

# Status of Birds at the Hanford Site in Southeastern Washington

Prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Environmental Restoration and  
Waste Management



**Westinghouse**  
**Hanford Company** Richland, Washington

Hanford Operations and Engineering Contractor for the  
U.S. Department of Energy under Contract DE-AC06-87RL10930

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D. S. Landeen  
A. R. Johnson  
R. M. Mitchell

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STATUS OF BIRDS AT THE HANFORD SITE IN SOUTHEASTERN WASHINGTON

D. S. Landeen  
A. R. Johnson  
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ABSTRACT

*The U.S. Department of Energy has entered into agreements with the Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Hanford Site contractors to focus work activities on cleanup and stabilization of radioactive and hazardous waste sites located at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington. Ecological characterization is an essential part of the remediation process, and the identification of biotic components such as bird species that could be impacted by cleanup activities is an important part of the initial environmental characterizations. Site characterization work has resulted in this list of 238 birds that have been observed at the Hanford Site. This list is presented with a status rating for abundance and seasonal occurrence. This revision presents updated information from Status of Birds at the Hanford Site in Southeastern Washington<sup>1</sup>. Three new birds have been added to the list: the brown creeper, black tern, and black-necked stilt. The brown creeper was included in "The Status, Distribution, and Ecology of Wildlife on the U.S. DOE Hanford Site: A Historical Overview of Research Activities"<sup>2</sup>, and the other two species*

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<sup>1</sup>Landeen, D. S., A. R. Johnson, and R. M. Mitchell, 1991, *Status of Birds at the Hanford Site in Southeastern Washington*, WHC-EP-0402, Westinghouse Hanford Company, Richland, Washington.

<sup>2</sup>Fitzner, R. E. and R. H. Gray, 1991, "The Status, Distribution and Ecology of Wildlife on the U.S. DOE Hanford Site: A Historical Overview of Research Activities," *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 18:173-202.

were observed by the authors. Information is also provided in this revision on those bird species listed as species of concern by the state and/or federal governments. Previously published bird lists from the Hanford Site are included, as are author observations from 1977 to 1992. Of the 238 species listed, 35 are considered common and 36 are listed as accidentals. All but nine birds on the Hanford Site list have previously been documented by the Audubon Society to occur within a 25-mile radius of the Tri-Cities. The nine birds that are not on the Audubon list, however, have been documented in other parts of eastern Washington. A list of birds that have been documented within 50 miles of the Hanford Site but not actually observed at the Site is also provided. This is the most complete list of birds published to date from the Hanford Site.

**DEDICATION**

This document is dedicated to the memory of Les Eberhardt and Dick Fitzner.

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## STATUS OF BIRDS AT THE HANFORD SITE IN SOUTHEASTERN WASHINGTON

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

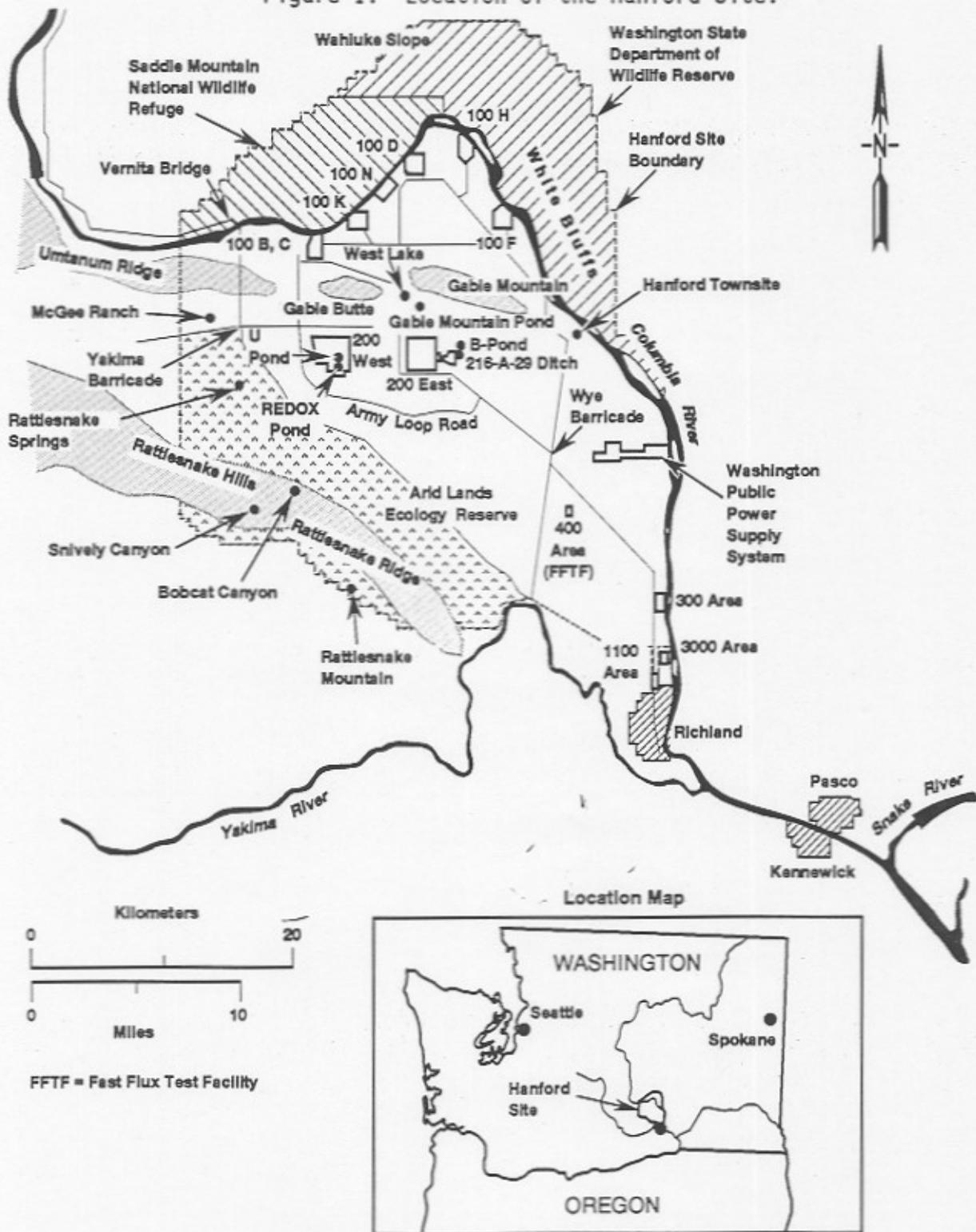
Agreements with the Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and onsite Hanford Site contractors are now focusing on the cleanup and stabilization of all radioactive and hazardous waste sites located at the Hanford Site. In view of these future cleanup and restoration objectives, it becomes very important to document the various wildlife species that have been observed at the Site. This report contains a complete list of all the birds that have been observed at the Hanford Site and is an updated list from what was published in Landeen et al. (1991).

The Hanford Site, which currently consists of 1,476 km<sup>2</sup> in southcentral Washington, was established in 1943 as a national security area for the production of plutonium used in nuclear weapons (Figure 1). In 1968, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission designated 311 km<sup>2</sup> of the area as the Arid Lands Ecology (ALE) Reserve. During the 1970's, about 130 km<sup>2</sup> north of the Columbia River was leased to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, and about 200 km<sup>2</sup> north and east of the river was leased to the Washington State Department of Game to be used for outdoor recreation. In 1977 the Site was designated as a National Environmental Research Park by the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration. The Hanford Site is one of the few large areas of land in the region that has not been developed for agricultural use. It is also unique in that the general public's use of the area is very restricted and in the past has been limited to projects associated with the nuclear industry. The area in which the Hanford Site is located is bounded on the north by the Saddle Mountains, on the east by the Columbia River, and on the south and west by the Yakima River and Rattlesnake Hills, respectively. The dominant topographical features of the Hanford Site include the Rattlesnake Hills (elevation 1,090 m), the Columbia River and associated aquatic habitats, unstabilized sand dunes near the Columbia River, basaltic ridges that interrupt the rolling landscape of the Site, and the 200 Area plateau (elevation 200 m), which is the location of the most manmade perturbations.

The climate at the Hanford Site is probably the hottest and driest in the Pacific Northwest. The climate is strongly influenced by the Cascade Mountain Range to the west, which forms a barrier to moisture-laden storms from the Pacific Ocean. July is the hottest and driest month, and January is the coldest and wettest. Annual precipitation averages slightly less than 17.8 cm with 42% of that amount falling between November and January. The average annual temperature is 11.7 °C; temperatures in excess of 38 °C and below 0 °C are common.

The Hanford Site has been classified primarily as a shrub-steppe grassland (Daubenmire 1970) and is composed of a variety of plant communities. Major plant species include sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa sandbergii*), cheatgrass

Figure 1. Location of the Hanford Site.



H9206006.1b

NOTE: Remediation activities have resulted in the decontamination and decommissioning (and therefore removal) of U Pond, REDOX Pond, Gable Mountain Pond, and 216-A-29 Ditch. These sites are included on this map to identify observation locations listed in Table 2 of this document.

(*Bromus tectorum*) and rabbitbrush species (*Chrysothamnus* sp.). A detailed description of all the plant species known to occur at the Hanford Site can be found in Sackschewsky et al. (1992).

The principal bodies of water associated with the Hanford Site include the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River in the United States, Rattlesnake Springs located on the ALE Reserve, a naturally occurring pond called West Lake, and several ponds and ditches that have formed from the operation of nuclear facilities. The Columbia River is not only an important salmon, steelhead, and bass fishery; its many islands also serve as nesting grounds for Canada Geese and other waterfowl. All the ponds but West Lake and all the ditches are unique to this area because they were created as a result of man's activities and attract many animal species, particularly birds, that would not otherwise be found here. The total aquatic habitat aside from that provided by the Columbia River system is approximately 57 ha.

## 2.0 METHODS AND DISCUSSION

The bird occurrence information reported here represents the authors' field observations from numerous site characterization efforts conducted throughout the general Hanford Site environs from 1977 to 1992, as well as previously published documents. Previous Hanford Site documents and journal articles that have reported bird occurrences were limited to specific areas of the Hanford Site such as the Columbia River (Fickeisen et al. 1980; Books 1985; Hanson 1958, 1969, 1970), Hanford Site waste ponds (Fitzner and Price 1973; Fitzner and Rickard 1975), ALE Reserve (Rotenberry et al. 1979; Vaughan 1978; Rickard 1964) and other specific sites (Schuler et al. 1988; Fitzner et al. 1981). Many of the observation locations referred to in this document have been removed as a result of cleanup and remediation activities. These sites include Gable Mountain Pond, U Pond, REDOX Pond, and 216-A-29 Ditch.

The taxonomy in this report is taken from the *American Ornithologist's Union Checklist of North American Birds*, which was published in the 35th, 36th and 37th supplements to the *Auk* (1985, 1987, 1989). Other sources of information that were used to document previous occurrences of birds in Washington State were Weber and Larrison (1977), Larrison and Sonnenberg (1968), and Jewett et al. (1953). Bird occurrences are presented in Table 1 and listed according to family, genus, species, common name, and status. Table 1 presents 42 families and 238 species. Of these 238 species 35 are considered common and 36 are listed as accidentals. All but nine of these birds have been previously documented to occur in the Tri-Cities area by the Audubon Society. However, these nine birds have been documented previously in Eastern Washington. Table 2 provides the observation dates and locations of the birds that have been listed as accidentals. Table 3 lists the birds that have been documented to occur within 50 mi of the Hanford Site but have never been actually observed at the Hanford Site.

There are several bird species at the Hanford Site that are listed by the state and/or federal governments as species of concern. Table 4 presents a list of bird species given special status designations. Table 5 presents the

latest available information with respect to status definitions. It is important to note that the status of many bird species is continually changing as new revisions are made by the state and federal governments.

The scaled quail listed here is a sighting of a single covey, by Hanson, in 1956. No sighting of the scaled quail has been recorded since. Scaled quail were introduced into various areas of eastern Washington many years ago by the Washington State Department of Game. The Philadelphia vireo, which was seen on three occasions in 1983, has only been previously reported in the state on one other occasion, in Richland, Washington, in 1975 (Weber and Larrison 1977). The black-necked stilt was documented for the first time in May 1991 at West Lake where it foraged for a couple of days with several American avocets. The sage grouse has not been observed at the Hanford Site since the mid-1980's and probably no longer resides at the Site.

Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 1 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Gaviidae			
	Pacific loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	Rw
	common loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Rw
Podicipedidae			
	pied-billed grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Cr
	horned grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Uw
	eared grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Um
	western grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Ur
	Clark's grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	Rm
Pelecanidae			
	American white pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Ur
Phalacrocoracidae			
	double-crested cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Ur
Ardeidae			
	American bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Rs
	great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Cr
	snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Rm
	great egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Rm
	black-crowned night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Ur
Anatidae			
	tundra swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Rw
	trumpeter swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	Am
	greater white-fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Rm
	snow goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Rw
	Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Cr
	brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Am
	green-winged teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Us

\*Abundance:

- C - common--often seen or heard in appropriate habitat
- U - uncommon--usually present but not always seen or heard
- R - rare--present in appropriate habitats only in small numbers; seldom seen or heard
- A - accidental--appeared once or twice, but well out of normal range.

Seasonal occurrence:

- r - resident--present all year but abundance may vary seasonally
- s - summer visitor (includes spring and fall)
- w - winter visitor (includes spring and fall)
- m - migrant.

Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 2 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Anatidae (continued)			
	mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Cr
	northern pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Cw
	blue-winged teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Rm
	cinnamon teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	Us
	northern shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Cr
	gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Uw
	eurasian wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Rw
	American wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Cw
	canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Uw
	redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	Cw
	ring-necked duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Uw
	lesser scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Uw
	greater scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Rw
	oldsquaw	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Rw
	common goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Uw
	Barrow's goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Rw
	bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Cw
	hooded merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Rw
	common merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Cw
	red-breasted merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Aw
	ruddy duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Ur
Cathartidae			
	turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Am
Accipitridae			
	osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Um
	bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Uw

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Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 3 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Accipitridae (continued)			
	northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Ur
	sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Rw
	Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Rw
	northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Rw
	Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Us
	red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Ur
	ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Rs
	rough-legged hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rw
	golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Um
Falconidae			
	American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Ur
	merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Rm
	peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Am
	gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Aw
	prairie falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Ur
Phasianidae			
	gray partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Rr
	chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Ur
	ring-necked pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Ur
	sage grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Rr
	northern bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Rr
	scaled quail	<i>Callipepla squamata</i>	Rr
	California quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	Ur
Rallidae			
	Virginia rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Rr
	sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Rs

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Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 4 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status
Rallidae (continued)			
	American coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Cr
Gruidae			
	sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Um
Charadriidae			
	blackbellied plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Am
	killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Cr
	mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Am
Recurvirostridae			
	American avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Us
	black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	A
Scolopacidae			
	greater yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Um
	lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Um
	solitary sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Rm
	spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Um
	long-billed curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Cs
	marbled godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	Am
	sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Um
	semipalmated sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Rm
	western sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Cm
	least sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Cm
	Baird's sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Rm
	pectoral sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Um
	sharp-tailed sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Am
	dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Um
	long-billed dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Cm
	common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Rr

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Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 5 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Scolopacidae (continued)			
	Wilson's phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Us
	red-necked phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Um
	red phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	Am
Laridae			
	parasitic jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Am
	long-tailed jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Am
	Franklin's gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	Rm
	Bonaparte's gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	Um
	ring-billed gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Cr
	California gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Cr
	herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Aw
	glaucous-winged gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	Uw
	Sabine's gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Rm
	caspian tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Rs
	common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Rm
	Forster's tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Us
	arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Am
	black tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Rm
Columbidae			
	rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Cr
	band-tailed pigeon	<i>Columba fasciata</i>	Am
	mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Cs
Tytonidae			
	barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Ur
Strigidae			
	flammulated owl	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>	Am

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Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 6 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Strigidae (continued)			
	western screech-owl	<i>Otus kennicottii</i>	Am
	great horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Ur
	barred owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Am
	snowy owl	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Rw
	burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Us
	long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Ur
	short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Ur
	northern saw-whet owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Am
Caprimulgidae			
	common nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Cs
	common poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	Am
Apodidae			
	white-throated swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	Rs
Trochilidae			
	black-chinned hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	Am
	calliope hummingbird	<i>Stellula calliope</i>	Um
	rufous hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	Um
Alcedinidae			
	belted kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Ur
Picidae			
	Lewis' woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Rm
	downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Rw
	hairy woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Rw
	northern flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Ur
Tyrannidae			
	olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	Rm

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Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 7 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Tyrannidae (continued)			
	western wood-pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	Um
	willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Rm
	dusky flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	Rm
	cordilleran flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	Um
	Say's phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Us
	black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Am
	ash-throated flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Rs
	western kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Cs
	eastern kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Us
Alaudidae			
	horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Cr
Hirundinidae			
	tree swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Um
	violet-green swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	Rm
	northern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Us
	bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Us
	cliff swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	Cs
	barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Cs
Corvidae			
	Steller's jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Rw
	scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	Am
	Clark's nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	Rm
	black-billed magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Cr
	American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Ur
	common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Cr

## \*Abundance:

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 seldom seen or heard  
 A - accidental--appeared once or twice, but well out of normal range.

## Seasonal occurrence:

- r - resident--present all year but abundance may vary seasonally  
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 w - winter visitor (includes spring and fall)  
 m - migrant.

Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 8 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Paridae	black-capped chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Um
Sittidae	red-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Ur
Certhiidae	brown creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	A
Troglodytidae	rock wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Us
	canyon wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	Rs
	Bewick's wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Rs
	house wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Rs
	winter wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Rw
	marsh wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Ur
Muscicapidae	golden-crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Uw
	ruby-crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Uw
	western bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Rm
	mountain bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	Rm
	Townsend's solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	Rw
	Swainson's thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Rm
	hermit thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Uw
	American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Cr
	varied thrush	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	Rw
Mimidae	gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Am
	northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Am
	sage thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	Rs
Motacillidae	American pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	Um

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Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 9 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Bombycillidae			
	Bohemian waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Rw
	cedar waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Uw
Laniidae			
	northern shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Uw
	loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Us
Sturnidae			
	European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Cr
Vireonidae			
	solitary vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Um
	Hutton's vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>	Am
	warbling vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Um
	Philadelphia vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Am
	red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Um
Emberizidae			
	Tennessee warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Am
	orange-crowned warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Um
	Nashville warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Rm
	yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Us
	yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Cw
	Townsend's warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	Um
	palm warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	Am
	American redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Am
	MacGillivray's warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	Um
	common yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Rm
	Wilson's warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Um
	yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	Us

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Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 10 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status
Emberizidae (continued)			
	western tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	Um
	rose-breasted grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Am
	black-headed grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	Rs
	lazuli bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	Rs
	rufous-sided towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Uw
	American tree sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea</i>	Rw
	chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Rm
	Brewer's sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	Rr
	vesper sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	Rm
	lark sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Rs
	sage sparrow	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	Us
	savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Us
	grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Us
	fox sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Rm
	song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Ur
	Lincoln's sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	Rm
	swamp sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Am
	golden-crowned sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	Rm
	white-crowned sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	Cr
	Harris' sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>	Rw
	dark-eyed junco	<i>Juncq hyemalis</i>	Cw
	lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Rw
	bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Am
	red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Cr
	western meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Cr
	yellow-headed blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Us

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Table 1. Status of Birds of the Hanford Site, Washington.  
(sheet 11 of 11)

Family	Common name	Genus species	Status*
Emberizidae (continued)			
	rusty blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Aw
	Brewer's blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Ur
	brown-headed cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Ur
	northern oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Us
Fringillidae			
	rosy finch	<i>Leucosticte arctoa</i>	Rw
	purple finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Aw
	house finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Cr
	common redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Aw
	pine siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Rw
	lesser goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	Am
	American goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Ur
	evening grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Rw
Passeridae			
	house sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Cr

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Table 2. Observation Dates and Locations of Birds Listed as Accidentals at the Hanford Site. (sheet 1 of 2)

Species	Date	Location	Personnel
American redstart <sup>a</sup>	Sept. 15, 1983	Columbia River	WHC <sup>b</sup>
arctic tern <sup>c</sup>	May 21, 1957	Columbia River	Hanson (1958)
band-tailed pigeon <sup>c</sup>	Spring 1976	Snively Canyon	PNL Report
barred owl	Feb. 15, 1978	FFTF	WHC
black-chinned hummingbird <sup>a</sup>	May 11, 1983	200 East	WHC
black phoebe	Sept. 4, 1962	Rattlesnake Springs	Rickard (1964)
black-necked stilt	May 21,22 1991	West Lake	WHC
blackbellied plover	Oct. 17, 1984	B Pond	WHC
bobolink <sup>a</sup>	Oct 21, 1990	4 mi E Yakima Barricade	WHC
	May 1980	Gable Mtn. Pond <sup>d</sup>	WHC
brant <sup>a</sup>	Nov. 27, 1957	Columbia River	Hanson (1958)
common poorwill	Oct. 11, 1983	Columbia River	WHC
common redpoll <sup>a</sup>	Jan. 9, 1986	216-A-29 Ditch <sup>d</sup>	WHC
flammulated owl	March 4, 1972	Bobcat Canyon	Fitzner et al. (1981)
gray catbird <sup>a</sup>	May 1978	216-A-29 Ditch	WHC
gyrfalcon	Mar. 3, 1985	200 East	WHC
	Jan. 2-16, 1986	Gable Butte	WHC
herring gull	Jan. 13, 1981	Columbia River	WHC
	Oct. 24, 1983	B Pond	WHC
Hutton's vireo	Mar. 20, 1972	U Pond <sup>d</sup>	Fitzner & Rickard (1975)
	May 13, 1983	Hanford Townsite	WHC
lesser goldfinch	Feb. 2, 1981	Hanford Townsite	WHC
long-tailed jaeger	Dec. 12, 1982	200 West	WHC
	June 12, 1969	Columbia River	Hanson (1970)
marbled godwit <sup>a</sup>	April 18, 1983	West Lake	WHC
mountain plover <sup>a</sup>	Spring 1982 or 1983	Columbia River	Books (1985)
northern mockingbird <sup>c</sup>	June 1971	U Pond	Fitzner & Price (1973)

Table 2. Observation Dates and Locations of Birds Listed as Accidentals at the Hanford Site. (sheet 2 of 2)

Species	Date	Location	Personnel
northern saw-whet owl	July 17, 1978 Oct. 2, 1977	Snively Canyon McGee Ranch	Fitzner et al. (1981) WHC
palm warbler	Sept. 14, 1983 Oct. 4, 1983	Columbia River McGee Ranch	WHC WHC
parasitic jaeger <sup>c</sup>	June 30, 1969	Columbia River	Hanson (1970)
peregrine falcon	Unknown Mar. 3, 1983	Unknown Columbia River	Fitzner et al. (1981) WHC
	April 4, 1992	200 Areas	WHC
Philadelphia vireo	May 12, 16-17, 1983	McGee Ranch 216-A-29 Ditch	WHC
red-breasted merganser	Jan. 7, 1985 Feb. 20, 1985	B Pond B Pond	WHC WHC
red phalarope <sup>a</sup>	Aug. 15, 1989	West Lake	WHC
rose-breasted grosbeak <sup>a</sup>	May 29, 1986	216-A-29 Ditch	WHC
rusty blackbird	Jan. 24, 1990	Army Loop Road	WHC
scrub jay <sup>a</sup>	August 1990	Yakima Barricade	WHC
sharp-tailed sandpiper	July 7, 1983	West Lake	WHC
swamp sparrow	Feb 17, 1972 May 22, 1981	U Pond REDOX Pond <sup>d</sup>	Fitzner & Rickard (1975) WHC
Tennessee warbler	May 17, 1983	McGee Ranch	WHC
trumpeter swan	Oct. 20, 1981 Dec. 7, 1984	Columbia River Columbia River	WHC WHC
turkey vulture	Spring 1978	Rattlesnake Mtn.	Fitzner et al. (1981)
western screech owl <sup>a</sup>	May 1981	Wye Barricade	WHC

<sup>a</sup>Single observer sighting.

<sup>b</sup>Westinghouse Hanford Company biologists or Audubon Society member observations.

<sup>c</sup>Not enough information given in previously published documents to indicate number of observers.

<sup>d</sup>Remediation activities have resulted in the decontamination and decommissioning (and therefore removal) of these observation locations. See Figure 1.

FFTF = Fast Flux Test Facility.

PNL = Pacific Northwest Laboratory.

WHC = Westinghouse Hanford Company.

Table 3. List of Birds Observed Within 50 Miles  
of the Hanford Site.

---

black scoter	black-throated gray warbler
Blackburnian warbler	blackpoll warbler
blue jay	cattle egret
Cassin's finch	harlequin duck
green-backed heron	LeConte's sparrow
hudsonian godwit	mew gull
lesser golden plover	northern parula warbler
mountain chickadee	ovenbird
northern waterthrush	prothonotary warbler
pomarine jaeger	red crossbill
pygmy nuthatch	red knot
red-necked grebe	red-naped sapsucker
red-throated loon	ruddy turnstone
Ross' goose	snowy plover
short-billed dowitcher	Thayer's gull
surf scoter	Vaux's swift
three-toed woodpecker	white-breasted nuthatch
whimbrel	white-winged crossbill
white-faced ibis	willet
white-winged scoter	yellow-billed cuckoo
wood duck	

---

Table 4. List of Hanford Site Bird Species of Concern as Designated by the State and Federal Government. (updated 6-1-92)

Common name	Status*	
	Federal	State
American white pelican		SE
peregrine falcon	FE	SE
sandhill crane		SE
bald eagle	FT	ST
ferruginous hawk	FC <sub>2</sub>	ST
common loon		SC
northern goshawk	FC <sub>2</sub>	
Swainson's hawk	FC <sub>3</sub>	
golden eagle		SC
sage grouse	FC <sub>2</sub>	
burrowing owl		SC
western bluebird		SC
sage thrasher		SC
loggerhead shrike	FC <sub>2</sub>	
sage sparrow		SC
horned grebe		SM
western grebe		SM
Clark's grebe		SM
great blue heron		SM
great egret		SM
black-crowned night-heron		SM
turkey vulture		SM
osprey		SM
merlin		SM
gyrfalcon		SM
prairie falcon		SM
black-necked stilt		SM
long-billed curlew	FC <sub>3</sub>	SM
caspian tern		SM
arctic tern		SM
Forster's tern		SM
black tern	FC <sub>2</sub>	SM
snowy owl		SM
barred owl		SM
ash-throated flycatcher		SM
grasshopper sparrow		SM

- \*FT = federal threatened.
- FC<sub>2</sub> = federal candidate, category 2.
- FC<sub>3</sub> = federal candidate, category 3.
- SC = state candidate.
- SE = state endangered.
- SM = state monitor.
- ST = state threatened.

Table 5. Federal and State Status Codes for Species of Concern.

Code	Explanation
Federal	
FE	Federal Endangered. A species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
FT	Federal Threatened. A species which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.
FC <sub>2</sub>	Federal Candidate, category 2. More information being sought.
FC <sub>3</sub>	Federal Candidate, category 3. No longer considered seriously threatened.
State	
SE	State Endangered. Species native to the state of Washington that are seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges within the state. Endangered species are legally designated in WAC 232-12-014.
ST	State Threatened. Species native to the state of Washington that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout significant portions of their range within the state without cooperative management or the removal of threats. Threatened species are legally designated in WAC 232-12-011.
SS	State Sensitive. Wildlife species native to the state of Washington that are vulnerable or declining and are likely to become endangered or threatened in a significant portion of their ranges within the state without cooperative management or the removal of threats. There are currently no species listed in this category. Species under review for listing are designated as candidate species. Sensitive species are legally designated in WAC 232-12-011.
SM	State Monitor. Wildlife species native to the state of Washington that are of special interest because they: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have significant popular appeal</li> <li>2. Require limited habitat during some portion of their life cycle</li> <li>3. Are indicators of environmental quality</li> <li>4. Require further field investigations to determine population status</li> <li>5. Have unresolved taxonomic problems which may bear upon status classification</li> <li>6. They may be competing with and impacting other species of concern</li> <li>7. They were at one time classified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive. Monitor species are designated in Wildlife Policy 4803.</li> </ol>
SC	State Candidate. Wildlife species native to the state of Washington that the Department of Wildlife will review for possible listing as endangered, threatened, or sensitive. Candidate species are designated in Wildlife Policy 4802.

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