

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
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For refuge information
1 800/344 WILD

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Ridgefield

National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife Checklist

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“I slept but very little last night for the noise kept up during the whole of the night by the swans, geese...brant (and) ducks on a small sand island... they were immensley numerous and their noise horrid.”

*Capt. William Clark
Lewis and Clark Journal
Lower Columbia River
November 5, 1805*



The Pacific Flyway

**Welcome to
Ridgefield
National Wildlife
Refuge**

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, located on the lower Columbia River floodplain adjacent to Ridgefield, Washington, provides 5,150 acres of vital migration and wintering habitat for birds migrating through the region west of the Cascade Mountains in the Pacific Flyway. The mild, rainy winter climate, combined with important remnant wetlands along the Columbia River, create ideal resting and feeding areas for a variety of species, including ducks, geese, swans, sandhill cranes and provides a key wintering area for the dusky subspecies of Canada goose. A variety of other wildlife also lives in the diversity of habitats found on the refuge.

Birds of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The grassland and wetland habitats of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge are best known for the spectacular concentrations of migratory waterfowl they attract during the winter. Seven subspecies of Canada geese occur here. Both trumpeter and tundra swans return every winter accompanied by their gray colored immature offspring. In late winter, shorebirds flock together in search of food hiding in the mudflats. Early spring brings the passerines and songbirds. Bald eagles nest here and are often seen causing a ruckus among ducks and other potential prey. Other nesting birds include herons, owls, some species of ducks, songbirds and sparrows.

The Oaks to Wetlands Trail of the Carty Unit passes through Oregon white oak and Douglas fir forests, lush understory vegetation and by numerous wetlands and meadows. A Chinook Indian village originating in ancient times once existed here. The people hunted the elk, deer and birds that roamed the land. Lewis and Clark visited the village, camped here and described this place and its people. The Carty Unit exists today as it did then. It is not protected by flood dikes, thus water levels are dependent upon the rise and fall of the Columbia River. Expect more water during the spring snowmelt and during winter rains.

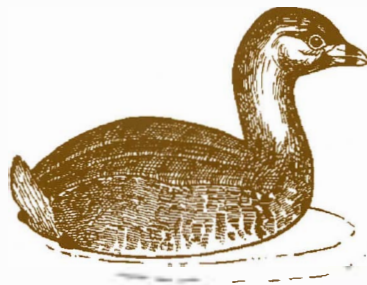
Ridgefield is truly an amazing showcase of birds of the Pacific Flyway. Birding experiences vary upon the season of the year as you will see by the list that follows. We hope you will enjoy the birds and your visit!

Wildlife Watching Tips

You will be most successful at viewing wild animals in their natural habitats if you use binoculars or a spotting scope. This equipment will help you observe wildlife from a distance and minimize disturbance. Wild animals, especially waterfowl are easily disturbed by humans and may be forced to use vital energy reserves trying to escape from their feeding and roosting areas. For this reason, be aware of special refuge seasonal regulations on public use activities during the fall and winter seasons. Wildlife watching is best shortly after sunrise and close to sunset. This will enhance your chances of seeing both nighttime and daytime active animals.

Unusual Sightings?

If you see any unusual sighting such as a species observed out of its normal season, in large numbers, or a new species not listed, please report your information to the refuge biologist at the address and phone number listed on the back cover of this leaflet. This information is greatly appreciated and will aid in future updates to this list. In addition it will provide the biologist with information about species occurrences and populations on the refuge.



Pied-billed grebe

Season Symbols

Sp - Spring (March through May)

S - Summer (June and July)

F - Fall (August through November)

W - Winter (December through February)

N - Notes

* - Birds known to nest on the refuge

✓ - Endangered or Threatened

Season Abundance Symbols

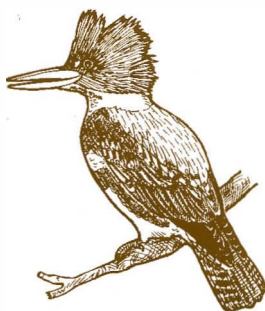
c - Common, certain to be seen in suitable habitat

u - Uncommon, present but not certain to be seen

o - Occasionally seen

r - Rare, known to be present, but not every year

ac - Accidental



Belted kingfisher

Birds of Ridgefield NWR

Common Name

N Sp S F W

Loons

Red-throated loon

r r o

Pacific loon

r r

Common loon

r r r

Grebes

Pied-billed grebe

* c c c c

Horned grebe

o o r

Red-necked grebe

r r

Eared grebe

r r

Western grebe

o o o

Pelicans

American white pelican

r r

Cormorants

Double-crested cormorant

c o u u

Bitterns, Herons, Egrets and Ibis

American bittern

* c u u o

Great blue heron

* c c c c

Great egret

* u u u u

Cattle egret

r r

Green heron

o o o r

Black-crowned night-heron

o o r r

White-faced ibis

ac ac

American Vultures

Turkey vulture

u u u r

Swans, Geese and Ducks

Greater white-fronted goose

u r u o

Emperor goose

r r

Snow goose

o o u

Ross goose

r r

Canada goose

* c u c c

Brant

o o o

Trumpeter swan

o o o

Tundra swan

u r u c

Wood duck

* c c u o

Gadwall

* c u c c

Eurasian wigeon

u u u

American wigeon

* c r c c

Mallard

* c c c c

Blue-winged teal

* u u r r

Swans, Geese and Ducks, continued next page

Common Name	N	Sp	S	F	W
Swans, Geese and Ducks, <i>continued</i>					
Cinnamon teal	*	c	c	u	o
Northern shoveler	*	c	o	c	c
Northern pintail	*	u	u	c	c
Green-winged teal		c	o	c	c
Canvasback				o	o
Redhead		o			o
Ring-necked duck		c		o	c
Tufted duck					ac
Greater scaup		o		o	o
Lesser scaup		c	o	c	c
Harlequin duck		ac			
Surf scoter				ac	
White-winged scoter				ac	
Bufflehead		u		o	c
Common goldeneye		u		o	u
Barrow's goldeneye					r
Hooded merganser	*	u	o	o	o
Common merganser	*	c		o	c
Red-breasted merganser					r
Ruddy duck	*	u	o	o	u
Ospreys, Kites, Hawks and Eagles					
Osprey		u	u	r	r
White-tailed kite			ac	ac	
Bald eagle	* ✓	u	u	u	c
Northern harrier	*	c	u	c	c
Sharp-shinned hawk		o	o	o	o
Cooper's hawk		o	o	o	o
Northern goshawk		r			
Red-shouldered hawk		r		o	o
Red-tailed hawk	*	c	c	c	c
Rough-legged hawk		o		o	u
Golden eagle		r	r		r
Falcons					
American kestrel	*	c	c	c	c
Merlin		o		o	o
Peregrine falcon		r	r	o	o
Prairie falcon				r	r
Gallinaceous Birds					
Ring-necked pheasant	*	u	o	u	u
Ruffed grouse	*	o	o	o	o
California quail	*	r	r	r	r

Common Name	N	Sp	S	F	W
Rails, Coots and Cranes					
Virginia rail	*	o	o	u	u
Sora	*	u	u	r	r
American coot	*	c	c	c	c
Sandhill crane		c	r	c	o
Plovers					
Black-bellied plover				o	o
Semipalmated plover		o		o	
Killdeer	*		c	c	c
Stilts and Avocets					
Black-necked stilt	*	ac			
American avocet				ac	
Sandpipers and Phalaropes					
Greater yellowlegs		o		u	o
Lesser yellowlegs		o		u	r
Solitary sandpiper		r	r		
Spotted sandpiper	*		o	o	u
Long-billed curlew		ac			
Sanderling				ac	ac
Semipalmated sandpiper				o	
Western sandpiper		u	u	u	r
Least sandpiper		u	u	u	o
Baird's sandpiper				r	
Pectoral sandpiper				o	
Sharp-tailed sandpiper				ac	
Dunlin		c			u
Short-billed dowitcher				r	
Long-billed dowitcher		u	o	u	o
Common snipe	*	u	o	u	c
Wilson's phalarope	*	o	r	o	
Red-necked phalarope		r	r	r	
Red phalarope		ac		ac	
Gulls and Terns					
Bonaparte's gull		o	r	o	r
Mew gull		u	r	o	c
Ring-billed gull		c	o	o	c
California gull		c	o	u	c
Herring gull		u		o	u
Thayer's gull		c	o	u	c
Glaucous-winged gull		c	o	u	c
Glaucous gull		r			r
Gulls and Terns, <i>continued next page</i>					

Common Name	N	Sp	S	F	W
Gulls and Terns, <i>continued</i>					
Caspian tern		r	o	o	
Black tern	*	r	r	r	
Pigeons and Doves					
Rock dove	*	c	c		
Band-tailed dove		o	o	o	o
Mourning dove	*	u	c	u	o
Owls					
Barn owl	*	u	u	u	u
Western screech-owl	*	o	o	o	o
Great horned owl	*	u	u	u	u
Snowy owl				r	
Northern pygmy-owl		o	o	o	o
Short-eared owl		o		o	o
Nightjars					
Common nighthawk			o	o	
Swifts					
Vaux's swift		u	u	o	
Hummingbirds					
Anna's hummingbird		r	r	r	r
Rufous hummingbird	*	u	u	o	
Kingfishers					
Belted kingfisher	*	c	u	c	u
Woodpeckers					
Lewis' woodpecker		r		r	r
Red-naped sapsucker				ac	
Red-breasted sapsucker	*	o	o	o	o
Downy woodpecker	*	c	c	c	c
Hairy woodpecker	*	o	o	o	o
Northern flicker	*	c	c	c	c
Pileated woodpecker	*	o	o	o	o
Tyrant Flycatchers					
Olive-sided flycatcher		o	o	o	
Western wood-pewee	*	u	c	u	
Willow flycatcher	*	u	u	u	
Least flycatcher		ac	ac		
Hammond's flycatcher		o	o	r	
Dusky flycatcher		ac		ac	
Pacific-slope flycatcher	*	u	c	r	

Common Name	N	Sp	S	F	W
Say's phoebe		r			
Vermilion flycatcher					ac
Ash-throated flycatcher				ac	
Western kingbird		r	r		
Eastern kingbird		r			
Shrikes					
Loggerhead shrike		r			
Northern shrike		o		o	o
Larks					
Horned lark				r	
Vireos					
Cassin's vireo		r	o		
Hutton's vireo		r	r	r	r
Warbling vireo	*	u	u		
Red-eyed vireo	*	o	o	o	
Crows, Jays and Magpies					
Gray jay		r			r
Steller's jay	*	c	u	u	c
Western scrub jay	*	c	c	c	c
Black-billed magpie		ac		ac	
American crow	*	c	c	c	c
Swallows					
Purple martin	*	u	u	u	
Tree swallow	*	c	c	u	r
Violet-green swallow	*	c	c	o	r
Northern rough-winged swallow	*	o	u	u	
Bank swallow	*	r	r	u	
Cliff swallow	*	u	u	u	
Barn swallow	*	c	c	c	r
Chickadees					
Black-capped chickadee	*	c	c	c	c
Chestnut-backed chickadee	*	o	o	o	o
Nuthatches					
Red-breasted nuthatch	*	o	o	o	o
White-breasted nuthatch	*	u	u	u	u
Bushtits					
Common bushtit	*	c	c	c	c

Common Name	N	Sp	S	F	W
Creepers					
Brown creeper	*	o	o	o	o
Wrens					
Bewick's wren	*	c	c	c	c
House wren	*	r	c	o	
Winter wren	*	u	u	o	c
Marsh wren	*	c	c	u	u
Kinglets					
Golden-crowned kinglet		c	o	c	c
Ruby-crowned kinglet		u	o	u	u
Thrushes					
Western bluebird		r			
Swainson's thrush	*	u	c	u	
Hermit thrush		u		o	o
American robin	*	c	c	c	c
Varied thrush		o		o	u
Mynas					
European starling	*	c	c	c	c
Pipits					
American pipit		u		c	u
Waxwings					
Cedar waxwing	*	u	c	u	o
Warblers					
Orange-crowned warbler	*	c	u	o	o
Nashville warbler		o	o		
Yellow warbler	*	o	u		
Chestnut-sided warbler			ac		
Yellow-rumped warbler		c	o	u	u
Black-throated gray warbler		u	r	u	
Townsend's warbler		o		o	o
Palm warbler					ac
Black-and-white warbler			ac		
Northern waterthrush				ac	
MacGillivray's warbler	*		u	r	
Common yellowthroat	*	c	c	u	
Wilson's warbler		c	o	o	
Yellow-breasted chat		r	r		
Tanagers					
Western tanager	*	u	u	r	

Common Name	N	Sp	S	F	W
Towhees and Sparrows					
Spotted towhee	*	c	c	c	c
American tree sparrow		ac			
Chipping sparrow		o	o	o	r
Vesper sparrow		r		r	
Fox sparrow		o		o	u
Song sparrow	*	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's sparrow		o		u	u
Swamp sparrow				o	o
Savannah sparrow	*	c	c	u	o
White-throated sparrow		r		o	o
Harris' sparrow					ac
White-crowned sparrow	*	u	u	u	u
Golden-crowned sparrow		u		u	u
Dark-eyed junco		c	o	c	c
Lapland longspur				ac	
Grosbeaks and Buntings					
Black-headed grosbeak	*	o	c	o	
Lazuli bunting			r		
Blackbirds, Meadowlarks and Orioles					
Red-winged blackbird	*	c	c	u	c
Western meadowlark	*	u	o	u	u
Yellow-headed blackbird	*	u	u		
Brewer's blackbird	*	c	c	c	c
Brown-headed cowbird	*	c	c	u	o
Bullock's oriole	*	r	u	o	
Finches					
Purple finch	*	u	u	u	u
House finch	*	c	c	u	c
Red crossbill		o	r	r	r
Common redpoll					ac
Pine siskin	*	o	o	o	o
American goldfinch	*	c	c	u	u
Evening grosbeak		o			
Weaver Finches					
House sparrow	*	u	u	u	u

**Mammals of
Ridgefield
National Wildlife
Refuge**

This list includes 23 species of mammals which have been verified through biological surveys to occur within Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The remaining 16 are potential species obtained from various publications. The numerous fresh water ponds and marshes of the refuge produce a variety of emergent aquatic vegetation and are usually bordered by riparian areas. These habitats attract all species of wildlife and are especially critical to the survival of many of these mammalian species. Although their preferred habitat is present, viewing mammals is not always easy to do. Mammals have very keen senses and are usually aware of visitors long before they are seen. This gives them warning to hide or use their camouflaging. Some are only active at night. Although they may not be seen, it is not hard to spot evidence of their presence such as fresh coyote tracks in the mud or a burrow hole leading to a rabbit's warm nest underground. Look for the signs and have patience.

V - (◆) Verified Species



Coyote

Mammals of Ridgefield NWR

Common Name		V
Opossums	Common opossum	◆
Shrews	Dusky shrew	
	Vagrant shrew	◆
Moles		
	Townsend mole	◆
Bats	Shrew-mole	
	Little brown myotis	
	California myotis	
	Big brown bat	
	Hoary bat	
	Western red bat	
	Yuma bat	
Rabbits	Silver-haired bat	
	Long-legged bat	
	Western long-eared bat	
	Eastern cottontail	◆
	Brush rabbit	
Rodents	Beechey ground squirrel	◆
	Eastern gray squirrel	◆
	Douglas squirrel	
	Townsend's chipmunk	◆
	Mazama pocket gopher	
	Beaver	◆
	Deer mouse	◆
	Creeping (Oregon) vole	
	Townsend vole	◆
	Muskrat	◆
	Pacific jumping mouse	◆
	Nutria	◆
Carnivores		
	Coyote	◆
	Red fox	◆
	Raccoon	◆
	Mink	◆
	Long-tailed weasel	◆
	Striped skunk	◆
	River otter	◆
	Mountain lion	◆

Common Name

V

Mammals, continued

Ungulates

Black-tailed deer

◆

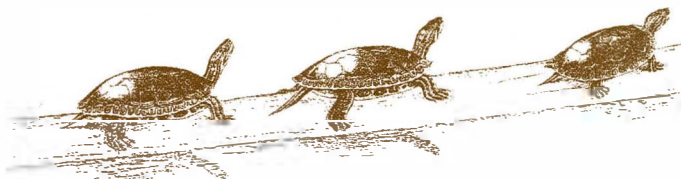
Roosevelt elk

◆



Amphibians & Reptiles of Ridgefield NWR

Thirteen species of amphibians and reptiles have been verified within Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.



Western painted turtles

Common Name

Northwestern salamander

Long-toed salamander

Ensatina

Western redback salamander

Rough-skinned newt

Pacific treefrog

Northern red-legged frog

Bullfrog (introduced)

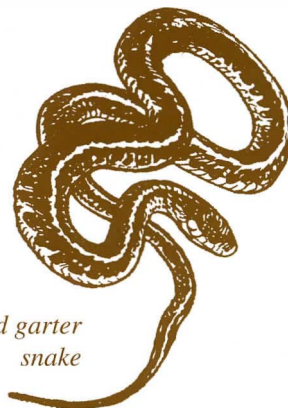
Western painted turtle

Northern alligator lizard

Rubber boa

Northwestern garter snake

Red-spotted (common) garter snake



*Red-spotted garter
snake*

Fish of Ridgefield NWR

The Columbia River supplies water to all parts of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge whether it is pumped or occurs on the refuge through natural floods. In addition, there are several sloughs, creeks and Lake River that flow in and around the refuge. This list of fish includes those fish that have been verified or are known to exist in those bodies of water.

Water Symbols

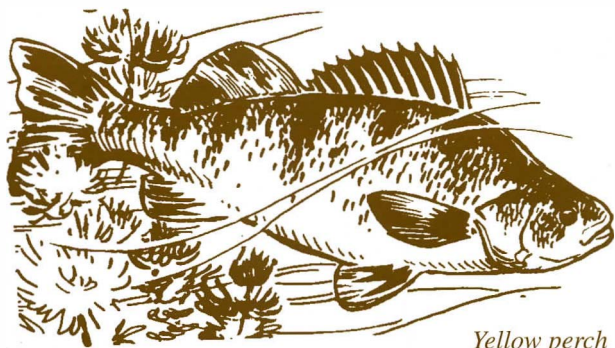
G - Gee Creek
 R - Refuge
 C - Columbia River
 L - Lake River

Common Name	V	Water
Western brook lamprey	◆	G,C
Pacific lamprey		C,L
White sturgeon	◆	G,C
Green sturgeon	◆	C
American shad (introduced)	◆	C
Mountain whitefish		C,L
Brown trout (introduced)		C,L
Sea-run cutthroat trout	◆	G,C
Steelhead (rainbow trout)	◆	G,C
Coho salmon	◆	G,C
Chinook salmon	◆	G,C
Sockeye salmon	◆	C
Chum salmon	◆	C
Eulachon (smelt)	◆	G,C
Carp (introduced)	◆	G,C,R
Goldfish (introduced)	◆	G,R
Chiselmouth		C,L
Redside shiner	◆	G
Northern pike-minnow	◆	G,C
Peamouth	◆	G



Chinook salmon

Common Name	V	Water
Speckled dace	◆	G
Longnose dace		G,R
Longnose sucker	◆	C,L
Bridgelip sucker	◆	C
Largescale sucker	◆	G,C,R
Channel catfish (introduced)		C,L
Brown bullhead (introduced)	◆	G,C,R
Black bullhead (introduced)	◆	G
Mosquitofish (introduced)	◆	G,R
Three-spine stickleback	◆	G,R
Sandroller		C,L
Largemouth bass (introduced)	◆	G,R
Smallmouth bass (introduced)	◆	C
Black crappie (introduced)	◆	G,C,R
White crappie (introduced)	◆	G,R
Bluegill (introduced)	◆	G,R
Pumpkinseed (introduced)	◆	G,C
Warmouth	◆	G
Walleye (introduced)	◆	G,C
Yellow perch (introduced)	◆	G,C,R
Prickly sculpin	◆	G
Riffle sculpin	◆	G
Reticulate sculpin	◆	G
Starry flounder	◆	C



Yellow perch