

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
14000 W. State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ottawa

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List



The Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex, located 15 miles east of Toledo, Ohio, contains remnants of a vast marsh that once bordered western Lake Erie. The complex is comprised of three wildlife refuges: Ottawa NWR, Cedar Point NWR, and West Sister Island NWR.

The Ottawa NWR complex consists of over 9000 acres of marshes, wooded wetlands, coastal wetlands, shrublands, grasslands, and an estuary that support a variety of wildlife communities. The complex is recognized as an important stopover area for migratory songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Dramatic flights of migratory birds may be seen at Ottawa NWR, notably the spring migration of warblers, and the autumn passage of waterfowl. West Sister Island is home to the largest wading bird colony in the U.S. Great Lakes. These birds may be observed feeding in coastal marshes. The Ottawa NWR complex has received recognition as being a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy, and is part of the Western Lake Erie Regional Shorebird Reserve in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The Ottawa NRW complex is regularly recognized as one of the top birding sites in the nation, receiving recognition most recently as a Top 10 birding destination from "Birder's World" magazine.

The common names used and the taxonomic order are in accordance with the American Ornithologists' Union "Checklist of North American Birds", 7th Edition, through the 45th Supplement. Family names follow the American Birding Association checklist convention.

The 308 species listed here include both common species and irregular visitors. Seasonal occurrence information is derived from numerous sources, including the monthly bird survey at Ottawa NWR (1969-present), Black Swamp Bird Observatory banding stations and surveys, Toledo Naturalist Association surveys, Refuge staff surveys, and expert opinion. Due to changes in species occurrence over time, data from 1990-2004 were used for seasonal occurrence to most accurately represent the current likelihood of seeing a bird. Data from 1969-2004 were used to document the occurrence of rare birds.

The likelihood of observing a species may be lower or higher than the occurrence listed here, due to natural variability within seasons and among years, timing of your visit in relation to peaks in migration, habitats observed during your visit, and differences in detectability between species.

Visiting birders are encouraged to share their rare sightings with refuge staff.

Bird Legend

C..... common-seen on 90% of visits
 F..... fairly common-seen on 50-90%
 U..... uncommon-20-50%
 R..... rare-less than 20% of visits
 X..... extremely rare-fewer than 6 times since 1969
 -..... no records
 *..... has nested on Refuge since 1990

S..... Spring (March through May)
 s..... Summer (June and July)
 F..... Fall (August through November)
 W..... Winter (December through February)

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Ducks, Geese & Swans				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck.....	-	X	-	-
___ Greater White-fronted Goose.....	X	-	R	R
___ Snow Goose.....	U	X	U	F
___ Ross's Goose.....	X	-	-	X
___ Brant.....	X	-	X	-
___ Cackling Goose.....	X	-	R	X
___ Canada Goose*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Mute Swan*.....	F	F	F	F
___ Trumpeter Swan* (release).....	F	C	C	F
___ Tundra Swan.....	U	X	F	F
___ Wood Duck*.....	F	C	C	U
___ Gadwall*.....	C	U	C	F
___ Eurasian Wigeon.....	X	-	X	-
___ American Wigeon.....	C	U	C	F
___ American Black Duck*.....	F	F	C	C
___ Mallard*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal*.....	F	C	C	X
___ Cinnamon Teal.....	X	-	X	-
___ Northern Shoveler*.....	C	U	C	U
___ Northern Pintail*.....	F	R	C	F
___ Green-winged Teal*.....	C	F	C	U
___ Canvasback*.....	U	R	U	U
___ Redhead*.....	F	R	U	U
___ Ring-necked Duck.....	F	-	U	R
___ Greater Scaup.....	U	-	R	X
___ Lesser Scaup.....	C	R	R	U
___ King Eider.....	-	-	-	X
___ Harlequin Duck.....	-	-	-	X
___ Surf Scoter.....	X	-	X	-
___ White-winged Scoter.....	X	X	X	X
___ Black Scoter.....	X	-	X	-
___ Long-tailed Duck.....	-	-	X	X
___ Bufflehead.....	F	-	U	U
___ Common Goldeneye.....	F	X	R	F
___ Hooded Merganser*.....	C	F	F	F
___ Common Merganser.....	C	-	R	F
___ Red-breasted Merganser.....	F	X	U	U
___ Ruddy Duck*.....	F	U	F	U

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys & Old World Quail				
— Ring-necked Pheasant*	F	F	U	U
New World Quail				
— Northern Bobwhite	X	X	X	-
Loons				
— Common Loon	X	X	R	X
Grebes				
— Pied-billed Grebe*	C	C	C	U
— Horned Grebe	U	-	R	X
— Red-necked Grebe	X	-	X	-
— Eared Grebe	X	-	-	-
— Western Grebe	-	-	X	-
Pelicans				
— American White Pelican	X	X	R	-
Cormorants				
— Double-crested Cormorant*	C	C	C	R
Bitterns, Herons & Allies				
— American Bittern*	R	U	R	X
— Least Bittern*	R	U	R	-
— Great Blue Heron*	C	C	C	F
— Great Egret*	F	C	C	R
— Snowy Egret*	U	F	F	-
— Little Blue Heron*	R	R	R	-
— Tricolored Heron	X	-	X	-
— Cattle Egret*	R	R	U	-
— Green Heron*	F	F	F	-
— Black-crowned Night-Heron*	F	C	C	X
— Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	X	X	X	-
Ibises & Spoonbills				
— Glossy Ibis	X	X	-	-
— White-faced Ibis	X	-	-	-
New World Vultures				
— Turkey Vulture	U	U	X	X
Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Allies				
— Osprey	R	R	R	X
— Bald Eagle*	C	C	C	C
— Northern Harrier	F	R	F	F
— Sharp-shinned Hawk	F	X	U	R
— Cooper's Hawk*	U	R	U	U
— Northern Goshawk	X	-	-	X
— Red-shouldered Hawk	U	X	R	X
— Broad-winged Hawk	R	X	X	X
— Swainson's Hawk	X	X	X	-

Common Name	S	s	F	W
— Red-tailed Hawk*	C	C	C	C
— Rough-legged Hawk	U	-	R	F
— Golden Eagle	R	-	X	X
Caracaras & Falcons				
— American Kestrel*	F	F	F	C
— Merlin	R	X	R	-
— Gyrfalcon	X	-	X	X
— Peregrine Falcon	R	X	U	X
Rails, Gallinules and Coots				
— Yellow Rail	-	-	R	-
— King Rail*	X	X	X	-
— Virginia Rail*	U	U	U	X
— Sora*	U	U	U	-
— Common Moorhen*	R	F	U	X
— American Coot*	C	F	C	F
Cranes				
— Sandhill Crane	R	-	X	X
Lapwings & Plovers				
— Black-bellied Plover	U	R	F	X
— American Golden-Plover	R	X	U	-
— Snowy Plover	-	-	X	-
— Semipalmated Plover	U	U	F	X
— Piping Plover	X	-	X	-
— Killdeer*	C	C	C	U
Stilts & Avocets				
— Black-necked Stilt	X	X	-	-
— American Avocet	X	-	R	-
Sandpipers, Phalaropes & Allies				
— Greater Yellowlegs	F	F	C	X
— Lesser Yellowlegs	F	F	C	X
— Solitary Sandpiper	U	R	U	-
— Willet	X	X	R	X
— Spotted Sandpiper*	F	C	F	-
— Upland Sandpiper	R	R	R	-
— Whimbrel	X	X	R	-
— Hudsonian Godwit	X	X	R	-
— Marbled Godwit	X	X	R	-
— Ruddy Turnstone	R	U	R	-
— Red Knot	X	X	U	-
— Sanderling	U	X	U	X
— Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	U	F	-
— Western Sandpiper	R	X	R	-
— Least Sandpiper	F	F	F	X
— White-rumped Sandpiper	R	R	R	-
— Baird's Sandpiper	R	R	R	-
— Pectoral Sandpiper	F	U	C	X

Common Name	S	s	F	W
— Dunlin.....	F	F	F	R
— Curlew Sandpiper.....	-	-	X	-
— Stilt Sandpiper.....	R	U	U	-
— Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	X	-	R	-
— Ruff.....	X	X	X	-
— Short-billed Dowitcher.....	F	F	F	-
— Long-billed Dowitcher.....	R	R	F	X
— Wilson's Snipe.....	F	R	F	R
— American Woodcock*.....	U	U	U	-
— Wilson's Phalarope.....	R	R	R	-
— Red-necked Phalarope.....	X	X	R	-
— Red Phalarope.....	-	-	X	X
Skuas, Gulls, Terns & Skimmers				
— Pomarine Jaeger.....	-	-	-	X
— Long-tailed Jaeger.....	-	X	-	-
— Franklin's Gull.....	X	X	X	-
— Little Gull.....	X	-	X	-
— Black-headed Gull.....	-	X	-	X
— Bonaparte's Gull.....	F	R	C	U
— Ring-billed Gull.....	C	C	C	C
— Herring Gull*.....	C	C	C	C
— Iceland Gull.....	X	X	-	-
— Lesser Black-backed Gull.....	X	-	X	X
— Glaucous Gull.....	X	-	-	X
— Great Black-backed Gull.....	U	R	U	F
— Black-legged Kittiwake.....	X	-	X	X
— Caspian Tern.....	F	U	F	-
— Common Tern*.....	U	C	F	X
— Forster's Tern.....	U	U	F	X
— Black Tern*.....	R	U	R	-
Pigeons & Doves				
— Rock Pigeon*.....	F	F	F	U
— Mourning Dove*.....	C	C	C	C
Cuckoos, Roadrunners & Anis				
— Black-billed Cuckoo*.....	R	R	R	-
— Yellow-billed Cuckoo*.....	U	F	F	-
Barn Owls				
— Barn Owl.....	X	X	-	-
Typical Owls				
— Eastern Screech-Owl*.....	U	R	U	U
— Great Horned Owl*.....	F	F	F	F
— Snowy Owl.....	X	-	X	R
— Long-eared Owl.....	R	-	R	R
— Short-eared Owl.....	R	-	R	R
— Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	R	-	X	X

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Goatsuckers				
— Common Nighthawk.....	R	X	R	-
— Whip-poor-will.....	R	-	X	-
Swifts				
— Chimney Swift.....	U	F	F	-
Hummingbirds				
— Ruby-throated Hummingbird*.....	U	F	U	-
Kingfishers				
— Belted Kingfisher.....	F	U	F	R
Woodpeckers & Allies				
— Red-headed Woodpecker*.....	U	U	U	R
— Red-bellied Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
— Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	R	-	U	X
— Downy Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
— Hairy Woodpecker*.....	U	R	U	F
— Northern Flicker*.....	C	C	C	U
— Pileated Woodpecker.....	X	-	-	-
Tyrant Flycatchers				
— Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	R	R	R	-
— Eastern Wood-Pewee*.....	U	C	F	-
— Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	R	R	R	-
— Acadian Flycatcher*.....	R	R	R	-
— Alder Flycatcher.....	R	R	-	-
— Willow Flycatcher*.....	U	C	U	-
— Least Flycatcher.....	U	R	U	-
— Eastern Phoebe*.....	F	F	F	-
— Vermilion Flycatcher.....	-	-	X	X
— Great Crested Flycatcher*.....	U	C	U	-
— Western Kingbird.....	-	-	X	-
— Eastern Kingbird*.....	U	C	F	-
— Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	X	-	-	-
Shrikes				
— Loggerhead Shrike.....	R	-	X	X
— Northern Shrike.....	U	-	R	U
Vireos				
— White-eyed Vireo*.....	R	R	R	-
— Yellow-throated Vireo*.....	R	X	R	-
— Blue-headed Vireo.....	U	X	U	-
— Warbling Vireo*.....	U	C	F	-
— Philadelphia Vireo.....	U	R	R	-
— Red-eyed Vireo*.....	F	C	F	-
Jays & Crows				
— Blue Jay*.....	C	C	C	C
— American Crow.....	F	R	U	U

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Larks				
— Horned Lark*	C	F	F	F
Swallows				
— Purple Martin*	F	C	F	-
— Tree Swallow*	C	C	C	X
— Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	U	U	R	-
— Bank Swallow	U	U	U	-
— Cliff Swallow*	U	R	R	-
— Barn Swallow*	U	C	F	-
Chickadees & Titmice				
— Black-capped Chickadee*	U	R	U	U
— Tufted Titmouse*	C	F	F	C
Nuthatches				
— Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	X	U	X
— White-breasted Nuthatch*	F	U	F	F
Creepers				
— Brown Creeper	F	-	U	F
Wrens				
— Carolina Wren*	F	C	F	F
— House Wren*	F	C	F	-
— Winter Wren	U	-	U	U
— Sedge Wren*	X	R	X	-
— Marsh Wren*	U	C	U	R
Kinglets				
— Golden-crowned Kinglet	F	-	F	U
— Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	-	C	X
Old World Warblers & Gnatcatchers				
— Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	F	U	R	-
Thrushes				
— Eastern Bluebird*	U	U	R	X
— Veery*	F	U	R	-
— Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	X	F	-
— Bicknell's Thrush	-	-	X	-
— Swainson's Thrush	F	R	F	-
— Hermit Thrush	F	-	F	X
— Wood Thrush*	F	F	U	-
— American Robin*	C	C	C	U
Mockingbirds & Thrashers				
— Gray Catbird*	C	C	C	X
— Northern Mockingbird	R	X	R	R
— Brown Thrasher*	F	U	U	X

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Starlings				
— European Starling*	C	C	C	C
Wagtails & Pipits				
— American Pipit	U	-	R	X
Waxwings				
— Cedar Waxwing*	F	C	C	R
Wood-Warblers				
— Blue-winged Warbler	U	R	R	-
— Golden-winged Warbler	R	-	X	-
— Tennessee Warbler	F	X	F	-
— Orange-crowned Warbler	R	-	R	X
— Nashville Warbler	F	-	R	-
— Northern Parula	U	X	R	-
— Yellow Warbler*	C	C	F	-
— Chestnut-sided Warbler*	F	R	U	-
— Magnolia Warbler	C	R	F	-
— Cape May Warbler	U	X	F	-
— Black-throated Blue Warbler	F	X	F	-
— Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	X	C	R
— Black-throated Green Warbler	F	X	U	-
— Blackburnian Warbler	U	X	U	-
— Yellow-throated Warbler	X	-	-	-
— Pine Warbler	R	-	R	-
— Kirtland's Warbler	X	-	-	-
— Prairie Warbler	X	-	X	-
— Palm Warbler	C	-	F	-
— Bay-breasted Warbler	F	X	F	-
— Blackpoll Warbler	U	R	F	-
— Cerulean Warbler	R	-	X	-
— Black-and-white Warbler*	C	R	F	-
— American Redstart*	F	U	F	-
— Prothonotary Warbler*	U	R	R	-
— Worm-eating Warbler	X	X	X	-
— Swainson's Warbler	X	-	-	-
— Ovenbird*	F	X	U	-
— Northern Waterthrush	F	X	U	X
— Louisiana Waterthrush	R	-	X	-
— Kentucky Warbler	R	-	X	-
— Connecticut Warbler	R	X	R	-
— Mourning Warbler	U	R	R	-
— Common Yellowthroat*	C	C	F	R
— Hooded Warbler*	R	X	X	-
— Wilson's Warbler	F	R	F	-
— Canada Warbler	U	R	R	-
— Yellow-breasted Chat*	R	R	X	-
Tanagers				
— Summer Tanager	R	-	-	-
— Scarlet Tanager*	R	R	R	-

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Emberizids				
___ Spotted Towhee	X	-	-	-
___ Eastern Towhee*	U	R	R	R
___ American Tree Sparrow	F	-	U	C
___ Chipping Sparrow*	U	F	U	-
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	X	-	-	-
___ Field Sparrow*	F	C	F	R
___ Vesper Sparrow*	U	U	R	-
___ Lark Sparrow	-	-	X	-
___ Savannah Sparrow*	U	F	U	X
___ Grasshopper Sparrow*	R	U	R	-
___ Henslow's Sparrow	R	X	X	-
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	X	-	-	-
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	X	-
___ Fox Sparrow	U	-	U	X
___ Song Sparrow*	C	C	C	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	U	X	U	-
___ Swamp Sparrow*	F	C	F	F
___ White-throated Sparrow	C	X	C	R
___ Harris's Sparrow	X	-	-	-
___ White-crowned Sparrow	U	X	F	R
___ Dark-eyed Junco	F	-	F	F
___ Lapland Longspur	R	-	R	R
___ Smith's Longspur	X	-	-	-
___ Snow Bunting	U	-	U	U
Cardinals, Saltators & Allies				
___ Northern Cardinal*	C	C	C	C
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	U	U	U	-
___ Blue Grosbeak	X	-	-	-
___ Indigo Bunting*	F	C	F	-
___ Dickcissel*	X	U	R	-
Blackbirds				
___ Bobolink*	U	U	F	-
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	C	C	C	F
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	F	F	U	U
___ Western Meadowlark	X	X	-	-
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird*	R	R	X	X
___ Rusty Blackbird	F	X	U	U
___ Brewer's Blackbird	X	-	X	X
___ Common Grackle*	C	C	C	U
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	C	F	U
___ Orchard Oriole*	U	F	U	-
___ Baltimore Oriole*	F	C	F	-

Common Name	S	s	F	W
Fringilline, Cardueline Finches & Allies				
___ Purple Finch	R	-	R	X
___ House Finch*	F	F	F	F
___ White-winged Crossbill	-	-	X	-
___ Common Redpoll	R	-	X	R
___ Pine Siskin	X	-	R	X
___ American Goldfinch*	C	C	C	C
___ Evening Grosbeak	X	-	X	X
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow*	F	C	C	F

Field Notes

Date: _____

No. Species: _____

Time: _____

Observers: _____

Weather: _____

Route: _____

Notes: _____
