

## Birds

Birds are mainly flying animals, although a few are flightless, for example the ostriches and emus. Others, like penguins, live on land and in water. Birds share some common characteristics.

- Birds are egg-laying animals, with amniotic eggs which means they have a fluid-filled bag surrounding the embryo – this prevents the eggs from drying out, so they can lay eggs on dry land. Reptile eggs are also amniotic.
- Bird eggs have a large food supply called yolk and are hard-shelled. Reptile eggs are soft shelled.
- Parent birds usually provide extensive care of their young until they are self-sufficient.
- Bird skin has feathers, usually modified for flight and for insulation.
- Birds have four-chambered hearts, unlike most reptiles and amphibians that have three-chambered hearts.
- Birds are warm-blooded animals, unlike living reptiles and amphibians. They are thus similar to dinosaurs, which are thought to have been warm-blooded, and to which they are closely related.

A number of other characteristics can be found in birds, but they are found in other animal groups also.

Birds are vertebrates. Reptiles, mammals, and amphibians also have backbones, but they don't share other bird characteristics.

There are about 30 main groups of birds, including swifts, hummingbirds, pigeons, waterfowl, owls, and songbirds. The songbirds are a huge group including everything from crows to magpies, mockingbirds to woodpeckers. All these birds and more can be seen in Blue Sky!

# Blue Sky Ecological Reserve Avian List

## Class AVES

## Birds

### Order PELECANIFORMES

### Pelicans, Allies

#### Family PHALACROCORACIDAE Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*

### Order CICONIIFORMES

### Hérons

#### Family ARDEIDAE

Great Blue Heron

Green Heron

Great Egret

#### Hérons

*Ardea herodias*

*Butorides virescens*

*Ardea alba*

#### Family CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture

### Vultures

*Cathartes aura*

### Order ANSERIFORMES

### Ducks

#### Family ANATIDAE

Mallard

*Anas platyrhynchos*

### Order FALCONIFORMES

### Raptors

#### Family ACCIPITRIDAE

Bald Eagle

Red-shouldered Hawk

Osprey

Golden Eagle

Red-tailed Hawk

White-tailed Kite

Cooper's Hawk

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Northern Harrier

#### Hawks

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

*Buteo lineatus*

*Pandion haliaetus*

*Aquila chrysaetos*

*Buteo jamaicensis*

*Elanus leucurus*

*Accipiter cooperii*

*Accipiter striatus*

*Circus cyaneus*

#### Family FALCONIDAE

American Kestrel

### Falcons

*Falco sparverius*

### Order GALLIFORMES

### Quail

#### Family ODONTOPHORIDAE

California Quail

*Callipepla californica*

### Order CHARADRIIFORM

### Shorebirds, Gulls

#### Family CHARADRIIDAE

Killdeer

#### Plovers

*Charadrius vociferus*

**Family LARIDAE**

Forster's Tern  
Ring-billed Gull

**Gulls, Terns**

*Sterna forsteri*  
*Larus delawarensis*

**Order COLUMBIFORMES**

**Family COLUMBIDAE**

Mourning Dove  
Band-tailed Pigeon  
Rock Pigeon

**Pigeons and Doves**

*Zenaida macroura*  
*Patagioenas fasciata*  
*Columba livia*\*

**Order CUCULIFORMES**

**Family CUCULIDAE**

Greater Roadrunner

**Cuckoos**

*Geococcyx californianus*

**Order STRIGIFORMES**

**Family TYTONIDAE**

Barn Owl

**Owls**

**Barn Owls**

*Tyto alba*

**Family STRIGIDAE**

Western Screech Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Long-eared Owl

**Typical Owls**

*Megascops kennicottii*  
*Bubo virginianus*  
*Asio otus*

**Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES**

**Family CAPRIMULGIDAE**

Common Poorwill

**Goatsuckers**

*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*

**Order APODIFORMES**

**Family APODIDAE**

Vaux's Swift  
White-throated Swift

**Swifts**

*Chaetura vauxi*  
*Aeronautes saxatalis*

**Family TROCHILIDAE**

Black-chinned Hummingbird  
Allen's Hummingbird  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Costa's Hummingbird  
Anna's Hummingbird

**Hummingbirds**

*Archilochus alexandri*  
*Selasphorus sasin*  
*Selasphorus rufus*  
*Calypte costae*  
*Calypte anna*

**Order CORACIIFORMES**

**Family ALCEDINIDAE**

Belted Kingfisher

**Kingfishers**

*Ceryle alcyon*

## Order PICIFORMES

### Family PICIDAE

Acorn Woodpecker  
Nuttall's Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Red-naped Sapsucker  
Northern Flicker

## Woodpeckers

*Melanerpes formicivorus*  
*Picoides nuttallii*  
*Picoides pubescens*  
*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*  
*Colaptes auratus*

## Order PASSERIFORMES

### Family TYRANNIDAE

Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Western Wood-pewee  
Pacific-slope Flycatcher  
Black Phoebe  
Say's Phoebe  
Ash-throated Flycatcher  
Cassin's Kingbird  
Western Kingbird  
Hammond's Flycatcher  
Gray Flycatcher

## Perching Birds

### Tyrant Flycatchers

*Contopus cooperi*  
*Contopus sordidulus*  
*Empidonax difficilis*  
*Sayornis nigricans*  
*Sayornis saya*  
*Myiarchus cinerascens*  
*Tyrannus vociferans*  
*Tyrannus verticalis*  
*Empidonax hammondi*  
*Empidonax wrightii*

### Family LANIIDAE

Loggerhead Shrike

### Shrikes

*Lanius ludovicianus*

### Family VIREONIDAE

Cassin's Vireo  
Hutton's Vireo  
Warbling Vireo

### Typical Vireos

*Vireo cassinii*  
*Vireo huttoni*  
*Vireo gilvus*

### Family CORVIDAE

Western Scrub-Jay  
Common Raven  
American Crow

### Jays, Crows

*Aphelocoma californica*  
*Corvus corax*  
*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

### Family HIRUNDINIDAE

Tree Swallow  
Violet-green Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Cliff Swallow

### Swallows

*Tachycineta bicolor*  
*Tachycineta thalassina*  
*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*  
*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

### Family PARIDAE

Oak Titmouse  
Mountain Chickadee

### Titmice

*Baeolophus inornatus*  
*Poecile gambeli*

### Family AEGITHALIDAE

Bushtit

### Bushtits

*Psaltriparus minimus*

**Family SITTIDAE**

White-breasted Nuthatch

**Family CERTHIIDAE**

Brown Creeper

**Family TROGLODYTIDAE**

House Wren

Winter Wren

Sedge Wren

Cactus Wren

Canyon Wren

Rock Wren

Marsh Wren

Bewick's Wren

**Family REGULIDAE**

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

**Family SYLVIIDAE**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

California Gnatcatcher

**Family TURDIDAE**

Hermit Thrush

Western Bluebird

American Robin

Swainson's Thrush

**Family TIMALIIDAE**

Wrentit

**Family MIMIDAE**

Northern Mockingbird

California Thrasher

**Family STURNIDAE**

European Starling

**Family BOMBYCILLIDAE**

Cedar Waxwing

**Family PTILOGONATIDAE**

Phainopepla

**Family PARULIDAE**

Orange-crowned Warbler

Nashville Warbler

**Nuthatches**

*Sitta carolinensis*

**Creepers**

*Certhia americana*

**Wrens**

*Troglodytes aedon*

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

*Cistothorus platens*

*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*

*Catherpes mexicanus*

*Salpinctes obsoletus*

*Cistothorus palustris*

*Thryomanes bewickii*

**Kinglets**

*Regulus calendula*

**Warblers and Gnatcatchers**

*Polioptila caerulea*

*Polioptila californica*

**Thrushes**

*Catharus guttatus*

*Sialia mexicana*

*Turdus migratorius*

*Catharus ustulatus*

**Babblers**

*Chamaea fasciata*

**Mockingbirds, Thrashers**

*Mimus polyglottos*

*Toxostoma redivivum*

**Starlings**

*Sturnus vulgaris*\*

**Waxwings**

*Bombycilla cedrorum*

**Silky Flycatchers**

*Phainopepla nitens*

**Wood Warblers**

*Vermivora celata*

*Vermivora ruficapilla*

Yellow Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Black-throated Gray Warbler  
Townsend's Warbler  
Hermit Warbler  
Macgillivray's Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Wilson's Warbler  
Yellow-breasted Chat

**Family THRAUPIDAE**

Summer Tanager  
Western Tanager

**Family EMBERIZIDAE**

Rufous-crowned Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Black-chinned Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Golden-crowned Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Spotted Towhee  
California Towhee

**Family CARDINALIDAE**

Lazuli Bunting  
Blue Grosbeak  
Black-headed Grosbeak

**Family ICTERIDAE**

Bullock's Oriole  
Hooded Oriole  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Western Meadowlark  
Brewer's Blackbird

**Family FRINGILLIDAE**

American Goldfinch  
Lawrence's Goldfinch  
Lesser Goldfinch  
House Finch  
Purple Finch

**Family PASSERIDAE**

House Sparrow

*Dendroica petechia*  
*Dendroica coronata*  
*Dendroica nigrescens*  
*Dendroica townsendi*  
*Dendroica occidentalis*  
*Oporornis tolmiei*  
*Geothlypis trichas*  
*Wilsonia pusilla*  
*Icteria virens*

**Tanagers**

*Piranga rubra*  
*Piranga ludoviciana*

**Emberizines**

*Aimophila ruficeps*  
*Spizella passerina*  
*Spizella atrogularis*  
*Passerella iliaca*  
*Melospiza melodia*  
*Melospiza lincolni*  
*Zonotrichia atricapilla*  
*Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
*Junco hyemalis*  
*Pipilo maculatus*  
*Pipilo crissalis*

**Cardinals, Grosbeaks**

*Passerina amoena*  
*Passerina caerulea*  
*Pheucticus melanocephalus*

**Blackbirds, Orioles**

*Icterus bullockii*  
*Icterus cucullatus*  
*Molothrus ater*  
*Agelaius phoeniceus*  
*Sturnella neglecta*  
*Euphagus cyanocephalus*

**Finches**

*Carduelis tristis*  
*Carduelis lawrencei*  
*Carduelis psaltria*  
*Carpodacus mexicanus*  
*Carpodacus purpureus*

**Sparrows**

*Passer domesticus*\*

\* Introduced