

City of Rocks National Reserve Castle Rocks State Park

National Park Service
U S Department of the Interior
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Bird Checklist



Pinyon Jay

Birding at City of Rocks

Rock climbing and sightseeing might be the obvious choice for visitors, but City of Rocks National Reserve and neighboring Castle Rocks State Park offer excellent birding opportunities in the Northern Great Basin.

Birding hotspots at City of Rocks include: Indian Grove, North Fork Circle Creek, Window Rock, and Emery Pass Picnic Area. At Castle Rocks, try Stines Creek Picnic Area, Almo Creek Wetland Preserve, Edwards homesite, and around the Ranch House orchard.

This checklist contains 142 species with a confirmed or highly expected presence.

The checklist range includes the parks as well as the area south of the Elba-Almo Divide (including Cache Peak), north of the Utah state line, east of Junction Valley Road, and west of the Jim Sage Mountain crest.

For the greatest diversity in sightings, include the following habitats in your search: pinyon-juniper-mahogany forest, aspen-riparian area, sagebrush steppe, spruce-fir-pine forest above 7,000 feet, hardwood trees around Almo, farm ponds, pastures, and irrigated fields. The peak months for birding are May and June.

Birds to boast about include: sage grouse, golden eagle,

common poorwill, gray flycatcher pinyon jay, juniper titmouse, bushtit, canyon wren, virginia's warbler, green-tailed towhee, and cassin's finch.

New or rare bird sightings by visitors are important to park resource managers. Please report these at the visitor center or write to:

City of Rocks National Reserve
P.O. Box 169
Almo, ID 83312
(208) 824-5519
Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov

This checklist was updated January 2010, and is based substantially on the records and research of Wallace Keck and Holly Scherbel.

Abundance and Season Codes

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

- C** Common – frequently or almost always seen
- F** Fairly Common – seen usually in small numbers, may not always be seen
- U** Uncommon – often overlooked, seldom seen but not a surprise
- R** Rare – few sightings on record, surprising, or accidental
- X** Expected – no confirmation but habitat is supportive

Season Codes

- Sp** Spring (mid March-early June)
- S** Summer (early June-late August)
- F** Fall (late August-November)
- W** Winter (November– mid March)

Checklist

Species	Sp	S	F	W	Species	Sp	S	F	W
<u>Pelican to Teal</u>					___ Ferruginous Hawk	R	R	R	R
___ American White Pelican	R				___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	X	X
___ Great Blue Heron	R				___ Cooper's Hawk	U	U	R	X
___ Mallard	U	U	U		___ Northern Goshawk	R	R	R	R
___ Cinnamon Teal	R	X			___ Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	F
<u>Partridge to Grouse</u>					___ Golden Eagle	U	U	U	U
___ Gray Partridge	F	F	F	F	___ American Kestrel	C	C	C	C
___ Ring-necked Pheasant	F	F	F	F	___ Prairie Falcon	U	U	U	U
___ Ruffed Grouse		R			___ Merlin	R			
___ Greater Sage Grouse	U	U	U	U	<u>Crane to Phalarope</u>				
<u>Vultures to Falcons</u>					___ Sandhill Crane	U	U	R	
___ Turkey Vulture	C	C	F		___ Killdeer	F	F		
___ Osprey	R				___ Spotted Sandpiper	X	R		
___ Bald Eagle	R			U	___ Long-billed Curlew	U	U		
___ Northern Harrier	F	F	F	F	___ Wilson's Snipe	U	F		
___ Swainson's Hawk	F	F	U		___ Wilson's Phalarope	R	R		
___ Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	F					

Checklist

Species	Sp	S	F	W	Species	Sp	S	F	W
<u>Doves to Owls</u>					___ White-breasted Nuthatch		R		
___ Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	___ Rock Wren	F	F	U	U
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove	F	F	F	F	___ Canyon Wren	U	U	X	R
___ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	U	___ House Wren	C	C	U	
___ Western Screech-Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
___ Great Horned Owl	F	F	F	F	___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	F	F	F	
___ Burrowing Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	F	F		
___ Long-eared Owl	X	X	X	X	<u>Thrushes to Starling</u>				
___ Short-eared Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Mountain Bluebird	C	C	F	U
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Townsend's Solitaire	F	F	F	F
___ Barn Owl	X	X	X	X	___ Swainson's Thrush	U	U		
<u>Nighthawk to Hummingbirds</u>					___ Hermit Thrush	U	U		
___ Common Nighthawk	F	F			___ American Robin	C	C	C	C
___ Common Poorwill	F	F			___ Sage Thrasher	F	C	F	
___ White-throated Swift	F	F			___ Bohemian Waxwing				R
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird	F	F	F		___ Cedar Waxwing	F	U	U	R
___ Rufous Hummingbird	X	F	F		___ European Starling	C	C	C	C
___ Calliope Hummingbird	R	R			<u>Warblers</u>				
___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird	U	F			___ Orange-crowned Warbler	F	F		
<u>Kingfisher to Woodpeckers</u>					___ Virginia's Warbler	F	F		
___ Belted Kingfisher	R	R	X	X	___ Yellow Warbler	F	F		
___ Lewis' Woodpecker	R	R			___ Chestnut-sided Warbler		R		
___ Red-naped Sapsucker	F	F			___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	F	F	F	
___ Downy Woodpecker	F	F	U	U	___ Black-throated Gray Warbler		R		
___ Hairy Woodpecker	F	F	U	U	___ MacGillivray's Warbler	U	U		
___ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	___ Common Yellowthroat		R		
<u>Flycatchers to Vireos</u>					___ Wilson's Warbler	U	U		
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher		R			___ Yellow-breasted Chat		U		
___ Western Wood-Pewee		U			<u>Tanager to Towhee</u>				
___ Willow Flycatcher	R	R			___ Western Tanager	U	U		
___ Hammond's Flycatcher	R	R			___ Black-headed Grosbeak	U	U		
___ Dusky Flycatcher		U			___ Evening Grosbeak	R			
___ Gray Flycatcher	F	F			___ Lazuli Bunting	F	F		
___ Cordilleran Flycatcher		R			___ Green-tailed Towhee	F	C		
___ Say's Phoebe	U	U	R		___ Spotted Towhee	F	C	F	U
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	X	R			<u>Sparrows to Junco</u>				
___ Western Kingbird	U	F			___ American Tree Sparrow				R
___ Eastern Kingbird		U			___ Chipping Sparrow	C	C		
___ Northern Shrike			U	U	___ Brewer's Sparrow	C	C		
___ Loggerhead Shrike	U	U			___ Vesper Sparrow	C	C		
___ Plumbeous Vireo		U			___ Lark Sparrow	F	F		
___ Cassin's Vireo	R		R		___ Sage Sparrow	X	X	X	
___ Warbling Vireo	F	F			___ Savannah Sparrow	R	R		
<u>Corvids</u>					___ Fox Sparrow	R	R		
___ Western Scrub Jay	F	F	F	F	___ Song Sparrow	F	F	U	U
___ Pinyon Jay	F	F	F	F	___ White-crowned Sparrow	U	U	U	U
___ Clark's Nutcracker	F	F	F	F	___ Dark-eyed Junco	C	C	C	C
___ Black-billed Magpie	C	C	C	C	<u>Bobolink to House Sparrow</u>				
___ American Crow	U	U	R	R	___ Bobolink		R		
___ Common Raven	C	C	C	C	___ Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	U
<u>Lark to Swallows</u>					___ Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	U
___ Horned Lark	C	C	C	C	___ Brewer's Blackbird	F	C	F	U
___ Tree Swallow	U	U			___ Brown-headed Cowbird	U	F		
___ Violet-green Swallow	C	C			___ Bullock's Oriole	U	U		
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow	C	C			___ Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	X	R		
___ Bank Swallow		U			___ Cassin's Finch	C	C	C	F
___ Cliff Swallow	C	C			___ House Finch	U	U	U	U
___ Barn Swallow	F	F			___ Red Crossbill	U	U	U	U
<u>Chickadees to Gnatcatcher</u>					___ Pine Siskin	C	C	C	C
___ Black-capped Chickadee	F	F	F	F	___ American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
___ Mountain Chickadee	C	C	C	C	___ House Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ Juniper Titmouse	F	F	F	F	Observer: _____				
___ Bushtit	U	U	R	R	Checklist Date: _____				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	F	F	F	X					

BIRD CHECKLIST AREA

For City of Rocks National Reserve
Castle Rocks State Park
Almo (Cassia County) Idaho

Bird checklist records maintained by City of Rocks National Reserve include the following defined area:

Traveling clockwise from the 10,339-foot Cache Peak, follow the divide between the watersheds of Green Creek (Elba) and Grape Creek (Almo) to the Jim Sage Mountain crest, follow the crest south to and through Jim Sage Hollow to the Narrows Road. Travel east on the Narrows Road, and then west on the EY Road. Follow the EY Road to the Yost Road, turn south on Yost Road and travel to the Idaho-Utah border. Follow the border west to the Junction Valley Road, then travel north (Junction Valley Road becomes the Birch Creek Road). Travel the Birch Creek Road to the junction of Walters Creek. Follow Walters Creek to the junction of Logger Springs Road (FS 562). Follow FS 562 to the west shoulder of Cache Peak and follow the dividing ridge to the peak. Birds outside the boundary but observed from within or while traveling boundary roads may be counted.

