

BIRDS SPECIES OF COLD CANYON

The avifauna of the Cold Creek and Wildhorse drainages, the two drainages which comprise the Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, consists of at least 34 families, 82 genera, and 114 species, one half (56) of which are known or suspected to nest in these two basin. A very few these 114 species are rare to very rare in occurrence, having been seen only once or several times. Nevertheless, they are included in the total tally with the season seen and the rarity of the sighting duly noted. In addition, what is not noted are a number of "fly overs" such as waterfowl and gulls, which can be seen from the canyon, but which do not land in the canyon on their way from one aquatic area to another.

California's terrestrial avifauna consists of about 235-240 regularly occurring species. Thus, the Cold Canyon basin contains nearly 50% of the total for the state, which is a most impressive number for such a small area. About one half of the recorded species either pass through the reserve during migration (transients) or migrate to the reserve to spend the winter (winter visitors). Because species abundance is so seasonal, the checklist below includes estimates for seasonal abundance, abbreviated as follows:

SYMBOL	MEANING	OBSERVABILITY	
A	ABUNDANT	100-76%	Hard to miss
C	COMMON	75-51%	Should see
Uc	UNCOMMON	50-26%	May see
R	RARE	25-11%	Hard to see
Ca	CASUAL	10-1%	You'll be very lucky

The checklist also notes species that have been observed to nest in Cold Canyon ('Y' under nesting), or are suspected nesters ('S' under nesting).

The checklist reflects observations made by many people between 1975 and 1999, with fairly extensive surveys by Andrew Engilis, Jr., Cameron Barrows, Katherine Barrows, Ron Cole, Sid England, and Wesley Weathers. In addition, a number of casual birders and also more organized outings (e.g., the Audubon's Christmas bird count) have also contributed to this table. Starting in 1976, the Cold Canyon basin has been included within the Audubon Christmas bird count circle (Area 10). Records from these counts are published in Burrowing Owl, the official publication of the Davis Audubon Society. Most visitors who bird the basin tend stay on or close to several established trails, thus missing many acres of back country, much of which has a cooler microclimate than the areas served by the trail system. Thus, although this list is reasonably complete, there is ample room for additional entries.

Family, Species	Common Name	Seasonal Abundance				Nesting
		Win	Spr	Sum	Fall	
CATHARTIDAE						
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture	Uc	A	A	A	Y
ACCIPITRIDAE						
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Uc	R	-	Uc	-
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk	Uc	R	R	Uc	S
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk	A	A	A	A	S
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	R	R	R	Uc	-
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	R	R		R	-

FALCONIDAE

<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel	C	R	R	Uc	S
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Prairie Falcon	R	R	R	R	Y
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	S

PHASIANIDAE

<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California Quail	R	A	A	A	Y
<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	Mountain Quail	R	A	Uc	Uc	S
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Wild Turkey	R	R	R	Uc	S

COLUMBIDAE

<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	-
<i>Columba fasciata</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon	Uc	R	-	-	-
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove	A	A	A	A	Y

STRIGIDAE

<i>Otus kennicottii</i>	Western Screech Owl	C	C	C	C	Y
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Great Horned Owl	Uc	Uc	Uc	Uc	Y
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl	R	-	-	-	-
<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>	Northern Pygmy Owl	Uc	Uc	Uc	Uc	Y
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Northern Saw-Whet Owl	R	-	-	-	-

CAPRIMULGIDAE

<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	Common Poorwill	-	C	C	C	S
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APODIDAE

<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	White-throated Swift	Uc	A	C	Uc	Y
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Vaux's Swift	-	R	R	R	-

TROCHILIDAE

<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	Black-chinned Hummingbird	-	R	R	Uc	S
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's Hummingbird	A	A	A	A	Y
<i>Stella calliope</i>	Calliope Hummingbird	-	R	-	R	-
<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	Rufous Hummingbird	-	R	-	Uc	-
<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Allen's Hummingbird	-	R	-	-	-

PICIDAE

<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	Acorn Woodpecker	Ca	Ca	-	Ca	-
<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Ca	Ca	-	-	-
<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Woodpecker	A	A	A	A	Y
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker	R	R	-	R	S
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker	Ca	-	-	-	-
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker	A	Uc	R	Uc	S
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker	-	Ca	-	-	-

TYRANNIDAE

<i>Contopus borealis</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	Ca	-	-	-
<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	Western Wood-Pewee	-	R	-	-	-
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher	-	R	-	R	-
<i>Empidonax hammondi</i>	Hammond's Flycatcher	-	R	-	R	-
<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	Gray Flycatcher	-	Ca	-	-	-
<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	-	Uc	-	Uc	-
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Black Phoebe	A	A	C	A	Y
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's Phoebe	Ca	-	-	-	-
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Ash-throated Flycatcher	-	A	C	R	Y
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Western Kingbird	-	Ca	Ca	-	S

VIREONIDAE

<i>Vireo cassinii</i>	Cassin's Vireo	-	R	-	Uc	-
<i>Vireo huttoni</i>	Hutton's Vireo	C	C	C	C	Y
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Warbling Vireo	-	Uc	Ca	Uc	S

CORVIDAE

<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Steller's Jay	Uc	Uc	-	R	S
<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	Western Scrub-jay	A	A	A	A	Y
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven	Uc	R	-	R	-
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow	-	-	-	R	-

HIRUNDINIDAE

<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow	-	Uc	C	Uc	Y
<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	Violet-green Swallow	-	R	R	-	S
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	No. Rough-winged Swallow	-	Ca	-	-	S
<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow	-	A	A	C	Y

PARIDAE

<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	Oak Titmouse	A	A	A	A	Y
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AEGITHALIDAE

<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Bushtit	A	A	A	A	Y
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SITTIDAE

<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch	R	R	-	R	S
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CERTHIDAE

<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper	-	Ca	-	-	-
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TROGLODYTIDAE

<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Rock Wren	R	R	R	Uc	S
<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	Canyon Wren	Uc	Uc	C	C	S
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's Wren	A	A	A	A	Y
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren	R	R	R	R	S

CINCLIDAE

<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	American Dipper	Ca	-	-	-	-
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REGULIDAE

<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet	R	-	-	R	-
<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A	C	-	C	-

SYLVIIDAE

<i>Poliotila caerulea</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	Uc	Uc	Uc	Y
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TURDIDAE

<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Western Bluebird	Ca	Ca	-	Ca	S
<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	Townsend's Solitaire	Ca	-	-	-	-
<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Swainson's Thrush	-	R	-	-	-
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush	A	Uc	-	A	-
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin	A	C	-	Uc	-
<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	Varied Thrush	R	-	-	R	-

TIMALIIDAE

<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Wrentit	A	A	A	A	Y
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MIMIDAE

<i>Mimus polyglottus</i>	Northern Mockingbird	-	Ca	Ca	Ca	S
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	California Thrasher	C	C	C	C	Y

STURNIDAE

<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling	R	R	-	R	S
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BOMBYCILLIDAE

<i>Bombcilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing	Ca	-	-	Ca	-
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PTILOGONATIDAE

<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	Phainopepla	-	Ca	-	-	S
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PARULIDAE

<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Orange-crowned Warbler	Ca	A	-	C	S
<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Nashville Warbler	-	Uc	-	Uc	-
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler	-	Uc	-	Uc	-
<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped Warbler	A	C	-	C	-
<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	Black-throated Gray Warbler	-	C	Ca	Uc	S
<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	Townsend's Warbler	-	R	-	R	-
<i>Dendroica occidentalis</i>	Hermit Warbler	-	R	-	Uc	-
<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	MacGillivray's Warbler	-	R	-	-	-
<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Wilson's Warbler	-	Uc	Ca	Uc	-

THRAUPIDAE

<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	Western Tanager	-	Uc	-	Uc	-
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EMBERIZIDAE

<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Spotted Towhee	A	A	A	A	Y
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<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	California Towhee	A	A	A	A	Y
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<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	Uc	Uc	Uc	Uc	S
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<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	Sage Sparrow	Uc	Uc	Uc	Uc	S
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<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Chipping Sparrow	-	Ca	-	-	-
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<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>	Black-chinned Sparrow	-	Ca	-	-	-
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<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Lark Sparrow	-	Ca	-	-	-
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<i>Passerculus iliaca</i>	Fox Sparrow	C	Uc	-	Uc	-
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<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow	R	-	-	R	-
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<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Lincoln's Sparrow	Ca	-	-	-	-
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<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	White-throated Sparrow	Ca	-	-	-	-
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<i>Zonotrichia altricapilla</i>	Golden-crowned Sparrow	A	C	-	C	-
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<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow	A	C	-	C	-
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<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco	A	Uc	-	C	-
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CARDINALIDAE

<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	Black-headed Grosbeak	-	C	C	R	-
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<i>Passerina amoena</i>	Lazuli Bunting	-	Ca	Ca	-	Y
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ICTERIDAE

<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western Meadowlark	Ca	-	-	Ca	-
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<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Brewer's Blackbird	Uc	Uc	Uc	Uc	Y
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<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird	-	Ca	-	-	S
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<i>Icterus bullocki</i>	Bullock's Oriole	-	Uc	Uc	R	Y
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FRINGILLIDAE

<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Purple Finch	Uc	-	-	Uc	-
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House Finch	A	A	A	A	Y
<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Pine Siskin	Ca	-	-	-	-
<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	Lesser Goldfinch	A	A	A	A	Y
<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>	Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	Ca	-	-	-
<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	American Goldfinch	C	Uc	-	Uc	S