

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Southern Plains Inventory & Monitoring Network
Natural Resource Stewardship and Science



Pecos National Historical Park Bird Checklist



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Pecos National Historical Park sits at a cultural crossroads in north-central New Mexico where 12,000 years of human history record the interactions of people in a gateway between the Great Plains and the Rio Grande Valley. The park is located in a broad rolling valley at the southern end of the Southern Rocky Mountains. It contains a diverse array of bird habitats, including grassland, pinyon-juniper woodland, ponderosa pine woodland, and mixed conifer forests, with cottonwoods, willows, and other riparian vegetation growing along the Pecos River and Glorieta Creek. At least 148 different species of birds have been documented in the park.



The main Pecos unit of the park contains the the Pecos Pueblo and Spanish mission as well as Forked Lightning Ranch, a 1900s-era ranch that tells the story of the area's history of cattle ranching. The smaller Glorieta unit interprets the Battle of Glorieta Pass during the Civil War.

Pinyon-juniper woodland is the most common habitat type found in the park. Look for Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays, Pinyon Jays, Western Bluebirds, Juniper Titmice, and Spotted Towhees amongst the pinyon pines and oneseed junipers. Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcrackers, chickadees, nuthatches, and Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers favor ponderosa stands and mixed conifer forests.

Grasslands and open pastures host Bewick's Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Cassin's Sparrow, Say's Phoebe, meadowlarks, and kingbirds.

Riparian areas provide some of the best bird habitat in Pecos NHP. Look for Great Blue Heron, Northern Flicker, Canyon Wren, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, and Yellow Warbler near the Pecos River and Glorieta Creek.

Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and Peregrine Falcons sometimes can be seen soaring overhead. Turkey Vultures have a distinctive wobble to their flight, with their wings held in a pronounced V-shape. American Kestrels are the smallest falcon in North America at about the size of a Mourning Dove, and can sometimes be observed fluttering above grasslands hunting insects.



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
- **Accidental** – Seen no more than a few times; birds that have strayed out of their normal range/habitat

Habitat

- **R – Riparian:** Habitats dominated by cottonwoods, willows, and alder along the Pecos River and Glorieta Creek
- **G – Grassland:** Grassland and open pasture habitats with blue grama and numerous forbs
- **W – Woodland:** Predominantly pinyon pine-juniper woodland with some areas of ponderosa pine woodland and mixed-conifer forest

Season

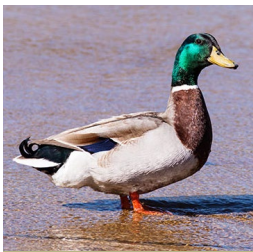
- **Resident** – Found year-round
- **Summer** – Found predominantly in the summer months (June–August)
- **Winter** – Found predominantly in the winter months (November–February)
- **Migrant** – Found predominantly during spring and/or fall migratory periods (March–May, September–October)

The information in this list is based on NPSpecies, Natural Resource Condition Assessments, and Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network Landbird Monitoring surveys at Pecos NHP, and may not be a comprehensive list of all bird species in the park. 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 NPS-managed areas.



Mallard



White-winged Dove



Mourning Dove



Greater Roadrunner



Lesser Nighthawk



Black-chinned Hummingbird

Checklist

Waterfowl (Anatidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Canada Goose	Rare	R, G	Migrant
Blue-winged Teal	Rare	R	Migrant
Northern Shoveler	Rare	R	Migrant
Mallard	Common	R	Resident
Common Merganser	Occasional	R	Resident

New World Quail (Odontophoridae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Northern Bobwhite	Accidental	G	Migrant

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

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

Cuckoos and Roadrunners (Cuculidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Greater Roadrunner	Rare	R, G, W	Resident

Nighthawks (Caprimulgidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Lesser Nighthawk	Occasional	G	Migrant
Common Nighthawk	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer
Common Poorwill	Uncommon	W	Summer

Swifts (Apodidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
White-throated Swift	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer
Rufous Hummingbird	Rare	R, W	Migrant
Calliope Hummingbird	Rare	R, W	Summer

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Virginia Rail	Rare	R	Summer

Plovers (Charadriidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Killdeer	Rare	R, G	Resident

Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies (Scolopacidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Wilson's Snipe	Rare	R	Winter
Spotted Sandpiper	Uncommon	R	Summer
Willet	Accidental	R	Migrant

Bitterns, Herons, and Allies (Ardeidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Great Blue Heron	Uncommon	R, G	Resident
Green Heron	Rare	R	Migrant

New World Vultures (Cathartidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Turkey Vulture	Common	R, G, W	Summer

Ospreys (Pandionidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Osprey	Occasional	R	Migrant

Hawks, Kites, Eagles and Allies (Accipitridae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Cooper's Hawk	Rare	R, G, W	Resident
Red-tailed Hawk	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident

Typical Owls (Strigidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Great Horned Owl	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

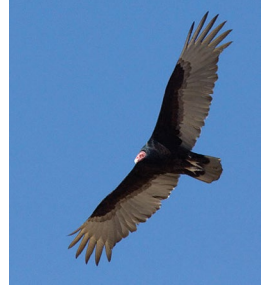
✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Belted Kingfisher	Rare	R	Summer

Woodpeckers and Allies (Picidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Lewis's Woodpecker	Rare	R, W	Resident
Acorn Woodpecker	Rare	W	Resident
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Accidental	R, W	Migrant
Williamson's Sapsucker	Rare	R	Winter
Red-naped Sapsucker	Rare	R, W	Summer
Downy Woodpecker	Occasional	R, W	Resident
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident
Hairy Woodpecker	Common	R, W	Resident
Northern Flicker	Common	R, W	Resident



Great Blue Heron



Turkey Vulture



Red-tailed Hawk



Great Horned Owl



Northern Flicker



American Kestrel



Peregrine Falcon



Western Kingbird



Say's Phoebe



Steller's Jay



Common Raven

Falcons (Falconidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
American Kestrel	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident
Merlin	Rare	R, G, W	Winter
Peregrine Falcon	Occasional	G, W	Migrant
Prairie Falcon	Occasional	G	Resident

Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Common	R, G, W	Summer
Cassin's Kingbird	Common	R, G, W	Summer
Western Kingbird	Common	R, G, W	Summer
Eastern Kingbird	Occasional	R, G, W	Migrant
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Rare	R, W	Summer
Western Wood-Pewee	Common	R, G, W	Summer
Willow Flycatcher	Rare	R, G	Migrant
Gray Flycatcher	Common	R, W	Summer
Dusky Flycatcher	Rare	R, W	Summer
Cordilleran Flycatcher	Common	R, W	Summer
Black Phoebe	Uncommon	R	Resident
Say's Phoebe	Common	R, G	Resident

Vireos (Vireonidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Gray Vireo	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
Cassin's Vireo	Rare	R, W	Migrant
Plumbeous Vireo	Common	R, W	Summer
Warbling Vireo	Uncommon	R, W	Summer

Crows, Jays and Ravens (Corvidae)

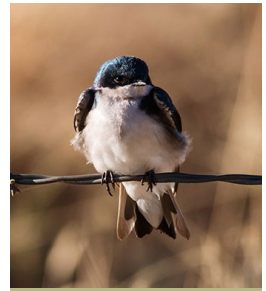
√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Pinyon Jay	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
Steller's Jay	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	Common	R, G, W	Resident
Clark's Nutcracker	Uncommon	W	Resident
Black-billed Magpie	Rare	R, G, W	Resident
American Crow	Common	R, G, W	Resident
Common Raven	Common	R, G, W	Resident

Larks (Alaudidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Horned Lark	Rare	G	Migrant

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

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



Tree Swallow

Chickadees and Titmice (Paridae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Black-capped Chickadee	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
Mountain Chickadee	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
Juniper Titmouse	Common	R, W	Resident



Mountain Chickadee

Bushtits (Aegithalidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Bushtit	Uncommon	R, W	Resident



White-breasted Nuthatch

Nuthatches (Sittidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Rare	W	Resident
White-breasted Nuthatch	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
Pygmy Nuthatch	Uncommon	W	Resident



Rock Wren

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Rock Wren	Uncommon	G, W	Resident
Canyon Wren	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
House Wren	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
Bewick's Wren	Common	R, G	Resident



House Wren

Gnatcatchers (Poliopitilidae)

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

Kinglets (Regulidae)

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



Bewick's Wren



Western Bluebird

Thrushes (Turdidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Western Bluebird	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident
Mountain Bluebird	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident
Townsend's Solitaire	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
Hermit Thrush	Rare	R, W	Migrant
American Robin	Common	R, G, W	Summer



Mountain Bluebird

Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Gray Catbird	Occasional	R, W	Migrant
Northern Mockingbird	Common	R, G, W	Resident



American Robin

Starlings (Sturnidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
European Starling	Rare	R, G, W	Resident

Waxwings (Bombycillidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Cedar Waxwing	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant



Northern Mockingbird

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
House Sparrow	Rare	R, G	Resident

Pipits (Motacillidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
American Pipit	Rare	R, G	Migrant



Cedar Waxwing

Finches (Fringillidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Evening Grosbeak	Rare	W	Resident
House Finch	Common	R, G, W	Resident
Cassin's Finch	Rare	W	Resident
Red Crossbill	Rare	R, W	Resident
Pine Siskin	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
Lesser Goldfinch	Common	R, G, W	Resident
American Goldfinch	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant



House Finch

New World Sparrows and Towhees (Passerellidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Cassin's Sparrow	Uncommon	G	Summer
Lark Sparrow	Common	R, G, W	Resident
Chipping Sparrow	Common	R, G, W	Resident
Clay-colored Sparrow	Occasional	R, G, W	Migrant
Brewer's Sparrow	Uncommon	R, G, W	Migrant
Dark-eyed Junco	Rare	W	Resident
White-crowned Sparrow	Common	R, G, W	Migrant
Vesper Sparrow	Common	R, G	Resident
Song Sparrow	Common	R	Resident
Lincoln's Sparrow	Uncommon	R, G	Migrant
Canyon Towhee	Common	R, G	Resident
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	Rare	G, W	Resident
Green-tailed Towhee	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant
Spotted Towhee	Common	R, W	Resident



Chipping Sparrow



White-crowned Sparrow

Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteriidae)

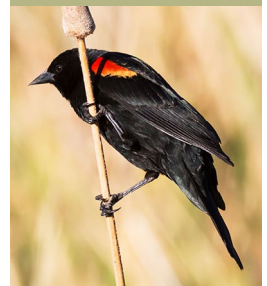
√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Yellow-breasted Chat	Common	R	Summer



Spotted Towhee

Blackbirds, Orioles, and Allies (Icteridae)

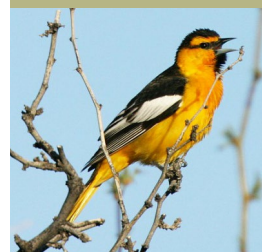
√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Rare	R	Summer
Eastern Meadowlark	Rare	G	Resident
Western Meadowlark	Common	G	Resident
Bullock's Oriole	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
Red-winged Blackbird	Uncommon	R, G	Summer
Brown-headed Cowbird	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer
Brewer's Blackbird	Uncommon	R, G, W	Winter
Common Grackle	Occasional	R, G, W	Migrant
Great-tailed Grackle	Rare	R, G, W	Resident



Red-winged Blackbird



Western Meadowlark
(NPS PHOTO)



Bullock's Oriole



Common Yellowthroat



Yellow Warbler



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Summer Tanager



Black-headed Grosbeak



Blue Grosbeak

New World Warblers (Parulidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Orange-crowned Warbler	Uncommon	R, G, W	Migrant
Virginia's Warbler	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
MacGillivray's Warbler	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
Common Yellowthroat	Uncommon	R	Summer
Yellow Warbler	Common	R	Summer
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer
Grace's Warbler	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
Townsend's Warbler	Uncommon	R, G, W	Migrant
Wilson's Warbler	Uncommon	R, G, W	Migrant

Piranga Tanagers, Cardinals and Allies (Cardinalidae)

√ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
Hepatic Tanager	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
Summer Tanager	Uncommon	R	Summer
Western Tanager	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer
Black-headed Grosbeak	Common	R, G, W	Summer
Blue Grosbeak	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer
Lazuli Bunting	Rare	R, G	Migrant
Indigo Bunting	Rare	R, G	Migrant



Black-throated Gray Warbler



Western Tanager

Acknowledgments

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

Rear cover: Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (NPS PHOTO)



The Spotted Towhee is one of the most common birds seen at Pecos NHP (NPS PHOTO)



Western Bluebird (NPS / GARY CASCIO PHOTO)



