

# Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary Bird Checklist

Arcata, Humboldt County, California  
(Updated Fall 2014)

The following list of 327 species was updated by Rob Fowler and David Fix in 2014 from the list they compiled in 2009. Data came from sightings entered in eBird; Stanley Harris's *Northwest California Bird* (2005, 1996, 1991); historical records in *North American Birds* magazine and its supporting unpublished Humboldt County summaries; the 2006 edition Arcata Marsh bird checklist (Elias Elias); the 1995 edition Arcata Marsh bird checklist (Kristina Van Wert); and personal communications with many birders. Formatting by Camden Bruner.

**Call the Northwest California Bird Alert at (707) 822-5666  
to report or hear reports of rare birds!**

## Abbreviations:

**A - Abundant;** occurs in large numbers

**C - Common;** likely to be found

**U - Uncommon;** occurs in small numbers, found with searching

**R - Rare;** expected in very small numbers, not likely to be found

**Ca - Casual;** several records, possibly may occur regularly

**Ac - Accidental;** 1-3 records, not reasonably expected to occur

**Sp - Spring** (Marsh - May)

**S - Summer** (June to mid-July)

**F - Fall** (mid-July through November)

**W - Winter** (December through February)

Waterfowl:	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
Greater White-fronted Goose	R		R	R	
Emperor Goose				Ac	
Snow Goose	Ca		Ca	Ca	
Ross's Goose	Ca		Ca	Ca	
Brant	U	Ac	U	R	
Cackling Goose	A		U	C	
Canada Goose	C	C	C	C	yes
Tundra Swan	Ca			Ca	
Wood Duck	U	U	U	U	yes
Gadwall	C	C	C	C	yes
Eurasian Wigeon	R		U	R	
American Wigeon	U	Ca	A	C	

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
Mallard	A	A	A	A	yes
Blue-winged Teal	U	Ca	R	R	yes
Cinnamon Teal	C	C	U	C	yes
Northern Shoveler	C	R	C	C	yes
Northern Pintail	U	Ca	U	U	
Garganey				Ac	
Green-winged Teal	C	R	A	A	
Canvasback	R		R	R	
Redhead	R		R	R	
Ring-necked Duck	R	Ca	R	R	
Tufted Duck	Ca	Ac	Ac	Ac	
Greater Scaup	C	R	C	C	
Lesser Scaup	C	Ca	C	C	yes
Surf Scoter	U	Ca	U	U	
White-winged Scoter	Ca		R	Ca	
Black Scoter			Ac	Ac	
Long-tailed Duck	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	
Bufflehead	C	R	C	C	
Common Goldeneye	Ca		R	R	
Barrow's Goldeneye			Ac		
Hooded Merganser	R	Ca	R	R	
Common Merganser	R		R	Ac	
Red-breasted Merganser	R	R	R	R	
Ruddy Duck	C	Ca	C	C	yes
<b>Quail:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
California Quail	U	U	U	U	yes
<b>Loons:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Red-throated Loon	R		R	U	
Pacific Loon	Ca		Ca	Ca	
Common Loon	U	Ac	U	U	
<b>Grebes:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Pied-billed Grebe	C	R	C	C	yes
Horned Grebe	U		U	U	
Red-necked Grebe	Ca		Ca	Ca	
Eared Grebe	R		U	U	
Western Grebe	U		U	U	
Clark's Grebe	R		R	R	
<b>Cormorants:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Brandt's Cormorant	Ac				
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	C	
Pelagic Cormorant			Ac	Ac	

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
<b>Pelicans:</b>					
American White Pelican		Ac	Ac	Ac	
Brown Pelican	R	C	C	R	
<b>Herons, Bitterns &amp; Allies:</b>					
American Bittern	U	U	U	U	yes
Least Bittern		Ac	Ac		
Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	U	
Great Egret	C	C	C	C	
Snowy Egret	U	U	U	U	
Little Blue Heron		Ac	Ac		
Cattle Egret	Ac		Ca	Ca	
Green Heron	U	R	R	Ca	yes
Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	U	A	A	yes
<b>Ibises:</b>					
White-faced Ibis	R	Ac	Ac	Ac	
<b>Hawks, Kites, Eagles &amp; Allies</b>					
Black Vulture			Ac		
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C	
Osprey	U	U	U	R	
White-tailed Kite	U	U	U	U	yes
Northern Harrier	U	R	U	U	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	R		U	R	
Cooper's Hawk	R	Ac	U	R	
Bald Eagle	U	U	U	U	
Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	U	
Swainson's Hawk	Ac				
Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U	
Ferruginous Hawk				Ac	
Rough-legged Hawk	R		R	R	
<b>Rails, Cranes &amp; Allies:</b>					
Virginia Rail	C	U	A	A	yes
Sora	U	Ca	c	U	yes
Common Gallinule	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	
American Coot	C	R	A	A	yes
Sandhill Crane			Ac		
<b>Stilts &amp; Avocets:</b>					
Black-necked Stilt	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	yes
American Avocet	C	R	C	C	
<b>Plovers:</b>					
Black-bellied Plover	C	U	C	C	
American Golden-Plover			Ac		
Pacific Golden-Plover	Ca		R	Ca	

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
Snowy Plover	Ac				
Semipalmated Plover	U	R	U	R	
Killdeer	R	Ca	R	R	
<b>Sandpipers, Phalaropes &amp; Allies:</b>					
Spotted Sandpiper	U	Ca	U	R	
Solitary Sandpiper	R		Ca		
Wandering Tattler			R		
Greater Yellowlegs	C	R	C	C	
Common Greenshank			Ac		
Willet	C	U	C	C	
Lesser Yellowlegs	R	Ca	U	R	
Whimbrel	U	R	U	Ca	
Long-billed Curlew	U	U	U	U	
Hudsonian Godwit	Ac		Ac		
Bar-tailed Godwit		Ac	Ac		
Marbled Godwit	A	U	A		
Ruddy Turnstone	R	Ca	R	R	
Black Turnstone	U		R	Ca	
Red Knot	R	Ca	U	R	
Surfbird	Ac			Ac	
Ruff			Ca		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			Ac		
Stilt Sandpiper		Ac	Ac		
Sanderling	Ac		Ca		
Dunlin	A	Ac	A	Ac	
Baird's Sandpiper			R		
Little Stint			Ac		
Least Sandpiper	A	U	A	C	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Ac		Ac		
Pectoral Sandpiper			R		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Ac	Ca	R		
Western Sandpiper	A	U	A	U	
Short-billed Dowitcher	C	U	C	R	
Long-billed Dowitcher	U	U	C	C	
Wilson's Snipe	R		U	U	
Wilson's Phalarope	R	Ca	R		
Red-necked Phalarope	U		C		
Red Phalarope			R	R	
<b>Jaegers:</b>					
Pomarine Jaeger					
Parasitic Jaeger					

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
<b>Alcids:</b>					
Cassin's Auklet				Ac	
Common Murre	Ac		Ac		
<b>Gulls &amp; Terns:</b>					
Black-legged Kittiwake				Ac	
Sabine's Gull			Ca		
Bonaparte's Gull	R	Ca	U	U	
Black-headed Gull	Ac			Ac	
Little Gull	Ac			Ac	
Laughing Gull	Ac		Ac		
Franklin's Gull		Ac	Ca		
Heermann's Gull		U	C	Ca	
Mew Gull	U		C	C	
Ring-billed Gull	U	U	C	C	
Western Gull	U	U	U	U	yes
California Gull	U	U	U	U	
Herring Gull	Ca		R	R	
Thayer's Gull	Ca		R	R	
Glaucous-winged Gull	U	R	C	C	
Glaucous Gull	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	
Least Tern			Ac		
Caspian Tern	U	U	C	Ca	
Black Tern	Ac		Ac		
White-winged Tern	Ac		Ac		
Common Tern			Ca	Ac	
Forster's Tern	R		U	U	
Elegant Tern		Ca	R		
<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves:</b>					
Rock Pigeon	R	R	R	R	
Band-tailed Pigeon	Ca	Ca	Ca		
Eurasian Collared-Dove	R	R	R	R	
White-winged Dove			Ac		
Mourning Dove	R		R	R	
<b>Cuckoos:</b>					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Ac				Threatened Species
<b>Owls:</b>					
Barn Owl	U	U	U	U	
Western Screech-Owl			Ac		
Great Horned Owl			Ca		
Snowy Owl				Ac	
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Ac			Ac	
Burrowing Owl	Ac		Ca	Ca	

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
Long-eared Owl			Ca	Ca	
Short-eared Owl	R		U	U	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Ac				
<b>Nighthawks:</b>					
Common Nighthawk		Ca			
<b>Swifts:</b>					
Black Swift	R				
Vaux's Swift	C	C	C		
<b>Hummingbirds:</b>					
Anna's Hummingbird	U	U	U	U	yes
Rufous Hummingbird	U				
Allen's Hummingbird	U	U			yes
<b>Kingfishers:</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	U	R	U	U	
<b>Woodpeckers:</b>					
Acorn Woodpecker			Ac		
Red-breasted Sapsucker			Ac		
Downy Woodpecker	U	R	U	U	
Hairy Woodpecker	Ca		Ca	Ca	
Northern Flicker	Ca	Ac	R	Ca	
Pileated Woodpecker				Ac	
<b>Caracaras &amp; Falcons:</b>					
Crested Caracara			Ac		
American Kestrel	U	Ac	U	U	
Merlin	U	Ac	U	U	
Peregrine Falcon	U	R	U	U	
Prairie Falcon			Ac	Ac	
<b>Flycatchers:</b>					
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R	Ac	Ca		
Western Wood-Pewee	U	Ca	U		
Willow Flycatcher			U		
Least Flycatcher			Ac	Ac	
Hammond's Flycatcher	Ac		Ac		
Gray Flycatcher			Ac		
Dusky Flycatcher			Ac	Ac	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	U	Ca	U		
Black Phoebe	C	C	C	C	yes
Eastern Phoebe			Ac		
Say's Phoebe	Ca		Ca		
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Ac			Ac	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	R	Ca	Ca		

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
Great Crested Flycatcher			Ac		
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher			Ac		
Tropical Kingbird			Ca		
Western Kingbird	R		Ca		
Eastern Kingbird		Ac	Ac		
<b>Shrikes:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Loggerhead Shrike		Ac			
Northern Shrike			Ca	Ca	
<b>Vireos:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Plumbeous Vireo		Ac			
Cassin's Vireo	R		R		
Hutton's Vireo	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	
Warbling Vireo	U		C		
Red-eyed Vireo		Ac			
<b>Crows &amp; Jays:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Gray Jay	Ac	Ac			
Steller's Jay	Ca		Ca	Ca	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	yes
Common Raven	C	C	C	C	yes
<b>Larks:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Horned Lark			Ac		
<b>Swallows:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	Ca	R		
Purple Martin	U	R	Ca		
Tree Swallow	A	U	U	Ca	yes
Violet-green Swallow	A	C	C	Ac	
Bank Swallow	R	Ca	R		
Barn Swallow	A	A	A	R	yes
Cliff Swallow	C	C	U		yes
<b>Chickadees:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	yes
Mountain Chickadee	Ac			Ac	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	U	Ca	U	U	
<b>Bushtits:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Bushtit	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	
<b>Nuthatches:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R		U	R	
<b>Creepers:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Brown Creeper			R	R	
<b>Wrens:</b>	Green	Yellow	Pink	Blue	Red
Rock Wren			Ac		

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
House Wren			Ca		
Pacific Wren	R		R	R	
Marsh Wren	A	A	A	A	yes
Bewick's Wren			Ca	Ca	
<b>Gnatcatchers:</b>					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			Ac	Ac	
<b>Kinglets:</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R		U	U	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		A	C	
<b>Sylviid Warblers:</b>					
Wrentit	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	
<b>Thrushes:</b>					
Western Bluebird				Ac	
Swainson's Thrush	U	R	U		yes
Hermit Thrush	U		U	U	
American Robin	U	R	U	U	yes
Varied Thrush	R		R	R	
<b>Mockingbirds &amp; Thrashers:</b>					
Sage Thrasher	Ac	Ac	Ac		
Northern Mockingbird	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	
<b>Starlings:</b>					
European Starling	A	A	A	A	yes
<b>Wagtails &amp; Pipits:</b>					
Eastern Yellow Wagtail			Ac		
American Pipit	R		U	U	
<b>Waxwings:</b>					
Cedar Waxwing	U	U	C	Ac	yes
<b>Longspurs &amp; Snow Buntings:</b>					
Lapland Longspur			Ac	Ac	
Chestnut-collared Longspur			Ac		
Snow Bunting			Ac		
<b>Warblers:</b>					
Ovenbird				Ac	
Northern Waterthrush	Ca		R	R	
Black-and-white Warbler	Ac	Ac	Ca	Ca	
Prothonotary Warbler			Ac		
Tennessee Warbler			Ac	Ac	
Orange-crowned Warbler	C	R	C	U	
Nashville Warbler	R		Ca	R	
Virginia's Warbler			Ac		
MacGillivray's Warbler	R		U	Ac	

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
Mourning Warbler			Ac		
Kentucky Warbler			Ac		
Common Yellowthroat	U	R	A	R	yes
Hooded Warbler			Ac		
American Redstart			Ca	Ac	
Northern Parula	Ac		Ac		
Magnolia Warbler			Ac		
Blackburnian Warbler			Ac		
Yellow Warbler	U	R	A	Ca	yes
Chestnut-sided Warbler		Ac	Ac		
Blackpoll Warbler			Ca		
Black-throated Blue Warbler			Ac		
Palm Warbler	R		U	R	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		A	C	
Prairie Warbler			Ac		
Black-throated Gray Warbler	R		U	Ac	
Townsend's Warbler	R		U	U	
Hermit Warbler	Ac		Ac		
Wilson's Warbler	C	Ca	C	Ca	
Yellow-breasted Chat	R	R	Ca		yes
<b>Sparrows &amp; Allies:</b>					
Green-tailed Towhee			Ac		
Spotted Towhee	U		U	U	
American Tree Sparrow			Ca	Ca	
Chipping Sparrow	Ca		Ca		
Clay-colored Sparrow			R	Ac	
Brewer's Sparrow	Ac		Ac		
Vesper Sparrow			Ac		
Lark Sparrow	Ac		Ca	Ac	
Lark Bunting			Ac		
Savannah Sparrow	C	U	A	C	yes
Grasshopper Sparrow				Ac	
Nelson's Sparrow	Ac			Ac	
Fox Sparrow	C		C	C	
Song Sparrow	C	C	A	A	yes
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		C	U	
Swamp Sparrow	Ca		U	U	
White-throated Sparrow	R		U	U	
Harris's Sparrow			Ca	Ca	
White-crowned Sparrow	C	U	C	U	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	U		C	C	

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Breeds Here
Dark-eyed Junco	U		U	U	
<b>Cardinals &amp; Allies:</b>					
Western Tanager	U		U		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Ac		Ac		
Black-headed Grosbeak	U	Ca	U		
Blue Grosbeak	Ac		Ac		
Lazuli Bunting	U	R	Ca		
Indigo Bunting		Ac	Ac		
Painted Bunting			Ac		
Dickcissel		Ac	Ac		
<b>Blackbirds:</b>					
Bobolink			Ca		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	A	A	yes
Western Meadowlark	U		U	U	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Ac		Ca		
Rusty Blackbird			Ac		
Brewer's Blackbird	U	U	U	U	
Great-tailed Grackle	Ac				
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	Ca	yes
Orchard Oriole	Ac		Ac	Ac	
Hooded Oriole	Ac		Ac	Ac	
Bullock's Oriole	U	R	R	Ac	
Baltimore Oriole	Ac	Ac		Ac	
<b>Finches &amp; Allies:</b>					
Brambling			Ac		
House Finch	C	C	C	C	yes
Purple Finch	U	U	U	R	
Oriental Greenfinch				Ac	
Red Crossbill	Ac	Ca	Ac	Ac	yes
Common Redpoll				Ac	
Pine Siskin	U	Ca	U	C	
Lesser Goldfinch	U	U	U	U	yes
American Goldfinch	U	C	C	U	yes
Evening Grosbeak	Ac	Ac	Ac	Ac	
<b>Old World Sparrows:</b>					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	yes