BIRDING
in & around
DUNCAN
ARIZONA

including Virden Bridge
and the
Lower Gila Box Canyon
in New Mexico

Updated February 2021

scan for printable PDF

Pick up copies at Country Chic/Duncan's Visitor Center, Duncan Town Hall, Rock-A-Buy Rocks and Gifts, Duncan Public Library or The Simpson Hotel.

Carlyle Canyon for uplands species

Hwy 75 to Clifton

Carlyle Rd. to Carlyle Cyn.

abundant Sandhill Cranes in winter

Bald Eagle nesting area

Great Blue Heron nesting area

abundant hawks, grosbeaks, sparrows, and finches

"Duncan Birding Trail"

Duncan

"Duncan-- Centennial Park"

"Duncan-- Stagecoach Loop"

"Franklin-- Hwy 70 Pond"

"Franklin-- Railroad Wash Rd."

Hwy 92

Virden

"Gila River-- Virden Bridge Hwy 92"

frequent Golden Eagle sightings

"Lower Gila Box"

Hwy 70 to Lordsburg

Arizona

New Mexico

e = *ebird.org "hot spots"*

Hot Spots

To find these "hot spots" on ebird.com, do a search there on the name exactly as it appears below, including any double dashes.

Duncan Birding Trail

A one- mile loop on the Gila River a short walk from downtown Duncan. This trail offers easy access to a wealth of bird life. Three habitats—agricultural, riparian, and residential—overlap here and attract a rich diversity of birds.

Summer residents include Common Black-Hawk, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Bell's Vireo. Spring and fall bring migrants including Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Lazuli Bunting. Look for Sandhill Cranes, Western Bluebirds, and Lincoln's Sparrow in winter.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher has been reported nesting in the area, and a pair of White-tailed Kites spent the summer there in 2016.

On the southern end of the Highway 75 bridge over the Gila, watch for the birding trail sign and park there.

Duncan--Centennial Park

This park is across from the Duncan Birding Trail on Hwy 70. You'll find park-loving species such as Inca Dove, American Robin, and European Starling. You'll also find a shaded playground for children and several picnic shelters.

Duncan--Stagecoach Loop

This road passes through an agricultural area very near the Gila River. Vermilion Flycatchers nest in the willow trees that line the irrigation canal at the bend in the road. Abert's Towhees enjoy the brush below. The trees attract warblers and vireos in the spring.

Also at the bend in the road is a green pasture, where Sandhill Cranes can be seen from October through February.

Weedy fields, plowed fields, and fields of alfalfa attract many kinds of raptors hunting rodents. Swainson's Hawk is one that can be seen in summer, Ferruginous Hawk and Northern Harrier in winter. American Pipits have also been seen in the fields.

Brushy and weedy edges of the canal attract an abundance of sparrows in the winter, including Savannah, Vesper, and Lincoln's Sparrows.

Species density is greatest at the curve in the road closest to the river.

Key

A	Abundant; common species, very numerous
C	Common; certain to be seen in suitable habitat
F	Fairly common;
U	Uncommon;
R	Rare; seen at intervals of 2-5 years
X	Accidental; seen only once or twice
H	Historic; not seen since before 2000

Summer	Nests in area
Winter	Winters in area
Migrant	Migrates through the area or has wandered in from another area

From Duncan, cross the Hwy 75 bridge. Make an immediate right on Old Virden Road. Travel 0.8 miles to Stagecoach Loop, and turn right. If you continue around the bend, on the road, it will take you to Highway 92, to Virden, New Mexico.

Note: All the land on Stagecoach Loop is private property, so please stay on the road.

Franklin--Hwy 70 Pond

Just southeast of Duncan on Highway 70, on the north side, is a man-made pond that attracts waterfowl seen nowhere else in the area: Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes and American Bitterns. Please stay on the highway and don't disturb the residents.

Franklin--Railroad Wash Rd

A little further out of Duncan on Highway 70, on the north side, the shelter of Railroad Wash attracts a great variety of birds, in all seasons. The wash runs during rains and when fields across the highway are irrigated. It can be extremely dangerous in heavy rains, so stay away then.

Gila River--Virden Bridge Hwy 92

This is a well-known and easily accessed Southwestern New Mexico birding hotspot. Park at either end of the bridge, which is just a few miles north of the junction of Highways 70 and 92. The property on either side of the bridge is private, so please don't wander. Hundreds of Sandhill Cranes pass the winter days in the field just north of the bridge.

Lower Gila Box

Accessible only by rugged vehicle, this exquisite box canyon is a U.S. Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area. A rough foot trail descends from an overlook parking area. Take Hwy 70 in New Mexico to Fuller Rd., turn there and go exactly seven miles, then turn left. When you reach a fork in the road, bear right. Use GPS if possible.

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Waterfowl			
Greater White-fronted Goose		X	
Snow Goose		U	
Canada Goose			U
Wood Duck		F	
Gadwall		F	
American Wigeon		C	
Mallard	C	C	
Mexican Duck	F	F	
Blue-winged Teal		U	
Cinnamon Teal		R	
Northern Shoveler		F	
Northern Pintail		U	
Green-winged Teal		F	
Canvasback *(Franklin pond only)*		X	
Redhead			F
Ring-necked Duck *(Franklin pond only)*			U
Lesser Scaup			X
Common Merganser	U	F	
Ruddy Duck			R
Quail			
Scaled Quail	F	F	
Gambel's Quail	C	C	
Montezuma Quail	X	X	
Partridges, Turkey			
Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X	
Wild Turkey	F	F	
Grebes			
Pied-billed Grebe *(Franklin pond only)*	U		
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets, Ibis			
American Bittern *(Franklin only)*			X

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Great Blue Heron	C		
Great Egret		U	
Cattle Egret			X
Green Heron			U
Black-crowned Night-Heron	F	U	
White-faced Ibis	F		
Vultures, Kites, Eagles & Hawks			
Turkey Vulture	A		
White-tailed Kite			R
Mississippi Kite	F		
Bald Eagle	U		
Northern Harrier		C	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		C	
Cooper's Hawk	C	C	
Common Black Hawk	C		
Gray Hawk	F		
Broad-winged Hawk			X
Swainson's Hawk	C		
Zone-tailed Hawk	F		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	
Ferruginous Hawk		C	
Golden Eagle	F		

White-tailed Kite in Duncan © Homer Hansen

Coots			
American Coot	F	F	
		A	
Cranes			
Sandhill Crane		A	
Common Crane			X

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Shorebirds			
Kildeer	C	F	
Upland Sandpiper	U		
Long-billed Curlew			R
Western Sandpiper			R
Wilson's Snipe		U	
Spotted Sandpiper			U
Greater Yellowlegs			X
Lesser Yellowlegs			X
Ring-billed Gull			R
Neotropic Cormorant			X
Double-crested Cormorant			X
Pigeons and Doves			
Rock Pigeon	U	U	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	A	A	
Inca Dove	F	F	
Common Ground-Dove	X	X	
White-winged Dove	A	A	
Mourning Dove	A		
Cuckoos			
Greater Roadrunner	C	C	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U		
Owls			
Barn Owl	C	C	
Western Screech Owl	U	U	
Great Horned Owl	C	C	
Elf Owl	X	X	
Goatsuckers			
Lesser Nighthawk	C		
Common Nighthawk	R		
Common Poorwill	R		

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Swifts			
White-throated Swift	U	U	
Vaux's Swift			X
Hummingbirds			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	C		
Costa's Hummingbird			U
Anna's Hummingbird		X	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	C		
Rufous Hummingbird			C
Calliope Hummingbird			X
Broad-billed Hummingbird			X
Kingfishers			
Belted Kingfisher			F
Woodpeckers			
Lewis's Woodpecker	U	U	
Acorn Woodpecker	F	F	
Gila Woodpecker	C	C	
Red-naped Sapsucker	F	F	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	
Northern Flicker	C	C	
Falcons			
American Kestrel	C	C	
Merlin		U	
Peregrine Falcon	F	F	
Prairie Falcon	U	U	
Tyrant Flycatchers			
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet			X
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		
Western Wood-Pewee	C		
Willow Flycatcher	F		

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Hammond's Flycatcher		X	
Gray Flycatcher			R
Dusky Flycatcher	F	U	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher			U
Cordilleran Flycatcher	U		
Black Phoebe	C	C	
Eastern Phoebe			R
Say's Phoebe	C	C	
Vermilion Flycatcher	C	C	
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	U		
Ash-throated Flycatcher	C		
Brown-crested Flycatcher	F		
Cassin's Kingbird	F		
Western Kingbird	A		
Shrikes			
Loggerhead Shrike	C	C	
Vireos			
Bell's Vireo	C		
Hutton's Vireo		U	
Cassin's Vireo			C
Plumbeous Vireo	C		
Warbling Vireo	C		
Jays, Crows and Ravens			
Pinyon Jay	R	R	
Steller's Jay	R	R	
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay			R
Mexican Jay	R	R	
American Crow	U	U	
Chihuahuan Raven	C	C	
Common Raven	C	C	
Larks			
Horned Lark	F	F	

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Swallows			
Tree Swallow			F
Violet-green Swallow	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C		
Bank Swallow			F
Cliff Swallow	C		
Barn Swallow	C		
Chickadees, Titmice, Verdins and Bushtits			
Mountain Chickadee	U	U	
Bridled Titmouse		F	
Verdin	C	C	
Bushtit	F		
Nuthatches & Creepers			
Red-breasted Nuthatch		U	
White-breasted Nuthatch	F	F	
Pygmy Nuthatch	U	U	
Brown Creeper	U	U	
Wrens			
Rock Wren	C	C	
Canyon Wren	C	C	
House Wren			F
Marsh Wren			F
Bewick's Wren	C	C	
Cactus Wren	C	C	
Gnatcatchers and Kinglets			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	F	R	
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	C	C	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		C	

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Waterfowl			
Greater White-fronted Goose		X	
Snow Goose		U	
Canada Goose			U
Wood Duck		F	
Gadwall		F	
American Wigeon		C	
Mallard	C	C	
Mexican Duck	F	F	
Blue-winged Teal		U	
Cinnamon Teal		R	
Northern Shoveler		F	
Northern Pintail		U	
Green-winged Teal		F	
Canvasback *(Franklin pond only)*		X	
Redhead			F
Ring-necked Duck *(Franklin pond only)*			U
Lesser Scaup			X
Common Merganser	U	F	
Ruddy Duck			R
Quail			
Scaled Quail	F	F	
Gambel's Quail	C	C	
Montezuma Quail	X	X	
Partridges, Turkey			
Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X	
Wild Turkey	F	F	
Grebes			
Pied-billed Grebe *(Franklin pond only)*	U		
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets, Ibis			
American Bittern *(Franklin only)*			X

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Yellow Warbler			C
Chestnut-sided Warbler			X
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	U	
Myrtle Yellow-rumped Warbler			X
Black-throated Gray Warbler	F		
Townsend's Warbler			F
Wilson's Warbler			A
Red-faced Warbler			R
Painted Redstart	R		
Towhees and Sparrows			
Green-tailed Towhee			C
Spotted Towhee		U	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	C	C	
Canyon Towhee	C	C	
Abert's Towhee	C	C	
Cassin's Sparrow			X
Chipping Sparrow	U	C	
Clay-colored Sparrow			U
Brewer's Sparrow		C	
Vesper Sparrow		C	
Lark Sparrow	C		
Black-throated Sparrow	A	A	
Sagebrush Sparrow		U	
Lark Bunting			C
Savannah Sparrow		F	
Grasshopper Sparrow			R
Fox Sparrow		X	
Song Sparrow	C	C	
Lincoln's Sparrow		C	
Swamp Sparrow		R	
White-throated Sparrow		U	
White-crowned Sparrow		C	
Golden-crowned Sparrow		R	
Dark-eyed Junco			C

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Chats			
Yellow-breasted Chat	C		
Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks & Buntings			
Hepatic Tanager *(Lower Gila Box only)*	X		
Summer Tanager	F		
Western Tanager	F		
Northern Cardinal	C	C	
Pyrrhuloxia	C	C	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			U
Black-headed Grosbeak	C		
Blue Grosbeak	C		
Lazuli Bunting			F
Indigo Bunting	R		
Varied Bunting	X		
Painted Bunting	X		
Dickcissel			R
Longspurs			
Chestnut-collared Longspur		F	
Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Orioles, & Allies			
Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	
Western Meadowlark	R	C	
Yellow-headed Blackbird		F	
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	
Brewer's Blackbird		C	
Hooded Oriole	C		
Bullock's Oriole	C		
Scott's Oriole	C		
Bronzed Cowbird	F		
Brown-headed Cowbird	F	F	
Great-tailed Grackle	A	A	

	Summer	Winter	Migrant
Finches & Goldfinches			
House Finch	C	C	
Cassin's Finch			X
Red Crossbill	R	R	
Pine Siskin	F	F	
Lesser Goldfinch	C	C	
Lawrence's Goldfinch		R	
American Goldfinch		F	
Old World Sparrows			
House Sparrow	A	A	

Sources

Deborah Hileman
Homer Hansen
Tommy DeBardeleben
Western Field Ornithologists
www.ebird.org
www.allaboutbirds.org

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Questions/Changes/Additions?
Please write to *innkeeper@simpsonhotel.com*

Sandhill Cranes, Duncan Birding Trail by Marion MacDonald