

## Annotated List of Birds of Craters of the Moon National Monument, Idaho

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A 1928 publication on the geology of the area by Dr. Harold Stearns included a list of 24 species of birds; a list of 85 species was prepared January 24, 1966. This report is the result of research work done by the author from January, 1967 to September, 1970; it is based on records which are on file at the Craters of the Moon Visitor Center.

The seasonal distribution of the 141 species that have been recorded at Craters of the Moon is: Migrant - 72, Summer Resident - 43, Permanent Resident - 18, Winter Resident - 8. Birds are surprisingly numerous during the summer months, but only a few individuals remain during the severe winter season. Large numbers of migrants are usually seen only during stormy weather in spring and fall.

Relative abundance of species is described by the designations used by Phillips, Marshall, and Monson in THE BIRDS OF ARIZONA, University of Arizona Press, 1964. They are as follows: abundant - in numbers; common - always to be seen, but not in large numbers; fairly common - very small numbers, or not always seen; uncommon - seldom seen, but not a surprise; rare - always a surprise, but not out of normal range.

All records were obtained by the author, unless otherwise indicated.

## Family PODICIPEDIDAE: Grebes

Eared Grebe. Podiceps caspicus. One was picked up alive (color slide in CRMO files), 17 August 1968, and another observation was reported by a visitor the same day. These records were obtained during a period of unusually cold, rainy weather.

## Family ANATIDAE: Swans, Geese, and Ducks

Whistling Swan. Olor columbianus. A flock of 44 flew over the Visitor Center, 28 March 1970.

Canada Goose. Branta canadensis. A flock of 12 flew over the Visitor Center, 25 May 1969.

Snow Goose. Chen hyperborea. A flock of 30 flew over Carey Kipuka, 11 April 1967.

Mallard. Anas platyrhynchos. Uncommon migrant. A.T. Bicknell recorded a flight of 400 over the headquarters area during July, 1936. In recent years, one or two have been recorded at the beaver ponds in Little Cottonwood Canyon during May and once in August.

Green-winged Teal. Anas carolinensis. There is a record of a female that landed on an apartment roof, sometime during September 1961 (David Ochsner).

Blue-winged Teal. Anas discors. A male was observed briefly on the Visitor Center lawn, 30 May 1968.

Family CATHARTIDAE: American Vultures

Turkey Vulture. Cathartes aura. There is only one recent record - one over Grassy Cone, 7 May 1967.

Family ACCIPITRIDAE: Hawks, Eagles, and Harriers

Goshawk. Accipiter gentilis. There is a recent record of one observed at Devils Orchard, 16 January 1969.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Accipiter striatus. Uncommon migrant. A pair was present in Little Cottonwood Canyon during the summer of 1968 and acted as if they had a nest in the area.

Cooper's Hawk. Accipiter cooperii. There are four fall records ranging from 21 August to 1 October.

Red-tailed Hawk. Buteo jamaicensis. Uncommon migrant and summer resident.

Swainson's Hawk. Buteo swainsoni. This species was included in the 1966 list of birds, but there are no definite records.

Rough-legged Hawk. Buteo lagopus. Uncommon winter resident. It is numerous at lower elevations, outside the Monument.

Ferruginous Hawk. Buteo regalis. One was observed as it flew over the campground, 2 August 1967 (Ron Gerstenberg).

Golden Eagle. Aquila chrysaetos. Fairly common permanent resident. It has been recorded throughout the Monument but most frequently over the Pioneer Mountain section.

Bald Eagle. Haliaeetus leucocephalis. It has not been recorded by the author, but there are records for earlier years; summer records are probably in error.

Marsh Hawk. Circus cyaneus. Fairly common summer resident. The earliest record is 24 March 1967. It has nested near Sunset Cone for the last eight years at least.

Family FALCONIDAE: Falcons

Prairie Falcon. Falco mexicanus. One was observed near Coyote Butte, 24 July 1966 (Francis Walcott) and a nest was found on Big Cinder Butte, 28 May 1970 (Lynne Johnson).

Pigeon Hawk. Falco columbarius. This species is included in the 1966 list of birds, but there are no definite records.

Sparrow Hawk. Falco sparverius. Common summer resident. Extreme dates are 14 April 1967 and 19 October 1968.

Family TETRAONIDAE: Grouse

Blue Grouse. Dendragapus obscurus. Common summer resident in the north portion of the Monument. There are no winter records, although it probably is found in the area at that time of year. These birds often appear in the residence area during the latter part of the summer. Most records are from Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Ruffed Grouse. Bonasa umbellus. There is a record of two adults and six young in the residence area, 4 August 1967 (Ron Gerstenberg).

Sage Grouse. Centrocercus urophasianus. Common permanent resident. During winter months, it is found on wind-swept ridges.

Family PHASIANIDAE: Pheasants and Partridge

Ring-necked Pheasant. Phasianus colchicus. A male was seen on Sunset Cone, 10 April 1969 (Paul Fritz).

Chukar. Alectoris graeca. Common permanent resident. Flocks numbering as large as 50 have been seen in Little Cottonwood Canyon during late summer and early fall.

Gray Partridge. Perdix perdix. Fairly common permanent resident.

Family CHARADRIIDAE: Plovers

Killdeer. Charadrius vociferus. Fairly common spring and summer visitor. There are several records for the residence area ranging from 27 March (1969) to 17 August (1969).

Family SCOLOPACIDAE: Snipes and Sandpipers

Common Snipe. Capella gallinago. One was observed at the Little Cottonwood Canyon beaver ponds from 25 October to 2 November 1969.

Spotted Sandpiper. Actitis macularia. Rare spring migrant at Little Cottonwood Canyon beaver ponds. Records range from 16 May (1970) to 28 June (1967).

Family LARIDAE: Gulls

Ring-billed Gull. Larus delawarensis. Four were positively identified as they flew over North Crater, 20 June 1968. There are single records of flocks of unidentified gulls (probably this species) for May, June, and July.

Family COLUMBIDAE: Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove. Columba livia. This species has nested in Great Owl Cavern, e.g. a nest found 23 June 1967 (Deirdre Webb).

Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura. Abundant summer resident. Extreme dates are 19 April 1967 and 15 November 1969. Nests have been found in a variety of localities, including aa lava flows.

Family STRIGIDAE: Typical Owls

- ② Great Horned Owl. Bubo virginianus. Common permanent resident. This is one of the few species that remains in the area during severe winters.
- ① Western Screech Owl. <sup>Kennicottii</sup> Otus asio. Stearns included this species in his 1928 list, and it was also recorded by A.T. Bicknell during July, 1935. There are no recent records.
- 3 Long-eared Owl. Asio otus. There are records from limber pine and Douglas fir forests from May to October, and it probably nests in some of these localities.
- 4 Short-eared Owl. Asio flammeus. Uncommon summer resident. An adult and juvenile were observed at Sunset Cone, 21 June 1969 (James Snowden).
- 5 Northern Saw-whet Owl. Aegolius acadicus. It has been recorded during January, July, October, and December and is probably a permanent resident.

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE: Goatsuckers

- ② Common Poor-will. Phalaenoptilus nuttallii. Common summer resident. It is frequently heard calling on summer evenings. The latest record is 27 September 1967 on Little Cottonwood Canyon Road (Brent Ritchie).
- ① Common Nighthawk. Chordeiles minor. Fairly common summer resident. It is sometimes abundant when it is migrating through the area in August. A nest with two eggs was found on broken pahoehoe lava, east of Fissure Butte, 4 July 1968 (Karl Urban).

Family TROCHILIDAE: Hummingbirds

Rufous Hummingbird. Selasphorus rufus. There are records for June and July; it may nest in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Calliope Hummingbird. Stellula calliope. A male was observed putting on a courtship display for a female in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 2 June 1967. It has also been recorded in August.

Family ALCEDINIDAE: Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher. Megaceryle alcyon. Singles were recorded in Little Cottonwood Canyon 1 April, 2 May, and 21 May in 1968.

Family PICIDAE: Woodpeckers

Red-shafted Flicker. Colaptes cafer. Common summer resident. There are three December records, but it apparently does not remain through the winter. The earliest date is 21 March 1968.

Red-headed Woodpecker. Melanerpes erythrocephalus. One was carefully observed near Devils Orchard by Dr. Edson Fichter, 24 June 1957.

Lewis' Woodpecker. Asyndesmus lewis. Common summer resident. Many nests have been found in aspen and limber pine snags, and a pair has nested in the campground for several years. Extreme dates are 1 May 1969 and 13 September 1967.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus varius. Fairly common migrant. One was observed at Big Craters, 13 July 1967 (Karl Urban).

Williamson's Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus thyroideus. A female was carefully observed in the limber pine forest, southeast of the residence area, 11 April 1970.

Hairy Woodpecker. Dendrocopos villosus. Fairly common permanent resident. It has been found in Little Cottonwood Canyon and in limber pine areas.

Downy Woodpecker. Dendrocopos pubescens. Uncommon permanent resident. All recent records are from Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Family TYRANNIDAE: Tyrant Flycatchers

Eastern Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus. Rare migrant. There are four records: 1 at mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, 16 June 1967; 1 at Visitor Center, 17 August 1969 (James Snowden & Karl Urban); 2 at Visitor Center, 3 June 1970; and 1 at Visitor Center, 26 June 1970.

Western Kingbird. Tyrannus verticalis. Rare migrant. There are three records from the residence area: 16 May 1965 (Roger Contor), 22 May 1969, and 26 August 1969 (Karl Urban).

Say's Phoebe. Sayornis saya. Uncommon summer resident. An early record is one at the Visitor Center, 29 March 1968.

Dusky Flycatcher. Empidonax oberholseri. Common migrant; summer resident in Little Cottonwood Canyon area. There are several records of unidentified Empidonax for May, June, August, and September with a late date of 24 September 1969.

Western Flycatcher. Empidonax difficilis. Two were seen and the distinctive calls heard in the Douglas fir forest in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 19 July and 2 August 1967; they may have nested in this locality. One was recorded in the same locality, 1 June 1968 and one on Grassy Cone, 12 July 1968.

Western Wood Pewee. Contopus sordidulus. Fairly common summer resident in conifer forests, especially in north part of Monument.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Nuttallornis borealis. Common late spring migrant with records ranging from 22 May (1970) to 23 June (1967). One was seen at the Visitor Center, 17 August 1969 (Karl Urban) and one in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 9 August 1968.

#### Family ALAUDIDAE: Larks

Horned Lark. Eremophila alpestris. This species is common in nearby plains areas, but it is infrequently recorded in the Monument, usually in flight.

#### Family HIRUNDINIDAE: Swallows

Violet-green Swallow. Tachycineta thalassina. Abundant summer resident. It nests at some of the cave entrances. The earliest date is 30 April 1968 (Aaron Gallup).

Barn Swallow. Hirundo rustica. Rare visitor. There are a few records for May, June, and July.

Cliff Swallow. Petrochelidon pyrrhonota. It has been seen flying over Carey Kipuka during the summer.

#### Family CORVIDAE: Jays, Magpies, and Crows

Gray Jay. Perisoreus canadensis. It was recorded by A.T. Bicknell during August, 1935. This is a questionable record, and there are no recent records.

Steller's Jay. Cyanocitta stelleri. The only recent records are two observed during February and March, 1954 (Robert Zink) and one in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 27 November 1969.

Black-billed Magpie. Pica pica. Common permanent resident. This is the only species that can be seen regularly during the winter months.

Common Raven. Corvus corax. Fairly common permanent resident. A pair nested on a ledge in Indian Tunnel during May 1970.

Common Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos. F.N. Hambly reported that he observed this species frequently from March to May, 1962. It probably wanders into the Monument occasionally.

Pinon Jay. Gymnorhinus cyanocephala. A flock was reported for 16 September 1960. During the fall of 1965, Roger Contor recorded an invasion of this species into the Monument; it was first recorded 6 October with 200 to 300 birds present throughout most of October and a late record of 50 near Devils Orchard, 17 November 1965. One was seen in the residence area, 11 September 1970.

Clark's Nutcracker. Nucifraga columbiana. Common permanent resident; abundant in late summer when hundreds often move into the area to feed on limber pine seeds. It has been recorded in every month of the year, but no nests have been found.

#### Family PARIDAE: Titmice

Black-capped Chickadee. Parus atricapillus. Uncommon permanent resident. There are ten records for the last five years, representing all four seasons.

Mountain Chickadee. Parus gambeli. Common permanent resident; it is usually seen in stands of Douglas fir or limber pine. It can be found regularly in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

#### Family SITTIDAE: Nuthatches

White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta carolinensis. There are three August records and one each for January and September.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta canadensis. Fairly common permanent resident. During invasion years, e.g. 1969, it is sometimes abundant in late summer.

#### Family CERTHIIDAE: Creepers

Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris. Winter resident in the Douglas fir forest in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and possibly elsewhere in conifers.

Family CINCLIDAE: Dippers

Dipper. Cinclus mexicanus. One was found at the beaver ponds in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 26 October 1969.

Family TROGLODYTIDAE: Wrens

House Wren. Troglodytes aedon. Common summer resident in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Extreme dates are 17 April 1967 and 13 September 1967.

Winter Wren. Troglodytes troglodytes. Rare migrant. Singles were seen in Little Cottonwood Canyon 8 May 1967 and 20 September 1967 and at the Visitor Center, 4 September 1970.

Rock Wren. Salpinctes obsoletus. Common summer resident. It is present from early May to mid-September.

Family MIMIDAE: Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Catbird. Dumetella carolinensis. One was heard and seen at the Visitor Center, 24 May 1970.

Brown Thrasher. Toxostoma rufum. One was seen at the Visitor Center, 11 May 1969.

Sage Thrasher. Oreoscoptes montanus. Fairly common summer resident in stands of sagebrush. The earliest date is 10 April 1968, near Sunset Cone.

Family TURDIDAE: Thrushes, Solitaires, and Bluebirds

Robin. Turdus migratorius. Common summer resident. The first individuals usually appear in March. They nest in the residence area, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and other localities. During the winter of 1967-68 when there were many chokecherries in Little Cottonwood Canyon, a few spent the winter there.

Varied Thrush. Ixoreus naevius. One was found in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 31 October 1965 (Roger Contor).

Hermit Thrush. Hylocichla guttata. Fairly common migrant. Records are for April, May, September, and October with extreme dates of 29 April (1968) and 20 October (1967).

Swainson's Thrush. Hylocichla ustulata. Rare migrant. One was seen in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 2 June 1967 and one in the residence area, 6 June 1968.

Mountain Bluebird. Siala currucoides. Abundant summer resident. The earliest record is a male in the residence area, 25 February 1970 (Aris Cunningham). Many nests have been found in tree cavities, in lava crevices, and in a bird house in the residence area.

Townsend's Solitaire. Myadestes townsendi. Common migrant, especially in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Family SYLVIIDAE: Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa. Winter resident in Douglas fir forests. Two were seen at the Visitor Center, 17 October 1968.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Regulus calendula. Common migrant. Extreme dates are 1 April 1968 and 26 October 1969.

Family MOTACILLIDAE: Pipits

Water Pipit. Anthus spinoletta. Uncommon migrant. There are records for April, May, September, and October.

Family BOMBYCILLIDAE: Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing. Bombycilla garrula. Erratic migrant. It sometimes appears in numbers, e.g. 70 in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 6 December 1967.

Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum. Three were seen in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 28 May 1968 (Nancy Hurley) and 10 immatures at the Visitor Center, 25 September 1968.

Family LANIIDAE: Shrikes

Northern Shrike. Lanius excubitor. Uncommon winter visitor.

Loggerhead Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus. Uncommon summer resident; reported regularly from Carey Kipuka.

Family STURNIDAE: Starlings

Starling. Sturnus vulgaris. There are several spring and fall records, most of them from Little Cottonwood Canyon where it may nest.

Family VIREONIDAE: Vireos

Solitary Vireo. Vireo solitarius. Rare migrant. There are three September records.

Warbling Vireo. Vireo gilvus. Common summer resident in aspen groves; most numerous in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Family PARULIDAE: Wood Warblers

Orange-crowned Warbler. Vermivora celata. There are several records for May and June, mostly from Little Cottonwood Canyon. The record of two observed in this canyon, 7 July 1967 indicates that it may nest there. One was at the Visitor Center, 18 and 19 October 1968.

Nashville Warbler. Vermivora ruficapilla. Rare migrant. The records are: 1 in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 12 September 1967; 1 in the residence area, 7 October 1968; and 3 in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 3 August 1969 (James Snowden).

Yellow Warbler. Dendroica petechia. Fairly common summer resident where there are deciduous trees, especially in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Myrtle Warbler. Dendroica coronata. Rare migrant. One was recorded in the residence area, 11 October 1967 and one at the Visitor Center, 21 October 1967.

Audubon's Warbler. Dendroica auduboni. Common migrant; the latest record is 6 in the residence area, 15 October 1967. It is sometimes abundant during stormy weather, e.g. 60 feeding on the Visitor Center lawn, 1 October 1967.

Townsend's Warbler. Dendroica townsendi. Uncommon migrant. There are two records for May and two for September.

MacGillivray's Warbler. Oporornis tolmiei. Common summer resident in Little Cottonwood Canyon. A female was flushed from a nest with four eggs in a nettle patch along Little Cottonwood Canyon Road, 15 June 1970 (Peter Petersen). There are a few migration records from the residence area.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria virens. One was seen at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, 28 May 1968 (Allegra Collister).

Wilson's Warbler. Wilsonia pusilla. Common migrant, especially in fall when records range from 20 August (1967) to 24 September (1969).

American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla. A male was observed in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 28 May 1968 (DLC, Allegra Collister, Nancy Hurley).

Family PLOCEIDAE: Weaver Finches

House Sparrow. Passer domesticus. Flocks appear in the residence area occasionally. It has been recorded in May, October, and November.

Family ICTERIDAE: Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, and Orioles

Western Meadowlark. Sturnella neglecta. Common summer resident in localities covered by desert shrubs and grasses. Records range from 19 March 1969 to 19 October 1967.

Yellow-headed Blackbird. Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. One was seen in the residence area, 1 September 1967 (Ron Gerstenberg).

Red-winged Blackbird. Agelaius phoeniceus. Migrants have appeared in the residence area occasionally. An early record is a male seen at the Visitor Center, 26 February 1967.

Bullock's Oriole. Icterus bullockii. Uncommon summer resident. Records range from 16 May (1970) to 6 September (1967).

Brewer's Blackbird. Euphagus cyanocephalus. There are a few spring and summer records including a flock of 40 in the residence area, 2 May 1969.

Brown-headed Cowbird. Molothrus ater. There are four records for spring and summer.

Family THRAUPIDAE: Tanagers

Western Tanager. Piranga ludoviciana. Common migrant; the earliest record is a pair at North Crater, 15 May 1966 (Art Hathaway), and the latest record is 1 in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 13 September 1967. A few have been seen in conifers during the summer, and it probably nests in the area.

Family FRINGILLIDAE: Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows, and Buntings

Black-headed Grosbeak. Pheucticus melanocephalus. There are two May records, five June records, and one September record. A few may nest in the northern part of the Monument.

Lazuli Bunting. Passerina amoena. Fairly common summer resident, primarily in the Little Cottonwood Canyon area. The latest record is one in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 13 September 1967.

Evening Grosbeak. Hesperiphona vespertina. One was in the residence area, 17 through 23 May 1967.

Cassin's Finch. Carpodacus cassinii. There were large numbers in the Monument during the fall of 1968, e.g. 110 recorded 12 September (Edwin Willis).

House Finch. Carpodacus mexicanus. Common summer resident, especially in the residence area. A nest with young was found in a Douglas fir near the Visitor Center, 27 July 1967 (Ron Gerstenberg).

- Pine Grosbeak. Pinicola enucleator. Several records were obtained during the fall of 1969, beginning 21 October. A flock of 20 was feeding on chokecherries in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 6 November and a flock of 24 was seen on Sunset Cone, 20 December.
- Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. Leucosticte tephrocotis. A few roost in some of the lava tubes, such as Indian Tunnel, during the winter months. It is sometimes abundant, e.g. a flock of 400 over Little Cottonwood Canyon, 30 October 1969.
- Black Rosy Finch. Leucosticte atrata. David Ochsner reported seeing three at Last Chance Cave, 10 December 1959.
- Common Redpoll. Acanthis flammea. Three were seen in the residence area, 22 November 1968; three in the same locality, 19 October 1969; and one at the Visitor Center, 22 November 1969.
- Pine Siskin. Spinus pinus. Erratic in its occurrence; it is abundant at times, and there are records for all seasons.
- American Goldfinch. Spinus tristis. There are a few records, scattered throughout the year and including 12 in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 23 January 1968.
- Red Crossbill. Loxia curvirostra. Several were recorded from 18 to 31 August 1969 with a high count of 20 on 21 August.
- Rufous-sided Towhee. Pipilo erythrophthalmus. Common summer resident in brushy areas. Extreme dates are 30 March 1969 and 24 September 1969.
- Green-tailed Towhee. Chlorura chlorura. Common summer resident, especially in areas of desert shrubs and grasses in the north portion of the Monument. Extreme dates are 12 May 1968 and 18 September 1967 & 1969.
- Savannah Sparrow. Passerculus sandwichensis. One was seen in the residence area, 17 September 1967.
- Vesper Sparrow. Poocetes gramineus. Common summer resident in areas of heavy shrub-grass cover. The earliest record is 22 April 1968.
- Lark Sparrow. Chondestes grammacus. Uncommon migrant. There are a few records for May, June, and August.
- Sage Sparrow. Amphispiza belli. One was seen in the wilderness area, 12 July 1963 (Ed Menning). It is probably more numerous than the one record would indicate.
- Slate-colored Junco. Junco hyemalis. One was carefully observed in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 10 April 1968.

Oregon Junco. Junco oreganus. Abundant migrant. There is a winter record of one in the residence area, 14 January 1970. A record of two on Grassy Cone, 8 July 1967 indicates that a few may nest in conifer groves.

Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina. Common summer resident, especially near conifers. The earliest arrival date is 1 May 1968.

Brewer's Sparrow. Spizella breweri. Abundant summer resident in the desert shrub-grass community. The earliest arrival date is 8 May 1968.

White-crowned Sparrow. Zonotrichia leucophrys. Common fall migrant with records ranging from 21 August (1969) to 25 October (1969). There is only one spring record.

Fox Sparrow. Passerella iliaca. Common summer resident in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The earliest date is 1 April 1968.

Lincoln's Sparrow. Melospiza lincolni. One was seen in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 24 May 1967.

Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia. Common summer resident in Little Cottonwood Canyon area. It has been recorded as early as 28 February 1968 and as late as 12 November 1967.

Snow Bunting. Plectrophenax nivalis. Occasional winter visitor.

15 September 1970