



Oregon Coordinated Aquatic Bird Monitoring:
Description of Important Aquatic Bird Site

Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge
BCS number: 47-4

Site description author(s)

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Primary contact for this site

N/A

Location (UTM)

Datum: NAD 83, Zone: 10, Easting: 479494, Northing: 4978540

General description

“Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge is located in the fertile Willamette Valley of northwestern Oregon . [...] Elevations range from 185 to 414 feet msl. [...] The Refuge consists of 1,173 acres of cropland [...] 300 acres of forests, 550 acres of grasslands, 500 acres of shallow water seasonal wetlands and 35 acres of permanent open water” (USFWS 2010a). The national wildlife refuge was established in 1965 to provide winter habitat for Dusky Canada Geese (National Audubon Society 2010).

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

“The Refuge is situated in open farmland near the eastern foothills of the Coast Range, with the broad Willamette Valley and the Cascade Mountains to the east” (USFWS 2010a).

Ownership:

Federal / FWS - National Wildlife Refuge (National Audubon Society 2010).

Water levels

The refuge contains areas of permanent open water as well as shallow water seasonal wetlands, resulting from the mild, rainy winters (USFWS 2010a). “Valley wetlands were once extensive, with meandering stream channels and vast seasonal marshes [...] Some [of these wetlands] have been restored in low-lying areas of the refuge” (USFWS 2010b).

Focal species use and timing

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Present	Present	Present
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present	Present	Present
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present	Present	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Present	Present	Present
American Bittern	Unknown	Present	Present
American White Pelican	Accidental	Accidental	Accidental
Barrow's Goldeneye	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black Tern	Unknown	Present	Present
Black-crowned Night Heron	Unknown	Rare	Rare
Black-necked Stilt	Absent	Present	Present (Spring)
Bufflehead	Present	Absent	Present
California Gull	Present	Rare	Present
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Rare	Rare
Clark's Grebe	Accidental	Accidental	Accidental
Common Loon	Accidental	Accidental	Accidental
Dusky Canada Goose	Present	Absent	Present
Eared Grebe	Rare	Unknown	Rare
Forster's Tern	Unknown	Rare	Rare
Franklin's Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Great Blue Heron	Present	Present	Present
Greater Sandhill Crane	Unknown*	Unknown*	Unknown*
Green Heron	Present	Present	Present
Least Bittern	Accidental	Accidental	Accidental
Lesser Sandhill Crane	Unknown*	Unknown*	Unknown*
Long-billed Curlew	Absent	Rare	Rare
Pied-billed Grebe	Present	Present	Present
Red-necked Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Snowy Egret	Accidental	Accidental	Accidental
Sora	Present	Present	Present
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Present	Present	Present
Western Grebe	Present	Rare	Present
Western Snowy Plover	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
White-faced Ibis	Accidental	Accidental	Accidental
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Focal species information adapted from Seasonal Checklist of Birds of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex (USFWS 2010a).

*Sandhill Crane species is present, subspecies unknown.

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

The National Audubon Society (2010) classifies the site as 44% herbaceous planted/cultivated/pasture/hay grass/hay field, 15% forested upland/deciduous forest/oak, 9% herbaceous upland/grassland/herbaceous/upland native prairie, 5% water/open water/pond and 27% wetlands/emergent herbaceous wetlands/marsh (cattail/ mixed emergent).

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Wetlands / Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	Water / Open Water / Pond
Secretive Marsh Birds	Marsh (cattail/ mixed emergent)	Water / Open Water / Pond
Colonial Nesters	Wetlands / Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	Water / Open Water / Pond
Migrating Shorebirds	Herbaceous Upland / Grassland/Herbaceous / Upland Native Prairie	Water / Open Water / Pond

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

“There are additional vehicle turnouts for wildlife viewing along Coville Road. The Baskett Butte trailhead on Coville road provides year-round access to the refuge trail system” (USFWS 2010b). “Refuges, including roads and trails, are open from sunrise to sunset” (USFWS 2010a). “[T]he majority of the refuge interior is closed to public entry while the geese are in residence, from October 1 through April 30. This winter waterfowl closure includes all portions of the refuge except portions of the Baskett Butte trail and kiosk” (USFWS 2010b).

Audibility/visibility of focal species

Describe any issues that would diminish the detectability of birds. e.g secretive marsh birds are difficult to detect due to hwy noise

Unknown

Conservation issues

“Natural succession has been taking place since early settlers arrived and eliminated fire from the ecosystem. Woody vegetation is invading prairies and conifers are over-topping oak trees, destroying these rare plant communities” (Contributed by Karen Viste-Sparkman via National Audubon Society 2010).

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

“The refuge is managing woody vegetation by repeated mowing and a prescribed burning program. [...] Invasion of non-native plant species is an ongoing problem that requires repeated chemical and mechanical treatment of vegetation. Oak restoration is needed in the form of removing conifers and possibly thinning oaks and returning fire to the oak community. Prairie restoration needs to take place in degraded prairie areas and retired farm fields by controlling invasive plants through mechanical, and chemical control; controlling encroaching woody species through mechanical removal and fire; and reintroducing native prairie plant species” (Contributed by Karen Viste-Sparkman via National Audubon Society 2010).

Past and current surveys

- Dusky Canada Goose non-breeding seasonal and/or daily surveys 2000-2003 and 2009 (National Audubon Society 2010).
- American Wigeon non-breeding daily survey, 2000, by USFWS (National Audubon Society 2010).
- Mallard daily survey, 1998 and 2000 (National Audubon Society 2010).
- Northern Pintail daily survey, 2000 and 2001 (National Audubon Society 2010).
- Green-winged Teal non-breeding daily survey, 2000 and 2009 (National Audubon Society 2010).
- Dunlin non-breeding daily survey, 2009 (National Audubon Society 2010).

Potential survey methods

Description:

“Spring aerial survey of birds on the nesting grounds along standard density-stratified transects” (Pacific Flyway Council 2008).

Selection bias: (Discuss the potential for selection bias when designing a survey in the future, especially when sub-sample of the site will be studied. Point out how bias could be introduced and recommend ways to prevent this)

Unknown

Measurement error and bias:

Unknown

Potential Pilot Studies

Unknown

Literature cited

- Google. 2010. Map of Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge.
<http://maps.google.com/maps>. Accessed February 05, 2010.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S.
Available at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba>. Accessed February 05, 2010.
- Pacific Flyway Council, 2008. Pacific Flyway Management Plan for Dusky Canada Goose. Dusky Canada Goose Subcomm., Pacific Flyway Study Comm. [c/o USFWS], Portland, OR. Unpubl. rept. 38 pp.+ appendices.
http://www.pacificflyway.gov/Documents/Dcg_plan.pdf. Accessed February 05, 2010.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010a. Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge. U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/baskett>. Accessed February 05, 2010.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010b. Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge. U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13587>. Accessed February 05, 2010.

Figure 1. USFWS (2010) Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge Map.



Figure 2. Google. (2010) road view map of Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge.

