

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Humboldt Bay

National Wildlife Refuge

Watchable Wildlife



Historically, Humboldt Bay's bountiful waters and wetlands boasted the largest population of black brant on the west coast of the United States. Today, impressive numbers of migratory waterbird species still depend on these rich and diverse

habitats. Tidal flats, salt marshes, and fresh water wetlands teem with shore and water birds; tens of thousands can be seen feeding on the mudflats at low tide, or taking to the sky in seemingly choreographed motion.



Introduction

Welcome

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established on the northern coast of California to provide almost 3,000 acres of rich and diverse habitat vital for birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. The mild, rainy climate combines with diverse habitats to create ideal resting and foraging areas for migratory birds. A variety of other fish and wildlife also live on and around the refuge.

Enjoying the Refuge's Wildlife

You will be most successful at viewing wild animals in their natural habitats using binoculars or a spotting scope to observe from a distance. Your chances of seeing wildlife are best in the winter and spring.

Please respect closure signs. Portions of the refuge are closed to the public to protect wildlife from disturbance. These areas are identified in the General Brochure and on orientation panels at the two trailheads.

Using This Wildlife List

This list includes most species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish found in the vicinity of Humboldt Bay. It covers all lands of the Humboldt Bay area up to the first ridgeline. This includes the cities of Arcata and Eureka; north and south spits and jetties; Arcata Bottoms; Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary; Samoa Dunes Recreation Area; the Mad River, Fay Slough, and Elk River State Wildlife Areas; and Pacific Ocean waters to a distance observable by spotting scope.

Greater Scaup



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Bird List Key

Season Symbols

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

Abundance Symbols

- a - abundant – a common species which is very numerous
- 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 – known to be present, but not every year
- * - birds known to nest locally

General Habitat Symbols

- M - marine – ocean, bays, and estuaries
- IM - intertidal mudflats
- BD - beaches and dunes
- CL - coastal lowlands
- FW - freshwater, including lakes, ponds, and streams
- R - riparian
- B - brush
- F - forests

Credits

The information in this list was obtained from many individuals and references. In particular, we synthesized information from Northwestern California Birds by Stanley W. Harris (Humboldt State University Press, 1991) and The Ecology of Humboldt Bay by Roger A. Barnhart, Milton J. Boyd, and John E. Pequenat (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Report 1, 1992). The draft list was reviewed by Dr. Mark Colwell, Elias Elias, Dr. Stanley Harris, and Dr. Paul Springer.

Special thanks to the Redwood Region Audubon Society for its contribution to this brochure.

Wildlife of Humboldt Bay NWR

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
BIRDS					
Loons					
Red-throated Loon	M	c	o	c	c
Pacific Loon	M	c	r	c	u
Common Loon	M	c	u	u	c
Yellow-billed Loon	M				r
Grebes					
*Pied-billed Grebe	FW/M	u	u	u	u
Horned Grebe	FW/M	c	r	c	c
Red-necked Grebe	M/FW	u	r	u	u
Eared Grebe	FW/M	c		c	c
*Western Grebe	M	c	u	c	c
Clark's Grebe	M	o		o	o
Tubenoses					
Northern Fulmar	M	r		o	r
Pink-footed Shearwater	M	r	r	o	r
Sooty Shearwater	M	o	o	r	r
Short-tailed Shearwater	M			r	r
Pelicans, Cormorants, and Frigatebirds					
American White Pelican	M	r		r	
Brown Pelican	M	o	c	c	o
*Double-crested Cormorant	M/FW	c	c	c	c
Brandt's Cormorant	M	c	c	c	r
Pelagic Cormorant	M	c	c	c	c
Magnificent Frigatebird	M		r	r	
Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets					
American Bittern	FW/CL	o	o	o	o
*Great Blue Heron	CL/FW	c	c	c	c
*Great Egret	CL/FW	c	c	c	c
*Snowy Egret	CL/FW	c	c	c	c
*Cattle Egret	CL	c	r	c	c
*Green-backed Heron	FW/R	u	u	u	o
*Black-crowned Night-Heron	CL	c	c	c	c
Ibises					
White-faced Ibis	CL	r		r	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Waterfowl					
Tundra Swan	CL	o		o	c
Greater White-fronted Goose	CL	o		o	o
Snow Goose	CL	o		o	r
Ross' Goose	CL	r		r	r
Emperor Goose	M/CL				r
Brant	M	a	u	u	c
Canada Goose					
*Western Aleutian	CL	a	a	a	a
*Wood Duck	FW/R	o	o	o	o
Green-winged Teal	CL/M	c	o	c	c
*Mallard	CL/FW	c	c	c	c
Northern Pintail	CL	c	r	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	CL	u	o	o	r
*Cinnamon Teal	CL	c	c	c	u
*Northern Shoveler	CL/FW	c	r	c	c
*Gadwall	CL/M	u	o	u	u
Eurasian Wigeon	CL/M	r		o	o
American Wigeon	CL/M	c	r	c	c
Canvasback	M	r	r	u	u
Redhead	M	o	r	o	u
Ring-necked Duck	FW/M	o		o	o

Waterfowl, continued next page

Great Egret



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Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Waterfowl, continued					
Tufted Duck	M/FW	r		r	r
Greater Scaup	M/FW	c	o	c	c
Lesser Scaup	M/FW	c	o	c	c
Harlequin Duck	M	r		r	o
Oldsquaw	M	r	r	o	o
Black Scoter	M	o		o	u
Surf Scoter	M	c	r	c	a
White-winged Scoter	M	c	r	c	c
Common Goldeneye	M/FW	o		o	u
Barrow's Goldeneye	M/FW				r
Bufflehead	M/FW	c	r	c	c
Hooded Merganser	FW	o		o	o
Common Merganser	FW	u	u	u	u
Red-breasted Merganser	M/FW	c		c	c
* Ruddy Duck	M/FW	c	u	c	c
Vultures					
Turkey Vulture	CL/F	c	c	c	u
Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles					
* Osprey	F/FW	c	c	c	u
* White-tailed Kite	CL	c	c	c	c
Bald Eagle	F/CL	o		o	o
* Northern Harrier	CL	c	u	c	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	F	c	u	c	c
* Cooper's Hawk	F	u	u	u	u
* Red-shouldered Hawk	R/CL	c	c	c	c
* Red-tailed Hawk	CL/F	c	c	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk	F	r		r	o
Rough-legged Hawk	CL			u	c
Falcons					
* American Kestrel	CL	c	c	c	c
Merlin	CL	u		u	u
Peregrine Falcon	CL	u	o	u	u
Prairie Falcon	CL			o	o
Gallinaceous Birds					
* California Quail	B	c	c	c	c
Rails					
* Virginia Rail	FW	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Sora	FW	u	o	u	u
Common Moorhen	FW	r		r	r
* American Coot	FW	c	c	c	c
Cranes					
Sandhill Crane	CL	r		r	r
Plovers					
Black-bellied Plover	CL/IM	c	u	c	c
Lesser Golden-Plover	CL/IM	o		u	o
* Snowy Plover	BD	u	o	u	u
Semipalmated Plover	IM/CL	c	o	c	c
* Killdeer	CL/FW	c	c	c	c
Mountain Plover	CL			r	r
Oystercatchers					
Black Oystercatcher	M	r	r	r	r
Stilts and Avocets					
* Black-necked Stilt	IM/FW	r	r	r	r
* American Avocet	IM/FW	c	r	c	c
Shorebirds					
Greater Yellowlegs	FW/IM	c	o	c	c
Lesser Yellowlegs	FW/IM	o	o	c	o
Solitary Sandpiper	CL	o		o	
Willet	IM/CL	c	u	c	c
Wandering Tattler	M	u	o	u	o
* Spotted Sandpiper	FW	u	u	u	u

Shorebirds, continued next page



Dunlin

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Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<i>Shorebirds, continued</i>					
Whimbrel	CL	c	o	c	u
Long-billed Curlew	CL/IM	u	o	u	u
Marbled Godwit	IM/CL	a	o	a	a
Ruddy Turnstone	BD	u	r	u	u
Black Turnstone	BD	c	r	c	c
Surfbird	BD	c		c	c
Red Knot	IM/CL	u		u	r
Sanderling	BD	c		c	c
Semipalmated Sandpiper	CL/FW			o	
Western Sandpiper	IM/CL	a	o	a	c
Least Sandpiper	IM/CL	c	o	c	c
Baird's Sandpiper	BD	r		u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	CL/FW	r		u	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	CL/FW			r	
Rock Sandpiper	M	r		r	o
Dunlin	IM/CL	a	r	a	a
Stilt Sandpiper	CL			o	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	CL			r	
Ruff	CL			r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	IM/CL	c	r	c	u
Long-billed Dowitcher	IM/CL	c		c	c



*Western
Sandpiper*

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Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Snipe					
Common Snipe	CL	c	r	c	c
Phalaropes					
Wilson's Phalarope	M	o	r	o	
Red-necked Phalarope	M	c	r	c	
Red Phalarope	M/CL	o		o	
Jaegers					
Pomarine Jaeger	M	o	r	c	r
Parasitic Jaeger	M	r	r	c	r
Long-tailed Jaeger	M			o	
Gulls and Terns					
Franklin's Gull	M	r		o	r
Bonaparte's Gull	M/CL	c	o	c	o
Heermann's Gull	M	r	c	c	r
Mew Gull	M	c	r	c	c
Ring-billed Gull	M/CL	c	c	c	c
California Gull	M/CL	c	c	c	c
Herring Gull	M	u		u	u
Thayer's Gull	M	o		o	o
Western Gull	M	c	c	c	c
Glaucous-winged Gull	M	c	u	c	c
Glaucous Gull	M				o
Black-legged Kittiwake	M	u		u	u
Sabine's Gull	M	r		r	
* Caspian Tern	M	c	u	c	c
Elegant Tern	M		u	u	
Common Tern	M	c	r	c	
Arctic Tern	M			o	
Forster's Tern	M	u	r	c	u
Black Tern	M/FW	r		r	
Seabirds					
Common Murre	M	o	c	c	o
Pigeon Guillemot	M	u	u	u	r
Marbled Murrelet	M	o	u	u	r
Ancient Murrelet	M				r
Cassin's Auklet	M	o	o	o	o

Seabirds, continued next page

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Seabirds, continued					
Rhinoceros Auklet	M	o	o	o	o
Tufted Puffin	M		r		r
Horned Puffin	M	r	r		r
Doves and Pigeons					
* Rock Dove	CL	u	u	u	u
* Band-tailed Pigeon	F	c	c	c	o
White-winged Dove	F			r	
* Mourning Dove	F/CL	c	c	c	u
Owls					
* Barn Owl	CL	c	c	c	c
* Western Screech-Owl	CL/F	c	c	c	c
* Great Horned Owl	F	c	c	c	c
Snowy Owl	CL			r	r
* Northern Pygmy-Owl	F	u	u	u	u
Burrowing Owl	CL	o		o	o
Spotted Owl	F		o	o	
Long-eared Owl	CL			r	
* Short-eared Owl	CL	u	o	u	c
Northern Saw-whet Owl	CL	o	o	o	o

Barn Owl



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Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Nightjars					
* Common Nighthawk	CL	u	u		
Common Poorwill	F/CL	r		r	
Swifts					
Black Swift	CL/F	o		r	
Vaux's Swift	CL	c	c	c	r
Hummingbirds					
* Anna's Hummingbird	R/F	c	c	c	c
Costa's Hummingbird	R/F	r	r	r	
Calliope Hummingbird	F	r	r		
Rufous Hummingbird	R/F	c	r		
* Allen's Hummingbird	CL	c	c	c	
Kingfishers					
* Belted Kingfisher	FW/R	c	c	c	c
Woodpeckers					
Lewis' Woodpecker	F			r	
Acorn Woodpecker	F/CL	r		r	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	F	r		r	r
Red-naped Sapsucker	F	r		r	r
* Red-breasted Sapsucker	F/R	u	u	u	u
* Downy Woodpecker	F/R	c	c	c	c
* Hairy Woodpecker	F	c	c	c	c
* Northern Flicker	F/CL	c	c	c	c
* Pileated Woodpecker	F	o	o	o	o
Flycatchers					
* Olive-sided Flycatcher	F	c	c	c	
* Western Wood-Pewee	F/R	c	c	c	
Willow Flycatcher	R/CL	o	o	o	
Least Flycatcher	R/CL			r	
Dusky Flycatcher	F/CL	r		r	
Gray Flycatcher	B	r			
* Pacific Slope Flycatcher	B/F	c	c	c	
* Black Phoebe	R/CL	c	c	c	c
Say's Phoebe	R	r		r	r
Ash-throated Flycatcher	CL	o		o	r
Flycatchers, continued next page					

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Flycatchers, <i>continued</i>					
Tropical Kingbird	CL			o	r
Western Kingbird	CL	u		u	
Eastern Kingbird	CL	r	r	r	
Larks					
Horned Lark	CL	o		o	o
Swallows					
Purple Martin	CL/FW	o		o	
*Tree Swallow	CL/FW	c	c	c	r
*Violet-green Swallow	CL/FW	c	c	c	r
*Northern Rough-winged Swallow	CL	c	c	c	c
Bank Swallow	CL/FW	o		o	
*Cliff Swallow	CL	c	c	c	
*Barn Swallow	CL	c	c	c	r
Jays and Crows					
*Steller's Jay	F	c	c	c	c
*Scrub Jay	B/CL			r	
*American Crow	CL/F	c	c	c	c
*Common Raven	CL/F	c	c	c	c
Wrentits					
Wrentit	B	c	c	c	c
Chickadees					
*Black-capped Chickadee	F	u	u	u	u
Mountain Chickadee	F			r	r
*Chestnut-backed Chickadee	F	c	c	c	c
Bushtits					
*Bushtit	B	u	u	u	u
Creepers					
*Brown Creeper	F	u	u	u	u
Nuthatches					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	F/CL			o	r
Wrens					
*Bewick's Wren	B/R	c	c	c	c
*House Wren	B/BD	c	c	c	r
*Winter Wren	F	c	c	c	c
*Marsh Wren	FW	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Kinglets, Bluebirds, and Thrushes					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	B/R	c		c	c
Golden-crowned Kinglet	F	c	c	c	c
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	R/CL	r	r	r	r
Western Bluebird	R			o	o
Mountain Bluebird	F/CL	r		r	
Townsend's Solitaire	F/CL	r			r
Swainson's Thrush	CL/R	c	c	c	
Hermit Thrush	F/CL	c		c	c
American Robin	CL	c	c	c	c
Varied Thrush	F	c	c	c	c
Mockingbirds and Thrashers					
Northern Mockingbird	CL	u		u	u
Sage Thrasher	CL	r		r	r
Pipits					
American Pipit	BD/CL	c		c	c
Waxwings					
Bohemian Waxwing	F				r
*Cedar Waxwing	R/CL	c	u	c	r
Shrikes					
Northern Shrike	CL/BD	o		o	o
Loggerhead Shrike	CL	r		r	r
Starlings					
*European Starling	CL/R	a	c	a	a
Vireos					
*Solitary Vireo	F	u	u	u	r
*Hutton's Vireo	B/F	c	c	c	c
*Warbling Vireo	F/R	c	c	c	
Red-eyed Vireo	CL/R	r		r	
Warblers					
Tennessee Warbler	R	o		o	o
*Orange-crowned Warbler	R	c	c	c	u
Nashville Warbler	F/R	c	c	c	o
Virginia's Warbler	BD/R			r	
Northern Parula	R	r		r	
*Yellow Warbler	R	c	c	c	r
Warblers, <i>continued next page</i>					

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Warblers, continued					
Chestnut-sided Warbler	R	r		o	r
Magnolia Warbler	R	r		r	
Cape May Warbler	BD/R	r		r	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	R			r	
*Yellow-rumped Warbler	F/R	c	u	c	c
Black-throated Gray Warbler	R	c	c	c	r
Townsend's Warbler	F	c		c	c
*Hermit Warbler	F	u	u	u	
Blackburnian Warbler	F			r	
Yellow-throated Warbler	F/R	r			
Prairie Warbler	R/BD	r		r	r
Palm Warbler	BD/R	u		u	u
Bay-breasted Warbler	R	r		r	
Blackpoll Warbler	R	r		o	
Black-and-white Warbler	R	o	r	o	o
American Redstart	R	r	r	r	r
Prothonotary Warbler	R				r
Ovenbird	R	r		r	
Northern Waterthrush	R	r		o	r
MacGillivray's Warbler	R	u	u	u	
Common Yellowthroat	R	u	u	u	r
Hooded Warbler	R		r	r	
Wilson's Warbler	R	c	c	c	r
Yellow-breasted Chat	R	o	o	o	
Sparrows					
*Rufous-sided Towhee	B	c	c	c	c
California Towhee	B	r		r	r
American Tree Sparrow	CL/B			r	r
*Chipping Sparrow	B	u	u	u	
Clay-colored Sparrow	B/CL			o	r
Brewer's Sparrow	B	r		r	
Vesper Sparrow	CL	o	r	o	r
Lark Sparrow	CL			o	r
Lark Bunting	CL			r	
*Savannah Sparrow	CL	c	c	c	c
Grasshopper Sparrow	CL	r	r		r
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	CL	r		r	r
Fox Sparrow	B	u		u	u
*Song Sparrow	B/CL	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	CL	u		c	u
Swamp Sparrow	CL	o		o	o

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
White-throated Sparrow	CL	o		o	o
Golden-crowned Sparrow	B/R	u		u	c
*White-crowned Sparrow	CL/B	c	c	c	c
Harris' Sparrow	CL	r		r	r
*Dark-eyed Junco	F	c	c	c	c
Lapland Longspur	CL	o		o	o
Chestnut-collared Longspur	CL			r	r
Snow Bunting	CL			r	r
Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, and Orioles					
Bobolink	CL	r		r	
*Red-winged Blackbird	CL	c	c	c	c
Tricolored Blackbird	CL	r		r	r
*Western Meadowlark	CL/BD	c	c	c	c
Yellow-headed Blackbird	CL	o		o	r
Rusty Blackbird	CL			r	
*Brewer's Blackbird	CL	c	c	c	c
*Brown-headed Cowbird	R	c	c	c	u
Orchard Oriole	CL			r	r
*Hooded Oriole	CL/R	o	o	o	
*Northern Oriole	CL/R	c	c	c	r
Finches					
*Purple Finch	F/R	c	c	c	c
*House Finch	CL/R	c	c	c	c
*Red Crossbill	F/BD	u	u	u	u
*Pine Siskin	F/R	c	c	c	c
*Lesser Goldfinch	CL/B	c	c	c	u
*American Goldfinch	CL/B	c	c	c	c
*Evening Grosbeak	F	u	u	u	u
Weavers Finches					
*House Sparrow	CL	c	c	c	c
Dippers					
*American Dipper	F	r	r	r	r

Common Name

MAMMALS

Virginia Opossum

Pacific Shrew

Vagrant Shrew

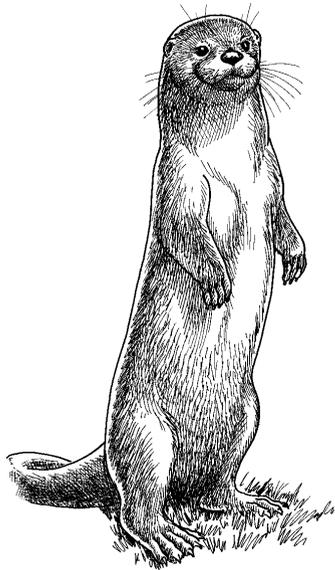
Marsh Shrew

Trowbridge Shrew

Townsend Mole

Coast Mole

Fringed Myotis



River Otter

California Myotis

Hairy-winged Myotis

Long-eared Myotis

Yuma Myotis

Big Brown Bat

Lump-nosed Bat

Black-tailed Hare

Brush Rabbit

Beechey Ground Squirrel

Botta's Pocket Gopher

Western Harvest Mouse

Deer Mouse

Dusky-footed Wood Rat

Long-tailed Meadow Mouse

Common Name

Oregon Meadow Mouse

California Meadow Mouse

Black Rat

House Mouse

Porcupine

Harbor Porpoise

California Sea Lion

Coyote

Gray Fox

Black Bear

Raccoon

Mink

Long-tailed Weasel

Striped Skunk

Spotted Skunk

River Otter

Harbor Seal

Mountain Lion

Bobcat

Black-tailed Deer

AMPHIBIANS

Western Toad

Pacific Treefrog

Red-legged Frog

Bullfrog

Northwestern Salamander

Pacific Giant Salamander

Rough-skinned Newt

REPTILES

Western Fence Lizard

Northern Alligator Lizard

Western Skink

Gopher Snake

Common Garter Snake

Western Terrestrial Garter Snake

Western Aquatic Garter Snake

Northwestern Garter Snake

Rubber Boa

Western Yellow-bellied Racer

California Kingsnake

Reptiles, continued next page

Common Name

Reptiles, *continued*

Western Rattlesnake

Western Pond Turtle

FISH

Soupfm Shark

Brown Smoothhound

Leopard Shark

Ratfish

Round Stingray

Sevengill Shark

Bat Ray

Big Skate

Spiny Dogfish

Green Sturgeon

Pygmy Poacher

Tube-nose Poacher

Pricklebreast Poacher

Pacific Sand Lance

Wolf-eel

Topsmelt

Jacksmelt

Pacific Sanddab

Speckled Sanddab

California Halibut

Medusafish

American Shad

Pacific Herring

Threadfin Shad

Padded Sculpin

Scalyhead Sculpin

Bonehead Sculpin

Rosylip Sculpin

Silverspotted Sculpin

Sharpnose Sculpin

Coast Range Sculpin

Prickly Sculpin

Buffalo Sculpin

Red Irish Lord

Brown Irish Lord

Pacific Staghorn Sculpin

Sailfin Sculpin

Common Name

Fluffy Sculpin

Cabezon

Giant Wrymouth

California Tonguefish

Calico Surfperch

Redtail Surfperch

Shiner Surfperch

Pile Seaperch

Striped Seaperch

Spotfin Surfperch

Walleye Surfperch

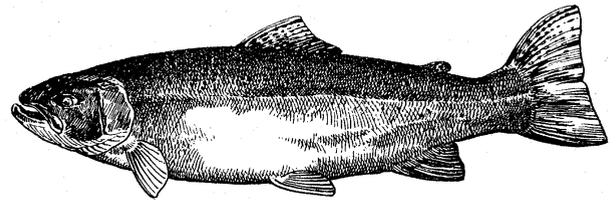
Silver Surfperch

White Surfperch

Northern Anchovy

Pacific Tomcod

Tube-nout



Threespine Stickleback

Arrow Goby

Blackeye Goby

Tidewater Goby

Bay Goby

Benttooth

Bristlemouth

Kelp Greenling

Rock Greenling

Lingcod

Painted Greenling

Slipskin Snailfish

Showy Snailfish

Ringtail Snailfish

Louvar

Ocean Sunfish

Northern Lampfish

Fish, continued next page

Common Name

Fish, continued

Blue Lanternfish

Yellow Snake Eel

Spotted Cusk-eel

Whitebait Smelt

Surf Smelt

Night Smelt

Logfin Smelt

Eulachon

Striped Bass

Giant Sea Bass

Penpoint Gunnel

Saddleback Gunnel

Butter Sole

Dover Sole

English Sole

Starry Flounder

C-O Sole

Curlfin Sole

Sand Sole

Coho Salmon

Chinook Salmon

Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

White Seabass

White Croaker

Brown Rockfish

Copper Rockfish

Yellowtail Rockfish

Black Rockfish

Vermilion Rockfish

Blue Rockfish

Bocaccio

Grass Rockfish

High Cockscomb

Monkeyface Prickleback

Decorated Warbonnet

Snake Prickleback

Pacific Pompano

Bay Pipefish

King-of-the-Salmon

Pacific Sandfish

Notes

*Black
Brant*



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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD

Cover photo marbled godwits
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