



## GUIDE TO LAKE COUNTY BIRDS

Learn the best times and places to see different bird groups in Lake County.

### DUCKS

Northern migration: February–May; Southern migration: October–November. Some ducks are winter visitors to Lake County.

ALMOND MARSH  
CUBA MARSH  
DES PLAINES RIVER\*  
FORT SHERIDAN

ROLLINS SAVANNA\*  
VAN PATTEN WOODS  
(STERLING LAKE)

### NEO-TROPICAL MIGRANTS

Spring is a great time to look for members of this group including warblers, vireos, hummingbirds, wrens, thrushes and more.

DES PLAINES RIVER\*  
GRANT WOODS  
MACARTHUR WOODS\*

RYERSON WOODS\*  
WRIGHT WOODS\*

### SPARROWS

The first to arrive (late March) are song sparrows and white-throated sparrows passing through on their journeys farther north.

*Sparrows can be seen countywide.*

*Nesting sparrows:*  
MIDDLEFORK SAVANNA\*  
ROLLINS SAVANNA\*

### BLACKBIRDS

Male red-winged blackbirds are true harbingers of spring. Other members of this group, such as grackles and cowbirds, follow in April.

*Red-winged blackbirds are found near marshy areas.*

*Look on the edge of wooded areas for cowbirds.*

*Yellow-headed blackbirds:*  
MIDDLEFORK SAVANNA\*  
ROLLINS SAVANNA\*

### SHOREBIRDS

Kildeer: early March; other shorebirds return April–May. Many visiting shorebirds pass by on their trips farther north. This group is hard to spot during dry seasons.

ALMOND MARSH  
CUBA MARSH  
DES PLAINES RIVER\*  
FORT SHERIDAN

MIDDLEFORK SAVANNA\*  
ROLLINS SAVANNA\*  
VAN PATTEN WOODS  
(STERLING LAKE)

### WOODPECKERS

Year-round: northern flickers and downy, hairy, red-bellied and red-headed; spring: pileated (rare); spring & fall: yellow-bellied sapsuckers.

*Look in wooded preserves:*  
FORT SHERIDAN  
MACARTHUR WOODS\*

MIDDLEFORK SAVANNA\*  
ROLLINS SAVANNA\*  
RYERSON WOODS\*

*\*Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve, and the upper Des Plaines River Corridor (including Cabokia Flatwoods, Captain Daniel Wright Woods, southern portions of the Des Plaines River Trail and Greenway, Grainger Woods Conservation Preserve, Half Day, MacArthur Woods, and Ryerson Conservation Area) have been designated as Important Bird Areas by National Audubon for providing critical bird habitat.*

*\*\*Please limit birding at this site to the closed road that goes through the preserve. Parking can be found 1/4 mile east at North Point Marina.*



### BLUEBIRDS

May be seen year-round, although March–November yields the most sightings.

*Bluebirds are found on the edge of wooded areas:*

ALMOND MARSH  
BUFFALO CREEK  
GRASSY LAKE  
INDEPENDENCE GROVE  
OLD SCHOOL  
RYERSON WOODS\*  
SINGING HILLS

### CRANES, HERONS, EGRETS

Can be seen in wetlands countywide March–November.

*Look in preserves with wetlands:*

ALMOND MARSH  
CUBA MARSH  
DES PLAINES RIVER\*  
FOURTH LAKE  
FOX RIVER  
LAKEWOOD

MIDDLEFORK SAVANNA\*  
NIPPERSINK  
ROLLINS SAVANNA\*  
SEDGE MEADOW  
SINGING HILLS  
VAN PATTEN WOODS  
WRIGHT WOODS\*

### OWLS

Year-round residents: barred, eastern screech, and great-horned owls. Winter visitors: long-eared, saw-whet, short-eared and snowy owls.

*Great-horned and eastern screech owls seek wooded preserves.*

*Barred owls are found in floodplains:*

MACARTHUR WOODS  
RYERSON WOODS\*

*Snowy owls can be seen along Lake Michigan:*

FORT SHERIDAN  
SPRING BLUFF\*\*

*Long-eared and saw-whet owls prefer evergreens:*

LYONS WOODS  
PINE DUNES



### OSPREYS, HARRIERS, HAWKS, EAGLES

Southern migration: September–October yields the most variety, especially along Lake Michigan—watch for bald eagle, broad-winged hawk, Cooper’s hawk, northern harrier, osprey, red-shouldered hawk and red-tailed hawk.

*Southern migration:*

FORT SHERIDAN  
Bald eagles:  
DES PLAINES RIVER\*  
FOX RIVER  
INDEPENDENCE GROVE

*Hawks are seen countywide.*

*Northern harrier:*  
ROLLINS SAVANNA\*





KEY: h) red-eyed vireo i) belted kingfisher j) red-winged blackbird k) blue-winged teal l) dark-eyed junco m) eastern screech owl  
n) tree swallow o) blackburnian warbler p) great blue heron q) kildeer r) green heron s) American woodcock t) ruby-throated hummingbird  
u) American goldfinch v) cardinal