



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Birds of *Kofa National Wildlife Refuge*

### Welcome to birding at Kofa National Wildlife Refuge

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 665,400 acres of Sonoran Desert in southwestern Arizona. Broad valleys, gently rolling foothills, jagged peaks and steep cliffs are found within this rugged refuge. The scattered water holes attract a surprising number of waterbirds and other migrant birds.

Nesting birds include red-tailed hawk, Gambel's quail, great horned owl, elf owl, Costa's hummingbird, ash-throated flycatcher, canyon wren, northern mockingbird, phainopepla, Lucy's warbler, and black-throated sparrow, among others.

To see the greatest variety of birds, walk along one of the ephemeral washes. On a spring or summer morning, the washes are filled with the calls of mourning doves, Gambel's quail, white-winged doves, phainopeplas, verdins, and ash-throated flycatchers. During the spring or fall, check the trees surrounding some of the old dirt stock tanks such as Charco 4 or Cholla Tank for migrants such as western tanager, cordilleran flycatcher, and belted kingfisher. Hike up Palm Canyon and listen for the calls of canyon and rock wrens. Scan the skies for soaring red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, and the occasional golden eagle.

Please contact the refuge office with any new or unusual bird sightings that you make during your visit.

This list was developed using refuge observations and studies reported since 1940. The 193 species are listed in accordance with seventh addition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, (1998) through the 53rd supplement (July 2012). Forty species have been documented as nesting on the refuge.

Symbols used in this list follow:

- W Winter December – February
- Sp Spring March – May
- S Summer June – August
- F Fall September – November
- \* Confirmed nester (39 species).
- Possible or probable breeder (12 species).

Federally Endangered or Threatened Species are listed in *italics*.

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

Breeding records from *Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas* and refuge records.

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Ducks, Geese and Swans</b>				
___ Gr. White-fronted Goose			X	
___ Canada Goose				X
___ American Wigeon			R	
___ Mallard				X
___ Blue-winged Teal			R	
___ Cinnamon Teal	O	R	R	R
___ Northern Shoveler			O	
___ Northern Pintail	R	R	O	R
___ Green-winged Teal		R	R	R
___ Redhead				X
___ Bufflehead	R			R
___ Red-breasted Merganser				X
___ Ruddy Duck				X
<b>New World Quail</b>				
___ *Gambel's Quail	A	A	A	A
<b>Grebes</b>				
___ Pied-billed Grebe	X			
<b>Pelicans</b>				
___ Brown Pelican		R	R	
<b>Hérons, Bitterns and Allies</b>				
___ Great Blue Heron		R	R	
___ Snowy Egret	R		R	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>New World Vultures</b>				
___ *Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	U
<b>Hawks, Kites, Eagles and Allies</b>				
___ Northern Harrier	O		O	O
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	O
___ Cooper's Hawk	O		O	U
___ Northern Goshawk		X		
___ Harris's Hawk	X			R
___ *Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
___ Ferruginous Hawk				R
___ Rough-legged Hawk				R
___ *Golden Eagle	U	U	U	U
<b>Rails, Gallinules and Coots</b>				
___ American Coot				X
<b>Cranes</b>				
___ Sandhill Crane	O		O	
<b>Plovers</b>				
___ Killdeer	O	O	U	
<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>				
___ Black-necked Stilt				R
___ American Avocet				R
<b>Sandpipers, Phalaropes and Allies</b>				
___ Spotted Sandpiper	R		O	
___ Solitary Sandpiper			R	R
___ Greater Yellowlegs			R	R
___ Willet	X			
___ Long-billed Curlew	X	X		
___ Western Sandpiper		X		
___ Wilson's Phalarope				X
___ Red-necked Phalarope				X
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
___ *White-winged Dove	C	A	O	
___ *Mourning Dove	A	A	C	U
___ Common Ground-Dove		O	O	
<b>Cuckoos and Roadrunners</b>				
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo		X		
___ *Greater Roadrunner	U	U	U	U
<b>Barn Owls</b>				
___ *Barn Owl	O	O	O	O
<b>Typical Owls</b>				
___ Flammulated Owl	X			
___ *Western Screech-Owl	C	C	C	C
___ *Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C
___ Northern Pygmy-Owl	X			
___ *Elf Owl	C	C		
___ *Long-eared Owl	O	O	O	O



*Black-throated sparrow*

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*Curve-billed thrasher*

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Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Goatsuckers</b>				
___ Lesser Nighthawk	O	O	R	
___ Common Poorwill	C	C	C	R
<b>Swifts</b>				
___ Vaux's Swift	O	O		
___ *White-throated Swift	C	U	O	U
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
___ Black-ch. Hummingbird	O	O		
___ *Anna's Hummingbird	O	O	O	
___ *Costa's Hummingbird	C	U	U	U
___ Broad-tail. Hummingbird	X			
___ Rufous Hummingbird	O	O		
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
___ Belted Kingfisher	O	X	O	
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
___ Lewis' Woodpecker	R		R	R
___ Red-headed Woodpecker			X	
___ *Gila Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___ Red-naped Sapsucker			R	
___ *Ladder-bac. Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
___ Northern Flicker	O	O	O	O
___ *Gilded Flicker	C	C	C	C
<b>Falcons</b>				
___ *American Kestrel	C	C	C	C
___ *Peregrine Falcon	R		R	R
___ *Prairie Falcon	O	O	O	O
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	O	O		
___ Western Wood-Pewee	C	C		
___ Willow Flycatcher	U	U		
___ Hammond's Flycatcher	O	O		
___ Gray Flycatcher	O	O		
___ Dusky Flycatcher	U	U		
___ Pacific-slope Flycatcher	U	U		
___ Cordilleran Flycatcher	U	U		
___ Black Phoebe	O	O	O	
___ *Say's Phoebe	C	O	O	C
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	R			
___ *Ash-thr. Flycatcher	A	A	R	R
___ *Brown-cr. Flycatcher	O	O		
___ Western Kingbird	O	O	O	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
___ *Loggerhead Shrike	C	C	C	C
<b>Vireos</b>				
___ Gray Vireo	O		R	O
___ Plumbeous Vireo	O	O		
___ Cassin's Vireo	O	O		
___ Hutton's Vireo			R	
___ Warbling Vireo	C	O	C	
___ Philadelphia Vireo			X	
<b>Crows and Jays</b>				
___ Pinyon Jay			R	
___ Steller's Jay			R	R
___ Western Scrub-Jay	O	R	O	O
___ *Common Raven	U	U	U	U

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Larks</b>				
___ Horned Lark		X	O	R
<b>Swallows</b>				
___ Tree Swallow	O	R	O	
___ Violet-green Swallow	U	R	U	
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow	O	O	O	
___ Cliff Swallow		O	O	R
___ Barn Swallow	O		R	
<b>Verdins</b>				
___ *Verdin	A	A	A	A
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch			X	
<b>Wrens</b>				
___ *Rock Wren	C	C	C	C
___ *Canyon Wren	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren	O	O	O	
___ Bewick's Wren			O	O
___ *Cactus Wren	C	C	C	C
<b>Gnatcatchers</b>				
___ *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	U
___ *Black-tail. Gnatcatcher	A	A	A	A
<b>Kinglets</b>				
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	U	U	
<b>Thrushes</b>				
___ Western Bluebird			O	O
___ Mountain Bluebird	O		O	
___ Townsend's Solitaire	O	O	R	
___ Swainson's Thrush	U		R	
___ Hermit Thrush	O	U	O	
___ American Robin	O	U	O	
<b>Mockingbirds and Thrashers</b>				
___ Gray Catbird		X		
___ *Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	U
___ Sage Thrasher	O	O	O	
___ Brown Thrasher		X		
___ *Bendire's Thrasher	U	U		
___ *Curve-billed Thrasher	C	C	C	C
___ *Crissal Thrasher	U	U	U	U
___ *LeConte's Thrasher	O	O	O	O
<b>Starlings</b>				
___ *European Starling	U	O	O	O
<b>Pipits</b>				
___ American Pipit			R	R
<b>Waxwings</b>				
___ Cedar Waxwing	O	O		
<b>Silky-flycatchers</b>				
___ *Phainopepla	C	O	U	C
<b>Wood-Warblers</b>				
___ Northern Waterthrush			X	
___ Prothonotary Warbler			X	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	
___ *Lucy's Warbler	O	O		
___ Nashville Warbler	C		U	
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	C		U	
___ Common Yellowthroat	X			
___ American Redstart	X		X	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler				
___ "Audubon's"	C		C	C
___ Black-thr. Gray Warbler	U		U	U
___ Townsend's Warbler	C		O	
___ Hermit Warbler	U		U	
___ Wilson's Warbler	C		U	
___ Painted Redstart			R	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat		R	R	
<b>Sparrows, Towhees, and Allies</b>				
___ Green-tailed Towhee	U		U	U
___ Spotted Towhee	O		O	O
___ *Rufous-cr. Sparrow	U	U	U	U
___ *Canyon Towhee	C	C	C	C
___ Abert's Towhee	X			
___ Chipping Sparrow	U	U	U	O
___ Brewer's Sparrow	C		C	U

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Sparrows, Towhees, and Allies, continued</b>				
___ *Black-chinned Sparrow	O	O	O	O
___ Vesper Sparrow	U		O	R
___ Lark Sparrow	O	O	O	
___ *Black-throated Sparrow	C	C	U	U
___ Sage Sparrow			U	U
___ Lark Bunting			X	
___ Savannah Sparrow			X	
___ Fox Sparrow	O		O	
___ Lincoln's Sparrow			O	
___ White-throated Sparrow				X
___ White-crowned Sparrow	C		O	C
___ Dark-eyed Junco				
___ "Oregon"	O		C	U
___ "Gray-headed"			O	O
<b>Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Buntings</b>				
___ Hepatic Tanager		X		
___ Western Tanager	C	U	C	
___ Northern Cardinal				O
___ *Pyridoxal	R	R		R
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X			
___ Black-headed Grosbeak	U	O	U	
___ Blue Grosbeak		R		
___ Lazuli Bunting	U		U	
<b>Blackbirds</b>				
___ Red-winged Blackbird	R			R
___ Western Meadowlark	O		O	O
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	O	O	O	
___ Rusty Blackbird			X	X
___ Brewer's Blackbird	O		O	O
___ Great-tailed Grackle	O		O	O
___ Bronzed Cowbird	X	X		
___ *Brown-headed Cowbird	O	O	O	
___ *Hooded Oriole	O	O	R	
___ Bullock's Oriole	U	C	U	
___ *Scott's Oriole	C	C	U	O
<b>Finches and Allies</b>				
___ Purple Finch			R	R
___ Cassin's Finch			R	
___ *House Finch	C	C	C	C
___ Pine Siskin			O	
___ Lesser Goldfinch	O	O	U	R
___ Lawrence's Goldfinch	U		O	O
___ American Goldfinch	X			
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
___ *House Sparrow	O	O	O	O

Please reuse or return to office  
Thank you

February 2015



*Cactus wren*

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