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# News Release



For Immediate Release  
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## Waterfowl Identification Training Offered at Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

**PAHRANAGAT VALLEY, Nev.** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Get Outdoors Nevada are offering waterfowl identification training next weekend at the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The class is open to the organizations' volunteers and anyone else interested in improving their bird watching skills.

The training session is scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2011, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. FWS Ranger Karyn Barnett will lead the session. Participants are asked to register online for the training at [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/training\\_signup.htm](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/training_signup.htm), or by calling Barnett at **(775) 725-3417**.

According to Barnett, the best way to become better at identifying waterfowl is to see them in their natural environment. Waterfowl can be some of the easiest birds for novice birders to learn about. Additionally, a basic understanding of biological and behavioral characteristics of the various waterfowl species can lead to a better understanding of their responses to habitat changes, as well as how they are affected by pollution and other stresses. The training provides an ideal opportunity for participants to learn the basics of waterfowl identification and behavior.

Tundra swans and Canada geese feed in the lakes and marshes of Pahrnagat NWR this time of year. A variety of ducks such as shovelers, pintails, redheads, canvasbacks, mallards, and teal may be present on the wildlife refuge. Attendees also have a chance of seeing Bald Eagles and osprey that visit Upper Pahrnagat Lake in the winter to hunt for ducks and fish. Large numbers of raptors, particularly the northern harrier, might be near Pahrnagat's marsh and meadow habitats searching for food.

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The Pahrnagat NWR, approximately 90 miles north of Las Vegas on US Highway 93 in Lincoln County, Nevada, is located in the Pacific Flyway, and encompasses 5,380 acres. The wildlife refuge was established August 16, 1963 to provide habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl. Pahrnagat's lakes and marshes are a rare sight in this part of Nevada.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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