Threatened and Endangered Species

(Bald Eagle)

Bald Eagle (Threatened)
While many bald eagles pass through the area during the spring and fall migrations, these raptors may be seen throughout the year on Lake Sharpe. These majestic birds tend nests and raise young throughout the spring and summer at sites near the lake and river and roost in cottonwoods along the river during the winter. Bald eagles are very sensitive to human presence. Do not approach an active nest as disturbance by humans may cause the eagle to abandon the nest. Disturbing an eagle in the winter will cause it to waste valuable energy reserves by forcing it to fly from the roost. To avoid disturbing eagles, do not get any closer than 300 yards unless in a vehicle or blind.

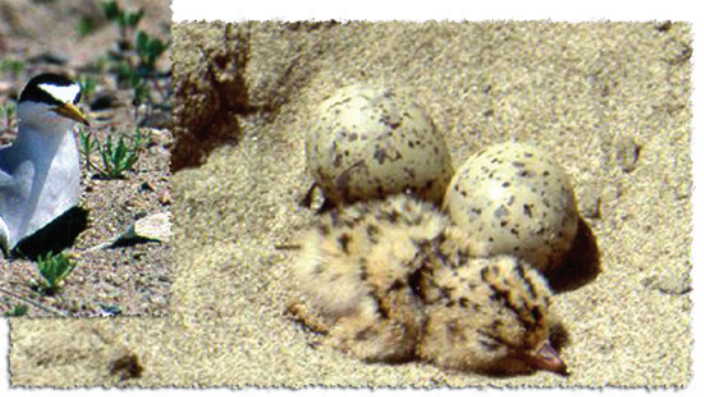
Photograph Far Left, Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Piping Plover (Threatened)
and
Interior Least Tern (Endangered)
The piping plover and interior least tern are summer residents that utilize sand bars for nesting and raising their young. These small birds are extremely sensitive to the presence of humans and even the smallest disturbance can easily threaten their survival. Therefore, during the nesting and brood-rearing season, some sandbars and islands are posted with signs, which close these areas to humans. By recognizing and avoiding these rare birds and their posted nesting areas, we can improve their chances of survival.

(Piping Plover)

(Piping Plover Nest)

(Interior Least Tern)



(Interior Least Tern Chick and Nest)