Other flying animals

Birds are one of several groups of flying animals that migrate between the northern, central, and southern parts of the Americas. Bats and butterflies also migrate through the Coachella-Imperial region.

Mal Mal



Monarch Butterfly – Mariposa monarca

Iconic migratory species begins travelling from northern US and Canada to Mexico and Florida in late summer/early autumn, passing through Southern California on its way.



Pali'l

Hoary Bat – Murciélago gris

Large, migratory species journeys between North and Central America every year, wintering in Southern California Feeds mostly on moths. Solitary species nests in trees or caves.

What's in a name …

Cahuilla bird names

The Cahuilla bird names included in this guide are general names and are not necessarily specific to the referenced species. For example, *sasaymal*, duck, is a general term. The Ruddy Duck is used as an example of a common duck species found in the region. Moreover, the Cahuilla language has a variety of dialects and thus the words used here are specific to the Torres-Martínez, Desert Cahuilla.

Spanish names are included. Note that many bird names used in Mexico come from Nahuatl, the second most spoken language in Mexico after Spanish. Both Nahuatl and Cahuilla come from the Uto-Aztecan language family.

About the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla

The Torres-Martínez Desert Cahuilla are one of six bands of Cahuilla Natives indigenous to the Coachella-Imperial region. Stewards of the environment for millennia, the Torres-Martinez continue to contribute to responsible natural resource management in the region today.

About Audubon

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation, reaching millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action.

Find our new Salton Sea birding map online:

ca.audubon.org/node/26691

CONTACT

Program Director: Frank Ruiz, frank.ruiz@audubon.org

CREDIT

Illustrations: Ryan Llamas, ryan.llamas@audubon.org

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Larrea tridentata

Audubon Salton Sea Office
41550 Eclectic Street Palm Desert, CA
(760) 799-5140

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BIRDING ON CAHUILLA LANDS

Cahuilla Wikikmallem (birds)

Common birds field guide



TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS
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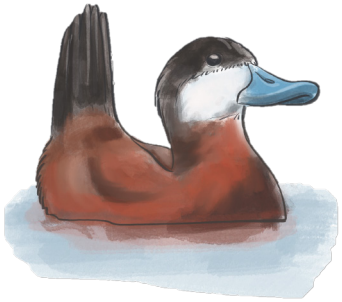
COMMON BIRDS

Sasaymal

Ruddy Duck – Pato tepalcate

Dabbling duck that uses its flat bill to strain food items like seagrass from muddy, shallow water.

Habitat: the Salton Sea



Tamawit

Northern Mockingbird - Cenzontle

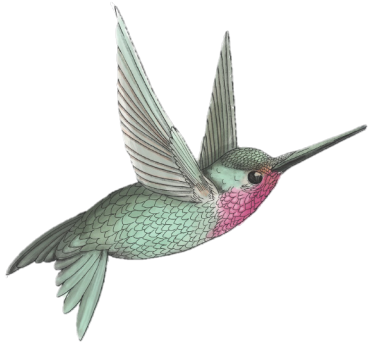
Insect and berry-feeding bird, famous for its ability to mimic the calls of other bird species.

Habitat: in urban areas, in thickets, streams, and canyons.



Toochil

Anna's Hummingbird – Colibrí de Ana



Colorful, nectar-feeding bird. Attracted to blue and purple flowers, like the Desert Bluebell.

Habitat: gardens, chaparral, open woods.

Poolmish

Lesser Nighthawk - Tapacaminos



Forages for insects, lays on the ground and captures prey from below.

Habitat: desert scrubland and chaparral.

Sikwakwanat

Cliff Swallow – Golondrina risquera

Migratory species, nests in colonies and feeds on insects.

Habitat: freeway overpasses, bridges.





Koopanil

Northern Flicker – Carpintero de pechera

Migratory woodpecker species, found in region during winter months.

Habitat: wooded areas.

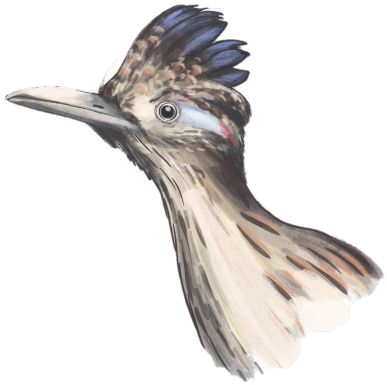
Kookool

Burrowing Owl – Tecolote llanero



Small owl, makes burrows in open grasslands and prairies.

Habitat: agricultural fields in the region.



Poowish

Greater Roadrunner – Correcaminos

This iconic southwestern bird feeds on insects, reptiles, rodents, small birds.

Habitat: desert scrubland.

Ka'al

Red-tailed Hawk – Gavilán colirrojo



Common in all seasons, bulky hawk with characteristic red tail.

Habitat: open country, mountains, and roadsides.

Yachi

American Robin – Zorzal robín



Feeds on insects, berries, and earthworms. Found during winter months.

Habitat: lawns and farmlands.

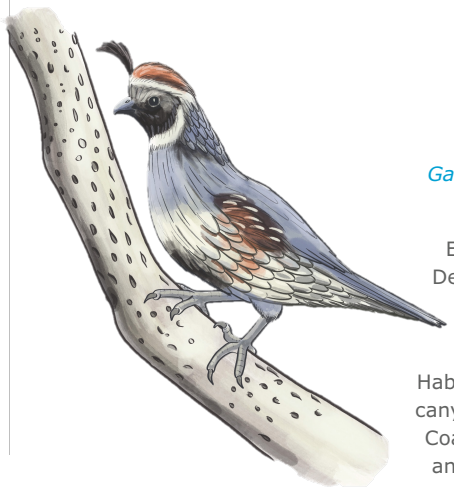
Yoongavish

Turkey Vulture - Zopilote



Large scavenger feeds on carrion, common across the Americas.

Habitat: open country, woodlands, deserts, and foothills.



Qaxal

Gambel's Quail – Cordoniz desértica

Endemic to the Sonoran Desert, forages in groups among shrubs and low trees.

Habitat: brushy desert and canyons. Found both in the Coachella-Imperial valleys and the Hi-Desert region.