

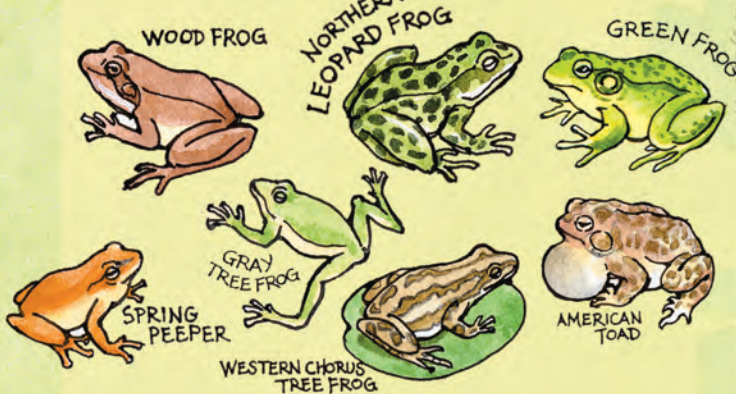
# WILDLIFE & HABITAT AROUND BONE LAKE

Eighty-five species of birds were recorded around Bone Lake in our 2011 bird survey. The Wisconsin DNR parcel of alder/tamarack lowland and sedge meadow at the northwest corner of the lake supports thirty-three species, including several of conservation concern: Golden-winged Warbler, Common Loon, Sandhill Crane, Great Blue Heron, Merlin and Red-shouldered Hawk.

**THE NATIVE PLANTING** at the north landing stabilizes the shoreline, adds natural beauty to our lake, and helps slow runoff. The 10X35 Native Planting Program provides Bone Lake property owners with support to establish these small zones of native plants on their waterfront. Native plants provide food and nesting sites for birds, nectar for butterflies and other pollinators, summer flowers, fall color and winter interest for us.

The Bald Eagle, Trumpeter Swan and Common Loon are threatened by lead fishing tackle, frequently ingested by these birds as they forage and fish. A lead jig provides a lethal dose. Get the Lead out! Please use non-toxic tackle!

## BONE LAKE IS HOME TO A TOTAL OF SEVEN FROG AND TOAD SPECIES



Clean water, natural vegetation along the shore, intact tracts of forest, wetlands, woodland pools and secluded lowland areas are all important to this diverse group of sensitive animals.

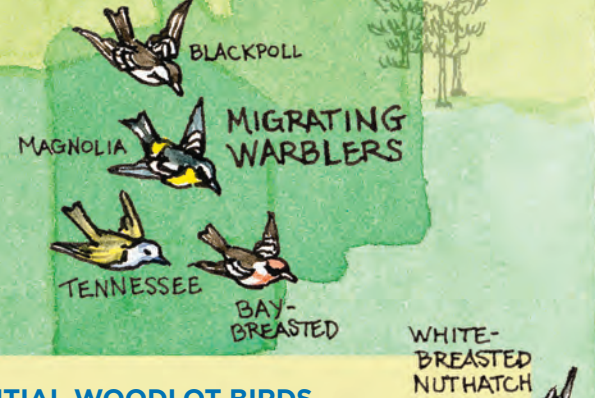
**FEWER FROGS FEWER SPECIES** **MORE FROGS MORE SPECIES**  
The green area along the shore indicates the number of frogs and number of species recorded during the spring 2012 Frog and Toad Survey.

## BONE LAKE TURTLES LIVE IN MARSHES AND SHALLOW BAYS

Painted turtles spend the winter at the bottom of the lake and rise to the surface when water temperatures reach 50 degrees. Snapping turtles are known to travel upland to overwinter in marshes and ponds. Both species lay their eggs on land; but nests are vulnerable to predators. Turtle populations are in decline throughout Wisconsin due to habitat loss, pollution and collisions with vehicles. Make a safe place for turtles near you. Maintain floating aquatic plant populations, leave fallen wood in the water, and consider a fish sticks installation at your property.



These tropical warblers use Bone Lake's forests as a migratory corridor. Small flocks of migrating birds may linger into early June, mainly using larger trees near the water's edge.



## RESIDENTIAL WOODLOT BIRDS

Seventy-eight species of birds are found in residential areas with a house or cabin and altered landscapes. Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow and Purple Martin are the most abundant using the tall canopy trees. Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Pine Warblers are present here but do not occur in other habitats around the lake. Great Crested Flycatcher and Bald Eagle are common, using old, mature pine and cottonwood trees. Small songbirds are abundant. Red-headed Woodpecker is very common here while populations are declining elsewhere across North America. Maintaining mature trees, and allowing dead trees to remain provides important habitat for these rapidly declining species.

## SECOND-GROWTH FOREST BIRDS

Most birds found in residential woodlots are also present in Bone Lake's second growth forests, along with these more sensitive species: Great Horned Owl, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Least Flycatcher, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Veery, and a Wisconsin Threatened Species, the Red-shouldered Hawk. The forests have a greater density of American Redstart, Yellow Warbler and Yellow-throated Vireo. Baltimore Oriole, Red-eyed Vireo and Common Yellow-throat, are abundant.

The invasive species **RUSTY CRAYFISH** has been found in Fox Creek. Larger than native crayfish and aggressive, they can be harmful to fish and aquatic plant populations.



Along the west shore of Bone Lake is an extraordinary aquatic plant community of Bulrush, Bur-reed and Spike Rush. This is excellent fish habitat with spawning areas for northern pike and, in early spring, nesting cover for bluegills. Bulrushes attract marsh birds and songbirds and provide food for ducks, geese, and swans. Many frogs live here.

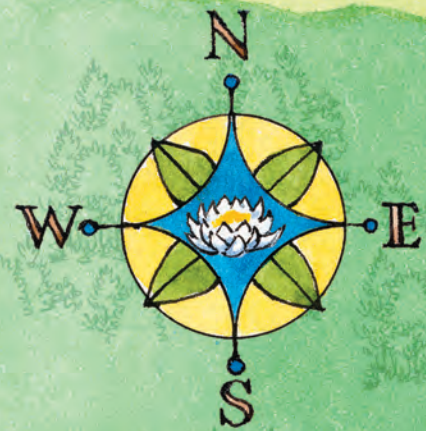
**— LEGEND —**

- Sensitive Areas
- Tamarack Lowlands/ Bog Sedge Meadow
- Residential Woodlot
- Second-growth Forest

**AQUATIC BIRDS** like the Trumpeter Swan, Common Loon and Mallard Duck use Bone Lake's open water for safety and feeding. The Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser, both tree-nesting species, find an abundance of suitable nesting habitat. Fish-eating species include Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Hooded Merganser, Great Blue Heron, and Belted Kingfisher. While not really aquatic birds, swallows were most abundant of all small birds using Bone Lake; Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, and Purple Martin are all common. Northern Rough-winged Swallows are also present.



Produced by the Wildlife and Natural Beauty Committee of Bone Lake Management District, Polk County, WI, with funding from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources small scale grants.  
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For more about Bone Lake, and to access the complete bird and frog reports and surveys, go to [www.bonelakewi.com](http://www.bonelakewi.com).



GET THE LEAD OUT!  
PLEASE USE NON-TOXIC TACKLE

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