

Birding

Sleeping Bear Dunes
National Lakeshore
Michigan



A Publication of
Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes

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Cedar Waxwings

Cover:
Trumpeter Swans with the Sleeping Bear Dunes in the background.

All photos by Alice Van Zoeren unless otherwise credited

Introduction

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (SBDNL) is a great place to go birding. Two hundred eighty species of birds have been seen in the park. A diversity of habitats provides nesting and feeding areas for many kinds of birds, and the Lake Michigan shoreline funnels birds into the area during migrations, increasing the numbers of species and of individuals.



American Robin

Birds are most easily found from April through July, while they are setting up territories and breeding. However, with persistence, one can observe interesting bird activity any time of year.

Birds can be found throughout the park. The locations suggested in this guide are just a beginning. By visiting different habitats one is likely to observe more species.

Begin your birding trip with a stop at the Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitor Center in Empire (on M-72 just east of the intersection with M-22) to pick up a park pass and maps. The directions to suggested birding locations in this guide begin at the intersection of M-22 and M-72 for either a northern or southern tour of some good birding sites in the park.



Pileated Woodpecker

There are also excellent birding opportunities on both North and South Manitou Islands.

Information about visiting the islands is available at the Visitor Center in Empire or on the SBDNL website—www.nps.gov/slbe.

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Two Birding Tours

(Refer to the map on pages 10 and 11)

Northern route

The Mill Pond and Little Glen Lake:

From Empire, go 2 miles north on M-22 . Turn left on M-109 and follow it 3.5 miles, passing the Dune Climb. Turn right into the Glen Lake Picnic Area parking lot. The Mill Pond is across the road.



The Mill Pond and Dunes

During the summer look for wood ducks, great blue herons, green herons, warblers, swallows, woodpeckers and more. Rails, bitterns and egrets are sometimes found here. During migration, waterfowl can be seen on the Mill Pond and Little Glen Lake.

Glen Haven and Sleeping Bear Point:

Continue north from the Mill Pond, travelling straight until you reach Sleeping Bear Bay at Glen Haven. You can also turn left in Glen Haven and follow the road past the Maritime Museum to its end at the Sleeping Bear Point Trailhead.

During migration watch for waterfowl in Sleeping Bear Bay and hike the shoreline to find shorebirds, American pipits and horned larks. In summer, look for chimney swifts, and barn and bank swallows in the Glen Haven area. Piping plovers and spotted sandpipers nest near the shore and eastern towhees sing near the road to the Sleeping Bear Point Trailhead.



Snowy Owl

In winter, look for waterfowl on Sleeping Bear Bay and flocks of snow buntings and an occasional snowy owl on the dunes. There is always a chance of finding unusual gulls on the pilings in the lake at Glen Haven.

Tucker Lake:

Retrace your route back through Glen Haven; then turn left on M-109 toward Glen Arbor. After turning, travel 3 miles, going straight through Glen Arbor. Turn right on County 675; then left on Westman Road. Immediately on your right is a dirt road that leads to Tucker Lake.

During migration this is a good spot to look for waterfowl and hawks. During summer swallows, woodpeckers and other cavity-nesters use the many standing dead trees, and herons and pied-billed grebes hunt the waters.

Fields and Wetlands of Port Oneida:

Continue north on Westman Road to M-22. Turn right and go 2 miles to Port Oneida Road. Turn left here; then right on Kelderhouse Road. Walking along Kelderhouse Road is a good way to find birds in this area.



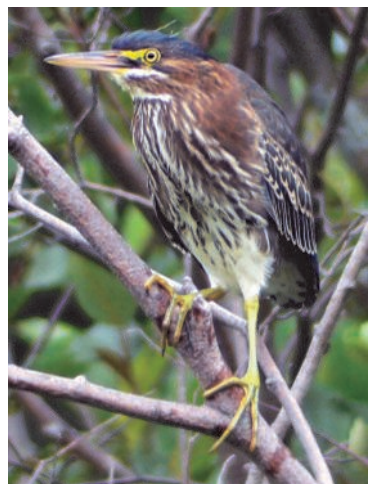
Purple Finch

In spring and summer look for field-nesting birds; you may find eastern meadowlarks, American kestrels, eastern bluebirds, upland sandpipers and bobolinks. If you are very lucky you might see a sedge wren, sandhill crane or Wilson's snipe. Raptors often soar above the nearby hills, especially during migration in late April and early May.

Narada Lake:

Continue driving along Kelderhouse Road (making stops at the beaver pond and in the fields near Baker Road). Turn right on Basch Road. Turn left on M-22 and go about a half mile until you see Narada Lake on your left. Park well off the road and follow the path by the old log schoolhouse to look out over the lake.

During the summer in this beaver-enlarged lake and wetlands you may see common loons nesting. While the loons are nesting the lake is closed to all boating so they can successfully raise their young. The variety of habitats in the area attracts a wide diversity of birds. Watch for bald eagles, green herons, tree swallows, great-crested flycatchers, rose-breasted grosbeaks and Baltimore orioles. Many kinds of waterfowl stop here during migration.



Green Heron

Good Harbor Bay:

Continue along M-22 to the east, 2 miles. Turn north (left) on County 669 at the barn with murals, and follow it to Lake Michigan. From here you can turn east (right) on the dirt road that parallels the shore, and follow it to its end for good shoreline and foredune birding.

From April through June and again in August and September look along the shoreline of Good Harbor Bay for migrating shorebirds, and scan the lake for migrating waterfowl. During the summer this is an area where pine, prairie, and black-throated green warblers nest. In summer you might see and hear fledgling merlins begging to be fed.

Southern route

Fields Along Stormer Road:

From Empire, turn South on M-22 for 1.7 miles. Turn right on Stormer Rd. (formerly Norconk)

In spring and early summer this is a wonderful place to find open-field birds. Look for upland sandpipers, American kestrels, bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks and eastern bluebirds. Red-tailed hawks and northern harriers are also sometimes seen here. In winter an occasional rough-legged hawk hunts these fields.



Red-winged Blackbird

Trail to the Treat Farm:

Continue along Norconk Rd. until it makes a sharp left bend. Park here and walk the old road, behind the gate, that continues west through the woods. Hike this trail through mature hardwoods on May and June mornings and evenings to hear hermit and wood thrushes, scarlet tanagers, rose-breasted grosbeaks and ovenbirds. If you follow the trail past the farm to the bluff, you may get good looks at common ravens and bald eagles as well as a great shoreline view.

Otter Creek Area:

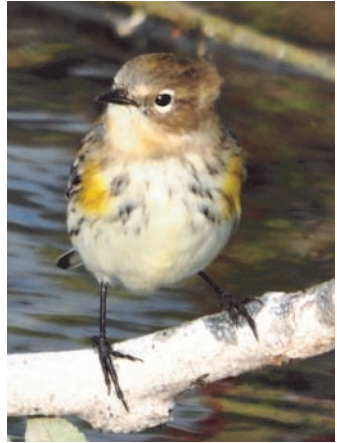
Continue along the dirt road (Aral Hills) to the south for 2.5 miles, watching for hawks, kestrels and upland sandpipers along the way. When the road ends, turn right and follow Esch Rd. to Lake Michigan. This is a good shoreline access. Hike the nearby dirt road to the south along Otter Creek for excellent birding.

During late May, Otter Creek is the best place in the park to find migrating warblers. This is also a likely place to see bald eagles. In summer look in the woods along the road for scarlet tanagers and Baltimore orioles. Indigo buntings nest near the end of Esch Rd. Sandhill cranes, herons, rails and waterfowl frequent the creek and wetlands.

Platte River Mouth:

Drive back east on Esch Road until you reach M-22. Turn right and drive 6 miles to the Platte River. Turn right on Lake Michigan Road and follow it to the end. The best birding is across the river. Cross behind the restrooms (the water will be 2-2 ½ feet deep) and follow the path over the dune to the shore. From April to August there will be rope fencing to protect the piping plover nesting area. Walking along the beach outside the rope fence is allowed. The river edges are also good places to bird.

This is the best place in the park to find shorebirds. During the summer look for piping plovers, spotted sandpipers, killdeer and also Caspian terns. During migration greater and lesser yellowlegs, sanderlings, least and semipalmated sandpipers, dunlins, ruddy turnstones, semipalmated plovers and other shorebirds can be found. Lucky birders might find a whimbrel, willet, Baird's sandpiper or other unusual species.



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Ruddy Turnstones

Lake Michigan

Throughout the Park you can reach Lake Michigan at many access points. During winter and migration, many waterbirds spend time on Lake Michigan. Looking out over Lake Michigan from any location you may see common goldeneyes, common and red-breasted mergansers, common loons, horned and red-necked grebes, buffleheads, long-tailed ducks and white-winged scoters. In summer watch for Caspian terns. If you're lucky, you might see some of the recently reintroduced trumpeter swans.

Endangered and Threatened Birds in the Park

Endangered and threatened species are those which are having difficulty surviving in a particular area—either the United States, in the case of federally listed species, or a particular state, for a state-listed species. Two endangered and eight threatened bird species are regularly seen at SBDNL. Three more species that are endangered in Michigan—peregrine falcon, short-eared owl and loggerhead shrike—and one Michigan threatened species—long-eared owl— have been seen occasionally. When these species are encountered take special care to avoid disturbing them. If they are watching you, giving alarm calls or seeming in any way bothered by your presence, move away. Watch quietly from a distance and you can observe their activities without harming their chances for survival. This is proper etiquette for any wildlife observation, but in the case of declining species it is of paramount importance.



Piping Plover - 11 days old

Endangered Birds

► **Piping Plover** - (Federal and Michigan endangered) The piping plover is a very rare shorebird. There are three breeding populations: on the Atlantic Coast, in the Great Lakes and in the northern Great Plains.



Although they winter together on the southern Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, the populations separate during the breeding season. The Great Lakes population is listed as endangered. SBDNL is home to the largest concentration of breeding piping plovers in the Great Lakes region. In 2010, 23 of the 60 breeding pairs in the Great Lakes population were located at SBDNL. The best place to observe piping plovers is at Platte Point. The nesting area is south of the river. Much of the point is roped off to protect the nests and young, but they can be observed from along the shoreline outside the fencing. A detailed brochure about piping plovers is available at the visitor center in Empire and on the park website-www.nps.gov/slbe.

► **Prairie Warbler** – (Michigan Endangered)
Prairie warblers nest in junipers in the sparsely vegetated dunes near the Lake Michigan shore. This is a habitat that is often developed in areas outside the park. Michigan is at the northern limit of their breeding range; they are more common in the southeastern US, but their population is declining overall. Listen for their ascending buzzy song in foredunes near County 669 or along Platte Bay.



Threatened Birds (All are on the Michigan Threatened Species list)

► **Merlin** – Merlins are small dark falcons. The most likely place to see one is along the shoreline. If you become familiar with its call -- a strident and repeated, high “kee, kee, kee, kee”-- you will stand the best chance of seeing one as it zips by. In July the fledglings can be found sitting in the open on tree branches, demanding to be fed. They eat smaller birds that are often caught in flight. The number of nesting merlins at SBDNL has been increasing in recent years. The photo shows a hatch-year merlin.



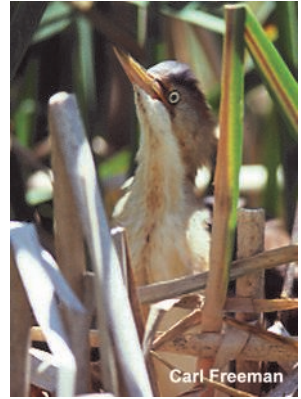
► **Red-shouldered Hawk** – A medium-sized hawk of woodlands and swamps. To recognize it in flight look for translucent crescents near the wing tips, and a striped tail. Listen for the descending “keer” call, often duplicated by blue jays. The red-shouldered hawk makes its nest of sticks high in a tall tree. The same nest may be used for many years, though each year additional sticks and an edging of fresh evergreen branches are added.



► **Common Loon** – Known for its stirring yodel, most common loons seen at SBDNL are migrants moving through the area to and from northern nesting sites. A pair has nested in recent years at Narada Lake in the park. During the nesting season the lake is closed to boats to protect the loon chicks, but they can be observed from vantage points along the shore. In late summer loons frequently can be heard and seen in Platte, Good Harbor, and Sleeping Bear Bays.



► **Least Bittern** – If you see a least bittern, you are a very lucky birder. They spend most of their time deep in marsh vegetation hunting for fish, insects, tadpoles, frogs and other small prey. Their low cooing calls can sometimes be heard at the Mill Pond or Otter Creek, but they are seldom seen. An adult was observed feeding young chicks at the Mill Pond in 2003.



► **Trumpeter Swan** – Trumpeter swans were reintroduced to SBDNL in 2006. They are now sometimes seen on Lake Michigan and inland lakes such as Platte and Otter. Trumpeters can be distinguished from non-native mute swans by their straight, entirely black bills (no orange) and their deep resonant honking.



► **Caspian Tern** – Caspian terns may be found anywhere along the shore of Lake Michigan, but the best place to see them is at Platte Point. They are distinctive gull-sized birds, with large red bills,



black caps, and loud rasping calls. In spring the males court mates by offering them small fish and by performing spectacular flight displays.

► **Common Tern and Forster's Tern** - These small terns are

occasionally seen on beaches at SBDNL. They are about half as big as a Caspian tern and difficult to tell apart.



Special Concern (All are on the Michigan Special Concern List)

Species of special concern are those with populations that are showing serious declines, or for which endangered or threatened status is being considered. Several species of special concern are found at SBDNL including two for which this is good news. The Bald Eagle and the Osprey were recently upgraded from threatened to special concern.

► **Bald Eagle** – Bald eagles are often seen along the shorelines of Lake Michigan. Although the adult bald eagle is unmistakable with its white head and tail, this plumage doesn't develop until the bird is five years old. In the first year a bald eagle is mostly dark overall; it then shows varying amounts and patterns of white during the next four years before it reaches the familiar adult plumage.



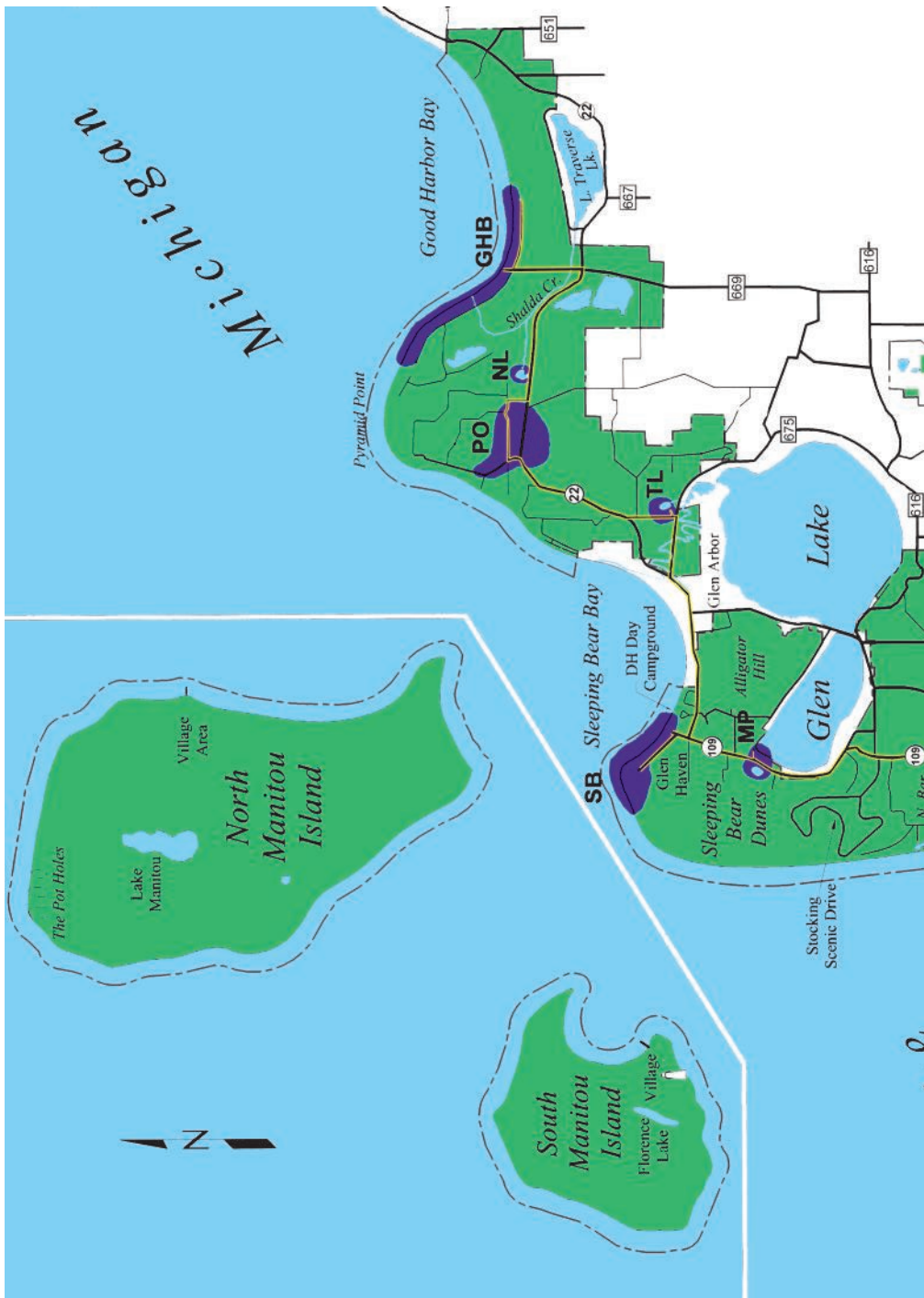
Anthony Arnold
Hatch-year Bald Eagle

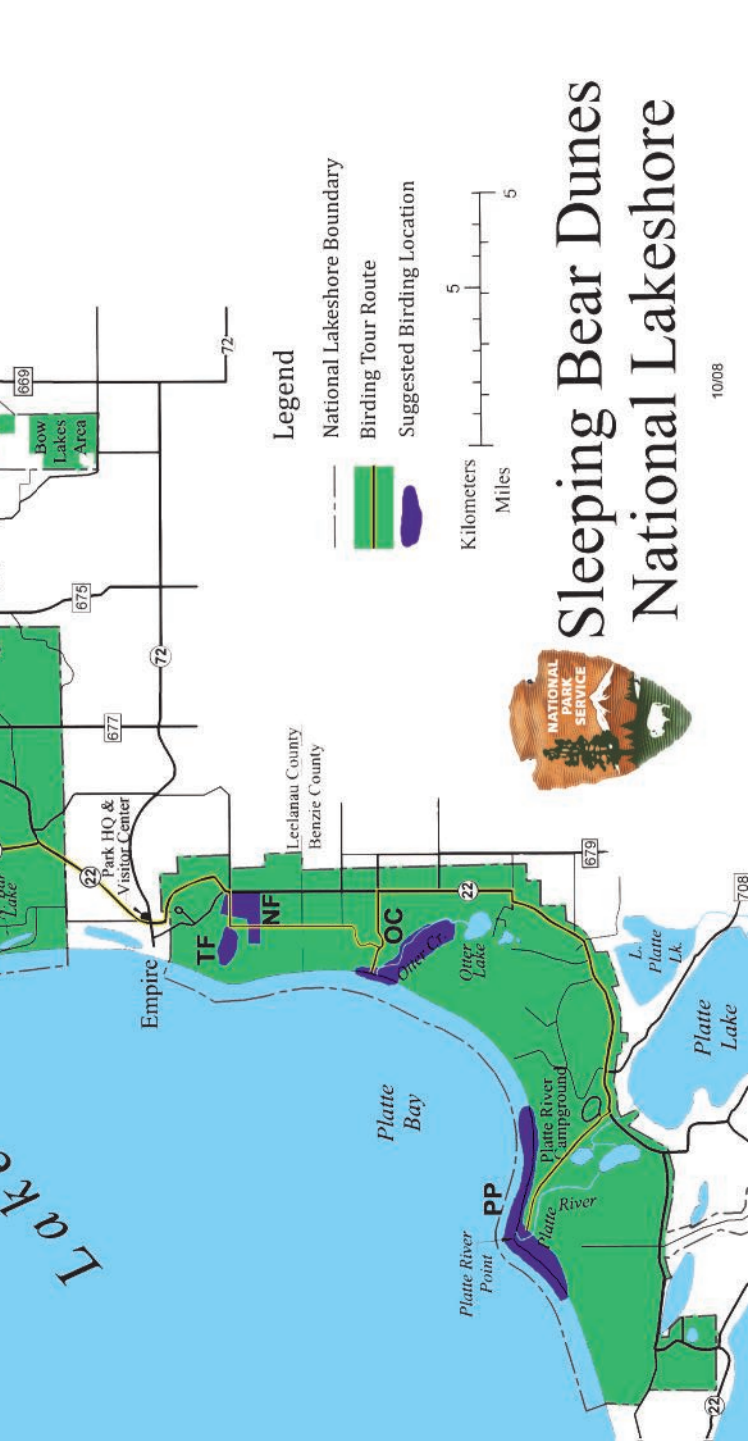
► **Osprey** - A fish-eating raptor seen occasionally along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Look for the distinct bend in the wing and the dark line through the eye. They are not known to nest in SBDNL, though they do nest nearby.



Joe Brooks

Other species of special concern that have been seen in the park are: American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-heron, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Common Moorhen, Wilson's Phalarope, Black-backed Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Dicksissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Meadowlark and Yellow-headed Blackbird.





Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

10/08

Location Codes and Habitat Types

GHB - Good Harbor Bay – Shore, Dunes, Oak-Pine Forest	NF - Norconk Fields – Fields
NL - Narada Lake – Inland Waters, Wetland, Beech-Maple Forest	TF - Treat Farm trail -- Beech-Maple Forest
PO - Port Oneida Fields – Fields, Wetland	OC - Otter Creek – Shore, Inland waters, Wetland, Beech-Maple Forest, Oak-Pine Forest
TL - Tucker Lake – Inland Waters, Wetland	PP - Platte Point -- Shore, Inland Waters, Dunes
SB - Sleeping Bear Point/Glen Haven – Dunes, Oak-Pine Forest, Shore	LM - Lake Michigan off-shore – Open Lake
MP - Millpond – Inland Waters, Wetland, Dunes	

Key to the Checklist

Abundance

- Sp=Mar-May; Su=Jun-Aug; Fa=Sep-Nov; Wi=Dec-Feb
- **Common (C)** – Likely to be seen in the appropriate habitat.
- **Uncommon (U)** – Not usually seen even in appropriate habitat.
- **Rare (R)** – Present every year in very small numbers.
- **Occasional (O)** – Not usually present in this area, but there are records of occurrence. **(O*)** - Three or fewer records.
- **Irruptive (I)** – Irregularly present, sometimes in large numbers.

Status

- **Endangered (E)** – Population is in immediate danger of extinction or extirpation (total loss from a particular area).
- **Threatened (T)** – Numbers are low and declining. Likely to become endangered if there is no intervention.
- **Special Concern (SC)** – Very rare or declining numbers.
- **Exotic (Ex)** – Not native to this area.
- **Breeding (B)** – Breeds at Sleeping Bear Dunes. **(B?)** – May breed at Sleeping Bear Dunes but it hasn't yet been confirmed.

Locations, Habitats, Notes

Locations given are places the species has been found. No location is given if the species is encountered rarely or in random locations. Refer to the map on the previous pages for location codes.

Nst = Nesting

Mig = Migration

Note:

The following checklist reflects the species order used in *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*. (2003) Recent research has resulted in changes in our understanding of the relationships between bird families and therefore the order of the list. The new order will be reflected in this booklet once most field guides have been updated.



Joe Brooks

Scarlet Tanager

Checklist – 283 Species

Updated 2010 - A. Van Zoeren

Species	√	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Status	Locations, Habitats, Notes
LOONS AND GREBES							
Common Loon		C	U	C	O	T, B	Mig-LM; Nst-NL
Red-throated Loon					O*		
Pied-billed Grebe		U	R	U		B	NL, MP, OC, TL, LM; Inland Waters
Horned Grebe		U		U	U		LM
Red-necked Grebe		O		R	R		LM especially seen at Glen Haven
Eared Grebe			O*				
PELICANS AND CORMORANTS							
American White Pelican		O	O*				LM
Double-crested Cormorant		C	C	C		B	Mig-LM; Nst-South Manitou
BITTERNS, EGRETS AND HERONS							
American Bittern		R	R			SC, B?	MP, OC; Cattail Wetland
Least Bittern			R			T, B	MP, OC; Cattail Wetland
Great Blue Heron		U	C	C	R		LM shore, inland waters; Nst-not locally
Great Egret		R	R				MP, OC; Wetland
Snowy Egret		O*					
Cattle Egret		O*		O*			
Green Heron		U	C	U		B	NL, MP, OC, TL; Inland waters
Black-crowned Night Heron			O*	O*		SC	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron			O*				
Wood Stork		O*					
SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS							
Mute Swan		C	C	C	C	Ex, B	Widespread. Alien from Europe
Tundra Swan		U		O			Little Glen Lake
Trumpeter Swan		R	R	R	R	B?	LM, Inland waters; Re-introduced - 2006
Snow Goose		O*		R			
Canada Goose		C	C	C	R	B	Widespread
Wood Duck		C	C	C	R	B	NL, MP, TL, OC; Inland waters
Mallard		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
American Black Duck		U	R	U	U	B	MP, OC; Inland waters
Gadwall		R		R			NL, MP, OC; Inland waters
Northern Pintail		R	O*	R			OC, NL
American Wigeon		U		U			NL, MP, OC; Inland waters
Eurasian Wigeon		O*					
Northern Shoveler		R					MP, OC; Inland waters
Blue-winged Teal		C	U	C		B	NL, MP, TL, OC; Inland waters
Green-winged Teal		U	O*	U			NL, MP, TL, OC; Inland waters
Canvasback		U	O*		O*		OC, MP
Redhead		U	O*		U		LM, OC
Lesser Scaup		U	R	U			LM, OC
Ring-necked Duck		U	O*	U			NL, MP, OC; Inland waters
Greater Scaup		C		C	C		LM,
Long-tailed Duck		U		U	U		LM; Often seen at Glen Haven
White-winged Scoter		U		U	U		LM
Surf Scoter		O		O	O		
Black Scoter					O*		
Common Goldeneye		C		C	C		LM, OC
Barrow's Goldeneye					O*		

Species	√	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Status	Locations, Habitats, Notes
SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS (CONTINUED)							
Bufflehead		C	O*	C	C		OC, LM, TL
Hooded Merganser		U	U	U	R	B	OC, MP, NL; Inland Waters
Red-breasted Merganser		C	R	U	O	B	LM, OC
Common Merganser		C	C	C	U	B	LM, OC
Ruddy Duck		O*					
DIURNAL RAPTORS							
Black Vulture		O*					
Turkey Vulture		C	C	U		B	Widespread
Osprey		R	O	O*		SC	Mig - LM Shoreline
Northern Goshawk		R	R	R	R	SC, B	OC; Forest
Sharp-shinned Hawk		C	R	U	R	B	Mig-LM Shoreline
Cooper's Hawk		R	R	R	R	B	
Northern Harrier		U	R	R		SC, B	OC, NL, NF, PO; Field and Wetland
Red-shouldered Hawk		U	R	U	O	T, B	OC, TL
Broad-winged Hawk		C	R	C		B	Mig - LM shoreline, PO
Red-tailed Hawk		C	U	C	R	B	NF, PO
Rough-legged Hawk		U		U	R		NF
Golden Eagle		R	O*				LM Shoreline
Bald Eagle		U	U	U	U	SC, B	LM shoreline, OC, TL, NL
American Kestrel		U	U	U	O	B	Mig-LM shoreline; Nst-NF, PO
Merlin		U	R	R	O*	T, B	Mig and Nst-LM shoreline
Peregrine Falcon		O		O		E	LM shoreline
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS							
Wild Turkey		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
Ruffed Grouse		U	U	U	U	B	OC, TF, TL
Ring-necked Pheasant		R	R	R	R	Ex, B?	NF, PO; Fields
Northern Bobwhite		0	0	0	0	B?	
RAILS, COOTS AND CRANES							
Virginia Rail		R	R	R		B?	OC, MP; Wetland cattails
Sora		U	U			B?	OC, MP; Wetland cattails
Common Moorhen		O*				SC	
American Coot		R	O*				MP, NL; Inland Lakes
Sandhill Crane		U	R			B	Mig-PO, NF Nst-PO, OC
SHOREBIRDS							
Black-bellied Plover		R		R			LM shoreline
American Golden Plover				O*			LM shoreline
Killdeer		C	C	C	O	B	LM shoreline, PO, NF, MP
Semipalmated Plover		U		U			LM shoreline
Piping Plover		R	R			E, B	Mig-LM shoreline; Nst-PP, NMI
American Avocet		O*					
Greater Yellowlegs		R		R			LM shoreline, PP
Lesser Yellowlegs		U		U			LM shoreline, PP
Solitary Sandpiper		C		C			OC, NL, MP, LM Shoreline
Spotted Sandpiper		C	C			B	LM Shoreline

Species	√	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Status	Locations, Habitats, Notes
SHOREBIRDS (CONTINUED)							
Willet		O*	O*				LM shoreline
Marbled Godwit			O*				LM shoreline
Whimbrel		O					LM shoreline
Upland Sandpiper		U	U			B	Nst-NF, PO
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			O*				LM shoreline
Ruddy Turnstone		R	O*	R			LM shoreline
Sanderling		C	R	C			LM shoreline
Red Knot		O*	O*				LM shoreline
Dunlin		R					LM shoreline
Pectoral Sandpiper			R	R			
White-rumped Sandpiper			O*				LM shoreline
Baird's Sandpiper		O*	O	R			LM shoreline
Semipalmated Sandpiper		U	R	U			LM shoreline
Western Sandpiper			O*				
Least Sandpiper		U	R	U			LM shoreline
Short-billed Dowitcher		R	R	O			LM shoreline
Wilson's Snipe		U	R	U	O*		Mig—NL, PO
American Woodcock		C	U	U		B	PO, OC, NF; Fields, wetlands
Wilson's Phalarope		O*	O*			SC	
GULLS AND TERNS							
Black-legged Kittiwake			O*				LM
Bonaparte's Gull		U	O*	U	O		LM, especially Glen Haven and PP
Laughing Gull		O*					
Ring-billed Gull		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
Herring Gull		C	C	C	C	B	LM shoreline
Glaucous Gull		R			R		LM shoreline
Lesser Black-backed Gull					O*		
Great Black-backed Gull		R	O*		R		LM shoreline
Caspian Tern		U	U	U		T, B?	LM Shoreline especially PP, GHB
Common Tern		R	R	R		T	LM Shoreline
Forster's Tern		R	R			T	LM Shoreline
PIGEONS AND DOVES							
Rock Pigeon		U	U	U	U	Ex, B?	Around farms
Mourning Dove		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
CUCKOOS							
Black-billed Cuckoo		U	U	U		B	Forest edges
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U	U			B	Forest edges
OWLS							
Long-eared Owl		O	O	O	O	T,	
Short-eared Owl		O*				E	
Eastern Screech Owl		R	R	R	R	B?	NL, TL
Great Horned Owl		U	U	U	U	B	NL, TL, OC, TF; Mature forest
Snowy Owl		I			I		SB; Dunes
Barred Owl		U	U	U	U	B	NL, TL, TF, OC; Mature forest
Northern Saw-whet Owl		R	R	R	R	B	

Species	√	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Status	Locations, Habitats, Notes
NIGHTHAWKS							
Common Nighthawk		R	R	R		B	
Whip-Poor-Will		O	O			B?	
SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND KINGFISHERS							
Chimney Swift		U	U	R		B	Old buildings
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		C	C	C		B	Widespread
Belted Kingfisher		C	C	U	O	B	OC, NL, MP, PP; Inland waters
WOODPECKERS							
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		U	R	U	O	B	OC, NL, PM
Red-headed Woodpecker		R	R	R	O	B	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		U	U	U	U	B?	Widespread; Forest
Downy Woodpecker		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
Hairy Woodpecker		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
Three-toed Woodpecker			O*				
Black-backed Woodpecker				O*		SC	
Northern Flicker		C	C	C	O	B	PO, NF, OC, MP
Pileated Woodpecker		U	U	U	U	B	NF, OC, TF
FLYCATCHERS							
Olive-sided Flycatcher		O	R	R		B	
Eastern Wood Pewee		C	C	U		B?	TF, OC
Willow Flycatcher		R	R				
Alder Flycatcher		U	U			B?	OC; Shrubby Wetlands
Least Flycatcher		C	C	U		B	OC, MP, TL; Forest
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		O	O	O			
Acadian Flycatcher			O*	O*			
Eastern Phoebe		C	C	C		B	NF, OC, MP, SB; Yards and buildings
Say's Phoebe			O*				1974 - North Manitou
Great-crested Flycatcher		C	C	U		B	NL, MP, OC; Forest
Western Kingbird		O*		O*			
Eastern Kingbird		C	C	U		B	Widespread , OC, NF, NL; Fields
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		O*					
SHRIKES AND VIREOS							
Northern Shrike		U		U	U		NF, PO; Fields
Loggerhead Shrike		O	O		O*	E, B?	
Warbling Vireo		U	U			B	MP, TL, NL; Inland lakes
Philadelphia Vireo		R	O*	O*		B?	
White-eyed Vireo		O*		O*			
Red-eyed Vireo		C	C	C		B	Widespread; OC, TF; Forest
Yellow-throated Vireo		R	R			B?	NL; Forest
Blue-headed Vireo		U	U	U		B	OC
JAYS AND CROWS							
Blue Jay		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
American Crow		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
Common Raven		C	U	U	U	B	Widespread; OC, NF, NL, PO

Species	√	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Status	Locations, Habitats, Notes
LARKS AND SWALLOWS							
Horned Lark		C	U	U	O*	B	Mig - LM shoreline, Dunes
Barn Swallow		C	C	C		B	MP, Nst - buildings, bridges
Cliff Swallow		R	R			B	Nst - Buildings
N. Rough-winged Swallow		U	U			B	MP
Bank Swallow		C	C	R		B	Nst - LM Shoreline, Dunes
Tree Swallow		C	C	R		B	Widespread, NL, TL, OC,
Purple Martin		R	R			B?	
CHICKADEES, CREEPERS, TITMICE AND NUTHATCHES							
Black-capped Chickadee		C	C	C	C	B	All locations
Brown Creeper		U	R	U	O	B	MP, TL, TF; Forest
Tufted Titmouse		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
White-breasted Nuthatch		C	C	C	C	B	Forest
Red-breasted Nuthatch		C	C	C	C	B?	Conifers
WRENS							
Marsh Wren		R	R	R		SC, B?	OC; Cattails
Sedge Wren		R	R	R		B?	PO, NF; Field
Carolina Wren		O	O	O	O		
House Wren		U	U	U		B	TF, NL, OC
Winter Wren		U	U	U	O	B?	OC, TL, NL; Wetland, swamp
KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS							
Golden-crowned Kinglet		U		U	U		OC; Coniferous forest
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		C	O	C			Mig - NL, OC, TL, MP
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		R	R	R		B	
THRUSHES							
Eastern Bluebird		C	C	C		B	PO, NF; Open Fields
Townsend's Solitaire					O*		
Swainson's Thrush		U	R	U			
Veery		U	U	U		B	TF; Forest
Gray-cheeked Thrush		R		R			
Hermit Thrush		C	U	C		B	TF, OC; Forest
Wood Thrush		U	U	U		B	TF; Forest
American Robin		C	C	C	R	B	Widespread
Varied Thrush			O*		O*		
CATBIRDS AND THRASHERS							
Gray Catbird		C	C	C	O*	B	Widespread; Shrubby edges
Northern Mockingbird		R	R	R	O	B	
Brown Thrasher		U	U	U		B	OC, TF, MP, NF; Shrubby edges
PIPITS, WAXWINGS AND STARLINGS							
American Pipit		R		R			Mig - LM shoreline, Dunes
Bohemian Waxwing		I		I	I		
Cedar Waxwing		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
European Starling		C	C	C	U	Ex, B	Widespread

Species	√	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Status	Locations, Habitats, Notes
WOOD WARBLERS							
Tennessee Warbler		U		U			OC
Nashville Warbler		C	U	U		B	OC
Orange-crowned Warbler		R		O*			OC
Blue-winged Warbler		O	O*			B?	OC
Golden-winged Warbler		R	R				OC
Northern Parula		U	R	O		B?	OC
Yellow Warbler		C	C	C		B	Nst-OC, TL, MP, NL
Chestnut-sided Warbler		U	R	R		B	Nst-OC, NL,
Magnolia Warbler		U	R	R		B	OC
Cape May Warbler		U		R			OC
Blackburnian Warbler		U	R	R		B	OC
Black-throated Blue Warbler		U	U	R		B	OC
Cerulean Warbler		O*	O*			SC	
Black-throated Green Warb.		C	C	C		B	OC, TF, GHB
Yellow-rumped Warbler		C	U	C	O*	B	OC, TL, MP, NL,
Palm Warbler		C		C			OC, NL, MP
Pine Warbler		C	C	U		B	Nst-GHB, OC; Coniferous forest
Prairie Warbler		R	R			E, B	Nst-GHB; Shrubby fore dunes
Blackpoll Warbler		R		R			OC
Bay-breasted Warbler		R		R			OC
Yellow-throated Warbler		O*				T	
Black and White Warbler		C	U	C		B	OC, TF; Forest
American Redstart		C	C	C		B	Widespread
Prothonotary Warbler		O*				SC	
Worm-eating Warbler		O*					
Common Yellowthroat		C	C	C		B	Widespread; Inland waters
Mourning Warbler		U	U	R		B?	OC,
Connecticut Warbler		O					
Kentucky Warbler		O*					
Northern Waterthrush		U	U	U		B	OC, Dune Trail
Ovenbird		C	C	C		B?	OC, TF, NL; Forest
Canada Warbler		U	R	R		B?	OC
Hooded Warbler		O*	O*			SC	
Wilson's Warbler		U		R			OC
Yellow-breasted Chat		O					
TANAGERS, CARDINALS AND ALLIES							
Scarlet Tanager		C	U	U		B	NL, TL, OC, MP, TF
Western Tanager			O*				
Dickcissel		I	I			SC	NF
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		C	C	C		B	NL, TF, OC, MP,
Indigo Bunting		C	C	C		B	OC, PO, NL, SB, NF; Shrubby Fields
Northern Cardinal		U	U	U	U	B	OC, GHB; Coniferous forest
SPARROWS AND ALLIES							
Eastern Towhee		U	U	U	O	B?	SB
Chipping Sparrow		C	C	C		B	Widespread
Clay-colored Sparrow		O	O	O		B?	

Species	√	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Status	Locations, Habitats, Notes
SPARROWS AND ALLIES (CONTINUED)							
Field Sparrow		U	U	U		B?	NF, PO; Fields
American Tree Sparrow		C		C	I		Mig - Widespread
Vesper Sparrow		C	C	C		B	SB, GHB, NF; Fields and Foredunes
Lark Sparrow				O*			
Grasshopper Sparrow		U	U	U		SC, B	NF, PO; Fields
Henslow's Sparrow			O*				
LeConte's Sparrow				O*			
Savannah Sparrow		U	U	U		B	
Song Sparrow		C	C	C	R	B	Widespread
Lincoln's Sparrow		U	O*	U			
Swamp Sparrow		C	C	U		B?	OC, TL, NL, MP; Wetlands
Fox Sparrow		U		U			
Harris's Sparrow		O*	O*	O*	O*		
White-crowned Sparrow		C		C	O*		Mig-Widespread
White-throated Sparrow		C	U	C	R	B?	OC,
Dark-eyed Junco		C	O	C	U		Mig-Widespread
Lapland Longspur		R		R			LM shoreline
Snow Bunting		U		U	I		SB, LM shoreline; Dunes and shore
BLACKBIRDS							
Baltimore Oriole		C	C			B	Widespread
Orchard Oriole		O*	O			B	
Eastern Meadowlark		C	C	C		B	PO, NF; Fields
Western Meadowlark		O	O			SC	PO, NF; Fields
Bobolink		U	U			B	PO, NF; Fields
Red-winged Blackbird		C	C	C	R	B	Widespread
Yellow-headed Blackbird		O*	O*			SC	
Rusty Blackbird		R		R			NL
Brewer's Blackbird		O	O	O	O*	B	
Common Grackle		C	C	C	R	B	Widespread
Brown-headed Cowbird		C	C	C		B	Widespread
FINCHES AND OLD WORLD SPARROWS							
House Sparrow		U	U	U	U	Ex, B?	Farms
Evening Grosbeak		R	O	R	I	B?	
American Goldfinch		C	C	C	C	B	Widespread
Pine Siskin		U	O	U	I	B	
Common Redpoll		I		I	I		
House Finch		C	C	C	C	Ex, B	Widespread
Purple Finch		U	U	U	U	B	
Pine Grosbeak		I			I		
White-winged Crossbill					I		Conifers
Red Crossbill		O*	O*		O*		

To help improve future editions of this booklet and add to our knowledge of the birds of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore please send additions , corrections and suggestions to: alice.vanzoeren@gmail.com

References

Field Guides

There are many good field guides available. Each birder has different favorites. Some suggested guides:

The Sibley Guide to Birds of Eastern North America, David Allen Sibley (2003) Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY. — Very nice art work. Includes illustrations of many seasonal and age-related plumage variations.

Birds of North America, Robbins, C. S.; Bruun, B.; Zim, H. S.; Singer, A. (2001). Golden guide, St. Martin's Press, New York, NY. — Good, basic, field guide to bird identification. Includes sonogram illustrations of bird songs.

The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America, by Donald and Lillian Stokes (2010) Little, Brown and Co. New York, NY.

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, by Dunn, J.L.; Alderfer, J. (2008) National Geographic

Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America, (2008) Houghton Mifflin Co.

Other References

Birds of Leelanau County and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Francke, C. and Graf, L. (1994). Conventional Graphics, Traverse City, MI. — Local bird information including record dates and abundance. Not intended for bird identification.

Sibley's Birding Basics, David Allen Sibley (2002) Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY. — Information about identifying birds, bird biology, bird ecology, and much more. Not a big book but packed with information.

Peterson Field Guide Series: Birding by Ear (also More Birding by Ear) Walton, R. K. and Lawson, R. W. (2002). Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY. — Extensive references to bird songs on CD.

Internet resources

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore: www.nps.gov/slbe/ — Visitor information, maps, natural history information, photos and more. A bird checklist and a brochure about piping plovers can be found on the website under "Plan your visit", then "brochures".

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology: www.birds.cornell.edu/ — Bird information, recordings, photos, citizen science projects and research.

Help Protect Birds —

- Keep pets on leashes and obey the no-pet signs.
- Don't feed wildlife or leave garbage. This attracts predators that also prey on birds and their young.
- Keep away from nests or nesting birds. Watch with binoculars from a distance. Even if we don't touch anything, we leave our scent which may lead predators to the nest.
- Try not to disturb the birds you are watching. This is not only good for the birds but also for you. You will see and learn a lot more if the birds are doing what they normally do rather than reacting to your presence.



Red-tailed Hawk - Juvenile

A word about Botulism E:

Since 2006, bird deaths due to Botulism E poisoning have been occurring during summer and fall at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. For more information or to report dead birds on the beach call 231-326-5134. Since research is being conducted, please don't remove carcasses without first contacting park natural resources staff.



Lesser Yellowlegs