

Birds of the Sky Islands

A Guest Checklist for the Sonoita & Patagonia Birding Corridor

This checklist covers the birds recorded in the riparian, grassland, and oak-canyon habitats of the Sonoita – Patagonia corridor surrounding the Double R — from the open grassland at the ranch's doorstep to the legendary Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve about 40 minutes south. It's built from the Nature Conservancy's published checklist for the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, one of the most thoroughly documented birding sites in the Southwest. Bring it in the saddle, on the trail, or on the porch.

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES

Birds Worth Building Your Trip Around

Elegant Trogon	The region's signature bird — best looked for in shaded canyon riparian habitat, spring through fall.
Violet-crowned Hummingbird	One of very few reliable U.S. locations for this species, minutes from the ranch.
Gray Hawk	Nests in the large cottonwoods along Sonoita Creek; a true specialty of this corridor.
Montezuma Quail	A bucket-list bird for many visiting birders, found in the grasslands and oak canyons around the ranch.
Botteri's & Cassin's Sparrows	Grassland specialists most reliably found in the open country surrounding the ranch itself.

HOW TO READ THIS LIST

Each species is followed by an abundance code (how likely you are to find it) and a season code. **C** = Common **F** = Fairly Common **U** = Uncommon **O** = Occasional **R** = Rare **I** = Irregular year to year | **p** = Permanent resident **s** = Summer **w** = Winter **t** = Migrant passing through. Species marked in **bold with an asterisk*** are known or suspected to breed in the area.

THE FULL LIST

Complete Regional Checklist

Grebes & Cormorants

- Pied-billed Grebe (O-y)
- Double-crested Cormorant (O-y)
- Western Grebe (O-t)

Hérons, Egrets & Ibis

- **Great Blue Heron*** (C-p)
- Snowy Egret (O-y)
- Black-crowned Night-Heron (U-y)
- Great Egret (O-y)
- Green Heron (U-y)
- White-faced Ibis (O-t)

Geese & Ducks

- Canada Goose (R-t)
- Wood Duck (U-w)
- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (F-s)
- Mallard (U-w)

- Gadwall (U-w)
- American Wigeon (U-w)
- Cinnamon Teal (U-w)
- Green-winged Teal (U-w)
- Lesser Scaup (O-w)
- Ruddy Duck (O-y)

- Northern Pintail (R-w)
- Northern Shoveler (U-w)
- Blue-winged Teal (R-w)
- Ring-necked Duck (O-w)
- Common Merganser (O-w)

Vultures

- Turkey Vulture (C-s)

- Black Vulture (F-s)

Kites, Hawks & Eagles

- Northern Harrier (C-w)
- Mississippi Kite (R-s)
- **Cooper's Hawk* (C-s)**
- **Gray Hawk* (C-s)**
- Broad-winged Hawk (F-s)
- Red-tailed Hawk (C-p)
- Golden Eagle (U-y)

- White-tailed Kite (R-y)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk (U-s)
- Common Black Hawk (R-s)
- **Zone-tailed Hawk* (F-s)**
- Swainson's Hawk (U-s)
- Ferruginous Hawk (U-w)
- Osprey (U-t)

Caracara & Falcons

- Crested Caracara (I-y)
- **American Kestrel* (C-p)**
- Peregrine Falcon (R-y)

- Merlin (U-w)
- Prairie Falcon (O-y)

Quail & Turkey

- **Montezuma Quail* (F-p)**
- Scaled Quail (O-y)

- **Gambel's Quail* (C-p)**
- Wild Turkey (I-y)

Rails, Coot & Shorebirds

- Common Moorhen (O-y)
- Virginia Rail (O-y)
- Killdeer (O-y)
- Spotted Sandpiper (U-t)

- American Coot (O-y)
- Sora (O-w)
- American Avocet (U-t)
- Wilson's Snipe (F-w)

Pigeons & Doves

- **Mourning Dove* (C-p)**
- **Inca Dove* (F-p)**
- Eurasian Collared-Dove (U-p)
- Band-tailed Pigeon (U-s)

- **White-winged Dove* (C-s)**
- **Common Ground-Dove* (F-p)**
- Rock Pigeon (F-y)

Cuckoos & Roadrunner

- **Yellow-billed Cuckoo* (C-s)**

- **Greater Roadrunner* (F-p)**

Owls

- **Barn Owl* (U-p)**
- **Elf Owl* (O-s)**

- **Great Horned Owl* (F-p)**
- Whiskered Screech-Owl (O-y)

- **Western Screech-Owl* (F-p)**

Nighthawks & Swifts

- Common Poorwill (F-s)
- Lesser Nighthawk (U-s)
- Common Nighthawk (O-s)
- White-throated Swift (F-s)

Hummingbirds

- **Violet-crowned Hummingbird* (C-s)**
- White-eared Hummingbird (R-t)
- Magnificent Hummingbird (U-t)
- Costa's Hummingbird (U-s)
- Calliope Hummingbird (U-t)
- Rufous Hummingbird (C-t)
- **Broad-billed Hummingbird* (C-s)**
- Blue-throated Hummingbird (U-t)
- Anna's Hummingbird (C-s)
- **Black-chinned Hummingbird* (C-s)**
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird (F-t)

Trogons & Kingfishers

- Elegant Trogon (R-t)
- Green Kingfisher (I-s)
- Belted Kingfisher (C-w)

Woodpeckers

- **Acorn Woodpecker* (F-p)**
- Red-naped Sapsucker (C-t)
- Arizona Woodpecker (U-w)
- **Gila Woodpecker* (C-p)**
- **Ladder-backed Woodpecker* (C-p)**
- **Northern Flicker* (C-p)**

Flycatchers

- **Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet* (C-s)**
- Willow Flycatcher (F-t)
- Buff-breasted Flycatcher (R-t)
- **Say's Phoebe* (C-p)**
- **Dusky-capped Flycatcher* (C-s)**
- **Brown-crested Flycatcher* (C-s)**
- **Cassin's Kingbird* (C-s)**
- Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (U-t)
- **Western Wood-Pewee* (C-s)**
- Gray Flycatcher (C-w)
- **Black Phoebe* (C-p)**
- **Vermilion Flycatcher* (C-s)**
- **Ash-throated Flycatcher* (F-s)**
- **Thick-billed Kingbird* (F-s)**
- Western Kingbird (F-s)

Vireos

- **Bell's Vireo* (C-s)**
- Warbling Vireo (U-s)
- Cassin's Vireo (C-t)
- **Hutton's Vireo* (F-s)**
- Plumbeous Vireo (F-t)

Jays & Corvids

- **Mexican Jay* (U-p)**
- Chihuahuan Raven (C-s)
- Common Raven (F-s)

Swallows

- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (C-s)
- Tree Swallow (C-t)
- **Barn Swallow* (C-s)**
- Violet-green Swallow (C-t)
- Cliff Swallow (U-s)

Titmice, Verdin, Bushtit & Nuthatches

- **Bridled Titmouse*** (C-p)
- **Bushtit*** (F-p)

- **Verdin*** (C-p)
- **White-breasted Nuthatch*** (C-p)

Wrens

- **Bewick's Wren*** (C-p)
- **Cactus Wren** (U-p)
- **Canyon Wren*** (F-p)

- **House Wren** (F-p)
- **Rock Wren*** (F-p)

Kinglets & Gnatcatchers

- **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (C-w)
- **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*** (F-p)

- **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** (F-p)

Thrushes

- **Western Bluebird** (F-w)
- **Swainson's Thrush** (U-t)

- **American Robin** (U-y)
- **Hermit Thrush** (F-w)

Mockingbirds & Thrashers

- **Northern Mockingbird*** (C-p)
- **Crissal Thrasher*** (U-p)

- **Curve-billed Thrasher*** (C-p)

Silky-flycatchers & Waxwings

- **Phainopepla*** (C-s)

- **Cedar Waxwing** (F-w)

Wood-Warblers

- **Orange-crowned Warbler** (C-t)
- **Nashville Warbler** (C-t)
- **Yellow Warbler*** (C-s)
- **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (C-t)
- **Grace's Warbler** (R-t)
- **MacGillivray's Warbler** (C-t)
- **Wilson's Warbler** (C-t)

- **Virginia's Warbler** (F-t)
- **Lucy's Warbler*** (C-s)
- **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (C-w)
- **Townsend's Warbler** (F-t)
- **Painted Redstart** (U-t)
- **Common Yellowthroat** (C-s)
- **Yellow-breasted Chat*** (C-s)

Tanagers

- **Hepatic Tanager** (U-s)
- **Western Tanager** (U-s)

- **Summer Tanager*** (C-s)

Cardinals, Grosbeaks & Buntings

- **Pyrrhuloxia*** (F-p)
- **Black-headed Grosbeak** (U-s)
- **Lazuli Bunting** (U-s)
- **Varied Bunting*** (C-s)

- **Northern Cardinal*** (C-p)
- **Blue Grosbeak*** (C-s)
- **Indigo Bunting*** (F-s)

Sparrows, Towhees & Juncos

- **Spotted Towhee*** (U-p)
- **Canyon Towhee*** (C-p)
- **Rufous-crowned Sparrow*** (C-p)

- **Green-tailed Towhee** (C-w)
- **Abert's Towhee*** (C-p)
- **Cassin's Sparrow*** (U-s)

- **Botteri's Sparrow* (U-s)**
- **Black-throated Sparrow* (C-p)**
- Chipping Sparrow (C-w)
- Vesper Sparrow (C-w)
- White-crowned Sparrow (C-w)
- Lincoln's Sparrow (C-w)
- Yellow-eyed Junco (O-w)

- Rufous-winged Sparrow (O-y)
- Brewer's Sparrow (C-w)
- Grasshopper Sparrow (O-y)
- Lark Sparrow (F-p)
- **Song Sparrow* (C-p)**
- Dark-eyed Junco (F-w)

Blackbirds & Orioles

- Brown-headed Cowbird (C-s)
- Red-winged Blackbird (C-t)
- **Bullock's Oriole* (F-s)**
- **Scott's Oriole* (U-s)**

- Bronzed Cowbird (F-s)
- **Great-tailed Grackle* (C-p)**
- **Hooded Oriole* (F-s)**

Finches

- **House Finch* (C-p)**
- **Lesser Goldfinch* (C-p)**
- **House Sparrow* (C-p)**

- Pine Siskin (F-w)
- American Goldfinch (F-w)

Source: adapted from The Nature Conservancy's published bird checklist for the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, supplemented with regional records for the Sonoita Valley grasslands. Not a substitute for a verified on-property list — ask your guide about recent sightings during your stay.

Double R Guest Ranch • Elgin, Arizona