

Arapaho

National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife List



Home for Wildlife



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located in an intermountain glacial basin south of Walden, the county seat of Jackson County, Colorado. The Refuge was established in 1967 to provide migratory birds with a suitable place to nest and rear their young. It was created to offset, in part, losses of nesting habitat in the prairie wetland region of the Midwest.

Arapaho NWR is one of over 550 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System - a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, preserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

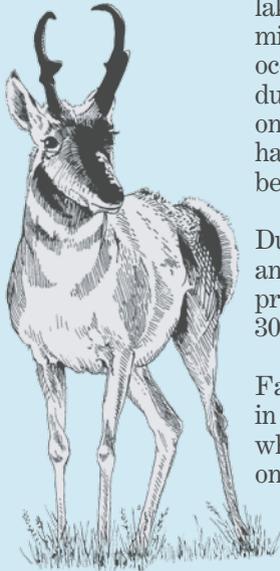
The Refuge provides excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife. The irrigated meadows are ideal for nesting waterfowl and other species of birds. Riparian areas offer excellent habitat for moose, elk, and neotropical birds. Upland game birds, neotropical birds, and pronghorn can be seen on the sagebrush flats and knolls.

Waterfowl Through the Year

The first waterfowl arrive at Arapaho NWR when the ice vanishes from the lakes and wetlands in late March to mid-April. Peak waterfowl migration occurs in late May when 5,000 or more ducks can be present. Canada geese, once scarce in the North Park area, have been re-established here. They begin nesting on the Refuge in April.

Duck nesting usually starts in late May and peaks in mid-June. The Refuge produces about 8,000 ducklings and 300-400 goslings each year.

Fall migration reaches its height in late September or early October when up to 8,000 waterfowl may be on the Refuge.



Pronghorn / USFWS

Wildlife Observation Opportunities

A self-guided auto tour route on the Refuge offers visitors great opportunities to observe wildlife. A corresponding auto tour route leaflet provides wildlife, habitat, and Refuge management information related to stops along the route. More information about Arapaho NWR and recreational activities can be found at the Refuge headquarters.

May through October are the best months for observing birds on the Refuge and in the surrounding North Park area. Most mammals can be observed year-round.

About this Checklist

The following table lists 208 species of birds, 37 mammals, and 16 other vertebrates that have been observed on the Refuge. Species of birds which have been known to nest on the Refuge are preceded by a bullet (●). Common names for mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians are followed by a specific abundance code (see codes below).

Seasons of Occurrence:

Since most birds are migratory, their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are coded as follows:

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

Seasonal Abundance:

a abundant, occurring in large numbers
c common, certain to be seen in suitable habitat
u uncommon, present but not certain to be seen
o occasional, seen only a few times during the season
r rare, seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years
x accidental, vagrant, or out of normal range

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
Snow Goose			o	
• Canada Goose	c	c	c	
Trumpeter Swan			r	
Tundra Swan			r	
Wood Duck		r	r	
• Gadwall	c	a	a	
• American Wigeon	c	a	a	
• Mallard	c	a	a	
• Blue-winged Teal	c	c	c	
• Cinnamon Teal	c	c	c	
• Northern Shoveler	c	c	c	
• Northern Pintail	c	c	c	
• Green-winged Teal	c	c	c	
• Canvasback	u	u	u	
• Redhead	c	c	c	
• Ring-necked Duck	u	o	u	
• Lesser Scaup	c	a	a	
Bufflehead	o	r	o	
Common Goldeneye	r	r	r	
• Common Merganser	o	u	u	
• Ruddy Duck	u	c	c	

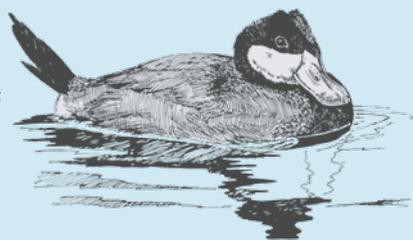
Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys				
• Greater Sage-Grouse	u	u	u	u

Grebes				
• Pied-billed Grebe	u	u	u	
• Eared Grebe	u	a	c	
Western Grebe	o	o		
Clark's Grebe	r	r		

Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	o	o	o	

Pelicans				
American White Pelican	u	c	u	

Ruddy duck
USFWS



Swainson's hawk
Paul Kerris / USFWS

Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
American Bittern		r	o	r
• Great Blue Heron	u	u	u	
Snowy Egret		r	o	o
Cattle Egret		o	o	o
Green Heron			r	
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	c	u	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r	r		

Ibises and Spoonbills				
• White Ibis	u	u	u	

New World Vultures				
Turkey Vulture		r	u	u
				r

Hawks, Kites, and Eagles				
Osprey				r
Bald Eagle	o	o	o	o
• Northern Harrier	u	c	c	r
Sharp-shinned Hawk	r	o	r	
Cooper's Hawk	o	r		
Northern Goshawk				o
• Swainson's Hawk	u	c	c	
• Red-tailed Hawk	c	o	o	
Ferruginous Hawk	r	o	o	
Rough-legged Hawk	o		o	o
Golden Eagle	c	u	c	c

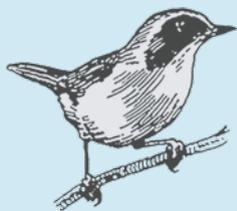
Caracaras and Falcons				
• American Kestrel	u	c	u	
Merlin	r	o	o	
Peregrine Falcon	o	o	o	r
• Prairie Falcon	o	o	o	

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
• Virginia Rail	o	u	u	
• Sora	u	u	u	
• American Coot	c	a	a	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	o		o	
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	r			
• Killdeer	c	c	c	
Stilts and Avocets				
• Black-necked Stilt	r	r	r	
• American Avocet	u	c	c	
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
• Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Solitary Sandpiper		o	o	
• Greater Yellowlegs		o	r	
• Willet	u	c	c	
• Lesser Yellowlegs		u	u	
Upland Sandpiper		r		
Long-billed Curlew	r	o		
Marbled Godwit	o	o	o	
Western Sandpiper		u	o	
Least Sandpiper		u	o	
Baird's Sandpiper		u	o	
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	o	u	
• Wilson's Snipe	c	a	c	
• Wilson's Phalarope	u	a	c	
Red-necked Phalarope	o			
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers, and Skuas				
Bonaparte's Gull	r			
Franklin's Gull	r	r	r	
Ring-billed Gull	r	r	r	
California Gull	c	c	c	
• Black Tern	r	r	r	
• Forster's Tern	u	u	u	
Pigeons and Doves				
Eurasian Collared-Dove (<i>introduced</i>)	r	r	r	r
• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r	
Barn Owls				
Barn Owl		r		
Typical Owls				
• Great Horned Owl	u	c	u	u
• Burrowing Owl	o	r	o	
• Long-eared Owl	u	u	u	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
• Short-eared Owl	o	u	u	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	r	r	r	
Nighthawks and Nightjars				
• Common Nighthawk	u	c	u	
Hummingbirds				
Calliope Hummingbird		r		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	o	u	o	
Rufous Hummingbird	o	c	u	
Kingfishers				
• Belted Kingfisher	u	u	o	
Woodpeckers				
Lewis's Woodpecker				r
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		r	r	
Red-naped Sapsucker		r	r	
Downy Woodpecker	o	o	u	u
Hairy Woodpecker	o	o	u	u
• Northern Flicker	o	c	o	
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher		r		
Western Wood-Pewee		r		
• Willow Flycatcher	u	u	u	
Least Flycatcher	r	r		
Hammond's Flycatcher	r	r		
Dusky Flycatcher	r	r	r	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	r	r		
Say's Phoebe	o	o	o	
Western Kingbird	u	u	u	
Eastern Kingbird		o	o	
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike	o	o	u	r
Vireos				
Warbling Vireo	r	r	r	
Crows, Jays, and Magpies				
Pinyon Jay		r		
Steller's Jay	r	r	r	r
Clark's Nutcracker		r		
• Black-billed Magpie	c	c	c	c
• American Crow	c	c	c	c
• Common Raven	c	c	c	u
Larks				
• Horned Lark	c	c	c	c

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swallows				
• Tree Swallow	o	c	o	
Violet-green Swallow	o	o	c	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		o		
Bank Swallow	o	u	o	
• Cliff Swallow	u	c	u	
• Barn Swallow	o	u	o	
Titmice and Chickadees				
• Black-capped Chickadee	u	u	o	u
Mountain Chickadee	o	o	o	o
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch		o	o	
Wrens				
Rock Wren	r	r	r	
• House Wren	u	u	u	
Sedge Wren		r		
• Marsh Wren	u	c	u	
Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		r		
Dippers				
American Dipper	o	o	r	
Kinglets				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		o		
Thrushes				
Eastern Bluebird	r	r	r	
• Western Bluebird	r	r	r	
• Mountain Bluebird	c	c	u	r
Veery	r	u	r	
Swainson's Thrush	r	r	r	
Hermit Thrush		r		
• American Robin	c	c	u	
Mimic Thrushes				
Gray Catbird	o	o	r	
Northern Mockingbird	o	o	r	
• Sage Thrasher	u	c	u	
Brown Thrasher	r	r	r	



Common Yellowthroat
Paul Kerris / USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Starlings				
• European Starling	o	o	o	r
Wagtails and Pipits				
American Pipit	r		r	
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing	r	r	r	r
Cedar Waxwing	r	r	r	r
Longspurs and Buntings				
Lapland Longspur		r	o	o
Chestnut-collared Longspur		r	o	o
McCown's Longspur			o	o
Snow Bunting			o	o
Wood Warblers				
Northern Waterthrush		r		
Orange-crowned Warbler	r	r	r	
Nashville Warbler		r		
Virginia's Warbler	r			
MacGillivray's Warbler		o	u	
• Common Yellowthroat	o	u	o	
American Redstart		r		
Magnolia Warbler	r			
• Yellow Warbler	c	a	c	
Chestnut-sided Warbler		r		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	r	o	o	
Townsend's Warbler	r	r		
Wilson's Warbler	r	o	r	
Sparrows and Towhees				
Green-tailed Towhee	r	u		
Spotted Towhee	r			
American Tree Sparrow		u		o
Chipping Sparrow		c	u	
• Brewer's Sparrow		c	c	r
• Vesper Sparrow	o	c	c	
• Lark Sparrow		u	u	
• Sage Sparrow	o	o	o	
• Lark Bunting	o	o	o	o
• Savannah Sparrow	u	a	u	
• Fox Sparrow	o	u	o	
• Song Sparrow	u	c	c	o
• Lincoln's Sparrow	o	u	o	
Harris's Sparrow			r	
• White-crowned Sparrow	o	c	u	r
Dark-eyed Junco	c	o	o	o

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tanagers				
Western Tanager	r	r		
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r			
Black-headed Grosbeak	r	r		
Blue Grosbeak	r	r		
Lazuli Bunting			o	
Indigo Bunting			r	
Dickcissel	r			
Blackbirds and Orioles				
Bobolink			r	
• Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	r
• Western Meadowlark	c	c	c	
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	c	c	u	
• Brewer's Blackbird	u	c	u	
• Common Grackle	o	u	o	
• Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	u
Bullock's Oriole			r	
Finches				
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	r	r	r	c
Black Rosy-Finch	r	r	r	c
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	r	r	r	c
• House Finch	o	o	o	
Pine Siskin			o	u
Lesser Goldfinch			r	
• American Goldfinch	u	u	r	r
Evening Grosbeak			o	
Old World Sparrows				
• House Sparrow (<i>introduced</i>)	o	o	o	

Reference: American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds. 7th edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, DC

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
Shrews	
Cinereus or Masked Shrew	u
Vesper Bats	
Little Brown Myotis	o
Big Brown Bat	o
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	o
Pikas, Hares, and Rabbits	
Mountain Cottontail	u
White-tailed Jackrabbit	a
Squirrels	
Least Chipmunk	c
Yellow-bellied Marmot	r
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	o
Wyoming Ground Squirrel	a
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	o
White-tailed Prairie Dog	a
Beavers	
American Beaver	u
Mice, Rats, and Voles	
Deer Mouse	a
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	u
House Mouse	u
Montane Vole	c
Common Muskrat	c
Jumping Mice	
Western Jumping Mouse	u
New World Porcupines	
North American Porcupine	u



Prairie dog
Bob Savannah / USFWS



Moose
USFWS

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves	
— Coyote	c
— Red Fox	o
Bears	
— American Black Bear	r
Raccoons, Ringtails, and Coatis	
— Northern Raccoon	u
Weasels, Otters, and Badgers	
— Ermine or Short-tailed Weasel	u
— Long-tailed Weasel	u
— American Mink	u
— American Badger	u
— Northern River Otter	o
Skunks	
— Striped Skunk	u
Cats	
— Mountain Lion or Puma	r
— Bobcat	x
Deer	
— Wapiti or Elk	u
— Mule or Black-tailed Deer	u
— White-tailed Deer	u
— Moose	c

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
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Pronghorn	
— Pronghorn	c

Reference: Baker, R., Bradley, L.C., Bradley, R.D., Drago, J.W., Engstrom, M.D., Hoffmann, R.S., Jones, C.A., Reid, F., Rice, D.W., Jones, C. 2003. Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico, 2003. Occasional Papers, Museum of Texas Tech University, 229:1-24.

Common Fish Name	Abundance
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Carp and Minnows	
— Fathead Minnow	c
— Longnose Dace	c
— Creek Chub	c

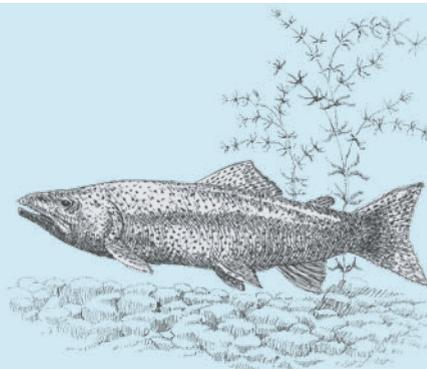
Suckers	
— Longnose Sucker	c
— White Sucker	c

Trout, Salmon, and Whitefish	
— Rainbow Trout	r
— Brook Trout	c
— Brown Trout	c

Sticklebacks	
— Brook Stickleback	o

Perches and Darters	
— Johnnydarter	r

Reference: Nelson, J. S., Crossman, E. J., Espinosa-Perez, H., Findley, L. T., Gilbert, C. R., Lea, R. N., Williams, J. 2004. Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, 6th Edition. American Fisheries Society, Special Publication 29. Bethesda, Maryland.



Rainbow trout
Bob Savannah / USFWS

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
953 Jackson County Road #32
Walden, CO 80480
970 / 723 8202
arapaho@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/arapaho>

For State relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

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

For Refuge Information
1 800 344 WILD

July 2012

