

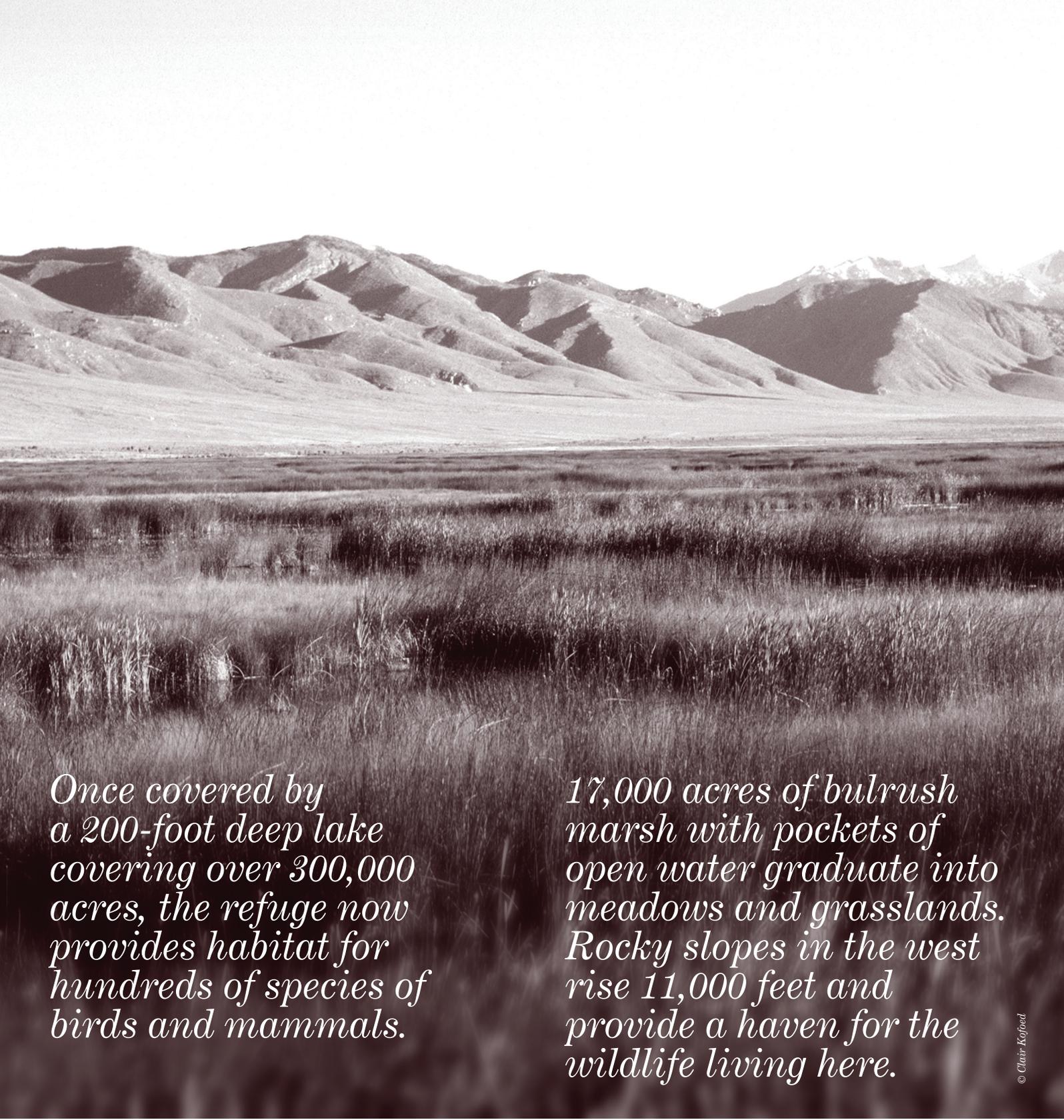
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ruby Lake

*National
Wildlife Refuge*

Wildlife Checklist





Once covered by a 200-foot deep lake covering over 300,000 acres, the refuge now provides habitat for hundreds of species of birds and mammals.

17,000 acres of bulrush marsh with pockets of open water graduate into meadows and grasslands. Rocky slopes in the west rise 11,000 feet and provide a haven for the wildlife living here.

A Refuge for Nesting and Migrating Waterfowl and Other Wildlife



© Clair Koford

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938. It encompasses 37,632 acres at the south end of Ruby Valley. The refuge is 16 miles long and over 3 miles at its widest point. This land was once covered by a 200-foot deep, 300,800 acre lake; today 17,000 acres of marsh remain on the refuge. To the north is a 15,000 acre seasonal wetland, also attractive to wildlife, known as Franklin Lake.

The Habitat

The refuge, at an elevation of 6,000 feet, centers on an extensive bulrush marsh interspersed with pockets of open water. Islands scattered throughout provide good nesting habitat for many bird species. Over 160 springs flow into the marsh, some of which travel into the collection ditch along its west border. These water sources create riparian habitat which is used by many smaller birds and mammals. They also provide a water source for larger mammals.

With slight increases in elevation, meadows graduate into grasslands and shrub-steppe habitat. Pinyon pines and juniper cover the lower slopes of the Ruby Mountains that rise to 11,000 feet along the west side of the refuge. Limber pine, bristlecone pine, aspens and mountain mahogany forest the upper slopes. Canyons and rocky cliffs both provide nesting and perching habitat for various types of wildlife. A mountainside of dead trees, the result of a 1979 wildfire, is home for cavity dwelling birds.



Aspen leaves
© Joan Kenyon

General Key

Habitat Codes

The following symbols are used to indicate in which habitats each wildlife species would most likely be found. It is important to remember that use of an area may depend on the season and an animal's activity, especially for birds that are highly mobile.

- 1 - marsh, open water areas
- 2 - riparian areas
- 3 - meadows, grasslands
- 4 - shrub-steppe
- 5 - wooded areas
- 6 - canyons
- 7 - rocky areas, cliffs, caves
- 8 - montane
- 9 - buildings, residential areas
- 10 - widespread

Seasons

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

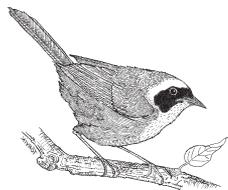
Abundance

- 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



Pronghorn
© C. Holden

Birds at Ruby Lake



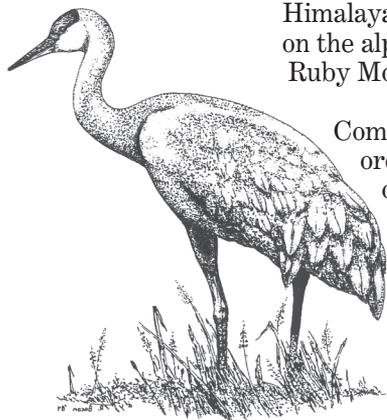
Common Yellowthroat

© Torvik

Bird life can be seen throughout all the habitat types, from the valley floor to the mountain peaks. The following bird list includes 225 species observed on the refuge, as well as on adjacent lands including the Humboldt National Forest, Bureau of Land Management lands, Franklin Lake Wildlife Management Area managed by the Nevada Division of Wildlife, and privately-owned lands. In addition, 23 species are listed as accidentals because they have only been observed once or twice in the area.

The refuge is a significant waterfowl area in Nevada providing an important feeding and resting stop in the Pacific and Central Flyways. During summer, the marsh provides excellent habitat for nesting ducks including canvasbacks and redheads as well as several colonial nesters—white-faced ibis, great blue heron, black-crowned night-heron, double-crested cormorant, and others. Greater sandhill cranes nest along the marsh's edge. Ducks and songbird species nest throughout the meadows, grasslands and riparian areas. Trumpeter swans were introduced into the valley from Montana resulting in several pairs nesting on the refuge each year. Red-tailed hawks and prairie falcons nest locally and forage on the refuge. An introduced gamebird, the Himalayan snowcock, is found only on the alpine peaks of the Ruby Mountains.

Common names and taxonomic order follow the 6th Edition of the "AOU Checklist of North American Birds" (1983) including revisions contained in all supplements up to and including the 41st (1997).



Sandhill Crane

© R. Bacon

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Loons					
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	1	r		r	
Grebes					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Pied-billed Grebe	1	c	c	c	u
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Grebe	1	o		o	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Eared Grebe	1	c	c	c	u
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Grebe	1	r	r	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clark's Grebe	1	r	r		
Pelicans					
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	1	o	u	u	
Cormorants					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Double-crested Cormorant	1	u	u	u	r
Bitterns, Herons and Egrets					
<input type="checkbox"/> *American Bittern	1	c	c	c	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Great Blue Heron	1, 2	c	c	c	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *Great Egret	1, 3	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Snowy Egret	1, 3	u	u	u	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Cattle Egret	3	u	u		
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	1, 2	r	r		
<input type="checkbox"/> *Black-crowned Night-Heron	1, 2	c	c	c	o
Ibises and Spoonbills					
<input type="checkbox"/> *White-faced Ibis	1, 3	c	a	c	r
New World Vultures					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Turkey Vulture	10	c	c	u	
Swans, Geese and Ducks					
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	1	r			r
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	1				o
<input type="checkbox"/> Ross's Goose	1	r		r	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Canada Goose	1, 3	a	a	a	a
<input type="checkbox"/> *Trumpeter Swan	1	u	u	u	u
<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra Swan	1	o		u	u
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	1, 2			o	o
<input type="checkbox"/> *Gadwall	1	a	a	a	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *American Wigeon	1	c	u	c	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *Mallard	1	a	a	a	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *Blue-winged Teal	1	o	o	o	r

Swans, Geese, and Ducks continued next page

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Swans, Geese, and Ducks <i>continued</i>					
☐ *Cinnamon Teal	1	a	a	c	u
☐ *Northern Shoveler	1	c	c	c	u
☐ *Northern Pintail	1	c	u	a	c
☐ *Green-winged Teal	1	c	u	c	c
☐ *Canvasback	1	a	a	a	u
☐ *Redhead	1	a	a	a	u
☐ *Ring-necked Duck	1	c	o	o	c
☐ *Lesser Scaup	1	c	c	c	u
☐ Bufflehead	1	u		c	c
☐ Common Goldeneye	1	u		u	c
☐ Barrow's Goldeneye	1			r	r
☐ Hooded Merganser	1	o		o	o
☐ Common Merganser	1	u		u	u
☐ Red-breasted Merganser	1	r		r	r
☐ *Ruddy Duck	1	c	c	c	u
Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles					
☐ Osprey	1	r		r	
☐ Bald Eagle	10			o	o
☐ *Northern Harrier	10	c	c	c	c
☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	o	o	o	r
☐ Cooper's Hawk	10	o	o	o	o
☐ Northern Goshawk	8, 5	o	o	o	o
☐ Red-shouldered Hawk	10	r		r	
☐ Swainson's Hawk	10	o	o	o	
☐ *Red-tailed Hawk	10	c	c	c	o
☐ Ferruginous Hawk	10	o	o	o	o
☐ Rough-legged Hawk	3, 4	u		u	c
☐ *Golden Eagle	10	u	u	u	o
Falcons and Caracaras					
☐ *American Kestrel	3	c	c	c	u
☐ Merlin	3, 4			o	o
☐ Peregrine Falcon	10	r		r	r
☐ *Prairie Falcon	7, 3	u	u	o	r
Gallinaceous Birds					
☐ *Chukar	6, 3	o	o	o	o
☐ *Himalayan Snowcock	8	u	u	u	u
☐ *Sage Grouse	4, 3	u	u	u	u
☐ *Blue Grouse	8, 5	u	u	u	u

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Rails					
☐ *Virginia Rail	1	u	u	u	r
☐ *Sora	1	u	u	r	
☐ *Common Moorhen	1	r	r		
☐ *American Coot	1	a	a	a	c
Cranes					
☐ *Sandhill Crane	3	c	c	c	
Plovers					
☐ Black-bellied Plover	1	r			
☐ *Killdeer	3	c	c	c	r
Stilts and Avocets					
☐ *Black-necked Stilt	1	u	c	u	
☐ *American Avocet	1	u	c	u	
Sandpipers and Phalaropes					
☐ Greater Yellowlegs	1	o	o	o	
☐ Lesser Yellowlegs	1	o	o	o	
☐ Solitary Sandpiper	1	r		r	
☐ *Willet	3	u	u	o	
☐ *Spotted Sandpiper	1	u	u	u	
☐ *Long-billed Curlew	3	c	c		
☐ Marbled Godwit	1, 3	r			
☐ Western Sandpiper	1	r		r	
☐ Least Sandpiper	1	o		o	
☐ Long-billed Dowitcher	1	o		o	
☐ *Common Snipe	1, 2	u	c	u	u
☐ *Wilson's Phalarope	1	o	o	o	
☐ Red-necked Phalarope	1	o		o	
Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls and Terns					
☐ Franklin's Gull	1	r	r	r	
☐ Ring-billed Gull	1	o	o	u	
☐ *California Gull	1	u	u	u	
☐ Caspian Tern	1	u	u	u	
☐ *Forster's Tern	1	c	c	u	
☐ *Black Tern	1	c	c	u	
Pigeons and Doves					
☐ Rock Dove	9	o	o	o	o
☐ *Mourning Dove	10	c	c	c	r

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Barn Owls					
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl	10	r	r	r	r
Typical Owls					
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Screech-Owl	5				r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Great Horned Owl	2, 7	c	c	c	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *Burrowing Owl	3, 4	o	o	o	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Long-eared Owl	5, 2	o	o	o	o
<input type="checkbox"/> *Short-eared Owl	3, 4	u	u	u	o
<input type="checkbox"/> *Northern Saw-whet Owl	5	o	o	o	r
Nightjars					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Common Nighthawk	10	c	c	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Common Poorwill	5, 4	u	u	u	
Swifts					
<input type="checkbox"/> *White-throated Swift	7	u	u	u	
Hummingbirds					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Black-chinned Hummingbird	6, 2	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Calliope Hummingbird	8, 5	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Broad-tailed Hummingbird	2, 5	c	c	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rufous Hummingbird	12	o	u	u	
Kingfishers					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Belted Kingfisher	2	u	u	u	o
Woodpeckers					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Lewis's Woodpecker	2, 6	u	u	u	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Red-naped Sapsucker	2, 5	o	o	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Williamson's Sapsucker	8, 5	o	o	o	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Downy Woodpecker	2, 5	u	u	u	u
<input type="checkbox"/> *Hairy Woodpecker	2, 5	u	u	u	u
<input type="checkbox"/> *Northern Flicker	2, 5	c	c	c	u
Tyrant Flycatchers					
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	8, 5		o		
<input type="checkbox"/> *Western Wood-Pewee	5, 2	u	u		
<input type="checkbox"/> *Willow Flycatcher	2	o	o		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hammond's Flycatcher	8, 5	o	o		
<input type="checkbox"/> *Gray Flycatcher	5	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Dusky Flycatcher	8, 4/5	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Cordilleran Flycatcher	2, 5	u	u		
<input type="checkbox"/> *Say's Phoebe	3, 9	c	c	c	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Ash-throated Flycatcher	5, 2	r	r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Western Kingbird	2, 9	c	c	c	
Shrikes					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Loggerhead Shrike	4, 3	u	u	u	o
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike	4, 3				u
Vireos					
<input type="checkbox"/> Cassin's Vireo	2,5,8	o		o	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Plumbeus Vireo	2,5,8	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Warbling Vireo	2	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	2	r		r	
Crows, Jays and Magpies					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Western Scrub-Jay	5	c	c	c	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *Pinyon Jay	8, 5	u	u	u	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *Clark's Nutcracker	8, 5	o	o	o	o
<input type="checkbox"/> *Black-billed Magpie	10	c	c	c	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *American Crow	10	o	u	u	o
<input type="checkbox"/> *Common Raven	10	c	c	c	c
Larks					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Horned Lark	3, 4	c	c	c	c
Swallows					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Tree Swallow	2, 3	c	c	a	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Violet-green Swallow	2, 7	c	c	a	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Northern Rough-winged Swallow	7	c	c	c	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	3	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Cliff Swallow	9, 7	a	a	a	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Barn Swallow	9	c	c	c	
Titmice and Chickadees					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Mountain Chickadee	5	u	u	u	c
<input type="checkbox"/> *Juniper Titmouse	5	u	u	u	c
Bushtits					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Bushtit	5	u	u	u	u
Nuthatches					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Red-breasted Nuthatch	8, 5	u	u	u	u
<input type="checkbox"/> *White-breasted Nuthatch	8, 5	o	o	o	o
Creepers					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Brown Creeper	8, 5	u	u	u	?

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Wrens					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Rock Wren	7	u	u	u	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Canyon Wren	6, 7	o	o	o	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *House Wren	2	c	c	c	o
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	2	r		r	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Marsh Wren	1	a	a	a	u
Dippers					
<input type="checkbox"/> American Dipper	2	u		u	u
Kinglets					
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	7				u
<input type="checkbox"/> *Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7, 2	u		u	u
Old World Warblers					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7	c	c	u	
Thrushes					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Mountain Bluebird	8, 5	c	c	c	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Townsend's Solitaire	8, 5	u	u	u	u
<input type="checkbox"/> *Swainson's Thrush	2	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Hermit Thrush	2, 5	o	o	o	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *American Robin	2, 9	c	c	a	o
Mimic Thrushes					
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	2	r	r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Northern Mockingbird	2, 9	o	o	o	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Sage Thrasher	4	c	c	c	
Starlings					
<input type="checkbox"/> *European Starling	9	c	c	c	o
Wagtails and Pipits					
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	8	o		o	o
Waxwings					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bohemian Waxwing	10				r
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	2, 9	u	u	u	o
Wood Warblers					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Orange-crowned Warbler	2	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	2, 5	o		o	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Virginia's Warbler	5, 6	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Yellow Warbler	2	c	c	c	

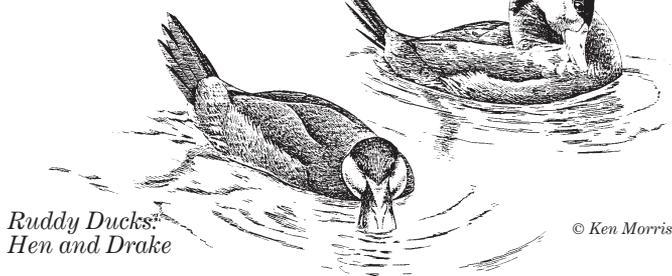
Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> *Yellow-rumped Warbler	2, 9	c	c	c	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Black-throated Gray Warbler	5	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	2	r		o	
<input type="checkbox"/> *MacGillivray's Warbler	2	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Common Yellowthroat	1, 2	c	c	u	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	2	u		u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Yellow-breasted Chat	2	u	u	u	
Tanagers					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Western Tanager	5	u	u	u	
Sparrows and Towhees					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Green-tailed Towhee	4	u	u	u	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Spotted Towhee	2,4,6	u	u	u	o
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	2, 9			o	o
<input type="checkbox"/> *Chipping Sparrow	5	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Brewer's Sparrow	4	a	a	a	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Vesper Sparrow	4, 3	c	c	c	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Lark Sparrow	4	u	u	u	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Black-throated Sparrow	4, 6	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Sage Sparrow	4, 6	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Savannah Sparrow	3	a	a	a	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	3	r	r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Fox Sparrow	8, 2	u	u	u	o
<input type="checkbox"/> *Song Sparrow	2, 1	c	c	c	c
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	2	r	r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	2			r	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Sparrow	2			r	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *White-crowned Sparrow	2, 4	u	o	u	o
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	9	r		r	r
<input type="checkbox"/> *Dark-eyed Junco	8, 5	c	o	u	c
Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Black-headed Grosbeak	2, 5	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grosbeak	2, 3	r	r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Lazuli Bunting	2	u	u	u	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	3	r	r		
Blackbirds and Orioles					
<input type="checkbox"/> *Bobolink	3	r	r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Red-winged Blackbird	1, 3	u	c	c	u
<input type="checkbox"/> *Western Meadowlark	3	a	a	a	o
<input type="checkbox"/> *Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	a	a	c	r

Blackbirds and Orioles continued next page

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Blackbirds and Orioles <i>continued</i>					
☐ *Brewer's Blackbird	10	c	c	c	o
☐ *Great-tailed Grackle	1, 9	u	u	u	o
☐ *Brown-headed Cowbird	10	c	c	c	
☐ *Bullock's Oriole	2	c	c	c	
Finches					
☐ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	8				o
☐ *Black Rosy-Finch	8				o
☐ *Pine Grosbeak	8, 5	o	o	o	o
☐ *Cassin's Finch	8, 5	u	u	u	u
☐ *House Finch	2, 9	u	u	u	o
☐ Red Crossbill	8	r	r	r	r
☐ *Pine Siskin	8, 5	u	u	u	o
☐ Lesser Goldfinch	3, 2		u	u	r
☐ *American Goldfinch	3, 2	u	u	u	o
☐ Evening Grosbeak	5	o		o	r
Old World Sparrows					
☐ *House Sparrow	9	u	u	u	o

Accidentals

Least Bittern	Eastern Kingbird
Little Blue Heron	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Eurasian Wigeon	Steller's Jay
Greater Scaup	Blue Jay
Long-tailed Duck	Black-capped Chickadee
Surf Scoter	Western Bluebird
White-winged Scoter	Varied Thrush
California Quail	White Wagtail
Semipalmated Plover	Blackpoll Warbler
Baird's Sandpiper	Townsend's Warbler
Upland Sandpiper	American Redstart
Bonaparte's Gull	Louisiana Waterthrush
Mew Gull	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Band-tailed Pigeon	Hooded Oriole
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	
Flammulated Owl	



Ruddy Ducks:
Hen and Drake

© Ken Morris

Mammals at Ruby Lake

The following list includes those mammals found on the refuge and adjacent lands. Species that are suspected to occur in the area or have an unknown abundance (?) and those that have been identified only prior to 1940 (h) are also included. All are considered residents except the migrant species of bats. Visibility of mammals varies seasonally because of hibernation, migration between summer and winter ranges, or snow cover. The common names and order follow "A Field Guide to the Mammals" by Burt and Grossenheider (1976).

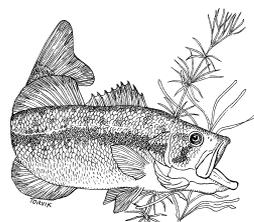
Species	Habitat	Abundance
Shrews		
☐ Merriam Shrew	4	?
☐ Vagrant Shrew	3	u
☐ Northern Water Shrew	8, 2	?
Bats		
☐ Little Brown Bat	7, 9	c
☐ Long-eared Bat	9, 7	c
☐ Long-legged Bat	9, 7	?
☐ Small-footed Bat	7, 5	c
☐ Silver-haired Bat	5, 9	r
☐ Western Pipistrelle Bat	7, 6	?
☐ Big Brown Bat	5, 7, 9	?
☐ Hoary Bat	5	?
☐ Spotted Bat	9, 7	?
☐ Townsend's Big-eared Bat	7, 9	?
☐ Pallid Bat	7, 3	?
☐ Brazilian Free-tailed Bat	7	r
Mustelids		
☐ Shorttail Weasel	2, 3	r
☐ Longtail Weasel	2	u
☐ Mink	1, 2	?
☐ Badger	10	c
☐ Spotted Skunk	4, 2	r
☐ Striped Skunk	9, 4	r
Canids <i>next page</i>		

Species	Habitat	Abundance
Canids		
☐ Coyote	10	c
☐ Red Fox	10	?
Felines		
☐ Mountain Lion	8, 6	u
☐ Bobcat	8, 4	u
Squirrels		
☐ Yellowbelly Marmot	7	u
☐ Townsend Ground Squirrel	4, 3	?
☐ Richardson Ground Squirrel	4, 3	?
☐ Belding Ground Squirrel	3, 4	c
☐ Golden-mantled Squirrel	8, 5	u
☐ Whitetail Antelope Squirrel	4	?
☐ Least Chipmunk	4, 5	c
☐ Uinta Chipmunk	5, 7	r
Pocket Gophers		
☐ Valley Pocket Gopher	3	?
☐ Northern Pocket Gopher	10	c
Pocket Mice/Kangaroo Rats		
☐ Little Pocket Mouse	4	?
☐ Great Basin Pocket Mouse	4	c
☐ Dark Kangaroo Mouse	4	u
☐ Ord Kangaroo Rat	4	c
☐ Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rat	4	c
Beaver		
☐ Beaver	1, 2	o
Mice and Voles		
☐ Western Harvest Mouse	3	u
☐ Canyon Mouse	6, 7	h
☐ Deer Mouse	10	c
☐ Piñon Mouse	5, 7	h
☐ No. Grasshopper Mouse	3, 4	?
☐ Desert Woodrat	4	?
☐ Bushytail Woodrat	8, 7	u
☐ Mountain Vole	3	c
☐ Longtail Vole	2, 3	u
☐ Sagebrush Vole	4	?
☐ Muskrat	1	c

Species	Habitat	Abundance
Old World Rats and Mice		
☐ House Mouse	9	c
Jumping Mice		
☐ Western Jumping Mouse	8, 2	?
Porcupines		
☐ Porcupine	2, 5	c
Hares and Rabbits		
☐ Whitetail Jackrabbit	4, 3	r
☐ Blacktail Jackrabbit	4, 3	c
☐ Mountain Cottontail	4, 7	c
☐ Pygmy Rabbit	4	u
Deer		
☐ Elk	3	o
☐ Mule Deer	10	c
Pronghorn		
☐ Pronghorn	3, 4	u
Goats and Sheep		
☐ Mountain Goat	8, 7	u
☐ Bighorn Sheep	8	o

Fishes at Ruby Lake

The relict dace is the refuge's only native fish. A project is currently underway to restore populations of this fish on the refuge. Lahontan speckled dace persist on the refuge from a 1950's stocking. Largemouth bass, introduced in the 1930's, reproduce in the marsh. Other non-native sportfish that either have been or are currently stocked on the refuge include rainbow, brown, eastern brook, and cutthroat trout. Trout hybrids stocked on the refuge include tiger and cutbow trout.



Largemouth Bass
© Torvik

Amphibians and Reptiles

Although the Great Basin does not have the herpetological diversity of other regions, species abundance can be quite high. Please drive slowly and be observant for snakes (at times numerous) on both the county road and the auto tour, as they play an important natural role as both predator and prey. Rubber boas, although not documented on the refuge, occur in adjacent mountainous terrain. The northern leopard frog is a species in decline throughout the west, and Ruby Lake NWR supports one of Nevada's most important remaining populations. Efforts to document additional species of reptiles and amphibians on the refuge are ongoing.

Species	Habitat	Abundance
Amphibians		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Leopard Frog	1, 2, 3	c
Reptiles: Snakes		
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Basin Gopher Snake	10	a
<input type="checkbox"/> W Terrestrial Garter Snake	2, 3, 4	c
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Racer	3, 4	c
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Basin Rattlesnake	4, 6	c
<input type="checkbox"/> Night Snake	6, 7	u
<input type="checkbox"/> Rubber Boa	5, 8	o
Reptiles: Lizards		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Fence Lizard	6, 7, 9	c
<input type="checkbox"/> Sagebrush Lizard	4	a
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Skink	4, 9	u
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Short-horned Lizard	4	u

Viewing Wildlife

The best time to observe wildlife is during morning and evening hours. Binoculars or a spotting scope greatly assist in identifying wildlife and observing their behavior. Using your vehicle as a blind increases viewing opportunities; wildlife viewing from a vehicle can be done by driving the refuge auto tour route through the marsh. For a unique opportunity to see marsh wildlife close up, the South Marsh is open during part of the year to canoes and small motor boats.

For further information, contact:

Refuge Manager
 Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge
 HC 60, Box 860
 Ruby Valley, NV 89833
 Telephone: 775/779 2237
 Fax: 775/779 2370



Gadwall drake

© Clair Kofeod

Let Us Know!



As the second-most remote refuge in the continental United States, information on bird occurrences are as rare as visiting bird watchers.

If you spot a species not found on this list, or one listed as accidental or rare, or find anything which differs widely from the information printed here, please let us know.

To aid you in providing us with this information, this portion of the wildlife checklist can be cut off and returned to Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge as a post card. Please write your observations below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of observation(s): _____

Observations: _____

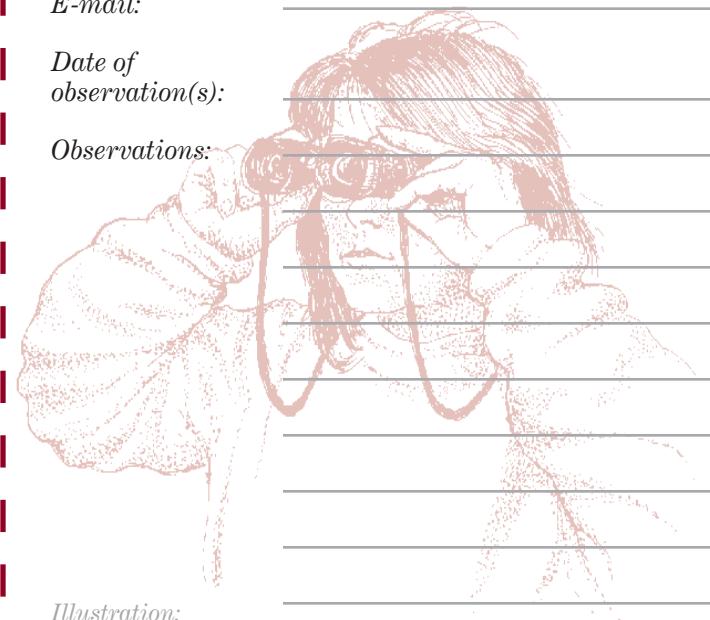


Illustration:
 Birdwatching

USFWS/Robert Savannah

Thanks so much for your help!

Ruby Lake
National Wildlife Refuge
HC 60, Box 860
Ruby Valley, Nevada 89833-9802
702/779 2237 phone
702/779 2370 fax
<http://www.fws.gov/rubylake>

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

Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD



This brochure will be made
available in other formats
upon request.

February 2012



Canvasback hen with brood

© Clair Kofoed

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

HC 60 BOX 860

RUBY VALLEY NV 89833-9801