

The Rincon Mountain District (RMD) of Saguaro National Park is ecologically diverse—a quality that is reflected in this bird list of over 200 species. The Rincon Mountains are part of the Madrean Archipelago of “Sky Islands,” where the Rocky Mountains of the U.S. meet Mexico’s Sierra Madre Occidental. The ranges of many subtropical plant and animal species (e.g., sulphur-bellied flycatcher, elegant trogon) reach their northernmost extent here. The RMD also lies at the interface of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts and includes biological elements from both. Biodiversity in this district is further enhanced by an elevational gradient of almost 6,000 feet, from the desert (2,700') to evergreen forests (8,666') atop Mica Mountain.

Six successive biomes occur here, grouped into four habitats (H) for the purposes of this bird list. Sonoran desert (D) is characterized by saguaros and other cacti and perennial shrubs. Woodland/chaparral (WC) includes grasslands, brushlands, and oak and juniper woodlands. Forests (F) include pine and mixed conifer. Associated with water, riparian vegetation (Ri) such as cottonwood and willow, is found in the drainages of each of all these habitats, creating further complexity and diversity.

In this list, season (S) includes year-round residents (Y); summer breeders (S; usually neotropical migrants here between April and August); winter visitors (W) here from November through February; and migrants (M) passing through in spring or fall.

Habitat and season both affect abundance (A). In the right habitat and season, abundant (A) birds are likely to be seen daily and in large numbers. Common (C) birds are likely to be seen daily in fewer numbers. Uncommon birds (U) are seen less frequently but regularly, and rare (R) birds, though usually present, are difficult to find. Occasional (O) birds are transient—found regionally, but not usually present in the park. Accidental (X) birds are far out of their normal range (and may never be seen here again).

Key		
Abundance (A)	Habitat (H)	Season (S)
A—Abundant	Ri—Riparian	Y—Year-round
C—Common	D—Desert	S—Summer
U—Uncommon	WC—Woodland/Chaparral	W—Winter
R—Rare	F—Forest	M—Migratory
O—Occasional		
X—Accidental		

✓	Common name	A	H	S
DUCKS AND GEESE				
	mallard	O	Ri,D	Y
TURKEYS AND QUAIL				
	scaled quail	R	D,WC	Y
	Gambel's quail	A	Ri,D,WC	Y
	Montezuma quail	U	WC	Y
	wild turkey	U	Ri,WC,F	Y
BITTERNs, HERONS AND EGRETS				
	great blue heron	R	Ri,D	Y
VULTURES				
	black vulture	O	D,WC	M
	turkey vulture	C	Ri,D,WC,F	S
RAPTORS				
	osprey	O	D	M
	northern harrier	R	D	W
	sharp-shinned hawk	R	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	Cooper's hawk	U	Ri,D,WC,F	Y
	northern goshawk	R	WC,F	Y
	common black-hawk	O	Ri,D	M
	Harris's hawk	R	D	Y
	gray hawk	R	Ri	S
	Swainson's hawk	R	D,WC	M
	zone-tailed hawk	U	Ri,D,WC,F	S
	red-tailed hawk	C	Ri,D,WC,F	Y
	ferruginous hawk	O	D	W
	golden eagle	R	D,WC,F	Y
CRANES				
	sandhill crane	O	D	M
PLOVERS				
	killdeer	O	Ri	Y
SANDPIPERS				
	spotted sandpiper	O	Ri	M
PIGEONS AND DOVES				
	rock pigeon	R	D	Y
	band-tailed pigeon	U	WC,F	S
	Eurasian collared-dove	R	Ri,D	Y
	Inca dove	R	Ri,D	Y
	common ground-dove	R	Ri,D	S
	white-winged dove	A	Ri,D	S
	mourning dove	A	Ri,D,WC	Y
CUCKOOS AND ROADRUNNERS				
	yellow-billed cuckoo	R	Ri	S
	greater roadrunner	U	D,WC	Y
OWLS				
	barn owl	O	Ri,D	Y
	flammulated owl	U	WC,F	S
	western screech-owl	U	Ri,D,WC	Y

✓	Common name	A	H	S
	whiskered screech-owl	U	WC,F	S
	great horned owl	U	Ri,D,WC,F	Y
	northern pygmy-owl	R	WC,F	Y
	cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl	O	Ri,D	Y
	elf owl	C	Ri,D,WC	S
	burrowing owl	O	D	M
	Mexican spotted owl	R	WC,F	Y
	long-eared owl	R	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	northern saw-whet owl	U	WC,F	S
NIGHTHAWKS AND NIGHTJARS				
	lesser nighthawk	C	D	S
	common nighthawk	O	D	M
	common poorwill	C	D,WC	S
	Mexican whip-poor-will	U	WC,F	S
SWIFTS				
	Vaux's swift	R	Ri,D	M
	white-throated swift	U	D,WC,F	Y
HUMMINGBIRDS				
	magnificent hummingbird	R	WC,F	S
	black-chinned hummingbird	C	Ri,D,WC	S
	Anna's hummingbird	C	Ri,D,WC	Y
	Costa's hummingbird	U	Ri,D,WC	Y
	broad-tailed hummingbird	C	Ri,D,WC,F	S
	rufous hummingbird	R	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	broad-billed hummingbird	U	Ri,D	S
TROGONS AND QUETZALS				
	elegant trogon	O	WC	S
KINGFISHERS				
	belted kingfisher	O	Ri	M
WOODPECKERS				
	acorn woodpecker	C	Ri,WC	Y
	Gila woodpecker	A	Ri,D,WC	Y
	Williamson's sapsucker	R	WC,F	W
	red-naped sapsucker	U	Ri,WC,F	W
	ladder-backed woodpecker	C	Ri,D,WC	Y
	hairy woodpecker	C	WC,F	Y
	Arizona woodpecker	U	Ri,WC	Y
	northern flicker (red-shafted)	U	Ri,D,WC,F	Y
	gilded flicker	C	Ri,D	Y
FALCONS				
	crested caracara	O	D	M
	American kestrel	U	Ri,D,WC	Y
	merlin	R	D,WC	M
	peregrine falcon	R	D,WC,F	Y
	prairie falcon	R	D,WC	Y
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
	northern beardless-tyrannulet	R	Ri	S

✓	Common name	A	H	S
	olive-sided flycatcher	R	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	greater pewee	C	WC,F	S
	western wood-pewee	C	Ri,D,WC	S
	willow flycatcher	O	Ri	M
	Hammond's flycatcher	U	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	gray flycatcher	U	Ri,D,WC	W
	dusky flycatcher	R	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	Pacific-slope flycatcher	U	Ri,D,WC	M
	cordilleran flycatcher	C	Ri,WC,F	S
	buff-breasted flycatcher	O	WC,F	S
	black phoebe	U	Ri	Y
	Say's phoebe	U	D,WC	Y
	vermillion flycatcher	U	Ri,D	S
	dusky-capped flycatcher	U	Ri,WC	S
	ash-throated flycatcher	A	Ri,D,WC	S
	brown-crested flycatcher	C	Ri,D	S
	sulphur-bellied flycatcher	O	WC	S
	tropical kingbird	O	Ri	S
	Cassin's kingbird	U	Ri	S
	western kingbird	U	Ri,D,WC	S
SHRIKES				
	loggerhead shrike	R	D,WC	Y
VIREOS				
	Bell's vireo	C	Ri,D	S
	gray vireo	R	D,WC	S
	plumbeous vireo	C	Ri,D,WC,F	S
	Cassin's vireo	R	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	Hutton's vireo	U	Ri,WC	S
	warbling vireo	U	Ri,D,WC	S
	yellow-green vireo	X	Ri	S
JAYS AND ALLIES				
	pinyon jay	O	WC,F	W
	Steller's jay	C	WC,F	Y
	western scrub-jay	U	WC	Y
	Mexican jay	C	WC,F	Y
	Clark's nutcracker	O	WC,F	W
	common raven	C	Ri,D,WC,F	Y
LARKS				
	horned lark	O	D	M
SWALLOWS				
	purple martin	C	Ri,D	S
	tree swallow	O	Ri,D	M
	violet-green swallow	U	Ri,D,WC,F	S
	northern rough-winged swallow	R	Ri,D	M
	cliff swallow	R	Ri,D	M
	barn swallow	R	Ri,D	M

✓	Common name	A	H	S
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE				
	mountain chickadee	C	WC,F	Y
	bridled titmouse	C	Ri,WC,F	Y
	juniper titmouse	R	WC	Y
VERDINS AND BUSHTITS				
	verdin	C	Ri,D	Y
	bushtit	U	Ri,WC	Y
NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS				
	red-breasted nuthatch	U	WC,F	Y
	white-breasted nuthatch	C	Ri,WC,F	Y
	pygmy nuthatch	C	WC,F	Y
	brown creeper	U	WC,F	Y
WRENS				
	rock wren	C	D,WC	Y
	canyon wren	U	D,WC	Y
	house wren	C	Ri,D,WC,F	S
	marsh wren	O	Ri	M
	Bewick's wren	C	Ri,D,WC	Y
	cactus wren	A	D	Y
KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS				
	blue-gray gnatcatcher	U	Ri,D,WC	S
	black-tailed gnatcatcher	C	D	Y
	ruby-crowned kinglet	C	Ri,D,WC,F	W
THRUSHES AND ALLIES				
	eastern bluebird	O	F	S
	western bluebird	U	Ri,D,WC,F	Y
	mountain bluebird	O	D,WC,F	W
	Townsend's solitaire	O	Ri,WC,F	W
	hermit thrush	C	Ri,WC,F	S
	American robin	C	Ri,WC,F	S
THRASHERS AND ALLIES				
	curve-billed thrasher	C	D,WC	Y
	Bendire's thrasher	O	D	Y
	crissal thrasher	R	Ri,D,WC	Y
	sage thrasher	O	D,WC	W
	northern mockingbird	C	Ri,D,WC	Y
STARLINGS				
	European starling	R	Ri,D	Y
WAXWINGS				
	cedar waxwing	R	Ri,D,WC,F	W
SILKY FLYCATCHERS				
	phainopepla	C	Ri,D,WC	Y
WARBLERS				
	olive warbler	U	WC,F	S
	orange-crowned warbler	U	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	Lucy's warbler	A	Ri,D	S
	Nashville warbler	U	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	Virginia's warbler	U	Ri,D,WC	S

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	MacGillivray's warbler	R	Ri,D	M
	common yellowthroat	R	Ri	M
	northern parula	X	Ri	M
	yellow warbler	R	Ri	M
	yellow-rumped warbler	U	Ri,D,WC,F	Y
	Grace's warbler	C	WC,F	S
	black-throated gray warbler	C	Ri,D,WC	S
	Townsend's warbler	U	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	hermit warbler	U	D,WC,F	M
	Wilson's warbler	U	Ri,D,WC,F	M
	red-faced warbler	C	WC,F	S
	painted redstart	C	Ri,WC,F	S
	yellow-breasted chat	R	Ri	S
SPARROWS AND ALLIES				
	green-tailed towhee	U	Ri,D,WC	M
	spotted towhee	C	D,WC,F	Y
	rufous-crowned sparrow	U	D,WC	Y
	canyon towhee	C	D,WC	Y
	Abert's towhee	U	Ri,D	Y
	rufous-winged sparrow	C	D	Y
	Cassin's sparrow	O	D,WC	M
	chipping sparrow	C	Ri,D,WC	W
	Brewer's sparrow	A	Ri,D,WC	W
	black-chinned sparrow	U	D,WC	Y
	vesper sparrow	R	D	W
	lark sparrow	U	Ri,D,WC	W
	black-throated sparrow	C	D,WC	Y
	lark bunting	R	D	W
	sagebrush sparrow	O	D	W
	savannah sparrow	O	Ri,D	M
	fox sparrow	X	Ri,D,WC	W
	song sparrow	R	Ri	M
	Lincoln's sparrow	U	Ri,D	W
	white-throated sparrow	O	Ri,D	W
	white-crowned sparrow	A	Ri,D,WC	W
	golden-crowned sparrow	X	Ri,D,WC	W
	dark-eyed junco	C	Ri,D,WC,F	W
	yellow-eyed junco	C	WC,F	Y
CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS				
	hepatic tanager	U	WC,F	S
	summer tanager	U	Ri	S
	western tanager	C	Ri,D,WC,F	S
	northern cardinal	C	Ri,D,WC	Y
	pyrrhuloxia	C	Ri,D	Y
	rose-breasted grosbeak	X	Ri,WC	M
	black-headed grosbeak	C	Ri,D,WC,F	S
	blue grosbeak	U	Ri,D,WC	S
	lazuli bunting	U	Ri,D,WC	M

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	indigo bunting	R	Ri,D	S
	varied bunting	U	Ri,D	S
BLACKBIRDS AND ALLIES				
	red-winged blackbird	R	Ri,D	W
	eastern meadowlark	O	D	W
	western meadowlark	R	D	W
	yellow-headed blackbird	O	Ri,D	W
	Brewer's blackbird	U	Ri,D	W
	great-tailed grackle	R	Ri,D	Y
	bronzed cowbird	C	Ri,D,WC	S
	brown-headed cowbird	C	Ri,D,WC	S
	hooded oriole	U	Ri,D,WC	S
	Bullock's oriole	U	Ri,D,WC	S
	Scott's oriole	U	D,WC	S
CARDUELINE FINCHES				
	house finch	A	Ri,D,WC	Y
	Cassin's finch	O	WC,F	W
	red crossbill	R	WC,F	Y
	pine siskin	U	Ri,D,WC,F	Y
	lesser goldfinch	C	Ri,D,WC	Y
	Lawrence's goldfinch	O	Ri,D	W
	evening grosbeak	O	WC,F	W
OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
	house sparrow	R	D	Y

Cover photos: zone-tailed hawk (top; NPS/D. Jackson), cactus wren (middle; NPS/N. Perkins), and acorn woodpecker (bottom; NPS/D. Jackson).

The information in this list is based on many years of bird observations and surveys throughout the Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Park. However, with changing land use and climate, bird lists are inherently works in progress. Use this list as a guide, and report your own observations (to the RMD Visitor Center or on eBird) to help us revise future versions. The list is arranged by family, with common names following the American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds, 7th edition, and its supplements to 2013.

This checklist was produced by Saguaro National Park and the Sonoran Desert Network.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sonoran Desert Network

Bird Checklist

for Saguaro National Park

Rincon Mountain District



