

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Don Edwards San Francisco Bay

*National Wildlife  
Refuge*

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*Bird List*



*Waves of migrating birds pulse through the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge during the spring and fall migrations.*

*From tidal salt marsh to salt ponds, from seasonal vernal pools to upland habitat, the refuge offers wildlife viewing year-round.*



## Introduction

### A major stop on the Pacific Flyway

San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary on the west coast of the United States. Its 30,000 acres of wetlands, open water, and upland habitats are home to at least 800,000 birds at any given time and to millions during peak migration. Some of these birds are permanent residents and a few come here only to breed.

Most, however, use the bay as a resting and feeding stop on their long migrations. Seventy percent of the birds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway spend some time each year at San Francisco Bay.

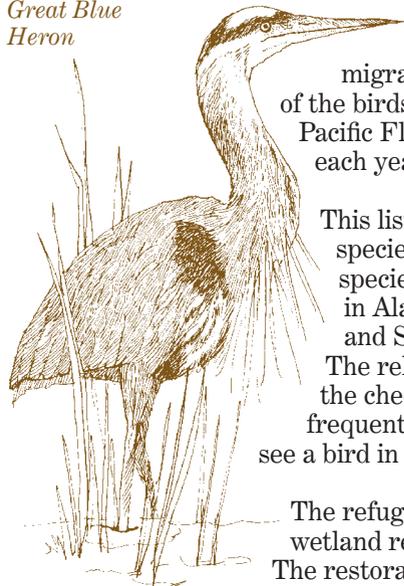
This list, which includes 234 species, includes all avian species found on refuge lands in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties.

The relative abundances in the checklist indicate how frequently you might expect to see a bird in its favored habitat.

The refuge is undergoing a large wetland restoration project. The restoration, coupled with changing climates, will alter species abundance and richness over time. It is expected that this list will need revisions in the next few years. We welcome your input.

Consult field guides or reference books to learn the specific habitats in which a particular species can be found. Also check with [ebird.org](http://ebird.org) for latest sightings. This list generally follows the A.O.S. checklist of North American Birds, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. It deviates slightly by grouping some families together that use similar habitats for easier reference.

*Great Blue Heron*



## Bird List Key

### Abbreviations and Symbols

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

### Abundance Symbols

a - abundant - a common species which is very numerous  
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 a season  
r - rare - known to be present, but not every year  
\* - birds known to nest locally

### Threatened & Endangered Species

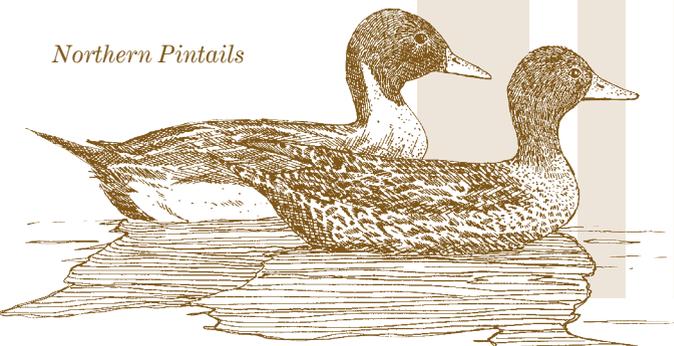
NRefuge - species found in northern range of the refuge  
SRefuge - species found in southern range of the refuge



*California Clapper Rail*  
© Bill Purcell

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Waterfowl</b>				
Greater White-fronted Goose	r		o	o
Snow Goose			r	r
Ross's Goose			r	r
Brant	r		r	r
Cackling Goose	o		o	o
*Canada Goose	c	c	c	c
Tundra Swan			r	r
*Gadwall	c	c	c	c
Eurasian Wigeon	r		o	o
American Wigeon	c	r	a	a
*Mallard	c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	o		o	o
*Cinnamon Teal	c	u	c	c
*Northern Shoveler	c	u	a	a
*Northern Pintail	c	u	c	c
Green-winged Teal	u	r	c	c
*Canvasback	c	r	c	a
Redhead	S Refuge	r		u
Ring-necked Duck		r		r
Tufted Duck		r		r
Greater Scaup		c	r	c
*Lesser Scaup		c	u	a
Surf Scoter		u		c
White-winged Scoter		r		r
Black Scoter		r		r
Long-tailed Duck		r		r
Bufflehead		c	r	c
Common Goldeneye		u		u
Barrow's Goldeneye		r		r
Hooded Merganser		r		o
Common Merganser		r		r
Red-breasted Merganser	S Refuge	u		u
*Ruddy Duck		c	u	a

*Northern Pintails*



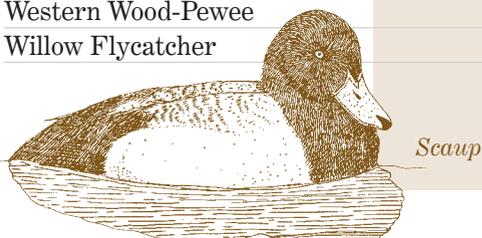
Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Grebes</b>				
*Pied-billed Grebe	c	u	c	c
Horned Grebe	u		u	u
Red-necked Grebe	r		r	r
*Eared Grebe	a	o	c	a
Western Grebe	c	o	c	c
Clark's Grebe	c	o	c	c
<b>Rails</b>				
Black Rail	r	r	r	r
*Ridgway's Rail	u	u	u	u
Virginia Rail	u		c	u
Sora	u		c	u
*Common Moorhen	u	u	u	u
*American Coot	c	c	a	a
<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>				
*Black-necked Stilt	c	c	a	a
*American Avocet	c	c	a	a
<b>Plovers</b>				
Black-bellied Plover	c	u	a	c
Pacific Golden-Plover	r	r	r	
*Snowy Plover	o	o	u	u
Semipalmated Plover	c	u	c	u
*Killdeer	c	c	c	c
<b>Sandpipers and Phalaropes</b>				
Whimbrel	o	o	u	u
Long-billed Curlew	c	u	c	c
Marbled Godwit	a	c	a	a
Ruddy Turnstone	o	r	o	o
Black Turnstone	o	r	o	o
Red Knot	u	r	u	o
Ruff	r		r	r
Stilt Sandpiper			r	
Sanderling	u	r	u	u
Dunlin	a	r	a	a
Baird's Sandpiper	r	r	r	
Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	c
Pectoral Sandpiper	r	r	o	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		r	r	
Western Sandpiper	a	c	a	a

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Sandpipers &amp; Phalaropes</b> <i>continued</i>				
Short-billed Dowitcher	c	u	a	c
Long-billed Dowitcher	a	u	a	a
Wilson's Snipe	u		u	u
Spotted Sandpiper	o		o	r
Wandering Tattler	r		r	
Lesser Yellowlegs	o	o	u	o
Willet	c	u	a	a
Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	c
Wilson's Phalarope	o	a	u	r
Red-necked Phalarope	c	a	a	
Red Phalarope	r		r	r
<b>Jaegers</b>				
Parasitic Jaeger			r	
<b>Auks and Puffins</b>				
Common Murre		o	o	r
<b>Gulls and Terns</b>				
Sabine's Gull			r	
Bonaparte's Gull	c	o	c	c
Franklin's Gull	r	r	r	
Heermann's Gull			r	
Mew Gull	u		u	c
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	a	a
*Western Gull	c	u	c	c
*California Gull	a	a	a	a
Herring Gull	a	r	a	a
Thayer's Gull	u		u	u
Glaucous-winged Gull	u	o	c	c
Glaucous Gull	r			o
Least Tern	u	u	r	
*Caspian Tern	c	c	c	
Black Tern	r		r	
Common Tern	r		o	
*Forster's Tern	a	a	c	u
Elegant Tern		r	u	
*Black Skimmer	u	u	o	o
<b>Loons</b>				
Red-throated Loon	o		o	o
Pacific Loon	r		r	r
Common Loon	o		o	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Cormorants</b>				
Brandt's Cormorant	r	r	r	r
*Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	a	c
Pelagic Cormorant	r	r	r	r
<b>Pelicans</b>				
American White Pelican	u	u	c	c
Brown Pelican	r	u	c	o
<b>Bitterns, Herons and Egrets</b>				
American Bittern	r	r	r	r
Least Bittern		r	r	
*Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c
*Great Egret	c	c	c	c
*Snowy Egret	c	c	c	c
*Little Blue Heron	r	r	r	
*Cattle Egret	r	r	r	r
Green Heron	o	o	o	r
*Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	c
<b>Ibises and Spoonbills</b>				
*White-faced Ibis	r		r	
<b>Gallinaceous Birds</b>				
California Quail	r	r	r	r
*Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	u	u
Wild Turkey			r	r
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
Rock Pigeon	u	u	u	u
*Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Eurasian Collared-dove	u	u	u	u
<b>New World Vultures</b>				
Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c
<b>Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles</b>				
Osprey	u	r	u	u
*White-tailed Kite	c	o	o	c
Bald Eagle	r	r	r	r
*Northern Harrier	c	c	c	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		u	o
Cooper's Hawk	u	r	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk	o	o	u	o

Osprey, Kites, etc. continued next page

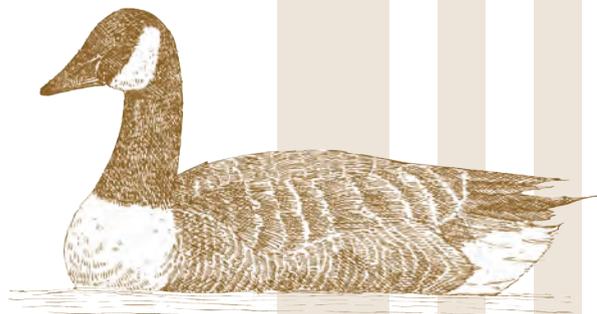
Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Osprey, Kites, etc. continued</b>				
*Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk			r	r
Rough-legged Hawk	r		r	r
Golden Eagle	r	r	o	o
<b>Barn Owls</b>				
*Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
<b>Typical Owls</b>				
Great Horned Owl	o	o	o	o
*Burrowing Owl	u	u	u	u
*Short-eared Owl	r	r	r	o
<b>Swifts</b>				
Vaux's Swift	o		u	
White-throated Swift	o	o	u	o
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
*Anna's Hummingbird	c	c	c	c
Rufous Hummingbird	r		r	
Allen's Hummingbird			r	
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
Belted Kingfisher	o	o	o	o
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
Red-breasted Sapsucker			r	
Nuttall's Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
Downy Woodpecker	o		o	o
Northern Flicker	o		o	o
<b>Falcons</b>				
*American Kestrel	u	u	u	u
Merlin	o		u	u
*Peregrine Falcon	u	u	u	u
Prairie Falcon			r	r
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>				
Western Wood-Pewee			o	
Willow Flycatcher			o	



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Pacific-slope Flycatcher			u	
*Black Phoebe	u	u	u	u
Say's Phoebe	o		o	o
Ash-throated Flycatcher			r	
Western Kingbird	o	r	r	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
*Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	u
<b>Vireos</b>				
Hutton's Vireo	r			
Warbling Vireo	o		o	
<b>Crows, Jays and Magpies</b>				
*California Scrub-Jay	c	c	c	c
American Crow	u	u	u	u
*Common Raven	c	c	c	c
<b>Larks</b>				
*Horned Lark	o	o	o	o
<b>Swallows</b>				
Purple Martin			r	
*Tree Swallow	u	u	u	o
Violet-green Swallow	u		c	o
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	o	u	
Bank Swallow	r	r	r	
*Cliff Swallow	a	a	u	
*Barn Swallow	a	a	c	r
<b>Titmice and Chickadees</b>				
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	o	o	o	o
Oak Titmouse				r
<b>Bushtits</b>				
*Bushtit	c	c	c	c
<b>Wrens</b>				
Rock Wren	r	r	r	r
House Wren	r		o	r
*Marsh Wren	c	c	c	c
*Bewick's Wren	u	u	u	u
<b>Gnatcatchers</b>				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r		r	

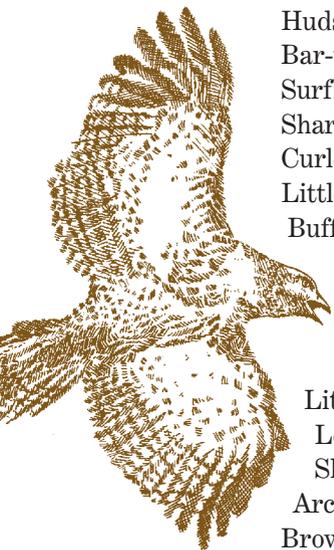
Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Kinglets</b>				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		o	r
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
<b>Wrentits</b>				
Wrentit	r	r	r	r
<b>Thrushes</b>				
Western Bluebird	o		o	o
Swainson's Thrush	o		r	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
American Robin	o	o	o	u
Varied Thrush			r	r
<b>Mimic Thrushes</b>				
California Thrasher				r
Sage Thrasher	r		r	
*Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
<b>Starlings</b>				
*European Starling	c	c	c	c
<b>Waxwings</b>				
Cedar Waxwing	o		o	u
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
*House Sparrow	u	u	u	u
<b>Wagtails and Pipits</b>				
American Pipit	c		c	c
<b>Finches</b>				
*House Finch	a	a	a	a
Lesser Goldfinch	u	u	u	u
*American Goldfinch	u	u	u	u
Purple Finch	r	r	r	r
<b>Sparrows and Towhees</b>				
Spotted Towhee			o	
*California Towhee	c	c	c	c
*Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Nelson's Sparrow	r			r
Fox Sparrow	u		c	u
*Song Sparrow	a	a	a	a
Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	u

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swamp Sparrow			r	r
White-throated Sparrow	r		r	r
White-crowned Sparrow	c		c	c
Golden-crowned Sparrow	c		c	c
Dark-eyed Junco	r	r	o	o
<b>Blackbirds and Orioles</b>				
*Western Meadowlark	u	u	c	c
Hooded Oriole	o	o		
*Bullock's Oriole	o	o	r	
*Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c
Tricolored Blackbird	o		u	o
Brown-headed Cowbird	u	u	u	o
Brewer's Blackbird	u	u	u	u
Great-tailed Grackle	S Refuge	r	r	r
<b>Wood Warblers</b>				
Northern Waterthrush			r	r
Orange-crowned Warbler	o		u	r
Nashville Warbler	r		r	
*Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	c
Yellow Warbler	o		u	r
Blackpoll Warbler			r	
Palm Warbler			r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
Townsend's Warbler	r		r	r
Wilson's Warbler	u		u	
<b>Tanagers</b>				
Western Tanager	o		o	
<b>Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies</b>				
Black-headed Grosbeak	u		u	
Lazuli Bunting	r	r	r	



Canada Goose

**Accidental  
Species**



*Red-tailed  
Hawk*

Yellow Rail  
Magnificent Frigatebird  
Sandhill Crane  
Black Oystercatcher  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Surfbird  
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
Curlew Sandpiper  
Little Stint  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Pigeon Guillemot  
Ancient Murrelet  
Black-headed Gull  
Little Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Slaty-backed Gull  
Arctic Tern  
Brown Booby  
Glossy Ibis  
Band-tailed Pigeon  
Chimney Swift  
Black-chinned Hummingbird  
Least Flycatcher  
Hammond's Flycatcher  
Dusky Flycatcher  
Tropical Kingbird  
Cassin's Kingbird  
Solitary Vireo  
White Wagtail  
Yellow-breasted Chat  
Pine Siskin  
Chestnut-collared Longspur  
Chipping Sparrow  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
Brewer's Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Lark Sparrow  
Bell's Sparrow  
American Redstart  
Magnolia Warbler  
Black-throated Gray Warbler

**Notes**



*Snowy Egret*  
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**Don Edwards San Francisco Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge  
1 Marshlands Road  
Fremont, California 94555  
510/792 0222**

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/don\\_edwards\\_san\\_francisco\\_bay](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/don_edwards_san_francisco_bay)

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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

<http://www.fws.gov>

**Refuge Information**

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*Black-necked Stilt*

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