

Species (continued)	Sp	S	F	W
Northern mockingbird*	U	U		
American robin*	A	A		
Eastern bluebird*	C	C		
Golden-crowned kinglet	U			
Ruby-crowned kinglet	U			
Blue-gray gnatcatcher		U		
Cedar waxwing*	C	C	C	
Loggerhead shrike	O			
European starling*	A	A	A	A
Red-eye vireo*	U	U		
Bell's vireo	O	O		
Yellow throated vireo	O	O		
Warbling vireo	O	O		
Cerulean warbler*	O			
Kentucky warbler	O	O		
Blue-winged warbler	O	O		
Prothonotary warbler	O			
Ovenbird		O		
Louisiana waterthrush		O		
Common yellowthroat*	C	C	C	
Yellow warbler*	C	C		
American redstart	O	O		
Bobolink*		U		
Eastern meadowlark*	C	C	C	C
Western meadowlark	O	O		
Red-winged blackbird*	A	A	A	
Brewer's blackbird	U		U	
Common grackle*	A	A	A	
Brown-headed cowbird*		U		
Baltimore oriole*	C	C		
Orchard oriole	U	U		
Northern cardinal*	C	C	C	C
Indigo bunting*		C		
Rose-breasted grosbeak		O		

Species (continued)	Sp	S	F	W
Dickcissel*		C		
Eastern towhee		O		
Savannah sparrow*	U	U	U	
Grasshopper sparrow*	U	U		
Henslow's sparrow*	O	O		
Vesper sparrow	U	U		
Lark sparrow	O			
Dark-eyed junco*				A
American tree sparrow*				A
Chipping sparrow*	C	C		
Field sparrow*	U	U		
Harris sparrow	O		O	
White-crowned sparrow	U		U	
White-throated sparrow	U		U	
Song sparrow*	C	C	C	C
Snow bunting				U
Evening grosbeak				O
Purple finch*				C
House finch*		U		C
American goldfinch*	C	C	C	C
House sparrow*	A	A	A	A

### Sources

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### Protecting the Habitat of Our Heritage

The Park Vital Signs Monitoring Program, established in the late 1990s, organized all national parks with significant natural resources into 32 networks. The Heartland Network monitors for key long-term indicators of change— “vital signs”— in the national parks of the central states. Such efforts will help provide early detection of potential problems and will enable park managers to take action to restore ecological health of park resources.



### Natural Resource Monitoring

Heartland Inventory and Monitoring Network  
[www.nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln](http://www.nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln)

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site  
[www.nps.gov/heho](http://www.nps.gov/heho)

NPS photo  
 Eastern Bluebird  
 eggs in a nest:  
 bluebirds are cavity  
 nesters, and use the  
 nest boxes on the  
 edges of the prairie.



National Park Service  
 U.S. Department of the Interior



Herbert Hoover National Historic Site  
 Iowa

# Bird Checklist for Herbert Hoover NHS



NPS Photo  
 A great horned owl is well-camouflaged in a tree on the edge of the prairie.

## Monitoring Birds at Herbert Hoover NHS

Birds perch, flutter, nest, hunt, and soar at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. The park is on the Mississippi flyway, a major bird migration route. It offers an excellent grassland habitat teeming with insects and prairie plant seeds. Many species rest and take refuge in the park's reconstructed tallgrass prairie and along its quiet stream.

Birds' colors and songs add visible and audible vitality to the park's dignified commemorative setting. The presence or absence of grassland birds like sedge wrens, dickcissels, grasshopper sparrows, Henslow's sparrows, bobolinks, and eastern meadowlarks indicate the prairie's overall health. Populations of these species decline as prairies disappear from the landscape. Several species are of continental importance because of their dwindling numbers.

Volunteers survey breeding birds at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site using established scientific protocol. The findings supplement inventory and monitoring data collected by National Park Service biologists. Studying long-term changes in bird populations helps park managers evaluate prairie restoration efforts, the effectiveness of management methods (such as prescribed fire), and the quality of habitat the park provides.



NPS Photo  
A red-winged blackbird guards its territory in the tallgrass prairie.

## Share Your Observations

This checklist is your own tool for measuring the vital signs of Herbert Hoover National Historic Site's natural areas. Visitors are always encouraged to share their observations with the park staff.

When reporting a sighting, please address the following:

1. Which bird did you see and how many?
2. What was it doing?
3. Where precisely did you see it (location and habitat)?
4. When did you see it (date and time of day?)
5. What was the weather?

## Your Field Notes:

## Key to the Checklist

Sp = Spring  
S = Summer  
F = Fall  
W = Winter

A = Abundant, very numerous  
C = Common, almost certain to be seen  
U = Uncommon, present but not readily seen  
O = Occasional, seen rarely

\*Confirmed resident or breeder at Herbert Hoover NHS

Species	Sp	S	F	W
Mallard*	C	C	C	
Wood duck	O	O		
Turkey vulture		U		
Northern harrier	O	O	O	
Rough-legged hawk				U
Red-tailed hawk*	C	C	C	C
Broad-winged hawk	O			
Bald eagle*	U	U	U	U
Osprey	O	O		
American kestrel*	C	C	C	
Wild turkey	O	O	O	O
Northern bobwhite*	U	U	U	
Ring-necked pheasant*	C	C	C	C
Great blue heron*	U	U		
Black-crowned night heron		O		
Killdeer*		C		
Spotted sandpiper		O		
American woodcock	O			
Common Snipe		O		
Rock dove	U	U	U	U
Mourning dove*	C	C	C	
Yellow-billed cuckoo	U	U		
Black-billed cuckoo		O		
Eastern screech owl	U	U	U	U

Species (continued)	Sp	S	F	W
Great horned owl*	C	C	C	C
Barred owl	O		O	
Barn owl		O		
Common nighthawk*	C	C		
Chimney swift*	C	C		
Ruby-throated hummingbird*		C		
Belted kingfisher		O		
Common flicker	U	U	U	
Red-bellied woodpecker	U	U	U	U
Red-headed woodpecker*		U		
Hairy woodpecker	U		U	U
Downey woodpecker*	C		C	C
Eastern kingbird*	C	C		
Northern flicker	U	U	U	
Great-crested flycatcher*	C	C		
Willow flycatcher	O	O		
Eastern phoebe		O		
Eastern wood-pewee*	C	C		
Horned lark	U	U	U	U
Barn swallow*	A	A		
Cliff swallow*	A	A		
Tree swallow*	C	C		
Northern rough-winged swallow*	U	U		
Purple martin*	U	U		
Blue jay*	A	A	A	A
American crow*	A	A	A	A
Black-capped chickadee*	U	U	U	U
White-breasted nuthatch	U		U	U
Brown creeper	U	U		
Sedge wren*	U	U		
House wren*	C	C		
Brown thrasher*		U		
Gray catbird*	C	C		