



Photo: Sally Quon



ALBERTA BIRDS

CHECKLIST

PART ONE OF THE NATURE ALBERTA "CHECKLIST" SERIES

What We Do:

"Alberta's natural heritage is widely enjoyed, deeply appreciated and thoroughly protected"



Nature Alberta is a federation of natural history organizations operating in Alberta. Known to long-time members as the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN), Nature Alberta formed in 1970 when the leaders of six local natural history clubs joined together to create a provincial federation of naturalists.

Our Mission:

"To be a strong voice for the greater appreciation and conservation of Alberta's natural environment."

To achieve this mission, Nature Alberta:

- Encourages Albertans to increase their knowledge and understanding of natural history and ecological processes
- Promotes the exchange of data and information among clubs and other conservation organizations
- Promotes the formation of new natural history clubs throughout the province
- Provides a unified voice for naturalists on conservation issues

The Bird Conservation Program

Alberta is fortunate to have a broad diversity of bird species and a large community of birding enthusiasts! Nature Alberta works with both the recreational

birding and wildlife management communities to undertake bird research projects such as Alberta's Breeding Bird Atlas.



Our bird conservation goals are to:

- Be a strong voice for the recovery of bird species at risk
- Work with others to assess the health of Alberta's bird species and their habitat
- Through the Important Bird Areas program, promote the conservation of bird habitat
- Increase appreciation of Alberta's bird biodiversity as indicators of a healthy landscape
- Promote birding as a worthy recreational pursuit that contributes to a healthy lifestyle

About this checklist series:

Alberta is a large province with varied habitats, and exploring its biodiversity is an immense task. Together, Nature Alberta and our partners present this series in hopes of inspiring Albertans to get out and experience the natural beauty of this great province.

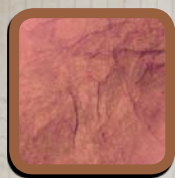


Alberta Birds Checklist:

Alberta's diverse geographic landscape, including forests, mountains, grasslands, bodies of water, and other habitat types makes it home to a brilliantly large list of bird species. Several international migratory bird flyways converge here, bringing millions of feathered migrants through the province. Some come here to nest or live here year-round, while others merely pass through on their way either north or south. All this has helped create an amazing province for birding and nature lovers alike, and Nature Alberta is proud to support and promote its biodiversity! As such, the first publication in our Checklist series has been devoted to these amazing creatures, which display an astounding degree of variety, beauty, and mystery.

Introduction to Alberta's Ecoregions





Canadian Shield Region:

This region extends only partially into Alberta's Northeast corner, and is comprised of two distinct sections—the Kazan Upland, which includes Lake Athabasca, and the Athabasca Plain, which includes part of the shore of Lake Athabasca and the Canadian Shield south of Lake Athabasca. In the Kazan Upland, the glaciated bedrock plays a big role in the landscape appearance, and is of generally low relief with numerous lakes. The Athabasca Plains contain extensive sand plains, sand dune complexes, and kame moraines. As a result of shallow soils and high proportion of exposed bedrock, the vegetation includes areas of jack pine woodland and barren rock, with much of the ground being covered by lichens and mosses. Some birds noted in this area include the Common Nighthawk, Chipping Sparrow, and Northern Flicker.

Birding areas of interest:

Wood Buffalo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site



Boreal Region Summary:

Making up more than half of the province, Alberta's boreal region usually conjures up images of vast expanses of dense, green forest but this region is actually quite diverse. Stretching from the Northern half of the province down into Central Alberta, the boreal region consists of mixed-wood forests, wetlands, and a number of lakes and rivers. All four major North American flyways -or bird migration paths- converge in Alberta's boreal region. As a result, millions of migratory birds visit the area every year to nest. A variety of birds also make this habitat their home all year-round. All told, the boreal region hosts a spectacular amount of biodiversity including many species of waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds and songbirds. It also provides habitat for endangered or otherwise rare species like Whooping Cranes, Trumpeter Swans and Peregrine Falcons.

Birding areas of interest:

Cold Lake

Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park

Lac la Biche

Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory

Kimiwan Lake

Introduction to Alberta's Ecoregions



Foothills Region:

The Foothills are a transitional region between the Rocky Mountains and the boreal region. It has two sections, the Main and Northern Outliers. The main foothills includes the Foothill Belt, a band of folded sedimentary rock along the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains, as well as adjacent uplands on flat-lying sedimentary rock. The Northern Outliers consist of isolated flat-topped hills, which are erosional remnants in the western part of the Boreal Forest. These outliers occur in Swan Hills, Mount Watt, Pelican Mountain, and Buffalo Head Hills. They are separated from the Main Foothills by a large area of mixed wood forest. Bird species observed in this area include Common Mergansers, Osprey, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Birding areas of interest:

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

Willow Creek (foothills and grasslands)

Bow Valley Provincial Park

Grand Valley Road and Springbank Raptor Route



Parkland Region:

Covering between 10-15% of Alberta, the parkland region of Alberta is a transition area between the boreal and grassland regions. As such, the topography of this area can be highly variable, and ranges from dry, flat grasslands to hilly, forested areas to expansive marshlands. Much of this region has been modified for agriculture and urban development, which is changing habitat and species compositions. However, this area still boasts hundreds of different species of shorebirds, waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors.

Birding areas of interest:

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Big Lake Provincial Park

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park



Rocky Mountain Region:

The Rocky Mountain region is a part of a major uplift in western Alberta, which is a part of the Continental Divide. Many of the largest rivers in Alberta originate in this area. There are a variety of micro and macro climates created by the broad ranges of elevation and latitude; this has allowed for a diverse assemblage of vegetation and habitat types, including open dry grasslands, ridge systems, deciduous woodlands, coniferous forests, and alpine tundra. The three major regions are Montane, Sub-Alpine, and Alpine. These regions are each defined by their climates and unique vegetation. Bird species that frequent this area include Mountain Chickadees, Clark's Nutcrackers, and Golden Eagles.

Birding areas of interest:

Sheep River Provincial Park

Kananaskis Valley

Lake Louise



Grasslands Region:

Alberta's grassland region encompasses the Southern part of the province, east of the Rocky Mountains. Comprised mostly of plains, rolling hills and badlands, it is considered the most at-risk natural region in Alberta, partially due to conversion of the land for agriculture and urban development. Most of the vegetation is, as the name would imply, made up of grasses and some shrubs, and the climate is the warmest and driest in the province. Many species found here are unique to this area or rare in other areas of the province. In fact, the grasslands region has the highest proportion of endangered species within Alberta. Some of the bird species at risk include Burrowing Owls, Sage Grouse, and Ferruginous Hawks.

Birding areas of interest:

Pakowki Lake

Frank Lake

Lake Newell

Hays Reservoir

Naming and Ranking:

Birds are the only animals in North America to have official common names; most other animals instead have official scientific names, which are binomial and latin.

The taxonomic rank of **Order** is a grouping of birds based on similarities in physical appearance or ecology. These groupings can be very broad and comprise hundreds of species, such as the order Passeriformes, or be very narrow and only contain a handful of species, such as the order Gaviiformes.

Families are smaller, more specific groups nested within an Order, usually identified by more highly specific characteristics. As an example, the family Troglodytidae is a grouping of wrens so named due to their tendency to forage in crevices; troglodyte means "cave-dweller".

This list and associated information is based on

"The Official List of the Birds of Alberta"

www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/research/lifeSciences/ornithology/birdlist/

compiled by the Alberta Bird Record Committee.

It is up to date as of February 26, 2014.

The List is provided courtesy of the **Royal Alberta Museum**.

The common names and species sequence follow the

"Check-list of North American Birds"

up to, and including, the 54th supplement.

How to use this Checklist

1. Find the bird that you have sighted.
2. Circle the actions that you take in relation to that bird sighting.



VISUAL IDENTITY ONLY



PHOTOGRAPHED BIRD



AUDIO RECORDING



VIDEO OF BIRD



ENTERED INTO eBIRD ONLINE

(See page 27 for more info on eBird)

Codes used in the List of Alberta Birds:

Code: Description:

- Br:** A regular breeder in the province. These species do not stay year-round but rather come to the province in the spring to breed, leaving again in the fall.
- PR:** A permanent resident. These species stay in the province year-round.
- Mig:** These species only pass through the province. They do not breed or winter regularly in the province. Some species only pass through the province during the spring or fall migration, or abundance may differ between the two seasons. In this case, the following qualifiers apply:
- SMig.** Spring migration.
- FMig.** Fall migration.
- WV:** A winter visitor, individuals occurring during the winter period but not necessarily remaining all winter.
- WR:** A winter resident species, individuals arriving in the winter and remaining until they leave for the north in the spring.
- W:** A species wintering in the province in some numbers but usually lower than during the breeding season.
- w:** Very few individuals winter in the province, species is irregular in winter, or does not winter on an annual basis. It should be noted that more species are attempting to winter in the province.

Abundance qualifiers

- vr:** Very rare, occurs in the province on a near annual basis but is extremely difficult to locate because of very low abundance, localized distribution or secretive nature. Extensive effort and luck is required for an observer to find one of these species in the province.
- r:** Rare, occurs annually and is difficult to find, but numbers are higher than vr or it is less local in distribution.
- s:** Scarce, may breed in low numbers, is difficult to locate because of its habits (secretive, nocturnal), or occupies habitats where it is difficult to observe or find.
- l:** Local, a species which occupies only a very small percentage of available or suitable habitat and which is often known from only a few sites in the province.
- u:** Uncommon.
- Erratic:** A species whose local abundance fluctuates widely from year to year.
- Decl:** A species known to be declining in abundance (question mark when it is suspected).
- Incr:** A species known to be increasing in abundance (a question mark when it is suspected).

Bird Checklist

























































































































WATERBIRDS AND SHOREBIRDS



Common Goldeneye
























(Photo: David Fairless)

WATERBIRDS AND SHOREBIRDS

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Order Anseriformes			
Family Anatidae			
Greater White-fronted Goose	GWFG	Mig	    
Snow Goose	SNGO	Mig	    
Ross's Goose	ROGO	Mig	    
Cackling Goose	CACG	Mig	    
Canada Goose	CANG	Br/w	    
Trumpeter Swan	TRUS	rBr/w	    
Tundra Swan	TUSW	Mig/w	    
Wood Duck	WODU	rBr/w	    
Gadwall	GADW	Br/w	    
Eurasian Wigeon	EUWI	rSMig/vrFMig (1959) incr	    
American Wigeon	AMWI	Br/W	    
American Black Duck	ABDU	vrBr/rMig (1920s)	    
Mallard	MALL	Br/W	    
Blue-winged Teal	BWTE	Br	    
Cinnamon Teal	CITE	Br incr	    
Northern Shoveler	NSHO	Br	    
Northern Pintail	NOPI	Br/w	    
Green-winged Teal	GWTE	Br/w	    
Canvasback	CANV	Br/w	    
Redhead	REDH	Br/w	    
Ring-necked Duck	RNDU	Br/w	    
Greater Scaup	GRSC	rSMig/vrFMig/w	    
Lesser Scaup	LESC	Br/w	    
Harlequin Duck	HADU	Br/w	    















Bird Checklist

WATERBIRDS AND SHOREBIRDS

Surf Scoter	SUSC	sBr/uMig	    
White-winged Scoter	WWSC	Br	    
Long-tailed Duck	LTDU	rMig/w	    
Bufflehead	BUFF	Br/w	    
Common Goldeneye	COGO	Br/W	    
Barrow's Goldeneye	BAGO	Br/w	    
Hooded Merganser	HOME	rBr/uMig/w	    
Common Merganser	COME	Br/w	    
Red-breasted Merganser	RBME	Br/w	    
Ruddy Duck	RUDU	Br	    














Order Gaviiformes

Family Gaviidae

Red-throated Loon	RTLO	vrBr/Mig	    
Pacific Loon	PALO	vrBr/SMig, sFMig, w	    
Common Loon	COLO	Br	    

Order Podicipediformes

Family Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe	PBGR	Br	    
Horned Grebe	HOGH	Br	    
Red-necked Grebe	RNGR	Br	    
Eared Grebe	EAGR	Br	    
Western Grebe	WEGR	Br	    
Clark's Grebe	CLGR	vrBr(l)	    

Order Suliformes

Family Phalacrocoracidae





















Double-crested Cormorant	DCCO	Br/w	    
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Order Pelecaniformes

Family Pelecanidae

American White Pelican	AWPE	Br	    
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Family Ardeidae

American Bittern	AMBI	Br decl?	    
Great Blue Heron	GBHE	Br/w	    
Great Egret	GREG	vrBr/V (1954)	    
Black-crowned Night-Heron	BCNH	Br/w	    






















































































Bird Checklist

WATERBIRDS AND SHOREBIRDS







Solitary Sandpiper

(Photo: Debbie Godkin)
























































Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Family Threskiornithidae			
White-faced Ibis	WFIB	rBr incr	    
Order Gruiformes			
Family Rallidae			
Yellow Rail	YERA	rBr(l)	    
Virginia Rail	VIRA	r-sBr(l)	    
Sora	SORA	Br	    
American Coot	AMCO	Br/w	    
Family Gruidae			
Sandhill Crane	SACR	Br	    
Whooping Crane	WHCR	rMig, vrBr	    
Order Charadriiformes			
Family Recurvirostridae			
Black-necked Stilt	BNST	rBr (1970) incr	    
American Avocet	AMAV	Br	    
Family Charadriidae			
Black-bellied Plover	BBPL	Mig	    
American Golden-Plover	AMGP	Mig	    
Semipalmated Plover	SEPL	Mig, rBr	    
Piping Plover	PIPL	rBr(l)	    
Killdeer	KILL	Br/w	    
Mountain Plover	MOPL	vrBr (1941)	    
Family Scolopacidae			
Spotted Sandpiper	SPSA	Br	    
Solitary Sandpiper	SOSA	Br	    

Bird Checklist

WATERBIRDS AND SHOREBIRDS


























Greater Yellowlegs	GRYE	Br	    
Willet	WILL	Br	    
Lesser Yellowlegs	LEYE	Br	    
Upland Sandpiper	UPSA	Br decl?	    
Whimbrel	WHIM	r-sSMig/vrFMig	    
Long-billed Curlew	LBCU	Br decl	    
Hudsonian Godwit	HUGO	sSMig/rFMig	    
Marbled Godwit	MAGO	Br	    
Ruddy Turnstone	RUTU	sSMig/rFMig	    
Red Knot	REKN	sSMig/rFMig	    
Stilt Sandpiper	STSA	Mig	    
Sanderling	SAND	Mig	    
Dunlin	DUNL	sSMig/rFMig	    
Baird's Sandpiper	BASA	Mig	    
Least Sandpiper	LESA	Mig	    
White-rumped Sandpiper	WRSA	sSMig/vrFMig	    
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	BBSA	sSMig/rFMig	    
Pectoral Sandpiper	PESA	Mig	    
Semipalmated Sandpiper	SESA	Mig	    
Western Sandpiper	WESA	vr-rMig (1972)	    
Short-billed Dowitcher	SBDO	Br	    
Long-billed Dowitcher	LBDO	Mig	    
Wilson's Snipe	WISN	Br/w	    
Wilson's Phalarope	WIPH	Br	    
Red-necked Phalarope	RNPH	Mig, vrBr	    
Red Phalarope	REPH	vrFMig	    

Family Laridae

Sabine's Gull	SAGU	rMig	    
Bonaparte's Gull	BOGU	Br	    
Franklin's Gull	FRGU	Br	    
Mew Gull	MEGU	sBr/Mig	    
Ring-billed Gull	RBGU	Br	    
California Gull	CAGU	Br	    
Herring Gull	HERG	Br	    
Thayer's Gull	THGU	vrSMig/rFMig (1928)	    
Glaucous Gull	GLGU	rMig/WV (1915)	    
Caspian Tern	CATE	rBr/Mig incr?	    
Black Tern	BLTE	Br	    

Bird Checklist

GAME BIRDS



















































Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Common Tern	COTE	Br decl	    
Arctic Tern	ARTE	vrBr/Mig	    
Forster's Tern	FOTE	Br	    
Family Stercorariidae			
Parasitic Jaeger	PAJA	vrSMig/rFMig	    
Order Coraciiformes			
Family Alcedinidae			
Belted Kingfisher	BEKI	Br/w	    



Ruffed Grouse

(Photo: Debbie Godkin)

GAME BIRDS

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Order Galliformes			
Family Phasianidae			
Gray Partridge	GRAP	Int (1908) PR	    
Ring-necked Pheasant	RNEP	Int (1908) PR	    
Ruffed Grouse	RUGR	PR	    
Greater Sage-Grouse	GRSG	PR decl	    
Spruce Grouse	SPGR	sPR	    
Willow Ptarmigan	WIPT	rBr/sWV	    
White-tailed Ptarmigan	WPTP	sPR	    
Dusky Grouse	DUGR	sPR	    
Sharp-tailed Grouse	STGR	PR decl?	    
Wild Turkey	WITU	Int (1962) PR(I)	    

Bird Checklist












































































BIRDS OF PREY



Sharp-shinned Hawk












































































(Photo: Debbie Godkin)

BIRDS OF PREY

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Order Accipitriformes			
Family Cathartidae			
Turkey Vulture	TUVU	sBr(l)	    
Family Pandionidae			
Osprey	OSPR	Br	    
Family Accipitridae			
Bald Eagle	BAEA	Br/w	    
Northern Harrier	NOHA	Br/w	    
Sharp-shinned Hawk	SSHA	Br/w	    
Cooper's Hawk	COHA	Br (decl?), w	    
Northern Goshawk	NOGO	Br/w decl?	    
Broad-winged Hawk	BWHA	Br	    
Swainson's Hawk	SWHA	Br	    
Red-tailed Hawk	RTHA	Br/w	    
Ferruginous Hawk	FEHA	Br	    
Rough-legged Hawk	RLHA	Mig/WV	    
Golden Eagle	GOEA	Br/w	    
Order Strigiformes			
Family Strigidae			
Great Horned Owl	GHOW	PR	    
Snowy Owl	SNOW	Mig/WV	    

Bird Checklist

BIRDS OF PREY

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Northern Hawk Owl	NHOW	sPR, W erratic	    
Northern Pygmy-Owl	NOPO	sPR(l)	    
Burrowing Owl	BUOW	Br decl	    
Barred Owl	BADO	sPR(l)	    
Great Gray Owl	GGOW	sPR(l), W erratic	    
Long-eared Owl	LEOW	sBr	    
Short-eared Owl	SEOW	Br/w decl?	    
Boreal Owl	BOOW	sBr/w	    
Northern Saw-whet Owl	SNWO	Br/w	    
Order Falconiformes			
Family Falconidae			
American Kestrel	MAKE	Br/w	    
Merlin	MERL	Br/w	    
Gyr Falcon	GYRF	rWV/WR	    
Peregrine Falcon	PEFA	Br	    
Prairie Falcon	PRFA	Br/w	    
Order Caprimulgiformes			
Family Caprimulgidae			
Common Nighthawk	CONI	Br decl?	    



Great Gray Owl

(Photo: Debbie Godkin)

Bird Checklist





























































HUMMINGBIRDS, SWIFTS, AND WOODPECKERS



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

(Photo: Debbie Godkin)
















HUMMINGBIRDS, SWIFTS, AND WOODPECKERS

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Order Apodiformes			
Family Apodidae			
Black Swift	BLSW	rBr(l)	    
Family Trochilidae			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	RTHU	Br	    
Rufous Hummingbird	RUHU	Br	    
Calliope Hummingbird	CAHU	Br	    
Order Piciformes			
Family Picidae			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	YBSA	Br	    
Red-naped Sapsucker	RNSA	Br	    
Downy Woodpecker	DOWO	PR	    
Hairy Woodpecker	HAWO	PR	    
American Three-toed Woodpecker	ATTW	PR	    
Black-backed Woodpecker	BBWO	PR	    
Northern Flicker	NOFL	Br/w	    
Pileated Woodpecker	PIWO	PR	    

Bird Checklist

DOVES AND PIGEONS; SONGBIRDS AND PERCHING BIRDS







































































DOVES AND PIGEONS

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Order Columbiformes			
Family Columbidae			
Rock Pigeon	ROPI	Int PR	    
Eurasian Collared-Dove	EUCD	Br(l) incr (2002)	    
Mourning Dove	MODO	Br	    



Baltimore Oriole
(Photo: Debbie Godkin)











SONGBIRDS AND PERCHING BIRDS

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Order Passeriformes			
Family Tyrannidae			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	OSFL	Br decl?	    
Western Wood-Pewee	WEWP	Br	    
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	YBFL	sBr	    
Alder Flycatcher	ALFL	Br	    
Willow Flycatcher	WIFL	Br(l)	    
Least Flycatcher	LEFL	Br	    
Hammond's Flycatcher	HAFL	sBr(l)	    
Dusky Flycatcher	DUFL	Br	    
Western Flycatcher	WEFL	Br	    
Eastern Phoebe	EAPH	Br	    
Say's Phoebe	SAPH	Br	    
Great Crested Flycatcher	GCFL	sBr(l)	    
Western Kingbird	WEKI	Br	    
Eastern Kingbird	EAKI	Br	    


























Bird Checklist

SONGBIRDS AND PERCHING BIRDS




































Family Laniidae

Loggerhead Shrike	LOSH	Br decl	    
Northern Shrike	NSHR	uMig/WV, vrBr	    

Family Vireonidae

Cassin's Vireo	CAVI	sBr	    
Blue-headed Vireo	BHVI	Br	    
Warbling Vireo	WAVI	Br	    
Philadelphia Vireo	PHVI	Br	    
Red-eyed Vireo	REVI	Br	    

Family Corvidae

Gray Jay	GRAJ	PR	    
Steller's Jay	STJA	PR(I)	    
Blue Jay	BLJA	PR	    
Clark's Nutcracker	CLNU	PR	    
Black-billed Magpie	BBMA	PR	    
American Crow	AMCR	Br/w	    
Common Raven	CORA	PR incr	    
















Family Alaudidae

Horned Lark	HOLA	Br/Mig/w	    
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Family Hirundinidae

Purple Martin	PUMA	Br	    
Tree Swallow	TRES	Br	    
Violet-green Swallow	VGSW	Br	    
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	NRWS	Br	    
Bank Swallow	BANS	Br	    
Cliff Swallow	CLSW	Br	    
Barn Swallow	BARS	Br	    

Family Paridae

Black-capped Chickadee	BCCH	PR	    
Mountain Chickadee	MOCH	PR	    
Boreal Chickadee	BOCH	PR	    

Family Sittidae

Red-breasted Nuthatch	RBNU	Br, w erratic	    
White-breasted Nuthatch	WBNU	PR	    

Bird Checklist

SONGBIRDS AND PERCHING BIRDS

























































































































































Cedar Waxwing

(Photo: Debbie Godkin)

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Family Certhiidae			
Brown Creeper	BRCR	Br/w	
Family Troglodytidae			
Rock Wren	ROWR	Br	
House Wren	HOWR	Br	
Pacific Wren	PAWR	Br	
Winter Wren	WIWR	Br	
Sedge Wren	SEWR	rBr(l) erratic	
Marsh Wren	MAWR	Br	
Family Cinclidae			
American Dipper	AMDI	Br/w	
Family Regulidae			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	GCKI	Br/w	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	RCKI	Br	
Family Turdidae			
Eastern Bluebird	EABL	vrBr (1977) incr?	
Western Bluebird	WEBL	vrBr (1984)	
Mountain Bluebird	MOBL	Br	
Townsend's Solitaire	TOSO	Br/w	
Veery	VEER	Br	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	GCTH	vrBr(l)/r-sMig	
Swainson's Thrush	SWTH	Br	
Hermit Thrush	HETH	Br	
American Robin	AMRO	Br/w	
Varied Thrush	VATH	Br/w	
Family Mimidae			
Gray Catbird	GRCA	Br	

Bird Checklist

SONGBIRDS AND PERCHING BIRDS

Brown Thrasher	BRTN	Br	    
Family Sturnidae			
European Starling	EUST	Int Br/w	    
Family Motacillidae			
American Pipit	AMPI	Br/Mig	    
Sprague's Pipit	SPPI	Br decl?	    
Family Bombycillidae			
Bohemian Waxwing	BOWA	Br/W	    
Cedar Waxwing	CEDW	Br	    
Family Calcariidae			
Lapland Longspur	LALO	Mig/w	    
Chestnut-collared Longspur	CCLO	Br	    
Smith's Longspur	SMLO	rSMig/vrFMig	    
McCown's Longspur	MCLO	Br	    
Snow Bunting	SNBU	Mig/WV	    
Family Parulidae			
Ovenbird	OVEN	Br	    
Northern Waterthrush	NOWA	Br	    
Black-and-white Warbler	BAWW	Br	    
Tennessee Warbler	TEWA	Br	    
Orange-crowned Warbler	OCWA	Br	    
Nashville Warbler	NAWA	vrBr (1974)	    
Connecticut Warbler	CONW	Br	    
MacGillivray's Warbler	MGWA	Br	    
Mourning Warbler	MOWA	Br	    
Common Yellowthroat	COYE	Br	    
American Redstart	AMRE	Br	    
Cape May Warbler	CMWA	sBr	    
Magnolia Warbler	MAWA	Br	    
Bay-breasted Warbler	BBWA	Br	    
Blackburnian Warbler	BLBW	sBr(l)	    
Yellow Warbler	YEWA	Br	    
Chestnut-sided Warbler	CSWA	rBr(l)	    
Blackpoll Warbler	BLPW	Br	    
Palm Warbler	PAWA	Br	    

Bird Checklist

SONGBIRDS AND PERCHING BIRDS



Yellow-headed Blackbird

(Photo: Gordon Court)

Common Name	Code	Status in Alberta	Personal Checklist
Yellow-rumped Warbler	YRWA	Br	
Townsend's Warbler	TOWA	Br	
Black-throated Green Warbler	BTNW	Br	
Canada Warbler	CAWA	Br	
Wilson's Warbler	WIWA	Br	
Yellow-breasted Chat	YBCH	Br(l)	
Family Emberizidae			
Spotted Towhee	SPTO	Br	
American Tree Sparrow	ATSP	Mig/rWW, vrBr	
Chipping Sparrow	CHSP	Br	
Clay-colored Sparrow	CCSP	Br	
Brewer's Sparrow	BRSP	Br	
Vesper Sparrow	VESP	Br	
Lark Sparrow	LASP	Br	
Lark Bunting	LARB	Br erratic	
Savannah Sparrow	SAVS	Br	
Grasshopper Sparrow	GRSP	sBr decl?	
Baird's Sparrow	BAIS	sBr decl	
Le Conte's Sparrow	LCSP	Br	
Nelson's Sparrow	NESP	sBr(l)	
Fox Sparrow	FOSP	Br/w	
Song Sparrow	SOSP	Br/w	
Lincoln's Sparrow	LISP	Br	
Swamp Sparrow	SWSP	Br/w	
White-throated Sparrow	WTSP	Br/w	
Harris's Sparrow	HASP	Mig/w	
White-crowned Sparrow	WCSP	Br/w	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	GCSP	sBr(l)	

Bird Checklist

SONGBIRDS AND PERCHING BIRDS

Dark-eyed Junco

DEJU

Br/w



Family Cardinalidae

Western Tanager

WETA

Br



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

RBGR

Br



Black-headed Grosbeak

BHGR

sBr(l) incr



Lazuli Bunting

LAZB

Br



Family Icteridae

Bobolink

BOBO

sBr decl?



Red-winged Blackbird

RWBL

Br/w



Western Meadowlark

WEME

Br/w



Yellow-headed Blackbird

YHBL

Br/w



Rusty Blackbird

RUBL

Br/w



Brewer's Blackbird

BRBL

Br/w



Common Grackle

COGR

Br



Brown-headed Cowbird

BHCO

Br



Bullock's Oriole

BUOR

sBr(l)



Baltimore Oriole

BAOR

Br



Order Cuculiformes

Family Cuculidae

Black-billed Cuckoo

BBCU

r-sBr erratic



Family Fringillidae

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch

GCRF

Br/W



Pine Grosbeak

PIGR

Br/WV erratic



House Finch

HOFI

Br/W (1944) incr



Purple Finch

PUFI

Br/w



Cassin's Finch

CAFI

sBr(l)



Red Crossbill

RECR

PR erratic



White-winged Crossbill

WWCR

PR erratic



Common Redpoll

CORE

Mig/WV, vrBr



Hoary Redpoll

HORE

rWV



Pine Siskin

PISI

Br, w



American Goldfinch

AMGO

Br/w



Evening Grosbeak

EVGR

PR erratic decr



Family Passeridae

House Sparrow

HOSP

Int PR



Field notes:

[illegible]

Tips for new birders



Caretakers work along the shores in Ministik IBA.

Photo: C. Priestley

Birding is a fun and challenging activity that the whole family can participate in. It can be done almost anywhere, and is relatively inexpensive. All you really need is a pair of binoculars, a keen eye, and a bird ID book! Here are some quick tips to get you started:

- Keep your eye on the bird for as long as you can. Rather than quickly looking to your ID book after spotting an unfamiliar species, try to take in as many details as possible first. Things like overall size, distinctive markings, and beak shape can give you valuable clues as to the type of bird you're looking at.
- Take note of the habitat your bird is located in. Is it marshy, or wooded? Grassy, or along a shoreline? This will also help you narrow down your species.
- Try to listen for your bird's call while looking at it. Over time you'll learn to ID birds using their songs and calls, which is useful because it is often easier to hear birds than it is to spot them visually.
- Keep a notebook or a field form with you, like the one provided in this guide, and write down your observations. This will help you track bird behaviour, making for better birding opportunities, and contribute to research by uploading your data to eBird!

Nature Alberta – Principles of Birding Ethics

As a conservation-driven organization, Nature Alberta believes that following these practices promotes the health and well-being of birds and other animals, humans, and habitat while out in the field. When visiting natural areas, one must always ensure that their presence makes as little impact as possible upon the natural environment and the animals and plants that inhabit the area. This entails some basic knowledge of natural areas, as well as the use of good judgment. The following principles should provide guidance on how to best treat and experience Alberta's natural areas, while ensuring that future generations will also have the privilege of enjoying them.

- Learn patterns of animal behaviour – know when not to interfere with their life cycles
- Understand which wildlife species are most sensitive to disturbance and when they are most sensitive (ie: nesting season)
- Stay on trails that are intended for use whenever possible – this helps preserve the rest of the natural area
- Become familiar with the laws of location – what are the appropriate minimum distances for approaching wildlife?
- Understand the provisions of the Alberta Wildlife Act, Migratory Bird Convention Act, and Species At Risk Act to assure the appropriate protection of wildlife and habitats
- Understand the status of wildlife in Alberta as outlined by the Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee
- Generally treat the wildlife, plants, and places with respect
- Be prepared for unexpected events – this is an easy way to avoid preventable accidents or other mishaps
- Inform others if you notice them engaging in harmful or risky behaviour that may endanger themselves or the wildlife
- Report inappropriate behaviour to authorities. Violations of the Alberta Wildlife Act, Migratory Bird Convention Act, or Species At Risk Act should be reported to Report a Poacher (1-800-642-3800)

eBird—a useful tool for the everyday birder

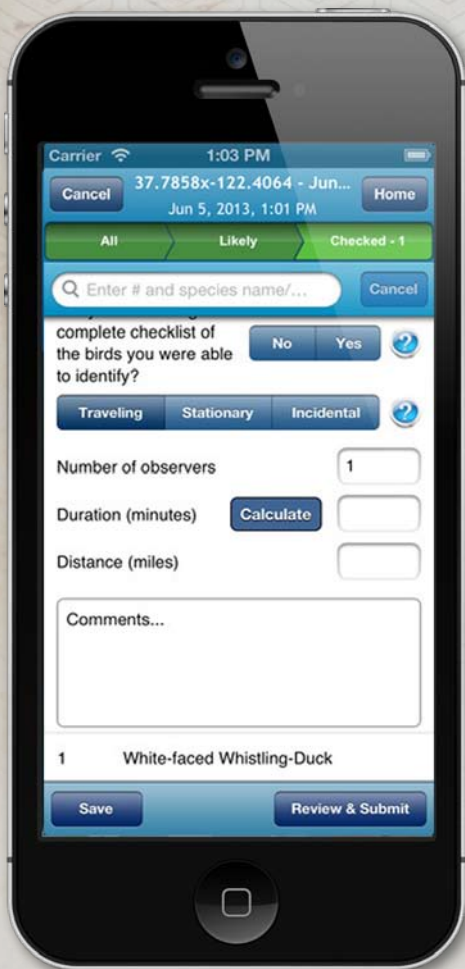
Together, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Audubon Society, and Bird Studies Canada have developed a website for birders in Canada to log their bird counts and sightings by location.

Start by visiting **www.ebird.org** to create an account.

After you have signed in, you can click the submit observation tab and follow the instructions to select the location of where your data was collected using a map tool or GPS coordinates. After that you can enter the data you have collected, making it available to other birders around the country and globe!

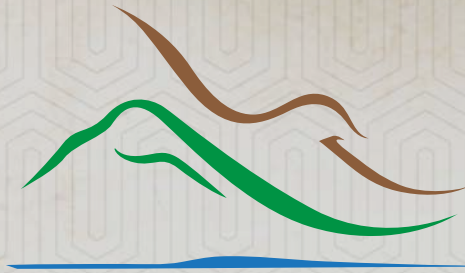
In addition, a smartphone app has been launched so you can log your data on your phone while in the field! The app is called BirdsEye BirdLog – North America, and it is available for both iPhone and Android operating systems. Enter your birding data into this app, and it uploads directly to eBird.

eBird is a public collection site, so Nature Alberta is able to use it as a convenient tool to gather information from birders from all over Alberta, and it's a fun and easy way for everyone to get involved in the birding community!



eBird info gathering using the BirdsEye BirdLog is fast and easy!

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NATURE ALBERTA

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The checklist is based on information compiled by the Alberta Bird Record Committee posted at <http://www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/research/lifeSciences/ornithology/birdlist/taxonomy.cfm>

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