

# Carlsbad Caverns

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Carlsbad Caverns National Park  
New Mexico



## Checklist of the Birds of Carlsbad Caverns National Park *January 2007*



## **ANSERIFORMES:** Waterfowl

### **ANATIDAE:** Ducks, Geese, and Swans

*Dendrocygna autumnalis* black-bellied whistling-duck  
*Chen caerulescens* snow goose  
*Branta canadensis* canada goose  
*Cygnus columbianus* tundra swan  
*Aix sponsa* wood duck  
*Anas strepera* gadwall  
*Anas americana* American wigeon  
*Anas platyrhynchos* mallard  
*Anas discors* blue-winged teal  
*Anas cyanoptera* cinnamon teal  
*Anas clypeata* northern shoveler  
*Anas acuta* northern pintail  
*Anas crecca* green-winged teal  
*Aythya valisineria* canvasback  
*Aythya americana* redhead  
*Aythya collaris* ring-necked duck  
*Aythya affinis* lesser scaup  
*Bucephala albeola* bufflehead  
*Bucephala clangula* common goldeneye  
*Lophodytes cucullatus* hooded merganser  
*Mergus merganser* common merganser  
*Oxyura jamaicensis* ruddy duck

## **GALLIFORMES:** Fowl

### **PHASIANIDAE:** Pheasants and Allies

*Phasianus colchicus* ring-necked pheasant (I)  
*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus* lesser prairie-chicken  
*Meleagris gallopavo* wild turkey

### **ODONTOPHORIDAE:** New World Quails

*Callipepla squamata* scaled quail  
*Colinus virginianus* northern bobwhite  
*Cyrtonyx montezumae* Montezuma quail

## **PODICIPEDIFORMES:** Grebes

### **PODICIPEDIDAE:** Grebes

*Podilymbus podiceps* pied-billed grebe  
*Podiceps nigricollis* eared grebe  
*Aechmophorus occidentalis* western grebe

## **PELECANIFORMES:** Pelicans and Allies

### **PELECANIDAE:** Pelicans

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* American white pelican

### **PHALACROCORACIDAE:** Cormorants

*Phalacrocorax auritus* double-crested cormorant

## **CICONIIFORMES:** Storks and Allies

### **ARDEIDAE:** Herons

*Botaurus lentiginosus* American bittern

*Ixobrychus exilis* least bittern

*Ardea herodias* great blue heron

*Ardea alba* great egret

*Egretta thula* snowy egret

*Egretta tricolor* tricolored heron

*Bubulcus ibis* cattle egret

*Butorides virescens* green heron

*Nycticorax nycticorax* black-crowned night-heron

*Nyctanassa violacea* yellow-crowned night-heron

### **THRESKIORNITHIDAE:** Ibises and Spoonbills

*Eudocimus albus* white ibis

*Plegadis chihi* white-faced ibis

### **CATHARTIDAE:** New World Vultures

*Cathartes aura* turkey vulture

## **FALCONIFORMES:** Eagles, Hawks, and Allies

### **ACCIPITRIDAE:** Eagles, Hawks, Kites, Harriers, and Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus* osprey

*Elanus leucurus* white-tailed kite

*Ictinia mississippiensis* Mississippi kite

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* bald eagle

*Circus cyaneus* northern harrier

*Accipiter striatus* sharp-shinned hawk

*Accipiter cooperii* Cooper's hawk

*Accipiter gentilis* northern goshawk

*Asturina nitida* gray hawk

*Buteogallus anthracinus* common black-hawk

*Parabuteo unicinctus* Harris's hawk

*Buteo lineatus* red-shouldered hawk

*Buteo platypterus* broad-winged hawk

*Buteo swainsoni* Swainson's hawk

*Buteo albonotatus* zone-tailed hawk

*Buteo jamaicensis* red-tailed hawk

*Buteo regalis* ferruginous hawk  
*Buteo lagopus* rough-legged hawk  
*Aquila chrysaetos* golden eagle

**FALCONIDAE:** Falcons and Caracaras

*Falco sparverius* American kestrel  
*Falco columbarius* merlin  
*Falco peregrinus* peregrine falcon  
*Falco mexicanus* prairie falcon

**GRUIFORMES:** Cranes and Allies

**RALLIDAE:** Crakes and Rails

*Rallus limicola* Virginia rail  
*Porzana carolina* sora  
*Gallinula chloropus* common moorhen  
*Fulica americana* American coot

**GRUIDAE:** Cranes

*Grus canadensis* sandhill crane

**CHARADRIIFORMES:** Plovers and Allies

**CHARADRIIDAE:** Plovers and Lapwings

*Charadrius vociferus* killdeer

**RECURVIROSTRIDAE:** Avocets

*Himantopus mexicanus* black-necked stilt  
*Recurvirostra americana* American avocet

**SCOLOPACIDAE:** Snipe, Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies

*Tringa melanoleuca* greater yellowlegs  
*Tringa flavipes* lesser yellowlegs  
*Tringa solitaria* solitary sandpiper  
*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* willet  
*Actitis macularius* spotted sandpiper  
*Bartramia longicauda* upland sandpiper  
*Numenius americanus* long-billed curlew  
*Calidris pusilla* semipalmated sandpiper  
*Calidris mauri* western sandpiper  
*Calidris minutilla* least sandpiper  
*Calidris bairdii* Baird's sandpiper  
*Limnodromus scolopaceus* long-billed dowitcher  
*Gallinago gallinago* common snipe  
*Scolopax minor* American woodcock  
*Phalaropus tricolor* Wilson's phalarope  
*Phalaropus lobatus* red-necked phalarope

**LARIDAE:** Gulls and Terns

*Larus delawarensis* ring-billed gull

*Chlidonias niger* black tern

**COLUMBIFORMES:** Doves and Pigeons

**COLUMBIDAE:** Doves and Pigeons

*Columba livia* rock pigeon (I)

*Patagioenas fasciata* band-tailed pigeon

*Streptopelia decaocto* Eurasian collared-cove (I)

*Zenaida asiatica* white-winged dove

*Zenaida macroura* mourning dove

*Columbina inca* Inca dove

*Columbina passerina* common ground-dove

**CUCULIFORMES:** Cuckoos

**CUCULIDAE:** Cuckoos

*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* black-billed cuckoo

*Coccyzus americanus* yellow-billed cuckoo

*Geococcyx californianus* greater roadrunner

*Crotophaga sulcirostris* groove-billed ani

**STRIGIFORMES:** Owls

**TYTONIDAE:** Barn Owls

*Tyto alba* barn owl

**STRIGIDAE:** Typical Owls

*Otus flammeolus* flammulated owl

*Megascops kennicottii* western screech-owl

*Bubo virginianus* great horned owl

*Micrathene whitneyi* elf owl

*Athene cucularia* burrowing owl

*Strix occidentalis* spotted owl

*Asio otus* long-eared owl

*Asio flammeus* short-eared owl

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES:** Nightjars and Allies

**CAPRIMULGIDAE:** New World Nighthawks and Nightjars

*Chordeiles acutipennis* lesser nighthawk

*Chordeiles minor* common nighthawk

*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* common poorwill

*Caprimulgus vociferus* whip-poor-will

## **APODIFORMES:** Swifts

### **APODIDAE:** Swifts

*Chaetura pelagica* chimney swift  
*Aeronautes saxatalis* white-throated swift

## **TROCHILIFORMES:** Hummingbirds

### **TROCHILIDAE:** Hummingbirds

*Cynanthus latirostris* broad-billed hummingbird  
*Lampornis clemenciae* blue-throated hummingbird  
*Eugenes fulgens* magnificent hummingbird  
*Calothorax lucifer* Lucifer hummingbird  
*Archilochus alexandri* black-chinned hummingbird  
*Calypte anna* Anna's hummingbird  
*Calypte costae* Costa's hummingbird  
*Stellula calliope* calliope hummingbird  
*Selasphorus platycercus* broad-tailed hummingbird  
*Selasphorus rufus* rufous hummingbird

### **ALCEDINIDAE:** River Kingfishers

*Ceryle alcyon* belted kingfisher

## **PICIFORMES:** Woodpeckers and Allies

### **PICIDAE:** Woodpeckers

*Melanerpes lewis* Lewis's woodpecker  
*Melanerpes erythrocephalus* red-headed woodpecker  
*Melanerpes formicivorus* acorn woodpecker  
*Melanerpes carolinus* red-bellied woodpecker  
*Sphyrapicus thyroideus* Williamson's sapsucker  
*Sphyrapicus varius* yellow-bellied sapsucker  
*Sphyrapicus nuchalis* red-naped sapsucker  
*Picoides scalaris* ladder-backed woodpecker  
*Picoides pubescens* downy woodpecker  
*Picoides villosus* hairy woodpecker  
*Colaptes auratus* northern flicker

## **PASSERIFORMES:** Passerines

### **TYRANNIDAE:** Tyrant Flycatchers

*Camptostoma imberbe* northern beardless-tyrannulet  
*Contopus cooperi* olive-sided flycatcher  
*Contopus sordidulus* western wood-pewee  
*Contopus virens* eastern wood-pewee  
*Empidonax traillii* willow flycatcher  
*Empidonax minimus* least flycatcher  
*Empidonax hammondi* Hammond's flycatcher  
*Empidonax wrightii* gray flycatcher

*Empidonax oberholseri* dusky flycatcher  
*Empidonax occidentalis* Cordilleran flycatcher  
*Sayornis nigricans* black phoebe  
*Sayornis phoebe* eastern phoebe  
*Sayornis saya* Say's phoebe  
*Pyrocephalus rubinus* vermilion flycatcher  
*Myiarchus cinerascens* ash-throated flycatcher  
*Myiarchus crinitus* great crested flycatcher  
*Pitangus sulphuratus* great kiskadee  
*Legatus leucophaius* piratic flycatcher  
*Tyrannus vociferans* Cassin's kingbird  
*Tyrannus crassirostris* thick-billed kingbird  
*Tyrannus verticalis* western kingbird  
*Tyrannus tyrannus* eastern kingbird  
*Tyrannus forficatus* scissor-tailed flycatcher

**LANIIDAE:** Shrikes

*Lanius ludovicianus* loggerhead shrike

**VIREONIDAE:** Vireos

*Vireo griseus* white-eyed vireo  
*Vireo bellii* Bell's vireo  
*Vireo atricapilla* black-capped vireo  
*Vireo vicinior* gray vireo  
*Vireo flavifrons* yellow-throated vireo  
*Vireo plumbeus* plumbeous vireo  
*Vireo cassinii* Cassin's vireo  
*Vireo solitarius* blue-headed vireo  
*Vireo huttoni* Hutton's vireo  
*Vireo gilvus* warbling vireo  
*Vireo philadelphicus* Philadelphia vireo  
*Vireo olivaceus* red-eyed vireo  
*Vireo flavoviridis* yellow-green vireo

**CORVIDAE:** Crows, Ravens, and Jays

*Cyanocitta stelleri* Steller's jay  
*Cyanocitta cristata* blue jay  
*Aphelocoma californica* western scrub-jay  
*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus* pinyon jay  
*Nucifraga columbiana* Clark's nutcracker  
*Pica hudsonia* black-billed magpie  
*Corvus brachyrhynchos* American crow  
*Corvus cryptoleucus* Chihuahuan raven  
*Corvus corax* common raven

**ALAUDIDAE:** Larks

*Eremophila alpestris* horned lark

**HIRUNDINIDAE:** Swallows and Martins

*Progne subis* purple martin  
*Tachycineta bicolor* tree swallow  
*Tachycineta thalassina* violet-green swallow  
*Stelgidopteryx serripennis* northern rough-winged swallow  
*Riparia riparia* bank swallow  
*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* cliff swallow  
*Petrochelidon fulva* Cave swallow  
*Hirundo rustica* barn swallow

**PARIDAE:** Chickadees and Titmice

*Poecile gambeli* mountain chickadee  
*Baeolophus ridgwayi* juniper titmouse

**REMIZIDAE:** Penduline Tits

*Auriparus flaviceps* verdin

**AEGITHALIDAE:** Long-tailed Tits

*Psaltriparus minimus* bushtit

**SITTIDAE:** Nuthatches

*Sitta canadensis* red-breasted nuthatch  
*Sitta carolinensis* white-breasted nuthatch  
*Sitta pygmaea* pygmy nuthatch

**CERTHIIDAE:** Tree Creepers

*Certhia americana* brown creeper

**TROGLODYTIDAE:** Wrens

*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* cactus wren  
*Salpinctes obsoletus* rock wren  
*Catherpes mexicanus* canyon wren  
*Thryothorus ludovicianus* Carolina wren  
*Thryomanes bewickii* Bewick's wren  
*Troglodytes aedon* house wren  
*Troglodytes troglodytes* winter wren  
*Cistothorus platensis* sedge wren  
*Cistothorus palustris* marsh wren

**CINCLIDAE:** Dippers

*Cinclus mexicanus* American dipper

**REGULIDAE:** Kinglets

*Regulus satrapa* golden-crowned kinglet  
*Regulus calendula* ruby-crowned kinglet



**SYLVIIDAE:** Old World Warblers

*Polioptila caerulea* blue-gray gnatcatcher  
*Polioptila melanura* black-tailed gnatcatcher

**TURDIDAE:** Thrushes and Allies

*Sialia sialis* eastern bluebird  
*Sialia mexicana* western bluebird  
*Sialia currucoides* mountain bluebird  
*Myadestes townsendi* Townsend's solitaire  
*Catharus minimus* gray-cheeked thrush  
*Catharus ustulatus* Swainson's thrush  
*Catharus guttatus* hermit thrush  
*Turdus migratorius* American robin  
*Ixoreus naevius* varied thrush

**MIMIDAE:** Mockingbirds and Thrashers

*Dumetella carolinensis* gray catbird  
*Mimus polyglottos* northern mockingbird  
*Oreoscoptes montanus* sage thrasher  
*Toxostoma rufum* brown thrasher  
*Toxostoma longirostre* long-billed thrasher  
*Toxostoma curvirostre* curve-billed thrasher  
*Toxostoma crissale* crissal thrasher

**STURNIDAE:** Starlings

*Sturnus vulgaris* European starling (I)

**MOTACILLIDAE:** Wagtails and Pipits

*Anthus rubescens* American pipit  
*Anthus spragueii* Sprague's pipit

**BOMBYCILLIDAE:** Waxwings and Allies

*Bombycilla cedrorum* cedar waxwing

**PTILOGONATIDAE:** Silky Flycatchers

*Phainopepla nitens* phainopepla

**PARULIDAE:** New World Warblers

*Vermivora pinus* blue-winged warbler  
*Vermivora chrysoptera* golden-winged warbler  
*Vermivora peregrina* Tennessee warbler  
*Vermivora celata* orange-crowned warbler  
*Vermivora ruficapilla* Nashville warbler  
*Vermivora virginiae* Virginia's warbler  
*Vermivora luciae* Lucy's warbler  
*Parula americana* northern parula

*Dendroica petechia* yellow warbler  
*Dendroica pensylvanica* chestnut-sided warbler  
*Dendroica magnolia* magnolia warbler  
*Dendroica tigrina* Cape May warbler  
*Dendroica caerulescens* black-throated blue warbler  
*Dendroica coronata* yellow-rumped warbler  
*Dendroica nigrescens* black-throated gray warbler  
*Dendroica virens* black-throated green warbler  
*Dendroica townsendi* Townsend's warbler  
*Dendroica occidentalis* hermit warbler  
*Dendroica fusca* Blackburnian warbler  
*Dendroica dominica* yellow-throated warbler  
*Dendroica graciae* Grace's warbler  
*Dendroica pinus* pine warbler  
*Dendroica discolor* prairie warbler  
*Dendroica palmarum* palm warbler  
*Dendroica castanea* bay-breasted warbler  
*Dendroica striata* blackpoll warbler  
*Dendroica cerulea* cerulean warbler  
*Mniotilta varia* black-and-white warbler  
*Setophaga ruticilla* American redstart  
*Protonotaria citrea* prothonotary warbler  
*Helmitheros vermivorum* worm-eating warbler  
*Limothlypis swainsonii* Swainson's warbler  
*Seiurus aurocapilla* ovenbird  
*Seiurus noveboracensis* northern waterthrush  
*Seiurus motacilla* Louisiana waterthrush  
*Oporornis formosus* Kentucky warbler  
*Oporornis agilis* Connecticut warbler  
*Oporornis tolmiei* MacGillivray's warbler  
*Geothlypis trichas* common yellowthroat  
*Wilsonia citrina* hooded warbler  
*Wilsonia pusilla* Wilson's warbler  
*Wilsonia canadensis* Canada warbler  
*Cardellina rubrifrons* red-faced warbler  
*Myioborus pictus* painted redstart  
*Icteria virens* yellow-breasted chat

**THRAUPIDAE:** Tanagers and Allies

*Piranga flava* hepatic tanager  
*Piranga rubra* summer tanager  
*Piranga olivacea* scarlet tanager  
*Piranga ludoviciana* western tanager

**EMBERIZIDAE:** True Buntings and American Sparrows

*Pipilo chlorurus* green-tailed towhee  
*Pipilo maculatus* spotted towhee  
*Pipilo erythrophthalmus* eastern towhee  
*Pipilo fuscus* canyon towhee

*Aimophila cassinii* Cassin's sparrow  
*Aimophila ruficeps* rufous-crowned sparrow  
*Spizella arborea* American tree sparrow  
*Spizella passerina* chipping sparrow  
*Spizella pallida* clay-colored sparrow  
*Spizella breweri* Brewer's sparrow  
*Spizella pusilla* field sparrow  
*Spizella atrogularis* black-chinned sparrow  
*Pooecetes gramineus* vesper sparrow  
*Chondestes grammacus* lark sparrow  
*Amphispiza bilineata* black-throated sparrow  
*Amphispiza belli* sage sparrow  
*Calamospiza melanocorys* lark bunting  
*Passerculus sandwichensis* Savannah sparrow  
*Ammodramus savannarum* grasshopper sparrow  
*Ammodramus bairdii* Baird's sparrow  
*Ammodramus leconteii* Le Conte's sparrow  
*Passerella iliaca* fox sparrow  
*Melospiza melodia* song sparrow  
*Melospiza lincolni* Lincoln's sparrow  
*Melospiza georgiana* swamp sparrow  
*Zonotrichia albicollis* white-throated sparrow  
*Zonotrichia querula* Harris's sparrow  
*Zonotrichia leucophrys* white-crowned sparrow  
*Zonotrichia atricapilla* golden-crowned sparrow  
*Junco hyemalis* dark-eyed junco  
*Calcarius mccownii* McCown's longspur  
*Calcarius ornatus* chestnut-collared longspur

**CARDINALIDAE:** North American Buntings and Cardinal-Grosbeaks

*Cardinalis cardinalis* northern cardinal  
*Cardinalis sinuatus* pyrrhuloxia  
*Pheucticus ludovicianus* rose-breasted grosbeak  
*Pheucticus melanocephalus* black-headed grosbeak  
*Passerina caerulea* blue grosbeak  
*Passerina amoena* lazuli bunting  
*Passerina cyanea* indigo bunting  
*Passerina versicolor* varied bunting  
*Passerina ciris* painted bunting  
*Spiza americana* dickcissel

**ICTERIDAE:** Grackles, New World Blackbirds, and New World Orioles

*Dolichonyx oryzivorus* bobolink  
*Agelaius phoeniceus* red-winged blackbird  
*Sturnella magna* eastern meadowlark  
*Sturnella neglecta* western meadowlark  
*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* yellow-headed blackbird  
*Euphagus carolinus* rusty blackbird  
*Euphagus cyanocephalus* Brewer's blackbird

*Quiscalus quiscula* common grackle  
*Quiscalus mexicanus* great-tailed grackle  
*Molothrus aeneus* bronzed cowbird  
*Molothrus ater* brown-headed cowbird  
*Icterus spurius* orchard oriole  
*Icterus cucullatus* hooded oriole  
*Icterus bullockii* Bullock's oriole  
*Icterus galbula* Baltimore oriole  
*Icterus parisorum* Scott's oriole

**FRINGILLIDAE:** True Finches

*Carpodacus purpureus* purple finch  
*Carpodacus cassinii* Cassin's finch  
*Carpodacus mexicanus* house finch  
*Loxia curvirostra* red crossbill  
*Carduelis pinus* pine siskin  
*Carduelis psaltria* lesser goldfinch  
*Carduelis tristis* American goldfinch  
*Coccothraustes vespertinus* evening grosbeak

**PASSERIDAE:** True Sparrows

*Passer domesticus* house sparrow (I)

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357 species – updated January, 2007

“(I)” = introduced species to Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Classification and nomenclature follow the AOU (American Ornithologists' Union) Check-list of North American Birds, Fifth Supplement to the Seventh Edition [Banks, R.C., C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen, Jr., J.D. Rising, and D.F. Stotz. 2005. Forty-sixth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union check-list of North American birds. *The Auk* 122(3): 1026-1031.].

Checklist compiled by Steve West and David Roemer.

Great horned owl photograph by Adam Hubert, Rattlesnake Springs, August 2003.