

Birds of the Bull Run



The Bull Run Watershed Management Unit is a nearly 150-square-mile protected area that is closed to the public. The watershed is, however, used by 156 species of birds, including warblers, woodpeckers, and owls. All but four species are native to Oregon. Eighty-eight bird species breed in the Bull Run, 53 are resident year-round, and 32 are rare (fewer than five records).

Each species name on this list is followed by a three-letter code that describes the species' relative abundance, seasonal occurrence, and breeding status with respect to the Bull Run Watershed:

1. Relative Abundance

- C Common
- U Uncommon
- R Rare
- P Probably uncommon, but presence is questionable and unverified.

2. Seasonal Occurrence

- Y Year-round
- B Breeding season (varies by species)
- M Migration
- W Winter

3. Breeding Status

- B Breeding
- X Non-breeding

A "common" species is one that is found wherever suitable habitat is available at densities that are consistent with the life history strategy for the species, with the requirement that substantial suitable habitat exists in the Bull Run. So both cougars and deer mice are "common" even though there are obviously many more deer mice than cougars.

A species is considered "uncommon" if relatively few individuals use the watershed due to habitat limitations, or if information suggests an unexpectedly low density despite substantial suitable habitat.

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Geese and Swans

	1	2	3
Cackling goose	R	M	X
Canada goose	C	Y	B
Greater white-fronted goose	R	M	X
Snow goose	R	M	X
Tundra swan ¹	R	M	X

Ducks and Mergansers

American widgeon	U	M	X
Barrow's goldeneye ²	U	Y	B
Blue-winged teal	U	M	X
Bufflehead	C	W	X
Canvasback	R	M	X
Cinnamon teal	U	M	X
Common goldeneye	U	W	X
Common merganser	C	Y	B
Gadwall	U	M	X
Greater scaup	U	M	X
Green-winged teal	U	M	X
Hooded merganser	C	Y	B
Lesser scaup	U	M	X
Mallard	U	Y	B
Northern pintail	U	M	X
Northern shoveler	U	M	X
Red-breasted merganser	R	M	X
Redhead	R	M	X
Ring-necked duck	U	M	X
Wood duck	U	Y	B

Quail and Grouse

California quail	U	Y	B
Mountain quail	U	Y	B
Ruffed grouse	C	Y	B
Sooty grouse	C	Y	B

Grebes

Eared grebe	R	M	X
Horned grebe	R	M	X
Pied-billed grebe	C	W	X
Western grebe	R	M	X

Doves and Pigeons

Band-tailed pigeon	C	B	B
Eurasian collared-dove*	R	B	B
Mourning dove	U	B	B

Nightjars and Swifts

Common nighthawk	U	B	B
Vaux's swift	C	B	B

Hummingbirds

	1	2	3
Anna's hummingbird	U	B	B
Calliope hummingbird	U	B	B
Rufous hummingbird	C	B	B

Rails and Coots

Sora	R	?	?
American coot	U	M	X

Plovers, Sandpipers, and Gulls

Killdeer	U	M	X
Spotted sandpiper	C	B	B
Red-necked phalarope	U	M	X
Wilson's snipe	U	M	?
Unidentified gulls	U	W	X

Loons, Cormorants, and Herons

Common loon ³	U	M	X
Double-crested cormorant	U	W	X
Great blue heron	U	Y	X
Green heron	P	?	?

Vultures and Osprey

Turkey vulture	C	B	B
Osprey	U	B	B

Eagles and Hawks

Bald eagle	U	Y	X
Golden eagle	R	M	X
Northern harrier	R	M	X
Sharp-shinned hawk	U	Y	B
Cooper's hawk	C	Y	B
Northern goshawk	U	Y	B
Red-tailed hawk	C	Y	B

Owls

Barred owl ^{4*}	C	Y	B
Great horned owl	C	Y	B
Northern pygmy-owl	C	Y	B
Northern saw-whet owl	C	Y	B
Northern spotted owl	U	Y	B
Western screech-owl	C	Y	B

Kingfishers

Belted kingfisher	U	Y	B
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Woodpeckers**1 2 3**

American three-toed woodpecker	R	Y	B
Black-backed woodpecker	U	Y	B
Downy woodpecker	C	Y	B
Hairy woodpecker	C	Y	B
Northern flicker	C	Y	B
Pileated woodpecker	C	Y	B
Red-breasted sapsucker	C	Y	B

Falcons

American kestrel	R	M	X
Merlin	R	M	X
Peregrine falcon	R	M	X

Tyrant flycatchers

Dusky flycatcher	R	B	B
Hammond's flycatcher	U	B	B
Olive-sided flycatcher	U	B	B
Pacific-slope flycatcher	C	B	B
Say's phoebe	R	M	X
Western wood-pewee	C	B	B
Willow flycatcher	U	B	B

Vireos

Cassin's vireo	U	B	B
Hutton's vireo	U	B	B
Warbling vireo	C	B	B

Corvids

American crow	R	Y	X
Common raven	C	Y	B
Gray jay	C	Y	B
Steller's jay	C	Y	B
Western scrub-jay	R	Y	X

Larks

Horned lark	R	M	X
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Swallows

Barn swallow	C	M	X
Cliff swallow	C	B	B
Northern rough-winged swallow	C	B	B
Tree swallow	C	B	B
Violet-green swallow	C	B	B

Chickadees and Bushtits

Black-capped chickadee	U	Y	B
Mountain chickadee	R	W	X
Chestnut-backed chickadee	C	Y	B
Bushtit	U	Y	B

Nuthatches and Creepers**1 2 3**

Red-breasted nuthatch	C	Y	B
White-breasted nuthatch	U	M	X
Brown creeper	C	Y	B

Wrens

Bewick's wren	U	Y	B
House wren	R	M	X
Pacific wren	C	Y	B
Rock wren	R	M	X

Dippers

American dipper	C	Y	B
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Kinglets

Golden-crowned kinglet	C	Y	B
Ruby-crowned kinglet	C	M	X

Thrushes

American robin	C	Y	B
Hermit thrush	C	B	B
Mountain bluebird	U	M	X
Swainson's thrush	C	B	B
Townsend's solitaire	U	B	B
Varied thrush	C	Y	B
Western bluebird	U	M	X

Starlings, Pipits, and Waxwings

European starling*	U	M	X
American pipit	R	M	X
Cedar waxwing	C	Y	B

Finches

American goldfinch	U	M	X
Evening grosbeak	C	B	B
Gray-crowned rosyfinch	R	M	X
Pine siskin	C	Y	B
Purple finch	U	B	B
Red crossbill	C	Y	B

Warblers

Black-throated gray warbler	C	B	B
Common yellow-throat	U	B	B
Hermit warbler	C	B	B
MacGillivray's warbler	C	B	B
Nashville warbler	U	B	B
Orange-crowned warbler	C	B	B
Townsend's warbler	C	B	B
Wilson's warbler	C	B	B
Yellow warbler	U	M	X
Yellow-rumped warbler	C	B	B

Sparrows**1 2 3**

Chipping sparrow	U	M	X
Dark-eyed junco	C	Y	B
Fox sparrow	U	M	X
Golden-crowned sparrow	C	M	X
Lark sparrow	R	M	X
Savannah sparrow	U	M	X
Song sparrow	C	Y	B
Spotted towhee	C	Y	B
White-crowned sparrow	C	B	B

Tanagers and Grosbeaks

Black-headed grosbeak	C	B	B
Lazuli bunting ⁵	R	M	X
Western tanager	C	B	B

Blackbirds

Brewer's blackbird	U	M	X
Brown-headed cowbird*	R	B	?
Bullock's oriole	U	M	X
Red-winged blackbird	U	B	B
Western meadowlark	U	M	X
Yellow-headed blackbird ⁵	R	M	X

Footnotes:

¹ Tundra swans overwinter annually at the nearby Columbia River Gorge, but are rarely observed in the Bull Run.

² Barrow's goldeneye breed annually at Bull Run Lake.

³ Loons have used the Bull Run annually during migration for at least the past 30 years.

⁴ Barred owls are widespread in the Bull Run and have likely displaced native spotted owls throughout much of the watershed.

⁵ Species presence based on one record in the Bull Run during the past 30 years.

* Indicates the species is not native to Oregon.

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