

Imperial
National Wildlife
Refuge

Birds



Birding at Imperial National Wildlife Refuge

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge consists of approximately 25,768 acres along the lower Colorado River. Spring and Fall offer the greatest variety of birds and the best birding opportunities. Also, the refuge is important as a wintering area for Canada geese and many species of ducks. Maps and regulations are available at the Visitor Center.

Occurrence

This list contains 275 species which have been observed on the refuge. Species are listed in accordance with the 7th edition (1998) A.O. U. checklist and the 46th Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist (July 2005).

Symbols used in this list are defined as follows:

Sp Spring March - May

S Summer June - August

F Fall September - November

W Winter December - February

Abundance

A Abundant
A common species that is very numerous.

C Common
Certain to be seen in suitable habitats.

U Uncommon
Present, not certain to be seen.

O Occasional
Seen few times during the season

R Rare
Unusual, seen every 2 to 5 years.

X Accidental
Has been seen only once or twice

* Nesting Species

*Italics = Federal Threatened or
Endangered Status*

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	R	R	R	
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	R		O	O
___ Snow Goose			O	U
___ Ross's Goose	R			O
___ Canada Goose	O	X	U	C
___ Brant	X			
___ Tundra Swan				O
___ Wood Duck	R		R	R
___ Gadwall	U		C	C
___ American Wigeon	U		C	C
___ *Mallard	U		C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal	O	R	O	O
___ *Cinnamon Teal	C	U	C	U
___ *Northern Shoveler	C	U	U	C
___ Northern Pintail	U	O	C	C
___ Green-winged Teal	U	R	O	C
___ Canvasback	O		O	O
___ Redhead	U	O	U	U
___ Ring-necked Duck	U	R	U	U
___ Greater Scaup	O			O
___ Lesser Scaup	U	R	U	U
___ Surf Scoter			X	
___ Long-tailed Duck			X	
___ Bufflehead	C		U	C
___ Common Goldeneye	C		O	O
___ Hooded Merganser			O	O
___ Common Merganser	U	R	U	C
___ Red-breasted Merganser	O	R	O	O
___ *Ruddy Duck	C	U	C	C
Quail				
___ *Gambel's Quail	A	A	A	A
Loons				
___ Common Loon	O		O	O



Anna's Hummingbird

Photograph by George Andrejko, Arizona Game and Fish Department

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes				
___Least Grebe				X
___*Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	C
___Horned Grebe				R
___*Eared Grebe	C	O	C	C
___*Western Grebe	C	C	C	C
___*Clark's Grebe	C	C	C	C
Boobies				
___Blue-footed Booby		X	X	
___Brown Booby		X	X	
Pelicans				
___American White Pelican	O	O	C	C
___ <i>Brown Pelican</i>	R	R	R	R
Cormorants				
___Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C	A
Frigatebirds				
___Magnificent Frigatebird		X		
Hérons, Bitterns, and Allies				
___American Bittern	O	R	O	R
___*Least Bittern	C	C	C	C
___*Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C
___*Great Egret	C	C	C	C
___*Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C
___Tricolored Heron			X	
___Reddish Egret			X	
___Cattle Egret	O	O	O	O
___*Green Heron	U	U	U	U
___*Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	U
Ibises and Spoonbills				
___White Ibis	X			
___White-faced Ibis	U	U	U	U
___Roseate Spoonbill		X	X	X
Storks				
___Wood Stork		O	O	
New World Vultures				
___*Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	U
Hawks, Kites, and Eagles				
___Osprey	O	R	U	U
___White-tailed Kite	R	R	R	R
___ <i>Bald Eagle</i>	R		O	U
___*Northern Harrier	C	R	C	C
___Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	O
___Cooper's Hawk	U		U	U
___Harris's Hawk	O	O	O	O
___*Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U
___Ferruginous Hawk			R	
___Rough-legged Hawk				R
___Golden Eagle			O	O

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Falcons				
___*American Kestrel	O	O	U	U
___Merlin			R	R
___Peregrine Falcon	O		O	O
___Prairie Falcon	R	R	R	R
Rails and Coots				
___*Black Rail	C	C	C	C
___*Clapper Rail	C	C	C	C
___*Virginia Rail	C	C	C	C
___Sora	C	R	C	C
___*Common Moorhen	C	C	C	C
___*American Coot	C	C	C	A
Cranes				
___Sandhill Crane			O	O
Lapwings and Plovers				
___Black-bellied Plover	O	O	O	
___Snowy Plover	O	O	O	O
___Semipalmated Plover	O	O	O	
___*Killdeer	C	C	C	C
Stilts and Avocets				
___*Black-necked Stilt	U	U	U	U
___American Avocet	U	U	U	O
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies				
___Greater Yellowlegs	U	O	U	O
___Lesser Yellowlegs	O	O	O	
___Solitary Sandpiper	O	O	O	
___Willet	U	O	O	R
___Spotted Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
___Upland Sandpiper			X	
___Whimbrel		O		
___Long-billed Curlew	O	R	O	O
___Marbled Godwit	O	O	O	O
___Sanderling	O		O	
___Western Sandpiper	C	C	C	O
___Least Sandpiper	C	C	C	C
___Pectoral Sandpiper			O	X
___Dunlin	O		O	O
___Long-billed Dowitcher	U	U	C	C
___Wilson's Snipe	U	O	U	U
___Wilson's Phalarope	U	U	O	
___Red-necked Phalarope	R	O	O	
___Red Phalarope				X
Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
___Parasitic Jaeger		X		
___Franklin's Gull		R	R	
___Bonaparte's Gull	O		O	
___Heerman's Gull			X	
___Ring-billed Gull	U	O	C	C
___California Gull	O	O	R	O
___Herring Gull			X	R

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Gulls and Terns, Cont.				
___ Glaucous-winged Gull			X	
___ Sabine's Gull	X		R	
___ Gull-billed Tern	X			
___ Caspian Tern	O	U	U	R
___ Common Tern		O	O	
___ Forster's Tern	O	U	U	O
___ <i>Least Tern</i>		X		
___ Black Tern	U	U	U	
___ Black Skimmer		X		
Pigeons and Doves				
___ Band-tailed Pigeon			X	
___ *White-winged Dove	C	A	U	O
___ *Mourning Dove	C	A	C	C
___ Inca Dove	U	U	U	U
___ *Common Ground-Dove	U	U	U	U
Cuckoos and Roadrunners				
___ *Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U		
___ *Greater Roadrunner	C	C	C	C
Barn Owls				
___ Barn Owl	O	O	O	O
Typical Owls				
___ *Western Screech-Owl	C	C	C	C
___ *Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C
___ Elf Owl	R	R	R	R
___ Burrowing Owl	U	O	U	U
___ Long-eared Owl	R		R	R
___ Short-eared Owl			R	
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl				R
Goatsuckers				
___ *Lesser Nighthawk	C	A	C	R
___ *Common Poorwill	U	U	U	
Swifts				
___ Vaux's Swift	O		O	
___ White-throated Swift	O	O	O	O
Hummingbirds				
___ *Black-chinned Hummingbird	U	U		
___ *Anna's Hummingbird	C	C	C	C
___ *Costa's Hummingbird	C	C	U	O
___ Calliope Hummingbird				X
___ Rufous Hummingbird	O		O	
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher	U		C	U
Woodpeckers and Allies				
___ Lewis's Woodpecker			X	
___ *Gila Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___ Red-naped Sapsucker	U		U	U
___ *Ladder-backed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___ Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	U		C	U
___ Gilded Flicker	O	O	O	O

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	
___Western Wood-Pewee	C	U	C	
___Willow Flycatcher	U		U	
___Hammond's Flycatcher	O	R	O	R
___Gray Flycatcher	O		O	O
___Dusky Flycatcher	R			R
___Pacific-slope Flycatcher	C		C	
___*Black Phoebe	C	O	C	C
___Eastern Phoebe	X			R
___*Say's Phoebe	C	C	C	C
___*Vermilion Flycatcher	U	U	U	U
___*Ash-throated Flycatcher	C	C	C	R
___*Brown-crested Flycatcher	C	C		
___Cassin's Kingbird		X	X	
___*Western Kingbird	C	C	U	
Shrikes				
___*Loggerhead Shrike	C	C	C	C
Vireos				
___*Bell's Vireo	O	O	O	
___Plumbeous Vireo	U		U	O
___Cassin's Vireo	U		U	O
___Warbling Vireo	C		C	
___Red-eyed Vireo	X			
Crows and Jays				
___Western Scrub-Jay	X		R	X
___Pinyon Jay			X	
___Clark's Nutcracker			X	
___Common Raven	O	O	O	O
Larks				
___Horned Lark				U
Swallows				
___Purple Martin			X	
___Tree Swallow	A	O	A	A
___Violet-green Swallow	O		O	O
___*No. Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C	O
___Bank Swallow	U	U	U	
___*Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
___Barn Swallow	C	O	C	O
Verdins				
___*Verdin	C	C	C	C
Nuthatches				
___Red-breasted Nuthatch			R	
___White-breasted Nuthatch			X	
Creepers				
___Brown Creeper				R

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Wrens				
___*Cactus Wren	U	U	U	U
___*Rock Wren	U	O	U	U
___Bewick's Wren	O		O	O
___House Wren	U		U	U
___*Marsh Wren	C	C	C	C
Kinglets				
___Golden-crowned Kinglet			X	X
___Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A		A	A
Gnatcatchers				
___Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C		C	C
___*Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	C
Thrushes				
___Western Bluebird			O	O
___Mountain Bluebird	O		O	O
___Townsend's Solitaire	O		O	O
___Swainson's Thrush	U		U	U
___Hermit Thrush	U		U	U
___American Robin	O		O	O
___Varied Thrush				X
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
___*Northern Mockingbird	U	U	U	U
___Sage Thrasher	O		O	O
___Bendire's Thrasher			R	
___*Crissal Thrasher	C	C	C	C
Starlings				
___*European Starling	O	U	O	O
Pipits				
___American Pipit	C		C	C
Waxwings				
___Cedar Waxwing	O		O	O
Silky-Flycatchers				
___*Phainopepla	C	U	C	C
Wood-Warblers				
___Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	C
___Nashville Warbler	U		U	
___*Lucy's Warbler	C	C		
___Northern Parula				X
___*Yellow Warbler	C	O	C	
___Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C
___Myrtle	O		O	O
___Audubon's	C		C	C
___Black-throated Gray Warbler	U		U	O
___Townsend's Warbler	U		U	X
___Hermit Warbler	O		O	
___Palm Warbler			X	
___Blackpoll Warbler		X		
___American Redstart	R		R	R
___Northern Waterthrush			X	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Wood-Warblers, Cont.				
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	C		C	
___ *Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	U
___ Wilson's Warbler	C		C	O
___ *Yellow-breasted Chat	C	C	C	
Tanagers				
___ Hepatic Tanager			X	
___ *Summer Tanager	C	C	O	
___ Western Tanager	C	U	U	
Sparrows and Allies				
___ Green-tailed Towhee	U		U	U
___ Spotted Towhee	O		O	O
___ *Abert's Towhee	A	A	A	A
___ Chipping Sparrow	U		U	C
___ Brewer's Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Vesper Sparrow	U		U	C
___ Lark Sparrow	U	R	U	O
___ Black-throated Sparrow	O	O	O	O
___ Sage Sparrow			U	U
___ Lark Bunting			R	R
___ Savannah Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	X			
___ Fox Sparrow	R		R	
___ *Song Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	U		C	C
___ Swamp Sparrow	O		O	O
___ White-crowned Sparrow	A		A	A
___ Golden-crowned Sparrow	R		R	R
___ Dark-eyed Junco	O		O	O
___ Oregon	O		O	O
___ Gray-headed			R	
___ Lapland Longspur			X	
___ Chestnut-collard Longspur			O	
Cardinals and Grosbeaks				
___ Black-headed Grosbeak	C	O	C	
___ *Blue Grosbeak	C	C	U	
___ Lazuli Bunting	U		U	
___ Indigo Bunting	O	O		
Blackbirds and Orioles				
___ *Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A	A
___ Western Meadowlark	U		U	C
___ *Yellow-headed Blackbird	C	C	C	C
___ Rusty Blackbird				X
___ Brewer's Blackbird	U		C	C
___ *Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	C
___ Bronzed Cowbird	O	O	O	R
___ *Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	U
___ *Hooded Oriole	U	U	O	
___ *Bullock's Oriole	U	U	U	
___ Baltimore Oriole			X	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Finches				
___*House Finch	C	C	C	C
___Pine Siskin	R		O	O
___*Lesser Goldfinch	U	U	U	U
___Lawrence's Goldfinch	R	R		
___American Goldfinch			O	O
Old World Sparrows				
___*House Sparrow	O	O	O	O

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Great Horned Owl

Photograph by George Andrejko, Arizona Game and Fish Department

FIELD NOTES

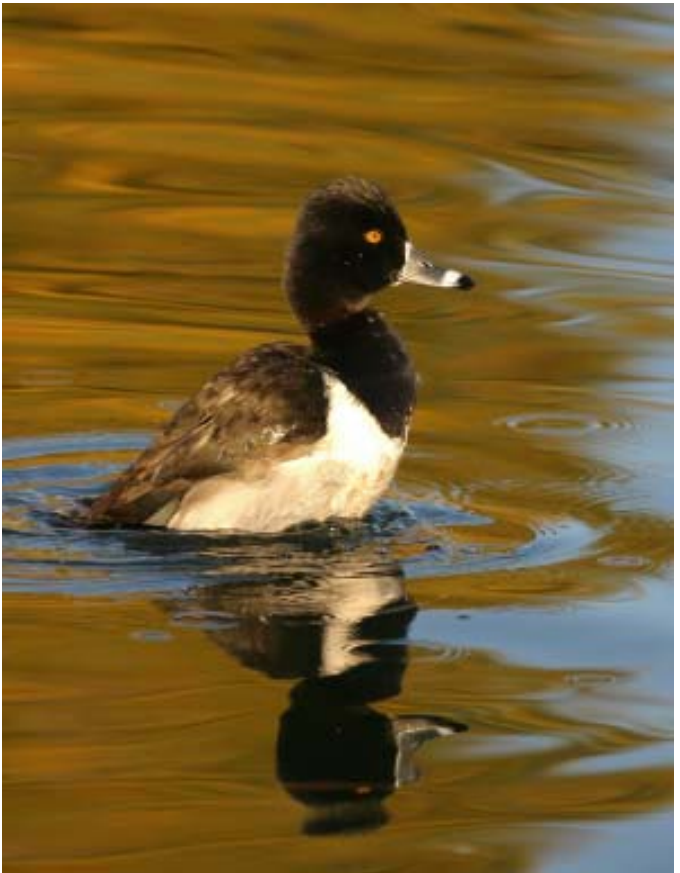
Date: _____ Time: _____

Species: _____

Observers: _____

Weather: _____

Remarks: _____



Ring-necked Duck

Photograph by Henry D. Detwiler, Southwest Birders.

**Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
Martinez Lake
P.O. Box 72217
Yuma, Arizona 85365
928783-3371
928/783-0652 Fax**

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

**Arizona Relay Service
1 800/367-8939**

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

**For Refuge Information
1 800/344-WILD**

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Say's Phoebe

Photograph by Henry D. Detwiler, Southwest Birders.