



Minnesota's Birds at Risk

SE = State Endangered · ST = State Threatened · SC = State Special Concern · SGCN = Minnesota Species of Greatest Conservation Need · FE = Federal Endangered · Red = National Audubon Society Red List · Yellow = National Audubon Society Yellow List · R3 = USFWS Region 3 Priority Species

B = Breeding · M = Migration · W = Winter · R = Resident

SPECIES	BCR			Status	Notes
	12	11	23/22		
WATERFOWL					
Trumpeter Swan <i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	B, M	B, M, W	B, M, W	ST, Yellow, SGCN, R3	Once extirpated, there are now about 2,000 birds in Minnesota as the result of reintroduction efforts. Still vulnerable to habitat loss and lead poisoning.
American Black Duck <i>Anas rubripes</i>	B, M	B, M, W	B, M, W	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Minnesota population probably less than 1,000 birds breeding primarily in NE part of state. Wetland drainage affects both winter and breeding areas.
Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M, W	SGCN, R3	A thirty year decline in population numbers is tied to significant habitat loss on prairie pothole breeding grounds.
Canvasback <i>Aythya valisineria</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	R3	The Mississippi River is an important migratory stopover for more than 50% of the world's Canvasbacks. Water quality and human activities can have a negative impact on these birds.
Lesser Scaup <i>Aythya affinis</i>	M	B, M	M, W	SGCN, R3	Breed in NW corner of the state with large populations formerly migrating through. Continental population decline since 1985 for reasons not totally understood but likely related to habitat quality and quantity.
GROUSE					
Spruce Grouse <i>Falci pennis canadensis</i>	R			SGCN	Found in northern coniferous forests. Population trends lacking and this grouse is not well monitored. Habitat vulnerability makes it a bird of concern.
Sharp-tailed Grouse <i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	R	R		SGCN	Historically the dominant Galliform of Minnesota's prairies. Today, found only in northern half of the state inhabiting grasslands and brushlands. Has benefited from the Conservation Reserve Program.
Greater Prairie-Chicken <i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>		R		SC, Red, SGCN	Once near extinction, reintroduction efforts have expanded numbers and range of birds in the state. Around 10,000 birds estimated in the western counties of MN.
GREBES					
Horned Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	M			ST, SGCN	Historically nested in NW corner of state but no nesting since 1990. Still seen on migration. Wetland loss and change greatly affects this bird.
PELICANS					
American White Pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	B, M	B, M	M	SC, SGCN	Once threatened by disturbance, contaminants, and habitat modification, numbers are now increasing. Breeding birds found at 14 colonies in the state with the largest at Marsh Lake.

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HERONS AND BITTERNS					
American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	SGCN, R3	Audubon's State of the Birds reports 87% decline in Minnesota. Loss of wetlands for breeding along with incursion of invasive plants, decline in amphibian prey and diminished water quality major factors.
Least Bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	SGCN, R3	Breeds in a few counties in NW and central parts of the state. Wetland loss and invasive species are threats.
Black-crowned Night-Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	SGCN, R3	Population declining. Colonial nester subject to disturbance, habitat loss and alteration.
BIRDS OF PREY					
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	B, M, W	B, M, W	B, M, W	SC, SGCN, R3	Minnesota is home to the largest breeding population in the lower 48 states. Habitat needs, lead poisoning, and disturbance make this a bird with special management needs.
Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	B, M, W	M	M, W	SGCN, R3	Less than 75 breeding pairs known in Minnesota. Limited to the northern forests and susceptible to forestry practices, this woodland hawk is secretive and hard to survey.
Red-shouldered Hawk <i>Buteo lineatus</i>	B, M		B, M, W	SC, SGCN, R3	Limited to a few areas of concentration in the central and SE parts of the state. This bird is susceptible to logging and development pressures.
Swainson's Hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>		B, M	B, M	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Little known about this bird in Minnesota. Restricted to grassland habitats. Loss of grasslands and pesticide use in Minnesota and on the wintering grounds in Argentina affect this bird.
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	B, M	M	B, M, W	ST, SGCN, R3	Once extirpated from the state, reintroductions restored breeding populations. Less than 50 pair in the state with very restricted breeding habitat.
RAILS					
Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	B, M	B, M	M	SC, SGCN, Yellow, R3	Trend and population information for this rare and secretive bird is nonexistent. Found in marshes and wetlands including McGregor Marsh IBA.
Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		B, M	B, M	SC, SGCN, R3	Breeding in southern part of state, population believed to be declining although little data is available. Susceptible to wetland loss and modification.
CRANES					
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i>		M	M	FE, Red, R3	Extremely rare nationally, this bird was once found in the prairie wetlands of western Minnesota. Reintroductions in Wisconsin may result in a Minnesota breeding population.
SHOREBIRDS					
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	B, M	M	M	SE, FE, Red, SGCN, R3	Only a few pair nest in Minnesota. Found on Lake of the Woods IBA and occasionally on Lake Superior.
Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	SGCN, R3	Historic declines due to market hunting and plowing of prairies. Population decline of 86% in Minnesota over the past 40 years probably due to continued habitat loss and alteration.
Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i>	M	M	M	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Migrant through the state. Considered highly vulnerable because of small population size and limited breeding range.
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	M	B, M	B, M	SC, SGCN, Yellow, R3	Breeds in NW part of the state. Estimated to be around 400 pair. Habitat loss is biggest threat.

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American Woodcock <i>Scolopax minor</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Population declines over the last 40 years, although upward trends in recent years. Research is ongoing to address conservation issue.
Wilson's Phalarope <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	ST, SGCN, Yellow, R3	Breeds in wetlands in the western part of the state. A decline in numbers at historic western staging areas is cause for concern. Dependence on wetland habitats for breeding, migration, and wintering may be a problem.
GULLS AND TERNS					
Franklin's Gull <i>Larus pipixcan</i>	M	B, M	B, M	SC, SGCN	Limited to a few colonial nesting sites on prairie marshes. Susceptible to water level changes and wetland loss.
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B, M	M	M	ST, SGCN, R3	Less than 1,000 pair in 5 colonies located on largest lakes in the state. Habitat loss and degradation, competition with gulls and possibly disturbance are problems.
Forster's Tern <i>Sterna forsteri</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	SC, SGCN, R3	A 60% decline between 1942 and 1986 with low rate of fledging success, presumably from predation. Loss of wetland habitat also affecting this bird.
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	R13, R3	Audubon's State of the Birds analysis shows a 79% decline in the state over the last 40 years. Habitat loss and degradation and possible reduction of food resources on breeding and winter grounds are likely causes.
CUCKOOS					
Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	SGCN, R3	State and nationwide declines in breeding birds particularly in the last 20 years. Dependent on caterpillars, this species may be affected by pesticides and decreases in insect availability.
OWLS					
Great Gray Owl <i>Strix nebulosa</i>	B, M, W	W	W		A few breeding pairs are known from the northern bogs, although surveys are difficult. Periodic winter "invasions" can bring hundreds of owls into the state.
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	B, M	B, M, W	M, W	SC, SGCN, Yellow, R3	A ground nester on grasslands. Little is known about population numbers in Minnesota.
Boreal Owl <i>Aegolius funereus</i>	B, M, W		W	SGCN	Breeding populations restricted to the far NE part of the state. Annual surveys indicate declining numbers of this owl. Susceptible to loss of nesting and roosting trees.
NIGHTJARS					
Whip-poor-will <i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	SGCN, R3	Little statewide information available. Sharp nationwide declines due to habitat changes, forest fragmentation, and spraying for insects indicate a need for attention in Minnesota.
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	B, M	B, M, W	B, M, W	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Audubon's State of the Birds analysis show declines on Christmas Bird Counts (-49%) and Breeding Bird Counts (89%). Removal of dead trees and other habitat changes likely causes.
PERCHING BIRDS					
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i>	B, M	M	M	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Found in northern coniferous forest openings. Breeding records from only 3 counties. State and national population declines over past 30- years. Winter range issues may be paramount.

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Acadian Flycatcher <i>Empidonax virescens</i>			B, M	SC, SGCN, R3	Breeds in Metro and SE part of the state. Uses mature deciduous forests associated with water. A high priority species in many states in the Midwest. Concern over loss of tropical wintering habitat.
Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>		B, M	B, M	ST, SGCN, R3	Found in grassland and brushlands in southern and western counties of the state. Continent-wide population declines blamed on habitat loss and pesticides. Minnesota studies indicate loss of wintering grounds as significant cause of decline.
Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii</i>		B, M	B, M	Red, SGCN, R3	Limited to shrubby habitats in metro and SE portions of state. National yearly decline of 2.8%. Loss of habitat, overgrazing and cowbird parasitism are blamed
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Declining populations in North America blamed on habitat fragmentation and loss on breeding and wintering grounds. Little known about population status in Minnesota.
Sprague's Pipit <i>Anthus spragueii</i>		B, M		SE, Red, SGCN	Considered "one of the least known birds in North America." Formerly distributed across the western prairies but current breeding known from only 3 counties in NW. Severe decline blamed on loss of prairies.
Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	B, M	M	B, M	Red, SGCN, R3	A rare and declining species. Over 40% of the world's population breeds in MN although little is known about population trends here.
Cape May Warbler <i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	B, M	M	M	SGCN, R3	Breeding range in US limited to mature forests in northern MN and Maine. A "Highest Priority" species in the Boreal Hardwood Forest Region. Logging pressure has decreased the extent of mature spruce forest, notably in Minnesota.
Black-throated Blue Warbler <i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	B, M		M	SGCN, R3	Breeding range in state limited to small area in Cook and St. Louis Counties. Forty-year decline in numbers although recent study showed population increase in MN.
Bay-breasted Warbler <i>Dendroica castanea</i>	B, M	M	M	Yellow, SGCN	Populations declining in Minnesota. Breeds in northern spruce forests where logging has caused a decrease in habitat and pesticides to control spruce budworm infestations may have contributed to population declines.
Cerulean Warbler <i>Dendroica cerulea</i>		B, M	B, M	SC, Red, SGCN, R3	Limited breeding range mostly in Metro and SE part of state. Deciduous forest nester and feeder. Nationally, one of the sharpest population declines of any warbler (-4.5%/yr) from 1966-2001
Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i>		B, M	B, M	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Breeds mostly in Metro and SE part of state, using cavities in wet woodlands. Loss of winter habitat, especially mangroves along with loss of woodland breeding habitat thought to be primary causes of decline.
Louisiana waterthrush <i>Seiurus motacilla</i>			B, M	SC, SGCN, R3	Breeds in counties adjacent to St. Croix River and in the SE corner of state. Long-term national population declines likely due to habitat loss and alteration.
Connecticut Warbler <i>Oporornis agilis</i>	B, M	M	M	SGCN, R3	Breeds in bogs and wet woodlands in the northern part of the state. Very little is known about this species. Considered a "high priority" species in the Boreal Hardwood Region.
Hooded Warbler <i>Wilsonia citrina</i>			B, M	SC, SGCN	Breeding records from only 5 counties in state. Needs large tracts of hardwood forest. Habitat loss and fragmentation on breeding and wintering areas may be threats
Canada Warbler <i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	B, M	M	B, M	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Audubon's State of the Birds reports a 50% decline in Minnesota over the past 40 years. Sensitive to forest fragmentation and human disturbance populations have been negatively affected on both breeding and wintering grounds.
Baird's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>		B, M		SE, Red, SGCN	Minnesota on eastern edge of range, with only state breeding record from Kitson County. Continental population decline of 3%/yr from 1966 – 2001 due to habitat loss and degradation.
Henslow's sparrow <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>		B, M	B, M	SE, Red, SGCN, R3	Small breeding population in SE Minnesota. Declining populations nationwide due to conversion of grasslands to cultivated fields, urbanization and habitat fragmentation. Conservation Reserve Program has benefited this species.

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Le Conte's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	B, M	B, M	M	SGCN, R3	Breeds in wet grasslands and marshes in NW part of state across to St. Louis Co. Little known about population trends although CRP seems to benefit this species.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow <i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	B, M	B, M	M	SC, Red, SGCN, R3	Found in wet meadow, prairie, and peatbog habitats. Only state breeding records from Aitkin and Marshall Counties. Little known about this species.
Chestnut-collared Longspur <i>Calcarius ornatus</i>		B, M		SE, SGCN	Breeding populations in Minnesota greatly reduced from historic levels. Loss of prairie habitat is primary cause. Only recent breeding records from Clay, Wilkin, Traverse, and Jackson Counties. Prefers grazed or mowed pastures and grasslands.
Dickcissel <i>Spiza americana</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	Yellow, SGCN, R3	Audubon's State of the Birds report shows an 89% decline in the state. Breeding and wintering grassland habitat loss and persecution on the winter area probable causes.
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	B, M	B, M	B, M	SGCN, R3	Breeding distribution statewide in grasslands and pastures. Population trends generally stable although increased row cropping and threats on wintering grounds cause for concern.

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