

Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge
800 Seal Beach Blvd., Bldg. 226 Seal
Beach, CA 90740

Telephone: (562) 598-1024

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

Refuge Information
1-800-344-WILD

Front cover photo: Black Necked Stilt
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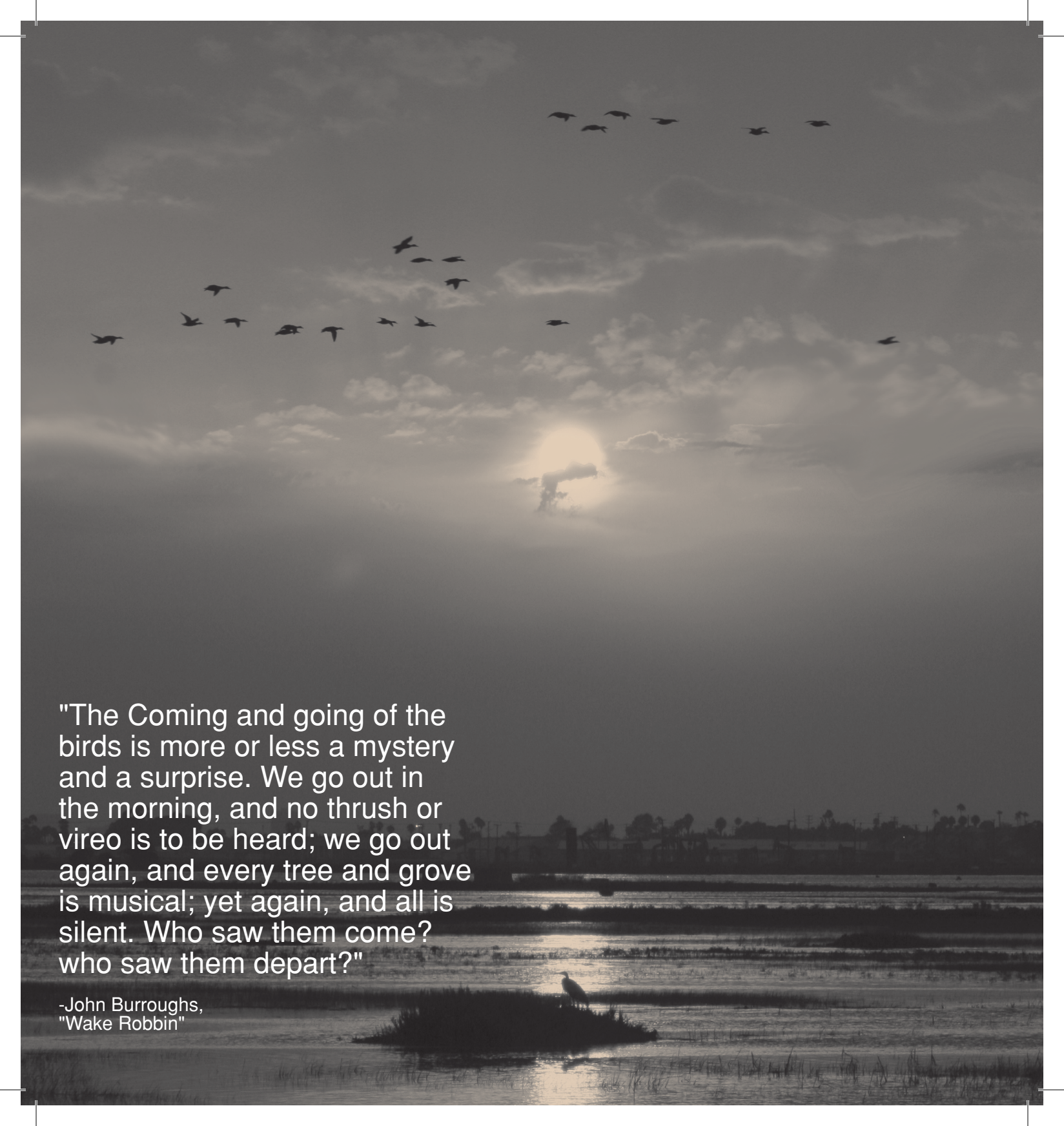
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Seal Beach

National Wildlife Refuge

Birdlist





"The Coming and going of the birds is more or less a mystery and a surprise. We go out in the morning, and no thrush or vireo is to be heard; we go out again, and every tree and grove is musical; yet again, and all is silent. Who saw them come? who saw them depart?"

-John Burroughs,
"Wake Robbin"

Introduction

Seal Beach NWR

Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1972 "to provide for the conservation, protection, and propagation of native species of fish and wildlife, including migratory birds, that are threatened with extinction." Located within Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, the refuge is one of many successful partnerships for conserving wildlife between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Navy. It serves as a critical stopover for birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway and provides protection for resident birds that have endured a great deal of habitat loss within southern California as well as the local area.

The refuge is designated a "Globally Important Bird Area" by the American Bird Conservancy and during winter months has one of the highest concentrations of raptors anywhere in the U.S.. More than 200 species of birds can be found within the refuge and on adjoining Navy lands including the endangered light-footed clapper rail, CA least tern, CA brown pelican, and Belding's Savannah Sparrow.



Light-footed Clapper Rail
© Shari Erickson

Bird List Key

Key to Habitats

- c - Common - species seen on nearly every visit at the proper season, usually in good numbers. (>10 per day)
- u - Uncommon - Present, but not certain to be seen. (<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
- * - Species breeds or probably breeds regularly.
- (*) - Species breeds sporadically or bred formerly.
- x - Accidental or unusual occurrence.
- ◆ - Found on neighboring lands of Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station and not on Refuge.

The Current breeding status of many species is uncertain, requiring ongoing surveys.

Seasons

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



California Least Terns
Ken Morris/USFWS

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Loons				
Pacific Loon				r
Red-throated Loon				r
Common Loon	r		r	r
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe	c	r	c	c
Eared Grebe	u		u	c
Horned Grebe				u
Red-necked Grebe	x			
Western Grebe	c		u	c
Clark's Grebe	r		r	u
Pelicans				
White Pelican				u
Brown Pelican	c	o	c	c
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	u	o	c	c
Brandt's Cormorant ♦			r	r
Pelagic Cormorant ♦			r	r



Snowy Egret

© Tim Anderson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
American Bittern	r		r	o
Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
Great Egret	c	c	c	c
Snowy Egret	c	c	c	c
Little Blue Heron	x		x	
Cattle Egret		r	r	r
Tricolored Heron			x	x
Reddish Egret	x		x	x
Green Heron	r		r	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	u	u	u
Ibis				
White-faced Ibis	r	r	r	o
Vulture				
Turkey Vulture	u	u	u	u
Waterfowl				
Mute Swan	x		x	x
Tundra Swan				x
Ross' Goose ♦				o
Snow Goose				o
Canada Goose			c	c
Cackling Goose			o	o
White-fronted Goose				o
Brant	u	r	u	u
Mallard *	c	c	c	c
Northern Pintail			u	c
Green-winged Teal			u	u
Gadwall *	r	r	r	r
Eurasian Wigeon				r
American Wigeon			c	c
Redhead				o
Canvasback				o
Northern Shoveler			c	c
Blue-winged Teal			u	u
Cinnamon Teal			u	u
Ring-necked Duck				r
Lesser Scaup			c	c
Greater Scaup			r	r

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Waterfowl (cont.)				
Long- tailed Duck			x	x
Surf Scoter			u	u
Common Goldeneye			r	r
Bufflehead			u	u
Hooded Merganser	r		r	r
Red- breasted Merganser			u	u
Common Merganser	x		x	
Ruddy Duck	u		u	c
Raptors				
Osprey	u	r	u	u
White- tailed Kite	r		r	r
Bald Eagle				r
Northern Harrier	o	r	o	u
Sharp- shinned Hawk	r		r	r
Cooper's Hawk	o	r	o	o
Red- shouldered Hawk	x			x
Swainson's Hawk ♦			x	
Red- tailed Hawk *	c	u	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk				r
Golden Eagle				r
American Kestrel *	u	r	u	u
Merlin			r	o
Peregrine Falcon	o	r	o	o
Prairie Falcon				r



Light-footed Clapper Rail

© Tim Anderson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Rails				
Clapper Rail *	u	u	u	u
Virginia Rail	x			
Sora	r		r	r
American Coot	u		c	c
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
Pacific Golden-Plover	r		o	o
Snowy Plover	r			r
Mountain Plover ♦				r
Semipalmated Plover	u		u	u
Killdeer*	c	u	c	c
Oystercatchers				
Black Oystercatcher	r		r	r
Stilts				
Black- necked Stilt *	u	u	r	o
American Avocet *	u	r	u	u
Shorebirds				
Greater Yellowlegs	u		u	u
Lesser Yellowlegs	r		r	x
Willet	c	c	c	c
Wandering Tattler ♦	r			r
Spotted Sandpiper	r		r	
Whimbrel	o		o	u
Long- billed Curlew	u	r	u	c
Marbled Godwit	c	o	c	c
Ruddy Turnstone	u		u	u



Black Bellied Plover

© Gary Meredith

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Shorebirds (cont.)				
Black Turnstone				r
Surfbird ♦				r
Red Knot	o		o	o
Pectoral Sandpiper			r	
Western Sandpiper	c	o	c	c
Least Sandpiper	c	o	c	c
Baird's Sandpiper			x	
Dunlin	u		u	c
Stilt Sandpiper			x	
Sanderling				r
Ruff			x	
Short-billed Dowitcher	c	o	c	c
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	r	u	u
Common Snipe ♦				o
Wilson's Phalarope	o		o	
Red-necked Phalarope	o		o	
Red Phalarope			x	
Gulls				
Bonaparte's Gull				r
Heerman's Gull				r
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	c
California Gull	u		u	c
Herring Gull				r
Western Gull	u	o	u	c
Glaucous-winged Gull				o
Glaucous Gull				x



Least Tern

©Tim Anderson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Terns				
Caspian Tern	u	u	u	u
Royal Tern	r		u	u
Elegant Tern	c	o		r
Common Tern			x	
Forster's Tern *	c	c	c	c
Least Tern *	c	c		
Black Tern	x		x	
Black Skimmer *	u	o	u	o
Pigeons, Doves				
Rock Pigeon	u	u	u	u
Mourning Dove *	c	c	c	c
Spotted Dove	r			x
Common Ground-dove ♦	x			
Owls				
Barn Owl *	u	u	u	u
Great-horned Owl *	o	o	o	o
Short-eared Owl				o
Burrowing Owl *	o	o	o	o
Goatsuckers				
Lesser Nighthawk	x		x	
Swifts				
White-throated Swift	r		r	
Hummingbirds				
Black-chinned Hummingbird ♦	x			
Anna's Hummingbird *	o	o	o	o
Costa's Hummingbird ♦	x			
Rufous Hummingbird ♦	x			
Allen's Hummingbird	r		r	
Kingfisher				
Belted Kingfisher	u		u	u
Woodpecker				
Red-breasted Sapsucker ♦	x			
Downy Woodpecker ♦	x			
Northern Flicker				o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Flycatchers				
Western Wood-Pewee ♦	r			
Hammond's Flycatcher	r			
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	r			
Black Phoebe *	o	o	o	o
Say's Phoebe *	o	r	o	u
Ash- throated Flycatcher	o			
Western Kingbird *	o	o		
Cassin's Kingbird	r		u	u
Lark				
Horned Lark*	u	u	u	u
Swallows				
Violet-green Swallow	r			
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	o		r	
Cliff Swallow *	c	c	r	
Barn Swallow *	c	c	r	r
Tree Swallow	o			
Pipit				
American Pipit	o	o	o	u
Corvids				
Western Scrub-Jay	x			
American Crow	u	u	u	u
Common Raven*	o	o	o	o
Bushtit				
Bushtit*	o	o	o	o
Wrens				
Rock Wren			r	r
Bewick's Wren ♦	x			
House Wren	r			r
Marsh Wren	o		o	u
Kinglet, Gnatcatcher				
Ruby- crowned Kinglet	r			r
Blue- gray Gnatcatcher	r			r

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Bluebirds, Thrushes				
Western Bluebird *	r			
Mountain Bluebird ♦				x
Hermit Thrush	r		r	
American Robin ♦	x		x	
Mimics				
Northern Mockingbird *	u	u	u	u
Sage Thrasher			r	r
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing ♦	x		x	
Shrike *				
Loggerhead Shrike*	r	r	r	r
Starling				
European Starling *	c	c	c	c
Vireo				
Warbling Vireo	r			
Warblers				
Orange- crowned Warbler	r			r
Nashville Warbler ♦	r			
Yellow Warbler ♦	r			
Yellow- rumped Warbler	o		o	u
Black- throated Gray Warbler ♦	r			
Townsend's Warbler	r			
Hermit Warbler ♦	r			

Belding's Savannah
Sparrow
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