

Wrens

- Rock Wren (S)
- Canyon Wren (Y)
- House Wren (S)
- Bewick's Wren (S)
- Marsh Wren (I)

Old World Warblers, Thrushes, and Allies

- American Dipper (Y)
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (S)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (M, W)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet (S, M)
- Western Bluebird (S, M)
- Mountain Bluebird (S)
- Townsend's Solitaire (Y)
- Veery (S)
- Swainson's Thrush (S)
- Hermit Thrush (S)
- American Robin (Y)

Starlings and Mimids

- European Starling (Y)
- Gray Catbird (S)
- Sage Thrasher (S)
- Northern Mockingbird (S)

Waxwings

- Bohemian Waxwing (W)
- Cedar Waxwing (S)

Finches, Pipits, and Old World Sparrows

- Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (M)
- House Finch (S)
- Cassin's Finch (S)
- Pine Siskin (Y)
- Lesser Goldfinch (S)
- American Goldfinch (M)
- Evening Grosbeak (Y)
- American Pipit (M)
- House Sparrow (Y)

Sparrows and Allies

- Green-tailed Towhee (S)
- Spotted Towhee (S)
- American Tree Sparrow (W)
- Chipping Sparrow (S)
- Clay-colored Sparrow (M)
- Brewer's Sparrow (S)
- Vesper Sparrow (S)
- Lark Sparrow (S)
- Black-throated Sparrow (S)
- Sagebrush Sparrow (S)
- Lark Bunting (S, M)
- Savannah Sparrow (S)

- Fox Sparrow (S)
- Song Sparrow (S)
- Lincoln's Sparrow (S)
- White-crowned Sparrow (S, M)
- Dark-eyed Junco (Y)

Icterids

- Yellow-breasted Chat (S)
- Bobolink (S)
- Red-winged Blackbird (S)
- Western Meadowlark (S)
- Yellow-headed Blackbird (S)
- Brewer's Blackbird (S)
- Common Grackle (S)
- Brown-headed Cowbird (S)
- Bullock's Oriole (S)

Wood-Warblers

- Orange-crowned Warbler (S)
- Virginia's Warbler (S)
- MacGillivray's Warbler (S)
- Common Yellowthroat (S)
- American Redstart (S)
- Magnolia Warbler (M)
- Yellow Warbler (S)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (S)
- Black-throated Gray Warbler (S)
- Townsend's Warbler (M)
- Wilson's Warbler (S, M)

Tanagers and Allies

- Western Tanager (S)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak (M)
- Black-headed Grosbeak (S)
- Blue Grosbeak (S)
- Lazuli Bunting (S)

Other Birds Sighted/Field Notes

Disclaimer: This checklist is composed of bird species that are most likely to be seen at this state park. The intent of this list is to help park visitors identify the breadth of species most commonly associated with this location. Other species that are rarely observed were purposely omitted from this list.

Sources: CPW Resource Stewardship Breeding Bird Survey Project (CPW Parkwide Breeding Bird Survey, CPW State Park Raptor Monitoring Project, Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II, eBird, and other researched sources when available).

Birding Tips



Always view birds and other wildlife from a safe distance.



Use binoculars or a spotting scope for a closer view.



Protect young by avoiding nests or dens.



Help protect birds by using your senses to find them, not recorded calls.



To see more birds, keep voices and other sounds low.



Protect plants and wildlife by staying on trails and respecting closures.



Keep dogs leashed and under control at all times.



For the best viewing experience, leave pets at home.



Human food can hurt wildlife—please keep their diets wild.



Take nothing but pictures—leave what you find for others to enjoy.



Rifle Gap State Park

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COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Birds at Rifle Gap State Park



BIRD SPECIES CHECKLIST



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Killdeer

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Seasonal Visibility Key

- (S)—Summer
(M)—Migration
(Spring/Fall)
- (W)—Winter
(I)—Infrequent
(Y)—Year-round

Ducks, Geese, and Swans

- Snow Goose (M)
- Canada Goose (S, M)
- Tundra Swan (I)
- Wood Duck (S, M)
- Gadwall (S, M)
- American Wigeon (S, M)
- Mallard (S, M)
- Blue-winged Teal (S, M)
- Cinnamon Teal (S, M)
- Northern Shoveler (M)
- Northern Pintail (M)
- Green-winged Teal (S, M)
- Redhead (M)
- Ring-necked Duck (M)
- Lesser Scaup (M, W)
- Black Scoter (M)
- Long-tailed Duck (M)
- Bufflehead (M)
- Common Goldeneye (M, W)
- Barrow's Goldeneye (M, W)
- Hooded Merganser (M, W)
- Common Merganser (M, W)
- Red-breasted Merganser (M)
- Ruddy Duck (M)

Landfowl

- Ring-necked Pheasant (Y)
- Greater Sage-Grouse (Y)
- Dusky Grouse (Y)
- Sharp-tailed Grouse (Y)
- Wild Turkey (Y)

Grebes

- Pied-billed Grebe (S, M)
- Horned Grebe (S, M)
- Eared Grebe (S, M)
- Western Grebe (S, M)
- Clark's Grebe (S, M)

Pigeons, Doves and Cuckoos

- Rock Pigeon (S)
- Band-tailed Pigeon (I)
- Eurasian Collared-Dove (Y)
- Mourning Dove (S)
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo (S)

Goatsuckers

- Common Nighthawk (S)
- Common Poorwill (S)

Swifts

- White-throated Swift (S)

Hummingbirds

- Black-chinned Hummingbird (S)
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird (S)
- Rufous Hummingbird (M)
- Calliope Hummingbird (M)

Rails, Coots, and Cranes

- Sora (S)
- American Coot (S)
- Sandhill Crane (S, M)

Shorebirds

- American Avocet (M)
- Semipalmated Plover (M)
- Killdeer (S)
- Spotted Sandpiper (S)
- Greater Yellowlegs (M)
- Willet (M)
- Lesser Yellowlegs (M)
- Long-billed Curlew (M)
- Marbled Godwit (M)
- Sanderling (M)
- Baird's Sandpiper (M)
- Least Sandpiper (M)
- Western Sandpiper (M)
- Long-billed Dowitcher (M)
- Wilson's Snipe (S)
- Wilson's Phalarope (S)

Gulls and Terns

- Franklin's Gull (S, M)
- Ring-billed Gull (S, M)
- California Gull (S, M)
- Herring Gull (M)
- Black Tern (I)
- Forster's Tern (I)

Loons

- Pacific Loon (M)
- Common Loon (M)

Cormorants

- Double-crested Cormorant (M)

Pelicans

- American White Pelican (M)

Bitterns and Herons

- Great Blue Heron (S)
- Snowy Egret (M)
- Cattle Egret (M)

Ibises

- White-faced Ibis (M)

New World Vultures

- Turkey Vulture (S)

Osprey

- Osprey (S)

Diurnal Raptors

- Bald Eagle (Y)
- Northern Harrier (S, M)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk (S, M)
- Cooper's Hawk (S, M)
- Northern Goshawk (S, M)
- Swainson's Hawk (S, M)
- Red-tailed Hawk (Y)
- Ferruginous Hawk (M)
- Rough-legged Hawk (W)
- Golden Eagle (Y)

Owls

- Flammulated Owl (S)
- Western Screech-Owl (Y)
- Great Horned Owl (Y)
- Northern Pygmy-Owl (Y)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (Y)

Kingfishers

- Belted Kingfisher (Y)

Woodpeckers

- Lewis's Woodpecker (S)
- Williamson's Sapsucker (S)
- Red-naped Sapsucker (S)
- Downy Woodpecker (Y)
- Hairy Woodpecker (Y)
- Northern Flicker (Y)

Falcons

- American Kestrel (Y)
- Peregrine Falcon (M)
- Prairie Falcon (S)

Tyrant Flycatchers

- Olive-sided Flycatcher (S)
- Western Wood-Pewee (S)
- Willow Flycatcher (S)
- Gray Flycatcher (S)

- Dusky Flycatcher (S)
- Cordilleran Flycatcher (S)
- Black Phoebe (S)
- Say's Phoebe (S, M)
- Ash-throated Flycatcher (S)
- Cassin's Kingbird (M)
- Western Kingbird (S, M)
- Eastern Kingbird (S, M)

Shrikes and Vireos

- Loggerhead Shrike (S)
- Northern Shrike (W)
- Gray Vireo (S)
- Plumbeous Vireo (S)
- Cassin's Vireo (M)
- Warbling Vireo (S)

Jays, Crows, and Allies

- Pinyon Jay (Y)
- Steller's Jay (Y)
- Canada Jay (I)
- Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (Y)
- Clark's Nutcracker (Y)
- Black-billed Magpie (Y)
- American Crow (Y)
- Common Raven (Y)

Larks

- Horned Lark (M)

Swallows

- Purple Martin (S)
- Tree Swallow (S)
- Violet-green Swallow (S)
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (S)
- Bank Swallow (S)
- Cliff Swallow (S)
- Barn Swallow (S)

Chickadees

- Black-capped Chickadee (Y)
- Mountain Chickadee (Y)
- Juniper Titmouse (Y)
- Bushtit (S, M)

Nuthatches and Creepers

- Red-breasted Nuthatch (Y)
- White-breasted Nuthatch (Y)
- Pygmy Nuthatch (Y)
- Brown Creeper (Y)