

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Quivira

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird List

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge
1434 NE 80th Street
Stafford, KS 67578-9532
620 / 486 2393
quivira@fws.gov
<http://quivira.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

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About the Refuge



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

Seasonal Highlights

Fall Flights and Winter Visitors

Spring Staging

Spring and Summer Residents

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located in south-central Kansas within the transition zone of the Great Plains. In this zone, the relatively lush vegetation of the eastern prairie blends with the more arid grasslands of the western prairie. The blend of varied plant communities and the presence of the Big and Little Salt Marshes, major water features on the Refuge, attract birds common to both eastern and western North America. Over 300 species of birds have been observed in the marshes, grasslands, farmlands, and low sandhills of Quivira NWR.

From September to December, up to 800,000 Canada geese and ducks pass through Quivira NWR on their way to wintering grounds along the Gulf Coast and in Mexico. Other migratory birds, such as sandhill cranes and shorebirds, can also be seen. Endangered whooping cranes may make a brief visit as they move along the Central Flyway. Both bald and golden eagles winter on Quivira NWR from November until March.

During March and April, Quivira NWR becomes a staging area for over 200,000 ducks and geese. Shorebirds, American white pelicans, gulls, and other migrants can also be seen. The majority of these birds stop here on their way to traditional nesting grounds in the prairie pothole regions of north-central United States and Canada.

Snowy plovers, American avocets, black-necked stilts, and white-faced ibis are some of the more common nesting species found on the Refuge. A colony of endangered interior least terns use the salt flats on the north end of the Quivira NWR as nesting habitat. Swainson's hawks and Mississippi kites are common during the summer months, while northern harriers, American kestrels, and red-tailed hawks are commonly seen

throughout the year. Look for ring-necked pheasants and bobwhite quail in the grasslands and grain fields. Wild turkey can be seen along the edge of tree groves and shelter belts where they often look for food and shelter.

Watching Wildlife

Spring and fall are the best seasons to visit Quivira NWR since wildlife, especially waterfowl, is abundant and more easily viewed during these times. Try to schedule your visit early or late in the day when wildlife is most active and more frequently seen. Take a drive through the Refuge and along its boundaries; the best viewing is along the scenic tour route and the Wildlife Drive. See the Refuge general information leaflet for a map and more information.

About this Checklist

This list of 311 birds follows the format of the Seventh American Ornithologists' Union, 1998. Checklist of North American Birds. 7th ed., 48th supplement (2007). Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, D.C. Accidental species appear at the end of the checklist. Since most birds are migratory, their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are coded as follows:

Seasons

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

Seasonal Abundance

a abundant – a common species which is numerous
c common – a species certain to be seen in suitable habitat
u uncommon – a species which is present, but not certain to be seen
o occasional – a species seen only a few times during the season
r rare – a species seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

Other Codes

- birds that nest on the Refuge
- Bird names in *italics* are listed as endangered species in the United States.

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Swans, Geese, and Ducks

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck		r		
Greater White-fronted Goose	c	r	a	a
Snow Goose	c		u	c
Ross's Goose	o		u	u
Brant	r		r	r
• Canada goose	c	c	a	a
Trumpeter Swan			r	r
Tundra Swan	o		o	r
• Wood Duck	c	u	u	o
• Gadwall	a	u	c	c
• American Wigeon	a	u	c	c
American Black Duck	r		r	r
• Mallard	a	c	a	a
Mottled Duck	r	r		
• Blue-winged Teal	a	c	a	
• Cinnamon Teal	u	o	o	o
• Northern Shoveler	a	u	a	c
• Northern Pintail	a	u	c	a
• Green-winged Teal	a	o	a	c
• Canvasback	c	o	c	c
• Redhead	a	c	c	a
Ring-necked Duck	c	r	c	u
Greater Scaup	o			o
• Lesser Scaup	c	o	c	c
Long-tailed Duck (<i>formerly Oldsquaw</i>)	r		o	r
Bufflehead	c		c	c
Common Goldeneye	c	r	c	c
• Hooded Merganser	u	o	u	o
Common Merganser	u			c
Red-breasted Merganser	r	r	o	
• Ruddy Duck	a	c	a	u

Gallinaceous Birds

• Ring-necked Pheasant (<i>Introduced</i>)	c	c	c	c
• Greater Prairie-Chicken	r	r	r	r
• Wild Turkey	c	c	c	c
• Northern Bobwhite	c	c	c	c

Loons

Common Loon	o	r	o	r
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Grebes

• Pied-billed Grebe	c	c	c	o
Horned Grebe	u		u	o
• Eared Grebe	c	u	c	r
Western Grebe	r	r	o	o

Pelicans

American White Pelican	a	a	a	o
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Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Cormorants

Neotropic Cormorant	o	o		
• Double-crested Cormorant	a	c	a	u

Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets

• American Bittern	u	u	u	o
• Least Bittern	o	u	o	
• Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	u
• Great Egret	c	c	c	
• Snowy Egret	c	c	c	
• Little Blue Heron	c	c	u	
Tricolored Heron	r	r		
• Cattle Egret	a	a	c	
• Green Heron	u	u	o	
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	
• Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	u	u	u	

Ibises and Spoonbills

White Ibis	r	r	r	
Glossy Ibis	r	r	r	
• White-faced Ibis	c	c	c	

New World Vultures

Turkey Vulture	c	u	u	
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Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles

Osprey	o	r	o	
• Mississippi Kite	u	u		
Bald Eagle	u		u	u
• Northern Harrier	c	o	c	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		o	u
• Cooper's Hawk	u	o	u	u
Northern Goshawk			r	r
Red-shouldered Hawk			r	
Broad-winged Hawk			r	
• Swainson's Hawk	c	c	u	
• Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk	o		o	o
Rough-legged Hawk	u			u
Golden Eagle	o		o	o

Falcons and Caracaras

• American Kestrel	c	u	c	u
Merlin	o	r	o	o
<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>	o	o	o	o
Prairie Falcon	o	r	o	o

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Rails

• Black Rail	u	u		
• King Rail	u	u	o	
• Virginia Rail	c	c	o	
• Sora	u	u	o	
• Common Moorhen	o	u	o	
• American Coot	a	c	a	u

Cranes

Sandhill Crane	a		a	o
<i>Whooping Crane</i>	o		o	r

Plovers

Black-bellied Plover	u	u	u	r
American Golden-Plover	u	o	o	
• Snowy Plover	c	c	c	
Semipalmated Plover	c	c	u	
<i>Piping Plover</i>	u	o	o	
• Killdeer	c	c	c	o
Mountain Plover	r		r	

Stilts and Avocets

• Black-necked Stilt	c	c	u	
• American Avocet	c	c	c	

Sandpipers and Phalaropes

Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	c	o
Willet	u	u	u	
Lesser Yellowlegs	a	c	a	r
• Upland Sandpiper	c	u	u	
Whimbrel	o	o	o	
Long-billed Curlew	o	o	o	
Hudsonian Godwit	u	r		
Marbled Godwit	u	u	u	
Ruddy Turnstone	o	o	o	
Red Knot	o	o	o	
Sanderling	c	o	c	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	c	a	
Western Sandpiper	c	c	c	
Least Sandpiper	a	c	a	
White-rumped Sandpiper	a	a	o	
Baird's Sandpiper	a	c	a	
Pectoral Sandpiper	c	c	c	
Dunlin	u	o	u	r
Stilt Sandpiper	a	c	a	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	o	r	o	
Ruff	r	r		
Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	o	
Long-billed Dowitcher	c	c	c	
Common Snipe	u	o	u	
American Woodcock	r		r	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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• Wilson's Phalarope	a	c	a	
Red-necked Phalarope	o	r	o	
Red Phalarope	r		r	

Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, and Terns

Laughing Gull	r	o		
Franklin's Gull	a	u	a	
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	u
Herring Gull	o	m	o	o
Sabine's Gull		r	r	
• <i>Least Tern</i>	u	u	o	
Caspian Tern	r	o	r	
• Black Tern	c	c	u	
Common Tern	o	o	o	
• Forster's Tern	c	c	u	
Parasitic Jaeger		r	r	

Pigeons and Doves

• Rock Dove (<i>Introduced</i>)	u	u	u	u
• Mourning Dove	a	a	a	o

Cuckoos and Anis

Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r		
• Yellow-billed Cuckoo	o	u	r	

Typical Owls

• Eastern Screech-Owl	u	o	o	o
• Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
Snowy Owl			r	r
• Burrowing Owl	o	o		
• Long-eared Owl	r	r	r	o
Short-eared Owl	r		r	r

Nightjars

• Common Nighthawk	u	c	u	
Common Poorwill	o	o		
• Chuck-will's-widow	o	o		

Swifts

• Chimney Swift	u	u	u	
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Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird		r		
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Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher	u	u	u	o
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Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Woodpeckers				
• Red-headed Woodpecker	c	a	u	
• Red-bellied Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
Tyrant Flycatchers				
— Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o	
• Eastern Wood-Pewee	u	u		
— Willow Flycatcher	o		o	
— Least Flycatcher	u		u	
• Eastern Phoebe	u	u		
— Say's Phoebe	o		o	
• Great Crested Flycatcher	u	u		
• Western Kingbird	c	c	o	
• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	o	
• Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	u	u		
Shrikes				
*Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	o
— Northern Shrike	r		o	o
Vireos				
• Bell's Vireo	u	u		
• Warbling Vireo	u	u		
— Red-eyed Vireo	o	o	r	
Crows, Jays, and Magpies				
• Blue Jay	c	u	c	u
• Black-billed Magpie	o	o	o	o
— American Crow	c	u	c	u
Larks				
• Horned Lark	c	u	u	c
Swallows				
• Purple Martin	o	o		
• Tree Swallow	u	o	o	
• Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	o	u	
• Bank Swallow	c	a	o	
• Cliff Swallow	a	a	o	
• Barn Swallow	a	a	c	
Titmice and Chickadees				
• Black-capped Chickadee	c	u	u	c
— Tufted Titmouse			o	o
Nuthatches				
• White-breasted Nuthatch	u	o	o	o

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Creepers				
— Brown Creeper			o	o
Wrens				
— Carolina Wren	o			o
• Bewick's Wren	o	o		
• House Wren	c	c	u	
— Sedge Wren	o		o	
— Marsh Wren	u		u	u
Kinglets				
— Golden-crowned Kinglet	o			o
— Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	o
Old World Warblers				
• Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	u	u	r	
Thrushes				
• Eastern Bluebird	u	u	u	o
— Mountain Bluebird				r
— Townsend's Solitaire	r			o
— Swainson's Thrush	o		o	
— Wood Thrush	r			
• American Robin	c	c	c	u
Mimic Thrushes				
• Gray Catbird	c	u	o	
• Northern Mockingbird	u	u	u	o
• Brown Thrasher	c	c	o	r
Starlings				
• European Starling	c	c	c	c
Wagtails and Pipits				
— American (Water) Pipit	u		u	
Waxwings				
— Cedar Waxwing	r	o	o	o
Wood Warblers				
— Tennessee Warbler	r			
— Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	
— Nashville Warbler	o		o	
— Yellow Warbler	u	r		
— Yellow-rumped Warbler	u	r	u	
— Palm Warbler	o			
— Blackpoll Warbler	r			
— American Redstart	o		o	
— Northern Waterthrush	o			
• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	u	o

(Wood Warblers continued on next page)

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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(Wood Warblers continued from previous page)

Wilson's Warbler	o		o	
• Yellow-breasted Chat	o	r	r	

Sparrows and Towhees

Spotted Towhee	u		c	u
American Tree Sparrow	u		c	a
Chipping Sparrow	c	r	c	
Clay-colored Sparrow	c		o	
• Field Sparrow	c	u	u	u
Vesper Sparrow	u	r	o	r
• Lark Sparrow	c	o	o	
Lark Bunting	o	r		
Savannah Sparrow	u	r	u	o
• Grasshopper Sparrow	u	u	o	
Le Conte's Sparrow	o		o	r
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	o		o	
Fox Sparrow	o		o	
Song Sparrow	c		c	u
Lincoln's Sparrow	o		u	
Swamp Sparrow	u		u	u
White-throated Sparrow	u		u	o
Harris's Sparrow	c	r	c	c
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	o
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
Lapland Longspur	r		o	u
Chestnut-collared Longspur	r			r

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

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

Blackbirds and Orioles

• Bobolink	u	u		
• Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	a	a
• Eastern Meadowlark	c	c	c	c
• Western Meadowlark	c	c	u	c
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	a	a	c	r
Brewer's Blackbird	o	o	o	o
• Common Grackle	c	c	c	o
• Great-tailed Grackle	c	c	c	r
• Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	c
• Orchard Oriole	u	u	o	
• Baltimore Oriole	c	c	r	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Finches

• House Finch	o	o	o	o
Pine Siskin	o		o	u
• American Goldfinch	c	o	u	c

Old World Sparrows

• House Sparrow	c	u	u	u
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Accidentals

___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	___	Winter Wren
___ Surf Scoter	___	Veery
___ Black Scoter	___	Gray-cheeked Thrush
___ Barrow's Goldeneye	___	Sprague's Pipit
___ Clark's Grebe	___	Bohemian Waxwing
___ Brown Pelican	___	Golden-winged Warbler
___ Greater Flamingo	___	Magnolia Warbler
___ Reddish Egret	___	Blackburnian Warbler
___ Roseate Spoonbill	___	Prothonotary Warbler
___ Wood Stork	___	Worm-eating Warbler
___ Curlew Sandpiper	___	Ovenbird
___ Black-legged Kittiwake	___	Mourning Warbler
___ Barn Owl	___	Canada Warbler
___ Barred Owl	___	Summer Tanager
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl	___	Henslow's Sparrow
___ Whip-poor-will	___	McCown's Longspur
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	___	Smith's Longspur
___ Pileated Woodpecker	___	Snow Bunting
___ Yellow-Throated Vireo	___	Painted Bunting
___ Philadelphia Vireo	___	Rusty Blackbird
___ Western Scrub Jay	___	Bullock's Oriole
___ Violet-green Swallow	___	Purple Finch
___ Carolina Chickadee	___	Common Redpoll
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	___	Evening Grosbeak
___ Rock Wren	___	

Accessibility

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