

Bird Checklist



Pinyon Jay

Birding at City of Rocks

Rock climbing and sightseeing might be the obvious choice for visitors, but City of Rocks National Reserve and neighboring Castle Rocks State Park offer excellent birding opportunities in the Northern Great Basin.

Birding hotspots at City of Rocks include: Indian Grove, North Fork Circle Creek, Window Rock, and Emery Pass Picnic Area. At Castle Rocks, try Stines Creek Picnic Area, Almo Creek Wetland Preserve, Edwards homesite, and around the Ranch House orchard.

This checklist contains 138 species with a confirmed or highly expected presence.

The checklist range includes the parks as well as the area south of the Elba-Almo Divide (including Cache Peak), north of the Utah state line, east of Junction Valley Road, and west of the Jim Sage Mountain crest.

For the greatest diversity in sightings, include the following habitats in your search: pinyon-juniper-mahogany forest, aspen-riparian area, sagebrush steppe, spruce-fir-pine forest above 7,000 feet, hardwood trees around Almo, farm ponds, pastures, and irrigated fields. The peak months for birding are May and June.

Birds to boast about include: sage grouse, golden eagle,

common poorwill, gray flycatcher pinyon jay, juniper titmouse, bushtit, canyon wren, virginia's warbler, green-tailed towhee, and cassin's finch.

New or rare bird sightings by visitors are important to park resource managers. Please report these at the visitor center or write to:

City of Rocks National Reserve
P.O. Box 169
Almo, ID 83312
(208) 824-5519
Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov

This checklist was updated February 2008, and is based substantially on the records and research of Wallace Keck and Holly Scherbel.

Abundance and Season Codes

These codes reflect the likelihood of finding a given species in appropriate habitat throughout a given season.

- C** Common – frequently or almost always seen
- F** Fairly Common – seen usually in small numbers, may not always be seen
- U** Uncommon – often overlooked, seldom seen but not a surprise
- R** Rare – few sightings on record, surprising but not out of range
- X** Expected – no confirmation but habitat is supportive

Season Codes

- Sp** Spring (mid March-early June)
- S** Summer (early June-late August)
- F** Fall (late August-November)
- W** Winter (November– mid March)

Checklist

Species	Sp	S	F	W	Species	Sp	S	F	W
<u>Pelican to Teal</u>					___ Ferruginous Hawk	R	R	R	R
___ American White Pelican	R				___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	X	X
___ Great Blue Heron	R				___ Cooper's Hawk	U	U	R	X
___ Mallard	U	U	R		___ Northern Goshawk	R	R	R	R
___ Cinnamon Teal	R	X			___ Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	F
<u>Partridge to Grouse</u>					___ Golden Eagle	U	U	U	U
___ Gray Partridge	F	F	F	F	___ American Kestrel	C	C	C	C
___ Ring-necked Pheasant	F	F	F	F	___ Prairie Falcon	U	U	U	U
___ Ruffed Grouse		R			___ Merlin	R			
___ Greater Sage Grouse	U	U	U	U	<u>Crane to Phalarope</u>				
<u>Vultures to Falcons</u>					___ Sandhill Crane	U	U	R	
___ Turkey Vulture	C	C	F		___ Killdeer	F	F		
___ Bald Eagle	R			U	___ Spotted Sandpiper	X	R		
___ Northern Harrier	F	F	F	F	___ Long-billed Curlew	U	U		
___ Swainson's Hawk	F	F	U		___ Wilson's Snipe	U	F		
___ Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	F	___ Wilson's Phalarope	R	R		

Checklist

Species	Sp	S	F	W	Species	Sp	S	F	W
<u>Doves to Owls</u>					___ Rock Wren	F	F	U	U
___ Rock Dove	C	C	C	C	___ Canyon Wren	U	U	X	R
___ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	U	___ House Wren	C	C	U	
___ Western Screech-Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
___ Great Horned Owl	F	F	F	F	___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	F	F	F	
___ Burrowing Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	F	F		
___ Long-eared Owl	X	X	X	X	<u>Thrushes to Starling</u>				
___ Short-eared Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Mountain Bluebird	C	C	F	U
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Townsend's Solitaire	F	F	F	F
___ Barn Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Swainson's Thrush	U	U		
<u>Nighthawk to Hummingbirds</u>					___ Hermit Thrush	U	U		
___ Common Nighthawk	F	F			___ American Robin	C	C	C	C
___ Common Poorwill	F	F			___ Sage Thrasher	F	C	F	
___ White-throated Swift	F	F			___ Bohemian Waxwing				R
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird	F	F	F		___ Cedar Waxwing	F	U	U	U
___ Rufous Hummingbird	X	F	F		___ European Starling	C	C	C	C
___ Calliope Hummingbird	R	R			<u>Warblers</u>				
___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird	U	F			___ Orange-crowned Warbler	F	F		
<u>Kingfisher to Woodpeckers</u>					___ Virginia's Warbler	F	F		
___ Belted Kingfisher	R	R	X	X	___ Yellow Warbler	F	F		
___ Red-naped Sapsucker	F	F			___ Chestnut-sided Warbler		R		
___ Downy Woodpecker	F	F	U	U	___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	F	F	F	
___ Hairy Woodpecker	F	F	U	U	___ Black-throated Gray Warbler		R		
___ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	___ MacGillivray's Warbler	U	U		
<u>Flycatchers to Vireos</u>					___ Common Yellowthroat		R		
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher		R			___ Wilson's Warbler	U	U		
___ Western Wood-Pewee		U			___ Yellow-breasted Chat		U		
___ Willow Flycatcher	R	R			<u>Tanager to Towhee</u>				
___ Hammond's Flycatcher	R	R			___ Western Tanager	U	U		
___ Dusky Flycatcher		U			___ Black-headed Grosbeak	U	U		
___ Gray Flycatcher	F	F			___ Evening Grosbeak	R			
___ Cordilleran Flycatcher		R			___ Lazuli Bunting	F	F		
___ Say's Phoebe	U	U	R		___ Green-tailed Towhee	F	C		
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	X	X			___ Spotted Towhee	F	C	F	U
___ Western Kingbird	U	F			<u>Sparrows to Junco</u>				
___ Eastern Kingbird		U			___ American Tree Sparrow				R
___ Northern Shrike			U	U	___ Chipping Sparrow	C	C		
___ Loggerhead Shrike	U	U			___ Brewer's Sparrow	C	C		
___ Cassin's Vireo		R			___ Vesper Sparrow	C	C		
___ Warbling Vireo	F	F			___ Lark Sparrow	R	R		
<u>Corvids</u>					___ Sage Sparrow	X	X	X	
___ Western Scrub Jay	F	F	F	F	___ Savannah Sparrow	R	R		
___ Pinyon Jay	F	F	F	F	___ Fox Sparrow	R	R		
___ Clark's Nutcracker	F	F	F	F	___ Song Sparrow	F	F	U	U
___ Black-billed Magpie	C	C	C	C	___ White-crowned Sparrow	U	U	U	U
___ American Crow	U	U	R	R	___ Dark-eyed Junco	C	C	C	C
___ Common Raven	C	C	C	C	<u>Bobolink to House Sparrow</u>				
<u>Lark to Swallows</u>					___ Bobolink		R		
___ Horned Lark	C	C	C	C	___ Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	U
___ Tree Swallow	U	U			___ Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	U
___ Violet-green Swallow	C	C			___ Brewer's Blackbird	F	C	F	U
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow	C	C			___ Brown-headed Cowbird	U	F		
___ Bank Swallow		U			___ Bullock's Oriole	U	U		
___ Cliff Swallow	C	C			___ Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	X	R		
___ Barn Swallow	F	F			___ Cassin's Finch	C	C	C	F
<u>Chickadees to Gnatcatcher</u>					___ House Finch	F	F	F	F
___ Black-capped Chickadee	F	F	F	F	___ Red Crossbill	U	U	U	U
___ Mountain Chickadee	C	C	C	C	___ Pine Siskin	F	F	F	F
___ Juniper Titmouse	F	F	F	F	___ American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
___ Bushtit	U	U	R	R	___ House Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	F	F	F	X	<u>Notes or Additional Sightings:</u> _____				
___ White-breasted Nuthatch		R			_____				

Observer: _____

Checklist Date: _____