



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

# American White Pelican



## American White Pelican

Scientific Name:

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

© Margaret T. Sanchez

- ◆ Large Pelican with a wingspan of 8- 9.5 feet
- ◆ Body length of 50”
- ◆ Color: white body with a long orange bill with a yellow pouch on the underside
- ◆ They have short orange legs.
- ◆ Found near lakes and marshes in the winter.
- ◆ Migratory in the NCA
- ◆ Nests are built on muddy, sandy, or rocky shores
- ◆ Forage on the edge of lakes, and in marshes, rivers, and estuaries.



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

# American Avocet



[www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com)

## American Avocet

Scientific Name:

*Recurvirostra  
americana*

- ◆ A large, long-legged shorebird with a slender, upturned bill.
- ◆ Upperparts and wings patterned in black and white; underparts white.
- ◆ Head and neck rust-colored in summer, white in winter.
- ◆ Live in freshwater marshes and shallow marshy lakes; breeds locally in salt or brackish marshes
- ◆ Feed much like spoonbills, sweeping their bills from side to side along the surface of the water to pick up crustaceans, aquatic insects, and floating seeds.
- ◆ They often feed in flocks, a line of birds advancing abreast, sometimes entirely submerging their heads as they sweep the water for food.





BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

# Black Billed Magpie



## Black Billed Magpie

Scientific Name:

*Pica hudsonia*

[www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com)

- ◆ Has a characteristic black and white plumage
- ◆ Mostly black with a metallic shine to it, white chest and lines on the side above the wings
- ◆ Feeds on insects, snails, worms, fruit, seeds and eggs and chicks of other birds
- ◆ Because it feeds on other birds, it has a bad reputation, however its impact on the population of other species is not measurable
- ◆ Build large covered nests in tall trees or bushes
- ◆ Live in their nests for several years and continuously build onto and enlarge them



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

# Black Tern



## Black Tern

Scientific Name:

*Chlidonias niger*

- ◆ Length ranges from 9-10 inches (23-25 cm)
- ◆ Medium-sized
- ◆ Solid black head and below
- ◆ Gray wings and moderately forked gray tail
- ◆ In fall and winter, head and underparts are white
- ◆ Live near freshwater marshes and marshy lakes in summer; sandy coasts in the winter
- ◆ Usually nest in small groups and in shallow water
- ◆ Feed on insects, small fish and crustaceans which they pick from the water
- ◆ Live in flocks year-round
- ◆ Migratory species



# Chukar Partridge



## Chukar Partridge

Scientific Name:

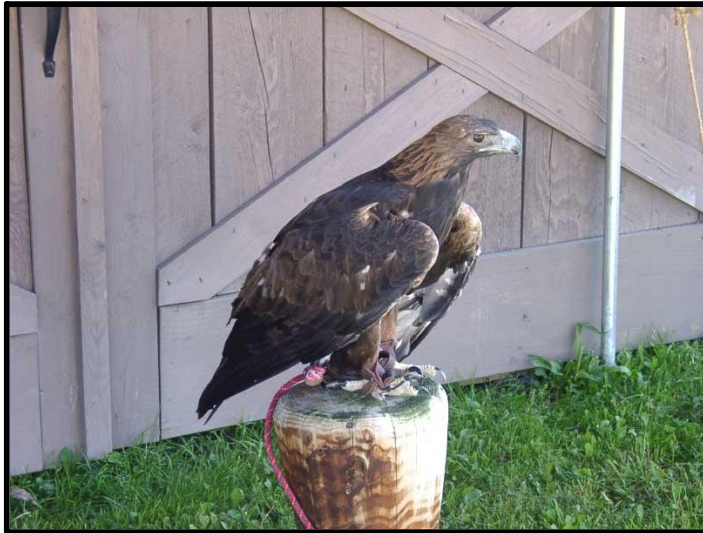
*Alectoris chukar*

[www.birdsoman.com](http://www.birdsoman.com)

- ◆ Small bird, about 180-200 cm long
- ◆ Bright red bill and legs, striped wings and grey feathers
- ◆ Feeds on seeds, herbs and small insects
- ◆ Lives on rocky hillsides and high grassy plains
- ◆ Considered a great game bird
- ◆ One of the most commonly kept and bred of all game birds
- ◆ Well known to hunters for their fast flight
- ◆ Introduced into the area for game hunting from the Middle East



# Golden Eagle



Hawk Creek Wildlife Center (1995)

## Golden Eagle

Scientific Name:

*Aquila  
chrysaetos*

- ◆ Can be found throughout much of the northern hemisphere
- ◆ Length is about 3 feet, weighing up to 15 pounds with a wing span of up to 7 feet
- ◆ Their color is dark brown
- ◆ Lifespan is 15 to 20 years
- ◆ It is a solitary bird found in mountainous, prairie coulees, and other rugged areas with abundant updrafts
- ◆ Diet consists of groundhogs, marmots, foxes, skunks, cats, rabbits, and various other animals
- ◆ Golden eagles mate at about 4 years of age and often stay paired with the same mate for life
- ◆ Eaglets weigh only three ounces when born
- ◆ Eaglets also stay in nest for nine to eleven weeks before flying
- ◆ Most golden eagles live in their nesting territory all year
- ◆ One of our most visible raptors



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

# Greater Sage Grouse



Oregon BLM, Burns FO (2004)

## Greater Sage Grouse

Scientific Name:

*Centrocercus urophasianus*

- ◆ Mottled gray-brown above with black below
- ◆ Male has long pointed tail, black throat, white breast
- ◆ Female's head, back and breast are uniformly barred
- ◆ Live in open country and sagebrush plains
- ◆ Very dependent on sagebrush
- ◆ Feed on sagebrush's leathery leaves in the fall and winter
- ◆ Make their nests out of sagebrush
- ◆ Found in foothills, plains and mountains where sagebrush is present



# Least Bittern



Texas Parks and Wildlife (2004)

## Least Bittern

Scientific Name:

*Lxobrychus exilis  
hesperis*

- ◆ Length ranges from 9-10 inches (23-25 cm)
- ◆ Medium-sized
- ◆ Solid black head and below
- ◆ Gray wings and moderately forked gray tail
- ◆ In fall and winter, head and underparts are white
- ◆ Live near freshwater marshes and marshy lakes in summer; sandy coasts in the winter
- ◆ Usually nest in small groups and in shallow water
- ◆ Feed on insects, small fish and crustaceans which they pick from the water
- ◆ Smallest member of the heron family



# Long-Billed Curlew



Colorado Birding Society

## Long-Billed Curlew

Scientific Name:

***Numenius  
americanus***

- ◆ Largest of all shore birds
- ◆ Length of 19 inches
- ◆ Large, long-necked, small-headed bird
- ◆ Pale head, buff brown underparts with sparse streaking on the side, and has a dark back with pale edges
- ◆ Diet consists on crustaceans, mollusks, worms, toads, and adults and larvae of insects, and at times berries
- ◆ Breeds in native grasslands of arid western North American and are often found in farm fields and grasslands during migration.
- ◆ Have been documented near Soldier Meadows



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

# Northern Harrier Hawk



[www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com)

## Northern Harrier Hawk

Scientific Name:

*Circus cyaneus*

- ◆ A long-winged, long-tailed hawk with a white rump, usually seen gliding unsteadily over marshes with its wings held in a shallow V.
- ◆ Male has pale gray back, head, and breast; wing tips black.
- ◆ Female and young are brown above, streaked below, young birds with a rusty tone.
- ◆ Nests in marshes and open grasslands.
- ◆ All hunt by flying close to the ground and taking small animals by surprise.
- ◆ They seldom pursue their prey in the air or watch quietly from an exposed perch, as do other birds of prey.



# Red-Tailed Hawk



[www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com)

## Red-Tailed Hawk

Scientific Name:

*Buteo  
jamaicensis*

- ◆ A large stocky hawk
- ◆ Typical light-phase birds have whitish breast and rust-colored tail.
- ◆ Young birds duller, more streaked, lacking rust-colored tail of adult; they are distinguished from Red-shouldered and Swainson's hawks by their stocky build, broader, more rounded wings, and white chest.
- ◆ This species quite variable in color, especially in West, where blackish individuals occur; these usually retain rusty tail.
- ◆ Live in deciduous forests and open country of various kinds, including tundra, plains, and farmlands.
- ◆ Feed mainly on small rodents.
- ◆ Most common hawk in the NCA



# White-Faced Ibis



Southwest Birders Henry D. Detwiler (2004)

## White-Faced Ibis

Scientific Name:

*Plegadis chihi*

- ◆ Large, chestnut-bronze marsh bird
- ◆ Long, down-curved bill
- ◆ Band of white feathers around the face
- ◆ Red eyes and legs
- ◆ Live in salt and fresh marshes
- ◆ The only Ibis on the west coast
- ◆ Feeds on insects, salamanders, crustaceans and small fish and shellfish
- ◆ Uncommonly seen during summer on meadows