

DOCUMENTATION FOR FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: BIRD CHECKLIST

ROBERT C. KUNTZ II
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NORTH COAST AND CASCADES NETWORK

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The National Park Service (NPS) is charged with the responsibility of managing park natural resources and preventing their loss or impairment. To meet this responsibility, NPS established the Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring Program (I&M) that provides funding and technical support to approximately 270 national park units. The goals of this program are to help park units collect scientifically credible ecological resource information and to develop or improve field and analytical monitoring techniques to aid park managers in managing, planning, and protecting their natural resources.

As a first step toward meeting I&M goals, NPS initiated its Natural Resource Inventories Program in 2001. This five-year program emphasizes gathering a core set of data describing park vascular plant and vertebrate resources. This report documents the steps taken to meet the objectives of the NPS Natural Resource Inventories Program for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (FOVA). The objectives for FOVA were twofold:

- (1) Update NPSpecies and continue to document, to the 90% verification level, bird species expected but undocumented.
- (2) Develop and publish a "Fort Vancouver National Historic Site – Bird Checklist."

Authorized in 1948, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site consists of approximately 210 acres of buildings and grounds. The Fort is near the north shore of the Columbia River, within the city limits of Vancouver, Washington. FOVA is a reconstruction of a mid-nineteenth century commercial and industrial center. Because FOVA is not a natural area, it was not included in any of the wildlife field inventories conducted in the North Coast and Cascades Network from 2001 through 2005. Instead, data compiled in NPSpecies comes from a literature review of park files.

Prior to 1993, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site did not maintain lists of vertebrate species. Surveys conducted during June 1993 and subsequent observations through September 1993 provided the first and only documentation we could find for the park (Benvenuti 1993).

Species documented in Benvenuti (1993) are listed in NPSpecies as "Present in Park" under Park Status (NPSpecies 2007). We used Poole (2005) and Smith et al. (1997) to

define species listed in NPSpecies as “Probably Present”. These are species for which there is suitable habitat on FOVA to at least occasionally support the occurrence of that species or, in the case of aquatic species waterfront habitats (Columbia River) that can be viewed from park grounds.

From NPSpecies, a “Bird Checklist” was created and published (Kuntz 2005). Bolded species are species listed as “Present in Park” in NPSpecies. Those species not bolded are listed in NPSpecies as “Probably Present”.

As future visits to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site document new species not now known to occur there or species now listed as “Probably Present” are upgraded to “Present in Park”, both NPSpecies and the “Bird Checklist” will periodically be updated.

Literature Cited:

Benvenuti, P. 1993. Wildlife resources report: Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Vancouver, WA. 10 pp + appendices.

Kuntz, R.C. II. 2005. Fort Vancouver National Historic Site: Bird Checklist. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, North Coast and Cascades Network, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, Sedro-Woolley, WA.

NPSpecies - The National Park Service Biodiversity Database. Desktop version 2.1. (accessed April 19, 2007).

Poole, A. (Editor). 2005. The Birds of North American Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/>. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.

Smith, M.R., P.W. Mattocks, Jr., and K.M. Cassidy. 1997. Breeding birds of Washington state. Vol. 4 in Washington State Gap Analysis – Final Report (K.M. Cassidy, C.E. Grue, M.R. Smith, and K.M. Dvornich, eds.). Seattle Audubon Society Publications in Zoology No. 1, Seattle. 538 pp.

Products:

Electronic copies of this report and the FOVA Bird Checklist are at the following web sites:

Documentation for FOVA Bird Checklist

<http://www.nccn.nps.gov/im/library/documents1.aspx>

FOVA Bird Checklist <http://www.nccn.nps.gov/im/library/documents1.aspx>