

# Bear River

## *Migratory Bird Refuge*

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### *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.

## Location and Information

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.

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.

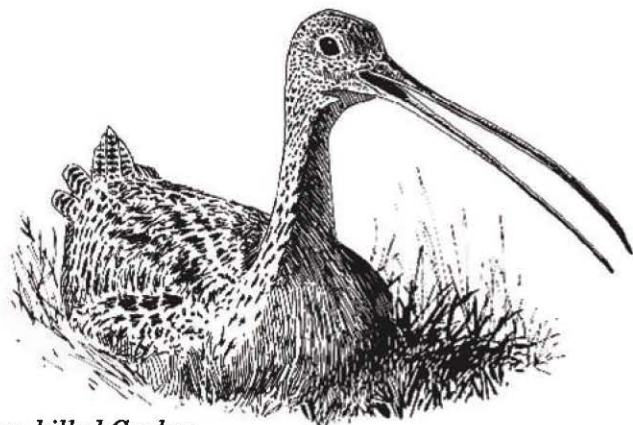
## Seasonal Occurrence

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
<b>Gallinaceous Birds</b>				
• Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	u	u
<b>Loons</b>				
Pacific Loon	r		r	
Common Loon	r		r	
<b>Grebes</b>				
• 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
<b>Pelicans</b>				
American White Pelican	c	c	c	r

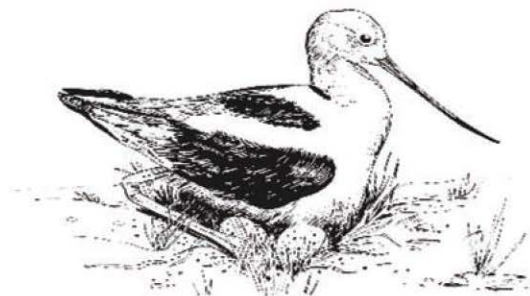


*Great Blue Heron*  
USFWS



*Swainson's Hawk*  
USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Cormorants</b>				
• Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	r
<b>Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets</b>				
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
<b>Ibises and Spoonbills</b>				
• White-faced Ibis	c	c	c	r
<b>New World Vultures</b>				
Turkey Vulture	o	o	o	
<b>Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles</b>				
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
<b>Falcons and Caracaras</b>				
• American Kestrel	u	u	u	o
Merlin	o		r	o
Peregrine Falcon	u	o	u	o
Prairie Falcon	o		o	r
<b>Rails</b>				
• Virginia Rail	u	u	u	r
• Sora	u	u	u	
• Common Moorhen	r	r	r	r
• American Coot	c	c	c	o
<b>Cranes</b>				
• Sandhill Crane	u	u	u	
<b>Plovers</b>				
Black-bellied Plover	o		o	
American Golden-Plover	r		r	
• Snowy Plover	u	u	u	
Semipalmated Plover	o		o	
• Killdeer	c	c	u	r
<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>				
• Black-necked Stilt	c	c	u	
• American Avocet	c	c	u	r
<b>Sandpipers and Phalaropes</b>				
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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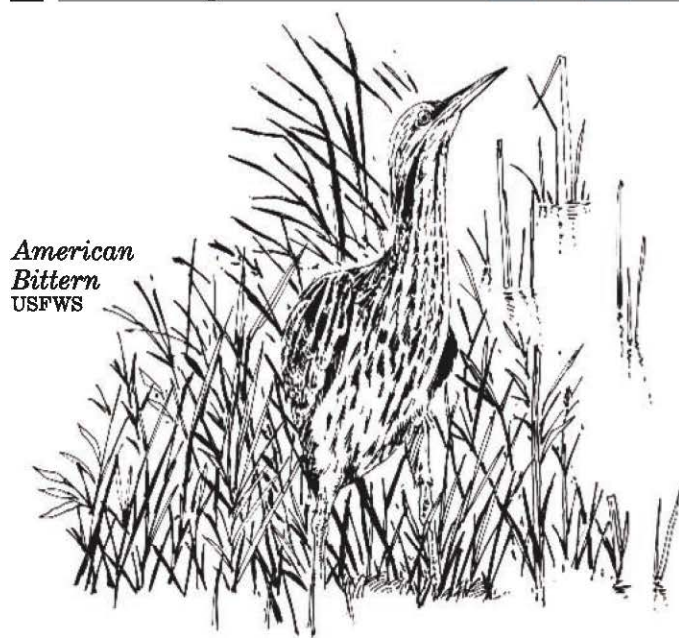
### Typical Owls

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
<b>Nightjars</b>				
Common Nighthawk	o	o	o	
Common Poorwill	r		r	
<b>Swifts</b>				
Vaux's Swift	r		r	
White-throated Swift	o		o	
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
Black-chinned Hummingbird	o	r	o	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	o	r	o	
Rufous Hummingbird		r	r	
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
Belted Kingfisher	o	o	o	o
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
Downy Woodpecker	o	r	o	r
Northern Flicker	o		o	r
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>				
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	



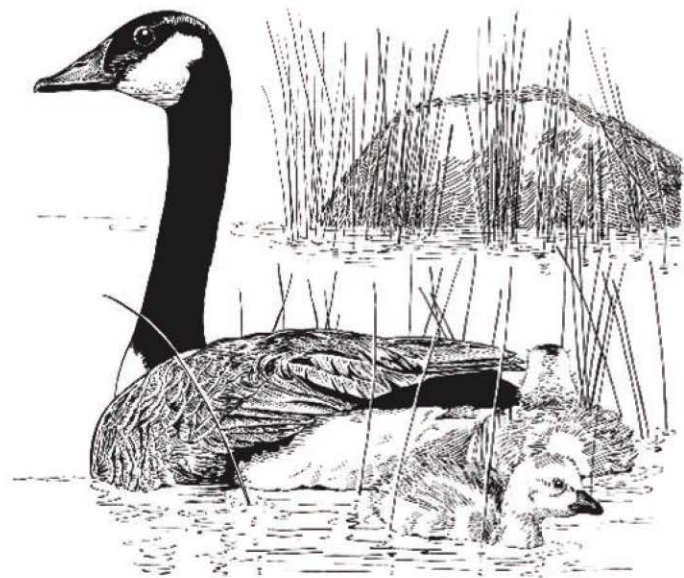
*American Bittern*  
USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Shrikes</b>				
Loggerhead Shrike	o		o	u
Northern Shrike	r		r	r
<b>Vireos</b>				
Plumbeous Vireo	r		r	
Warbling Vireo	u	r	u	
<b>Crows, Jays, and Magpies</b>				
• Black-billed Magpie	u	u	u	u
American Crow	r	r	r	r
• Common Raven	u	u	u	u
<b>Larks</b>				
• Horned Lark	c	c	c	o
<b>Swallows</b>				
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	
<b>Titmice and Chickadees</b>				
Black-capped Chickadee	o	r	o	o
Mountain Chickadee	r		r	r
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r		r	r
<b>Wrens</b>				
Rock Wren	r		r	
House Wren	r	r	r	
• Marsh Wren	c	c	c	u
<b>Kinglets</b>				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r		r	r
<b>Old World Warblers</b>				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r		r	
<b>Thrushes</b>				
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
<b>Mimic Thrushes</b>				
— Northern Mockingbird	r	r	r	
— • Sage Thrasher	r	o	r	
<b>Starlings</b>				
— • European Starling	u	u	u	u
<b>Wagtails and Pipits</b>				
— American Pipit	c		c	o
<b>Waxwings</b>				
— Bohemian Waxwing	r		r	r
— Cedar Waxwing	r		r	r
<b>Wood Warblers</b>				
— 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	
<b>Tanagers</b>				
— Western Tanager	o		o	
<b>Sparrows and Towhees</b>				
— 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
<b>Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies</b>				
— Black-headed Grosbeak	o	o	r	r
— Lazuli Bunting	o	o	r	r
<b>Blackbirds and Orioles</b>				
— 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	
<b>Finches</b>				
— • 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
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
— • House Sparrow	c	u	c	u



*Canada Goose with goslings.*  
USFWS

Accidental Species <i>(and dates recorded)</i>		
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

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Date	Time
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Time

Observers
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## 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**

