

Valentine

National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife List



Wildlife Abounds in the Native Prairie



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Valentine National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), located 25 miles south of the town of Valentine, Nebraska, is 71,774 acres in size and was established in 1935 as a Refuge and breeding grounds for migratory birds and other wildlife. In fact, most of the wildlife present in historical times are still present on the Refuge today. Numerous wetlands, lakes, wet meadows, and large expanses of native prairie attract a wide variety of wildlife. This brochure lists 289 species of birds, 41 species of mammals, 16 species of reptiles, and six species of amphibians that have been recorded on the Refuge.

May, September, and October offer good opportunities for observing a variety of migratory birds. Spring migrants, including waterfowl and warblers, are most numerous in May. Early fall migrants, including shorebirds and sparrows, are most abundant in September. Peak waterfowl numbers occur in October.

Recommended Birding Areas

Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse

Viewing blinds for their spectacular dances on the booming grounds are provided in April and early May. The remainder of the year, the grouse can be found by roaming the vast grasslands of the Refuge. Try searching the hills southeast of Willow Lake.

East Twin Lake

This is a great area to view shorebirds during spring and summer. Easy access to the area allows for convenient birding.

North Marsh Lake

This is a good location to view grebes during the summer. Eared, western, pied-billed, and maybe even horned and Clark's grebes, can be found here.

Hackberry and Pelican Lakes

Look for ducks and geese, especially during the spring and fall. Watch for pintail, mallard, ruddy, canvasback, and many more ducks. Take a walk on the nature trail up to the old fire tower on the west end of Hackberry Lake for a view of the Sandhills and a look at grassland sparrows.

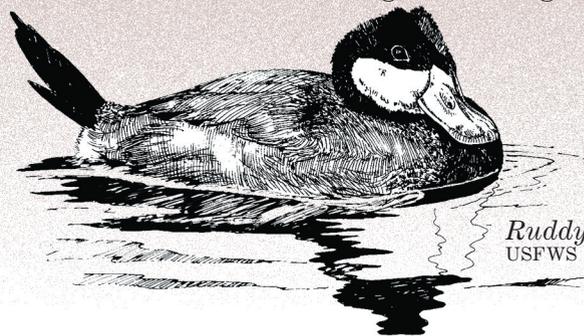
Duck Lake

Look in the trees around the boat ramp for they are an oasis for songbirds. Watch for warblers, blue and black-headed grosbeaks, Lazuli buntings, eastern bluebirds, and many more.

Check-list Key

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

- c common – present in large numbers, are widespread, and should be seen if you look in the right habitat.
- u uncommon – present, but due to their low numbers, behavior, habitat, or distribution, they are not easily seen.
- o occasional – present in low numbers, but are not expected to be seen without a special effort to find them. At least a few are present each year.
- r rare – not expected to be seen every year. They occur in low numbers, may also be hard to identify, and may be unreported for several years; includes vagrants.
- nesting – bird has been recorded as nesting on the Refuge



Ruddy Duck
USFWS



Sharp-tailed Grouse / USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
Greater White-fronted Goose	o		o	
Snow Goose	o		o	
Ross's Goose	r		r	
Cackling Goose	r		r	
• Canada Goose	c	c	c	o
• Trumpeter Swan	u	u	r	r
Tundra Swan	r		r	
• Wood Duck	c	u	c	
• Gadwall	c	c	c	
Eurasian Wigeon	r		r	
• American Wigeon	c	u	c	
American Black Duck	r	r	r	
• Mallard	c	c	c	o
• Blue-winged Teal	c	c	c	
Cinnamon Teal	o	r		
• Northern Shoveler	c	c	c	
• Northern Pintail	c	u	c	
• Green-winged Teal	c	u	c	
• Canvasback	c	u	c	
• Redhead	c	u	c	
Ring-necked Duck	u	r	u	
Greater Scaup	r		r	
Lesser Scaup	c		c	
Harlequin Duck	r		r	
Surf Scoter	r			
Bufflehead	c		c	o
Common Goldeneye	o			u
Barrow's Goldeneye	r		r	
Hooded Merganser	o		o	
Common Merganser	c		c	o
Red-breasted Merganser	r		r	
• Ruddy Duck	c	c	c	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys				
• Northern Bobwhite	r	r	r	r
Gray Partridge	r	r	r	r
• Ring-necked Pheasant	c	c	c	c
• Sharp-tailed Grouse	c	c	c	c
• Greater Prairie-Chicken	c	c	c	c
• Wild Turkey	c	c	c	c

Loons				
Common Loon	r	r	r	

Grebes				
• Pied-billed Grebe	u	c	u	
Horned Grebe	r		r	
• Eared Grebe	u	u	u	
• Western Grebe	u	c	u	
• Clark's Grebe	r	r	r	

Cormorants				
• Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	

Pelicans				
American White Pelican	c	c	c	
Brown Pelican		r		

Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
• American Bittern	u	c	u	
• Least Bittern	o	o		
• Great Blue Heron	u	c	c	
• Great Egret	r	o		
• Snowy Egret	o	o		
Little Blue Heron		r		
• Cattle Egret	u	o		
Green Heron		r		
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	c		

Ibises and Spoonbills				
• White-faced Ibis	o	u	o	

New World Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	u	c	o	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Hawks, Kites, and Eagles				
Osprey	o	r	o	
• Bald Eagle	u	r	u	u
• Northern Harrier	u	c	c	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		o	u
• Cooper's Hawk	o	r	o	u
Northern Goshawk				r
Red-shouldered Hawk	r		r	
Broad-winged Hawk	r		r	
• Swainson's Hawk	u	u	u	
• Red-tailed Hawk	u	o	u	u
Ferruginous Hawk	o	r	o	r
Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	c
Golden Eagle	u		u	u

Caracaras and Falcons				
• American Kestrel	u	u	u	o
Merlin	o		o	o
Gyr Falcon				r
Peregrine Falcon	r		r	r
Prairie Falcon	o		o	u

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
Yellow Rail	r			
Black Rail		r		
King Rail		r		
• Virginia Rail	c	c	c	
• Sora	c	c	c	
• Common Gallinule	r	r	r	
• American Coot	c	c	c	

Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	c		c	
Whooping Crane	r		r	

Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	r	r	r	
Semipalmated Plover	r		r	
Piping Plover	o		o	
• Killdeer	c	c	c	

Stilts and Avocets				
• Black-necked Stilt	r	r		r
• American Avocet	u	u	u	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Solitary Sandpiper	u	u	o	
Greater Yellowlegs	u	o	u	
• Willet	u	u	u	
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	
• Upland Sandpiper	c	c	c	
• Long-billed Curlew	o	u	o	
Hudsonian Godwit	r	r		
Marbled Godwit	u	r	r	
Ruddy Turnstone	o	o		
Red Knot	r		r	
Sanderling	r		r	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	r	u	
Western Sandpiper	u		u	
Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	
White-rumped Sandpiper	u		r	
Baird's Sandpiper	c	r	u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	u		u	
Dunlin	r		r	
Stilt Sandpiper	u		o	
Short-billed Dowitcher	u	r	u	
Long-billed Dowitcher	c	u	u	
• Wilson's Snipe	c	u	u	
American Woodcock			r	
• Wilson's Phalarope	c	c	c	
Red-necked Phalarope	r		r	

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers, and Skuas				
Bonaparte's Gull	r		r	
Franklin's Gull	o	o	o	
Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	
California Gull	u	o	u	
Herring Gull	o	r	r	r
Least Tern	r	r	r	
Caspian Tern	r			
• Black Tern	c	c		
Common Tern	c	c	c	
• Forster's Tern	c	c	c	

Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Pigeon		r		
Eurasian Collared-Dove	r	r		
• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	

Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis				
• Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	u		
• Black-billed Cuckoo	o	o		

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Barn Owls				
• Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
Typical Owls				
Flammulated Owl	r			
• Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	u	u
• Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
Snowy Owl				r
• Burrowing Owl	o	o		
Barred Owl	r		r	r
• Long-eared Owl	r	r	r	
• Short-eared Owl	u	u	u	u
• Northern Saw-whet Owl	o	o	o	
Nighthawks and Nightjars				
• Common Nighthawk	u	u		
Common Poorwill	r	r		
Swifts				
Chimney Swift	o	o	o	
Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	r		r	
Kingfishers				
• Belted Kingfisher	u	u	u	o
Woodpeckers				
Lewis's Woodpecker			r	
• Red-headed Woodpecker	u	u		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	r			r
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	r		r	
• Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
Tyrant Flycatchers				
• Western Wood-Pewee	o	o		
• Eastern Wood-Pewee	r	r		
• Willow Flycatcher	o	o	o	
Least Flycatcher	r			
Cordilleran Flycatcher	r			
Eastern Phoebe	r	r		
Say's Phoebe	r	o		
• Great Crested Flycatcher	u	u		
• Western Kingbird	c	c	c	
• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	
Shrikes				
• Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	u
Northern Shrike	u		u	u



Great Horned Owl
Bob Savannah / USFWS

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Vireos				
• Bell's Vireo	o	c	o	
Blue-headed Vireo	r			
• Warbling Vireo	u	u	u	
• Red-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	
Crows, Jays, and Magpies				
• Blue Jay	u	u	o	o
Clark's Nutcracker				r
• Black-billed Magpie	r	r	r	r
• American Crow	u	u	u	o
Larks				
• Horned Lark	u	u	u	u
Swallows				
• Tree Swallow	u	u	u	o
• Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	
Bank Swallow	o	c	o	
• Cliff Swallow	o	r	o	
• Barn Swallow	c	c	c	
Titmice and Chickadees				
• Black-capped Chickadee	u	u	u	u
Tufted Titmouse		r		
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r	r	o	o
White-breasted Nuthatch	r		o	o
Pygmy Nuthatch				r

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Creepers				
Brown Creeper	r		o	o
Wrens				
• House Wren	o	u	o	
Winter Wren	r		r	
Sedge Wren	r	r	r	
• Marsh Wren	c	c		
Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r			
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		r	o
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	o		r	o
Thrushes				
• Eastern Bluebird	o	o	r	
Mountain Bluebird	o	o	o	
Townsend's Solitaire	r		o	u
Veery	r		r	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	o			
Swainson's Thrush	u			
Hermit Thrush	u		u	
Wood Thrush	r		r	
• American Robin	c	c	c	u
Mimic Thrushes				
• Gray Catbird	o	o	o	
Northern Mockingbird	o	r	o	
• Brown Thrasher	u	u	u	
Curve-billed Thrasher		r		
Starlings				
• European Starling	o	o	o	o
Wagtails and Pipits				
American Pipit	o		o	
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing	u		r	
• Cedar Waxwing	o	u	o	
Longspurs and Buntings				
Lapland Longspur	o		o	o
• Chestnut-collared Longspur	o	o	o	o
McCown's Longspur	o		o	o
Snow Bunting				o

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Wood Warblers				
• Ovenbird	r	r	r	
Northern Waterthrush	u	u	u	
Golden-winged Warbler	r			
Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	
Black-and-white Warbler	r		r	
Prothonotary Warbler	r			
Tennessee Warbler	o			
Orange-crowned Warbler	o		o	
Nashville Warbler	o		o	
MacGillivray's Warbler	r			
Mourning Warbler	r			
• Common Yellowthroat	u	c	o	
• American Redstart	o	o	o	
Northern Parula	r	r		
Bay-breasted Warbler	r			
Blackburnian Warbler	r		r	
• Yellow Warbler	c	c	u	
Blackpoll Warbler	u		r	
Palm Warbler	r		r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	r		r	
Canada Warbler	r			
Wilson's Warbler	r		r	
• Yellow-breasted Chat	u	u	o	
Sparrows and Towhees				
• Spotted Towhee	o	o		
Eastern Towhee	r		r	
American Tree Sparrow	c		c	c
• Chipping Sparrow	u	u	u	
• Clay-colored Sparrow	o	o	o	r
• Field Sparrow	o	o	o	r
• Vesper Sparrow	u	u	u	
• Lark Sparrow	u	c	u	
• Lark Bunting	u	u		
Savannah Sparrow	o	o	o	
• Grasshopper Sparrow	c	c	u	
Baird's Sparrow	o	r	o	
Henslow's Sparrow	r			
Le Conte's Sparrow	o		o	
Nelson's Sparrow	r	r	r	
Fox Sparrow	o		o	
• Song Sparrow	o	o	o	o
Lincoln's Sparrow	r		r	
• Swamp Sparrow	o	o	o	
White-throated Sparrow	u		u	
Harris's Sparrow	u		u	
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
Dark-eyed Junco	c	u	c	c

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tanagers				
Summer Tanager	r			
Scarlet Tanager	r			
Western Tanager	r		r	
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies				
Northern Cardinal	u	u	o	o
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	o			
Black-headed Grosbeak	o			
Blue Grosbeak	r	o		
Lazuli Bunting	o	o	o	
Indigo Bunting	o		o	
• Dickcissel	u	c		
Blackbirds and Orioles				
• Bobolink	u	u		
• Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	o
• Eastern Meadowlark	c	c	c	o
• Western Meadowlark	c	c	c	o
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	c	c	c	
• Brewer's Blackbird	o	o	o	
• Common Grackle	c	c	c	
Great-tailed Grackle	r	r		
• Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	u	
• Orchard Oriole	c	c	u	
Bullock's Oriole	o			
• Baltimore Oriole	u	u	u	
Finches				
Purple Finch				o
House Finch	o			o
Red Crossbill	r		r	
Common Redpoll	o		o	o
Pine Siskin	u		u	
• American Goldfinch	u	u	u	
Evening Grosbeak	r			r
Old World Sparrows				
• House Sparrow	r	r	r	r

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds. 7th edition*. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, DC.

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
Opossums	
Virginia Opossum	u
Shrews	
Masked Shrew	c
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	c
Least Shrew	r
Moles	
Eastern Mole	c
Vesper Bats	
Western Small-footed Myotis	u
Hares and Rabbits	
Eastern Cottontail	c
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	r
White-tailed Jackrabbit	u
Squirrels	
Woodchuck	r
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	u
Eastern Fox Squirrel	r
Pocket Gophers	
Plains Pocket Gopher	c
Pocket Mice	
Plains Pocket Mouse	c
Beavers	
American Beaver	c
Mice, Rats and Voles	
Western Harvest Mouse	c
Plains Harvest Mouse	c
White-footed Mouse	c
Deer Mouse	c
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	c
House Mouse	r
Prairie Vole	c
Meadow Vole	c
Common Muskrat	c
Jumping Mice	
Meadow Jumping Mouse	c
New World Porcupines	
North American Porcupine	u

Common Mammal Name	Abundance
Dogs and Foxes	
___ Coyote	c
___ Common Gray Fox	r
Raccoons	
___ Northern Raccoon	c
Weasels and Badgers	
___ Long-tailed Weasel	c
___ Least Weasel	r
___ American Mink	c
___ American Badger	u
Skunks	
___ Striped Skunk	c
Cats	
___ Bobcat	r
Deer	
___ Elk	r
___ Mule Deer	c
___ White-tailed Deer	c
___ Moose	r
Pronghorn	
___ Pronghorn	r

Whitaker, John O. 1996. *National Audubon Society field guide to North American mammals*. New York: Knopf.

Notes

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Common Reptile and Amphibian Name	Abundance
Frogs	
___ Woodhouse's Toad	c
___ American Bullfrog	c
___ Northern Leopard Frog	c
___ Western Chorus Frog	c
___ Plains Spadefoot	u
Salamanders	
___ Tiger Salamander	c
Lizards	
___ Prairie Racerunner	c
___ Common Lesser Earless Lizard	c
___ Many-lined Skink	u
___ Prairie Lizard	c
Snakes	
___ Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer	c
___ Prairie Rattlesnake	r
___ Plains Hog-nosed Snake	c
___ Pale Milksnake	u
___ Bullsnake	c
___ Plains Gartersnake	c
___ Red-sided Gartersnake	c
Turtles	
___ Snapping Turtle	c
___ Painted Turtle	c
___ Blanding's Turtle	c
___ Yellow Mud Turtle	c
___ Ornate Box Turtle	c

Crother, B. I. (ed.). 2008. *Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico*, pp. 1–84. SSAR Herpetological Circular 37.

Accessibility Information

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January 2013

