



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Birds of

Cibola National Wildlife Refuge

Cibola National Wildlife Refuge is located along the lower Colorado River 20 miles south of Blythe, California. Approximately two-thirds of the refuge is in Arizona and one-third is in California and encompasses 18,555 acres. The refuge was established in 1964 to mitigate the loss of fish and wildlife habitat involved in the channelization projects along the Colorado River.

The main portion of the refuge is alluvial river bottom with dense growths of salt cedar, mesquite, and arrowweed along with several hundred acres of revegetated cottonwood and willow habitat. Through this flows the Colorado River, in both a dredged channel and a portion of its original channel. The refuge also contains ~1,000 acres of farmland and 785 acres of desert foothills and ridges.

The endangered Ridgway's rail, the only freshwater form of clapper rail, is found in suitable marshes throughout the refuge. Cibola NWR is important as a wintering ground for the western (or Great Basin) subspecies of Canada goose and for Sandhill Cranes.

This list of 287 species is in accordance with the seventh addition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, 7th edition (1998) and its supplements through July 2016. Those species marked with an asterisk (*) have nested on the refuge. Species that occur as accidental (marked with an "X") may occur more regularly in areas surrounding the refuge, but most are true geographic rarities. Note that seasons vary from species to species; fall migration for some, such as shorebirds and flycatchers, is much earlier (mid-July to mid-September) compared to fall migration for other species, such as most waterfowl and sparrows (September to November).

W Winter December—February
Sp Spring March—May
S Summer June—August
F Fall September—November
* Confirmed or probable breeder (39 spp).
Federally Endangered or Threatened Species are listed in *italics*.

A Abundant—A very numerous species.
C Common—Likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitats.
U Uncommon—Present, not certain to be seen.
O Occasional—Seen only a few times during the season
R Rare—Unexpected, seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years.
X Accidental—Fewer than 3 records; vagrants outside their usual range.
Breeding records from *Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas* and refuge records.

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans					*Sora	C	C	C	C
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck		X		X	*Common Moorhen	C	C	C	C
___ Gr. White-fronted Goose			U	U	*American Coot	A	A	A	A
___ Snow Goose			C	C	Cranes				
___ Ross's Goose			U	U	___ Sandhill Crane			O	C
___ Brant				X	Stilts and Avocets				
___ Canada Goose	O		A	A	*Black-necked Stilt	C	U	C	U
___ Tundra Swan			O	O	___ American Avocet	U	R	U	R
___ Wood Duck			U	U	Plovers				
___ Gadwall	U		C	C	___ Black-bellied Plover	R			
___ Eurasian Wigeon				O	___ Snowy Plover	O		O	R
___ American Wigeon	U		C	A	___ Semipalmated Plover	O			O
*Mallard	C	U	C	A	*Killdeer	A	A	C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal	O		O		Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies				
*Cinnamon Teal	C	O	C	O	___ Long-billed Curlew	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Shoveler	C	O	C	C	___ Marbled Godwit	O	O	O	
___ Northern Pintail	C	O	C	A	___ Ruddy Turnstone	X			
___ Green-winged Teal	U	U	A	A	___ Stilt Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ Canvasback	U		U	U	___ Sanderling	O		O	
___ Redhead	U	O	C	O	___ Dunlin	O		O	O
___ Ring-necked Duck	U		C	C	___ Least Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
___ Greater Scaup				R	___ Pectoral Sandpiper			O	R
___ Lesser Scaup	U		C	U	___ Western Sandpiper	C	C	C	
___ Bufflehead	O		C	C	___ Long-billed Dowitcher	U	U	C	C
___ Common Goldeneye	R			U	___ Wilson's Snipe	U		U	C
___ Barrow's Goldeneye				X	___ Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	C	C
___ Hooded Merganser	O		O	O	___ Solitary Sandpiper	O	O	O	
___ Common Merganser	U		U	U	___ Greater Yellowlegs	U	O	U	U
___ Red-br. Merganser	O	R	O	O	___ Willet	U	O	U	
*Ruddy Duck	C	O	C	U	___ Lesser Yellowlegs	O	U	U	
New World Quail					___ Wilson's Phalarope	R	O	O	O
*Gambel's Quail	A	A	A	A	___ Red-necked Phalarope	R		O	O
___ Red Phalarope				X	Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
Grebes					___ Sabine's Gull			X	
*Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	C	___ Bonaparte's Gull	O		O	
___ Eared Grebe	C		C	O	___ Laughing Gull		X		
*Western Grebe	C	C	C	C	___ Franklin's Gull	X		X	
*Clark's Grebe	C	C	C	C	___ Heerman's Gull	X	X		
Pigeons and Doves					___ Ring-billed Gull	C	O	C	C
___ Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O	___ California Gull	R		O	
___ Band-tailed Pigeon	X				___ Herring Gull				X
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove	C	C	C	C	___ Glaucous-winged Gull			X	
___ Common Ground-Dove	O	O	O	O	___ Least Tern		X		
*White-winged Dove	C	A			___ Caspian Tern	U		U	U
*Mourning Dove	C	A	C	U	___ Black Tern	O	O	O	
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis					___ Common Tern			O	
*Yellow-billed Cuckoo			U		___ Forster's Tern	C	O	C	R
*Greater Roadrunner	C	C	C	C	___ Black Skimmer		X		
Goatsuckers					Loons				
*Lesser Nighthawk	C	C	C		___ Common Loon	X			
___ Common Poorwill	O	O	O		Storks				
Swifts					___ Wood Stork		X	X	
___ Vaux's Swift	U		U		Boobies				
___ White-throated Swift	U	O	O	O	___ Brown Booby			X	
Hummingbirds					Cormorants				
*Black-ch. Hummingbird	U	C	C	C	___ Neotropic Cormorant				X
*Anna's Hummingbird	O	O	O	C	*Double-cr. Cormorant	C	C	C	C
*Costa's Hummingbird	C	C			Pelicans				
___ Broad-tail. Hummingbird	X				___ American White Pelican	U	O	U	U
___ Rufous Hummingbird			U		___ Brown Pelican		X		
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots					Hérons, Bitterns, and Egrets				
*Ridgway's Rail	C	C	C	U	___ American Bittern	R			O
___ Virginia Rail	O	O		O	*Least Bittern	C	C	U	O

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
*Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	Vireos					Lesser Goldfinch	C	U	U	U
*Great Egret	C	C	C	C	*Bell's Vireo	O	O	O		Lawrence's Goldfinch	X			X
*Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C	Gray Vireo	X				American Goldfinch	O		O	O
Little Blue Heron	X				Hutton's Vireo			X	X	Longspurs				
Cattle Egret	C	C	C	C	Cassin's Vireo	U		U	R	Lapland Longspur				X
*Green Heron	C	C	C	C	Plumbeous Vireo	U		U	R	Chestnut-collared Longspur				R
*Black-cr. Night-Heron	C	C	C	C	Warbling Vireo	C	U	C		McCown's Longspur				X
Ibises and Spoonbills					Red-eyed Vireo		X	X		Wood-Warblers				
*White-faced Ibis	C	C	C	C	Crows and Jays					Ovenbird			X	
Roseate Spoonbill		X			Steller's Jay			X	X	Northern Waterthrush			X	
Vultures					Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	X		X	X	Orange-crowned Warbler	C	C	C	C
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	U	American Crow			U	U	*Lucy's Warbler	C	C		
Hawks, Kites, and Eagles					Common Raven	O	O	O	O	Nashville Warbler	U	O	U	
Osprey	C	O	U	O	Larks					Virginia's Warbler	R		R	R
White-tailed Kite	O		O	O	Horned Lark	O		C	C	MacGillivray's Warbler	U	U	U	
Mississippi Kite		X			Swallows					*Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	C
Bald Eagle	O		O	O	Purple Martin	X	X			American Redstart	R		R	R
Northern Harrier	C		U	C	Tree Swallow	C	U	A	A	Yellow Warbler	O	O	O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U	Violet-green Swallow	O		O		Blackpoll Warbler	X			
Cooper's Hawk	U		U	C	*No. Rough-winged	C	C	C	O	Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C
Harris's Hawk	R	R	R	R	Bank Swallow	O	O	O		Black-thr. Gray Warbler	U		U	
Red-shouldered Hawk			U	U	*Cliff Swallow	A	A	C		Townsend's Warbler	U		U	
Broad-winged Hawk	X				Barn Swallow	C	C	C		Hermit Warbler	O		O	
Swainson's Hawk	U				Chickadees					Black-thr. Green Warbler			X	
*Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	Mountain Chickadee			X	X	Wilson's Warbler	C	O	C	C
Rough-legged Hawk				R	Verdins					*Yellow-breasted Chat	C	C	C	
Ferruginous Hawk				X	*Verdin	C	C	C	C	Towhees, Sparrows, and Allies				
Golden Eagle	U		O	O	Nuthatches					Green-tailed Towhee	O		U	U
Barn Owls					Red-breasted Nuthatch			X		Spotted Towhee	O		O	O
*Barn Owl	C	C	C	C	White-breasted Nuthatch			X		*Abert's Towhee	A	A	C	C
Typical Owls					Wrens					Chipping Sparrow	C	O	C	R
*Western Screech-Owl	O	O	O	O	*Rock Wren	U	U	U	U	Clay-colored Sparrow		X	X	
*Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	Canyon Wren				X	Brewer's Sparrow	O		C	O
Elf Owl	U	U	U		*Bewick's Wren	C	O	O	O	Black-chinned Sparrow				X
*Burrowing Owl	C	C	C	C	House Wren	O		O	O	Vesper Sparrow	U		C	C
Short-eared Owl				X	*Marsh Wren	A	A	C	C	Lark Sparrow	O		O	O
Kingfishers					*Cactus Wren	C	C	U	U	Black-throated Sparrow	U	U	O	
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	C	C	Gnatcatchers					Sage Sparrow			U	U
Woodpeckers					Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O		O	O	Lark Bunting	X			X
Lewis's Woodpecker			X	X	*Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	C	Savannah Sparrow	C		C	C
*Gila Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	Kinglets					Grasshopper Sparrow	X			
Red-naped Sapsucker	O		O	O	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C	Fox Sparrow			O	O
Red-breasted Sapsucker			R	R	Thrushes					*Song Sparrow	C	C	C	C
*Ladder-bac. Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	Western Bluebird			O	O	Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	O
Northern Flicker	C		C	C	Mountain Bluebird	O		O	O	White-throated Sparrow				X
Gilded Flicker	O	O	O	O	Townsend's Solitaire	R		O	O	White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	A
Caracaras and Falcons					Swainson's Thrush	R				Golden-crowned Sparrow	R		R	R
Crested Caracara				X	Hermit Thrush	O		U	U	Dark-eyed Junco	U		O	O
*American Kestrel	C	C	C	C	American Robin	U		U	O	Slate-colored				R
Merlin	O			O	Mockingbirds and Thrashers					Oregon	U		O	O
Peregrine Falcon	R	R	R	O	Curve-billed Thrasher	O	R	O		Pink-sided Junco	O		O	O
Prairie Falcon	O		R	O	Brown Thrasher	X				Gray-headed Junco	R		R	R
Tyrant Flycatchers					Bendire's Thrasher	X			X	Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O		LeConte's Thrasher				R	*Summer Tanager	U	U	O	
Greater Pewee				X	*Crissal Thrasher	C	C	C	C	Western Tanager	U	U	C	
Western Wood-Pewee	C	U	C		Sage Thrasher	O		O	O	Northern Cardinal		X		
SW Willow Flycatcher	R	U	R		*Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C	Black-headed Grosbeak	U	U	C	U
Hammond's Flycatcher	R		R		Starlings					*Blue Grosbeak	C	C	C	
Gray Flycatcher	R		R	R	*European Starling	C	C	C	C	Lazuli Bunting	U		U	
Dusky Flycatcher				X	Waxwings					Indigo Bunting	O	O	O	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	C		C		Cedar Waxwing	O		O	O	Painted Bunting		X	X	
*Black Phoebe	C	U	C	C	Silky-Flycatchers					Dickcissel		X		
*Say's Phoebe	C	C	C	C	*Phainopepla	C	C	C	C	Blackbirds and Orioles				
Vermilion Flycatcher	C	U	C	C	Old World Sparrows					*Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A	C
Dusky-capped Flycatcher			X		*House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	C
*Ash-throated Flycatcher	C	C	C	R	Pipits					*Yellow-headed Blackbird	C	C	C	C
Brown-crested Flycatcher	O	U			American Pipit	C		C	C	Rusty Blackbird				X
Tropical Kingbird		X			Sprague's Pipit				X	Brewer's Blackbird	U		C	U
Cassin's Kingbird				R	Finches and Goldfinches					*Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	C
Thick-billed Kingbird			X		*House Finch	C	C	C	C	Bronzed Cowbird		X		
*Western Kingbird	C	C	U		Purple Finch	X				*Brown-headed Cowbird	A	A	C	U
Shrikes					Cassin's Finch			X		Hooded Oriole	O	O	O	
*Loggerhead Shrike	U	C	C	C	Pine Siskin	R		O	O	*Bullock's Oriole	C	C	U	