HC 60, Box 860 Ruby Valley, NV 89833-9801 Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge HC 60, Box 860 Ruby Valley, Nevada 89833-9802 775/779 2237 FAX 775/779 2370

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service http://www.fws.gov

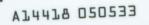
Refuge Information 1 800/344 WILD





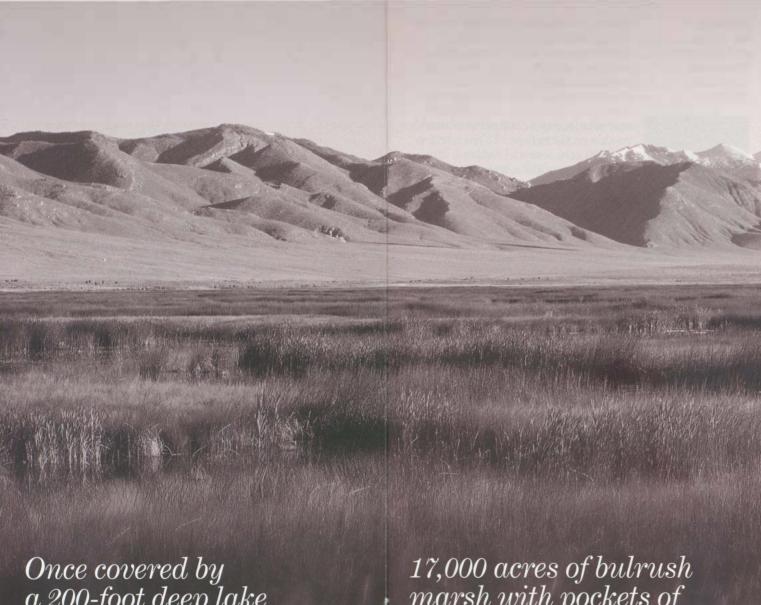
PAM FILE **NUDY LAKE** National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife Checklist



ZIMMERMAN LIBRARY UNIV. OF NEW MEXICO 007 2 7 1999 U.S. Regional Depository

Canvasback hen with brood © Clair Kofoed Photos courtesy of Clair Kofoed



Let Us Know!

As the second-most remote refuge in the continental United States, information on bird occurrences are as rare as visiting bird watchers.

If you spot a species not found on this list, or one listed as accidental or rare, or find anything which differs widely from the information printed here, please let us know.

To aid you in providing us with this information, this portion of the wildlife checklist can be cut off and returned to Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge as a post card. Please write your observations below.

Name: Address: Phone: E-mail: Date of observation(s): Observations.

Once covered by a 200-foot deep lake covering over 300,000 acres, the refuge now provides habitat for hundreds of species of birds and mammals. 17,000 acres of bulrush marsh with pockets of open water graduate into meadows and grasslands. Rocky slopes in the west rise 11,000 feet and provide a haven for the wildlife living here.

### 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. The refuge is 16 miles long and over 3 miles at it's widest point. This land was once covered by a 200-foot deep, 300,800 acre lake; today 17,000 acres of marsh remain on the refuge. To the north is a 15,000 acre seasonal wetland, also attractive to wildlife, known as Franklin Lake.

### The Habitat

The refuge, at an elevation of 6,000 feet, centers on an extensive bulrush marsh interspersed with pockets of open water. Islands scattered throughout provide good nesting habitat for many bird species. Over 160 springs flow into the marsh, some of which travel into the collection ditch along its west border. These water sources create riparian habitat which is used by many smaller birds and mammals. They also provide a water source for larger mammals.

With slight increases in elevation, meadows graduate into grasslands and shrub-steppe habitat. Pinyon pines and juniper cover the lower slopes of the Ruby Mountains that rise to 11,000 feet along the west side of the refuge. Limber pine, bristlecone pine, aspens and mountain mahogany forest the upper slopes. Canyons and rocky cliffs both provide nesting and perching habitat for various types of wildlife. A mountainside of dead trees, the result of a 1979 wildfire, is home for cavity dwelling birds.

Aspen leaves

#### **General Key**

### Habitat Codes

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 may depend on the season and an animal's activity, especially for birds that are highly mobile.

- 1 marsh, open water areas
- 2 riparian areas
- 3 meadows, grasslands
- 4 shrub-steppe
- 5 wooded areas
- 6 canyons
- 7 rocky areas, cliffs, caves
- 8 montane
- 9 buildings, residential areas
- 10 widespread

## Seasons

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

# Abundance

- a abundant; a common species which is very numerous
- c common; certain to be seen in suitable habitat
- u uncommon; present, but not certain to be seen
- o occasional; seen only a few times during a season
- - rare; known to be present but not every year
- birds known to nest locally
- > Federal Threatened/Endangered Species

### Birds at Ruby Lake



Common Yellowthroat

Bird life can be seen throughout all the habitat types, from the valley floor to the mountain peaks. The following bird list includes 225 species observed on the refuge, as well as on adjacent lands including the Humboldt National Forest, Bureau of Land Management lands, Franklin Lake Wildlife Management Area managed by the Nevada Division of Wildlife, and privatelyowned lands. In addition, 25 species are listed as accidentals because they have only been observed once or twice in the area.

The refuge is a significant waterfowl area in Nevada providing an important feeding and resting stop in the Pacific and Central Flyways. During summer, the marsh provides excellent habitat for nesting ducks including canvasbacks and redheads as well as several colonial nesters white-faced ibis, great blue heron, black-crowned night-heron, double-crested cormorant, and others. Greater sandhill cranes nest along the marsh's edge. Ducks and songbird species nest throughout the meadows, grasslands and riparian areas. Trumpeter swans were introduced into the valley from Montana resulting in several pairs nesting on the refuge each year. Red-tailed hawks and prairie falcons nest locally and forage on the refuge. An introduced gamebird, the Himalavan snowcock, is found only on the alpine peaks of the Ruby Mountains.

> Common names and taxonomic order follow the 6th Edition of the "AOU Checklist of North American Birds" (1983) including revisions contained in all supplements up to and including the 41st (1997).

**Common Name** Habitat Sp S Loons Common Loon 1 r r Grebes □ \*Pied-billed Grebe 1 С С С u Horned Grebe 1 0 0 □ \*Eared Grebe 1 С C С u □ Western Grebe 1 r r u □ Clark's Grebe 1 r r Pelicans □ American White Pelican 1 0 u u **Cormorants** \*Double-crested Cormorant. 1 u u u r **Bitterns, Herons and Egrets** □ \*American Bittern 1 С с С r □ \*Great Blue Heron 1,2 С С С C □ \*Great Egret 1.3 u u u □ \*Snowy Egret 1,3 u u u r □ Cattle Egret 3 u u Green Heron 1.2 r r \*Black-crowned Night-Heron 1.2 С c С 0 **Ibises and Spoonbills** □ \*White-faced Ibis 1,3 С С a r **New World Vultures** Turkey Vulture 10 С u С Swans, Geese and Ducks □ Greater White-fronted Goose 1 r r □ Snow Goose 1 0 1 C Ross's Goose r r □ \*Canada Goose 1,3 a a a a ❑ \*Trumpeter Swan 1 u u u u □ Tundra Swan 1 0 u u □ Wood Duck 1,2 0 0 □ \*Gadwall 1 С a a a • \*American Wigeon 1 С u С С □ \*Mallard 1 a a a С

□ \*Blue-winged Teal

Sandhill Crane

1

0 0 0 r

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	s	F	w
Swans, Geese, and Ducks continued			1		1
*Cinnamon Teal	1	a	a	с	u
□ *Northern Shoveler	1	с	с	с	u
*Northern Pintail	1	с	u	a	с
□ *Green-winged Teal	1	с	u	с	с
• *Canvasback	1	a	a	a	u
□ *Redhead	1	a	a	a	u
□ *Ring-necked Duck	1	с	0	0	с
□ *Lesser Scaup	1	с	с	с	u
□ Bufflehead	1	u	-	с	с
Common Goldeneye	1	u		u	c
Barrow's Goldeneye	1			r	r
Hooded Merganser	1	0		0	0
Common Merganser	1	u		u	u
Red-breasted Merganser	1	r		r	r
• *Ruddy Duck	1	с	с	С	u
Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles					
□ Osprey	1	r		r	
□ >Bald Eagle	10			0	0
• *Northern Harrier	10	С	С	С	С
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	0	0	0	r
Cooper's Hawk	10	0	0	0	0
Northern Goshawk	8,5	0	0	0	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	10	r		r	
Swainson's Hawk	10	0	0	0	
• *Red-tailed Hawk	10	С	С	С	0
Ferruginous Hawk	10	0	0	0	0
Rough-legged Hawk	3, 4	u		u	С
□ *Golden Eagle	10	u	u	u	0
Falcons and Caracaras					
□ *American Kestrel	3	с	с	с	u
Merlin	3, 4	C	C		
□>Peregrine Falcon	10	10		0 r	0
□ *Prairie Falcon	7, 3	r	13	r	r
	1,0	u	u	0	r
Gallinaceous Birds					
⊐ *Chukar	6, 3	0	0	0	0
🗅 * Himalayan Snowcock	8	u	u	u	u
*Sage Grouse	4, 3	u	u	u	u
□ *Blue Grouse	8,5	u	u	u	u
	,			-	-

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	w
Rails					
🗅 *Virginia Rail	1	u	u	u	r
□ *Sora	1	u	u	r	
🗅 *Common Moorhen	1	r	r		
□ *American Coot	1	a	a	a	с
Cranes					
□ *Sandhill Crane	3	с	с	с	
Plovers					
Black-bellied Plover	1	r			
• *Killdeer	3	с	С	С	r
Stilts and Avocets					
*Black-necked Stilt	1	u	с	u	
🗅 *American Avocet	1	u	с	u	
Sandpipers and Phalaropes					
Greater Yellowlegs	1	0	0	0	
□ Lesser Yellowlegs	1	0	0	0	
<ul> <li>Solitary Sandpiper</li> </ul>	1	r	0	r	
u *Willet	3	u	u	0	
• *Spotted Sandpiper	1	u	u	u	
□ *Long-billed Curlew	3	c	c	u	
<ul> <li>Marbled Godwit</li> </ul>	1, 3	r	Ū		
<ul> <li>Western Sandpiper</li> </ul>	1	r		r	
<ul> <li>Least Sandpiper</li> </ul>	1	0		0	
□ Long-billed Dowitcher	1	0		0	
u *Common Snipe	1, 2	u	с	u	u
□ *Wilson's Phalarope	1	0	0	0	
□ Red-necked Phalarope	1	0		0	
Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls and Terns					
□ Franklin's Gull	1	10	10	10	
	1	r	r	r	
<ul> <li>Ring-billed Gull</li> <li>*California Gull</li> </ul>	1	0	0	u	
	1	u	u	u	
<ul> <li>Caspian Tern</li> <li>*Forster's Tern</li> </ul>	1	u	u	u	
□ *Black Tern	1	C	c	u	
	1	С	С	u	
Pigeons and Doves	0				
Rock Dove	9	0	0	0	0
*Mourning Dove	10	С	С	С	r

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Barn Owls					
🗅 Barn Owl	10	r	r	r	r
Typical Owls					
Western Screech-Owl	5				r
• *Great Horned Owl	2,7	с	с	с	с
*Burrowing Owl	3, 4	0	0	0	
□ *Long-eared Owl	5,2	0	0	0	0
□ *Short-eared Owl	3, 4	u	u	u	0
• *Northern Saw-whet Owl	5	0	0	0	r
Nightjars					
□ *Common Nighthawk	10	0	0		
□ *Common Poorwill		C	C	u	
	5, 4	u	u	u	
Swifts					
• *White-throated Swift	7	u	u	u	
Hummingbirds					
• *Black-chinned Hummingbird	6,2	u	u	u	
□ *Calliope Hummingbird	8,5	u	u	u	
□ *Broad-tailed Hummingbird	2,5	с	с	u	
Rufous Hummingbird	12	0	u	u	
Kingfishers					
□ *Belted Kingfisher	2	11	11	11	0
G Beiteu Kinglisher	2	u	u	u	0
Woodpeckers					
*Lewis's Woodpecker	2,6	u	u	u	r
Red-naped Sapsucker	2,5	0	0	u	
• *Williamson's Sapsucker	8,5	0	0	0	
Downy Woodpecker	2, 5	u	u	u	u
*Hairy Woodpecker	2, 5	u	u	u	u
Northern Flicker	2, 5	С	С	С	u
Tyrant Flycatchers					
□ Olive-sided Flycatcher	8,5		0		
□ *Western Wood-Pewee	5,2	u	u		
• *Willow Flycatcher	2	0	0		
Hammond's Flycatcher	8,5	0	0		
• *Gray Flycatcher	5	u	u	u	
□ *Dusky Flycatcher	8, 4/5	u	u	u	
				~	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	2,5	u	u		

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	w
□ Ash-throated Flycatcher	5, 2	r	r	r	
• *Western Kingbird	2,9	с	с	с	
Shrikes					
□ *Loggerhead Shrike	4, 3	u	u	u	0
<ul> <li>Northern Shrike</li> </ul>	4, 3	u	u	u	u
	-, 0				
Vireos					
Cassin's Vireo	2,5,8	0		0	
Plumbeus Vireo	2,5,8	u	u	u	
*Warbling Vireo	2	u	u	u	
Red-eyed Vireo	2	r		r	
Crows, Jays and Magpies					
□ *Western Scrub-Jay	5	с	с	с	с
□ *Pinyon Jay	8,5	u	u	u	c
□ *Clark's Nutcracker	8,5	0	0	0	0
□ *Black-billed Magpie	10	c	c	c	c
□ *American Crow	10	0	u	u	0
□ *Common Raven	10	c	c	c	c
	10	C	C	C	C
Larks					
• *Horned Lark	3, 4	С	с	С	с
Swallows					
□ *Tree Swallow	2,3	с	с	а	
□ *Violet-green Swallow	2, 5	с	c	a	
□ *Northern Rough-winged Swallor		с	c	c	
□ Bank Swallow	3	u	u	u	
□ *Cliff Swallow	9, 7	a	a	a	
□ *Barn Swallow	9	с	c	c	
	U	Ū	U	C	
Titmice and Chickadees					
□ *Mountain Chickadee	5	u	u	u	С
*Juniper Titmouse	5	u	u	u	С
Bushtits					
□ *Bushtit	5	u	u	u	u
Nuthatches	0 5				
□ *Red-breasted Nuthatch	8,5	u	u	u	u
• *White-breasted Nuthatch	8,5	0	0	0	0
Creepers					
□ *Brown Creeper	8, 5	u	u	u	?
- Drown or coper	0,0	u	u	u	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	w
Wrens	1				
□ *Rock Wren	7	u	u	u	r
*Canyon Wren	6,7	0	0	0	r
□ *House Wren	2	с	с	с	0
Winter Wren	2	r		r	r
□ *Marsh Wren	1	a	a	a	u
Dippers					
American Dipper	2	u		u	u
Kinglets					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7				u
□ *Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7,2	u		u	u
	•,-				
Old World Warblers					
*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7	С	С	u	
Thrushes					
• *Mountain Bluebird	8,5	с	с	с	r
*Townsend's Solitaire	8,5	u	u	u	u
*Swainson's Thrush	2	u	u	u	
*Hermit Thrush	2, 5	0	0	0	r
□*American Robin	2, 9	с	с	a	0
Mimic Thrushes					
Gray Catbird	2	r	r	r	
*Northern Mockingbird	2,9	0	0	0	r
• *Sage Thrasher	4	с	с	с	
Starlings					
□ *European Starling	9	с	с	с	0
Wagtails and Pipits					
<ul> <li>American Pipit</li> </ul>	8	0		0	0
	U	0		0	Ū
Waxwings					
Bohemian Waxwing	10				r
Cedar Waxwing	2, 9	u	u	u	0
Wood Warblers					
• *Orange-crowned Warbler	2	u	u	u	
Nashville Warbler	2, 5	0		0	
*Virginia's Warbler	5,6	u	u	u	
• *Yellow Warbler	2	с	с	с	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	w
• *Yellow-rumped Warbler	2,9	с	с	с	r
• *Black-throated Gray Warble	: 5	u	u	u	
Northern Waterthrush	2	r		0	
*MacGillivray's Warbler	2	u	u	u	
• *Common Yellowthroat	1,2	с	с	u	r
Wilson's Warbler	2	u		u	
□ *Yellow-breasted Chat	2	u	u	u	
Tanagers					
*Western Tanager	5	u	u	u	
Sparrows and Towhees					
• *Green-tailed Towhee	4	u	u	u	r
□ *Spotted Towhee	2,4,6	u	u	u	0
<ul> <li>American Tree Sparrow</li> </ul>	2,9	U.		0	0
□ *Chipping Sparrow	5	u	u	u	
□ *Brewer's Sparrow	4	a	a	a	
□ *Vesper Sparrow	4, 3	с	с	с	
• *Lark Sparrow	4	u	u	u	r
□ *Black-throated Sparrow	4,6	u	u	u	
□ *Sage Sparrow	4	u	u	u	
□ *Savannah Sparrow	3	a	a	a	
Grasshopper Sparrow	3	r	r	r	
• *Fox Sparrow	8,2	u	u	u	0
Song Sparrow	2,1	с	с	с	с
□ Lincoln's Sparrow	2	r	r	r	
□ White-throated Sparrow	2			r	r
Golden-crowned Sparrow	2			r	r
• *White-crowned Sparrow	2, 4	u	0	u	0
Harris's Sparrow	9	r		r	r
□ *Dark-eyed Junco	8,5	с	0	u	С
Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies					
□ *Black-headed Grosbeak	2, 5	u	u	u	
Blue Grosbeak	2, 3	r	r	r	
*Lazuli Bunting	2	u	u	u	
Indigo Bunting	3	r	r		
Blackbirds and Orioles					
□ *Bobolink	3	r	r	r	
*Red-winged Blackbird	1, 3	u	с	с	u
• *Western Meadowlark	3	a	a	a	0
• *Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	a	a	с	r
Blackbirds and Orioles continued next p	age				

k

Blackbirds and Orioles continued next page

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Blackbirds and Orioles continued					
*Brewer's Blackbird	10	с	с	с	0
Great-tailed Grackle	1, 9	u	u	u	0
*Brown-headed Cowbird	10	с	с	с	
*Bullock's Oriole	2	с	с	с	
Finches					
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	8				0
Black Rosy-Finch	8				0
🗆 *Pine Grosbeak	8,5	0	0	0	0
Cassin's Finch	8,5	u	u	u	u
*House Finch	2,9	u	u	u	0
Red Crossbill	8	r	r	r	r
• *Pine Siskin	8,5	u	u	u	0
Lesser Goldfinch	3, 2		u	u	r
*American Goldfinch	3, 2	u	u	u	0
Evening Grosbeak	5	0		0	r
<b>Old World Sparrows</b> Thouse Sparrow	9	u	u	u	0
- House Sparrow	0	u	u	u	0

### Accidentals

Least Bittern Little Blue Heron Eurasian Wigeon Greater Scaup Oldsquaw Surf Scoter White-winged Scoter California Quail Bonaparte's Gull Mew Gull Band-tailed Pigeon Yellow-billed Cuckoo Flammulated Owl Eastern Kingbird Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Steller's Jay Blue Jay Black-capped Chickadee Western Bluebird Varied Thrush Blackpoll Warbler American Redstart Louisiana Waterthrush Rose-breasted Grosbeak Common Grackle

Ruddy ducks: hen and drake ©Ken Morris

Mammals at
Ruby Lake

The following list includes those mammals found on the refuge and adjacent lands. Species that are suspected to occur in the area or have an unknown abundance (?) and those that have been identified only prior to 1940 (h) are also included. All are considered residents except the migrant species of bats. Visibility of mammals varies seasonally because of hibernation, migration between summer and winter ranges, or snow cover. The common names and order follow "A Field Guide to the Mammals" by Burt and Grossenheider (1976).

ShrewsMerriam ShrewVagrant Shrew3	? u 2 ?
	· u
□ Vagrant Shrew 3	
	2 ?
Northern Water Shrew     8,	
Bats	
Little Brown Myotis 7,	9 с
Long-eared Myotis 9,	7 с
Long-legged Myotis 9,	7 ?
□ Small-footed Myotis 7,	5 с
□ Silver-haired Bat 5,	9 r
u Western Pipistrel 7,	6 ?
Big Brown Bat 5,	7,9 ?
□ Hoary Bat 5	?
Spotted Bat 9,	7 ?
□ Western Big-eared Bat 7,	9 ?
□ Pallid Bat 7,	3 ?
Mexican Freetail Bat	r
Mustelids	
□ Shorttail Weasel 2,	3 r
□ Longtail Weasel 2	u
0	2 ?
🗅 Badger 10	) с
-	2 r
*	4 r

Sp	ecies	Habitat	Abundance
Ca	inids		
	Coyote	10	с
	Red Fox	10	?
Fe	lines		
	Mountain Lion	8, 6	u
	Bobcat	8, 4	u
<b>c</b> .	uirrels		
		-	
	Yellowbelly Marmot	7	u
	Townsend Ground Squirrel	4,3	?
	Richardson Ground Squirrel	4, 3	?
	Belding Ground Squirrel	3, 4	С
	Golden-mantled Squirrel	8, 5	u
	Whitetail Antelope Squirrel	4	?
	Least Chipmunk	4, 5	С
	Uinta Chipmunk	5,7	r
Po	ocket Gophers		
5	Valley Pocket Gopher	3	?
	Northern Pocket Gopher	10	С
Po	ocket Mice/Kangaroo Rats		
	Little Pocket Mouse	4	?
ū.	Great Basin Pocket Mouse	4	С
	Dark Kangaroo Mouse	4	u
	Ord Kangaroo Rat	4	c
	Great Basin Kangaroo Rat	4	c
Re	aver		
_	Beaver	1,2	r
		-,	
	ice and Voles		
	Western Harvest Mouse	3	u
	Canyon Mouse	6, 7	h
	Deer Mouse	10	С
	Piñon Mouse	5, 7	h
	No. Grasshopper Mouse	3, 4	?
	Desert Woodrat	4	?
۵	Bushytail Woodrat	8, 7	u
a	Mountain Vole	3	С
	Longtail Vole	2, 3	u
Q,	0	4	?
	Muskrat	1	С

Species	Habitat	Abundance
Old World Rats and Mice		
House Mouse	9	С
Jumping Mice		
Western Jumping Mouse	8, 2	?
Porcupines		
Porcupine	2,5	с
Hares and Rabbits		
□ Whitetail Jackrabbit	4,3	r
Blacktail Jackrabbit	4, 3	С
Mountain Cottontail	4, 7	С
Pygmy Rabbit	4	u
Deer		
□ Elk	3	-0
Mule Deer	10	С
Pronghorn		
Pronghorn	3, 4	u
Goats and Sheep		
□ Mountain Goat	8,7	u
□ Bighorn Sheep	8	r

Fishes at Ruby Lake

Eight species of fish are present in refuge waters. The relict dace is the only one native to the marsh. This species is present in only a few other basins in northeastern Nevada. A small population of Lahontan speckled dace persists in the marsh from a 1950 stocking. Largemouth bass were introduced to the marsh early 1930s and have successfully reproduced. Rainbow, eastern brook and brown trout are stocked annually into the collection ditch, marsh and spring ponds; occasional stockings of cutthroat trout also take place.

Largemouth Bass

Amphibians	
and Reptiles	

Reptiles usually are found on **Viewing Wildlife** upland sites and amphibians live closer to or in water. Both reptiles and amphibians hibernate during the winter and therefore are only seen during the warmer months. Because they are relatively small, secretive animals, they are not highly visible to the refuge visitor. Great Basin rattlesnakes and gopher snakes 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. For further information,

The best time to observe wildlife is during morning and evening hours. Binoculars or a spotting scope greatly assist in identifying wildlife and observing their behavior. Using your vehicle as a blind increases viewing opportunities; wildlife viewing from a vehicle can be done by driving the refuge auto tour route through the marsh. For a unique opportunity to see marsh wildlife close up, the South Marsh is open during part of the year to canoes and small motor boats.

Refuge Manager Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge HC 60, Box 860 Ruby Valley, NV 89833 Telephone: 775/779 2237 Fax: 775/779 2370

Gadwall hen and drake / ©Clair Kofoed



contact:

Let Us Know!

As the second-most remote refuge in the continental United States, information on bird occurrences are as rare as visiting bird watchers.

If you spot a species not found on this list, or one listed as accidental or rare, or find anything which differs widely from the information printed here, please let us know.

To aid you in providing us with this information, this portion of the wildlife checklist can be cut off and returned to Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge as a post card. Please write your observations below.

Name:	
Address:	
-	
Phone:	
E-mail: –	( States
Date of observation(s):	
Observations:	