



# Wildlife

Columbia  
National Wildlife  
Refuge

# Welcome to Columbia Refuge

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, located in the Columbia Basin of east-central Washington near Othello, is a scenic landscape of rugged cliffs, canyons, lakes and arid sagebrush grasslands. The refuge was established in 1944 in conjunction with the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project and now totals 23,100 acres. Seepage from the Irrigation Project has created lakes, sloughs, streams, wet meadows and marshes that provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl and many other species of wildlife.

Bullfrog



## Habitat Diversity Supports Wildlife Diversity

The variety of refuge habitats supports a tremendous diversity and abundance of resident and migratory wildlife. While waterfowl use the lakes, sloughs and marshes, the cliffs provide habitat for owls, hawks, ravens and cliff swallows. Magpies, pheasants and quail use upland areas, while herons, American avocets and other shorebirds use wetlands. Almost 280 species of wildlife have been observed on the refuge.

## Enjoying the Refuge's Wildlife

Observation of wild animals in their natural habitats has become an increasingly popular recreational activity. Binoculars or a spotting scope can greatly enhance your wildlife viewing, and use of field guide books can aid identification. This equipment will help you observe wildlife from a distance and minimize disturbance.

## Birds

Bird populations vary greatly in diversity and abundance according to the seasons. Waterfowl populations are highest during the fall when peaks of over 100,000 birds are common. Unfortunately for visitors, the major concentration areas on the refuge are closed to all public entry during the fall and winter to provide the undisturbed sanctuary the birds need. An overlook where large concentrations of winter waterfowl are visible is located on the north side of Royal Lake at the south end of Byers Road. During the spring and summer, the entire refuge is open to public entry and wildlife viewing is best. Some of the best viewing opportunities can be found by walking the foot trails which start at the trail head located next to Crab Creek at the road crossing east of Upper Goose Lake. The self-guided trails are open for use from March 1 until October 1.

The following list contains 208 species that have been observed on or near the refuge. The list is organized in accordance with the Sixth Edition (1983) of the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds.

When looking at a bird, pay close attention to characteristics such as color, size, shape, wing and head markings. Always observe first and then refer to the field guide book, because the bird may not remain where it can be readily observed for a long period of time.

Long-billed Dowitchers



# Birds List Key

## Season Symbols

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

## Abundance Symbols

- a - abundant, certain to be seen in abundance  
 c - common, certain to be seen in proper habitat  
 u - uncommon, present but not certain to be seen  
 o - occasional, seen only a few times during the season  
 r - rare, known to be present but not every year  
 \* - birds known to nest locally

## threatened/endangered species

COMMON NAME	Sp	S	F	W
* Common Loon	u	o	u	
<b>GREBES</b>				
* Pied-billed Grebe	u	c	c	u
Horned Grebe	o	o	o	
Red-necked Grebe	o		o	
Eared Grebe			o	
Western Grebe	o	o	o	
<b>PELICANS AND CORMORANTS</b>				
American White Pelican	o	r	o	
Double-crested Cormorant	u	u	u	
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS AND EGRETS</b>				
* American Bittern	o	o	o	
Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	u
Great Egret	r	r		
Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	u	
<b>WATERFOWL</b>				
Tundra Swan	u		u	c
Greater White-fronted Goose		r		
Snow Goose	o		o	
* Canada Goose	a	u	a	a
Wood Duck	o	o	o	
* Green-winged Teal	c	u	c	c
* Mallard	a	c	a	a
* Northern Pintail	c	u	c	c
* Blue-winged Teal	u	c	u	
* Cinnamon Teal	c	c	u	
* Northern Shoveler	u	o	u	c
* Gadwall	c	u	u	u
* American Wigeon	c	o	c	c
* Canvasback	o	o	o	u
* Redhead	c	c	c	u
Ring-necked Duck	u	o	c	c
Greater Scaup	u		o	u
* Lesser Scaup	c	o	u	c
Surf Scoter				r

	Sp	S	F	W
White-winged Scoter				r
Common Goldeneye	c	o	u	u
Barrow's Goldeneye	o		o	u
Bufflehead	c	o	u	c
Hooded Merganser	o		u	o
Common Merganser	u		o	u
Red-breasted Merganser	r			
* Ruddy Duck	c	u	u	c

## VULTURES

Turkey Vulture	r			
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## OSPREY, KITES, EAGLES AND HAWKS

Osprey	o	r	o	
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	o		r	o
* Northern Harrier	u	u	u	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	r	r	o	r
Cooper's Hawk	o	r	o	r
Swainson's Hawk	o	r	o	
* Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	u
* Ferruginous Hawk	o	o	r	
Rough-legged Hawk	o		r	u
Golden Eagle	r		r	r

## FALCONS

* American Kestrel	c	c	u	c
Merlin	o		o	
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	r		o	
Gyr Falcon				r
* Prairie Falcon	o	o	o	o

## GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

* Gray Partridge	r	r	r	r
* Chukar	o	o	o	o
* Ring-necked Pheasant	c	c	c	u
* California Quail	u	c	c	c

## RAILS

* Virginia Rail	u	u	u	u
* Sora	u	u	u	o
* American Coot	a	c	a	c

## CRANES

Sandhill Crane	u		u	
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## PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover	r		r	
Lesser Golden-Plover			r	
Semipalmated Plover	o		o	
* Killdeer	a	a	c	u

## STILTS AND AVOCETS

* Black-necked Stilt	u	u		
* American Avocet	c	c		

## SHOREBIRDS

Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	u	
Lesser Yellowlegs	o	u	u	
Solitary Sandpiper	u	u	u	
* Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	o	
* Long-billed Curlew	u	u	o	
Marbled Godwit	r			
Semipalmated Sandpiper	o		u	
Western Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Least Sandpiper	c	u	u	
Baird's Sandpiper	o		o	

	Sp	S	F	W
Pectoral Sandpiper	o	o	u	
Dunlin	o			
Short-billed Dowitcher	o		u	
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	
<b>SNIPE</b>				
* Common Snipe	c	u	u	o
<b>PHALAROPE</b>				
* Wilson's Phalarope	u	u		
Red-necked Phalarope	u		u	
<b>GULLS AND TERNS</b>				
Franklin's Gull			o	
Bonaparte's Gull	o	u	u	
Ring-billed Gull	a	a	a	c
California Gull	u	a	u	u
Herring Gull	u		o	u
Glaucous-winged Gull			r	
Caspian Tern	c	c	u	
* Forster's Tern	c	c	o	
* Black Tern	o	o		
<b>DOVES</b>				
* Rock Dove	u	u	o	o
* Mourning Dove	c	c	c	o
<b>OWLS</b>				
* Common Barn-Owl	u	u	o	
* Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
Snowy Owl				r
* Burrowing Owl	o	o	o	
* Long-eared Owl	o	o	o	
* Short-eared Owl	o	o	o	o
<b>GOATSUCKERS</b>				
* Common Nighthawk		u	o	
* Common Poorwill	r	r		
<b>SWIFTS</b>				
White-throated Swift	r	r		
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>				
Rufous Hummingbird		o	o	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>				
* Belted Kingfisher	u	o	o	o
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>				
Lewis' Woodpecker	o	o		
Downy Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
Hairy Woodpecker	o			o
* Northern Flicker	c	c	u	c
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>				
* Western Wood-Pewee	u	o		
Willow Flycatcher		o	o	
Hammond's Flycatcher			u	
Dusky Flycatcher	u	u	u	
Western Flycatcher			o	
* Say's Phoebe	u	u	u	o
* Ash-throated Flycatcher	o	o		
* Western Kingbird	o	u	o	
* Eastern Kingbird	u	u	o	

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>LARKS</b>				
* Horned Lark	u	u	u	u
<b>SWALLOWS</b>				
Tree Swallow	u	o		
Violet-green Swallow	o	o	o	
* Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	
* Bank Swallow	c	u	u	o
* Cliff Swallow	a	a	o	
* Barn Swallow	c	c	a	
<b>JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS</b>				
* Black-billed Magpie	c	c	c	c
American Crow	r			
* Common Raven	u	u	u	o
<b>CHICKADEES AND TITMICE</b>				
Black-capped Chickadee	r	r	r	r
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r	r	o	
<b>CREEPERS</b>				
Brown Creeper				o
<b>WRENS</b>				
* Rock Wren	u	u	u	o
* Canyon Wren	u	o	u	o
House Wren			o	
Winter Wren			u	o
* Marsh Wren	c	u	u	u
<b>KINGLETS, BLUEBIRDS AND THRUSHES</b>				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	o		o	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u	o	u	
Western Bluebird	r			
Mountain Bluebird	r			
Townsend's Solitaire	u	u	o	o
Swainson's Thrush				r
Hermit Thrush	r		o	
* American Robin	u	u	u	u
Varied Thrush	o		o	
<b>MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS</b>				
Gray Catbird	r	r		
* Sage Thrasher	o	o	o	
<b>WAGTAILS AND PIPITS</b>				
Water Pipit	u		o	u
<b>WAXWINGS</b>				
Bohemian Waxwing				o
Cedar Waxwing	r	o		
<b>SHRIKES</b>				
Northern Shrike	r	r	o	o
* Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	o	o
<b>STARLINGS AND MYNAs</b>				
* European Starling	c	c	c	c
<b>VIREOS</b>				
Solitary Vireo	r	o	o	
Warbling Vireo	o	o	o	

WARBLERS	Sp	S	F	W
Orange-crowned Warbler	o	o	u	
Nashville Warbler	o	o	o	
* Yellow Warbler	o	o	u	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	u	o	c	
Townsend's Warbler	u	u	o	
MacGillivray's Warbler	u	o	u	
* Common Yellowthroat	o	o		
* Wilson's Warbler	u	u	o	
* Yellow-breasted Chat	u	u	o	
<b>TANAGERS</b>				
Western Tanager		o	o	
<b>GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS</b>				
* Lazuli Bunting	o	o		
<b>TOWHEES AND SPARROWS</b>				
Rufous-sided Towhee	o		o	
American Tree Sparrow	u		u	u
Chipping Sparrow	u		u	
* Brewer's Sparrow	o	o	o	
* Vesper Sparrow	o	o	o	
* Lark Sparrow	o	u	o	
* Sage Sparrow	o	o	o	
* Savannah Sparrow	c	o	c	
* Grasshopper Sparrow	c	o	c	
Fox Sparrow	o		o	
* Song Sparrow	u	u	u	u
Lincoln's Sparrow	r		o	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
White-crowned Sparrow	a		a	c
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
<b>BLACKBIRDS, MEADOWLARKS AND ORIOLES</b>				
* Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	c	c
* Western Meadowlark	c	c	c	u
* Yellow-headed Blackbird	c	c	u	u
* Brewer's Blackbird	c	u	u	c
* Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	c
* Northern Oriole		u	u	
<b>FINCHES</b>				
Rosy Finch				r
House Finch	u	o	o	u
Red Crossbill	r		r	
Pine Siskin	r		o	
* American Goldfinch	o	o	o	u
Evening Grosbeak	r			r
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>				
* House Sparrow	c	u	c	u
<b>ACCIDENTALS</b>				
Arctic Loon				
White-faced Ibis				
Brant				
Harlequin Duck				
Willet				
Whimbrel				
Long-tailed Jaeger				
Mew Gull				
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
Harris' Sparrow				

## Mammals

All mammals listed are considered resident species with the exception of bats which migrate out of the area during winter, much like some of the birds. Other mammal populations fluctuate on a seasonal basis due to hibernation, migrations between summer and winter ranges, and cyclical population fluctuations such as observed in rodents and predators.

The following animals, listed by family, have been observed on the refuge. It is quite possible that others (such as bat species) use the refuge but have not yet been documented. The names and order follow the "Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico, 1982" written by Jones, Carter, Genoways, Hoffman, and Rice (Occasional Paper Number 80, The Museum, Texas Tech University).

### SHREWS

Vagrant Shrew

### BATS

Small-footed Myotis

### HARES AND RABBITS

Nuttall's Cottontail

Black-tailed Jack Rabbit

### SQUIRRELS

Yellow-bellied Marmot

Washington Ground Squirrel

### POCKET GOPHERS

Northern Pocket Gopher

### HETEROMYIDS

#### (POCKET MICE AND RELATIVES)

Great Basin Pocket Mouse

### BEAVERS

Beaver

### CRICETIDS

#### (NEW WORLD RATS AND MICE)

Western Harvest Mouse

Deer Mouse

Bushy-tailed Woodrat

Montane Vole

Sagebrush Vole

Muskrat

### MURIDS

#### (OLD WORLD RATS AND MICE)

Norway Rat

House Mouse

### NEW WORLD PORCUPINES

Porcupine

### CANIDS

Coyote

### PROCYONIDS

Raccoon

### MUSTELIDS

#### (WEASELS AND RELATIVES)

Long-tailed Weasel

Mink

Badger

Striped Skunk

### CATS

Bobcat

### CERVIDS

Mule Deer

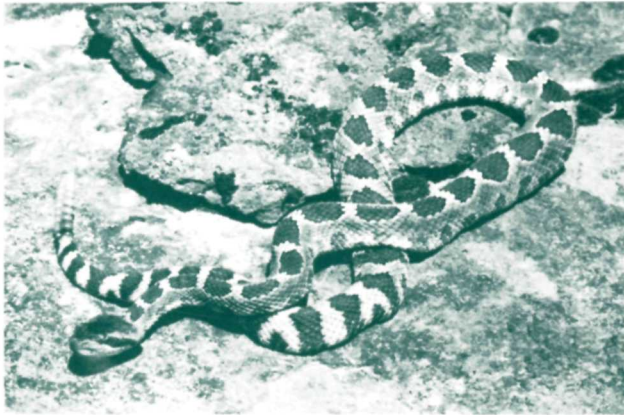
White-tailed Deer

(1986 record)

## Reptiles and Amphibians

Because of its location so far north, relatively few species of amphibians and reptiles live on the refuge. Reptiles, other than turtles, are usually found in upland areas, while amphibians prefer marshes, lakes and streams. These animals are generally secretive and are seen only from spring through fall, because they hibernate during the winter. The western rattlesnake and night snake are the only venomous reptiles present on the refuge. Night snakes are rarely found and stay hidden during the day. Rattlesnakes, though common, pose little threat if you use reasonable care. You should be alert for their presence during warm weather, particularly in rocky areas and heavy vegetation, and remember that they are protected on the refuge. Bullfrogs have rapidly become the refuge's most common amphibian since first being found south of Migraine Lake in 1983. The following list is in accordance with "A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians" by Robert C. Stebbins.

### Western Rattlesnake



### REPTILES

Painted Turtle  
Side-blotched Lizard  
Pygmy Horned Lizard  
Western Skink  
Racer  
Gopher Snake  
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake  
Night Snake  
Western Rattlesnake

### AMPHIBIANS

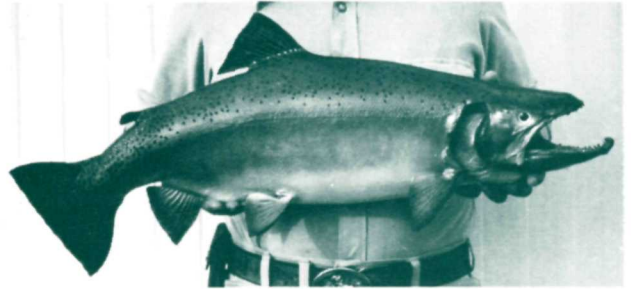
Great Basin Spadefoot Toad  
Pacific Treefrog  
Leopard Frog  
Bullfrog

## Fishes

A wide variety of fish species live in waters on and adjacent to Columbia Refuge. The greatest variety is found in waters connected directly to the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project (Potholes Reservoir and waters connected by Potholes Canal) and in waters associated with Lower Crab Creek. Most refuge waters are managed for and open to sport fishing subject to state seasons.

The following list, divided by families, is of fish species found in the Columbia Basin and is taken from the "Columbia Basin Wildlife/Irrigation Development Study;" written by Foster, Tillett, Myers and Hoag (Report No. REC-ERC-83-6, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 1984).

Mounted 11 lb. 8 oz. Rainbow from Lower Hampton Lake



### TROUT, SALMON AND WHITEFISH

Rainbow Trout  
Brown Trout  
Cutthroat Trout  
Brook Trout  
Dolly Varden Trout  
Chinook Salmon  
Sockeye Salmon (Kokanee)  
Lake Whitefish  
Mountain Whitefish

### SUNFISH

Smallmouth Bass  
Largemouth Bass  
Bluegill  
Pumpkinseed Sunfish  
Black Crappie

### PERCH

Yellow Perch  
Walleye

### CATFISH

Brown Bullhead  
Yellow Bullhead

### SUCKERS

Longnose Sucker  
Largescale Sucker  
Bridgelp Sucker

### MINNOWS AND CARP

Carp  
Peanmouth Chub  
Northern Squawfish  
Speckled Dace  
Longnose Dace  
Redside Shiner  
Roach (Tui Chub)

### SCULPINS

Sculpin

### CODFISH

Burbot

# Wildlife

Please report any  
unusual sightings to:

Refuge Manager  
Columbia National Wildlife Refuge  
44 South 8th Street  
PO Drawer F  
Othello, WA 99344  
Phone (509) 488-2668



Columbia  
National Wildlife  
Refuge

Mallards on Upper Hampton Lake

RF13510  
February 1987