



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
Brigham City, UT
Waterbird/Raptor Survey
March 5-6, 2015

Ducks and geese and swans, oh my! A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on March 5-6, 2015 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers, Student Conservation Association Intern Sara Prussing, and Refuge volunteer Rosalie Winard with 34 species recorded. There was some ice cover on small shallow areas during the first couple of hours of the survey each day; otherwise refuge waters were ice-free. Ice cover can often linger into early March during a more normal winter. For example, refuge wetlands were over 90% ice covered during the survey done two years ago on March 5, 2013. Waterfowl numbers on that survey totaled about 3,500 compared to about 200,000 for this survey. Unit 3E was low and Units 4C and 5C were mostly dry as they have been drawn down for a prescribed burn. Otherwise, water conditions were good across the refuge. Waterfowl were abundant with most species at above average numbers. Recent arrivals to the refuge include cinnamon teal, American white pelican, Western and Clark’s grebe, and sandhill crane.

Tundra swan	21,542	Pied-billed grebe	7
Snow goose	2,500	Western grebe	2
Canada goose	5,946	Clark’s grebe	2
Mallard	8,030	American white pelican	23
Northern pintail	59,036	Double-crested cormorant	403
American green-winged Teal	26,642	Great blue heron	47
Cinnamon teal	333	Killdeer	20
Northern shoveler	29,637	Ring-billed gull	1,567
Gadwall	8,587	California gull	6,655
American wigeon	11,267	American coot	8,840
Canvasback	6,008	Sandhill crane	2
Redhead	6,730	Bald eagle	9
Lesser scaup	853	Northern harrier	28
Common goldeneye	7,179	Red-tailed hawk	1
Bufflehead	5	Rough-legged hawk	4
Ring-necked duck	172	American kestrel	1
Ruddy duck	4,468	Peregrine falcon	1
Unknown ducks	3,720		

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