



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
Brigham City, UT
Waterbird/Raptor Survey
May 7-8, 2015

A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on May 7-8, 2015 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers and Student Conservation Association Intern Sara Prussing recording 56 species. Waterfowl numbers have tapered off with mostly breeding birds present now with a few lingering migrants. Numerous Canada goose broods were seen and 1 late snow goose. Recent arrivals to the refuge include black tern, spotted sandpiper and Wilson’s phalarope. Highlights of the survey included a relatively large number of Virginia rail and sora which were heard vocalizing in the wetland vegetation. Also sighted were a golden eagle and a late immature bald eagle. Other highlight species were black-bellied plover which is an uncommon migrant and American bittern which is an uncommon spring and summer resident and likely breeder on the refuge.

Snow goose	1	Black-crowned night heron	21
Canada goose	1,245	White-faced ibis	1,957
Mallard	1,016	Black-bellied plover	15
Northern pintail	20	Killdeer	35
American green-winged Teal	8	Black-necked stilt	992
Blue-winged teal	2	American avocet	1,971
Cinnamon teal	1,520	Willet	1
Northern shoveler	634	Spotted sandpiper	4
Gadwall	2,778	Lesser yellowlegs	1
American wigeon	31	Long-billed curlew	42
Canvasback	13	Marbled godwit	14
Redhead	489	Long-billed dowitcher	450
Lesser scaup	54	Wilson’s phalarope	27
Common goldeneye	2	Franklin’s gull	273
Bufflehead	4	Ring-billed gull	330
Red-breasted merganser	4	California gull	7,380
Ruddy duck	662	Caspian tern	79
Unknown ducks	285	Forster’s tern	115
Pied-billed grebe	22	Black tern	1
Eared grebe	2,468	Virginia rail	4
Western grebe	184	Sora	7
Clark’s grebe	44	American coot	8,188
American white pelican	488	Sandhill crane	14
Double-crested cormorant	651	Turkey vulture	1
American bittern	2	Bald eagle	1
Great blue heron	76	Golden eagle	1
Great egret	4	Northern harrier	2
Snowy egret	64	Swainson’s hawk	3
Cattle egret	3		

Howard Browers
Wildlife Biologist
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
2155 West Forest St.
Brigham City, UT 84302

Phone: 435/734-6433