

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

San Diego

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird List



*"Nature is not a luxury
but a necessity of the
human spirit."*

~Edward Abbey



Introduction

San Diego NWR

San Diego National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1996 to protect threatened and endangered species including birds such as Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The refuge and other nearby conserved lands include large expanses of coastal sage scrub that support important populations of birds dependent on this habitat type, such as Bell's Sage Sparrow, Coastal Cactus Wren, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. The chaparral, riparian, oak woodlands, and grasslands on the refuge provide habitat for regionally sensitive species such as Golden Eagle, Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, and Grasshopper Sparrow, as well as numerous other resident and migratory birds.

In recognition of its importance to the conservation of the bird community unique to native habitats of the coastal slope of southern California, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge was designated as a "Globally Important Bird Area" by the American Bird Conservancy and the National Audubon Society. Wildlife observation, photography, and hiking are some of the activities that visitors can enjoy at this refuge. Please call the refuge office at (619) 468-9245 ext. 226 for more information, hours, and directions.

Bird List Key

Occurrence

- c - Common. Species seen on nearly every visit at the proper season, usually in good numbers. (>10 per day)
- u - Uncommon. Present, but not certain to be seen. (<10 per day)
- o - Occasional. Species not seen on most visits, even at the proper season, but small numbers can be expected nearly every year with repeated searching.
- r - Rare. Species seen only sporadically, not annually on Refuge.

The current breeding status of many species is uncertain, requiring ongoing surveys.

Seasons

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

| Common Name | Sp | S | F | W |
|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Grebes | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | u | u | u | u |
| Western Grebe | r | | | |
| Pelicans | | | | |
| American White Pelican | r | | r | r |
| Cormorants | | | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | u | | u | u |
| Hérons, Bitterns, and Egrets | | | | |
| Great Blue Heron | o | o | o | o |
| Great Egret | o | o | o | o |
| Snowy Egret | o | o | o | o |
| Green Heron | o | o | o | o |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | o | o | o | o |

| Common Name | Sp | S | F | W |
|--------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| New World Vulture | | | | |
| Turkey Vulture | o | | u | |
| Ducks, Geese, and Swans | | | | |
| Canada Goose | | | | o |
| Cackling Goose | | | | r |
| American Wigeon | | | | o |
| Green-winged Teal | | | | o |
| Gadwall | o | | o | o |
| Mallard | o | o | u | u |
| Northern Pintail | | | | o |
| Canvasback | | | | u |
| Ring-necked Duck | o | | | u |
| Bufflehead | | | u | u |
| Ruddy Duck | | | o | o |
| Kites, Eagles, and Hawks | | | | |
| Osprey | | | r | r |
| White-tailed Kite | u | u | u | u |
| Bald Eagle | | | | r |
| Northern Harrier | o | o | u | u |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | u | u |
| Cooper's Hawk | u | u | u | u |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | u | u | u | u |
| Swainson's Hawk | r | | | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | | | | r |
| Red-tailed Hawk | u | u | u | u |
| Golden Eagle | o | o | o | o |
| Falcons | | | | |
| American Kestrel | u | u | u | u |
| Merlin | | | r | r |
| Peregrine Falcon | r | r | r | r |
| Prairie Falcon | | | r | r |
| Pheasants, Turkeys, and Quail | | | | |
| California Quail | u | u | c | u |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | | | | r |

White-tailed Kite
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| Common Name | Sp | S | F | W |
|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Plovers | | | | |
| Killdeer | u | u | u | u |
| Rails, Coots, and Gallinules | | | | |
| Sora | | | | r |
| Common Moorhen | r | r | | |
| American Coot | u | | u | u |
| Gulls | | | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | | o |
| Western Gull | | | o | o |
| Terns | | | | |
| Caspian Tern | o | o | | |
| Forster's Tern | o | o | | |
| Pigeons and Doves | | | | |
| Rock Dove | u | u | u | u |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove | r | | | |
| White-winged Dove | r | | r | |
| Mourning Dove | c | c | c | c |
| Common-ground Dove | r | | | |
| Cuckoos and Roadrunners | | | | |
| Greater Roadrunner | u | u | u | u |
| Barn Owls | | | | |
| Barn Owl | o | o | o | o |
| Typical Owls | | | | |
| Western Screech-Owl | o | o | o | o |
| Great Horned Owl | o | o | o | o |
| Burrowing Owl | r | r | r | r |
| Long-eared Owl | | | r | r |
| Goatsuckers | | | | |
| Lesser Nighthawk | r | | | |
| Common Poorwill | u | u | | |
| Swifts | | | | |
| Vaux's Swift | u | | u | |
| White-throated Swift | c | c | c | c |

| Common Name | Sp | S | F | W |
|---------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Hummingbirds | | | | |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | c | c | | |
| Anna's Hummingbird | c | c | c | c |
| Costa's Hummingbird | u | u | o | o |
| Rufous Hummingbird | c | | u | |
| Allen's Hummingbird | r | | | |
| Calliope Hummingbird | r | | | |
| Kingfishers | | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | u | | u | u |
| Woodpeckers | | | | |
| Acorn Woodpecker | o | o | o | o |
| Red-breasted Sapsucker | | | | o |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker | c | c | c | c |
| Downy Woodpecker | u | u | u | u |
| Northern Flicker | u | | c | u |



Burrowing Owl

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| Common Name | Sp | S | F | W |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Tyrant Flycatchers | | | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | o | | o | |
| Western Wood-Pewee | o | o | u | |
| Willow Flycatcher | o | r | o | |
| Hammond's Flycatcher | o | | o | |
| Dusky Flycatcher | r | | r | |
| Pacific-slope Flycatcher | c | c | c | |
| Black Phoebe | c | c | c | c |
| Say's Phoebe | u | r | c | c |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher | c | c | u | r |
| Cassin's Kingbird | c | c | c | c |
| Western Kingbird | c | c | | |
| Shrikes | | | | |
| Loggerhead Shrike | o | o | o | o |
| Vireos | | | | |
| White-eyed Vireo | | r | | |
| Bell's Vireo | c | c | u | |
| Cassin's Vireo | r | | | |
| Hutton's Vireo | u | u | u | u |
| Warbling Vireo | c | | o | |
| Jays and Crows | | | | |
| Western Scrub Jay | c | c | c | c |
| American Crow | c | c | c | c |
| Common Raven | c | c | c | c |
| Larks | | | | |
| Horned Lark | u | u | c | c |
| Swallows | | | | |
| Tree Swallow | c | u | u | u |
| Violet-green Swallow | o | | | |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | c | c | | |
| Bank Swallow | r | | | |
| Cliff Swallow | c | c | c | |
| Barn Swallow | u | | u | |

| Common Name | Sp | S | F | W |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Titmice | | | | |
| Oak Titmouse | u | u | u | u |
| Bushtits | | | | |
| Bushtit | c | c | c | c |
| Wrens | | | | |
| Cactus Wren | o | o | o | o |
| Rock Wren | o | o | o | o |
| Canyon Wren | r | r | r | r |
| Bewick's Wren | c | c | c | c |
| House Wren | c | c | c | c |
| Marsh Wren | r | r | r | r |
| Kinglet, Gnatcatcher | | | | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | c | | c | c |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | u | u | u | u |
| California Gnatcatcher | u | u | u | u |
| Bluebirds, Thrushes | | | | |
| Western Bluebird | o | o | u | u |
| Swainson's Thrush | o | r | o | |
| Hermit Thrush | c | | c | c |
| American Robin | | | o | o |
| Babblers | | | | |
| Wrentit | c | c | c | c |
| Mockingbirds and Thrashers | | | | |
| Northern Mockingbird | c | c | c | c |
| Sage Thrasher | | | r | o |
| California Thrasher | c | c | c | c |
| Starlings | | | | |
| European Starling | c | c | c | c |
| Pipits | | | | |
| American Pipit | | | o | o |
| Waxwings | | | | |
| Cedar Waxwing | | | o | u |

| Common Name | Sp | S | F | W |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Silky Flycatchers | | | | |
| Phainopepla | c | c | o | o |
| Wood Warblers | | | | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | c | o | c | c |
| Nashville Warbler | u | | | |
| Yellow Warbler | c | c | o | r |
| Magnolia Warbler | r | | r | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | o | | c | c |
| Black-throated Gray Warbler | o | | o | |
| Townsend's Warbler | u | | u | u |
| Hermit Warbler | u | | o | |
| Palm Warbler | | | r | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | r | | | |
| Northern Waterthrush | r | | r | |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | | | o | |
| Common Yellowthroat | c | c | c | c |
| Wilson's Warbler | c | | u | r |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | c | c | o | |
| Tanagers | | | | |
| Western Tanager | c | | o | |

| Common Name | Sp | S | F | W |
|----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Sparrows | | | | |
| Green-tailed Towhee | r | | | |
| Spotted Towhee | c | c | c | c |
| California Towhee | c | c | c | c |
| Rufous-crowned Sparrow | c | c | c | c |
| Chipping Sparrow | o | | o | |
| Brewer's Sparrow | | | o | |
| Black-chinned Sparrow | c | c | r | |
| Vesper Sparrow | | | o | |
| Lark Sparrow | c | c | c | c |
| Sage Sparrow | u | u | u | u |
| Savannah Sparrow | u | | c | c |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | u | u | u | u |
| Fox Sparrow | r | | r | o |
| Song Sparrow | c | c | c | c |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | u | | u | u |
| Swamp Sparrow | r | | r | |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | r | | r | o |
| White-crowned Sparrow | c | | c | c |
| Dark-eyed Junco | | | u | u |
| Lapland Longspur | | | | r |
| Chestnut-collared Longspur | | | | r |



Northern Mockingbird
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San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Website:
<http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/sandiegowr.htm>

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Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD

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Dave Menke/USFWS

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