



Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
Brigham City, UT
Waterbird/Raptor Survey
July 22-23, 2015

A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on July 22-23 2015 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers, Student Conservation Association Intern Sara Prussing, and Refuge Volunteer Rebecca Browers, recording 48 species. Nesting and brood rearing is winding down as juveniles of many refuge nesting species fledge. Newly flighted juveniles of great blue heron, white-faced ibis, California, ring-billed, and Franklin's gull, American avocet and Black-necked stilt were commonly seen. Young broods of ducks, coots, and western and Clark's grebe were also common and will be on the wing soon. Several killdeer chicks and even a snowy plover chick being attended by parents were sighted. There was also the sighting of a canvasback brood which is uncommon for the refuge. Migration has started as waterfowl such as green-winged teal and northern pintail have moved onto the refuge to molt. Migrating shorebird species and numbers are also increasing as northern nesting species stop on the refuge to rest and refuel. The refuge is one of the most important stopover sites for migrating marbled godwits during their journey to wintering grounds in California, Mexico and Central America.

Canada goose	3,794	Snowy plover	7
Mallard	4,186	Killdeer	95
Northern pintail	4,829	Black-necked stilt	12,452
American green-winged teal	1,852	American avocet	12,288
Cinnamon teal	3,296	Willet	20
Northern shoveler	95	Spotted sandpiper	39
Gadwall	6,192	Greater yellowlegs	23
American wigeon	303	Lesser yellowlegs	7
Canvasback	76	Marbled godwit	5,214
Redhead	1,399	Western sandpiper	67
Bufflehead	1	Baird's sandpiper	3
Red-breasted merganser	1	Long-billed dowitcher	1,350
Ruddy duck	99	Wilson's phalarope	3,035
Unknown ducks	5,925	Franklin's gull	6,760
Pied-billed grebe	45	Ring-billed gull	1,206
Eared grebe	95	California gull	3,835
Western grebe	313	Caspian tern	49
Clark's grebe	119	Forster's tern	163
American white pelican	3,111	Virginia rail	1
Double-crested cormorant	1,343	American coot	9,203
Great blue heron	122	Sandhill crane	8
Great egret	2	Turkey vulture	6
Snowy egret	119	Swainson's hawk	4
Black-crowned night heron	81	American kestrel	2
White-faced ibis	15,249		