

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California Bird* (2005, 1996, 1991); historical records in *North American Birds* magazine and its supporting unpublished Humboldt County summaries; the 2006 edition Arcata Marsh bird checklist (Elias Elias); the 1995 edition Arcata Marsh bird checklist (Kristina Van Wert); and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)

| | Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter | Breeds Here |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|------|--------|-------------|
| Waterfowl: | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Quail: | | | | | |
| California Quail | U | U | U | U | yes |
| Loons: | | | | | |
| Red-throated Loon | R | | R | U | |
| Pacific Loon | Ca | | Ca | Ca | |
| Common Loon | U | Ac | U | U | |
| Grebes: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Cormorants: | | | | | |
| Brandt's Cormorant | Ac | | | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | C | C | C | C | |
| Pelagic Cormorant | | | Ac | Ac | |

| | Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter | Breeds Here |
|--|--------|--------|------|--------|-------------|
| Pelicans: | | | | | |
| American White Pelican | | Ac | Ac | Ac | |
| Brown Pelican | R | C | C | R | |
| Hérons, Bitterns & Allies: | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Ibises: | | | | | |
| White-faced Ibis | R | Ac | Ac | Ac | |
| Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Allies | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Rails, Cranes & Allies: | | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| Stilts & Avocets: | | | | | |
| Black-necked Stilt | Ca | Ca | Ca | Ca | yes |
| American Avocet | C | R | C | C | |
| Plovers: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Sandpipers, Phalaropes & Allies: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Jaegers: | | | | | |
| Pomarine Jaeger | | | | | |
| Parasitic Jaeger | | | | | |

| | Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter | Breeds Here |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------------------|
| Alcids: | | | | | |
| Cassin's Auklet | | | | Ac | |
| Common Murre | Ac | | Ac | | |
| Gulls & Terns: | | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| Pigeons & Doves: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Cuckoos: | | | | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Ac | | | | Threatened Species |
| Owls: | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| Nighthawks: | | | | | |
| Common Nighthawk | | Ca | | | |
| Swifts: | | | | | |
| Black Swift | R | | | | |
| Vaux's Swift | C | C | C | | |
| Hummingbirds: | | | | | |
| Anna's Hummingbird | U | U | U | U | yes |
| Rufous Hummingbird | U | | | | |
| Allen's Hummingbird | U | U | | | yes |
| Kingfishers: | | | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | U | R | U | U | |
| Woodpeckers: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Caracaras & Falcons: | | | | | |
| Crested Caracara | | | Ac | | |
| American Kestrel | U | Ac | U | U | |
| Merlin | U | Ac | U | U | |
| Peregrine Falcon | U | R | U | U | |
| Prairie Falcon | | | Ac | Ac | |
| Flycatchers: | | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| Shrikes: | | | | | |
| Loggerhead Shrike | Ac | | | | |
| Northern Shrike | | | Ca | Ca | |
| Vireos: | | | | | |
| Plumbeous Vireo | Ac | | | | |
| Cassin's Vireo | R | | R | | |
| Hutton's Vireo | Ca | Ca | Ca | Ca | |
| Warbling Vireo | U | | C | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | Ac | | | |
| Crows & Jays: | | | | | |
| Gray Jay | Ac | Ac | | | |
| Steller's Jay | Ca | | Ca | Ca | |
| American Crow | C | C | C | C | yes |
| Common Raven | C | C | C | C | yes |
| Larks: | | | | | |
| Horned Lark | | | Ac | | |
| Swallows: | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Chickadees: | | | | | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | C | C | C | C | yes |
| Mountain Chickadee | Ac | | | Ac | |
| Chestnut-backed Chickadee | U | Ca | U | U | |
| Bushtits: | | | | | |
| Bushtit | Ca | Ca | Ca | Ca | |
| Nuthatches: | | | | | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | R | | U | R | |
| Creepers: | | | | | |
| Brown Creeper | | | R | R | |
| Wrens: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Gnatcatchers: | | | | | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | | Ac | Ac | |
| Kinglets: | | | | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | R | | U | U | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | C | | A | C | |
| Sylviid Warblers: | | | | | |
| Wrentit | Ca | Ca | Ca | Ca | |
| Thrushes: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Mockingbirds & Thrashers: | | | | | |
| Sage Thrasher | Ac | Ac | Ac | | |
| Northern Mockingbird | Ca | Ca | Ca | Ca | |
| Starlings: | | | | | |
| European Starling | A | A | A | A | yes |
| Wagtails & Pipits: | | | | | |
| Eastern Yellow Wagtail | | | Ac | | |
| American Pipit | R | | U | U | |
| Waxwings: | | | | | |
| Cedar Waxwing | U | U | C | Ac | yes |
| Longspurs & Snow Buntings: | | | | | |
| Lapland Longspur | | | Ac | Ac | |
| Chestnut-collared Longspur | | | Ac | | |
| Snow Bunting | | | Ac | | |
| Warblers: | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Sparrows & Allies: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Cardinals & Allies: | | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| Blackbirds: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Finches & Allies: | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Old World Sparrows: | | | | | |
| House Sparrow | C | C | C | C | yes |