Birds are at the heart of our work. Fair Meadows was created in 1985, expanded in 1992, designated a State Natural Area in 2005, and became a Madison Audubon sanctuary in 2023. The property is rich in habitats, and is teeming with biodiversity! From woodlands to prairies, wetlands to savannas, there is a wide range of bird species to observe at Fair Meadows. The property is owned by Madison Audubon, and maintained by resident managers Penny and Gary Shackelford and land steward Chris Kaplan. This 196-species bird list are all species that have been observed by the Shackelfords since the 1980s.

Fair Meadows is closed to visitors unless permission is acquired or unless you’re attending a field trip there. You are invited to bring this bird list with you to field trips coordinated at Fair Meadows, and see how many species you can find!

madisonaudubon.org/fair-meadows

GREBES
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe

PIGEONS AND DOVES
- Rock Pigeon
- Mourning Dove

CUCKOOS
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Black-billed Cuckoo

NIGHTJARS AND SWIFT
- Common Nighthawk
- Eastern Whip-poor-will
- Chimney Swift

HUMMINGBIRDS
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird

RAILS THROUGH CRANES
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- Common Gallinule
- American Coot
- Sandhill Crane

SHOREBIRDS
- Killdeer
- American Woodcock
- Wilson’s Snipe
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Greater Yellowlegs

GULLS AND TERNs
- Bonaparte’s Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Black Tern
- Forster’s Tern

BOBWHITE THROUGH TURKEY
- Northern Bobwhite
- Wild Turkey
- Ring-necked Pheasant

LOONS
- Common Loon

CORMORANTS
- Double-crested Cormorant

PELICANS
- American White Pelican

BITTERNs THOUGH HERONS
- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Green Heron

RAPTORS
- Turkey Vulture
- Osprey
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper’s Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk

OWLS
- Great Horned Owl
- Barred Owl

KINGFISHER
- Belted Kingfisher

WOODPECKERS
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker

FALCONS
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon

FLYCATCHERS
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Willow Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe

SHRIKES
- Northern Shrike

VIREOS
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo

JAYS AND CROWS
- Blue Jay
- American Crow

SWALLOWS
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow

CHICKADEES THROUGH BROWN CREEPER
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper
WRENS
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Winter Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren

GNATCATCHERS
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

KINGLETS
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Golden-crowned Kinglet

THRUSHES
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson’s Thrush
Hermits Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin

GRAY CATBIRD THROUGH STARLINGS
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling

WAXWINGS
Cedar Waxwing

OLD WORLD SPARROWS
House Sparrow

PIPITS
American Pipit

FINCHES
House Finch
Purple Finch
Common Redpoll
White-winged Crossbill
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch

WOOD-WARBLERS
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Warbler
Wilson’s Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat

CARDINALS AND ALLIES
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel