

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Mojave National Preserve and
Castle Mountains National Monument

Bird Checklist



Mojave National Preserve and Castle Mountains National Monument encompass 1.6 million acres of diverse habitats in the Mojave Desert. Elevations range from below 500 feet near the Devil's Playground to nearly 8000 feet on Clark Mountain. While birds can be found year-round, spring and fall offer the greatest opportunity for bird observation. Riparian areas such as Zzyzx and Piute Spring provide a vital stopover for water fowl and shorebirds during seasonal migrations.

This checklist was compiled from lists specific to several habitats within the Preserve and is in accordance with the seventh edition (1998) of the American Ornithologist's Union Checklist of North American Birds. Please report any unusual and/or interesting sightings to park personnel.

Seasons of Occurrence:

Sp	Spring (March–May)
Su	Summer (June–August)
F	Fall (September–November)
W	Winter (December–February)

Abundance Codes:

A	Abundant
C	Common
U	Uncommon
O	Occasional
R	Rare

Habitats:

Pinyon/Juniper Woodland

Found at 4000 to 8000 feet of elevation in isolated desert mountain ranges such as Clark Mountain, Granite Mountains, Providence Mountains, and New York Mountains. Vegetation includes pinyon pine, juniper, and sagebrush.

Joshua Tree Woodland

Generally grows between 2000 and 6000 feet in elevation. Vegetation includes Joshua tree, yucca, cacti, and blackbrush. The Cima Dome area is an excellent example of this habitat.

Desert Scrub

At 500 to 4000 feet in elevation, desert scrub covers the majority of the Preserve and includes the most variations of habitat. Vegetation includes creosote bush, bursage, blackbrush, cholla, and Mojave yucca.

Riparian

Found around springs and seeps at 500 to 1,500 feet of elevation. Vegetation includes: mesquite, willows, cottonwood, and tamarisk. Zzyzx and Piute Spring are examples of this habitat.

	Sp	Su	F	W
Swans, Geese, Ducks				
__Tundra Swan				R
__Snow Goose	O		U	R
__Ross's Goose	R		R	R
__Canada Goose	U	R	U	U
__Wood Duck	O	R	U	O
__Mallard	C	O	C	C
__Gadwall	C	O	C	C
__Green-winged Teal	C	R	C	C
__Northern Pintail	C	O	C	C
__American Wigeon	U	R	U	U
__Northern Shoveler	U	R	U	U
__Cinnamon Teal	C	U	C	U
__Blue-winged Teal	U	O	U	R
__Canvasback	O	R	O	U
__Redhead	O	R	O	U
__Ring-necked Duck	U	O	U	C
__Lesser Scaup	O		O	O
__Bufflehead	O	R	O	U
__Ruddy Duck	C	U	C	C
__Red-breasted Merganser	R		R	
Partridges				
__Chukar	U	U	U	U
New World Quail				
__Gambel's Quail	A	A	A	A
Loons				
__Common Loon	U	R	U	O
Grebes				
__Eared Grebe	U	O	U	O
__Pied-billed Grebe	U	O	U	U
__Western Grebe	U	O	U	O
Pelicans				
__American White Pelican	R		R	
Cormorants				
__Double-crested Cormorant	R	R	R	R
Hérons, Bitterns				
__Least Bittern	O	O	O	
__American Bittern	U	O	U	O
__Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	O	U	O
__Green Heron	U	O	U	R
__Cattle Egret	U	R	O	U
__Snowy Egret	U	O	O	O
__Great Egret	U	O	U	O
__Great Blue Heron	C	U	C	U
Ibises				
__White-faced Ibis	U	O	R	
Vultures				
__Turkey Vulture	A	U	C	O
Hawks, Eagles				
__Osprey	O	R	O	R
__Northern Harrier	C	R	C	C
__Golden Eagle	U	U	U	U
__Bald Eagle			R	O
__Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
__Cooper's Hawk	U	U	C	U
__Red-shouldered Hawk	O		O	O
__Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
__Swainson's Hawk		R		
__Rough-legged Hawk	R		R	R
__Ferruginous Hawk	U		U	U

	Sp	Su	F	W
Falcons				
__American Kestrel	C	C	C	C
__Merlin	O		U	U
__Prairie Falcon	U	U	U	U
__Peregrine Falcon	R	R	R	R
Rails, Gallinules, Coots				
__Virginia Rail	O	O	O	O
__Sora	U	R	U	U
__Common Moorhen	U	U	U	O
__American Coot	C	C	C	C
Plovers				
__Semipalmated Plover	R		R	
__Killdeer	C	C	C	C
Stilts, Avocets				
__American Avocet	U	O	U	R
__Black-necked Stilt	U	R	U	
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, Dowitchers				
__Willet	R		O	
__Greater Yellowlegs	U	O	U	R
__Lesser Yellowlegs	O	R	U	
__Solitary Sandpiper	R		O	
__Spotted Sandpiper	U	R	U	
__Dunlin	O		O	
__Western Sandpiper	U	R	U	R
__Least Sandpiper	O	U	U	U
__Baird's Sandpiper		O	O	
__Pectoral Sandpiper			O	O
__Wilson's Snipe		U	U	U
__Wilson's Phalarope		O	R	U
__Red-necked Phalarope	O	R	U	
__Long-billed Dowitcher	O		O	R
__Short-billed Dowitcher	R		R	
Gulls, Terns				
__Bonaparte's Gull	O	R	O	R
__Ring-billed Gull	U	O	U	O
__California Gull	U	O	U	R
__Caspian Tern	O	R	O	
__Forster's Tern		O	U	O
__Black Tern	O	R	O	
Pigeons, Doves				
__Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
__Mourning Dove	A	C	A	C
__Eurasian Collared-Dove	C	C	C	C
__White-winged Dove		U	U	O
Roadrunners				
__Greater Roadrunner	C	C	C	C
Barn Owls				
__Barn Owl	U	U	U	U
Typical Owls				
__Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C
__Long-eared Owl	U	U	U	U
__Western Screech-Owl	C	C	C	C
__Burrowing Owl	U	U	U	U
Nightjars				
__Lesser Nighthawk	A	A	U	
__Common Poorwill	C	C	U	R
Swifts				
__Vaux's Swift	U		U	R
__White-throated Swift	C	C	C	C

	Sp	Su	F	W
Hummingbirds				
__Black-chinned Hummingbird	U	U	O	
__Costa's Hummingbird	U	O	O	R
__Anna's Hummingbird	U	O	O	O
__Calliope Hummingbird	O	O		
__Rufous Hummingbird	O		C	
Kingfishers				
__Belted Kingfisher	U	R	U	U
Woodpeckers				
__Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C
__Gilded Flicker	U	U	U	U
__Red-breasted Sapsucker			O	O
__Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			R	R
__Red-naped Sapsucker	O		U	O
__Ladder-backed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
__Hairy Woodpecker				R
Tyrant Flycatchers				
__Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U	
__Western Wood-Pewee	C		C	
__Willow Flycatcher	U		U	
__Hammond's Flycatcher		U		O
__Gray Flycatcher		O		O
__Dusky Flycatcher		O		O
__Pacific-slope Flycatcher		U		O
__Black Phoebe	U	U	U	U
__Say's Phoebe	C	C	C	C
__Vermilion Flycatcher	O	U	O	O
__Ash-throated Flycatcher	C	C	C	R
__Western Kingbird	C	C	C	
__Cassin's Kingbird	U	U	R	
Shrikes				
__Loggerhead Shrike	C	C	C	C
Vireos				
__Bell's Vireo	R	R		
__Gray Vireo	R			
__Plumbeous Vireo	U		U	
__Cassin's Vireo	U	R	U	R
__Warbling Vireo		U	R	O
Crows, Jays				
__Steller's Jay	U		U	U
__Clark's Nutcracker	U	U	U	U
__Western Scrub-Jay	C		C	C
__Pinyon Jay	C	C	C	C
__American Crow	U	O	U	O
__Common Raven	A	A	A	A
Larks				
__Horned Lark	C	C	A	A
Swallows				
__Tree Swallow	C	U	C	O
__Violet-green Swallow	U	U	U	U
__Bank Swallow		U	U	U
__Cliff Swallow	U	U	O	
__Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	R
__Barn Swallow	U	U	U	
Chickadees, Titmice				
__Juniper Titmouse	U	U	U	U
__Mountain Chickadee	C	C	C	C
Verdins				
__Verdin	U	U	U	U

	Sp	Su	F	W
Bushtits				
__Bushtit	C	U	C	C
Wrens				
__House Wren	O	O	U	O
__Pacific Wren				R
__Bewick's Wren	C	R	C	C
__Cactus Wren	U	U	U	U
__Rock Wren	C	C	C	C
__Canyon Wren	C	C	C	C
__Marsh Wren	C	C	C	C
Kinglets				
__Golden-crowned Kinglet	R		O	O
__Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C
Gnatcatchers				
__Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	O	O
__Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	U
Thrushes				
__Western Bluebird	U		C	C
__Mountain Bluebird	U		C	C
__Townsend's Solitaire	U		U	U
__Swainson's Thrush	U		R	
__Hermit Thrush	U		U	C
__American Robin	U	R	C	C
Mockingbirds, Thrashers				
__Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C
__Sage Thrasher	U		O	O
__Bendire's Thrasher	U	U		
__Crissal Thrasher	U	U	U	U
__Le Conte's Thrasher	U	U	U	U
Starlings				
__European Starling	C	C	C	C
Pipits				
__American Pipit	O		U	U
Waxwings				
__Cedar Waxwing	C	R	C	C
Silky-Flycatchers				
__Phainopepla	C	U	C	C
Wood-Warblers				
__Orange-crowned Warbler	U	O	U	R
__Nashville Warbler	U		O	
__Virginia's Warbler	O	R	O	
__Lucy's Warbler		U	U	
__Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	O	C	C
__Black-throated Gray Warbler	U	R	O	
__Townsend's Warbler	U		U	
__Hermit Warbler	R		R	
__Yellow Warbler	C	O	C	
__MacGillivray's Warbler	U		U	
__Common Yellowthroat	C	U	C	U
__Wilson's Warbler	C		C	
__Yellow-breasted Chat	O	U	U	
__American Redstart	R		R	
__Painted Redstart		R		
Tanagers				
__Summer Tanager	R	R	R	
__Western Tanager	C	U	C	
Sparrows, Towhees and Allies				
__Green-tailed Towhee	U	R	U	R
__Spotted Towhee	U		U	U
__Abert's Towhee	R	R	R	R

	Sp	Su	F	W
__American Tree Sparrow			O	
__Chipping Sparrow	U	R	U	O
__Brewer's Sparrow	C	O	C	C
__Lark Sparrow	U	O	U	U
__Black-throated Sparrow	A	A	C	U
__Sage Sparrow	A	A	A	A
__Rufous-crowned Sparrow	R	R	R	R
__Fox Sparrow	O		O	U
__Savannah Sparrow	C	R	C	C
__Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	U
__Song Sparrow	U	O	U	O
__Vesper Sparrow	U		U	U
__Swamp Sparrow	R		R	
__Harris's Sparrow	R		R	R
__White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	C
__Golden-crowned Sparrow	U		U	O
__Black-chinned Sparrow				R
__Dark-eyed Junco	U		C	C
Cardinals				
__Black-headed Grosbeak	C	O	U	
__Blue Grosbeak		O	O	
__Lazuli Bunting		U	O	
Blackbirds				
__Western Meadowlark	U	U	U	U
__Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	O	U	R
__Red-winged Blackbird	U	U	U	U
__Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	U	U
__Brewer's Blackbird	U	U	U	U
__Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	U
__Hooded Oriole		U	U	O
__Bullock's Oriole	O	C	C	R
__Scott's Oriole	C	C	O	R
Finches				
__Purple Finch			O	R
__House Finch	C	C	C	C
__Pine Siskin	O		U	U
__American Goldfinch	O		U	U
__Lesser Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
__Lawrence's Goldfinch	U	U	U	R
Old World Sparrows				
__House Sparrow	C	C	C	C
Accidentals: All verified at the Desert Studies Center, loctated at Zzyzx.				
Greater White-fronted Goose				Brown-crested Flycatcher
Common Goldeneye				Red-eyed Vireo
Hooded Merganser				Brown Creeper
Brown Pelican				Red-breasted Nuthatch
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				Varied Thrush
Harris's Hawk				Curve-billed Thrasher
Zone-tailed Hawk				California Thrasher
Purple Gallinule				Tennessee Warbler
Heermann's Gull				Black-and-white Warbler
Least Tern				Blackpoll Warbler
Band-tailed Pigeon				Canada Warbler
Ruddy Ground-Dove				Hooded Warbler
Common Ground-Dove				Prothonotary Warbler
Groove-billed Ani				Ovenbird
Spotted Owl				Northern Waterthrush
Flammulated Owl				Hepatic Tanager
Northern Pygmy-Owl				Scarlet Tanager
Northern Saw-whet Owl				Eastern Towhee
Broad-tailed Hummingbird				Clay-colored Sparrow
Allen's Hummingbird				White-throated Sparrow
Lewis's Woodpecker				Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Acorn Woodpecker				Indigo Bunting
Williamson's Sapsucker				Tricolored Blackbird
Eastern Kingbird				Streak-backed Oriole
<i>Special thanks to: Kurt Leuschner, College of the Desert, Palm Desert, California</i>				



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