

AVIAN ABUNDANCE AT WEST FORK

More than 100 species of birds live amongst the pine, oak, and riparian forests that converge here near the confluence of the West Fork and Oak Creek waterways. As you explore, keep your eyes and ears alert for the sights and sounds of these avian species.



Acorn Woodpecker

- Conspicuous and social.
- Black body, red cap, and distinct facial pattern.
- Chisel-shaped beak for drilling holes in trees or other structures to store acorns.
- Stiff tail feathers act as brace while clinging to trees.
- Feeds on acorns and insects.
- Breeds cooperatively and forages communally.

Residency: year-round Length: 9 inches
✦ Wingspan: 17.5 inches

Steller's Jay



- Large, aggressive, and noisy.
- Black crest and head, stout beak, and blue body.
- Often seen on limbs of pine trees in coniferous forests or raiding campgrounds and picnic areas.
- Forages for insects and nuts but will raid other birds' nests and eat the eggs.
- Hawk-like "shak shak shak" call.

Residency: year-round Length: 11.5 inches ✦ Wingspan: 19 inches



Mountain Chickadee

- Small and agile with short, conical bill for picking up prey and opening nuts.
- Gray back, white cheeks, with black cap, eye band, and throat patch.
- Nests in tree cavities in coniferous forests. Can hang upside down while foraging on foliage or eating from feeders.

Residency: year-round Length: 5.25 inches ✦ Wingspan: 8.5 inches

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

- Tiny with beige belly, olive back, light eye ring, and small bill.
- Sometimes seen hovering at tips of tree branches while catching insects.
- Males have patch of red feathers on top of head, which they raise up like a crown as a sign of defense.
- Rich and varied songs.

Residency: fall, winter, and spring Length: 4.25 inches
✦ Wingspan: 8 inches



White-breasted Nuthatch

- Stocky with broad, short tail.
- White belly and face, black cap, gray and black back.
- Long, upturned bill used to hatch open nuts and pick insects from bark.
- Often seen hopping up and down tree trunks in open forests.
- Noisy, repetitive "hah hah hah" call.

Residency: year-round Length: 5.75 inches
✦ Wingspan: 11 inches



Coconino National Forest

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