

**WRP Easement Management
Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Wetland Birds)**

Common name	State Distribution	Area Sensitivity	Habitat Preference
American Bittern	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	High area sensitivity and prefers large wetlands •92-450 acres, but will use smaller wetlands if within wetland-grassland <i>complex</i> of this larger size range.	During breeding season prefers tall, dense, shallow- or deep-water emergent vegetation in wetlands; native vegetation in wet meadows; moderately tall, dense, grassland vegetation in uplands adjacent to wetlands (PPJV), and large prairie marshes w/upland grassland. Often found in 2-4 yr. old restored wetlands, especially when water depth is maintained at ~2ft during breeding season. Typically avoids annually burned and mowed areas.
Least Bittern	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	Moderate area sensitivity •24 acres	Prefer freshwater prairie marshes with tall, dense emergent vegetation, especially cattails and bulrushes. Highest nesting densities in years when ratio of open water to emergent vegetation about equal (hemi-marsh stage).
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8	Probably moderate area sensitivity – forage as much as 5 miles from nest site	Prefer large wetlands and prairie marshes w/emergent vegetation and/or shrubs/trees. Most colonies of black-crowned night herons are associated with large wetlands; especially those with a high proportion of bulrushes and cattails.
Trumpeter Swan	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9	Nesting territories range from 6 to 150 acres in size.	Prefer large, shallow wetlands 1-3 feet deep with a diverse mix of emergent vegetation and open water (forage in water depth <1.2 m). Such locations support a rich variety of submergent plants used for food, such as sago pondweed and water milfoil. These are preferred by Trumpeters, along with such emergent plants as arrowhead, burreed, bulrush, sedges, and wild rice. Need adequate take-off room (~100m): also prefer highly irregular shoreline.
Northern Pintail	2, 3,4,5	Breeding home range varies from +400 to +2,000 acres	Favors open shallow prairie marshes w/ upland grass vegetation; prefers to nest in open upland areas with low/sparse vegetation. During the nesting season eats aquatic insects, mollusks and crustaceans and also feeds on grasses and seeds in fields.
Canvasback	2, 7	Breeding home range varies from ~1300 to +2,500 acres	Favored nesting habitat is shallow prairie marshes encircled by cattails and bulrushes. It is <i>very</i> habitat sensitive and needs deeper, more stable marshes and potholes on which to nest and forage.
Redhead	2, 5, 6, 7	Optimum nesting habitat is wetland • 5 acres and within ¼ mile of large permanent or semi-permanent lakes.	Prefers large semi-permanent wetlands and hemi-marshes w/ submerged vegetation and dense stands of cattail & bulrush. Usually nest in emergent vegetation of larger, deeper prairie potholes, sloughs, and marshes, and adults especially feed on snails and insects.

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King Rail	2, 3,4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Moderate area sensitivity – home range ~50-60 acres	Prefer large wetland complexes consisting of a variety of wetland habitats, sedge meadow zones of wetland edges, seasonal wetlands w/ extensive perennial vegetation. During brood period drying natural swales are extremely important. Foraging water depth <10cm, nesting water depth 0-25cm.
Common Moorhen	Statewide	Probably not area sensitive	Occur in highest nesting density in semi-permanently flooded wetlands that have narrow-leaved persistent emergent vegetation, an abundance of submerged vegetation for food, and equal coverage of vegetation and water. Typically found in deeper, more open water than that of other rallids; nesting water depth ~40cm.
Whooping Crane	2, 3, 4	High area sensitivity. Nesting territory ranges from 0.5 to18 square miles	Prefer very large wetland complex with wet meadows/hayfields and open marshes and grasslands with shallow pools
Sandhill Crane	Statewide	High area sensitivity. Territory • 150 acres Home range +1100 acres	Prefer large wetland complex w/ wet meadows/hayfields and open marshes and grasslands with shallow pools.
Wilson's Phalarope	2, 3,4, 7	Low area sensitivity but requires upland component for nesting.	Prefer wetlands with open water, emergent vegetation, and open shoreline. Nests in upland near water. Nesting habitat varies and includes prairie wetlands, wet meadows, shallow marshes w/upland grass & forbs, and road rights-of-way. When using semi-permanent wetlands, prefer emergent hydrophyte species (ex: willows, Salix sp.) where • 10% of the vegetated wetland contains the hydrophyte species.
Forster's Tern	2, 3, 4, 5	Moderate area sensitivity and seems dependent on larger lakes with marsh borders for nesting.	Prefer large prairie hemi-marsh w/ emergent vegetation and wetlands with considerable open water and large stands of island-like vegetation, especially bulrushes and/or large mats of floating vegetation. Water depths at nests range from 1.5 to 4.2 feet.
Black Tern	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	Moderate area sensitivity prefer >50 acre wetlands	Prefer large semi-permanent prairie hemi-marsh w/ emergent vegetation. Commonly occupy wetlands that are within large wetland complexes with stable water levels throughout the breeding season. Also frequent restored wetlands, flooded sedge(Carex sp.) meadows, lake margins, shallow river impoundments, sewage lagoons, and stock ponds. Water depth influences nest success; preferred nesting water depth 0.05-1.2m
Willow Flycatcher	Statewide	Low area sensitivity	Inhabits willow thickets on wetland edges and moist, shrubby riparian areas - often w/ standing or running water. Commonly nest in willows, dogwood thickets, saplings, and roadside hedges. Nest semi-colonially in good habitat.