



# Bird Watching in North Dakota



North Dakota has many habitats for a variety of bird life. From the badlands to the prairies, these habitats make North Dakota a great place to go bird watching. Bird watching (sometimes referred to as birding) is a great hobby – interesting and fun with much to be learned.

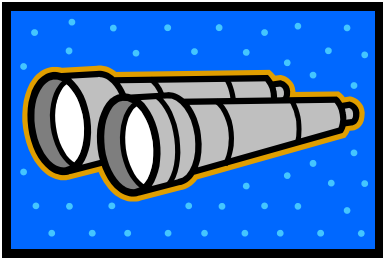
Bird watching makes you aware of your surroundings. To accurately identify a bird, it will help to note the surroundings in which you see the bird. This practice will also sharpen your attention to little things. Key markings and minor details are sometimes the only means of differentiating between species. Some birds are very small, so the better your eye is, the better your chance of seeing the markings to identify that bird. Bird watching will open your eyes to the different regions of North Dakota. Different habitats support different species, and birds are no exception.

Bird watching can be done anywhere. Your back yard or neighborhood will provide many opportunities to watch and identify birds. The purpose of this project is to help you appreciate the many species of birds in North Dakota and help you build skills that will help you identify birds.

Some of the information included in this project is based on the *Birding North Dakota* guide by Dan Svingen and Ron Martin. The publication was developed by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and is available from that agency as well as many tourism information centers. The guide will introduce you to 63 sites and the types of birds you might see at each location. The guide discusses the habitats in North Dakota and the types of birds you are likely to see in those habitats. The guide focuses on the birds you are most likely to see in the summer at each location. However, many locations will list species of birds you may see in the winter months.

You can request a copy of *Birding North Dakota* from: North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 North Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501. Phone (701) 328-6300.

Watching birds can be a year-round activity and can be done without traveling away from home. The following sections will provide some helpful tips on equipment to make your bird watching experience even more rewarding.



## Focusing on Binoculars

One of the key pieces of equipment you will need to see birds is a pair of binoculars. The following tips may help you select binoculars.

### Most commonly used binoculars for birding:

7x35  
8x40

### Extreme ends of strength of binoculars for birding:

8x20 - very small field of vision, hard to see in low-light conditions  
10x50 - must be held very steady, heavy

The first number gives the power of magnification. The second number gives the width of the lens at the wide end of the barrel. A larger opening lets in more light.

### Guides for choosing binoculars:

Always **try the binoculars**. Take them outside if possible. Make sure they are clear, sharp and comfortable for your vision.

**Porro prism design:** A traditional design with offset barrel, it's also bulkier and cheaper, has excellent clarity, but is prone to misalignment from impacts or rough handling.

**Roof prism design:** Streamlined, with straight-through barrel, durable, more expensive, less subject to internal dirt or moisture. It's image edges may be less crisp.

Magnifications over **10 power** need to be mounted rather than hand-held to avoid tremor.

If possible, look for binoculars that **focus down** to 8 to 10 feet. Twenty feet close focus is a minimum.

Best optics provide a **minimum of 4 mm image** to eye pupil. Divide aperture number by

magnification number.

Example: 7x35 - 35 divided by 7 equals 5.

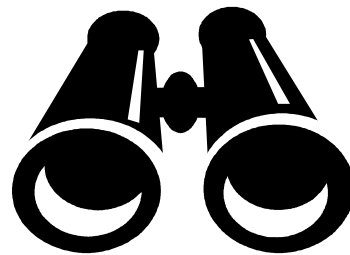
Binoculars with **rubber eye cup**: folded down when wearing glasses; extended if not wearing glasses. This places your eye at the proper distance from the lens.

### Scopes are optional (but desirable) equipment

The power of magnification of scopes is usually 15 and up. Many different designs are available. **Try it out** - same as for binoculars.

You **MUST** have a sturdy tripod and/or window mount. A window mount enables use from inside a vehicle.

Check the tripod for weight and sturdiness, ease of putting up and down, range of height adjustments, and ability to stand on uneven ground.



# Binocular Basics

**Adjustable eye cups** on binoculars help put your eye at the proper distance from the lens for viewing. If you do not wear glasses, have the cup in the extended position. If you do wear glasses, fold down, snap or screw in the cup to put your eye closer to the lens. Generally, if you have astigmatism, you will need to wear your glasses when you use binoculars. If your correction is only for distance, you may choose not to wear your glasses.

Most binoculars have a hinge that allows you to adjust the distance between the lenses or barrels by moving them closer or farther apart. As you look through the binoculars, you should see one round visual field.

When using a pair of binoculars for the first time, you need to **adjust the focus for your eyes**. Notice that one of the two small lenses that go closest to your eye has a calibrated ring that moves. There is also a spot, line or similar designation on the barrel, usually lined up with the "0" of the calibrations. This is the marker. The adjustable eye focus is usually on the right barrel.

**Follow these steps to find the correct focus setting for your eyes.** You may want someone to assist you with these steps.

1. Choose an object to look at that has small detail on which to focus through the binoculars.
2. Look through the binoculars with the right barrel covered at the large end. Cup your hand over the end of the binoculars (without touching the lens) or have the lens cap in place on that side.
3. Move the center focus dial or mechanism until the image is sharp.
4. Now, unblock the right lens and cover the left one as you keep looking at the same object. You may change hands or move the lens cap from one lens to the other.
5. Slowly turn the calibrated eyepiece ring a little each direction until the image is sharp. Do not move the center focus dial or mechanism. Now the image should be sharp as you look with both eyes at once.

6. Look at the adjustable ring and notice what number the marker is at. It may be where it was originally, or it may be to the left or right of "0." To the left, the numbers are "negative" and to the right the numbers are "positive." Every time you use this pair of binoculars, set the adjustable focus ring on that number before viewing. Once you have focused a pair of binoculars for your eyes, the setting should be the same for you each time.



## Possible causes of blurred or double images:

**Smudged or scratched lens.** Protect the lens surfaces from touch. If smudged, use a clean, very soft cloth (not tissue) dampened with a small amount of lens cleaner or water to gently wipe the lens surface just until dry. Do not flood the surface with liquid or rub hard.

**Moisture or dust inside the barrels.** This requires professional cleaning. Avoid exposure to moisture, including rain.

**Barrels out of alignment.** This is not uncommon with the porro prism design if the binoculars have not been stored in a hard case or have been dropped or handled roughly. Re-alignment can be done only by a professional.

**To check alignment:** Hold the binoculars at arms length in front of you with the big lens toward you. Look through the binoculars at a horizontal surface or edge, such as a table edge or door frame. The images you see should look almost alike. If there is an alignment problem, one image will appear higher than the other. Whenever seeking professional repairs, inquire about cost before authorizing work.



## Tips on Identifying Birds

Before you start recording your findings, here are some ideas of things to observe when you are trying to accurately identify what you see.

- **Habitat**
  - Wooded
  - Grassland
  - Mountain
  - Urban
  - River or stream
  - Lake or shoreline
  - Mud flats
  - Cropland
- **Size**
  - Sparrow
  - Robin
  - Crow
  - Chicken
  - Duck
  - Goose
- **Shape**
  - Bill or beak
  - Tail
  - Wings
  - Body
- **Song or call**
- **Behavior**
  - Perching
  - Climbing trees
  - Hopping or running
  - Wading
  - Swimming
  - Diving
  - Head bobbing
  - Tail wagging
  - Feeding practices
- **Flight**
  - Wing beat
  - Path of flight
  - Soaring
  - In a group: formation
- **Markings**
  - Coloration
  - Face markings
  - Eye strips or rings
  - Bill or beak
  - Wing patterns
  - Wing bars
  - Tail patterns
  - Legs

# Feeding Birds in Your Yard

**Feeders** - Unlimited choices in sizes, materials, styles

## Basic types:

**Tray** – Use for birds that like to feed on a flat surface. Some ground-feeding birds will come to tray feeders. Feeders may be close to the ground or several feet above ground.

**Hanging with perches** – Use for birds that will eat from a perched position.

**Container without perches** – Use these for birds that cling to or hang from food source

**Bag or upside down feeders** – Use these for birds that naturally eat from any position, often hanging upside down from the food source.

**Consider:** Squirrels will demolish wood and plastic feeders to reach desirable foods such as sunflower seeds, corn, peanuts, suet with seeds and oranges. Metal or heavy wire mesh will protect feeders. Some feeders are built to be squirrel-proof. Use squirrel baffles above and below vulnerable feeders. Squirrels are good jumpers. They can climb up metal shepherd hooks.

## SEEDS TO FEED

The top three feeds for attracting wide variety of species year-round:

**Suet** in blocks or chunks - Attracts a variety of year-round species

**Black Oil Sunflower seed** - Popular with many species. High protein.

**Niger Thistle seed** - Attracts goldfinches, pine siskin, house finch, redpoll, purple finch

Additional choices:

**Safflower seed** - House finch are primary eaters here. Not attractive to squirrels and house sparrows

**Sunflower chips and hearts** - Some prefer this more expensive form of sunflower seed to eliminate accumulation of hulls

**Peanuts** and **corn on the cob** - Attracts jays and squirrels

**Millet** - Attracts many ground feeding species. Will attract large numbers of house sparrows, starlings and grackles. Same for **cracked corn**

**Fruit or jelly** - Attracts orioles and house finches

**Nectar feeders** - Attracts hummingbirds and orioles. Avoid the color yellow to reduce number of bees

**DO NOT feed bread.** It does not provide sufficient nutrition for many birds to survive on. It will also attract large numbers of house sparrows.

**Water** – Needed for all seasons. Water will bring many birds to your yard. Running or bubbling water will attract even more.

Keep feeders and water sources clean to prevent disease.

## Also provide:

**Natural food sources:** bushes, vines, trees and flowers that produce berries, seeds, fruit or nectar

**Cover:** natural (trees, shrubbery, vines), man-made (nesting boxes or houses), areas with grit and dust



# Resources

Here is a list of resources that will help you identify, locate, and research the birds you have found or hope to find.

**Online:** Only visit Web sites with permission and supervision from a parent or leader.

## Oganizations/Education

[www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)  
[www.americanbirding.org](http://www.americanbirding.org)  
[www.manomet.org](http://www.manomet.org)  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)  
[www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)

## Commercial Sites

[www.virtualbirder.com](http://www.virtualbirder.com)  
[www.birdzilla.com](http://www.birdzilla.com)  
[www.stokesbirdsathome.com](http://www.stokesbirdsathome.com)  
[www.birdsworld.com](http://www.birdsworld.com)  
[www.wildbirds.com](http://www.wildbirds.com)  
[www.birding.com](http://www.birding.com)  
[www.birder.com](http://www.birder.com)  
[www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)  
[www.thayerbirding.com](http://www.thayerbirding.com)  
[www.surfbirds.com](http://www.surfbirds.com)  
[www.sibleyart.com](http://www.sibleyart.com)

## Field Guides for Birds of North America

Birds of North America, A Guide to Field Identification, Chandler Robbins, Jonathan Latimer, St. Martin's Press, List: \$15.95 (drawings)

Birds of North Dakota, Stan Tekiela, Adventure Publications Inc., List \$13.95 (photographs)

Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., National Geographic Society, List: \$21.95 (drawings)

Focus Guide to the Birds of North America, Kenn Kaufman, Houghton Mifflin Co., List: \$21.95 (photographs)

Sibley Guide to Birds, Audubon Society Nature Guides Series, David A. Sibley, Random House, List \$35.00 (drawings, oversized field guide)

### 2-volume sets

The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America, Western North America

David Allen Sibley, Alfred A. Knopf, List: \$19.95@ (drawings)

Eastern Birds, Western Birds, Peterson Field Guides, Roger Tory Peterson, Houghton Mifflin Co., List: \$20.00@ (drawings)

Stokes Field Guide to Birds Eastern, Western, Donald & Lillian Stokes, Little Brown & Co., List: \$17.95@ (photographs)

Audubon Handbook: Eastern Birds, Western Birds, John Farrand, Jr., McGraw, Hill, List: \$17.95@ (photographs)

The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern, Western, John Bull & John Farrand, Jr., Alfred A. Knopf, List: \$19.95@ (photographs)

### "First" or Beginner's Field Guides

Peterson First Guides, Birds of North America, Houghton Mifflin Co., 188 species, List: \$5.95

First Field Guide, Birds, National Audubon Society, Scholastic, Inc., 50 species, List \$8.95

Golden Guides, Birds, St. Martin's Press, 129 species, List: \$6.95

Birds of the Dakotas Field Guide, Stan Tekiela, Adventure Publications, Inc., 125 species, List: \$13.95

### CD-ROMS

Birds of North Dakota, Our Birds, Thayer Birding Software, 248 species, photos and songs, List: \$24.95

Birds of North America, Thayer Birding Software, 925 species, photos and songs, List: \$70.00

Cornell Guide to Birds of North America, Thayer Birding Software, 930 species, photos and songs, List: \$69.95

\*Credit to Floramay Miller for providing tips on equipment and observation.

# Revised Checklist of North Dakota Birds

Abbreviations used in the checklist on relative abundance are as follows:

- **Ab** – ABUNDANT: a species that occurs in very large numbers and is easily observed
- **C** – COMMON: a species that occurs in large numbers
- **F** - FAIRLY COMMON: a species that occurs in moderate numbers
- **U** – UNCOMMON: a species that occurs in low numbers
- **R** – RARE: a species that occurs yearly somewhere in the state, but in very low numbers
- **O** – OCCASIONAL: a rare species that occurs at intervals of three to five years
- **Ac** – ACCIDENTAL: a species that is not expected to occur again or that occurs very infrequently. Includes species that have occurred in the state three or fewer times
- **E** – EXTIRPATED: a species that formerly occurred naturally in the state
- \* - Breeds in North Dakota

(i) - Inferred nesting species.

Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	<i>FAMILY GAVIIDAE</i>				
	Red-throated loon			Ac	
	*Common loon	U	U	U	
	<i>FAMILY PODICIPEDIDAE</i>				
	*Pied-billed grebe	F	F	F	
	*Horned Grebe	F	F	F	
	*Red-necked grebe	U	F	U	
	*Eared grebe	C	C	C	
	*Western grebe	F	C	U	
	*Clark's grebe	U	U	U	
	<i>FAMILY PELECANIDAE</i>				
	*American white pelican	U	C	U	
	Brown pelican			Ac	
	<i>FAMILY PHALACROCORACIDAE</i>				
	*Double-crested cormorant	F	F	F	
	<i>FAMILY ARDEIDAE</i>				
	*American bittern	F	F	F	
	*Least bittern	R	R	R	
	*Great blue heron	F	F	F	
	Great egret	R	R	U	
	Snowy egret	O	O	O	
	*Little blue heron	O	O	O	
	*Tricolored heron	O	O	O	
	*Cattle egret	R	R	R	
	*Green-backed heron	R	R	R	
	*Black-crowned night-heron	F	C	F	
	Yellow-crowned night-heron	O	O		
	<i>FAMILY THRESKIORNITHIDAE</i>				
	White ibis	Ac			

<b>Date Observed</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>O Spring</b>	<b>O Summer</b>	<b>O Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>
	*White-faced ibis	O	O	O	
	<i>FAMILY CICONIIDAE</i>				
	Wood stork	Ac			
	<i>FAMILY ANATIDAE</i>				
	Fulvous whistling-duck		Ac	Ac	
	*Tundra swan	C		C	
	*Trumpeter swan		E	Ac	
	Greater white-fronted goose	F		F	
	*Snow goose	Ab	O	Ab	R
	Ross' goose	R		R	
	Brant	O		O	
	*Canada goose	Ab	F	Ab	R
	*Wood duck	U	F	F	
	*Green-winged teal	F	U	C	
	*American black duck	R	R	U	R
	*Mallard	Ab	C	Ab	U
	*Northern pintail	Ab	C	Ab	O
	*Blue-winged teal	Ab	Ab	Ab	
	*Cinnamon teal	R	R	R	
	*Northern shoveler	C	C	C	
	*Gadwall	C	C	C	O
	Eurasian wigeon	Ac		Ac	
	*American wigeon	C	U	C	R
	*Canvasback	F	F	C	O
	*Redhead	C	C	C	O
	*Ring-necked duck	U	F	F	
	Greater scaup	R		U	
	*Lesser scaup	Ab	U	Ab	O
	Common eider			Ac	Ac
	Harlequin duck			Ac	
	Oldsquaw	R		R	O
	Black scoter	R		R	
	Surf scoter	R		R	O
	*White-winged scoter	R	E	E	
	*Common goldeneye	U	R	U	R
	Barrow's goldeneye				O
	*Bufflehead	F	R	F	O
	*Hooded merganser	U	F	U	
	*Common merganser	F	E	F	U
	Red-breasted merganser	R	R		
	*Ruddy duck	C	C	C	



Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	<i>FAMILY CATHARTIDAE</i>				
	*Turkey Vulture	U	F	U	
	<i>FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE</i>				
	<i>Subfamily Pandion</i>				
	*Osprey	R	R	R	
	<i>Subfamily Accipitrinae</i>				
	American swallow-tailed kite	Ac			
	*Bald Eagle	U	R	U	R
	*Northern harrier	C	F	C	R
	*Sharp-shinned hawk	F	U	F	O
	*Cooper's hawk	U	U	U	O
	*Northern goshawk	R	O	R	R
	Red-shouldered hawk	O	O	O	
	*Broad-winged hawk	U	F	U	
	*Swainson's hawk	C	C	C	
	*Red-tailed hawk	C	F	C	R
	*Ferruginous hawk	F	C	F	
	Rough-legged hawk	F		F	R
	*Golden eagle	F	F	F	F
	<i>FAMILY FALCONIDAE</i>				
	*American kestrel	C	F	C	R
	*Merlin	U	R	U	R
	*Peregrine falcon	R	O	R	O
	Gyr Falcon	O		O	O
	*Prairie falcon	U	U	F	R
	<i>FAMILY PHASIANIDAE</i>				
	<i>Subfamily Phasianinae</i>				
	*Gray partridge	C	C	C	C
	*Ring-necked pheasant	C	C	C	C
	<i>Subfamily Tetraoninae</i>				
	Willow ptarmigan			Ac	
	*Ruffed grouse	F	F	F	F
	*Sage grouse	F	F	F	F
	*Greater prairie-chicken	U	U	U	U
	*Sharp-tailed grouse	C	C	C	C
	<i>Subfamily Meleagridinae</i>				
	*Wild turkey	F	F	F	F
	<i>FAMILY RALLIDAE</i>				
	*Yellow rail	R	R	R	
	(i)King rail	O	O	O	
	*Virginia rail	F	F	F	
	*Sora	C	C	C	
	*American coot	Ab	Ab	Ab	
	<i>FAMILY GRUIDAE</i>				

	*Sandhill crane	F	R	Ab	
Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	*Whooping crane	R	E	R	
	<i>FAMILY CHARADRIIDAE</i>				
	Black-bellied plover	U		U	
	Lesser golden plover	F		U	
	Semipalmated plover	F		F	
	*Piping plover	U	U	U	
	*Killdeer	C	C	C	Ac
	*Mountain plover	E	E	E	
	<i>FAMILY RECURVIROSTRIDAE</i>				
	Black-necked stilt	O		O	
	*American avocet	C	C	C	
	<i>FAMILY SCOLOPACIDAE</i>				
	<i>Subfamily Scolopacinae</i>				
	Greater yellowlegs	F		F	
	Lesser yellowlegs	C		C	
	Solitary sandpiper	U		U	
	*Willet	F	F	U	
	*Spotted sandpiper	U	U	U	
	*Upland sandpiper	F	F	F	
	Eskimo curlew	E		E	
	Whimbrel	O		O	
	*Long-billed curlew	R	U	R	
	Hudsonian godwit	F		R	
	*Marbled godwit	F	F	U	
	Ruddy turnstone	U		R	
	Red knot	R		R	
	Sanderling	U		U	
	Semipalmated sandpiper	Ab		Ab	
	Western sandpiper	O		R	
	Least sandpiper	C		C	
	White-rumped sandpiper	Ab		R	
	Baird's sandpiper	C		F	
	Pectoral sandpiper	C		F	
	Dunlin	U		U	
	Curlew sandpiper	Ac			
	Stilt sandpiper	F		C	
	Buff-breasted sandpiper	R		R	
	Ruff	Ac		Ac	
	Short-billed dowitcher	U		U	
	Long-billed dowitcher	C		C	
	*Common snipe	C	U	C	Ac
	*American woodcock	R	R	R	
	<i>Subfamily Phalaropinae</i>				
	*Wilson's phalarope	C	C	C	
	Red-necked phalarope	Ab		Ab	
	Red phalarope	O	O	O	

	<i>FAMILY LARIDAE</i>				
Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	<i>Subfamily Stercorinae</i>				
	Parasitic jaeger			Ac	
	Long-tailed jaeger		Ac	Ac	
	South polar skua		Ac		
	<i>Subfamily Larinae</i>				
	*Franklin's gull	Ab	C	Ab	
	Bonaparte's gull	F		F	
	*Ring-billed gull	C	C	C	R
	*California gull	F	F	F	O
	Herring gull	F		F	U
	Thayer's gull	O		O	O
	Glaucous gull	R		U	R
	Black-legged kittiwake			O	O
	Sabine's gull			O	
	<i>Subfamily Sterninae</i>				
	*Caspian tern	O	O	O	
	*Common tern	U	F	U	
	*Forster's tern	U	F	U	
	*Least tern	R	R	R	
	*Black tern	C	C	Ab	
	<i>FAMILY COLUMBIDAE</i>				
	*Rock dove	C	C	C	C
	*Mourning dove	Ab	C	Ab	R
	<i>FAMILY CUCULIDAE</i>				
	*Black-billed cuckoo	F	F	U	
	*Yellow-billed cuckoo	R	R	R	

	<i>FAMILY TYTONIDAE</i>				
	*Common barn-owl	O	O	O	
	<i>FAMILY STRIGIDAE</i>				
	*Eastern screech-owl	U	U	U	U
	*Great horned owl	F	F	F	F
	Snowy owl	R		U	R
	Northern hawk owl	O		O	O
	*Burrowing owl	U	F	U	
	(i)Barred owl	R	R	R	R
	Great gray owl			O	O
	*Long-eared owl	R	U	R	R
	*Short-eared owl	F	F	F	U
	Boreal owl			O	O
	(i)Northern saw-whet owl	R	O	R	R
	<i>FAMILY CAPRIMULGIDAE</i>				
	<i>Subfamily Chordelinae</i>				
	*Common nighthawk	C	U	C	
	<i>Subfamily Caprimulginae</i>				
	(i)Poor-will	U	F	R	
	(i)Whip-poor-will	R	R		

Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	<i>FAMILY APODIDAE</i>				
	*Chimney swift	C	F	F	
	<i>FAMILY TROCHILIDAE</i>				
	*Ruby-throated hummingbird	U	F	F	
	<i>FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE</i>				
	*Belted kingfisher	F	F	F	R
	<i>FAMILY PICIDAE</i>				
	Lewis' woodpecker	Ac		Ac	
	*Red-headed woodpecker	F	F	F	
	*Red-bellied woodpecker	R	O	R	R
	*Yellow-bellied sapsucker	U	F	U	
	*Downy woodpecker	F	F	F	F
	*Hairy woodpecker	F	F	F	F
	Black-backed woodpecker			O	O
	*Northern flicker	C	C	C	R
	*Pileated woodpecker	U	U	U	U
	<i>FAMILY TYRANNIDAE</i>				
	<i>Subfamily Fluvicolinae</i>				
	Olive-sided flycatcher	U		U	
	(i)Western wood-pewee	U	U	U	
	*Eastern wood-pewee	C	C	C	
	Yellow-bellied flycatcher	U		U	
	*Alder flycatcher	R	R	R	
	*Willow flycatcher	F	F	F	
	*Least flycatcher	C	C	C	
	*Eastern phoebe	U	U	U	
	*Say's phoebe	U	U	U	
	<i>Subfamily Tyranninae</i>				
	*Great crested flycatcher	F	F	F	
	*Western kingbird	C	C	Ab	
	*Eastern kingbird	C	C	Ab	
	Scissor-tailed flycatcher	Ac		Ac	
	<i>FAMILY ALAUDIDAE</i>				
	*Horned lark	Ab	Ab	Ab	U
	<i>FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE</i>				
	*Purple martin	F	F	F	
	*Tree swallow	C	F	F	
	(i)Violet-green swallow	R	O	R	
	*Northern rough-winged swallow	F	F	F	
	*Bank swallow	C	C	Ab	
	*Cliff swallow	Ab	Ab	Ab	
	*Barn swallow	Ab	Ab	Ab	
	<i>FAMILY CORVIDAE</i>				
	Gray jay			O	O
	*Blue jay	F	F	F	U
	Pinyon jay			Ac	Ac
	Clark' s nutcracker	O		O	O

Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	*Black-billed magpie	F	C	C	F
	*American crow	C	F	C	R
	*Common raven	O	E		R
	<i>FAMILY PARIDAE</i>				
	*Black-capped chickadee	F	F	F	F
	Boreal chickadee			Ac	
	<i>FAMILY SITTIDAE</i>				
	*Red-breasted nuthatch	U	O	U	R
	*White-breasted nuthatch	F	F	F	F
	<i>FAMILY CERTHIDAE</i>				
	(i)Brown creeper	F	O	F	R
	<i>FAMILY TROGLODYTIDAE</i>				
	*Rock wren	U	F	U	
	*House wren	C	C	F	
	Winter wren	R		R	Ac
	*Sedge wren	U	F	U	
	*Marsh wren	F	C	F	

	<i>FAMILY MUSICAPIDAE</i>				
	<i>subfamily Sylviinae</i>				
	Golden-crowned kinglet	F		F	R
	Ruby-crowned kinglet	F	R	F	
	Blue-gray gnatcatcher	Ac		Ac	
	<i>Subfamily Turdinae</i>				
	*Eastern bluebird	F	F	U	
	*Mountain bluebird	F	F	U	
	Townsend's solitaire	U		U	U
	*Veery	U	C	U	
	Gray-cheeked thrush	F		F	
	(i)Swainson's thrush	C	O	C	
	Hermit thrush	U		U	O
	*Wood thrush	R	R	R	
	*American robin	Ab	C	Ab	R
	Varied thrush	O			O
	<i>FAMILY MIMIDAE</i>				
	*Gray catbird	C	F	C	
	*Northern mockingbird	R	R	R	
	(i)Sage thrasher	O	O		
	*Brown thrasher	F	F	F	
	<i>FAMILY MOTACILLIDAE</i>				
	Water pipit	F		F	
	*Sprague's pipit	U	F	F	
	<i>FAMILY BOMBYCILLIDAE</i>				
	Bohemian waxwing	U		U	F
	*Cedar waxwing	F	F	F	U
	<i>FAMILY LANIDAE</i>				
	Northern shrike	R		U	U
	*Loggerhead shrike	U	F	U	

Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	<i>FAMILY STURNIDAE</i>				
	*European starling	F	F	F	F
	<i>FAMILY VIREONIDAE</i>				
	White-eyed vireo	Ac			
	*Bell's vireo	R	R		
	(i)Solitary vireo	U	R	U	
	*Yellow-throated vireo	U	F	U	
	*Warbling vireo	F	C	F	
	*Philadelphia vireo	U	U	U	
	*Red-eyed vireo	C	C	C	
	<i>FAMILY EMBERIZIDAE</i>				
	<i>Subfamily Parulinae</i>				
	Blue-winged warbler	Ac			
	*Golden-winged warbler	R	R	R	
	(i)Tennessee warbler	Ab	O	C	
	(i)Orange-crowned warbler	C	R	C	
	Nashville warbler	U		U	
	(i)Northern parula	R	O	R	
	*Yellow warbler	C	C	C	
	*Chestnut-sided warbler	F	R	F	
	Magnolia warbler	U		U	
	Cape May warbler	R		O	
	Black-throated blue warbler	R		R	
	*Yellow-rumped warbler	Ab	U	Ab	
	Townsend's warbler			Ac	
	Black-throated green warbler	U		U	
	Blackburnian warbler	U		U	
	Pine warbler	O		O	
	Palm warbler	F		F	
	Bay-breasted warbler	U		U	
	Blackpoll warbler	C		F	
	(i)Cerulean warbler	O		O	
	*Black-and-white warbler	F	F	F	
	*American redstart	C	C	C	
	Prothonotary warbler	Ac			
	Worm-eating warbler	Ac			
	*Ovenbird	F	F	F	
	*Northern waterthrush	F	F	F	
	Louisiana waterthrush	Ac			
	Connecticut warbler	R		R	
	*Mourning warbler	F	F	F	
	MacGillivray's warbler	O		O	
	*Common yellowthroat	C	C	C	
	Hooded warbler	Ac			
	Wilson's warbler	F		C	
	(i)Canada warbler	U	O	U	
	*Yellow-breasted chat	F	F	F	

Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	<i>Subfamily Thraupinae</i>				
	Summer tanager	Ac	Ac		
	*Scarlet tanager	F	F	F	
	(i)Western tanager	R	R		
	<i>Subfamily Cardinalinae</i>				
	*Northern cardinal	R	R	R	
	*Rose-breasted grosbeak	C	C	C	
	*Black-headed grosbeak	F	F	F	
	*Blue grosbeak	O	O	O	
	*Lazuli bunting	C	C	C	
	*Indigo bunting	F	F	F	
	*Dickcissel	U	F	U	
	<i>Subfamily Emberizinae</i>				
	Green-tailed towhee	Ac			
	*Rufous-sided towhee	F	C	U	O
	American tree sparrow	C		C	U
	*Chipping sparrow	F	F	F	
	*Clay-colored sparrow	C	Ab	C	
	*Brewer's sparrow	U	C	U	
	*Field sparrow	U	F	U	
	*Vesper sparrow	F	C	F	O
	*Lark sparrow	F	F	F	
	*Lark bunting	Ab	Ab	Ab	
	*Savannah sparrow	Ab	C	Ab	
	*Baird's sparrow	F	F	F	
	*Grasshopper sparrow	C	C	C	
	Henslow's sparrow		O	Ac	
	*Le Conte's sparrow	U	F	U	
	*Sharp-tailed sparrow	U	F	U	
	Fox sparrow	U		U	Ac
	*Song sparrow	C	C	C	O
	Lincoln's sparrow	C		C	
	*Swamp sparrow	U	U	U	
	*White-throated sparrow	C	U	C	R
	Golden-crowned sparrow	Ac			
	White-crowned sparrow	C		C	R
	Harris' sparrow	C		C	R
	Dark-eyed junco	Ab	O	Ab	R
	*McCown's longspur	U	U	U	
	Lapland longspur	Ab		Ab	U
	Smith's longspur	R		R	
	*Chestnut-collared longspur	C	Ab	C	
	Snow bunting	F		C	F
	<i>Subfamily Icterinae</i>				
	*Bobolink	F	F	F	
	*Red-winged blackbird	Ab	Ab	Ab	R
	Eastern meadowlark	Ac	Ac		

Date Observed	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	*Western meadowlark	Ab	Ab	Ab	R
	*Yellow-headed blackbird	Ab	Ab	Ab	R
	Rusty blackbird	F		F	R
	*Brewer's blackbird	C	F	C	O
	*Common grackle	Ab	Ab	Ab	R
	*Brown-headed cowbird	C	C	U	
	*Orchard oriole	F	F	R	
	*Northern oriole	F	F	F	
	<i>FAMILY FRINGILLIDAE</i>				
	<i>Subfamily Fringillinae</i>				
	Brambling				Ac
	<i>Subfamily Carduelinae</i>				
	Rosy finch				R
	Pine grosbeak	U		U	U
	*Purple finch	U	R	U	U
	House finch				Ac
	*Red crossbill	U	R	U	U
	(i)White-winged crossbill	R	O	R	U
	Common redpoll	F		C	U
	Hoary redpoll	R			R
	*Pine siskin	F	R	F	U
	*Lesser goldfinch		Ac		
	*American goldfinch	F	F	F	U
	Evening grosbeak	U		U	U
	<i>FAMILY PASSERIDAE</i>				
	House sparrow	C	C	C	C

#### Hypothetical Species:

Arctic Loon (*Gravia arctica*)  
Northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*)  
Black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)  
Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)  
Laughing gull (*Larus atricilla*)  
Iceland gull (*Larus glaucooides*)  
Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)  
Band-tailed pidgeon (*Columba fasciata*)  
Vermilion flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)  
Western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)  
Black-throated gray warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)  
Kentucky warbler (*Oporornis formosus*)

#### Acknowledgements

This checklist comes from the North Dakota Game and Fish Website: [www.state.nd.us/gnf/wild/](http://www.state.nd.us/gnf/wild/)

The information used for this checklist was primarily taken from the following source:

*Faanes, C.A., and R.E. Stewart, 1982. Revised Checklist of North Dakota Birds; The Prairie Naturalist, Vol. 14 (3): 97-92.*



# Record of Sighting Table

(make copies of this page to keep a log of your bird sightings)

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you see the bird/what habitat were you in?	
When did you see the bird? (date and time of day)	
What characteristics did you see describing the bird/what identified the bird?	
Does it live in North Dakota year-round or is it a migratory bird?	
What do you think it is?	
What is the name of the bird?	
What is the scientific name of the bird?	
Other notes:	

Where did you see the bird/what habitat were you in?	
When did you see the bird? (date and time of day)	
What characteristics did you see describing the bird/what identified the bird?	
Does it live in North Dakota year-round or is it a migratory bird?	
What do you think it is?	
What is the name of the bird?	
What is the scientific name of the bird?	
Other notes:	

Where did you see the bird/what habitat were you in?	
When did you see the bird? (date and time of day)	
What characteristics did you see describing the bird/what identified the bird?	
Does it live in North Dakota year-round or is it a migratory bird?	
What do you think it is?	
What is the name of the bird?	
What is the scientific name of the bird?	
Other notes:	

Where did you see the bird/what habitat were you in?	
When did you see the bird? (date and time of day)	
What characteristics did you see describing the bird/what identified the bird?	
Does it live in North Dakota year-round or is it a migratory bird?	
What do you think it is?	
What is the name of the bird?	
What is the scientific name of the bird?	
Other notes:	