonotary Warbler _____	r		r	
• Ovenbird _____	c	c	c	
• Northern Waterthrush _____	u	u	u	
• Louisiana Waterthrush _____	c	c	u	
• Kentucky Warbler _____	r	r		
• Connecticut Warbler _____	r		r	
• Mourning Warbler _____	u	u	u	
• Common Yellowthroat _____	a	a	a	



Northern Cardinal

	Sp	S	F	W
• Hooded Warbler _____	c	c	c	
• Wilson's Warbler _____	u		u	
• Canada Warbler _____	u	o	u	
• Yellow-breasted Chat _____	u	u	o	

Sparrows – Allies

• Eastern Towhee _____	c	c	c	r
• American Tree Sparrow _____	c		c	a
• Chipping Sparrow _____	c	c	c	
• Field Sparrow _____	c	c	c	r
• Vesper Sparrow _____	o	o	o	
• Savannah Sparrow _____	u	o	o	
• Grasshopper Sparrow _____	o	o	o	
• Henslow's Sparrow _____	u	u	u	
• Fox Sparrow _____	o		o	
• Song Sparrow _____	a	a	a	u
• Lincoln's Sparrow _____	r		r	
• Swamp Sparrow _____	a	a	a	u
• White-throated Sparrow _____	c		c	o
• White-crowned Sparrow _____	u		u	r
• Dark-eyed Junco _____	c	o	c	a

Tanagers – Buntings – Allies

• Scarlet Tanager _____	c	c	c	
• Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
• Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	c	c	c	
• Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	c	



American Goldfinch

Blackbirds – Allies

• Bobolink _____	u	c	u	
• Red-winged Blackbird _____	a	a	a	o
• Eastern Meadowlark _____	u	o	o	r
• Rusty Blackbird _____	u		u	
• Common Grackle _____	a	a	a	o
• Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	o
• Orchard Oriole _____	o	r	o	
• Baltimore Oriole _____	c	c	c	

Finches

• Pine Grosbeak _____				r
• Purple Finch _____	u	u	u	u
• House Finch _____	o	o	o	o
• Red Crossbill _____				r
• White-winged Crossbill _____				r
• Common Redpoll _____				r
• Pine Siskin _____	o		o	o
• American Goldfinch _____	a	a	a	c
• Evening Grosbeak _____	o		o	o

Weaver – Finches

• House Sparrow _____	a	a	a	a
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Accidentals (only 1 or 2 records)

• Mute Swan _____
• Eurasian Wigeon _____
• Surf Scoter _____
• White-winged Scoter _____
• Black Scoter _____
• Red-throated Loon _____
• Gyrfalcon _____
• Willet _____
• Whimbrel _____
• Hudsonian Godwit _____
• White-rumped Sandpiper _____
• Baird's Sandpiper _____
• Buff-breasted Sandpiper _____
• Lapland Longspur _____
• Clay-colored Sparrow _____
• Blue Grosbeak _____
• Dickcissel _____
• Brewer's Blackbird _____

NOTES

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____
