

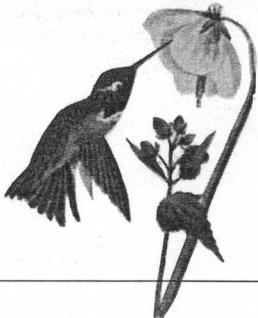
A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS

OF
PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

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FIFTY CENTS



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This checklist presents 148 species of birds known to have occurred within the boundaries of Pinnacles National Monument since its establishment in 1908. Much of the information contained in the checklist is the result of field work conducted in the monument by the authors from November 1983 through May 1986. Additional data were obtained from several published accounts of birding trips to the monument and from unpublished records kept by former monument personnel, particularly in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The relative small area (27 square miles) encompassed by the monument contains a variety of habitat types which support a diverse assemblage of birds. Forty-five species are considered year-round residents in the monument, and there are breeding records for sixty species. An additional twenty-two species may nest here, but documentation is lacking.

Included in the list are two endangered species, the California Condor and Peregrine Falcon, both of which were regularly recorded from Pinnacles in the past, but which now are seldom seen. There are four exotic species on the list: Chukar, Wild Turkey, European Starling, and House Sparrow. The Chukar and Wild Turkey are introduced game species that may become more common in the future. House Sparrows have been reported twice, but the starling has recently become a regular part of the Pinnacles avifauna and its impact on native hole-nesting birds bears close scrutiny.

Although designed for use within the monument, this checklist may also apply to birdlife in adjacent areas. However, there are major differences in the relative abundances of many species due to habitat alterations from agricultural practices, especially livestock grazing. Species such as the Yellow-billed Magpie, Brewer's Blackbird, and Western Meadowlark do occur in the monument, but are much more common on land just outside the boundary.

Common names of species follow the 1983 American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds, 6th edition. Following each species name on the checklist are columns which give the following information: (1) the relative ABUNDANCE and RESIDENCY STATUS of the species; (2) the HABITAT TYPE in which the species is usually found; and (3) the BREEDING STATUS of the species.

ABUNDANCE

The likelihood of encountering a given species depends on several factors including habitat type, season, time of day, and weather conditions. The following categories indicate the relative probability of recording a species in the proper habitat at the appropriate time of year.

A—ABUNDANT: always encountered, sometimes in large numbers.

C—COMMON: usually encountered.

U—UNCOMMON: not encountered most of the time, but observed in the monument every year.

R—RARE: very low probability of encountering the species; not observed in the monument every year.

RESIDENCY STATUS

y—YEARROUND: the species has been recorded in the monument throughout the year.

s—SPRING RESIDENT: generally present during March-September. Some species (e.g., House Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler) may arrive in late February.

w—WINTER RESIDENT: generally present during October-February, although some species (e.g., White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow) may remain through April.

m—MIGRANT: present in the monument for brief periods in the spring or fall during migration. The peak period for spring migrants is mid-April to early May.

i—IRREGULAR: occurs sporadically, and at no definite season.

HABITAT TYPES

The following habitat descriptions are intended as a general guide to the distribution of bird species in the monument. If more than one habitat type is indicated for a species, the preferred habitat is listed first. Many species can be expected to occur outside their preferred habitat type.

C—CHAPARRAL: shrub-dominated habitat that covers over 80% of the monument. The predominant shrub species varies with site characteristics. Chamise chaparral occurs on the dry south- and west-facing slopes; holly-leaf cherry chaparral is found in moister ravines and north-facing slopes; and mixed chaparral, with components of buckbrush and manzanita, occurs on north-facing slopes not suitable for holly-leaf cherry.

G—GRASSLAND: dominated by exotic annual grass species, these areas were formerly pastures and were probably created by burning and clearing of native woody vegetation.

OW—OAK WOODLAND: on hillsides, the dominant tree species is blue oak; in flat areas, such as near the east entrance to the monument, the valley and coast live oaks are the main species. Digger pine and California juniper are frequent associates of the oaks. Most blue oak stands in the monument have a shrub understory of species such as buckbrush, mountain mahogany, and redberry.

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R—ROCKS AND CLIFFS: sheer rocky outcroppings, for which the monument was named, provide ideal habitat for several bird species.

RW—RIPARIAN WOODLAND: restricted to a narrow belt along major creeks and streams in the monument. The vegetation is variable, with sycamore, cottonwood, willow, digger pine, and coast live oak each dominating at certain sites. In contrast, some open, sandy stretches of Chalone Creek are virtually devoid of woody vegetation. Included in the habitat type is Bear Gulch Reservoir, the only permanent standing water in the monument.

BREEDING STATUS

*—breeding confirmed through the presence of an active nest or newly fledged young.

[*]—breeding probable, but not yet verified.

	ABUNDANCE & RESIDENCY STATUS	HABITAT	BREEDING STATUS
GREBES			
Pied-billed Grebe	R i	RW	
Western Grebe	R i	RW	
HERONS			
Great Blue Heron	R s	RW	
Green-backed Heron	R s	RW	
DUCKS			
Mallard	R s	RW	
VULTURES			
Turkey Vulture	A s C w	R	*
California Condor	R i	R	
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES			
Black-shouldered Kite	R s	OW	*
Northern Harrier	R i	C	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U y	C,OW,RW	*
Cooper's Hawk	U y	RW,OW,C	*
Red-shouldered Hawk	R i	RW	
Swainson's Hawk	R i	RW	

	ABUNDANCE & RESIDENCY STATUS	HABITAT	BREEDING STATUS
Red-tailed Hawk	C y	OW,C	*
Ferruginous Hawk	R i	OW	
Golden Eagle	U y	C,OW	*
FALCONS			
American Kestrel	C y	R,OW	*
Merlin	R i	OW	
Peregrine Falcon	R i	R	*
Prairie Falcon	C y	R	*
TURKEY, QUAIL			
Chukar	R i	C	
Wild Turkey	R s	OW	
California Quail	A y	OW,C,G	*
RAILS			
Virginia Rail	R i	RW	
American Coot	R i	RW	
PLOVERS			
Killdeer	U s	RW	*
SANDPIPERS			
Lesser Yellowlegs	R i	RW	
Spotted Sandpiper	R s	RW	
Least Sandpiper	R i	RW	
Common Snipe	R i	RW	
PIGEONS, DOVES			
Rock Dove	U y	R	[*]
Band-tailed Pigeon	U y	OW	[*]
White-winged Dove	R i	C	
Mourning Dove	A s	OW,RW,C	*
ROADRUNNERS			
Greater Roadrunner	U y	C	[*]
BARN-OWLS			
Common Barn-Owl	U y	OW,RW	*

TYPICAL OWLS

	ABUNDANCE & RESIDENCY STATUS	HABITAT	BREEDING STATUS
Western Screech-Owl	U s	OW,RW	[*]
Great Horned Owl	U y	OW,RW	*
Northern Pygmy-Owl	R s	RW	*
Long-eared Owl	R s	RW	*
Northern Saw-whet Owl	R i	RW	

GOATSUCKERS

Common Poorwill	U y	G,OW	[*]
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SWIFTS

White-throated Swift	A s U w	R R	*
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HUMMINGBIRDS

Black-chinned Hummingbird	R s	OW	*
Anna's Hummingbird	A y	RW,C,OW	*
Costa's Hummingbird	U s	C	[*]
Rufous Hummingbird	U m	RW	
Allen's Hummingbird	U s	OW	*

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher	U w	RW	
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WOODPECKERS

Lewis' Woodpecker	R s	OW	
Acorn Woodpecker	A y	OW,RW	*
Red-breasted Sapsucker	C w	RW,OW	
Nuttall's Woodpecker	A y	OW,RW	*
Downy Woodpecker	U y	RW,OW	[*]
Hairy Woodpecker	C y	RW,OW	*
Northern Flicker	A y	OW,RW,C	*

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher	U m	RW	
Western Wood-Pewee	C s	RW,OW	*
Willow Flycatcher	U m	RW	

	ABUNDANCE & RESIDENCY STATUS	HABITAT	BREEDING STATUS
Western Flycatcher	A s	RW	*
Black Phoebe	A y	RW	*
Say's Phoebe	U y	G,C	*
Ash-throated Flycatcher	A s	OW,C	*
Western Kingbird	U m	G,OW	
SWALLOWS			
Tree Swallow	R s	RW	*
Violet-green Swallow	A s	OW	*
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U s	RW	[*]
Cliff Swallow	U s	R,RW	*
Barn Swallow	R s	G	
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS			
Steller's Jay	U w	OW,RW	
Scrub Jay	A y	OW,RW,C	*
Yellow-billed Magpie	U s	OW	
American Crow	A s	RW,OW	[*]
Common Raven	A y	R	*
TITMICE			
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	U y	RW	[*]
Plain Titmouse	A y	OW,RW,C	*
BUSHTITS			
Bushtit	A y	RW,OW,C	*
NUTHATCHES			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R w	RW	
White-breasted Nuthatch	A y	OW,RW	*
CREEPERS			
Brown Creeper	R w	RW	
WRENS			
Rock Wren	U y	R	*
Canyon Wren	C y	C,R	*

	ABUNDANCE & RESIDENCY STATUS	HABITAT	BREEDING STATUS
Bewick's Wren	A y	C,OW,RW	*
House Wren	A s	RW,OW	*
Winter Wren	R i	RW	
DIPPERS			
American Dipper	R w	RW	
KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	U w	RW,OW	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A w	RW,OW	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C s	OW,C	*
BLUEBIRDS, THRUSHES			
Western Bluebird	A y	OW	*
Townsend's Solitaire	R w	OW	
Swainson's Thrush	U w	RW	
Hermit Thrush	A w	RW,C	
American Robin	A w	RW,OW	
Varied Thrush	C w	RW	
BABLERS			
Wrentit	A y	C	*
MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS			
Northern Mockingbird	R i	RW	
California Thrasher	A y	C	*
WAXWINGS			
Cedar Waxwing	U w	OW,RW	
PHAINOPEPLAS			
Phainopepla	C y	OW	*
SHRIKES			
Loggerhead Shrike	U w	G,OW	
STARLINGS			
European Starling	A y	OW,RW	[*]
VIREOS			
Bell's Vireo	R m	RW	

	ABUNDANCE & RESIDENCY STATUS	HABITAT	BREEDING STATUS
Gray Vireo	R i	C	
Solitary Vireo	U s	RW	*
Hutton's Vireo	C y	OW	[*]
Warbling Vireo	A s	RW	*
WARBLERS			
Orange-crowned Warbler	A s	RW,C,OW	*
Nashville Warbler	U m	RW	
Yellow Warbler	U m	RW,OW	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	A w	RW,OW	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	U m	OW	
Townsend's Warbler	U m	OW	
Hermit Warbler	U m	OW	
Northern Waterthrush	R i	RW	
MacGillivray's Warbler	R m	RW	
Common Yellowthroat	R i	RW	
Wilson's Warbler	C s	RW	[*]
Yellow-breasted Chat	R m	RW	
TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS			
Western Tanager	C s	OW,C	[*]
Black-headed Grosbeak	A s	RW,OW,C	*
Lazuli Bunting	C s	RW,C	[*]
TOWHEES, SPARROWS			
Green-tailed Towhee	R i	C	
Rufous-sided Towhee	A y	RW,OW,C	*
Brown Towhee	A y	C,OW	*
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	C y	C,G	*
Chipping Sparrow	R m	OW	
Black-chinned Sparrow	R s	C	
Lark Sparrow	A s	OW,G	*
Sage Sparrow	U s	C	[*]

	ABUNDANCE & RESIDENCY STATUS	HABITAT	BREEDING STATUS
Fox Sparrow	A w	RW,C	
Song Sparrow	A y	RW	[*]
Lincoln's Sparrow	R m	RW	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	A w	RW,C,OW	
White-crowned Sparrow	A w	RW,C,OW	
Dark-eyed Junco	A w	OW,RW,C	
	C s	RW,OW,C	*
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES			
Red-winged Blackbird	U s	RW	
Western Meadowlark	U y	G	[*]
Brewer's Blackbird	U s	G	
Brown-headed Cowbird	C s	RW,C	[*]
Northern Oriole	U s	RW,OW	*
FINCHES			
Purple Finch	U y	OW,RW	[*]
House Finch	C y	OW,RW	*
Pine Siskin	U m	OW	
Lesser Goldfinch	A y	RW,OW,C	*
Lawrence's Goldfinch	C s	RW,OW	*
American Goldfinch	R s	RW,G	
WEAVER FINCHES			
House Sparrow	R i	G	

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