

Petrified Forest

National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bird Checklist



Birds, like other animals, need food, shelter and water to survive. Petrified Forest is a high desert environment with extreme temperature ranges and limited rainfall. How do birds adapt to Petrified Forest?

RESIDENTS

Designated by R on the checklist, these birds are found here for at least four months. Resident birds adapt to the high desert in surprising ways.

Birds have higher normal body temperatures than most animals. Their normal body temperatures are often around 104°F. They do not need to start cooling their bodies until the surrounding air temperature exceeds that of their bodies.

Some birds escape the heat by flying higher where the air is cooler.

Birds avoid daytime heat by limiting activity to cool, early morning and, to a lesser extent, late afternoon.

Feather position can either insulate or cool. Compressing feathers destroys their insulating value, while fluffing them traps body heat.

MIGRANTS

Designated by M on the checklist. Birds that do not find Petrified Forest suitable habitat for year-round residence are called migrants, and most of the birds on this checklist fall into this category. They are here twice a year on their north-south routes, when the climate and location are favorable.

OCCASIONALS

Designated by O on the checklist. Occasionals or accidentals are birds that have wandered from their normal range due to bad weather or inexperience. They are birds whose normal range is distant and which have been sighted less than twelve times outside that range.

WHERE WILL YOU FIND BIRDS IN PETRIFIED FOREST?

Birds are found near permanent or seasonal water, such as Puerco River and Lithodendron Wash; around trees, high shrubs, and sheltered cliff faces; areas of human habitation, man made oases, such as park housing, visitor service areas, picnic areas, and wayside fringes; roadsides on cold days where roadbeds are warm and birds are attracted by heat and food. All these areas offer sources of food, water and shelter necessary for desert survival.

CHECKLIST

GREBES

- Least Grebe M
- Western Grebe M
- Pied-billed Grebe M
- Eared Grebe M

PELICANS

- Amer. White Pelican M

HERONS AND BITTERNS

- Great Blue Heron M
- Green Heron M
- Snowy Egret M
- Black-crowned Night Heron M
- American Bittern M

GEESE AND DUCKS

- Canada Goose M
- Mallard M
- Northern Pintail M
- Green-winged Teal M
- Blue-winged Teal M
- Cinnamon Teal M
- American Wigeon M
- Northern Shoveler M
- Ring-necked Duck M
- Bufflehead M
- Ruddy Duck M

IBISIS

- White-faced Ibis M

VULTURES, HAWKS AND EAGLES

- __ Turkey Vulture R
- __ Northern Goshawk M
- __ Sharp-shinned Hawk M
- __ Cooper's Hawk M
- __ Red-tailed Hawk R
- __ Swainson's Hawk M
- __ Rough-legged Hawk M
- __ Ferruginous Hawk R
- __ Northern Harrier M
- __ Merlin M
- __ American Kestrel R
- __ Prairie Falcon R
- __ Osprey M
- __ Golden Eagle R
- __ Bald Eagle M

QUAIL

- __ Scaled Quail R

RAILS AND COOTS

- __ Virginia Rail M
- __ Sora M
- __ American Coot M

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS

- __ American Avocet R
- __ Mountain Plover M
- __ Killdeer R
- __ Long-billed Curlew O
- __ Whimbrel O
- __ Lesser Yellowlegs M
- __ Spotted Sandpiper M
- __ Baird's Sandpiper M
- __ Least Sandpiper M
- __ Western Sandpiper M
- __ Willet M
- __ Wilson's Phalarope M
- __ Herring Gull O
- __ Ring-billed Gull O
- __ Franklin's Gull O

PIGEONS AND DOVES

- __ Band-tailed Pigeon M
- __ Mourning Dove R
- __ Inca Dove O

CUCKOOS AND ROADRUNNERS

- __ Yellow-billed Cuckoo R
- __ Greater Roadrunner R

OWLS

- __ Western Screech Owl O
- __ Great Horned Owl R
- __ Burrowing Owl R
- __ Long-eared Owl R
- __ Short-eared Owl O

GOATSUCKERS

- __ Common Poor-will M
- __ Common Nighthawk M

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS

- __ Vaux's Swift M
- __ White-throated Swift M
- __ Anna's Hummingbird R
- __ Broad-tailed Hummingbird R
- __ Rufous Hummingbird R
- __ Allen's Hummingbird R

KINGFISHERS

- __ Belted Kingfisher M

WOODPECKERS

- __ Common Flicker R
- __ Acorn Woodpecker M
- __ Lewis' Woodpecker M
- __ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker M
- __ Williamson's Sapsucker M
- __ Hairy Woodpecker M
- __ Downy Woodpecker M
- __ Ladder-backed Woodpecker M

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

- __ Western Kingbird R
- __ Cassin's Kingbird R

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS Cont..

- __ Black Phoebe M
- __ Say's Phoebe R
- __ Empidonax Flycatchers M
- __ Western Wood-peewee R
- __ Olive-sided Flycatcher M
- __ Vermilion Flycatcher O
- __ N. Beardless-tyrannulet M

LARKS

- __ Horned Lark R

SWALLOWS

- __ Violet-green Swallow M
- __ Tree Swallow M
- __ Bank Swallow M
- __ N. Rough-winged Swallow M
- __ Barn Swallow M
- __ Cliff Swallow R
- __ Purple Martin M

JAYS AND CROWS

- __ Steller's Jay O
- __ Scrub Jay M
- __ Common Raven R
- __ Chihuahuan Raven O
- __ American Crow O
- __ Pinyon Jay O
- __ Clark's Nutcracker O

TITMICE AND BUSHTITS

- __ Mountain Chickadee M
- __ Plain Titmouse M
- __ Bushtit M

NUTHATCHES

- __ White-breasted Nuthatch M
- __ Red-breasted Nuthatch M
- __ Pygmy Nuthatch M

CREEPERS AND WRENS

- __ Brown Creeper M
- __ Bewick's Wren M
- __ Marsh Wren M
- __ Canyon Wren R
- __ House Wren M
- __ Rock Wren R

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

- __ Northern Mockingbird R
- __ Gray Catbird O
- __ Brown Thrasher O
- __ Bendire's Thrasher R
- __ Curve-billed Thrasher R
- __ Sage Thrasher R

THRUSHES, BLUEBIRDS AND SOLITAIRES

- __ American Robin M
- __ Hermit Thrush M
- __ Swainson's Thrush M
- __ Western Bluebird M
- __ Mountain Bluebird M
- __ Townsend's Solitaire R

GNATCATCHERS AND KINGLETS

- __ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher M
- __ Black-tailed Gnatcatcher M
- __ Golden-crowned Kinglet M
- __ Ruby-crowned Kinglet M

PIPITS AND WAXWINGS

- __ Water Pipit M
- __ Bohemian Waxwing M
- __ Cedar Waxwing M

SILKY FLYCATCHERS

- __ Phainopepla O

SHRIKES

- __ Loggerhead Shrike R

STARLINGS

- __ European Starling R

WEAVER FINCHES

- __ House Sparrow R

VIREOS

- __ Hutton's Vireo M
- __ Solitary Vireo M
- __ Warbling Vireo M
- __ Gray Vireo M

WOOD WARBLERS

- __ Black-and-white Warbler M
- __ Yellow Warbler M
- __ Yellow-rumped Warbler M
- __ Townsend's Warbler M
- __ Hermit Warbler M
- __ MacGillivray's Warbler M
- __ Common Yellowthroat M
- __ American Redstart O
- __ Yellow-breasted Chat M
- __ Wilson's Warbler M
- __ Ovenbird M
- __ Northern Waterthrush M

MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES

- __ Western Meadowlark R
- __ Hooded Oriole O
- __ Scott's Oriole O
- __ Northern Oriole R
- __ Brewer's Blackbird M
- __ Brown-headed Cowbird R
- __ Great-tailed Grackle M
- __ Yellow-headed Blackbird M
- __ Red-winged Blackbird M

Tanagers

- __ Western Tanager R
- __ Hepatic Tanager O
- __ Summer Tanager O

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS AND BUNTINGS

- __ Black-headed Grosbeak M
- __ Blue Grosbeak O
- __ Lazuli Bunting O
- __ Painted Bunting O
- __ Indigo Bunting O
- __ Evening Grosbeak M
- __ House Finch R
- __ Pine Siskin M
- __ American Goldfinch M
- __ Cassin's Finch R
- __ Lesser Goldfinch M
- __ Red Crossbill O
- __ Green-tailed Towhee M
- __ Rufous-sided Towhee M
- __ Brown Towhee M
- __ Lark Bunting M
- __ Savannah Sparrow M
- __ Baird's Sparrow M
- __ Vesper Sparrow R
- __ Lark Sparrow M
- __ Rufous-crowned Sparrow M
- __ Black-throated Sparrow R
- __ Sage Sparrow R
- __ Dark-eyed Junco M
- __ Yellow-eyed Junco M
- __ Chipping Sparrow R
- __ Brewer's Sparrow M
- __ White-crowned Sparrow M
- __ White-throated Sparrow M
- __ Fox Sparrow M
- __ Lincoln's Sparrow M
- __ Song Sparrow R
- __ Chestnut-collared Longspur O

Names according to Robbins et. al., Birds of North America, 1983.