

# THIEF LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

## BIRD Checklist



Photo by Gordy Forester

Canvasback

### Birding Opportunities at Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area

Thief Lake is a 54,957-acre Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located in Marshall County in NW Minnesota. The area was established as a refuge in 1930. A portion of the area includes a 7,100-acre lake and associated shallow wetlands dominated by aquatic plants such as cattail and bulrush. Water levels are controlled by an outlet structure and the lake is managed for wetland wildlife species. In addition there is a large amount of upland brush, oak savannah, mixed deciduous, bottomland hardwood, black spruce/ tamarack, aspen, white spruce/balsam fir, old field, lowland brush and agricultural fields.

Thief Lake is one of the most productive wetlands in Minnesota and is home to unique species including Franklin's Gulls, Forster's Terns, Eared Grebes and Western Grebes.

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MN Dept. of Natural Resources  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
mndnr.gov

Birds of Roseau River WMA	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Nest
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	U	R	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	C		C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	A	C	A	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	U	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Bohemian Waxwing	C		U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting	U		C	A	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C	R	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	A	A	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	C		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	A		A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	U	R	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	C		C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	C	R	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	A	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	U		U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler	U		U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	U		U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	A	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	C		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	R	R			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	R	U			*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	R	U	R		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	A	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow	U	U			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow		R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	A	C	A		
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	A		A	R	

Fold # 2

Birds of Roseau River WMA	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Nest
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-collared Longspur	U		C	A	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting		C			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	R		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird				R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird		U	U	U	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	A	C	A	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	R	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Grosbeak	R		U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	C	R	C	U	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill	U			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Crossbill	U			U	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	C		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoary Redpoll				R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	C	R	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak	U		U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	U	U	U	U	

Accidental (Seen only once or twice in the area)
Ross's Goose
Greater Prairie-Chicken
Cattle Egret
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Whooping Crane
Ruddy Turnstone
Red Knot
Bonaparte's Gull
Caspian Tern
Burrowing Owl
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Mountain Bluebird
Varied Thrush
Northern Cardinal
Dickcissel

(Continued from cover page)

A number of waterfowl species breed in the wetlands and associated upland types, including Canvasbacks and American Wigeon. Northern bog species such as Short-eared Owl and Sharp-tailed Sparrow can also be seen here. A total of 218 species have been seen on Thief Lake WMA and 132 are known to breed here.

### Contact Information

Wildlife Area Manager, Roseau River WMA  
27952 400th Street, Roseau, MN 56751-8057  
(218) 463-1130

### Season and Abundance Key

The **seasons** in the checklist are defined as follows:

**Sp** (Spring) = March, April, May

**Su** (Summer) = June, July

**Fa** (Fall) = August, September, October, November

**Wi** (Winter) = December, January, February

Abundance codes are defined as follows:

**A** = Abundant - 50/day or in excess of 250 in a season

**C** = Common - 6-50/day or from 25 to 250 in a season

**U** = Uncommon - 1 to 5/day or from 5 to 25 in a season

**R** = Rare - Season counts of no more than 5

**Nest** - An asterisk indicates that nesting or breeding has been observed

The names and taxonomic arrangement of species follows that of the Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota (January 2009), prepared by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee. Field documentation of birds of the Thief Lake Area was completed by Shelley Steva with technical assistance from Shirlee Marertens, Frank Swendsen and Thief Lake staff. Additional observations from DNR County Biological Survey. Developed by the DNR Wildlife GIS Group in Bemidji, April 2012.

Date:

Weather:

Observers:

Notes:

Birds of Roseau River WMA	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Nest
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	R	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	C	R	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	A	A	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Trumpeter Swan	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra Swan	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	U	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	C	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	C	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck	U	R	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	A	A	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	A	A	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	C	U	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	C	U	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	C	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	C	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Scaup	C		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	C	U	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Surf Scoter				R	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Scoter				R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Duck				R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead	C	R	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	C	R	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	C	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck	C	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-tailed Grouse	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	R	R	R		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Grebe	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-necked Grebe	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Eared Grebe	A	A	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Grebe	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern	U	U	R		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Bittern	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	R	U	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	R	U			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	U	R	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	C	U	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	R	R	R		*

Fold # 3

Fold # 1

Birds of Roseau River WMA	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Nest
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk	U		R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle				R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	C		C	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Crested Caracara				R	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin	R		U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Rail			R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail	R	U			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	C	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot	A	A	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	A	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Plover	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Plover	R		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Avocet	R	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Willet	U		U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper	R	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hudsonian Godwit	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Godwit	U	U			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Sanderling	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunlin	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Stilt Sandpiper	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-billed Dowitcher	R		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Dowitcher	R		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	C	U	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull	A	A	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	C	R	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	C	U	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern	A	A	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	U	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Owl				U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	R	R	R	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Gray Owl				R	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl	U	R	U	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl	U	R	U	R	*

Birds of Roseau River WMA	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Nest
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	U	R	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Whip-poor-will	R	R	R		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	U	R	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	R	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	R				*
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	C	C			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	U	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	C	C			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher		R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	R	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird	R	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike	R		U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo	R		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	A	A	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Jay	R	R	U	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Magpie	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	A	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven	U	R	U	U	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	A	C	A	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	U	U	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	A	C	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Nortrn Rough-winged Swallow		R			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	R	R			*
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	A	A	A		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch		R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	U		U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	U	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	U	C	U		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	R	*
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	R	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	R	C		*
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	C	C	U		*