



# BIODIVERSITY & WETLANDS WHEN SIZE MATTERS MOST!

Small wetlands pack a punch, with higher bird diversity & abundance by area.

We can measure bird diversity by counting the number of birds of each species on each pond.



Wetland complexes are made up of different sized ponds.

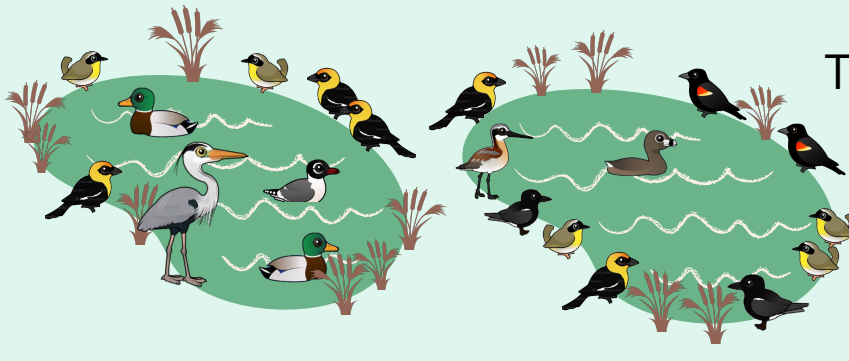
Small ponds



Total pond surface area = 4 x 4 acres

Bird abundance & species numbers both increase with wetland size, but at a decreasing rate.

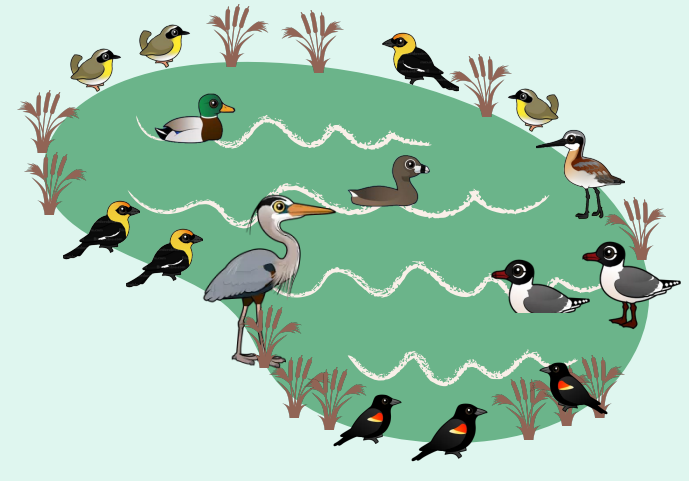
Medium ponds



Total pond surface area = 2 x 8 acres

All wetland sizes are needed for prairie biodiversity...

Large ponds



Total pond surface area = 1 x 16 acres

...but, smaller wetlands have greater relative bird abundance & diversity than larger wetlands.



Where birds go, other flora and fauna follow.  
**SMALL WETLANDS ARE A KEY COMPONENT OF PRAIRIE BIODIVERSITY**

Read the science here:

<https://tinyurl.com/Bartzen-et-al-2017>

<https://tinyurl.com/Bidwell-et-al-2014>

<https://tinyurl.com/Elliot-et-al-2020>



**PRAIRIE WATER**  
GLOBAL WATER FUTURES

