



# Bird Checklist: Boundary Bay Regional Park

Delta

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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 112<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 Camridge 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].

