

# BIRDS



# NATIONAL BISON RANGE

The National Bison Range is one of the oldest big game refuges in the United States. Although originally established in 1908 for the preservation of the American bison, the Range was also designated as a refuge for native birds in 1921. As a part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, it is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since it was established, 205 bird species have been recorded. Common names and list order are based on the Sixth Edition (1983) and the 36th Supplement (1987) of the American Ornithologist's Union's Checklist of North American Birds. Seasonal occurrence, abundance, and habitats frequented are shown according to the following key. If you detect any errors or omissions or would like further information, please contact Refuge Manager, National Bison Range, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, MT or Phone 406-644-2211.

- Season:** S S F W = Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter
- Abundance:** A = Abundant. Large flocks or seen on every visit.  
 C = Common. Seen on most visits.  
 U = Uncommon. Seen on about half the visits.  
 O = Occasional. Seen on 1/3 or less visits.  
 R = Rare. Seen on rare occasion.  
 T = Transient. Passing through, 5 or less sightings.  
 H = Historical. Historic record, no recent sightings.  
 2 = Any numeral signifies number of sightings if 3 or under.
- Habitat:** G = Open grasslands.  
 F = Montane conifer forest.  
 B = Brushy draws.  
 J = Cottonwood-Juniper bottomlands.  
 T = Stream-side thickets.  
 R = Rivers and streams.  
 P = Ponds or lakes.  
 C = Rocky cliffs and banks.  
 M = Marshy areas.

SPECIES	NESTS	SEASON	HABITAT
	*	S S F W	
<b>GREBES</b>			
— Pied-billed Grebe		R R R R	P
— Red-necked Grebe		R R R —	P
— Eared Grebe		R R R —	P
— Western Grebe		R — R —	P
<b>CORMORANTS</b>			
— Doubled-crested Cormorant		O U O —	R, P
<b>HERONS</b>			
— American Bittern		R R R —	P, R, M
— Great Blue Heron		U U U U	P, R,
<b>GEESE, SWANS</b>			
— Tundra Swan		O R — R	R, P
— Snow Goose		U — U —	P
— Canada Goose	*	C A A C	P, R, J
<b>DUCKS</b>			
— Wood Duck	*	U O O —	P, R, J
— Green-winged Teal	*	U O U O	P, R
— Mallard	*	C C A A	P, R
— Northern Pintail	*	U U U O	P, R
— Blue-winged Teal	*	U U O —	P
— Cinnamon Teal	*	O O O —	P
— Northern Shoveler	*	O O O —	P
— Gadwall	*	O O O R	P
— American Wigeon	*	U O C R	P, R
— Canvasback		R — R —	P
— Redhead	*	O O O —	P
— Ring-necked Duck		R — R —	P
— Lesser Scaup		O — R —	P
— Common Goldeneye	*	C U C C	R, P
— Barrow's Goldeneye		O R R —	P, R
— Bufflehead		R — R —	P
— Hooded Merganser	*	U O U O	R
— Common Merganser	*	C U C C	R
— Ruddy Duck	*	R R R —	P
<b>VULTURES, HAWKS, FALCON</b>			
— Turkey Vulture		R R — —	G
— Osprey		O U O —	R
— Bald Eagle		O O O O	R, J
— Northern Harrier	*	C C C O	G
— Sharp-shinned Hawk	*	O O O O	J, T
— Cooper's Hawk		O O O R	F, J, T
— Northern Goshawk		O O O R	F, J, T
— Swainson's Hawk		R O R —	G
— Red-tailed Hawk	*	C C C O	G, F, J
— Ferruginous Hawk		R R R —	G, J
— Rough-legged Hawk		C — C C	G
— Golden Eagle	*	C C C C	G, F
— American Kestrel	*	C C C U	G, T, J
— Merlin		O R O R	T
— Peregrine Falcon		R R R —	F, G, C
— Gyrfalcon		— — — R	J, G
— Prairie Falcon	*	O U U R	G, C

SPECIES	NESTS	SEASON	HABITAT
	* S S F W		
<b>GROUSE</b>			
— Gray Partridge	* C C C C	G, B	
— Chukar	* H H H H	G, B, F	
— Ring-necked Pheasant	* U U C U	G, B	
— Blue Grouse	* C C C C	F	
— Ruffed Grouse	* O O O O	F, J	
— Sharp-tailed Grouse	* H H H H	G, B	
<b>RAILS</b>			
— Virginia Rail	R R R —	M	
— Sora	* O O O —	M	
— American Coot	* O O O R	P	
<b>SHOREBIRDS</b>			
— Black-bellied Plover	R — R —	P	
— Semipalmated Plover	R — — —	P	
— Killdeer	* C C C O	G, P	
— American Avocet	* O O — —	P	
— Greater Yellowlegs	U O U —	P	
— Lesser Yellowlegs	O R R —	P	
— Solitary Sandpiper	R R — —	P	
— Willet	R — — —	P	
— Spotted Sandpiper	* U U U —	R, P	
— Long-billed Curlew	R R R —	G	
— Marbled Godwit	R R — —	P	
— Semipalmated Sandpiper	R — — —	P	
— Least Sandpiper	R — R —	P	
— Baird's Sandpiper	R — R —	P	
— Long-billed Dowitcher	O R R —	P	
— Common Snipe	* C C C O	P, M, G	
— Wilson's Phalarope	* U U U —	P	
— Red-necked Phalarope	R — — —	P	
<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>			
— Ring-billed Gull	O O O U	R, P	
— California Gull	— O O —	R, P	
— Common Tern	R R — —	P	
— Forster's Tern	R R — —	P	
— Black Tern	R R — —	P	
<b>DOVES</b>			
— Mourning Dove	* A A A O	G, J	
<b>CUCKOOS</b>			
— Black-billed Cuckoo	— R — —	J, T, F	
<b>OWLS</b>			
— Western Screech Owl	T T T T	J, F	
— Great Horned Owl	* C C C C	J, F, T	
— Snowy Owl	— — — R	J, G	
— Northern Pygmy Owl	* O O O O	T, J	
— Burrowing Owl	* R R R —	G	
— Barred Owl	* O O O O	J	
— Long-eared Owl	* U U U R	J, T	
— Short-eared Owl	* U U O R	G	
— Northern Saw-whet Owl	* O U O O	T, J	

SPECIES	NESTS	SEASON	HABITAT
	* S S F W		
<b>NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS</b>			
— Common Nighthawk	— C — —	G, J	
— Black Swift	R O R —	G, M, R	
— Vaux's Swift	— O — —	R	
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>			
— Black-chinned Hummingbird	— R — —	T, J, H	
— Calliope Hummingbird	* R U — —	T, J, H	
— Broad-tailed Hummingbird	— R — —	T, J, H	
— Rufous Hummingbird	* R U — —	T, J, H	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>			
— Belted Kingfisher	* U U U O	R	
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>			
— Lewis' Woodpecker	* C C U —	F	
— Red-naped Woodpecker	* C C C —	J, T	
— Downy Woodpecker	* U U U U	J, F	
— Hairy Woodpecker	* U U U U	J, F	
— Northern Flicker	* C C C U	J, F, T	
— Pileated Woodpecker	* O O O O	J, F	
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>			
— Western Wood-Pewee	* — C — —	J, F, T	
— Willow Flycatcher	* — O — —	M, T	
— Hammond's Flycatcher	* — U — —	F	
— Dusky Flycatcher	* — C — —	B	
— Western Flycatcher	— O — —	T, J	
— Say's Phoebe	* O O O —	C, T, G, H	
— Western Kingbird	* U C O —	G, J	
— Eastern Kingbird	* C A U —	G, B	
<b>LARKS</b>			
— Horned Lark	O O O U	G	
<b>SWALLOWS</b>			
— Tree Swallow	* C A C —	R, P, J, G	
— Violet-green Swallow	* C C U —	R, P, M, C	
— Northern Rough-winged Swallow	* U C — —	R, P, C, H	
— Bank Swallow	* C C U —	C, P, R	
— Cliff Swallow	* C C U —	C, P, R, H	
— Barn Swallow	* C A U —	P, R, H	
<b>JAYS</b>			
— Gray Jay	— — R R	F	
— Steller's Jay	R R O O	F	
— Clark's Nutcracker	* C C C C	F	
— Black-billed Magpie	* C A C C	G, T, J	
— American Crow	U R U —	G, T, J	
— Common Raven	* C C C C	G, J, F	
<b>CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS</b>			
— Black-capped Chickadee	* C C C C	J, F, T	
— Mountain Chickadee	* U U U U	F	
— Red-breasted Nuthatch	* C C C C	J, F	
— White-breasted Nuthatch	O O O O	F, J	
— Pygmy Nuthatch	* U U U U	F	
— Brown Creeper	* O O O O	J, F	

SPECIES	NESTS *	SEASON S S F W	HABITAT
<b>WRENS, DIPPERS</b>			
— Rock Wren	*	C C C —	C
— House Wren	*	U C U —	J, T, H
— Marsh Wren	*	O O O R	P, M, T
— American Dipper		O O O O	R
<b>KINGLETS</b>			
— Golden-crowned Kinglet	*	O O O O	F, J
— Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*	U U U R	F, J
<b>THRUSHES</b>			
— Western Bluebird		T — — —	G
— Mountain Bluebird	*	C C C R	G
— Townsend's Solitaire	*	U U C C	J, T, C
— Veery		— R R —	F
— Swainson's Thrush	*	O O — —	F
— Hermit Thrush		— R — —	J, T
— American Robin	*	A A A O	J, T, F, H
— Varied Thrush		R — — R	F
<b>MOCKINGBIRDS</b>			
— Gray Catbird	*	O O O —	T, J
— Northern Mockingbird		3 1 — —	B, T
<b>PIPITS</b>			
— Water Pipit		U — U —	G
<b>WAXWINGS</b>			
— Bohemian Waxwing		U — U A	J, T
— Cedar Waxwing	*	O U U O	J, T
<b>SHRIKES</b>			
— Northern Shrike		U — U U	G, T, B
— Loggerhead Shrike		— R — —	G, T, B
<b>STARLING</b>			
— European Starling	*	C C C U	J, H, T
<b>VIREO</b>			
— Solitary Vireo		C C — —	F
— Warbling Vireo	*	C C U —	F, J, T, B
— Red-eyed Vireo	*	C C U —	J, F, T
<b>WARBLERS</b>			
— Orange-crowned Warbler		U U O —	F, J
— Nashville Warbler		R R — —	F, J
— Yellow Warbler	*	C C O —	J, T
— Yellow-rumped Warbler		U O U R	F, J
— Townsend's Warbler		— O — —	F
— American Redstart	*	— O — —	F, J
— Northern Waterthrush		— R — —	T, M
— MacGillivray's Warbler	*	O C — —	T, B, J
— Common Yellowthroat	*	O U O —	M, T
— Wilson's Warbler		— O R —	T, J, B
— Yellow-breasted Chat	*	O U — —	B, G, T
<b>TANAGERS</b>			
— Western Tanager	*	O U O —	J, F, T

SPECIES	NESTS *	SEASON S S F W	HABITAT
<b>BUNTINGS, TOWHEES, SPARROWS</b>			
— Black-headed Grosbeak		— O — —	F, J
— Lazuli Bunting	*	U C — —	T, B
— Rufous-sided Towhee	*	C C O —	T
— American Tree Sparrow		— — O U	G
— Chipping Sparrow	*	U C U —	T, B, J
— Brewer's Sparrow		— R R —	G, B
— Vesper Sparrow	*	A A C —	G
— Lark Sparrow		U U O —	T, B
— Lark Bunting		T T — —	G
— Savannah Sparrow	*	U U O —	G, B
— Grasshopper Sparrow	*	C C — —	G
— Fox Sparrow		R R R T	T, J
— Song Sparrow	*	C C C O	T, M
— Lincoln's Sparrow		O — — —	T, B
— White-crowned Sparrow		O O U R	T, B
— Harris' Sparrow		— — — R	T, J
— Dark-eyed Junco			
— Oregon race	*	C C C C	F, J
— Slate-colored race		— — — O	F
— Lapland Longspur		— — — R	G
— Snow Bunting		O — O O	G
<b>BLACKBIRDS</b>			
— Bobolink		R R — —	M
— Red-winged Blackbird	*	A A C O	M, P, T
— Western Meadowlark	*	A A A O	G
— Yellow-headed Blackbird		O O O —	M, P
— Brewer's Blackbird	*	A A A O	G
— Brown-headed Cowbird	*	U U — —	T, J, F, G
— Northern Oriole	*	— C — —	J, T
<b>FINCHES</b>			
— Rosy Finch			
— Gray-crowned race		O — O U	G, B
— Gray-headed race		O — O U	G, B
— Pine Grosbeak		O R R O	F
— Cassin's Finch		O O O C	F, J
— House Finch		— — R C	J, F
— Red Crossbill	*	O O O O	F
— White-winged Crossbill		— — R —	F
— Common Redpoll		— — C C	G
— Hoary Redpoll		— — — R	G
— Pine Siskin	*	U U U O	F
— American Goldfinch	*	O O U U	J, T
— Evening Grosbeak		U — U C	J, F
<b>WEAVER FINCHES</b>			
House Sparrow	*	C C C C	H, J, G, T

(National Bison Range, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Montana 59824 or telephone 406-644-2211.)