

**Imperial**  
*National Wildlife*  
*Refuge*

---

*Birds*



**Birding at  
Imperial  
National  
Wildlife  
Refuge**

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge consists of approximately 25,768 acres along the lower Colorado River. Spring and Fall offer the greatest variety of birds and the best birding opportunities. Also, the refuge is important as a wintering area for Canada geese and many species of ducks. Maps and regulations are available at the Visitor Center.

**Occurrence**

This list contains 275 species which have been observed on the refuge. Species are listed in accordance with the 7<sup>th</sup> edition (1998) A.O. U. checklist and the 46<sup>th</sup> Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist (July 2008).

Symbols used in this list are defined as follows:

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

**Abundance**

- A    Abundant  
A common species that is very numerous.
- C    Common  
Certain to be seen in suitable habitats.
- U    Uncommon  
Present, not certain to be seen.
- O    Occasional  
Seen few times during the season
- R    Rare  
Unusual, seen every 2 to 5 years.
- X    Accidental  
Has been seen only once or twice
- \*    Nesting Species

*Italics = Federal Threatened or  
Endangered Status*

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Ducks, Geese, and Swans</b>				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	R	R	R	
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	R		O	O
___ Snow Goose			O	U
___ Ross's Goose	R			O
___ Canada Goose	O	X	U	C
___ Brant	X			
___ Tundra Swan				O
___ Wood Duck	R		R	R
___ Gadwall	U		C	C
___ American Wigeon	U		C	C
___ *Mallard	U		C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal	O	R	O	O
___ *Cinnamon Teal	C	U	C	U
___ *Northern Shoveler	C	U	U	C
___ Northern Pintail	U	O	C	C
___ Green-winged Teal	U	R	O	C
___ Canvasback	O		O	O
___ Redhead	U	O	U	U
___ Ring-necked Duck	U	R	U	U
___ Greater Scaup	O			O
___ Lesser Scaup	U	R	U	U
___ Surf Scoter			X	
___ Long-tailed Duck			X	
___ Bufflehead	C		U	C
___ Common Goldeneye	C		O	O
___ Hooded Merganser			O	O
___ Common Merganser	U	R	U	C
___ Red-breasted Merganser	O	R	O	O
___ *Ruddy Duck	C	U	C	C
<b>Quail</b>				
___ *Gambel's Quail	A	A	A	A
<b>Loons</b>				
___ Common Loon	O		O	O



*Anna's Hummingbird*

Photograph by George Andrejko, Arizona Game and Fish Department

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>Grebes</b>				
___ Least Grebe				X
___ *Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	C
___ Horned Grebe				R
___ *Eared Grebe	C	O	C	C
___ *Western Grebe	C	C	C	C
___ *Clark's Grebe	C	C	C	C
<b>Boobies</b>				
___ Blue-footed Booby		X	X	
___ Brown Booby		X	X	
<b>Pelicans</b>				
___ American White Pelican	O	O	C	C
___ <i>Brown Pelican</i>	R	R	R	R
<b>Cormorants</b>				
___ Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C	A
<b>Frigatebirds</b>				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird		X		
<b>Hérons, Bitterns, and Allies</b>				
___ American Bittern	O	R	O	R
___ *Least Bittern	C	C	C	C
___ *Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C
___ *Great Egret	C	C	C	C
___ *Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C
___ Tricolored Heron			X	
___ Reddish Egret			X	
___ Cattle Egret	O	O	O	O
___ *Green Heron	U	U	U	U
___ *Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	U
<b>Ibises and Spoonbills</b>				
___ White Ibis	X			
___ White-faced Ibis	U	U	U	U
___ Roseate Spoonbill		X	X	X
<b>Storks</b>				
___ Wood Stork		O	O	
<b>New World Vultures</b>				
___ *Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	U
<b>Hawks, Kites, and Eagles</b>				
___ Osprey	O	R	U	U
___ White-tailed Kite	R	R	R	R
___ <i>Bald Eagle</i>	R		O	U
___ *Northern Harrier	C	R	C	C
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	O
___ Cooper's Hawk	U		U	U
___ Harris's Hawk	O	O	O	O
___ *Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U
___ Ferruginous Hawk			R	
___ Rough-legged Hawk				R
___ Golden Eagle			O	O

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>Falcons</b>				
___ *American Kestrel	O	O	U	U
___ Merlin			R	R
___ Peregrine Falcon	O		O	O
___ Prairie Falcon	R	R	R	R
<b>Rails and Coots</b>				
___ *Black Rail	C	C	C	C
___ *Clapper Rail	C	C	C	C
___ *Virginia Rail	C	C	C	C
___ Sora	C	R	C	C
___ *Common Moorhen	C	C	C	C
___ *American Coot	C	C	C	A
<b>Cranes</b>				
___ Sandhill Crane			O	O
<b>Lapwings and Plovers</b>				
___ Black-bellied Plover	O	O	O	
___ Snowy Plover	O	O	O	O
___ Semipalmated Plover	O	O	O	
___ *Killdeer	C	C	C	C
<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>				
___ *Black-necked Stilt	U	U	U	U
___ American Avocet	U	U	U	O
<b>Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies</b>				
___ Solitary Sandpiper	O	O	O	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	U	O	U	O
___ Willet	U	O	O	R
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	O	O	O	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
___ Upland Sandpiper			X	
___ Whimbrel		O		
___ Long-billed Curlew	O	R	O	O
___ Marbled Godwit	O	O	O	O
___ Sanderling	O		O	
___ Western Sandpiper	C	C	C	O
___ Least Sandpiper	C	C	C	C
___ Pectoral Sandpiper			O	X
___ Dunlin	O		O	O
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	U	U	C	C
___ Wilson's Snipe	U	O	U	U
___ Wilson's Phalarope	U	U	O	
___ Red-necked Phalarope	R	O	O	
___ Red Phalarope				X
<b>Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers</b>				
___ Sabine's Gull	X		R	
___ Bonaparte's Gull	O		O	
___ Franklin's Gull		R	R	
___ Heerman's Gull			X	
___ Ring-billed Gull	U	O	C	C
___ California Gull	O	O	R	O
___ Herring Gull			X	R

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Gulls and Terns, Continued</b>				
___ Glaucous-winged Gull			X	
___ Gull-billed Tern	X			
___ <i>Least Tern</i>		X		
___ Caspian Tern	O	U	U	R
___ Black Tern	U	U	U	
___ Common Tern		O	O	
___ Forster's Tern	O	U	U	O
___ Black Skimmer		X		
<b>Jaegers</b>				
___ Parasitic Jaeger		X		
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
___ Band-tailed Pigeon			X	
___ *White-winged Dove	C	A	U	O
___ *Mourning Dove	C	A	C	C
___ Inca Dove	U	U	U	U
___ *Common Ground-Dove	U	U	U	U
<b>Cuckoos and Roadrunners</b>				
___ *Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U		
___ *Greater Roadrunner	C	C	C	C
<b>Barn Owls</b>				
___ Barn Owl	O	O	O	O
<b>Typical Owls</b>				
___ *Western Screech-Owl	C	C	C	C
___ *Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C
___ Elf Owl	R	R	R	R
___ Burrowing Owl	U	O	U	U
___ Long-eared Owl	R		R	R
___ Short-eared Owl			R	
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl				R
<b>Goatsuckers</b>				
___ *Lesser Nighthawk	C	A	C	R
___ *Common Poorwill	U	U	U	
<b>Swifts</b>				
___ Vaux's Swift	O		O	
___ White-throated Swift	O	O	O	O
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
___ *Black-chinned Hummingbird	U	U		
___ *Anna's Hummingbird	C	C	C	C
___ *Costa's Hummingbird	C	C	U	O
___ Calliope Hummingbird				X
___ Rufous Hummingbird	O		O	
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
___ Belted Kingfisher	U		C	U
<b>Woodpeckers and Allies</b>				
___ Lewis's Woodpecker			X	
___ *Gila Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___ Red-naped Sapsucker	U		U	U
___ *Ladder-backed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Woodpeckers and Allies, Continued</b>				
___ Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	U		C	U
___ Gilded Flicker	O	O	O	O
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	
___ Western Wood-Pewee	C	U	C	
___ Willow Flycatcher	U		U	
___ Hammond's Flycatcher	O	R	O	R
___ Gray Flycatcher	O		O	O
___ Dusky Flycatcher	R			R
___ Pacific-slope Flycatcher	C		C	
___ *Black Phoebe	C	O	C	C
___ Eastern Phoebe	X			R
___ *Say's Phoebe	C	C	C	C
___ *Vermilion Flycatcher	U	U	U	U
___ *Ash-throated Flycatcher	C	C	C	R
___ *Brown-crested Flycatcher	C	C		
___ Cassin's Kingbird		X	X	
___ *Western Kingbird	C	C	U	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
___ *Loggerhead Shrike	C	C	C	C
<b>Vireos</b>				
___ *Bell's Vireo	O	O	O	
___ Plumbeous Vireo	U		U	O
___ Cassin's Vireo	U		U	O
___ Warbling Vireo	C		C	
___ Red-eyed Vireo	X			
<b>Crows and Jays</b>				
___ Western Scrub-Jay	X		R	X
___ Pinyon Jay			X	
___ Clark's Nutcracker			X	
___ Common Raven	O	O	O	O
<b>Larks</b>				
___ Horned Lark				U
<b>Swallows</b>				
___ Purple Martin			X	
___ Tree Swallow	A	O	A	A
___ Violet-green Swallow	O		O	O
___ *No. Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C	O
___ Bank Swallow	U	U	U	
___ *Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
___ Barn Swallow	C	O	C	O
<b>Verdins</b>				
___ *Verdin	C	C	C	C
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch			R	
___ White-breasted Nuthatch			X	
<b>Creepers</b>				
___ Brown Creeper				R

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Wrens</b>				
___ *Cactus Wren	U	U	U	U
___ *Rock Wren	U	O	U	U
___ Bewick's Wren	O		O	O
___ House Wren	U		U	U
___ *Marsh Wren	C	C	C	C
<b>Kinglets</b>				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet			X	X
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A		A	A
<b>Gnatcatchers</b>				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C		C	C
___ *Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	C
<b>Thrushes</b>				
___ Western Bluebird			O	O
___ Mountain Bluebird	O		O	O
___ Townsend's Solitaire	O		O	O
___ Swainson's Thrush	U		U	U
___ Hermit Thrush	U		U	U
___ American Robin	O		O	O
___ Varied Thrush				X
<b>Mockingbirds and Thrashers</b>				
___ *Northern Mockingbird	U	U	U	U
___ Sage Thrasher	O		O	O
___ Bendire's Thrasher			R	
___ *Crissal Thrasher	C	C	C	C
<b>Starlings</b>				
___ *European Starling	O	U	O	O
<b>Pipits</b>				
___ American Pipit	C		C	C
<b>Waxwings</b>				
___ Cedar Waxwing	O		O	O
<b>Silky-Flycatchers</b>				
___ *Phainopepla	C	U	C	C
<b>Wood-Warblers</b>				
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	C
___ Nashville Warbler	U		U	
___ *Lucy's Warbler	C	C		
___ Northern Parula				X
___ *Yellow Warbler	C	O	C	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C
___ Myrtle	O		O	O
___ Audubon's	C		C	C
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler	U		U	O
___ Townsend's Warbler	U		U	X
___ Hermit Warbler	O		O	
___ Palm Warbler			X	
___ Blackpoll Warbler		X		
___ American Redstart	R		R	R
___ Northern Waterthrush			X	

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>Wood-Warblers, Continued</b>				
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	C		C	
___ *Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	U
___ Wilson's Warbler	C		C	O
___ *Yellow-breasted Chat	C	C	C	
<b>Tanagers</b>				
___ Hepatic Tanager			X	
___ *Summer Tanager	C	C	O	
___ Western Tanager	C	U	U	
<b>Sparrows and Allies</b>				
___ Green-tailed Towhee	U		U	U
___ Spotted Towhee	O		O	O
___ *Abert's Towhee	A	A	A	A
___ Chipping Sparrow	U		U	C
___ Brewer's Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Vesper Sparrow	U		U	C
___ Lark Sparrow	U	R	U	O
___ Black-throated Sparrow	O	O	O	O
___ Sage Sparrow			U	U
___ Lark Bunting			R	R
___ Savannah Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	X			
___ Fox Sparrow	R		R	
___ *Song Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	U		C	C
___ Swamp Sparrow	O		O	O
___ White-crowned Sparrow	A		A	A
___ Golden-crowned Sparrow	R		R	R
___ Dark-eyed Junco	O		O	O
___ Oregon	O		O	O
___ Gray-headed			R	
___ Lapland Longspur			X	
___ Chestnut-collard Longspur			O	
<b>Cardinals and Grosbeaks</b>				
___ Black-headed Grosbeak	C	O	C	
___ *Blue Grosbeak	C	C	U	
___ Lazuli Bunting	U		U	
___ Indigo Bunting	O	O		
<b>Blackbirds and Orioles</b>				
___ *Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A	A
___ Western Meadowlark	U		U	C
___ *Yellow-headed Blackbird	C	C	C	C
___ Rusty Blackbird				X
___ Brewer's Blackbird	U		C	C
___ *Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	C
___ Bronzed Cowbird	O	O	O	R
___ *Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	U
___ *Hooded Oriole	U	U	O	
___ *Bullock's Oriole	U	U	U	
___ Baltimore Oriole			X	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Finches</b>				
___ *House Finch	C	C	C	C
___ Pine Siskin	R		O	O
___ *Lesser Goldfinch	U	U	U	U
___ Lawrence's Goldfinch	R	R		
___ American Goldfinch			O	O
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
___ *House Sparrow	O	O	O	O

Please Reuse or Return



*Great Horned Owl*  
 Photograph by George Andrejko, Arizona Game and Fish Department

## FIELD NOTES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_



*Ring-necked Duck*

Photograph by Henry D. Detwiler, Southwest Birders.

**Imperial National Wildlife Refuge**  
**12812 Wildlife Way**  
**Yuma, Arizona 85364**  
**928783-3371**  
**928/783-0652 Fax**

**[www.fws.gov/southwest](http://www.fws.gov/southwest)**

**Arizona Relay Service**  
**1 800/367-8939**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)**

**For Refuge Information**  
**1 800/344-WILD**

*Say's Phoebe*

Photograph by Henry D. Detwiler; Southwest Birders.

**Updated August 2010**

