



Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens Bird List

Compiled by the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society

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Welcome to the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens

There are more than 160 bird species, which visit or live year-round in the Gardens. Within the 47 acres, habitats range from cultivated gardens to native coastal pine forest to coastal bluffs and rocky intertidal habitat. Many birds can also be observed flying overhead.

A few common birds of the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens are featured here. Enjoy birding in the Gardens!

Cultivated Gardens

Hummingbirds



Two species of these nectar-sipping acrobats are common among the flowering plants. **Anna's**, which is resident all year, and **Allen's**, which

arrives in early spring and departs in early fall, after breeding. Anna's Hummingbird shows iridescent red violet on the crown and throat. Allen's flashes a red-orange throat patch. Length: Anna's 4 inches; Allen's 3 3/4 inches

White Crowned Sparrow

One subspecies of this seed-eater is a year-round resident in the coastal zone. As adults their crowns all show



broad black stripes on a white back= ground. In their first year these stripes are reddish-brown on a buffy background. This sparrow is also abundant in coastal scrub. Length: 7 inches/

Pine Forest

Chestnut-backed Chickadee



This chickadee frequents coastal pine forests from Alaska to Southern California gleaning insects from trunks and branches with its short, pointed bill. It is a year-round resident here. Like all chickadees it has a dark crown

dark crown and throat patch and a white cheek patch, but it is the only chickadee with chestnut coloration on the back and the flanks. Length: 4 3/4 inches

Wilson's Warbler

Bright yellow underneath, greenish above, with a glossy black cap (brighter in the male), this warbler is a summer resident and

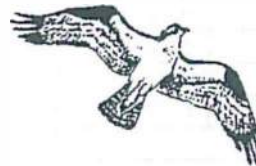


breeder, nesting on the ground. Like most warblers, it is primarily an insect-eater; it does a great deal of

"fly catching" rather than gleaning. Length: 4 3/4 inches.

Overhead

Osprey



This large fish-eating hawk can be seen and heard in spring and summer as it flies from nest to ocean and back. The Osprey is one of the most widely distributed birds, being

found even in Australia. Its body plumage is dark above and white below; the head is primarily white, with speckling on the crown and a heavy dark line through the eye and cheek. It flies with its wings arched and can often be seen carrying a fish in its talons. Length: 22-25 inches.

Common Raven

There are no crows on the Mendocino Coast, making identification of large all-black birds easy. The Common Raven is the largest member of the order



of perching birds in North America. Like gulls, it is an omnivorous scavenger which adapts well to human civilization. Length: 24 inches

Rocky Shore

Pelagic Cormorant



Of the three species of cormorant found locally, the Pelagic Cormorant is the only one that nests on rocks off the shore of the Gardens; Brandt's and Double-Crested may also be seen roosting on the rocks, in the water, or flying by. Cormorants are

long-necked, long dark-bodied diving birds. The Pelagic Cormorant is the smallest of the three, and is most easily identified in spring and summer when it wears white flank patches. Length: 26 inches

Date _____ Total Species _____

Checklist of Birds of MCBG

Seasons	W	Sp	S	F
Swans, Geese, and Ducks				
Canada Goose	c	c	c	c
Cackling Goose	r	r	r	
Brant	u	fc	u	
Wood Duck	u	u	u	u
Mallard	c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	x	x	x	
Northern Pintail	u	u	u	
Ring-necked Duck	fc	fc	fc	
Greater Scaup	fc	fc	fc	
Surf Scoter	c	c	r	c
White-winged Scoter	u	u	u	u
Bufflehead	c	c	c	
Hooded Merganser	r		r	
Common Merganser	fc	fc	fc	fc
Red-breasted Merganser	fc	fc	x	fc
Grouse, Turkeys, and Quail				
Wild Turkey	c	c	c	c
California Quail	c	c	c	c
Loons				
Red-throated Loon	c	c	r	c
Pacific Loon	c	c	u	c
Common Loon	c	c	u	c
Grebes				
Horned Grebe	fc	fc	fc	
Red-necked Grebe	u	u	u	
Eared Grebe	fc	fc	fc	
Western Grebe	c	c	r	c
Shearwaters and Petrels				
Northern Fulmar	r	r	r	r
Sooty Shearwater	r	r	r	u
Pelicans				
Brown Pelican	r	fc	c	fc
Cormorants				
Brandt's Cormorant	c	c	c	c
Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	r	c
Pelagic Cormorant	c	c	c	c
Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns				
Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c
Great Egret	fc	fc	r	fc
Snowy Egret	u	u	x	u
Green Heron	x	u	u	u
American Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	fc	c	c	c

WSp S F

Seasons WSp S F

Seasons WSp S F

Seasons WSp S F

Kites, Hawks, and Eagles		WSp	S	F
Osprey	r	fc	fc	fc
White-tailed Kite	u	u	u	u
Northern Harrier	u	u	u	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	fc	fc	u	fc
Cooper's Hawk	u	u	r	u
Red-shouldered Hawk	fc	fc	fc	fc
Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	fc	c
Falcons				
American Kestrel	c	c	u	c
Merlin	r	r		r
Peregrine Falcon	u	r	x	u
Rails, Gallinules and Coots				
Virginia Rail	u	u	r	u
American Coot	c	c	r	c
Plovers				
Semipalmated Plover	r	fc	x	fc
Killdeer	c	c	fc	c
Oystercatcher				
Black Oystercatcher	c	c	c	c
Sandpipers & Phalaropes				
Greater Yellowlegs	fc	fc		fc
Wandering Tattler	r	u		u
Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	r	u
Whimbrel	fc	fc	r	fc
Marbled Godwit	r	u		u
Ruddy Turnstone	r	u		u
Black Turnstone	c	c	x	c
Surfbird	fc	fc		fc
Least Sandpiper	u	c		c
Pectoral Sandpiper				u
Wilson's Snipe	u	u		u
Red-necked Phalarope	u	r		u
Red Phalarope	r	u	x	u
Gulls and Terns				
Bonaparte's Gull	r	u	x	u
Heermann's Gull	x	x	fc	fc
Mew Gull	fc	fc	x	fc
California Gull	c	c	r	c
Herring Gull	fc	fc	r	fc
Thayer's Gull	r	r		r
Western Gull	c	c	c	c
Glaucous-winged Gull	fc	fc	u	fc
Black-legged Kittiwake	r	r		r
Caspian Tern	u	r		u

Auks, Murres and Puffins		WSp	S	F
Common Murre	c	c	c	c
Pigeon Guillemot	x	fc	fc	fc
Marbled Murrelet	r	r	r	r
Rhinoceros Auklet	u	u	u	u
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Pigeon	u	u	u	u
Band-tailed Pigeon	u	u	u	u
Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Owls				
Northern Pygmy-Owl	r	r	r	r
Swifts				
Vaux's Swift	u	u	u	u
Hummingbirds				
Anna's Hummingbird	c	c	c	c
Rufous Hummingbird	r			
Allen's Hummingbird	c	c	fc	
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	fc	fc	fc	fc
Woodpeckers				
Acorn Woodpecker	fc	fc	fc	fc
Red-breasted Sapsucker	u	u	r	u
Downy Woodpecker	fc	fc	fc	fc
Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
Pileated Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	fc	fc	fc	
Western Wood-Pewee	fc	fc	fc	
Willow Flycatcher	x		r	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	c	c	c	
Black Phoebe	fc	fc	u	c
Say's Phoebe	r	r		r
Ash-throated Flycatcher				x
Vireos				
Cassin's Vireo				x
Hutton's Vireo	fc	fc	fc	fc
Warbling Vireo	fc	fc	fc	
Jays and Crows				
Steller's Jay	c	c	c	c
Western Scrub-Jay	fc	fc	fc	fc
Common Raven	c	c	c	c
Swallows				
Purple Martin	r	r	r	
Tree Swallow	r	fc	fc	fc
Violet-green Swallow	c	c	c	

Chickadees and Bushtits		WSp	S	F
N. Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	u
Cliff Swallow	fc	fc	fc	
Barn Swallow	c	c	c	
Chickadees and Bushtits				
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	c	c	c	c
Bushtit	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	u	r	x	r
Pygmy Nuthatch	fc	fc	fc	fc
Creepers				
Brown Creeper	fc	fc	fc	fc
Wrens				
Winter Wren	fc	fc	fc	fc
Marsh Wren	fc	fc	fc	fc
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	c	c	c	c
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c	c		c
Thrushes and Babblers				
Swainson's Thrush	fc	c	fc	
Hermit Thrush	c	c		c
American Robin	c	c	c	c
Varied Thrush	fc	fc	x	fc
Wrentit	c	c	c	c
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
Northern Mockingbird	u	u	u	u
Starlings				
European Starling	c	c	c	c
Pipits and Waxwings				
American Pipit	fc	fc		fc
Cedar Waxwing	fc	fc	u	fc
Warblers, Sparrows, Blackbirds & Allies				
Orange-crowned Warbler	fc	fc	fc	
Nashville Warbler				x
Yellow Warbler	r	x	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				x
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	c		c
Black-throated Gray Warbler				x
Townsend's Warbler	u	u		u
Hermit Warbler	r	r		r
Palm Warbler	x			x
American Redstart				x
MacGillivray's Warbler	r			r
Common Yellowthroat	x	u	r	u
Wilson's Warbler	fc	fc	fc	
Western Tanager	x	fc	fc	fc
Spotted Towhee	fc	fc	fc	fc

Lark Sparrow		WSp	S	F
Lark Sparrow				x
Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Fox Sparrow	fc	fc		fc
Song Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	u	u		u
White-crowned Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Golden-crowned Sparrow	fc	fc		fc
Dark-eyed Junco	fc	fc	u	fc
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	x	x	x	x
Black-headed Grosbeak	u	u	u	u
Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c
Western Meadowlark	c	c	r	c
Brewer's Blackbird	c	c	c	c
Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	
Hooded Oriole				x
Bullock's Oriole	r			r
Finches				
Purple Finch	fc	fc	fc	fc
House Finch	c	c	c	c
Red Crossbill	r	r	r	r
Pine Siskin	c	c	fc	c
Lesser Goldfinch	r			r
American Goldfinch	r	c	c	c
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow	c	c	c	c

Seasons:

W: winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) Sp: spring (Mar, Apr, May)

S: summer (June, July)* F: fall (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov)

*For shore birds S: summer (Mid May, June)

F: fall (July, Aug, Sept)

Abundance Codes:

c : common r: rare

fc : fairly common x: extremely rare

u : uncommon

The birds listed have been observed in the Gardens; abundance codes reflect their distribution in the Mendocino Coast area, rather than the Gardens only. Please report any observations of birds not listed.

This list was compiled based on monthly bird walks sponsored by the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society & draws heavily on Robert Keiffer's 2005 "Field Checklist of the Birds of Mendocino County" & Dorothy Tobkin's "A Checklist of Birds Seen at MacKerricher State Park", April 2006.