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## Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District Bird List

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# Rainwater Basin

*Wetland Management  
District*

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*Bird List*



## About the Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District



*This goose,  
designed by J.N.  
"Ding" Darling,  
has become the  
symbol of the  
National Wildlife  
Refuge System*

The Rainwater Basin of south-central Nebraska has attracted millions of migratory birds each spring for generations. During migration, millions of snow geese, Canada geese, white-fronted geese, ducks, and ½-million sandhill cranes use the Rainwater Basin and the adjacent Platte River. The shallow wetland basins and surrounding croplands of the area provide the birds with critical resting and feeding sites during their migration north.

The Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) of the Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District (WMD) are managed as grassland-playa lake ecosystems. The Rainwater Basin WMD staff currently manages 59 WPAs in the Rainwater Basin. Most of the WPAs must undergo extensive restoration to provide quality habitat for the millions of migrating birds. To restore wetlands, WMD staff employ a variety of management techniques such as pumping groundwater, prescribed burning, grazing, filling in pits, removing trees, and clearing non-native plants. These lands, once used for agricultural purposes, are now reseeded to recover the native plant communities.

## About this Bird List

The species listed in this leaflet have all been observed in the WPAs. All species names are in accordance with the *A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition, 1998. For clarity, some of the former names are shown in parentheses.

Nesting species documented in the WPAs are marked with a round bullet (•) in front of the species name. Some species may be seen during the nesting season, but are not marked as nesters in the WPAs. These birds may be seen, but their nests or nesting behavior have not been documented on the WPAs. For

example, frequent nesters in the area, such as northern rough-winged swallows, are not marked as nesters on the WPAs because the WPAs do not provide their preferred nesting habitat.

Please report any additional sightings to the WMD staff.

# **Seasonal Abundance Definitions:**

The definitions for the seasonal categories used in this bird list are listed below. Please note that seasonal abundance codes for some species such as shorebirds may be misleading because their fall migration starts in July or August (Summer season). For example, the Pectoral Sandpiper is coded as ccc\_. The bird is commonly seen in Spring, and in the Summer, when peak migration occurs in mid-August, and in the Fall. It is not seen in Winter.

## *Seasons*

Sp Spring (March - May)  
S Summer (June - August)  
F Fall (September - November)  
W Winter (December - February)

## *Seasonal Abundance*

a abundant - occurring in large numbers  
c common - certain to be seen in suitable habitat  
u uncommon - present, but not certain to be seen  
o occasional - seen only a few times during the season  
r rare - seen at intervals of 2 - 5 years  
h hypothetical - within normal range, but never documented  
x outside normal range, but has been documented

*Female  
Bobolink*  
Bob Hines



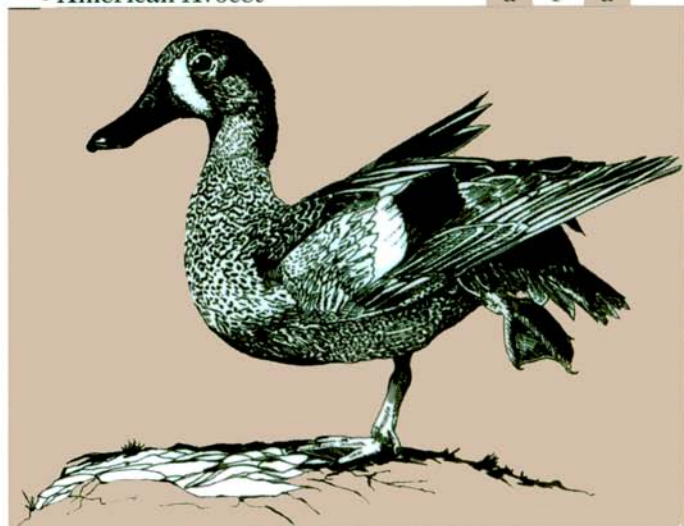


*Pintails*

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Swans, Geese, and Ducks</b>				
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	x	x	x	
Bean Goose	x			
Greater White-fronted Goose	a	r	a	o
Emperor Goose	x			
Snow Goose	a	o	a	o
Ross' Goose	c	r	c	o
• Canada Goose	a	u	a	c
Trumpeter Swan	h	x	h	r
Tundra Swan	o		r	
Wood Duck	c	u	c	
• Gadwall	c	u	c	o
Eurasian Wigeon	x		x	
• American Wigeon	a	o	a	o
American Black Duck	x		x	x
• Mallard	a	c	a	c
• Blue-winged Teal	a	c	a	r
• Cinnamon Teal	u	o	u	
• Northern Shoveler	a	c	a	r
• Northern Pintail	a	u	a	o
Garganey	x			
• Green-winged Teal	a	o	a	o
Canvasback	u		u	
• Redhead	c	u	c	
Ring-necked Duck	c	r	u	
Greater Scaup	u		r	
Lesser Scaup	c	o	c	
White-winged Scoter	x			
Black Scoter	x			
Bufflehead	c		c	
Common Goldeneye	o		u	
Hooded Merganser	u	r	u	
Common Merganser	o		o	o
• Ruddy Duck	c	u	c	
<b>Gallinaceous Birds</b>				
• Ring-necked Pheasant	c	c	c	c
Sharp-tailed Grouse	r	h	r	o
• Greater Prairie-Chicken	o	o	o	u
• Northern Bobwhite	c	c	c	c
<b>Loons</b>				
Common Loon	o		r	
<b>Grebes</b>				
Clark's Grebe	x		r	
• Pied-billed Grebe	c	c	c	
Horned Grebe	u	h	r	
Red-necked Grebe	h		r	
Eared Grebe	c	o	c	
Western Grebe	r		r	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Pelicans</b>				
— American White Pelican	c	o	c	
<b>Cormorants</b>				
— Double-crested Cormorant	c	u	c	
<b>Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets</b>				
— • American Bittern	u	c	u	
— • Least Bittern	o	o	o	
— • Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	r
— Great Egret	o	r	u	
— Snowy Egret	o	u	u	
— Little Blue Heron	r	r	r	
— Tricolored Heron	h	r	r	
— Cattle Egret	u	o	u	
— • Green Heron	u	u	u	
— • Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	o	c	
— Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r	r	r	
<b>Ibises and Spoonbills</b>				
— White Ibis	h	x	x	
— Glossy Ibis	x			
— • White-faced Ibis	u	u	r	
— Roseate Spoonbill		x	x	
<b>New World Vultures</b>				
— Turkey Vulture	c	u	c	
<b>Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles</b>				
— Osprey	o		o	
— White-tailed Kite	x			
— Mississippi Kite	x		x	
— Bald Eagle	c		c	o
— • Northern Harrier	c	u	c	u
— Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	u
— Cooper's Hawk	u		u	r
— Northern Goshawk	r		r	r
— Red-shouldered Hawk		r	r	x
— Broad-winged Hawk	r		r	
— • Swainson's Hawk	c	u	u	r
— • Red-tailed Hawk	c	u	c	u
— Ferruginous Hawk	u	x	u	o
— Rough-legged Hawk	u	h	u	u
— Golden Eagle	o		o	o

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Falcons and Caracaras</b>				
— • American Kestrel	c	c	c	c
— Merlin	u		u	o
— Gyrfalcon				r
— Peregrine Falcon	u		o	r
— Prairie Falcon	o		o	u
<b>Rails</b>				
— Yellow Rail	r		r	
— Black Rail	x	x		
— King Rail	r	r		
— • Virginia Rail	u	u	u	
— • Sora	c	c	c	
— • Common Moorhen	u	u	r	
— • American Coot	a	c	a	r
<b>Cranes</b>				
— • Sandhill Crane	c	r	u	
— Common Crane	x			
— Whooping Crane	o		o	
<b>Plovers</b>				
— Black-bellied Plover	u		u	
— American Golden-Plover	u		u	
— Snowy Plover	r	r		
— Semipalmated Plover	u	u	u	
— Piping Plover	r	h	r	
— • Killdeer	c	c	c	
<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>				
— • Black-necked Stilt	r	r	r	
— • American Avocet	u	r	u	



*Blue-winged Teal*

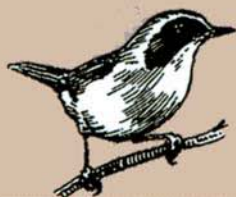
Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Sandpipers and Phalaropes</b>				
Greater Yellowlegs	c	o	c	
Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	
Solitary Sandpiper	c	c	u	
Willet	u	o	u	
Spotted Sandpiper	c	u	c	
• Upland Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Eskimo Curlew	h		h	
Whimbrel	o		r	
Long-billed Curlew	r		r	
Hudsonian Godwit	u		x	
Marbled Godwit	u		r	
Ruddy Turnstone	r		r	
Red Knot	x		r	
Sanderling	o		o	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	u	c	
Western Sandpiper	r	o	o	
Least Sandpiper	c	c	c	
White-rumped Sandpiper	a	o	o	
Baird's Sandpiper	a	c	u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	c	c	c	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			x	
Dunlin	u		u	
Curlew Sandpiper		x		
Stilt Sandpiper	a	c	c	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Ruff	x		x	
Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	r	
Long-billed Dowitcher	a	u	c	
Wilson's Snipe (Common)	c	o	c	
American Woodcock	r		r	
• Wilson's Phalarope	a	o	c	
Red-necked Phalarope	r		r	
Red Phalarope	x	x		
<b>Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, and Terns</b>				
Laughing Gull	x			
Franklin's Gull	a	r	c	
Bonaparte's Gull	r		r	
Mew Gull	r			
Ring-billed Gull	a	c	c	o
Herring Gull	u		u	u
Common Tern	u		u	
Forster's Tern	c	u	c	
Least Tern	r	r	r	
• Black Tern	a	c	a	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
Rock Pigeon	c	c	c	c
Eurasian Collared-Dove	o	o	o	o
White-winged Dove		r		
• Mourning Dove	a	a	a	o
Inca Dove			x	
<b>Cuckoos and Anis</b>				
Black-billed Cuckoo	o	o	o	
• Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	u	u	
<b>Barn Owls</b>				
Barn Owl	o	o	o	o
<b>Typical Owls</b>				
Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	u	u
• Great Horned Owl	c	u	c	u
Snowy Owl				x
• Burrowing Owl	u	u	u	
Long-eared Owl	o	r	o	o
Short-eared Owl	u	r	u	u
Boreal Owl			x	
<b>Nightjars</b>				
• Common Nighthawk	c	c	c	
Chuck-will's-widow		r		
<b>Swifts</b>				
Chimney Swift	a	a	c	
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	o	o	o	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	h	r	r	
Rufous Hummingbird			r	
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
Belted Kingfisher	u	u	u	r
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
Lewis' Woodpecker	r		x	
• Red-headed Woodpecker	c	c	c	o
Red-bellied Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker	c	c	c	r
• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>				
— Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o	
— Eastern Wood-Pewee	o	o	o	
— Willow Flycatcher	u	r	o	
— Least Flycatcher	u		u	
— Hammond's Flycatcher			x	
— Eastern Phoebe	u	u	u	
— Say's Phoebe	u	r	r	
• Great Crested Flycatcher	c	o	c	
• Western Kingbird	c	c	c	
• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	
• Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	r	x	r	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
• Loggerhead Shrike	c	c	c	c
— Northern Shrike			u	u
<b>Vireos</b>				
— White-eyed Vireo	r			
• Bell's Vireo	u	o	u	
— Yellow-throated Vireo	r	x	r	
• Warbling Vireo	c	u	c	
— Philadelphia Vireo	o		o	
— Red-eyed Vireo	u	r	u	
<b>Crows, Jays, and Magpies</b>				
• Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
— Pinyon Jay				x
• Black-billed Magpie	u	u	u	u
• American Crow	a	o	a	c
<b>Larks</b>				
• Horned Lark	a	c	a	a
<b>Swallows</b>				
— Purple Martin	c	u	c	
• Tree Swallow	c	o	c	
— Violet-green Swallow	x			
— Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c	c	
— Bank Swallow	u	u	u	
— Cliff Swallow	c	c	a	
— Barn Swallow	a	a	a	
<b>Titmice and Chickadees</b>				
• Black-capped Chickadee	c	c	c	c
— Tufted Titmouse	x	x	x	
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
— Red-breasted Nuthatch		x		o
— White-breasted Nuthatch	o	o	o	u

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Creepers</b>				
— Brown Creeper		o	o	o
<b>Wrens</b>				
— Carolina Wren	r	o	o	r
— Bewick's Wren	x			
— • House Wren	c	c	c	
— Winter Wren	r		r	o
— • Sedge Wren	r	u	r	
— • Marsh Wren	u	u	u	r
<b>Kinglets</b>				
— Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		u	r
— Ruby-crowned Kinglet	o		o	
<b>Old World Warblers</b>				
— Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	o		o	
<b>Thrushes</b>				
— • Eastern Bluebird	c	u	c	r
— Mountain Bluebird	o		o	r
— Townsend's Solitaire	r		r	o
— Veery	r			
— Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		r	
— Swainson's Thrush	c		u	
— Hermit Thrush	r		r	
— Wood Thrush	r		r	
— • American Robin	a	c	a	c
<b>Mimic Thrushes</b>				
— • Gray Catbird	u	u	u	r
— Northern Mockingbird	u	u	u	
— • Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	r
<b>Starlings</b>				
— • European Starling	a	a	a	c
<b>Wagtails and Pipits</b>				
— American Pipit ( <i>Water</i> )	c		c	r
— Sprague's Pipit	o		o	
<b>Waxwings</b>				
— Bohemian Waxwing				r
— Cedar Waxwing	c	u	c	u

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Wood Warblers</b>				
— Golden-winged Warbler	r			
— Tennessee Warbler	c		c	
— Orange-crowned Warbler	c		c	
— Nashville Warbler	u		u	
— Northern Parula	u		r	
• Yellow Warbler	c	c	c	
— Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
— Magnolia Warbler	u		u	
— Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
— Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	
— Black-throated Green Warbler	o		o	
— Blackburnian Warbler	o		o	
— Yellow-throated Warbler	r		r	
— Pine Warbler	h		r	
— Prairie Warbler	r		r	
— Palm Warbler	o		r	
— Bay-breasted Warbler	o		o	
— Blackpoll Warbler	c		r	
— Black-and-white Warbler	c		u	
— American Redstart	c	o	c	
— Prothonotary Warbler	r		r	
— Ovenbird	u		u	
— Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
— Louisiana Waterthrush	r		h	
— Kentucky Warbler	r		h	
— Connecticut Warbler	r		x	h
— Mourning Warbler	r		h	
— MacGillivray's Warbler	o		r	
• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
— Hooded Warbler	r		r	
— Wilson's Warbler	u		u	
— Canada Warbler	r		r	
— Yellow-breasted Chat	o	o	o	
— Worm-eating Warbler	r			
— Connecticut Warbler	r		x	h
<b>Tanagers</b>				
— Summer Tanager	r		x	
— Scarlet Tanager	o		o	
— Western Tanager			x	



*Common Yellowthroat*  
Bob Hines

Common Bird Name	SP	S	F	W
<b>Sparrows and Towhees</b>				
Green-tailed Towhee	r		r	
Spotted Towhee	u	o	u	
Eastern Towhee	u		u	
American Tree Sparrow	a	o	a	a
• Chipping Sparrow	a	o	a	r
Clay-colored Sparrow	c	h	c	r
Brewer's Sparrow	r		r	
Field Sparrow	c	u	c	r
Vesper Sparrow	c	o	c	x
Lark Sparrow	c	c	c	
• Lark Bunting	o	o	o	
Savannah Sparrow	c		c	h
• Grasshopper Sparrow	c	c	c	
Baird's Sparrow	r		h	
Henslow's Sparrow	r	x	r	
Le Conte's Sparrow	u		c	
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	r		u	
Fox Sparrow	o		o	r
Song Sparrow	c	u	c	u
Lincoln's Sparrow	c		c	
• Swamp Sparrow	u	o	u	
White-throated Sparrow	c	o	u	r
Harris' Sparrow	c	r	c	u
White-crowned Sparrow	c		u	o
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	a
McCown's Longspur	x		x	
Lapland Longspur	a		a	a
Snow Bunting	r		r	o

### Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

• Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u	u	r	
Black-headed Grosbeak	o	r	o	
• Blue Grosbeak	u	u	u	
Lazuli Bunting	x		x	
Indigo Bunting	u	u	u	
Painted Bunting	r		x	
• Dickcissel	c	a	c	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Blackbirds and Orioles</b>				
• Bobolink	c	c	c	
• Red-winged Black Bird	a	c	a	o
• Eastern Meadowlark	o	o	o	o
• Western Meadowlark	a	c	a	c
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	a	o	c	r
Rusty Blackbird	c	o	u	r
• Brewer's Blackbird	c	o	c	o
• Common Grackle	a	a	a	o
• Great-tailed Grackle	c	c	c	r
• Brown-headed Cowbird	a	c	a	r
Orchard Oriole	c	c	c	
• Baltimore Oriole	c	c	c	
<b>Finches</b>				
Pine Grosbeak	x		x	
Purple Finch	o		o	o
• House Finch	c	c	c	c
Red Crossbill		r		o
Common Redpoll	o	r		o
Pine Siskin	u	o	u	u
• American Goldfinch	c	c	c	c
Evening Grosbeak	r		r	r
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
• House Sparrow	a	a	a	a



*Western Meadowlark*

*Red-winged Blackbird*  
Bob Hines



**Notes**

Date

Time

Observers

Weather

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**Rainwater Basin  
Wetland Management District  
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<http://rainwater.fws.gov/>**

**For State transfer relay service  
TTY / Voice: 711**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
<http://www.fws.gov>**

**For Refuge Information  
1 800 / 344 WILD**

**August 2005**

