

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge  
Office in Missouri Valley, Iowa

Established in 1959, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge provides feeding and resting habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. DeSoto's 7823 acres include a stretch of the Missouri River, DeSoto Lake, small ponds and cattail marshes as well as cultivated fields, grasslands, multiflora rose hedges and mature woodlands. At the heart of the refuge is a 750-acre oxbow lake formed when the Missouri river was channelized. The refuge is situated in the fertile Missouri River Valley containing land in the states of Iowa and Nebraska. The fall and spring migratory periods provide the most exciting opportunities to observe bird life on the refuge. Concentrations of snow geese and other migratory waterfowl reach peak numbers in mid-November and again in late March. In the fall and winter the endangered bald eagle is a common sight at DeSoto. During the spring and summer warblers and a host of small nesting birds can be found on the refuge.

This bird list contains 240 species which have been recorded on the refuge. Another eleven birds, listed under Accidentals, have been reported but are considered outside normal ranges.

Sp - March - May

S - June - August

F - September - November

W - December - February

a - abundant: common species that is very numerous

c - common: usually found in suitable habitat

u - uncommon: present but not certain to be seen

o - occasional: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

r - rare: seen less often every 5 years

\* - species known to breed on DeSoto NWR

# - Endangered

LOONS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Common Loon	o	-	o	-
GREBES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Pied-billed Grebe	c	u	c	-
___ Horned Grebe	o	-	o	-
___ Eared Grebe	o	-	o	-
___ Western Grebe	o	r	o	-
PELICANS AND CORMORANTS	Sp	S	F	W
___ American White Pelican	c	r	c	-
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	u	c	-

HERONS	Sp	S	F	W
___ American Bittern	u	u	u	-
___ Least Bittern	-	o	-	-
___ Great Blue Heron	c	u	c	r
___ Great Egret	u	u	u	-
___ Snowy Egret	r	-	-	-
___ Little Blue Heron	r	r	-	-
___ Cattle Egret	r	-	r	-
___ Green Heron	u	u	o	-
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	u	r	u	-
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	r	r	-	-

WATERFOWL	Sp	S	F	W
___ Tundra Swan (Whistling Swan)	r	-	r	r
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	u	-	u	o
___ Snow Goose	a	r	a	u
___ Ross' Goose	o	-	u	-
___ Canada Goose	c	-	c	u
___ Wood Duck*	c	c	c	r
___ Green-winged Teal	c	-	c	o
___ American Black Duck	u	-	u	u
___ Mallard*	a	u	a	a
___ Northern Pintail	c	-	c	u
___ Blue-winged Teal*	c	u	c	-
___ Northern Shoveler	c	-	c	r
___ Gadwall	c	-	c	o
___ American Wigeon	c	-	c	o
___ Canvasback	u	-	u	r
___ Redhead	u	-	u	r
___ Ring-necked Duck	c	-	c	r
___ Greater Scaup	o	-	r	-
___ Lesser Scaup	c	-	c	r
___ White-winged Scoter	r	-	r	-
___ Common Goldeneye	u	-	u	c
___ Bufflehead	u	-	u	-
___ Hooded Merganser	u	-	u	-
___ Common Merganser	c	-	u	c
___ Red-breasted Merganser	o	-	o	-
___ Ruddy Duck	u	-	u	r

VULTURES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Turkey Vulture	u	u	o	-

OSPREY, HAWKS, AND EAGLES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Osprey	u	-	u	-

___ Bald Eagle#	u	-	c	c
___ Northern Harrier	u	o	u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	-	u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	u	r	u	u
___ Northern Goshawk	r	-	r	r
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	r	-
___ Broad-winged Hawk	o	-	o	-
___ Swainson's Hawk	o	-	o	-
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	u	c	c
___ Rough-legged Hawk	u	r	u	u
___ Golden Eagle	o	-	o	o

FALCONS	Sp	S	F	W
___ American Kestrel*	u	u	u	u
___ Peregrine Falcon#	r	-	r	-
___ Prairie Falcon	-	-	o	r

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Gray Partridge	-	-	-	o
___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	a	a	a	a
___ Greater Prairie-Chicken	-	-	-	r
___ Wild Turkey	r	r	-	-
___ Northern Bobwhite*	c	c	c	c

RAILS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Virginia Rail	r	r	-	-
___ Sora	u	o	u	-
___ American Coot	c	u	c	-

CRANES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Sandhill Crane	r	-	r	-

PLOVERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Black-bellied Plover	r	-	r	-
___ American Golden-Plover (Lesser Gol-Pl.)	r	-	-	-
___ Semipalmated Plover	r	r	-	-
___ Piping Plover*	r	r	-	-
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	r

AVOCETS	Sp	S	F	W
___ American Avocet	o	r	o	-

SANDPIPERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	-	c	-
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	-	c	-
___ Solitary Sandpiper	o	-	o	-

___ Willet	u	-	o	-
___ Spotted Sandpiper*	c	c	u	-
___ Upland Sandpiper	o	o	o	-
___ Hudsonian Godwit	o	-	-	-
___ Marbled Godwit	r	-	-	-
___ Ruddy Turnstone	r	-	-	-
___ Red Knot	r	-	-	-
___ Sanderling	r	-	-	-
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	o	-	-	-
___ Western Sandpiper	r	-	-	-
___ Least Sandpiper	u	-	u	-
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	o	-	o	-
___ Baird's Sandpiper	u	-	u	-
___ Dunlin	r	-	-	-
___ Stilt Sandpiper	r	-	-	-
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	r	-	r	-
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	o	-	o	-
___ Common Snipe	u	-	u	-
___ American Woodcock*	u	u	u	-
<b>PHALAROPES (Order Charadriiformes)</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Wilson's Phalarope	o	-	o	-
___ Red-necked Phalarope	r	-	-	-
<b>GULLS AND TERNS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Franklin's Gull	u	-	u	-
___ Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	o	-
___ Ring-billed Gull	c	o	c	r
___ Herring Gull	u	-	u	-
___ Caspian Tern	o	o	o	-
___ Common Tern	r	-	-	-
___ Forster's Tern	u	u	o	-
___ Least Tern*#	o	o	o	-
___ Black Tern	c	c	o	-
<b>DOVES</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Mourning Dove*	a	a	c	u
<b>CUCKOOS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Black-billed Cuckoo*	u	u	-	-
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	u	c	o	-
<b>OWLS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Great Horned Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Owl	-	-	-	r

___ Barred Owl*	o	o	o	o
___ Long-eared Owl	o	-	-	o
___ Short-eared Owl	r	r	r	o
<b>GOATSUCKERS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Common Nighthawk	o	u	o	-
___ Whip-poor-will*	-	u	-	-
<b>SWIFTS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Chimney Swift	u	u	-	-
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	o	u	-	-
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Belted Kingfisher*	u	u	u	r
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	c	a	u	o
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	r	-	r	o
___ Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Flicker (Common Flicker)*	c	a	c	c
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	u	u	-	-
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	o	o	-	-
___ Alder Flycatcher	o	o	-	-
___ Willow Flycatcher*	o	o	-	-
___ Least Flycatcher	c	-	-	-
___ Eastern Phoebe*	u	u	o	-
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	u	u	-	-
___ Western Kingbird*	-	u	-	-
___ Eastern Kingbird*	c	a	o	-
<b>LARKS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Horned Lark*	u	u	u	u
<b>SWALLOWS</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Purple Martin*	u	c	-	-
___ Tree Swallow*	c	u	c	-
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	-
___ Bank Swallow*	c	c	c	-
___ Cliff Swallow	c	c	c	-
___ Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	-

JAYS AND CROWS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
___ American Crow*	c	c	c	c
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE	Sp	S	F	W
___ Black-capped Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse	o	o	o	-
NUTHATCHES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch*	-	-	r	-
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
CREEPERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Brown Creeper	o	-	o	u
WRENS	Sp	S	F	W
___ House Wren*	c	c	u	-
___ Winter Wren	-	-	-	r
___ Sedge Wren*	o	r	o	-
___ Marsh Wren	o	-	o	-
KINGLETS AND THRUSHES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	o	-	o	-
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u	-	u	-
___ Eastern Bluebird*	u	o	o	o
___ Townsend's Solitaire	-	-	-	o
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	r	-	-	-
___ Swainson's Thrush	u	-	u	r
___ Hermit Thrush	r	-	r	-
___ Wood Thrush*	u	u	-	-
___ American Robin*	c	c	c	c
THRASHERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Gray Catbird*	c	c	u	-
___ Northern Mockingbird	r	-	-	-
___ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	u	-
PIPITS	Sp	S	F	W
___ American Pipit (Water Pipit)	r	-	u	-
WAXWINGS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	r
___ Cedar Waxwing*	o	o	o	u
SHRIKES	Sp	S	F	W

___ Northern Shrike	-	-	-	r
___ Loggerhead Shrike	o	-	o	-
<b>STARLINGS</b>				
___ European Starling*	Sp	S	F	W
	c	c	c	c
<b>VIREOS</b>				
___ Bell's Vireo*	Sp	S	F	W
	u	u	u	-
___ Solitary Vireo	-	-	r	-
___ Warbling Vireo*	c	c	-	-
___ Philadelphia Vireo	r	-	-	-
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	o	o	o	-
<b>WARBLERS</b>				
___ Tennessee Warbler	Sp	S	F	W
	u	-	u	-
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u	-	u	-
___ Nashville Warbler	o	-	o	-
___ Northern Parula	o	-	-	-
___ Yellow Warbler*	c	c	-	-
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	o	r	-	-
___ Magnolia Warbler	o	-	-	-
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	o	c	r
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	o	-	-	-
___ Blackburnian Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Palm Warbler	o	-	-	-
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	o	-	-	-
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Black-and-white Warbler*	u	o	-	-
___ American Redstart*	c	c	-	-
___ Worm-eating Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Ovenbird*	u	u	-	-
___ Northern Waterthrush	r	-	-	-
___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	o	-
___ Hooded Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Wilson's Warbler	o	-	o	-
<b>SPARROWS</b>				
___ Northern Cardinal*	Sp	S	F	W
	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	c	c	-	-
___ Blue Grosbeak	-	r	-	-
___ Indigo Bunting*	u	u	-	-
___ Dickcissel*	c	c	-	-
___ Rufous-sided Towhee*	c	c	c	u
___ American Tree Sparrow	c	-	c	a
___ Chipping Sparrow	u	u	-	-
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	u	-	-	-

___ Field Sparrow*	c	c	u	-
___ Vesper Sparrow*	u	u	u	-
___ Lark Sparrow*	u	u	-	-
___ Savannah Sparrow	u	u	u	-
___ Baird's Sparrow	r	-	-	-
___ Grasshopper Sparrow*	c	c	-	-
___ Henslow's Sparrow*	-	r	r	-
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	r	-	u	-
___ Fox Sparrow	u	-	u	-
___ Song Sparrow*	c	c	c	u
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u	-	u	-
___ Swamp Sparrow	u	-	u	r
___ White-throated Sparrow	u	-	u	u
___ White-crowned Sparrow	o	-	o	o
___ Harris' Sparrow	c	-	c	c
___ Dark-eyed Junco	c	-	c	a
___ Snow Bunting	-	-	-	r
<b>BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Bobolink*	o	o	-	-
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c
___ Western Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird*	u	u	u	o
___ Rusty Blackbird	u	-	u	u
___ Brewer's Blackbird	o	-	o	r
___ Common Grackle*	c	c	c	u
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	u
___ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	-	-
___ Northern Oriole*	c	c	r	-
<b>FINCHES</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ Purple Finch	o	-	o	-
___ Common Redpoll	-	-	-	r
___ Pine Siskin	o	-	o	r
___ American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	u
<b>WEAVER FINCHES</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
___ House Sparrow*	a	a	a	a

ACCIDENTAL BIRDS: Species recorded on refuge only once or twice and considered outside normal range.

White-faced Ibis  
Bean Goose

Common Ground-Dove  
Northern Saw-whet Owl



Brant  
Oldsquaw  
King Rail  
Common Moorhen

Black-billed Magpie  
Summer Tanager  
Black-headed Grosbeak

Birdwatching is encouraged. Please check at the DeSoto Visitor Center for information on recent sightings. PLEASE OBEY POSTED SIGNS. For further information contact:

Refuge Manager  
DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge  
Route 1, Box 114  
Missouri Valley, Iowa 51555  
Telephone: 712/642-4121

This resource is based on the following source:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1985. Birds of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Jamestown, ND Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Home Page.  
<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/othrdata/chekbird/r3/desoto.htm> (Version 22MAY98).