

Check recent sightings by eBird users in the county:
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L659759/bird-list>

Sherburne Birding Locations—The colorful bird icons locate our best birding spots. The Wildlife Drive, trails, benches and parking areas are designed expressly for wildlife viewing. Begin your search by following the map to bird and waterfowl hotspots. Then wait and listen.

👉 **Expert Tip:** *Birders find the Bur Oak Trail and adjacent prairie at the Welcome Station to be the most productive area on the refuge!*

Habitat—Birds nest and feed in habitat specific to their species. To spot a particular bird, research its habitat and then use our map to find the thickets, tree canopy, water, and marsh edges preferred by your bird. Walk & drive slowly. Better, stop and let the birds find you.

👉 **Expert Tip:** *Thickets along the first right turn south on the Wildlife Drive AND just before mile marker 3 are prime for warblers.*

Seasons—Bird watchers have identified 238 bird species at the refuge. Best migration dates are the first two weeks of May and the middle two weeks of October. June is breeding season with good chances of seeing hungry birds all day. Young are hatching by May.

👉 **Expert Tip:** *Green herons and belted kingfishers perch and great blue herons wade near water-control structures along the Wildlife Drive.*

Timing—From dawn to mid-morning our birds are waking, calling and feeding. Mid-day heat sends them to rest in shade. The cool of the evening increases bird movement. Enjoy sunrises and sunsets in the refuge and experience our best bird-watching hours.

👉 **Expert Tip:** *Trumpeter swan viewing may be best near mile marker 4 on the Wildlife Drive, although swans are found throughout the refuge.*

Weather—Like people, birds seek shelter from high winds and rainy weather. If you need an umbrella, it's a "foul" (not a fowl) day.

👉 **Expert Tip:** *Watch for grasshopper, vesper and savannah sparrows, eastern meadowlarks & dickcissels the first 2 miles of the Wildlife Drive.*

Edges—Look to the edges of wildlife habitat for activity, the transitions where woods turn to prairie and prairie turns to wetland.

👉 **Expert Tip:** *The Woodland Trail—offering prairie to woods and woods to wetland—is called "Warbler Woods" and called "underated" by experts.*










Sandhill Cranes—50 pairs nest in the refuge, and fall migration brings thousands more to the St. Francis watershed.

👉 **Expert Tip:** *Sandhill crane numbers begin to build throughout October and often reach their peak (approx. 18,000 birds) in early November. Birds leave overnight refuge roosts the hour after sunrise and return the hour before sunset. For a map of viewing sites see:*

<https://bit.ly/3CmNfk9>

For official USFWS Sherburne Refuge bird species list on-line:
fws.gov/refuge/sherburne/species

Check Friends of Sherburne events on-line (including bird tours) here: [ExploreSherburne.org/events](https://www.exploresherburne.org/events)

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|  | Refuge Headquarters |  | Bird Hotspot |  | Waterfowl |
|  | Learning Center/Trails |  | Picnic Area |  | Bench |
|  | Refuge Wildlife Drive |  | Parking |  | Restrooms |

