



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Birds

Bill Williams River

National Wildlife Refuge

Birding at Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge

Created in 1941 as part of *Havasu National Wildlife Refuge*, the *Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge* encompasses approximately 6,000 acres along the Bill Williams and Lower Colorado Rivers. The four major areas of the refuge include the open waters of an arm of Lake Havasu, the Delta Marsh, riparian woodlands along the Bill Williams River, and surrounding upland deserts with dramatic cliffs. The refuge contains the largest remaining native-vegetation dominated riparian forest along the Lower Colorado River and the only one that is still flood re-generated. Due to the location of the refuge and its rich habitat diversity, it is an important breeding, wintering, and migratory stopover point for birds, as well as providing habitat for many other wildlife species.

The 353 bird species are listed in accordance with the 7th edition A.O.U. checklist and the 2012 supplement. If you should find an unlisted or rare species during your visit, please contact the Refuge staff and provide a description on the form on the last page.

Seasonal status and abundance categories are to be considered as guides and should not be viewed as hard seasonal dates because birds and migration are dynamic and do not follow the calendar definitions of spring and fall.

Summer status indicated for many non-breeding species of shorebirds, terns, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, warblers, tanagers, and grosbeaks actually refers to early fall migration, which begins in July and August for these groups.

As landscapes change due to human activities and natural processes, species populations and distributions must change as well. Over time, species may become locally absent (extirpated), restored, newly arrived, endangered, or even extinct. Some have always been rare on the Lower Colorado River. On the Bill Williams River NWR, species once common but now absent or rare include



Vermilion flycatcher.

wood storks, wood ducks, and vermilion flycatchers. Species that have recently arrived include Eurasian collared doves, indigo buntings, and northern cardinals. Many riparian obligate species that have declined in most areas of the southwest due to habitat changes remain common on the Bill Williams River where their habitat has been restored. We manage habitat to help recover endangered species as well as declining species including many riparian forest birds such as the yellow-billed cuckoo and summer tanager.

Data for this list are based on Rosenberg, K.V., R.D. Ohmart, W.C. Hunter and B.W. Anderson, 1991, *Birds of the Lower Colorado River*. University of Arizona Press; Corman, T. E. and C. Wise-Gervais (eds), *Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas*, 2005. University New Mexico Press., Audubon Christmas Bird Count <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>; ebird <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>; and refuge records.

How to use your checklist

Symbols used in this list are as follows:

Occurrence

- Sp** - Spring - period of spring migration (depending on species) from mid-February to early June.
S - Summer - June to August.
F - Fall - period of fall migration (depending on species) from mid-July to November.
W - Winter - December to February.

Abundance

- A** - Abundant. A very numerous species.
C - Common. Certain to be seen in suitable habitats.
U - Uncommon. Present, not certain to be seen.
O - Occasional. Seen few times during a season.
R - Rare. Seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years.
X - Accidental. Fewer than 3 records; vagrants outside their usual range.

* Confirmed nester.

** Possible nester.

Italicized bird names indicate threatened or endangered species.

	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks, Geese and Swans				
Gr. White-fronted Goose			u	r
Snow Goose			u	u
Ross's Goose			r	r
Brant	x			
Canada Goose	u		u	u
Trumpeter Swan			x	
Tundra Swan			x	x
Wood Duck (*historical)	r	r	r	r
Gadwall	u	x	u	u
Eurasian Wigeon			x	
American Wigeon	u	x	c	u
Mallard *	c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	u	o	u	o
Cinnamon Teal *	u	o	u	o
Northern Shoveler	u	o	u	u
Northern Pintail	u	o	u	u
Green-winged Teal	u	o	u	u
Canvasback	u		u	c
Redhead	u	r	u	u
Ring-necked Duck	c		c	c
Greater Scaup	c		u	c
Lesser Scaup	u		u	u
Surf Scoter	o		o	o
White-winged Scoter	o	r	r	o
Black Scoter	x		x	x
Long-tailed Duck	x		x	x
Bufflehead	u		u	c
Common Goldeneye	c		c	c
Barrow's Goldeneye	u		u	u
Hooded Merganser		r	r	r
Common Merganser	c		u	c
Red-breasted Merganser	u		u	u
Ruddy Duck	c	u	c	c
New World Quail				
Gambel's Quail *	c	c	c	c
Loons				
Red-throated Loon	x		x	x
Pacific Loon	o	x	o	o
Common Loon	u		o	u
Yellow-billed Loon	x		x	x



Western grebe with chick.

	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe *	c	c	c	c
Horned Grebe	o		o	u
Red-necked Grebe	x			x
Eared Grebe	u	o	u	u
Western Grebe *	c	c	c	c
Clark's Grebe *	c	c	c	c
Storks				
Wood Stork (historical)	c	c	c	c
Frigatebirds				
Magnificent Frigatebird		x	x	
Boobys				
Blue-footed Booby				x
Brown Booby				x
Cormorants				
Neotropic Cormorant	r	r	r	r
Double-cr. Cormorant *	c	c	c	c
Pelicans				
American White Pelican	o	x	o	r
Brown Pelican	x	r	r	r
Hérons, Bitterns, and Allies				
American Bittern **	x	x	x	r
Least Bittern *	u	u	u	o
Great Blue Heron *	c	c	c	c
Great Egret *	c	c	c	c
Snowy Egret *	u	u	u	c
Little Blue Heron	x	x		
Reddish Egret				x
Cattle Egret	x	x	x	r
Green Heron *	u	u	u	u
Black-cr. Night-Heron *	u	u	u	u
Ibis and Spoonbills				
White-faced Ibis	o	r	o	r
Roseate Spoonbill (historical)				x
Vultures				
Turkey Vulture *	c	c	c	u
California Condor				x



Bald eagle nesting.

	Sp	S	F	W
Hawks, Kites, Eagles and Allies				
Osprey	r	r	r	o
Mississippi Kite		x		
Bald Eagle *	r	r	r	u
Northern Harrier	u		u	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
Cooper's Hawk *	u	o	u	u
Common Black-Hawk **	r	r	r	
Harris's Hawk			x	x
Red-shouldered Hawk			x	x
Broad-winged Hawk	x	x		
Swainson's Hawk	r		x	
Zone-tailed Hawk **	r	r		
Red-tailed Hawk *	c	c	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk	x			x
Rough-legged Hawk				x
Golden Eagle	x	x		x
Rails, Gallinules and Coots				
Black Rail *	u	u	o	o
Clapper Rail *	u	u	u	u
Virginia Rail *	u	u	u	u
Sora	u	r	u	u
Common Gallinule *	c	c	c	u
American Coot *	c	c	a	a
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	x		x	x
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover			r	
Snowy Plover		x		x
Killdeer *	u		u	u
Stilts and Avocets				
Black-necked Stilt	x	x	o	
American Avocet	x	x	o	x
Sandpipers, Phalaropes and Allies				
Spotted Sandpiper	r	x	r	r
Solitary Sandpiper	x		r	
Greater Yellowlegs			r	x
Willet	x	x	r	
Lesser Yellowlegs	x		x	
Upland Sandpiper		x		
Whimbrel	x		x	
Long-billed Curlew	x	x	x	
Marbled Godwit			x	
Ruddy Turnstone			x	
Red Knot		x		
Sanderling			x	
Western Sandpiper	x	x	r	x
Least Sandpiper	x	x	o	x
Pectoral Sandpiper				x



Costa's hummingbird.

Sandpipers, Phalaropes and Allies, cont.

	Sp	S	F	W
Dunlin				x
Short-billed Dowitcher			x	
Long-billed Dowitcher			x	x
Wilson's Snipe	r		x	r
Wilson's Phalarope		x	r	
Red-necked Phalarope	x		x	
Red Phalarope	x			

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers

Black-legged Kittiwake				x
Bonaparte's Gull		r	r	
Franklin's Gull	x		x	
Heermann's Gull		x		
Mew Gull		x	x	
Ring-billed Gull	c	r	c	c
Western Gull			x	x
California Gull	r		r	r
Herring Gull		r	r	
Thayer's Gull			x	
Least Tern	x		x	
Caspian Tern	o	r	o	r
Black Tern	u		u	
Common Tern			o	
Arctic Tern		x		
Forster's Tern	x	x	u	x
Black Skimmer			x	

Jaegers

Pomarine Jaeger			x	x
Parasitic Jaeger			x	
Long-tailed Jaeger			x	

Pigeons and Doves

Rock Pigeon	u		u	u
Band-tailed Pigeon			x	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	u	x	u	u
White-winged Dove *	c	c	x	x
Mourning Dove *	c	c	c	u
Inca Dove *		x		x
Common Ground-Dove *	x	x	x	x

Cuckoos and Roadrunners

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *	x	u	o	
Greater Roadrunner *	c	c	c	c

Barn Owls

Barn Owl	r	x	x	
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Typical Owls

Flammulated Owl	x			
Western Screech-Owl *	u	u	u	u
Great Horned Owl *	u	u	u	u
Elf Owl *	u	u		
Burrowing Owl	x	x		x
Long-eared Owl	x	r	x	x
Northern Saw-whet Owl				x

	Sp	S	F	W
Goatsuckers				
Lesser Nighthawk *	c	c	c	
Common Nighthawk		x		
Common Poorwill	u	u	r	r
Swifts				
Vaux's Swift	r		r	
White-throated Swift *	c	c	c	c
Hummingbirds				
Black-ch'd Hummingbird *	u	u	u	
Anna's Hummingbird *	c	o	c	c
Costa's Hummingbird *	c	o	o	c
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	x			
Rufous Hummingbird	r		x	
Calliope Hummingbird	x			
Broad-billed Hummingbird			x	x
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	u	x	u	u
Woodpeckers				
Lewis's Woodpecker				x
Acorn Woodpecker			x	x
Gila Woodpecker *	c	c	c	c
Williamson's Sapsucker				x
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				x
Red-naped Sapsucker	u		u	u
Red-breasted Sapsucker	x			x
Ladder-bac. Woodpecker *c	c	c	c	c
Northern Flicker	c		c	c
Gilded Flicker *	u	u	u	u
Falcons and Allies				
Crested Caracara			x	
American Kestrel *	u	u	u	u
Merlin	r		r	r
Peregrine Falcon *	o	o	r	r
Prairie Falcon *	r	r	r	r
Typical Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r			x
Greater Pewee				x
Western Wood-Pewee	c	r	r	
Willow Flycatcher *	o	o	r	

	Sp	S	F	W
Typical Flycatchers, continued				
Hammond's Flycatcher	u		r	r
Gray Flycatcher	o		o	o
Dusky Flycatcher	r		x	x
Pacific-slope Flycatcher **c	c	x	u	x
Black Phoebe *	c	c	c	c
Eastern Phoebe	x		x	x
Say's Phoebe *	c	u	c	c
Vermilion Flycatcher *	o	o	o	o
Ash-throated Flycatcher *c	c	c	u	u
Nutting's Flycatcher	x			x
Brown-crested Flycatcher *	u	u		x
Tropical Kingbird	x	x		
Cassin's Kingbird	x	x		
Thick-billed Kingbird				x
Western Kingbird *	u	u		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	x			
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike *	u	u	u	u
Vireos				
Bell's Vireo *	c	c	o	
Gray Vireo	x			
Yellow-throated Vireo	x		x	
Plumbeous Vireo	r		o	r
Cassin's Vireo	u	?	u	x
Hutton's Vireo	x		x	x
Warbling Vireo	o	?	o	x
Red-eyed Vireo		x		
Crows and Jays				
Pinyon Jay				x
Steller's Jay				x
Western Scrub-Jay **	o	r	o	o
Clark's Nutcracker				x
American Crow	x			r
Common Raven *	c	c	c	c
Larks				
Horned Lark **	x			r



Phainopepla.

	Sp	S	F	W		Sp	S	F	W		Sp	S	F	W
Swallows					Wood-warblers					Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Buntings				
Purple Martin	r		r		Ovenbird	x		x		Hepatic Tanager	x			x
Tree Swallow	a	x	c	u	Worm-eating Warbler	x				Summer Tanager *	c	c	u	x
Violet-green Swallow *	c	u	o	o	Louisiana Waterthrush		x			Western Tanager	u	u	u	
No. Rough-wi. Swallow *	c	c	c	c	Northern Waterthrush		x	x		Northern Cardinal *	r	r	r	r
Bank Swallow	u		u		Golden-winged Warbler			x		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r	r	x	
Cliff Swallow *	c	c	o	x	Black-and-white Warbler	x			r	Black-headed Grosbeak	c	u	c	
Cave Swallow	x				Prothonotary Warbler	x				Blue Grosbeak *	c	c	c	
Barn Swallow	o		o	x	Tennessee Warbler	x				Lazuli Bunting	c	x	c	
Chickadees and Titmice					Orange-crowned Warbler	c	x	c	c	Indigo Bunting *	r	u	r	
Mountain Chickadee	x			x	Lucy's Warbler *	c	c	u		Varied Bunting			x	
Bridled Titmouse	x			x	Nashville Warbler	u		u		Painted Bunting			x	x
Verdins					Virginia's Warbler	x				Blackbirds				
Verdin *	c	c	c	c	MacGillivray's Warbler	o	x	o		Bobolink				x
Bushtits					Common Yellowthroat *	c	a	u	u	Red-winged Blackbird *	c	c	c	c
Bushtit	x			x	Hooded Warbler	x	x		x	Eastern Meadowlark				x
Nuthatches					American Redstart	x		x	x	Western Meadowlark *	r	x	r	o
Red-breasted Nuthatch			x	x	Northern Parula	x	x		x	Yellow-headed Blackbird *	u	u	u	r
White-breasted Nuthatch			x	x	Magnolia Warbler			x	x	Rusty Blackbird	x		x	x
Creepers					Bay-breasted Warbler			x		Brewer's Blackbird	x			o
Brown Creeper	x		x	r	Yellow Warbler *	c	c	o	r	Great-tailed Grackle *	a	a	a	a
Wrens					Chestnut-sided Warbler				x	Bronzed Cowbird **	x	x		
Rock Wren *	c	c	c	c	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	x		x		Brown-headed Cowbird *	c	c	r	r
Canyon Wren *	c	c	c	c	Yellow-rumped Warbler	a		a		Orchard Oriole			x	
House Wren	u		u	u	Prairie Warbler				x	Hooded Oriole *	o	o	x	
Pacific Wren				x	Black-thr. Gray Warbler	u		r	r	Bullock's Oriole *	u	u	r	
Winter/Pacific				x	Townsend's Warbler	u		u		Scott's Oriole	x		x	
Marsh Wren *	c	c	c	c	Hermit Warbler	r	x	r		Finches and Allies				
Bewick's Wren *	c	c	c	c	Black-thr. Green Warbler			x	x	Purple Finch				x
Cactus Wren *	u	u	u	u	Wilson's Warbler	c	x	u	x	Cassin's Finch				x
Gnatcatchers					Red-faced Warbler			x		House Finch *	a	c	c	c
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	o		o	o	Painted Redstart	x		x		Red Crossbill				x
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *	c	c	c	c	Yellow-breasted Chat *	c	a	x		Pine Siskin	r		x	r
Kinglets					Towhees, Sparrows and Allies					Lesser Goldfinch *	c	c	c	u
Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		x	o	Green-tailed Towhee	u		r	r	Lawrence's Goldfinch *	r	x	x	x
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	a		a	a	Spotted Towhee	r		r	u	American Goldfinch	x	x	x	o
Thrushes					Canyon Towhee	x		x	x	Evening Grosbeak			x	
Western Bluebird	o		x	o	Abert's Towhee *	a	a	a	a	Old World Sparrows				
Mountain Bluebird				r	Chipping Sparrow	o		o	o	House Sparrow *	r	r		o
Townsend's Solitaire	x		x	r	Clay-colored Sparrow				x	For Further Information				
Swainson's Thrush	u				Brewer's Sparrow	c	r	c	u	Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge				
Hermit Thrush	x		x	u	Vesper Sparrow	x		x	r	60911 Highway 95 North				
American Robin	u	x	u	u	Lark Sparrow	x	x	x	r	Parker, AZ 85344				
Varied Thrush			x	x	Black-throated Sparrow *	c	c	c	c	928/667-4144				
Mockingbirds and Thrashers					Sage Sparrow				r	928/667-3402 Fax				
Gray Catbird	x		x		Savannah Sparrow	o	x	o	o	Visit us on our social media websites				
Northern Mockingbird *	c	c	c	c	Grasshopper Sparrow	x		x	x	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service				
Sage Thrasher	x	x		o	Fox Sparrow	x		x	x	www.fws.gov/southwest/				
Brown Thrasher			x		Song Sparrow *	a	a	a	a	For Refuge Information				
Bendire's Thrasher *	x	x		x	Lincoln's Sparrow	c		c	c	1 800/344-9453 (WILD)				
Curve-billed Thrasher	x	x	r	r	Swamp Sparrow	x		x	x	For relay service, please dial 711				
Crissal Thrasher *	u	u	u	u	White-throated Sparrow	x		x	x	All images © John West				
Le Conte's Thrasher	x			x	White-crowned Sparrow	c		c	c	September 2012				
Starlings					Golden-crowned Sparrow				r					
European Starling **	r	x		r	Dark-eyed Junco	r		r	o					
Pipits														
American Pipit	o		o	u										
Waxwings														
Cedar Waxwing	x	x	r	r										
Silky-flycatchers														
Phainopepla *	a	x	o	a										
Longspurs														
McCown's Longspur				x										