

Fish Springs

National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife List



A Wildlife Oasis



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

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1959 under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds. This Refuge is one of over 550 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of public lands set aside specifically for wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages these lands to conserve wildlife and their habitats for people today and for generations to come.

The Refuge provides nearly 18,000 acres of uniquely varied habitats that support a diversity of wildlife in an otherwise arid landscape. A 10,000-acre portion of the Refuge consisting of wet meadow and marsh habitats is fed by natural artesian spring flow. This area is managed by Refuge staff using an impoundment system. Other Refuge habitats include 6,000 acres of mud and alkali flat, and 2,000 acres of semi-desert uplands. Since the Refuge is the only significant wetland within a radius of 50 miles, it serves as a vital stopping point for migrating birds and is well known among birders as a location of unusual bird sightings.

Refuge management focuses on supporting migratory birds. Historically, migratory bird management concentrated on waterfowl, shorebirds, and water birds. Today, Refuge staff also manage habitat to benefit species of special management concern, such as the snowy plover, the long-billed curlew, and the least chub, which are subjects of larger scale regional plans. This management action supports biological diversity within and beyond the Refuge boundary.

This checklist is a comprehensive list of Fish Springs NWR wildlife species. The checklist contains all wildlife species documented on the Refuge

since 1960, and includes 12 species of reptiles, 2 amphibians, 4 fish, 44 species of mammals (at least 24 of these breed on the Refuge), and 298 species of birds (at least 70 of these breed on the Refuge).

The checklist will be changed as Refuge staff observe and report new sightings. The status of the listed species, particularly many of the bird species listed as rare or accidental, will be verified or revised with increasing observations.

Species abundance varies annually, sometimes tremendously, due to changes in wetland water levels, fluctuations in available food, and natural cycles. Many of the less common migrant songbird species actually may be present only for a period of a week or so during the migration.

Seasons of Occurrence

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

Seasonal Abundance

The letters below designate species abundance on the Refuge. In the bird section of the wildlife list, abundance is listed according to season.

- a abundant – occurring in large numbers
- c common – certain to be seen in suitable habitat
- u uncommon – present, but not certain to be seen
- o occasional – seen only a few times during the season
- r rare – seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years
- x accidental – seen less than every 5 years

Other Codes

- denotes a breeding species

About this Checklist

Acknowledgements

C. Neuman was responsible for the initial compilation of this list. E. Sorenson, T. Sadler, J. Skalicky and J. Engler contributed many observations and suggestions in editing the list. C. Pritchett and J. Sikes contributed mammal and reptile observations and list editing, respectively. J. Banta, past Refuge Manager, initiated the development of this brochure and was a strong supporter of birds and birding at this Refuge.

Note

Visitors are encouraged to report any new or unusual wildlife sightings by contacting the Refuge staff during office hours or by writing a letter to the Refuge Manager.

Please follow all Refuge regulations, and keep out of unauthorized areas. Please contact the Refuge staff regarding questions on regulations.

Accessibility

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 711 for a connection to the State 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 / 831 5353, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

Common Bird Name

Sp S F W

Swans, Geese, and Ducks

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

Gallinaceous Birds

• Chukar	u	c	c	u
• Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	u	u

Loons

Pacific Loon			x	x
Common Loon	r	x	r	
Yellow-billed Loon			x	

Grebes

• Pied-billed Grebe	c	c	a	a
Horned Grebe	r		r	r
Eared Grebe	a	c	c	r
• Western Grebe	u	u	u	x
Clark's Grebe	u	u	u	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Pelicans				
— American White Pelican	c	c	u	r
Cormorants				
— Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	u	
Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
— • American Bittern	c	c	c	c
— • Great Blue Heron	c	a	c	c
— • Great Egret	u	u	u	u
— • Snowy Egret	a	a	c	r
— Reddish Egret		x		
— • Cattle Egret	u	u	u	r
— Green Heron	x	r	r	
— • Black-crowned Night-Heron	a	a	c	c
Ibises and Spoonbills				
— • White-faced Ibis	a	a	u	r
Storks				
— Wood Stork			x	
New World Vultures				
— Turkey Vulture	x	x	x	
Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles				
— Osprey		r		x
— Bald Eagle	r	x	u	u
— • Northern Harrier	c	c	c	c
— Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	x
— Cooper's Hawk	r	r	u	r
— Red-shouldered Hawk	r	r	r	
— Swainson's Hawk	r	x	r	
— Red-tailed Hawk	u	u	u	r
— Ferruginous Hawk	r	r	r	r
— Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	c
— • Golden Eagle	u	r	u	u
Falcons and Caracaras				
— American Kestrel	r	u	u	r
— Merlin	r		r	r
— Peregrine Falcon	u	r	u	
— Prairie Falcon	u	u	u	u
Rails				
— • Virginia Rail	c	c		u
— • Sora	c	c	c	u
— • American Coot	a	a	a	a

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cranes				
— • Sandhill Crane	u	u	u	
Plovers				
— Black-bellied Plover	u	r	u	
— American Golden-Plover	r	x	x	
— Pacific Golden-Plover		x		
— • Snowy Plover	c	c	u	
— Semipalmated Plover	u	u	r	
— • Killdeer	c	a	c	u
Stilts and Avocets				
— • Black-necked Stilt	a	a	u	
— • American Avocet	a	a	c	r
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
— Spotted Sandpiper	c	c	u	
— Solitary Sandpiper	r	u	r	
— Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	a	c
— • Willet	c	c	r	
— Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	r
— Whimbrel	r	x	r	
— • Long-billed Curlew	c	c	r	
— Hudsonian Godwit			x	
— Marbled Godwit	u	u	r	
— Ruddy Turnstone	x	r	x	
— Red Knot	x			
— Sanderling	r	x	r	
— Semipalmated Sandpiper		x	r	
— Western Sandpiper	c	c	c	
— Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	x
— White-rumped Sandpiper		x		
— Baird's Sandpiper	u	u	u	
— Pectoral Sandpiper	x	r	u	
— Dunlin	x		x	
— Stilt Sandpiper	r	x	x	
— Short-billed Dowitcher			x	
— Long-billed Dowitcher	c	c	c	r
— Wilson's Snipe	u	r	u	u
— • Wilson's Phalarope	c	a	c	
— Red-necked Phalarope	u	r	u	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, and Terns				
Franklin's Gull	u	r	x	
Bonaparte's Gull	u	r	r	
Ring-billed Gull	a	c	a	u
California Gull	c	u	u	u
Herring Gull	x		x	
Sabine's Gull			r	
Black-legged Kittiwake	x			
Least Tern		x		
• Caspian Tern	u	u	r	
• Black Tern	u	u	x	
Common Tern			x	
• Forster's Tern	a	a	u	
Pomarine Jaeger		x		
Parasitic Jaeger		x	x	
Long-tailed Jaeger		x		
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Pigeon	r	r	r	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	u	u	u	
White-winged Dove	r		x	
• Mourning Dove	c	a	c	x
Cuckoos and Anis				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		x		
Barn Owls				
Barn Owl	x	x	r	r
Typical Owls				
Western Screech-Owl				x
• Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
Burrowing Owl		r	r	
Long-eared Owl	x	x	x	x
• Short-eared Owl	c	u	u	u
Northern Saw-whet Owl				x
Nightjars				
Common Nighthawk	u	c	u	
Common Poorwill	r	u	u	
Swifts				
White-throated Swift	r	x		
Hummingbirds				
• Black-chinned Hummingbird	r	r	x	
Calliope Hummingbird	x	x	x	
• Broad-tailed Hummingbird	u	u	r	
Rufous Hummingbird		r	x	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	u	u	c	x
Woodpeckers				
Lewis' Woodpecker	r			x
Williamson's Sapsucker			r	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			x	
Red-naped Sapsucker	x		r	
Red-breasted Sapsucker				x
Downy Woodpecker			r	
Hairy Woodpecker			x	
Northern Flicker	u	r	c	u
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	r	r	
Western Wood-Pewee	u	u	r	
Willow Flycatcher	u	r	r	
Hammond's Flycatcher	u	r	r	
Gray Flycatcher	u	r	r	
Dusky Flycatcher	u	r	r	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	u	r	r	
Black Phoebe	x			
Eastern Phoebe	x		x	
• Say's Phoebe	c	c	u	r
Vermilion Flycatcher	x		x	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	r			
Cassin's Kingbird	x			
• Western Kingbird	c	a	u	
• Eastern Kingbird	r	u	x	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher			x	
Shrikes				
• Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	u
Northern Shrike	x		r	r
Vireos				
Plumbeous Vireo	r		x	
Cassin's Vireo			x	
Warbling Vireo	u		x	
Crows, Jays, and Magpies				
Steller's Jay			r	
Western Scrub-Jay	x		r	
Pinyon Jay	r	x	r	
Clark's Nutcracker	x		x	x
Black-billed Magpie		x	x	
American Crow	u		r	x
• Common Raven	c	c	c	c

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Larks				
• Horned Lark	a	c	a	a
Swallows				
Purple Martin	x			
Tree Swallow	c	u	r	x
Violet-green Swallow	u	r	r	
• Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	r	x	
Bank Swallow	u	r	r	
Cliff Swallow	u	r	r	
• Barn Swallow	a	a	a	
Titmice and Chickadees				
Mountain Chickadee	x		r	x
Juniper Titmouse			x	
Bushtits				
Bushtit			x	x
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r	x	r	r
White-breasted Nuthatch			x	
Creepers				
Brown Creeper			x	
Wrens				
• Rock Wren	c	c	c	
Canyon Wren	x		x	
Bewick's Wren			x	
House Wren	x	x	x	
Winter Wren	x		r	
• Marsh Wren	a	a	c	c
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet			x	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u	x	u	
Old World Warblers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r		x	
Thrushes				
Western Bluebird	x		x	
Mountain Bluebird	r		r	x
Townsend's Solitaire	u		u	x
Swainson's Thrush	r			
Hermit Thrush	x		r	x
• American Robin	c	u	c	u
Varied Thrush			r	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Mimic Thrushes				
Gray Catbird	r			
• Northern Mockingbird	c	u	u	
• Sage Thrasher	u	c	c	r
Brown Thrasher	x	r	r	
Starlings				
• European Starling	c	r	c	u
Wagtails and Pipits				
American (Water) Pipit	u	x	c	c
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing	x		x	x
Cedar Waxwing	u	x	u	
Silky-flycatchers				
Phainopepla	x			
Wood Warblers				
Orange-crowned Warbler	u	x	u	
Nashville Warbler	x		r	
Virginia's Warbler	u	x		
Lucy's Warbler	x			
Northern Parula	x			
• Yellow Warbler	a	u	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler			x	
Magnolia Warbler	r			
Black-throated Blue Warbler			x	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	u	c	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	x			
Townsend's Warbler	x		r	
Palm Warbler	x		x	
Blackpoll Warbler	x			
Black-and-white Warbler	r		x	
American Redstart	x		r	
Ovenbird	x			
Northern Waterthrush	r			
MacGillivray's Warbler	u		r	
• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	u	
Wilson's Warbler	c	r	u	
Yellow-breasted Chat	u		x	
Tanagers				
Summer Tanager	x		x	
Scarlet Tanager		x		
• Western Tanager	c	u	u	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sparrows and Towhees				
Green-tailed Towhee	r		x	
Spotted Towhee	x		r	
American Tree Sparrow	u		u	c
Chipping Sparrow	r	u	u	
Brewer's Sparrow	c	u	c	
• Vesper Sparrow	c	u	c	x
• Lark Sparrow	c	c	u	
• Black-throated Sparrow	c	c	u	
Sage Sparrow	r	r	u	u
Lark Bunting	x	x		
• Savannah Sparrow	a	a	a	c
Fox Sparrow	x		r	
Song Sparrow	u	u	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	u	x	r	x
White-throated Sparrow	x		x	
Harris's Sparrow			x	x
White-crowned Sparrow	u	r	c	u
Dark-eyed Junco	u		c	c
McCown's Longspur			x	
Lapland Longspur			x	x
Chestnut-collared Longspur				x

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r		r
Black-headed Grosbeak	u	r	r
Blue Grosbeak	x		x
Lazuli Bunting	c	u	r
Indigo Bunting	x	x	
Painted Bunting		x	

Blackbirds and Orioles

Bobolink	r			
• Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	a	c
• Western Meadowlark	a	a	a	c
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	a	a	a	x
Rusty Blackbird				x
• Brewer's Blackbird	c	c	c	u
Common Grackle	u	x	r	
Great-tailed Grackle	u	r		
Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	
• Bullock's Oriole	c	u	r	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Finches				
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch			x	x
Cassin's Finch	u		r	
• House Finch	c	c	c	u
Red Crossbill		x	x	
Common Redpoll				x
Pine Siskin	u	r	u	u
Lesser Goldfinch	u	r	u	r
American Goldfinch	c	u	u	c
Evening Grosbeak	r	x	r	x

Old World Sparrows

 • House Sparrow u u u u

Reference: *Seventh American Ornithologist's Union, 1998. Checklist of North American Birds*. 7th ed., (AOU 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009) supplements. Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington D.C.

Notes

[illegible]

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
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Insectivores

- Vagrant Shrew

Vesper Bats

- California Myotis
- X Western Small-footed Myotis
- X Long-eared Myotis
- Fringed Myotis
- Long-legged Myotis
- Yuma Myotis
- X Silver-haired Bat
- X Western Pipistrelle
- X Townsend's Big-eared Bat
- X Pallid Bat
- Brazillian Free-tailed Bat

Pikas, Hares, and Rabbits

- Pygmy Rabbit
- Desert Cottontail
- Black-tailed Jackrabbit

Rodents

- Least Chipmunk
- White-tailed Antelope Squirrel
- Townsend's Ground Squirrel
- Botta's Pocket Gopher
- Little Pocket Mouse
- Great Basin Pocket Mouse
- Long-tailed Pocket Mouse
- Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rat
- Ord's Kangaroo Rat
- Western Harvest Mouse
- Canyon Mouse
- Deer Mouse
- Pinyon Mouse
- Northern Grasshopper Mouse
- Desert Woodrat
- House Mouse
- Montane Vole
- Common Muskrat

Carnivores

- Coyote
- Kit Fox
- Red Fox
- Ringtail
- Long-tailed Weasel
- American Badger
- Western Spotted Skunk
- Striped Skunk
- Bobcat

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
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Even-toed Ungulates

- Mule Deer
- Pronghorn

Reference: *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico*, 2003.

Common Amphibian Name	Abundance
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Frogs

- American Bullfrog
- Northern Leopard Frog

Reference: *U.S. Geological Survey's Checklist of Amphibian Species and Identification Guide*, <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/herps/amphibid/index.htm>

Common Reptile Name	Abundance
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Lizards

- Collared Lizard
- Leopard Lizard
- Desert Horned Lizard
- Great Basin Sagebrush Lizard
- Western Fence Lizard
- Desert Side-blotched Lizard
- Great Basin Whiptail Lizard

Snakes

- Striped Whipsnake
- Wandering Garter Snake
- Great Basin Rattlesnake
- Great Basin Gopher Snake
- Long-nosed Snake

Reference: *The Center for North American Herpetology*, <http://www.cnah.org/index.asp>

Common Fish Name	Abundance
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Fishes

- Utah Chub
- Least Chub
- Speckled Dace
- Mosquitofish

Reference: *Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico*. 6th ed. American Fisheries Society, 2004.

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