

Long Lake

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird List



Welcome



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

Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) consists of 22,310 acres located in Burleigh and Kidder Counties in south-central North Dakota. It was established in 1932 and is administered as a unit within a chain of refuges located throughout the Central Flyway. Long Lake NWR contains mixed-grass prairie, ravines, cultivated fields, small tree and shrub plantings, and seasonal wetland basins, in addition to Long Lake. Beginning at U.S. Highway 83 near Moffit, the Refuge extends northeastward for 16 miles.

Long Lake is a natural lake of limited depth because of its location in a shallow alkaline basin. It is separated into three units by dikes, and at normal water level it covers about 16,000 acres. The Refuge was established primarily for the control of botulism, which has a long and varied history at Long Lake. The principle source of water is from Long Lake Creek south of the Refuge, which has a relatively large watershed. Dikes and spillways permit the holding of a higher water level in each unit from west to east when there is a water shortage.

The best opportunities for bird observation are in spring, summer, and fall. Canada geese typically lead the northward flight of waterfowl, beginning in late March. Northern pintails, mallards, and a variety of diving duck species follow shortly thereafter. Sharp-tailed grouse occupy traditional dancing grounds across the Refuge uplands throughout

April, barely preceding the peak "crowing" activity of male ring-necked pheasants. Impressive flocks of phalaropes, sandpipers, and plovers buzz mudflats during late spring amid the constant din of various waterbird species that are establishing colonies in isolated emergent marsh areas. Vocalizations of numerous prairie sparrows interrupt the early morning quiet in June.

The fascinating mating displays of western grebes can be observed across Long Lake beginning in early June, just prior to the sight of numerous squadrons of ducklings scattered along shorelines and areas of emergent vegetation. Mornings in July reveal a patchwork of molting waterfowl across Long Lake's open water areas. Not long after the mass of fall migrating shorebirds have filled-up on protein-rich invertebrates and headed to more southerly locations, Long Lake is invaded with a variety of south-bound waterfowl.

Large congregations of ducks and geese are accompanied by thousands of sandhill cranes in search of waste grain and other agricultural staples. Occasionally, endangered whooping cranes visit the Refuge during their fall flight to Texas. In late fall, once Long Lake has frozen solid and fields are snow-filled, resident birds search for food and winter cover along with winter migrants including rough-legged hawks, snow buntings, and an occasional snowy owl.



Long Lake NWR has been designated as both a "Globally Important Bird Area" and a "Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site."

Checklist

The following checklist includes 289 birds. Species that are known to nest on the Refuge are noted with a bullet (●). Most of the species listed have been seen on the Refuge. Those species known to occur in the vicinity that have not actually been sighted on the Refuge are noted in italics. Visitors are encouraged to report new or noteworthy observations to Refuge staff. Additionally, confirmed sightings of some rare and accidental species may not have occurred on the Refuge itself, but rather on private land in close proximity to the Refuge. All species names are in accordance with the *American Ornithologists' Union, 1998. Check-list of North American Birds. 7th ed. Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, D.C.* For clarity, some of the former names of bird species are shown in parentheses.

Bird species listed as “Accidentals” have been sighted once or only a few times and the Refuge is outside of their normal range.

Seasons

Since many birds are migratory, their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are noted as follows:

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

Seasonal
Abundance

- c common - certain to be seen in suitable habitat
- u uncommon - present, but not certain to be seen
- r rare - seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years
- (i) irregular - indicates a species which is irregular during at least one season
- denotes a species that nests on the Refuge
- ◻ denotes a species that likely nested on the Refuge historically, but does not presently nest on the Refuge
- E threatened and endangered species in the United States

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Loons				
Common Loon	r			
Grebes				
• Pied-billed Grebe	c	c	c	
• Horned Grebe	u	u	u	
Red-necked Grebe	r	r		
• Eared Grebe	c	c	c	
• Western Grebe	c	c	c	
• Clark’s Grebe	u	u	u	
Pelicans				
☐ American White Pelican	c	c	c	
Cormorants				
• Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	
Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
• American Bittern	c	c	c	
Least Bittern	r			
Great Blue Heron	c	u	c	
Great Egret	u	u	c	
• Snowy Egret	r	u	r	
Little Blue Heron	r	r	r	
• Cattle Egret	c	c	c	
Green Heron	r	r	r	
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r	r	r	
Ibises and Spoonbills				
• White-faced Ibis	u	u	u	
New World Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	u	u	u	u
Swans, Geese, and Ducks				
Greater White-fronted Goose	c		c	
Snow Goose	c	r	c	
Ross’ Goose	u		u	
• Canada Goose	c	c	c	u
☐ Trumpeter Swan			r	
Tundra Swan	u		c	
• Wood Duck	u	u	u	
• Gadwall	c	c	c	
• American Wigeon	c	u	c	
American Black Duck	r		r	
• Mallard	c	c	c	u
• Blue-winged Teal	c	c	c	
• Cinnamon Teal	r	r	r	
• Northern Shoveler	c	c	c	
• Northern Pintail	c	c	c	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
• Green-winged Teal	c	u	c	
• Canvasback	c	c	c	
• Redhead	c	c	c	
• Ring-necked Duck	c	r	c	
Greater Scaup	r		r	
• Lesser Scaup	c	u	c	
White-winged Scoter			r	
Bufflehead	c	u	c	
Common Goldeneye	c		u	r
• Hooded Merganser	u	r	u	
Common Merganser	c		u	r
Red-breasted Merganser	r		r	
• Ruddy Duck	c	c	c	
Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles				
Osprey	r		r	
<i>E</i> Bald Eagle	c		c	r
• Northern Harrier	c	c	c	r
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	
• Cooper’s Hawk	u	u	u	
Northern Goshawk	r		r	r
Broad-winged Hawk	r		r	
• Swainson’s Hawk	u	u	u	
• Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	r
• Ferruginous Hawk	u	u	u	
Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	u
Golden Eagle	u	r	u	u
Falcons and Caracaras				
• American Kestrel	c	u	c	r
Merlin	u		u	r
Gyr falcon				r
Peregrine Falcon	r		r	
Prairie Falcon	u	r	u	r
Gallinaceous Birds				
• Gray Partridge	c	c	c	c
• Ring-necked Pheasant	c	c	c	c
• Sharp-tailed Grouse	c	c	c	c
☐ Greater Prairie-Chicken	r	r	r	r
☐ Wild Turkey	u	u	u	u
Rails				
• Yellow Rail	r	r	r	
• Virginia Rail	u	u	u	
• Sora	c	c	c	
• American Coot	c	c	c	
Cranes				
☐ Sandhill Crane	c		c	
☐ <i>E</i> Whooping Crane	r		r	

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

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Pigeons and Doves				
• Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	r
Cuckoos and Anis				
• Black-billed Cuckoo (<i>i</i>)	u	u	u	
<i>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</i>	r			
Typical Owls				
Eastern Screech-Owl	r	r	r	r
• Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
Snowy Owl (<i>i</i>)	u		r	u
☐ Burrowing Owl	r	r		
Long-eared Owl	r	r	r	
• Short-eared Owl (<i>i</i>)	c	c	c	r
<i>Northern Saw-whet Owl</i>				r
Nightjars				
• Common Nighthawk	u	u	u	
Swifts				
Chimney Swift	r	r	r	
Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	r	r	r	
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	u	r	u	
Woodpeckers				
• Red-headed Woodpecker	r	r	r	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u	u	u	
• Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Northern Flicker	c	u	c	u
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	r	r	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	r			
<i>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</i>	r		r	
<i>Alder Flycatcher</i>	r		r	
• Willow Flycatcher	u	u	u	
• Least Flycatcher	r	r	r	
• Eastern Phoebe	r	r	r	
• Say's Phoebe	u	u	u	
Great Crested Flycatcher	r	r		
• Western Kingbird	c	c	c	
• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Shrikes				
• Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	
Northern Shrike	u		u	u
Vireos				
<i>Yellow-throated Vireo</i>	r	r	r	
Blue-headed Vireo	r		r	
• Warbling Vireo	r	r	r	
Philadelphia Vireo	r	r	r	
Red-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	
Crows, Jays, and Magpies				
Blue Jay	u	u	u	u
• Black-billed Magpie	u	u	u	u
• American Crow	c	u	c	u
Larks				
• Horned Lark (<i>i</i>)	c	c	c	c
Swallows				
• Purple Martin	u	c	u	
• Tree Swallow	c	c	c	
• Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	
• Bank Swallow	c	c	c	
• Cliff Swallow	c	c	c	
• Barn Swallow	c	c	c	
Titmice and Chickadees				
• Black-capped Chickadee	u	u	u	u
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	u		u	u
• White-breasted Nuthatch	u		u	u
Creepers				
Brown Creeper	r		r	r
Wrens				
• House Wren	c	c	c	
Winter Wren			r	
• Sedge Wren	c	c	c	
• Marsh Wren	c	c	c	
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		r	r
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r		r	r

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Thrushes				
Eastern Bluebird	r	r	r	
Mountain Bluebird	u		u	
Townsend’s Solitaire	r	r	r	
Veery	r		r	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	r		r	
Swainson’s Thrush	u	r	u	
Hermit Thrush	r		r	
• American Robin	c	c	c	r
Mimic Thrushes				
• Gray Catbird	u	u	u	
Northern Mockingbird		r		
• Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	
Starlings				
• European Starling	u	u	u	u
Wagtails and Pipits				
American Pipit	u		u	
• Sprague’s Pipit	u	u	u	
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing (<i>i</i>)				u
• Cedar Waxwing (<i>i</i>)	r	r	r	r
Wood Warblers				
Tennessee Warbler	u	r	u	
Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	
<i>Nashville Warbler</i>	r		r	
• Yellow Warbler	c	c	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		r	
Magnolia Warbler	r		r	
Cape May Warbler	r	r	r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	u	r	
Black-throated Green Warbler	r		r	
Blackburnian Warbler	r		r	
Palm Warbler	u		u	
<i>Bay-breasted Warbler</i>	r		r	
Blackpoll Warbler	u	r	u	
Black-and-white Warbler	u		u	
American Redstart	u	r	u	
Ovenbird	u	u	u	
Northern Waterthrush	r	r	r	
Connecticut Warbler	r	r		
Mourning Warbler	r	r	r	
MacGillivray’s Warbler	r			
• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
Wilson’s Warbler	u	r	u	
Canada Warbler	r	r	r	
Yellow-breasted Chat	r	r	r	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tanagers				
Scarlet Tanager	r		r	
Sparrows and Towhees				
Spotted Towhee	r		r	
American Tree Sparrow	c		c	r
• Chipping Sparrow	u	u	u	
• Clay-colored Sparrow	c	c	c	
Field Sparrow	u	r	u	
• Vesper Sparrow	u	u	u	
• Lark Sparrow	r	r	r	
• Lark Bunting (<i>i</i>)	r	c	r	
• Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c	
• Grasshopper Sparrow	c	c	c	
• Baird's Sparrow	u	u	u	
• Henslow's Sparrow	r	r	r	
• Le Conte's Sparrow	u	u	u	
• Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u	u	u	
Fox Sparrow	r		r	
• Song Sparrow	c	c	c	
Lincoln's Sparrow	u	r	u	
Swamp Sparrow	u	r	u	
White-throated Sparrow	u		u	
Harris' Sparrow	u		u	
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
Dark-eyed Junco	u		u	u
McCown's Longspur	r	r	r	
Lapland Longspur	c		c	u
Smith's Longspur	r		r	
• Chestnut-collared Longspur	c	c	u	
Snow Bunting (<i>i</i>)	u		u	c
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r			r
Black-headed Grosbeak	r	r	r	
Lazuli Bunting	r	r	r	
Indigo Bunting	r	r	r	
• Dickcissel (<i>i</i>)	u	u	u	
Blackbirds and Orioles				
• Bobolink	c	c	c	
• Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	r
• Western Meadowlark	c	c	c	
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	c	c	u	
Rusty Blackbird	r		r	r
• Brewer's Blackbird	u	u	u	
• Common Grackle	c	c	c	r
• Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	
• Orchard Oriole	u	u	r	
• Baltimore Oriole	c	c	c	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Finches				
<i>Pine Grosbeak (i)</i>	r		r	r
Purple Finch	u		u	u
House Finch	r	r	r	u
<i>Red Crossbill (i)</i>	r	r	r	r
<i>White-winged Crossbill (i)</i>	r		r	r
Common Redpoll (<i>i</i>)	u			u
<i>Hoary Redpoll (i)</i>				r
Pine Siskin (<i>i</i>)	r		r	r
• American Goldfinch (<i>i</i>)	c	c	c	u
Evening Grosbeak				r
Old World Sparrows				
• House Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Accidentals				
☐ Tricolored Heron (<i>unsuccessful nest attempt in 1978</i>)				
White Ibis				
Garganey				
Surf Scoter				
Black Scoter				
Long-tailed Duck (<i>formerly Oldsquaw</i>)				
Barrow's Goldeneye				
Red-shouldered Hawk				
Black-necked Stilt				
Red Phalarope				
Long-tailed Jaeger				
Arctic Tern				
European Collared-Dove				
Lewis' Woodpecker				
Violet-green Swallow				
Prairie Warbler				
Prothonotary Warbler				
Northern Cardinal				

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Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge
12000 353rd Street SE
Moffit, ND 58560-9740
701 / 387 4397
701 / 387 4767 fax
longlake@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/longlake>

For State relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

May 2002

