

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Seneey

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird Checklist





Wood ducks, © Teresa McGill

Welcome to Seney National Wildlife Refuge



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling in the 1930s, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1935 for the protection and production of migratory birds and other wildlife. The refuge's 95,238 acres include a rich mosaic of marshes, swamps, bogs, and forests, which provide habitat for over 200 species of birds. The refuge is known for its abundance of trumpeter swans, common loons, bald eagles, osprey, and sandhill cranes, which are commonly seen while driving the Marshland Wildlife Drive or walking the Pine Ridge Nature Trail. Other familiar favorites include the American bittern, rails, and numerous warbler species found on the refuge.

If you are searching for a specific bird, a little research into its favorite habitat and typical behaviors may be helpful. Staff and volunteers can help you plan your visit Tuesday - Saturday, May 15 to October 20 (closed federal holidays) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the temporary visitor center off of River Road on the south side of the refuge.

Please keep these ethical wildlife observation tips in mind while visiting the refuge.

1. Observe and photograph wildlife without chasing or repeatedly flushing the animal.
2. Stay an appropriate distance from nests so the parents are not scared away, leaving the chicks exposed to danger.
3. Overwintering birds need all their energy to survive. Avoid disturbing them if possible.
4. Birds and other wildlife depend on plants such as berries and seeds for food. Please be considerate of these needs.
5. Stay on existing roads, trails and pathways to avoid trampling habitat.
6. Be sure to take all trash with you, as wildlife has been known to die when becoming entangled in fishing line or after consuming litter.
7. Respect all signs, laws and regulations. Areas may be closed to reduce disturbance to nesting or migrating birds.

Common loon, © Dave Alsobrooks



The Marshland Wildlife Drive is closed to motorized vehicles from October 21 to May 14 annually for the protection of migratory, resident and nesting birds.

Primary sources for this list include the Seney Comprehensive Conservation Plan, volunteers, researchers, staff members, eBird, and the American Birding Association. This list includes birds known to be found on the refuge and surrounding lands. If you should find an interesting or unusual species, please stop by the visitor center and record it in the observation board. Photos are always appreciated. You can also submit your sightings on eBird or iNaturalist.



Sandhill crane, © Teresa McGill

Legend

- # endangered
- * known to nest in the area
- Sp March—May
- S June—August
- F September—November
- W December—February
- a abundant: a common species which is very numerous
- c common: certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat, not in large numbers
- u uncommon: present but not always seen
- o occasional: seen only a few times during the season
- r rare: seen every 2 to 5 years

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swans, Geese and Ducks				
Snow Goose	r	-	-	-
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	r	-
Canada Goose *	a	a	a	r
Trumpeter Swan *	a	a	a	a
Tundra Swan	o	r	r	-
Wood Duck *	c	a	a	-
Blue-winged Teal *	a	c	c	-
Northern Shoveler	u	r	o	-
Gadwall	o	o	c	-
Eurasian Wigeon	r	-	-	-
American Wigeon *	u	o	c	-
Mallard *	a	a	a	-
American Black Duck *	u	c	c	-
Northern Pintail	r	-	o	-
Green-winged Teal	c	u	c	-
Canvasback	r	r	r	-
Redhead	o	r	c	-
Ring-necked Duck *	a	a	a	-
Greater Scaup	r	r	o	-
Lesser Scaup	u	o	c	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	r	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	r	-
Bufflehead	c	r	o	-
Common Goldeneye *	o	r	r	-
Hooded Merganser *	a	c	a	-
Common Merganser *	c	c	c	-
Red-breasted Merganser	o	u	o	-
Ruddy Duck	r	r	o	-
Grouse and Turkeys				
Ruffed Grouse *	c	c	c	a
Spruce Grouse *	o	o	o	o
Sharp-tailed Grouse *	c	c	c	c
Wild Turkey	o	r	r	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe *	c	a	a	-
Horned Grebe	r	r	o	-
Red-necked Grebe	r	o	o	-
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Pigeon	o	o	o	-
Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Cuckoos				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	o	-	-
Black-billed Cuckoo *	r	u	r	-
Nightjars				
Common Nighthawk *	-	o	r	-
Eastern Whip-poor-will *	o	r	r	-
Swifts				
Chimney Swift	o	r	-	-
Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird *	u	c	o	-
Coots and Rails				
Yellow Rail *	o	o	-	-
Virginia Rail *	c	u	r	-
Sora *	c	u	r	-
American Coot	o	o	c	-
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane *	a	a	a	-
Gulls and Terns				
Bonaparte's Gull	r	r	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	a	a	a	-
Herring Gull	u	c	o	-
Caspian Tern	a	a	c	-
Black Tern *	r	o	-	-
Common Tern *	a	a	r	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	o	r	o	-
American Golden-Plover	-	-	o	-
Killdeer *	c	c	o	-
Semipalmated Plover	o	o	o	-
Sandpipers				
Upland Sandpiper *	o	o	o	-
Marbled Godwit	r	-	-	-
Stilt Sandpiper	r	r	r	-
Sanderling	-	-	r	-
Dunlin	o	-	r	-
Baird's Sandpiper	-	r	r	-
Least Sandpiper	o	r	r	-
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	r	-	-
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	-	-	r	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	r	r	o	-
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	o	o	-
Short-billed Dowitcher	u	r	r	-
American Woodcock *	u	o	r	-
Wilson's Snipe *	a	c	o	-
Spotted Sandpiper *	c	c	o	-
Solitary Sandpiper	o	o	o	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	o	-
Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	-
Loons				
Common Loon *	a	a	a	-
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	-
Pelicans				
American White Pelican	o	o	r	-
Vultures				
Turkey Vulture *	c	c	c	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Hérons and Bitterns				
American Bittern *	c	a	o	-
Least Bittern *	-	r	-	-
Great Blue Heron *	c	a	a	-
Great Egret	r	u	c	-
Little Blue Heron	-	r	-	-
Green Heron	r	o	o	-
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	r	-	-
Osprey				
Osprey *	a	a	c	-
Hawks and Eagles				
Golden Eagle	r	-	-	-
Northern Harrier *	c	c	c	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk *	r	o	o	-
Cooper's Hawk *	r	r	o	-
Northern Goshawk *	r	r	r	-
Bald Eagle *	a	a	a	c
Red-shouldered Hawk	r	r	o	-
Broad-winged Hawk *	c	u	c	-
Red-tailed Hawk *	u	u	c	r
Rough-legged Hawk	r	-	r	-
Owls				
Great Horned Owl *	r	r	r	-
Snowy Owl	r	-	r	r
Northern Hawk Owl	r	-	-	r
Barred Owl *	-	r	r	-
Great Gray Owl *	r	o	r	r
Long-eared Owl	o	o	o	-
Short-eared Owl	o	o	o	-
Boreal Owl	o	-	o	o
Northern Saw-whet Owl *	r	r	-	-
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher *	a	a	a	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Woodpeckers				
Red-headed Woodpecker	r	r	r	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	o	o	o	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *	u	u	o	-
Black-backed Woodpecker *	o	u	c	c
Downy Woodpecker *	c	c	a	c
Hairy Woodpecker *	c	c	a	a
Northern Flicker *	a	a	a	-
Pileated Woodpecker *	c	c	c	a
Falcons				
American Kestrel *	c	u	o	-
Merlin *	c	c	c	-
Peregrine Falcon	r	o	o	-
Flycatchers				
Great Crested Flycatcher *	o	u	-	-
Eastern Kingbird *	a	a	c	-
Olive-sided Flycatcher *	r	o	-	-
Eastern Wood-Pewee *	o	c	o	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *	r	o	r	-
Alder Flycatcher *	c	c	-	-
Least Flycatcher *	c	c	r	-
Eastern Phoebe *	a	a	c	-
Shrikes				
Northern Shrike	r	-	r	c
Vireos				
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	r	-	-
Blue-headed Vireo *	u	u	o	-
Philadelphia Vireo	r	r	r	-
Warbling Vireo	o	u	r	-
Red-eyed Vireo *	c	a	c	-
Larks				
Horned Lark *	r	-	o	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Jays and Crows				
Canada Jay *	r	r	o	r
Blue Jay *	a	a	a	a
American Crow *	a	a	a	a
Common Raven *	a	a	a	a
Swallows				
Purple Martin *	-	r	-	-
Bank Swallow *	r	r	r	-
Tree Swallow *	a	c	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow *	r	o	-	-
Barn Swallow *	c	u	-	-
Cliff Swallow *	r	r	-	-
Chickadees				
Black-capped Chickadee *	a	a	a	a
Boreal Chickadee *	-	-	r	-
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch *	c	a	a	a
White-breasted Nuthatch *	o	u	c	-
Creepers				
Brown Creeper *	u	u	o	c

Belted kingfisher, © Dave Alsobrooks



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Wrens				
House Wren	r	o	-	-
Winter Wren *	o	u	r	-
Sedge Wren *	c	c	r	-
Marsh Wren *	u	c	-	-
Gnatcatchers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *	r	r	-	-
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet *	c	u	c	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet *	c	o	o	-
Thrushes				
Eastern Bluebird *	u	u	o	-
Veery *	r	o	-	-
Gray-cheeked Thrush	r	-	r	-
Swainson's Thrush *	o	o	o	-
Hermit Thrush *	c	c	o	-
Wood Thrush *	o	u	-	-
American Robin *	a	a	a	-
Starlings				
European Starling *	c	c	o	-

Purple finch, © Teresa McGill



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
Gray Catbird *	c	a	c	-
Brown Thrasher *	c	u	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	r	r	-	-
Pipits				
American Pipit	-	-	o	-
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing	r	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing *	c	a	c	c
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow *	o	r	-	-
Finches				
Evening Grosbeak *	r	o	r	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	r	r
House Finch	r	o	r	-
Purple Finch *	u	c	o	-
Common Redpoll	r	-	o	c
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	r
Red Crossbill *	r	r	r	c
White-winged Crossbill *	r	-	r	-
Pine Siskin	o	o	o	c
American Goldfinch *	c	a	c	c
Blackbirds and Orioles				
Bobolink *	o	o	r	-
Eastern Meadowlark *	o	r	r	-
Western Meadowlark	-	r	r	-
Orchard Oriole	-	r	-	-
Baltimore Oriole *	u	o	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird *	a	a	c	-
Brown-headed Cowbird *	c	c	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	o	-	o	-
Brewer's Blackbird *	r	u	-	-
Common Grackle *	a	a	o	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Longspurs				
Lapland Longspur	-	-	o	-
Snow Bunting	r	-	o	-
Wood Warblers				
Ovenbird *	c	c	o	-
Northern Waterthrush	o	r	r	-
Golden-winged Warbler *	r	r	-	-
Blue-winged Warbler	-	r	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler *	c	c	o	-
Tennessee Warbler	o	o	o	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	o	-	r	-
Nashville Warbler *	c	c	c	-
Connecticut Warbler	r	r	-	-
Mourning Warbler *	r	o	o	-
Common Yellowthroat *	a	a	c	-
American Redstart *	c	c	c	-
Cape May Warbler *	u	o	o	-
Northern Parula *	o	u	r	-
Magnolia Warbler *	r	u	o	-
Bay-breasted Warbler	r	r	o	-
Blackburnian Warbler *	o	u	o	-
Yellow Warbler *	a	a	r	-
Blackpoll Warbler	u	r	o	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler *	u	u	r	-
Black-throated Blue Warbler *	o	o	-	-
Palm Warbler *	c	o	c	-
Pine Warbler *	a	a	a	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler *	a	a	a	-
Black-throated Green Warbler *	c	c	o	-
Canada Warbler	o	r	o	-
Wilson's Warbler	u	r	o	-
Tanagers and Buntings				
Scarlet Tanager	o	o	r	-
Northern Cardinal	o	o	o	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak *	o	u	-	-
Indigo Bunting	r	u	r	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sparrows				
Grasshopper Sparrow	r	r	-	-
Lark Sparrow	r	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow *	c	a	c	-
Clay-colored Sparrow	o	o	o	-
Field Sparrow	r	o	o	-
Fox Sparrow	r	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	c	-	c	-
Dark-eyed Junco *	c	u	c	-
White-crowned Sparrow	c	r	c	-
Harris's Sparrow	r	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow *	c	c	c	-
Vesper Sparrow *	c	c	o	-
LeConte's Sparrow *	o	o	r	-
Savannah Sparrow *	c	c	o	-
Song Sparrow *	a	a	a	-
Lincoln's Sparrow *	o	u	o	-
Swamp Sparrow *	a	a	a	-
Eastern Towhee	r	u	-	-
Tanagers and Buntings				
Scarlet Tanager	o	o	r	-
Northern Cardinal	o	o	o	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak *	o	u	-	-
Indigo Bunting	r	u	r	-

Female Red-winged Blackbird, © Larry McGahey



Seney National Wildlife Refuge
1674 Refuge Entrance Road
Seney, MI 49883
906-586 9851
Seney@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/seney

TTY users may reach Seney through
Michigan's State Relay System at
1-800-649 3777 or,
if outstate, 1-800-855 2880

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD
www.fws.gov

