

Yuma County Bird Checklist

Latest update: 21 Aug 2024, 399 Species

Seasons

Sp: Spring is Mar-May

Su: Summer is Jun-Aug

F: Fall is Sep-Nov

W: Winter is Dec-Feb

Status Codes & Notes

C Common – present and widespread; usually seen 3 out of 4 visits

F Fairly common – often present; usually seen 2 out of 4 visits

U Uncommon – occurs regularly, but may be absent or in low numbers, and usually seen only 1 out of 4 visits

R Rare – occurs infrequently, or in a very limited range, and may be absent some years

I Irregular – not expected annually; often found in varying abundance

CA Casual – out of its usual range and not expected in our area on a regular basis; at least 5 records for the area

A Accidental – not expected; fewer than 5 records. If there is only a single record for the species, I've annotated the checklist with additional information.

B Breeds – currently breeds in Yuma County

HB Historical breeder – bred twenty+ years ago

PB Probable breeder – a likely breeder, but not confirmed

“Status Codes” are a somewhat subjective way of indicating how common or uncommon a particular species of bird is in our area. They will give you an idea of how easy it is to find your target within the proper habitat, during a particular season. However, some birds classified as Rare (R), based on very limited range, may be quite easy to find and identify (such as Black Rail). In cases like this, I've annotated the checklist with comments. These status codes are also dependent on searching for your targets in the proper habitat. For example, Rock Pigeons are often abundant in cities, but absent from the desert. Similarly, Black-tailed Gnatcatchers are common in many desert washes, but absent from most towns. Typical habitat preference for most birds is described in popular field guides.

Within a particular season, there is also much variation among the status of birds. For example, many shorebirds start their southward migration in late summer. For example, a bird marked as Common (C) during summer (such as Greater Yellowlegs) may be totally absent in June and common only in July and August.

Breeding codes are based on surveys done by the Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas team between 1993 and 2004, from reports in *American Birds*, *National Audubon Society Field Notes*, and *North American Birds*, and from personal observations.

This checklist is in American Ornithological Society (formerly AOU) taxonomical order (65th supplement, 19 July 2024).

	Sp	Su	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans (Anatidae)				
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	A	A		
Fulvous Whistling Duck	A		A	
Snow Goose (best spot is Imperial NWR)	R		U	U
Ross's Goose (best spot is Imperial NWR)		CA	R	R
Brant	A			A
Greater White-fronted Goose (best spot is Imperial NWR)	R	R	R	R
Cackling Goose	A	A	A	A
Canada Goose	U	R	F	F
Tundra Swan			R	R
Wood Duck (more common to the east)	CA	CA	CA	CA
Blue-winged Teal (especially at Cocopah RV Park)	F	R	U	U
Cinnamon Teal B	C	U	C	C
Northern Shoveler	C	R	C	C
Gadwall B	U	R	C	C
Eurasian Wigeon			A	A
American Wigeon	U	A	C	C
Mallard B	C	C	C	C
Mexican Duck	R	R	R	R
Northern Pintail	C	R	C	C
Green-winged Teal	U	R	C	C
Canvasback	U		U	U
Redhead	U	R	C	C
Ring-necked Duck	C	R	C	C
Greater Scaup	R		R	R
Lesser Scaup	C	R	C	C
Surf Scoter			CA	CA
White-winged Scoter (Jan 1992)				A
Black Scoter (Oct 2019)			A	
Long-tailed Duck	A		A	CA
Bufflehead	C		C	C
Common Goldeneye	F	CA	F	F
Barrow's Goldeneye	A		A	A
Hooded Merganser (especially Cocopah RV Park)	F	A	F	C

	Sp	Su	F	W
Common Merganser (especially Meer's Point, Imperial NWR)	R		U	U
Red-breasted Merganser	R	CA	U	U
Ruddy Duck B	C	U	C	C
New World Quail (Odontophoridae)				
Gambel's Quail B	C	C	C	C
Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail (Phasianidae)				
Ring-necked Pheasant B (SW and S of Yuma)	U	R	R	R
Grebes (Podicipedidae)				
Pied-billed Grebe B	C	C	C	C
Horned Grebe	R		R	R
Red-necked Grebe				CA
Eared Grebe	C	U	F	C
Western Grebe B	C	F	C	C
Clark's Grebe B	C	F	C	C
Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)				
Rock Pigeon B	C	C	C	C
Band-tailed Pigeon	A		A	A
Eurasian Collared-Dove B	C	C	C	C
Inca Dove B	F	F	F	F
Common Ground Dove B	C	C	C	C
Ruddy Ground Dove (more common during some years)	CA	A	CA	R
White-winged Dove B (most migrate south in September)	C	C	U	R
Mourning Dove B	C	C	C	C
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis (Cuculidae)				
Groove-billed Ani		A	A	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo B (Imperial NWR, Betty's Kitchen)		R		
Greater Roadrunner B	C	C	C	C
Goatsuckers (Caprimulgidae)				
Lesser Nighthawk B	C	C	C	CA
Common Poorwill B	F	F	U	R
Swifts (Apodidae)				
Black Swift (May 2014, Laguna Dam)	A			
White-throated Swift B	C	U	F	F
Vaux's Swift	F	R	U	

	Sp	Su	F	W
Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)				
Black-chinned Hummingbird B	C	C	U	R
Anna's Hummingbird B	C	C	C	C
Costa's Hummingbird B	C	F	F	C
Calliope Hummingbird	R		CA	
Rufous Hummingbird	U	U	U	R
Allen's Hummingbird		A		A
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (Nov-Dec 2020, Yuma)			A	A
Broad-billed Hummingbird	A	A	CA	CA
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)				
Ridgway's Rail B (Colorado River marshes & backwaters)	F	U	U	R
Virginia Rail B	C	U	C	C
Sora	C	R	C	C
Common Gallinule B	C	C	C	C
American Coot B	C	C	C	C
Black Rail B (Commonly heard at Mittry Lake from Mar-June)	R	R	R	R
Cranes (Gruidae)				
Sandhill Crane (Gila River Valley and Imperial NWR)			R	R
Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)				
Black-necked Stilt B	C	C	C	C
American Avocet	F	U	U	U
Lapwings and Plovers (Charadriidae)				
Black-bellied Plover	R	R	R	
American Golden-Plover	A	A		
Killdeer B	C	C	C	C
Semipalmated Plover	F	U	F	
Mountain Plover (Spot Road Farm, ag fields south of Yuma)	R		R	R
Snowy Plover	R	U	U	
Jacanas (Jacanidae)				
Northern Jacana (Jun 1986, Mittry Lake)		A		
Sandpipers and Phalaropes (Scolopacidae)				
Upland Sandpiper (Sep 1978, Imperial NWR)			A	
Whimbrel	F	R	R	
Long-billed Curlew	C	R	C	C
Marbled Godwit	R	R	R	A

	Sp	Su	F	W
Ruddy Turnstone			CA	
Black Turnstone	A			
Red Knot			A	
Ruff		A	A	
Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper (Oct 2020, Spot Road Farm)			A	
Stilt Sandpiper	R	R	R	
Sanderling	R	R	R	
Dunlin			U	R
Baird's Sandpiper	R	F	U	
Least Sandpiper	C	C	C	C
White-rumped Sandpiper (May 2005, Dateland Shrimp Ponds—now abandoned)	A			
Pectoral Sandpiper	CA	U	U	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		R	R	
Western Sandpiper	C	U	C	R
Short-billed Dowitcher	A	R	R	
Long-billed Dowitcher	C	R	C	U
Wilson's Snipe	C	A	F	C
Spotted Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
Solitary Sandpiper	U	U	U	
Lesser Yellowlegs	R	U	U	R
Willet	U	R	R	
Greater Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C
Wilson's Phalarope	C	R	C	
Red-necked Phalarope	U	R	F	
Red Phalarope	A		A	
Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (Laridae)				
Black-legged Kittiwake (Nov 1973, Martinez Lake)			A	
Sabine's Gull	A	CA	R	
Bonaparte's Gull	U	CA	U	R
Laughing Gull		A	A	
Franklin's Gull	R	R	R	
Heermann's Gull	A		A	
Ring-billed Gull	C	R	C	C
California Gull	R	R	U	U
Herring Gull	R	A	R	R

	Sp	Su	F	W
Iceland Gull		A	A	A
Glaucous-winged Gull			A	A
Glaucous Gull (Nov-Dec 92, Martinez Lake)			A	A
Least Tern		CA		
Gull-billed Tern (May 73, Martinez Lake)	A			
Caspian Tern (common some years)	U	R	U	U
Black Tern	U	U	U	
Common Tern (most common in late summer)	R	R	R	
Forster's Tern	U	U	C	R
Elegant Tern	A	A		
Black Skimmer	A	A	A	
Tropicbirds (Phaethontidae)				
Red-billed Tropicbird (Feb 2000, Yuma)	A			
Loons (Gaviidae)				
Red-throated Loon	CA		CA	CA
Pacific Loon			CA	
Common Loon	U		U	U
Albatrosses (Diomedidae)				
Laysan Albatross	A	A		
Shearwaters and Petrels (Procellariidae)				
Hawaiian Petrel (Aug 2013, Yuma)		A		
Sooty Shearwater (Aug 2013, Mitty Lake)		A		
Storks (Ciconiidae)				
Wood Stork		CA	CA	
Frigatebirds (Fregatidae)				
Magnificent Frigatebird	A	CA	A	
Boobies and Gannets (Sulidae)				
Blue-footed Booby			A	
Cocos Booby		A	A	
Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)				
Double-crested Cormorant B	C	U	C	C
Neotropic Cormorant (increasing in numbers) PB	C	C	C	F
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)				
American White Pelican (increasingly common)	C	R	U	U
Brown Pelican	R	U	U	R

	Sp	Su	F	W
Bitterns, Herons, and Allies (Ardeidae)				
Least Bittern B	F	F	U	U
American Bittern PB	R	A	R	R
Little-blue Heron (May 1979, Dome Valley)	A			
Tricolored Heron		A	A	
Reddish Egret (irruptive)	A	CA	CA	CA
Snowy Egret B	C	C	C	C
Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Apr 1973, Imperial Dam)	A			
Black-crowned Night Heron B	C	F	C	C
Great Egret B	C	C	C	C
Western Cattle-Egret B	C	F	C	C
Green Heron B	C	F	C	C
Great Blue Heron B	C	C	C	C
Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)				
White Ibis	A			A
Glossy Ibis	A	A		
White-faced Ibis B	C	F	C	F
Roseate Spoonbill	CA	CA	CA	
New World Vultures (Cathartidae)				
Black Vulture (locally common at Aztec Feedlot)	R	R	R	R
Turkey Vulture B	C	F	C	C
Osprey (Pandionate)				
Osprey	U	R	C	C
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies (Accipitridae)				
White-tailed Kite PB	I	I	I	I
Golden Eagle PB	R	R	R	R
Northern Harrier	C	R	C	C
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
Cooper's Hawk	C	R	C	C
Bald Eagle	R		R	R
Mississippi Kite		A		
Common Black Hawk (Mar 1983, Dome Valley)	A			
Harris's Hawk HB (once a common resident; extirpated)	A	A		A
Gray Hawk (9 Sep 2023, Yuma)			A	
Red-shouldered Hawk B (increasing in numbers in Yuma)	U	U	R	R

	Sp	Su	F	W
Broad-winged Hawk	A		A	
Swainson's Hawk	F	R	F	R
Zone-tailed Hawk	R	A	R	R
Red-tailed Hawk B	C	C	C	C
Rough-legged Hawk			CA	CA
Ferruginous Hawk (common in ag. fields south of Yuma)	U		F	F
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)				
American Barn Owl B (locally common)	U	U	U	U
Typical Owls (Strigidae)				
Flammulated Owl	A			
Western Screech-Owl B (common in some desert washes)	F	U	U	F
Great Horned Owl B	C	C	C	C
Elf Owl B (saguaro forests in Kofas, Gilas, & Tinajas)	U	U	U	
Burrowing Owl B	C	F	F	F
Long-eared Owl PB (remote desert washes)	R	R		R
Short-eared Owl	CA		CA	CA
Northern Saw-whet Owl	A			A
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)				
Belted Kingfisher	C	R	C	C
Woodpeckers and Allies (Picidae)				
Lewis's Woodpecker			I	I
Acorn Woodpecker (Oct 1995, Dateland)			A	
Gila Woodpecker B	C	C	C	C
Williamson's Sapsucker			A	A
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	CA		CA	CA
Red-naped Sapsucker (common some winters)	U		U	U
Red-breasted Sapsucker			CA	CA
Ladder-backed Woodpecker B	C	C	C	C
Northern Flicker	U	A	C	C
Gilded Flicker B (Saguaro forests in Kofas, Gilas, & Tinajas)	U	U	U	U
Caracaras and Falcons (Falconidae)				
Crested Caracara (Aztec Feedlot is best chance)	A			CA
American Kestrel B	C	F	C	C
Merlin	R		R	R
Peregrine Falcon B	U	R	U	U

	Sp	Su	F	W
Prairie Falcon B	U	R	R	U
Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)				
Dusky-capped Flycatcher				A
Ash-throated Flycatcher B	C	C	C	R
Brown-crested Flycatcher B (Imperial NWR, Betty's Kitchen)	R	R	R	A
Tropical Kingbird		A	A	A
Couch's Kingbird (Jan-Mar 2007, Tacna)	A			A
Cassin's Kingbird	A	CA	A	
Thick-billed Kingbird	CA	A		CA
Western Kingbird B	C	C	C	
Eastern Kingbird (16 Sep 2021, Spot Road Farm)		A		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	A	A	A	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	R	U	
Greater Pewee	A			A
Western Wood-Pewee	C	R	C	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Sep 2007, Dateland)			A	
Willow Flycatcher HB	C	C	U	
Least Flycatcher (Nov 2008 - Feb 2009, Wellton)			A	A
Hammond's Flycatcher	U		R	
Gray Flycatcher	U	A	U	R
Dusky Flycatcher	R		CA	
Western Flycatcher	C	R	C	A
Black Phoebe B	C	C	C	C
Eastern Phoebe (more common some winters)			A	CA
Say's Phoebe B	C	U	C	C
Vermilion Flycatcher B	C	C	C	C
Vireos (Vireonidae)				
White-eyed Vireo	A			
Bell's Vireo B (more common as you travel east)	U	U	U	CA
Gray Vireo	R		R	R
Hutton's Vireo	A		A	
Yellow-throated Vireo		A	A	
Cassin's Vireo	U	R	U	R
Plumbeous Vireo	U		U	R
Warbling Vireo	C	U	C	A

	Sp	Su	F	W
Red-eyed Vireo	A			
Shrikes (Laniidae)				
Loggerhead Shrike B	C	F	C	C
Jays and Ravens (Corvidae)				
Pinyon Jay			A	
Steller's Jay				A
California Scrub-Jay (Aug 2016 - May 2017, Yuma)	A	A	A	A
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay		A	A	A
Clark's Nutcracker			A	A
American Crow			A	
Common Raven B	C	C	C	C
Verdins (Remizidae)				
Verdin B	C	C	C	C
Larks (Alaudidae)				
Horned Lark B	C	F	C	C
Swallows (Hirundinidae)				
Bank Swallow	U	R	U	A
Tree Swallow	C	U	C	C
Violet-green Swallow	R	A	R	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow B	C	C	C	F
Purple Martin	A		A	A
Barn Swallow	C	R	C	R
Cliff Swallow B	C	C	C	A
Kinglets (Regulidae)				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C
Golden-crowned Kinglet			A	A
Waxwings (Bombycillidae)				
Cedar Waxwing	U	R	U	U
Silky-flycatchers (Ptilonotidae)				
Phainopepla B	C	R	U	C
Nuthatches (Sittidae)				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	I		I	I
White-breasted Nuthatch			I	
Pygmy Nuthatch (Sep 1902, Yuma)			A	

Creepers (Certhiidae)				
Brown Creeper	I			I
Gnatcatchers and Gnatwrens (Sylviidae)				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher B	C	R	C	C
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher B	C	C	C	C
Wrens (Troglodytidae)				
Rock Wren B	C	C	C	C
Canyon Wren B (desert mountain canyons)	F	U	U	U
Cactus Wren B	C	C	C	C
Bewick's Wren	R	CA	R	R
Northern House Wren	U	R	U	U
Pacific Wren				CA
Winter Wren	A			A
Marsh Wren B	C	C	C	C
Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)				
Gray Catbird	A		A	
Curve-billed Thrasher B (primarily Kofa NWR)	U	U	R	R
Brown Thrasher			A	
Bendire's Thrasher B (primarily Kofa NWR)	U	U	R	R
LeConte's Thrasher B (locally common east of Tacna)	U	R	R	R
Crissal Thrasher B	C	F	F	U
Sage Thrasher (an early migrant, Feb-Mar)	U		R	U
Northern Mockingbird B	C	C	C	C
Starlings (Sturnidae)				
European Starling B	C	C	C	C
Thrushes (Turdidae)				
Western Bluebird	I		I	I
Mountain Bluebird			I	I
Townsend's Solitaire	I		I	I
Swainson's Thrush (common some years in the spring)	U		A	
Hermit Thrush	U		U	U
Wood Thrush			A	
Rufous-backed Robin (especially at Hassayampa Preserve)	CA		A	CA
American Robin	U	A	R	U
Varied Thrush			I	I

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)				
House Sparrow B	C	C	C	C
Pipits (Motacillidae)				
American Pipit	F		F	F
Sprague's Pipit			A	A
Finches and Allies (Fringillidae)				
Evening Grosbeak	A			
House Finch B	C	C	C	C
Purple Finch	A		A	A
Cassin's Finch	CA		CA	
Red Crossbill			A	
Pine Siskin	I		I	I
Lesser Goldfinch B	C	C	C	C
Lawrence's Goldfinch B	I		I	I
American Goldfinch (Especially Hassayampa and Yarnell)	R		R	R
Longspurs and Snow Buntings (Calcariidae)				
Lapland Longspur (Spot Road Farm)	A			A
Chestnut-collared Longspur (Spot Road Farm)				A
Thick-billed Longspur (Nov 2020, Spot Road Farm)			A	
Towhees and Sparrows (Passerellidae)				
Grasshopper Sparrow			CA	CA
Black-throated Sparrow B	C	C	C	C
Lark Sparrow PB	U	R	U	U
Lark Bunting	R		R	R
Chipping Sparrow	C	R	C	C
Clay-colored Sparrow		A	CA	CA
Black-chinned Sparrow B (regular at Kofa NWR)	R	R	R	R
Field Sparrow			A	A
Brewer's Sparrow	C	R	C	C
Fox Sparrow	R		R	R
Dark-eyed Junco (irruptive)	U		U	F
White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	C
Golden-crowned Sparrow (regular visitor)	CA		CA	CA
Harris's Sparrow	A		A	A
White-throated Sparrow (regular visitor)			CA	CA
Sagebrush Sparrow (rare some years)	U		U	U

Bell's Sparrow	R		R	R
Vesper Sparrow	C		C	C
Savannah Sparrow	C	R	C	C
Song Sparrow B	C	C	C	C
Lincoln's Sparrow	C		F	F
Swamp Sparrow	CA		CA	CA
Canyon Towhee B (locally common at KOFA NWR)	R	R	R	R
Abert's Towhee B	C	C	C	C
Rufous-crowned Sparrow B (regular in KOFA NWR)	R	R	R	A
Green-tailed Towhee (more common some years)	U		U	U
Spotted Towhee (common some winters)	F		F	U
Yellow-breasted Chats (Icteriidae)				
Yellow-breasted Chat B	C	C	U	
Blackbirds (Icteridae)				
Yellow-headed Blackbird B	C	C	C	C
Bobolink	CA		A	
Chihuahuan Meadowlark (Spot Road Farm in winter)				CA
Western Meadowlark B	C	F	C	C
Orchard Oriole	A	A	A	A
Hooded Oriole B	F	F	U	CA
Streak-backed Oriole	A			A
Bullock's Oriole B	C	C	C	
Baltimore Oriole	A		A	
Scott's Oriole B	F	F		
Red-winged Blackbird B	C	C	C	C
Bronzed Cowbird B (locally common)	U	R	R	A
Brown-headed Cowbird B	C	C	C	C
Rusty Blackbird				A
Brewer's Blackbird	U	R	U	U
Common Grackle	A		A	
Great-tailed Grackle B	C	C	C	C
Wood-Warblers (Parulidae)				
Ovenbird	A			
Worm-eating Warbler (20 Sep 2022, Spot Road Farm)			A	
Northern Waterthrush	CA	A		CA
Golden-winged Warbler		A	A	

Blue-winged Warbler (June 2016, Yuma)		A		
Black-and-white Warbler	R	A	R	R
Prothonotary Warbler (20 Sep 2020, Dateland)			A	
Tennessee Warbler	A		A	A
Orange-crowned Warbler	C	U	C	C
Lucy's Warbler B (early migrant and breeder)	C	F	R	
Nashville Warbler	C	R	C	R
Virginia's Warbler	A		A	
MacGillivray's Warbler	C	R	U	
Kentucky Warbler	A	A		
Common Yellowthroat B	C	C	C	C
Hooded Warbler	A			
American Redstart (regular winter visitor to parks)	CA		CA	R
Cape May Warbler			A	
Northern Parula	CA	A	CA	CA
Magnolia Warbler			A	
Bay-breasted Warbler			A	
Yellow Warbler B	C	U	U	R
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A			A
Blackpoll Warbler (15 Nov 2023, Spot Road Farm)			A	
Black-throated Blue Warbler			A	A
Palm Warbler	A		CA	A
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C
Yellow-throated Warbler (Nov 2001, Yuma)			A	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	C		C	R
Townsend's Warbler	C	R	C	
Hermit Warbler	U		R	A
Wilson's Warbler	C	R	C	R
Painted Redstart			A	A
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies (Cardinalidae)				
Hepatic Tanager			A	
Summer Tanager B (more common some years)	R	R	R	CA
Scarlet Tanager (May 2009, Wellton)	A			
Western Tanager	C	R	C	
Northern Cardinal PB	CA	CA	CA	CA
Pyrrhuloxia	A	A	A	A

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (more common some years)	CA	CA	CA	A
Black-headed Grosbeak	C	R	F	
Blue Grosbeak B	C	C	U	
Lazuli Bunting	C	U	C	
Indigo Bunting PB (more common some years)	CA	CA		
Painted Bunting			A	
Dickcissel	A		A	A