



SUMMERTON BOG

Property Owners: The Nature Conservancy
 Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI
 Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site, The Nature Conservancy
 Priority Conservation 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.



**Wisconsin
Wetlands**
ASSOCIATION

wisconsinwetlands.org



SUMMERTON BOG WETLAND TYPES

The Nature Conservancy

Sedge meadow, coniferous bog, open bog, fen, shrub carr

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Summerton Bog is a highly diverse wetland complex of sedge meadow, coniferous bog, open bog, fen and shrub carr habitats. This 475-acre Wetland Gem is located in a glacial lakebed with peat and muck soils. Several artesian springs feed the site's wetlands, which are characterized by plants more typical of northern wetlands as well as plants that are indicative of high quality southern wetlands. These wetlands support a wide diversity of birds and other wildlife, including some rare species. Past restoration efforts, including filling a ditch on the periphery of the site, have increased the value of this wetland habitat.

FLORA & FAUNA

Sedge meadow is the predominant wetland community type at the site, and includes plants like tussock sedge, smooth sawgrass, bluejoint grass, spotted joe-pye weed, goldenrod and various other sedges and asters. In the southeastern corner of the site, a fen flanks an upland island of red and white oaks. The fen's calcium-

rich waters support an unusual assemblage of plants, including sweetgrass, springcress, valerian, lousewort, fringed gentian, yellow avens, bunchberry, yellow loosestrife and lobelia. This site also includes coniferous bog areas dominated by tamarack with some black spruce and a groundlayer of sundews, purple pitcher plant and cranberry. Shrub areas include speckled alder, red osier dogwood and willows.

Lush and diverse wetland vegetation at the site supports more than 65 species of nesting birds, including sandhill crane, belted kingfisher, green heron, mallard, bobolink, sedge wren, Nashville warbler, blue-winged warbler, yellow warbler, northern waterthrush, common yellowthroat, veery, sora, swamp sparrow, song sparrow and northern harrier. The rare pickerel frog has also been documented at the site.

THREATS

Altered hydrology, caused by ditching in surrounding properties, threatens the integrity of these wetlands. Invasive species, particularly reed canary grass, are of great concern. Sedge meadow and fen areas are threatened by encroachment of shrubs; prescribed burns are necessary to maintain these open communities. Deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees.

ACCESS

Visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/land/er/sna.

Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
 Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)
 The Prairie-Forest Border: An Ecoregional Plan (TNC)
 Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory Program (WDNR)



Sora — Scott Franke