



BEAR LAKE SEDGE MEADOW WETLAND TYPES

Christina Isenring

Sedge meadow, open bog, coniferous bog, alder thicket

BARRON COUNTY



BEAR LAKE SEDFE MEADOW

Property Owners: Barron County, Village of Haugen
Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI
Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site, WI Bird Conservation
Initiative Important Bird Area

Funding for this project provided by The McKnight Foundation, which seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, coalition-building and encouragement of strategic policy reform.

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Bear Lake Sedge Meadow occupies a large embayment of more than 150 acres along the southern shore of Bear Lake in Barron County. Bear Lake is a hard water drainage lake fed by Bear Creek, several other creeks, and groundwater springs. This Wetland Gem features an extensive open sedge meadow with scattered islands of open bog habitats and coniferous bog and alder thicket habitats along the shoreline. Bear Lake Sedge Meadow provides important stopover habitat for migratory birds and supports several rare birds.

FLORA & FAUNA

The large, open sedge meadow at this site is dominated by woolly fruit sedge with sprinklings of three-fruited sedge, marsh cinquefoil, cottongrass and bluejoint grass. Open bog islands include bog shrubs like leatherleaf, bog laurel, bog rosemary and Labrador tea. The groundlayer in these areas is characterized by high hummocks that are covered with sphagnum moss and surrounded by

pockets of standing water. Other plants include round-leaved sundew, pitcher plant, rose pogonia orchid, cinnamon fern and northern bog goldenrod. A small area of coniferous bog with tamarack and black spruce is found in one part of the shoreline. The remainder of the shoreline is a narrow band of shrub swamp dominated by speckled alder, willow and bog birch.

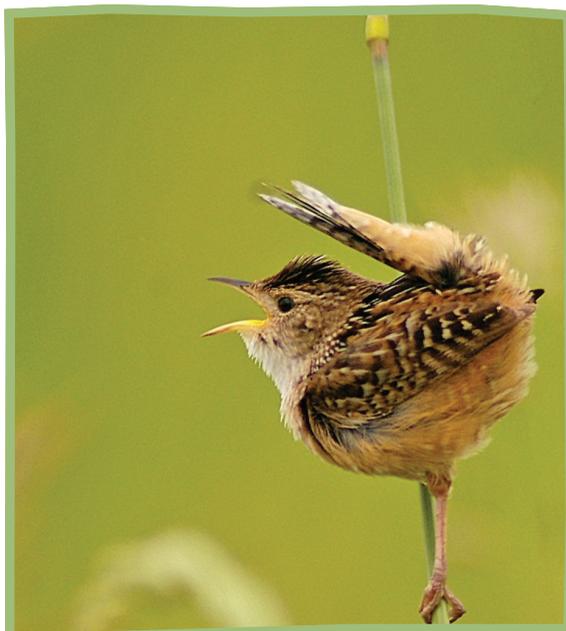
Bear Lake Sedge Meadow provides important stopover habitat for migratory birds. Common bird species include swamp sparrow, song sparrow, yellow warbler, sora and sedge wren. The site's wetland habitats also support several rare and unusual birds including Le Conte's sparrow, American bittern and yellow rail.

THREATS

The watershed draining to Bear Lake includes agricultural areas, which may impact water quality at this site. Impacts from recreational use of the lake and from invasive species may pose future problems for these sensitive shoreline habitats.

ACCESS

This site is an excellent site for birdwatchers. For details, visit the State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna.



Sedge wren — Dennis Malueg



Rose pogonia orchid — Kate Redmond

Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)
Wisconsin Important Bird Areas (WBCI)