

BIRD CHECKLIST

OASIS OF MARA

29 PALMS INN

In 1929 the Oasis of Mara was described as a fan palm oasis with four ponds which regularly overflowed about a half mile to the north out into the desert. We now know that the Oasis of Mara formed along the Pinto Mountain Faultline approximately 9,400 years ago and water has been available since then. Undoubtedly, birds immediately found this water source. During the 1950s water along the eastern end of the oasis had receded beneath the ground while at the Inn 4 ponds formed during the winter and 2 during the summer. Today the greenery associated with the oasis is still available along the mile long fault line and the remaining pond at the 29 Palms Inn' continues to provide sanctuary and moisture for numerous resident and migratory birds species.

This checklist is not meant to be all-inclusive, but a quick look at what one might expect to find (those shown as C for common), as you stroll around the grounds of the Inn or take the Oasis Of Mara Nature trail from the Visitor Center. Of course, certain times of year more migrants will be observed. *Please report any sightings of species not on the list.*

Reference letters following bird names indicate the following:

C=common regularly seen

U=uncommon species occurring regularly, but infrequently seen

R=rare species seen only in small numbers or not on a regular basis

X=extremely rare or accidental occurrence **M**=migrants, spring and fall, staying in winter **Wi**, and summer **Su**, some to nest

V=vagrant, temporarily on location from another more suitable habitat

RES=year round resident

N=nesting species

Updated August 2004-PAF

This list was compiled by Bill Truesdell following the 1997 up dating of the Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP) observation records and from his personal observations at the Inn for over 20 years. Updated by Pat Flanagan 11/22/14 with the assistants of C and U Birders and eBird <http://ebird.org/>. Birders are welcome on the grounds and encouraged to submit sightings to eBird..

LOONS AND GREBES

Common Loon.....X M
 Pied-billed Grebe..... R M
 Eared Grebe..... R M
 Western Grebe..... R M

PELICANS

White Pelican..... R M

BITTERNS AND HERONS

American Bittern...10/4/85-1 at Inn..... X M
 Black-crowned Night-Heron..... R M
 Green Heron..... R M
 Snowy Egret.....U M
 Great Egret..... X M
 Great Blue Heron..... X M

DUCKS AND GEESE

Snow Goose..... X M
 Canada Goose.....X M
 Green-winged Teal...8/19/57-10 at Oasis...X M
 Mallard.....U RES
 Cinnamon Teal.....X M
 Ring-necked Duck..... X M
 Ruddy Duck.....X M
 Redhead.....X M
 Wood Duck... 1995, 2014..... .X RES

VULTURES, HAWKS, and FALCONS

Turkey Vulture.....Su C M
 Osprey.....R M
 Northern Harrier.....Wi R M
 Golden Eagle..... (R, N, Res in JTNP)U RES
 Sharp-shinned Hawk.....Wi U M
 Cooper's Hawk.....C RES

Broad-winged Hawk.....Wi U M
 Swainson's Hawk.....C RES
 Red tailed Hawk... (C, N, Res in JTNP)..... .U RES
 American Kestrel.....C N RES
 Prairie Falcon.....(U, N, Res in JTNP)U RES
 Merlin...11/3/61-1 at Oasis.....X M

QUAIL

Gambel's Quail..... C N RES

RAILS and COOTS

Sora.....Wi X M
 American Coot.....U M

SHOREBIRDS

American Avocet.....X M
 Black-necked Stilt..... X M
 Killdeer.....U V
 Greater Yellowlegs.....X M
 Spotted Sandpiper..... X M
 Common Snipe..... X M
 Least Sandpiper..... X M
 Western Sandpiper..... X M
 Wilson's Phalarope.....X M
 Red-necked Phalarope.....X M

GULLS and TERNs

Ring-billed Gull.....R M
 California Gull.....R M

PIGEONS and DOVES

Band-tailed Pigeon..... X M
 Mourning Dove.....C N RES
 White-winged Dove..... (N?) U RES
 Common Ground Dove.....X V
 Rock Pigeon.....U RES
 Eurasian Collard Dove..... .U RES

CUCKOOS

Greater Roadrunner..... C N RES

OWLS

Barn Owl.....C N RES
 Western Screech Owl..... X V

Great-horned Owl(C, N, RES in JTNP)..... U RES
Burrowing Owl (C, N, RES in JTNP).....R V
Long-eared Owl.....U M
Saw-whet Owl.....Wi X M

NIGHTHAWKS

Lesser Nighthawk.....Su U M
Common Poorwill...(U, N, RES in JTNP).....UV

SWIFTS

White-throated Swift.....U RES
Vaux's Swift.....R

HUMMINGBIRDS

Black-chinned Hummingbird.....U M
Anna's Hummingbird.....C N RES
Costa's Hummingbird.....C N RES
Calliope Hummingbird.....X M
Rufous Hummingbird.....U M
Allen's Hummingbird.....U M

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher.....R M

WOODPECKERS

Lewis' Woodpecker.....Wi X M
Red-breasted Sapsucker.....Wi U
Red-naped Sapsucker.....Wi R M
Ladder-backed Woodpecker.....U RES
Northern Flicker.....C RES

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher.....X M
Western Wood Peewee.....C M
Willow Flycatcher.....U M
Gray Flycatcher.....X M
Western Pacific Slope Flycatcher.....C M
Black Phoebe.....C RES
Say's Phoebe.....C RES
Ash-throated Flycatcher.....Su C M
Brown-crested Flycatcher.....U M
Western Kingbird.....U N M

SHRIKES

Loggerhead Shrike.....U, RES
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VIREOS

Solitary Vireo.....R M
Hutton's Vireo.....X M
Warbling Vireo.....U M

LARKS and SWALLOWS

Horned Lark.....U M
Tree Swallow.....R M
Violet-green Swallow.....R M
Northern Rough-winged Swallow.....R M
Cliff Swallow.....R M
Barn Swallow.....U M

JAYS and CROWS

Steller's Jay.....Wi X M
Western Scrub Jay...(C, N RES in JTNP) . U RES
Pinyon Jay...(C, N, RES in JTNP).....X V
Common Raven.....C N RES

BUSHTITS and VERDIN

Verdin.....C N RES
Bushtit...(C, N, RES in JTNP).....X V

WRENS

Cactus Wren.....C N RES
Bewick's Wren...(C, N, RES in JTNP).....U V
House Wren.....U M

KINGLETS and GNATCATCHERS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....C M
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....U RES
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher.....U RES

THRUSHES

Western Bluebird...(U, Su, N in JTNP).....R M
Mountain Bluebird.....X M
Townsend's Solitaire.....Wi R M
Swainson's Thrush.....R M
Hermit Thrush.....Wi R M
Varied Thrush.....X M
American Robin.....Wi C M
Rufous-backed Robin.....10/25/14.....R V

MOCKINGBIRD and THRASHERS

Northern Mockingbird.....C, N, RES
Sage Thrasher.....Wi, C M
Bendire's Thrasher...(U, N, in JTNP).....Su, X V
LeConte's Thrasher...C, N, RES in JTNP) ... U,RES
Calif. Thrasher...(U, N, RES in JTNP).....U, RES

PIPIT

American Pipit.....Wi R M

WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwings.....Wi C M

SILKY FLYCATCHERS

Phainopepla.....C N RES

STARLINGS

European Starling.....C N RES

WARBLERS

Northern Waterthrush.....R V
Tennessee Warbler.....U M
Orange-crowned Warbler.....Wi C M
Lucy's Warbler.....R M
Nashville Warbler.....C M
Virginia Warbler.....10/1/11.....X M
MacGillivray's Warbler.....U M
Common Yellowthroat.....Wi U M
American Redstart.....10/1/11.....X M
Ovenbird.....X M
Cape May Warbler.....9/30/11.....X M
Yellow Warbler.....C M
Yellow-rumped Warbler.....C M
Black-throated Gray Warbler.....C M
Townsend's Warbler.....C M
Black & White Warbler..10/29/89X M
Wilson's Warbler.....C M
Yellow-breasted Chat.....R M

TANAGERS

Western Tanager.....C M
Summer Tanager ..(Rare winter RES)X M

GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, and SPARROWS

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....X M

Black-headed Grosbeak.....Su C M
 Blue Grosbeak.....X M
 Lazuli Bunting.....Su U M
 Green-tailed Towhee.....Wi R M
 Spotted Towhee...(C, N,RES in JTNP).....U V
 Calif. Towhee.....(U,N,RES in JTNP).....X V
 Chipping Sparrow.....Wi X M
 Clay-colored Sparrow...S9/17/09.....X
 Brewer's Sparrow.....U, Su, N, in JTNP)....UM
 Black-chinned sparrow.....Su R
 Black-chinned Sparrow...(U, N, in JTNP)....R V
 Lark Sparrow.....R M
 Black-throated Sparrow.....C N RES
 Savannah Sparrow.....C W
 Sage Sparrow.....U M
 Song Sparrow.....U M
 Lincoln's Sparrow.....Wi R M
 White-throated Sparrow.....X M
 White-crowned Sparrow.....Wi C M
 Golden-crowned Sparrow.....RM
 Dark-eyed Junco.....Wi C M



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BLACKBIRDS

Brewer's Blackbird.....Wi R V
 Red-winged Blackbird.....R M
 Western Meadowlark.....Wi R M
 Great-tailed GrackleU R
 Brown-headed Cowbird.....R V

ORIOLES

Hooded Oriole.....Su U N M
 Bullock's Oriole.....Su U N M
 Scott's Oriole.....U N RES

FRINGILLID FINCHES

House Finch.....C N RES
 Purple Finch.....Wi X M
 Cassin's Finch.....Wi X M
 Pine Siskin.....Wi C
 Lesser Goldfinch.....R RES
 Lawrence Goldfinch.....Su X M
 American Goldfinch.....Wi X M

WEAVER FINCH

House Sparrow.....C R RES