

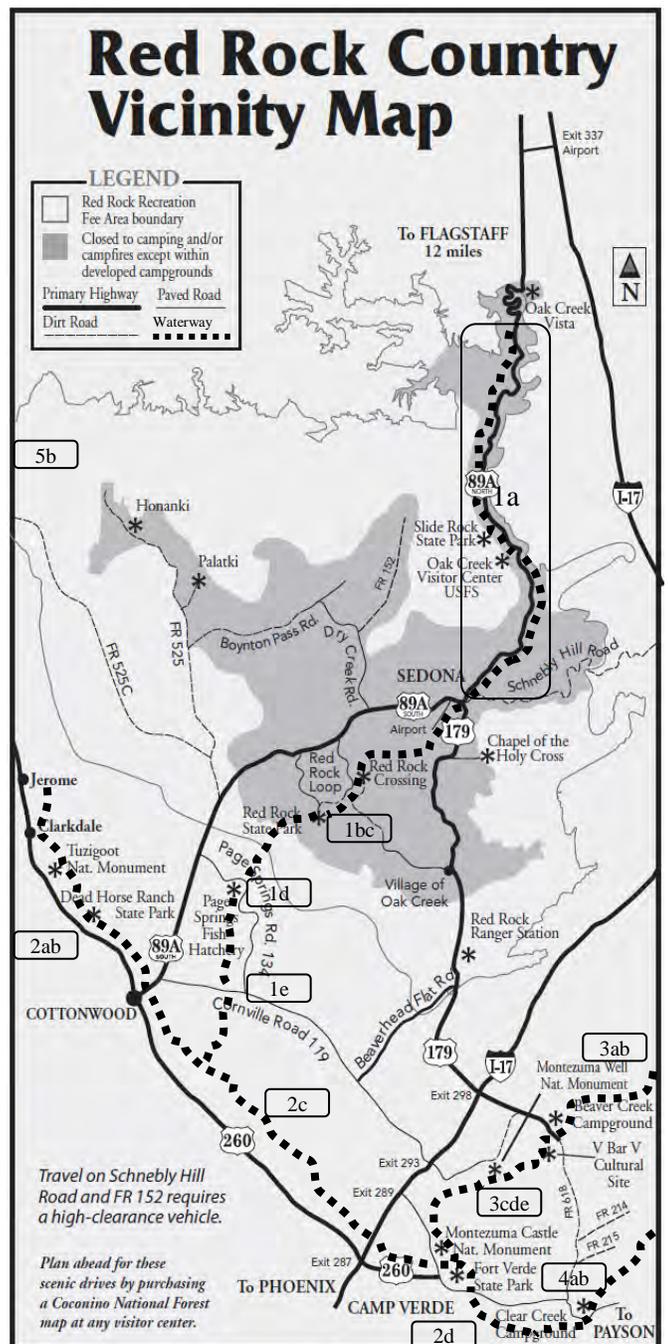
## Birds and Bird Watching

There are approximately 200 species of birds that occur in the Sedona/Red Rock area. The majority of these birds are called passerines (perching birds such as flycatchers, vireos, warblers, finches, tanagers, towhees, etc) but other groups of birds include waterfowl, wading birds, fowl like birds (quail and turkey), birds of prey or raptors (hawks, eagles and owls), and miscellaneous non –passerine birds (such as kingfishers, pigeons, doves, hummingbirds, cuckoos, and woodpeckers). Many of the birds listed above (about 150 species) are neo-tropical migrants and spend only a portion of each year (spring and summer) in this area. These birds travel each year from their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean to North America to breed during the spring and summer months. Scientist have noticed a precipitous decline in the neo-tropical migratory bird populations over the last twenty years and relate it mainly to habitat loss and modification in the wintering grounds, breeding grounds and along migrational routes.

Below is a list of areas good for bird watching throughout the Verde Valley, including the Sedona/Red Rock area. Each of the sites listed are along streams with riparian vegetation that supports a high diversity of birds. The uplands adjacent to the creek support additional species of birds. Oak Creek Canyon uplands include ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and chaparral. The uplands around Middle Oak Creek, Wet Beaver and Sycamore Canyon are mainly pinyon juniper. The uplands around the lower portion of Oak Creek, the Verde River, lower Wet Beaver, and West Clear Creek support desert grasslands and desert scrub. Birds common to each of these vegetation types are listed on the back of this page.

Handout available: “Birds of the Coconino national Forest: A Checklist”

- 1) Along Oak Creek at public access points:
  - a) In Oak Creek Canyon (numerous access points/recreation sites along SR89A)
  - b) End of Verde Valley School Road (Red Rock Crossing) Crescent Moon Ranch
  - c) Red Rock State Park
  - d) Public trails at Page Springs and Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatcheries
  - e) Oak Creek at Windmill Park and Mormon Crossing
- 2) Along the Verde River
  - a) Tavasci Marsh, Near Tuzigoot
  - b) Dead Horse Ranch State Park
  - c) Other public access points in Cottonwood/ Camp Verde
  - d) Beasley Flat (south of Camp Verde, Salt Mine Rd.)
- 3) Wet Beaver Creek
  - a) Bell Trail
  - b) Picnic/camp grounds(FR618)
  - c) V-V Ranch
  - d) Montezuma Well
  - e) Montezuma Castle
- 4) West Clear Creek
  - a) Bull Pen Ranch
  - b) Day use site near Clear Creek Campground
- 5) Other Riparian Areas
  - a) Fossil Creek
  - b) Sycamore Creek/Canyon



## **Birds Common to Various Vegetation Types**

### Oak Creek Canyon and Riparian

Black-chinned sparrow	Bridled titmouse	Yellow warbler
Black-throated gray warbler	Red-faced warbler	Olive warbler
Grace's warbler	Virginia's warbler	Common blackhawk
Peregrine falcon	Spotted towhee	Plumbeous vireo
Summer tanager	Hepatic tanager	Yellow-breasted chat
Painted redstart	Cordilleran flycatcher	American dipper
House wren	Winter wren	Black-headed grosbeak
Magnificent hummingbird	Band-tailed pigeon	Townsend's solitaire
Zone-tailed hawk	Scrub Jay	Stellar's Jay
Canyon wren	Belted kingfisher	

### Grasslands & Upper Sonoran Desertscrub

Chipping sparrow	Lincoln's sparrow	Black-throated sparrow
Phainopepla	Crissal thrasher	Northern cardinal
Loggerhead shrike	Northern mockingbird	Western bluebird
Western meadowlarks	Northern harrier	Prairie falcon
Say's Phoebe	Red-tailed hawk	Gambel's quail

### Low Elevation Riparian

Lucy warbler	Yellow warbler	Summer tanager
Bell's vire	Abert's towhee	Northern cardinal
Vermillion flycatcher	Great Blue heron	Yellow-billed cuckoo
Cassin's kingbird	Common black hawk	Zone-tailed hawk
Black Phoebe	Bewick's wren	Mourning dove
Gila woodpecker	Northern flicker	Brown-headed cowbird
Northern rough-winged swallow	Bullock's Oriole	Northern Flicker
		Black-chinned hummingbird
Violet-green swallow	Western kingbird	

### Pinyon-Juniper Woodland

Scrub jay	Bridled titmouse	Juniper titmouse
Western bluebird	Phainopepla	Spotted towhee
Common Raven	Black-headed grosbeak	

### Ponderosa Pine/ Mixed Conifer

Acorn woodpecker	Stellar's jay	Western tanager
Clark's nutcracker	Pygmy nuthatch	Brown Creeper
Hermit thrush	Cedar Waxwing	Solitary vireo
Chipping sparrow	Mexican spotted owl	Flammulated owl