

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Southern Plains Inventory & Monitoring Network  
Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

# Fort Larned National Historic Site Bird Checklist



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

# Checklist Key

## Abundance

Abundance information is for suitable habitat and season.

- **Common** – May be seen daily but not in large numbers
- **Uncommon** – Likely to be seen monthly; may be locally common
- **Rare** – Present, but usually seen only a few times each year
- **Occasional** – Seen in the park at least once every few years, but not necessarily every year

## Habitat

- **R – Riparian:** Habitats dominated by mixed deciduous hardwoods along the Pawnee River
- **G – Grassland:** Habitats in the historic site dominated by smooth brome and buffalo grass grassland

## Season

- **Resident** – Found year-round
- **Summer** – Found predominantly in the summer months (June–August)
- **Winter** – Found predominantly in the winter months (November–February)
- **Migrant** – Found predominantly during spring and/or fall migratory periods (March–May, September–October)

*The information in this list is based on NPSpecies, Natural Resource Condition Assessments, and Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network landbird monitoring surveys at Fort Larned NHS, and may not be a comprehensive list of all bird species in the historic site. The list is arranged by family and uses common names following the American Ornithological Society's Checklist of North American Birds 7th edition and its supplements through 2019.*

## Birding Ethics

**Be mindful by following ethical birding guidelines that protect birds and enhance everyone's birding experience:**

- » Keep your distance and avoid disturbing bird nesting sites; move away from alarmed pairs.
- » Report bird observations to park rangers at the visitor center. This helps other birders and supports research.
- » Do not use broadcasting calls to attract birds; calls interfere with nesting activity and may frustrate other birders.
- » Report rare species nesting sites to appropriate park officials only. Use caution when posting bird sightings over social media.
- » Do not set up bird feeding stations or feed birds in national historic sites.

## Acknowledgments

All bird identification photos were generously provided courtesy of [Robert Shantz \(rshantz.com\)](http://rshantz.com).

The [Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network](#) is one of 32 National Park Service inventory and monitoring networks that assess the condition of park ecosystems and develop a stronger scientific basis for stewardship of natural resources.

# Checklist

## Waterfowl (Anatidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Snow Goose	Abundant	R	Winter
Greater White-fronted Goose	Abundant	R	Winter
Canada Goose	Abundant	R	Winter
Wood Duck	Uncommon	R	Summer
Blue-winged Teal	Uncommon	R	Migrant
Mallard	Rare	R	Resident
Green-winged Teal	Uncommon	R	Migrant

## New World Quail (Odontophoridae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Northern Bobwhite	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

## Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail (Phasianidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Ring-necked Pheasant	Common	R, G	Resident
Wild Turkey	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

## Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Rock Pigeon	Rare	G	Resident
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Uncommon	R, G	Resident
White-winged Dove	Rare	R	Summer
Mourning Dove	Common	R, G	Resident

## Cuckoos and Roadrunners (Cuculidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Uncommon	R	Summer
Black-billed Cuckoo	Rare	R	Migrant

## Nighthawks (Caprimulgidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Common Nighthawk	Uncommon	R, G	Summer

## Swifts (Apodidae)

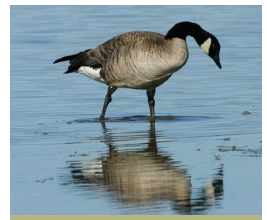
√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Chimney Swift	Rare	R, G	Summer

## Plovers (Charadriidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Killdeer	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

## Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies (Scolopacidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Upland Sandpiper	Rare	G	Migrant
Spotted Sandpiper	Rare	R	Migrant



Canada Goose



Mallard



Wild Turkey



White-winged Dove



Mourning Dove



Killdeer



Turkey Vulture



Northern Harrier



Red-tailed Hawk



Great Horned Owl



American Kestrel



Western Kingbird

**Bitterns, Herons and Allies (Ardeidae)**

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Great Blue Heron	Rare	R, G	Resident
Great Egret	Rare	R, G	Migrant
Green Heron	Rare	R	Migrant

**New World Vultures (Cathartidae)**

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Turkey Vulture	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

**Hawks, Kites, Eagles and Allies (Accipitridae)**

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Northern Harrier	Rare	G	Migrant
Cooper's Hawk	Rare	R, G	Migrant
Swainson's Hawk	Rare	G	Summer
Red-tailed Hawk	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

**Typical Owls (Strigidae)**

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Eastern Screech-Owl	Rare	R, G	Resident
Great Horned Owl	Rare	R, G	Resident

**Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)**

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Belted Kingfisher	Rare	R	Summer

**Woodpeckers and Allies (Picidae)**

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Red-headed Woodpecker	Common	R	Resident
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Uncommon	R	Resident
Downy Woodpecker	Uncommon	R	Resident
Hairy Woodpecker	Rare	R	Resident
Northern Flicker	Uncommon	R	Resident

**Falcons (Falconidae)**

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
American Kestrel	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

**Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)**

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Great Crested Flycatcher	Uncommon	R	Summer
Western Kingbird	Common	R, G	Summer
Eastern Kingbird	Common	R, G	Summer
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Uncommon	R, G	Summer
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Rare	R	Summer
Least Flycatcher	Uncommon	R	Migrant
Eastern Phoebe	Uncommon	R	Resident
Say's Phoebe	Rare	R, G	Resident



## Vireos (Vireonidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
White-eyed Vireo	Rare	R	Summer
Bell's Vireo	Rare	R	Summer
Warbling Vireo	Uncommon	R	Migrant
Red-eyed Vireo	Rare	R	Migrant

## Jays and Ravens (Corvidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Blue Jay	Common	R	Resident
Black-billed Magpie	Occasional	R, G	Resident
American Crow	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

## Larks (Alaudidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Horned Lark	Rare	G	Resident

## Swallows (Hirundinidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Bank Swallow	Rare	R, G	Migrant
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Rare	R, G	Migrant
Purple Martin	Rare	R, G	Migrant
Cliff Swallow	Uncommon	R, G	Summer
Barn Swallow	Common	R, G	Summer

## Chickadees and Titmice (Paridae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Black-capped Chickadee	Rare	R	Resident

## Nuthatches (Sittidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
White-breasted Nuthatch	Rare	R	Winter

## Wrens (Troglodytidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
House Wren	Common	R	Resident
Winter Wren	Rare	R	Migrant
Carolina Wren	Uncommon	R	Resident

## Gnatcatchers (Poliopitilidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Uncommon	R	Summer

## Kinglets (Regulidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Uncommon	R	Migrant



American Crow



Horned Lark



Barn Swallow



White-breasted Nuthatch



House Wren



Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Eastern Bluebird



Northern Mockingbird



Cedar Waxwing



American Pipit



House Finch



Chipping Sparrow

### Thrushes (Turdidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Eastern Bluebird	Rare	R, G	Resident
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Rare	R	Migrant
Swainson's Thrush	Uncommon	R	Migrant
American Robin	Common	R, G	Resident

### Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Gray Catbird	Common	R	Summer
Brown Thrasher	Common	R	Resident
Northern Mockingbird	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

### Starlings (Sturnidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
European Starling	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

### Waxwings (Bombycillidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Cedar Waxwing	Rare	R	Migrant

### Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
House Sparrow	Common	R, G	Resident

### Pipits (Motacillidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
American Pipit	Uncommon	G	Winter

### Finches (Fringillidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
House Finch	Rare	R, G	Resident
Pine Siskin	Rare	R	Winter
American Goldfinch	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

### New World Sparrows and Towhees (Passerellidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Cassin's Sparrow	Occasional	G	Migrant
Grasshopper Sparrow	Uncommon	G	Summer
Lark Sparrow	Rare	R, G	Resident
Lark Bunting	Rare	G	Migrant
Chipping Sparrow	Common	R, G	Winter
Clay-colored Sparrow	Uncommon	R, G	Winter
Field Sparrow	Uncommon	G	Resident
White-crowned Sparrow	Uncommon	R, G	Winter
Henslow's Sparrow	Occasional	G	Migrant
Lincoln's Sparrow	Uncommon	R, G	Winter
Spotted Towhee	Occasional	R	Migrant

### Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteriidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Yellow-breasted Chat	Rare	R	Summer

### Blackbirds, Orioles, and Allies (Icteridae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Bobolink	Rare	G	Migrant
Eastern Meadowlark	Common	R, G	Resident
Western Meadowlark	Common	R, G	Resident
Orchard Oriole	Common	R	Summer
Bullock's Oriole	Rare	R	Migrant
Baltimore Oriole	Common	R	Summer
Red-winged Blackbird	Common	R, G	Resident
Brown-headed Cowbird	Common	R, G	Resident
Common Grackle	Uncommon	R, G	Resident
Great-tailed Grackle	Rare	R, G	Resident

### New World Warblers (Parulidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Black-and-white Warbler	Rare	R	Migrant
Prothonotary Warbler	Rare	R	Migrant
Orange-crowned Warbler	Rare	R	Migrant
Common Yellowthroat	Rare	R	Summer
Yellow Warbler	Uncommon	R	Migrant
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Uncommon	R	Winter

### Piranga Tanagers, Cardinals and Allies (Cardinalidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Summer Tanager	Rare	R	Summer
Northern Cardinal	Common	R	Resident
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Uncommon	R	Migrant
Black-headed Grosbeak	Rare	R	Migrant
Blue Grosbeak	Rare	R, G	Summer
Indigo Bunting	Uncommon	R, G	Summer
Dickcissel	Common	R, G	Summer



Western Meadowlark



Bullock's Oriole



Red-winged Blackbird



Common Yellowthroat



Yellow Warbler



Northern Cardinal



Red-headed Woodpeckers are common in Fort Larned NHS. (NPS photo)





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**Fort Larned National Historic Site**

preserves the site of a military outpost in central Kansas that was active between 1859 and 1878. Fort Larned was located near the midway point of the Santa Fe Trail. The fort sits on the floodplain of the Pawnee River adjacent to a large oxbow. The historic site's 718 acres contain grassland and wooded riparian areas that provide important habitat for birds. More than 109 species of birds have been documented in the historic site.

The approximately 1-mile nature trail is the best place to observe birds in the park as it winds through a range of habitats. Dickcissels, Wild Turkeys, Western

Meadowlarks, Northern Harriers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers may be seen in grassland areas, and Northern Bobwhites, Great Blue Herons, Blue Grosbeaks, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Red-winged Blackbirds are found near the river.

Fort Larned is also located on the Central Flyway, a major bird migration corridor that generally follows the Great Plains. A great variety of migratory shorebirds can be seen in central Kansas during the spring and fall migrations. Migratory songbirds including Warbling Vireo, Lark Bunting, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak can be seen in the historic site as they pass through the area.

