

# A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Dedicated to *Lee Wilson*

While in Tulare County, a birder can observe Sandhill Cranes at Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, a Northern Goshawk coursing through the giant trees in Sequoia National Park and Grey-crowned Rosy Finches at the summit of Mount Whitney. 302 species have been observed and recorded over the years on ponds, along rivers, in grasslands, oak-covered foothills, and in chaparral and mountain forests in Tulare County.

The checklist was first compiled by Lee Wilson, Rob Hansen, Keith Hansen, Bill Davis, Mark Chichester, George San Miguel, Ron Gurstenberg, Larry Norris, Bob Barnes and John Lindsay.

Consultants for this revision were Rob Hansen, Bob Barnes, Bill Davis, Frank Lewis, George Glover, Kim Kuska and Charles Stearns, coordinated by Barbara Hopkins.

Symbols following the species indicate how likely you are to see it in the season in proper habitat.

Spring Sp March – May  
 Summer S June – July  
 Fall F August – November  
 Winter W December – February

c = common, likely to be observed daily in suitable habitat  
 u = uncommon present, easily missed  
 r = rare, seldom seen  
 ir = irregular (not present yearly, but when present often found to be c or u)  
 v = very rare, seldom seen, less than 5 sightings, vagrant  
 e = early migrant  
 \* = nesting species

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>LOONS <i>Gavidae</i></b>				
Pacific Loon .....				v
Common Loon .....	r	v	r	r

<b>GREBES <i>Podicipedidae</i></b>				
Pied-billed Grebe* .....	c	c	c	c
Horned Grebe .....			r	r
Eared Grebe .....	c	r	c	c
Western Grebe* .....	c	u	c	c
Clark's Grebe .....	c	u	c	c

<b>STORM PETRELS <i>Hydrobatidae</i></b>				
Black Storm-Petrel .....			r	r

<b>PELICANS <i>Pelicanidae</i></b>				
American White Pelican .....		r	r	
Brown Pelican .....		v		

<b>CORMORANTS <i>Phalacrocoracidae</i></b>				
Double-crested Cormorant .....	c	c	c	c

<b>BITTERNS, HERONS <i>Ardeidae</i></b>				
American Bittern* .....	u	u	u	u
Least Bittern .....	v	v	v	
Great Blue Heron* .....	c	c	c	c
Great Egret .....	c	c	c	c
Snowy Egret .....	c	c	c	c
Cattle Egret .....	c	c	c	u
Green Heron* .....	c	c	c	c
Black-crowned Night Heron* .....	c	c	c	c

<b>IBISES <i>Threskionithidae</i></b>				
White-faced Ibis .....	u	v	u	u

<b>STORKS <i>Ciconiidae</i></b>				
Wood Stork .....		v	v	

<b>SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS <i>Anatidae</i></b>				
Fulvous Whistling Duck .....		v		
Tundra Swan .....		v	v	
Trumpeter Swan .....			v	
Greater White-fronted Goose .....	v	v	v	
Snow Goose .....	r	r	r	
Ross' Goose .....			v	
Brant .....			v	
Canada Goose .....	u	c	c	
Wood Duck* .....	u	u	u	u

Green-winged Teal .....	Sp	S	F	W
Mallard* .....	u	c	c	c
Northern Pintail* .....	c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal .....	r	r	r	r
Cinnamon Teal* .....	c	c	c	u, e
Northern Shoveler* .....	c	u	c	c
Gadwall* .....	c	u	c	c
Eurasian Wigeon .....				v
American Wigeon .....	u		c	c
Canvasback .....	u		u	c
Redhead* .....	u	r	u	r
Ring-necked Duck .....	u		c	c
Tufted Duck .....				v
Lesser Scaup .....	r		r	r
Surf Scoter .....			v	v
Common Goldeneye .....				r
Bufflehead .....	r		u	u
Hooded Merganser .....				u
Common Merganser* .....	u	u	c	c
Red-breasted Merganser .....				v
Ruddy Duck* .....	c	c	c	c

<b>AMERICAN VULTURES <i>Cathartidae</i></b>				
Turkey Vulture* .....	c	c	c	r, e

<b>KITES, EAGLES, HARRIERS, HAWKS <i>Accipitridae</i></b>				
Osprey .....	u	r	u	r
White-tailed Kite* .....	c	c	c	c
Mississippi Kite .....		v		
Bald Eagle .....	u	v	u	u
Northern Harrier* .....	c	r	c	c
Sharp-skinned Hawk* .....	c	u	c	c
Cooper's Hawk .....	c	u	c	c
Northern Goshawk* .....	r	r	r	r
Red-shouldered Hawk* .....	c	c	c	c
Swainson's Hawk* .....	r	r	r	
Red-tailed Hawk* .....	c	c	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk .....	r	r	r	r
Rough-legged Hawk .....	u		u	u
Golden Eagle* .....	u	u	u	u

<b>FALCONS <i>Falconidae</i></b>				
American Kestrel* .....	c	c	c	c
Merlin .....	r		r	r
Prairie Falcon .....	u	u	u	u
Peregrine Falcon .....	r	r	r	r

<b>PHEASANTS, GROUSE, QUAIL <i>Phasianidae</i></b>				
Ring-necked Pheasant* .....	u	u	u	u
Blue Grouse* .....	u	u	u	r
Wild Turkey* .....	r	r	r	r
California Quail* .....	c	c	c	c
Mountain Quail* .....	c	c	u	u

<b>RAILS, MOORHENS, COOTS <i>Rallidae</i></b>				
Virginia Rail* .....	c	c	c	c
Sora* .....	c	c	c	c
Common Moorhen* .....	u	u	u	u
American Coot* .....	c	c	c	c

<b>CRANES <i>Gruidae</i></b>				
Sandhill Cranes .....			r	r



	Sp	S	F	W
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	u	u	u	
Bank Swallow	r	r	r	
Cliff Swallow*	c	c	u	
Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	
<b>JAYS, CROWS, RAVENS <i>Corvidae</i></b>				
Steller's Jay*	c	c	c	c
Western Scrub-Jay*	c	c	c	c
Pinyon Jay*	u	u	u	
Clark's Nutcracker*	c	c	c	c
American Crow*	c	c	c	c
Common Raven*	c	c	c	c
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE <i>Paridae</i></b>				
Mountain Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
Oak Titmouse	c	c	c	c
<b>BUSHTITS <i>Aegithalidae</i></b>				
Bushtit*	c	c	c	c
<b>NUTHATCHES <i>Sittidae</i></b>				
Red-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
Pygmy Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
<b>CREEPERS <i>Certhidae</i></b>				
Brown Creeper*	c	c	c	c
<b>WRENS <i>Troglodytidae</i></b>				
Rock Wren*	c	c	c	c
Canyon Wren*	c	c	c	c
Bewick's Wren*	c	c	c	c
House Wren*	c	c	c	c
Winter Wren*	u	u	u	u
Marsh Wren*	c	c	c	c
<b>DIPPERS <i>Cinclidae</i></b>				
American Dipper*	u	u	c	c
<b>KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS <i>Muscicapidae</i></b>				
Golden-crowned Kinglet*	c	c	c	c
Ruby-crowned Kinglet*	c	c	c	c
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	u	u	u	r
<b>THRUSHES, WRENTITS <i>Muscicapidae</i></b>				
Western Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
Mountain Bluebird*	u	c	u	r
Townsend's Solitaire	u	u	r	r
Swainson's Thrush*	r	r	r	r
Hermit Thrush*	u	c	u	c
American Robin*	c	c	c	c
Varied Thrush	ir		ir	ir
Wrentit*	c	c	c	c
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, THRASHERS <i>Mimidae</i></b>				
Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
Sage Thrasher	v		v	v
Brown Thrasher			v	v
California Thrasher*	u	u	u	u

<b>PIPITS <i>Motacillidae</i></b>				
American Pipit*	c	u	c	c
<b>WAXWINGS <i>Bombycillidae</i></b>				

	Sp	S	F	W
Bohemian Waxwing	v			
Cedar Waxwing	c		c	c
<b>SILKY FLYCATCHERS <i>Ptilonotidae</i></b>				
Phainopepla*	c	c	c	u
<b>SHRIKES <i>Laniidae</i></b>				
Loggerhead Shrike*	c	c	c	c
<b>STARLINGS <i>Sturnidae</i></b>				
European Starling*	c	c	c	c
<b>VIREOS <i>Vireonidae</i></b>				
Bell's Vireo				v
Cassin's Vireo	c	c	u	
Plumbeous Vireo	c	c	u	
Hutton's Vireo*	u	u	u	r
Warbling Vireo*	c	c	c	
<b>WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, TOWHEES, SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES <i>Emberizidae</i></b>				
<b>Wood Warblers</b>				
Tennessee Warbler	v			
Orange-crowned Warbler*	c	c	c	u
Nashville Warbler	c	c	u	
Virginia's Warbler				v
Northern Parula	v			
Yellow Warbler*	u	c	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				v
Magnolia Warbler				v
Black-throated Blue Warbler				v
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	c	c	c
Black-throated Gray Warbler*	c	c	c	v
Townsend's Warbler	r	r	r	v
Hermit Warbler*	u	c	u	
Palm Warbler				v
Bay-breasted Warbler				v
Black and White Warbler	v			v
American Redstart				v
MacGillivray's Warbler*	u	c	u	
Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	u	r
Wilson's Warbler*	c	c	c	v
Painted Redstart				v
Yellow-breasted Chat*	u	u	u	
<b>Tanagers</b>				
Summer Tanager		v		v
Western Tanager*	c	c	c	
<b>Grosbeaks and Buntings</b>				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				v
Black-headed Grosbeak*	c	c	c	
Blue Grosbeak*	u	u	u	
Lazuli Bunting*	c	c	u	
Indigo Bunting		v		
<b>Towhees and Sparrows</b>				
Green-tailed Towhee*	u	c	c	v
Spotted Towhee*	c	c	c	c
California Towhee*	c	c	c	c
Rufous-crowned Sparrow*	u	u	u	u
Chipping Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
Brewer's Sparrow*	c	c	u	
Black-chinned Sparrow*	u	u	r	

	Sp	S	F	W
Vesper Sparrow* .....	u	r	u	u
Lark Sparrow* .....	c	c	c	c
Black-throated Sparrow .....	v	v		
Sage Sparrow* .....	r	r	r	v
Lark Bunting .....	v		v	v
Savannah Sparrow* .....	c	c	c	c
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	v	v		
Fox Sparrow* .....	c	c	c	c
Song Sparrow* .....	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow* .....	c	c	c	c
Swamp Sparrow .....				v
White-throated Sparrow .....	v		v	v
Golden-crowned Sparrow .....	c		c	c
White-crowned Sparrow* .....	c	c	c	c
Harris' Sparrow .....			v	v
Dark-eyed Junco* .....	c	c	c	c
Chestnut-collared Longspur .....	v			

#### Blackbirds and Orioles

Red-winged Blackbird* .....	c	c	c	c
Tricolored Blackbird* .....	c	c	u	u
Western Meadowlark* .....	c	c	c	c
Yellow-headed Blackbird* .....	u	u	u	r
Brewer's Blackbird* .....	c	c	c	c
Great-tailed Grackle .....	r	r	r	r
Brown-headed Cowbird* .....	c	c	c	c
Hooded Oriole* .....	r	r	r	r
Bullock's Oriole* .....	c	c	ir	v
Scott's Oriole .....	v			

#### Finches

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch* .....	c	c	c	c
Pine Grosbeak* .....	r	r	r	r
Purple Finch* .....	c	c	c	c
Cassin's Finch* .....	c	c	c	c
House Finch* .....	c	c	c	c
Red Crossbill* .....	u	u	u	u
Pine Siskin* .....	u	u	u	u
Lesser Goldfinch* .....	c	c	c	c
Lawrence's Goldfinch* .....	u	u	u	u
American Goldfinch .....	c		c	c
Evening Grosbeak* .....	u	u	u	u

#### WEAVER FINCHES *Passeridae*

House Sparrow* .....	c	c	c	c
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#### NO RECENT SIGHTINGS

California Condor  
 Yellow-bellied Magpie  
 Harlequin Duck  
 Gray Vireo



The revision of this checklist is, once again, an attempt to move toward completion of an annotated checklist of Tulare County birds. As you use the checklist, please note any discrepancies, disagreements or omissions in species or seasonal occurrences. Report them to Tulare County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 4402, Visalia, CA 93278-4402 or call Barbara Hopkins, 209-686-7390. Thank you for your help.