



## Checklist of the Birds of the Sacramento Area

Situated at the confluence of two major rivers, Sacramento offers riparian woodland, marshes and vast areas of agricultural land in the surrounding valley. In the foothills to the east and west are extensive grasslands, chaparral and oak woodlands. This variety of habitats, together with mild winters, makes the Sacramento area one of North America's outstanding inland birding areas in terms of both species richness and total number of birds.

This list contains information on the seasonal occurrence of 269 species which might reasonably be found in appropriate habitat. In addition, 21 species are included which are very rare, but have been recorded 10 or more times in the last 20 years on multiple occasions, with some nearly annual. Many other species have been seen in this checklist area, but are not listed here as there are fewer than 10 records of occurrence.

The area covered by this checklist extends from State Highway 12 on the south to State Highway 20 on the north, and to the 1000' contour in the foothills on both sides of the Sacramento Valley. An interactive map of the checklist area is available at [www.sacramentoaudubon.org/checklist-area](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/checklist-area).

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### KEY TO BAR GRAPHS

The columns of the graph display seasonal occurrence categories. These categories reflect each species' status in appropriate habitat, appropriate season, and appropriate time of day. The codes are as follows:

- Hard to Miss
- Should Find
- May Find
- Hard to Find
- Lucky to Find
- ⋯ Irruptive Species

Two sets of symbols may immediately follow a species' name in the first column.

An asterisk \* indicates species which should be documented with a detailed description, photographs, etc., and submitted to the appropriate North American Birds county editor. (Species designated as "lucky to find," on the list of rarities, found out of season, nesting that are not confirmed nesters, and those not mentioned in this checklist should be submitted to the appropriate North American Birds county editor. A list of county editors in Northern California can be found at <https://fog.csf.edu/~jmorlan/afn.html#nocal>.)

(L: Number) following a species' name indicates that this species can best be found at the locality(ies) so numbered on the checklist's map. An interactive map of the checklist area with numbered locations is available at

<https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/checklist-area>.

- |                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Colusa NWR                | 11 Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area         |
| 2 Lincoln Grasslands        | 12 Montecello Dam and Cold Canyon    |
| 3 Spenceville Wildlife Area | 13 Lake Solano and Upper Putah Creek |
| 4 Sand Creek Road           | 14 Meiss Road                        |
| 5 Dunnigan Hills (Rd 13)    | 15 Robinson Road                     |
| 6 Folsom Lake SRA           | 16 Woodbridge Road                   |
| 7 Rayhouse Road (Rd 40)     | 17 Cosumnes River Preserve           |
| 8 Old Town Sacramento       | 18 Bridgeway Island Pond             |
| 9 Nimbus Fish Hatchery      | 19 County Road 104 (Yolo Co.)        |
| 10 Davis Wetlands           | 20 Deer Creek Hills                  |

In the third column, the habitat categories are listed in order of each species' preference (e.g. **SWC** indicates this species' habitat preferences are **S**avannah followed by **o**ak and **W**oodlands, and lastly **C**haparral). The following codes may be found in the **Habitat** column, and indicate those habitats in which each species is likely to be found:

- A** Aerial: usually seen in flight
- C** Chaparral: dense foothill shrub lands
- Cl** Cliffs: natural and artificial (dams, bridges, buildings)
- F** Fields: Agriculture fields and pasture (also includes landfills)
- H** Human habitation: cities, suburbs, and urban parks
- M** Marshes: tule, cattails and other emergent vegetation (includes flooded rice fields)
- Mu** Mudflats: flooded fields lacking emergent vegetation
- O** Open water: lakes, rivers, creeks, ponds and sloughs
- R** Riparian: trees and shrubs near shorelines of rivers, streams and ponds
- S** Savannah: grasslands with scattered oaks
- W** Woodland: open stands of oaks and foothill pine
- wide** Widespread in a great variety of habitats

The fourth column provides information on breeding status in the checklist area.

- N** denotes a known nester
- RN** denotes a rare nester
- ?** denotes a suspected nester
- FN** denotes a species which formerly nested in the checklist area but appears to do so no longer.







Species	Habitat	N	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Golden-crowned Kinglet	RW													
White-breasted Nuthatch	WRSH	N												
Red-breasted Nuthatch	RWH	?												
Brown Creeper	RWH	RN												
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	CWR	N												
Rock Wren (L:6)	CIR	N												
Canyon Wren (L:12)	CI	N												
House Wren	RWH	N												
Pacific Wren	R													
Marsh Wren	M	N												
Bewick's Wren	RWC	N												
American Dipper (L:12)	R	RN												
European Starling	HRWSF	N												
California Thrasher	CR	N												
Northern Mockingbird	HRC	N												
Western Bluebird	WSRF	N												
Mountain Bluebird	SF													
Varied Thrush	RWH													
Swainson's Thrush	RC	?												
Hermit Thrush	RWCH													
American Robin	RHWSC	N												
Cedar Waxwing	HRWC													
Phainopepla	WSRC	N												
House Sparrow	H	N												
American Pipit	FMuHR													
Evening Grosbeak*	RWH													
House Finch	wide	N												
Purple Finch	RWH													
Red Crossbill	HWR													
Pine Siskin	RWH													
Lesser Goldfinch	wide	N												
Lawrence's Goldfinch (L:3, 4, 20)	WSR	RN												
American Goldfinch	WSRFH	N												
Grasshopper Sparrow (L:14)	FS	N												
Chipping Sparrow	RWSHF	RN												
Brewer's Sparrow*	FSR													
Lark Sparrow	SWFR	N												
Fox Sparrow	CRWH													
Dark-eyed Junco	RCWHS	RN												
White-crowned Sparrow	wide													
Golden-crowned Sparrow	wide													
White-throated Sparrow	RH													
Bell's Sparrow	C	N												
Vesper Sparrow	F													
Savannah Sparrow	FS	RN												
Song Sparrow	MR	N												
Lincoln's Sparrow	RMF													

Species	Habitat	N	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Swamp Sparrow*	RFM													
California Towhee	CRH	N												
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	CWCR	N												
Green-tailed Towhee	CRH													
Spotted Towhee	RCWH	N												
Yellow-breasted Chat	R	N												
Yellow-headed Blackbird	MF	N												
Western Meadowlark	FSRM	N												
Hooded Oriole	RH	N												
Bullock's Oriole	RWSH	N												
Red-winged Blackbird	MFR	N												
Tricolored Blackbird (L:2)	MF	N												
Brown-headed Cowbird	wide	N												
Brewer's Blackbird	wide	N												
Great-tailed Grackle	MHF	N												
Tennessee Warbler	WRH													
Orange-crowned Warbler	RWCH	N												
Nashville Warbler	RWC													
MacGillivray's Warbler	RW													
Common Yellowthroat	MR	N												
Yellow Warbler	RWH	RN												
Chestnut-sided Warbler*	WRH													
Blackpoll Warbler*	WRH													
Yellow-rumped Warbler	wide													
Black-throated Gray Warbler	WRCSH													
Townsend's Warbler	RWH													
Hermit Warbler	RW													
Wilson's Warbler	RWC													
Summer Tanager *	RH	?												
Western Tanager	RWSH													
Black-headed Grosbeak	RWH	N												
Blue Grosbeak	RM	N												
Lazuli Bunting	WRC	N												
Indigo Bunting*	WRC	RN												

Rare Species  
Recorded 10 or more times between 2003 and 2023

Common Nighthawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Black-throated Sparrow
Black Swift	Vermillion Flycatcher	Northern Waterthrush
Pacific Golden-Plover	Mountain Chickadee	Black-and-White Warbler
Stilt Sandpiper	Sage Thrasher	Hooded Warbler
Sabine's Gull	Townsend's Solitaire	American Redstart
Franklin's Gull	Cassin's Finch	Northern Parula
Red-throated Loon	Clay-colored Sparrow	Palm Warbler

Species names and listed order follow the Clements Checklist 2023. For additional information on abundance and seasonal occurrence of species within the Sacramento Checklist Area, please refer to the Checklist of the Birds of Yolo County, California (Rev. 2019) and A Field Checklist for Birds of the Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento County, California (Third Revision-2001).