



# FIELD CHECKLIST OF BIRDS

of Winnebago County, Illinois

North Central Illinois Ornithological Society  
 P.O. Box 6371  
 Rockford, IL 61125-0371  
[www.ncios.org](http://www.ncios.org)



Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Locations \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Species Seen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Winnebago County offers some of the best birding in Illinois because of its location and diversity of habitats. Dominated by agricultural, urban and suburban land, Winnebago County lies at the confluence of four forested river systems, each with distinctive habitats and bird species.

Residents have preserved more than 18,000 acres — 10,000 acres in the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, 4,400 acres in the Rockford Park District, and 4,000 acres of state property including Rock Cut State Park.

Best birding is found at Rock Cut, forest preserves along the Sugar, Kishwaukee, and Pecatonica Rivers, Severson Dells Forest Preserve, and Anna Page Park.

The North Central Illinois Ornithology Society (NCIOS) is a non-profit group organized to educate the public and promote the conservation of birds. NCIOS meets monthly from September—June and organizes several bird counts, including Christmas Bird Counts.

NCIOS provides local and regional field trips throughout the year and programs ranging from identification tips to trip reports to ways to improve your birding.

For more information on field trips and programs, to become a member, or to report a bird sighting, visit our website:  
[www.ncios.org](http://www.ncios.org)

**Key**  
 A ABUNDANT  
 C COMMON  
 U UNCOMMON  
 O OCCASIONAL  
 R RARE  
 X EXTREMELY RARE  
**BOLD** **NESTING**

\* IRREGULAR: 4-7 years of 10-year period  
 \*\* CASUAL: 1-3 years of 10-year period  
 † ACCIDENTAL/HISTORICAL  
*Please provide documentation, with photos if possible, for sightings of any species found outside of expected season or marked with an asterisk or dagger.*  
**Find documentation form at [www.ncios.org](http://www.ncios.org)**

(i) Introduced to North America  
 (r) Reintroduced

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<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>S S F W</b>
<u>American Redstart</u>	A C C
<u>Prothonotary Warbler</u>	U U U
Worm-eating Warbler*	R R
Swainson's Warbler**	X
<b>Ovenbird</b>	C U C
Northern Waterthrush	C C
Louisiana Waterthrush	C U
<u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	C U U
Connecticut Warbler	O O
Mourning Warbler	U U
<u>Common Yellowthroat</u>	A C C
<u>Hooded Warbler</u>	C U O
Wilson's Warbler	C C
Canada Warbler	C C
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat</u>	U U U
<b>TANAGERS</b>	
Summer Tanager	U R R
<u>Scarlet Tanager</u>	C C C
Western Tanager†	X
(1996)	
<b>TOWHEES</b>	
Green-tailed Towhee†	X
(1960)	
Spotted Towhee**	X X
<u>Eastern Towhee</u>	C C C R
<b>SPARROWS</b>	
American Tree Sparrow	C C A
<u>Chipping Sparrow</u>	A A A R
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow</u>	U U U
<u>Field Sparrow</u>	C C C R
<u>Vesper Sparrow</u>	C C C
<u>Lark Sparrow</u>	U U U
Black-throated Sparrow†	X
(1980)	
Lark Bunting†	X
(1949)	
<u>Savannah Sparrow</u>	C C C O
<u>Grasshopper Sparrow</u>	C C C
<u>Henslow's Sparrow</u>	U U U
Le Conte's Sparrow*	O O
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	O O
Fox Sparrow	C C O
<u>Song Sparrow</u>	A A A C
Lincoln's Sparrow	C C
<u>Swamp Sparrow</u>	C U C U
White-throated Sparrow	A R A U
Harris's Sparrow	R R R
White-crowned Sparrow	C C U
Dark-eyed Junco	C R C A
Lapland Longspur	R U U
Snow Bunting	R U U
Smith's Longspur	X
<b>CARDINAL &amp; GROSBEAKS</b>	
<u>Northern Cardinal</u>	A A A A

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>S S F W</b>
<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</u>	C U C R
Black-headed Grosbeak**	X
Blue Grosbeak*	O R R
Lazuli Bunting†	X
(2007)	
<u>Indigo Bunting</u>	C C C
Painted Bunting†	X
(2008)	
<u>Dickcissel</u>	C C C
<b>BLACKBIRDS</b>	
<u>Bobolink</u>	U U U X
<u>Red-winged Blackbird</u>	A A A U
<u>Eastern Meadowlark</u>	C C C R
<u>Western Meadowlark</u>	U U U R
Yellow-headed Blackbird	R X
Rusty Blackbird	U O R
Brewer's Blackbird	R R R
<u>Common Grackle</u>	A A A U
<u>Brown-headed Cowbird</u>	C C C U
<u>Orchard Oriole</u>	U U
<u>Baltimore Oriole</u>	C C C
<b>FINCHES</b>	
Pine Grosbeak**	R
Purple Finch	U U U
<u>House Finch</u>	A A A A
Red Crossbill	R O O
White-winged Crossbill*	R
Common Redpoll	O O O
Hoary Redpoll†	X
(2012)	
<u>Pine Siskin</u>	R U U
<u>American Goldfinch</u>	A A A A
Evening Grosbeak*	R R
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>	
<u>House Sparrow (i)</u>	A A A A
Eurasian Tree Sparrow (i)†	X
(2007-08)	
<b>HYPOTHETICAL/QUESTIONABLE ORIGIN</b>	
Barnacle Goose	(1983)
Pacific Loon	(1917-18)
Magnificent Frigatebird	(1961)
Black-necked Stilt	(1940)
Ivory Gull	(1989)