

Red Rock Lakes NWR IBA

Important Bird Areas are sites that provide essential habitat for threatened, unique, or particularly abundant species, during breeding, migration, or winter seasons.



**Franklin's Gull
and Trumpeter
Swans** rely on habitats within this IBA.

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is a high-elevation wetland, riparian, and shrubland complex within the Centennial Valley. Red Rock Creek flows through the refuge, creating Upper Red Rock Lake, River Marsh, and Lower Red Rock Lake marshlands. The deciduous riparian habitat is dominated by several species of willow and trembling aspen. The area also contains marshy wetlands, and sagebrush. The majestic Centennial Mountains bordering the refuge provide snowmelt runoff that replenishes the wetlands each spring. More than 230 species of birds have been documented here, and fifteen species reliant on this site are of global or continental conservation concern. An estimated 2,000 pairs of Franklin's Gulls nest here, as do more than 200 pairs of White-faced Ibis and even Trumpeter Swans. A pair of Peregrine Falcons and three pairs of Bald Eagles have nested on the refuge for many years. The habitat is in good condition but threats include spread of invasive weeds, human caused changes in water levels, and development adjacent to the refuge.



Red Rock Lakes NWR

*Important
Bird Area*



Notable bird species associated with the IBA

- > Bald Eagle
- > Brewer's Sparrow (above)
- > Double-crested
Cormorant
- > Franklin's Gull
- > Greater Sage-grouse
- > Peregrine Falcon
- > Trumpeter Swan
- > White-faced Ibis

Coordinated by BirdLife International, the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global initiative aimed at identifying and conserving the most important places for birds. The IBA Program's foundation emphasizes science-based identification, assessment, and conservation of birds and the habitats needed to survive. IBAs rely on local stewardship and focus on engaging individuals, private landowners, local communities, businesses, partner organizations, and government agencies in site conservation. Important Bird Area designation does not confer legal or regulatory status to a site. Instead, participation in conservation is voluntary on the part of landowners and land managers. IBA boundaries serve as an initial spatial guide and help identify areas that warrant prioritization for protection and conservation actions.

You can help with the conservation of this IBA by submitting your bird observations through Montana Natural Heritage Program or at ebird.org, an online bird sighting database.

Photos by Bob Martinka



For more information contact
Amy Seaman: aseaman@mtaudubon.org,