

Observer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Weather: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Species: \_\_\_\_\_

For birds seen not on this list please contact the refuge with species, location, time, and date.

**Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge**

27650B South Valley Road

Lima, MT 59739

[redrocks@fws.gov](mailto:redrocks@fws.gov) email

<http://www.fws.gov/redrocks/>

406-276-3536

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For Hearing impaired TTY/Voice: 711

State transfer relay service (TRS)

U.S Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/>

For Refuge Information

1-800-344-WILD(9453)

July 2013



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

# Red Rock Lakes

*National Wildlife Refuge*

## *Birding Guide*

*Red Rock Lakes National  
Wildlife Refuge and the  
Centennial Valley, Montana*



# Red Rock Lakes

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is located in the scenic and isolated Centennial Valley of southwestern Montana, approximately 40 miles west of Yellowstone National Park. The refuge has a vast array of habitat, ranging from high elevation wetland and prairie at 6,600 feet, to the harsh alpine habitat of the Centennial Mountains at 9,400 feet above sea level. It is this diverse, marsh-prairie-sagebrush-montane environment that gives Red Rock Lakes its unique character.

Because of this habitat diversity, Red Rock Lakes is a unique wildlife and birding area. The rugged mountains bordering the valley catch the heavy snows of winter that replenish the valley wetlands. The Red Rock Lakes ecosystem is one of the most important trumpeter swan breeding areas in North America. Red Rocks is more than trumpeter swans, it was established in 1935 as a refuge and breeding ground for many wild birds and animals.

A minimum of 232 species of birds have been recorded within the refuge and the Centennial Valley. Because winter conditions are harsh, only a small percentage of this total stay through the winter. During spring migration many migrants pass over Red Rock Lakes without stopping because of these conditions. Fall migration, however, is much more spectacular.

The relative abundance of each species at each season is coded as follows:

**Sp - March-May**

**S - June-August**

**F - September-November**

**W - December-February**

A - abundant: numerous and widespread, certain to be seen

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: see once a year or less

\* - a confirmed breeder (nests, eggs, or young have been observed)

The following birds have been observed in the Centennial Valley and are considered rare or accidental. These birds are either observed very infrequently in highly restrictive habitat types or are out of their normal range.

Artic Loon	Black-bellied Plover	Winter Wren
Clark's Grebe	Snowy Plover	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Red-necked Phalarope	Red-eyed Vireo
Mute Swan	American Woodcock	Yellow-breasted Chat
Black Swan	Pectoral Sandpiper	Common Grackle
Ross' Goose	Dunlin	Northern Oriole
White-fronted Goose	Parasitic Jaeger	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Wood Duck	Herring Gull	House Finch
Greater Scaup	Bonaparte's Gull	White-winged Crossbill
Harlequin Duck	Common Tern	Rufous-sided Towhee
Long-tailed Duck	Caspian Tern	Grasshopper Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	Band-tailed Pigeon	Sage Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Rock Dove	Clay-colored Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Harris' Sparrow
Gyr Falcon	Black-billed Cuckoo	White-throated Sparrow
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Western Screech Owl	McCown's Longspur
Ring-necked Pheasant	Pileated Woodpecker	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Whooping Crane	Red-headed Woodpecker	
Yellow Rail	Least Flycatcher	
Mountain Plover	Blue Jay	

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is one of a system of refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and dedicated to the preservation of wildlife. The financial base for this system was firmly established in 1934 through the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act. This Act requires waterfowl hunters to purchase annually a migratory bird or "duck stamp." Funds collected from duck stamps sales have been used to purchase numerous refuges that provide habitats necessary to sustain a variety of wildlife for both hunters and nonhunters to enjoy.

SPECIES	SEASON			
	SP	S	F	W
<b>GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS, BUNTINGS</b>				
Black-headed Grosbeak	O	U		
Evening Grosbeak	O	O		
Lazuli Bunting*		U		
Cassin's Finch*	C	C	C	U
Pine Grosbeak*	C	C	C	C
Rosy Finch*	C	O	O	C
Common Redpoll	C			C
Pine Siskin*	C	C	C	O
American Goldfinch*		U	U	
Red Crossbill*	U	U	U	U
Green-tailed Towhee*	O	O	O	
Savannah Sparrow*	A	A	A	
Lark Bunting		O		
Vesper Sparrow*	C	C	C	
Lark Sparrow*	O	O	O	
Dark-eyed Junco*	C	C	C	U
American Tree Sparrow	O			O
Chipping Sparrow*	C	C	C	
Brewer's Sparrow*	C	C		
White-crowned Sparrow*	C	C		
Fox Sparrow	O	O		
Lincoln's Sparrow*	C	C		
Song Sparrow*	C	C	C	
Lapland Longspur	O		O	U
Snow Bunting	U		U	C

SPECIES	SEASON			
	SP	S	F	W
<b>LOONS</b>				
Common Loon	O	O	O	
<b>GREBES</b>				
Clark's Grebe*	U	U	U	
Western Grebe*	C	C	C	
Red-necked Grebe*	O	O		
Horned Grebe*	U	O		
Eared Grebe*	C	C	C	
Pied-billed Grebe*	C	C	C	
<b>PELICANS, CORMORANTS</b>				
American White Pelican*	C	C	C	
Double-crested Cormorant*	C	C	C	
<b>SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS</b>				
Tundra Swan	O	R	U	
Trumpeter Swan*	C	C	C	C
Canada Goose*	C	C	C	U
Snow Goose	U		U	
Mallard*	C	C	C	C
Northern Pintail*	C	C	C	O
Gadwall*	C	C	C	O
American Wigeon*	C	C	C	U
Northern Shoveler*	O	C	C	
Blue-winged Teal*	C	C	U	
Cinnamon Teal*	C	C	C	
Green-winged Teal*	C	C	U	O
Wood Duck	O	O		
Redhead*	C	C	C	
Canvasback*	C	C	C	
Ring-necked Duck*	U	U	U	
Lesser Scaup*	C	C	C	

SPECIES	SEASON			
	SP	S	F	W
Common Goldeneye*	C	O	O	C
Barrow's Goldeneye*	C	O	O	C
Bufflehead*	C	U	U	O
Ruddy Duck*	C	C	C	
Hooded Merganser*	O		O	O
Red-breasted Merganser*	U	O	U	
Common Merganser*	C	U	U	O
<b>HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS</b>				
Northern Goshawk*	U	U	U	O
Cooper's Hawk*	O	U	O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	O	U	O	O
Northern Harrier*	U	C	C	O
Rough-legged Hawk	U		C	O
Ferruginous Hawk*	U	U		
Red-tailed Hawk*	C	C	C	
Swainson's Hawk*	C	C	C	
Golden Eagle*	U	U	U	U
Bald Eagle*	C	C	C	C
Osprey*	O	O	O	
Prairie Falcon*	C	C	C	
Peregrine Falcon*	U	U	U	
Merlin*	O	O	O	
American Kestrel*	C	C	C	
<b>GROUSE, PARTRIDGE</b>				
Blue Grouse*	C	C	C	C
Ruffed Grouse*	U	U	U	U
Sage Grouse*	O	O	O	O
Gray Partridge	O	O	O	O
<b>HERONS, BITTERNS, IBISES</b>				
Snowy Egret		O	O	

SPECIES	SEASON			
	SP	S	F	W
Bohemian Waxwing	O			O
Cedar Waxwing*		U	U	
Northern Shrike	U		U	U
Loggerhead Shrike*	U	U	U	
<b>STARLINGS</b>				
European Starling*	C	C	C	
<b>VIREOS</b>				
Solitary Vireo	U	U	O	
Warbling Vireo*	C	C	U	
<b>WOOD WARBLER, WEAVER FINCHES</b>				
Tennessee Warbler	O	O		
Orange-crowned Warbler*	O	O		
Yellow Warbler*	C	C	U	
Yellow-rumped Warbler*	C	C	U	
Townsend's Warbler		O		
Northern Waterthrush	O	O		
Common Yellowthroat*	C	C		
MacGillivray's Warbler*	C	C		
Wilson's Warbler*	C	C		
American Redstart*	U	U		
House Sparrow*	O	O		
<b>MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS</b>				
Bobolink*		O		
Weastern Meadowlark*	C	C	C	
Yellow-headed Blackbird*	C	C	U	
Red-winged Blackbird*	C	C	C	
Brewer's Blackbird*	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	C		
<b>TANAGERS</b>				
Western Tanager*	C	C		

SPECIES	SEASON			
	SP	S	F	W
American Crow*	C	C	U	
<b>CHICKADEES</b>				
Black-capped Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
Mountain Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
<b>DIPPERS, NUTHATCHES, CREEPER</b>				
American Dipper*	C	C	C	U
Red-breasted Nuthatch*	C	C	U	U
White-breasted Nuthatch*	U	U	U	U
Pygmy Nuthatch*	O	O	O	O
Brown Creeper*	O	U	U	O
<b>WRENS</b>				
House Wren*	C	C	C	
Rock Wren*		U	U	
Canyon Wren	O	O		
Marsh Wren*	C	C	C	
<b>THRASHERS</b>				
Gray Catbird	O	O		
Sage Thrasher*	U	U	U	
<b>THRUSHES, BLUEBIRDS, KINGLETS</b>				
American Robin*	C	C	C	
Townsend's Solitaire*	C	C	C	U
Hermit Thrush*		C	U	
Swainson's Thrush*		U	U	
Veery*		U	U	
Western Bluebird	O	O	O	
Mountain Bluebird*	A	A	A	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	U	U	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet*	C	C	C	
<b>PIPETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES</b>				
American Pipit	U	U	U	

SPECIES	SEASON			
	SP	S	F	W
Great Blue Heron*	C	C	C	O
Black-crowned Night-Heron*	C	C	U	
American Bittern*	U	U	U	
White-faced Ibis*	O	U	O	
<b>CRANES</b>				
Sandhill Crane*	C	C	C	
<b>RAILS, COOTS</b>				
Virginia Rail*	O	O	O	
Sora*	U	U	U	
American Coot*	A	A	A	
<b>SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS</b>				
American Avocet*	C	C	C	
Black-necked Stilt	O	O		
Semipalmated Plover		O		
Killdeer*	C	C	C	
Marbled Godwit*	U	U	U	
Long-billed Curlew*	C	C	U	
Greater Yellowlegs	U	U	U	
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U	
Solitary Sandpiper	O	C	O	
Upland Sandpiper	O	O	O	
Willet*	C	C	C	
Spotted Sandpiper*	U	C	U	
Long-billed Dotwitzer	U	U	U	
Wilson's Phalarope*	C	C	C	
Common Snipe*	A	A	A	
Sanderling			O	
White-rumped Sandpiper		O		
Baird's Sandpiper		O		
Least Sandpiper		O	O	

SPECIES	SEASON			
	SP	S	F	W
Semipalmated Sandpiper	O	O	O	
Western Sandpiper	O	O	O	
California Gull*	A	A	A	
Ring-billed Gull*	U	U	U	
Franklin's Gull*	C	A		
Forster's Tern*	C	C		
Black Tern	O	O		
<b>DOVES</b>				
Mourning Dove*	U	U	C	
<b>OWLS</b>				
Great Horned Owl*	C	C	C	C
Long-eared Owl*	O	O	O	
Short-eared Owl*	U	C	U	
Great Gray Owl*	U	U	U	U
Burrowing Owl	O	O	O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl*	O	O	O	O
Northern Pygmy-Owl	O	O	O	O
<b>GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS</b>				
Common Nighthawk	O	O	O	
White-throated Swift	O	O	O	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird*		U	U	
Calliope Hummingbird*		U	U	
Black-chinned Hummingbird		O	O	
Rufous Hummingbird*		U	U	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>				
Belted Kingfisher*	C	C	C	U
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>				
Northern Flicker*	C	C	C	
Lewis' Woodpecker	O	O	O	
Red-naped Sapsucker*	C	C	C	

SPECIES	SEASON			
	SP	S	F	W
Williamson's Sapsucker*	O	O	O	
Hairy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	U
Downy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	U
Black-backed Woodpecker*	O	O	O	O
Three-toed Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>				
Eastern Kingbird*	U	U	U	
Western Kingbird	U	U	U	
Say's Phoebe	O	O		
Willow Flycatcher*	U	C		
Dusky Flycatcher	U	C		
Hammond's Flycatcher*	U	U		
Western Flycatcher*	U	U		
Western Wood-Pewee*	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher*	U	U		
<b>LARKS, SWALLOWS</b>				
Horned Lark*	C	C	C	U
Barn Swallow*	C	C	C	
Cliff Swallow*	C	C	C	
Violet-green Swallow*	U	O		
Tree Swallow*	C	C	C	
Bank Swallow*	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	U	U		
<b>JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS</b>				
Steller's Jay*	O	O	O	O
Pinon Jay			O	
Gray Jay*	U	U	U	U
Black-billed Magpie*	A	A	A	A
Clark's Nutcracker*	C	C	C	C
Common Raven*	C	C	C	C