



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Checklist of the Birds of Iowa - 432 Species

This checklist is provided as a service of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and is the official Iowa state list as determined by the Iowa Records Committee.

Date _____ Time _____ Locality _____ Sky _____ Wind _____ Temp _____

Observers _____ Total Species _____ Total Individuals _____

KEY: *Casual - recorded in 3-8 of the last 10 years; **Accidental - recorded in 0-3 of the last 10 years; ***Extirpated or Extinct

Ducks, Geese, Swans

___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck**
___ Snow Goose
___ Ross's Goose
___ Greater White-fronted Goose
___ Taiga Bean-Goose**
___ Tundra Bean-Goose**
___ Brant**
___ Cackling Goose
___ Canada Goose
___ Mute Swan
___ Trumpeter Swan
___ Tundra Swan
___ Wood Duck
___ Garganey**
___ Blue-winged Teal
___ Cinnamon Teal
___ Northern Shoveler
___ Gadwall
___ Eurasian Wigeon**
___ American Wigeon
___ Mallard
___ American Black Duck
___ Mottled Duck*
___ Northern Pintail
___ Green-winged Teal
___ Canvasback
___ Redhead
___ Ring-necked Duck
___ Greater Scaup
___ Lesser Scaup
___ King Eider**
___ Common Eider**
___ Harlequin Duck*
___ Surf Scoter
___ White-winged Scoter
___ Black Scoter
___ Long-tailed Duck
___ Bufflehead
___ Common Goldeneye
___ Barrow's Goldeneye**
___ Hooded Merganser
___ Common Merganser
___ Red-breasted Merganser
___ Ruddy Duck

New World Quail

___ Northern Bobwhite

Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys,

and Old World Quail

___ Wild Turkey
___ Ruffed Grouse
___ Sharp-tailed Grouse***
___ Greater Prairie-Chicken**
___ Gray Partridge
___ Ring-necked Pheasant

___ Grebes
___ Pied-billed Grebe
___ Horned Grebe
___ Red-necked Grebe
___ Mute Swan
___ Western Grebe
___ Clark's Grebe**

Pigeons, Doves

___ Rock Pigeon
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove
___ Passenger Pigeon***
___ Inca Dove**
___ Common Ground Dove**
___ White-winged Dove
___ Mourning Dove

Cuckoos, Roadrunners, Anis

___ Groove-billed Ani**
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo
___ Black-billed Cuckoo

Goatsuckers

___ Common Nighthawk
___ Chuck-will's-widow
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will

Swifts

___ Chimney Swift

Hummingbirds

___ Mexican Violetear**
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird
___ Anna's Hummingbird**
___ Rufous Hummingbird*
___ Broad-billed Hummingbird**

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

___ King Rail*
___ Virginia Rail
___ Sora
___ Common Gallinule
___ American Coot
___ Purple Gallinule**
___ Yellow Rail
___ Black Rail**

Limpkins

___ Limpkin**

Cranes

___ Sandhill Crane
___ Whooping Crane**

Stilts and Avocets

___ Black-necked Stilt
___ American Avocet

Lapwings and Plovers

___ Black-bellied Plover
___ American Golden-Plover
___ Killdeer
___ Semipalmated Plover
___ Piping Plover
___ Snowy Plover**

Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and

Allies

___ Upland Sandpiper
___ Whimbrel
___ Eskimo Curlew***
___ Long-billed Curlew**
___ Bar-tailed Godwit
___ Hudsonian Godwit
___ Marbled Godwit
___ Ruddy Turnstone
___ Red Knot*
___ Ruff*
___ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**
___ Stilt Sandpiper
___ Curlew Sandpiper**
___ Sanderling
___ Dunlin
___ Baird's Sandpiper
___ Least Sandpiper
___ White-rumped Sandpiper
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper
___ Pectoral Sandpiper
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
___ Western Sandpiper
___ Short-billed Dowitcher
___ Long-billed Dowitcher
___ American Woodcock
___ Wilson's Snipe
___ Spotted Sandpiper
___ Solitary Sandpiper
___ Lesser Yellowlegs
___ Willet
___ Greater Yellowlegs
___ Wilson's Phalarope
___ Red-necked Phalarope

___ Red Phalarope*

Skuas and Jaegers

___ Pomarine Jaeger**
___ Parasitic Jaeger*
___ Long-tailed Jaeger**

Auks, Murres, and Puffins

___ Thick-billed Murre**
___ Long-billed Murrelet**
___ Ancient Murrelet**

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers

___ Black-legged Kittiwake
___ Ivory Gull**
___ Sabine's Gull
___ Bonaparte's Gull
___ Black-headed Gull**
___ Little Gull*
___ Ross's Gull**
___ Laughing Gull
___ Franklin's Gull
___ Black-tailed Gull**
___ Heermann's Gull**
___ Short-billed Gull**
___ Ring-billed Gull
___ California Gull
___ Herring Gull
___ Iceland Gull
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull
___ Slaty-backed Gull**
___ Glaucous-winged Gull**
___ Glaucous Gull
___ Great Black-backed Gull
___ Least Tern
___ Caspian Tern
___ Black Tern
___ Common Tern
___ Arctic Tern**
___ Forster's Tern
___ Royal Tern**

___ Loons
___ Red-throated Loon
___ Pacific Loon
___ Common Loon
___ Yellow-billed Loon**

Storks

___ Wood Stork**

Frigatebirds

___ Magnificent Frigatebird**

Boobies and Gannets

___ Brown Booby**

Darters

___ Anhinga**

Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant
___ Neotropic Cormorant

Pelicans

___ American White Pelican
___ Brown Pelican**

Bitterns, Herons, and Allies

___ American Bittern
___ Least Bittern
___ Great Blue Heron
___ Great Egret
___ Snowy Egret
___ Little Blue Heron*
___ Tricolored Heron**
___ Reddish Egret**
___ Western Cattle Egret
___ Green Heron
___ Black-crowned Night Heron
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Ibises and Spoonbills

___ White Ibis**
___ Glossy Ibis
___ White-faced Ibis
___ Roseate Spoonbill**

New World Vultures

___ Black Vulture*
___ Turkey Vulture

Ospreys

___ Osprey

Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies

___ White-tailed Kite**
___ Swallow-tailed Kite*
___ Golden Eagle
___ Northern Harrier
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk
___ Cooper's Hawk
___ American Goshawk
___ Bald Eagle
___ Mississippi Kite
___ Red-shouldered Hawk
___ Broad-winged Hawk
___ Swainson's Hawk
___ Red-tailed Hawk
___ Rough-legged Hawk
___ Ferruginous Hawk*

Barn Owls

___ American Barn Owl

Typical Owls

___ Eastern Screech-Owl
___ Great Horned Owl
___ Snowy Owl
___ Northern Hawk Owl**
___ Burrowing Owl*
___ Barred Owl
___ Great Gray Owl**
___ Long-eared Owl
___ Short-eared Owl
___ Boreal Owl**
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl

Kingfishers

___ Belted Kingfisher

Woodpeckers

___ Lewis's Woodpecker**
___ Red-headed Woodpecker
___ Acorn Woodpecker**
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
___ Red-breasted Sapsucker**
___ Black-backed Woodpecker**
___ Downy Woodpecker
___ Hairy Woodpecker
___ Northern Flicker
___ Pileated Woodpecker

Caracaras and Falcons

___ Crested Caracara**
___ American Kestrel
___ Merlin
___ Gyrfalcon*
___ Peregrine Falcon
___ Prairie Falcon

Parrots

___ Carolina Parakeet***

Flycatchers

___ Great Crested Flycatcher
___ Western Kingbird
___ Eastern Kingbird
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
___ Fork-tailed Flycatcher**
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher
___ Western Wood-Pewee**
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
___ Acadian Flycatcher
___ Alder Flycatcher
___ Willow Flycatcher

___Least Flycatcher
___Western Flycatcher**
___Eastern Phoebe
___Say's Phoebe*
___Vermilion Flycatcher**

Vireos

___White-eyed Vireo
___Bell's Vireo
___Yellow-throated Vireo
___Blue-headed Vireo
___Philadelphia Vireo
___Warbling Vireo
___Red-eyed Vireo

Shrikes

___Loggerhead Shrike
___Northern Shrike

Jays, Magpies, Crows

___Canada Jay**
___Pinyon Jay**
___Blue Jay
___Clark's Nutcracker**
___Black-billed Magpie*
___American Crow
___Fish Crow
___Common Raven**

Chickadees, Titmice

___Black-capped Chickadee
___Boreal Chickadee**
___Tufted Titmouse

Larks

___Horned Lark

Swallows

___Bank Swallow
___Tree Swallow
___Violet-green Swallow**
___Northern Rough-winged Swallow
___Purple Martin
___Barn Swallow
___Cliff Swallow
___Cave Swallow**

Kinglets

___Ruby-crowned Kinglet
___Golden-crowned Kinglet

Waxwings

___Bohemian Waxwing
___Cedar Waxwing

Nuthatches

___Red-breasted Nuthatch
___White-breasted Nuthatch
___Pygmy Nuthatch**

Creepers

___Brown Creeper

Gnatcatchers

___Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Wrens

___Rock Wren**
___Bewick's Wren
___Carolina Wren
___Northern House Wren
___Pacific Wren**
___Winter Wren
___Sedge Wren

___Marsh Wren

Mimids

___Gray Catbird
___Curve-billed Thrasher**
___Brown Thrasher
___Sage Thrasher**
___Northern Mockingbird

Starlings

___European Starling

Thrushes

___Eastern Bluebird
___Mountain Bluebird*
___Townsend's Solitaire
___Veery
___Gray-cheeked Thrush
___Swainson's Thrush
___Hermit Thrush
___Wood Thrush
___American Robin
___Varied Thrush*

Old World Sparrows

___House Sparrow
___Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Pipits

___American Pipit
___Sprague's Pipit**

Finches

___Brambling**
___Evening Grosbeak*
___Pine Grosbeak**
___Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch**
___House Finch
___Purple Finch
___Redpoll
___Red Crossbill
___White-winged Crossbill
___Pine Siskin
___Lesser Goldfinch**
___American Goldfinch

Longspurs, Snow Bunting

___Lapland Longspur
___Chestnut-collared Longspur**
___Smith's Longspur
___Snow Bunting

Towhees, Sparrows

___Grasshopper Sparrow
___Black-throated Sparrow**
___Lark Sparrow
___Lark Bunting**
___Chipping Sparrow
___Clay-colored Sparrow
___Field Sparrow
___Fox Sparrow
___American Tree Sparrow
___Dark-eyed Junco
___White-crowned Sparrow
___Golden-crowned Sparrow**
___Harris's Sparrow
___White-throated Sparrow
___Vesper Sparrow
___LeConte's Sparrow
___Nelson's Sparrow

___Baird's Sparrow**

___Henslow's Sparrow

___Savannah Sparrow

___Song Sparrow

___Lincoln's Sparrow

___Swamp Sparrow

___Green-tailed Towhee**

___Spotted Towhee

___Eastern Towhee

Chats

___Yellow-breasted Chat

Blackbirds, Orioles

___Yellow-headed Blackbird
___Bobolink
___Eastern Meadowlark
___Western Meadowlark
___Orchard Oriole
___Hooded Oriole**
___Bullock's Oriole**
___Baltimore Oriole
___Scott's Oriole**
___Red-winged Blackbird
___Brown-headed Cowbird
___Rusty Blackbird
___Brewer's Blackbird
___Common Grackle
___Great-tailed Grackle

Wood-warblers

___Ovenbird
___Worm-eating Warbler
___Louisiana Waterthrush
___Northern Waterthrush
___Golden-winged Warbler
___Blue-winged Warbler
___Black-and-white Warbler
___Prothonotary Warbler
___Swainson's Warbler**
___Tennessee Warbler
___Orange-crowned Warbler
___Nashville Warbler
___Connecticut Warbler
___MacGillivray's Warbler**
___Mourning Warbler
___Kentucky Warbler
___Common Yellowthroat
___Hooded Warbler
___American Redstart
___Cape May Warbler
___Cerulean Warbler
___Northern Parula
___Magnolia Warbler
___Bay-breasted Warbler
___Blackburnian Warbler
___Yellow Warbler
___Chestnut-sided Warbler
___Blackpoll Warbler
___Black-throated Blue Warbler
___Palm Warbler
___Pine Warbler
___Yellow-rumped Warbler
___Yellow-throated Warbler
___Prairie Warbler*
___Black-throated Gray Warbler**

___Townsend's Warbler**

___Black-throated Green Warbler

___Canada Warbler

___Wilson's Warbler

Tanagers, Cardinals,

Grosbeaks, Buntings

___Summer Tanager
___Scarlet Tanager
___Western Tanager
___Northern Cardinal
___Rose-breasted Grosbeak
___Black-headed Grosbeak*
___Blue Grosbeak
___Lazuli Bunting
___Indigo Bunting
___Painted Bunting*
___Dickcissel

The taxonomic sequence and nomenclature used in this list follow the Checklist of North American Birds, 7th Edition, American Ornithologists' Union, 1998, updated through the 64th Supplement (Chesser et al. 2023).

Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) is a non-profit statewide organization devoted to the study, conservation, and enjoyment of Iowa's birds. IOU's activities include reviewing and archiving sightings of rare birds through the Iowa Records Committee, publishing Iowa Bird Life: The Iowa Ornithologists' Union quarterly journal, organizing field trips, and holding semi-annual weekends in various locations throughout the state. IOU also owns and manages IA-BIRD, the Iowa birding community's online mailing list as well as maintains a social media presence through Facebook. To join the IOU, or for more information, visit us online at <http://iowabirds.org/>. IOU members maintain the list of species recorded in each county of the state from which this checklist is generated.

Copyright Iowa Ornithologists' Union. 2025. All Rights Reserved.
