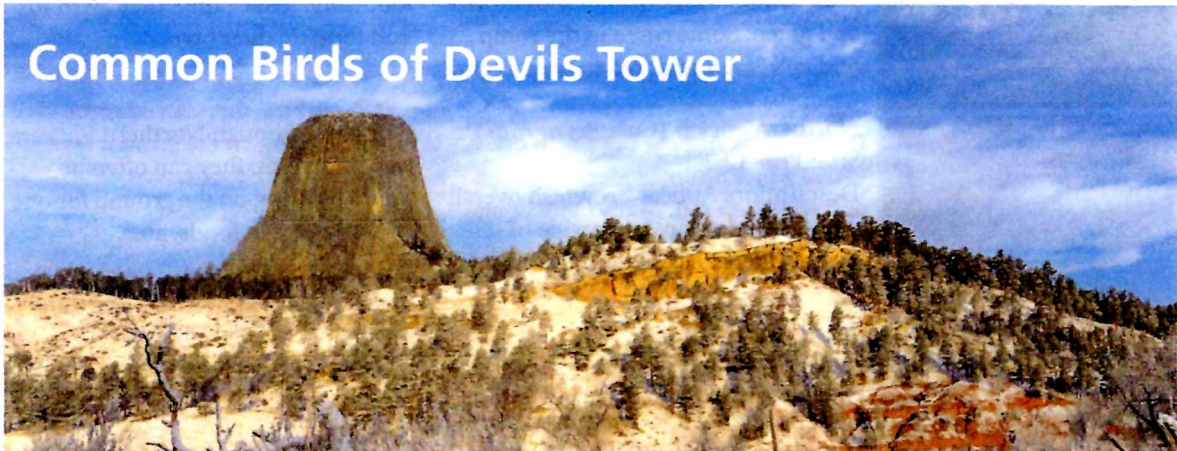




Common Birds of Devils Tower



Devils Tower National Monument provides several ecosystems for more than 160 species of birds. They can be found in the riparian areas along the Belle Fourche River, hunting prey in prairie dog town and foraging in the ponderosa pine forest beside Devils Tower. Even the rocky crags of the Tower offer ideal nesting locations. Consequently, a diversity of birds migrate through and nest in the park.



Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)
Size: 17.5-23.5"
Description: Black and white overall with blue-green iridescence on wings and tail.

Fun fact: The Black-billed Magpies large nest takes up to 40 days to complete construction.



Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
Size: 24.4-31.9"
Description: Large and black with silver-gray underneath on flight feathers. Red bald head.

Fun fact: The Turkey Vultures bald head prevents their meals consisting of dead meat from getting stuck to their feathers.



American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)
Size: 8.7-12.2"
Description: Blue head with blue-gray wings. Rusty back and tail. Black whiskers below each eye.

Fun fact: Kestrels hide extra kills in bushes, cavities, fence posts, and tree limbs to save food for later.



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
Size: 14.2-19.3"
Description: Blue-gray above with dark brown backs. Brown spots underneath and black tear stripes.

Fun fact: The Peregrine Falcon may reach speeds of 200 mph when it drops from height towards its prey.



European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
Size: 7.9-9.1"
Description: Purplish-green in the summer, but from a distance appear black. Yellow beak.

Fun fact: The European Starlings that are in North America are descendants from 100 birds set loose in New York from the 1890's.



Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)
Size: 7.5-9.1"
Description: Bright red heads with white underparts. Black backs with large white patches in the wings.

Fun fact: The Red-headed Woodpecker is one of only four woodpeckers in North America that stores food.



Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)
 Size: 43.3-45.3"
 Description: Dark overall with bronze and green. Some white in the rump and tail. Head skin, red to blue to gray.

Fun fact: Male Wild Turkeys offer no parental care to their offspring. Chicks follow the female until they learn to find food on their own.



Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)
 Size: 11.0-12.2"
 Description: Appear brownish overall with a white rump. Underside of tail and wings are red. Many black spots.

Fun fact: Although Northern Flickers nest in cavities, they can often be found foraging on the ground for one of their favorite foods, ants.



Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)
 Size: 6.3-7.5"
 Description: Yellow with black wings. Orange-red head with a black tail.

Fun fact: The Western Tanagers range is farther north than any other tanager.



Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapilla*)
 Size: 4.7-5.9"
 Description: Black cap and bib. White underneath with gray edged feathers.

Fun fact: The Black-capped Chickadee can keep a log of thousands of different sites where they store food for later.



White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)
 Size: 5.1-5.5"
 Description: Gray-blue back with white face. Black-gray cap.

Fun fact: The White-breasted Nuthatch gets its name from placing nuts into tree bark and then hitting them with their sharp bill to extract the seed from within.



Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)
 Size: 4.7-5.5"
 Description: Streaked brown with white underparts. White throat. Down-turned beak.

Fun fact: The Brown Creeper can be found crawling and spiraling up trunks of trees in search of what other more active birds may have missed.



Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)
 Size: 6.3-7.9"
 Description: Sky blue with slightly darker wings and tail.

Fun fact: Female Mountain Bluebirds select their mate based completely off of nesting location.



Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
 Size: 6.7-9.1"
 Description: Black throughout with red and yellow shoulder badges.

Fun fact: The Red-winged Blackbird is one of the most abundant birds of North America.



Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)
 Size: 6.7"
 Description: Pale brown-gray from above with a cinnamon belly. Black tail with a gray breast.

Fun fact: The Say's Phoebe is known to nest just about anywhere including mailboxes, machinery, and old nests from other species.



Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)
 Size: 7.5-9.1"
 Description: Black from above and white from below. Head is a darker shade of black than body. White tipped tail.

Fun fact: The Eastern Kingbird has a crown of yellow, orange and red feathers on its head that it keeps concealed unless encountering predators.

For more information on common birds near you, including calls, behavior, and habitat, please visit, <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>