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Birds of Lincoln County: A Checklist

Lincoln National Forest

Reserve
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PRODUCED IN COOPERATION WITH
Lincoln County Bird Club and
Professional Birder Bill West

Using the Checklist

The columns following the name of each species are intended to help the birder with identification.

The **Abundance** column refers to how numerous the species is in relation to other species.

- C - Common**
- F - Fairly Common**
- U - Uncommon**
- O - Occasional**
- R - Rare**

The **Residence** column lists the time of year the species normally appears in the checklist area.

- P - Permanent Resident** (present year-round)
- S - Summer Resident** (present from spring until fall migration)
- W - Winter Resident** (typically from October through March)
- M - Transient or Migrant** (present as a migrant in spring and/or fall)

The remaining columns describe the habitat(s) where one is most likely to encounter each species.

Note: This is not a comprehensive list; use it as a guide.

Vegetation

Lincoln National Forest contains three ranger districts (Guadalupe, Smokey Bear, and Sacramento), three major mountain ranges (Guadalupe, Sacramento, and Capitan), and covers 1,103,441 acres in parts of four counties in southeastern New Mexico. The following information describes Smokey Bear Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest.

Smokey Bear Ranger District, headquartered in Ruidoso, ranges in elevation from 5,400 to 11,400 feet. The district, lying entirely within Lincoln County, contains two wilderness areas—White Mountain and Capitan Mountains—totaling 86,000 acres. The vegetation ranges from semidesert plants, piñon pine and juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer to spruce, fir, and high elevation grasses and forbs. This range contains one of the few mountain ranges in the country that runs east to west.

[illegible]

	Abundance	Residence	Desert	Grassland	Oak Woodland	Oak/Juniper	Piñon/Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Mixed Conifer	Lake/Marsh	Deciduous Riparian	Conifer Riparian
Sandpipers, Phalaropes												
___ Western Sandpiper	U	M								•		
___ Baird's Sandpiper	U	M								•		
___ Least Sandpiper	U	M								•		
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	O	M								•		
___ Spotted Sandpiper	F	S								•	•	
___ Stilt Sandpiper	O	M								•		
___ Long-billed Curlew	O	M		•						•		
___ Greater Yellowlegs	U	M								•		
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	U	M								•		
___ Wilson's Phalarope	U	M								•		
___ Wilson's Snipe	U	W								•		
___ American Avocet	O	M								•		
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	U	M								•		
___ Black-necked Stilt	O	M								•		
Gulls and Terns												
___ Ring-billed Gull	O	M								•	•	
___ Black Tern	R	M								•		
Plovers												
___ Killdeer	C	P								•	•	
___ Mountain Plover	O	M		•								
Rails, Coots												
___ American Coot	C	W								•		
___ Virginia Rail	U	P								•		
___ Sora	O	M								•		
Falcons												
___ Merlin	O	W	•	•								
___ Peregrine Falcon	O	P			•	•	•	•	•			
___ Prairie Falcon	R	W			•	•	•	•	•			
___ American Kestrel	C	P	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Kites, Eagles, Hawks												
___ Bald Eagle	F	W								•	•	•
___ Golden Eagle	U	P	•	•	•	•	•	•				
___ Northern Harrier	F	W	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	
___ Cooper's Hawk	F	P					•	•	•		•	•
___ Northern Goshawk	O	P			•	•	•	•	•			
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	P					•	•	•		•	•
___ Ferruginous Hawk	U	W	•									
___ Harris Hawk	R	P	•	•								

[illegible]

[illegible]

		Abundance	Residence	Desert	Grassland	Oak Woodland	Oak/Juniper	Piñon/Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Mixed Conifer	Lake/Marsh	Deciduous Riparian	Conifer Riparian
___	Red-winged Blackbird	C	P								•	•	
___	Brown-headed Cowbird	C	P	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
___	Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	M		•						•	•	
___	Bullock's Oriole	C	S			•	•					•	
___	Scott's Oriole	U	S	•	•	•	•	•					
___	Western Meadowlark	C	P	•	•								
___	Eastern Meadowlark	U	P	•	•								
___	Orchard Oriole	R	M					•				•	
___	Hooded Oriole	O	S									•	
Starlings													
___	European Starling	C	P		•	•	•	•					•
Roadrunners, Cuckoos													
___	Greater Roadrunner	F	P	•	•	•	•	•					
___	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	S										•
Pigeons, Doves													
___	Inca Dove	O	P	•	•								
___	Mourning Dove	C	P	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
___	Rock Dove	C	P	•	•	•	•	•					
___	White-winged Dove	F	P	•	•	•	•	•				•	
___	Band-tailed Pigeon	C	S			•	•	•	•	•		•	•
___	Eurasian Collared Dove	F	P									•	
Thrushes													
___	Eastern Bluebird	U	W			•	•	•				•	
___	Mountain Bluebird	F	P		•	•	•	•	•				
___	Western Bluebird	C	P		•	•	•	•	•				
___	Hermit Thrush	F	P						•	•		•	
___	American Robin	C	P			•	•	•	•	•		•	
___	Townsend's Solitaire	F	P		•	•	•	•	•	•			
Mockingbirds, Thrashers													
___	Northern Mockingbird	F	P	•	•	•	•	•					
___	Crissal Thrasher	O	P	•	•	•	•	•					
___	Curve-billed Thrasher	U	P	•	•	•	•	•					
___	Sage Thrasher	U	W	•	•	•	•	•					
___	Gray Catbird	R	S									•	
Shrikes													
___	Loggerhead Shrike	U	P	•	•	•	•						
Waxwings													
___	Cedar Waxwing	F	W			•	•	•				•	
___	American Pipit	U	M								•	•	

Northern Sacramento Mountains

Lincoln National Forest

Legend

- ① Bonito Lake
- ② Alto Lake
- ③ Grindstone Lake

Bird Watching
Opportunity Sites

	Abundance	Residence	Desert	Grassland	Oak Woodland	Oak/Juniper	Piñon/Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Mixed Conifer	Lake/Marsh	Deciduous Riparian	Conifer Riparian
Tanagers												
___ Hepatic Tanager	U	S				•	•	•				
___ Western Tanager	F	S			•	•	•	•	•		•	•
___ Summer Tanager	U	S									•	
Wood Warblers, Vireos												
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler	F	S				•	•					
___ Common Yellow-throat	U	S									•	
___ Grace's Warbler	F	S						•	•			
___ Hermit Warbler	R	M			•			•	•			
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	C	S					•				•	•
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	F	S							•			•
___ Tennessee Warbler	R	M									•	
___ Townsend's Warbler	U	M					•	•	•		•	•
___ Virginia's Warbler	F	S			•	•	•	•				
___ Wilson's Warbler	F	M			•	•	•	•			•	
___ Yellow Warbler	F	S									•	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	P					•	•	•		•	•
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	F	S									•	
___ Northern Waterthrush	O	M								•		
___ Painted Redstart	R	S										•
Vireos												
___ Flumbeous (Solitary) Vireo	C	S			•	•	•	•	•		•	
___ Warbling Vireo	C	S						•	•		•	•
___ Cassin's Vireo	O	M									•	
Accidental Species												
___ Blue-throated Hummingbird		S						•			•	
___ Red-headed Woodpecker		S			•						•	
___ Blue Jay		S									•	
___ Winter Wren		M							•			

Please report any unlisted sighting to the Smokey Bear Ranger District in Ruidoso, New Mexico, at (575) 257-4095.

Biodiversity

Since its creation in 1905, the Forest Service has been entrusted with management of the National Forest System. With passage of the Multiple Use—Sustained Yield Act in 1960 and the National Forest Management Act in 1976, the Forest Service's role was further refined to balance demands that were often in conflict: demands for forest products and demands to protect other resource values. These conflicting demands raised problems related to the map scales used for planning, protection of species and wildlands, forest conversion and simplification, fragmentation, pesticide use, and conservation of genetic resources.

While addressing these questions, the Forest Service continues to play many roles in conserving biodiversity, including renewable resources research, international forestry, aid to state and private forestry organizations and individuals, and, of course, stewardship of the National Forest System.

By virtue of its size and geographic breadth, the National Forest System ranks chief among the country's most important reservoirs of biodiversity. Indeed, the majority of nonmarine species in the United States probably occur somewhere on national forest lands.

The Forest Service strives to emphasize certain aspects of biodiversity in managing national forests and national grasslands, which cover 191 million acres from subarctic Alaska to tropical Puerto Rico—an area larger than the state of Texas. Scientists and resource managers are developing new knowledge and technologies that affect biodiversity such as population viability, ecosystem restoration, landscape ecology, habitat isolation and fragmentation, analysis of cumulative effects, and genetic variation.

The Forest Service also helps conserve biodiversity on state and private lands through cooperation and technology transfer with land managers in such areas as forest management, water quality, fire management, tree planting and breeding, and nursery management.

If you are interested in joining the Lincoln County Bird Club, contact the Smokey Bear Ranger District in Ruidoso, New Mexico, at (575) 257-4095.

A thank you goes to Anita Powell, Lincoln County Bird Club, for assistance with the bird map.

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