

# Portland metropolitan area Bird Checklist



This checklist of the birds regularly seen in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area was created by Metro Parks naturalist James Davis, based on the one by Harry Nehls in "Wild in the City." For the latest information on bird sightings in the region, call the Audubon Society of Portland's rare bird alert at (503) 292-6855 or visit [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) for other birding links. Send your suggestions for this checklist to James Davis at [davisj@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:davisj@metro.dst.or.us).

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neighborhoods



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## Key

### c – common

Seen or heard often in suitable habitat. Hard to miss.

### u – uncommon

Usually present in suitable habitat but not numerous. You'll probably find at least one.

### o – occasional

Irregular and hard to predict. May be secretive, low in number, or very local. You might find one if you're in the right place at the right time.

### r – rare

Very few seen each year and there may be some years with no sightings. Lots of luck.

### n – nests in our region (N)

For the purposes of this checklist, spring (**Sp**) is March through May; summer (**Su**) is June through August; fall (**F**) is August through October; winter (**W**) is November through February.

If there has been a recent name change in the American Ornithologists Union's Checklist of North American Birds, the authority for bird names and classifications, the old name is in parentheses. Non-native birds are indicated by the word "introduced," also in parentheses.

	Sp	Su	F	W	N
<b>Waterfowl</b>					
Greater-white-fronted goose	u	-	u	r	-
Snow goose	u	-	u	o	-
Ross's goose	r	-	r	r	-
Cackling goose	u	-	c	c	-
Canada goose	c	c	c	c	n
Brant	o	-	o	o	-
Trumpeter swan	o	-	-	o	-
Tundra swan	u	-	o	c	-
Wood duck	u	u	u	c	n
Gadwall	u	r	u	c	-
Eurasian wigeon	o	-	u	u	-
American wigeon	c	r	c	c	-
Mallard	c	c	c	c	n
Blue-winged teal	o	o	o	r	n
Cinnamon teal	u	u	u	r	n
Northern shoveler	c	o	c	c	n
Northern pintail	c	r	c	c	-
Green-winged teal	c	o	c	c	-
Canvasback	u	-	o	u	-

	Sp	Su	F	W	N
Redhead	o	-	o	o	-
Ring-necked duck	c	o	c	c	-
Greater scaup	r	-	r	r	-
Lesser scaup	c	r	u	c	-
Surf scoter	r	-	r	r	-
White-winged scoter	-	-	r	r	-
Bufflehead	c	r	u	c	-
Common goldeneye	o	-	o	u	-
Barrow's goldeneye	-	-	r	r	-
Hooded merganser	u	u	u	u	n
Common merganser	c	u	u	c	n
Red-breasted merganser	r	-	r	o	-
Ruddy duck	c	o	u	c	n

### Pheasants, grouse and quail

Ring-necked pheasant (introduced)	u	u	u	u	n
Ruffed grouse	o	o	o	o	n
California quail	u	u	u	u	n
Mountain quail	r	r	r	r	n

### Loons

Red-throated loon	r	-	r	r	-
Pacific loon	r	-	r	r	-
Common loon	o	r	o	o	-

### Grebes

Pied-billed grebe	u	u	u	u	n
Horned grebe	r	-	r	r	-
Eared grebe	r	-	r	r	-
Western grebe	u	-	o	u	-
Clark's grebe	r	-	r	r	-

### Pelicans and cormorants

American white pelican	r	o	r	r	-
Double-crested cormorant	c	o	c	c	-

### Herons, egrets and bitterns

American bittern	u	u	u	o	n
Great blue heron	c	c	c	c	n
Great egret	u	o	u	u	n
Green heron	o	o	o	r	n
Black-crowned night-heron	o	r	o	o	-
White-faced ibis	r	-	r	r	-

### New world vultures

Turkey vulture	c	c	c	-	n
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### Diurnal raptors

Osprey	c	c	u	r	n
White-tailed kite	r	r	r	r	n
Bald eagle	u	o	u	c	n
Northern harrier	u	u	u	u	n
Sharp-shinned hawk	u	o	u	u	n
Cooper's hawk	u	o	u	u	n
Northern goshawk	r	-	r	r	-
Red-shouldered hawk	r	-	r	r	-
Red-tailed hawk	c	c	c	c	n
Rough-legged hawk	o	-	o	o	-

Checklist continued

	Sp	Su	F	W	N
Golden eagle	r	-	r	r	-
American kestrel	c	c	c	c	n
Merlin	o	-	o	o	-
Peregrine falcon	o	o	o	o	n
<b>Rails, coots and cranes</b>					
Virginia rail	u	u	u	o	n
Sora	u	u	u	o	n
American coot	c	u	c	c	n
Sandhill crane	u	r	c	c	-
<b>Shorebirds</b>					
Black-bellied plover	o	-	o	r	-
Semipalmated plover	r	r	o	-	-
Killdeer	c	c	c	c	n
Black-necked stilt	r	-	r	-	-
American avocet	r	-	r	-	-
Greater yellowlegs	u	o	u	o	-
Lesser yellowlegs	u	o	u	-	-
Solitary sandpiper	o	-	r	-	-
Spotted sandpiper	u	u	u	u	n
Whimbrel	r	-	r	-	-
Long-billed curlew	r	-	r	-	-
Marbled godwit	r	-	r	-	-
Black turnstone	r	-	r	-	-
Sanderling	r	-	o	r	-
Western sandpiper	c	o	c	o	-
Least sandpiper	c	o	c	u	-
Baird's sandpiper	r	r	r	-	-
Pectoral sandpiper	-	r	o	-	-
Dunlin	c	-	o	c	-
Short-billed dowitcher	o	r	o	-	-
Long-billed dowitcher	c	o	c	u	-
Wilson's snipe (common snipe)	u	o	u	o	n
Wilson's phalarope	o	o	o	-	-
Red-necked phalarope	o	-	o	-	-
<b>Gulls and terns</b>					
Franklin's gull	r	-	o	r	-
Bonaparte's gull	o	r	o	o	-
Mew gull	u	r	u	u	-
Ring-billed gull	c	o	c	c	-
California gull	c	o	c	c	-
Herring gull	u	-	u	u	-
Thayer's gull	u	-	o	u	-
Western gull	o	-	o	o	-
Glaucous-winged gull	c	o	c	c	n
Glaucous gull	r	-	-	r	-
Caspian tern	u	u	u	-	-
Forester's tern	r	r	r	-	-
<b>Pigeons and doves</b>					
Rock pigeon (rock dove, introduced)	c	c	c	c	n
Band-tailed pigeon	u	u	u	o	n
Mourning dove	c	c	c	u	n
<b>Parrots</b>					
Monk parakeet (introduced)	o	o	o	o	n

	Sp	Su	F	W	N
<b>Owls</b>					
Barn owl	u	u	u	u	n
Western screech-owl	u	u	u	u	n
Great horned owl	u	u	u	u	n
Northern pygmy-owl	o	o	o	o	n
Barred owl	r	r	r	r	n
Long-eared owl	r	r	r	r	-
Short-eared owl	o	-	-	o	-
Northern saw-whet owl	o	o	o	o	n
<b>Nighthawks and relatives</b>					
Common nighthawk	r	o	o	-	n
<b>Swifts and hummingbirds</b>					
Vaux's swift	c	c	c	-	n
Black-chinned hummingbird	r	r	-	-	-
Anna's hummingbird	u	u	u	u	n
Costa's hummingbird	r	r	r	r	-
Rufous hummingbird	c	c	u	r	n
<b>Kingfishers</b>					
Belted kingfisher	u	u	u	u	n
<b>Woodpeckers</b>					
Lewis's woodpecker	r	-	r	r	-
Acorn woodpecker	o	o	o	o	n
Red-breasted sapsucker	o	o	o	o	n
Downy woodpecker	c	c	c	c	n
Hairy woodpecker	o	o	o	o	n
Northern flicker	c	c	c	c	n
Pileated woodpecker	u	u	u	u	n
<b>Flycatchers</b>					
Olive-sided flycatcher	u	u	u	-	n
Western wood-pewee	c	c	u	-	n
Willow flycatcher	u	u	u	-	n
Hammond's flycatcher	o	o	o	-	n
Dusky flycatcher	r	-	r	-	-
Pacific-slope flycatcher	c	c	u	-	n
Black phoebe	-	-	-	r	-
Say's phoebe	r	-	-	r	-
Ash-throated flycatcher	r	r	r	-	-
Western kingbird	o	r	r	-	n
Eastern kingbird	r	r	r	-	n
<b>Shrikes</b>					
Northern shrike	o	-	r	o	-
<b>Vireos</b>					
Cassin's vireo (solitary vireo)	o	o	o	-	n
Hutton's vireo	o	o	o	o	n
Warbling vireo	u	u	o	-	n
Red-eyed vireo	r	o	o	-	n
<b>Corvids</b>					
Steller's jay	c	c	c	c	n
Western scrub-jay	c	c	c	c	n
Black-billed magpie	r	-	r	r	-
American crow	c	c	c	c	n
Common raven	r	-	r	r	-

	Sp	Su	F	W	N
<b>Larks</b>					
Horned lark	-	-	r	r	-
<b>Swallows</b>					
Purple martin	u	u	u	-	n
Tree swallow	c	c	c	o	n
Violet-green swallow	c	c	c	o	n
N. Rough-winged swallow	u	u	u	-	n
Bank swallow	r	r	r	-	n
Cliff swallow	c	c	c	-	n
Barn swallow	c	c	c	o	n
<b>Chickadees and bushtit</b>					
Black-capped chickadee	c	c	c	c	n
Mountain chickadee	r	r	r	r	-
Chestnut-backed chickadee	c	c	c	c	n
Bushtit	c	c	c	c	n
<b>Nuthatches and creeper</b>					
Red-breasted nuthatch	c	c	c	c	n
White-breasted nuthatch	u	u	u	u	n
Brown creeper	u	u	u	u	n
<b>Wrens</b>					
Bewick's wren	c	c	c	u	n
House wren	u	u	u	-	n
Winter wren	c	u	u	u	n
Marsh wren	c	c	c	o	n
<b>Dippers</b>					
American dipper	r	-	-	r	-
<b>Kinglets</b>					
Golden-crowned kinglet	c	c	c	c	n
Ruby-crowned kinglet	c	-	c	c	-
<b>Thrushes</b>					
Western bluebird	o	o	o	o	n
Mountain bluebird	r	-	-	r	-
Townsend's solitaire	r	-	r	r	-
Swainson's thrush	u	c	o	-	n
Hermit thrush	o	-	r	o	-
American robin	c	c	c	c	n
Varied thrush	c	o	u	c	-
<b>Thrashers</b>					
Northern mockingbird	r	-	r	r	-
<b>Starlings</b>					
European starling (introduced)	c	c	c	c	n
<b>Pipits and waxwings</b>					
American pipit	u	-	u	o	-
Cedar waxwing	u	c	c	o	n
<b>Warblers</b>					
Orange-crowned warbler	c	c	u	r	n
Nashville warbler	u	-	r	-	-
Yellow warbler	u	u	u	r	n

Checklist continued

	Sp	Su	F	W	N
Yellow-rumped warbler	c	o	c	o	-
Black-throated gray warbler	c	u	u	r	n
Townsend's warbler	c	o	u	o	-
Hermit warbler	o	-	-	r	-
Macgillivray's warbler	u	o	o	-	n
Common yellowthroat	c	c	u	o	n
Wilson's warbler	c	c	u	-	n
Yellow-breasted chat	o	o	-	-	n

**Tanagers**

Western tanager	c	u	u	-	n
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**New world sparrows**

Spotted towhee (rufous-sided towhee)	c	c	c	c	n
Chipping sparrow	u	u	o	r	n
Clay-colored sparrow	r	-	r	r	-
Vesper sparrow	r	r	r	r	-
Savannah sparrow	c	c	c	r	n
Fox sparrow	u	-	u	u	-
Song sparrow	c	c	c	c	n
Lincoln's sparrow	o	-	o	o	-
Swamp sparrow	o	-	r	o	-
White-throated sparrow	o	-	o	o	-
Harris's sparrow	o	-	-	o	-
White-crowned sparrow	c	c	c	c	n
Golden-crowned sparrow	u	r	u	c	-
Dark-eyed junco	c	u	c	c	n
Lapland longspur	-	-	r	r	-
Snow bunting	-	-	-	r	-

**Grosbeaks and buntings**

Black-headed grosbeak	c	c	u	-	n
Lazuli bunting	o	o	-	-	n

**Blackbirds and relatives**

Red-winged blackbird	c	c	c	c	n
Tricolored blackbird	r	r	-	-	n
Western meadowlark	u	r	u	u	n
Yellow-headed blackbird	o	o	o	r	n
Brewer's blackbird	c	c	c	c	n
Brown-headed cowbird	c	c	c	r	n
Bullock's oriole	c	c	u	-	n

**Finches**

Purple finch	u	o	o	o	n
House finch	c	c	c	c	n
Red crossbill	o	o	o	o	n
Common redpoll	r	-	r	r	-
Pine siskin	u	o	o	u	n
Lesser goldfinch	u	u	u	o	n
American goldfinch	c	c	c	u	n
Evening grosbeak	c	o	o	u	n

**Old world sparrows**

House sparrow (introduced)	c	c	c	c	n
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**Accidental or very rare birds**

These birds have been seen in our region a few times but are basically out of their normal range. If one is spotted you can be sure it will be on the rare bird alert at the Audubon Society of Portland. This could be the wish list of a very experienced hotshot birder.

Red-necked grebe	Black tern
Brown pelican	Yellow-billed cuckoo
Snowy egret	Snowy owl
Cattle egret	Common poorwill
Emperor goose	Black swift
Tufted duck	White-throated swift
Harlequin duck	Calliope hummingbird
Long-tailed duck (oldsquaw)	Least flycatcher
Swainson's hawk	Tropical kingbird
Ferruginous hawk	Loggerhead shrike
Gyr Falcon	Gray jay
Prairie falcon	Blue jay
American golden-plover	Rock wren
Pacific golden-plover	Sage thrasher
Willet	Brown thrasher
Ruddy turnstone	Bohemian waxwing
Semipalmated sandpiper	Tennessee warbler
Sharp-tailed sandpiper	Palm warbler
Stilt sandpiper	Black-and-white warbler
Buff-breasted sandpiper	American tree sparrow
Ruff	Brewer's sparrow
Red phalarope	Lark sparrow
Heerman's gull	Black-throated sparrow
Slaty-backed gull	Sage sparrow
Sabine's gull	Lark bunting
Black-legged kittiwake	Rose-breasted grosbeak
Common tern	Indigo bunting
Arctic tern	Rusty blackbird
Least tern	Brambling

**Metro**

People places • open spaces

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

**Your Metro representatives**

**Metro Council President** – David Bragdon  
**Metro Councilors** – Rod Park, District 1; Brian Newman, District 2; Carl Hosticka, deputy council president, District 3; Susan McLain, District 4; Rex Burkholder, District 5; Robert Liberty, District 6.  
**Auditor** – Alexis Dow, CPA

**Metro's web site**  
[www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org)