

# Get to Know Your Bird Neighbors in Ponderosa and Dry Mixed-Conifer Forests



## Species

### Look



**Mountain Bluebird**

### Listen

(scan to hear)



A series of low, hoarse and soft whistles

### Habitat

- Found in open forests, meadows, and even alpine environments; a cavity nester
- Benefits from open habitat created by fire and clearing, but needs snags retained for nesting

### Status

- A *common* species
- Populations **decreasing** range-wide

**Western Tanager**



Burry and sing-songy sound — a Robin with a cold. Also listen for distinct “priditit” rattle call



- Found in open to mid-density forests like ponderosa, lodgepole, and aspen
- Responds positively to fire, as the species has a preference for woodlands with open structure

- A *common* species
- Populations **increasing** in most regions

**Pygmy Nuthatch**



A squeaky, call usually heard as flocks move through the canopy—“bip bop bip bop”



- Strongly associated with ponderosa forest; a cavity nester
- This species is dependent on dead trees for nesting, therefore old-growth forest or logging practices that retain snags will benefit this bird

- A *common* species
- Populations **decreasing** in most regions

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird**



Listen for a clear, dry trill made by the male's wings as it zips by



- Found in diverse forest and shrubland habitats
- Benefits from fire and invasive control to support floristic diversity and herbaceous understory in forests

- A *common* species
- Populations **decreasing** range-wide

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**



Song is a sharp, distinctive whistle said to sound like “Quick! Three beers!”—often given from prominent perch



- Found in conifer and aspen forests—prefers edges and openings
- Retain snags and maintain forest openings through selective harvest or fire for this bird

- A *less common* species
- Populations may be **stable** in most regions, but there is uncertainty

## Species

## Look

### Wild Turkey (Merriam's variant)



### Red-naped Sapsucker



### American Goshawk



### Northern Pygmy Owl



## Listen

(scan to hear)



Various descending "gobble" sounds of course! Also can give sharp "tuk" calls and whines



Call is a nasal cry or squeal like "QUEEah." Also listen for uneven or unsteady drumming



A loud, sharp cackling like "kye kye kye." May also give a longer hawk screech. Most vocal near nests!



Repeating, flat, series of hoots and toots. This owl can be heard during the day!



## Habitat



- Often ponderosa, aspen, and oak associated
- Needs grassy openings in forests created by disturbances like fire

- Requires Aspen stands within montane conifer; a cavity nester
- Protect and avoid clearing aspen stands in mixed-conifer

- Found in diverse mature forest
- Retention of old-growth trees for nesting sites is key to support this bird

- Found in many forest types like ponderosa and aspen; a cavity nester
- Has wide hunting territories and needs large patches of forest

## Status



- A *common* species
- Populations may be **stable** in most regions, but there is uncertainty

- A *less common* species
- Populations **decreasing** in most regions

- A *rare* species
- Populations **decreasing** range-wide

- A *less common* species
- Populations **decreasing** in most regions

## How Can You Help Forest Birds on Your Property?



- Learn what kind of forest is on your property, and what bird community it may naturally support
- Retain old-growth trees, as these are key for hawks and owls
- Leave snags and deadfall in place — snags are critical nesting habitat for many cavity nesters and they support forest health and diversity.

- Use logging, thinning and prescribed fires in ways that support forest health and create diverse forest structure. For example, implement selective harvest to create mixed-age stands, and use fire to create patchy clearings. These activities will support diverse bird communities and help manage fuel loads.

Learn more about how you can help birds!

