

Bird List for the Tijuana River NERR

For nearly 40 years, the Tijuana River estuary and valley have been a magnet for birds and birders. This list intends to cover these areas, as well as the adjacent communities of Imperial Beach and Nestor to the north, Spooner Mesa to the south, and the ocean visible from shore to the west. This list does not include any part of San Diego Bay, or the salt works at its southern end.

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 reflects past conditions -- more extensive agriculture, different crops, fewer trees, and flooded swamps. Current conditions (1997) are so new that the status of many species under them is unclear. Some species that once occurred frequently are now rare or absent. With the drying of the ponds along Dairy Mart Road, many water birds that nested for a few years can do so no longer. Therefore, the status by season on this list is, for many species, an estimate based on their response to current conditions, even though it encompasses all species ever recorded there.

KEY:

- 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 on record.
- *: Species breeds or probably breeds regularly.
- (*): Species breeds sporadically or bred formerly. The current breeding status of many species is uncertain, requiring ongoing surveys.