



Bird Checklist:

Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Parklands

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.



This checklist has been produced by **British Columbia Wildlife Watch** with the support and the financial assistance of the **Regional District of Fraser-Cheam**.



The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists Foundation supports the goals, objectives and activities of British Columbia Wildlife Watch.