

Fish Springs

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Wildlife List



A Wildlife Oasis



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

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1959 under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds. This Refuge is one of over 550 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of public lands set aside specifically for wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages these lands to conserve wildlife and their habitats for people today and for generations to come.

The Refuge provides nearly 18,000 acres of uniquely varied habitats that support a diversity of wildlife in an otherwise arid landscape. A 10,000-acre portion of the Refuge consisting of wet meadow and marsh habitats is fed by natural artesian spring flow. This area is managed by Refuge staff using an impoundment system. Other Refuge habitats include 6,000 acres of mud and alkali flat, and 2,000 acres of semi-desert uplands. Since the Refuge is the only significant wetland within a radius of 50 miles, it serves as a vital stopping point for migrating birds and is well known among birders as a location of unusual bird sightings.

Refuge management focuses on supporting migratory birds. Historically, migratory bird management concentrated on waterfowl, shorebirds, and water birds. Today, Refuge staff also manage habitat to benefit species of special management concern, such as the snowy plover, the long-billed curlew, and the least chub, which are subjects of larger scale regional plans. This management action supports biological diversity within and beyond the Refuge boundary.

This checklist is a comprehensive list of Fish Springs NWR wildlife species. The checklist contains all wildlife species documented on the Refuge

since 1960, and includes 12 species of reptiles, 2 amphibians, 4 fish, 44 species of mammals (at least 24 of these breed on the Refuge), and 298 species of birds (at least 70 of these breed on the Refuge).

The checklist will be changed as Refuge staff observe and report new sightings. The status of the listed species, particularly many of the bird species listed as rare or accidental, will be verified or revised with increasing observations.

Species abundance varies annually, sometimes tremendously, due to changes in wetland water levels, fluctuations in available food, and natural cycles. Many of the less common migrant songbird species actually may be present only for a period of a week or so during the migration.

Seasons of Occurrence

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

Seasonal Abundance

The letters below designate species abundance on the Refuge. In the bird section of the wildlife list, abundance is listed according to season.

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 – seen less than every 5 years

About this Checklist

Other Codes

• denotes a breeding species

Acknowledgements C. Neuman was responsible for the initial compilation of this list. E. Sorenson, T. Sadler, J. Skalicky and J. Engler contributed many observations and suggestions in editing the list. C. Pritchett and J. Sikes contributed mammal and reptile observations and list editing, respectively. J. Banta, past Refuge Manager, initiated the development of this brochure and was a strong supporter of birds and birding at this Refuge.

Note Visitors are encouraged to report any new or unusual wildlife sightings by contacting the Refuge staff during office hours or by writing a letter to the Refuge Manager.

Please follow all Refuge regulations, and keep out of unauthorized areas. Please contact the Refuge staff regarding questions on regulations.

Accessibility Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 435 / 831 5353, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swans, Geese, and Ducks				
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	x		r	r
___ Snow Goose	u	r	u	r
___ Ross's Goose	r	r	u	x
___ Brant			x	
___ Cackling Goose	r	r	u	r
___ •Canada Goose	a	a	a	a
___ Trumpeter Swan				r
___ Tundra Swan	u		c	c
___ Wood Duck	r		r	
___ •Gadwall	a	a	a	a
___ Eurasian Wigeon	r		r	r
___ American Wigeon	u	r	a	a
___ •Mallard	a	a	a	a
___ •Blue-winged Teal	u	u		
___ •Cinnamon Teal	a	a	c	u
___ •Northern Shoveler	c	c	c	c
___ •Northern Pintail	c	c	a	a
___ •Green-winged Teal	c	u	a	a
___ •Canvasback	a	a	c	u
___ •Redhead	a	a	c	c
___ Ring-necked Duck	c	u	u	c
___ Greater Scaup	r			x
___ Lesser Scaup	c	u	u	c
___ Surf Scoter			x	
___ White-winged Scoter			x	
___ Black Scoter			x	
___ Long-tailed Duck	x			x
___ Bufflehead	c		u	c
___ Common Goldeneye	c	x	u	c
___ Barrow's Goldeneye				x
___ Hooded Merganser	r		u	r
___ •Common Merganser	c	r	u	c
___ Red-breasted Merganser	u	r	r	r
___ •Ruddy Duck	a	c	a	u
Gallinaceous Birds				
___ •Chukar	u	c	c	u
___ •Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	u	u
Loons				
___ Pacific Loon			x	x
___ Common Loon	r	x	r	
___ Yellow-billed Loon			x	
Grebes				
___ •Pied-billed Grebe	c	c	a	a
___ Horned Grebe	r		r	r
___ Eared Grebe	a	c	c	r
___ •Western Grebe	u	u	u	x
___ Clark's Grebe	u	u	u	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Pelicans				
___ American White Pelican	c	c	u	r
Cormorants				
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	u	
Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
___ • American Bittern	c	c	c	c
___ • Great Blue Heron	c	a	c	c
___ • Great Egret	u	u	u	u
___ • Snowy Egret	a	a	c	r
___ Reddish Egret		x		
___ • Cattle Egret	u	u	u	r
___ Green Heron	x	r	r	
___ • Black-crowned Night-Heron	a	a	c	c
Ibises and Spoonbills				
___ • White-faced Ibis	a	a	u	r
Storks				
___ Wood Stork			x	
New World Vultures				
___ Turkey Vulture	x	x	x	
Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles				
___ Osprey	r	r	u	x
___ Bald Eagle	r	x	u	u
___ • Northern Harrier	c	c	c	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	x
___ Cooper's Hawk	r	r	u	r
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	r	r	r	
___ Swainson's Hawk	r	x	r	
___ Red-tailed Hawk	u	u	u	r
___ Ferruginous Hawk	r	r	r	r
___ Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	c
___ • Golden Eagle	u	r	u	u
Falcons and Caracaras				
___ American Kestrel	r	u	u	r
___ Merlin	r		r	r
___ Peregrine Falcon	u	r	u	
___ Prairie Falcon	u	u	u	u
Rails				
___ • Virginia Rail	c	c	c	u
___ • Sora	c	c	c	u
___ • American Coot	a	a	a	a

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cranes				
___ • Sandhill Crane	u	u	u	
Plovers				
___ Black-bellied Plover	u	r	u	
___ American Golden-Plover	r	x	x	
___ Pacific Golden-Plover		x		
___ • Snowy Plover	c	c	u	
___ Semipalmated Plover	u	u	r	
___ • Killdeer	c	a	c	u
Stilts and Avocets				
___ • Black-necked Stilt	a	a	u	
___ • American Avocet	a	a	c	r
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	c	u	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	r	u	r	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	a	c
___ • Willet	c	c	r	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	r
___ Whimbrel	r	x	r	
___ • Long-billed Curlew	c	c	r	
___ Hudsonian Godwit			x	
___ Marbled Godwit	u	u	r	
___ Ruddy Turnstone	x	r	x	
___ Red Knot	x			
___ Sanderling	r	x	r	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper		x	r	
___ Western Sandpiper	c	c	c	
___ Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	x
___ White-rumped Sandpiper		x		
___ Baird's Sandpiper	u	u	u	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	x	r	u	
___ Dunlin	x		x	
___ Stilt Sandpiper	r	x	x	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher			x	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	c	c	c	r
___ Wilson's Snipe	u	r	u	u
___ • Wilson's Phalarope	c	a	c	
___ Red-necked Phalarope	u	r	u	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, and Terns				
___ Franklin's Gull	u	r	x	
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u	r	r	
___ Ring-billed Gull	a	c	a	u
___ California Gull	c	u	u	u
___ Herring Gull	x		x	
___ Sabine's Gull			r	
___ Black-legged Kittiwake	x			
___ Least Tern		x		
___ • Caspian Tern	u	u	r	
___ • Black Tern	u	u	x	
___ Common Tern			x	
___ • Forster's Tern	a	a	u	
___ Pomarine Jaeger		x		
___ Parasitic Jaeger		x	x	
___ Long-tailed Jaeger		x		
Pigeons and Doves				
___ Rock Pigeon	r	r	r	
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove	u	u	u	
___ White-winged Dove	r		x	
___ • Mourning Dove	c	a	c	x
Cuckoos and Anis				
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo		x		
Barn Owls				
___ Barn Owl	x	x	r	r
Typical Owls				
___ Western Screech-Owl				x
___ • Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
___ Burrowing Owl		r	r	
___ Long-eared Owl	x	x	x	x
___ • Short-eared Owl	c	u	u	u
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl				x
Nightjars				
___ Common Nighthawk	u	c	u	
___ Common Poorwill	r	u	u	
Swifts				
___ White-throated Swift	r	x		
Hummingbirds				
___ • Black-chinned Hummingbird	r	r	x	
___ Calliope Hummingbird	x	x	x	
___ • Broad-tailed Hummingbird	u	u	r	
___ Rufous Hummingbird		r	x	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher	u	u	c	x
Woodpeckers				
___ Lewis' Woodpecker	r			x
___ Williamson's Sapsucker			r	
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			x	
___ Red-naped Sapsucker	x		r	
___ Red-breasted Sapsucker				x
___ Downy Woodpecker			r	
___ Hairy Woodpecker			x	
___ Northern Flicker	u	r	c	u
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	r	r	
___ Western Wood-Pewee	u	u	r	
___ Willow Flycatcher	u	r	r	
___ Hammond's Flycatcher	u	r	r	
___ Gray Flycatcher	u	r	r	
___ Dusky Flycatcher	u	r	r	
___ Cordilleran Flycatcher	u	r	r	
___ Black Phoebe	x			
___ Eastern Phoebe	x		x	
___ • Say's Phoebe	c	c	u	r
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	x		x	
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	r			
___ Cassin's Kingbird	x			
___ • Western Kingbird	c	a	u	
___ • Eastern Kingbird	r	u	x	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher			x	
Shrikes				
___ • Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Shrike	x		r	r
Vireos				
___ Plumbeous Vireo	r		x	
___ Cassin's Vireo			x	
___ Warbling Vireo	u		x	
Crows, Jays, and Magpies				
___ Steller's Jay			r	
___ Western Scrub-Jay	x		r	
___ Pinyon Jay	r	x	r	
___ Clark's Nutcracker	x		x	x
___ Black-billed Magpie		x	x	
___ American Crow	u		r	x
___ • Common Raven	c	c	c	c

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Larks				
___ • Horned Lark	a	c	a	a
Swallows				
___ Purple Martin	x			
___ Tree Swallow	c	u	r	x
___ Violet-green Swallow	u	r	r	
___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	r	x	
___ Bank Swallow	u	r	r	
___ Cliff Swallow	u	r	r	
___ • Barn Swallow	a	a	a	
Titmice and Chickadees				
___ Mountain Chickadee	x		r	x
___ Juniper Titmouse			x	
Bushtits				
___ Bushtit			x	x
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	r	x	r	r
___ White-breasted Nuthatch			x	
Creepers				
___ Brown Creeper			x	
Wrens				
___ • Rock Wren	c	c	c	
___ Canyon Wren	x		x	
___ Bewick's Wren			x	
___ House Wren	x	x	x	
___ Winter Wren	x		r	
___ • Marsh Wren	a	a	c	c
Kinglets				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet			x	
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u	x	u	
Old World Warblers				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r		x	
Thrushes				
___ Western Bluebird	x		x	
___ Mountain Bluebird	r		r	x
___ Townsend's Solitaire	u		u	x
___ Swainson's Thrush	r			
___ Hermit Thrush	x		r	x
___ • American Robin	c	u	c	u
___ Varied Thrush			r	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Mimic Thrushes				
___ Gray Catbird	r			
___ • Northern Mockingbird	c	u	u	
___ • Sage Thrasher	u	c	c	r
___ Brown Thrasher	x	r	r	
Starlings				
___ • European Starling	c	r	c	u
Wagtails and Pipits				
___ American (<i>Water</i>) Pipit	u	x	c	c
Waxwings				
___ Bohemian Waxwing	x		x	x
___ Cedar Waxwing	u	x	u	
Silky-flycatchers				
___ Phainopepla	x			
Wood Warblers				
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u	x	u	
___ Nashville Warbler	x		r	
___ Virginia's Warbler	u	x		
___ Lucy's Warbler	x			
___ Northern Parula	x			
___ • Yellow Warbler	a	u	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler			x	
___ Magnolia Warbler	r			
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler			x	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	u	c	
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler	x			
___ Townsend's Warbler	x		r	
___ Palm Warbler	x		x	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	x			
___ Black-and-white Warbler	r		x	
___ American Redstart	x		r	
___ Ovenbird	x			
___ Northern Waterthrush	r			
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	u		r	
___ • Common Yellowthroat	c	c	u	
___ Wilson's Warbler	c	r	u	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	u		x	
Tanagers				
___ Summer Tanager	x		x	
___ Scarlet Tanager		x		
___ • Western Tanager	c	u	u	

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
Insectivores	
• Vagrant Shrew	c
Vesper Bats	
California Myotis	u
Western Small-footed Myotis	c
Long-eared Myotis	c
Fringed Myotis	c
Long-legged Myotis	c
Yuma Myotis	u
Silver-haired Bat	u
Western Pipistrelle	c
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	u
Pallid Bat	r
Brazillian Free-tailed Bat	r
Pikas, Hares, and Rabbits	
Pygmy Rabbit	r
• Desert Cottontail	u
• Black-tailed Jackrabbit	c
Rodents	
• Least Chipmunk	u
• White-tailed Antelope Squirrel	a
• Townsend's Ground Squirrel	u
• Botta's Pocket Gopher	c
• Little Pocket Mouse	u
• Great Basin Pocket Mouse	u
• Long-tailed Pocket Mouse	a
• Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rat	a
• Ord's Kangaroo Rat	c
• Western Harvest Mouse	c
Canyon Mouse	r
• Deer Mouse	a
Pinyon Mouse	r
• Northern Grasshopper Mouse	u
• Desert Woodrat	c
• House Mouse	a
• Montane Vole	a
• Common Muskrat	a
Carnivores	
• Coyote	c
Kit Fox	c
Red Fox	r
Ringtail	r
• Long-tailed Weasel	u
• American Badger	u
Western Spotted Skunk	r
• Striped Skunk	u
Bobcat	u

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
Even-toed Ungulates	
• Mule Deer	u
Pronghorn	u

Reference: *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico*, 2003.

Common Amphibian Name	Abundance
Frogs	
• American Bullfrog	a
• Northern Leopard Frog	c

Reference: *U.S. Geological Survey's Checklist of Amphibian Species and Identification Guide*, <<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/herps/amphibid/index.htm>>

Common Reptile Name	Abundance
Lizards	
Collared Lizard	u
Leopard Lizard	u
Desert Horned Lizard	u
Great Basin Sagebrush Lizard	c
Western Fence Lizard	c
Desert Side-blotched Lizard	c
Great Basin Whiptail Lizard	c
Snakes	
Striped Whipsnake	u
Wandering Garter Snake	c
Great Basin Rattlesnake	u
Great Basin Gopher Snake	a
Long-nosed Snake	x

Reference: *The Center for North American Herpetology*, <http://www.cnah.org/index.asp>

Common Fish Name	Abundance
Fishes	
• Utah Chub	c
• Least Chub	u
• Speckled Dace	u
• Mosquitofish	a

Reference: *Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico*. 6th ed. American Fisheries Society, 2004.

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