



**Typical Bird Species:
(Water birds)**
American and Least Bittern
American Coot
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Great Blue and Green Heron
Great Egret
Pied-billed Grebe

Early explorers called Wisconsin “the great swamp”, since the territory was covered with 10 million acres of wetlands – lands where water stands for at least part of the year. Wetland ecosystems are extremely valuable to wildlife, supporting a greater number of animals than any other type of habitat. Thirty-five percent of endangered and threatened birds in the U.S. either live in or depend on wetlands in some way.

Wetlands also absorb floodwaters; filter chemicals, sediments, and other impurities out of drinking water; and recharge groundwater. Widespread ditching and draining through the 1980s led to the loss of 50 percent of Wisconsin’s original wetlands. Ozaukee County is actively engaged in private and public wetland restorations and has created, enhanced, or restored 300+ wetlands to date.



HOTSPOTS

1. Trinity Creek Wildlife Habitat is a 35-acre restored stream and wetland system designed to provide floodwater storage, improve water quality, and provide habitat for northern pike spawning, as well as for shorebirds and waterfowl. A trail loop allows for great views of species such as sandpipers, Blue-winged Teal, herons, and egrets.

7. Ridgewood Wetland – Part of the Ulao Creek subwatershed, this area supports waterfowl and marsh species such as Green Heron and Red-winged Blackbird.

11. Cedar Grove WPA – This 120-acre property boasts 87 acres of warm-season grasses that provide habitat for nesting Mallards and Blue-winged Teal, as well as other grassland species. Seven wetlands support a myriad of aquatic bird species.

D. Blue Wing WPA – At this 54-acre property, species such as American Bittern and Green Heron share the wetland area with Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds, while Rough-legged Hawks and American Kestrels survey the grasslands for rodents. Other grassland species such as Sedge Wren and Common Yellowthroat can frequently be found on the site.

E. Ulao WPA – This 44-acre property provides feeding and resting habitat for many migratory bird species following the Lake Michigan coastline. The 14-acre main wetland area hosts a variety of waterfowl and marsh birds like Common Moorhen, Sora, and Willow Flycatcher. The 25 acres of grasslands provide habitat for species such as Upland Sandpiper and Bobolink.

G. Stonecroft Pond – As many as 110 species, including a rich variety of water birds, have been sighted from this 11-acre wetland and adjacent 24 acres of grassland. Rarities include Snowy and Cattle Egret and Little Blue Heron.



American Bittern

**Typical Bird Species:
(Waterfowl)**
American Black Duck
American Wigeon
Blue-winged Teal
Canada Goose
Gadwall
Green-winged Teal
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Ruddy Duck



Blue-winged Teal

**Typical Bird Species:
(Marsh birds)**
Black and Forster’s Tern
Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs
Sandhill Crane
Sedge and Marsh Wren
Solitary and Spotted Sandpiper
Sora
Wilson’s Snipe
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Yellow Rail



Lesser Yellowlegs

WETLAND HABITAT