



Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site commemorates the role that this trading post played in the "opening of the West." It features a reconstruction of an 1830s–1840s adobe post located on the Santa Fe Trail where traders, trappers, travelers, and the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and other tribes peacefully came together for trade.

The historic site contains 799 acres along the Arkansas River in southeastern Colorado. The native flora and fauna of the river bottoms, wetlands, and grasslands surrounding Bent's Old Fort help visitors "step back in time," and provide important habitat for birds. More

than 120 species of birds have been identified in the historic site.

The 1.5-mile hiking trail is the best place to observe birds in the park as it goes along the Arkansas River and by the Arch wetland, a large marsh. Cottonwood stands provide important habitat for Great Horned Owls, Wild Turkeys, Northern Bobwhites, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Red-winged Blackbirds utilize the wetland year-round and Mallards, Snow Geese, and Canada Geese can be found there in the winter. Burrowing Owls, Northern Harriers, Horned Larks, and Loggerhead Shrikes utilize the area's grasslands.



September 2020



Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site Bird Checklist



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Checklist Key

Abundance

- **Common** – May be seen daily but not in large numbers
- **Uncommon** – Likely to be seen monthly; may be locally common
- **Rare** – Present, but usually seen only a few times each year
- **Occasional** – Seen in the park at least once every few years, but not necessarily every year

Habitat

- **R – Riparian:** Habitats dominated by riverbottom cottonwood and willow forest along the Arkansas River
- **G – Grassland:** Habitats in the historic site dominated by grassland such as blue grama and buffalo grass
- **W – Wetlands:** Marshy edges in the historic site where vegetation is adapted to or tolerant of regularly-saturated soils

Season

- **Resident** – Found year-round
- **Summer** – Found predominantly in the summer months (June–August)
- **Winter** – Found predominantly in the winter months (November–February)
- **Migrant** – Found predominantly during spring and/or fall migratory periods (March–May, September–October)

The information in this list is based on NPSpecies, Natural Resource Condition Assessments, and Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network Landbird Monitoring surveys at Bent’s Old Fort NHS, and may not be a comprehensive list of all bird species in the historic site. The list is arranged by family and uses common names following the American Ornithological Society’s Checklist of North American Birds 7th edition and its supplements through 2019.

Birding Ethics

- Be mindful by following ethical birding guidelines that protect birds and enhance everyone’s birding experience:
- » Keep your distance and avoid disturbing bird nesting sites; move away from any alarmed bird.
 - » Report unusual bird observations to park rangers. This helps other birders and supports research.
 - » Do not use broadcasting calls to attract birds; calls interfere with nesting activity and may frustrate other birders.
 - » Report rare species nesting sites to appropriate park officials only. Use caution when posting sightings of these rare species over social media.
 - » Do not set up bird feeding stations or feed birds in national historic sites.

Be aware that livestock roam the hiking trail and may be unexpectedly encountered.

Acknowledgments

All bird identification photos were generously provided courtesy of [Robert Shantz \(rshantz.com\)](https://www.rshantz.com).

The [Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network](#) is one of 32 National Park Service inventory and monitoring networks that assess the condition of park ecosystems and develop a stronger scientific basis for stewardship of natural resources.

Finches (Fringillidae)

✓	Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐	House Finch	Rare	R, G, W	Resident
☐	Lesser Goldfinch	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident
☐	American Goldfinch	Uncommon	R, G, W	Migrant

New World Sparrows and Towhees (Passerellidae)

✓	Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐	Cassin’s Sparrow	Common	G	Summer
☐	Grasshopper Sparrow	Occasional	G	Migrant
☐	Lark Sparrow	Common	R, G, W	Resident
☐	Lark Bunting	Rare	G	Migrant
☐	Chipping Sparrow	Uncommon	R, G, W	Migrant
☐	Spotted Towhee	Rare	R	Migrant

Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteriidae)

✓	Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐	Yellow-breasted Chat	Common	R, W	Summer

Blackbirds, Orioles, and Allies (Icteridae)

✓	Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant
☐	Western Meadowlark	Common	G	Resident
☐	Orchard Oriole	Uncommon	R, W	Summer
☐	Bullock’s Oriole	Common	R, W	Summer
☐	Red-winged Blackbird	Common	R, G, W	Resident
☐	Brown-headed Cowbird	Common	R, G, W	Summer
☐	Brewer’s Blackbird	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident
☐	Common Grackle	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident
☐	Great-tailed Grackle	Uncommon	R, G, W	Resident

New World Warblers (Parulidae)

✓	Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐	Common Yellowthroat	Common	R, W	Summer
☐	Yellow Warbler	Common	R, W	Summer
☐	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Uncommon	R	Migrant

Piranga Tanagers, Cardinals and Allies (Cardinalidae)

✓	Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐	Western Tanager	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant
☐	Black-headed Grosbeak	Uncommon	R	Migrant
☐	Blue Grosbeak	Common	R, G, W	Summer
☐	Lazuli Bunting	Rare	R, G, W	Summer
☐	Indigo Bunting	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant
☐	Dickcissel	Rare	G, W	Migrant



House Finch



Spotted Towhee



Yellow-headed Blackbird



Red-winged Blackbird



Common Yellowthroat



Yellow Warbler



Blue Grosbeak



Common Raven



Horned Lark



Rock Wren



Eastern Bluebird



Northern Mockingbird



Cedar Waxwing

Jays and Ravens (Corvidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Blue Jay	Uncommon	R	Resident
☐ Black-billed Magpie	Rare	R, G, W	Resident
☐ American Crow	Rare	R, G, W	Resident
☐ Chihuahuan Raven	Rare	R, G, W	Resident
☐ Common Raven	Occasional	R, G, W	Resident

Larks (Alaudidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Horned Lark	Rare	G	Resident

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Violet-green Swallow	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant
☐ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Uncommon	R, G, W	Migrant
☐ Barn Swallow	Common	R, G, W	Summer
☐ Cliff Swallow	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer

Nuthatches (Sittidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ White-breasted Nuthatch	Rare	R	Migrant

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Rock Wren	Occasional	G	Resident
☐ House Wren	Common	R	Resident

Thrushes (Turdidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Eastern Bluebird	Rare	R, G	Migrant
☐ American Robin	Common	R, G	Resident

Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Brown Thrasher	Common	R	Resident
☐ Northern Mockingbird	Common	R, G, W	Resident

Starlings (Sturnidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ European Starling	Common	R, G, W	Resident

Waxwings (Bombycillidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Cedar Waxwing	Rare	G	Winter

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ House Sparrow	Uncommon	R, G	Resident

Pipits (Motacillidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ American Pipit	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant

Checklist

Waterfowl (Anatidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Canada Goose	Rare	R, W	Resident
☐ Wood Duck	Rare	R, W	Resident
☐ Blue-winged Teal	Rare	R, W	Resident
☐ Cinnamon Teal	Rare	R, W	Migrant
☐ Northern Shoveler	Uncommon	R, W	Winter
☐ Mallard	Uncommon	R, W	Resident

New World Quail (Odontophoridae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Northern Bobwhite	Common	R, G	Resident
☐ Scaled Quail	Occasional	G	Resident

Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail (Phasianidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Ring-necked Pheasant	Common	R, G	Resident
☐ Wild Turkey	Rare	R, G	Resident

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Rock Pigeon	Rare	G	Resident
☐ Eurasian Collared-Dove	Common	R, G	Resident
☐ Mourning Dove	Common	R, G, W	Resident

Cuckoos and Roadrunners (Cuculidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Greater Roadrunner	Occasional	G	Resident
☐ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Uncommon	R, W	Summer

Nighthawks (Caprimulgidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Common Nighthawk	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer

Swifts (Apodidae)

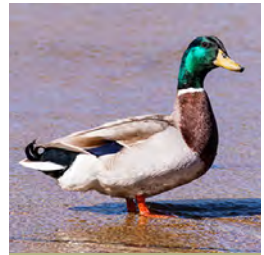
✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Chimney Swift	Rare	R, G, W	Migrant

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Black-chinned Hummingbird	Occasional	R, G, W	Migrant

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Black Rail	Rare	W	Migrant
☐ Virginia Rail	Rare	W	Migrant
☐ Sora	Rare	W	Migrant
☐ American Coot	Rare	W	Migrant



Mallard



Scaled Quail



Ring-necked Pheasant



Mourning Dove



Greater Roadrunner



Black-chinned Hummingbird



American Avocet



Killdeer



Turkey Vulture



Northern Harrier



Red-tailed Hawk



Barn Owl

Avocets and Stilts (Recurvirostridae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Black-necked Stilt	Rare	W	Migrant
☐ American Avocet	Occasional	W	Migrant

Plovers (Charadriidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Killdeer	Common	R, G, W	Resident

Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies (Scolopacidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Short-billed Dowitcher	Occasional	R	Migrant
☐ Long-billed Dowitcher	Rare	R, W	Migrant
☐ Spotted Sandpiper	Rare	R, W	Migrant
☐ Lesser Yellowlegs	Rare	R, W	Migrant

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (Laridae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Ring-billed Gull	Occasional	R, W	Migrant
☐ Black Tern	Rare	R, W	Migrant
☐ Forster's Tern	Occasional	R, W	Migrant

Bitterns, Herons and Allies (Ardeidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ American Bittern	Occasional	W	Migrant
☐ Great Blue Heron	Uncommon	R, W	Resident
☐ Great Egret	Rare	R, W	Migrant
☐ Green Heron	Rare	R, W	Migrant
☐ Black-crowned Night-Heron	Rare	R, W	Migrant

Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ White-faced Ibis	Rare	R, W	Migrant

New World Vultures (Cathartidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Turkey Vulture	Rare	R, G, W	Summer

Hawks, Kites, Eagles and Allies (Accipitridae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Northern Harrier	Uncommon	G, W	Summer
☐ Mississippi Kite	Rare	R, G, W	Summer
☐ Swainson's Hawk	Rare	R, G	Summer
☐ Red-tailed Hawk	Uncommon	R, G	Resident
☐ Ferruginous Hawk	Rare	G	Summer

Barn Owls (Tytonidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Barn Owl	Rare	R, G	Resident

Typical Owls (Strigidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Western Screech-Owl	Rare	R	Resident
☐ Great Horned Owl	Rare	R, G	Resident
☐ Burrowing Owl	Rare	G	Resident

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Belted Kingfisher	Rare	R, W	Migrant

Woodpeckers and Allies (Picidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Lewis's Woodpecker	Rare	R	Migrant
☐ Red-headed Woodpecker	Common	R	Resident
☐ Downy Woodpecker	Uncommon	R	Resident
☐ Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Rare	R	Resident
☐ Hairy Woodpecker	Occasional	R	Resident
☐ Northern Flicker	Common	R	Resident

Falcons (Falconidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ American Kestrel	Common	R, G, W	Resident
☐ Merlin	Rare	R, G	Migrant
☐ Peregrine Falcon	Rare	G, W	Migrant
☐ Prairie Falcon	Rare	G, W	Winter

Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Ash-throated Flycatcher	Uncommon	R, G, W	Summer
☐ Great Crested Flycatcher	Rare	R	Summer
☐ Cassin's Kingbird	Rare	R, G, W	Summer
☐ Western Kingbird	Common	R, G, W	Summer
☐ Eastern Kingbird	Common	R, G, W	Summer
☐ Western Wood-Pewee	Uncommon	R, W	Migrant
☐ Willow Flycatcher	Rare	R, W	Migrant
☐ Say's Phoebe	Rare	G, W	Resident

Shrikes (Laniidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ Loggerhead Shrike	Rare	G	Migrant

Vireos (Vireonidae)

✓ Common Name	Abundance	Habitat	Season
☐ White-eyed Vireo	Rare	R	Migrant
☐ Bell's Vireo	Rare	R	Summer
☐ Warbling Vireo	Uncommon	R	Migrant
☐ Red-eyed Vireo	Occasional	R	Migrant



Great Horned Owl



Belted Kingfisher



Peregrine Falcon



American Kestrel



Say's Phoebe



Loggerhead Shrike