

Top 30 Most Wanted Birds Found in North Dakota by Season

late Spring and early Summer

Baird's Sparrows
Yellow Rails
Ferruginous Hawks
Le Conte's Sparrows
Franklin's Gulls
Black Terns
American Avocets
Upland Sandpipers
Swainson's Hawks
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows
Wilson's Phalaropes
Lazuli Buntings
Black-headed Grosbeaks

Year – Round

Gray Partridges
Sharp-tailed Grouse
Greater Prairie-Chickens
Prairie Falcons

Spring and Fall Migrations

Whooping Cranes
Hudsonian Godwits
Buff-breasted Sandpipers
Harris's Sparrows
Ross's Geese

Winter

Snowy Owls
Northern Goshawk
Snow Buntings
Bohemian Waxwings
White-winged Crossbills
Red Crossbills
Northern Shrikes
Gyrfalcons

Statewide Highlights

30+ species of sandpipers and plovers
25+ species of warblers
20 species of sparrows
15 species of ducks
15 species of birds of prey
9 species of owls
5 species of geese

These lists are for the entire state of North Dakota. Some species may be locally common in some sections of the state; others may be rare but wide-spread. When marketing, be sure to list only birds found in your area, and be season-specific in your promotions.

To identify the birds listed above, please refer to a field guide to the birds of North America.

A good field guide is essential for all birders – make that everyone, birder or not. It is especially important for anyone interested in attracting birders to their community, business or wildlife site. A field guide to the birds provides a wealth of information and opens the door to identifying birds. Just as you need a program at a sporting event to identify the players, you need a field guide to identify the birds you encounter and photograph.

Any field guide you may already own will probably be adequate to find the birds listed herein. But if you need to purchase a field guide, the best field guides are listed below and will provide excellent illustrations of the “most wanted” birds.

The Sibley Guide to North American Birds

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America

Tip: Do not be tempted to buy a field guide that divides the continent into Eastern and Western books. Be sure to buy a full-sized continent-wide North American field guide.