



Yellow-headed Blackbird

# Birds of the George W. Mead Wildlife Area

The accidentals (listed as Exceptional Records) have occurred very rarely on the property, so if you should happen to see one of them, please report your sighting to the Mead Staff. Currently, there are 131 bird species which are known to breed on the Mead property, with an additional 16 that are suspected breeders. An asterisk (\*)

This checklist currently has a total of 251 species that can be found on the property at some point during the year. It also lists 22 species that have occurred accidentally on the Mead property. This means that a total of 273 species have been recorded for the Mead SWA, one of the largest bird lists for any State Wildlife Area in Wisconsin.

Spring brings migrants passing through this area to their northern homes and bitterns, and many more. Autumn brings the northern migrants southward and the winter months may bring a variety of northern finches, owls, Snow Buntings, and other species which mingle with the year-round residents of the Mead property.

With the proper knowledge of where a species might be found, and at which time of the year, you'll have a very good chance of seeing the species you're seeking. Spring brings migrants passing through this area to their northern homes and bitterns, and many more. Autumn brings the northern migrants southward and the winter months may bring a variety of northern finches, owls, Snow Buntings, and other species which mingle with the year-round residents of the Mead property.

Birds, birds, birds! If it's birds you're looking for, then come to the George W. Mead State Wildlife Area! This 30,000+ acre state wildlife area is truly one of the best birding locations in central Wisconsin. With a wide variety of different habitats, many bird species can be found throughout the year.

## Birdwatching at the Mead



## Exceptional Records

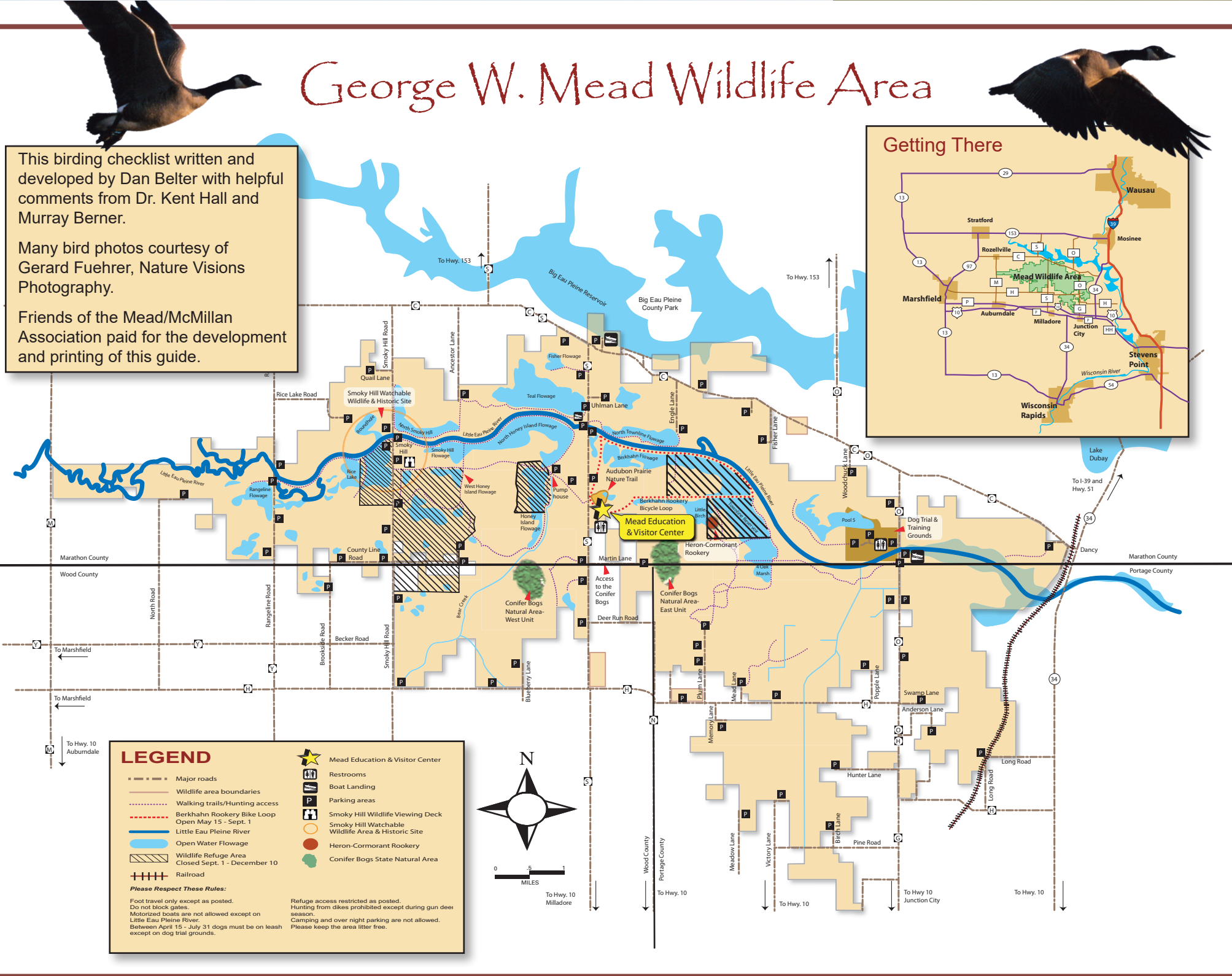
The following 22 species are considered to be very rare on the Mead property. Many of these species have been seen on the property only once or twice since bird records have been kept here. If you see one of these species, or any other species not found on this checklist, please report it/them to the Mead Staff as soon as possible.

## Extirpated Species

An extirpated species is a species that is no longer found in some of its historical native range, but it is not extinct. Sharp-tailed Grouse is the only known species which once bred on the Mead Property, but no longer occurs here.

No matter what your interest, "birdwatching" at the Mead promises many exciting moments for you, your family and friends. Get out and enjoy your wildlife area! indicates a species is a confirmed breeder and a (?) indicates it is a suspected breeder.

- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Eared Grebe
- Anhinga
- Little Blue Heron
- Cattle Egret
- White Ibis
- Swainson's Hawk
- King Rail
- Black-necked Stilt
- Whimbrel
- Red Knot
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Northern Hawk Owl
- Great Gray Owl
- Boreal Owl
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Gray Jay
- Varied Thrush
- Lark Bunting
- Lazuli Bunting
- Double-crested Cormorant



# George W. Mead Wildlife Area

This birding checklist written and developed by Dan Belter with helpful comments from Dr. Kent Hall and Murray Berner.

Many bird photos courtesy of Gerard Fuehrer, Nature Visions Photography.

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### LEGEND

- Major roads
- Wildlife area boundaries
- Walking trails/Hunting access
- Berkhahn Rookery Bicycle Loop Open May 15 - Sept. 1
- Little Eau Pleine River
- Open Water Flowage
- Wildlife Refuge Area Closed Sept. 1 - December 10
- Railroad

- Mead Education & Visitor Center
- Restrooms
- Boat Landing
- Parking areas
- Smoky Hill Wildlife Viewing Deck
- Smoky Hill Watchable Wildlife Area & Historic Site
- Heron-Cormorant Rookery
- Conifer Bogs State Natural Area

**Please Respect These Rules:**  
Foot travel only except as posted. Do not block gates. Motorized boats are not allowed except on Little Eau Pleine River. Between April 15 - July 31 dogs must be on leash except on dog trial grounds.

Refuge access restricted as posted. Hunting from dikes prohibited except during gun deer season. Camping and over night parking are not allowed. Please keep the area litter free.

### Getting There







# Bird Checklist

Revised Spring 2018

**Seasons**

**Sp:** Spring (March to May)  
**S:** Summer (June to July)  
**F:** Fall (August to November)  
**W:** Winter (Dec. to February)

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

Pheasant, Grouse, and Turkey	Sp	S	F	W
Ring-necked Pheasant*	o	o	o	o
Ruffed Grouse*	u	o	u	u
Greater Prairie Chicken* (T)	u	o	o	o
Wild Turkey*	c	c	c	c

Loons, Grebes, and Cormorant	Sp	S	F	W
Common Loon*	o	o	r	
Pied-billed Grebe*	c	c	c	
Horned Grebe	o		o	
Red-necked Grebe (E)	r			
Double-crested Cormorant*	c	c	c	
American White Pelican	o	u	u	

Bitterns and Herons	Sp	S	F	W
American Bittern* (SC)	c	c	u	
Least Bittern* (SC)	u	u	u	
Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	r
Great Egret (T)	o	o	u	
Green Heron*	u	u	u	
Black-crowned Night-Heron* (SC)	r	r	o	

Vulture	Sp	S	F	W
Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	

Hawks and Eagles	Sp	S	F	W
Osprey*	o	o	o	
Golden Eagle	o		o	o
Northern Harrier*	c	u	u	o
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	u	o	u	o
Cooper's Hawk*	u	o	u	o
Northern Goshawk* (SC)	r	r	r	r
Bald Eagle*	c	c	c	u
Red-shouldered Hawk* (T)	o	o	o	
Broad-winged Hawk*	u	u	u	
Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	u
Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	u

Rails and Cranes	Sp	S	F	W
Virginia Rail*	c	c	o	
Sora*	c	c	u	
Common Gallinule*	o	o		
American Coot*	c	u	c	
Sandhill Crane*	a	c	a	
Whooping Crane (E)	o	o	o	

Plovers and Sandpipers	Sp	S	F	W
Black-bellied Plover	r		r	
American Golden Plover	r		r	
Semipalmated Plover	o		o	
Killdeer*	c	c	c	
Upland Sandpiper (T)	r	r		
Hudsonian Godwit	r			
Marbled Godwit	r			
Ruddy Turnstone	r			
Stilt Sandpiper	o		r	
Sanderling	r			
Dunlin	o	r	o	
Baird's Sandpiper	r		o	
Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	
White-rumped Sandpiper	o		r	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r	r		
Pectoral Sandpiper	u	o	u	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	r	o	
Short-billed Dowitcher	o	r	o	
Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	
American Woodcock* (SC)	c	u	u	
Wilson's Snipe*	c	u	o	
Wilson's Phalarope* (SC)	o	o	o	
Red-necked Phalarope	r	r	r	
Spotted Sandpiper*	c	u	c	
Solitary Sandpiper	c	u	u	
Greater Yellowlegs	u	o	u	
Willet	r			
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	

**Abundance Codes**  
a=Abundant: Regularly seen in a variety of habitats, or in high numbers.  
c=Common: Commonly seen or heard in its proper habitat.  
u=Uncommon: Present, but not certain to be seen.  
o=Occasional: A few may be seen or heard during the season.  
r=Rare: Out of its range, threatened/endangered, or seen every few years.

Gulls and Terns	Sp	S	F	W
Bonaparte's Gull	o		o	
Ring-billed Gull	c	o	u	
Herring Gull	u		o	
Caspian Tern (E)	r		r	
Black Tern* (E)	u	c	o	
Forester's Tern (E)	o	r	r	

Pigeon, Dove, and Cuckoos	Sp	S	F	W
Rock Pigeon	u	u	u	u
Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	o	u	r	
Black-billed Cuckoo*	u	u	o	

Owls	Sp	S	F	W
Eastern Screech Owl*	u	u	u	u
Great Horned Owl*	c	u	u	u
Snowy Owl	r		r	r
Barred Owl*	c	u	u	u
Long-eared Owl (?) (SC)	o	r	o	o
Short-eared Owl (T)	r		r	r
Northern Saw-whet Owl*	u	o	o	o

Nightjars and Swift	Sp	S	F	W
Common Nighthawk (SC)	o	o	u	
Eastern Whip-poor-will (?) (SC)	o	o	o	
Chimney Swift (?)	o	o	o	

Hummingbird	Sp	S	F	W
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	u	u	u	

Kingfisher	Sp	S	F	W
Belted Kingfisher*	c	c	c	

Woodpeckers	Sp	S	F	W
Red-headed Woodpecker* (SC)	o	o	o	
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*	c	u	u	
Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	
Pileated Woodpecker*	c	u	u	u

Falcons	Sp	S	F	W
American Kestrel*	u	u	u	o
Merlin	u		u	r
Peregrine Falcon (E)	o	o	o	

Flycatchers	Sp	S	F	W
Olive-sided Flycatcher (SC)	o	r	r	
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (?)	u	o	o	
Acadian Flycatcher (T)	r	r		
Alder Flycatcher*	u	c	o	
Willow Flycatcher*	u	c	o	
Least Flycatcher* (SC)	a	c	c	
Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	
Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	u	
Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	u	

Shrike and Vireos	Sp	S	F	W
Northern Shrike	o		u	u
Yellow-throated Vireo*	c	c	c	
Blue-headed Vireo	u		u	
Warbling Vireo*	c	c	c	
Philadelphia Vireo	o		u	
Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	

Jay, Crow, and Raven	Sp	S	F	W
Blue Jay*	c	u	c	u
American Crow*	a	a	a	a
Common Raven*	u	o	o	u

Lark and Swallows	Sp	S	F	W
Horned Lark*	c	u	o	u
N. Rough-winged Swallow (?)	c	u	u	
Purple Martin (SC)	o	o	o	
Tree Swallow*	a	a	a	
Bank Swallow (?)	u	o	u	
Barn Swallow (?)	c	c	u	
Cliff Swallow*	c	c	c	

Chickadee, Nuthatches, and Creeper	Sp	S	F	W
Black-capped Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
Tufted Titmouse (?)	o	r	r	o
Red-breasted Nuthatch (?)	o	o	o	u
White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
Brown Creeper*	c	u	c	u

Wrens, Kinglets, and Gnatcatcher	Sp	S	F	W
House Wren*	a	c	c	
Winter Wren*	u	o	u	r
Sedge Wren*	c	c	u	
Marsh Wren*	c	c	u	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	
Golden-crowned Kinglet (?)	c	r	u	o
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (SC)	c		u	

Thrushes	Sp	S	F	W
Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	
Veery*	c	c	u	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		o	
Swainson's Thrush (SC)	c		c	
Hermit Thrush*	c	o	c	
Wood Thrush*	c	c	u	
American Robin*	a	a		o

**Breeding and Rarity Status** (Listed after species name)  
\* Confirmed as breeding on the property (131 species)  
(?) Probability of breeding on the property (16 species)  
(SC) Species of Concern (31 species)  
(T) Threatened species (9 species)  
(E) Endangered species (7 species)

Mimids	Sp	S	F	W
Gray Catbird*	c	c	c	
Brown Trasher*	u	u	u	
Northern Mockingbird	r	r	r	

Starling, Pipit, and Waxwings	Sp	S	F	W
European Starling*	c	c	c	u
American Pipit	o		u	
Bohemian Waxwing	o		o	o
Cedar Waxwing*	u	c	a	o

Longspur and Bunting	Sp	S	F	W
Lapland Longspur	u		u	r
Snow Bunting	u		u	u

Wood Warblers	Sp	S	F	W
Ovenbird*	c	c	c	
Louisiana Waterthrush	o	o		
Northern Waterthrush*	c	c	c	
Golden-winged Warbler* (SC)	c	c	u	
Blue-winged Warbler*	u	c	u	
Black and White Warbler*	c	c	c	
Prothonotary Warbler* (SC)	o	o	r	
Tennessee Warbler	c	o	a	
Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	
Nashville Warbler*	c	c	c	
Connecticut Warbler (SC)	o		o	
Mourning Warbler*	c	c	u	
Common Yellowthroat*	c	a	a	
Hooded Warbler (T)	r	r		
American Redstart*	c	a	a	
Cape May Warbler	c		u	
Cerulean Warbler (?) (T)	o	r		
Northern Parula	u		o	
Magnolia Warbler	c		c	
Bay-breasted Warbler	c		u	
Blackburnian Warbler	c		u	
Yellow Warbler*	c	a	o	
Chestnut-sided Warbler*	c	c	c	
Blackpoll Warbler	c		c	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	o		o	
Palm Warbler*	a	o	c	
Pine Warbler	u		u	
Yellow-rumped Warbler*	a	o	a	
Black-throated Green Warbler	c		c	
Canada Warbler (?)	u		u	
Wilson's Warbler	c		u	

Towhee and Sparrows	Sp	S	F	W
Grasshopper Sparrow (SC)	r			
Henslow's Sparrow* (T)	o	o	r	
Le Conte's Sparrow* (SC)	o	o	o	
American Tree Sparrow	a		c	c
Chipping Sparrow*	c	c	c	
Clay-colored Sparrow*	c	c	u	
Field Sparrow*	u	u	u	
Fox Sparrow	c		c	
Dark-eyed Junco	a		a	u
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
Harris's Sparrow	r		o	
White-throated Sparrow*	c	o	c	
Vesper Sparrow (SC)	r	r	r	
Savannah Sparrow*	a	a	c	
Song Sparrow*	a	a	c	
Lincoln's Sparrow (?)	u	o	u	
Swamp Sparrow*	a	a	c	
Eastern Towhee*	u	u	u	

Tanager	Sp	S	F	W
Scarlet Tanager*	c	c	u	

Grosbeaks	Sp	S	F	W
Northern Cardinal*	u	u	u	u
Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	c	c	c	
Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	
Dickcissel* (SC)	o	o		

Blackbirds	Sp	S	F	W
Yellow-headed Blackbird* (SC)	c	c	u	
Bobolink* (SC)	c	c	u	
Western Meadowlark (SC)	r	r		
Eastern Meadowlark* (SC)	c	c	u	
Orchard Oriole*	o	o		
Baltimore Oriole*	c	c	u	
Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	r
Brown-headed Cowbird*	a	a	u	r
Rusty Blackbird (SC)	c		c	
Brewer's Blackbird (SC)	o	o	o	

Finches	Sp	S	F	W
Evening Grosbeak (SC)	r		r	r
Pine Grosbeak	r			r
House Finch (?)	u	u	u	u
Purple Finch*	u	o	u	o
Common Redpoll	u	u		u
Hoary Redpoll				r
Red Crossbill	r			r
White-winged Crossbill	o		o	o
Pine Siskin	u		u	u
American Goldfinch*	a	c	c	u

Weaver Finch	Sp	S	F	W
House Sparrow*	u	u	u	u