

Checklist of the Birds of the Indian Wells Valley

Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties, California

Compiled by David Blue and Don Moore

AUGUST 29, 1998

LOONS

___ Common Loon rT

GREBES

___ Pied-billed Grebe uP
___ Horned Grebe xFT,xW
___ Eared Grebe cS,fW
___ Western Grebe xST,uFT
___ Clark's Grebe rT

PELICANS

___ American White Pelican .fT
___ Brown Pelican xV

CORMORANTS

___ Double-crested Cormorant
..... uT

HERONS & BITTERNS

___ American Bittern rT
___ Least Bittern xFT
___ Great Blue Heron uS*,fT,xW
___ Great Egret fT,xW
___ Snowy Egret fT,xW
___ Cattle Egret uT
___ Green Heron rT
___ Black-crowned
Night-Heron ... uS*,fT,xW

IBISES & SPOONBILLS

___ White-faced Ibis fT
___ Roseate Spoonbill xV

NEW WORLD VULTURES

___ Turkey Vulture fS*,cT

SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS

___ Greater White-fronted
Goose rFT,xW
___ Snow Goose cW
___ Ross's Goose uT,rW
___ Canada Goose xS*,fW
___ Brant xST
___ Tundra Swan rFT
___ Wood Duck xST,rFT,xW
___ Gadwall uS,fW
___ Eurasian Wigeon xV
___ American Wigeon cW
___ Mallard cP
___ Blue-winged Teal uST
___ Cinnamon Teal ... rS,cT,xW
___ Northern Shoveler cW
___ Green-winged Teal . xS,cW
___ Northern Pintail fW
___ Canvasback uW
___ Redhead xS,fW
___ Ring-necked Duck uW
___ Greater Scaup xFV,xW
___ Lesser Scaup uW
___ Surf Scoter xV
___ Oldsquaw xFV
___ Bufflehead cW
___ Common Goldeneye fT,xW
___ Hooded Merganser xST
___ Common
Merganser ... xST,rFT,xW
___ Red-breasted
Merganser .. xS*,xST,rFT

SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES

___ Greater Yellowlegs ... fT,xW
___ Lesser Yellowlegs fT
___ Solitary Sandpiper uT
___ Willet uT
___ Wandering Tattler xSV
___ Spotted Sandpiper cT
___ Whimbrel rT
___ Long-billed Curlew rT
___ Marbled Godwit uT
___ Ruddy Turnstone xT
___ Black Turnstone xSV
___ Red Knot xFV
___ Sanderling rST,uFT,xW
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper xV
___ Western Sandpiper cT
___ Least Sandpiper cT
___ Baird's Sandpiper . xST,rFT
___ Pectoral Sandpiper rFT
___ Dunlin xST,uFT,xW
___ Stilt Sandpiper xFT
___ Ruff xV
___ Short-billed Dowitcher ... uT
___ Long-billed Dowitcher cT
___ Common Snipe uT,xW
___ Wilson's Phalarope cT
___ Red-necked Phalarope .. cT
___ Red Phalarope xFT

SKUAS, GULLS & TERNS

___ Pomarine Jaeger xFV
___ Parasitic Jaeger xFV
___ Franklin's Gull rT
___ Little Gull xSV
___ Bonaparte's Gull xS*,uT
___ Ring-billed Gull fT,uW
___ California Gull ... uS*,fT,uW
___ Herring Gull xT
___ Sabine's Gull rFV
___ Black-legged Kittiwake xFV
___ Caspian Tern uT
___ Common Tern rT
___ Arctic Tern xV
___ Forster's Tern uT
___ Least Tern xSV
___ Black Tern fT
___ Black Skimmer xFV

PIGEONS & DOVES

___ Rock Dove (I) cP
___ Band-tailed Pigeon rST
___ White-winged Dove xS*
___ Mourning Dove cS,fW
___ Ruddy Ground-Dove xW

CUCKOOS & ROADRUNNERS

___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo ... xST
___ Greater Roadrunner uP

BARN OWLS

___ Barn Owl rP

TYPICAL OWLS

___ Flamulated Owl xT
___ Great Horned Owl uP
___ Burrowing Owl uS,xW
___ Long-eared Owl fW

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher xFT
___ Western Wood-Pewee .. uT
___ Willow Flycatcher fT
___ Hammond's Flycatcher rST
___ Gray Flycatcher rST
___ Dusky Flycatcher rST
___ Pacific-slope Flycatcher uT
___ Black Phoebe fP
___ Say's Phoebe fP
___ Vermilion Flycatcher xS,xV
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher uT
___ Cassin's Kingbird xST
___ Western Kingbird cS
___ Eastern Kingbird xV
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher xFV

SHRIKES

___ Loggerhead Shrike fP
___ Northern Shrike xW

VIREOS

___ White-eyed Vireo xSV
___ Cassin's Vireo rT
___ Warbling Vireo uT
___ Red-eyed Vireo xSV

CROWS & JAYS

___ Steller's Jay xT
___ Western Scrub-Jay . xT,xW
___ Pinyon Jay xT
___ Clark's Nutcracker xFV
___ Black-billed Magpie xFV

COMMON RAVEN CP

WRENS

___ Cactus Wren uP
___ Rock Wren uP
___ Canyon Wren lXP
___ Bewick's Wren rS,uT,rW
___ House Wren uT,xw
___ Winter Wren xT
___ Marsh Wren xS,cW

KINGLETS

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet xFT
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet fT,uW

GNATCHATCHERS

___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher uS,uT

THRUSHES

___ Western Bluebird xS,uT,xW
___ Mountain Bluebird ... uT,xW
___ Townsend's Solitaire rW
___ Swainson's Thrush rST,xFT
___ Hermit Thrush uT,rW
___ American Robin xS,fW
___ Varied Thrush xST,rFT

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS

___ Northern Mockingbird cP
___ Sage Thrasher xST,rFT,xW
___ Brown Thrasher xFT
___ California Thrasher xST
___ Le Conte's Thrasher uP

TANAGERS

___ Summer Tanager xV
___ Scarlet Tanager xFV
___ Western Tanager uT

LARKS

___ Horned Lark cP

SWALLOWS

___ Purple Martin xV
___ Tree Swallow cT
___ Violet-green Swallow uT
___ Northern Rough-winged
Swallow xS,fT
___ Bank Swallow uT
___ Cliff Swallow fT
___ Barn Swallow cT

CHICKADEES & TITMICE

___ Mountain Chickadee xT
___ Oak Titmouse xT

VERDINS

___ Verdin uP

BUSHTITS

___ Bushtit xT

NUTHATCHES

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch
..... xT,xW
___ White-breasted Nuthatch xW
___ Pygmy Nuthatch xFT

CREEPERS

___ Brown Creeper xFT

TOWHEES & SPARROWS

___ Green-tailed Towhee ST,xFT
___ Spotted Towhee rW
___ California Towhee fP
___ American Tree Sparrow xFV
___ Chipping Sparrow uT
___ Clay-colored Sparrow . xFV
___ Brewer's Sparrow rT
___ Black-chinned Sparrow . lRS
___ Vesper Sparrow rFT
___ Lark Sparrow xS,rW
___ Black-throated Sparrow
..... cS,uW
___ Sage Sparrow fP
___ Lark Bunting xFV
___ Savannah Sparrow . xS,cW
___ Grasshopper Sparrow .. xFT
___ Le Conte's Sparrow xFV,xW
___ Fox Sparrow rT,xW
___ Song Sparrow xS,fW
___ Lincoln's Sparrow fW
___ Swamp Sparrow xFT
___ White-throated Sparrow
..... xT,xW
___ Harris's Sparrow xT,xW
___ White-crowned Sparrow cW
___ Golden-crowned
Sparrow rT,xW
___ Dark-eyed Junco fW
___ Lapland Longspur xFT

___ Ruddy Duck cP

HAWKS, KITES & EAGLES

___ Osprey rT
___ White-tailed Kite.....xST,xS*
___ Bald Eagle xT
___ Northern Harrier.....cP*
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk.... uW
___ Cooper's Hawk.....uW
___ Red-shouldered Hawk rT,xW
___ Swainson's Hawk xT
___ Red-tailed Hawk..... uS,cW
___ Ferruginous Hawk..... xT
___ Rough-legged Hawk xFT,xW
___ Golden Eagle.....uP*

FALCONS

___ American Kestrel.uS,ft,uW
___ Merlin..... xT,xW
___ Peregrine Falcon..... xFT
___ Prairie Falcon.....uP

PARTRIDGES & QUAIL

___ Chukar (l).....uP
___ Mountain Quail.....rP
___ California QuailuP
___ Gambel's Quail (l)rP

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS

___ Virginia Rail.....uT,xW
___ Sora xS,uT
___ Common Moorhen xST,xW
___ American Coot cP

CRANES

___ Sandhill Crane xT

PLOVERS

___ Black-bellied Plover uT
___ American Golden-Plover
..... xFT
___ Snowy Plover xS*,uT
___ Semipalmated Plover.... uT
___ Killdeer..... fP
___ Mountain Plover..... xFT

STILTS & AVOCETS

___ Black-necked Stilt cS
___ American Avocet.....cS,rW

___ Short-eared Owl xT
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl
..... xF,xW

GOATSUCKERS

___ Lesser Nighthawk..... fS
___ Common Nighthawk xT
___ Common Poorwill rS,xW

SWIFTS

___ Black Swift xFV
___ Chimney Swift xFV
___ Vaux's Swift..... xST
___ White-throated Swift.... rST

HUMMINGBIRDS

___ Broad-billed Hummingbird
..... xSV
___ Black-chinned
Hummingbird..... cS
___ Anna's Hummingbird cP
___ Costa's Hummingbird fS,xW
___ Calliope Hummingbird .xST
___ Rufous Hummingbird..... uT

KINGFISHERS

___ Belted Kingfisher xT

WOODPECKERS

___ Lewis's Woodpecker..... xV
___ Acorn Woodpecker..... xV
___ Williamson's Sapsucker l xST
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker xV
___ Red-naped
Sapsucker xST,uFT
___ Red-breasted Sapsucker fT
___ Ladder-backed
Woodpecker uP
___ Nuttall's Woodpecker... xFT
___ Downy Woodpecker xST
___ Hairy Woodpecker..... xT
___ White-headed
Woodpecker xFT
___ Northern Flicker..... cW

STARLINGS

___ European Starling (l)..... cP

PIPITS

___ Red-throated Pipit..... xFV
___ American Pipit fW
___ Sprague's Pipit..... xFV

WAXWINGS

___ Bohemian Waxwing xW
___ Cedar Waxwing iuW

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

___ Phainopepla..... xS,uT

WOOD-WARBLERS

___ Orange-crowned
Warbler..... cST,fFT,xW
___ Nashville Warbler..... rT
___ Virginia's Warbler..... xV
___ Lucy's Warbler xV
___ Northern Parula xV
___ Yellow Warbler..... cT
___ Magnolia Warbler..... xFV
___ Black-throated
Blue Warbler..... xFV
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler cW
___ Black-throated
Gray Warbler uT
___ Townsend's Warbler ST,xFT
___ Hermit Warbler..... xT
___ Palm Warbler xFV
___ Blackpoll Warbler..... xFV
___ Black-and-white Warbler xV
___ American Redstart xV
___ Prothonotary Warbler.. xFV
___ Ovenbird..... xV
___ Northern Waterthrush . xFV
___ Kentucky Warbler xSV
___ MacGillivray's Warbler ... rT
___ Common Yellowthroat.... fT
___ Hooded Warbler..... xSV
___ Wilson's Warbler... cST,fFT
___ Yellow-breasted Chat..... rT

GROSBEAKS & BUNTINGS

___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak xSV
___ Black-headed Grosbeak fT
___ Blue Grosbeak..... xS*,rT
___ Lazuli Bunting..... uST,rFT
___ Indigo Bunting xSV
___ Dickcissel xFV

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

___ Bobolink xST,rFT
___ Red-winged Blackbird... cP
___ Tricolored Blackbird..... xS*
___ Western Meadowlark uS,fW
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird fS
___ Rusty Blackbird..... xFV,xW
___ Brewer's Blackbird..... cP
___ Great-tailed Grackle..... uP
___ Brown-headed Cowbird fS,rW
___ Orchard Oriole xFV
___ Hooded Oriole rST
___ Baltimore Oriole..... xST
___ Bullock's Oriole..... uS
___ Scott's Oriole luS,xW

FINCHES

___ Purple Finch xST,xW
___ Cassin's Finch xFT,xW
___ House Finch cP
___ Red Crossbill xT,rW
___ Pine Siskin..... rT
___ Lesser Goldfinch.. uS,ft,rW
___ Lawrence's Goldfinch fS,xT
___ American Goldfinch . uT,rW
___ Evening Grosbeak ... xT,xW

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

___ House Sparrow (l) cP

This checklist includes 322 species of birds observed in the Indian Wells Valley and those canyons draining into it. Taxonomy and nomenclature conform to the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*, 1998. Definitions for status and abundance codes are from *Distributional Checklist of North American Birds* by David DeSante and Peter Pyle. That standard was extended to include the fall and spring transient and vagrant status codes. Note that transient status is listed only if abundance is greater than that at other times of the year. The five introduced species are indicated with an "l" in parentheses following the name. Continued input from field observers is encouraged to improve the accuracy of this checklist. Observations of birds marked extremely rare should be documented with photographs and complete details, and every effort should be made to get other observers out to substantiate the sighting.

Please send sighting details, updates, or corrections, to either of the compilers, care of the Kerncrest Chapter, National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 984, Ridgecrest, CA 93556.

Status Codes

P - Permanent resident and confirmed breeder
P* - Non-breeding permanent resident
S - Summer resident and confirmed breeder
S* - Non-breeding summer resident
T - Transient (occurring within its established range during migration)
ST - Spring Transient FT - Fall Transient
V - Vagrant (occurring outside its established range during migration)
SV - Spring Vagrant FV - Fall Vagrant
W - Winter resident or visitant (January-February occurrences only)

Suffixes to status codes

+ - Assumed breeder but positive evidence of breeding is lacking

Abundance Codes

c - common or abundant
f - fairly common
u - uncommon
r - rare
x - extremely rare

A few individuals

encountered on:

> 90% of days
50-90% of days
10-50% of days
< 10% of days

Many individuals

encountered on:

> 50% of days
10-50% of days
< 10% of days
—
(10 or fewer records at that season)

Abundance Modifiers

i - irregular (of cyclic or sporadic occurrence)
l- limited (to a geographic area that comprises 10% or less of the area)