



Birding at Bear Valley

The Bear Valley area surrounds the park's main visitor center. Check inside with the park rangers to learn about recent interesting sightings. The Bear Valley Visitor Center also contains museum exhibits focusing on park wildlife and their habitats, accessible restrooms, and a bookstore with maps, local checklists, and books.

From the visitor center, proceed in any direction for an excellent day of birding. For instance, across the road, to the east, is a picnic area beneath majestic Douglas firs laden with the acorn woodpecker's beakwork. Just beyond that is the Earthquake Trail, a 0.6-mile-long loop, which passes through a riparian woodland of alders and willows.

The Woodpecker Trail and the Bear Valley Trail begin at the south end of the parking lot. The Woodpecker Trail (1 mile loop) winds through dense forests and open fields. For those with a little more time, the Bear Valley Trail (4 miles one-way) creates a bird watching corridor all the way to the ocean as it passes through riparian zones, fields, forests and coastal scrub.

Resident Birds (present all year - numbers vary)

Turkey Vulture
White-tailed Kite
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
California Quail
Band-tailed Pigeon
Barn Owl
Great-Horned Owl
Western Screech Owl
Anna's Hummingbird
Acorn Woodpecker (abundant)
Nuttall's Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Black Phoebe
Steller's Jay
Scrub Jay
American Crow

Resident Birds (continued)

Common Raven
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Bushtit
Pygmy Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Bewick's Wren
Pacific Wren
Western Bluebird
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Hutton's Vireo
Spotted Towhee
California Towhee
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Brewer's Blackbird
Purple Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
Black Phoebe

Summer Birds

Great-blue Heron
Osprey
Allen's Hummingbird
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Pacific Slope Flycatcher
Western Wood Pewee
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Swainson's Thrush
Warbling Vireo
Wilson's Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Black-headed Grosbeak
American Goldfinch
Bullock's Oriole

Winter Birds

Cooper's Hawk
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Merlin
Say's Phoebe
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Hermit Thrush
Varied Thrush
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Golden-crowned Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Tri-colored Blackbird

Migrants

Ash-throated Flycatcher
Cedar Waxwing
Cassin's Vireo
Yellow Warbler
Western Tanager
Black-throated Gray Warbler