

## Minnesota Marshbird Call Identification Practice Tool

Are you trying to remember exactly how the Yellow Rail call goes? It's that time of year to listen again to the audio files. We have customized a website to include only the focal species for the Minnesota Marshbird Survey, so you can practice and quiz yourself on their calls. The website is "NatureInstruct" and it contains a site called "[Dendroica](http://www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica/)" that is designed for people who want to practice their bird identification skills. We created a log-in for Minnesota marshbird surveyors.

- Navigate to the page here: <http://www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica/index.php>.
- Click on "Returning users"
- Enter **username = "acariveau"** and **password = "MNMB2016"**
- Select **"USA"**
- You will arrive on a page either showing our Six Primary Species (list="MN marshbirds") – OR - 20 Primary and Secondary Species (list = "MN marshbirds 2"). This is where you gain practice. You select from the species by double-clicking and play their calls at the bottom of the screen. You also may scroll through a series of photographs.
- I recommend starting with the list of six and then moving to the longer list once you have familiarized yourself with the primary species.
  - To change between lists, click the **Manage Lists** button.
  - On the **List Filters** tab, go to **"Load Custom List"** and choose the other list that you wish to work with for the moment.
  - **Save and Exit**
- **Quiz:** Once you have practiced as much as you like, try the Quiz button. I set the quiz preferences for audio only, to show you no photographs, but you can re-set that if it has since been changed by other user.
  - When the quiz opens, ***you will have to play the first call at the bottom to get it started.***
  - Once you have listened to the call, select the species that you think it is.
  - If you are correct, then you can choose to go to the **"Next Question"**.
  - If you were mistaken, then hit **"Back to Quiz Species"** to make another selection.
  - You can stay with the quiz for as many or as few questions as you like.
  - To quiz on the other (larger or smaller) set of birds, you **will Exit Quiz** and follow the directions for **Manage Lists** as given above.

Please let me know if this works, doesn't work, or if you have any questions. Have fun!!!

– Alison ([acariveau@audubon.org](mailto:acariveau@audubon.org))