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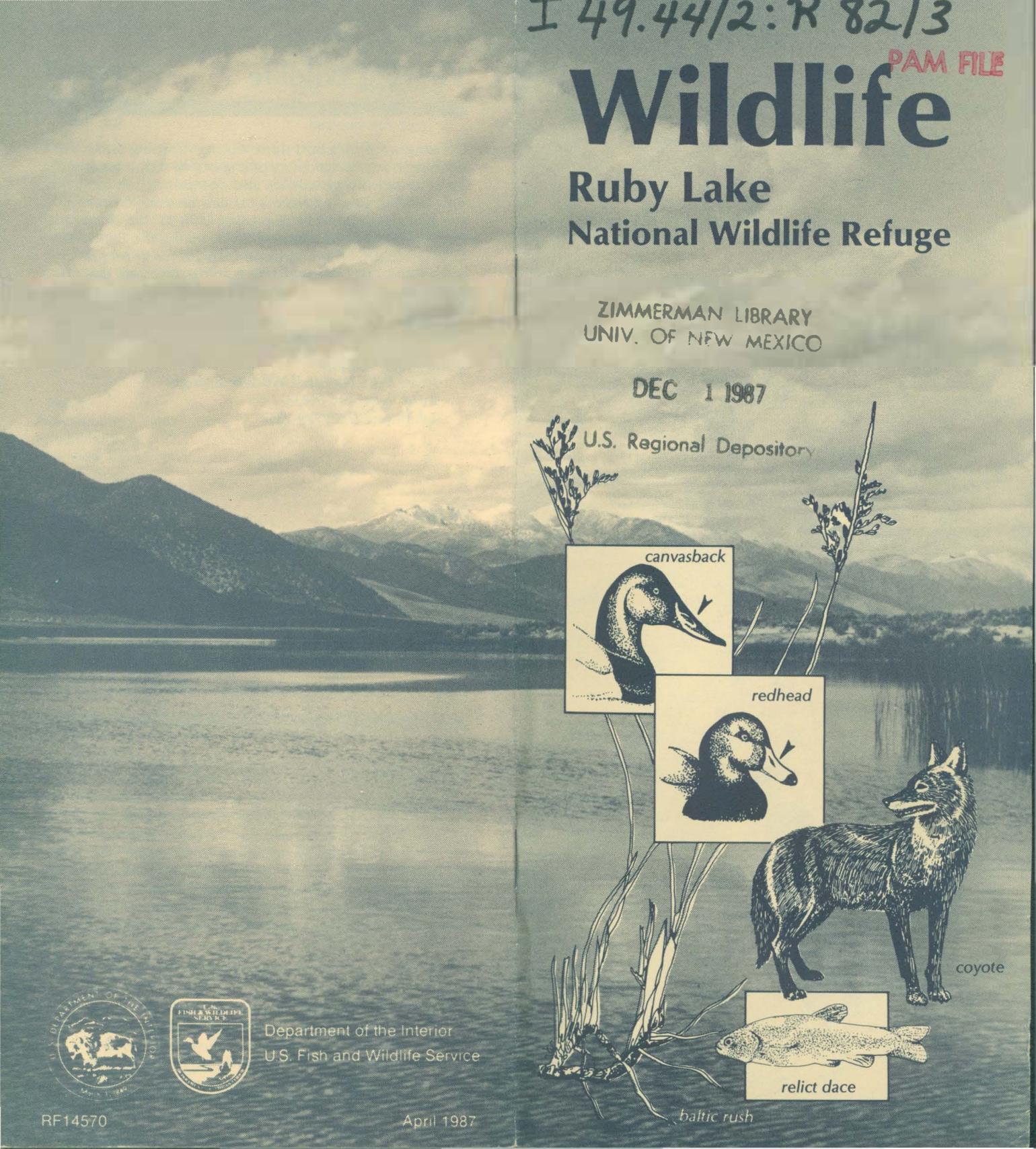
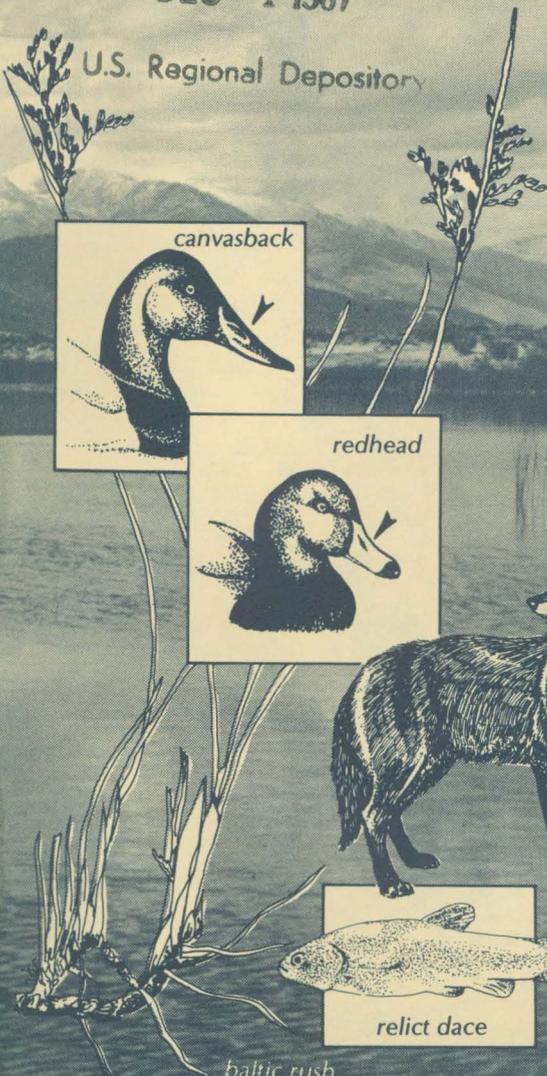
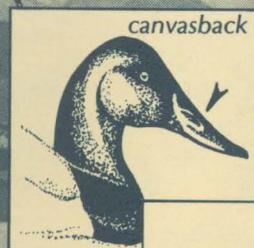
# Wildlife

## Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

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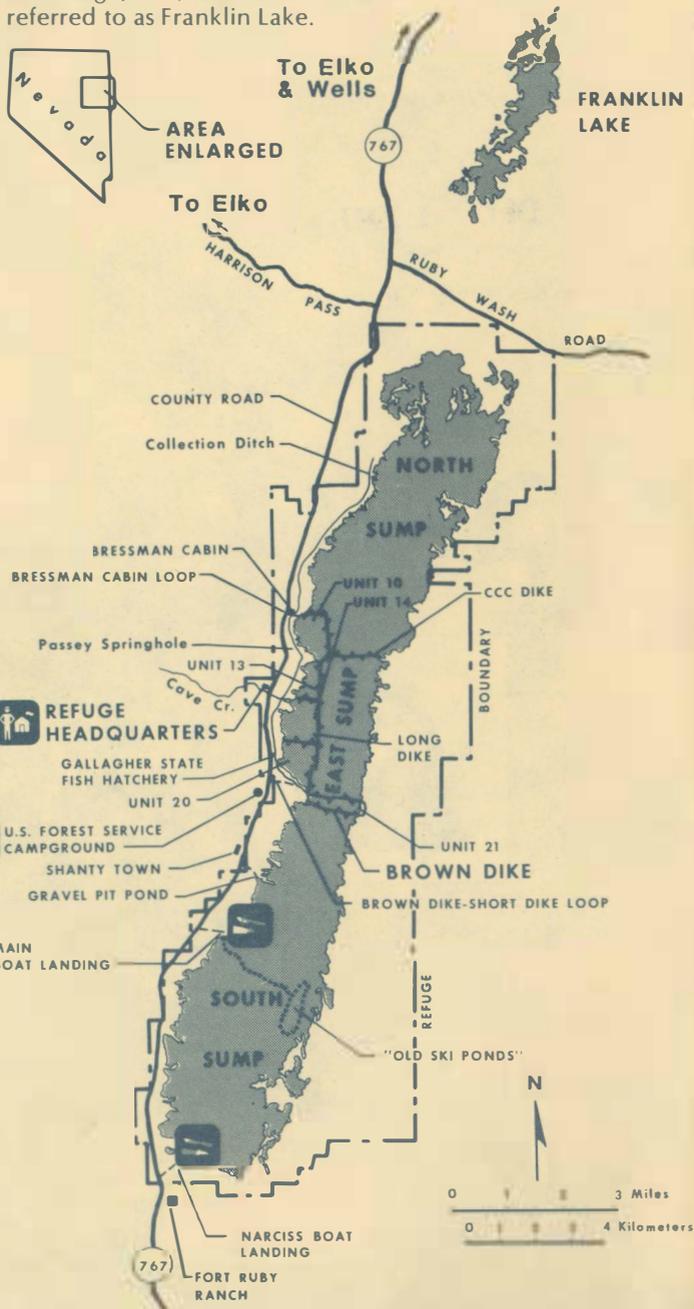
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## A Refuge for Nesting and Migrating Waterfowl and Other Wildlife

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938. It encompasses 37,632 acres at the south end of Ruby Valley. This land was once covered by a 200 foot deep, 300,800 acre lake known as Franklin Lake. Today 12,000 acres of marsh remain on the refuge. Just north of the refuge, a 15,000 acre seasonal wetland is now referred to as Franklin Lake.



## The Habitat

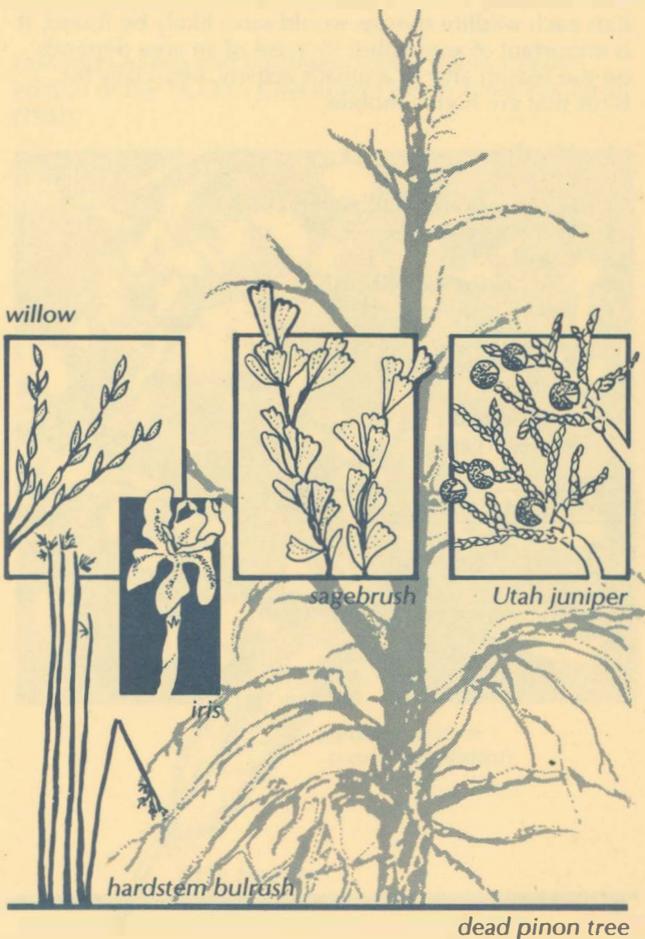


Red-tailed Hawk

The refuge, at an elevation of 6,000 feet, consists of an extensive bulrush marsh interspersed with pockets of open water. Fish are abundant. Islands scattered throughout provide good nesting habitat for many bird species.

Over 200 springs flow into the marsh along its west border creating riparian habitat which is used by many songbirds, snipe, rail and small mammals. They also provide a water source for larger mammals. With slight increases in elevation, wet meadows gradate into grasslands and sagebrush-rabbitbrush habitat.

Pinon pines and juniper cover the slopes of the Ruby Mountains that rise to 11,000 feet along the west side of the refuge. Canyons provide cover for a variety of wildlife. Rock cliffs provide raptors with nesting and perching sites. A mountainside of dead trees, home for cavity dwelling birds, was the result of a 1979 fire.



## General Key



### Season

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

### Abundance

- a - abundant (likely to be seen in large numbers)  
c - common (usually seen in proper habitat)  
u - uncommon (seen regularly in small numbers)  
o - occasional (irregular occurrence)  
r - rare (rarely seen)  
? - mammal species speculated to exist in area  
h - mammal species historically reported (prior to 1940)

### Habitat

The following symbols are used to indicate in which habitats each wildlife species would most likely be found. It is important to remember that use of an area depends on the season and an animal's activity, especially for birds that are highly mobile.

- 1 - Marsh
- 2 - Riparian
- 3 - Flowing Water/Collection Ditch
- 4 - Wet Meadows
- 5 - Grasslands
- 6 - Sagebrush/Rabbitbrush
- 7 - Pinon/Juniper
- 8 - Canyons
- 9 - Rocky Areas/Cliffs
- 10 - Caves
- 11 - Buildings
- 12 - Widespread

### Threatened/Endangered Species

#### > Introduced Species

\*Bird species known to nest locally

## BIRDS

barn swallow



The following bird list includes 202 species observed on or near the refuge. In addition, 23 species are listed as accidentals because they have only been observed once or twice in the area. Species known to nest locally (\*) are identified.

Bird life can be seen through all the habitat gradients from the valley floor to the mountain peaks. The refuge is a significant waterfowl area in Nevada providing an important feeding and resting stop in the Pacific Flyway.

During the summer, the marshes provide excellent habitat for nesting canvasbacks and redheads along with several colonial nesters — the white-faced ibis, the great blue heron and the black-crowned night heron. Greater sandhill cranes nest along the marsh's edge. Trumpeter swans were introduced into the valley from Montana resulting in several pairs nesting on the refuge each year. A peregrine falcon reintroduction program was initiated in 1984.

Common names and taxonomic order follow the 6th edition of the "A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds" (1983).



killdeer nest in  
sparse vegetation

flight feather

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
<b>LOONS</b>					
Common Loon	1	r	r	r	
<b>GREBES</b>					
* Pied-billed Grebe	1	c	c	c	u
Horned Grebe	1	o	o	o	
* Eared Grebe	1	c	c	c	u
* Western Grebe	1	r	r	u	
<b>PELICANS AND CORMORANTS</b>					
American White Pelican	1	o	u	u	
Double-crested Cormorant	1	o	u	o	
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS AND EGRETS</b>					
* American Bittern	1	c	c	c	
* Great Blue Heron	1	c	c	c	c
Great Egret	1	r	o	r	
* Snowy Egret	1	c	c	u	
Cattle Egret	5	r	r		
* Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	c	c	c	o
<b>IBIS AND SPOONBILLS</b>					
* White-faced Ibis	1,4	c	a	c	
<b>WATERFOWL</b>					
Tundra Swan	1	u		c	c
* Trumpeter Swan	1	u	u	u	u
Lesser White-fronted Goose	1	o		o	
Snow Goose	1			o	
* Canada Goose	1,4	c	e	c	c
Wood Duck	3,2			u	
Green-winged Teal	1	c	r	a	c
* Mallard	1	a	u	a	c
* Northern Pintail	1	c	u	a	c
* Blue-winged Teal	1	u	u	u	
* Cinnamon Teal	1	a	u	c	u
* Northern Shoveler	1	c	c	c	u
* Gadwall	1	a	u	a	c
* American Wigeon	1	c	u	c	c
* Canvasback	1	a	u	a	u
* Redhead	1	a	u	a	u
* Ring-necked Duck	1	c	u	u	c
* Lesser Scaup	1	c	e	c	c
Common Goldeneye	1	u		u	c
Barrow's Goldeneye	1		r	r	
Bufflehead	1	u	o	c	c
Hooded Merganser	1	o	u	u	
Common Merganser	1	u		u	u
Red-breasted Merganser	1	r	r	r	u
* Ruddy Duck	1	c	r	c	u
<b>VULTURES</b>					
* Turkey Vulture	5	c		u	

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
<b>OSPREY, KITES, EAGLES AND HAWKS</b>					
Osprey	1	r	r	r	
Bald Eagle	12			o	o
* Northern Harrier	12	c	c	c	c
* Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	o	o	o	
* Cooper's Hawk	2	o	o	o	
Northern Goshawk	2	o			
* Swainson's Hawk	5,6	o	o	o	o
* Red-tailed Hawk	12	c	c	c	o
* Ferruginous Hawk	5,6	o	o	o	o
Rough-legged Hawk	5,6	c	o	c	c
* Golden Eagle	5,9	u	u	u	o
<b>FALCONS</b>					
* American Kestrel	5	c	c	c	
> Peregrine Falcon	8,9	r	r	r	r
* Prairie Falcon	5,9	u	u	r	r
<b>GALLINACEOUS BIRDS</b>					
* Gray Partridge	5	r	r	r	r
* Chukar	8	r	r	r	r
* Blue Grouse	7		r	u	u
* Sage Grouse	5,6	c	c	c	c
* California Quail	8	r	r	r	r
<b>RAILS</b>					
* Virginia Rail	1	u	u	u	r
* Sora	1	u	u	r	
* Common Moorhen	1	r	r	r	
* American Coot	1	a	a	a	c
<b>CRANES</b>					
* Sandhill Crane	4,5	c	e	u	
<b>PLOVERS</b>					
Black-bellied Plover	1	r			
* Killdeer	4,5	c	c	c	r
<b>STILTS AND AVOCETS</b>					
* Black-necked Stilt	1	o	c	u	
* American Avocet	1	o	c	u	
<b>SHOREBIRDS</b>					
Greater Yellowlegs	1	o		o	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1		u	u	
Solitary Sandpiper	1	c	c	c	
* Willet	4,5	c	c	u	
* Spotted Sandpiper	1	c	c	c	
* Long-billed Curlew	4,5	c	c	c	
Least Sandpiper	1	c	c	c	
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	o	u	o	



Black-necked Stilt

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W	COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
<b>SNIPE</b>						<b>LARKS</b>					
* Common Snipe	1,2	u		u	u	* Horned Lark	5	c	c	c	c
<b>PHALAROPES</b>						<b>SWALLOWS</b>					
* Wilson's Phalarope	1	o		o		* Tree Swallow	2,7	c	a	a	
Red-necked Phalarope	1	o		o		* Violet-green Swallow	7,9	c	a	a	
<b>GULLS AND TERNS</b>						* Northern Rough-winged Swallow	11,9	c	c	c	
Franklin's Gull	1	o		o		Bank Swallow	11,6	c	c	c	
Ring-billed Gull	1	o		u	u	* Cliff Swallow	11,9	a	a	a	
California Gull	1	o		u	o	* Barn Swallow	11	c	c	c	
Caspian Tern	1	o		u	o	<b>JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS</b>					
* Forster's Tern	1	c		c	u	* Scrub Jay	7		u	u	u
* Black Tern	1	c		c	u	* Pinyon Jay	7	u		u	c
<b>DOVES</b>						* Clark's Nutcracker	7	o		o	o
Rock Dove	11	o				* Black-billed Magpie	12	c		c	c
* Mourning Dove	7,5	a		a	o	* American Crow	12	o		u	u
<b>OWLS</b>						* Common Raven	12	c		c	c
* Great Horned Owl	2	c		c	c	<b>CHICKADEES AND TITMICE</b>					
* Burrowing Owl	5,6	u		u	u	Black-capped Chickadee	8,2				o
* Long-eared Owl	7,2	u		u	u	* Mountain Chickadee	2,8	u		u	c
* Short-eared Owl	5,6	c		c	c	* Plain Titmouse	7	c		c	c
* Northern Saw-whet Owl	7	u		u	u	<b>BUSHTITS</b>					
<b>GOATSUCKERS</b>						* Bushtit	7	c		c	c
* Common Nighthawk	12	c			u	<b>NUTHATCHES</b>					
* Common Poorwill	7,6	u			u	* Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	c		c	c
<b>SWIFTS</b>						<b>CREEPERS</b>					
* White-throated Swift	8,9	u		u	u	* Brown Creeper	7,2	u		u	u
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>						<b>WRENS</b>					
* Black-chinned Hummingbird	8,5	u		u	u	* Rock Wren	9	u		u	u
* Calliope Hummingbird	2,8	u		u	u	* Canyon Wren	8,9	u		u	u
* Broad-tailed Hummingbird	2,5	u		u	u	* House Wren	2,4	c		c	c
Rufous Hummingbird	2,5	u		c	c	* Marsh Wren	1	a		a	a
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>						<b>DIPPERS</b>					
* Belted Kingfisher	2	u		u	u	American Dipper	2,3	o		o	o
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>						<b>KINGLETS, BLUEBIRDS AND THRUSHES</b>					
* Lewis' Woodpecker	7,8	u		c	u	Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	u		u	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	o		o	o	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7,2	u		u	u
* Downy Woodpecker	2,7	u		u	u	* Mountain Bluebird	5	c		u	c
* Hairy Woodpecker	2,7	u		u	u	* Townsend's Solitaire	7,3	u		u	u
* Northern Flicker	5,7	c		c	c	Veery	8,2				
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>						Swainson's Thrush	2,4	u		u	u
* Olive-sided Flycatcher	2,7			u		Hermit Thrush	2,7	o		o	o
* Western Wood-Pewee	2	u		u		* American Robin	12	c		c	u
* Willow Flycatcher	2,8			c		<b>MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS</b>					
* Hammond's Flycatcher	7	u				Gray Catbird	2	o		o	o
* Dusky Flycatcher	6,2	c		c	c	Northern Mockingbird	11,2			u	
* Gray Flycatcher	7,6	u		u	u	* Sage Thrasher	5,6	u		u	
* Western Flycatcher	2,8	u		u	u	<b>WAGTAILS AND PIPITS</b>					
Say's Phoebe	8,9	c		c	c	Water Pipit	4,5				
* Ash-throated Flycatcher	5,6	u		u	u						
* Western Kingbird	5,6	c		c	c						

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
Cedar Waxwing .....	2	o	o	o	o
<b>SHRIKES</b>					
Northern Shrike .....	7				o
* Loggerhead Shrike .....	5,6	o	o	o	
<b>STARLINGS AND MYNAS</b>					
* European Starling .....	12	c	c	c	o
<b>VIREOS</b>					
Solitary Vireo .....	2	u	u	u	
Warbling Vireo .....	2	u	u	u	
Red-eyed Vireo .....	2		f		
<b>WARBLERS</b>					
Orange-crowned Warbler .....	2	u	f	u	
* Virginia's Warbler .....	8,7	u	f	u	
* Yellow Warbler .....	2	c	f	c	
* Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	2	c	f	c	
* Black-throated Gray Warbler .....	8,6	u	u	u	
Northern Waterthrush .....	4,2	r		r	
MacGillivray's Warbler .....	2	u	u	u	
* Common Yellowthroat .....	1,2	u	c	u	
* Wilson's Warbler .....	2	u	u	u	
* Yellow-breasted Chat .....	2	o	o	o	
<b>TANAGERS</b>					
Western Tanager .....	7	u	u	u	
<b>GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS</b>					
Black-headed Grosbeak .....	2	u	l	u	
* Lazuli Bunting .....	2	u	u	u	
Indigo Bunting .....	5,2	f	f		
<b>TOWHEES AND SPARROWS</b>					
* Green-tailed Towhee .....	8,6	u	u	u	
* Rufous-sided Towhee .....	2	u	u	u	
American Tree Sparrow .....	5,4			o	o
* Chipping Sparrow .....	5,8	u	u	u	
* Brewer's Sparrow .....	6	c	c	c	
* Vesper Sparrow .....	5,6	c	c	c	
Lark Sparrow .....	5	c	c	u	
* Black-throated Sparrow .....	6,8	u	u	u	
* Sage Sparrow .....	6	c	c	c	
* Savannah Sparrow .....	5	a	a	a	
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	5	o	o	o	
Fox Sparrow .....	6,7		u	u	
* Song Sparrow .....	2,1	o	o	c	o
Lincoln's Sparrow .....	2		f	f	
White-throated Sparrow .....	2,6		f	f	
Golden-crowned Sparrow .....	2		f	f	
White-crowned Sparrow .....	2,6	c	f	c	
Harris' Sparrow .....	2,6	f			r
* Dark-eyed Junco .....	7	c	o	u	c
* Bobolink .....	5,4	o	o	o	

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
<b>BLACKBIRDS, MEADOWLARKS AND ORIOLES</b>					
* Red-winged Blackbird .....	1,4	u	a	a	u
* Western Meadowlark .....	5	c	a	a	u
* Yellow-headed Blackbird .....	1	a	a	c	
* Brewer's Blackbird .....	12	c	c	c	
Great-tailed Grackle .....	4,5	r	r	c	
* Brown-headed Cowbird .....	12	c	c	c	
* Northern Oriole .....	2	u	u	u	
<b>FINCHES</b>					
Rosy Finch .....	5,6				u
* Cassin's Finch .....	7	u	u	u	
* House Finch .....	5,6	c	c	c	
* Pine Siskin .....	7	c	c	u	
Lesser Goldfinch .....	5,2	o	o	o	
* American Goldfinch .....	5	u	u	u	
Evening Grosbeak .....	2,7	o	o	o	
<b>WEAVERFINCHES</b>					
* House Sparrow .....	11	o	u	o	

## Accidentals

Least Bittern  
 Ross' Goose  
 Eurasian Wigeon  
 Greater Scaup  
 Oldsquaw  
 Surf Scoter  
 White-winged Scoter  
 Red-shouldered Hawk  
 Marbled Godwit  
 Bonaparte's Gull  
 Band-tailed Pigeon  
 Common Barn Owl  
 Flammulated Owl  
 Western Screech Owl  
 Eastern Kingbird  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
 Northern Mockingbird  
 Bohemian Waxwing  
 Blackpoll Warbler  
 American Redstart  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
 Blue Grosbeak



Red-winged Blackbird

# Mammals

The following list of mammals includes those found on the refuge and adjacent lands. Species that are suspected of occurring in the area (?) and those that have been identified prior to 1940 with no recent observation (h) are also included. All are considered resident species except the bats that migrate. Visibility of mammals varies seasonally due to some species hibernating and others moving between summer and winter ranges. Small mammals may remain active throughout winter but out of view in tunnels under the snow.

The common names and order follow "A Field Guide to the Mammals of America North of Mexico" by Burt and Grossenheider (1976).

	Habitat	Abundance
<b>Shrews</b>		
Merriam Shrew .....	6	?
Vagrant Shrew .....	4	u
<b>Bats</b>		
Little Brown Myotis .....	11	?
Long-eared Myotis .....	10,11	c
Small-footed Myotis .....	10	c
Silver-haired Bat .....	7,11	r
Big Brown Bat .....	10	?
Mexican Freetail Bat .....	10	r
<b>Weasels and Relatives</b>		
Shorttail Weasel .....	2,4	r
Longtail Weasel .....	2	u
Mink .....	1,2	u
Badger .....	12	c
Spotted Skunk .....	7,8	u
Striped Skunk .....	12	?
<b>Canids</b>		
Coyote .....	12	c
<b>Cats</b>		
Mountain Lion .....	8	u
Bobcat .....	8	u
<b>Squirrels</b>		
Yellowbelly Marmot .....	9,8	u
Townsend Ground Squirrel .....	6	?
Richardson Ground Squirrel .....	4	?
Belding Ground Squirrel .....	5,6	c
Golden-mantled Squirrel .....	9	u
Least Chipmunk .....	6	c
Uinta Chipmunk .....	7,9	r

	Habitat	Abundance
<b>Pocket Gophers</b>		
Pygmy Pocket Gopher .....	2,5	c
Northern Pocket Gopher .....	9	c
<b>Pocket Mice and Kangaroo Rats</b>		
Great Basin Pocket Mouse .....	6	c
Dark Kangaroo Mouse .....	6	u
Ord Kangaroo Rat .....	6	c
Great Basin Kangaroo Rat .....	6	c
<b>Beavers</b>		
Beaver .....	8	c
<b>New World Rats and Mice</b>		
Western Harvest Mouse .....	6,5	u
Canyon Mouse .....	8,9	h
Deer Mouse .....	12	c
Pinon Mouse .....	7,9	h
Northern Grasshopper Mouse .....	6	?
Bushtail Woodrat .....	9,10	u
Mountain Vole .....	4	c
Longtail Vole .....	2,8	u
Sagebrush Vole .....	6	?
Muskrat .....	1	c
<b>Old World Rats and Mice</b>		
House Mouse .....	11	c
<b>New World Porcupines</b>		
Porcupine .....	2,4	c
<b>Hares and Rabbits</b>		
Whitetail Jackrabbit .....	6	r
Blacktail Jackrabbit .....	6	c
Mountain Cottontail .....	6,2	c
Pygmy Rabbit .....	6	u
<b>Deer</b>		
Mule Deer .....	12	c
<b>Pronghorn</b>		
Pronghorn .....	6,5	u



## Fishes



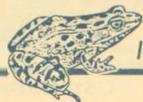
largemouth bass

Eight species of fish are present in the refuge waters. The relict dace is the only species that is native to the marsh. This species is present in only a few other basins in northeastern Nevada. Largemouth black bass were stocked in 1932 or 1933 and have successfully reproduced. Rainbow, Eastern brook and brown trout are stocked annually with occasional stocking of cutthroat and tiger trout. A small population of Lahontan speckle dace has maintained itself from a 1950 stocking. The following names are in accordance with the checklist presented in "Fishes and Fisheries of Nevada" by LaRivers (1962).

	Habitat	Abundance
<b>Trouts</b>		
> Eastern Brook Trout .....	3	a
> Cutthroat Trout .....	3	u
> Rainbow Trout .....	1	c
> Brown Trout .....	3,1	u
> Tiger Trout (hybrid) .....	3	u
<b>Minnnows</b>		
Relict Dace .....	1	u
> Lahontan Speckle Dace .....	1	r
<b>Sunfishes</b>		
> Largemouth Black Bass .....	1	a

## Amphibians and Reptiles

Amphibians live both in water and on land. Reptiles usually occur on drier sites. Both amphibians and reptiles hibernate during the winter and therefore are only seen during the spring through the fall. Because they are small, secretive animals, they are not highly visible to the refuge visitor. The Great Basin rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*) and gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) are most often seen crossing roads. Lizards are occasionally seen around the shrub uplands while frogs are seen along the marsh's edge. A species list has not yet been compiled for this area.



leopard frog

## Viewing Wildlife



Viewing wildlife is best done during morning and evening hours. Binoculars or a spotting scope greatly assist in identifying wildlife and observing their behavior. Best wildlife viewing from a car can be done by taking the Bressman Cabin Loop passing Unit 10, the North and East Sumps, and Unit 13 and/or by taking the Brown Dike-Short Dike Loop around Unit 21. For a unique opportunity to see the marsh wildlife up-close, the South Sump is open during part of the year for canoeing and electric motors.

For further information contact:

Refuge Manager  
**Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge**  
 Ruby Valley, NV 89833  
 Telephone (702) 779-2237

## Notes



Important wildlife observations have been contributed throughout the years by you — the refuge visitor. Please continue to share your observations with us at refuge headquarters in order that we may all increase our understanding of our environment.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time Afield \_\_\_\_\_

Observers \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

Observation and Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

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A special thank you to L. Ports and M. Ports from Northern Nevada Community College and M. Green from Nevada Department of Wildlife for their help in preparing this list.