



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Birds of

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Birding at Salt Plains NWR

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1930 for a breeding ground, feeding area and stopover for migratory birds. The refuge is designated as an Important Bird Area, a site on the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and critical habitat for endangered Whooping Cranes. Since 1930, 315 species of birds have been observed on the 32,197 acre refuge.

About 11,200 acres of the refuge are salt flats. These salt flats are a major nesting site for the Interior Least Tern, Snowy Plover, and American Avocet. Hundreds of thousands shorebirds, wading birds and water birds use the salt flats during spring, summer and fall as a crucial migratory and wintering stopover.

How to use your checklist

Symbols used in this list are defined as follows:

Occurrence

Sp—Spring—period of spring migration (depending on species) from mid-February to early June

S—Summer—June to August

F—Fall—period of fall migration (depending on species) from mid-July to November

W—Winter—December to February

Abundance

A—Abundant: a common and numerous species

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 a season

R—Rare: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

X—Accidental: has been seen only once or twice

* Nests on the refuge

^ Exotic or introduced species

Italicized bird names indicate threatened or endangered species.

Common Name

Swans, Geese, Ducks

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	U	U		
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	C		C	U
___ Snow Goose	U		C	C
___ Ross's Goose	R		R	R
___ Cackling Goose	U		U	U
___ *Canada Goose	A	U	A	A
___ Trumpeter Swan			R	O
___ Tundra Swan	R		R	O
___ *Wood Duck	C	C	C	
___ *Gadwall	A	O	A	C
___ *American Wigeon	A	O	A	C
___ American Black Duck	R	R	R	R
___ *Mallard	A	U	A	A
___ *Blue-winged Teal	A	O	A	U
___ Cinnamon Teal	R	R	R	R
___ *Northern Shoveler	A	O	A	U
___ *Northern Pintail	A	O	A	U
___ Green-winged Teal	A	R	A	U
___ Canvasback	U		U	O
___ Redhead	A	R	U	O
___ Ring-necked Duck	C		U	O
___ Greater Scaup	R		R	
___ Lesser Scaup	C	R	U	O
___ Long-tailed Duck			R	R
___ Bufflehead	C		C	O
___ Common Goldeneye	U		U	C
___ *Hooded Merganser	U	U	U	U
___ Common Merganser	C		C	A
___ Red-breasted Merganser	R		R	R
___ Ruddy Duck	C	R	C	O

Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail

___ ^ Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
___ *Wild Turkey	C	U	C	C

New World Quail

___ *Northern Bobwhite	C	C	C	C
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Loons

___ Common Loon	R		R	R
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Grebes

___ *Pied-billed Grebe	C	O	C	O
___ Horned Grebe	R		R	R
___ *Eared Grebe	U	R	U	
___ Western Grebe	R		R	R

Pelicans

___ American White Pelican	A	U	A	O
___ Brown Pelican	X	X	X	X

Cormorants

___ Neotropic Cormorant	R	R		
___ *Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C	O

Hérons, Bitterns and Allies

___ American Bittern	U	O	U	R
___ *Least Bittern	O	O	O	
___ *Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C
___ *Great Egret	C	U	C	
___ *Snowy Egret	C	C	C	
___ *Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	
___ *Tricolored Heron	R	R		
___ *Cattle Egret	A	A	C	

Common Name

___ *Green Heron	C	U	C	
___ *Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	
___ *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	O	O	O	

Ibises and Spoonbills

___ White Ibis	X	X	X	X
___ *Glossy Ibis	O	O		
___ *White-faced Ibis	C	C	O	
___ White-faced Ibis x Glossy Ibis	O	O		

New World Vultures

___ Black Vulture	X	X	X	X
___ *Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	

Hawks, Kites, and Eagles

___ Osprey	O		O	
___ *Mississippi Kite	C	C	C	
___ *Bald Eagle	C		C	C
___ Northern Harrier	C		C	C
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
___ *Cooper's Hawk	U	O	U	U
___ *Red-shouldered Hawk	C	R	C	C
___ Broad-winged Hawk	R		R	
___ *Swainson's Hawk	C	U	C	
___ *Red-tailed Hawk	C	U	C	C
___ Ferruginous Hawk	R		R	R
___ Rough-legged Hawk	O		O	U
___ Golden Eagle	O		O	O

Caracaras and Falcons

___ *American Kestrel	C	O	C	C
___ Merlin	R		R	R
___ Peregrine Falcon	R	R	R	R
___ Prairie Falcon	O		O	O

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

___ *Black Rail	R	R	R	
___ *King Rail	R	R	R	
___ *Virginia Rail	O		O	O
___ Sora	U		U	
___ *American Coot	C	U	C	C

Cranes

___ Sandhill Crane	A		A	C
___ Whooping Crane	O		U	

Plovers

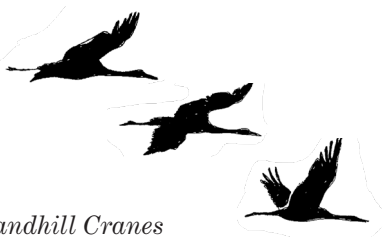
___ Black-bellied Plover	U		U	
___ American Golden-Plover	U		U	
___ *Snowy Plover	A	A	A	
___ Semipalmated Plover	U		U	
___ Piping Plover	O		O	
___ *Killdeer	A	C	C	O
___ Mountain Plover	X	X	X	X

Stilts and Avocets

___ *Black-necked Stilt	O	U	O	
___ *American Avocet	A	A	A	

Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies

___ Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	O		O	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	C	C	C	U
___ Willet	C		C	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	C	O	C	R
___ Upland Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ Whimbrel	R			
___ Long-billed Curlew	O		O	



Sandhill Cranes

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
___Hudsonian Godwit	U			
___Marbled Godwit	O	R		
___Ruddy Turnstone	O	O		
___Red Knot		R		
___Sanderling	O	O		
___Semipalmated Sandpiper	A	C	A	
___Western Sandpiper	A	U	A	
___Least Sandpiper	A	U	A	
___White-rumped Sandpiper	C	U		
___Baird's Sandpiper	A	U	U	
___Pectoral Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___Dunlin	O	O	O	
___Stilt Sandpiper	C	U	C	
___Buff-breasted Sandpiper	R			
___Short-billed Dowitcher	O	O	O	
___Long-billed Dowitcher	C	C	C	
___Wilson's Snipe	U	U	O	
___American Woodcock	R	R	R	
___Wilson's Phalarope	C	C	C	
___Red-necked Phalarope	R	R		
___Red Phalarope		R		
Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
___*Least Tern	C	C	U	
___Caspian Tern	R	R		
___Black Tern	C	U	C	
___Common Tern		O		
___Forster's Tern	U	O	U	
___California Gull		R		
___Thayer's Gull	X	X	X	X
___Lesser Black-backed Gull		R		
___Laughing Gull	X	X	X	X
___Franklin's Gull	A	U	A	O
___Bonaparte's Gull	O	O	O	
___Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C	A
___Herring Gull	U	U	U	
___Glaucous Gull	R		R	
___Sabine's Gull		O		
Skuas and Jaegers				
___Pomarine Jaeger	X	X	X	X
___Long-tailed Jaeger	X	X	X	X
Pigeons and Doves				
___^ Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
___^ Eurasian Collared-Dove	C	C	C	C
___White-winged Dove	O	R	R	R
___*Mourning Dove	C	C	A	U
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Allies				
___*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	C	C	
___Black-billed Cuckoo	R	R		
___*Greater Roadrunner	O	O	O	O
Barn Owls				
___*Barn Owl	O	O	O	O
Typical Owls				
___*Eastern Screech-Owl	O	O	O	O
___*Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C
___Snowy Owl	R		R	
___Burrowing Owl	R	R	R	R
___*Barred Owl	U	U	U	U
___Long-eared Owl	R	R	R	
___Short-eared Owl	R	R	O	
Goatsuckers				
___*Common Nighthawk	C	C	C	
___*Chuck-will's-widow	C	C	O	
Swifts				
___*Chimney Swift	C	C	C	
Hummingbirds				
___Ruby-throated Hummingbird	O	O	O	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Kingfishers				
___*Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	C
Woodpeckers				
___*Red-headed Woodpecker	C	C	C	U
___*Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	R	R	R	
___*Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___*Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
___*Northern Flicker	C	U	C	C
___Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___Olive-sided Flycatcher			R	
___Eastern Wood-Pewee	O	U	O	
___Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	X	X	X	X
___Alder Flycatcher	X	X	X	X
___Willow Flycatcher	R	R		
___Least Flycatcher	U	U	O	
___*Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
___Say's Phoebe	R			
___*Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
___*Western Kingbird	C	C	C	
___*Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
___*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	A	U	
Shrikes				
___*Loggerhead Shrike	C	U	C	C
___Northern Shrike				R
Vireos				
___White-eyed Vireo	O	U	U	
___*Bell's Vireo	U	U	U	
___Yellow-throated Vireo	X	X	X	X
___Blue-headed Vireo	R	R		
___*Warbling Vireo	C	C	C	
___*Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
Crows and Jays				
___*Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
___*American Crow	C	C	C	C
___Fish Crow	X	X	X	X
Larks				
___*Horned Lark	C	U	C	C
Swallows				
___Purple Martin	O	O	O	
___*Tree Swallow	C	U		
___*N. Rough-winged Swallow	A	C	O	
___*Bank Swallow	C	O	C	
___*Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
___*Barn Swallow	A	C	C	
Chickadees and Titmice				
___*Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C
___*Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C
Nuthatches				
___Red-breasted Nuthatch	R	R	R	
___White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	
Creepers				
___Brown Creeper	U	U	U	
Wrens				
___*Carolina Wren	C	C	C	U
___*Bewick's Wren	U	R	U	U
___*House Wren	C	U	C	
___Winter Wren	O	O	O	
___Sedge Wren	R	R		
___Marsh Wren	U	U	O	
Kinglets				
___Golden-crowned Kinglet	O	O	U	
___Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	U	O	
Gnatcatchers				
___*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	A	C	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Thrushes				
___*Eastern Bluebird	C	U	C	U
___Mountain Bluebird				R
___Townsend's Solitaire				R
___Swainson's Thrush	C			
___Hermit Thrush	R	R	R	R
___Wood Thrush	X	X	X	X
___Gray-cheeked Thrush	X	X	X	X
___*American Robin	C	C	C	C
___Veery	X	X	X	X
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
___*Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
___*Northern Mockingbird	U	U	U	O
___Sage Thrasher	X	X	X	X
___*Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	O
Starlings				
___*^ European Starling	C	C	C	C
Pipits				
___American Pipit	O	O	R	
___Sprague's Pipit	R		R	
Waxwings				
___Cedar Waxwing	U	U	U	
Wood-warblers				
___Golden-winged Warbler	X	X	X	X
___Tennessee Warbler	U			
___Orange-crowned Warbler	C	U		
___Nashville Warbler		U		
___Northern Parula	U	U	R	
___*Yellow Warbler	C	U	U	
___Magnolia Warbler	R			
___Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	C	
___Black-throated Green Warbler		R		
___Yellow-throated Warbler	R			
___Blackpoll Warbler	R			
___Black-and-white Warbler	U	R	O	
___American Redstart	O	R		
___*Prothonotary Warbler	U	U		
___Ovenbird	R			
___Northern Waterthrush	R			
___*Louisiana Waterthrush	R	R		
___Mourning Warbler	R			
___*Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
___Wilson's Warbler	R	R		
___Yellow-breasted Chat	U	U		
Tanagers				
___Summer Tanager		R	R	
___Scarlet Tanager	R			
Towhees, Sparrows, and Allies				
___Spotted Towhee	C	C	C	
___Cassin's Sparrow	R			
___American Tree Sparrow	A		A	
___*Chipping Sparrow	C	O	C	
___Clay-colored Sparrow	O	O		
___*Field Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___Vesper Sparrow	C	C		
___*Lark Sparrow	C	C	C	
___Lark Bunting	R		R	
___Savannah Sparrow	U	U	O	
___*Grasshopper Sparrow	C	U	C	
___Henslow Sparrow	R			
___Le Conte's Sparrow	R		O	
___Fox Sparrow	O		O	
___Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
___Lincoln's Sparrow	O	O	O	
___Swamp Sparrow	O	O	O	
___White-throated Sparrow	U	U	U	
___Harris' Sparrow	A	A	A	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
___ White-crowned Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ Dark-eyed Junco	A	A	A	A
___ Lapland Longspur			R	R
___ Smith's Longspur			R	R
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur	R	R	R	R
___ Thick-Billed Longspur	R	R	R	R
___ Snow Bunting	X	X	X	X

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings

___ *Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R			
___ Black-headed Grosbeak	R			
___ *Blue Grosbeak	O	U	O	
___ Lazuli Bunting	R			
___ *Indigo Bunting	C	C	C	
___ *Painted Bunting	U	U	O	
___ *Dickcissel	C	C	C	

Blackbirds

___ Bobolink	R			
___ *Red-winged Blackbird	A	C	A	A
___ *Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	C
___ *Western Meadowlark	U	U	C	C
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	C	R	U	R
___ Rusty Blackbird	R		R	R
___ Brewer's Blackbird	O		O	O
___ *Common Grackle	C	C	C	O
___ Great-tailed Grackle	U	U	U	O
___ *Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	C
___ *Orchard Oriole	C	U	R	
___ Bullock's (+ hybrids)	R	R	R	
___ Baltimore (mostly pure)	C	C	U	

Finches

___ Purple Finch	R		R	R
___ House Finch	U	U	U	U
___ Red Crossbill			R	
___ Pine Siskin	O		O	O
___ *American Goldfinch	C	U	C	C
___ Evening Grosbeak	X	X	X	X

Old World Sparrows

___ * ^ House Sparrow	C	C	C	C
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If you should find an unlisted or rare species during your visit, please contact the Refuge staff and provide a description. We welcome visitor wildlife reports to help augment our records.

For Additional Information

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge

71189 Harper Rd.

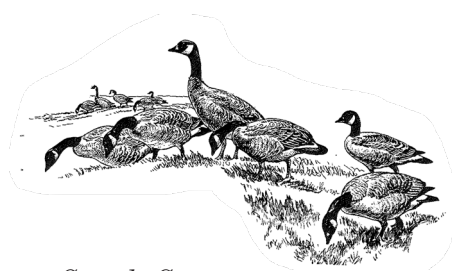
Jet, OK 73749

580/626-4794 Office

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/salt_plains/

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Bird Illustrations by Robert J. Savannah



Canada Geese



Whooping Crane