



Indiana Marsh Bird Survey ID “Cheat Sheet”


(Credit to Alane Lovell)


The following species are listed in the same order as they are on the audio broadcast:


<p><b><u>Least Bittern (LEBI)</u></b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tiny heron; Long neck; Long pointed yellow bill; Crown and back black or dark brownish; Neck and sides warm orange-brown; Front of neck and chest striped orange and white; Hunch-backed appearance; Clings to reeds; Long yellow legs</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Males: dark green, almost <b>black crown</b> and back; Females: dark brown back and crown</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound: coo, kak, ert, <b>ank: ank-ank</b> <i>(sounds like a chicken)</i></li> </ul>
<p><i>Image by Hannah Meddaugh</i></p>	

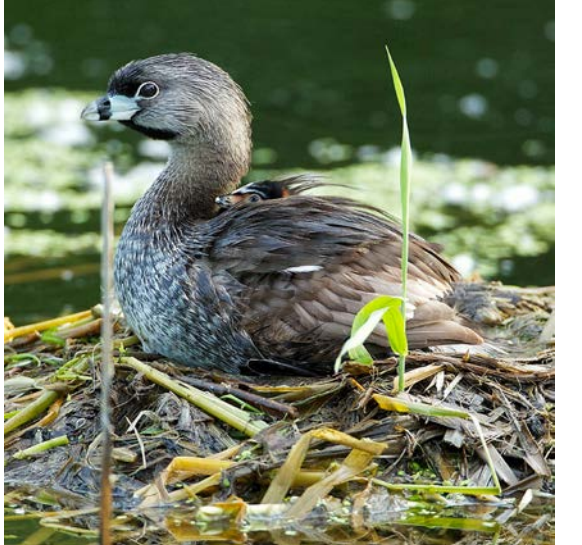
<p><b><u>Sora (SORA)</u></b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soras are small, chubby, chickenlike birds with long toes. They have a stubby bill; <b>candy corn beak</b>. They frequently hold their short tail cocked up (white tail feathers)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soras are mottled gray and brown with white-edged feathers, but the feature that stands out the most is their <b>yellow candy-corn bill</b>. Other notable features include a <b>black mask and throat patch, vertical white lines on the sides, and a white patch under the tail</b>. Females tend to be less brightly colored than males and have less black on the face and throat. Juveniles also lack the black mask.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound: <b>pw</b>: per-weep, <b>wh</b>: whinny, <b>kp</b>: keep</li> </ul>
<p><i>Image by Glenn Bartley</i></p>	

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<b><u>Virginia Rail (VIRA)</u></b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adult Description:</b> Small, chicken-like marsh bird; Compact body. Short tail. Rufous throat and breast. Gray cheeks; head. Long, slightly curved <b>red</b> bill. Streaked back. Walks with its tail held up.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Immature Description</b> Downy chick <b>black</b>. Juvenile dull blackish brown on upperparts, with some rufous feather edges. Underparts densely marked with dark brown or blackish, face grayish brown, bill and legs dusky brownish.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sound:</b> sounds like pigs; <b>g:</b> grunt; <b>ki:</b> kicker; <b>t:</b> tick; <b>s:</b> squawk; <b>kk:</b> kikiki; (marsh frog sound)</li> </ul>
<i>Image by: Garth McElroy</i>	


<b><u>King Rail (KIRA)</u></b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adult:</b> largest rail; short tail, <b>long bill</b>; upperparts are mottled brown and rusty; flanks are barred white; neck and breast are <b>rusty brown</b>; bill looks 2-toned: dark on top, light on bottom</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sounds:</b> Calls include a long series of evenly spaced clacks, a short series of deep grunting notes, and a click and trill. Clatter, kek-burr, kek, kek-hurrah (lawn mower starting up) <b>cl:</b> clatter; <b>kb:</b> kek-burr; <b>kek:</b> kek; <b>kh:</b> kek-hurrah</li> </ul>
<i>Image by: Jim Rathert</i>	

<p><b><u>Common Gallinule (COGA)</u></b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult: medium-sized marsh bird that appears dark overall. <b>Red bill, white flank stripe, and white stripe on tail separate it from similar species.</b></li> <li>• Juvenile: grayish brown</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sounds:</b> Common Gallinules make all sorts of chickenlike <b>clucks, whinnies, cackles, squawks,</b> and <b>yelps</b>. The rapid series of clucks sounds vaguely raptorlike, but the series often ends with what sounds like a laugh. Their squawks can be low-pitched and grating or high-pitched and piercing. They tend to mix and match calls, throwing in a squawk or cluck after a cackle or vice versa. (sounds like a shore bird)</li> <li>• <b>wo:</b> wipe out; <b>kp:</b> keep; <b>gu:</b> giddy-up</li> </ul>
<p><i>Photo by: Mark Eden</i></p>	

<p><b><u>Pied-billed Grebe (PBGR)</u></b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeding Adult: small chunky waterbird with a blocky head, <b>short thick bill,</b> and almost no tail. Breeding birds have a <b>vertical black stripe on the bill.</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non Breeding Adult: brownish neck and lack the black bill stripe</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sounds:</b> <b>oh:</b> oh-woop; <b>hy:</b> hyena</li> </ul>
<p><i>Photo by: Steve Cronin</i></p>	

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The following focal species are not included in the audio broadcast:

<b><u>American Bittern (AMBI)</u></b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>American Bitterns are medium-sized herons with thick, compact bodies. They have shorter legs and <b>thicker necks</b> than typical herons and a <b>slightly hunched posture</b>. The <b>daggerlike bill is long, straight, and sharply pointed</b>. The wings are broad but the wingtips are somewhat pointed; mostly <b>warm brown, buff, and white</b>. They are <b>strongly streaked, especially on the neck chest</b>. Head is usually up.</li><li><b>Sound: cp:</b> chu-peep; <b>kok:</b> kok; <b>pl:</b> pump-er-lunk (<b>underwater sound; dripping water sound</b>)</li></ul>
<i>Photo by Joseph Mahoney</i>	

<b><u>Black Rail (BLRA)</u></b>	
	<p>The smallest rail in North America, the Black Rail is perhaps the most secretive too. This small denizen of shallow salt and freshwater marshes is rarely seen and its distinctive "kick-ee-doo" call is heard primarily at night; <b>red eyes</b>; Very rare; only 3-5 pairs in Midwest</p>
<i>Photo by Brian E. Small</i>	<b>ch:</b> churt; <b>gr:</b> gr; <b>kk:</b> kic-kic-kerr; <b>tch:</b> tch