

BIRDS of TUOLUMNE & CALAVERAS COUNTIES



**OVER TWO HUNDRED SPECIES OF BIRDS
ONE CAN EXPECT TO FIND IN
TUOLUMNE AND CALAVERAS
COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA**

**SPONSORED BY:
CENTRAL SIERRA AUDUBON SOCIETY
SONORA, CALIFORNIA**

**Third Edition
January 2017**

Birds of Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties in California

**Compiled by Steven Umland
January 2017**

**If you have any questions or ideas for improvement,
please contact me at stevenum71@gmail.com**

Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties

The Stanislaus, Mokelumne, and Tuolumne Rivers are born in alpine regions of rock and ice along the Sierra Crest from near Bear Valley in the north to Mt. Lyell (13,114 ft.) in Yosemite N.P. to the south. The rivers course down the western slope of the Sierra through rugged canyons, forested mountains, woodlands, oak-studded foothills and grasslands to an elevation of 270 ft. before leaving the Counties for the San Joaquin Valley and Delta. This range of elevations contributes to a great diversity of habitat and, in any given season, stratifies wildlife according to elevational preferences.

Bird List Organization

The list is intended to be a practical guide for birders in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. The order of listing follows the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition, through the 57th Supplement. The main list contains 219 species deemed Common, Fairly Common, Uncommon, and Rare. The Appendix, while not complete, lists birds that have been observed in the area but quite unlikely to be encountered again.

Authorship and Acknowledgement

The author is fully responsible for the content of this document. The initial undertaking, by Al Bergeron, Ken Brunges and Bob Schieferstein, was a giant step for our area. A revision was made in 2007 by Bob Schieferstein, and Steven Umland. A legion of birders from all over California and beyond keep adding to our knowledge and understanding of the avian component of our ecosystems and their contributions are greatly appreciated.

A Word About eBird

The primary reference for abundance data is eBird. It is THE central repository for ALL (author's emphasis) avian sightings worldwide. It has a rigorous filtering component that keeps sightings like a Barnacle Goose on New Melones Reservoir from being accepted without question. It is very easy to use and the importance of the data obtained is immeasurable. Nowadays, smartphones make the recording and transfer of sightings in the field to the database remarkably easy. Please visit eBird.org and open an account. Make it a part of your regular birding note-taking.

DEFINITIONS & CODES

ABUNDANCE: Classifications are based on how often an observer might expect to see or hear a species in suitable habitat and season.

- ■ ■ Common, abundant. Almost certain.
- ■ ■ Fairly common. Present but not always seen or heard.
- — — Uncommon. Likely to be seen or heard 10-50% of time.
- — — Rare. Likely to be seen/heard only a few times per year.

HABITAT: Most likely setting or circumstance.

- A Aerial. Flying overhead.
- B Buildings or structures.
- C Cliffs or rock slopes.
- G Grasslands.
- L Lakes, reservoirs or ponds.
- M Meadows, clearings.
- O Oak-conifer mixed woodlands.
- P Pines, conifer forests.
- R Riparian. Tree fringed rivers and streams.
- S Shrubs, brush, chaparral.
- U Universal, everywhere.
- W Wetlands, marshlands.

ELEVATIONS: Range in which species usually occurs.

- L Low less than 3,000'
- M Medium 3000' – 6000'
- H High 6000' – 9000'
- V Very high 9000' and above

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES: (*)

Species being tracked by California DF&G on its Natural Diversity Data Base by Daniel Applebee, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Game, San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region, P.O. Box 277, Standard, CA 95373 (209) 588-1879 dapplebee@dfg.ca.gov

Species	Occurrence												Hab	Elev		
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D				
Grtr White-fronted Goose	---	---													AL	LM
Snow Goose	-----														AL	LM
Ross's Goose	-----														AL	LM
Canada Goose	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	ALG	LMH
Wood Duck	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	LR	LM
Gadwall	-----														LW	L
American Wigeon	██████	██████	██████												LW	L
Eurasian Wigeon	-----														LW	L
Mallard	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	LRW	LMH
Cinnamon Teal	-----														LW	L
Northern Shoveler	-----														LW	L
Northern Pintail	-----														LRW	L
Green-winged Teal	████████	████████	████████												LW	LMH
Canvasback*	-----														LW	L
Redhead															LW	L
Ring-necked Duck	██████	██████	██████												LW	L
Lesser Scaup	-----														L	L
Bufflehead	██████	██████	██████	---											L	LMH
Common Goldeneye	-----														L	LM
Barrow's Goldeneye*	-----														L	LM
Hooded Merganser	-----														L	LM
Common Merganser	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	LR	LMH
Ruddy Duck	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	L	L
Mountain Quail	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	OP	MH
California Quail	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	MOPS	LM
White-tailed Ptarmigan															CM	HV
Sooty Grouse	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	P	LMH
Wild Turkey	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	O	LMH
Pied-billed Grebe	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	LR	LM
Eared Grebe	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	L	LM
Western Grebe	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	L	L
Clark's Grebe	-----														L	L
Rock Pigeon	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	B	LM
Band-tailed Pigeon	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	AOP	LMH
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	BO	LM
Mourning Dove	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	GO	LM
Greater Roadrunner	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	S	L
Common Nighthawk															A	LMH
Common Poorwill															S	L
Black Swift															AC	MHV
Vaux's Swift															AP	M
White-throated Swift	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	AC	LM

Species	Occurrence												Hab	Elev
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Blk-chinned Hummingbird													O	LM
Anna's Hummingbird													U	LMH
Costa's Hummingbird													O	M
Rufous Hummingbird*													MS	LMH
Calliope Hummingbird													M	LMH
Common Gallinule													LW	L
American Coot													LW	LM
Sandhill Crane													A	LM
Killdeer													GLW	LM
Least Sandpiper													LW	L
Spotted Sandpiper													LR	LMH
Greater Yellowlegs													LW	L
Wilson's Snipe													GLW	L
Red-necked Phalarope													L	LM
Ring-billed Gull													AL	LMH
California Gull*													AL	LMH
Caspian Tern													L	L
Forster's Tern													L	L
Common Loon													L	LMH
Dble-crested Cormorant*													L	LM
American White Pelican													AL	LMHV
American Bittern*													L	L
Great Blue Heron*													LWG	LMH
Great Egret*													LWG	LM
Snowy Egret													LRW	L
Green Heron													LRW	LM
Blk-crowned Night-Heron*													LRW	L
Turkey Vulture													U	LM
Osprey*													LR	LMH
White-tailed Kite													G	L
Bald Eagle*													LR	LMHV
Northern Harrier													G	LM
Sharp-shinned Hawk*													OP	LMH
Cooper's Hawk													OP	LMH
Northern Goshawk*													P	MH
Red-shouldered Hawk													OR	L
Red-tailed Hawk													U	LMH
Rough-legged Hawk													G	LM
Ferruginous Hawk*													O	L
Golden Eagle*													AU	O

Species	Occurrence												Hab	Elev
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Barn Owl	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	BG	L
Flammulated Owl						■	■	■	■	■	■		P	MH
Western Screech-Owl	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OR	LM
Great Horned Owl	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	GMO	LMH
Northern Pygmy-Owl	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	MH
Burrowing Owl*	■	■	■							■	■	■	G	L
Spotted Owl	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	P	MH
Great Gray Owl*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	PM	MH
Long-eared Owl				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		OP	MH
Northern Saw-whet Owl	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OP	MH
Belted Kingfisher	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	RW	LM
Lewis's Woodpecker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LM
Acorn Woodpecker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LM
Williamson's Sapsucker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OP	LMH
Red-naped Sapsucker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LMH
Red-breasted Sapsucker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LMH
Nuttall's Woodpecker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LM
Downy Woodpecker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LM
Hairy Woodpecker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	P	MH
White-headed Woodpecker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	P	MH
Black-backed Woodpecker				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		P	H
Northern Flicker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OP	LMH
Pileated Woodpecker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OP	MH
American Kestrel	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	GMO	LMH
Merlin*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	G	LM
Peregrine Falcon*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	CW	LMHV
Prairie Falcon*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	GC	LMHV
Olive-sided Flycatcher*				■	■	■	■	■	■				P	MH
Western Wood-Pee-wee				■	■	■	■	■	■				P	MH
Willow Flycatcher*				■	■	■	■	■	■				M	H
Hammond's Flycatcher				■	■	■	■	■	■				P	H
Dusky Flycatcher				■	■	■	■	■	■				P	MH
Pacific-slope Flycatcher				■	■	■	■	■	■				R	LM
Black Phoebe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	LF	LM
Say's Phoebe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	G	L
Ash-throated Flycatcher				■	■	■	■	■	■	■			OP	LM
Western Kingbird				■	■	■	■	■	■				G	LM
Loggerhead Shrike*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	GSW	L
Cassin's Vireo				■	■	■	■	■	■				OP	LMH
Hutton's Vireo	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OP	LMH
Warbling Vireo				■	■	■	■	■	■				OP	LMH

Species	Occurrence												Hab	Elev
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Steller's Jay	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OP	LMH
California Scrub-Jay	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OS	LM
Clark's Nutcracker				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	P	HV
Yellow-billed Magpie	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	OR	L
American Crow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	O	L
Common Raven	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	U	LMHV
Horned Lark*	---	---	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	---	---	G	LMH
Tree Swallow	---	---	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	---	---	U	LMH
Violet-green Swallow				■	■	■	■	■	■	■			LR	L
No. Rough-winged Swallow				■	■	■	■	■	■	■			LR	L
Cliff Swallow				■	■	■	■	■	■	■			BCR	LM
Barn Swallow				■	■	■	■	■	■	■			BLR	LM
Mountain Chickadee	---	---	---	---	---	■	■	■	■	---	---	---	P	MHV
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	O	LM
Oak Titmouse	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LM
Bushtit	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LM
Red-breasted Nuthatch	---	---	---	■	■	■	■	■	---	---	---	---	OP	MH
White-breasted Nuthatch	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O	LMG
Pygmy Nuthatch	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	H
Brown Creeper	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	LMH
Rock Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	C	LM
Canyon Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	C	LM
House Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	BOP	LMH
Pacific Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	OPR	LM
Marsh Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	LW	L
Bewick's Wren	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	ORS	LM
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	S	L
American Dipper	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	R	LMH
Golden-crowned Kinglet	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	P	MH
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OP	LMH
Wrentit	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	S	LM
Western Bluebird	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	MO	LMH
Mountain Bluebird	---	---	---	■	■	■	■	■	---	---	---	---	M	LMH
Townsend's Solitaire	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	OP	LMH
Swainson's Thrush				---	---	---								LMH
Hermit Thrush	■	■	■	■	---	---	---	---	---	---	■	■	PRS	LMH
American Robin	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OPS	LMH
Varied Thrush	■	■	■	■	■				■	■	■	■	OPS	LMH
California Thrasher	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	S	LM
Northern Mockingbird	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	BS	L
European Starling	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	U	LM
Cedar Waxwing	■	■	■						---	---	---	---	OS	LMH

Species	Occurrence												Hab	Elev		
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D				
Phainopepla	---	---	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	---	---	OR	LM
House Sparrow	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	B	L
American Pipit	█	█	█									█	█	█	GR	L
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch				---	---	---	---	---							C	HV
Pine Grosbeak						---	---	---	---						MP	HV
House Finch	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OPS	MH
Purple Finch	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OP	MHV
Cassin's Finch	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	BGO	LM
Red Crossbill				---	---	---	---	---	---						P	MH
Pine Siskin	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	MOP	LMHV
Lesser Goldfinch	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	MO	LMH
Lawrence's Goldfinch	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	GO	LM
American Goldfinch						---	---	---	---						GR	LM
Evening Grosbeak	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	OP	MH
Orange-crowned Warbler			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OR	LM
Nashville Warbler			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OP	LMH
MacGillivray's Warbler					---	---	---	---	---						OMP	LMH
Yellow Warbler*					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OPR	LMH
Yellow-rumped Warbler	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OPR	LMH
Black-throated Gray Warbler				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OP	LMH
Townsend's Warbler	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	OPS	LMH
Hermit Warbler*				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OMPR	MH
Wilson's Warbler			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	RS	LMH
Yellow-breasted Chat*					---	---	---	---	---						R	L
Green-tailed Towhee					█	█	█	█							RS	H
Spotted Towhee	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OS	LMH
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	CG	LM
California Towhee	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	S	LM
Chipping Sparrow*					---	---	---	---	---						GOP	LMH
Black-chinned Sparrow					---	---	---								S	LM
Vesper Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	G	L
Lark Sparrow	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	GOS	L
Black-throated Sparrow					---	---	---	---							S	M
Bell's Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	S	M
Savannah Sparrow	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	G	L
Fox Sparrow	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	S	LMH
Song Sparrow	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	LRW	LM
Lincoln's Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	LW	LMH
White-throated Sparrow	---	---											---	---	GS	LMH
White-crowned Sparrow	█	█	█	█	█					█	█	█	█	█	GS	LMH
Golden-crowned Sparrow	█	█	█	█	█					█	█	█	█	█	OS	LM
Dark-eyed Junco	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	OP	LMH

Species	Occurrence												Hab	Elev
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Western Tanager													OPR	LMH
Black-headed Grosbeak													OPR	LMH
Blue Grosbeak													OR	L
Lazuli Bunting													S	LMH
Red-winged Blackbird													LW	LM
Tricolored Blackbird													G	LM
Western Meadowlark													G	L
Brewer's Blackbird													U	LMH
Great-tailed Grackle													LW	LM
Brown-headed Cowbird													O	LM
Hooded Oriole													OR	LM
Bullock's Oriole													OR	LM

Appendix A: Previously Reported, Unlikely Species

Tundra Swan	Long-billed Dowitcher
Cackling Goose	Wilson's Phalarope
Blue-winged Teal	Herring Gull
Pacific Loon	Short-eared Owl
Horned Grebe	Lesser Nighthawk
Red-necked Grebe	Gray Flycatcher
White-faced Ibis	Bank Swallow
Cattle Egret	Swainson's Thrush
Swainson's Hawk	Common Yellowthroat
Rough-Legged Hawk	Plumbeous Vireo
Virginia Rail	Pinyon Jay
Sora	Purple Martin
Black-necked Stilt	Sage Thrasher
American Avocet	Summer Tanager
Solitary Sandpiper	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Long-billed Curlew	Scott's Oriole
Western Sandpiper	