

**CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS
OF WELLS GRAY PROVINCIAL PARK**

Compiled and revised by Trevor Goward 1984, 1993,
Second revision 2009 by Trevor Goward & Ken Wright.
Third revision 2011 by Trevor Goward

Two hundred and twenty-nine species of birds have been recorded in and near Wells Gray Park since records were first kept in 1950. The following list provides details of status and abundance for each of these species, based on occurrence in six representative areas. Records of any additional or otherwise unusual sightings will be gratefully received by Trevor Goward: trevor.goward@ibotany.ubc.ca.

STATUS:

- P – Permanent Resident
- S – Summer Visitor
- W – Winter Visitor
- T – Transient (i.e., present only during migration)
- A – Accidental (i.e., out of normal range)
- I – Irregular (i.e., abundance varies from year to year)
- * - Known to breed locally
- () - Period of lesser abundance

ABUNDANCE:

- C – Common (more than 10 birds [or flocks] per day)
- U – Uncommon (at least 1 bird [or flock] per day)
- R – Rare (fewer than 1 bird per day)
- V – Very Rare (fewer than 5 birds per year)
- A – Accidental and casual (not occurring every year)

LOCALITIES:

- MALK – Mahood Lake, 630 m elevation
- ROAD – Park Road: Spahats Ck to Park entrance, 700 m
- CLLK – Clearwater and Azure Lakes, 680 m
- RAYF – Ray Farm – Horseshoe – Alice Lake, 700 m
- MULK – Murtle Lake, 1000 m
- MTNS – Battle and Trophy Mountains, 1500-2500 m

PLEASE NOTE:

Abundance units are based on the number of individuals or (in the case of gregarious species) flocks an experienced birdwatcher, in appropriate habitat, might expect to see during the season of that species' greatest abundance.

DEDICATION:

The period 1950 to 1963 were the halcyon days of bird study in Wells Gray Park. During that period it is safe to say the park received considerably more attention from bird enthusiasts than it does today. We dedicate this checklist to the following "pioneers" of Wells Gray birdwatching: Douglas Dow, Yorke Edwards, Fay Hartman, Bob and Hettie Miller, and Ralph and Clara Ritcey.

BIRDS	STATUS	ABUNDANCE					
		MALK	ROAD	CLLK	RAYF	MULK	MTNS
Red-throated Loon	A	A	-	-	-	A	-
Pacific Loon	A	A	-	-	-	A	-
Common Loon	S*	U	-	U	U	C	-
Pied-billed Grebe	T	V	V	-	-	V	-
Horned Grebe	T(S)	U	-	U	-	U	-
Red-necked Grebe	T(S)	U	V	U	-	U	-
Eared Grebe	T	V	-	-	-	V	-
Western Grebe	T	U	-	U	-	U	-
American White Pelican	A	A	-	-	-	-	-
American Bittern	S*	-	V	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	T	R	R	R	-	-	-
Cattle Egret	A	-	-	A	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night-Heron	A	-	A	A	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	T	R	-	R	-	R	-
Trumpeter Swan	A	-	A	A	-	-	-
Greater White-fronted Goose	A	-	-	-	-	-	A
Snow Goose	T	V	V	-	-	V	-
Canada Goose	S*	U	C	U	-	C	U
Wood Duck	T	V	R	-	V	-	-
Green-winged Teal	T(S)*	R	V	-	-	R	R
Mallard	S*	U	R	U	U	U	U
Northern Pintail	T	U	V	U	-	U	-
Blue-winged Teal	T(S)	R	V	R	-	R	R
Cinnamon Teal	T(S)	V	U	V	-	V	-
Northern Shoveler	T	-	R	R	R	R	R
American Wigeon	T	C	V	U	C	C	C
Redhead	T	V	-	-	-	V	-
Ring-necked Duck	T	-	U	V	R	-	A
Greater Scaup	T	R	R	R	R	R	R
Lesser Scaup	S	R	-	R	R	R	R
Harlequin Duck	S*	U	R	R	-	-	-
Oldsquaw	T	R	-	R	-	R	-
Surf Scoter	T(S)	U	-	R	-	U	-
White-winged Scoter	T(S)*	C	-	U	-	C	U
Common Goldeneye	T	R	R	R	-	R	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	S*	U	R	U	U	U	U
Bufflehead	T(S)*	U	U	U	U	U	R
Hooded Merganser	T(S)*	-	R	-	R	R	-
Common Merganser	S(P)*	C	V	C	C	C	-
Red-breasted Merganser	A	-	-	-	-	A	-
Ruddy Duck	T	U	V	-	-	U	-
Osprey	S*	U	V	U	-	U	-
Bald Eagle	S(P)*	U	R	U	R	-	-
Turkey Vulture	S	-	U	-	-	-	-
Northern Harrier	T	-	U	-	-	-	U
Sharp-shinned Hawk	T(P)	R	R	R	R	R	R
Cooper's Hawk	S	R	R	R	R	-	-
Northern Goshawk	T(P)	R	R	R	R	R	R
Swainson's Hawk	T	-	V	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	S*	U	U	R	U	U	U
Rough-legged Hawk	T	-	V	-	-	-	U
Golden Eagle	P	-	R	-	R	R	U
American Kestrel	T(S)*	U	U	R	U	R	U
Merlin	S*	-	U	U	-	R	R
Prairie Falcon	A	-	-	-	-	-	A
Spruce Grouse	P*	R	R	R	R	U	U
Dusky Grouse	P*	-	V	-	-	U	U
White-tailed Ptarmigan	P*	-	-	-	-	-	U
Ruffed Grouse	P*	I	I	I	I	-	-

BIRDS	STATUS	ABUNDANCE					
		MALK	ROAD	CLLK	RAYF	MULK	MTNS
Virginia Rail	T(S)	-	R	-	V	-	-
Sora	S*	-	R	-	R	-	-
American Coot	T(S)	-	V	V	-	V	R
Sandhill Crane	S	-	U	-	V	V	-
Black-bellied Plover	A	-	-	-	-	A	-
Semipalmated Plover	T	-	-	-	-	-	V
Killdeer	S*	U	U	-	U	-	-
American Avocet	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	T(S)*	-	V	-	R	U	R
Solitary Sandpiper	S(T)*	-	R	R	-	-	U
Spotted Sandpiper	S*	U	U	U	-	U	U
Upland Sandpiper	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Long-billed Curlew	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Western Sandpiper	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Semipalmated Sandpiper	T	-	-	R	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	T	-	-	R	-	-	V
Baird's Sandpiper	T	-	V	-	-	-	V
Pectoral Sandpiper	T	-	R	-	-	-	-
Dowitcher sp.	T	-	-	-	-	-	V
Common Snipe	S(W)*	U	U	-	U	-	R
Wilson's Phalarope	S	-	V	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Phalarope	T	-	-	R	-	R	R
Parasitic Jaeger	T	-	-	-	-	-	V
Bonaparte's Gull	T	U	-	U	-	U	U
Mew Gull	T	-	-	U	-	U	-
California Gull	S	U	-	U	-	U	-
Herring Gull	S	U	-	U	-	U	-
Sabine's Gull	A	-	-	-	-	A	-
Common Tern	A	-	-	-	-	A	-
Black Tern	S	V	V	V	-	V	-
Rock Dove	A	-	-	A	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	T	U	R	-	R	R	-
Great Horned Owl	P	R	R	V	R	R	R
Northern Hawk Owl	T	-	V	-	-	-	-
Northern Pygmy-Owl	P	R	R	-	-	R	-
Barred Owl	P*	U	U	V	U	U	R
Great Gray Owl	P	-	V	-	-	V	-
Long-eared Owl	P	-	V	-	-	V	-
Short-eared Owl	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Boreal Owl	P	-	-	-	-	-	I
Northern Saw-whet Owl	S*	U	U	V	R	R	-
Common Nighthawk	S*	U	U	-	U	-	-
Black Swift	S	R	U	R	R	R	-
Vaux's Swift	S	U	U	U	U	U	-
White-throated Swift	S	-	V	-	-	-	-
Calliope Hummingbird	S*	R	R	V	R	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	S*	U	C	U	U	R	U
Belted Kingfisher	S(P)*	U	U	R	U	-	-
Lewis's Woodpecker	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Red-naped Sapsucker	S*	U	U	U	U	V	-
Downy Woodpecker	P*	R	R	R	R	R	R
Hairy Woodpecker	P*	U	U	U	U	U	U
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	P*	V	R	R	R	R	U
Black-backed Woodpecker	P	-	V	-	V	V	V
Northern Flicker							
(a) Yellow-shafted	S	V	V	V	-	V	-
(b) Red-shafted	S(P)*	U	U	U	U	R	R
Pileated Woodpecker	P*	U	U	R	U	R	-

BIRDS	STATUS	ABUNDANCE					
		MALK	ROAD	CLLK	RAYF	MULK	MTNS
Olive-sided Flycatcher	S	R	R	-	R	R	R
Western Wood-Pewee	S	U	U	U	U	-	-
Alder Flycatcher	S*	C	U	U	U	U	U
Willow Flycatcher	S	-	R	-	U	-	-
Least Flycatcher	T(S)	-	V	-	R	-	-
Hammond's Flycatcher	S	-	C	-	C	-	-
Dusky Flycatcher	S	-	C	-	U	-	-
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	S*	-	V	R	-	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	T	-	V	-	-	-	-
Say's Phoebe	T	-	V	-	-	-	V
Western Kingbird	S*	-	R	-	-	-	-
Eastern Kingbird	S*	-	U	-	-	-	-
Horned Lark	S(T)*	-	R	-	-	-	C
Tree Swallow	S*	C	C	U	C	C	C
Violet-green Swallow	S*	R	U	-	-	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	S*	U	C	U	U	-	-
Bank Swallow	S*	U	U	-	-	-	-
Cliff Swallow	S*	C	R	-	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	S*	C	U	U	C	-	-
Gray Jay	P*	U	R	U	U	C	C
Steller's Jay	P	U	U	U	U	U	R
Blue Jay	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Clark's Nutcracker	S(T)	-	V	-	-	R	-
Black-billed Magpie	W	U	V	-	-	-	-
American Crow	S*	C	C	C	C	C	-
Common Raven	P*	U	C	U	U	U	U
Black-capped Chickadee	P*	C	C	C	C	C	-
Mountain Chickadee	P*	C	U	C	C	C	C
Boreal Chickadee	P	-	R	U	-	U	C
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	P	R	R	-	U	U	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	S(P)*	U	U	U	U	U	U
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Brown Creeper	P	R	R	R	R	V	-
Rock Wren	A	-	-	-	-	A	-
Winter Wren	S(P)*	C	U	C	C	C	-
Marsh Wren	T(S)	-	V	-	-	-	-
American Dipper	P*	U	U	U	U	U	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	P	U	U	U	U	U	U
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	S	U	U	U	U	U	R
Western Bluebird	T	V	V	-	-	-	-
Mountain Bluebird	S*	V	V	-	V	-	V
Townsend's Solitaire	S	U	R	V	V	-	R
Veery	S*	-	C	V	U	U	-
Swainson's Thrush	S*	C	C	C	C	U	-
Hermit Thrush	S*	-	V	V	-	U	U
American Robin	S*	C	C	C	C	C	C
Varied Thrush	T(S)*	U	C	U	U	U	C
Gray Catbird	S	-	U	-	U	V	-
Northern Mockingbird	A	-	A	-	-	A	-
American Pipit	S(T)*	-	U	-	-	-	C
Bohemian Waxwing	T(W)	R	U	-	-	R	-
Cedar Waxwing	S*	C	U	U	U	-	-
Northern Shrike	W	U	R	-	-	-	-
European Starling	S(W)*	U	U	R	R	V	-
Solitary Vireo	S	-	U	U	U	-	-
Warbling Vireo	S*	U	U	U	U	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	S*	C	C	C	C	C	-

BIRDS	STATUS	ABUNDANCE					
		MALK	ROAD	CLLK	RAYF	MULK	MTNS
Tennessee Warbler	T(S)	V	V	R	V	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	S*	C	C	C	C	U	-
Nashville Warbler	S*	-	U	-	R	R	-
Yellow Warbler	S	-	U	-	U	U	-
Magnolia Warbler	T(S)	-	R	U	C	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler							
(a) Myrtle	T	R	R	-	-	-	-
(b) Audubon's	S*	C	C	C	C	U	U
Townsend's Warbler	T(S)	U	U	U	U	U	-
Blackpoll Warbler	S	-	-	-	-	U	A
American Redstart	S	R	C	R	U	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	S*	-	U	-	U	-	-
MacGillivray's Warbler	S*	U	U	U	U	R	-
Common Yellowthroat	S*	U	C	-	U	U	-
Wilson's Warbler	S	U	U	U	U	U	R
Western Tanager	S*	C	C	C	C	-	-
Black-headed Grosbeak	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Lazuli Bunting	S	V	V	-	V	V	-
Indigo Bunting	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Spotted Towhee	S	-	U	-	V	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	T	-	V	-	-	V	V
Clay-coloured Sparrow	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	S*	C	C	U	C	-	C
Vesper Sparrow	T	-	V	-	-	-	V
Black-throated Sparrow	A	-	-	-	-	A	-
Savannah Sparrow	S*	-	U	-	-	-	C
LeConte's Sparrow	T	-	-	V	V	-	-
Fox Sparrow	S(T)*	-	R	-	-	R	C
Song Sparrow	S(P)*	C	C	U	C	U	-
Lincoln's Sparrow	S	-	R	-	U	U	U
White-throated Sparrow	T	-	-	-	V	V	-
Golden-crowned Sparrow	T(S)*	U	U	-	-	-	U
White-crowned Sparrow	T(S)*	C	C	-	-	-	U
Harris's Sparrow	T	-	V	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco							
(a) Slate-coloured	T	-	V	-	-	-	-
(b) Oregon	S(P)*	C	C	C	C	U	C
Chestnut-collared Longspur	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Lapland Longspur	T	-	V	-	-	V	-
Snow Bunting	T(W)	R	R	-	-	-	-
Bobolink	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	T(S)*	U	C	-	U	-	-
Western Meadowlark	T	-	V	-	-	V	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	T	R	V	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	T(S)	R	R	-	-	U	-
Brewer's Blackbird	T(S)*	U	C	U	U	U	R
Brown-headed Cowbird	S	U	U	U	U	U	-
Bullock's Oriole	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	S(T)*	-	V	-	-	-	C
Pine Grosbeak	P	I	I	I	I	I	I
Purple Finch	S	R	R	R	R	-	-
Cassin's Finch	T	-	V	-	-	-	-
House Finch	T(S)	-	V	-	V	-	-
Red Crossbill	P	I	I	I	I	I	I
White-winged Crossbill	P	I	I	I	I	I	I
Common Redpoll	W	U	U	U	U	-	-
Hoary Redpoll	A	-	A	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	S	C	C	C	C	C	C
American Goldfinch	S	R	R	-	-	R	-
Evening Grosbeak	P	I	I	I	I	I	I
House Sparrow	T	-	R	-	-	-	-

Checklist of Birds

Wells Gray Provincial Park