

Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area is located in the picturesque floodplain of the Marais des Cygnes River along U.S. Highway 69 about 60 miles south of Kansas City. The broad floodplain, with mature hardwood forests and wetlands, provides unique scenic and wildlife resources.

Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area was one of the first areas purchased by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The most recent purchase of land (in 1990) increased the size of the area to 7,235 acres. The area has natural and man-made wetlands, upland and wetland forest, native prairie, croplands, and streams.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Initial wetlands development in 1955 included construction of impoundments in Unit A and Unit B. In 1958, Unit G was impounded and the area was opened to waterfowl hunting.

Subsequent major marsh developments include Units C1, C2, E, F1, and F2. In addition, a permanent pump station capable of delivering 16,000 gallons-per-minute to the marshes was constructed in 1982. This pump, along with canals and water control structures, allows intensive management of impounded wetlands.

In addition to major developments, several small wetland impoundments have been developed. Development of new wetlands and improvement in management capabilities of wetlands continues.

Development of the wildlife area has been funded by the sale of hunting licenses and federal taxes on sporting firearms and ammunition. Beginning in 1987, Ducks Unlimited has cost shared waterfowl habitat enhancement through the MARSH program. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks initiated a stamp, required of all waterfowl hunters in 1989. Income from this stamp is used for waterfowl habitat enhancement.

Water level manipulation is the primary wetland management tool at Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area. Each spring selected marshes are dewatered. Declining water levels concentrate fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates sought by waterfowl and wading birds. Resulting mudflats and sheetwater are preferred habitat of many shorebirds. Mudflats are ideal sites for germination of "moist soil" plants such as smartweed and wild millet. Timing and rate of dewatering influences which plants will dominate marsh units. These plants grow over the summer and produce seeds preferred by waterfowl. In

addition, moist soil plants are ideal habitat for aquatic invertebrates. Some marshes may be disturbed by controlled burning, disking, or mowing to stimulate desirable plants or inhibit undesired species. Units are flooded in fall to provide habitat for migratory and wintering wetland wildlife.

Some marshes are not dewatered. These marshes produce submerged aquatic vegetation sought by some species of waterfowl. These units also harbor fish and amphibians that provide food for wading birds, pelicans, cormorants, and grebes.

The combination of managed units, flooded crops, sheetwater habitat in crop fields, natural wetlands, rivers, and streams provide a complex suitable for a wide variety of wetland wildlife.

Crops are managed to provide food for upland wildlife as well as for waterfowl, such as mallards and geese, that feed in fields. Native grasslands are periodically burned to maintain healthy stands. Additional grasslands are being established. Forests are protected from overharvest and several sites have been selected for reforestation.

RECREATION

Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area is open to hunting during legal seasons. Fishing is allowed in marsh units from April 15th through September 15th; the river and streams are open to fishing year-round. Although no camping facilities are provided, primitive camping is allowed at designated sites. The area provides good opportunities for birdwatching, hiking, picnicking, and photography.

FISH

Catchable size game fish are generally not abundant within managed marshes due to periodic dewatering for wildlife management. However, Unit G produces good catches of crappie or white bass in some years. The Marais des Cygnes River and some streams within the area provide excellent fishing for catfish. Bowfishing for rough fish can be excellent in shallow water and at outlets during marsh drawdowns. Salvage of fish during dewatering of marshes may be allowed by posted notice.

WILDLIFE

Large concentrations of waterfowl and other wetland birds at Marais des Cygnes provide exciting opportunities

for birdwatching and photography. Over 300 species of birds have been documented on the wildlife area. More than 100 species nest in the diverse habitat on the area.

The area is one of the premier waterfowl hunting areas in Kansas. In addition to duck and goose hunting, the area provides excellent white-tailed deer, turkey, and squirrel hunting. Snipe, rail, and woodcock hunting can be good during the peak of migration.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Units B and C1 are refuges and are closed to all activities. Birds may be observed in these units from public roadways, but entry into the units is prohibited.

Steel shot is required for all shotgun hunting. Hunters may not have lead shot in their possession while hunting.

Waterfowl hunters must obtain a free permit at the area headquarters prior to hunting and report harvest within one hour of the end of the hunt. Permits are available after 5 a.m. daily. Hunting of dark (Canadian and white-fronted) geese is allowed by special permit only.

Boats may be used for waterfowl hunting; hunters should check posted regulations concerning use of boat motors. Personal flotation devices (life-jackets) and other safety equipment is required.

Hunting from dikes, levees, or roads is prohibited.

Portable blinds and stands may be used, or blinds may be built from natural herbaceous or woody debris present at the blind site. Blinds and stands must be removed within 14 days of the close of the appropriate season. Pit blinds are prohibited.

Motor vehicles are restricted to established, maintained roads and parking lots.

Trash barrels are not provided and users must take their trash out of the area. Please do not litter!

This brochure is not intended to be a summary of all regulations concerning use of Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, but covers the most commonly asked questions.

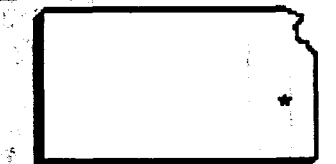
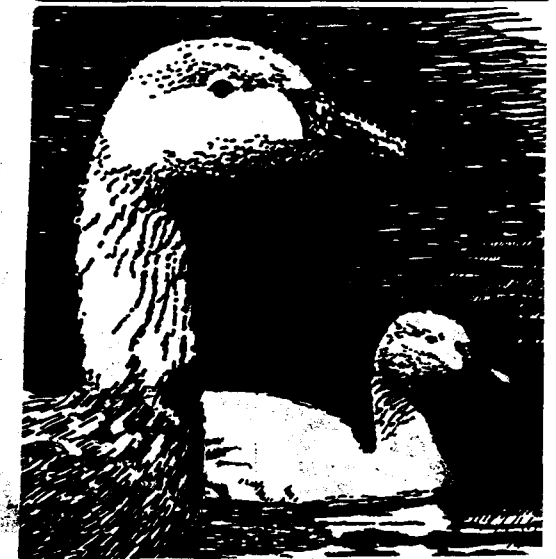
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PPL # 5301

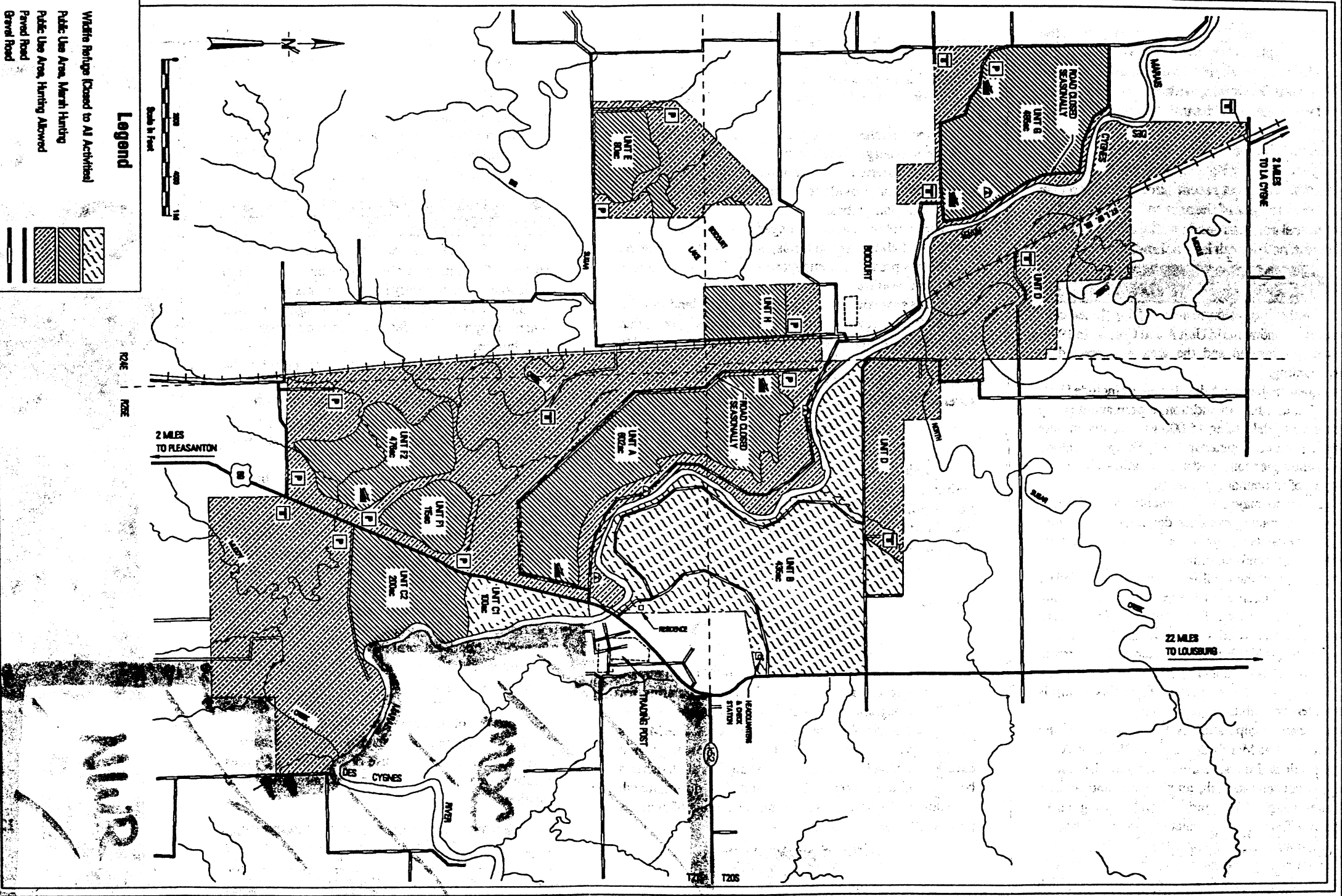
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MARAIS des CYGNES

WILDLIFE AREA



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE AND PARKS
RT. 2, BOX 132
PLEASANTON, KS 66075
(913) 352-8941
(316) 431-0380 (Regional office)



Legend

Wildlife Refuge (Closed to All Activities)

Public Use Area, Marsh Hunting

Public Use Area, Hunting Allowed

Paved Road

Gravel Road

Unpaved Road

Project Boundary

Town or City

Boat Access Point

Porting

Access Point

Camping Area, Primitive

MARAI DES CYGNES WILDLIFE AREA

	S	S	F	W
LOONS (Gaviidae) and GREBES (Podicipedidae)				
Common Loon	u	u	r	
Pied-billed Grebe**	c	o	c	o
Horned Grebe	u	u	o	
Red-necked Grebe	x			
Eared Grebe	o	r	o	
Western Grebe		r		
PELICANS (Pelecanidae)				
White Pelican	c	r	c	r
Brown Pelican		x		
CORMORANTS (Phalacrocoracidae) and ANHINGAS (Anhingidae)				
Double-crested Cormorant	a	u	a	r
Olivaceous Cormorant		x		
Anhinga		x		
HERONS, BITTERNS (Ardeidae)				
American Bittern	r		r	
Least Bittern*	o	r	o	
Great Blue Heron*	a	c	a	o
Great Egret	u	c	c	
Snowy Egret	o	u	u	
Little Blue Heron*	u	c	c	
Cattle Egret	u	o	o	
Green-backed Heron*	u	c	u	
Black-crowned Night Heron	u	o	o	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron*	u	o	o	
IBISES (Threskiornithidae) and STORKS (Ciconiidae)				
White Ibis		x		
White-faced Ibis		x		
Wood Stork		x		
WATERFOWL (Anatidae)				
Tundra Swan	r		r	
Trumpeter Swan			x	
Canada Goose*	a	c	a	a
White-fronted Goose	u	u	u	
Snow Goose	a	r	a	u
Ross' Goose	r		r	r
Brant	x			
Wood Duck*	c	c	a	u
Green-winged Teal	a	r	a	o
American Black Duck	u	o	u	
Mallard*	a	u	a	c
Northern Pintail	a	r	a	u
Blue-winged Teal*	c	o	a	r
Cinnamon Teal	r			
Northern Shoveler**	c	u	c	r
Gadwall	a	o	a	u
American Wigeon	a		a	o
Canvasback	u	u	o	
Redhead	u	u	o	
Ring-necked Duck	a		a	u
Greater Scaup	u	o	o	
Lesser Scaup	c	c	u	

	S	S	F	W
Oldsquaw		r		
Black Scoter		r		
Surf Scoter		r		
White-winged Scoter		r		
Common Goldeneye	u	u	c	
Bufflehead	c	c	u	
Hooded Merganser*	u	o	u	o
Common Merganser	u	u	c	
Red-breasted Merganser	u	u	o	
Ruddy Duck	c	c	o	
Fulvous Whistling Duck		x		
Black-bellied Whistling Duck		x		
VULTURES (Cathartidae)				
Turkey Vulture*	c	a	c	
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES (Accipitridae)				
Mississippi Kite		x		
Bald Eagle	o	o	u	
Northern Harrier	c	r	c	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	u	u	
Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	
Northern Goshawk		r	r	
Red-shouldered Hawk*	u	u	u	u
Broad-winged Hawk**	u	u		
Swainson's Hawk	o	r	o	
Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	a
Ferruginous Hawk		x		
Rough-legged Hawk	o	u	o	
Golden Eagle		r	r	
OSPREY (Pandionidae)				
Osprey	o	u		
FALCONS (Falconidae)				
American Kestrel*	c	u	c	c
Merlin	r	r	r	
Peregrine Falcon	r	r	r	
Prairie Falcon	r	r	r	
GROUSE (Tetraonidae)				
Greater Prairie Chicken		r		
QUAIL, PHEASANTS (Phasianidae)				
Ring-necked Pheasant	x	x	x	x
Northern Bobwhite*	c	c	c	c
TURKEYS (Meleagrididae)				
Turkey*	c	c	c	c
CRANES (Gruidae)				
Sandhill Crane		r		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS (Rallidae)				
King Rail*	o	o	o	
Virginia Rail**	r	r	r	
Sora	u	u		
Yellow Rail	r			
Purple Gallinule	x			
Common Moorhen	x			
American Coot	a	r	a	u
PLOVERS (Charadriidae)				
Black-bellied Plover	u	o		
Lesser Golden Plover	u	o		

	S	S	F	W
Snowy Plover	r	r		
Semipalmated Plover	u	u		
Piping Plover	o	r		
Killdeer*	c	a	a	u
SANDPIPERS (Scolopacidae)				
Greater Yellowlegs	c	o	c	
Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	
Solitary Sandpiper	u	o	u	
Willet	o	r	o	
Spotted Sandpiper**	c	u	o	
Upland Sandpiper*	u	u	o	
Whimbrel	x			
Hudsonian Godwit	u		r	
Marbled Godwit	o		r	
Ruddy Turnstone	r			
Sanderling	o		r	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	u	c	
Western Sandpiper	o	o	u	
Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	
White-rumped Sandpiper	u	o	u	
Baird's Sandpiper	c	o	u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	c	u	c	
Dunlin	o	o		
Stilt Sandpiper	u	o	u	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r		r	
Ruff	x			
Short-billed Dowitcher	o	o		
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	r	u	
Common Snipe	u	r	u	r
American Woodcock*	o	o	o	r
AVOCETS (Recurvirostridae)				
American Avocet	r		r	
PHALAROPES (Phalaropodidae)				
Wilson's Phalarope	u	u		
GULLS, TERNS (Laridae)				
Franklin's Gull	c	o	a	r
Little Gull		x		
Bonaparte's Gull	u	u		
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	a	u
Laughing Gull	x			
Herring Gull	o	o	u	
Glaucous Gull			x	
Caspian Tern	u	o	u	
Common Tern	r	r		
Forrester's Tern	u	o	u	
Least Tern	r	r		
Black Tern	u	o	u	
DOVES (Columbidae)				
Rock Dove*	c	c	c	c
White-winged Dove		x		
Mourning Dove*	a	c	a	u
CUCKOOS (Cuculidae)				
Black-billed Cuckoo*	u	o	u	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	c	
Roadrunner		x		

	S	S	F	W
OWLS (Tytonidae and Strigidae)				
Barn Owl*	r	r	r	r
Eastern Screech Owl*	c	c	c	c
Great Horned Owl*	c	c	c	c
Snowy Owl				r
Barred Owl*	c	c	c	c
Long-eared Owl			r	o
Short-eared Owl	r	r	r	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				r
GOATSUCKERS (Caprimulgidae)				
Common Nighthawk*	c	c	c	
Common Poorwill	o	o		
Chuck-will's Widow*	u	u		
Whip-poor-will*	c	c		
SWIFTS (Apodidae)				
Chimney Swift*	c	c	c	
HUMMINGBIRDS (Trochilidae)				
Magnificent Hummingbird			x	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	u	u	u	
KINGFISHERS (Alcedinidae)				
Belted Kingfisher*	u	o	u	o
WOODPECKERS (Picidae)				
Red-headed Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u	u	o	
Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	c
Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
FLYCATCHERS (Tyrannidae)				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	o	r	o	
Eastern Wood Peewee*	u	c	c	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r	r	r	
Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	u	
Alder Flycatcher	o	o		
Willow Flycatcher**	r	r	r	
Least Flycatcher	c	u		
Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	
Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
Western Kingbird*	o	o	r	
Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	u	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	u	u	u	
LARKS (Alaudidae)				
Horned Lark*	u	o	u	c
SWALLOWS (Hirundinidae)				
Purple Martin*	c	c	u	
Tree Swallow*	c	u	c	
N. Rough-winged Swallow*	c	c	a	
Bank Swallow**	o	r	o	
Cliff Swallow	u	u	u	
Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	
JAYS, CROWS (Corvidae)				
Blue Jay*	c	c	a	c
Pinyon Jay				x
Clark's Nutcracker	x			x

	S	S	F	W
American Crow*	c	c	c	c
TITMICE, CHICKADEES (Paridae)				
Black-capped Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
NUTHATCHES (Sittidae)				
Red-breasted Nuthatch		r	r	
White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
Pygmy Nuthatch			x	
CREEPERS (Certhiidae)				
Brown Creeper	u		u	o
WRENS (Troglodytidae)				
Rock Wren			x	
Carolina Wren*	u	u	u	o
Bewick's Wren*	o	r		
House Wren*	c	c	c	
Winter Wren	r		o	r
Sedge Wren**	u	o	o	
Marsh Wren	o	o	o	r
MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS (Mimidae)				
Gray Catbird*	u	u	u	
Northern Mockingbird*	u	u	u	u
Brown Thrasher*	c	c	u	
THRUSHES, BLUEBIRDS, SOLITARES (Turdidae)				
Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	u
Mountain Bluebird			x	
Townsend's Solitaire			r	
Veery	o			
Gray-Cheeked Thrush	o		r	
Swainson's Thrush	c		u	
Hermit Thrush	o		u	r
Wood Thrush*	u	u	o	
American Robin*	c	c	c	u
KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS (Sylviidae)				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		u	o
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	r
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	
PIPITS (Motacillidae)				
Water Pipit	u		u	
Sprague's Pipit	r		o	
WAXWINGS (Bombycillidae)				
Cedar Waxwing	u	o	u	u
SHRIKES (Laniidae)				
Loggerhead Shrike*	c	c	c	u
STARLINGS (Sturnidae)				
European Starling*	a	a	a	a
VIREOS (Vireonidae)				
White-eyed Vireo*	u	u	u	
Bell's Vireo*	u	u	o	
Solitary Vireo	u		o	
Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	u	
Warbling Vireo*	c	c	c	
Philadelphia Vireo	o		o	
Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	u	

	S	S	F	W
WARBLERS (Parulidae)				
Blue-winged Warbler**	r	r	r	
Golden-winged Warbler	o		o	
Tennessee Warbler	c		u	
Orange-crowned Warbler	c		c	
Nashville Warbler	c		c	
Northern Parula*	c	c	u	
Yellow Warbler*	u	u	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
Magnolia Warbler	o		r	
Cape May Warbler	r			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		u	o
Black-throated Green Warbler	u		u	
Blackburnian Warbler	o		r	
Yellow-throated Warbler*	r	r		
Pine Warbler	r			
Prairie Warbler	r			
Palm Warbler	o		o	
Bay-breasted Warbler	r		r	
Blackpoll Warbler	u		o	
Cerulean Warbler*	u	u	o	
Black-and-white Warbler*	u	r	u	
American Redstart*	u	r	u	
Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	c	
Worm-eating Warbler	r		r	
Ovenbird	o		o	
Northern Waterthrush	u		o	
Louisiana Waterthrush*	u	o	r	
Kentucky Warbler*	u	u	u	
Connecticut Warbler	r			
Mourning Warbler	u		o	
Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	r
Hooded Warbler	r		r	
Wilson's Warbler	o		u	
Canada Warbler	o		o	
Yellow-breasted Chat*	u	o	o	
WEAVER FINCHES (Ploceidae)				
House Sparrow*	a	a	a	a
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES (Icteridae)				
Bobolink	r			
Red-winged blackbird*	c	c	c	a
Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c
Western Meadowlark**	u	u	u	u
Yellow-headed Blackbird	o			
Rusty Blackbird	o		o	
Brewer's Blackbird	o		o	
Great-tailed Grackle	o	u	o	
Common Grackle*	c	c	c	c
Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	u
Orchard Oriole*	c	u	u	
Northern Oriole*	c	u	u	
TANAGERS (Thraupidae)				
Summer Tanager*	c	c	c	
Scarlet Tanager*	o	o	o	

	S	S	F	W
GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS,				
BUNTINGS (Fringillidae)				
Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	c	o	u	
Black-headed Grosbeak			x	
Blue Grosbeak*	u	u	u	
Lazuli Bunting	x			
Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	
Painted Bunting*	u	u	u	
Dickcissel*	c	c	c	
Rufous-sided Towhee*	u	o	u	r
American Tree Sparrow	c		c	a
Chipping Sparrow**	u	r	u	
Clay-colored Sparrow	u		o	
Field Sparrow*	c	c	c	u
Vesper Sparrow	u		u	
Lark Sparrow*	u	u	u	
Savannah Sparrow	c		u	r
Baird's Sparrow	r			
Grasshopper Sparrow*	o	u	o	
Henslow's Sparrow	r	r		
LeConte's Sparrow	u		u	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	x		x	
Fox Sparrow	u		u	o
Song Sparrow	c		c	u
Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	r
Swamp Sparrow	c		c	u
White-throated Sparrow	c		c	u
White-crowned sparrow	c		c	u
Harris' Sparrow	c		c	u
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	a
McCown's Longspur		r		
Lapland Longspur		o	o	
Smith's Longspur	r		r	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	o		o	
Snow Bunting			r	
Purple Finch	r		o	o
House Finch	x	x		
Pine Siskin	o		o	u
American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	u

BIRDS OF THE MARAIS DES CYGNES WILDLIFE AREA AND NEARBY LINN COUNTY

Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, located in east-central Kansas, is in the picturesque valley of the Marais des Cygnes River. Early French trappers found this valley to be rich in waterfowl, and waterbirds, hence the name "Marais des Cygnes" or Marsh of the Swans. The wildlife area has forested wetlands, upland forest, native grasslands, man-made and natural wetlands, rivers and streams, and crop fields.

This 7,235-acre public wildlife area is managed for wildlife habitat with special emphasis on wetlands and species associated with shallow-water habitat. You are invited to enjoy the rich variety of birds found in the area and this bird list will help you record your observations.

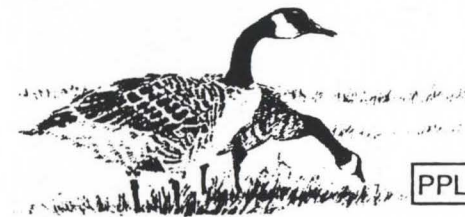
Access to portions of the wildlife area is restricted to provide undisturbed sanctuaries for wildlife. Consult area maps or Wildlife and Parks personnel for information about "refuge" areas.

January and February are good months to observe bald eagles near concentrations of mallards and geese. March and October usually provide a diversity of waterfowl. April and May are good bets for other marsh birds, such as pelicans, egrets, herons, and shorebirds. This is an outstanding warbler area (36 species) and May is a good time to observe these birds.

This list of 315 species is coded by season and abundance as:

S - March/May
S - June/August
F - September/November
W - December/February
* - birds which nest on the area
** - probable nesters

a - abundant
c - common
u - uncommon
o - occasional
r - rare
x - accidental



PPL 1 6-91

Equal opportunity to participate in & benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to their race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap or disability status or political affiliation. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to the Office of the Secretary, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks, 900 Jackson, Suite 502, Topeka, KS. 66612.



Kansas Wildlife & Parks would like to thank the many amateur birders who have helped compile this list. Please report any unusual sightings to wildlife area personnel.