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PAM FILE

Wildlife

Ruby Lake

National Wildlife Refuge

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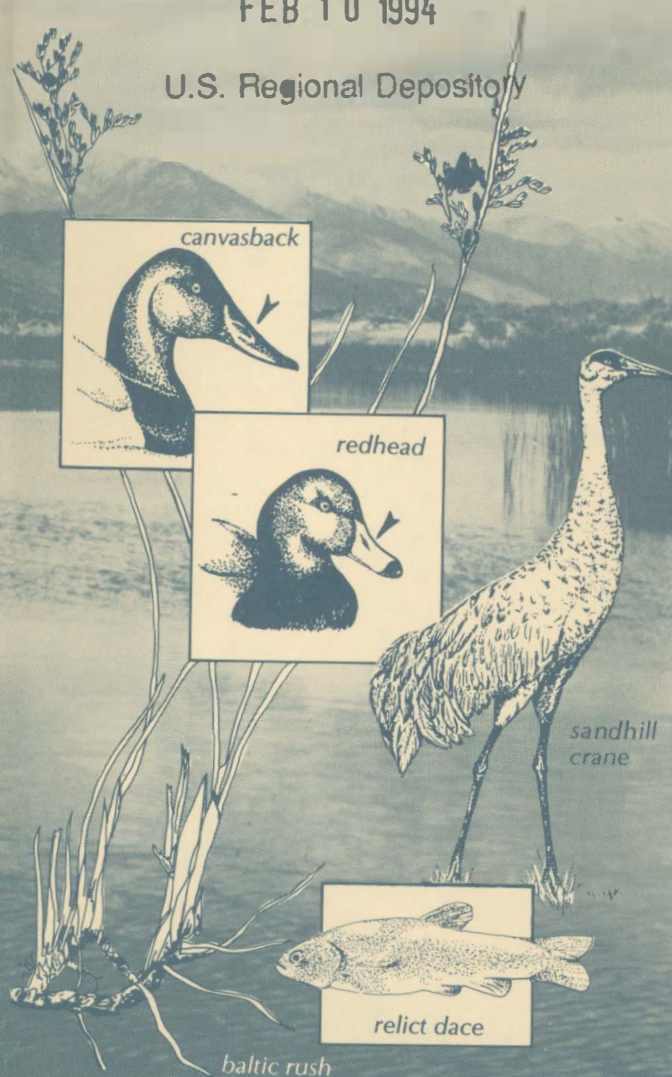
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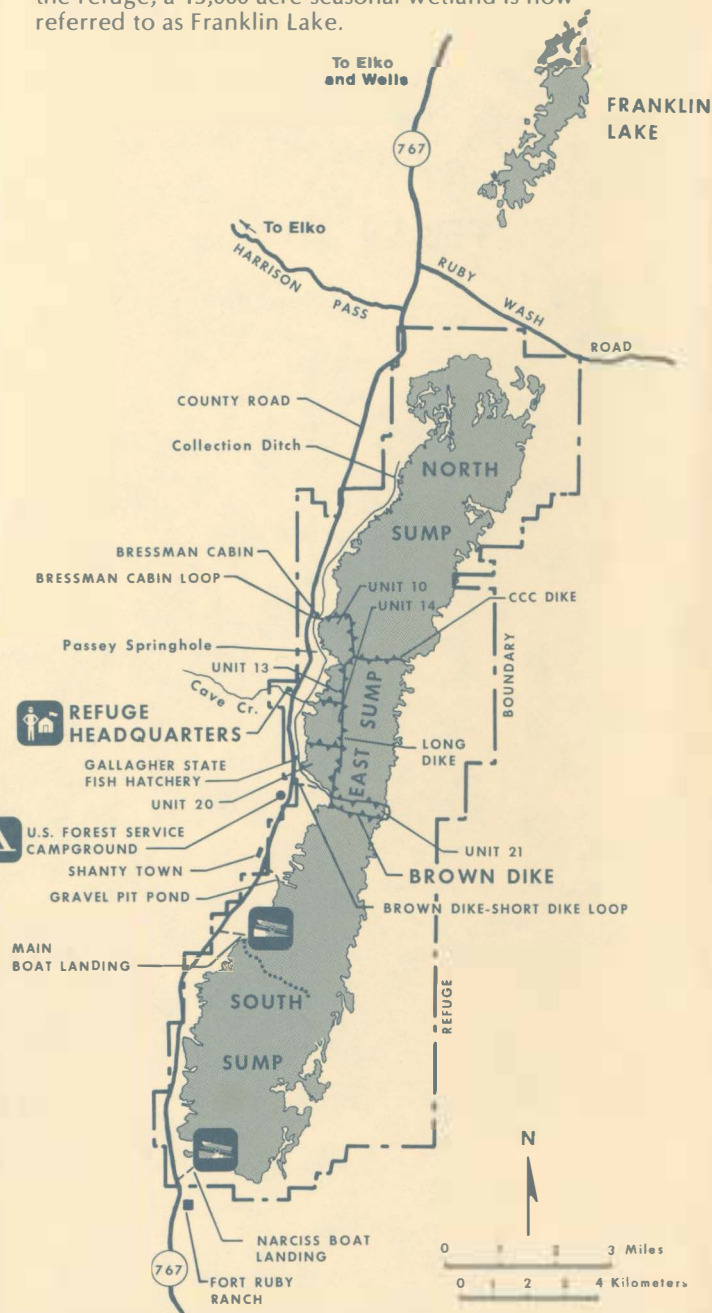
RF14570

October 1993



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

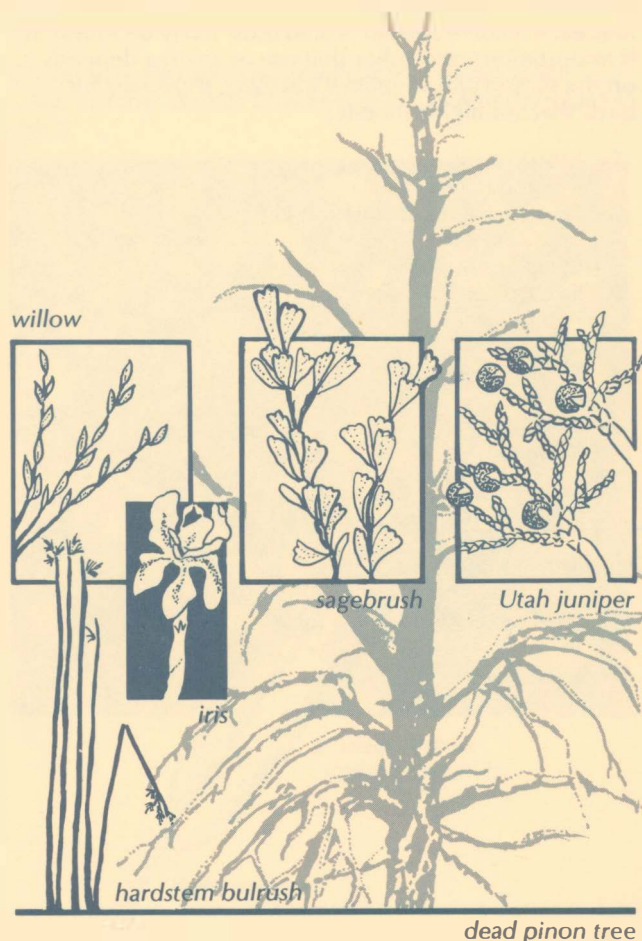


Red-tailed Hawk

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 habitat 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 wildfire.



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 207 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 throughout all the habitat types, 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 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. Prairie falcons nest locally and forage on the refuge.

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	B	F	W
LOONS					
Common Loon	1	r	r		
GREBES					
* Pied-billed Grebe	1	c	c	c	u
Horned Grebe	1	o		o	
* Eared Grebe	1	c	c	c	u
* Western Grebe	1	r	r	u	
Clark's Grebe	1	u	u		
PELICANS AND CORMORANTS					
American White Pelican	1	o	u	u	
* Double-crested Cormorant	1	u	u	u	
BITTERNS, HERONS AND EGRETS					
* 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
Green-backed Heron	1,2	r	r		
IBIS AND SPOONBILLS					
* White-faced Ibis	1,4	c	a	c	
WATERFOWL					
Tundra Swan	1	u		c	c
* Trumpeter Swan	1	u	u	u	u
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	o			o
Snow Goose	1				o
* Canada Goose	1,4	c	c	c	c
Wood Duck	3,2			u	
Green-winged Teal	1	c	r	a	c
* Mallard	1	a	a	a	c
* Northern Pintail	1	c	u	a	c
* Blue-winged Teal	1	u	u	u	
* Cinnamon Teal	1	a	a	c	u
* Northern Shoveler	1	c	c	c	u
* Gadwall	1	a	a	a	c
* American Wigeon	1	c	u	c	c
* Canvasback	1	a	a	a	u
* Redhead	1	a	a	a	u
* Ring-necked Duck	1	c	u	u	c
* Lesser Scaup	1	c	c	c	c
Common Goldeneye	1	u		u	c
Barrow's Goldeneye	1			r	r
Bufflehead	1	u		c	c
Hooded Merganser	1	o		o	o
Common Merganser	1	u		u	u
Red-breasted Merganser	1	r		r	r
* Ruddy Duck	1	c	c	c	u
VULTURES					
* Turkey Vulture	5	c	c	u	

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
OSPREY, KITES, EAGLES AND HAWKS					
Osprey	1	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
FALCONS					
* American Kestrel	5	c	c	c	
> Peregrine Falcon	8,9	r		r	r
* Prairie Falcon	5,9	u	u	r	r
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS					
>* 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
RAILS					
* Virginia Rail	1	u	u	u	r
* Sora	1	u	u	r	
* Common Moorhen	1	r	r		
* American Coot	1	a	a	a	c
CRANES					
* Sandhill Crane	4,5	c	c	u	
PLOVERS					
Black-bellied Plover	1	r			
* Killdeer	4,5	c	c	c	r
STILTS AND AVOCETS					
* Black-necked Stilt	1	o	c	u	
* American Avocet	1	o	c	u	
SHOREBIRDS					
Greater Yellowlegs	1	o		o	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1		u	u	
Solitary Sandpiper	1	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	
Western Sandpiper	1	r		r	
Marbled Godwit	1,4	r			



Black-necked Stilt

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
SNIPE					
* Common Snipe	1,2	u	c	u	u
PHALAROPES					
* Wilson's Phalarope	1	o	o	o	
Red-necked Phalarope	1	o		o	
GULLS AND TERNS					
Franklin's Gull	1	o	o	o	
Ring-billed Gull	1	o	o	u	
California Gull	1	o	o	o	
Caspian Tern	1	o	u	o	
* Forster's Tern	1	c	c	u	
* Black Tern	1	c	c	u	
DOVES					
Rock Dove	11	o			
* Mourning Dove	7,5	a	c	a	o
OWLS					
* Great Horned Owl	2	c	c	c	c
* Burrowing Owl	5,6	u	u	u	
* Long-eared Owl	7,2	u	u	u	u
* Short-eared Owl	5,6	c	c	c	u
* Northern Saw-whet Owl	7	u	u	u	u
GOATSUCKERS					
* Common Nighthawk	12	c	c	u	
* Common Poorwill	7,6	u	u	u	
SWIFTS					
* White-throated Swift	8,9	u	u	u	
HUMMINGBIRDS					
* Black-chinned Hummingbird	8,5	u	u	u	
* Calliope Hummingbird	2,8	u	u	u	
* Broad-tailed Hummingbird	2,5	u	u	u	
Rufous Hummingbird	2,5	u	c	c	
KINGFISHERS					
* Belted Kingfisher	2	u	u	u	u
WOODPECKERS					
* Lewis' Woodpecker	7,8	u	c	u	
Red-naped Sapsucker	2	o	o	o	
* Downy Woodpecker	2,7	u	u	u	u
* Hairy Woodpecker	2,7	u	u	u	u
* Northern Flicker	5,7	c	c	c	u
FLYCATCHERS					
* Olive-sided Flycatcher	2,7		u		
* Western Wood-Pewee	2	u	u		
* Willow Flycatcher	2,8		c		
* Hammond's Flycatcher	7	u			
* Dusky Flycatcher	6,2	c	c	c	
* Gray Flycatcher	7,6	u	u	u	
* Cordilleran Flycatcher	2,8	u	u		
* Say's Phoebe	8,9	c	c	c	
* Ash-throated Flycatcher	5,6	u	u	u	
* Western Kingbird	5,6	c	c	c	

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
LARKS					
* Horned Lark	5	c	c	c	c
SWALLOWS					
* Tree Swallow	2,7	c	a	a	
* Violet-green Swallow	7,9	c	a	a	
* Northern Rough-winged Swallow	11,9	c	c	c	
Bank Swallow	11,6	c	c	c	
* Cliff Swallow	11,9	a	a	a	
* Barn Swallow	11	c	c	c	
JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS					
* Scrub Jay	7		u	u	u
* Pinyon Jay	7	u	u	u	c
* Clark's Nutcracker	7	o	o	o	o
* Black-billed Magpie	12	c	c	c	c
* American Crow	12	o	u	u	o
* Common Raven	12	c	c	c	c
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	8,2				o
* Mountain Chickadee	2,8	u	u	u	c
* Plain Titmouse	7	c	c	c	c
BUSHTITS					
* Bushtit	7	c	c	c	c
NUTHATCHES					
* Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	c	c	c	
CREEPERS					
* Brown Creeper	7,2	u	u	u	
WRENS					
* Rock Wren	9	u	u	u	
* Canyon Wren	8,9	u	u	u	r
* House Wren	2,4	c	c	c	
* Marsh Wren	1	a	a	a	u
DIPPERS					
American Dipper	2,3	o	o	o	o
KINGLETS, BLUEBIRDS AND THRUSHES					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	u	u	u	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7,2	u	u	u	
* Mountain Bluebird	5	c	u	c	
* Townsend's Solitaire	7,3	u	u	u	u
Veery	8,2		c		
Swainson's Thrush	2,4	u	u	u	
Hermit Thrush	2,7	o	o	o	
* American Robin	12	c	c	c	o
* Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7	r			
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS					
Gray Catbird	2	o	o	o	
Northern Mockingbird	11,2		u		
* Sage Thrasher	5,6	u	u	u	
WAGTAILS AND PIPITS					
American Pipit	4,5				

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
WAXWINGS					
Cedar Waxwing	2	o	o	o	o
SHRIKES					
Northern Shrike	7				o
* Loggerhead Shrike	5,6	o	o	o	
STARLINGS AND MYNAS					
* European Starling	12	c	c	c	o
VIREOS					
Solitary Vireo	2	u	u	u	
Warbling Vireo	2	u	u	u	
Red-eyed Vireo	2		r		
WARBLERS					
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	u	u	u	
* Virginia's Warbler	8,7	u	u	u	
* Yellow Warbler	2	c	c	c	
* Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	c	c	c	
* Black-throated Gray Warbler	8,6	u	u	u	
Northern Waterthrush	4,2	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	
TANAGERS					
Western Tanager	7	u	u	u	
GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS					
Black-headed Grosbeak	2	u	u	u	
* Lazuli Bunting	2	u	u	u	
Indigo Bunting	5,2	r	r		
TOWHEES AND SPARROWS					
* 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		
* Song Sparrow	2,1	o	o	c	o
Lincoln's Sparrow	2				
White-throated Sparrow	2,6				
Golden-crowned Sparrow	2			r	
White-crowned Sparrow	2,6	c	c	c	
Harris' Sparrow	2,6	r			r
* Dark-eyed Junco	7	c	o	u	c
* Bobolink	5,4	o	o	o	

COMMON NAME	HABITAT	Sp	S	F	W
BLACKBIRDS, MEADOWLARKS AND ORIOLES					
* 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		
* Brown-headed Cowbird	12	c	c	c	
* Northern Oriole	2	u	u	u	
FINCHES					
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	
WEAVERFINCHES					
House Sparrow	11	o	o	o	

Accidentals

Least Bittern
 Ross' Goose
 Eurasian Wigeon
 Greater Scaup
 Oldsquaw
 Surf Scoter
 White-winged Scoter
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Bonaparte's Gull
 Band-tailed Pigeon
 Common Barn Owl
 Flammulated Owl
 Western Screech Owl
 Eastern Kingbird
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Bohemian Waxwing
 Blackpoll Warbler
 American Redstart
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Western Bluebird
 Varied Thrush
 California Quail
 Little Blue Heron



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 because some species hibernate during winter and others migrate 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
Shrews		
Merriam Shrew	6	?
Vagrant Shrew	4	u
Bats		
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	?
Weasels and Relatives		
Shorttail Weasel	2,4	r
Longtail Weasel	2	u
Mink	1,2	?
Badger	12	c
Spotted Skunk	7,8	r
Striped Skunk	11	r
Canids		
Coyote	12	c
Cats		
Mountain Lion	8	u
Bobcat	8	u
Squirrels		
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

Pocket Gophers

Pygmy Pocket Gopher	2,5	c
Northern Pocket Gopher	9	c

Pocket Mice and Kangaroo Rats

Great Basin Pocket Mouse	6	c
Dark Kangaroo Mouse	6	u
Ord Kangaroo Rat	6	c
Great Basin Kangaroo Rat	6	c

New World Rats and Mice

Western Harvest Mouse	6,5	u
Canyon Mouse	8,9	h
Deer Mouse	12	c
Pinon Mouse	7,9	h
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	6	?
Bushytail Woodrat	9,10	u
Mountain Vole	4	c
Longtail Vole	2,8	u
Sagebrush Vole	6	?
Muskrat	1	c

Old World Rats and Mice

House Mouse	11	c
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New World Porcupines

Porcupine	2,4	c
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Hares and Rabbits

Whitetail Jackrabbit	6	r
Blacktail Jackrabbit	6	c
Mountain Cottontail	6,2	c
Pygmy Rabbit	6	u

Deer

Mule Deer	12	c
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Pronghorn

Pronghorn	6,5	u
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muskrat tracks



muskrat

Fishes



largemouth bass

Eight species of fish are present in 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 north-eastern 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
Trouts		
>Eastern Brook Trout	3	a
>Cutthroat Trout	3	u
>Rainbow Trout	1	c
>Brown Trout	3,1	u
>Tiger Trout (hybrid)	3	u
Minnows		
Relict Dace	1	u
>Lahontan Speckle Dace	1	u
Sunfishes		
>Largemouth Black Bass	1	a

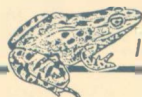
Trouts

Minnows

Sunfishes

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 close up, 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
 HC 60, Box 860
 Ruby Valley, Nevada 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 _____

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.