

Introduction to the “Wisconsin Bird Nesting Dates (Avoidance Period) for Species Tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory”

The table “Wisconsin Bird Nesting Dates (Avoidance Period) for Species Tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory” below, provides guidance to DNR staff and external certified reviewers who use the NHI Portal for Endangered Resources reviews. This guidance was developed by a team of Natural Heritage Conservation program staff from DNR using the best available information for species on the Natural Heritage Working List. The Nesting Dates (Avoidance Period) table was developed to help customers comply with State and Federal laws and thus avoid “intentional taking, killing, or possession” of bird nests, eggs, and body parts. For each species, the avoidance dates are the period each year when birds are most vulnerable because there are eggs or flightless chicks in nests. Species tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory include endangered, threatened and special concern species. Avoidance of these nesting dates is required for endangered and threatened species and recommended (voluntary) for special concern species. For more information on rare bird species, see the [Rare Bird webpage](#).



Wisconsin Bird Nesting Dates (Avoidance Period) for Species Tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Avoidance Dates
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax vireescens</i>	THR	25 May - 20 Aug
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	SC/M	1 May - 15 July
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	SC/M	1 May - 31 Jul
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	SC/M	1 April - 31 Jul
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	SC/P	January 15 – July 30 (USFWS guidelines)
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	THR	25 May - 5 Aug
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	END	15 May - 31 July
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	SC/M	1 May - 20 July
Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	SC/M	1 May - 15 July
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	SC/M	15 May - 31 July
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorous</i>	SC/M	10 May - 25 July
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonica</i>	SC/M	15 May - 5 July
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	SC/M	1 May - 1 Aug
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	END	20 May - 31 July
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>	THR	20 May - 10 Aug
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	SC/M	10 April - 10 Jul
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	SC/M	20 May - 5 Aug
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	END	15 May - 21 Aug
Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	SC/M	1 June - 15 Aug
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>	SC/M	25 May - 20 Aug
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	SC/M	25 April - 30 July
Eastern Whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>	SC/M	10 May - 10 Aug
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes verspinus</i>	SC/M	10 May - 31 July
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	END	15 May - 15 July
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	SC/M	15 May - 31 July
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannaum</i>	SC/M	10 May - 10 Aug
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	SC/M	5 March to 20 May
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	THR	15 May - 15 July



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<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Avoidance Dates</i>
Greater Prairie Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>	THR	10 May - 1 Aug
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	THR	5 May - 10 Aug
Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>	THR	20 May - 15 Aug
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>	THR	20 May - 10 Aug
King Rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	SC/M	15 May - 1 Aug
Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Setophaga kirtlandii</i>	END	20 May - 31 Jul **Contact the species expert for any activities outside of these dates
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	SC/M	5 May - 31 July
LeConte's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	SC/M	20 May - 20 July
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	SC/M	15 May - 15 Aug
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	SC/M	15 May - 15 Aug
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	END	20 Apr - 1 Aug
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	SC/M	20 March - 20 June
Nelson's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	SC/M	25 May-10 Aug
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	SC/M	1 May - 31 Jul
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	SC/M	20 Mar - 31 July
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	SC/M	1 June - 1 Aug
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	END	15 March - 10 July
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	END	15 May - 30 July
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	SC/M	15 May - 5 Aug
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	SC/M	1 May - 15 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	SC/M	10 May - 15 Aug
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	END	1 May - 15 June
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	THR	1 Apr - 31 Jul
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	SC/M	20 May - 1 Aug
Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	SC/M	15 April - 31 Jul
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	SC/M	20 March - 1 Aug



**Wisconsin Bird Nesting Dates (Avoidance Period)
for Species Tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Avoidance Dates
Spruce Grouse	<i>Falcipennis canadensis</i>	THR	1 May - 1 July
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	SC/M	20 May - 10 Aug
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	THR	30 April - 25 July
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	SC/M	5 May - 1 Aug
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	SC/M	25 Apr - 30 July
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	SC/M	10 May - 20 July
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	END	15 May - 1 Aug
Yellow Rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	THR	1 May - 15 July
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	SC/M	20 May - 5 Aug
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	THR	10 May - 1 Aug
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	SC/M	15 May - 15 July
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	END	15 May - 1 Aug



Introduction to the “Wisconsin Bird Breeding Season (Voluntary Conservation Period) for Species Tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory”

The table “Wisconsin Bird Breeding Season (Voluntary Conservation Period) for Species Tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory” below, provides additional reference information for those who would like to voluntarily avoid disturbance to rare birds during the entire nesting season when birds are mobile and may be able to avoid being taken, but may still be susceptible to disturbance. These breeding season dates include territory establishment, courtship, nest-building, and post-fledgling periods for each species. Species tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory include endangered, threatened and special concern species. Avoidance of these dates is voluntary, but recommended, for endangered, threatened and special concern species. For more information on rare bird species, see the [Rare Bird webpage](#).



**Wisconsin Bird Breeding Season (Voluntary Conservation Period)
for Species Tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory**

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status	Breeding Activity Dates (Territory Establishment, Nest-building to Post-fledgling Dependency)
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	THR	15 May - 31 Aug
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	SC/M	10 April - 10 Aug
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	SC/M	1 April - 31 Aug
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	SC/M	1 March - 15 Aug
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	THR	20 May - 10 Aug
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	END	30 April - 1 Sept
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	SC/M	1 April - 1 Aug
Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	SC/M	7 April - 15 Aug
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	SC/M	1 May - 10 Sept
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	SC/M	1 May - 15 Aug
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonica</i>	SC/M	20 April - 31 July
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	SC/M	20 April - 15 Aug
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	END	15 April - 15 Aug
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>	THR	1 May - 30 Aug
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	SC/M	15 March - 15 Aug
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	SC/M	10 May - 15 Aug
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	END	15 April - 30 Aug
Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	SC/M	15 May - 1 Sept
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>	SC/M	20 May - 25 Aug
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	SC/M	5 April - 15 Aug
Eastern Whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>	SC/M	20 April - 20 Aug
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes versptinus</i>	SC/M	20 April - 31 Aug
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	END	15 April - 30 Aug
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	SC/M	5 May - 15 Aug
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannaum</i>	SC/M	1 May - 20 Aug
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	SC/M	15 Feb - 10 June
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	THR	30 March - 1 Sept

**Wisconsin Bird Breeding Season (Voluntary Conservation Period)
for Species Tracked by the Natural Heritage Inventory**

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status	Breeding Activity Dates (Territory Establishment, Nest-building to Post-fledgling Dependency)
Greater Prairie Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>	THR	1 March - 1 Aug
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	THR	25 April - 25 Aug
Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>	THR	1 May - 1 Sept
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>	THR	1 May - 30 Aug
King Rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	SC/M	28 April - 15 Sept
Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Setophaga kirtlandii</i>	END	1 May - 30 Aug
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	SC/M	20 April - 10 Aug
LeConte's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	SC/M	10 May - 1 Aug
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	SC/M	5 May - 25 Aug
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	SC/M	15 April - 1 Sept
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	END	25 March - 1 Sept
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	SC/M	1 March - 20 July
Nelson's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	SC/M	10 May - 31 Aug
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	SC/M	15 April - 1 Sept
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	SC/M	1 Feb - 15 Aug
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	SC/M	20 May - 15 Aug
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	END	1 March - 31 July
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	END	1 May - 15 Aug
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	SC/M	1 May - 20 Aug
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	SC/M	10 April - 20 Aug
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	SC/M	1 May - 10 Sept
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	END	15 April - 15 Aug
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	THR	15 March - 15 Aug
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	SC/M	10 May - 20 Aug
Rufa Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	SC/FL	May--June - July--Nov
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	SC/M	March--May - Sept--Nov

**Wisconsin Bird Breeding Season (Voluntary Conservation Period)
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Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status	Breeding Activity Dates (Territory Establishment, Nest-building to Post-fledgling Dependency)
Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	SC/M	1 April - 31 Aug
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	SC/M	1 March - 15 Aug
Spruce Grouse	<i>Falcapennis canadensis</i>	THR	1 March - 31 July
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	SC/M	1 May - 20 Aug
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	THR	20 April - 1 Sept
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	SC/M	15 April - 25 Aug
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	SC/M	10 April - 5 Aug
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	SC/M	1 May - 20 Aug
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	END	1 May - 20 Aug
Yellow Rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	THR	15 April - 1 Aug
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	SC/M	15 May - 10 Aug
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	THR	15 April - 1 Sept
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	SC/M	15 April - 15 Aug
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	END	1 May - 15 Aug