

CHECKLIST
O F T H E
B I R D S



MESA VERDE

This checklist contains 186 bird species known for Mesa Verde National Park, arranged by family. Seventy-eight of these species are known to breed in the park, while 27 are postulated to breed here. The House Sparrow, Common Starling, Chukar, and Pheasant are species non-native to the New World which have been recorded. Elevations range from 6200 feet (1890 meters) in the deep canyons to more than 8500 feet (2590) meters) at Park Point, creating a diversity of habitats. Seeps and springs provide special niches where a variety of species congregate.

Classification follows that was used in the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* published by the National Geographic Society. Mesa Verde field records dating back to the 1930s have provided statistical information for compiling this list.

ABUNDANCE

C Common or abundant: always can be seen. This includes the term "fairly common."

U Uncommon: seldom or infrequently seen

R Rare: very low possibility of encountering the species, although it is not out of its normal range

A Accidental: far from the species' normal range and not expected to be seen again

STATUS

P Permanent resident: species remains within the region throughout the year

S Summer resident: species remains within the region during the spring and summer and during the nesting and rearing season

W Winter resident: species remains within the region during the winter

T Transient: a bird which passes through as a migrant in spring and/or fall. This also includes a summer visitor, post-nesting wanderer, and an elevational wanderer.

X Breeding known

? Breeding postulated

N Not seen in the park in the last 10 years

Birds which have been recorded only once or twice in the park's history include the following: Wood Stork, Snow Goose, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin Gull, Marbled Godwit, Ptarmigan, Pheasant*, Chukar*, Gambel's Quail*, White-breasted Woodpecker*, Three-toed Woodpecker, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Gray Jay*, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red Crossbill*, Bobolink*, Water Pipit, Swainson's Thrush*, Varied Thrush, Sage Thrasher*, Phainopepla, Nashville Warbler*,

Lucy's Warbler, Grace's Warbler*, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart*, Painted Bunting*, Lincoln's Sparrow*, Harris' Sparrow, Fox Sparrow*, Black-chinned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. The Brown Towhee, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Dusky-capped Flycatcher have been recorded only in the last 5 years. These new sightings may indicate a range expansion or a response to adverse environmental conditions (drought) in their normal range.

PLEASE REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS OF THESE BIRDS TO A MEMBER OF THE PARK STAFF.

HABITAT TYPES

Mesa Top—The dominant cover here is the pinyon-juniper forest ranging in elevations from 6800 feet (2070 meters) to 7600 feet (2320 meters). This category also includes large burn areas covered by grasses and forbs.

North Rim—This is the mountain shrub zone which includes the north ends of the mesas and ranges in elevation from 7600 feet (2320 meters) to 8400 feet (2560 meters). Gambel's oak, Utah serviceberry, mountain mahogany, cliff fendler bush, and chokecherry as well as pockets of Douglas fir are the dominant vegetative cover.

Side Canyons—These are the small, moist drainages on the canyon slopes where oak and chokecherry form lush growth. Spring water is sometimes available here.

Deep Canyons—These are the large, open-bottomed canyons varying in elevation from 6200 feet (1890 meters) to 7000 feet (2130 meters). They are characterized by sparse pinyon-juniper vegetation on the slopes and dry land brushes and grasses on the canyon floors.

Riparian—Along the Mancos River on the park's east boundary the availability of water nourishes sparse willows and scattered cottonwoods. This category also includes three park sewer lagoons.

*These species have not been seen in the park in 10 years or more.

	KNOWN TO BREED IN PARK	ABUNDANCE	MESA TOP	SIDE CANYONS	NORTH RIM	DEEP CANYONS	RIPARIAN
WATERFOWL							
Eared Grebe		R					N
Black-crowned Night Heron		R	T				T
Great Blue Heron		R					T
Canada Goose		U	T	T	T	T	P
Mallard	X	U			S		P
Green-winged Teal		R					N
Pintail							N
Ruddy Duck		U					N
Bufflehead		U					N
Common Merganser	X	U					S
Killdeer	X	U					S
Spotted Sandpiper	X	U					T
Snipe		R	T				S
AMERICAN VULTURES (<i>Cathartidae</i>)							
Turkey Vulture	X	C	S	S	S	S	S
EAGLES & HAWKS (<i>Accipitridae</i>)							
Golden Eagle	X	C		T	P	P	P
Bald Eagle		U			T		W
Northern Harrier		U	T		T		T
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
Cooper's Hawk	X	U		P	P		
Goshawk	X	R	T		P		
Broad-winged Hawk		A			T		
Swainson's Hawk		U			T		

	KNOWN TO BREED IN PARK						
	ABUNDANCE	MESA TOP	SIDE CANYONS	NORTH RIM	DEEP CANYONS	RIPARIAN	
Red-tailed Hawk	X	C	P	P	P	P	
Rough-legged Hawk	X	U			S		W
Ferruginous Hawk		R			T		
FALCONS (<i>Falconidae</i>)							
American Kestrel	X	C	S			T	S
Merlin		A			T		
Prairie	X	R				P	
Peregrine	X	R		S	S		
GROUSE (<i>Phasianidae</i>)							
Blue Grouse	X	U	T		P		
Turkey	X	U	P	P	P	P	
PIGEONS & DOVES (<i>Columbidae</i>)							
Band-tailed Pigeon		R		T	T		
Mourning Dove	X	C	S			S	S
OWLS (<i>Strigidae</i>)							
Short-eared Owl		R		N			
Long-eared Owl	X	U			P		
Great Horned Owl	X	C	P	P	P		P
Spotted Owl	X	U		P		P	
Western Screech Owl		R			T	T	N
Flammulated Owl	X	C	S		S		
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl		U			W		
Saw-whet Owl	X	C	P	P	P		

	KNOWN TO BREED IN PARK	ABUNDANCE	MESA TOP	SIDE CANYONS	NORTH RIM	DEEP CANYONS	RIPARIAN
GOATSUCKERS (<i>Caprimulgidae</i>)							
Common Poor-will	X	C	S	S	S		
Common Nighthawk	?	U	S		S		
SWIFTS (<i>Apopidae</i>)							
White-throated Swift	X	C	S	S	S	S	S
HUMMINGBIRDS (<i>Trochilidae</i>)							
Black-chinned Hummingbird	X	C	S	S	S	S	S
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	X	C	S	S	S	S	S
Rufous Hummingbird		U	T	T	T	T	T
Calliope Hummingbird		U	T	T	T	T	T
KINGFISHERS (<i>Alcedinidae</i>)							
Belted Kingfisher	?	R					S
WOODPECKERS (<i>Picidae</i>)							
Northern Flicker	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
Lewis' Woodpecker		R	T		T		T
Williamson's Sapsucker		U	W		W		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		U	W		W		
Downy Woodpecker	X	U	P	P	P	P	P
Hairy Woodpecker	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (<i>Tyrannidae</i>)							
Western Kingbird	?	U				S	S
Cassin's Kingbird		R		N			
Great Crested Flycatcher	?	R		S			S
Ash-throated Flycatcher	X	C	S	S		S	S
Olive-sided Flycatcher	?	U		T	T		
Western Wood Pewee	X	U	S	S	S		

	KNOWN TO BREED IN PARK	ABUNDANCE	MESA TOP	SIDE CANYONS	NORTH RIM	DEEP CANYONS	RIPARIAN
Say's Phoebe	X	U				S	S
Gray Flycatcher	X	C	S	S			
Hammond's Flycatcher	?	R		S	S		S
Willow Flycatcher	?	R			T		T
Western Flycatcher	?	R			S		S
LARKS (<i>Alaudidae</i>)							
Horned Lark		R	W			W	W
SWALLOWS (<i>Hirundinidae</i>)							
Tree Swallow		R					T
Violet-green Swallow	X	C	S	S	S	S	S
Bank Swallow	X	R					S
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	X	R					S
Cliff Swallow	X	R			N		N
Barn Swallow	X	R			S		S
JAYS, MAGPIES & CROWS (<i>Corvidae</i>)							
Scrub Jay	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
Pinyon Jay	X	C	T	T	T	P	P
Steller's Jay	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
Clark's Nutcracker	?	U	P	P	P	P	P
Black-billed Magpie	X	C	T	T	P	W	P
American Crow		U	W				W
Common Raven	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
TITMICE & BUSHTITS (<i>Paridae</i>)							
Plain Titmouse	X	C	P	P		P	P
Black-capped Chickadee		U	W	W	W	W	W

	KNOWN TO BREED IN PARK						
	ABUNDANCE	MESA TOP	SIDE CANYONS	NORTH RIM	DEEP CANYONS	RIPARIAN	
Mountain Chickadee	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
Bushtit	X	U	P	P		P	P
CREEPERS (<i>Certhiidae</i>)							
Brown Creeper		U	W	W	W		
NUTHATCHERS (<i>Sittidae</i>)							
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	C	P	P		P	P
Red-breasted Nuthatch	X	U	P	P	P		P
Pygmy Nuthatch	?	U	W	W	W		W
WRENS (<i>Troglodytidae</i>)							
House Wren	X	C	S	S	S		S
Bewick's Wren	X	U	S	T		S	S
Marsh Wren		R	T		T		T
Canyon Wren	X	C		P		P	
Rock Wren	X	C		P	P	P	
BLUEBIRDS, SOLITAIRES & THRUSHES (<i>Muscicapidae</i>)							
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X	U	S	S			S
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X	C	S	S	S	S	S
Western Bluebird		C	W		W	W	W
Mountain Bluebird	X	C	S		S	S	S
Townsend's Solitaire	X	C	W		P	W	P
Hermit Thrush	X	U	T	T	S	T	T
American Robin	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
SHRIKES (<i>Laniidae</i>)							
Loggerhead Shrike	X	R			S	S	S
Northern Shrike	?	R			T	T	T

	KNOWN TO BREED IN PARK	ABUNDANCE	MESA TOP	SIDE CANYONS	NORTH RIM	DEEP CANYONS	RIPARIAN
MOCKINGBIRDS (<i>Mimidae</i>)							
Northern Mockingbird	?	R				S	S
DIPPERS (<i>Cinclidae</i>)							
American Dipper	X	R					P
WAXWINGS (<i>Bombycillidae</i>)							
Bohemian Waxwing		R	T		T		T
Cedar Waxwing		U	W		W		W
STARLINGS (<i>Sturnidae</i>)							
Common Starling	X	R	T				S
VIREOS (<i>Vireonidae</i>)							
Gray Vireo	X	U	S			S	S
Solitary Vireo	X	C	S	S	S		S
Warbling Vireo	X	R	S				S
WOOD WARBLERS (<i>Emberizidae</i>)							
Orange-crowned Warbler	X	U	T	S	S		N
Virginia's Warbler	X	C		S	S		S
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	C	S	S	S		S
Black-throated Gray Warbler	X	C	S	S	S		S
Townsend's Warbler		U		T	T		T
Yellow Warbler		R					S
MacGillivray's Warbler	?	U	T	S	S		S
Wilson's Warbler	?	U	T	S	S		S
Yellow-breasted Chat	?	R					S
GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS & SPARROWS (<i>Emberizidae</i>)							
Black-headed Grosbeak	X	C	S	S	S	S	S

	KNOWN TO BREED IN PARK		ABUNDANCE	MESA TOP	SIDE CANYONS	NORTH RIM	DEEP CANYONS	RIPARIAN
Blue Grosbeak	X	R					S	S
Lazuli Bunting	X	U						S
Green-tailed Towhee	X	C	T		S	T	S	
Rufous-sided Towhee	X	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
Brown Towhee	?	R		S	S			
Vesper Sparrow	X	U	S		S		S	
Savannah Sparrow	?	C	S		S		S	
Lark Sparrow	X	U					S	
Black-throated Sparrow	?	R	S					
Sage Sparrow		R	N		N			
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	?	U			S		S	
American Tree Sparrow	?	R			S		S	
Chipping Sparrow	X	C	S		S	S	S	
Brewer's Sparrow		U	T		T		T	
White-crowned Sparrow		U	T		T	W	W	
Lincoln's Sparrow		R	T		T	T	T	
DARK-EYED JUNCO (<i>3 subspecies</i>)								
Slate-colored Junco		R	W		W	W	W	
Oregon Junco Group		C	W		W	W	W	
Gray-headed Junco		C	W		W	W	W	
BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES (<i>Emberizidae</i>)								
Western Meadowlark	X	U	S				S	
Yellow-headed Blackbird		R					T	
Red-winged Blackbird	X	U	T		T		P	
Brewer's Blackbird	X	U	S		S	S	S	

	KNOWN TO BREED IN PARK	ABUNDANCE	MESA TOP	SIDE CANYONS	NORTH RIM	DEEP CANYONS	RIPARIAN
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	C	S	S	S	S	S
Scott's Oriole		A	T		T		
Bullock's Oriole	X	R	T				S
Western Tanager	X	C	T	S	S	T	S
WEAVERS (<i>Passeridae</i>)							
House Sparrow		R	T		T	T	T
Pine Siskin	X	C	P	P	P	P	P
American Goldfinch	X	U	S		S		
Lesser Goldfinch	X	U	S		S	S	S
Pine Grosbeak		U	W		W		
Evening Grosbeak		R	W				W
Rosy Finch		C	T		W	W	
Cassin's Finch	X	C	P		P	P	P
House Finch	X	C	P		P	P	P

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