



Checklist of the Birds of Cass (ND) and Clay (MN) Counties
 (compiled by Keith Korliss; logo: Sujana Henkanaththegedara)
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Abundance Codes:

- (A) = abundant, present in large numbers
 (C) = common, present in good numbers, always seen in appropriate habitat
 (FC) = fairly common, present in smaller numbers, not always seen.
 (U) = uncommon, present in low numbers, seldom seen
 (R) = rare, a surprise appearance
 (Acc) = accidental, seen less than five times
 *Breeding reported within Cass-Clay.

ANATIDAE: ducks, geese, and swans

- Greater White-fronted Goose: (C) spring migrant, (U) fall migrant
- Snow Goose: (FC)-(A) migrant; higher numbers in Cass
- Ross's Goose: (U) migrant; higher numbers in Cass
- Cackling Goose: (C) migrant
- Canada Goose*: (C) year-round resident; winters N. Moorhead
- Trumpeter Swan: (R) migrant/summer resident; increasing
- Tundra Swan: (FC)-(C) migrant
- Wood Duck*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Gadwall*: (C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Eurasian Wigeon: (Acc) migrant, 1 spring record Cass
- American Wigeon*: (C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- American Black Duck: (R) spring, (U) fall migrant
- Mallard*: (A) migrant, (C) summer resident, (FC) winter resident N. Moorhead
- Blue-winged Teal*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Northern Shoveler*: (C)-(A) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Northern Pintail*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident; variable
- Garganey: (Acc) migrant; 1 spring record, Cass
- Green-winged Teal: (C) migrant, (R) summer resident
- Canvasback*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Redhead*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Ring-necked Duck: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Greater Scaup: (U) migrant
- Lesser Scaup: (A) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Harlequin Duck: (Acc) fall migrant, 2 Cass records
- Surf Scoter: (Acc) spring, (R) fall migrant
- White-winged Scoter: (Acc) spring, (R) fall migrant
- Black Scoter: (R) fall migrant
- Long-tailed Duck: (R) migrant
- Bufflehead: (C) migrant
- Common Goldeneye: (FC) migrant
- Hooded Merganser*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Common Merganser: (FC) migrant
- Red-breasted Merganser: (U) migrant
- Ruddy Duck*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident

PHASIANIDAE: partridges, grouse, turkeys, and Old World quail

- Gray Partridge*: (FC) year-round resident
- Ring-necked Pheasant*: (FC) year-round resident, prairie areas
- Ruffed Grouse: (Acc) Cass County, (U) localized Clay resident
- Sharp-tailed Grouse*: (U) year-round resident
- Greater Prairie Chicken*: (R) Cass, (FC) localized Clay resident
- Wild Turkey*: (FC) resident; riparian and wooded areas

GAVIIDAE: loons

- Common Loon: (U) migrant, (R) summer resident

PODICIPEDIDAE: grebes

- Pied-billed Grebe*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Horned Grebe: (FC) migrant
- Red-necked Grebe*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Eared Grebe*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Western Grebe*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident, (A) at Lake Bertha (Cass County)
- Clark's Grebe: (R) migrant/summer resident

PHALACROCORACIDAE: cormorants

- Double-crested Cormorant: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident

PELICANIDAE: pelicans

- American White Pelican: (FC) migrant/summer vagrant

ARDEIDAE: bitterns, herons, and allies

- American Bittern*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Least Bittern*: (R) migrant/summer resident
- Great Blue Heron*: (FC) migrant, summer resident; 1 known rookery, northern Cass
- Great Egret: (U) migrant, (R)-(U) summer resident
- Snowy Egret: (R) migrant/summer resident
- Little Blue Heron: (Acc) migrant/summer vagrant
- Cattle Egret*: (U) migrant, (R)-(U) summer resident; variable
- Green Heron*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Black-crowned Night-Heron*: (U) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: (Acc) spring, summer

THRESKIORNITHIDAE: ibises and spoonbills

- White-faced Ibis*: (R)-(U) migrant/summer resident; variable

CATHARTIDAE: vultures

- Turkey Vulture: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident; increasing

PANDIONIDAE: osprey

- Osprey: (U) migrant, (R) summer vagrant

ACCIPITRIDAE: hawks, kites, eagles, and allies

- Mississippi Kite: (Acc) spring migrant; 1 Clay record
- Bald Eagle*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter; increasing
- Northern Harrier*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (R)-(U) winter
- Sharp-shinned Hawk*: (FC) migrant, (R) summer resident, (U) winter resident
- Cooper's Hawk*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter
- Northern Goshawk: (R) migrant/winter resident
- Red-shouldered Hawk: (R) migrant, (Acc) summer resident
- Broad-winged Hawk: (C) migrant, (R) summer resident
- Swainson's Hawk*: (U) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Red-tailed Hawk*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter
- Ferruginous Hawk: (R) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Rough-legged Hawk: (U) migrant, (R)-(FC) winter; variable
- Golden Eagle: (R) migrant/winter resident

FALCONIDAE: falcons and caracaras

- American Kestrel*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident, (U) winter
- Merlin*: (U) migrant/resident; now an urban nesting species
- Gyrfalcon: (Acc) migrant; 4 records
- Peregrine Falcon*: (U) migrant/summer resident; celebrated pair nests annually in downtown Fargo
- Prairie Falcon: (R) migrant/winter resident, (Acc) summer vagrant

RALLIDAE: rails, gallinules, and coots

- Yellow Rail: (R) migrant/summer resident
- Virginia Rail*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Sora*: (FC) migrant, (C) summer resident
- Common Moorhen: (Acc) migrant
- American Coot*: (A) migrant, (C) summer resident

GRUINAE: cranes

- Sandhill Crane: (FC) migrant, (Acc) summer resident
- Whooping Crane: (Acc) migrant; 1 Clay County record

CHARADRIINAE: plovers

- Black-bellied Plover: (FC) migrant
- American Golden-Plover: (FC) spring, (C) fall migrant
- Snowy Plover: (Acc) summer vagrant
- Semipalmated Plover: (FC) migrant
- Piping Plover*: (R) spring migrant, (Acc) summer resident
- Killdeer*: (A) migrant and summer resident

RECURVIROSTRIDAE: stilts and avocets

- Black-necked Stilt*: (R) migrant, (Acc) summer resident
- American Avocet*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident

SCOLOPACIDAE: sandpipers, phalaropes, and allies

- Spotted Sandpiper*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Solitary Sandpiper: (U)-(FC) migrant
- Greater Yellowlegs: (FC)-(C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Willet: (U)-(FC) migrant
- Lesser Yellowlegs: (C)-(A) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Upland Sandpiper*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, prairie
- Whimbrel: (R) spring migrant
- Hudsonian Godwit: (U) migrant, (R) summer vagrant
- Marbled Godwit*: (FC) spring/summer, prairie; (U) fall migrant
- Ruddy Turnstone: (U) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Red Knot: (R) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Sanderling: (FC) migrant
- Semipalmated Sandpiper: (C) migrant, (U) summer vagrant
- Western Sandpiper: (R) migrant
- Least Sandpiper: (C)-(A) migrant, (C) summer vagrant
- White-rumped Sandpiper: (C) late spring migrant, (R)-(U) fall
- Baird's Sandpiper: (C) migrant, (R) summer vagrant
- Pectoral Sandpiper: (C)-(A) migrant, (R) summer vagrant
- Dunlin: (FC) migrant, (R) summer vagrant
- Curlew Sandpiper: (Acc) fall migrant, 1 Cass record
- Stilt Sandpiper: (FC) migrant, (U) summer vagrant
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper: (Acc) spring, (R) summer/fall migrant
- Ruff: (Acc) spring migrant/summer vagrant
- Short-billed Dowitcher: (FC)-(C) migrant, (U) summer vagrant
- Long-billed Dowitcher: (U)-(FC) migrant
- Wilson's Snipe*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- American Woodcock*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Wilson's Phalarope*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Red-necked Phalarope: (FC) migrant/summer vagrant
- Red Phalarope: (Acc) migrant

LARIDAE: gulls, terns, and skimmers

- Sabine's Gull: (R) fall migrant, sightings on the increase
- Bonaparte's Gull: (FC) migrant
- Little Gull: (Acc) spring migrant; 2 Cass records
- Franklin's Gull*: (A) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Ring-billed Gull: (C)-(A) migrant, (C) summer resident
- California Gull: (U)-(FC) migrant, (U) summer, mainly Cass
- Herring Gull: (U) migrant
- Thayer's Gull: (R) migrant
- Iceland Gull: (Acc) spring migrant; 1 Cass record
- Lesser Black-backed Gull: (Acc) spring migrant; 3 Cass records
- Caspian Tern: (R) migrant/summer vagrant
- Black Tern*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Common Tern: (R)-(U) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Forster's Tern*: (U)-(FC) migrant, (U) summer resident

STERCORARIIDAE: skuas and jaegers

- Jaeger sp.: (Acc) fall; 1 Cass record, species undetermined

COLUMBIDAE: pigeons and doves

- Rock Pigeon*: (C)-(A) permanent resident
- Eurasian Collared-Dove*: (FC) permanent resident; first noted 2005, expanding, especially in smaller towns
- White-winged Dove: (Acc) spring vagrant, 3 recent records
- Mourning Dove*: (A) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter resident

CUCULIDAE: cuckoos, roadrunners, and anis

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (R)-(U) migrant/summer resident; irruptive
- Black-billed Cuckoo*: (U)-(FC) migrant/summer resident; irruptive

TYTONIDAE: barn owls

- Barn Owl: (Acc) vagrant

STRIGIDAE: typical owls

- Eastern Screech-Owl*: (U) resident; getting harder to find
- Great Horned Owl*: (FC) permanent resident
- Snowy Owl: (R)-(U) winter resident, irruptive
- Northern Hawk Owl: (Acc) fall/winter vagrant
- Burrowing Owl: (Acc) vagrant; 2 recent nesting attempts Clay
- Barred Owl*: (R)-(U) all seasons
- Great Gray Owl: (Acc) fall/winter vagrant
- Long-eared Owl*: (R) migrant/resident; an overlooked species
- Short-eared Owl*: (U) migrant/resident; irruptive
- Boreal Owl: (Acc) winter vagrant
- Northern Saw-whet Owl: (R) migrant/winter resident; overlooked

CAPRIMULGIDAE: nightjars

- Common Nighthawk*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Eastern Whip-poor-will: (R) migrant

APODIDAE: swifts

- Chimney Swift*: (C) migrant/summer resident; localized

TROCHILIDAE: hummingbirds

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident

ALCEDINIDAE: kingfishers

- Belted Kingfisher*: (FC) migrant /summer resident

PICIDAE: woodpeckers and allies

- Red-headed Woodpecker*: (U) migrant/summer resident, (Acc) winter resident
- Red-bellied Woodpecker*: (U)-(FC) permanent resident
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter resident
- Downy Woodpecker*: (C) permanent resident
- Hairy Woodpecker*: (C) permanent resident
- Black-backed Woodpecker: (Acc) winter vagrant
- Northern Flicker*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter resident
- Pileated Woodpecker*: (U)-(FC) permanent resident

TYRANNIDAE: tyrant flycatchers

- Olive-sided Flycatcher: (U) migrant
- Eastern Wood-Pewee*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: (R)-(U) migrant
- Acadian Flycatcher: (Acc) summer vagrant, 1 Clay record
- Alder Flycatcher: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Willow Flycatcher*: (U)-(FC) migrant/summer resident
- Least Flycatcher*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Eastern Phoebe*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Say's Phoebe*: (R) migrant/summer resident, Cass; (Acc) Clay
- Great Crested Flycatcher*: (C) migrant /summer resident
- Western Kingbird*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Eastern Kingbird*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: (Acc) spring/summer, 2 Clay records

LANIIDAE: shrikes

- Loggerhead Shrike*: (U) migrant/summer resident, Clay; (R) Cass
- Northern Shrike: (U) winter resident

VIREONIDAE: vireos

- White-eyed Vireo: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant, 3 Clay records
- Yellow-throated Vireo*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Plumbeous Vireo: (Acc) spring vagrant, 1 Cass record
- Blue-headed Vireo: (FC) migrant
- Warbling Vireo*: (C) migrant /summer resident
- Philadelphia Vireo: (U) migrant

- Red-eyed Vireo*: (C) migrant/summer resident

CORVIDAE: jays and crows

- Gray Jay: (Acc) winter vagrant Cass, (R) Clay; irruptive
- Blue Jay*: (FC) migrant/year-round resident; partially migratory
- Clark's Nutcracker: (Acc) winter vagrant
- Black-billed Magpie*: (Acc)-(U) vagrant/resident; absent recently
- American Crow*: (A) year-round resident
- Common Raven: (R) vagrant; possibly increasing

ALAUDIDAE: larks

- Horned Lark*: (A) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter resident

HIRUNDINIDAE: swallows

- Purple Martin*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Tree Swallow*: (A) migrant, (C) summer resident
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow*: (FC) spring migrant/summer resident, (U) fall migrant
- Bank Swallow*: (FC) spring migrant/summer resident, (U) fall migrant
- Cliff Swallow*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Barn Swallow*: (C) migrant/summer resident

PARIDAE: chickadees and titmice

- Black-capped Chickadee*: (C) year-round resident
- Boreal Chickadee: (Acc) spring vagrant; 1 Clay record

SITTIDAE: nuthatches

- Red-breasted Nuthatch: (R)-(FC) migrant/winter resident, (R) summer resident; irruptive
- White-breasted Nuthatch*: (C) year-round resident
- Pygmy Nuthatch: (Acc) fall vagrant; 1 record

CERTHIDAE: creepers

- Brown Creeper: (FC) migrant, (R)-(U) winter; undercounted

TROGLODYTIDAE: wrens

- Rock Wren: (R) migrant/summer vagrant
- Carolina Wren: (Acc) fall/winter vagrant; 1 record each county
- House Wren*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Winter Wren: (R)-(U) migrant
- Sedge Wren*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Marsh Wren*: (C) migrant/summer resident

POLIOPTILIDAE: gnatcatchers and allies

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*: (R) migrant/summer resident

REGULIDAE: kinglets

- Golden-crowned Kinglet: (FC) migrant, (R)-(U) winter resident
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (A) migrant

TURDIDAE: thrushes

- Eastern Bluebird*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Mountain Bluebird: (R) migrant
- Townsend's Solitaire: (R) spring, fall, and winter vagrant
- Veery*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Gray-cheeked Thrush: (FC) spring migrant, (U) fall migrant
- Swainson's Thrush: (C) migrant
- Hermit Thrush: (FC) migrant, (R) winter resident
- Wood Thrush: (R) migrant/summer resident
- American Robin*: (A) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter
- Varied Thrush: (R) migrant/winter resident

MIMIDAE: mockingbirds and thrashers

- Gray Catbird*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (Acc) winter resident
- Northern Mockingbird*: (R) migrant/resident, 1 Cass nest record
- Sage Thrasher: (Acc) spring vagrant, 1 Cass record
- Brown Thrasher*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter

STURNIDAE: starlings

- European Starling*: (A) year-round resident

MOTALLICIDAE: wagtails and pipits

- American Pipit: (U)-(FC) migrant
- Sprague's Pipit*: (R) migrant/summer resident; no recent nests

BOMBYCILLIDAE: waxwings

- Bohemian Waxwing: (R)-(FC) migrant/winter resident, irruptive
- Cedar Waxwing*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter

CALCARIIDAE: longspurs

- Lapland Longspur: (C)-(A) migrant, (U) winter resident
- Chestnut-collared Longspur*: (R) migrant, (FC) summer resident at Felton Prairie, Clay
- Smith's Longspur: (R) migrant
- Snow Bunting: (C)-(A) migrant/winter resident

PARULIDAE: wood-warblers

- "Brewster's" Warbler: (Acc) spring vagrant, 3 records (note: hybrid, not a true species)
- Blue-winged Warbler: (R) spring vagrant, (Acc) fall vagrant
- Golden-winged Warbler: (U) spring migrant, (R) fall migrant
- Tennessee Warbler: (A) spring, (C) fall, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Orange-crowned Warbler: (C) migrant
- Nashville Warbler: (C) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Northern Parula: (U) spring migrant, (R) fall migrant
- Yellow Warbler*: (C) migrant and summer resident
- Chestnut-sided Warbler: (U)-(FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Magnolia Warbler: (FC)-(C) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Cape May Warbler: (R)-(U) migrant
- Black-throated Blue Warbler: (R) migrant
- Yellow-rumped Warbler: (A) migrant
- Black-throated Gray Warbler: (Acc) spring migrant, 1 Cass record
- Black-throated Green Warbler: (U) migrant
- Townsend's Warbler: (Acc) fall migrant; 1 Cass record
- Blackburnian Warbler: (FC) migrant
- Yellow-throated Warbler: (Acc) migrant; 1 spring, 1 fall record
- Pine Warbler: (R) migrant
- Palm Warbler: (C) migrant
- Bay-breasted Warbler: (U) migrant, (Acc) summer; 3 records
- Blackpoll Warbler: (FC)-(C) migrant
- Cerulean Warbler: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant; 3 records
- Black-and-white Warbler: (C) migrant
- American Redstart*: (C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Prothonotary Warbler: (R) spring migrant, (Acc) fall migrant
- Worm-eating Warbler: (Acc) spring vagrant
- Ovenbird: (C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Northern Waterthrush: (C) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Kentucky Warbler: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant; 3 records
- Connecticut Warbler: (U) spring migrant, (R) fall migrant
- Mourning Warbler: (FC) migrant
- Common Yellowthroat*: (C)-(A) migrant/summer resident
- Hooded Warbler: (R) spring migrant
- Wilson's Warbler: (FC) migrant
- Canada Warbler: (U) migrant
- Yellow-breasted Chat: (R) migrant /summer resident, (Acc) winter vagrant; 1 record

EMBERIZIDAE: emberezids

- Spotted Towhee: (R) migrant
- Eastern Towhee: (U) migrant, (Acc) winter resident; 3 records
- American Tree Sparrow: (FC) migrant, (R)-(U) winter resident
- Chipping Sparrow*: (A) migrant /summer resident
- Clay-colored Sparrow*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Field Sparrow: (R)-(U) migrant, (FC) summer resident E. Clay
- Vesper Sparrow*: (A) migrant/summer resident
- Lark Sparrow*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Black-throated Sparrow: (Acc) spring vagrant; 1 record
- Lark Bunting: (R) summer resident; no recent records
- Savannah Sparrow*: (A) migrant/summer resident
- Grasshopper Sparrow*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Baird's Sparrow: (R) migrant/summer resident; mainly Clay
- Henslow's Sparrow: (R) spring migrant /summer resident; Clay
- LeConte's Sparrow*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Nelson's Sparrow*: (R) migrant/summer resident
- Fox Sparrow: (FC) migrant, (R) winter resident
- Song Sparrow*: (A) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter resident

- Lincoln's Sparrow: (FC) migrant
- Swamp Sparrow*: (FC) migrant /summer resident
- White-throated Sparrow: (A) migrant, (R) summer/winter resident
- Harris's Sparrow: (C)-(A) migrant, (R) winter resident
- White-crowned Sparrow: (U)-(FC) migrant, (Acc) winter resident
- Dark-eyed Junco: (A) migrant, (FC) winter resident

CARDINALIDAE: tanagers, grosbeaks, and allies

- Summer Tanager: (R) spring migrant
- Scarlet Tanager*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Western Tanager: (Acc) spring migrant; 4 records
- Northern Cardinal*: (U) permanent resident
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Black-headed Grosbeak: (R) spring migrant
- Blue Grosbeak: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant
- Lazuli Bunting: (R) spring vagrant
- Indigo Bunting*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Dickcissel*: (R)-(U) summer resident; irruptive

ICTERIDAE: blackbirds

- Bobolink*: (C)-(A) migrant /summer resident
- Red-winged Blackbird*: (A) migrant /summer resident, (U) winter
- Eastern Meadowlark: (R) spring/summer vagrant
- Western Meadowlark*: (C) migrant /summer resident, (R) winter
- Yellow-headed Blackbird*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Rusty Blackbird: (FC) migrant, (R) winter resident
- Brewer's Blackbird*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter
- Common Grackle*: (A) migrant /summer resident, (R) winter
- Great-tailed Grackle: (Acc) spring vagrant; 1 record
- Brown-headed Cowbird*: (A) spring migrant/summer resident, (U) fall migrant
- Orchard Oriole*: (U) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Baltimore Oriole*: (C) migrant and summer resident

FRINGILLIDAE: fringilline and cardueline finches and allies

- Pine Grosbeak: (R) winter resident; irruptive
- Purple Finch: (FC) migrant, (U) winter resident
- Cassin's Finch: (Acc) migrant; 2 records
- House Finch*: (C) migrant /permanent resident; partially migratory
- Red Crossbill*: (R) year-round; irruptive
- White-winged Crossbill: (R)-(U) vagrant/winter resident; irruptive
- Common Redpoll: (R)-(A) winter resident; highly irruptive
- Hoary Redpoll: (R)-(U) winter resident; highly irruptive
- Pine Siskin*: (R)-(FC) migrant/winter resident, (R)-(U) summer resident; irruptive
- American Goldfinch*: (C) migrant /summer resident, (U)-(FC) winter resident
- Evening Grosbeak: (R) winter vagrant; absent in recent years

PASSERIDAE: Old World sparrows

- House Sparrow*: (A) year-round resident, esp. urban areas
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant; 3 records