

Checklist of Banff National Park Birds



Banff National Park provides ideal habitat and breeding areas for many different types of birds. Observations since 1858 were used to compile this list of more than 300 species.

Birdwatch responsibly

Human actions can put birds at risk. When birding, follow these rules to protect birds and improve viewing opportunities:

- Observe quietly and from a distance
- Remain on designated trails
- Leave the natural habitat as you found it
- Respect any closures
- Never feed birds
- · Never use recorded bird sounds to entice birds
- Never shine lights on birds at night
- · Avoid using laser pointers and camera flashes.



Key

C - Common

Ten or more individuals may be found in a day while searching suitable habitat within the species' range and period of occurrence.

U - Uncommon

One to nine individuals may be found in a day while searching suitable habitat within the species' range and period of occurrence.

R - Rare

The species may be absent some years.

VR - Very Rare

The species has not been found for many years.

Ex - Locally extinct

The species has not been found in recent decades.

I – Introduced (Non-native)

(- Breeding Confirmed

Seasons according to Banff National Park's bird migration and breeding periods:

Sp - Spring (March through May approximately)

Su – Summer (June through July approximately)

Fa - Fall (August through November approximately)

Wi - Winter (December through February approximately)

The species, their names and their order in the list are based on the 2021 edition of The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World. Species are grouped by family.

Sources used to compile this checklist include: museum specimens, archival materials, history books, reference books, guidebooks, published and unpublished reports, monographs, journal and magazine articles, newsletters of the Bow Valley Naturalists, travelogues, electronic mailing lists, social media, conversations, correspondence, notebooks, park visitor centre logbooks, the park wildlife observation database and audio recording collection, bird banding data, breeding bird atlas data, the Banff Community Bird Walk, the May Species Count, the Christmas Bird Count, the North American Breeding Bird Survey, eBird, iNaturalist, and other published and unpublished datasets.

Compiled by Jason Rogers/January 2022

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Anatidae					
Snow Goose		U	VR	R	
Ross's Goose		VR			
Greater White-fronted Goose		VR		VR	
Canada Goose	<u>()</u>	С	С	С	VR
Trumpeter Swan		U	R	U	
Tundra Swan		U	VR	С	VR
Wood Duck	<u>()</u>	U	R	R	
Blue-winged Teal	<u>()</u>	С	U	С	VR
Cinnamon Teal	<u>()</u>	U	U	R	
Northern Shoveler	<u>()</u>	С	U	U	
Gadwall		U	VR	U	VR
Eurasian Wigeon		R		VR	
American Wigeon	<u>()</u>	С	U	С	VR
Mallard	<u>()</u>	С	С	С	U
American Black Duck		VR			
Northern Pintail	<u>()</u>	С	R	С	VR
Green-winged Teal	<u>()</u>	С	U	С	U
Canvasback	<u>()</u>	U	VR	R	
Redhead		U		R	
Ring-necked Duck	<u>()</u>	С	С	С	
Greater Scaup		R	VR	R	
Lesser Scaup	<u>()</u>	С	U	U	VR
King Eider					VR
Harlequin Duck	<u>()</u>	U	С	U	VR
Surf Scoter		С	VR	U	
White-winged Scoter		U	R	U	
Black Scoter				VR	
Long-tailed Duck		R	VR	R	VR
Bufflehead	0	С	U	С	U
Common Goldeneye	0	С	U	С	U
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	С	U	U	U
Hooded Merganser	0	U	U	С	R
Common Merganser	0	С	U	С	U
Red-breasted Merganser		U	R	U	VR
Ruddy Duck		U	R	R	

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Phasianidae					
Ruffed Grouse	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	R
Dusky Grouse	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	R
Sharp-tailed Grouse					Ex
White-tailed Ptarmigan	<u>()</u>	R	U	С	U
Willow Ptarmigan		Ex	Ex		
Spruce Grouse	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	R
Gray Partridge (I)				Ex	
Ring-necked Pheasant (I)		VR	VR		
Podicipedidae					
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>()</u>	U	R	U	VR
Horned Grebe		С	VR	С	VR
Red-necked Grebe	<u>()</u>	С	U	U	
Eared Grebe		U	VR	R	
Western Grebe		С	R	С	
Columbidae					
Rock Pigeon (I)		С	U	С	С
Band-tailed Pigeon			VR		
Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)		U	VR	VR	VR
Mourning Dove		U	U	R	
Caprimulgidae					
Common Nighthawk	(:)		U	U	
Common Poorwill			VR	VR	
Apodidae					
Black Swift	(:)		U	U	
Vaux's Swift		VR	VR		
Trochilidae					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				VR	
Black-chinned Hummingbird		Da	ta defi	cient	
Calliope Hummingbird	<u>()</u>	R	U	R	
Rufous Hummingbird	0	U	U	U	
Rallidae					
Virginia Rail	0	R	R	VR	R
Sora	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	VR
American Coot	<u>(;)</u>	С	U	С	R
Yellow Rail			VR	VR	

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Gruidae					
Sandhill Crane		R		R	
Recurvirostridae					
Black-necked Stilt		R			
American Avocet		R		VR	
Charadriidae					
Black-bellied Plover		VR		R	
American Golden-Plover		VR		R	
Semipalmated Plover				R	
Killdeer	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	U
Scolopacidae					
Upland Sandpiper		VR	VR	VR	
Long-billed Curlew		VR		VR	
Marbled Godwit		VR		VR	
Ruddy Turnstone				VR	
Stilt Sandpiper				U	
Sanderling				VR	
Baird's Sandpiper		VR		U	
Least Sandpiper		R		U	
Pectoral Sandpiper		VR	VR	U	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		R	R	U	
Western Sandpiper				VR	
Short-billed Dowitcher		VR		R	
Long-billed Dowitcher		R	R	С	
Wilson's Snipe	<u>(:</u>	U	U	U	U
Wilson's Phalarope		U	R	R	
Red-necked Phalarope		R		U	
Red Phalarope		VR	VR		
Spotted Sandpiper	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Solitary Sandpiper	0	U	U	U	
Wandering Tattler			VR		
Greater Yellowlegs	0	U	U	R	
Willet		R			
Lesser Yellowlegs		U	VR	U	
Stercorariidae					
Parasitic Jaeger				VR	
Long-tailed Jaeger			VR		

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Alcidae					
Ancient Murrelet				VR	
Laridae					
Sabine's Gull		VR		R	
Bonaparte's Gull		С	VR	U	
Franklin's Gull		R		R	
Short-billed Gull		R		R	
Ring-billed Gull		U	С	С	
California Gull		R	U	С	
Herring Gull		R		U	
Iceland Gull		VR			
Glaucous-winged Gull				VR	
Glaucous Gull				VR	
Caspian Tern		VR	VR	VR	
Black Tern		U	R	VR	
Common Tern		R	VR	R	
Forster's Tern		VR		VR	
Gaviidae					
Red-throated Loon		VR		VR	VR
Pacific Loon				U	
Common Loon	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Yellow-billed Loon			VR	VR	
Phalacrocoracidae					
Double-crested Cormorant				VR	
Pelecanidae					
American White Pelican		R	R	VR	
Ardeidae					
American Bittern	(<u>(</u>)	R	R	R	
Great Blue Heron	0	U	U	U	R
Great Egret		VR			
Little Blue Heron				VR	
Green Heron		VR			
Threskiornithidae					
White-faced Ibis		VR			
Cathartidae					
Turkey Vulture		R	R		

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Pandionidae					
Osprey	0	U	U	U	
Accipitridae					
Golden Eagle	0	С	U	С	R
Northern Harrier		U	U	U	VR
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	R
Cooper's Hawk	0	U	U	U	VR
Northern Goshawk	0	R	U	U	R
Bald Eagle	0	U	U	U	U
Broad-winged Hawk		VR	VR	VR	
Swainson's Hawk	0	R	R	U	
Red-tailed Hawk	0	U	U	U	VR
Rough-legged Hawk		R	VR	U	VR
Ferruginous Hawk		VR		VR	
Strigidae					
Eastern Screech-Owl	<u>()</u>	Ex	Ex		
Great Horned Owl	0	U	U	U	R
Snowy Owl				VR	
Northern Hawk Owl	0	R	R	U	U
Northern Pygmy-Owl	0	U	R	R	U
Burrowing Owl		VR			
Barred Owl	<u>()</u>	U	R	R	R
Great Gray Owl	<u>()</u>	R	R	R	R
Long-eared Owl	<u>()</u>	R	VR	VR	VR
Short-eared Owl		VR		R	VR
Boreal Owl	<u>()</u>	U	R	R	R
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<u>()</u>	R	R	R	R
Alcedinidae					
Belted Kingfisher	(<u>(</u>)	U	U	U	R
Picidae					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		R			
Red-naped Sapsucker	<u>()</u>	U	U	VR	
Red-breasted Sapsucker		VR		VR	
Lewis's Woodpecker		R	VR	R	
Red-headed Woodpecker	<u>()</u>		R		
American Three-toed Woodpecker	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	U
Black-backed Woodpecker	<u>()</u>	R	R	R	R

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Downy Woodpecker	(:)	U	U	U	R
Hairy Woodpecker	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	U
Pileated Woodpecker	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	R
Northern Flicker	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	VR
Falconidae					
American Kestrel	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Merlin	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	R
Gyrfalcon		VR		VR	
Peregrine Falcon		R	R	U	VR
Prairie Falcon	(:)		U	U	
Tyrannidae					
Olive-sided Flycatcher	(<u>(</u>)	R	U	U	
Western Wood-Pewee	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			R	VR	
Alder Flycatcher	<u>()</u>		U	VR	
Willow Flycatcher	<u>()</u>	R	U	U	
Least Flycatcher	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Hammond's Flycatcher	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Dusky Flycatcher	<u>()</u>	U	U	VR	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	(:)	VR	U	R	
Cordilleran Flycatcher			VR		
Eastern Phoebe		U	R		
Say's Phoebe		U	R	VR	
Western Kingbird		VR	R	VR	
Eastern Kingbird	0	R	U	U	
Vireonidae					
Cassin's Vireo	<u>()</u>	U	U	R	
Blue-headed Vireo	<u>()</u>	R	R		
Philadelphia Vireo	(:)	VR	VR	VR	
Warbling Vireo	<u>()</u>	U	С	U	
Red-eyed Vireo		VR	U	R	
Laniidae					
Northern Shrike		U		U	R
Corvidae					
Canada Jay	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	U
Steller's Jay		U	U	U	U
Blue Jay		R	R	U	R

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Black-billed Magpie	0	С	U	U	С
Clark's Nutcracker	0	U	С	U	U
American Crow	0	U	U	С	R
Common Raven	0	U	U	U	U
Paridae					
Black-capped Chickadee	0	U	U	U	U
Mountain Chickadee	0	U	U	U	U
Chestnut-backed Chickadee				VR	VR
Boreal Chickadee	0	U	U	С	U
Alaudidae					
Horned Lark	0	U	U	С	VR
Hirundinidae					
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	0	С	U	U	
Tree Swallow	0	С	С	U	
Violet-green Swallow	0	С	С	U	
Bank Swallow	0	U	U	R	
Barn Swallow	0	U	U	U	
Cliff Swallow	0	U	С	С	
Regulidae					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	С	С	U	VR
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	U	С	С	R
Sittidae					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	U	U	U	U
White-breasted Nuthatch	0	U	R	U	R
Pygmy Nuthatch					VR
Certhiidae					
Brown Creeper	(c)	U	U	U	U
Troglodytidae					
Rock Wren		VR	R	VR	
House Wren	0	VR	R	VR	
Pacific Wren	()	U	U	U	R
Winter Wren				VR	
Marsh Wren		U	R	R	VR
Cinclidae					
American Dipper	(<u>(</u>)	U	U	U	U
Sturnidae					
European Starling (I)	(c)	С	U	С	R

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Mimidae					
Gray Catbird	(<u>(</u>)	R	U	U	VR
Brown Thrasher		VR			
Sage Thrasher				VR	
Northern Mockingbird		VR	R		
Turdidae					
Eastern Bluebird		VR			
Western Bluebird	<u>()</u>	VR	R		
Mountain Bluebird	0	С	U	С	
Townsend's Solitaire	0	U	U	U	U
Varied Thrush	0	U	С	U	R
Veery			R		
Gray-cheeked Thrush		VR	R		
Swainson's Thrush	0	U	С	U	
Hermit Thrush	0	U	С	U	VR
American Robin	0	С	С	С	R
Bombycillidae					
Bohemian Waxwing		С	R	С	U
Cedar Waxwing	0	R	С	С	VR
Passeridae					
House Sparrow (I)	0	С	С	С	С
Motacillidae					
American Pipit	<u>()</u>	С	U	С	
Fringillidae					
Brambling					VR
Evening Grosbeak	0	R	U	U	R
Pine Grosbeak	0	U	U	U	С
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	0	С	С	С	R
House Finch		R	R	VR	
Purple Finch	0	U	U	R	
Cassin's Finch	0	R	R	R	
Common Redpoll		С	VR	С	U
Hoary Redpoll		VR		VR	R
Red Crossbill		R	U	С	R
White-winged Crossbill	0	U	С	U	С
Pine Siskin	0	С	С	С	R
American Goldfinch	0	U	R	R	VR

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Calcariidae					
Lapland Longspur		R		U	VR
Chestnut-collared Longspur		VR			
Smith's Longspur				VR	
Snow Bunting		R		U	R
Passerellidae					
Grasshopper Sparrow		VR			
Chipping Sparrow	0	С	С	С	
Clay-colored Sparrow	<u>(;)</u>	U	U	U	
Brewer's Sparrow	<u>()</u>	R	U	U	
Lark Sparrow		R	VR		
Lark Bunting		VR	VR		
American Tree Sparrow		U		U	R
Fox Sparrow	0	U	U	U	VR
Dark-eyed Junco	0	С	С	С	U
White-crowned Sparrow	<u>(;)</u>	С	С	С	R
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<u>(;)</u>	R	U	R	
Harris's Sparrow		R		R	R
White-throated Sparrow	<u>(;)</u>	U	U	U	R
Vesper Sparrow	<u>()</u>	U	U	R	
LeConte's Sparrow		R	U	VR	
Nelson's Sparrow			VR		
Savannah Sparrow	0	U	U	U	
Baird's Sparrow		VR		VR	
Song Sparrow	<u>(:)</u>	U	U	U	R
Lincoln's Sparrow	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	VR
Swamp Sparrow	<u>()</u>	R	U	R	R
Green-tailed Towhee		VR			
Spotted Towhee	0	R	R	VR	VR
Icteriidae					
Yellow-breasted Chat			VR		
Icteridae					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<u>()</u>	U	U	VR	
Bobolink		R	VR		
Western Meadowlark		U	R	VR	VR
Baltimore Oriole		R		VR	
Red-winged Blackbird	0	С	U	U	R

Species		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>()</u>	С	U	U	
Rusty Blackbird		U	VR	U	R
Brewer's Blackbird	<u>()</u>	U	U	R	R
Common Grackle		U	VR	VR	VR
Parulidae					
Ovenbird		VR	VR	VR	
Northern Waterthrush	(<u>(</u>)	U	U	U	
Black-and-white Warbler		R	VR	VR	
Tennessee Warbler	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Orange-crowned Warbler	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Nashville Warbler		R	R	R	
Connecticut Warbler			VR		
MacGillivray's Warbler	<u>(:</u>	R	U	U	
Common Yellowthroat	<u>()</u>	U	С	U	VR
Hooded Warbler			VR	VR	
American Redstart	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Cape May Warbler		R	VR	VR	
Magnolia Warbler		U	R	R	
Bay-breasted Warbler		VR		VR	
Blackburnian Warbler			VR		
Yellow Warbler	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Chestnut-sided Warbler			VR	VR	
Blackpoll Warbler	<u>()</u>	R	U	R	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				VR	
Palm Warbler		VR		R	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	С	С	С	VR
Black-throated Gray Warbler				VR	
Townsend's Warbler	0	U	С	U	
Black-throated Green Warbler		VR	VR		
Canada Warbler		VR		VR	
Wilson's Warbler	0	U	U	U	
Cardinalidae					
Western Tanager	<u>()</u>	U	U	U	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		U		R	
Black-headed Grosbeak		R	VR	VR	VR
Lazuli Bunting			R		
Indigo Bunting			VR		