

SPARROWS & TOWHEES

Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	C S
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	C P
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	U S
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	U S
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	U S
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	R S
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	U P
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	U W
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	C W

GROSBEAKS & BUNTINGS

Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	C S
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	U S
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	O S

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	U S
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	U S
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	U S
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	U S
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	R S

FINCHES

Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte australis</i>	X W
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	X M
Cassin's Finch	<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>	R P
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	R P
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	R M
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>	U P
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	U S
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	U P
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Hesperiphona vespertine</i>	R W

Notes:

For further reading:

[Audubon Society Field Guide to Birds; Western Region](#) by Miklos Udvardy

[Birds of the Rocky Mountains](#) by Chris Fisher

[Master Bird Checklist for the Mountain West Ecoregion](#) compiled by Joseph A. LaFleur

[National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of Colorado](#) by Jonathan Alderfer

[Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America](#) by David Allen Sibley

Updated February 2025

Field data from Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and Black Canyon National Park.

Common and scientific names from American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, checked with the Integrated Taxonomic Information System.

Please share your sightings with rangers at the visitor center. Happy viewing!



Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
102 Elk Creek
Gunnison, CO 81230

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Black Canyon of the Gunnison
National Park

Bird Checklist

In order to keep our records up to date, we would be happy to accept a copy of your sightings.

Observation Codes:

- C — Common** Easily found when looked for in the proper habitat and season.
- O — Occasional** Seen regularly, but not on every excursion.
- U — Uncommon** Usually seen at least once every season or more often only during migration.
- R — Rare** Only a few park records, but the species is expected to be seen again.
- S — Summer Resident**
- W — Winter Resident**
- P — Permanent Resident**
- M — Migrant**

WATERFOWL

Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	U S
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	U P
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	U S

GROUSE & TURKEYS

Gunnison Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	R P
Dusky Grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>	U P
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	O P

HERONS & BITTERNS

Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	U S
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<u>VULTURES</u>		
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	U S
<u>HAWKS & EAGLES</u>		
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	UWM
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	U P
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	U P
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	U P
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	R P
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	R M
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	U P
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	U P
<u>FALCONS</u>		
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	U S
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	U S
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	U S
<u>CRANES</u>		
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	U M
<u>PLOVERS</u>		
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	U S
<u>SANDPIPERS</u>		
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	U S
<u>PIGEONS & DOVES</u>		
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	U P
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	R S
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	C S
<u>OWLS</u>		
Flammulated Owl	<i>Psiloscops flammeolus</i>	O S
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	U P
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	R S
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	R P
<u>GOATSUCKERS</u>		
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	C S
Common Poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	O S
<u>SWIFTS</u>		
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	C S
<u>HUMMINGBIRDS</u>		
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	R S
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	U S
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	U M

<u>KINGFISHERS</u>		
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	R M
<u>WOODPECKERS</u>		
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	R S
Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	R S
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	R P
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	R P
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>	R P
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	C P
<u>FLYCATCHERS</u>		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	R S
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	U S
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>	R S
Gray Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	U S
Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	C S
Western Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	U S
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	U S
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	U S
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	R S
<u>SHRIKES & VIREOS</u>		
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	R S
Gray Vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	R S
Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	C S
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	C S
<u>JAYS, MAGPIES, & CROWS</u>		
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	U P
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma woodhouseii</i>	U P
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	U P
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	U P
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	C P
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	R P
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	C P
<u>SWALLOWS</u>		
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	U M
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	C S
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	C S
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	U M
<u>CHICKADEES & TITMICE</u>		
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	U P
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	U P
Juniper Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i>	U P
<u>BUSHTITS</u>		
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	U P

<u>NUTHATCHES</u>		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	R P
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	U P
<u>CREEPERS</u>		
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	R P
<u>WRENS</u>		
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	C S
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	U P
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	U P
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	C S
<u>DIPPERS</u>		
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	U P
<u>KINGLETS</u>		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	X W
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	U S
<u>GNATCATCHERS</u>		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	C S
<u>THRUSHES & SOLITAIRES</u>		
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	R M
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	U S
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	U S
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	U S
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	C S
<u>THRASHERS & MOCKINGBIRDS</u>		
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	R S
<u>STARLINGS</u>		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	U S
<u>WARBLERS</u>		
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	C S
Virginia's Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis virginiae</i>	C S
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	C S
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	O S
Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>	C S
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	R M
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	U S
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	U M
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	R S
<u>TANAGERS</u>		
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	C S