Ash Meadows
National Wildlife Refuge

Bird Walks at Crystal Spring

The aquamarine, 87-degree waters of Crystal Spring have attracted humans and wildlife alike for many thousands of years. Of the more than 50 springs and seeps at Ash Meadows, Crystal puts out the greatest volume of water, with 2,800 gallons discharged per minute.

All of this water creates an array of habitat types that provide refuge for native birds. Mesquite bosque, cattail and bulrush marsh, and alkali seep meadow are all encountered on the Crystal Spring Boardwalk, an easy stroll from the Visitor Center.

The area around Crystal Spring is utilized by numerous migrant and breeding birds, including warblers, flycatchers, wrens, vireos, hawks and more. In all, more than 275 bird species have been recorded at Ash Meadows Refuge.

Join us every Saturday in April and May for guided bird walks to Crystal Spring!

Meet at the Visitor Center at 10 a.m. Tour begins directly from the Visitor Center.

Plan for a 45-60 minute walking tour with lots of stops.

Crystal Spring Boardwalk is a 0.9-mile accessible loop that offers little shade. Bring water, hat, sunglasses, etc. Wear sunscreen and/or long sleeves.

Bring binoculars and a camera! Spare binoculars may be available to loan.

Participants are encouraged to use eBird to record their bird sightings! A brief tutorial of how to use the program on mobile devices will be given during the tour.

Top to bottom: Crystal Spring, Red-tailed Hawk, Gambel's Quail, Western Kingbird, Phainopepla

Photo credits: Rod Colvin/USFWS