

Dixon Waterfowl Refuge, Illinois, USA

Summer Birds of the Prairie–Wetland Boardwalk 1

Vera Leopold and Phoebe Thatcher – The Wetlands Initiative

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References: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Allaboutbirds.org.

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1 *Spatula discors*
Blue-winged Teal: Small dabbling duck. Males have white crescent in front of eye, white near tail; females brown.



2 *Oxyura jamaicensis*
Ruddy Duck: Scoop-shaped bill, stiff tail often held up. Breeding males have blue bill, chestnut body, white cheeks.



3 *Podilymbus podiceps*
Pied-billed Grebe: Small diving waterbird. Builds nests on floating vegetation. Short, thick two-toned bill.



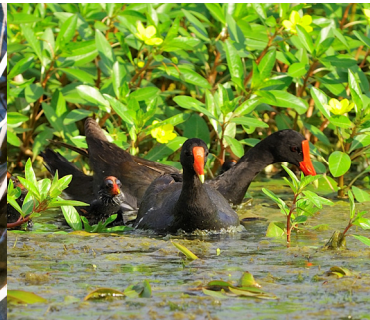
4 *Rallus elegans*
King Rail: Large chickenlike marsh bird. Long down-curved bill. Upperparts mottled brown/rusty, flanks barred white.



5 *Rallus limicola*
Virginia Rail: Slender bird that walks through marsh. Gray cheeks, reddish bill, black-and-white barring on flanks.



6 *Porzana carolina*
Sora: A common rail, whinny call more often heard than seen. Stubby yellow bill, black mask. Walks with jerking motion.



7 *Gallinula galeata*
Common Gallinule: Formerly called moorhen. Rail that swims like a duck. Black with red shield over bill.



8 *Charadrius vociferus*
Killdeer: Named for call. Brown/white shorebird, 2 black breast bands. Adults do broken-wing display to distract predators.



9 *Chlidonias niger*
Black Tern: Small, dark gull-like bird with graceful, buoyant wingbeats. Late-summer birds have mostly-white head.



10 *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*
American White Pelican: Huge white waterbird with black flight feathers. Long yellow bill with extendable pouch.



11 *Ixobrychus exilis*
Least Bittern: Tiny heron, conceals very well in vegetation. Hunchbacked, black crown/back, neck striped chestnut.



12 *Ardea herodias*
Great Blue Heron: Very large and tall wading bird. Grayish-blue overall, black crown and head plumes on adult.



13 *Ardea alba*
Great Egret: Long-legged, elegant wading bird. All white with black legs, S-curved neck, and dagger-like yellow bill.



14 *Cistothorus palustris*
Marsh Wren: Rusty brown, cocked tail, black-and-white streaks on back. Gurgling song within marsh vegetation.



15 *Agelaius phoeniceus*
Red-winged Blackbird: Name descriptive: Males puff out red shoulder patches when singing. Females streaked.



16 *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*
Yellow-headed Blackbird: Large blackbird, golden head, white wing patch. Grating song like a rusty gate opening.