
JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

BIRD LIST



COMPILED BY
VOLUNTEER JOHN DAVIS

For simplification and uniformity the following codes are used to indicate:

ABUNDANCE (Frequency of appearance, not amount seen)

C Common
UC Uncommon
UN Unusual
O Occasional
M Migratory
R Rare
AKA - Vagrant!

SEASON
S Summer
June through September
W Winter
October through May
AY All Year

Seen most of the time.
Seen quite regularly in the appropriate season.
Infrequent sightings.
Correct habitat, very seldom seen, secretive.
Passing through - could be in-flight or short stop-over.
Out of its habitat.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>ABUNDANCE</u>
Vulture, Turkey	AY	C
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	AY	UN
Cooper's	AY	UN
Red-Tailed	AY	UN
Kestrel, American	AY	C
Quail, California	AY	C
Dove, Rock	AY	C
Pigeon, Band-tailed	W	UC
Dove, Mourning	AY	C
Barn-Owl, Common	AY	UN
Owl, Great Horned	AY	UN
Hummingbird, Anna's	AY	C
Allen's	S	UC
Sapsucker, Red Breasted	AY	UN
Woodpecker, Nuttall's	AY	C
Downy	AY	UN
Hairy	AY	UN
Flicker, Northern	AY	C
Phoebe, Black	AY	C
Flycatcher, Ash-throated	AY	M

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>ABUNDANCE</u>
Swallow, Tree	S	UC
Violet-Green	S	UC
Northern Rough winged	S	UC
Barn	S	UC
Jay, Steller's	AY	C
Western Scrub	AY	C
Crow, American	AY	UN
Raven, Common	AY	UN
Chickadee, Chestnut-backed	AY	C
Titmouse, Plain	AY	C
Bushtit	AY	C
Wren, Bewick's	AY	C
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	AY	C
Bluebird, Western	AY	C
Thrush, Hermit	W	UC
Varied	W	M
Robin, American	AY	C
Wrentit	AY	C
Mockingbird, Northern	AY	C
Thrasher, California	AY	UN
Waxwing, Cedar	W	C
Starling, European	AY	C
Warbler, Yellow-rumped	W	UC
Townsend's	W	UC
Towhee, Rufous-sided	AY	C
California	AY	C
Sparrow, Fox	AY	UN
Song	AY	C
Golden-crowned	W	UC
White-crowned	W	UC
House	AY	C
Junco, Dark-eyed	AY	C
Oriole, Bullocks	S	UC
Finch, House	AY	C
Goldfinch, Lesser	AY	C
American	AY	C

BIRD IDENTIFICATION HIGHLIGHTS

The study of birds begins with identification. Color and markings are the characteristics most easily described. In determining the colors of a bird, the light conditions and directions from which the light comes are of the greatest importance. A bird against the light is likely to look solid black. The light should be at the observer's back, and the bird, if possible against a dark background.

The size is often a characteristic that is of great help in identification. When describing birds, it is often easier to compare them with others (ie: larger or smaller than a sparrow, a robin, a crow, or a hawk).

The shape of a bird is also important. Bill size, short, long or stout, or comparative length of the tail, shape of body, round plump or slender can be significant.

Each kind of bird has a particular sort of place in which to live (habitat). For instance, thrushes are found in woods, Meadowlarks in grassy areas and Killdeer near water.

Behavior is a key to identification as well as an amusement. For example, the ground scratching of the Brown Towhee will distinguish it from another thrush, the Robin. The hovering technique of the hummingbird or American Kestrel is an unusual behavior. The California Quail scurries along the ground in a much different fashion than other ground birds. Observing a bird's behavior will help you identify it.

Lastly, each kind of bird has a call or song that is distinctive. Songs and calls are so distinctive that birds can be identified accurately without seeing them, but most bird watchers become skilled at identification by sight at first!

With these essentials in mind (plus binoculars and a bird book), you are ready to begin.