

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

San Diego

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird List



*"Nature is not a luxury
but a necessity of the
human spirit."*

~Edward Abbey



Introduction

San Diego NWR

San Diego National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1996 to protect threatened and endangered species including birds such as Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The refuge and other nearby conserved lands include large expanses of coastal sage scrub that support important populations of birds dependent on this habitat type, such as Bell's Sage Sparrow, Coastal Cactus Wren, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. The chaparral, riparian, oak woodlands, and grasslands on the refuge provide habitat for regionally sensitive species such as Golden Eagle, Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, and Grasshopper Sparrow, as well as numerous other resident and migratory birds.

In recognition of its importance to the conservation of the bird community unique to native habitats of the coastal slope of southern California, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge was designated as a "Globally Important Bird Area" by the American Bird Conservancy and the National Audubon Society. Wildlife observation, photography, and hiking are some of the activities that visitors can enjoy at this refuge. Please call the refuge office at (619) 468-9245 ext. 226 for more information, hours, and directions.

Bird List Key

Occurrence

- c - Common. Species seen on nearly every visit at the proper season, usually in good numbers. (>10 per day)
- u - Uncommon. Present, but not certain to be seen. (<10 per day)
- o - Occasional. Species not seen on most visits, even at the proper season, but small numbers can be expected nearly every year with repeated searching.
- r - Rare. Species seen only sporadically, not annually on Refuge.

The current breeding status of many species is uncertain, requiring ongoing surveys.

Seasons

- Sp - Spring, March through May
- S - Summer, June through August
- F - Fall, September through October
- W - Winter, November through February

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe	u	u	u	u
Western Grebe	r			
Pelicans				
American White Pelican	r		r	r
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	u		u	u
Hérons, Bitterns, and Egrets				
Great Blue Heron	o	o	o	o
Great Egret	o	o	o	o
Snowy Egret	o	o	o	o
Green Heron	o	o	o	o
Black-crowned Night-Heron	o	o	o	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
New World Vulture				
Turkey Vulture	o		u	
Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
Canada Goose				o
Cackling Goose				r
American Wigeon				o
Green-winged Teal				o
Gadwall	o		o	o
Mallard	o	o	u	u
Northern Pintail				o
Canvasback				u
Ring-necked Duck	o			u
Bufflehead			u	u
Ruddy Duck			o	o
Kites, Eagles, and Hawks				
Osprey			r	r
White-tailed Kite	u	u	u	u
Bald Eagle				r
Northern Harrier	o	o	u	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk			u	u
Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk	u	u	u	u
Swainson's Hawk	r			
Ferruginous Hawk				r
Red-tailed Hawk	u	u	u	u
Golden Eagle	o	o	o	o
Falcons				
American Kestrel	u	u	u	u
Merlin			r	r
Peregrine Falcon	r	r	r	r
Prairie Falcon			r	r
Pheasants, Turkeys, and Quail				
California Quail	u	u	c	u
Ring-necked Pheasant				r

White-tailed Kite
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Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Plovers				
Killdeer	u	u	u	u
Rails, Coots, and Gallinules				
Sora				r
Common Moorhen	r	r		
American Coot	u		u	u
Gulls				
Ring-billed Gull				o
Western Gull			o	o
Terns				
Caspian Tern	o	o		
Forster's Tern	o	o		
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
Eurasian Collared-Dove	r			
White-winged Dove	r		r	
Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Common-ground Dove	r			
Cuckoos and Roadrunners				
Greater Roadrunner	u	u	u	u
Barn Owls				
Barn Owl	o	o	o	o
Typical Owls				
Western Screech-Owl	o	o	o	o
Great Horned Owl	o	o	o	o
Burrowing Owl	r	r	r	r
Long-eared Owl			r	r
Goatsuckers				
Lesser Nighthawk	r			
Common Poorwill	u	u		
Swifts				
Vaux's Swift	u		u	
White-throated Swift	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Hummingbirds				
Black-chinned Hummingbird	c	c		
Anna's Hummingbird	c	c	c	c
Costa's Hummingbird	u	u	o	o
Rufous Hummingbird	c		u	
Allen's Hummingbird	r			
Calliope Hummingbird	r			
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	u		u	u
Woodpeckers				
Acorn Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
Red-breasted Sapsucker				o
Nuttall's Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
Northern Flicker	u		c	u



Burrowing Owl

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Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o	
Western Wood-Pewee	o	o	u	
Willow Flycatcher	o	r	o	
Hammond's Flycatcher	o		o	
Dusky Flycatcher	r		r	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	c	c	c	
Black Phoebe	c	c	c	c
Say's Phoebe	u	r	c	c
Ash-throated Flycatcher	c	c	u	r
Cassin's Kingbird	c	c	c	c
Western Kingbird	c	c		
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike	o	o	o	o
Vireos				
White-eyed Vireo		r		
Bell's Vireo	c	c	u	
Cassin's Vireo	r			
Hutton's Vireo	u	u	u	u
Warbling Vireo	c		o	
Jays and Crows				
Western Scrub Jay	c	c	c	c
American Crow	c	c	c	c
Common Raven	c	c	c	c
Larks				
Horned Lark	u	u	c	c
Swallows				
Tree Swallow	c	u	u	u
Violet-green Swallow	o			
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c		
Bank Swallow	r			
Cliff Swallow	c	c	c	
Barn Swallow	u		u	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Titmice				
Oak Titmouse	u	u	u	u
Bushtits				
Bushtit	c	c	c	c
Wrens				
Cactus Wren	o	o	o	o
Rock Wren	o	o	o	o
Canyon Wren	r	r	r	r
Bewick's Wren	c	c	c	c
House Wren	c	c	c	c
Marsh Wren	r	r	r	r
Kinglet, Gnatcatcher				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	u	u	u	u
California Gnatcatcher	u	u	u	u
Bluebirds, Thrushes				
Western Bluebird	o	o	u	u
Swainson's Thrush	o	r	o	
Hermit Thrush	c		c	c
American Robin			o	o
Babblers				
Wrentit	c	c	c	c
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
Sage Thrasher			r	o
California Thrasher	c	c	c	c
Starlings				
European Starling	c	c	c	c
Pipits				
American Pipit			o	o
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing			o	u

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Silky Flycatchers				
Phainopepla	c	c	o	o
Wood Warblers				
Orange-crowned Warbler	c	o	c	c
Nashville Warbler	u			
Yellow Warbler	c	c	o	r
Magnolia Warbler	r		r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	o		c	c
Black-throated Gray Warbler	o		o	
Townsend's Warbler	u		u	u
Hermit Warbler	u		o	
Palm Warbler			r	
Black-and-white Warbler	r			
Northern Waterthrush	r		r	
MacGillivray's Warbler			o	
Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	c
Wilson's Warbler	c		u	r
Yellow-breasted Chat	c	c	o	
Tanagers				
Western Tanager	c		o	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sparrows				
Green-tailed Towhee	r			
Spotted Towhee	c	c	c	c
California Towhee	c	c	c	c
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Chipping Sparrow	o		o	
Brewer's Sparrow			o	
Black-chinned Sparrow	c	c	r	
Vesper Sparrow			o	
Lark Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Sage Sparrow	u	u	u	u
Savannah Sparrow	u		c	c
Grasshopper Sparrow	u	u	u	u
Fox Sparrow	r		r	o
Song Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	u
Swamp Sparrow	r		r	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	r		r	o
White-crowned Sparrow	c		c	c
Dark-eyed Junco			u	u
Lapland Longspur				r
Chestnut-collared Longspur				r



Northern Mockingbird
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San Diego National Wildlife Refuge
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San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Website:
<http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/sandiegowr.htm>

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Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD

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Dave Menke/USFWS

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