

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Tijuana Slough

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

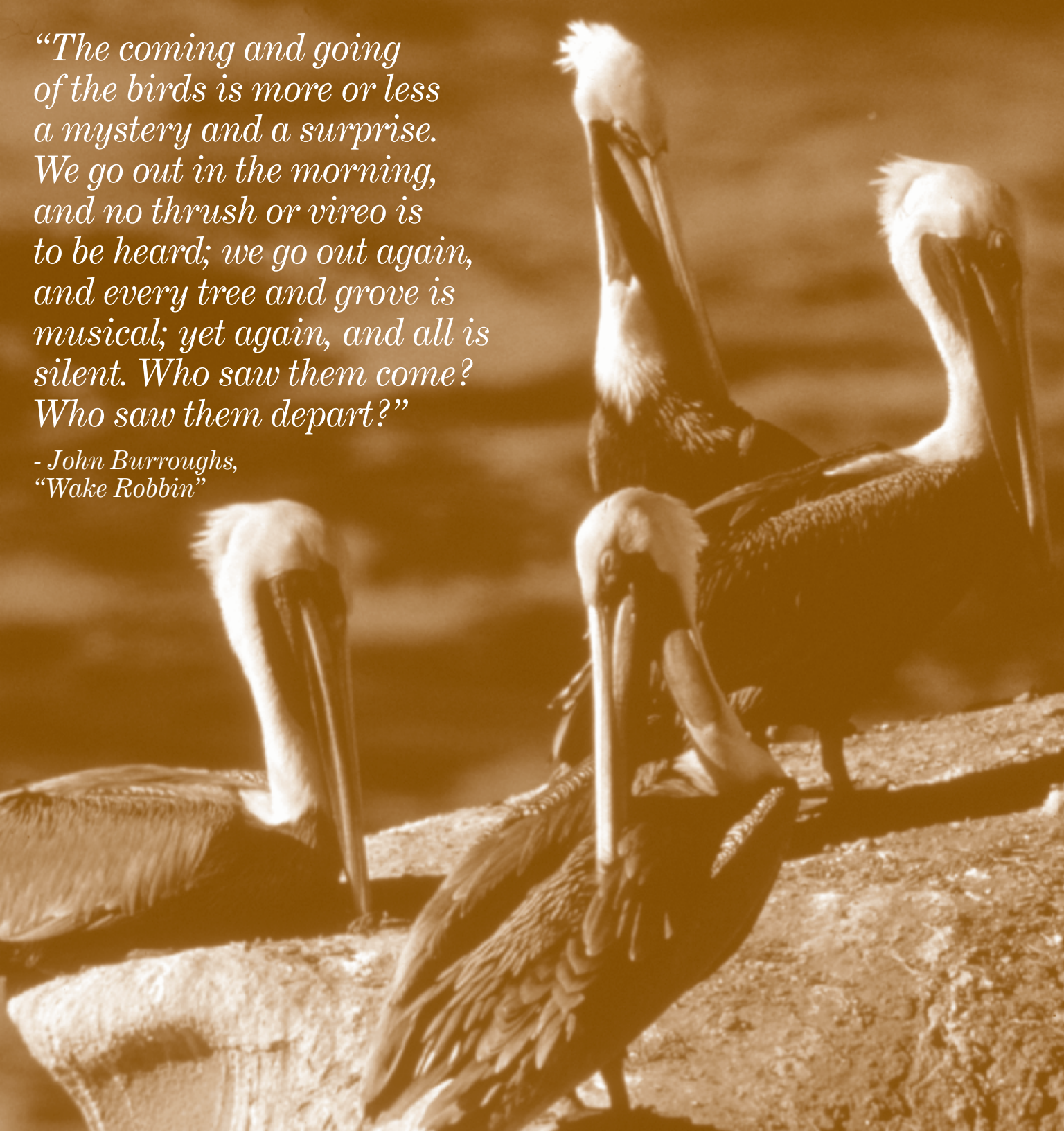
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Birdlist



*“The coming and going
of the birds is more or less
a mystery and a surprise.
We go out in the morning,
and no thrush or vireo is
to be heard; we go out again,
and every tree and grove is
musical; yet again, and all is
silent. Who saw them come?
Who saw them depart?”*

*- John Burroughs,
“Wake Robbin”*



Introduction

Tijuana Slough NWR

Tijuana River NERR

For nearly 40 years, the Tijuana estuary and river valley have been a magnet for birds and bird watchers. Today, the area continues to delight birders, wildlife photographers and nature lovers from around the world. This bird list covers the estuary, river valley and the adjacent communities of Imperial Beach and Nestor to the north, Spooner's Mesa to the south, and the ocean visible from shore to the west.

The Tijuana River valley has experienced enormous changes in its habitats over the decades. Many species of birds have appeared and disappeared with these changes. Much of the data on birds in the Tijuana River valley reflects past conditions — more extensive agriculture, different crops, fewer trees, flooded swamps...

Current conditions (1997) are so new that the status of many species is unclear. Some species that once occurred frequently are now rare or absent. Although this list encompasses all species ever recorded here, their status by season is an estimate based on their response to current conditions.

— Philip Unitt, *Department of Birds and Mammals, San Diego Natural History Museum*

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, of which Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge is a part, lies along the Pacific Flyway and is designated as a "Globally Important Bird Area" by the American Bird Conservancy. The Audubon Society's 1997 Christmas bird count documented over 370 species of birds in the estuary and river valley.

Bird List Key

Key to Habitats

- c - Common – species seen on nearly every visit at the proper season, usually in good numbers (>10 per day)
- u - Uncommon – species seen on most visits at the proper season, usually in small numbers (<10 per day).
- o - Occasional – species not seen on most visits, even at the proper season, but small numbers can be expected nearly every year with repeated searching.
- r - Rare – species seen only sporadically, not annually; as few as one record.
- *
- (*) - Species breeds sporadically or bred formerly.

The current breeding status of many species is uncertain, requiring ongoing surveys.

Seasons

- Sp - Spring, March through May
- S - Summer, June through August
- F - Fall, September through October
- W - Winter, November through February



California least terns
Ken Morris/USFWS

Birds of Tijuana River NERR

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe*	u	u	u	u
Horned Grebe				o
Eared Grebe	u		u	u
Western Grebe	u		c	c
Clark’s Grebe	r	r	u	u
Loons				
Red-throated Loon*	r	r	u	u
Pacific Loon	o			o
Common Loon	u		u	u
Fulmars, and Shearwaters				
Northern Fulmar	r		r	r
Sooty Shearwater	r	r	r	r
Short-tailed Shearwater				r
Black-vented Shearwater			o	o
Tropicbirds				
Red-billed Tropicbird			r	
Boobies and Gannets				
Blue-footed Booby			r	
Brown Booby	r			
Pelicans and Cormorants				
Brandt’s Cormorant	u	u	u	u
Double-crested Cormorant	c	u	c	c
American White Pelican	r		r	r
California Brown Pelican	c	c	c	c
Frigatebirds				
Magnificent Frigatebird		r	r	
Bitterns, Herons and Egrets				
American Bittern (*)	r	r	r	o
Least Bittern*	o	o	o	r
Great Blue Heron	u	u	u	u
Great Egret (*)	u	u	u	u
Snowy Egret (*)	u	u	c	u
Little Blue Heron (*)	o	o	o	o
Tricolored Heron	r	r	o	o
Reddish Egret	r	r	o	o
Cattle Egret (*)	r	r	r	r

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Green Heron*	u	u	u	u
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*)	u	u	u	u
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r	r	r	r
Ibis				
White-faced Ibis	o	r	o	o
Stork				
Wood Stork	r	r		
Waterfowl				
Greater White-fronted Goose			r	r
Snow Goose			r	r
Ross’ Goose			r	
Brant	o		o	o
Canada Goose			r	r
Wood Duck			r	
Green-winged Teal	u		u	u
Mallard*	u	u	c	c
Northern Pintail	c		c	c
Blue-winged Teal	o		r	o
Cinnamon Teal (*)	c	o	c	c
Northern Shoveler	c		c	c
Gadwall (*)	u	o	u	u
Eurasian Wigeon			o	o
American Wigeon	c		c	c
Canvasback				r
Redhead				o

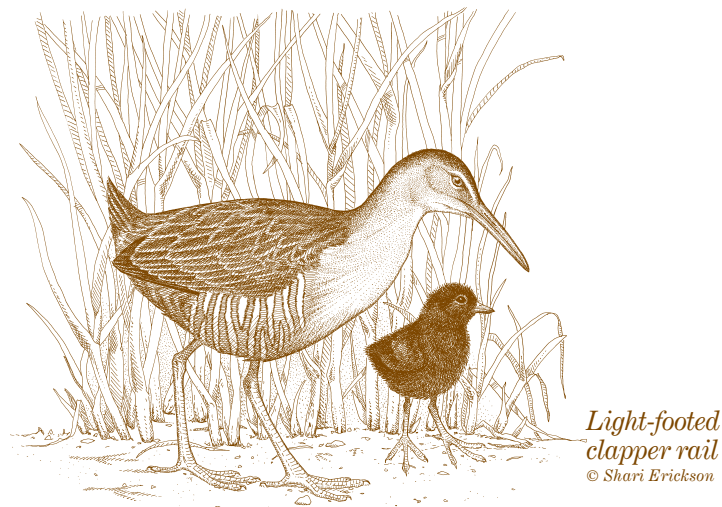
Waterfowl, continued next page

Green heron
© Phillip Roullard



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Waterfowl, continued				
Ring-necked Duck		r		o
Greater Scaup			r	r
Lesser Scaup	u		c	c
Oldsquaw	r		r	r
Black Scoter				r
Surf Scoter	c	u	c	c
White-winged Scoter	r			r
Common Goldeneye				r
Bufflehead	u		u	c
Red-breasted Merganser	u	o	u	u
Ruddy Duck (*)	c	u	c	c
Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	r		u	
California Condor - extirpated				
Osprey, Kites, Eagles and Hawks				
Osprey	o	o	o	o
White-tailed Kite*	u	u	u	u
Mississippi Kite		r		
Bald Eagle			r	
Northern Harrier*	u	u	u	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk			u	u
Cooper's Hawk*	u	u	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk	o	o	u	u
Broad-winged Hawk			r	r
Swainson's Hawk	r		r	
Zone-tailed Hawk			r	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Red-tailed Hawk*	u	u	u	u
Ferruginous Hawk			o	r
Rough-legged Hawk			r	r
Golden Eagle			o	o
Falcons				
American Kestrel*	u	u	u	u
Merlin			o	o
Peregrine Falcon	o	o	o	o
Prairie Falcon			o	o
Gallinaceous Birds				
California Quail*	u	u	u	u
Rails				
Black Rail - extirpated				
Clapper Rail*	u	u	u	u
Virginia Rail	u		u	u
Sora	u		u	u
Common Gallinule*	u	u	u	u
American Coot*	c	u	c	c
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
Pacific Golden-Plover			r	r
American Golden Plover	r		r	
Snowy Plover*	u	u	c	c
Wilson's Plover	r			
Semipalmated Plover	c	r	c	u
Killdeer*	c	c	c	c
Mountain Plover			o	o
Oystercatchers				
Black Oystercatcher	r	r	r	
Stilts and Avocets				
Black-necked Stilt*	c	c	c	c
American Avocet*	c	u	c	c
Shorebirds				
Greater Yellowlegs	u		c	u
Lesser Yellowlegs	o		u	o
Solitary Sandpiper	r		o	
Willet	c	c	c	c
Shorebirds, continued next page				



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Shorebirds, continued				
Spotted Sandpiper	u	r	u	u
Whimbrel	u	o	c	u
Long-billed Curlew	u	o	c	u
Marbled Godwit	c	c	c	c
Ruddy Turnstone	u	r	u	u
Black Turnstone	o		o	o
Surfbird	o		r	
Red Knot	u		c	u
Sanderling	c	u	c	c
Semipalmated Sandpiper			r	
Western Sandpiper	c	o	c	c
Least Sandpiper	c	r	c	c
Baird's Sandpiper	r		o	
Pectoral Sandpiper			o	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			r	
Dunlin	u		c	c
Stilt Sandpiper			r	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			r	
Ruff			r	r
Short-billed Dowitcher	c	u	c	c
Long-billed Dowitcher	c		c	c
Snipe				
Common Snipe	o		u	u
Phalaropes				
Wilson's Phalarope	u		c	
Northern Phalarope	c		c	
Red Phalarope	o		o	o
Jaegers				
Pomarine Jaeger			r	
Parasitic Jaeger	r		r	r
Gulls and Terns				
Laughing Gull	r	r	r	r
Franklin's Gull	r		r	r
Bonaparte's Gull	c	o	r	c
Heermann's Gull	u	c	c	c
Belcher's Gull			r	
Mew Gull	r			u
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	c
California Gull	c	o	c	c

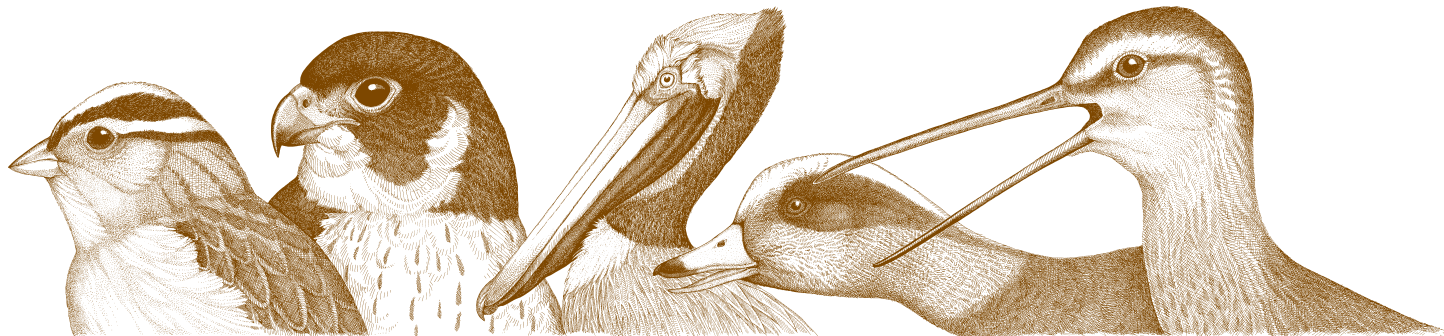
Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Herring Gull	o	r	o	u
Thayer's Gull			r	o
Yellow-footed Gull			r	r
Western Gull	c	c	c	c
Glaucous-winged Gull	r			o
Glaucous Gull				r
Black-legged Kittiwake				r
Sabine's Gull			r	
Gull-billed Tern	o	o		
Caspian Tern	c	c	c	u
Royal Tern	u	u	u	u
Elegant Tern	c	c	c	
Common Tern	u	r	c	r
Forster's Tern	c	c	c	c
California Least Tern*	u	u	u	
Black Tern	r		o	
Skimmers				
Black Skimmer	u	u	u	u
Seabirds				
Common Murre	r		r	r
Marbled Murrelet				r
Xantus' Murrelet		r		
Craveri's Murrelet			r	
Ancient Murrelet			r	r
Cassin's Auklet		r		
Rhinoceros Auklet	r			



Northern phalarope
© Shari Erickson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Doves				
Band-tailed Pigeon		r	r	
Domestic Pigeon*	c	c	c	c
White-winged Dove	r		o	r
Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
Common Ground-Dove (*)			o	
Ruddy Ground Dove			r	
Cuckoos				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*)		r	r	
Greater Roadrunner*	o	o	o	o
Owls				
Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
Burrowing Owl*	u	u	u	u
Long-eared Owl (*)	r	r	r	r
Short-eared Owl	r		r	o
Goatsuckers				
Lesser Nighthawk (*)	r	r	o	r
Common Nighthawk			r	
Poorwill			r	r
Swifts				
Black Swift	r			
Vaux's Swift	u		u	r
White-throated Swift	o		o	o
Hummingbirds				
Broad-billed Hummingbird	r		r	
Black-chinned Hummingbird*	c	c	c	
Anna's Hummingbird*	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Costa's Hummingbird*	u	u	c	u
Calliope Hummingbird	r		r	
Rufous Hummingbird	c		c	r
Allen's Hummingbird	u		u	
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	u		u	u
Woodpeckers				
Lewis' Woodpecker			r	
Acorn Woodpecker			r	
Red-naped Sapsucker			o	o
Red-breasted Sapsucker			o	o
Ladder-backed Woodpecker			r	
Nuttall's Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Downy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Hairy Woodpecker			r	
Northern Flicker	u		u	u
Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o	
Greater Pewee				r
Western Wood-Pewee	u		u	
Willow Flycatcher (*)	u	r	u	
Least Flycatcher			r	
Hammond's Flycatcher	u		u	
Dusky Flycatcher			r	
Gray Flycatcher			o	r
Western Flycatcher	c		c	r
Black Phoebe*	c	c	c	c
Eastern Phoebe			r	r
Say's Phoebe	u	r	c	c
Flycatchers, continued next page				

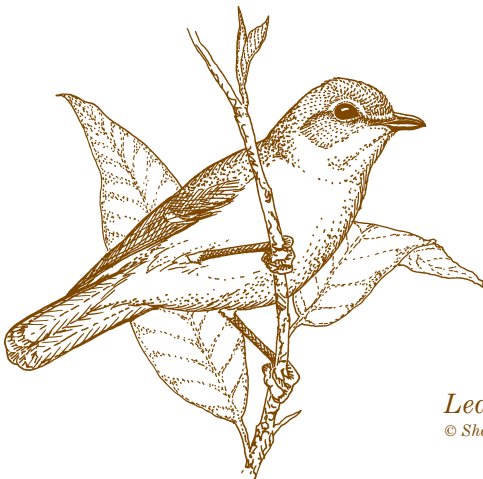


Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Flycatchers, <i>continued</i>				
Vermilion Flycatcher	r		o	r
Ash-throated Flycatcher	u		u	r
Tropical Kingbird			o	r
Cassin's Kingbird*	u	u	c	r
Thick-billed Kingbird			r	
Western Kingbird	c	u	c	
Eastern Kingbird			r	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher			r	r
Larks				
Horned Lark*	u	u	u	u
Swallows				
Purple Martin	r		r	
Tree Swallow	c		c	u
Violet-green Swallow	c		o	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	u	c	r
Bank Swallow	r		o	
Cliff Swallow*	c	c	u	
Barn Swallow	c	o	c	r
Jays, Magpies and Crows				
Scrub-Jay*	u	u	u	u
American Crow*	u	u	u	u
Common Raven	u	u	u	u
Verdin				
Verdin			r	r
Bushtits				
Bushtit*	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch			r	
White-breasted Nuthatch				r
Creepers				
Brown Creeper			r	r
Wrens				
Bewick's Wren*	c	c	c	c
House Wren*	u	u	c	c
Winter Wren			r	r
Marsh Wren*	c	u	c	c
Wrentit*	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Kinglets, Bluebirds and Thrushes				
Golden-crowned Kinglet			r	r
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			u	u
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher				
California Gnatcatcher*	u	u	u	u
Western Bluebird				r
Mountain Bluebird			r	r
Townsend's Solitaire	r		r	
Swainson's Thrush	u		u	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
Wood Thrush			r	
American Robin			o	o
Varied Thrush			r	r
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
Gray Catbird			r	
Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
Sage Thrasher	r		o	o
Bendire's Thrasher	r		r	r
California Thrasher*	u	u	u	u
Le Conte's Thrasher				
Wagtails and Pipits				
Red-throated Pipit			o	
Sprague's Pipit			r	
American Pipit	c	c	o	o



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing	c		c	c
Phainopepla				
Phainopepla			o	r
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u
Starlings and Mynas				
European Starling*	c	c	c	c
Vireos				
Least Bell's Vireo*	u	u	r	r
Cassin's Vireo	o		o	o
Hutton's Vireo			r	
Blue-headed Vireo			r	
Warbling Vireo	u		u	
Philadelphia Vireo			r	
Plumbeous Vireo			r	o
Red-eyed Vireo	r		r	
Yellow-green Vireo			r	
Warblers				
Blue-winged Warbler			r	
Golden-winged Warbler				r
Tennessee Warbler	r		o	
Orange-crowned Warbler	c		c	c
Nashville Warbler	u		u	
Virginia's Warbler			o	r



Least Bell's vireo
© Shari Erickson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Lucy's Warbler			r	r
Parula Warbler			r	r
Yellow Warbler*	c	c	u	o
Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		r	r
Magnolia Warbler			r	
Cape May Warbler			r	
Black-throated Blue Warbler			r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
Black-throated Gray Warbler	u		o	r
Townsend's Warbler	u		u	u
Hermit Warbler	u		o	
Black-throated Green Warbler			r	
Blackburnian Warbler			r	
Yellow-throated Warbler			r	
Grace's Warbler			r	
Pine Warbler			r	
Prairie Warbler			r	
Palm Warbler	r		o	o
Bay-breasted Warbler			r	
Blackpoll Warbler		r	o	
Black-and-white Warbler	r	r	o	r
American Redstart	r	r	o	r
Prothonotary Warbler	r		r	
Worm-eating Warbler			r	
Ovenbird			r	
Northern Waterthrush			r	o
Connecticut Warbler			r	
Mourning Warbler			r	
MacGillivray's Warbler	o		u	r
Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	c
Hooded Warbler			r	
Wilson's Warbler	u		u	r
Canada Warbler			r	
Painted Redstart			r	
Yellow-breasted Chat*	u	u	r	
Tanagers				
Hepatic Tanager			r	
Summer Tanager	r		o	
Scarlet Tanager			r	
Western Tanager	u		u	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Grosbeaks and Buntings				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			o	
Black-headed Grosbeak*	u	u	u	
Blue Grosbeak*	u	u	o	
Lazuli Bunting	u		u	
Indigo Bunting		r	o	
Painted Bunting			r	
Dickcissel			r	
Lark Bunting	r		r	r
Towhees and Sparrows				
Green-tailed Towhee	r		o	o
Spotted Towhee*	u	u	u	u
California Towhee*	c	c	c	c
Rufous-crowned Sparrow*	o	o	o	o
Chipping Sparrow	u		c	u
Clay-colored Sparrow	r		o	r
Brewer's Sparrow	r		o	r
Black-chinned Sparrow	r		r	
Vesper Sparrow			o	o
Lark Sparrow			u	u
Black-throated Sparrow			r	
Sage Sparrow - extirpated				
Belding's Savannah Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
Grasshopper Sparrow				r
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			r	r
Fox Sparrow			o	o
Song Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	c		c	c
Swamp Sparrow			o	r
White-throated Sparrow			r	r
Golden-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
White-crowned Sparrow	c		c	c
Harris' Sparrow			r	r
Dark-eyed Junco	u		u	u
McCown's Longspur			r	
Lapland Longspur			r	r
Chestnut-collared Longspur			r	
Bobolink		r	o	
House Sparrow*	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Blackbirds, Meadowlarks and Orioles				
Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	c	c
Tricolored Blackbird (*)			o	o
Western Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c
Yellow-headed Blackbird	r	r	o	r
Rusty Blackbird			r	r
Brewer's Blackbird*	c	c	c	c
Great-tailed Grackle*	u	u	u	u
Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	c
Hooded Oriole*	c	c	o	
Streak-backed Oriole			r	
Bullock's Oriole	r		r	
Scott's Oriole			r	r
Orchard Iriole			r	r
Finches				
House Finch*	c	c	c	c
Lesser Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c
Lawrence's Goldfinch (*)	o	r	o	o
American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c
Evening Grosbeak			r	
Pine Siskin	r		o	o

*Belding's
savannah
sparrow*
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Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD

Cover photo snowy egret
Inside cover photo brown pelicans
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