

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River

Migratory Bird Refuge

Bird List



History



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge was established by Congress on April 23, 1928, as "suitable feeding and breeding grounds for migratory wildfowl." The Refuge's 74,000 acres contain diverse habitats in a mosaic of upland, wetland, mudflat, river delta, and brackish and freshwater marshes. The Bear River delta has long been considered one of the most valuable waterbird and wetland areas of the Intermountain West.

In the early 1980s, after record-breaking snowfalls and cooler than normal summers, the Great Salt Lake began to rise above its traditional elevation of 4,200 feet above sea level. By 1987, the lake reached its historical high of 4,212 feet above sea level. The lake breached Refuge dikes and flooded the marshes with salt water. Flood waters destroyed dikes, water control structures, and buildings, including a new visitor center. Most of the trees and other vegetation that grew on the Refuge were destroyed. It wasn't until 1989 that flood waters receded to the point that re-establishment of the Refuge could begin.

Slowly, the Refuge recovered. Once again, wetland vegetation is thriving and waterbird populations have returned to their pre-flood numbers. However, songbirds associated with trees and shrubs are still uncommon or even rare and are likely to be seen only during migration.

When to Visit

Spring time is a great time to visit the Refuge. Waterfowl are most abundant in late March. Shorebird migration peaks the third week of April. Songbirds begin to arrive in late April and continue through May.

Broods of young birds begin to appear in mid-May. By June and July, visitors can expect to see many more young birds throughout the Refuge.

Shorebirds begin to return from the north in late June and early July. They are most abundant from mid-July to mid-August.

During fall migration, waterfowl numbers peak around the third week of September. Tundra swans begin to arrive in mid-October and peak in mid-November.

Location and Information

The Refuge is located 15 miles west of Brigham City, Utah, and is accessed by traveling west on Forest Street from Interstate 15 (exit #363).

A 12-mile auto tour route loops around the Refuge marshes, beginning and ending at the River Delta Interpretive Site. At the beginning of the auto tour route, stop at the kiosk and gather maps, checklists, and other information. The tour is open to the public year-round during daylight hours, weather and road conditions permitting.

International Distinction



In March of 1991, the Great Salt Lake area, including Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, was designated as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site.

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge has also been designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

Refuge Birding Information

The Refuge's "Birding Information Line" is updated two times per month and provides information on current bird sightings and related events. To hear this recording, call 435 / 723 5887, and choose the appropriate extension from the directory.

About This List

All species names are listed in accordance with the *American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Checklist of North American Birds, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C. and the AOU (2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005) supplements.*

The checklist contains 212 species that occur on the Refuge; 72 species are known to breed here. Another 36 species are listed as accidental. The years they were recorded are also shown.

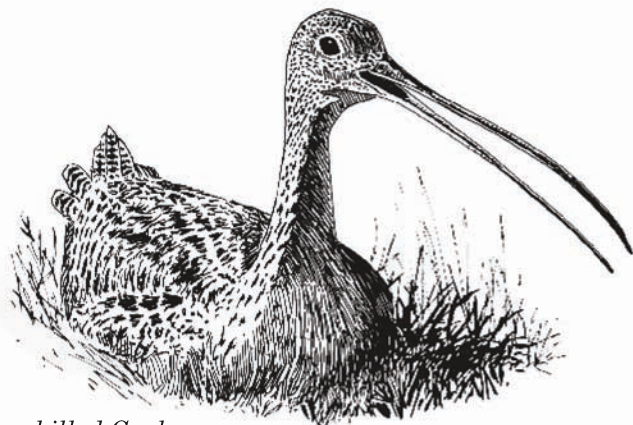
Seasonal Occurrence

Sp Spring (March - May)
S Summer (June - July)
F Fall (August - November)
W Winter (December - February)

Abundance

c common; certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
u uncommon; present, but not certain to be seen
o occasional; seen only a few times during a season
r rare; seen at irregular intervals over several years
• species that nest on the Refuge

Bird names in *italics* are listed as either endangered, threatened, or species of special concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the State of Utah.



Long-billed Curlew
USFWS



Northern Pintail
USFWS

Common Bird Name

Swans, Geese, and Ducks

	Sp	S	F	W
— Snow Goose	o		o	
— Ross's Goose			r	
— Cackling Goose	r		r	
• Canada Goose	c	c	c	o
— Trumpeter Swan	r		o	r
— Tundra Swan	c		c	o
— Wood Duck	r		r	
• Gadwall	c	u	c	o
— Eurasian Wigeon	r		r	
• American Wigeon	c		c	o
• Mallard	c	c	c	o
• Blue-winged Teal	u	u	u	
• Cinnamon Teal	c	c	c	r
• Northern Shoveler	c	u	c	o
• Northern Pintail	c	u	c	o
• Green-winged Teal	c	u	c	r
• Canvasback	u	r	u	o
• Redhead	c	u	u	o
— Ring-necked Duck	u		u	o
— Greater Scaup	r		r	
— Lesser Scaup	c		c	o
— Surf Scoter			r	
— White-winged Scoter			r	
— Long-tailed Duck	r		r	r
— Bufflehead	c	r	u	o
— Common Goldeneye	c	r	c	o
— Barrow's Goldeneye	r		r	r
— Hooded Merganser	o		o	r
— Common Merganser	o		u	r
— Red-breasted Merganser	o		u	o
• Ruddy Duck	c	u	c	o

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Gallinaceous Birds				
• Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	u	u
Loons				
Pacific Loon	r		r	
Common Loon	r		r	
Grebes				
• Pied-billed Grebe	u	u	u	o
Horned Grebe	r		r	r
• Eared Grebe	u	o	u	r
• Western Grebe	c	u	u	r
• Clark's Grebe	c	u	u	r
Pelicans				
American White Pelican	c	c	c	r



Swainson's Hawk
USFWS



Great Blue Heron
USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cormorants				
• Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	r
Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
American Bittern	o	o	r	
• Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	o
• Great Egret	o	o	o	r
• Snowy Egret	c	c	c	r
• Cattle Egret	c	u	o	
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	u	r
Ibises and Spoonbills				
• White-faced Ibis	c	c	c	r
New World Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	o	o	o	
Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles				
Osprey	r		r	
Bald Eagle	o		u	c
• Northern Harrier	u	o	c	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o	r	o	r
Cooper's Hawk	o	r	o	r
Northern Goshawk	r		r	r
Swainson's Hawk	u	o	u	
• Red-tailed Hawk	u	u	u	r
Ferruginous Hawk	r		r	r
Rough-legged Hawk	o		u	o
Golden Eagle	o	r	o	u



American Avocet
USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Falcons and Caracaras				
• American Kestrel	u	u	u	o
Merlin	o		r	o
Peregrine Falcon	u	o	u	o
Prairie Falcon	o		o	r
Rails				
• Virginia Rail	u	u	u	r
• Sora	u	u	u	
• Common Moorhen	r	r	r	r
• American Coot	c	c	c	o
Cranes				
• Sandhill Crane	u	u	u	
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	o		o	
American Golden-Plover	r		r	
• Snowy Plover	u	u	u	
Semipalmated Plover	o		o	
• Killdeer	c	c	u	r
Stilts and Avocets				
• Black-necked Stilt	c	c	u	
• American Avocet	c	c	u	r
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	u	r
Lesser Yellowlegs	o	u	o	r
Solitary Sandpiper	o	r	o	
• Willet	u	u	o	
• Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Whimbrel	o	r	r	
• Long-billed Curlew	u	u	u	r
Marbled Godwit	c	c	c	r
Ruddy Turnstone	r		r	
Red Knot	r		r	
Sanderling	r		o	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	o		o	
Western Sandpiper	c	c	c	
Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Baird's Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	o		o	
Dunlin	r		r	
Stilt Sandpiper	r	o	o	
Short-billed Dowitcher	o		o	
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	u	c	
• Wilson's Snipe	u	u	u	r
• Wilson's Phalarope	c	u	c	
Red-necked Phalarope	o	r	u	

Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, and Terns

• Franklin's Gull	c	c	c	r
Bonaparte's Gull	o		o	
Ring-billed Gull	u	u	c	o
• California Gull	c	c	u	o
Herring Gull	o		o	o
Thayer's Gull	r		r	r
Glaucous Gull	r		r	r
Sabine's Gull	r		r	
• Caspian Tern	u	u	u	
Common Tern	o		o	
• Forster's Tern	c	u	u	
• Black Tern	u	u	u	

Pigeons and Doves

• Rock Pigeon	o	o	o	o
• Mourning Dove	u	u	u	o

Barn Owls

Barn Owl	o	o	o	o
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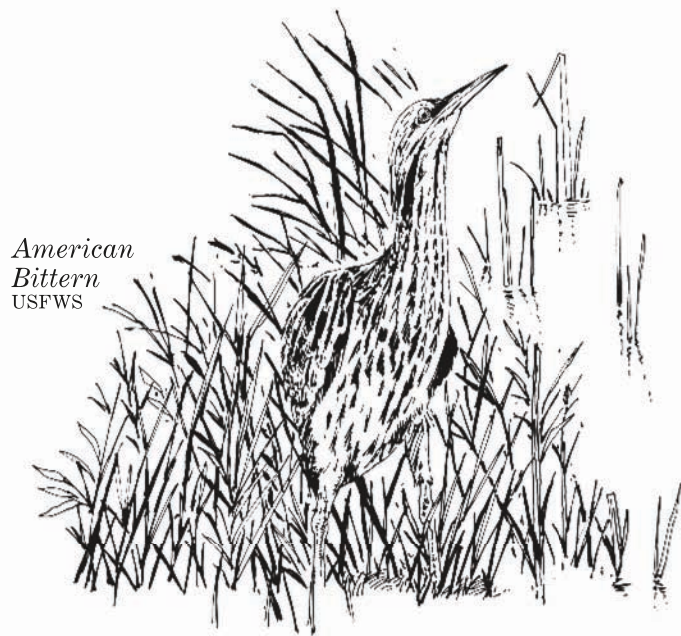
Typical Owls

Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
Burrowing Owl	r	r	r	
Long-eared Owl	r			r
• Short-eared Owl	u	u	u	o



Burrowing Owl
USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Nightjars				
Common Nighthawk	o	o	o	
Common Poorwill	r		r	
Swifts				
Vaux's Swift	r		r	
White-throated Swift	o		o	
Hummingbirds				
Black-chinned Hummingbird	o	r	o	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	o	r	o	
Rufous Hummingbird		r	r	
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	o	o	o	o
Woodpeckers				
Downy Woodpecker	o	r	o	r
Northern Flicker	o		o	r
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Western Wood-Pewee	u		u	
Willow Flycatcher	r		r	
Hammond's Flycatcher	r		r	
Gray Flycatcher	r		r	
Dusky Flycatcher	r		r	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	r		r	
Say's Phoebe	r		r	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	r		r	
• Western Kingbird	c	c	u	
• Eastern Kingbird	u	u	o	



American Bittern
USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike	o		o	u
Northern Shrike	r		r	r
Vireos				
Plumbeous Vireo	r		r	
Warbling Vireo	u	r	u	
Crows, Jays, and Magpies				
• Black-billed Magpie	u	u	u	u
American Crow	r	r	r	r
• Common Raven	u	u	u	u
Larks				
• Horned Lark	c	c	c	o
Swallows				
Tree Swallow	u	r	u	
Violet-green Swallow	o		o	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	r	c	
Bank Swallow	c	r	c	
• Cliff Swallow	c	c	u	
• Barn Swallow	c	u	u	
Titmice and Chickadees				
Black-capped Chickadee	o	r	o	o
Mountain Chickadee	r		r	r
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r		r	r
Wrens				
Rock Wren	r		r	
House Wren	r	r	r	
• Marsh Wren	c	c	c	u
Kinglets				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r		r	r
Old World Warblers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r		r	
Thrushes				
Mountain Bluebird	r		r	
Townsend's Solitaire	r		r	r
Swainson's Thrush	r		r	
Hermit Thrush	r		r	
American Robin	u	u	u	r

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Mimic Thrushes				
___ Northern Mockingbird	r	r	r	
___ • Sage Thrasher	r	o	r	
Starlings				
___ • European Starling	u	u	u	u
Wagtails and Pipits				
___ American Pipit	c		c	o
Waxwings				
___ Bohemian Waxwing	r		r	r
___ Cedar Waxwing	r		r	r
Wood Warblers				
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	o		o	r
___ Nashville Warbler	r		r	
___ Virginia's Warbler	r		r	
___ Yellow Warbler	u	o	u	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	u		u	
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	r		r	
___ • Common Yellowthroat	u	u	o	
___ Wilson's Warbler	r		r	

Tanagers				
___ Western Tanager	o		o	

Sparrows and Towhees				
___ Green-tailed Towhee	r		r	
___ Spotted Towhee	r		r	
___ American Tree Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Chipping Sparrow	r	r	r	
___ • Brewer's Sparrow	o	o	o	
___ • Vesper Sparrow	u	o	c	
___ Lark Sparrow	o	r	o	
___ Lark Bunting	r	r	r	
___ • Savannah Sparrow	u	u	u	r
___ • Grasshopper Sparrow	r	r	r	
___ • Song Sparrow	u	u	u	r
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	o		o	
___ White-throated Sparrow	r		r	
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u	r	u	o
___ Dark-eyed Junco	c		u	u
___ Lapland Longspur	r		r	r
___ Snow Bunting			r	r

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies				
___ Black-headed Grosbeak	o	o	r	r
___ Lazuli Bunting	o	o	r	r

Blackbirds and Orioles				
___ Bobolink	r	r	r	
___ • Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	u	r
___ • Western Meadowlark	c	c	c	u
___ • Yellow-headed Blackbird	c	c	u	r
___ • Brewer's Blackbird	u	u	o	r
___ • Brown-headed Cowbird	o	o	o	
___ Bullock's Oriole	u	u	r	

Finches				
___ • House Finch	o	o	o	o
___ Pine Siskin	o		o	o
___ Lesser Goldfinch	r		r	r
___ American Goldfinch	u	o	u	o
___ Evening Grosbeak	r		r	r

Old World Sparrows				
___ • House Sparrow	c	u	c	u



Canada Goose with goslings.
USFWS

Accidental Species *(and dates recorded)*

— Fulvous Whistling-Duck	1908, 2006
— Greater White-fronted Goose	1916, 1928
— Brant	1872, 1913, 2004
— American Black Duck	1939, 1941, 1966
— Harlequin Duck	1991
— Black Scoter	1966
— Gray Partridge	2004
— Sharp-tailed Grouse	2003, 2005
— Red-throated Loon	1973
— Least Bittern	1943
— Little Blue Heron	1957
— Green Heron	1927
— Wood Stork	1934
— Mountain Plover	1946
— Hudsonian Godwit	2001
— Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1990
— Red Phalarope	1951, 1979
— Parasitic Jaeger	1932, 1934, 1941, 1942, 1972
— Long-tailed Jaeger	1926, 1944, 1990
— Mew Gull	1998
— Thayer's Gull	1998
— Iceland Gull	1998
— Yellow-footed Gull	1998
— Glaucous-winged Gull	1998
— Glaucous Gull	1998
— Sabine's Gull	2002
— Least Tern	2003, 2005
— White-winged Dove	1965, 1993
— Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2004
— Red-headed Woodpecker	1941
— Townsend's Warbler	2001
— Palm Warbler	1974, 1977
— Blackpoll Warbler	1970, 1974
— Le Conte's Sparrow	1975
— Harris's Sparrow	1983
— Great-tailed Grackle	2005

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 7-1-1 for a free connection to the State transfer relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 435 / 723 5887 or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Notes

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
2155 West Forest Street
Brigham City, UT 84302-4424
435 / 723 5887
bearriver@fws.gov
<http://bearriver.fws.gov/>

For State transfer relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

March 2006

