

# Birds of Southern California Checklist (M. Byhower)

**Names in italics are extremely rare, irregular, and/or local**

(Check ABA Southern California Guide for seasonal and geographic distribution of all species of interest)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Whistling Ducks</b> |  |
|                        | <i>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</i> (Salton Sea) |
| <b>Geese</b>           |  |
|                        | Greater White-fronted Goose                |
|                        | Snow Goose                                 |
|                        | Ross' Goose                                |
|                        | Brant                                      |
|                        | Canada Goose                               |
|                        | Cackling Goose                             |
| <b>Ducks</b>           |  |
|                        | Wood Duck                                  |
|                        | Green-winged Teal                          |
|                        | Mallard                                    |
|                        | Northern Pintail                           |
|                        | Blue-winged Teal                           |
|                        | Cinnamon Teal                              |
|                        | Northern Shoveler                          |
|                        | Gadwall                                    |
|                        | <i>Eurasian Wigeon</i>                     |
|                        | American Wigeon                            |
|                        | Canvasback                                 |
|                        | Redhead                                    |
|                        | Ring-necked Duck                           |
|                        | <i>Tufted Duck</i>                         |
|                        | Lesser Scaup                               |
|                        | Greater Scaup                              |
|                        | Long-tailed Duck                           |
|                        | Black Scoter                               |
|                        | Surf Scoter                                |
|                        | White-winged Scoter                        |
|                        | Common Goldeneye                           |
|                        | Bufflehead                                 |
|                        | Hooded Merganser                           |
|                        | Common Merganser                           |
|                        | Red-breasted Merganser                     |
|                        | Ruddy Duck                                 |
| <b>Loons</b>           |  |
|                        | Red-throated Loon                          |
|                        | Pacific Loon                               |
|                        | Common Loon                                |

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Grebes</b>                              |                                 |
|  | Pied-billed Grebe               |
|  | Horned Grebe                    |
|  | Eared Grebe                     |
|  | Western Grebe                   |
|  | Clark's Grebe                   |
|  | <i>Red-necked Grebe</i>         |
| <b>Albatrosses (pelagic)</b>               |                                 |
|  | Black-footed Albatross          |
|  | <i>Laysan Albatross</i>         |
| <b>Petrels &amp; Shearwaters (pelagic)</b> |                                 |
|  | Northern Fulmar                 |
|  | Pink-footed Shearwater          |
|  | <i>Flesh-footed Shearwater</i>  |
|  | <i>Buller's Shearwater</i>      |
|  | Sooty Shearwater                |
|  | Short-tailed Shearwater         |
|  | Black-vented Shearwater         |
| <b>Storm-Petrels (pelagic)</b>             |                                 |
|  | <i>Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel</i> |
|  | Leach's Storm-Petrel            |
|  | Ashy Storm-Petrel               |
|  | Black Storm-Petrel              |
|  | Least Storm-Petrel              |
| <b>Pelicans</b>                            |                                 |
|  | American White Pelican          |
|  | Brown Pelican                   |
| <b>Cormorants</b>                          |                                 |
|  | Double-crested Cormorant        |
|  | Brandt's Cormorant              |
|  | Pelagic Cormorant               |
| <b>Hérons</b>                              |                                 |
|  | <i>American Bittern</i>         |
|  | <i>Least Bittern</i>            |
|  | Great Blue Heron                |
|  | Great Egret                     |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | <i>Little Blue Heron</i>                         |
|                                  | <i>Reddish Egret</i>                             |
|                                  | Cattle Egret                                     |
|                                  | Green Heron                                      |
|                                  | Black-crowned Night-Heron                        |
|                                  |  |
| <b>Ibises</b>                    |  |
|                                  | White-faced Ibis                                 |
| <b>Storks</b>                    |  |
|                                  | <i>Wood Stork</i> (Salton Sea, rare now)         |
|                                  |  |
| <b>Vultures</b>                  |  |
|                                  | Turkey Vulture                                   |
|                                  | <i>California Condor</i> (irregularly in region) |
|                                  |  |
| <b>Kites, Hawks &amp; Eagles</b> |  |
|                                  | Osprey   |
|                                  | White-tailed Kite                                |
|                                  | Bald Eagle                                       |
|                                  | Northern Harrier                                 |
|                                  | Sharp-shinned Hawk                               |
|                                  | Cooper's Hawk                                    |
|                                  | Harris' Hawk                                     |
|                                  | Red-shouldered Hawk                              |
|                                  | <i>Swainson's Hawk</i>                           |
|                                  | Red-tailed Hawk                                  |
|                                  | Ferruginous Hawk                                 |
|                                  | <i>Rough-legged Hawk</i>                         |
|                                  | Golden Eagle                                     |
|                                  |  |
| <b>Falcons</b>                   |  |
|                                  | American Kestrel                                 |
|                                  | Merlin   |
|                                  | Prairie Falcon                                   |
|                                  | Peregrine Falcon                                 |
|                                  |  |
| <b>Ptarmigans</b>                |  |
|                                  | Chukar   |
|                                  | Ring-necked Pheasant                             |
|                                  |  |
| <b>Quail</b>                     |  |
|                                  | Gambel's Quail                                   |
|                                  | California Quail                                 |
|                                  | Mountain Quail (seasonal and irregular)          |
|                                  |  |
| <b>Rails</b>                     |  |
|                                  | Clapper Rail                                     |
|                                  | Virginia Rail                                    |
|                                  | Sora   |

|                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                             | Common Moorhen                      |
|                             | American Coot                       |
|                             |                                     |
| <b>Plovers</b>              |                                     |
|                             | Black-bellied Plover                |
|                             | Pacific Golden-Plover               |
|                             | Snowy Plover                        |
|                             | Semipalmated Plover                 |
|                             | Killdeer                            |
|                             | Mountain Plover                     |
|                             |                                     |
| <b>Oystercatchers</b>       |                                     |
|                             | Black Oystercatcher                 |
|                             |                                     |
| <b>Stilts &amp; Avocets</b> |                                     |
|                             | Black-necked Stilt                  |
|                             | American Avocet                     |
|                             |                                     |
| <b>Sandpipers</b>           |                                     |
|                             | Greater Yellowlegs                  |
|                             | Lesser Yellowlegs                   |
|                             | <i>Solitary Sandpiper</i>           |
|                             | Willet                              |
|                             | Wandering Tattler                   |
|                             | Spotted Sandpiper                   |
|                             | Whimbrel                            |
|                             | Long-billed Curlew                  |
|                             | Marbled Godwit                      |
|                             | Ruddy Turnstone                     |
|                             | Black Turnstone                     |
|                             | Surfbird                            |
|                             | Red Knot                            |
|                             | Sanderling                          |
|                             | <i>Semipalmated Sandpiper</i>       |
|                             | Western Sandpiper                   |
|                             | Least Sandpiper                     |
|                             | Baird's Sandpiper                   |
|                             | Pectoral Sandpiper                  |
|                             | Dunlin                              |
|                             | <i>Ruff</i>                         |
|                             | Stilt Sandpiper (mainly Salton Sea) |
|                             | Short-billed Dowitcher              |
|                             | Long-billed Dowitcher               |
|                             | Wilson's Snipe                      |
|                             | Wilson's Phalarope                  |
|                             | Red-necked Phalarope                |
|                             | Red Phalarope                       |
|                             |                                     |
| <b>Jaegers &amp; Skuas</b>  |                                     |

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | Pomarine Jaeger                     |
|  | Parasitic Jaeger                    |
|  | <i>Long-tailed Jaeger</i> (pelagic) |
|  | South Polar Skua (pelagic)          |
|  |                                     |
| <b>Gulls</b>   |                                     |
|  | Laughing Gull (Salton Sea)          |
|  | <i>Franklin's Gull</i>              |
|  | Bonaparte's Gull                    |
|  | Heermann's Gull                     |
|  | Mew Gull                            |
|  | Ring-billed Gull                    |
|  | California Gull                     |
|  | Herring Gull                        |
|  | Thayer's Gull                       |
|  | Yellow-footed Gull (Salton Sea)     |
|  | Western Gull                        |
|  | Glaucous-winged Gull                |
|  | <i>Glaucous Gull</i>                |
|  | Sabine's Gull (pelagic)             |
|  |                                     |
| <b>Terns</b>   |                                     |
|  | Caspian Tern                        |
|  | Royal Tern                          |
|  | Elegant Tern                        |
|  | Common Tern                         |
|  | Arctic Tern (pelagic)               |
|  | Forster's Tern                      |
|  | Least Tern                          |
|  | Black Tern (Salton Sea)             |
|  | Gull-billed Tern (Salton Sea)       |
|  | Black Skimmer                       |
|  |                                     |
| <b>Auks, Murres &amp; Puffins (generally pelagic, occasionally from shore)</b> |                                     |
|  | Common Murre                        |
|  | <i>Pigeon Guillemot</i>             |
|  | <i>Marbled Murrelet</i>             |
|  | Xantus' Murrelet                    |
|  | <i>Craveri's Murrelet</i>           |
|  | <i>Ancient Murrelet</i>             |
|  | Cassin's Auklet                     |
|  | Rhinoceros Auklet                   |
|  | <i>Tufted Puffin</i>                |
|  |                                     |
| <b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>   |                                     |
|  | Rock Dove                           |
|  | Band-tailed Pigeon                  |
|  | Spotted Dove (increasingly rare!)   |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | White-winged Dove                          |
|                     | Mourning Dove                              |
|                     | Inca Dove                                  |
|                     | Common Ground-Dove                         |
|                     | Ruddy Ground-Dove (Salton Sea)             |
|                     | <i>Eurasian Collared-Dove</i>              |
|                     |  |
| <b>Parrots</b>      |  |
|                     | Yellow-chevroned Parakeet                  |
|                     | <i>White-winged Parakeet</i>               |
|                     | Mitred Parakeet                            |
|                     | Red-crowned Parrot                         |
|                     |  |
| <b>Cuckoos</b>      |  |
|                     | <i>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</i>                |
|                     | Greater Roadrunner                         |
|                     |  |
| <b>Barn Owls</b>    |  |
|                     | Barn Owl                                   |
|                     |  |
| <b>Typical Owls</b> |  |
|                     | <i>Flammulated Owl</i>                     |
|                     | Western Screech-Owl                        |
|                     | Great Horned Owl                           |
|                     | <i>Northern Pygmy-Owl</i>                  |
|                     | Burrowing Owl                              |
|                     | <i>Spotted Owl</i>                         |
|                     | <i>Long-eared Owl</i>                      |
|                     | <i>Short-eared Owl</i>                     |
|                     | <i>Northern Saw-whet Owl</i>               |
|                     |  |
| <b>Nightjars</b>    |  |
|                     | Lesser Nighthawk                           |
|                     | <i>Common Nighthawk</i>                    |
|                     | Common Poorwill                            |
|                     | <i>Whip-poor-will</i>                      |
|                     |  |
| <b>Swifts</b>       |  |
|                     | Black Swift (extremely local and seasonal) |
|                     | <i>Chimney Swift</i>                       |
|                     | Vaux's Swift                               |
|                     | White-throated Swift                       |
|                     |  |
| <b>Hummingbirds</b> |  |
|                     | Black-chinned Hummingbird                  |
|                     | Anna's Hummingbird                         |
|                     | Costa's Hummingbird                        |
|                     | Calliope Hummingbird                       |
|                     | Rufous Hummingbird                         |

|                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                              | Allen's Hummingbird               |
|                              |                                   |
| <b>Kingfishers</b>           |                                   |
|                              | Belted Kingfisher                 |
|                              |                                   |
| <b>Woodpeckers</b>           |                                   |
|                              | Lewis' Woodpecker (unpredictable) |
|                              | Acorn Woodpecker                  |
|                              | Gila Woodpecker (eastern CA)      |
|                              | <i>Red-naped Sapsucker</i>        |
|                              | Red-breasted Sapsucker            |
|                              | Williamson's Sapsucker            |
|                              | Ladder-backed Woodpecker          |
|                              | Nuttall's Woodpecker              |
|                              | Downy Woodpecker                  |
|                              | Hairy Woodpecker                  |
|                              | White-headed Woodpecker           |
|                              | Northern Flicker                  |
|                              |                                   |
| <b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>    |                                   |
|                              | Olive-sided Flycatcher            |
|                              | Western Wood-Pewee                |
|                              | Black Phoebe                      |
|                              | Eastern Phoebe                    |
|                              | Say's Phoebe                      |
|                              | Vermilion Flycatcher              |
|                              | Ash-throated Flycatcher           |
|                              | Brown-crested Flycatcher          |
|                              | Cassin's Kingbird                 |
|                              | Western Kingbird                  |
|                              |                                   |
| <b>Empidonax Flycatchers</b> |                                   |
|                              | Willow Flycatcher                 |
|                              | Hammond's Flycatcher              |
|                              | Dusky Flycatcher                  |
|                              | Gray Flycatcher                   |
|                              | Pacific-slope Flycatcher          |
|                              |                                   |
| <b>Vireos</b>                |                                   |
|                              | Bell's Vireo                      |
|                              | <i>Gray Vireo</i>                 |
|                              | Cassin's Vireo                    |
|                              | Plumbeous Vireo                   |
|                              | Hutton's Vireo                    |
|                              | Warbling Vireo                    |
|                              |                                   |
| <b>Larks</b>                 |                                   |
|                              | Horned Lark                       |
|                              |                                   |

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Swallows</b>               |  |
|                               | <i>Purple Martin</i>                               |
|                               | Tree Swallow                                       |
|                               | Violet-green Swallow                               |
|                               | Northern Rough-winged Swallow                      |
|                               | Cliff Swallow                                      |
|                               | Barn Swallow                                       |
|                               |  |
| <b>Corvids</b>                |  |
|                               | Steller's Jay                                      |
|                               | Western Scrub-Jay                                  |
|                               | <i>Island Scrub-Jay</i>                            |
|                               | Pinyon Jay   |
|                               | Clark's Nutcracker                                 |
|                               | Yellow-billed Magpie (Santa Barbara Co. Northward) |
|                               | American Crow                                      |
|                               | Common Raven                                       |
|                               |  |
| <b>Chickadees and Titmice</b> |  |
|                               | Mountain Chickadee                                 |
|                               | Oak Titmouse                                       |
|                               |  |
| <b>Verdin</b>                 |  |
|                               | Verdin   |
|                               |  |
| <b>Bushtits</b>               |  |
|                               | Bushtit  |
|                               |  |
| <b>Nuthatches</b>             |  |
|                               | Red-breasted Nuthatch                              |
|                               | White-breasted Nuthatch                            |
|                               | Pygmy Nuthatch                                     |
|                               |  |
| <b>Creepers</b>               |  |
|                               | Brown Creeper                                      |
|                               |  |
| <b>Wrens</b>                  |  |
|                               | Cactus Wren  |
|                               | Rock Wren  |
|                               | Canyon Wren  |
|                               | Bewick's Wren                                      |
|                               | House Wren   |
|                               | Marsh Wren   |
|                               |  |
| <b>Dippers</b>                |  |
|                               | American Dipper                                    |
|                               |  |
| <b>Thrushes</b>               |  |

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
|                              | Golden-crowned Kinglet                    |
|                              | Ruby-crowned Kinglet                      |
|                              | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher                     |
|                              | California Gnatcatcher                    |
|                              | Black-tailed Gnatcatcher                  |
|                              | Western Bluebird                          |
|                              | Mountain Bluebird                         |
|                              | Townsend's Solitaire                      |
|                              | Swainson's Thrush                         |
|                              | Hermit Thrush                             |
|                              | American Robin                            |
|                              | Varied Thrush                             |
|                              |   |
| <b>Babblers</b>              |   |
|                              | Wrentit                                   |
|                              |   |
| <b>Thrashers</b>             |   |
|                              | Northern Mockingbird                      |
|                              | Sage Thrasher                             |
|                              | California Thrasher                       |
|                              | Le Conte's Thrasher                       |
|                              | Crissal Thrasher (Salton Sea, eastern CA) |
|                              |   |
| <b>Wagtails &amp; Pipits</b> |   |
|                              | American Pipit                            |
|                              |   |
| <b>Waxwings</b>              |   |
|                              | Cedar Waxwing                             |
|                              |   |
| <b>Silky Flycatchers</b>     |   |
|                              | Phainopepla                               |
|                              |   |
| <b>Shrikes</b>               |   |
|                              | Loggerhead Shrike                         |
|                              |   |
| <b>Starlings</b>             |   |
|                              | European Starling                         |
|                              |   |
| <b>Warblers</b>              |   |
|                              | Orange-crowned Warbler                    |
|                              | Nashville Warbler                         |
|                              | <i>Virginia's Warbler</i>                 |
|                              | Yellow Warbler                            |
|                              | Yellow-rumped Warbler                     |
|                              | Black-throated Gray Warbler               |
|                              | Townsend's Warbler                        |
|                              | Hermit Warbler                            |
|                              | MacGillivray's Warbler                    |
|                              | Common Yellowthroat                       |

|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                 | Wilson's Warbler                     |
|                                 | Yellow-breasted Chat                 |
|                                 |                                      |
| <b>Tanagers</b>                 |                                      |
|                                 | <i>Hepatic Tanager</i>               |
|                                 | Summer Tanager                       |
|                                 | Western Tanager                      |
|                                 |                                      |
| <b>Grosbeaks &amp; Buntings</b> |                                      |
|                                 | Black-headed Grosbeak                |
|                                 | Blue Grosbeak                        |
|                                 | Lazuli Bunting                       |
|                                 |                                      |
| <b>Towhees &amp; Sparrows</b>   |                                      |
|                                 | Green-tailed Towhee                  |
|                                 | Spotted Towhee                       |
|                                 | California Towhee                    |
|                                 | Abert's Towhee                       |
|                                 | Rufous-crowned Sparrow               |
|                                 | Chipping Sparrow                     |
|                                 | Brewer's Sparrow                     |
|                                 | Black-chinned Sparrow                |
|                                 | Vesper Sparrow                       |
|                                 | Lark Sparrow                         |
|                                 | Black-throated Sparrow               |
|                                 | Sage Sparrow                         |
|                                 | Savannah Sparrow                     |
|                                 | <i>Grasshopper Sparrow</i>           |
|                                 | <i>Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow</i> |
|                                 | Fox Sparrow                          |
|                                 | Song Sparrow                         |
|                                 | Lincoln's Sparrow                    |
|                                 | <i>Swamp Sparrow</i>                 |
|                                 | Golden-crowned Sparrow               |
|                                 | White-crowned Sparrow                |
|                                 | Dark-eyed Junco                      |
|                                 | <i>McCown's Longspur</i>             |
|                                 | <i>Lapland Longspur</i>              |
|                                 | <i>Chestnut-collared Longspur</i>    |
|                                 |                                      |
| <b>Icterids</b>                 |                                      |
|                                 | Bobolink                             |
|                                 | Red-winged Blackbird                 |
|                                 | Tricolored Blackbird                 |
|                                 | Western Meadowlark                   |
|                                 | Yellow-headed Blackbird              |
|                                 | Brewer's Blackbird                   |
|                                 | Great-tailed Grackle                 |
|                                 | Bronzed Cowbird                      |

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
|  | Brown-headed Cowbird    |
|  | Hooded Oriole           |
|  | <i>Baltimore Oriole</i> |
|  | Bullock's Oriole        |
|  | Scott's Oriole          |
|  |                         |
|  | <b>Finches</b>          |
|  | Purple Finch            |
|  | Cassin's Finch          |
|  | House Finch             |
|  | Red Crossbill           |
|  | Pine Siskin             |

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
|  | Lesser Goldfinch          |
|  | Lawrence's Goldfinch      |
|  | American Goldfinch        |
|  |                           |
|  | <b>Old World Sparrows</b> |
|  | House Sparrow             |
|  |                           |
|  | <b>Other Exotics</b>      |
|  | Nutmeg Mannikin           |
|  | Orange (Red) Bishop       |