

SCOTTSSLUFF WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



American Avocet
(*Recurvirostra americana*)

Black and white above, white below; head and neck rusty in breeding plumage, gray in winter. Juveniles have cinnamon wash on head and neck. Fairly common on shallow ponds, marshes and lakeshores. Avocets feed by sweeping their bills from side to side through the water. Male's bill is longer, straighter, than female's. Common call is a loud *wheet*.

Length: 15 inches

Range: North America, found from Alaska to Caribbean

Diet: Mostly aquatic invertebrates and occasionally small quantities of seeds

WILLOW ISLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



American Coot
(*Fulica americana*)

Blackish head and neck, with small redish-brown forehead shield, whitish bill with dark band near the tip. Body slate; outer feathers of undertail coverts are white, inner ones black. Leg color ranges from greenish-gray to yellow or orangish. Toes are lobed. Common to abundant. Nests in freshwater marshes, wetlands, or near lakes or ponds. Usually seen in large flocks. Often dives to feed.

Length: 12 inches

Wingspan: 25 inches

Range: Mexico and USA to parts of Canada

Diet: Green plant matter and seeds, occasionally aquatic invertebrates

MORMON ISLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Bald Eagle
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Adults are readily identified by white head and tail, huge yellow bill. First year birds are mostly dark and may be confused with immature Golden Eagle. Flat winged soar distinguishes young Bald Eagle from Turkey Vulture. Bald eagles require 4 to 5 years to reach adult plumage. Seen most often near rivers and lakes. Nest in tall trees or on cliffs. Intense recovery program is rebuilding population of this species.

Length: 31-37 inches Wingspan: 70-90 inches

Range: Alaska to Florida

Diet: Mainly fish, also seen feeding on small mammals and birds

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Black Capped Chickadee
(*Poecile atricapilla*)

Black cap and bib and white cheeks readily identify this small bird over most of its widespread range. Best distinction is voice. The Blackcap's call is a low, slow *chick-a-dee-dee-dee*. Often confused with the Carolina Chickadee and there is species overlap due to hybridization. Common in open woodlands, clearings and suburbs. Usually forages in thickets and low branches of trees.

Length: 5.25 inches

Range: Alaska to northern New Mexico and West to East Coast

Diet: Mostly insects and lesser quantities of seeds and fruit

O'NEIL WETLAND MITIGATION SITE



Blue-winged Teal
(*Anas discors*)

Lead gray head with white crescent on each side identifies the male. Female distinguished by a larger bill, more heavily spotted undertail coverts, yellowish legs. Male in eclipse plumage resembles female. Blue-winged Teal is fairly common in marshes and on ponds and lakes in open country. Uncommon on the West coast. Closely resembles Cinnamon Teal.

Length: 11-15 inches Wingspan: 24 inches

Range: Throughout United States and parts of Canada

Diet: Mainly seeds and green plant matter, lesser quantities of aquatic invertebrates

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Cedar Waxwing
(*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Smaller and browner than Bohemian Waxwing; belly pale yellow; undertail coverts white. Juvenile is streaked. Since this species usually nests late in summer, juvenile plumage is seen well into the fall. Found in open habitats where berries are available. Highly gregarious in migration and winter. Call is a soft, high-pitched, trilled whistle. Frequently found in large flocks.

Length: 5-7 inches

Range: Mexico, USA, Parts of Canada

Diet: Mainly berries and smaller quantities of insects and flower petals

SUTHERLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Common Merganser
(*Mergus merganser*)

Large duck with long, slim neck and thin, hooked, red bill. White breast and sides and dark green head with no crest. Female has bright chestnut, crested head and neck that contrast with white chin, breast. Adult male in flight shows white patch on upper surface of entire inner wing, partially crossed by single black bar. Nest in crevices in woodlands near lakes and rivers. Also found in brackish water.

Length: 18-21 inches Wingspan: 37 inches

Range: From Alaska to Northern Mexico, widespread

Diet: Fish and aquatic invertebrates

BROWNLEE SPUR MITIGATION SITE



Common Snipe
(*Gallinago gallinago*)

Stocky with short legs, long bill. Boldly patterned above and below, with white belly; distinctive striped head and rusty tail; wings pointed. Fairly secretive in breeding season, usually seen only when flushed. Take off is explosive; flight rapid and zig-zagging, accompanied by a distinctive harsh *skipe* call. Often found in marshes and bogs, often sings from high perches a series of loud *wheet-wheet* notes.

Length: 9-10 inches

Range: Canada to Mexico

Diet: Mainly aquatic invertebrates and small fish, lesser quantities of plant matter

SUTHERLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Double Crested Cormorant
(*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

Large rounded throat pouch is orange year-round. Adults have two tufts curving back from behind eyes. Tufts are largely white in western birds and darker in eastern birds. Kinked neck is distinctive in flight. Common and widespread; found on rocky coasts, beaches, inland lakes and rivers. Breeding populations in the interior are local and irregular, but increasing.

Length: 27-32 inches Wingspan: 50-52 inches

Range: Coastal USA, Mexico, Canada; also some Interior USA and Canada

Diet: Fish and aquatic invertebrates

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Eastern Bluebird
(*Sialia sialis*)

Chestnut throat, sides of neck, breast, sides and flanks; contrasting white belly, white undertail coverts. Male is uniformly deep blue above, female is grayer. Found in open woodlands, farmlands and orchards. Nests in holes in trees and posts, also nestboxes. Call note is a musical, rising *chur-lee*, extended in song to *chur chur-lee chur-lee*. Recent decline due to competition with Starling and House Sparrow for nest sites.

Length: 5.5-7 inches

Range: East of Rocky Mountains in USA from Canada to Mexico

Diet: Mainly insects and lesser quantities of fruit

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Eastern Kingbird
(*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

Black head, slate gray back; tail has a broad white terminal band. Underparts are white, with a pale gray wash across the breast. Orange-red crown patch is rarely visible. Common and conspicuous in woodland clearings, farms, orchards; often seen near water. Call is a harsh *dzeet* note, also given in a series.

Length: 6.75-8.5 inches

Range: Found throughout Eastern and Rocky Mountain regions of USA and Canada

Diet: Primarily insects, occasionally fruit

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Red Phase



Gray Phase

Eastern Screech Owl
(*Otus asio*)

A small owl with yellow eyes and usually a pale bill. Ear tufts prominent when raised; when flattened, bird has a rounded head look. Underparts marked with bars and streaks; heavy black streaks on upper breast. Red phase predominates in the south; gray in the north. Common in woodlots, forests, swamps, orchards, parks, suburbs. Two typical calls: a series of quavering whistles and long single trill.

Length: 8.5 inches

Wingspan: 22 inches

Range: East of the Rocky Mountains in the United States

Diet: Insects, amphibians/reptiles, small mammals, some small birds

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Great Horned Owl
(*Bubo virginianus*)

Size, bulky shape and white throat separate this owl from the Long-eared owl; ear tufts distinguish it from other large species. Common; habitats vary from forest to city to open desert. Nests in trees, caves, or on the ground. Chiefly nocturnal. Takes prey as large as skunks. Call is a series of three to eight loud, deep hoots, the second and third hoots are often short and rapid.

Length: 20-22 inches Wingspan: 55 inches

Range: Throughout Canada, USA and Mexico

Diet: Primarily mammals, some birds, reptiles and amphibians

SCOTTSSLUFF WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Great Tailed Grackle
(*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

A large grackle with a very long, keel-shaped tail, golden yellow eyes. Adult male is iridescent black with purple sheen on head, back and underparts. Female upperparts are brown; underparts cinnamon buff on breast to grayish-brown on belly. Varied calls include short whistles and loud *clack* notes. Common, especially in open flat lands with scattered groves of trees and in marshes and wetlands.

Length: 15-18 inches

Range: Southern USA and Mexico, uncommon North of Colorado and Kansas

Diet: Plant matter, insects, reptiles and amphibians, aquatic invertebrates, eggs

MORMON ISLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Greater Yellowlegs
(*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Legs yellow to orange; rarely red-orange. Larger than Lesser Yellowlegs, with longer bill and faintly two-toned, black with gray base. Throat and breast are heavily streaked; sides and belly are spotted and barred. Call is loud, slightly descending series of three or more *tew* notes. Fairly common; nests on tundra, winters on coastal mud flats and marshes, inland lakeshores. Usually seen in small noisy flocks.

Length: 11-14 inches

Range: Northern Canada and Southern USA - seen migrating through Midwest USA

Diet: Fish and aquatic invertebrates

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Hudsonian Godwit
(*Limosa haemastica*)

Long bicolored bill, slightly upcurved. Tail is black, uppertail coverts white. Breeding male is dark chestnut below, finely barred. Female is larger and much duller. Dark wing linings and narrower white wing stripe are distinctive in flight. Breeding range not fully known. Migrates through the Great Plains region in the spring. Primarily off the east coast in fall.

Length: 13-15 inches

Range: Mostly Northern Canada with migration through USA to Mid-America

Diet: Aquatic invertebrates, occasionally seeds and fruit

SCOTTSBLUFF WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Long Billed Curlew
(*Numenius americanus*)

Cinnamon brown above, buff below, with very long, strongly downcurved bill. Cinnamon buff wing linings, visible in flight are distinctive in all plumages. Typical call is a loud, musical, ascending *cur-lee*. Fairly common; nests in both wet and dry uplands; in migration and winter, found on coastal and lake beaches, salt marshes and grainfields. Rare on southeast coast in fall and winter.

Length: 19-23 inches

Range: Mid to Western USA, from Washington to Mexico

Diet: Aquatic invertebrates and occasionally fruit

MORMON ISLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Mallard Duck
(*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Male readily identified by metallic green head and neck, yellow bill, narrow white collar chestnut breast. Black central tail feathers curl up. Both sexes have white tail, white underwings. Females have mottled plumage and orange bill marked with black. Abundant and widespread. Juvenile and eclipse male resemble female but bill is dull olive color.

Length: 15-18 inches Wingspan: 36 inches

Range: Widespread throughout Canada, USA, Mexico and Mid-America

Diet: Plant matter and aquatic invertebrates

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Northern Goshawk
(*Accipiter gentilis*)

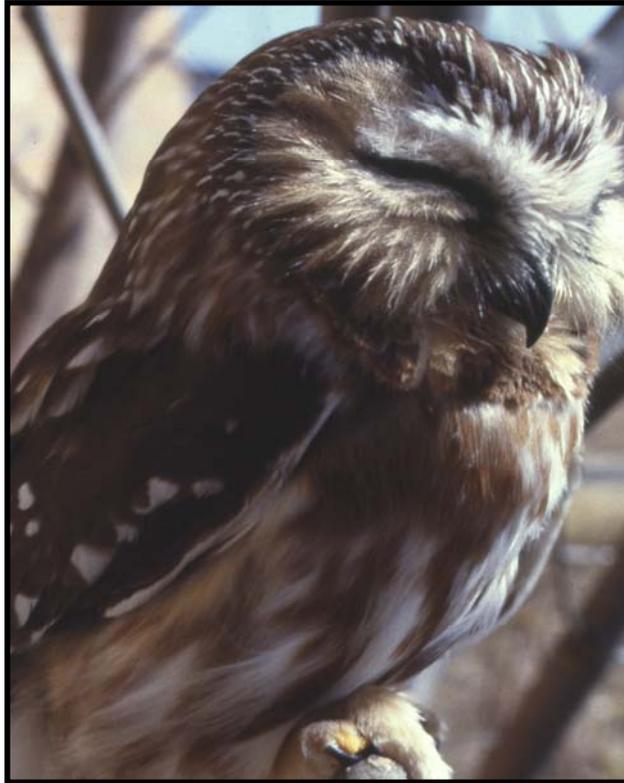
Conspicuous eyebrow, flaring behind the eye, separates adult's dark crown from blue-gray back. Underparts are white with dense gray barring; appear gray at a distance. Tail has wavy, dark bands bordered with white and a thin white tip. In flight, shorter tail, longer wings than Cooper's Hawk. Inhabits deep, conifer-dominated mixed woodlands. Uncommon; winters irregularly south of main range.

Length: 19-21 inches Wingspan: 40-46 inches

Range: All of Canada and Northern and Midwestern United States, some found wintering far south in Mexico and Guatemala

Diet: Mainly birds and some small mammals

MORMON ISLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Northern Saw-whet Owl
(*Aegolius acadicus*)

Reddish-brown above; white below with reddish streaks; bill dark, facial disks reddish without dark border. Inhabit dense coniferous or mixed forests, wooded swamps, wetlands and tamarack bogs. Call heard primarily in breeding season, a monotonously repeated single-note whistle, also gives raspy call like sound of saw being sharpened. Difficulty in locating this species obscures information about distribution.

Length: 7-8 inches

Wingspan: 17 inches

Range: Throughout United States and parts of southern Canada

Diet: Mostly small mammals and some birds

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Peregrine Falcon
(*Falco peregrinus*)

Crown and nape black, black wedge extends below eye, forming distinctive helmet. Plumage varies from pale in subspecies to vary dark. In flight, absence of contrast axillaries and wing coverts distinguishes all Peregrines from Prairie Falcons. Inhabit open wetlands near cliffs, cities, bridges and tall buildings. Rare and local in the west. Very few seen in east, making a comeback in the Midwest.

Length: 15-20 inches Wingspan: 40-44 inches

Range: Northern Canada, seen along southern coast United States, Western US

Diet: Almost exclusively birds

ROCK CREEK WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Red Necked Phalarope
(*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Fairly small, long-legged shorebird. Chestnut on front and sides of neck distinctive in breeding female, less prominent in male. Thin straight black bill, often seen swimming and picking at water. Black legs, dark-centered rump and white wing stripe are distinctive traits. Common in west and off west coast during migration. Rare in the midwest and uncommon off east coast. Call - sharp, high *Kitin* series.

Length: 6-7.5 inches

Range: Mainly Northern Canada, but seen throughout United States during migration

Diet: Mostly insects and aquatic invertebrates, occasionally seeds

MORMON ISLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Red Tailed Hawk
(*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Most common hawk, wings broad and fairly rounded, plummage extremely variable. Most adults show belly band of dark streaks on whitish underparts. Note reddish uppertail, paler red undertail; dark mantle forming V in perched birds. Habitat variable: woods with nearby open land, also plains, prairie groves, desert. Distinctive call is a harsh, descending *keeeeeeer*.

Length: 18-22 inches Wingspan: 47-50 inches

Range: Found throughout Canada and United States to Mexico

Diet: Small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and occasionally birds

GRAND ISLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Semipalmated Plover
(*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

Small shorebird with dark back and small yellow bill. Underparts are white and black band around white neck and black mask distinguish this bird. Breeding adult male often lacks white above eye. Common on beaches, lakeshores, tidal flats and seen throughout continent in migration. Distinctive call is a whistled, upslurred *chu-wheet*.

Length: 5.75-7 inches

Range: Northern Canada and Southern coast of US, seen throughout in migration

Diet: Aquatic invertebrates

O'NEIL SOUTH MITIGATION SITE



Stilt Sandpiper
(*Calidris himantopus*)

Breeding adult has striped crown, chestnut patch on sides of head; slender, slightly downcurved bill, drooped at the tip in most birds; heavily barred underparts. Often seen with dowitchers; feeding styles are similar. Breeds on tundra. Rare in spring on east coast; common in fall. Rare, but regular migrant on west coast, especially in fall. Call is a low, hoarse *querp*.

Length: 7.5-8.5 inches

Range: Small area of Northern Canada and coasts of Mexico, seen throughout United States during migration

Diet: Mostly aquatic invertebrates, but occasionally plant matter

ANTIOCH MITIGATION SITE



Swainson's Hawk
(*Buteo swainsoni*)

Long, narrow, pointed wings; plumage is extremely variable. In light phase, buffish or buff-white wing linings contrast with darkly barred brown flight feathers. Dark phase bird is dark brown with white undertail coverts. Often seen soaring over plains and prairie in vulture-like flight. Perches on posts, banks or stones and pounces on prey. Winters chiefly in South America, sometimes southern Florida.

Length: 18-21 inches Wingspan: 49-52 inches

Range: Mostly western United States and Canada and seen often in Midwest.

Diet: Primarily small mammals, occasionally insects, birds and reptiles

LAKESIDE MITIGATION SITE



Swainson's Hawk
(*Buteo swainsoni*)

Long, narrow, pointed wings; plumage is extremely variable. In light phase, buffish or buff-white wing linings contrast with darkly barred brown flight feathers. Dark phase bird is dark brown with white undertail coverts. Often seen soaring over plains and prairie in vulture-like flight. Perches on posts, banks or stones and pounces on prey. Winters chiefly in South America, sometimes southern Florida.

Length: 18-21 inches

Range: Mostly western United States and Canada and seen often in Midwest.

Diet: Primarily small mammals, occasionally insects, birds and reptiles

WHITMAN MITIGATION SITE



Trumpeter Swan
(*Cygnus buccinator*)

Adult's black facial skin tapers to broad point at the eye, dips down in V on forehead. Forehead slopes evenly to straight bill. At rest, trumpeters tend to hold neck kinked back at the base. Most common call is a sonorous single or double honk. Locally fairly common in its few remaining breeding areas and being reintroduced in some former breeding areas. Juveniles retain gray-brown plumage through first spring.

Length: 45-60 inches Wingspan: 95 inches

Range: Western coast Canada and Alaska. Few interior groups in Midwest US

Diet: Green plant matter, seeds, sometimes aquatic invertebrates

ROSE SOUTHEAST WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Upland Sandpiper
(*Bartramia longicauda*)

Small head, with large, dark, prominent eyes; long, thin neck, long tail, long wings. Legs yellow. Prefers upland fields, where only head and neck are visible above the grass. Also perches on posts and stumps. In flight, blackish primaries contrast strikingly with mottled brown upperparts. Fairly common except in eastern range where declining. Call is a rolling *pulip pulip*. Formerly called Upland Plover.

Length: 10-12 inches

Range: Parts of Canada and Northern Midwest United States

Diet: Primarily insects, occasionally worms and seeds

MORMON ISLAND WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



White Pelican
(*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

White with black primaries and outer secondaries. Breeding adult has pale yellow crest; bill is bright orange, usually with fibrous plate on upper mandible. Plate is shed after eggs are laid; crown and nape become grayish. These birds do not dive for food but dip their bills into water while swimming. Usually seen in flocks. Breeding birds may fly 150 miles from nest to feed. Vagrants appear anywhere.

Length: 50-60 inches Wingspan: 109 inches

Range: Along Western and Southern coastlines of United States, seen in interior during migration

Diet: Exclusively fish

SCOTTSBLUFF WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Wood Duck
(*Aix sponsa*)

Male's glossy colorful plumage and sleek crest are distinctive. Head pattern and bill colors are retained in drab eclipse plumage. Female identified by short crest and large white, teardrop-shaped eye patch. Large head with bill angled downward, large squared-off tail. Female's squealing flight call is a loud, rising oo-eeek. Common in open woodlands near ponds or rivers.

Length: 13.5-17 inches Wingspan: 28 inches

Range: Most of the Eastern United States, sparse in Rocky Mountains, west coast

Diet: Primarily seeds, fruit, nuts, green plant matter, lesser quantities of insects and aquatic invertebrates

SCOTTSBLUFF WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



Yellow Headed Blackbird
(*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Adult male's yellow head and breast and white wing patch contrast sharply with the black body. Adult female is dusky brown, lacks wing patch; lower cheek, eyebrow, and throat are yellow or buffy-yellow. Common through most of range. Prefer fresh water marshes or reedy lakes; often seen foraging in open farmlands. Song begins with harsh rasping note, ends with long, descending buzz. Call is harsh *croak*.

Length: 8.5-9.5 inches

Range: Mostly Western/Midwestern United States, Canada and Mexico

Diet: Seeds and insects