How Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary Helps Birds

This entire sanctuary is managed for birds and has been designated an Important Bird Area (IBA).

- We maintain over 300 acres of this 475-acre sanctuary as grassland habitat through rotational mowing. Fields are important habitat for nesting and foraging by a wide variety of bird and mammal species. Bobolinks and Tree Swallows nest during the summer; Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, and a variety of owls feed on mice and voles in the winter. Nest boxes are maintained and monitored for Wood Duck, American Kestrel, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee and Barred Owl.

- The wet panne is fed by groundwater and provides seasonal wetland habitat for a number of birds including Wilson’s Snipe, Spotted Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Green Heron, and Glossy Ibis, along with a variety of ducks and songbirds.

- Portions of the property are managed shrubland habitat. Shrublands provide habitat for Brown Thrasher, American Woodcock, and a variety of songbirds. As this habitat decreases, so do these bird populations. We are working to increase this habitat at the sanctuary as well as maintain native plant species in existing shrublands.

- The osprey pole at the sanctuary has been occupied since 1990 and was one of the first successful nests on the South Shore after a dramatic decrease in the osprey population during the 1950’s and 60’s. Osprey were heavily impacted by the spraying of DDT but have rebounded since DDT has been outlawed. They are a remarkable success story. Our close proximity to Green Harbor River and the coast provide good feeding grounds for the sanctuary’s osprey and their young.

- The Purple Martin colony, housed in hanging gourds and more traditional housing apartments, is one of only a few colonies in Massachusetts. Purple Martins are aerial foragers, eating insects caught on the wing over our open fields and skimming the surface of nearby Webster Pond to drink. Volunteers and staff monitor this colony, providing additional housing as needed and banding the young so we can learn about their habits and needs.
# Bird Checklist for Daniel Webster

- Canada Goose
- Mute Swan
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- American Black Duck
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Green Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Glossy Ibis
- Turkey Vulture
- Osprey
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper’s Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Wild Turkey
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- Common Moorhen
- American Coot
- Black-bellied Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Killdeer
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Whimbrel
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Wilson’s Snipe
- American Woodcock
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Least Tern
- Common Tern
- Forster’s Tern
- Rock Pigeon
- Mourning Dove
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Barred Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Common Nighthawk
- Chimney Swift
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Willow Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird
- Northern Shrike
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Fish Crow
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper
- Carolina Wren
- House Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Eastern Bluebird
- Wood Thrush
- American Robin
- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Brown Thrasher
- European Starling
- American Pipit
- Cedar Waxwing
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Northern Parula
- Yellow Warbler
- Crested-sided Warbler
- Magnolia Warbler
- Cape May Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Prairie Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler
- American Redstart
- Connecticut Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Wilson’s Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Scarlet Tanager
- Eastern Towhee
- American Tree Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Northern Cardinal
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Indigo Bunting
- Bobolink
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Rusty Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Eastern Towhee
- Evening Grosbeak
- House Finch
- American Goldfinch
- Baltimore Oriole
- House Sparrow