

Waubay

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird List



Welcome to Waubay National Wildlife Refuge



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

Waubay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located in northeastern South Dakota in the Prairie Pothole Region, the largest duck production area in the continental United States. In fact, "Waubay" is of Sioux Indian origin meaning "where wildfowl make their nests." This area was once covered by vast grasslands and "potholes" – hundreds of small wetlands left behind when the glaciers retreated. Although agriculture now makes up most of the landscape, Waubay NWR provides a small picture of the past.

The Refuge is comprised of 4,650 acres of lakes, marshes, grasslands, and woodlands. This mix of habitats attracts a wide variety of bird species, especially during spring and fall migrations. A walk at Spring Lake Overlook can provide views of native prairie and grassland species like bobolinks, sedge wrens, Savannah sparrows, and sharp-tailed grouse.

Woodland trails host common species like yellow warblers, red-eyed vireos, Baltimore orioles, and rose-breasted grosbeaks. During the spring, any number of warblers may be seen, and you might be surprised by a wood duck flying out of a nest box or a natural cavity. Both large and small wetlands attract numerous waterbird species including 12 species of ducks, ring-billed and Franklin's gulls, soras, green herons, and great egrets.

Fluctuating water conditions through the seasons and through the years have attracted an ever changing mix of birds. When water levels are low, five different species of grebes may be seen. When water levels are high, American white pelicans and double-crested cormorants are more common. Be on the lookout for both eastern and western species of many birds – our central location puts us on the edge of both ranges.

It is possible to see 259 species of birds at Waubay NWR, so stay awhile and enjoy the wildflowers, woodlands, and wetlands.

About this Checklist

This list follows the format of the *Seventh American Ornithologists' Union, 1998. Checklist of North American Birds. 7th ed., 48th supplement (2007). Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, D.C.*

Seasons

Sp Spring (March-May)
S Summer (June-August)
F Fall (September-November)
W Winter (December-February)

Seasonal Abundance

a abundant, occurring in large numbers
c common, certain to be seen in suitable habitat
u uncommon, present, but not certain to be seen
o occasional, seen only a few times during the season
r rare, seen at intervals of 2-5 years
h hypothetical, within normal range, but never documented.

Other Codes

- species known to nest on the Refuge

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 7-1-1 for a free connection to the State transfer relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 605 / 947 4521, or the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swans, Geese, and Ducks				
Greater White-fronted Goose	o		o	
Snow Goose	o	r	c	
• Canada Goose	c	c	c	o
Tundra Swan	o		c	
• Wood Duck	c	c	c	
• Gadwall	a	a	a	
• American Wigeon	c	u	c	
• American Black Duck	r	r	r	
• Mallard	a	a	a	o
• Blue-winged Teal	a	a	a	
Cinnamon Teal	r	r		
• Northern Shoveler	c	c	c	
• Northern Pintail	c	c	c	r
• Green-winged Teal	c	o	c	
• Canvasback	c	u	c	
• Redhead	c	c	c	
• Ring-necked Duck	u	o	u	
Greater Scaup	h	h	h	
• Lesser Scaup	a	u	a	
White-winged Scoter	r	r	r	
Long-tailed Duck	r		r	
Bufflehead	c	r	c	
• Common Goldeneye	c	r	c	
• Hooded Merganser	o	u	o	
Common Merganser	c	r	c	
Red-breasted Merganser	u		r	
• Ruddy Duck	c	c	c	
Gallinaceous Birds				
• Gray Partridge	u	u	u	u
• Ring-necked Pheasant	c	c	c	c
• Sharp-tailed Grouse	u	u	u	u
Greater Prairie-Chicken	h	h	h	h
• Wild Turkey	u	u	u	u
Loons				
Common Loon	o	r	o	
Grebes				
• Pied-billed Grebe	c	c	a	
• Horned Grebe	c	o	u	
• Red-necked Grebe	u	u	u	
• Eared Grebe	c	u	u	
• Western Grebe	c	c	c	
Pelicans				
American White Pelican	c	c	c	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cormorants				
• Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	r
Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
• American Bittern	c	c	c	
• Least Bittern		o	o	
• Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	
Great Egret	c	c	c	
Snowy Egret	u	o	u	
Little Blue Heron	r			
Cattle Egret	o	o	o	
Green Heron	o	o	o	
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	
Ibises and Spoonbills				
White-faced Ibis	o	o	o	
New World Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	r	r	r	
Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles				
Osprey	o	r	o	
Bald Eagle	o	o	o	r
• Northern Harrier	c	c	c	o
• Sharp-shinned Hawk	o	r	o	r
• Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	
Northern Goshawk	u		u	
Broad-winged Hawk	o	o	o	
• Swainson's Hawk	u	u	u	
• Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	
Ferruginous Hawk	r		r	
Rough-legged Hawk	o		o	o
Golden Eagle	o		o	
Falcons and Caracaras				
• American Kestrel	c	c	c	r
Merlin	o	o		
Peregrine Falcon	o	o		
Prairie Falcon	r	r		
Rails				
• Virginia Rail	u	u	u	
• Sora	c	c	c	
Common Moorhen	h	h	h	
• American Coot	a	a	a	
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	o		o	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	u		u	
American Golden-Plover	u		u	
Semipalmated Plover	c		c	
Piping Plover	o	o	o	
• Killdeer	c	c	c	
Stilts and Avocets				
Black-necked Stilt	h	h	h	
American Avocet	u	u	u	
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
• Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Solitary Sandpiper	o	o	o	
Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	
• Willet	c	o	c	
Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	
• Upland Sandpiper	c	c	c	
Long-billed Curlew	r			
Hudsonian Godwit	o	o	o	
• Marbled Godwit	c	c	u	
Ruddy Turnstone	u	o	u	
Sanderling	o	o	o	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	u	a	
Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	
White-rumped Sandpiper	c	u	c	
Baird's Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	c	u	c	
Dunlin	u		u	
Stilt Sandpiper	o	o	o	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r		r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	o	o	o	
Long-billed Dowitcher	o	o	o	
Wilson's Snipe	u	u	c	
• American Woodcock	u	u	u	
• Wilson's Phalarope	c	u	c	
Red-necked Phalarope	c	u	c	
Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, and Terns				
• Franklin's Gull	c	c	a	
Bonaparte's Gull	o			
Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	
California Gull	u	u	u	
Herring Gull	u		u	
Caspian Tern	u	u	u	
• Black Tern	c	c	c	
• Common Tern	c	c	c	
• Forster's Tern	c	c	c	
Pigeons and Doves				
• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cuckoos and Anis				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r	
Black-billed Cuckoo	c	c	c	
Typical Owls				
• Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	u	u
• Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
Snowy Owl			o	o
Burrowing Owl	r	r	r	
Barred Owl	h	h	h	h
• Long-eared Owl	r	r	r	r
Short-eared Owl	u	u	u	u
Northern Saw-whet Owl				r
Nightjars				
• Common Nighthawk	c	c	c	
Swifts				
Chimney Swift	o	o		
Hummingbirds				
• Ruby-throated Hummingbird	o	o	o	
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	u	u	c	
Woodpeckers				
• Red-headed Woodpecker	o	o	o	
Red-bellied Woodpecker			r	r
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o	o	o	
• Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
• Hairy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	r
Pileated Woodpecker	h	h	h	
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	r	r	
• Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r	r	r	
• Willow Flycatcher	c	c	c	
• Least Flycatcher	c	c	c	
• Eastern Phoebe	c	c	c	
• Great Crested Flycatcher	u	u	u	
• Western Kingbird	c	c	c	
• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	
Shrikes				
• Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	
Northern Shrike			o	o

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Vireos				
Yellow-throated Vireo	o	u	o	
Blue-headed Vireo	o		o	
• Warbling Vireo	u	u	u	
Philadelphia Vireo	r			
• Red-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	
Crows, Jays, and Magpies				
• Blue Jay	c	c	c	o
Black-billed Magpie	r		r	r
• American Crow	c	u	c	o
Larks				
• Horned Lark	c	c	c	o
Swallows				
• Purple Martin	c	c	c	
• Tree Swallow	a	a	a	
• Northern Rough-winged Swallow	r	r	r	
• Bank Swallow	u	u	u	
• Cliff Swallow	u	u	u	
• Barn Swallow	c	c	a	
Titmice and Chickadees				
• Black-capped Chickadee	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		u	o
• White-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c
Creepers				
Brown Creeper	o		o	o
Wrens				
• House Wren	c	c	c	
• Sedge Wren	u	u	u	
• Marsh Wren	c	c	c	
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		u	o
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	
Thrushes				
• Eastern Bluebird	c	c	c	
Veery	r			
Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		o	
Swainson's Thrush	u		u	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	
• American Robin	a	c	a	
Varied Thrush				r

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Mimic Thrushes				
• Gray Catbird	c	c	c	
Northern Mockingbird	r	r		
• Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	r
Starlings				
• European Starling	c	c	c	o
Wagtails and Pipits				
American (Water) Pipit	o		o	
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing	o		o	o
• Cedar Waxwing	u	u	u	o
Wood Warblers				
Golden-winged Warbler	o		o	
Tennessee Warbler	c		c	
Orange-crowned Warbler	c		c	
Nashville Warbler	r			
Northern Parula	r		r	
• Yellow Warbler	c	c	c	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	o		o	
Magnolia Warbler	o		o	
Cape May Warbler	r		r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	
Blackburnian Warbler	r		r	
Palm Warbler	o		o	
Bay-breasted Warbler	r			
Blackpoll Warbler	c		c	
Black-and-white Warbler	c		c	
American Redstart	c	o	c	
Ovenbird	c		c	
Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
Mourning Warbler	o		o	
• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
Wilson's Warbler	o		o	
Canada Warbler	r	r	r	
Yellow-breasted Chat	o	o		
Tanagers				
Summer Tanager	h	h	h	
Scarlet Tanager	o	r		

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