



Birding Guide for: Elden Pueblo and Elden Spring Area Flagstaff, Arizona



Birding 101: Listen and Look - *How to be a Junior Bird Detective!*



From left: Acorn Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Western Bluebird, Red-tailed Hawk

Want to see more birds?

This is one secret that works every time!

The enjoyment of birds in their natural habitat opens a world of discovery. There is **one secret to identify even more species: *Leave them alone!***

When a bird is active, it is usually accomplishing a task necessary to its survival; searching for food requires a lot of concentration. When a bird is “singing”, it is establishing territory or communicating with others of its species.

The movements we find entertaining in birds, such as jumping up and down or darting in and out of brush, may actually be communicating danger or signaling other birds to hide from a predator. Humans could be the reason for the warning!

The best way to observe birds, and any other wild animal is from a distance, and being as quiet as possible. Then you can truly view them in their natural habitat. Locate the bird with your own eyes, then use your binoculars or camera to quietly observe its behavior.

Finally, record your sighting of the bird in a journal or on a checklist!

**Behavior Matters!
Become a
Junior Bird Detective!**

If you know the difference between a Red-tailed Hawk and a Turkey Vulture, or an American Robin and a Blue Jay, then you are on your way to becoming a junior bird detective. Tail movement, shape, color and size are significant when identifying birds!

What is the bird's bill type? A short, pointed, thick bill is good for eating seeds. A small, flat bill is best for insects. A pointed bill like a spear is used to catch fish.

Bird behavior is very important.

- Does the bird peck on the side of a tree?
- Does it glide without flapping its wings?
- Do its wings form a V, like the turkey vultures you might see in northern Arizona?
- Does it hover like a hummingbird or flap its wings and glide like a finch?

Bird behavior matters! Each of the over 700 species in North America has unique characteristics that help you identify it .

Most important—have fun and enjoy these wonders of nature!

CHECKLIST OF THE MOST COMMONLY SEEN BIRDS: ELDEN PUEBLO AND ELDEN SPRING AREA



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Wood Pewee | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Chickadee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove | <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbeous Vireo | <input type="checkbox"/> Pygmy Nuthatch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broad-tailed Hummingbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Steller's Jay | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Bluebird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acorn Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> American Crow | <input type="checkbox"/> Grace's Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Tanager |

The Elden Springs area, including Elden Pueblo, is a Northern Arizona Bird Sanctuary which is a program that recognizes places that provide regionally important bird habitat and exceptional birding opportunities. This designation is intended to increase public interest in birds and awareness of the natural values of these special places. Another valuable resource is the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience (www.azwatchwildlife.com), which includes information on the Kendrick Park Watchable Wildlife Trail, Coconino National Forest. More information about trails and watchable wildlife is available at: www.fs.usda.gov/

Watchable Wildlife in Northern Arizona

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| House Finch | Common Raven | American Robin |
| Mourning Dove | Sharp-shinned Hawk | Rock Wren |
| Rufous Hummingbird | Black-chinned Hummingbird | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Peregrine Falcon | Northern Cardinal | Black-headed Grosbeak |
| Western Scrub-Jay | Violet-green Swallow | Western Bluebird |
| Lesser Goldfinch | Mountain Chickadee | American Kestrel |
| White-crowned Sparrow | White-breasted Nuthatch | Red-tailed Hawk |
| Dark-eyed Junco | Chipping Sparrow | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Spotted Towhee | Hepatic Tanager | Northern Flicker |
| Townsend's Solitaire | Yellow-rumped Warbler | House Wren |
| Bullock's Oriole | Lewis's Woodpecker | Western Tanager |
| Bushtit | Song Sparrow | Black-throated Sparrow |
| Cinnamon Teal | Mallard | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | Mountain Bluebird | |



Information courtesy of Cecilia Overby and Heather Green/USFS. Northern Arizona Audubon Society members are dedicated to compiling and updating recent bird sightings with other information: www.nazaudubon.com. Checklist contributors include Jason Wilder, Gary Botello, John Coons and Eric Hough.