



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Birds of

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Introduction

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, the first urban wildlife refuge in the southwest, serves as an urban oasis for both wildlife and people. With a future array of wetland habitats and the cottonwood bosque, Valle de Oro NWR will restore a sustainable habitat for Middle Rio Grande wildlife and migratory birds. In addition to observing a high diversity of birds at Valle de Oro NWR visitors and community members can connect to the refuge through education-based programs that utilize ecology, cultural awareness, and environmental stewardship.

Currently, the refuge is open Monday-Sunday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Tours of the refuge are available upon request and special events take place regularly. Binoculars are available for check out!

Bird List Introduction and Key

This list of 229 species is in accordance with the *American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds*, 7th edition (1998) and its supplements through July 2016.

Those species marked with an asterisk (*) have nested on the refuge. Species that occur as accidental (marked with an "X") may occur more regularly in areas surrounding the refuge, but most are true geographic rarities. Seasons and occurrences for bird sightings on the refuge are coded below. Note that seasons vary from species to species; fall migration for some, such as shorebirds and flycatchers, is much earlier (mid-July to mid-September) compared to fall migration for other species, such as most waterfowl and sparrows (September to November).

Seasons

Sp—Spring—period of spring migration (depending on species) from mid-February to early June

S—Summer—June to August

F—Fall—period of fall migration (depending on species) from mid-July to November

W—Winter—December to February

Abundance

A—Abundant: a common and numerous species

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: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

X—Accidental: seen only once or twice

* Has nested on the refuge

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
Ducks, Geese and Swans				
__ Gr. White-fronted Goose	R		U	U
__ Snow Goose	U		U	C
__ Ross's Goose	U		U	C
__ Brant				X
__ Cackling Goose	C		C	C
__ Canada Goose	C	U	C	C
__ Wood Duck	U	O	U	U
__ Gadwall	U	X	U	U
__ American Wigeon	U		U	U
__ Mallard	C	C	C	C
__ Blue-winged Teal	U		U	
__ Cinnamon Teal	U		U	
__ Northern Shoveler	U		U	U
__ Northern Pintail	U		U	U
__ Green-winged Teal	U		U	O
__ Canvasback	R		O	
__ Redhead	O		O	
__ Ring-necked Duck	U		O	
__ Greater Scaup	X			
__ Lesser Scaup	O			
__ Bufflehead	X			
__ Hooded Merganser	X			X
__ Common Merganser	U		R	U
__ Ruddy Duck	R		R	
New World Quail				
__ Scaled Quail			X	
__ Gambel's Quail			O	
Pheasants				
__ Ring-necked Pheasant	C	U	U	C
Grebes				
__ Pied-billed Grebe	X			X
Pigeons and Doves				
__ Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
__ Eurasian Collared-Dove	C	C	C	C
__ White-winged Dove	C	C	C	C
__ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C
Cuckoos and Roadrunners				
__ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U		
__ Greater Roadrunner	U	U	U	U
Goatsuckers				
__ Common Nighthawk		U	U	
Swifts				
__ White-throated Swift	X			
Hummingbirds				
__ Black-ch. Hummingbird	C	C	C	
__ Broad-tailed Hummingbird	U		U	
__ Rufous Hummingbird			U	

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
Rails and Coots				
__ Sora	R		O	
__ American Coot	U	X		U
Cranes				
__ Sandhill Crane	C		C	C
Stilts and Avocets				
__ Black-necked Stilt			O	
__ American Avocet	O			
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies				
__ Killdeer	C	C	C	C
__ Upland Sandpiper			X	
__ Long-billed Curlew	U		U	
__ Marbled Godwit	U		R	
__ Baird's Sandpiper	O		O	
__ Least Sandpiper	U		U	
__ Pectoral Sandpiper	R			
__ Semipalmated Sandpiper	R			
__ Western Sandpiper	O		U	
__ Long-billed Dowitcher	U			
__ Wilson's Snipe	U		U	U
__ Spotted Sandpiper	U		U	O
__ Solitary Sandpiper	O		O	
__ Greater Yellowlegs	U		U	
__ Willet	X			
__ Lesser Yellowlegs	O		O	
__ Wilson's Phalarope	U		U	
Gulls and Terns				
__ Franklin's Gull	U			
__ Ring-billed Gull	U		U	U
__ California Gull	X			
__ Lesser Black-backed Gull	X			
Cormorants				
__ Neotropic Cormorant	O	O		
__ Double-crested Cormorant	O	O		
Hérons, Bitterns and Allies				
__ Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	U
__ Great Egret	U	U	U	
__ Snowy Egret	C	C	C	
__ Cattle Egret	C	C	C	
__ Green Heron		R	R	R
__ Black-cr. Night-Heron	R	R	R	
__ Yellow-cr. Night-Heron		X		
Ibises				
__ Glossy Ibis	X			
__ White-faced Ibis	C	U	C	
American Vultures				
__ Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies				
__ Osprey	R		X	
__ White-tailed Kite	X			
__ Mississippi Kite		X	X	
__ Bald Eagle	U			U
__ Northern Harrier	C		C	C
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
__ Cooper's Hawk	C	C	C	C
__ Northern Goshawk	X			
__ Common Black Hawk	R	R	R	
__ Swainson's Hawk	U	C	U	
__ Red-tailed Hawk	C	U	C	C
__ Ferruginous Hawk	O		U	U
__ Golden Eagle	X			X
Barn Owls				
__ Barn Owl	O		O	

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W	Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W	Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
Typical Owls					Gnatcatchers					Grosbeaks and Buntings				
Western Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U			Black-headed Grosbeak	C	C	C	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	Kinglets					Blue Grosbeak	C	C	C	
Burrowing Owl	O				Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	C	U		Lazuli Bunting	U	U	U	
Kingfishers					Thrushes					Blackbirds and Orioles				
Belted Kingfisher	U		U	U	Eastern Bluebird	C	U	C	C	Dickcissel		X		
Woodpeckers					Mockingbirds and Thrashers					Blackbirds and Orioles				
Red-naped Sapsucker	R		O	O	Western Bluebird	U	U	U	U	Bobolink	R	R		
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	Mountain Bluebird	U			U	Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	C
Downy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	Swainson's Thrush			X		Eastern Meadowlark	U	R	U	U
Hairy Woodpecker	U	R	U	U	Hermit Thrush	U		U	C	Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	C
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	American Robin	C	U	C	C	Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	R	U	U
Falcons					Starlings					Blackbirds and Orioles				
American Kestrel	C	C	C	C	Gray Catbird	X		X		Brewer's Blackbird	C	R	C	U
Merlin	U		U	U	Curve-billed Thrasher	X	X	X		Common Grackle	R		R	
Peregrine Falcon	O		O	O	Northern Mockingbird	U	U	U		Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	U
Prairie Falcon	U	O	U	O	Waxwings					Blackbirds and Orioles				
Tyrant Flycatchers					Old World Sparrows					Blackbirds and Orioles				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U		Cedar Waxwing	R		U	R	Brown-headed Cowbird	U	C	U	X
Western Wood-Pewee	U	U	U		House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	Hooded Oriole	X			
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		Pipits					Blackbirds and Orioles				
Hammond's Flycatcher	O		O		American Pipit	U		U	U	Bullock's Oriole	U	C	U	
Gray Flycatcher	U		U		Finches					Blackbirds and Orioles				
Dusky Flycatcher	O		O		House Finch	C	C	C	C	Scott's Oriole		X		
Cordilleran Flycatcher	O		O		Cassin's Finch	R				Be a citizen scientist! Help us track birds on and near the refuge. Your observations will be added to eBird. Submit a photo of your bird list to Refuge Biologist, Ariel Elliott, at ariel_elliott@fws.gov				
Black Phoebe	U	U	U	U	Pine Siskin	U		U	U	FIELD NOTES				
Say's Phoebe	C	C	C	C	Lesser Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	Date: _____				
Ash-throated Flycatcher	C	C	U		American Goldfinch	U		U	U	Time: _____				
Cassin's Kingbird	U	U	U		Wood-Warblers					Species: _____				
Western Kingbird	C	C	C		Lapland Longspur				X	_____				
Eastern Kingbird	X		R		Chestnut-collared Longspur	U		U	U	_____				
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	X				McCown's Longspur	X		X	X	_____				
Shrikes					Wood-Warblers					Observers: _____				
Loggerhead Shrike		R	R	R	Worm-eating Warbler			X		_____				
Vireos					Wood-Warblers					Weather: _____				
White-eyed Vireo	X				Northern Waterthrush	R		R		_____				
Bell's Vireo	R				Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		_____				
Cassin's Vireo	R		R		Lucy's Warbler	U	U			_____				
Plumbeous Vireo	U		U		Nashville Warbler	X		X		_____				
Warbling Vireo	U		U		Virginia's Warbler	U		U		_____				
Red-eyed Vireo	X				MacGillivray's Warbler	U		U		_____				
Jays and Crows					Wood-Warblers					Remarks: _____				
Pinyon Jay	X				Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		_____				
Steller's Jay	R		R	R	Hooded Warbler	X				_____				
Blue Jay	X				American Redstart			X		_____				
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	U		U	U	Northern Parula	X		X	X	_____				
Black-billed Magpie			X		Yellow Warbler	U		U		_____				
American Crow	C	U	C	C	Palm Warbler	X				_____				
Chihuahuan Raven	U	U	U	U	Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C	_____				
Common Raven	U	O	U	U	Black-thr. Gray Warbler	U		O		_____				
Larks					Tanagers and Cardinals					Weather: _____				
Horned Lark	C	R	U	C	Summer Tanager	U	C	U		_____				
Swallows					Sparrows					Remarks: _____				
Tree Swallow	C		C		Green-tailed Towhee	U		U		_____				
Violet-green Swallow	C		C		Spotted Towhee	C	C	C	C	_____				
No. Rough-winged Swallow	C	U	C		Canyon Towhee	X				_____				
Bank Swallow	U	U	U		Chipping Sparrow	U	U	C	R	_____				
Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		Clay-colored Sparrow				R	_____				
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		Brewer's Sparrow	U		U	U	_____				
Chickadees and Titmice					Sparrows					Remarks: _____				
Black-capped Chickadee	C	U	U	C	Vesper Sparrow	U		C		_____				
Mountain Chickadee	U		U	U	Lark Sparrow	R	U	U		_____				
Bushtit	U	U	U	U	Black-throated Sparrow	R				_____				
Nuthatches					Sparrows					Remarks: _____				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R		O		Sagebrush Sparrow	X				_____				
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	U	C	C	Lark Bunting	R		U		_____				
Creepers					Sparrows					Remarks: _____				
Brown Creeper	O		O	U	Savannah Sparrow	C	R	C	C	_____				
Wrens					Sparrows					Remarks: _____				
Rock Wren	O		O		Song Sparrow	U		U	C	_____				
House Wren	U		U		Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	R	_____				
Marsh Wren	U		R		Swamp Sparrow	R		R		_____				
Bewick's Wren	C	U	C	C	White-throated Sparrow	U		U		_____				
					White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	C	_____				
					Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	_____				