

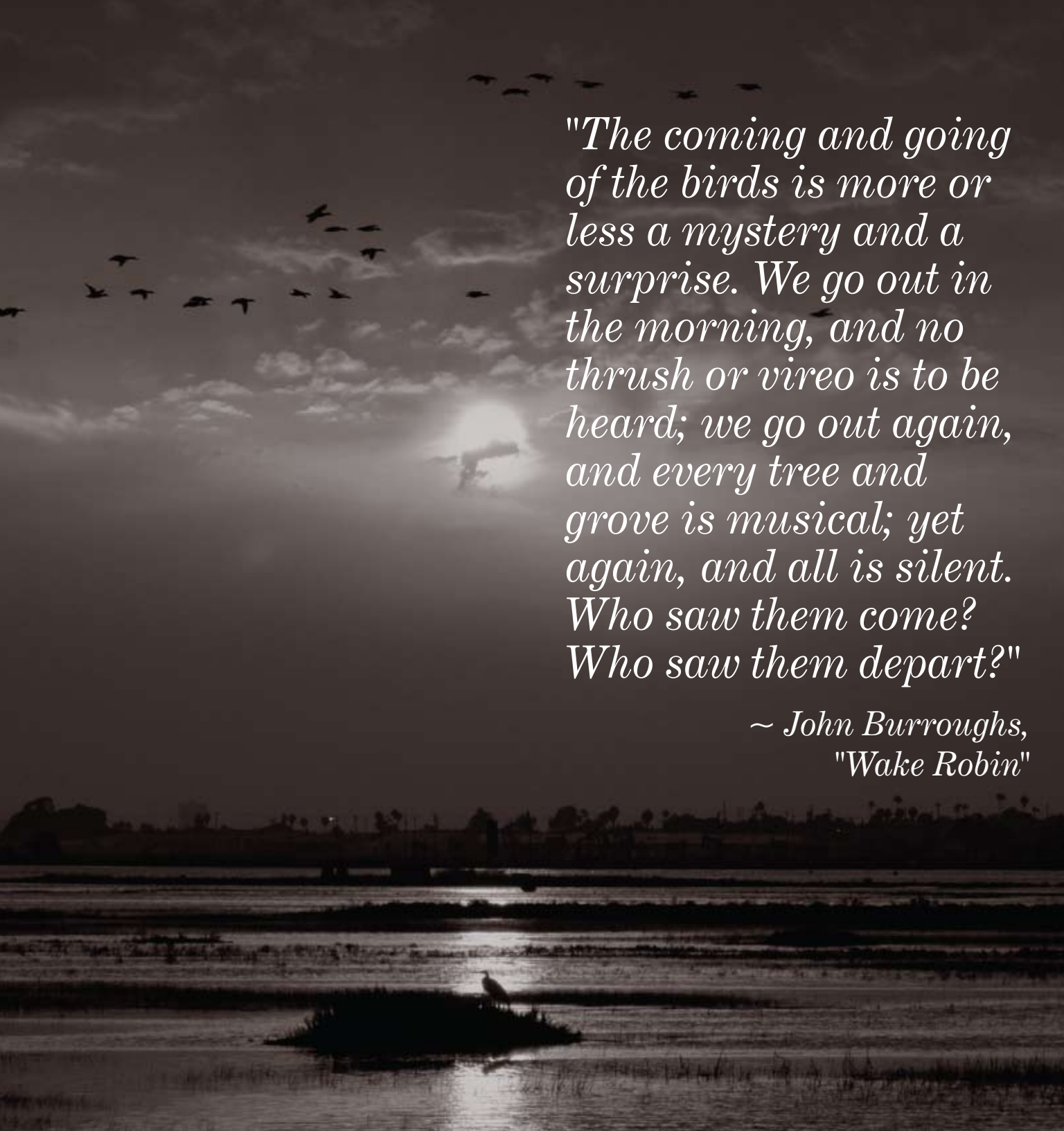
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Seal Beach

*National Wildlife Refuge*

*Bird List*





*"The coming and going  
of the birds is more or  
less a mystery and a  
surprise. We go out in  
the morning, and no  
thrush or vireo is to be  
heard; we go out again,  
and every tree and  
grove is musical; yet  
again, and all is silent.  
Who saw them come?  
Who saw them depart?"*

*~ John Burroughs,  
"Wake Robin"*

## Introduction

### Seal Beach NWR

Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1972 "to provide for the conservation, protection, and propagation of native species of fish and wildlife, including migratory birds, that are threatened with extinction." Located within Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, the refuge is one of many successful partnerships for conserving wildlife between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Navy. It serves as a critical stopover for birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway and provides protection for resident birds that have endured a great deal of habitat loss within southern California as well as the local area.

The refuge is designated a "Globally Important Bird Area" by the American Bird Conservancy and during winter months has one of the highest concentrations of raptors anywhere in the U.S. More than 200 species of birds, including the endangered light-footed clapper rail, California least tern, and Belding's savannah sparrow, can be found within the refuge and on adjoining Navy lands.



*Black Bellied Plover*  
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## Bird List Key

### Occurrence

- c - Common -species seen on nearly every visit at the proper season, usually in good numbers. (>10 per day)
- u - Uncommon. Present, but not certain to be seen. (<10 per day)
- o - Occasional. Species not seen on most visits, even at the proper season, but small numbers can be expected nearly every year with repeated searching.
- r - Rare. Species seen only sporadically, not annually on Refuge.
- \* - Species breeds or probably breeds regularly on Refuge.
- (\*) - Species breeds sporadically or bred formerly on Refuge.
- x - Accidental or unusual occurrence on Refuge.
- ◆ - Found on neighboring lands of Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach but not on the Refuge.

The Current breeding status of many species is uncertain, requiring ongoing surveys.

### Seasons

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

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Loons</b>				
Pacific Loon				r
Red-throated Loon				r
Common Loon	r		r	r
<b>Grebes</b>				
Pied-billed Grebe	c	r	c	c
Eared Grebe	u		u	c
Horned Grebe				u
Red-necked Grebe	x			
Western Grebe	c		u	c
Clark's Grebe	r		r	u
<b>Pelicans</b>				
White Pelican				u
Brown Pelican	c	o	c	c
<b>Cormorants</b>				
Double-crested Cormorant	u	o	c	c
Brandt's Cormorant ♦			r	r
Pelagic Cormorant ♦			r	r
<b>Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets</b>				
American Bittern	r		r	o
Great Blue Heron *	c	c	c	c
Great Egret	c	c	c	c
Snowy Egret	c	c	c	c
Little Blue Heron	x		x	
Cattle Egret		r	r	r
Tricolored Heron			x	x
Reddish Egret	x		x	x
Green Heron	r		r	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	u	u	u	u
<b>Ibis</b>				
White-faced Ibis	r	r	r	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Vulture</b>				
Turkey Vulture	u	u	u	u
<b>Waterfowl</b>				
Mute Swan	x		x	x
Tundra Swan				x
Ross's Goose ♦				o
Snow Goose				o
Canada Goose			c	c
Cackling Goose			o	o
White-fronted Goose				o
Brant *	u	r	u	u
Mallard *	c	c	c	c
Northern Pintail			u	c
Green-winged Teal			u	u
Gadwall *	r	r	r	r
Eurasian Wigeon				r
American Wigeon			c	c
Redhead				o
Canvasback				o
Northern Shoveler			c	c
Blue-winged Teal			u	u



*Snowy Egret*  
© Tim Anderson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Waterfowl (cont.)</b>				
Cinnamon Teal			u	u
Ring-necked Duck				r
Lesser Scaup			c	c
Greater Scaup			r	r
Long-tailed Duck			x	x
Surf Scoter			u	u
Common Goldeneye			r	r
Bufflehead			u	u
Hooded Merganser	r		r	r
Red-breasted Merganser			u	u
Common Merganser	x		x	
Ruddy Duck	u		u	c
<b>Raptors</b>				
Osprey	u	r	u	u
White-tailed Kite	r		r	r
Bald Eagle				r
Northern Harrier	o	r	o	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	r		r	r
Cooper's Hawk	o	r	o	o
Red-shouldered Hawk	x			x
Swainson's Hawk ♦			x	
Red-tailed Hawk *	c	u	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk				r
Golden Eagle				r
American Kestrel *	u	r	u	u
Merlin			r	o
Peregrine Falcon	o	r	o	o
Prairie Falcon				r

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Rails</b>				
Light-footed Clapper Rail *	u	u	u	u
Virginia Rail	x			
Sora	r		r	r
American Coot	u		c	c
<b>Plovers</b>				
Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
Pacific Golden-Plover	r		o	o
Snowy Plover	r			r
Mountain Plover ♦				r
Semipalmated Plover	u		u	u
Killdeer*	c	u	c	c
<b>Oystercatchers</b>				
Black Oystercatcher	r		r	r
<b>Stilts</b>				
Black-necked Stilt *	u	u	r	o
American Avocet *	u	r	u	u
<b>Shorebirds</b>				
Greater Yellowlegs	u		u	u
Lesser Yellowlegs	r		r	x
Willet	c	c	c	c
Wandering Tattler ♦	r			r



*Light-footed  
Clapper Rail*  
© Tim Anderson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Shorebirds (cont.)</b>				
Spotted Sandpiper	r		r	
Whimbrel	o		o	u
Long-billed Curlew	u	r	u	c
Marbled Godwit	c	o	c	c
Ruddy Turnstone	u		u	u
Black Turnstone				r
Surfbird ♦				r
Red Knot	o		o	o
Pectoral Sandpiper			r	
Western Sandpiper	c	o	c	c
Least Sandpiper	c	o	c	c
Baird's Sandpiper			x	
Dunlin	u		u	c
Stilt Sandpiper			x	
Sanderling				r
Ruff			x	
Short-billed Dowitcher	c	o	c	c
Long-billed Dowitcher	u	r	u	u
Common Snipe ♦				o
Wilson's Phalarope	o		o	
Red-necked Phalarope	o		o	
Red Phalarope			x	
<b>Gulls</b>				
Bonaparte's Gull				r
Heermann's Gull				r
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	c
California Gull	u		u	c
Herring Gull				r
Western Gull	u	o	u	c
Glaucous-winged Gull				o
Glaucous Gull				x



*Least Tern*  
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Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Terns</b>				
Caspian Tern	u	u	u	u
Royal Tern	r		u	u
Elegant Tern	c	o		r
Common Tern			x	
Forster's Tern *	c	c	c	c
Least Tern *	c	c		
Black Tern	x		x	
Black Skimmer *	u	o	u	o
<b>Pigeons, Doves</b>				
Rock Pigeon	u	u	u	u
Mourning Dove *	c	c	c	c
Spotted Dove	r			x
Common Ground-dove ♦	x			
<b>Owls</b>				
Barn Owl *	u	u	u	u
Great Horned Owl *	o	o	o	o
Short-eared Owl				o
Burrowing Owl *	o	o	o	o
<b>Goatsuckers</b>				
Lesser Nighthawk	x		x	
<b>Swifts</b>				
White-throated Swift	r		r	
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
Black-chinned Hummingbird ♦	x			
Anna's Hummingbird *	o	o	o	o
Costa's Hummingbird	x			
Rufous Hummingbird ♦	x			
Allen's Hummingbird	r		r	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Kingfisher</b>				
Belted Kingfisher	u		u	u
<b>Woodpecker</b>				
Red-breasted Sapsucker ♦	x			
Downy Woodpecker ♦	x			
Northern Flicker				o
<b>Flycatchers</b>				
Western Wood-Pewee ♦	r			
Hammond's Flycatcher	r			
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	r			
Black Phoebe *	o	o	o	o
Say's Phoebe *	o	r	o	u
Ash-throated Flycatcher	o			
Western Kingbird *	o	o		
Cassin's Kingbird	r		u	u
<b>Lark</b>				
Horned Lark *	u	u	u	u
<b>Swallows</b>				
Violet-green Swallow	r			
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	o		r	
Cliff Swallow *	c	c	r	
Barn Swallow *	c	c	r	r
Tree Swallow	o			

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Corvids</b>				
Western Scrub-Jay	x			
American Crow	u	u	u	u
Common Raven *	o	o	o	o
<b>Bushtit</b>				
Bushtit *	o	o	o	o
<b>Wrens</b>				
Rock Wren			r	r
Bewick's Wren ♦	x			
House Wren	r			r
Marsh Wren	o		o	u
<b>Kinglet, Gnatcatcher</b>				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r			r
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r			r
<b>Bluebirds, Thrushes</b>				
Western Bluebird *	r			
Mountain Bluebird ♦				x
Hermit Thrush	r		r	
American Robin ♦	x		x	
<b>Mimics</b>				
Northern Mockingbird *	u	u	u	u
Sage Thrasher			r	r
<b>Pipit</b>				
American Pipit	o	o	o	u
<b>Waxwings</b>				
Cedar Waxwing ♦	x		x	
<b>Shrike *</b>				
Loggerhead Shrike *	r	r	r	r
<b>Starling</b>				
European Starling *	c	c	c	c
<b>Vireo</b>				
Warbling Vireo	r			



*Belted Kingfisher*  
USFWS

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Warblers</b>				
Orange-crowned Warbler	r			r
Nashville Warbler ♦	r			
Yellow Warbler ♦	r			
Yellow-rumped Warbler	o		o	u
Black-throated Gray Warbler ♦	r			
Townsend's Warbler	r			
Hermit Warbler ♦	r			
Common Yellowthroat *	o		o	u
Wilson's Warbler	r			
<b>Tanagers</b>				
Western Tanager ♦	r			
<b>Grosbeaks</b>				
Black-headed Grosbeak ♦	r			
Blue Grosbeak	o	r		
Lazuli Bunting	x			



*Belding's  
Savannah  
Sparrow*

©Tim Anderson

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Towhees, Sparrows</b>				
Green-tailed Towhee ♦				x
Spotted Towhee	r			r
California Towhee ♦	x			x
Chipping Sparrow ♦				r
Lark Sparrow				r
Lincoln Sparrow				o
Savannah Sparrow	o		o	u
Savannah Sparrow (Belding's) *	c	c	c	c
Savannah Sparrow (Large-billed)			o	u
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			r	o
Fox Sparrow ♦				x
Song Sparrow *	o	o	o	o
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	c
Golden-crowned Sparrow				r
Lapland Longspur ♦				x
<b>Icterids</b>				
Red-winged Blackbird *	c	c	o	u
Tricolored Blackbird ♦				x
Western Meadowlark *	u	u	u	u
Yellow-headed Blackbird	x			x
Brewer's Blackbird ♦	r			r
Brown-headed Cowbird	r	r		
Bullock's Oriole	r			
Hooded Oriole *	r	r		
<b>Finches</b>				
House Finch *	c	c	c	c
American Goldfinch	u	u	u	u
Lesser Goldfinch	o		o	o
<b>Weavers</b>				
House Sparrow *	u	u	u	u
Orange Bishop ♦	u	u	u	u
Nutmeg Mannikin	r	r	r	r



**Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge**  
800 Seal Beach Blvd., Bldg. 226  
Seal Beach, CA 90740

**Telephone: 562/598-1024**

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

**Refuge Information**  
**1 800/344 WILD**

**Front cover photo: Black-necked Stilt**  
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**May 2009**

