

## BIRDS OF EL MORRO NATIONAL MONUMENT

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by Gary M. Stolz, 10/86

El Morro National monument is relatively small, containing 1,278 acres, yet within the boundaries lie a variety of habitats. While sage and rabbit-brush dominate the flats, pinyon and juniper are scattered throughout the area. Oak thickets provide cover alongside 200 foot high sandstone cliffs, while stands of ponderosa pine can be found in the more shaded areas. Water is available from the 200,000 gallon Inscription Pool, as well as mesa top tinajas and the monument's sewer lagoons.

This checklist includes 151 bird species found in the El Morro National Monument vicinity. 115 of these have been observed as of this writing (10/86) within the monument boundaries. The other 36 species listed as "hypothetical" have been found within close vicinity, but not yet within the monument. The nearby Zuni Mountains offer additional habitat of coniferous forests, lakes, arshes, and meadows, from which other potential species may stray.

Bird names and taxonomic sequence follows that of the American Ornithologist's Union (A.O.U.) 1983 checklist of North American species. El Morro's avian claim to fame is the White-throated Swift, which here was first described to science in 1858, by Dr. S.W. Woodhouse of the Sitgreaves expedition. Some bird specialities that are often easier to find at El Morro than many other areas in the state include Prairie Falcon, Great Horned Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, and Pygmy Nuthatch.

Birds, like all wildlife populations fluctuate with seasonal and long-term changes in habitat, climate, and food supply. To help further our knowledge of El Morro's wildlife, we encourage you to report your observations at the monument's visitor center, or send them to: Superintendent, El Morro National Monument, Ramah, New Mexico, 87321.

OBSERVER(S) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

TIME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ WEATHER \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION(S) \_\_\_\_\_ COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

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- = Common; found on at least 75% of trips.  
 FC = Fairly common; found on at least 25% of trips.  
 UC = Uncommon; found on at least 10% of trips.  
 R = Rare; found on less than 10% of trips.  
 O = Occasional; not found every year during this season.  
 ACC = Accidental; out of normal range, not expected again.  
 HYP = Hypothetical; within range, found in vicinity but not yet in monument.  
 # = Known to have nested within monument.

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| SPECIES             | SPRING | SUMMER | FALL | WINTER |
|---------------------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| *****               |        |        |      |        |
| Mallard             | O      | O      | O    | O      |
| Bufflehead          |        |        |      | O      |
| Turkey Vulture      | UC     | UC     | UC   |        |
| Northern Goshawk    | R      | R      | R    | R      |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk  | UC     | R      | UC   | R      |
| Cooper's Hawk       | UC     | UC#    | UC   | UC     |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | C      | C      | C    | C      |
| Swainson's Hawk     | UC     | UC     | UC   |        |
| Rough-legged Hawk   |        |        |      | HYP    |
| Ferruginous Hawk    | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Golden Eagle        | UC     | UC#    | UC   | UC     |
| Northern Harrier    | UC     | UC     | UC   | UC     |
| Prairie Falcon      | C      | C#     | C    | FC     |
| Peregrine           | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Merlin              | O      | O      | O    | O      |
| American Kestrel    | C      | C#     | C    | C      |
| Scaled Quail        | O      | O      | O    | O      |
| Wild Turkey         | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Killdeer            | R      | R      | R    | R      |
| Franklin's Gull     |        | HYP    |      |        |
| Rock Dove           | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Mourning Dove       | FC     | FC#    | FC   | FC     |
| Greater Roadrunner  | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Western Screech Owl | UC     | UC     | UC   | UC     |
| Spotted Owl         | UC     | UC#    | UC   | UC     |
| Great Horned Owl    | FC     | FC#    | FC   | FC     |
| Pygmy Owl           | O      | O      | O    | O      |
| Burrowing Owl       | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |

| SPECIES                   | SPRING | SUMMER      | FALL                  | WINTER |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------|-----------------------|--------|
| *****                     |        |             |                       |        |
| Long-eared Owl            | R      | R           | R                     | R      |
| Poor-will                 | R      | UC#         | R                     |        |
| Common Nighthawk          | UC     | C#          | UC                    |        |
| White-throated Swift      | C      | C#          | FC                    |        |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | C      | C#          | C (gone by mid Sept.) |        |
| Broad-tailed Hummingbird  | C      | C#          | C (gone by mid Sept.) |        |
| Rufous Hummingbird        | FC     | C           | C (gone by mid Sept.) |        |
| Calliope Hummingbird      | R      | R           | R (gone by mid Sept.) |        |
| Belted Kingfisher         | O      | O           | O                     | O      |
| Common (R.S.) Flicker     | C      | C#          | C                     | C      |
| Acorn Woodpecker          | HYP    | HYP         | HYP                   | HYP    |
| Lewis's Woodpecker        | C      | C#          | FC                    | FC     |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  | UC     | UC          | UC                    |        |
| Williamson's Sapsucker    | UC     | UC          | UC                    | UC     |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | FC     | FC#         | FC                    | FC     |
| Downy Woodpecker          | HYP    | HYP         | HYP                   | HYP    |
| Western Kingbird          | C      | C#          | FC                    |        |
| Massin's Kingbird         | C      | C#          | FC                    |        |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher   | C      | C#          | FC                    |        |
| Say's Phoebe              | C      | C#          | C                     |        |
| Dusky Flycatcher          | UC     | UC          | UC                    |        |
| Hammond's Flycatcher      | UC     | UC          | UC                    |        |
| Gray Flycatcher           | FC     | FC#         | UC                    |        |
| Western Flycatcher        | FC     | FC#         | UC                    |        |
| Buff-breasted Flycatcher  |        | ACC# (1873) |                       |        |
| Western Wood Pewee        | UC     | UC          | UC                    |        |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher    | UC     | UC          | UC                    |        |
| Horned Lark               | O      | O           | O                     | O      |
| Violet-green Swallow      | C      | C#          | UC                    |        |
| Tree Swallow              | HYP    | HYP         | HYP                   |        |
| Bank Swallow              | HYP    | HYP         | HYP                   |        |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow   | UC     | UC          | UC                    |        |
| Barn Swallow              | O      | O           | O                     |        |
| Cliff Swallow             | C      | C#          | UC                    |        |
| Purple Martin             | R      | R           | R                     |        |
| Steller's Jay             | R      | R           | R                     | R      |
| Scrub Jay                 | C      | C#          | C                     | C      |
| Common Raven              | C      | C#          | C                     | C      |

| SPECIES                 | SPRING | SUMMER | FALL | WINTER |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| *****                   |        |        |      |        |
| American Crow           | UC     | UC     | UC   | UC     |
| Pinyon Jay              | FC     | FC     | FC   | FC     |
| Clark's Nutcracker      | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Black-capped Chickadee  | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Mountain Chickadee      | C      | C#     | C    | C      |
| Plain Titmouse          | FC     | FC#    | FC   | FC     |
| Bushtit                 | FC     | FC#    | FC   | FC     |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | C      | C#     | C    | C      |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch   | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Pygmy Nuthatch          | FC     | FC#    | FC#  | FC     |
| Brown Creeper           | UC     | UC     | UC   | UC     |
| House Wren              | UC     | UC     | UC   |        |
| Bewick's Wren           | C      | C#     | C    | UC     |
| Rock Wren               | C      | C#     | C    | UC     |
| Canyon Wren             | FC     | FC#    | FC   | UC     |
| Northern Mockingbird    | UC     | UC#    | UC   |        |
| Gray Catbird            | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| Age Thrasher            | FC     | FC#    | FC   | FC     |
| Bendire's Thrasher      | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| American Robin          | C      | C#     | C    | C      |
| Hermit Thrush           | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Swainson's Thrush       | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| Western Bluebird        | C      | C#     | C    | C      |
| Mountain Bluebird       | C      | C#     | C    | C      |
| Townsend's Solitaire    | C      |        | C    | C      |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher   | UC     | UC     | UC   |        |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet  | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet    | FC     | UC     | FC   | R      |
| Cedar Waxwing           |        |        |      | HYP    |
| Northern Shrike         |        |        |      | R      |
| Loggerhead Shrike       | R      | R      | R    |        |
| European Starling       | R      | R      | R    | R      |
| Grey Vireo              | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| Solitary Vireo          | FC     | FC#    | FC   |        |
| Warbling Vireo          | UC     | UC     | UC   |        |
| Orange-crowned Warbler  | FC     | UC     | FC   |        |
| Nashville Warbler       | R      |        | R    |        |
| Virginia's Warbler      | FC     | FC#    | UC   |        |
| Yellow Warbler          | R      | R      | R    |        |

| SPECIES                     | SPRING | SUMMER | FALL | WINTER |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| *****                       |        |        |      |        |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler       | C      | FC     | C    |        |
| Black-throated Gray Warbler | FC     | FC     | FC   |        |
| Townsend's Warbler          | UC     | R      | UC   |        |
| Grace's Warbler             | FC     | UC     | FC   |        |
| Common Yellowthroat         | R      | R      | R    |        |
| Yellow-breasted Chat        | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| MacGillivray's Warbler      | UC     | UC     | UC   |        |
| Wilson's Warbler            | C      | FC     | C    |        |
| House Sparrow               | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Western Meadowlark          | UC     | UC#    | UC   | R      |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird     | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| Red-winged Blackbird        | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Brewer's Blackbird          | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Brown-headed Cowbird        | UC     | UC#    | UC   | R      |
| Common Grackle              | R      | R      | R    |        |
| Great-tailed Grackle        | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| Scott's Oriole              | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| Northern Oriole             | UC     | UC     | UC   |        |
| Western Tanager             | FC     | FC#    | FC   |        |
| Hepatic Tanager             | FC     | FC#    | FC   |        |
| Summer Tanager              | O      | O      | O    |        |
| Black-headed Grosbeak       | UC     | UC     | UC   |        |
| Evening Grosbeak            | UC     | R      | UC   | FC     |
| Blue Grosbeak               | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| Lazuli Bunting              | O      | O      | O    |        |
| Cassin's Finch              | UC     | R      | UC   | UC     |
| House Finch                 | C      | C#     | C    | C      |
| Pine Siskin                 | UC     | UC     | UC   | UC     |
| American Goldfinch          | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Lesser Goldfinch            | C      | C#     | C    |        |
| Red Crossbill               | UC     | R      | UC   | FC     |
| Green-tailed Towhee         | C      | C#     | C    |        |
| Rufous-sided Towhee         | C      | C#     | C    | FC     |
| Brown Towhee                | C      | C#     | C    | FC     |
| Ark Bunting                 | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |
| Vesper Sparrow              | C      | C#     | C    |        |
| Lark Sparrow                | C      | C#     | C    |        |
| Black-throated Sparrow      | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  | HYP    |
| Sage Sparrow                | HYP    | HYP    | HYP  |        |

| SPECIES                | SPRING | SUMMER | FALL | WINTER |
|------------------------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| *****                  |        |        |      |        |
| Dark-eyed Junco        | C      | UC     | C    | C      |
| American Tree Sparrow  |        |        |      | HYP    |
| Chipping Sparrow       | C      | C#     | C    |        |
| Brewer's Sparrow       | C      | C#     | C    |        |
| White-crowned Sparrow  | C      | R      | C    | C      |
| White-throated Sparrow |        |        |      | HYP    |
| Song Sparrow           | UC     | UC     | UC   | UC     |