



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
Brigham City, UT
Waterbird/Raptor Survey
January 7, 2016

A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on January 7, 2016 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers and Student Conservation Association Intern Katharine Cody with 27 species recorded. Refuge wetlands were 95 to 100% ice covered. Some small patches of open water were near water control structures or in canals where there was some flowing water. Bird numbers and species diversity were similar to what would be expected in early January when there is extensive ice cover on the refuge. During milder winters with more open water, numbers of waterfowl can be much higher. For example on the January 4, 2006 survey 72,000 ducks, geese, and swans were recorded. A highlight for this survey was the sighting of a barn owl. Barn owls are essentially year round residents or visitors of the refuge; however sightings are uncommon with most sightings occurring during winter months. A western grebe that was sighted incidentally on January 6, 2016 in Unit 9 near the auto tour route, the day before this official survey, could not be re-located. Sightings of Western grebes in January are quite uncommon.

Tundra swan	503	Ruddy duck	136
Canada goose	5	Pied-billed grebe	50
Mallard	1,011	Great blue heron	18
Northern pintail	6	Black-crowned night heron	3
American green-winged Teal	9	Ring-billed gull	46
Northern shoveler	29	Herring gull	24
Gadwall	7	American coot	31
Canvasback	1	Bald eagle	12
Lesser scaup	1	Northern harrier	24
Common goldeneye	46	Rough-legged hawk	10
Bufflehead	3	American kestrel	3
Common merganser	5	Barn owl	1
Red-breasted merganser	41	Northern shrike	2
Ring-necked duck	2		