

# Seven Springs Birds



Scrub jay

Red-tailed hawk

Cooper's hawk



Elf owl



Cactus wren



Gila woodpecker



Black phoebe



Gambel's quail



Anna's hummingbird

Seven Springs has a rich diversity in its wildlife population. The important streamside habitat is used by avian "locals" that stay nearby all year: the scrub jay, Gambel's quail, northern cardinal and Gila woodpecker.

Two groups of birds live in Seven Springs only part of the year. In the summer, the birds from Mexico come for the cooler summers. This group is

referred to as the "neotropical" birds, and include several colorful members: Western tanager, summer tanager, hooded oriole and the black hawk. When those birds exit for warmer climates for the winter, and a group of birds come from the north to spend the winter here. Seven Springs' winter visitors include the Oregon junco, rufous-sided towhees, robin, Western bluebirds and the ferruginous hawk.

Up on the hillsides, look for red-shafted woodpeckers and Gila woodpeckers using the saguaros for housing. Along the creek, watch for black phoebes perched on limbs above the water. Listen for the noisy chatter of the belted kingfisher fishing the creek. Soaring birds could be red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, turkey vultures, or in the summer, the black hawk. Small birds flitting

Northern cardinal



in the bushes, hunting for birds, could be the plain titmouse, ruby-crowned kinglets, verdins or bridled titmice. Calling and staying in a group, Gambel's quail are common.

Ruby-crowned kinglet



# Seven Springs Riparian Wildlife



Dragonfish



Golden huntsman



Bark scorpion



Chipmunk



Audobon's warbler

Within the Tonto National Forest, an estimated 95% of the birds, animals and reptiles make use of a streamside habitat for either water, shade or habitat. Many animals pass through this riparian zone—watch for jackrabbits, desert cottontails, raccoons, ringtail cats, bobcats and coyotes. Black hawks hunt from overhanging limbs for crayfish. Sonoran mud turtles are rare; never disturb this gentle creature, unique and identifiable by its textured neck. The dominant bird "warning call" when you enter this area will be the scrub jay, alerting the birds a stranger is nearby. At night, listen for the calls of the Western screech and elf owls. Watch for bats.

Accidental introduction of "crawdads" or crayfish (*Orconectes virillis*) in this creek has reduced the variety of creatures that live here now. Because crayfish are omnivores, they eat plants, invertebrates, vertebrates and detritus. They range in

size from a fraction of an inch to several inches, so the crayfish are large enough to take adults of *all* of Arizona's stream dwelling organisms with the exception of mud turtles! Gone are the leopard frogs, common only a decade ago. Besides eating all the critters, crayfish even consume the cover vegetation, so the stream's tiny fish are more vulnerable to their natural predators.

Aquatic systems export much of their productivity in the form of winged insects. The crayfish even impact terrestrial ecology because much of the insect food that bats, birds, reptiles and amphibians need comes from riparian zones. When crayfish are the dominant faunal component—like in the Seven Springs drainage—the stream's productivity is retained in the aquatic system, unavailable to many terrestrial animals.

Crayfish information courtesy Dr. Robert Smith, Department of Entomology, University of Arizona



jackrabbit

Anna's hummingbird

raccoon

Gambel's quail (immature)



T O N T O N A T I O N A L F O R E S T

# Seven Springs Reptiles and Insects



Hawk moth



Whipsnake



Gila monster

The upland habitat around Seven Springs is home to many insects and reptiles. The most common rattlesnake is the Black-tailed rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus*), unique for his ability to use the distinctive smell of woodrats to choose strategic ambush sites near the runways and nest entrances of their favored prey. Watch for lizards sunning on rocks and butterflies hovering over the streamside vegetation.

Black-tailed rattlesnake information courtesy Dr. Harry Greene, University of California



Western swallowtail

Northern checkerspot

Pipe swallowtail

Pipe swallowtail

Checked beetle

Tarantula

Golden huntsman spider

Black-tailed rattlesnake



T O N T O N A T I O N A L F O R E S T

# Seven Springs Animals

Five orifices annoyingly fights the mat, however two orifices ran away. The obese sheep abused one Macintosh, but five tickets auctioned ç√√ silly dogs, but Santa Claus bought one cat, yet the televisions fightss. Five orifices annoyingly fights the mat, however two orifices ran away. The obese sheep abused one Macintosh, but five tickets auctioned ç√√ silly dogs, but Santa Claus bought one cat, yet the televisions fightss. Five orifices annoyingly fights the mat, however two orifices ran away. The obese sheep abused one Macintosh, but five tickets auctioned ç√√ silly dogs, but Santa Claus bought one cat, yet the televisions fightss. Five



Gray fox



Ringtail cat

