The Tucson Mountain District (TMD) of Saguaro National Park is largely Sonoran desert, with a bit of semi-desert grassland atop Wasson Peak (4,687 feet). Thus, landbird habitat (**H**) here is all considered desert (D). The Sonoran desert, however, is remarkably rich in biological diversity. It is characterized by saguaros and other cacti; trees, such as palo verde, ironwood, and mesquite; shrubs, such as triangle-leaf bursage, wolfberry, and creosote; bunch grasses; and forbs, including many with showy flowers, such as California poppies, penstemon, and lupine. The TMD is relatively small, at 24,000 acres, but has an impressive bird list of 154 native species. An additional three non-native species (Eurasian collared-dove, European starling, and house sparrow) also occur here.

In this list, season (**S**) includes year-round residents (Y); summer breeders (S; usually neotropical migrants here between April and August); winter visitors (W) here from November through February; and migrants (M) passing through in spring or fall.

Habitat and season both affect abundance (**A**). In the right habitat and season, abundant (A) birds are likely to be seen daily and in large numbers. Common (C) birds are likely to be seen daily in fewer numbers. Uncommon birds (U) are seen less frequently but regularly, and rare (R) birds, though usually present, are difficult to find. Occasional (O) birds are transient—found regionally, but not usually present in the park. Accidental (X) birds are far out of their normal range (and may never be seen here again).

Key		
Abundance (A)	**Habitat (H)**	**Season (S)**
A–Abundant	D–Desert	Y–Year-round
C–Common		S–Summer
U–Uncommon		W–Winter
R–Rare		M–Migratory
O–Occasional		
X–Accidental		

√	Common name	A	H	S
DUCKS AND GEESE				
	mallard	O	D	M
TURKEYS AND QUAIL				
	Gambel's quail	A	D	Y
BITTERNS, HERONS AND EGRETS				
	black-crowned night-heron	O	D	M
VULTURES				
	black vulture	R	D	M
	turkey vulture	C	D	S
RAPTORS				
	osprey	O	D	M
	northern harrier	O	D	M
	sharp-shinned hawk	R	D	M
	Cooper's hawk	U	D	Y
	common black-hawk	O	D	M
	Harris's hawk	U	D	Y
	Swainson's hawk	R	D	M
	zone-tailed hawk	R	D	M
	red-tailed hawk	C	D	Y
	golden eagle	O	D	Y
CRANES				
	sandhill crane	O	D	M
PLOVERS				
	killdeer	O	D	Y
PIGEONS AND DOVES				
	rock pigeon	R	D	Y
	Eurasian collared-dove	R	D	Y
	Inca dove	R	D	Y
	common ground-dove	O	D	M
	white-winged dove	A	D	S
	mourning dove	A	D	Y
CUCKOOS AND ROADRUNNERS				
	yellow-billed cuckoo	O	D	M
	greater roadrunner	U	D	Y
	OWLS			
	barn owl	U	D	Y
	western screech-owl	U	D	Y
	great horned owl	R	D	Y
	cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl	O	D	Y

√	Common name	A	H	S
	elf owl	C	D	S
	burrowing owl	O	D	M
	long-eared owl	O	D	M
NIGHTHAWKS AND NIGHTJARS				
	lesser nighthawk	C	D	S
	common nighthawk	O	D	M
	common poorwill	C	D	S
SWIFTS				
	Vaux's swift	R	D	M
	white-throated swift	C	D	Y
HUMMINGBIRDS				
	black-chinned hummingbird	C	D	S
	Anna's hummingbird	C	D	Y
	Costa's hummingbird	U	D	Y
	broad-tailed hummingbird	U	D	M
	rufous hummingbird	R	D	M
	calliope hummingbird	O	D	M
	broad-billed hummingbird	U	D	S
WOODPECKERS				
	Gila woodpecker	A	D	Y
	red-naped sapsucker	O	D	M
	ladder-backed woodpecker	C	D	Y
	northern flicker (red-shafted)	U	D	W
	gilded flicker	C	D	Y
FALCONS				
	crested caracara	O	D	Y
	American kestrel	U	D	Y
	merlin	R	D	M
	peregrine falcon	O	D	M
	prairie falcon	U	D	Y
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
	olive-sided flycatcher	O	D	M
	western wood-pewee	R	D	M
	willow flycatcher	O	D	M
	Hammond's flycatcher	R	D	M
	gray flycatcher	U	D	M
	dusky flycatcher	R	D	M
	Pacific-slope flycatcher	U	D	M
	black phoebe	O	D	W

√	Common name	A	H	S
	Say's phoebe	U	D	Y
	vermilion flycatcher	R	D	M
	ash-throated flycatcher	A	D	S
	brown-crested flycatcher	C	D	S
	western kingbird	R	D	S
SHRIKES				
	loggerhead shrike	R	D	W
VIREOS				
	Bell's vireo	U	D	S
	gray vireo	R	D	M
	plumbeous vireo	U	D	M
	Cassin's vireo	R	D	M
	warbling vireo	U	D	M
JAYS AND ALLIES				
	Steller's jay	O	D	W
	common raven	C	D	Y
SWALLOWS				
	purple martin	C	D	S
	tree swallow	R	D	M
	violet-green swallow	R	D	M
	northern rough-winged swallow	R	D	M
	cliff swallow	R	D	M
	barn swallow	R	D	M
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE				
	bridled titmouse	O	D	W
VERDINS AND BUSHTITS				
	verdin	C	D	Y
WRENS				
	rock wren	C	D	Y
	canyon wren	U	D	Y
	house wren	R	D	M
	Bewick's wren	U	D	Y
	cactus wren	A	D	Y
KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS				
	blue-gray gnatcatcher	U	D	M
	black-tailed gnatcatcher	C	D	Y
	ruby-crowned kinglet	U	D	M

√	Common name	A	H	S
THRUSHES AND ALLIES				
	western bluebird	R	D	W
	mountain bluebird	O	D	W
	Townsend's solitaire	O	D	W
	hermit thrush	O	D	W
	American robin	O	D	W
THRASHERS AND ALLIES				
	curve-billed thrasher	C	D	Y
	Bendire's thrasher	O	D	Y
	crissal thrasher	R	D	Y
	sage thrasher	O	D	W
	northern mockingbird	C	D	Y
STARLINGS				
	European starling	R	D	Y
WAXWINGS				
	cedar waxwing	O	D	W
SILKY FLYCATCHERS				
	phainopepla	C	D	Y
WARBLERS				
	orange-crowned warbler	U	D	M
	Lucy's warbler	C	D	S
	Nashville warbler	U	D	M
	Virginia's warbler	R	D	M
	MacGillivray's warbler	R	D	M
	yellow-rumped warbler	C	D	M
	black-throated gray warbler	U	D	M
	Townsend's warbler	U	D	M
	hermit warbler	O	D	M
	Wilson's warbler	U	D	M
SPARROWS AND ALLIES				
	green-tailed towhee	U	D	M
	spotted towhee	O	D	W
	rufous-crowned sparrow	U	D	Y
	canyon towhee	C	D	Y
	Abert's towhee	R	D	Y
	rufous-winged sparrow	U	D	Y
	Cassin's sparrow	O	D	M
	chipping sparrow	U	D	W
	Brewer's sparrow	A	D	W
	black-chinned sparrow	R	D	W

√	Common name	A	H	S
	vesper sparrow	R	D	W
	lark sparrow	U	D	W
	black-throated sparrow	C	D	Y
	lark bunting	R	D	W
	sagebrush sparrow	O	D	W
	fox sparrow	X	D	W
	Lincoln's sparrow	R	D	W
	white-throated sparrow	O	D	W
	white-crowned sparrow	A	D	W
	dark-eyed junco	R	D	W
CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS				
	summer tanager	R	D	M
	western tanager	U	D	M
	northern cardinal	C	D	Y
	pyrrhuloxia	C	D	Y
	rose-breasted grosbeak	X	D	M
	black-headed grosbeak	U	D	M
	blue grosbeak	R	D	M
	lazuli bunting	R	D	M
	varied bunting	U	D	S
BLACKBIRDS AND ALLIES				
	red-winged blackbird	R	D	W
	yellow-headed blackbird	R	D	W
	Brewer's blackbird	R	D	W
	great-tailed grackle	U	D	Y
	bronzed cowbird	U	D	S
	brown-headed cowbird	C	D	S
	hooded oriole	U	D	M
	Bullock's oriole	U	D	M
	Scott's oriole	U	D	M
CARDUELINE FINCHES				
	house finch	A	D	Y
	pine siskin	O	D	M
	lesser goldfinch	C	D	Y
	Lawrence's goldfinch	O	D	W
OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
	house sparrow	R	D	Y

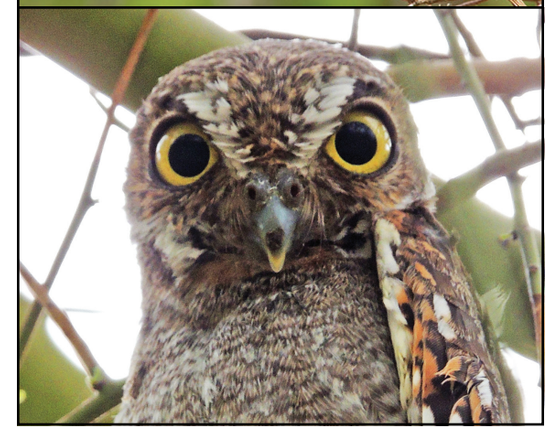
Notes

Cover photos: Costa's hummingbird (top; NPS/D. Jackson), ash-throated flycatcher (middle; ©Robert Shantz), and elf owl (bottom; NPS/N. Perkins).

The information in this list is based on many years of bird observations and surveys throughout the Tucson Mountain District of Saguaro National Park. However, with changing land use and climate, bird lists are inherently works in progress. Use this list as a guide, and report your own observations (to the TMD Visitor Center or on eBird) to help us revise future versions. The list is arranged by family, with common names following the American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds, 7th edition, and its supplements to 2013.

This checklist was produced by Saguaro National Park and the Sonoran Desert Network.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sonoran Desert Network

Bird Checklist
for Saguaro National Park
Tucson Mountain District