

CRATERS of the MOON

National Monument

Bird Checklist

Bird Watching at the Craters

While stark, barren lavas are the focal point of the 1100-square mile monument, other habitats are well represented: limber pine forest; pockets of Douglas fir and aspen; extensive tracts of sagebrush, other shrubs, and grasses; and a few tiny riparian zones. These attract a variety of birds, and the monument's proximity to other ecosystems — marshes, mountains, forests, and lakes — brings a wide spectrum of migrants and accidentals to the area. A surprising 182 species of birds have been reported at Craters of the Moon.

Few birds remain during the harsh winter. However, some are far northern species, difficult to find in the U.S. and therefore of interest to birders. Spring migrants reach a peak in May and early June, and as summer progresses, more than 70 species may nest. By mid-August, south-bound migrants are visible, pausing here to rest and forage. Sightings by visitors are important additions to our wildlife records. Please report unusual bird sightings at the visitor center or write to:

Craters of the Moon National Monument
Resource Management Division
P.O. Box 29
Arco, ID 83213



Codes

These codes reflect the likelihood of finding a given species in appropriate habitat throughout a given season.

Abundance		Season		
A Abundant Hard to miss	O Occasional Not present most years	Sp Spring	late March-early June	
C Common Seen most days, easy to find	X Accidental Not expected; 3 records	S Summer	early June-late August	
F Fairly Common Seen annually, but not daily	H Hypothetical An unverified record exists	F Fall	late August-November	
U Uncommon A few are seen most years	* Nesting species Has nested at Craters of the Moon	W Winter	November-March	
R Rare Scarce, not seen yearly				

Checklist

	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes	Sp	S	F	W
Pied-billed Grebe	O	O		
Eared Grebe	O	O	O	
Western Grebe	X	X		
Pelicans and Cormorants	Sp	S	F	W
American White Pelican			X	
Hérons and Egrets	Sp	S	F	W
Great Blue Heron	O	O		
Vultures	Sp	S	F	W
Turkey Vulture	C	C		
Ducks and Geese	Sp	S	F	W
Snow Goose	O			
Canada Goose	U	R		
Gadwall	F			
American Wigeon	F			
Mallard *	F	O		
Northern Shoveler	U			
Cinnamon Teal	U	U		
Northern Pintail	F			
Blue-winged Teal		X		
Green-winged Teal		X		
Tundra Swan	F			
Hawks, Eagles, Falcons	Sp	S	F	W
Osprey			R	
Bald Eagle			R	R
Northern Harrier *	U	F	R	
Sharp-shinned Hawk *	U	U	U	
Copper's Hawk *	O	O	O	
Northern Goshawk			O	
Swainson's Hawk.	O	R		
Red-tailed hawk *	U	U		
Rough-legged Hawk				O
Ferruginous Hawk *	O	O		

	U	U	U	U
Golden Eagle *	U	U	U	U
American Kestrel *	F	F	U	
Merlin	O	O	O	
Peregrine Falcon	O		O	
Prairie Falcon *	R	U	U	R
Gallinaceous Birds	Sp	S	F	W
Chukar *		O	O	
Gray Partridge *		O	O	
Ring-necked Pheasant	X		X	
Ruffed Grouse			O	
Greater Sage Grouse *	U	U	U	U
Blue Grouse *		U	U	
Wild Turkey		X		
Rails and Cranes	Sp	S	F	W
American Coot	C	C	C	
Sora			X	
Sandhill Crane	O		O	
Shorebirds	Sp	S	F	W
Killdeer	R	R	R	
Spotted Sandpiper	O	O		
Long-billed Curlew		O		
Common Snipe			O	
Wilson's Phalarope			X	
Ring-billed Gull	O			
California Gull	O			
Forster's Tern		O		
Black Tern		O		
Doves and Pigeons	Sp	S	F	W
Rock Dove *	U	F	F	R
Band-tailed Pigeon		O		
Mourning Dove *	C	C		
Owls	Sp	S	F	W
Great Horned Owl *	U	U	U	U
Snowy Owl				X

Burrowing Owl		O		
Long-eared Owl *	R	R	O	
Short-eared Owl *	R	R		
Northern Saw-whet Owl *	R	R	R	R
Nightjars	Sp	S	F	W
Common Nighthawk *		F		
Common Poorwill *		U		
Swifts	Sp	S	F	W
White-throated Swift	O			
Hummingbirds	Sp	S	F	W
Black-chinned Hummingbird	R	R		
Calliope Hummingbird	R	U		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird		O		
Rufous Hummingbird *	R	F		
Kingfishers	Sp	S	F	W
Belted Kingfisher	O			
Woodpeckers	Sp	S	F	W
Lewis' Woodpecker *	R	U		
Red-headed Woodpecker		X		
Red-naped Sapsucker *	F	R	U	
Williamson's Sapsucker	R			
Downy Woodpecker *	R	R	R	R
Hairy Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U
Northern Flicker *	C	C	C	U
Flycatchers	Sp	S	F	W
Olive-sided Flycatcher *		U		
Western Wood-pewee *		U		
Willow Flycatcher		X		
Hammond's Flycatcher	R			
Gray Flycatcher		O		
Ducky Flycatcher *	R	F		
Cordilleran Flycatcher		O		
Say's Phoebe *	U	U		
Ash-throated Flycatcher	X			
Western Kingbird	R		R	
Eastern Kingbird		O		
Shrikes	Sp	S	F	W
Loggerhead Shrike *	R	R	R	
Northern Shrike				U
Vireos	Sp	S	F	W
Plumbeous Vireo *	R	R	R	
Warbling Vireo *	U	U		
Jays and Crows	Sp	S	F	W
Steller's Jay	O		O	
Pinyon Jay			O	O
Clark's Nutcracker *	C	C	A	C
Black-billed Magpie *	R	R	U	R
American Crow *	U	R		
Common Raven *	C	C	C	C
Larks	Sp	S	F	W
Horned Lark		R	F	F
Swallows	Sp	S	F	W
N. Rough-winged Swallow	R			
Tree Swallow		O		
Violet-green swallow *	F	A	U	
Barn Swallow *	C	C	F	
Chickadees	Sp	S	F	W
Black-capped Chickadee *	C	C	F	R
Mountain Chickadee *	C	C	F	F
Nuthatches	Sp	S	F	W
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	R
White-breasted Nuthatch	R	R	R	
Creepers	Sp	S	F	W
Brown Creeper	R		R	R
Wrens	Sp	S	F	W
Rock Wren *	C	C	R	
House Wren *	U	U	R	
Winter Wren	R		R	R
Dippers	Sp	S	F	W
American Dipper			X	
Kinglets, Gnatcatchers	Sp	S	F	W
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R		R	R
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *	R	R	R	
Thrushes	Sp	S	F	W
Western Bluebird		X		
Mountain Bluebird *	C	C	F	
Townsend's Solitaire	R		R	
Swainson's Thrush	R		R	
Hermit Thrush	U		U	
American Robin *	C	A	F	
Varied Thrush	O			
Thrashers, Mockingbirds	Sp	S	F	W

Gray Catbird	O	O		
Sage Thrasher *	R	U	F	
Brown Thrasher		X	X	
Starlings	Sp	S	F	W
European Starling *	C	C	C	U
Pipits and Wagtails	Sp	S	F	W
American Pipit			O	
Waxwings	Sp	S	F	W
Bohemian Waxwing			O	R
Cedar Waxwing	U	R	U	
Warblers	Sp	S	F	W
Tennessee Warbler	X		X	
Orange-crowned Warbler *	U	F	R	
Nashville Warbler			X	
Yellow Warbler *	U	F		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	U	F	
Townsend's Warbler	R		R	
American Redstart	X			
Northern Waterthrush	X		X	
MacGillivray's Warbler *	U	F	R	
Wilson's Warbler *	U	F	R	
Yellow-breasted Chat	X		X	
Tanagers	Sp	S	F	W
Western Tanager *	F	U		
Sparrows	Sp	S	F	W
Green-tailed Towhee *	C	F	U	
Spotted Towhee *	C	C	U	
Chipping Sparrow *	U	F		
Brewer's Sparrow *	A	A	C	
Field Sparrow		X		
Vesper Sparrow *	F	F	F	
Lark Sparrow	R	U		
Black-throated Sparrow		X		
Sage Sparrow	R	R		
Lark Bunting *		R		
Savannah Sparrow	O	O		
Grasshopper Sparrow *	U	U		
Fox Sparrow *	U	U		
Song Sparrow *	F	F	F	
Lincoln's Sparrow	O			
White-throated Sparrow			X	
White-crowned Sparrow	F	U	F	
Golden-crowned Sparrow			X	
Dark-eyed Junco	C	F	F	
Snow Bunting				U
Cardinals and Allies	Sp	S	F	W
Black-headed Grosbeak *	U	U		
Lazuli Bunting *	F	C	F	
Blackbirds and Orioles	Sp	S	F	W
Red-winged Blackbird *	F	F	F	
Western Meadowlark *	F	F	U	
Yellow-headed Blackbird *	C	C	C	R
Brewer's Blackbird	C	A		
Common Grackle		X		
Brown-headed Cowbird *	C	C		
Bullock's Oriole *	U	U		
Baltimore Oriole	X			
Finches	Sp	S	F	W
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	R			U
Black Rosy-Finch				R
Pine Grosbeak			O	
Cassin's Finch *	C	A	U	
House Finch	U	R	U	
Red Crossbill		O		
Common Redpoll				
Pine Siskin *	F	C	F	F
American Goldfinch	R		R	
Evening Grosbeak	U	U	U	
Weaver Finches	Sp	S	F	W
House Sparrow *	C	C	C	

Last Updated: 25-July-2001