



Bird Checklist:

Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Parkland

Popkum (east of Chilliwack)

compiled by Denis Knopp

The Regional District of Fraser Cheam's wetland. Park is located in Popkum, about 15 km east of Chilliwack. Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park encompasses about 93 hectares (250 acres), with almost half being lake and marsh. In addition to wildlife viewing; there are opportunities to picnic and to hike. Please note that dogs, either on or off leash, are not permitted within park boundaries, and boats or flotation devices of any kind are not permitted on the lake.

The Park is an example of habitat restoration. The original lake was drained in the 1950's during the process of mining marl from the bottom sediments. Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans built a water control structure with a fish ladder in 1992 to allow the lake to relood, and to create valuable wetland habitat. Changes are occurring as the lake establishes, and new wildlife species will begin to visit the Park. This is your opportunity to watch this change.

Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park is identified and signed as a wildlife viewing site of **British Columbia Wildlife Watch**, the provincial wildlife viewing program.

For additional information on this park contact the Regional District of Fraser-Cheam [1604] 792-0061; 8430

The following is a list of the bird species which have been observed at Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park. The status of each species is indicated by an abundance level in each of four seasons. The standard four letter code is shown for each species. Birds known to have bred in this area are denoted by an asterisk (*). When the number of documented sightings is less than 10, the number of sightings is in brackets.

Note: The status of each species is based on the best. Available information and is subject to change as new observations are recorded.

Explanation of Symbols:

- Sp Spring** March - May
- S Summer** June - August
- F Fall** September - November
- W Winter** December - February
- c Common:** large numbers
- f Fairly Common:** moderate numbers
- u Uncommon:** small numbers
- r Rare:** Rare: 1-10 records per year, usually seen singly or in very small numbers
- ca Casual:** seen on. average less than once a year somewhat out of normal range
- ac Accidental:** usually far outside normal range

| | | Sp | S | F | W |
|------|-----------------------|----|---|----|----|
| COLO | Common Loon (1) | ca | | | |
| PIGR | * Pied-billed Grebe | u | u | u | r |
| EAGR | Eared Grebe (1) | | | ca | |
| AMBI | American Bittern (8) | r | r | ca | |
| GBHE | Great Blue Heron | c | f | f | u |
| GRHE | * Green Heron (8) | | r | r | |
| TRUS | Trumpeter Swan (1) | | | ca | |
| CAGO | * Canada Goose | c | u | u | f |
| WOOD | * Wood Duck | c | f | f | r |
| GWTE | Green-winged Teal | u | r | ca | r |
| MALL | * Mallard | c | c | c | c |
| BWTE | Blue-winged Teal (3) | ca | r | | |
| CITE | * Cinnamon Teal | u | r | ca | |
| NOSL | Northern Shoveler (3) | r | | r | |
| AMWI | American Wigeon (8) | ca | r | u | r |
| REDH | Redhead (1) | ca | | | |
| RNDU | Ring-necked Duck | c | | c | u |
| GRSC | Greater Scaup (4) | r | | | |
| LESC | Lesser Scaup | f | | f | ca |
| COGO | Common Goldeneye | f | | | r |
| BUFF | Bufflehead | c | | u | f |

| | | Sp | S | F | W |
|------|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| HOME | Hooded Merganser | f | | u | f |
| COME | Common Merganser (5) | r | | | ca |
| TUVU | Turkey Vulture (10) | a | ca | u | |
| OSPR | * Osprey (1) | | ca | | |
| BAEA | Bald Eagle (10) | ca | | ca | f |
| NOHA | Northern Harrier | r | | u | u |
| SSHA | Sharp-shinned Hawk (6) | r | | r | ca |
| COHA | Cooper's Hawk (5) | ca | | | |
| NOGO | Northern Goshawk (1) | | | | ca |
| RTHA | * Red-tailed Hawk | f | f | f | f |
| RLHA | Rough-legged Hawk (1) | ca | | | |
| AMKE | American Kestrel (2) | | | | ca |
| PEFA | Peregrine Falcon (1) | | | | ca |
| RNPH | Ring-necked Pheasant (1) | | | | ca |
| RTGR | * Ruffed Grouse | f | r | u | r |
| VIRA | * Virginia Rail (7) | r | u | r | |
| SORA | * Sora | f | u | ca | |
| AMCO | American Coot | f | ca | f | |
| KILL | * Killdeer | f | u | | |
| GRYE | Greater Yellowlegs (1) | ca | | | |
| SPSA | Spotted Sandpiper | u | f | | |
| COSN | Common Snipe | r | ca | r | ca |
| GWGU | Glaucous-winged Gull (5) | r | | r | u |
| RODO | Rock Dove (5) | ca | ca | ca | |
| BTPI | Band-tailed Pigeon (9) | ca | u | | |
| MODO | * Mourning Dove | f | f | ca | |
| WSOW | Western Screech Owl (1) | ca | | | |
| NPOW | Northern Pygmy Owl (2) | ca | | | |
| NWSO | Northern Saw-whet Owl (1) | ca | | | |
| BLSW | Black Swift (1) | | ca | | |
| VASW | Vaux's Swift | u | f | r | |
| ANHU | Anna's Hummingbird (1) | ca | | | |
| RUHU | * Rufous Hummingbird | f | u | | |
| BEKI | Belted Kingfisher | u | u | f | u |
| RNSA | Red-naped Sapsucker (1) | | | | ca |
| RBSA | Red-breasted Sapsucker (1) | ca | | | |
| DOWO | * Downy Woodpecker | f | f | f | f |
| HAWO | * Hairy Woodpecker | f | u | f | u |
| NOFL | * Northern Flicker | f | u | f | r |
| PIWO | Pileated Woodpecker | u | u | r | u |
| OSFL | Olive-sided Flycatcher (3) | ca | ca | | |
| WWPE | * Western Wood-Pewee | r | f | | |

| | | Sp | S | F | W |
|------|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| WIFL | * Willow Flycatcher | r | c | | |
| HAFL | Hammond's Flycatcher (1) | | ca | | |
| PSFL | Pacific-slope Flycatcher (6) | ca | r | | |
| EAKI | Eastern Kingbird (7) | | u | | |
| TRSW | * Tree Swallow | c | f | | ac |
| VGSW | * Violet-green Swallow | c | f | ca | |
| NRWS | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | f | c | | |
| BKSW | Bank Swallow (10) | ca | f | | |
| CLSW | Cliff Swallow | f | f | | |
| BASW | Barn Swallow | f | c | ca | |
| STJA | * Steller's Jay | f | u | f | f |
| NOCR | * Northwestern Crow | f | r | f | f |
| CORA | Common Raven | r | r | r | r |
| BCCH | * Black-capped Chickadee | c | c | c | c |
| CHCH | Chestnut-backed Chickadee (3) | | | ca | |
| BUSH | Bushtit (4) | ca | ca | ca | |
| RBNU | Red-breasted Nuthatch (1) | | | ca | |
| BEWR | * Bewick's Wren | u | ca | ca | ca |
| H0WR | House Wren (2) | | | ca | |
| WIWR | * Winter Wren | f | u | u | f |
| MAWR | * Marsh Wren | c | f | f | u |
| AMDI | American Dipper (3) | | | r | |
| GCKI | Golden-crowned Kinglet | u | | f | u |
| RCKI | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | u | | f | r |
| SWTH | * Swainson's Thrush | f | c | | |
| HETH | Hermit Thrush (1) | | | ca | |
| AMRO | * American Robin | c | c | f | f |
| VATH | Varied Thrush | u | | u | r |
| CEWA | * Cedar Waxwing | u | f | u | |
| NOSH | Northern Shrike (5) | ca | | ca | |
| EUST | * European Starling | c | f | c | c |
| SOVI | * Solitary Vireo | u | u | ca | |
| WAVI | * Warbling Vireo (7) | ca | r | ca | |
| REVI | * Red-eyed Vireo (10) | ca | r | | |
| OCWA | Orange-crowned Warbler | u | r | | |
| YEWA | Yellow Warbler | r | r | | |
| YRWA | Yellow-rumped Warbler | r | ca | u | |
| BTGW | * Black-throated Gray Warbler | r | u | ca | |
| MGWA | MacGillivray's Warbler (10) | r | r | ca | |
| COYE | * Common Yellowthroat | f | c | u | |

| | | Sp | S | F | W |
|------|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| WIWA | Wilson's Warbler | u | r | ca | |
| WETA | * Western Tanager (3) | ca | ca | | |
| BHGR | * Black-headed Grosbeak | f | f | ca | |
| LZBU | Lazuli Bunting (7) | | r | | |
| RSTO | * Rufous-sided Towhee | c | c | f | f |
| ATSP | American Tree Sparrow (2) | | | ca | |
| SAVS | Savannah Sparrow (3) | ca | | ca | |
| FOSP | Fox Sparrow (2) | | | ca | ca |
| SOSP | * Song Sparrow | c | c | c | f |
| LISP | Lincoln's Sparrow (7) | ca | ca | r | |
| WTSP | White-throated Sparrow (1) | | | ac | |
| GCSP | Golden-Crowned Sparrow (1) | ca | | | |
| WCSP | * White-crowned Sparrow | r | u | u | |
| DEJU | * Dark-eyed Junco | r | u | u | |
| RWBL | * Red-winged Blackbird | c | c | c | u |
| WEME | Western Meadowlark (1) | | | ca | |
| RUBL | Rusty Black birds (2) | | | ac | |
| BRBL | Brewer's Blackbird (4) | | r | ca | |
| BHCO | * Brown-headed Cowbird | c | c | | |
| MOOR | * Northern Oriole (4) | r | u | | |
| PUFI | * Purple Finch | f | u | r | |
| HOFI | House Finch (3) | r | r | | |
| PISI | Pine Siskin (9) | u | | u | r |
| AMGO | * American Goldfinch | f | c | u | |
| EVGR | Evening Grosbeak | a | ca | f | |
| HOSP | House Sparrow (1) | | ca | | |

Total Species: 129

Other Wildlife:

In addition to birds, the park is home to a number of mammal species American beaver and muskrats live in the park, and signs of beaver activity are easily observed. Other mammals which may be seen include black-tailed deer, coyote, river otter, cottontail rabbit, and, occasionally, black bear.

Several frog and salamander species inhabit the park, including green frogs and Northwestern salamanders. Watch for frog egg masses floating on the water.

From late March through August watch for butterflies, including mustard (veined) white, cabbage white, morning cloak, Milbert's tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Lorquin's admiral, painted lady, pale tiger swallowtail and Western tiger swallowtail.

Due to fish enhancement activities, the first spawning coho salmon are expected to return in the fall of 1995. They will enter the lake via the fish ladder at the dam.



British Columbia Wildlife Watch is the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks' program designed to promote viewing opportunities within British Columbia. The protection of wildlife and their habitat, and a positive, safe experience for the viewer are the primary objectives of this program. Many local communities, other agencies and public conservation groups are involved. For more information, contact the Regional BC Environment office in Surrey [(604) 582-5200 or 1-800-665-7027; #300-10334-152A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8].

Cheam Lake Access:

Access to Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park is from Highway 9 (Agassiz-Harrison Highway). Take Exit 135 from Highway 1 (Trans-Canada Highway) and watch for the park and Wildlife Watch binocular logo signs. From Highway 9 turn east onto Yale Road. Follow the signs for almost 2.5 km, then turn left onto Egley Road. The park entrance is at the end of the Egley Road.

Viewing Ethics for Conservation:

Wildlife viewing demands courtesy and common sense. For the well being of the wildlife and habitats please follow these guidelines: be considerate of wildlife; be considerate of habitat; be considerate of other people; control pets; do not approach young wildlife.

The sighting information in this checklist has been compiled by Denis Knopp. Additional bird and other wildlife records are requested, especially nesting records. This checklist will be revised when additional information is available. If you have any comments regarding the species listed, the frequency of occurrence, or the seasons indicated please forward your comments in writing to **British Columbia Wildlife Watch**. BC Environment, #300-10334-152A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8.



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