

ABUNDANCE KEY
 A=always seen, high numbers
 C=common, usually seen, moderate numbers. Some species are common only in specific locations.
 U=uncommon, sometimes seen, low numbers, or irregularly high
 O=occasionally seen, sporadic
Italics ●=rare, seldom seen, vagrant, unexpected, wanderer

HABITAT KEY
 (listed from most to least common)
 L=lake
 R=river
 W=wetland, ponds, bogs
 F=forest
 C=clearing
 Sh=shrubby area
 S=settlement
 //=edge of habitat

SEASONS KEY
 Sp=Spring (mid-March to end of May)
 Su=Summer (early June to mid-August)
 Au=Autumn (mid-August to mid-November)
 Wi=Winter (mid-November to mid-March)

	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	C	C			W, F, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Wood-Pewee	C	C			F//, W//
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U	U			F//, W//, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	C	C			W//, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	A	A			F, W, Sh//
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C			W//, S, F//, L//, R//
<input type="checkbox"/> Say's Phoebe	O		O		C, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		Sh
Shrikes (Laniidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike			●		Sh, C//
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike	O			O	Sh, C//
Vireos (Vireonidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	C	C			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	C	C			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo	U	U			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	C	C			F
Jays and Crows (Corvidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Jay	C	C	C	C	F, Sh, S//, W
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	A	A	A	A	S, C, F//
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Magpie	A	A	A	A	Sh, S, F//, C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	A	A	A		C, S, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven	A	A	A	A	F, C, Sh, S, L//
Larks (Alaudidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	U		U		C

	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Swallows (Hirundinidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	U	U			F//, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	A	A	A		C, F//, W//, S, L//
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	U	U			L//, R//, C
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	C	C			R//, W, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C		S, L//
Chickadees (Paridae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	A	A	A	A	F, S, Sh//
<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal Chickadee	U	U	U	U	F, W
Nuthatches (Sittidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	F, W
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	F, S
Creepers (Certhiidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	U	U	U	U	F
Wrens (Troglodytidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C			F, Sh, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	U	U	U		F
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren		O			W//
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	U	U	U		L//, W//
Kinglets (Regulidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	U	U		F, W
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	C	C		F, W
Thrushes (Turdidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Bluebird	U	U	U		F//, C
<input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Solitaire	●				F//
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	O	O	O		F
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		O		F//
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	C	C	C		F
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	C	C	C		F
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	A	A	A	●	F//, Sh, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Varied Thrush			●		F
Catbirds (Mimidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	O	O	O		Sh, W//, L//
Starlings (Sturnidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	O	S, C, F//
Pipits (Motacillidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	O		O		C, W// (ice)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sprague's Pipit	O	O			C

	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Waxwings (Bombycillidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bohemian Waxwing			C	C	F, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C		F//, Sh, S
Wood-Warblers (Parulidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C	C			F//, Sh, W
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	C	C			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C			Sh, W//, F//
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	O			Sh, F//
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U	U	U		F//, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	U	U			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	C		F, W//
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	U	U			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	U	U	U		Sh, W
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	O	O			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	U	U			F, W
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U	U			F//
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C			F//, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	C	C			W//, F//, R//
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler	U	U			F
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	U	U			Sh, F//
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C			W, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	U	U			W//, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	O	O			F, Sh//, W//
Tanagers (Thraupidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Tanager	C	C			F
Native Sparrows (Emberizidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	U				F, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C			F//, S, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U			F//, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	U	U			C, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C			C, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow	C	C			C, Sh, W
<input type="checkbox"/> Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	O	O			W//
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	U	U	U		Sh, F//
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C		Sh, R//, L//, W//
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	C	C	C		Sh, F//, W

	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Native Sparrows (continued)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U		W, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		Sh, F, R//
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow			U		F//, Sh, W//
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		F//, Sh, L//, W//
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C	C	C		F, W
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting	C		C	C	C, L (ice)
Cardinals (Cardinalidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C			F, S
Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	A	C	C		L//, W//, Sh//
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	O	O			C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	O	O	O		W//, L//
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	C	C	C		W//, Sh, C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird	U	U	U		C, Sh//
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	U	U	C		C, Sh, W//
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C		C, Sh, F//
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U			F//
Finches and Grosbeaks (Fringillidae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Grosbeak		U	U	U	F, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	C	C	U	●	F, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill	O	O	O	O	W, F
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Crossbill	U	U	U	U	W, F
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	U			C	C//, F//, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoary Redpoll	U			U	C, F//, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	C	C	C	O	F, S, W
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	U	U			F//, C//, S, Sh
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak	C	U	C	C	F, S
Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)					
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	S

We plan to update this bird checklist periodically and ask that you send your comments or observer notes to

BIRD LIST
 Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca
 P.O. Box 2072
 Athabasca, AB T9S 2B6

BIRDS OF THE ATHABASCA REGION



Boreal Owl

THE ATHABASCA REGION (see map) is located in the mixedwood boreal forest. Besides the upland and lowland forests, significant physical features include shrubland, the Athabasca River, creeks and lakes, and clearings caused by agricultural and forestry activities, and fire. Settlements also contribute to the mosaic.

The characteristic forest vegetation is a mixture of aspen and balsam poplar, with white spruce, jack pine, some birches and balsam fir. Shrubby vegetation includes willows, alder, pincherry, saskatoon, and hazelnut. The diverse understory includes low-bush cranberry, red-osier dogwood, prickly rose, dewberry, peavine, and twinflower. Mosses and ferns are found in the coniferous forests, while lichens, bearberry, bog cranberry, and low bilberry are common in the dry sandy-soiled forests. Black spruce and tamarack grow among Labrador tea in acidic peatlands.

BIRDS OF THE ATHABASCA REGION is a general guide to birds you may see in the area. The 222 species listed are from sightings by local residents and naturalists, and studies conducted in the area.

Depending on the season, you can see the birds that live here year-round, birds that breed and nest here, or birds that pass through during migration. Distribution and abundance of species vary in some years.

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	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Loons (Gaviidae)					
□ Common Loon	C	C	C		L, W
□ Yellow-billed Loon			●		L
Grebes (Podicipedidae)					
□ Pied-billed Grebe	U	U			L, W
□ Horned Grebe	C	C	U		L, W
□ Red-necked Grebe	A	A	A		L, W
□ Eared Grebe	U	U	U		L
□ Western Grebe	U	U	U		L
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)					
□ American White Pelican	C	C	C		L, R
Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)					
□ Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		L, R
Herons (Ardeidae)					
□ American Bittern	U	U			L//, W//
□ Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		L//, W//, R//
Geese (Anatidae)					
□ Greater White-fronted Goose	C		?		L, R
□ Snow Goose	U		U		L, R, C
□ Ross's Goose	●		●		L, R
□ Canada Goose	A	C	A		L, R, C//, W
Swans (Anatidae)					
□ Trumpeter Swan	●		●		L, R
□ Tundra Swan	C		C		L, R

	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Ducks (Anatidae)					
□ Wood Duck	O				L, W
□ Gadwall	C	C	C		L, W
□ American Wigeon	C	C	C		L, W, R
□ Mallard	A	A	A		W, L, R
□ Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		W, L//, R//
□ Cinnamon Teal	●	●			L//, W//
□ Northern Shoveler	A	C	A		L, W
□ Northern Pintail	C	U	C		W, L//
□ Green-winged Teal	C	C	C		L, W, R
□ Canvasback	U	U	U		L, W
□ Redhead	U	U	U		L, W
□ Ring-necked Duck	C	C	C		L, W
□ Greater Scaup	O		O		L, W
□ Lesser Scaup	A	A	A		L, W, R
□ Surf Scoter	O				L, R
□ White-winged Scoter	U	U	U		L, R, W
□ Long-tailed Duck	●		●		L
□ Bufflehead	A	A	A		L, W, R
□ Common Goldeneye	A	A	A		L, W, R
□ Barrow's Goldeneye		●			L
□ Hooded Merganser	O		O		L, R, W
□ Common Merganser	U	U	U		L, R
□ Red-breasted Merganser	O		O		L, R
□ Ruddy Duck	C	C	C		L, W
Osprey (Accipitridae)					
□ Osprey	C	C	C		L, R//
Eagles and Harriers (Accipitridae)					
□ Bald Eagle	U	U	U	O	L, W, R, C
□ Northern Harrier	C	C	C		W, C//
Accipiters (Accipitridae)					
□ Sharp-shinned Hawk	C	C	C		F, L//
□ Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		F, C
□ Northern Goshawk	U	U	U		F, C
Buteos (Accipitridae)					
□ Broad-winged Hawk	U	U			F//
□ Swainson's Hawk	●	●	●		C
□ Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C		C, Sh, F//
□ Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	●	C
□ Golden Eagle	O		O	●	C, R, L

	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Falcons (Falconidae)					
□ American Kestrel	A	A	A		C, F//, W//
□ Merlin	C	C	C		F, L//, R, W, C, S
□ Peregrine Falcon	●	●	●		L//, F//, R//
Grouse (Phasianidae)					
□ Gray Partridge	U	U	U	U	C
□ Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	F, Sh, W//
□ Spruce Grouse	O	O	O	O	F, S
□ Sharp-tailed Grouse	U	U	U	U	C, Sh
Rails and Coots (Rallidae)					
□ Virginia Rail	●	●			W//, L//
□ Sora	C	C			W//, L//
□ American Coot	A	A	A		W, L//
Cranes (Gruidae)					
□ Sandhill Crane	A	O	A		W, C, L//
Plovers (Charadriidae)					
□ Black-bellied Plover	O		O		C, L//
□ American Golden Plover	U				C, L//
□ Semipalmated Plover	U		U		W//, L//, R//
□ Killdeer	A	A	U		C, L//, R//, S
Avocets (Recurvirostridae)					
□ American Avocet	O	O			L//, W//
Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)					
□ Greater Yellowlegs	C	C	C		W//, L//
□ Lesser Yellowlegs	C	C	C		W//, Sh//
□ Solitary Sandpiper	C	C			W//, L// Sh//
□ Spotted Sandpiper	C	C			L//, W//, R//
□ Upland Sandpiper	O	O			C
□ Whimbrel	●				C, L//, W//
□ Marbled Godwit	O	O			C, W//
□ Sanderling	U		U		L//
□ Semipalmated Sandpiper	O		O		L//
□ Least Sandpiper	O				W//, L// Sh//
□ Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U		L//
□ Short-billed Dowitcher	U		U		L//, W//
□ Long-billed Dowitcher	U		U		L//
□ Common Snipe	C	C	C		W//, C, Sh//
□ Wilson's Phalarope	U	U			W, L//
□ Red-necked Phalarope	●		●		L

	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Gulls and Terns (Laridae)					
□ Franklin's Gull	A	C	C		R, L, W, S
□ Bonaparte's Gull	C	C	C		L, R, W, F//
□ Ring-billed Gull	A	A	A		L//, R//, C, S
□ California Gull	C	C	C		L, W, C
□ Herring Gull	U	O	U		L, R, C, S
□ Common Tern	U	U	U		L, W, R
□ Arctic Tern	O		O		L
□ Forster's Tern	O	O			W, L
□ Black Tern	C	C			W//, L//
Doves (Columbidae)					
□ Rock Dove	C	C	C	C	S, C
□ Mourning Dove	U	U	U		C, W//, F//, Sh
Owls (Strigidae)					
□ Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	F, C//
□ Snowy Owl				O	C
□ Northern Hawk Owl	U	U	U	U	F//, C, W//
□ Northern Pigmy-Owl	O	O	O	O	F
□ Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	F, Sh//
□ Great Gray Owl	U	U	U	U	F//, C
□ Long-eared Owl	●	●	●	●	F//, Sh//
□ Short-eared Owl	U	U	U	U	C, W, Sh
□ Boreal Owl	O	O	O	O	F
□ Northern Saw-whet Owl	C	C	C	O	F
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)					
□ Common Nighthawk	C	C	U		F//, C, L//
Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)					
□ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U			S, F//
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)					
□ Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		L//, R//, W//
Woodpeckers (Picidae)					
□ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		F//, S
□ Red-naped Sapsucker		●			F
□ Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	F, Sh, S
□ Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	F, S
□ Three-toed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	F, W//
□ Black-backed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	F
□ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O	F, C, S
□ Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	F

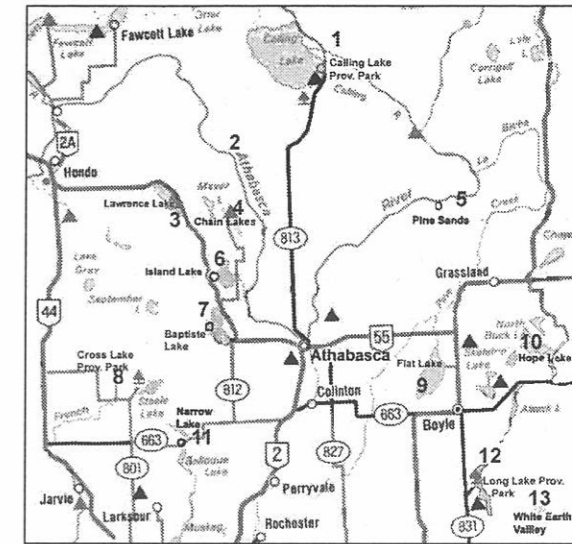
BIRD IDENTIFICATION BOOKS

Birds of Alberta. Chris Fisher and John Acorn. Edmonton: Lone Pine Publishing, 1998.

Field Guide to Alberta Birds. W. Bruce McGillivray and Glen P. Semenchuk. Edmonton: The Federation of Alberta Naturalists, 1998.

The Sibley Guide to Birds. David Allen Sibley. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

BIRD VIEWING LOCATIONS



1. Calling Lake Provincial Park
2. Athabasca River
3. Lawrence Lake Campground
4. Chain Lakes Campground
5. Pine Sands Natural Area
6. Island Lake Campground
7. Baptiste Lake Public Beach
8. Cross Lake Provincial Park
9. Flat Lake (proposed viewing area)
10. Hope Lake Campground
11. Narrow Lake Campground
12. Long Lake Provincial Park
13. White Earth Valley Natural Area

BIRDS OF THE ATHABASCA REGION is sponsored by Friends of the Athabasca Environmental Association and Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca, with assistance provided by Athabasca University and a Community Lottery Board grant. June 2001