



Bird Checklist: Boundary Bay Regional Park

Delta

text and checklist updated by April L. Mol
original checklist compiled by Allen Poynter

Boundary Bay Regional Park, managed by the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department, offers outstanding bird viewing opportunities. The park is located on the western shore of Boundary Bay within the Fraser River Estuary, one of Canada's most important ecosystems for migrating and wintering birds. This area is internationally significant and is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Each year, Boundary Bay is used by 1.5 million birds from 20 countries. Fifty species of shorebirds and day counts of more than 100,000 waterfowl have been recorded. Birds and other wildlife depend on critical habitat in Boundary Bay, including salt and fresh water marshes, tidal mudflats, grassland, sand dunes and sandy shoreline. Migratory birds that rest and feed in the park, as well as ground-nesting birds, are sensitive to disturbance by people and dogs.

For more information on Boundary Bay Regional Park, contact the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department, West Area Office at 604-224-5739.

Area Covered

The checklist area includes the Centennial Beach and Wildlife Reserve area of Boundary Bay Regional Park and adjacent foreshore areas visible from the park. This checklist does not include sightings made from the Boundary Bay dyke between 17A Avenue and 112th Street, nor does it reflect all of the viewing opportunities of Boundary Bay, Mud Bay and Blackie Spit.

Explanation of Symbols

seasonal occurrence

- Sp** = March through May; including spring migrants
S = June through mid August; including spring arrival and fall departure
F = mid August through November; including fall migrants
W = November through February; including fall arrival and spring departure

relative abundance

- a** = abundant (100 or more per day)
c = common (25 to 100 per day)
f = fairly common (5 to 25 per day)
u = uncommon (1 to 5 per day, with at least 10 records per year)
r = rare (1 to 10 records per year), but regular
ca = casual (2 to 10 documented records in checklist area)
ac = accidental. (only 1 documented record in checklist area during the specified season)

other symbols

- *** = species has been documented breeding in the checklist area
[I] = introduced species, present more than 10 years

| | | Sp | S | F | W |
|------|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| RTLO | Red-throated Loon | f | | u | f |
| PALO | Pacific Loon | r | | r | r |
| COLO | Common Loon | a | u | a | c |
| PBGR | Pied-billed Grebe | r | | r | r |
| HOGR | Horned Grebe | c | | c | c |
| RNGR | Red-necked Grebe | u | | c | u |
| EAGR | Eared Grebe | | | | ca |
| WEGR | Western Grebe | u | | c | u |
| CLGR | Clark's Grebe | | | | ca |
| DCCO | Double-crested Cormorant | f | u | f | f |
| BRCO | Brandt's Cormorant | | | | r |
| PECO | Pelagic Cormorant | u | | u | f |
| GBHE | Great Blue Heron | c | c | c | c |
| GREG | Great Egret | | | ca | |
| GRHE | Green Heron | r | r | r | |
| BCNH | Black-crowned Night-Heron | | | | ac |
| TUVU | Turkey Vulture | r | ca | r | ca |
| GWFG | Greater White-fronted Goose | ca | | ca | |
| EMGO | Emperor Goose | | | | ac |
| SNGO | Snow Goose | u | | u | f |
| CAGO | Canada Goose | a | f | c | a |
| BRAN | Brant | a | r | u | c |
| MUSW | Mute Swan [I] | ca | | | ca |
| TRUS | Trumpeter Swan | r | | r | r |

| | | Sp | S | F | W | | | Sp | S | F | W |
|------|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|------|------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| TUSW | Tundra Swan | c | | | c | GRYE | Greater Yellowlegs | f | r | f | u |
| WODU | Wood Duck | ca | | | ca | LEYE | Lesser Yellowlegs | c | ca | c | |
| GADW | * Gadwall | f | u | f | f | SOSA | Solitary Sandpiper | | | r | r |
| EUWI | Eurasian Wigeon | f | | f | f | WILL | Willet | | | | ac |
| AMWI | American Wigeon | a | r | a | a | SPSA | * Spotted Sandpiper | u | r | u | ca |
| ABDU | American Black Duck [1] | | | ca | ca | WHIM | Whimbrel | ca | ca | ca | |
| MALL | * Mallard | a | f | a | a | LBCU | Long-billed Curlew | | | | ca |
| BWTE | * Blue-winged Teal | r | r | r | | HUGO | Hudsonian Godwit | | | | ca |
| CITE | * Cinnamon Teal | r | r | r | ca | MAGO | Marbled Godwit | | ca | ca | ac |
| NOSL | Northern Shoveler | u | f | u | f | RUTU | Ruddy Turnstone | r | | r | ca |
| NOPI | Northern Pintail | a | r | a | a | BLTU | Black Turnstone | | | r | r |
| GWTE | Green-winged Teal | a | r | a | a | SURF | Surfbird | | | | ca |
| CANV | Canvasback | r | | r | r | REKN | Red Knot | | | | ca |
| REDH | Redhead | | | | ca | SAND | Sanderling | c | | c | c |
| GRSC | Greater Scaup | a | r | a | a | SESA | Semipalmated Sandpiper | ca | | u | |
| LESC | Lesser Scaup | f | ca | f | f | WESA | Western Sandpiper | a | r | a | r |
| HADU | Harlequin Duck | r | | | r | RNST | Red-necked Stint | | | | ac |
| SUSC | Surf Scoter | a | r | a | a | LIST | Little Stint | | | | ac |
| WWSC | White-winged Scoter | f | r | f | f | LESA | Least Sandpiper | a | r | a | |
| BLSC | Black Scoter | r | | r | r | BASA | Baird's Sandpiper | r | | | u |
| LTDU | Long-tailed Duck | | ca | r | r | PESA | Pectoral Sandpiper | | r | f | |
| BUFF | Bufflehead | c | r | c | f | ROSA | Rock Sandpiper | | | | ca |
| COGO | Common Goldeneye | u | r | u | f | DUNL | Dunlin | a | | a | a |
| SAGO | Barrow's Goldeneye | r | | r | r | STSA | Stilt Sandpiper | | r | r | |
| HOME | Hooded Merganser | | | r | r | RUFF | Ruff | | | | ca |
| COME | Common Merganser | | | r | r | SBDO | Short-billed Dowitcher | f | | f | ca |
| RBME | Red-breasted Merganser | f | ca | f | u | LBDO | Long-billed Dowitcher | f | ca | c | u |
| RUDU | Ruddy Duck | r | | r | r | COSN | * Common Snipe | r | ca | r | r |
| OSPR | Osprey | | ca | ca | | WIPH | Wilson's Phalarope | | | r | |
| BAEA | Bald Eagle | c | f | f | c | RNPL | Red-necked Phalarope | r | | r | |
| NOHA | * Northern Harrier | u | u | u | u | PAJA | Parasitic Jaeger | | | r | |
| SSHA | Sharp-shinned Hawk | r | | r | r | FRGU | Franklin's Gull | | r | r | |
| COHA | * Cooper's Hawk | u | u | u | u | BOGU | Bonaparte's Gull | a | c | a | r |
| NOGO | Northern Goshawk | | | | ca | HEEG | Heermann's Gull | | | | ca |
| RTHA | * Red-tailed Hawk | u | r | u | u | MEGU | Mew Gull | a | r | a | a |
| RLHA | Rough-legged Hawk | r | | r | r | RBGU | Ring-billed Gull | a | a | a | f |
| GOEA | Golden Eagle | ca | | | | CAGU | California Gull | c | f | c | r |
| AMKE | American Kestrel | r | r | r | ca | HEGU | Herring Gull | u | | u | u |
| MERL | Merlin | r | | r | r | THGU | Thayer's Gull | f | | f | f |
| PEFA | Peregrine Falcon | u | r | u | u | WEGU | Western Gull | r | | r | r |
| GYRF | Gyrfalcon | ca | | | r | GWGU | Glaucous-winged Gull | a | a | a | a |
| PRFA | Prairie Falcon | | | | ca | GLGU | Glaucous Gull | | | | r |
| RNPH | * Ring-necked Pheasant [I] | u | u | u | u | BLKI | Black-legged Kittiwake | ac | | | |
| VIRA | Virginia Rail | ca | ca | | ca | CATE | Caspian Tern | f | f | f | |
| SORA | * Sora | | r | r | | COTE | Common Tern | u | r | f | |
| AMCO | American Coot | u | | | u | COMU | Common Murre | | | r | r |
| SACR | Sandhill Crane | ca | | | | PIGU | Pigeon Guillemot | | | | ca |
| BBPL | Black-bellied Plover | a | u | a | c | MAMU | Marbled Murrelet | | | | ac |
| AGPL | American Golden-Plover | | | | ca | RODO | Rock Dove [I] | f | f | f | f |
| SEPL | Semipalmated Plover | f | ca | f | ca | BTPI | Band-tailed Pigeon | r | r | r | ca |
| KILL | * Killdeer | f | u | f | u | MODO | Mourning Dove | r | r | r | |
| AMAV | American Avocet | | | | ac | BNOW | Barn Owl | r | r | r | r |
| | | | | | | WSOW | Western Screech-Owl | | | | ac |

| | | Sp | S | F | W | | | Sp | S | F | W |
|------|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|------|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| GHOW | Great Horned Owl | | | ca | | GCKI | Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | r | |
| SNOW | Snowy Owl | | | | ca | RCKI | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | r | | r | ca |
| NHOW | Northern Hawk Owl | | | | ac | MOBL | Mountain Bluebird | ca | | | |
| BDOW | Barred Owl | | | | ac | TOSO | Townsend's Solitaire | r | | | |
| LEOW | Long-eared Owl | | | | ac | SWTH | Swainson's Thrush | r | r | | |
| SEOW | Short-eared Owl | r | r | r | r | HETH | Hermit Thrush | | | | ca |
| CONI | Common Nighthawk | | ca | ca | | AMRO | * American Robin | f | f | f | f |
| BLSW | Black Swift | f | f | | | VATH | Varied Thrush | | | | ca |
| VASW | Vaux's Swift | f | f | u | | EUST | * European Starling [!] | c | c | c | a |
| ANHU | Anna's Hummingbird | | ca | ca | ca | AMPI | American Pipit | u | | f | ca |
| RUHU | * Rufous Hummingbird | f | u | u | | CEWA | * Cedar Waxwing | u | f | f | ca |
| BEKI | Belted Kingfisher | u | u | u | u | OCWA | * Orange-crowned Warbler | f | u | f | ac |
| RBSA | Red-breasted Sapsucker | | | | ac | YEWA | * Yellow Warbler | f | u | f | |
| DOWO | * Downy Woodpecker | r | r | r | r | YRWA | * Yellow-romped Warbler | f | r | f | r |
| HAWO | Hairy Woodpecker | | | | ca | TOWA | Townsend's Warbler | | | | ac |
| NOFL | Northern Flicker | f | ca | f | u | COYE | * Common Yellowthroat | u | u | u | |
| PIWO | Pileated Woodpecker | | | | ac | WIWA | Wilson's Warbler | r | | r | |
| OSFL | Olive-sided Flycatcher | ca | | | | WETA | Western Tanager | | ca | | |
| WWPE | Western Wood-Pewee | ca | | | | SPTO | * Spotted Towhee | u | u | u | f |
| WIFL | * Willow Flycatcher | r | r | r | | ATSP | American Tree Sparrow | ca | | | ca |
| PSFL | Pacific-slope Flycatcher | r | | | | CHSP | Chipping Sparrow | | | | ca |
| WEKI | Western Kingbird | | ca | | | SAVS | * Savannah Sparrow | f | f | f | r |
| EAKI | Eastern Kingbird | r | r | | | FOSP | Fox Sparrow | u | | u | u |
| NOSH | Northern Shrike | r | | r | r | SOSP | * Song Sparrow | f | u | f | f |
| CAVI | Cassin's Vireo | ca | | ca | | LISP | Lincoln's Sparrow | r | | r | r |
| HUVI | Hutton's Vireo | ca | | | | SWSP | Swamp Sparrow | | | | ca |
| WAVI | Warbling Vireo | ca | | ca | | HASP | Harris's Sparrow | | | ca | ca |
| REVI | Red-eyed Vireo | ca | | ca | | WCSP | * White-crowned Sparrow | f | u | f | u |
| STJA | Steller's Jay | | | ca | r | GCSP | Golden-crowned Sparrow | u | | u | u |
| NOCR | * Northwestern Crow | c | f | c | c | DEJU | Dark-eyed Junco | f | ca | f | f |
| CORA | Common Raven | r | r | r | r | SNBU | Snow Bunting | | | | ca |
| HOLA | Horned Lark | | | r | | BHGR | * Black-headed Grosbeak | r | r | | |
| TRSW | * Tree Swallow | f | f | c | | LZBU | Lazuli Bunting | | | ac | |
| VGSW | * Violet-green Swallow | f | f | c | | RWBL | * Red-winged Blackbird | a | f | a | a |
| NRWS | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | r | r | r | | WEME | Western Meadowlark | r | ca | r | r |
| BKSW | Bank Swallow | | r | r | | YHBL | Yellow-headed Blackbird | ac | | | |
| BASW | * Barn Swallow | f | f | c | ac | BRBL | * Brewer's Blackbird | c | u | c | a |
| CLSW | Cliff Swallow | u | u | u | | COGR | Common Grackle | | | | ac |
| BCCH | * Black-capped Chickadee | f | f | f | f | BHCO | * Brown-headed Cowbird | f | u | u | r |
| CBCH | Chestnut-backed Chickadee | | | | r | BOOR | Bullock's Oriole | | ca | | |
| BUSH | * Bushtit | f | f | f | c | GCRF | Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch | | | | ac |
| RBNU | Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | | ca | PUFI | Purple Finch | r | | r | r |
| BRCR | Brown Creeper | | | | r | HON | * House Finch | f | f | f | c |
| BEWR | * Bewick's Wren | r | ca | r | r | RECR | Red Crossbill | r | r | r | r |
| WIWR | Winter Wren | | | ca | ca | CORE | Common Redpoll | | | | ac |
| MAWR | * Marsh Wren | u | u | u | r | PISI | Pine Siskin | f | r | f | f |
| AMDI | American Dipper | | | | ac | AMGO | * American Goldfinch | f | f | f | r |
| | | | | | | EVGR | Evening Grosbeak | r | | r | r |
| | | | | | | HOSP | * House Sparrow [1] | c | c | c | c |

Total Species: 225

Other Wildlife

In addition to birds, a number of mammal and amphibian species may be observed:

- ✓ resident Coyotes are often seen or heard
- ✓ Eastern Cottontails are easily viewed throughout the year
- ✓ Muskrats are occasionally seen in the drainage ditches
- ✓ Raccoons are seen periodically
- ✓ Harbour Seals are frequently visible in Boundary Bay or hauled out on the mudflats during low tides
- ✓ Pacific Treefrogs may be heard, even during mild winters

Visitor Ethics

Migratory and ground-nesting birds are sensitive to disturbance. Migratory birds require resting habitats and undisturbed access to food to successfully complete their migration. Ground-nesting birds flushed from a nest may abandon their eggs or young. Remember - birds use valuable energy when avoiding people and dogs. Please respect birds' feeding, resting and nesting needs:

- ✓ stay on designated trails
- ✓ use binoculars or scopes to watch wildlife
- ✓ learn to recognize wildlife alarm signals - when a bird changes behaviour, even by stopping what it is doing, you are too close
- ✓ leave plants in the park - they are important habitat
- ✓ keep dogs leashed, on designated trails and under control

Farmers and conservationists in Delta are working together to preserve farmland and wildlife habitat. Many farmers must access fields from the dyke. Please respect farmers:

- ✓ yield to farm vehicles
- ✓ do not litter or trespass in farmers' fields
- ✓ do not block roads or gates into farm fields

Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area

The Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area (BBWMA), managed by the British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, is located adjacent to the park. It contains 11,470 hectares of foreshore and mudflat habitats. Waterfowl hunting is permitted within the BBWMA from early September to mid March. Hunting is not permitted within the park, but hunters are allowed to carry unloaded firearms on the Boundary Bay dyke and to hunt with dogs in the BBWMA. For more information on the BBWMA, contact the Surrey office of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection [10470 - 152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. Canada V3R 0Y3; 604-582-5200]

British Columbia Wildlife Watch is a provincial program designed to promote wildlife viewing opportunities. It was initiated in 1989 by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, now called the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. For more information on wildlife viewing opportunities throughout British Columbia contact the Ministry in Victoria [British Columbia Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box 9374, Stn. Prov. Gov., Victoria, B.C. Canada, V8W 9M4; 250 387-9768] or visit the British Columbia Wildlife Watch web site at www3.telus.net/driftwood/bcwwhome.htm.

Boundary Bay Regional Park Access

Centennial Beach Area

From Highway 17 in Delta, turn south onto 56th Street in Tsawwassen. Continue to 12th Avenue and turn left. Limited parking is available at the junction of 12th Avenue and Boundary Bay Road. To access Centennial Beach and Cammidge House, continue right along Boundary Bay Road and turn left at the park entrance sign. Parking and washroom facilities are available.

Boundary Bay Dyke Trail

From Highway 17, turn east onto Highway 10 (Ladner Trunk Road). Turn right onto 64th, 72nd or 104th Streets and continue to the designated parking sites near the dyke. Respect farmers' needs for dyke access parking is not permitted at the foot of 88th, 96th or 112th Streets. Parking restrictions are strictly enforced. Washroom facilities are available at the Delta Heritage Airpark on 104th Street.

This second version of the Boundary Bay Regional Park Bird Checklist is funded by the **GVRD Parks Department**. Text edits were assisted by Angie Gerst. The original version was produced by **British Columbia Wildlife Watch** in May 1995 with support from the **Delta Naturalists' Society**.

The bird species are ordered using the 7th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check-List of North American Birds (AOU 1998) and its supplement (AOU 2000).

If you have additional sighting information or comments about listed species, frequency of occurrence or seasons, please write to GVRD Parks Department, attention J. Grass [4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. Canada V5H 4G8] or e-mail [Jude.Grass@gvrd.bc.ca].

