

Some of the best songbird migrant viewing in the state can be found around the Refuge Headquarters. May is an especially good time to view migrants.

Camas National Wildlife Refuge, comprising 10,578 acres, is located in southeast Idaho, 36 miles north of Idaho Falls at an elevation of about 4,800 feet. The refuge was established in 1937 primarily as a breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. The habitat is managed to benefit nesting waterfowl, and to provide resting and feeding habitat for spring and fall migrating ducks, geese, and other waterfowl.

Over 300 species of birds and 30 species of butterflies have been identified on the refuge. The abundance of species varies by the seasons, as you will see by the following list. Annual precipitation amounts can vastly affect the quantity of wetlands available for waterfowl and wetland-dependent species from season to season, and year to year.

Abbreviations and Symbols

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

Abundance Symbols

- a - abundant - a common species which is very numerous
- 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 - known to be present, but not every year
- * - birds known to have nested on the refuge

Accidental sightings (birds seen five times or less on the refuge) are listed at the end of the list.

Waterfowl

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Greater White-fronted Goose	r		r	
Snow Goose	c	r	r	
Ross's Goose	c	r	r	
*Canada Goose	a	a	a	o
*Trumpeter Swan	c	u	u	
Tundra Swan	c		u	
*Wood Duck	o	r	r	
*Gadwall	a	a	a	
*American Wigeon	c	c	c	
Eurasian Wigeon	r			
*Mallard	a	a	a	o
*Blue-winged Teal	u	c	o	
*Cinnamon Teal	c	c	u	
*Northern Shoveler	c	c	c	
*Northern Pintail	c	c	c	
*Green-winged Teal	c	u	c	
*Canvasback	c	u	c	
*Redhead	c	c	c	
*Ring-necked Duck	u	o	o	
Greater Scaup	r		o	
*Lesser Scaup	c	c	c	
Bufflehead	c	o	u	
Common Goldeneye	c	o	c	
Barrow's Goldeneye	r		r	
Hooded Merganser	u		o	
Common Merganser	u	r	o	
Red-breasted Merganser	o		o	
*Ruddy Duck	a	a	a	



Canvasback hen and drake
Tom Kelley

Gallinaceous Birds

*Gray Partridge	u	u	u	u
*Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	c	c
*Greater Sage-Grouse	o	o	u	u

Loons

Common Loon	o	r	o	
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Grebes

*Pied-billed Grebe	u	u	u	
Horned Grebe	o		o	
Red-necked Grebe	r		r	
*Eared Grebe	c	c	c	
*Western Grebe	u	u	u	
*Clark's Grebe	o	o	o	

Pelicans and Cormorants

American White Pelican	u	u	u	
*Double-crested Cormorant	u	o	u	

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets

*American Bittern	o	o	o	
*Great Blue Heron	u	u	u	
*Great Egret	o	o	o	
*Snowy Egret	u	u	u	
*Cattle Egret	r	r	r	
*Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	

Ibises

*White-Faced Ibis	c	u	u	
Glossy Ibis	r	r		

Vultures

Turkey Vulture	u	o	u	
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Osprey, Eagles and Hawks

Osprey	o	r	o	
Bald Eagle	u	o	u	c
*Northern Harrier	c	c	c	o
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o	o	u	r
Cooper's Hawk	o	o	u	r
Northern Goshawk	r		r	r
Broad-winged Hawk	r	r	r	
*Swainson's Hawk	c	c	c	



Swainson's Hawk
Paul Kerris

*Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	u
*Ferruginous Hawk	u	u	o	
Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	c
Golden Eagle	o	o	o	o

Falcons

*American Kestrel	c	c	c	o
Merlin	o	r	o	
*Peregrine Falcon	o	o	o	
Prairie Falcon	o	o	o	
Gyrfalcon			r	r

Coots, Rails and Cranes

*Virginia Rail	u	u	u	
*Sora	u	u	u	
*American Coot	a	a	a	
*Sandhill Crane	c	c	c	

Shorebirds

Black-bellied Plover	o	r	o	
American Golden-plover			r	
Semipalmated Plover	o	r	o	
*Killdeer	c	c	c	r
*Black-necked Stilt	u	u	r	
*American Avocet	u	c	o	
Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	u	
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	
Solitary Sandpiper	u	o	o	
*Willet	c	c	u	

Shorebirds continued next page

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Wood Warblers <i>continued</i>				
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	u	a	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	o	o	o	
Townsend's Warbler	u	o	u	
Blackpoll Warbler	r	r	o	
Black-and-white Warbler	r	r	r	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
American Redstart	u	o	o	
Ovenbird	o	o		
Northern Waterthrush	o	o	u	
MacGillivray's Warbler	c	u	c	
*Common Yellowthroat	c	c	u	
Wilson's Warbler	c	u	a	
Yellow-breasted Chat	o	o	o	

Tanagers

Summer Tanager	r	r		
Western Tanager	c	u	u	

Towhees and Sparrows

Green-tailed Towhee	o	r	o	
Spotted Towhee	o		o	
American Tree Sparrow	o		o	o
Chipping Sparrow	u	u	c	
Clay-colored Sparrow	r			
*Brewer's Sparrow	u	c	u	
Lark Bunting	r			
*Vesper Sparrow	c	c	u	
*Lark Sparrow	u	u	u	
*Sage Sparrow	o	o	o	
*Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c	o
*Grasshopper Sparrow	u	u	o	
Fox Sparrow	r		r	
*Song Sparrow	c	c	c	o
Lincoln's Sparrow	u	o	u	
Harris's Sparrow		r		
White-throated Sparrow	r		o	
White-crowned Sparrow	c	o	c	
Dark-eyed Junco	u	r	c	o
Lapland Longspur			r	
Snow Bunting	r		r	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Grosbeaks and Buntings				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r	r	r	
*Black-headed Grosbeak	c	c	u	
Indigo Bunting	r	r	r	
*Lazuli Bunting	u	u	u	

Blackbirds, Meadowlarks and Orioles

*Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	a	u
*Western Meadowlark	c	c	c	r
*Yellow-headed Blackbird	a	a	c	
*Brewer's Blackbird	a	a	u	
*Brown-headed Cowbird	a	a	u	
*Bullock's Oriole	c	c	r	
Common Grackle	r	r	r	

Finches

Cassin's Finch	o	r	o	
Common Redpoll				r
*House Finch	o	o	o	o
Pine Siskin	u	o	u	r
*American Goldfinch	c	c	u	u
Evening Grosbeak	r	r	r	r

Old World Sparrows

*House Sparrow	u	u	u	u
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Bald Eagle
Tom Kelley

Accidentals

The following birds have been seen five times or less on the refuge and are considered accidental. Date of sighting is in ().

Cackling Goose (1960)
American Black Duck (2006)
Harlequin Duck
White-winged Scoter
Chukar
Sharp-tailed Grouse
California Quail (1992)
Common Moorhen
Least Bittern
Green Heron
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Hudsonian Godwit (1961)
Ruddy Turnstone
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Arctic Tern
Band-tailed Pigeon
Black-billed Cuckoo
Boreal Owl
Black Swift
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Eastern Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Tropical Kingbird
Bell's Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Gray Jay
Purple Martin
Canyon Wren (2006)
American Dipper
Western Bluebird
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Wood Thrush
Golden-winged Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Hermit Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler

Most of the neotropical accidental species found at the refuge have been discovered within the past decade as the area became popular for birding.



Great Blue Heron
Tom Kelley

Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Canada Warbler (2008)
Scarlet Tanager (2006)
Eastern Towhee
American Tree Sparrow (1973)
Swamp Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow (2007)
McCown's Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Blue Grosbeak (2006)
Bobolink
Rusty Blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Pine Grosbeak
Purple Finch
Red Crossbill
Lesser Goldfinch