



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
Brigham City, UT
Waterbird/Raptor Survey
October 30-31, 2013

A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on October 30-31, 2013 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers and volunteer Rosalie Winard with 34 species recorded. Water conditions across the refuge are good with only a few areas still without water. Unit 5B which has been mostly dry for the past several years for Phragmites treatment is being filled this fall and the waterfowl have really responded. Units 2C and 9 had large areas with no water due the L-Line structure replacement project. That project is now complete, and those units have been receiving water. Units 1 and 10 were only about half full but should be full soon. Waterfowl were abundant on the refuge though a little below average compared to past surveys for this time of year. Though there are several thousand tundra swans known to be in the area, few were using the refuge on the days of this survey. The shorebird migration is nearly over with small numbers of only a few species present. Three hardy white-faced ibis were observed. Though a few individuals can linger into November, most ibis have left the refuge by the end of September. Wintering rough-legged hawks are fairly common around the refuge now.

Tundra swan	120	Clark's grebe	48
Canada goose	7,464	American white pelican	77
Mallard	10,439	Double-crested cormorant	512
Northern pintail	45,184	Great blue heron	58
Green-winged teal	15,805	White-faced ibis	3
Northern shoveler	7,614	Killdeer	8
Gadwall	13,760	American avocet	164
American wigeon	22,028	Greater yellowlegs	19
Canvasback	9,478	Marbled godwit	200
Redhead	3,100	Long-billed dowitcher	475
Lesser scaup	1,549	Bonaparte's gull	80
Bufflehead	491	Ring-billed gull	3,110
Red-breasted merganser	96	California gull	5
Ruddy duck	8,014	American coot	4,922
Unknown ducks	370	Northern harrier	13
Pied-billed grebe	7	Rough-legged hawk	6
Eared grebe	120	American kestrel	1
Western grebe	76		

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