U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Steigerwald Lake
National Wildlife Refuge

Watchable Wildlife

In order to see birds it is necessary to become part of the silence.
- Robert Lynd

Introduction

Steigerwald Lake NWR

A wide variety of birds await the patient observer at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Located in the Columbia River Gorge, at the crossroads of the Cascade Mountain Range and the Columbia River, birds from the east can be found among those of the west at this near sea-level passage.

Over 200 of the 300 bird species seen in Clark County, Washington have been observed on this relatively small refuge, making Steigerwald Lake an excellent birding destination.

A number of habitats support this diverse bird population, including riparian forest along Gibbons Creek, seasonal wetlands, grasslands and oak forested uplands.

Enjoying Wildlife

The Gibbons Creek Wildlife Art Trail offers Refuge visitors the chance to experience and learn about wildlife and the places they call home. As a guest in their home, your visit will be most successful if you move slowly, talk softly, use binoculars and leave only footprints behind.

The trail is open year-round from dawn until dusk. A seasonal spur is closed from October 1 – April 30 to provide sanctuary for wintering waterfowl.

Observation Tips

When looking at a bird, pay close attention to characteristics like color, size, shape, wing and head markings. Always observe first and then refer to your identification book, because the bird may move out of sight quickly. This is especially true of perching birds.

Also, be sure to listen for their calls and sounds. Take note of the type of habitat in which you see the bird, and where in the habitat they are likely to be found—canopy, tree trunk, brushy areas, open water or on the ground.

Bird List Key

Seasonal Abundance Codes

- c - Common – likely to be seen or heard
- u - Uncommon – usually present but may not be seen or heard
- o - Occasional – seen or heard only a few times per season
- r - Rare – unlikely to be seen or heard
- a - Accidental - less than five records

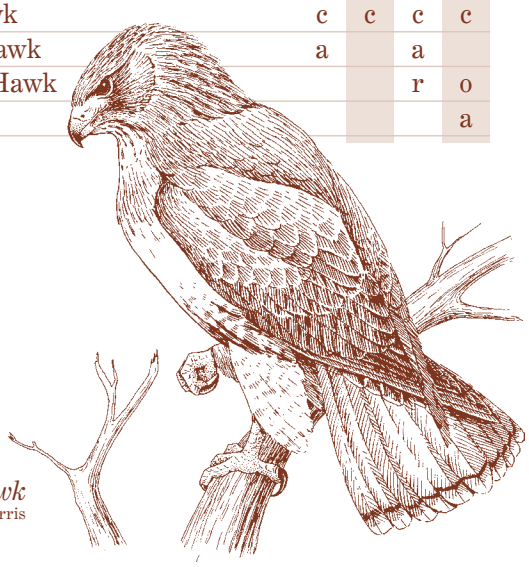
Seasons

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

Marsh wren

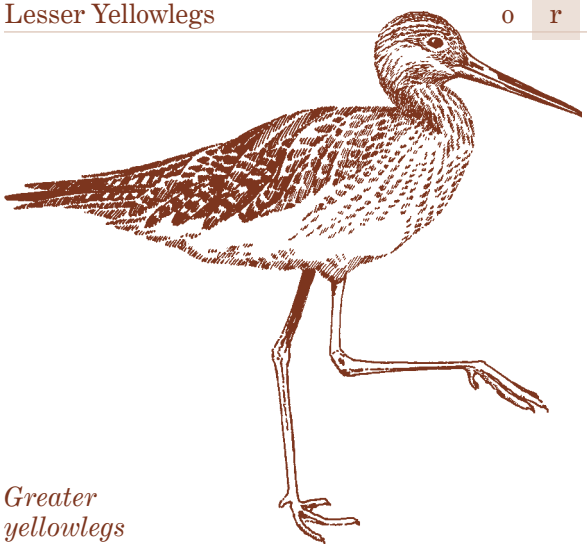
Birds of Steigerwald Lake NWR

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Loons				
Common Loon	r			u
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe	c	c	c	u
Horned Grebe	o		o	o
Red-necked Grebe				a
Eared Grebe			a	
Western Grebe	o		o	o
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	u	r	u	u
Bitterns, Herons and Egrets				
American Bittern	u	u	u	r
Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	u
Great Egret	r	o	u	r
Cattle Egret			a	
Green Heron	o	r	r	
Black-crowned Night-Heron			a	
Ibises and Spoonbills				
White-faced Ibis	a	a		
New World Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	
Swans, Geese and Ducks				
Greater White-fronted Goose	o		u	r
Snow Goose	o		r	r
Ross's Goose			a	
Brant		a		
Cackling Goose	c		u	c
Canada Goose	c	u	c	c
Mute Swan	o	o	o	u
Trumpeter Swan				a
Tundra Swan	r		r	r
Wood Duck	c	c	u	r
Gadwall	c	u	c	c
Eurasian Wigeon	r		r	r
American Wigeon	c	o	c	c
Mallard	c	c	c	u
Blue-winged Teal	u	u		
Cinnamon Teal	c	c	o	r
Northern Shoveler	u	o	u	c
Northern Pintail	o	r	o	c
Green-winged Teal	c	r	u	c
Canvasback	r	r	r	o
Redhead	o			a
Ring-necked Duck	c	o	o	c
Tufted Duck				a
Greater Scaup	o		o	u
Lesser Scaup	c	o	u	c
Surf Scoter			a	
Long-tailed Duck			a	
Bufflehead	c	r	o	c
Common Goldeneye	r		r	o
Barrow's Goldeneye			a	a
Hooded Merganser	u	o	o	u
Common Merganser	o	r	r	o
Red-breasted Merganser				a
Ruddy Duck	r	r	r	r
Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles				
Osprey	c	c	r	
White-tailed Kite			a	a
Bald Eagle	u	u	u	c
Northern Harrier	c	c	c	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		o	r
Cooper's Hawk	a		r	
Red-shouldered Hawk			o	o
Swainson's Hawk	a			
Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk	a		a	
Rough-legged Hawk			r	o
Golden Eagle				a



Red-tailed hawk
© Ken Morris

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Falcons and Caracaras				
American Kestrel	o	o	u	u
Merlin			u	a
Gyrfalcon				a
Peregrine Falcon	r		o	o
Prairie Falcon				a
Gallinaceous Birds				
Ring-necked Pheasant	r	r	r	r
California Quail	r	r	r	r
Rails				
Virginia Rail	o	o	u	r
Sora	o	u	r	
American Coot	c	u	u	c
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	a			
Plovers				
Semipalmated Plover			u	
Killdeer	u	u	u	o
Stilts and Avocets				
Black-necked Stilt	a			
American Avocet	a			
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
Greater Yellowlegs	u		u	o
Lesser Yellowlegs	o	r	u	



Greater yellowlegs

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Solitary Sandpiper	r	a	r	
Spotted Sandpiper	r	u	o	
Long-billed Curlew	a			
Sanderling		r	r	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		r	r	
Western Sandpiper	u	r	o	
Least Sandpiper	o	r	o	
Baird's Sandpiper			u	
Pectoral Sandpiper			o	
Dunlin	o		r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	a		a	
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	r	u	o
Wilson's Snipe	c	r	u	o
Wilson's Phalarope	r		r	
Red-necked Phalarope			a	
Red Phalarope			a	
Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls and Terns				
Bonaparte's Gull	r	r	r	
Mew Gull	o		o	u
Ring-billed Gull	u	o	u	u
California Gull	u	o	o	o
Herring Gull	o		o	u
Thayer's Gull	r		r	r
Glaucous-winged Gull	c	u	o	c
Glaucous Gull				a
Caspian Tern	o	o	o	
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Pigeon	o	o	u	o
Band-tailed Pigeon	a			a
Eurasian Collared-Dove	u	u	u	u
Mourning Dove	u	c	o	
Barn Owls				
Barn Owl	r	r	o	o
Typical Owls				
Western Screech-Owl			r	
Great Horned Owl	o	c	o	o
Snowy Owl				a
Burrowing Owl	a			
Short-eared Owl			o	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swifts				
Black Swift		r	o	
Vaux's Swift	o	c	o	
Hummingbirds				
Anna's Hummingbird	o	o		
Calliope Hummingbird	r	r		
Rufous Hummingbird	o	o	o	
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	u	u	c	o
Woodpeckers				
Lewis's Woodpecker			a	
Red-breasted Sapsucker			r	r
Downy Woodpecker	u	c	c	o
Hairy Woodpecker	u	o	o	o
Northern Flicker	c	o	c	o
Pileated Woodpecker	u	o	u	r
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Western Wood-Pewee	o	c	o	
Willow Flycatcher	o	u	u	
Least Flycatcher		a		
Gray Flycatcher	a			
Dusky Flycatcher	a		a	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	u	o	o	
Black Phoebe			a	a
Say's Phoebe	r			r
Ash-throated Flycatcher			a	
Western Kingbird	o		r	
Eastern Kingbird	a		a	
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike	a			a
Northern Shrike			r	r

White-breasted nuthatch
© Matt Macgillivray

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Vireos				
Cassin's Vireo	o		o	
Warbling Vireo	o	o	o	
Red-eyed Vireo		r		
Crows, Jays and Magpies				
Steller's Jay	r	o	u	r
Western Scrub-Jay	c	c	c	o
American Crow	c	c	u	u
Common Raven	o	o	u	r
Larks				
Horned Lark				a
Swallows				
Purple Martin	c	c	u	
Tree Swallow	c	c	u	r
Violet-green Swallow	c	c	u	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	
Bank Swallow		a	a	
Cliff Swallow	o	u	u	
Barn Swallow	c	c	c	
Titmice and Chickadees				
Black-capped Chickadee	o	u	c	o
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	a			
Bushtits				
Bushtit	r	o	o	r
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch			a	
White-breasted Nuthatch	u	o	c	r
Creepers				
Brown Creeper	r	r		
Wrens				
Bewick's Wren	u	c	u	o
House Wren	c	c	u	
Winter Wren				a
Marsh Wren	u	u	o	r
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		r	r
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		o	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Thrushes				
Mountain Bluebird			a	
Townsend's Solitaire	a			
Swainson's Thrush	o	c	u	
Hermit Thrush			a	a
American Robin	c	c	c	o
Varied Thrush			a	r
Mimic Thrushes				
Sage Thrasher	a			
Starlings				
European Starling	c	c	c	c
Wagtails and Pipits				
American Pipit	r		r	r
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing	o	c	c	
Wood Warblers				
Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	
Nashville Warbler	r	a	r	
Yellow Warbler	o	o	r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	o		u	r
Black-throated Gray Warbler	o		o	
Townsend's Warbler	a			r
Palm Warbler			a	
MacGillivray's Warbler		r	u	
Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	r
Wilson's Warbler	u	a	u	
Yellow-breasted Chat	o	o		
Tanagers				
Western Tanager	o	r	r	
Sparrows and Towhees				
Spotted Towhee	u	u	o	o
Chipping Sparrow	r	r		
Clay-colored Sparrow			a	
Brewer's Sparrow	a			
Vesper Sparrow	a		a	
Savannah Sparrow	c	c	u	
Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
Song Sparrow	c	c	c	u

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Lincoln's Sparrow	r		u	r
Swamp Sparrow			a	
White-throated Sparrow	a		r	r
Harris's Sparrow	a		a	a
White-crowned Sparrow	u	u	u	o
Golden-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
Dark-eyed Junco	o	r	o	u
Lapland Longspur			a	a
Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies				
Black-headed Grosbeak	o	c	o	
Lazuli Bunting	u	o	u	
Blackbirds and Orioles				
Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	u
Western Meadowlark	u	r	o	u
Yellow-headed Blackbird	r	r		
Brewer's Blackbird	o	o	u	u
Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	r	
Bullock's Oriole	o	c	u	
Finches				
Purple Finch	r	r		
House Finch	c	c	c	o
Pine Siskin	r		r	r
Lesser Goldfinch			a	
American Goldfinch	c	c	c	r
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow	o	c	o	o

American robin
© Ken Morris

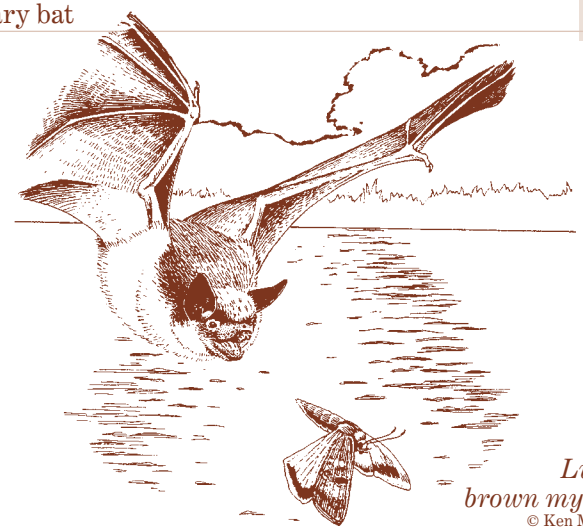
Mammals of the Gorge Refuges

Species Presence

The following lists of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish include species that have been verified through biological surveys to occur within the Columbia River Gorge National Wildlife Refuges (Steigerwald Lake NWR, Franz Lake NWR, Pierce NWR). The remaining are potential species obtained from various publications.

V - (•) Verified Species

Common Name	V
Pouched Mammals	
Common opossum	•
Shrews and Moles	
Shrew-mole	
Coast mole	•
Townsend mole	•
Dusky shrew	
Water shrew	•
Vagrant shrew	•
Bats	
Big brown bat	•
Silver-haired bat	
Western red bat	
Hoary bat	

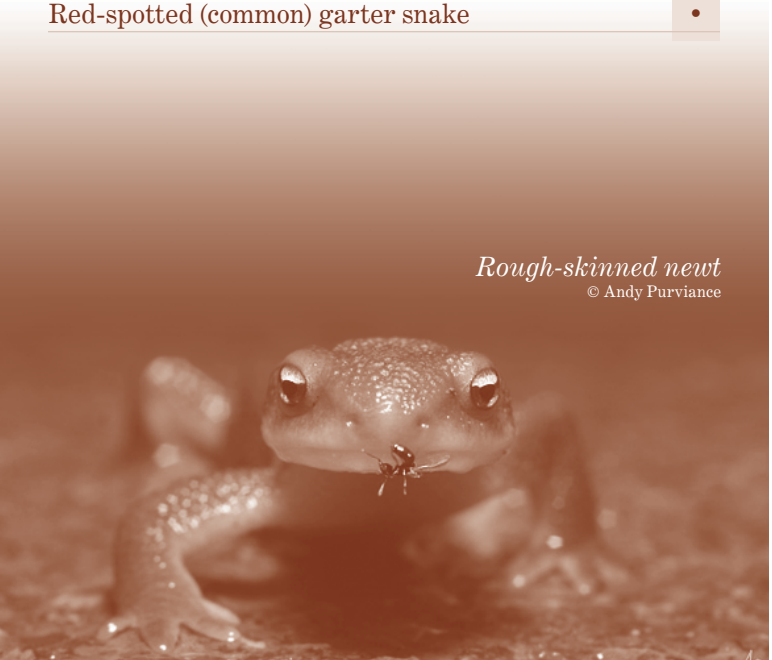


Little brown myotis
© Ken Morris

Common Name	V
California myotis	
Western long-eared bat	
Little brown myotis	•
Long-legged bat	
Yuma bat	
Big-eared bat	
Pikas, Rabbits and Hares	
Brush rabbit	
Eastern cottontail	•
Rodents	
Beaver	•
Gray-tailed vole	
Creeping (Oregon) vole	
Townsend vole	•
Nutria	•
Muskrat	•
Deer mouse	•
Eastern gray squirrel	•
Western gray squirrel	
Beechey ground squirrel	•
Townsends chipmunk	•
Douglas squirrel	•
Mazama pocket gopher	
Brush prairie gopher	
Northern pocket gopher	•
Pacific jumping mouse	•
Carnivores	
Coyote	•
Mountain lion	•
Bobcat	•
River otter	•
Striped skunk	•
Long-tailed weasel	•
Mink	•
Racoon	•
Black bear	•
Red fox	•
Hoofed Mammals	
Roosevelt elk	•
Black-tailed deer	•

Amphibians & Reptiles of the Gorge Refuges

Common Name	V
Salamanders	
Northwestern salamander	•
Long-toed salamander	•
Ensatina	•
Larch Mountain salamader	•
Western red-back salamander	
Cascade torrent salamander	•
Rough-skinned newt	•
Frogs and Toads	
Western toad	•
Pacific chorus frog	•
Northern red-legged frog	•
Bullfrog	•
Turtles	
Western painted turtle	•
Western pond turtle	•
Lizards	
Northern alligator lizard	
Snakes	
Rubber boa	
Northwestern garter snake	•
Red-spotted (common) garter snake	•



Rough-skinned newt
© Andy Purviance

Fish of the Gorge Refuges

Common Name	V
Green sturgeon	
White sturgeon	
Chiselmouth	•
American shad	
Yellow bullhead	•
Brown bullhead	•
Goldfish	•
Longnose sucker	
Bridgelip sucker	
Largescale sucker	•
Riffle sculpin	•
Torrent sculpin	•
Carp	•
Threespine stickleback	•
Channel catfish	
River lamprey	•
Pumpkinseed	•
Bluegill	•
Smallmouth bass	•
Largemouth bass	•
Sea-run cutthroat trout	•
Chum salmon	•
Coho salmon	•
Sockeye salmon	
Rainbow trout	•
Steelhead	•
Chinook salmon	•
Yellow perch	•
Sandroller	
Starry flounder	
White crappie	•
Black crappie	
Mountain whitefish	
Northern pike-minnow	
Longnosed dace	•
Redside shiner	•
Brown trout	
Bull trout	
Walleye	
Eulachon (smelt)	

Northern harrier
© Roger Windemuth

Field Notes

Have you seen me lately?

If you find a rare, accidental or unlisted species, please share your observations with us. And remember, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Date & time

Observer

Weather

Species

Behavior

Comments

Date & time

Observer

Weather

Species

Behavior

Comments

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http://www.fws.gov

Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD

October 2010

Cover photo
Purple martin/Photograph by Dori

Inside front cover photo
Great blue heron/© Dave Olson