

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Salt Plains

*National Wildlife Refuge*

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*Birds*





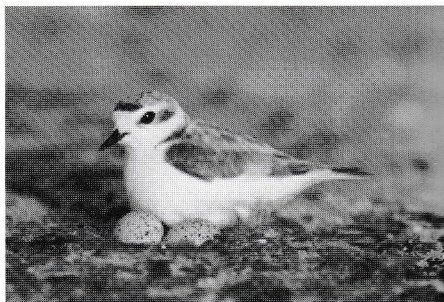
**Birding at  
Salt Plains  
National  
Wildlife  
Refuge**

*Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge*, located in north-central Oklahoma in Alfalfa County, was established in 1930 as a breeding ground and feeding area for migratory birds, primarily waterfowl.

Of the 32,030 acres encompassed by the Refuge, approximately 11,000 acres are salt flats, 10,000 acres impoundment, and 11,000 acres upland. The uplands, predominantly native grasslands with a substantial acreage of brushlands, woodlands, and invading salt cedar. This includes 1,200 acres of crop fields planted to wheat and milo for waterfowl. In addition, and as a part of the waterfowl management program, a system of small fresh water ponds and marshes has been constructed. This diversity of habitat, created through management and protection accounts for the abundance and variety of birds found on Salt Plains.

This list contains 305 species which have been observed on the refuge since 1930. Species are listed in accordance with the seventh edition (1998) A.O.U. checklist.

You are requested to report sightings of birds not on our check-list or if listed as rare or accidental. Sightings may be reported to the Refuge Manager, Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Rt. 1, Box 76, Jet, OK 73749.



*Snowy Plover*  
Photograph by  
Tom J. Ulrich

**Occurrence**

Symbols used in this list are defined as follows:

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

**Abundance**

- A Abundant  
A common species that is very numerous.  
C Common  
Certain to be seen in suitable habitats.  
U Uncommon  
Present, not certain to be seen.  
O Occasional  
Seen few times during the season  
R Rare  
Unusual, 1 to 5 years.

\* Nesting Species

*Italics = Federal Threatened or  
Endangered Status*

*Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge.*  
Photograph by Rod Krey



Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Loons</b>				
___ Common Loon	r		r	r
<b>Grebes</b>				
___ *Pied-billed Grebe	c	o	c	o
___ Horned Grebe	r		r	r
___ *Eared Grebe	u	r	u	
___ Western Grebe	r		r	r
<b>Pelicans</b>				
___ American White Pelican	a	u	a	o
___ Brown Pelican	accidental			
<b>Cormorants</b>				
___ *Double-crested Cormorant	c	u	c	
<b>Darters</b>				
___ Anhinga	accidental			
<b>Frigatebirds</b>				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird	accidental			
<b>Hérons, Bitterns, and Allies</b>				
___ 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	o	o		
___ *Cattle Egret	a	a	c	
___ *Green Heron	c	u	c	
___ *Black-crowned Night-Heron*	u	u	u	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	o	o	o	
<b>Ibises and Spoonbills</b>				
___ White Ibis	accidental			
___ *White-faced Ibis	c	c	o	
___ Roseate Spoonbill	accidental			
<b>Storks</b>				
___ Wood Stork	accidental			
<b>American Vultures</b>				
___ Black Vulture	accidental			
___ *Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	
<b>Ducks, Geese, and Swans</b>				
___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck	accidental			
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	c		c	u
___ Snow Goose	u		c	c
___ Ross' Goose	r		r	r
___ *Canada Goose	a	u	a	a
___ Brant	accidental			
___ Barnacle Goose	accidental			
___ Trumpeter Swan	accidental			
___ Tundra Swan	r		r	o
___ *Wood Duck	c	c	c	
___ *Gadwall	a	o	a	c
___ *American Wigeon	a	o	a	c

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Ducks, Geese, and Swans, cont.</b>				
___ 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
___ Oldsquaw			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
<b>Hawks, Kites, and Eagles</b>				
___ Osprey	o		o	
___ *Mississippi Kite	c	c	c	
___ <i>Bald Eagle</i>	c		c	c
___ Northern Harrier	c		c	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
___ *Cooper's Hawk	u	o	u	u
___ Northern Goshawk			r	r
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	r	r	r	r
___ Broad-winged Hawk	r		r	
___ *Swainson's Hawk	c	u	c	r
___ *Red-tailed Hawk	c	u	c	c
___ Ferruginous Hawk	r		r	r
___ Rough-legged Hawk	o		o	u
___ Golden Eagle	o		o	o
<b>Caracaras and Falcons</b>				
___ Crested Caracara	accidental			
___ *American Kestrel	c	o	c	c
___ Merlin	r		r	r
___ Peregrine Falcon	r	r	r	r
___ Prairie Falcon	o	r	o	o
<b>Pheasants, Grouse, and Turkeys</b>				
___ *Ring-necked Pheasant	c	c	c	c
___ *Wild Turkey	a	u	a	a
<b>New World Quail</b>				
___ *Northern Bobwhite	c	c	c	c
<b>Rails, Gallinules, and Coots</b>				
___ *Black Rail	r	r	r	
___ *King Rail	u	o	u	
___ *Virginia Rail	o	r	o	



Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Rails, Gallinules, and Coots, Cont.</b>				
___ Sora	u	r	u	
___ *Common Moorhen	r	r	r	
___ *American Coot	a	u	a	u
<b>Cranes</b>				
___ Sandhill Crane	a		a	r
___ Whooping Crane	r		o	
<b>Plovers</b>				
___ Black-bellied Plover	u	o	u	
___ American Golden-Plover	o		r	
___ *Snowy Plover	a	a	a	
___ Semipalmated Plover	u		u	
___ Piping Plover	r			
___ *Killdeer	c	c	c	o
___ Mountain Plover		accidental		
<b>Oystercatchers</b>				
___ American Oystercatcher		accidental		
<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>				
___ *Black-necked Stilt	r	u	r	
___ *American Avocet	a	a	a	
<b>Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies</b>				
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	c	r
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	o	c	r
___ Solitary Sandpiper	o	o	o	
___ Willet	c	c	c	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	c	c	
___ Upland Sandpiper	u	u	u	
___ Whimbrel	r		r	
___ Long-billed Curlew	o		o	
___ Hudsonian Godwit	u	r	r	
___ Marbled Godwit	o	r	r	
___ Ruddy Turnstone	o		o	
___ Red Knot		accidental		
___ Sanderling	o		o	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	c	a	
___ Western Sandpiper	a	u	a	
___ Least Sandpiper	a	u	a	
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	c	u	r	
___ Baird's Sandpiper	a	u	u	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	u	u	u	
___ Dunlin	o		o	
___ Stilt Sandpiper	c	u	c	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r			
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	c	c	c	
___ Common Snipe	u		u	o
___ American Woodcock	r		r	r
___ Wilson's Phalarope	c	c	c	
___ Red-necked Phalarope	r	r	r	

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers</b>				
___ Parasitic Jaeger		accidental		
___ Laughing Gull		accidental		
___ Franklin's Gull	a	u	a	
___ Bonaparte's Gull	r		r	r
___ Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	a
___ Herring Gull	u	o	u	u
___ Glaucous Gull	r			r
___ Black-legged Kittiwake		accidental		
___ Caspian Tern	r	r	r	
___ Common Tern	o	o	o	
___ Roseate Tern		hypothetical		
___ Forster's Tern	u	o	u	
___ *Least Tern	c	c	c	
___ Black Tern	c	u	c	
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
___ Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
___ *Mourning Dove	c	c	a	r
<b>Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Allies</b>				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r		
___ *Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	c	c	
___ *Greater Roadrunner	o	o	o	o
<b>Barn Owls</b>				
___ *Barn Owl	o	o	o	o
<b>Typical Owls</b>				
___ *Eastern Screech-Owl	o	o	o	o
___ *Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Owl	r			r
___ Burrowing Owl	r	r	r	
___ *Barred Owl	u	u	u	u
___ Long-eared Owl	r		r	r
___ Short-eared Owl	r		r	o
<b>Goatsuckers</b>				
___ *Common Nighthawk	c	c	c	
___ *Chuck-will's-widow	c	c	o	
<b>Swifts</b>				
___ *Chimney Swift	c	c	c	
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	o	o	o	
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
___ *Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
___ *Red-headed Woodpecker	c	c	c	r
___ *Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	r		r	r
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker		accidental		
___ *Downy Woodpecker	c	u	c	c
___ *Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ *Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
___ Pileated Woodpecker	r	r	r	r

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher			r	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	o	u	o	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	o			
___ Least Flycatcher	u			
___ *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	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
___ *Loggerhead Shrike	c	u	c	c
___ Northern Shrike				r
<b>Vireos</b>				
___ White-eyed Vireo	o	r	r	
___ *Bell's Vireo	c	c	c	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	r			
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	accidental			
___ *Warbling Vireo	c	c	c	
___ Philadelphia Vireo	r			
___ *Red-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	
<b>Crows and Jays</b>				
___ *Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
___ *American Crow	c	c	c	c
<b>Larks</b>				
___ *Horned Lark	c	o	c	c
<b>Swallows</b>				
___ Purple Martin	o	o	o	
___ Tree Swallow	c		u	
___ *No. Rough-winged Swallow	a	o	c	
___ *Bank Swallow	c	o	c	
___ *Cliff Swallow	c	u	c	
___ *Barn Swallow	a	c	c	
<b>Chickadees and Titmice</b>				
___ *Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c
___ *Tufted Titmouse	c	c	c	c
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	r		r	r
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	r		r	r
<b>Creepers</b>				
___ Brown Creeper	u		u	u
<b>Wrens</b>				
___ Rock Wren			r	
___ *Carolina Wren	c	c	c	u
___ *Bewick's Wren	u	u	u	u
___ *House Wren	c	u	c	r
___ Winter Wren	o		o	o
___ Sedge Wren	u		u	o
___ Marsh Wren	u		u	o

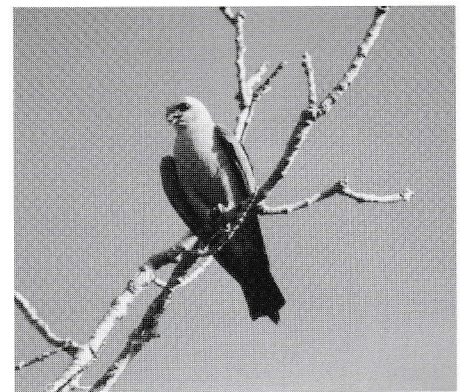
Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Kinglets</b>				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	o		o	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	o
<b>Gnatcatchers</b>				
___ *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	a	c	
<b>Thrushes</b>				
___ *Eastern Bluebird	c	u	c	u
___ Mountain Bluebird	r			
___ Townsend's Solitaire				r
___ Swainson's Thrush	c		o	
___ Hermit Thrush	r			r
___ Wood Thrush	r	r		
___ *American Robin	c	c	c	c
<b>Mockingbirds and Thrashers</b>				
___ *Gray Catbird	c	c	c	r
___ *Northern Mockingbird	u	u	u	o
___ Sage Thrasher				r
___ *Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	u
<b>Starlings</b>				
___ *European Starling	c	c	c	c
<b>Pipits</b>				
___ American Pipit	r		o	r
___ Sprague's Pipit	r			
<b>Waxwings</b>				
___ Bohemian Waxwing	accidental			
___ Cedar Waxwing	u		u	u
<b>Wood-warblers</b>				
___ Golden-winged Warbler	accidental			
___ Tennessee Warbler	u			
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	c		u	
___ Nashville Warbler	u		u	
___ Northern Parula	r			
___ *Yellow Warbler	c	u	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	r			
___ Magnolia Warbler	r			
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	accidental			
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	r		r	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	r			
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	r			
___ Blackpoll Warbler	r			
___ Black-and-white Warbler	u	r	o	
___ American Redstart	o		r	
___ *Prothonotary Warbler	u	u		
___ Swainson's Warbler	accidental			
___ Ovenbird	r			
___ Northern Waterthrush	o			
___ Kentucky Warbler	r	r		
___ Mourning Warbler	r			
___ *Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	r



Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Wood-warblers, Cont.</b>				
___ Hooded Warbler			accidental	
___ Wilson's Warbler	r		r	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	u	u		
<b>Tanagers</b>				
___ Summer Tanager		r	r	
___ Scarlet Tanager	r			
<b>Sparrows</b>				
___ Spotted Towhee	c		c	c
___ Cassin's Sparrow	r			
___ American Tree Sparrow	a		a	a
___ *Chipping Sparrow	c	o	c	r
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	o		o	
___ *Field Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Vesper Sparrow	c		c	r
___ *Lark Sparrow	e	c	c	r
___ Lark Bunting	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
___ White-crowned Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Dark-eyed Junco	a		a	a
___ Lapland Longspur	r			r
___ Smith's Longspur			r	r
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur	r			
___ Snow Bunting			accidental	
<b>Cardinals and Allies</b>				
___ *Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	o	o		
___ 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	
<b>Blackbirds</b>				
___ 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 Name	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Blackbirds, Cont.</b>				
___ *Common Grackle	c	c	c	o
___ Great-tailed Grackle	u	u		o
___ *Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	c
___ *Orchard Oriole	c	u	r	
___ *"Northern" Oriole	c	c	u	
___ Baltimore (mostly pure)	c	c	u	
___ Bullock's (+hybrids)	o	o	o	
<b>Finches</b>				
___ Purple Finch	r		r	r
___ Red Crossbill			r	
___ Pine Siskin	o		o	o
___ *American Goldfinch	c	u	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak			accidental	
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
___ *House Sparrow	c	c	c	c

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(Above) *Mississippi Kite.*

Photograph by Rod Krey

(Below) *Whooping Cranes at Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge.*

Photograph by Rod Krey

