

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Bird List



Welcome

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of the largest urban refuges in the country. This Refuge provides important feeding and resting grounds for resident and migratory birds. The Refuge was designated as a Colorado State Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society in 2008.

When to Visit



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

The Refuge offers visitors unique opportunities to view birds and other wildlife. Dawn and dusk are the best times of day to observe birds, and spring and fall are the best seasons. However, many birds are present year-round on the Refuge. Colorful songbirds pass through in the spring. Shorebirds stop during their migrations in spring and fall. In winter, numerous bald eagles roost at the Refuge and long-eared owls gather in thickets. Waterfowl can be seen during all seasons on the Refuge's lakes.

About the List

This list of 273 birds follows the organization of the *American Ornithologists' Union's Seventh Edition Checklist*, including changes through the 55th Supplement.

The information contained in this checklist is based on field data collected between 1989 and 2014 by the Denver Audubon Society, Denver Field Ornithologists, Refuge staff and visiting birders.

Seasons

Since many birds are migratory, their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are noted as follows:

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

Seasonal Abundance:

c common – certain to be seen in suitable habitat
u uncommon – present, but not certain to be seen
r rare – seen at intervals of 2 - 5 years
∅ not present – not seen on the Refuge

Other Codes

• breeds on the Refuge

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

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
Pelicans				
American White Pelican	c	c	c	r
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	∅
Bitterns, Herons and Egrets				
American Bittern	r	∅	r	∅
• Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	r
Great Egret	r	r	r	∅
Snowy Egret	u	c	c	∅
Little Blue Heron	r	r	∅	∅
Tricolored Heron	r	∅	∅	∅
Cattle Egret	r	r	r	∅
Green Heron	r	∅	r	∅
Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	u	u	∅
Ibises and Spoonbills				
White-faced Ibis	c	u	u	∅
New World Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	u	r	u	∅
Osprey				
Osprey	u	r	u	∅
Hawks, Kites and Eagles				
• Bald Eagle	c	c	c	c
• Northern Harrier	u	u	u	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	u
Cooper's Hawk	u	r	u	u
Northern Goshawk	r	∅	∅	∅
Broad-winged Hawk	r	∅	∅	∅
• Swainson's Hawk	c	c	c	∅
• Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk	u	r	c	c
Rough-legged Hawk	u	∅	u	u
Golden Eagle	u	u	u	u
Rails, Gallinules and Coots				
• Virginia Rail	u	r	u	r
Sora	u	u	u	∅
• American Coot	c	c	c	c
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	r	∅	u	r
Stilts and Avocets				
Black-necked Stilt	r	r	∅	∅
• American Avocet	c	c	u	∅

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	r	Ø	r	Ø
American Golden-Plover	Ø	Ø	r	Ø
Snowy Plover	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Semipalmated Plover	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
• Killdeer	c	c	c	r
Mountain Plover	r	Ø	r	Ø
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
• Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	Ø
Solitary Sandpiper	u	u	u	Ø
Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	u	Ø
Willet	u	r	r	Ø
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	Ø
Upland Sandpiper	r	r	Ø	Ø
Whimbrel	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Long-billed Curlew	u	r	Ø	Ø
Marbled Godwit	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Stilt Sandpiper	r	Ø	r	Ø
Sanderling	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Baird's Sandpiper	u	u	u	Ø
Least Sandpiper	Ø	r	r	Ø
White-rumped Sandpiper	Ø	Ø	r	Ø
Pectoral Sandpiper	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Semipalmated Sandpiper	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Western Sandpiper	r	r	r	Ø
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	Ø
Wilson's Snipe	u	u	u	r
Wilson's Phalarope	c	u	u	Ø
Red-necked Phalarope	r	Ø	r	Ø
Gulls and Terns				
Sabine's Gull	Ø	Ø	r	Ø
Bonaparte's Gull	r	Ø	r	Ø
Franklin's Gull	u	Ø	u	Ø
Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	c
California Gull	u	r	u	Ø
Herring Gull	r	Ø	u	u
Thayer's Gull	Ø	Ø	Ø	r
Caspian Tern	Ø	r	Ø	Ø
Black Tern	r	r	r	Ø
Common Tern	Ø	Ø	r	Ø
Forster's Tern	r	Ø	Ø	Ø

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
Pigeons and Doves				
• Rock Pigeon (<i>introduced</i>)	c	c	c	c
• Eurasian Collared-Dove (<i>introduced</i>)	u	u	u	u
White-winged Dove	r	∅	∅	∅
• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	u
Cuckoos				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	r	r	∅	∅
Barn Owls				
Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
Typical Owls				
Eastern Screech-Owl	∅	∅	r	r
• Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
Snowy Owl	∅	∅	r	∅
• Burrowing Owl	c	c	c	r
• Long-eared Owl	u	u	u	u
• Short-eared Owl	r	r	r	r
Northern Saw-whet Owl	∅	∅	r	r
Nighthawks and Nightjars				
• Common Nighthawk	r	u	u	∅
Common Poorwill	r	r	r	∅
Swifts				
Chimney Swift	r	r	∅	∅
Hummingbirds				
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	r	r	r	∅
Kingfishers				
• Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	u
Woodpeckers				
Lewis's Woodpecker	r	∅	r	∅
• Red-headed Woodpecker	u	u	r	∅
Red-bellied Woodpecker	∅	∅	r	r
Red-naped Sapsucker	r	∅	r	∅
• Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
• Hairy Woodpecker	u	∅	u	u
• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
Caracaras and Falcons				
• American Kestrel	c	c	c	c
Merlin	r	∅	u	u
Peregrine Falcon	u	∅	u	r
Prairie Falcon	u	r	u	u
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	∅	r	∅
Western Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	∅

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
Willow Flycatcher	r	∅	r	∅
Least Flycatcher	r	∅	∅	∅
Hammond's Flycatcher	∅	∅	r	∅
Gray Flycatcher	r	∅	r	∅
Dusky Flycatcher	u	∅	r	∅
Cordilleran Flycatcher	r	∅	r	∅
Eastern Phoebe	r	∅	r	∅
• Say's Phoebe	c	c	u	∅
Ash-throated Flycatcher	r	∅	∅	∅
Great Crested Flycatcher	∅	∅	r	∅
Cassin's Kingbird	r	∅	u	∅
• Western Kingbird	c	c	c	∅
• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	u	∅
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	r	r	∅	∅
Shrikes				
• Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	r
Northern Shrike	r	∅	u	u
Vireos				
Plumbeous Vireo	r	∅	r	∅
Cassin's Vireo	∅	∅	r	∅
Blue-headed Vireo	∅	∅	r	∅
Warbling Vireo	u	u	u	∅
Philadelphia Vireo	∅	∅	r	∅
Red-eyed Vireo	r	∅	r	∅
Jays, Magpies and Crows				
• Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
Western Scrub-Jay	∅	∅	r	∅
• Black-billed Magpie	c	c	c	c
American Crow	c	u	c	c
Common Raven	r	∅	r	r
Larks				
• Horned Lark	c	c	c	c
Swallows				
• Tree Swallow	c	c	u	∅
Violet-green Swallow	u	r	r	∅
• Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c	u	∅
• Bank Swallow	c	c	u	∅
• Cliff Swallow	c	c	c	∅
• Barn Swallow	c	c	c	∅
Chickadees				
• Black-capped Chickadee	c	c	c	c
Mountain Chickadee	r	∅	r	r

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r	r	r	r
• White-breasted Nuthatch	u	u	u	u
Pygmy Nuthatch	∅	∅	r	∅
Creepers				
Brown Creeper	r	∅	r	u
Wrens				
Rock Wren	u	r	u	∅
• House Wren	c	c	c	∅
Winter Wren	r	∅	r	r
Marsh Wren	r	r	r	r
Bewick's Wren	r	r	∅	∅
Gnatcatchers				
• Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	r	u	∅
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	∅	∅	r	r
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u	∅	u	r
Thrushes				
• Eastern Bluebird	r	r	r	∅
Western Bluebird	r	∅	r	∅
Mountain Bluebird	c	∅	u	r
Townsend's Solitaire	u	∅	u	u
Veery	r	∅	r	∅
Swainson's Thrush	u	r	u	∅
Hermit Thrush	c	∅	u	∅
Wood Thrush	r	∅	∅	∅
• American Robin	c	c	c	c
Mimic Thrushes				
Gray Catbird	r	∅	r	∅
Brown Thrasher	r	∅	r	∅
Sage Thrasher	u	u	u	∅
• Northern Mockingbird	u	u	u	∅
Starlings				
• European Starling	c	c	c	c
Pipits				
American Pipit	r	∅	r	r
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing	∅	∅	r	r
Cedar Waxwing	r	∅	r	∅
Longspurs and Buntings				
Lapland Longspur	r	∅	∅	r

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
Wood Warblers				
Ovenbird	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Worm-eating Warbler	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Northern Waterthrush	r	r	r	Ø
Black-and-white Warbler	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Orange-crowned Warbler	u	Ø	u	Ø
Nashville Warbler	Ø	r	r	Ø
Virginia's Warbler	u	Ø	Ø	r
MacGillivray's Warbler	r	r	r	Ø
• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	Ø
Hooded Warbler	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
American Redstart	r	Ø	r	Ø
Bay-breasted Warbler	Ø	Ø	r	Ø
• Yellow Warbler	c	c	u	Ø
Blackpoll Warbler	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Black-throated Blue Warbler	r	Ø	r	Ø
Palm Warbler	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	r	u	Ø
Prairie Warbler	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Ø	Ø	r	Ø
Townsend's Warbler	r	r	r	Ø
Hermit Warbler	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
Wilson's Warbler	u	r	u	Ø
Yellow-breasted Chat	r	r	Ø	Ø
Sparrows and Towhees				
Green-tailed Towhee	u	Ø	u	Ø
Spotted Towhee	u	r	u	Ø
Cassin's Sparrow	r	u	r	Ø
American Tree Sparrow	u	r	c	c
Chipping Sparrow	c	u	c	Ø
Clay-colored Sparrow	u	u	u	Ø
Brewer's Sparrow	u	u	u	Ø
Field Sparrow	r	r	r	Ø
• Vesper Sparrow	c	c	c	Ø
• Lark Sparrow	u	c	u	Ø
Black-throated Sparrow	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
• Lark Bunting	c	c	u	Ø
Savannah Sparrow	r	r	r	Ø
• Grasshopper Sparrow	u	c	r	Ø
Fox Sparrow	Ø	Ø	Ø	r
• Song Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	u	Ø	Ø	r

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
Sparrows and Towhees (continued)				
Swamp Sparrow	Ø	Ø	r	r
White-throated Sparrow	Ø	Ø	r	r
Harris's Sparrow	r	r	r	r
White-crowned Sparrow	u	r	c	c
Dark-eyed Junco	c	Ø	c	c
Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies				
Scarlet Tanager	r	Ø	r	Ø
Western Tanager	u	r	u	Ø
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u	u	Ø	Ø
• Black-headed Grosbeak	u	u	u	Ø
Blue Grosbeak	r	u	u	Ø
Lazuli Bunting	u	u	r	Ø
Indigo Bunting	Ø	r	r	Ø
Blackbirds and Orioles				
Bobolink	r	Ø	Ø	Ø
• Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c
• Western Meadowlark	c	c	c	c
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	c	c	u	r
• Brewer's Blackbird	u	u	u	r
• Common Grackle	c	c	u	r
Great-tailed Grackle	r	r	Ø	r
• Brown-headed Cowbird	c	u	u	Ø
Orchard Oriole	u	u	r	Ø
• Bullock's Oriole	c	c	r	r
Finches				
• House Finch	c	c	c	c
Common Redpoll	Ø	Ø	Ø	r
Pine Siskin	r	Ø	r	r
Lesser Goldfinch	Ø	r	r	Ø
American Goldfinch	c	c	c	c
Evening Grosbeak	Ø	Ø	r	Ø
Old World Sparrows				
• House Sparrow (<i>introduced</i>)	c	c	c	c

Accessibility Information

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 free 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 303 / 289 0930, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

Notes



Date:

Time:

Locality:

Weather:

Observers:

Total Species:

Total Individual:

**Rocky Mountain Arsenal
National Wildlife Refuge**
6550 Gateway Road, Building 121
Commerce City, CO 80022-1748
303 / 289 0930
303 / 289 0579 fax
rockymountainarsenal@fws.gov
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal

**For State relay service:
TTY / Voice: 711**

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

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

April 2015

