

North Platte National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

June 2003



CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION

I 49.44/2:P 69/4

PAM FILE

North Platte

National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife List

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Welcome



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

North Platte National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lies in the Panhandle of western Nebraska. Established in 1916, the Refuge is superimposed over four Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects: Lake Minatare, Winters Creek Lake, Lake Alice, and Stateline Island. While not always visible, many species of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish also make their year-round home on the Refuge.

Numerous species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and song birds find the Refuge attractive during the spring and fall migration periods. Wintering populations vary widely depending on ice conditions. Among the colorful song birds that we enjoy each summer are "neotropical migrants." These are birds that make a trip during our winter season to the tropical habitats found from southern Mexico to Argentina. Such birds nest in the United States and in Canada, but spend most of the year in the neotropics – the Carribean Islands, Mexican lowlands, and Central and South America.

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 7-1-1 for a free connection to the state transfer relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 308 / 635 7851 or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

How to Use this Checklist

The following list of 228 species of birds have been observed on the Refuge since 1975.

Habitat preference, seasonal occurrence, and abundance have been coded as follows:

Seasons

Sp Spring
S Summer
F Fall
W Winter

Habitats

W wetlands
G grasslands
B brushlands
T trees
H buildings
* neotropical migrant

Time of Year

Numerals (1 through 12) indicate known months of occurrence.

Slashes (/) indicate separate seasons. Years of occurrence (one or two) for accidental species are shown in parentheses.

Nesting

- species nests on the Refuge.
- species suspected to nest at least occasionally, but further confirmation is needed.

Abundance

- a abundant; very numerous species
- c common; certain to be seen in suitable habitat
- u uncommon; present, but not certain to be seen
- r rare; seen only a few times during a season annually
- o occasional; seen only a few times over a 2-5 year period
- x accidental; seen once or more since Refuge establishment

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Loons

— Pacific Loon	<i>W 10 (1979, 1980)</i>			x
— Common Loon	<i>W 5-12</i>	u	r	u x

Grebes

○ Pied-billed Grebe	<i>W 4-11</i>	u	u	u
— Horned Grebe	<i>W 3-5/9-11</i>	r		r
— Red-necked Grebe	<i>W 5 (1992)</i>	x		
— Eared Grebe	<i>W 3-7/8-12</i>	c	u	c x
— Western Grebe	<i>W 3-12</i>	c	u	c o
— Clark's Grebe	<i>W 6 (1996)</i>		x	

Pelicans

— American White Pelican	<i>W 4-5/8-12</i>	u	o	u x
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Cormorants

• Double-crested Cormorant	<i>W 3-11</i>	u	c	u
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Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets

— American Bittern	<i>W 6-7</i>	r		
• Great Blue Heron	<i>W 1-12</i>	u	u	u r
— Great Egret	<i>W 5 (1979)</i>	x		
— Cattle Egret	<i>W 9 (1995)</i>	x		
— Green Heron	<i>W 9 (1994)</i>			x
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>W 4-9</i>	r	r	o
— Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>W 8 (1991)</i>		x	

Ibises and Spoonbills

— White-faced Ibis	<i>W 4 (1989)</i>		x	
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New World Vultures

— Turkey Vulture	<i>G 4-9</i>	r	r	r
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Swans, Geese, and Ducks

— Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>W 10</i>			o
— Snow Goose	<i>W 3-4/10-11</i>	u		r
— Ross' Goose	<i>W 3/11</i>	o		o
• Canada Goose	<i>W 1-12</i>	c	u	a a
— Trumpeter Swan	<i>W 11 (1979)</i>			x
— Tundra Swan	<i>W 11</i>			o
• Wood Duck	<i>W 4-11</i>	u	u	u

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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— Gadwall	<i>W 3-6/8-1</i>	c	o	u o
— American Wigeon	<i>W 3-6/8-1</i>	c	r	u o
• Mallard	<i>W 1-12</i>	a	u	a a
• Blue-winged Teal	<i>W 4-10</i>	c	r	c
— Cinnamon Teal	<i>W 5-6</i>	o		
— Northern Shoveler	<i>W 3-7/8-12</i>	c	r	u r
— Northern Pintail	<i>W 3-5/8-1</i>	c	r	u o
— Green-winged Teal	<i>W 3-5/8-12</i>	c		c r
— Canvasback	<i>W 2-5/9-12</i>	c		u r
— Redhead	<i>W 2-6/9-12</i>	a	o	c r
— Ring-necked Duck	<i>W 4-5/9-11</i>	c		u
— Lesser Scaup	<i>W 3-6/9-11</i>	a	o	u
— Surf Scoter	<i>W 10 (1979)</i>		x	
— White-winged Scoter	<i>W (1981)</i>		x	
— Long-tailed Duck	<i>W 12 (1995)</i>			x
— Bufflehead	<i>W 3-5/10-1</i>	u		c o
— Common Goldeneye	<i>W 10-5</i>	u		c u
— Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>W 10-4</i>	o		o o
— Hooded Merganser	<i>W 9-12</i>	r		r o
— Common Merganser	<i>W 3-5/8-1</i>	a	u	a u
— Red-breasted Merganser	<i>W 3-4/8-2</i>	r		r o
— Ruddy Duck	<i>W 3-6/9-11</i>	c	o	u

Canada Geese
USFWS



Bald Eagle
USFWS



Common Bird Name **Sp** **S** **F** **W**

Osprey, Kites, Hawks, and Eagles

Osprey	TW 4-6/9-11	o		o	
• Bald Eagle	TWG 1-12	u	r	u	c
Northern Harrier	GW 3-6/9-11	o	o	u	r
Sharp-shinned Hawk	TB 4-5/9-12	r		o	o
Cooper's Hawk	TB 1			r	
Northern Goshawk	TB 4 (1995)	x			
Harris' Hawk	T 1 (1995)			x	
Red-shouldered Hawk	T 3	x			
Broad-winged Hawk	TG 5*	o			
Swainson's Hawk	TG 4-9*	o	r	o	
• Red-tailed Hawk	TG 1-12	u	u	u	u
Ferruginous Hawk	TG 10-2		o	r	
Rough-legged Hawk	TG 11-3	r		u	u
Golden Eagle	TG 9-12		r	o	

Falcons and Caracaras

• American Kestrel	TG 1-12	c	c	c	u
Merlin	TB 9-12*		o	o	
Peregrine Falcon	GW 10*		o		
Prairie Falcon	G 9-11		r		

Gallinaceous Birds

o Ring-necked Pheasant	GWBT 1-12	u	u	u	u
o Sharp-tailed Grouse	G 1-12	o	o	o	o
Wild Turkey	TBG 1-12	u	u	u	u
Northern Bobwhite	BT 1-12	o	o	o	o

Rails

Virginia Rail	W 5/8	o		o	
Sora	W 5-6	o	o		
• American Coot	W 3-1	c	u	c	o

Common Bird Name

Sp **S** **F** **W**

Cranes

Sandhill Crane	W 3-4/9-10	r		r	
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Plovers

Black-bellied Plover	W 9-10	o		o	
Semipalmated Plover	W 4-5/8-9	o	o	o	
Piping Plover	W 5 (2003)	x			
o Killdeer	WG 1-12	c	u	c	r

Stilts and Avocets

Black-necked Stilt	W 4/9 (1988, 1995)	x			
American Avocet	W 4-5/8-10	r	r	r	

Sandpipers and Phalaropes

Greater Yellowlegs	W 4-5/8-11	r	r	r	
Lesser Yellowlegs	W 4-5/8-10	u	o	u	
Solitary Sandpiper	W 4-5/8-9	r	o	o	
Willet	4-5/7	r		o	
Spotted Sandpiper	W 5/7-10	u	r	u	
Upland Sandpiper	G 7 (1991)*		x		
Long-billed Curlew	GW 4-5*	o			
Marbled Godwit	W 4/8-9	r	o	o	
Ruddy Turnstone	W 9 (1975)		x		
Sanderling	W 5/8-10	o	r	u	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	W 5/8-9	r	r	r	
Western Sandpiper	W 4	o	o	o	
Least Sandpiper	W 5/8-10	o	u	u	
White-rumped Sandpiper	W 5	r			
Baird's Sandpiper	W 4-5/8-11	o	u	c	
Pectoral Sandpiper	W 9-10		u		
Dunlin	W 1 (1981)			x	
Stilt Sandpiper	W 5/8-9	r	r	r	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	W 9 (1994)		x		
Long-billed Dowitcher	W 4-5/9-10	u		u	
Common Snipe	W 1-12	r	o	r	u
Wilson's Phalarope	W 5-6	u	r		
Red-necked Phalarope	W 5/9-10	o		o	

Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, and Terns

Franklin's Gull	W 4-6/7-10	u	r	c	
Bonaparte's Gull	W 4/10-12	u		r	r
Ring-billed Gull	W 3-1	a	u	a	u
California Gull	W 4 (1994)	x			
Herring Gull	W 9 3	u		u	o
Glaucous Gull	W 3	x			
Sabine's Gull	W 9 (1980)		x		
Black-legged Kittiwake	W 11 (1981)		x		
Caspian Tern	W 5 (1995)	x			
Common Tern	W 9	o	o	o	
Forster's Tern	W 5-6/8-10	u	o	r	
Black Tern	W 5-6/8-9	r	o	o	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove (<i>Introduced</i>)	<i>H 1-12</i>	r	r	r	r
• Mourning Dove	<i>TBG 4-12</i>	c	a	c	o

Cuckoos and Anis

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>TB 6-8*</i>			r	
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Barn Owls

Barn Owl	<i>TB 5 (1991)</i>	x			
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Typical Owls

• Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>T 1-12</i>	u	u	u	u
○ Great Horned Owl	<i>T 1-12</i>	u	u	u	u

Nightjars

○ Common Nighthawk	<i>TG 5-8*</i>	r	r		
Common Poorwill	<i>G 7 (1994)</i>	o			

Kingfishers

○ Belted Kingfisher	<i>WT 1-12</i>	u	u	u	u
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Woodpeckers

○ Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>T 5-9</i>	r	u	u	
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>T 10</i>		o		
• Downy Woodpecker	<i>TB 1-12</i>	u	u	u	u
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>T 1-12</i>	r	o	o	r
• Northern Flicker	<i>TB 1-12</i>	c	c	c	u

Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>T 8</i>		o		
○ Western Wood-Pewee	<i>T 5-9*</i>	r	u	o	
Willow Flycatcher	<i>TB 5</i>	o			
Least Flycatcher	<i>TB 5*</i>	r			
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>TB 5*</i>	x			
Say's Phoebe	<i>BG 4-5/7-9</i>	r	o	o	
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>T 6 (1995)</i>	x			
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>T 9</i>		o		
• Western Kingbird	<i>TBG 5-9*</i>	c	c	a	
○ Eastern Kingbird	<i>TBG 5-9*</i>	c	u	c	

Shrikes

○ Loggerhead Shrike	<i>TB 5-8</i>	r	r		
Northern Shrike	<i>GTB 10-3</i>	r		r	r

Vireos

• Warbling Vireo	<i>T 5-6/9*</i>	u	u	u	
○ Red-eyed Vireo	<i>T 5-6/9*</i>	o	r		o

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Crows, Jays, and Magpies

• Blue Jay	<i>TB 1-12</i>	u	u	u	u
Pinyon Jay	<i>T 11 (1975)</i>		x		
• Black-billed Magpie	<i>TBG 1-12</i>	c	c	c	c
• American Crow	<i>TG 1-12</i>	o	o	o	

Larks

• Horned Lark	<i>G 1-12</i>	c	u	c	c
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Swallows

• Tree Swallow	<i>T 4-10</i>	u	u	o	
Violet-green Swallow	<i>T 5*</i>	o			
○ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>TW 5-7*u</i>	u			
Bank Swallow	<i>GTW 5/8-9*</i>	o	o	o	
• Cliff Swallow	<i>GW 5-8*</i>	c	a		
• Barn Swallow	<i>HTW 4-10*</i>	c	c	c	

Titmice and Chickadees

• Black-capped Chickadee	<i>TB 1-12</i>	c	c	c	c
Mountain Chickadee	<i>TB 10-12 (1995)</i>			x	x

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>T 9</i>				o
• White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>T 3/7-9</i>	c	c	u	

Creepers

Brown Creeper	<i>T 11</i>		o		
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Wrens

Rock Wren	<i>G 9</i>		o		
• House Wren	<i>TB 4-9*</i>	c	c	u	
Marsh Wren	<i>W 5/9</i>	o		o	

Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>TB 5 (1996)</i>	x			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>TB 5/10-11</i>	o		u	

Thrushes

Eastern Bluebird	<i>TG 4</i>	o			
Mountain Bluebird	<i>TG 3/10-11</i>	o		o	
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>TB 9-4</i>	o		o	o
Veery	<i>T 5 (1986)</i>	x			
Swainson's Thrush	<i>TB 5*</i>	r			
Hermit Thrush	<i>TB 10</i>		o		
• American Robin	<i>TB 1-12</i>	a	c	a	a
Varied Thrush	<i>TB 9 (1980)</i>			x	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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Mimic Thrushes

Gray Catbird	<i>B 5 (1995)</i>	x		
Sage Thrasher	<i>B 8 (1995)</i>		x	
• Brown Thrasher	<i>TB 5-9</i>	u	u	r

Starlings

◦ European Starling	<i>TGH 1-12</i>	c	c	c	c
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Wagtails and Pipits

American (<i>Water</i>) Pipit	<i>WG 5/9-11</i>	u		u	
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Waxwings

Cedar Waxwing	<i>TB 1-4/7</i>	o	o		o
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Wood Warblers

Tennessee Warbler	<i>TB 5 (1995)</i>	x			
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>TB 4-5/9-10*</i>	u		u	
• Yellow Warbler	<i>TB 5-7*</i>	u	u		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>TB 5/9-11</i>	c		c	
Townsend's Warbler	<i>T 10 (1991)</i>		x		
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>TB 5/9</i>	o		o	
American Redstart	<i>TB 5*</i>	o			
Ovenbird	<i>TB 9 (1981)</i>		x		
◦ Common Yellowthroat	<i>*</i>	u	u		
Wilson's Warbler	<i>TB 5/8-9*</i>	o	o	r	
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>B 5*</i>	o			

Tanagers

Western Tanager	<i>T 5/9*</i>	o		o	
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Sparrows and Towhees

Spotted Towhee	<i>B 5/8-10</i>	o	o	o	
American Tree Sparrow	<i>TBG 10-3</i>	c		c	u
Chipping Sparrow	<i>BT 5/8-10*</i>	u	r	u	
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>GBT 5/9-10*</i>	r		r	
Field Sparrow	<i>G 5/9</i>	o		o	
Vesper Sparrow	<i>G 4-5/8-10</i>	r	r	r	
• Lark Sparrow	<i>GB 5-9*</i>	u	c	u	
◦ Lark Bunting	<i>G 5-9</i>	r	r	r	
Savannah Sparrow	<i>G 5/10</i>	r		r	
• Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>G 7*</i>		r		
Baird's Sparrow	<i>G 9 (1995)</i>			x	
• Song Sparrow	<i>B 9-4</i>	o		o	o
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>GB 5/9*</i>	o		r	
Swamp Sparrow	<i>B 1 (1996)</i>				x

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
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White-throated Sparrow	<i>B 5/10</i>	o		o	
Harris' Sparrow	<i>B 11</i>		o		
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>B 4-5/9-10</i>	u		u	
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>B 10-4</i>	u		u	u
McCown's Longspur	<i>G 10</i>		o		
Lapland Longspur	<i>G 11-12</i>		o	o	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	<i>G 10</i>				o

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>TG 5*</i>	o			
Blue Grosbeak	<i>TG 6</i>		o		

Blackbirds and Orioles

Bobolink	<i>G 9*</i>		o		
• Red-winged Blackbird	<i>WG 3-11</i>	u	u		
• Western Meadowlark	<i>G 1-12</i>	a	a	a	o
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>WG 5-6/9*</i>	r	u	o	
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>G 9</i>		o		
• Common Grackle	<i>T 4-10</i>	a	a	a	
• Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>GBT 5-8</i>	u	u		
• Orchard Oriole	<i>T' 5-8*</i>	u	u	u	
• Bullock's Oriole	<i>T 5-8*</i>	u	u		
Baltimore Oriole	<i>T' 5-8</i>	r	r		

Finches

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	<i>G 1 (1997)</i>				x
House Finch	<i>TBH 9-2</i>	o	o	o	o
Red Crossbill	<i>T 10 (1979)</i>		x		
Pine Siskin	<i>BT 10-4</i>	o		o	r
◦ American Goldfinch	<i>BTG 1-12</i>	u	u	u	r

Old World Sparrows

• House Sparrow (<i>Introduced</i>)	<i>HTB 1-12</i>	u	u	u	u
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Western Meadowlark
USFWS

Mammals

The following list of mammals are known inhabitants of the Refuge.

Masked shrew

Least shrew

Eastern mole

Little brown myotis

Silver-haired bat

Big brown bat

Hoary bat

Eastern cottontail

Black-tailed jackrabbit

Spotted ground squirrel

Eastern fox squirrel

Plains pocket gopher

Olive-backed pocket mouse

Plains pocket mouse

Silky pocket mouse

Hispid pocket mouse

Ord's kangaroo rat

American beaver

Western harvest mouse

Plains harvest mouse

Deer mouse

Northern grasshopper mouse

House mouse

Prairie vole

Meadow vole

Common muskrat

Red fox

Common raccoon

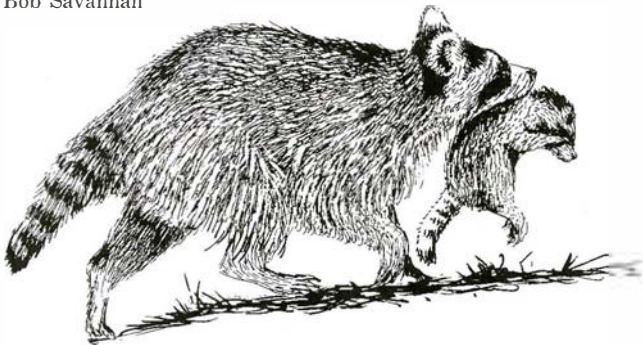
Northern river otter

Mule deer

White-tailed deer

Common Raccoon

Bob Savannah



Amphibians and Reptiles

Species of amphibians and reptiles recorded as occurring on North Platte NWR.

Salamanders

Barred Tiger Salamander



Bullfrog

© Cindy Brunner

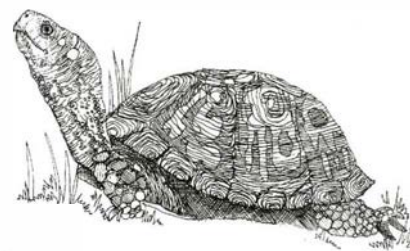
Frogs and Toads

Woodhouse's Toad

Boreal Chorus Frog

Bullfrog

Northern Leopard Frog



Ornate Box Turtle

© Cindy Brunner

Turtles

Common Snapping Turtle

Ornate Box Turtle

Western Painted Turtle

Western Spiny Softshell Turtle

Lizards

Northern Earless Lizard

Northern Prairie Lizard

Northern Many-lined Skink

Snakes

Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer

Bullsnake

Red-sided Garter Snake

Western Plains Garter Snake

Prairie Rattlesnake

Amphibians and Reptiles

Additional species of amphibians and reptiles recorded immediately adjacent to, but not on North Platte NWR (i.e., potential Refuge residents)

Lizards

Northern Sagebrush Lizard

Snakes

Pallid Milk Snake

Additional species of amphibians and reptiles **not recorded** on North Platte NWR, but expected to occur in Scotts Bluff County:

Lizards

Eastern Short-horned Lizard

Prairie Racerunner

Snakes

Western Hog-nosed Snake

Fish

Refuge reservoirs are man-made, thus all fish have been introduced, either intentionally or otherwise. Unintentional fish enter the lakes via the inlet canals each year when water is diverted into the reservoirs. Intentional introductions are those game fish stocked for recreational purposes at Winters Creek Lake. Fish species include carp, walleye, yellow perch, muskellunge, largemouth bass, catfish, carp sucker, and bullhead. A variety of native and introduced fish species can be found using the North Platte River at Stateline Island. Such species would include carp, bullhead, and catfish.

Mollusks

A thorough investigation of what mollusks use the Refuge has not been conducted. Two mussels have been found in Lake Minatare; paper floater (*Anodonta imbecillis*) and giant floater (*Anodonta grandis*). A third mussel, cylindrical papershell (*Anodontoides ferussacianus*), is a likely resident but has not yet been documented.

Notes

Date

Time

Observers

Weather