

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Upper Mississippi River

*National Wildlife
& Fish Refuge*



Raft of Canvasback Ducks
©Alan Stankevitz

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge has been a haven for fish, wildlife, and people since 1924. The refuge stretches 261 river miles from Wabasha, Minnesota to Rock Island, Illinois, protecting over 240,000 acres of Mississippi River floodplain. The refuge hosts over 3.7 million annual visits for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and other recreation.

The refuge is a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area. This national and international treasure supports:

- 306 bird species
- 300+ bald eagles nests
- 8,000 great blue heron, great egret, and white pelican nests
- up to 45% of the world's canvasback ducks during migration
- 20-45% of eastern U.S. tundra swans during migration
- 51 mammal species
- 42 freshwater mussel species
- 119 fish species

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge Headquarters

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