

Birds



Joshua Tree National Monument

A Checklist

Jays & Crows	
Steller's Jay	IRR Wi
Scrub Jay	C Res N
Pinyon Jay	FC Res N
Clark's Nutcracker	CAS Wi
Common Raven	C Res N
Titmice, Bushtit & Verdin	
Mountain Chickadee	IRR Wi
Plain Titmouse	FC Res N
Verdin	C Res N
Bushtit	C Res N
Nuthatches & Creeper	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R Fa & Wi
White-breasted Nuthatch	R Fa & Wi
Pygmy Nuthatch	CAS Vag
Brown Creeper	CAS Fa & Wi
Wrens	
Cactus Wren	C Res N
Rock Wren	C Res N
Canyon Wren	C Res N
Bewick's Wren	C Res N
House Wren	U Mig & R Wi
Winter Wren	CAS Fa & Wi
Marsh Wren	R Fa & Wi
Kinglets & Gnatcatchers	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R IRR Fa Mig
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C Wi
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C Res N
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	FC Res N
Thrushes	
Western Bluebird	U Wi
Mountain Bluebird	R IRR N
Townsend's Solitaire	U IRR Mig & Wi
Varied Thrush	R IRR Mig & Wi
Swainson's Thrush	U Mig
Hermit Thrush	U Mig & Wi
American Robin	IRR Mig & Wi

Mimic Thrushes	
Northern Mockingbird	C Res N
Sage Thrasher	U Mig & IRR Wi
Brown Thrasher	CAS Vag
Bendire's Thrasher	U Su N
California Thrasher	U Res N
LeConte's Thrasher	U Res N
Pipit	
Water Pipit	U IRR Mig & Wi
Waxwing	
Cedar Waxwing	IRR Mig & Wi
Bohemian Waxwing	CAS
Phainopepla	
Phainopepla	C Res N
Shrike	
Loggerhead Shrike	C Res N
Starling	
European Starling	C Res N
Vireos	
Bell's Vireo	R IRR Su N ?
Gray Vireo	R Su N
Solitary Vireo	U Mig
Hutton's Vireo	CAS Vag
Warbling Vireo	FC Mig
Wood Warblers	
Tennessee Warbler	R Vag
Orange-crowned Warbler	C Mig
Nashville Warbler	C Mig
Virginia's Warbler	R Mig
Lucy's Warbler	R Mig
Yellow Warbler	C Mig
Black-throated Blue Warbler	CAS Fa Vag
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C Mig & Wi
Black-throated Gray Warbler	C Mig
Townsend's Warbler	C Mig
Hermit Warbler	U Mig
Palm Warbler	CAS Vag
Black and White Warbler	R Mig
American Redstart	R Mig
Ovenbird	CAS Vag
Northern Waterthrush	R Mig
McGillivray's Warbler	FC Mig
Common Yellowthroat	FC Mig & U Wi
Wilson's Warbler	C Mig
Painted Redstart	CAS Vag
Yellow-breasted Chat	U Mig
Tanagers	
Summer Tanager	R Mig
Western Tanager	C Mig

Sparrows & Empidonid Finches	
Black-headed Grosbeak	C Mig & U Su N
Blue Grosbeak	R Mig
Lazuli Bunting	C Mig & Su N ?
Indigo Bunting	CAS
Green-tailed Towhee	FC Mig
Rufous-sided Towhee	C Res N
California Towhee	U Res N
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	IRR Vag
Chipping Sparrow	FC Mig & R Wi
Brewer's Sparrow	C Mig & U Wi
Black-chinned Sparrow	FC Su N
Vesper Sparrow	R Mig
Lark Sparrow	U Mig
Black-throated Sparrow	C Res N
Sage Sparrow	C Wi
Lark Bunting	R Mig & CAS Wi
Savannah Sparrow	U Mig & Wi
Grasshopper Sparrow	R Mig
Fox Sparrow	U Mig & Wi
Song Sparrow	U Mig & Wi
Lincoln's Sparrow	FC Mig & U Wi
Golden-crowned Sparrow	R Mig & Wi
White-crowned Sparrow	C Mig & Wi
Harris' Sparrow	R Vag
Dark-eyed Junco	C Wi
Lapland Longspur	CAS
Blackbirds	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	R Mig
Red-winged Blackbird	U Mig
Western Meadowlark	FC Mig & Wi
Great-tailed Grackle	R Vag
Brewer's Blackbird	FC Mig & Wi N ?
Brown-headed Cowbird	FC Mig & Su N
Orioles	
Hooded Oriole	FC Su N
Northern Oriole	FC Mig & Su N
Scott's Oriole	C Su & R Wi N
Fringillid Finches	
Purple Finch	R IRR Mig & Wi
Cassin's Finch	R IRR Mig & Wi
House Finch	C Res N
Red Crossbill	CAS Vag
Pine Siskin	IRR Mig & Wi
Lesser Goldfinch	FC Res N
Lawrence's Goldfinch	IRR Mig & Su N
American Goldfinch	IRR Mig & Wi
Weaver Finch	
House Sparrow	C Res N



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Welcome to Joshua Tree National Monument. This list includes over 230 species of birds seen or expected in the Monument. We hope this list will give an idea of what to expect and when. Joshua Tree is a vast area of about a half million acres including high Mojave desert, low Colorado desert, palm oases, and several man-made water impoundments (notably Barker Dam). Birding here can be an adventure!

This list was compiled from visitor sighting records, annual Christmas counts and personal observations of many naturalists. We are especially indebted to Gene Cardiff and Bob McKernan of the San Bernardino County Museum. Thanks also to Brian Prescott, Doug Williams, and Bill Truesdell for major contributions to the list. Help us to improve this checklist by reporting unusual or interesting sightings to park personnel. Nesting records, birds not on this list, or those listed as casual should be documented with dates and photographs. Good Birding!

Jerry Freilich - 1991

Abundance and Distribution

- C Common — Species observed frequently in most proper habitat.
 FC Fairly Common — Species occurs in only some of the proper habitat
 U Uncommon — Species occurs regularly but is observed infrequently even in proper habitat.
 R Rare — Species occurs regularly, but in small numbers. Requires careful searching of proper habitat.
 CAS Casual — Presence documented by only a few records.
 IRR Irregular — May be common certain years and entirely absent other years.
 Mig Migrant — Passing through in seasonal movement.
 Vag Vagrant — An erratic or irregular wanderer.
 Res Resident — Present year-round.
 H Hypothetical — Presence not confirmed by records, but does occur nearby and might possibly appear in the Monument.
- Sp Spring Fa Fall
 Su Summer Wi Winter
- N Nests (N ? — Nesting suspected but not confirmed).
 Wa Water — Indicates that water level (adequate rainfall) is important. May be much less common or absent if rainfall is inadequate.

Loon	
Common Loon	R Mig (Wa)
Grebes	
Pied-billed Grebe	U Res N (Wa)
Eared Grebe	R Mig (Wa)
Pelicans	
White Pelican	R Mig
Brown Pelican	CAS Vag
Herons, Bittern & Ibis	
American Bittern	R Mig (Wa)
Great Blue Heron	R Mig (Wa)
Great Egret	R Mig (Wa)
Snowy Egret	R Mig (Wa)
Green-backed Heron	R Mig (Wa)
Black-crowned Night Heron	R Mig (Wa)
White-faced Ibis	R Mig (Wa)
Ducks & Geese	
Snow Goose	R Mig (Wa)
Brant	CAS Mig (Wa)
Canada Goose	R Mig (Wa)
Green-winged Teal	U Mig (Wa)
Mallard	U Res N (Wa)
Gadwall	R Mig H (Wa)
American Wigeon	R Mig (Wa)
Northern Shoveller	R Mig H (Wa)
Blue-winged Teal	R Mig (Wa)
Cinnamon Teal	R Mig (Wa)
Canvasback	R Mig (Wa)
Ring-necked Duck	R Mig (Wa)
Lesser Scaup	R Mig (Wa)
Bufflehead	R Mig (Wa)
Red-breasted Merganser	CAS Mig (Wa)
Common Merganser	R Mig (Wa)
Hooded Merganser	CAS Mig (Wa)
Ruddy Duck	U Res N (Wa)
Hawks & Vultures	
Turkey Vulture	C Mig & Su Res N
Osprey	R Mig
Black-shouldered Kite	CAS Vag H
Bald Eagle	CAS Vag
Northern Harrier	U Mig & R Wi
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U Mig & R Wi
Cooper's Hawk	U Mig & R Res
Swainson's Hawk	IRR Mig
Red-tailed Hawk	C Res N
Ferruginous Hawk	R Mig & Wi
Rough-legged Hawk	CAS Mig
Golden Eagle	U Res N
American Kestrel	C Res N

Merlin	Mig
Peregrine Falcon	CAS Mig
Prairie Falcon	U Res N
Quail	
Gambel's Quail	C Res N
Mountain Quail	R Res N
Chukar	CAS
Rails	
Virginia Rail	R Mig (Wa)
Sora	U Mig & R Wi (Wa)
American Coot	U Res N (Wa)
Shorebirds	
Black-bellied Plover	CAS Mig H (Wa)
Killdeer	U Mig (R Res?) N?
Black-necked Stilt	R Mig (Wa)
Avocet	R Mig (Wa)
Greater Yellowlegs	R Mig (Wa)
Solitary Sandpiper	R Mig (Wa)
Spotted Sandpiper	R Mig (Wa)
Whimbrel	CAS Mig H (Wa)
Long-billed Curlew	CAS (Wa)
Western Sandpiper	R Mig (Wa)
Least Sandpiper	R Mig (Wa)
Long-billed Dowitcher	R Mig (Wa)
Common Snipe	R Mig & Wi (Wa)
Wilson's Phalarope	R Mig (Wa)
Red-necked Phalarope	R Mig (Wa)
Gulls & Terns	
Ring-billed Gull	R Mig
California Gull	R Mig
Black Tern	CAS Mig H
Pigeons & Doves	
Band-tailed Pigeon	R Vag
White-winged Dove	U Mig & Su N?
Mourning Dove	C Res N
Common Ground-Dove	R Vag
Rock Dove	U Res
Cuckoos & Allies	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	CAS Mig
Greater Roadrunner	U Res N
Owls	
Common Barn Owl	U Res N
Western Screech Owl	U Res N
Great Horned Owl	C Res N
Elf Owl	Extirpated ?
Burrowing Owl	R Res N ?
Long-eared Owl	U Wi (R Res ? N ?)
Saw-whet Owl	CAS Mig & Wi

Goatsuckers	
Lesser Nighthawk	FC Su N
Common Poorwill	FC Res N
Swifts	
Vaux's Swift	FC Mig
White-throated Swift	C Res N
Hummingbirds	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	U Mig N ?
Costa's Hummingbird	C Res N
Anna's Hummingbird	C Res N
Calliope Hummingbird	CAS Mig
Rufous Hummingbird	FC Mig
Allen's Hummingbird	CAS Mig
Kingfisher	
Belted Kingfisher	R Mig (Wa)
Woodpeckers	
Lewis' Woodpecker	IRR Mig & Wi
Acorn Woodpecker	R Vag
Red-naped Sapsucker	R Mig & Wi
Red-breasted Sapsucker	CAS Mig & Wi
Williamson's Sapsucker	CAS Fa & Wi
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	C Res N
White-headed Woodpecker	CAS Wi
Northern Flicker	U Res N
Flycatchers	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U Mig
Western Wood-Pewee	C Mig
Willow Flycatcher	FC Mig
Hammond's Flycatcher	C Mig
Dusky Flycatcher	U Mig
Gray Flycatcher	U Mig & R Wi
"Western" Flycatcher	C Mig
Black Phoebe	FC Res N
Say's Phoebe	FC Res N
Vermilion Flycatcher	CAS
Ash-Throated Flycatcher	C Mig & Su N
Cassin's Kingbird	U Mig & Su N ?
Western Kingbird	C Mig & Su N
Larks & Swallows	
Horned Lark	C Res N
Purple Martin	CAS Mig
Tree Swallow	C Mig
Violet-green Swallow	C Mig
Rough-winged Swallow	C Mig
Bank Swallow	R Mig
Cliff Swallow	C Mig
Barn Swallow	C Mig