



Bird Checklist:

**Serpentine
Wildlife Area**

The Serpentine Wildlife Area (SWA), is 105 hectares in size, with approximately 80 hectares of dyked freshwater marsh and 4 hectares of undyked salt marsh. There is a public trail network along selected interior dykes and along the Serpentine-River dyke. There are three viewing towers, two of which are covered, providing visitors with excellent views of the upland agricultural, old-field, marsh and river habitats. SWA is managed by BC Environment.

SWA is one of many designated wildlife viewing sites throughout British Columbia. For more information on this site or other wildlife viewing sites write Wildlife Watch, BC Environment, 10334-152A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8, or phone 582-5200 or 1-800-665-7027.

This is a revised version of the SWA bird checklist originally compiled by **Jack Williams** and printed by the **White Rock and Surrey Naturalists (WRSN)** in 1983 with monies from the **Public Conservation Assistance Fund**. It has been reviewed, by birders familiar with the area, including **WRSN** members. It will be revised again as additional information is available. If you have any comments to make regarding, the species listed, the frequency of occurrence, or the seasons indicated please forward your comments in writing to Wildlife Watch at the address listed above.

The following is a list of the 175 bird species which have been recorded at the Serpentine Wildlife Area and in the immediate, area. 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. Species known to have bred in this, area are denoted by an asterisk (*).

Explanation of Symbols:

- Sp Spring** March - May
- S Summer** June - August
- F Fall** September - November
- W Winter** December - February

- c Common:** easily observed on any visit to appropriate habitat in appropriate season
- f Frequent:** usually observed on any visit to appropriate habitat in appropriate season
- u Uncommon:** sometimes observed on a visit to appropriate habitat in appropriate -season
- r Rare:** only a few sightings each year
- ca Casual:** not recorded every year
- ac Accidental:** so far out of range that it is not likely to be seen, again

		Sp	S	F	W
PALO	Pacific Loon				ca
RTLO	Red-throated Loon				r
COLO	Common Loon	r		r	r
PBGR	Pied-billed Grebe	r	r	r	u
HOGH	Horned Grebe	u	r	r	u
RNGR	Red-necked Grebe				ca
WEGR	Western Grebe	u	r		u
FTSP	Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel				ac
AWPE	American White Pelican				ac
DCCO	Double-crested Cormorant	f	u	u	f
AMBI	American Bittern				r
GBHE	Great Blue Heron	f	f	f	f
GREG	Great Egret	ca		ca	
SNEG	Snowy Egret	ca			
GRHE	Green-backed Heron		r	r	
TUSW	Tundra Swan				r
TRUS	Trumpeter Swan				r
GWFG	Greater White-fronted Goose				r
SNGO	Snow Goose				r

		Sp	S	F	W
CAGO	* Canada Goose	c	c	c	c
WODU	* Wood Duck	r	u	u	r
GWTE	* Green-winged Teal	c	f	c	c
MALL	* Mallard	c	c	c	c
NOPI	* Northern Pintail	c	u	c	c
BWTE	* Blue-winged Teal		f		
CITE	* Cinnamon Teal	u	u		
NOSL	* Northern Shoveler	f		f	f
GADW	Gadwall	f	f	u	
EUWI	Eurasian Wigeon	r			r
AMWI	American Wigeon	c	u	f	c
CANV	Canvasback	r			r
REDH	Redhead			r	
RNDU	Ring-necked Duck	r		r	
GRSC	Greater Scaup				u
LESC	Lesser Scaup	u	r		
OLDS	Oldsquaw				r
SUSC	Surf Scoter				r
COGO	Common Goldeneye				u
BAGO	Barrow's Goldeneye				u
BUFF	Bufflehead	f			f
HOME	Hooded Merganser	r			u
COME	Common Merganser	f			f
RBME	Red-breasted Merganser	u			u
RUDU	Ruddy Duck	u			u
OSPR	Osprey		u		
BAEA	Bald Eagle	u	r	u	u
NOHA	* Northern Harrier	c	c	c	c
SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk			u	u
COHA	Cooper's Hawk			u	u
RTHA	* Red-tailed Hawk	f	u	u	f
RLHA	Rough-legged Hawk				
AMKE	American Kestrel	u	u	u	r
MERL	Merlin			r	
PEFA	Peregrine Falcon	r			r
GYFA	Gyrfalcon			ca	
RNPH	* Ring-necked Pheasant	c	c	c	c
VIRA	Virginia Rail	r	r	r	r
SORA	Sora	r	r	r	r
AMCO	* American Coot	c	u	c	c
SACR	Sandhill Crane	r	r		
BBPL	Black-bellied Plover	r	r	r	
LGPL	Lesser Golden-Plover			r	
SEPL	Semipalmated Plover	r	ca	r	
KILL	* Killdeer	u	c	c	u
BNST	Black-necked Stilt		ca		

		Sp	S	F	W					Sp	S	F	W					Sp	S	F	W
AMAV	* American Avocet	r	r			RUHU	Rufous Hummingbird		f				YEWA	* Yellow Warbler	f	u					
GRYE	Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	c		BEKI	Belted Kingfisher	u	u	u	u		YRWA	Yellow-rumped Warbler	f			f	r		
LEYE	Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u									COYE	* Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c				
SPIRE	Spotted Redshank				ac	DOWO	Downy Woodpecker	f	f	f	f		WIWA	Wilson's Warbler	u			u			
SOSA	Solitary Sandpiper	r	r	r		HAWO	Hairy Woodpecker				r		BHGR	Black-headed Grosbeak	r	r	r				
WILL	Willet	ca				NOFL	Northern Flicker	f	f	f	f		RSTO	* Rufous-sided Towhee	c	c	c	c	c		
SPSA	* Spotted Sandpiper	u		c	u								ATSP	American Tree Sparrow						r	
WHIM	Whimbrel	ca			ca	WWPE	Western Wood-Pewee				r		VESP	Vesper Sparrow	ca						
RUTU	Ruddy Turnstone	r				WIFL	Willow Flycatcher	r	u	r			SAVS	* Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c				
BLTU	Black Turnstone		ca			PSFL	Pacific-slope Flycatcher				r		FOSP	Fox Sparrow				u	u		
REKN	Red Knot			r									SOSP	* Song Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c		
SAND	Sanderling	ca		ca		EAKI	Eastern Kingbird	ca	ca				LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow				u	ca		
SESA	Semipalmated Sandpiper	r		u									WCSP	Swamp Sparrow				r	r		
WESA	Western Sandpiper	u		f	f	HOLA	Horned Lark	r		r			GCSP	Golden-crowned Sparrow	f			f	f		
LESA	Least Sandpiper	u	u										WCSP	* White-crowned Sparrow	f	f	f	f	f		
BASA	Baird's Sandpiper		r			TRSW	* Tree Swallow	c	c	c			HASP	Harris' Sparrow	r				r		
PESA	Pectoral Sandpiper	u	u			VGSW	* Violet-green Swallow	f	f	f			DEJU	Dark-eyed Junco	c	u	f	c	c		
SHSA	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		ca			NRWS	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u					LA LO	Lapland Longspur				r			
DUNL	Dunlin	c		c	c								RWBL	* Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c	c		
STSA	Stilt Sandpiper	ca	ac	ca		BKSW	Bank Swallow	ca		ca			WEME	Western Meadowlark		u					
BBSA	Buff-breasted Sandpiper			ca		CLSW	Cliff Swallow	f	f				YHBL	Yellow-headed Blackbird	r						
RUFF	Ruff			ca		BASW	* Barn Swallow	c	c	c			BRBL	* Brewer's Blackbird	c	c	c	c	f		
SBDO	Short-billed Dowitcher		r										BHCO	Brown-headed Cowbird		f					
LBDO	Long-billed Dowitcher		u	u		STJA	Steller's Jay	f	f	f	f		PUFI	Purple Finch	f	u	f	f	f		
COSN	* Common Snipe	u	u	u	r	NOCR	* Northwestern Crow	c	c	c	c		HOFI	* House Finch	c	c	c	c	c		
WIPH	Wilson's Phalarope	u	u			CORA	Common Raven	u	u	u	u		CORE	Common Redpoll					r		
RNPL	Red-necked Plover	r	r	r									PISI	Pine Siskin					u		
						BCCH	* Black-capped Chickadee	c	c	c	c		AMGO	* American Goldfinch	f	c	c	c	ca		
FRGU	Franklin's Gull		ca	r		MOCH	Mountain Chickadee				ac		EVGR	Evening Grosbeak				f	ca		
BOGU	Bonaparte's Gull	f	f	f									HOSP	* House Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c		
MEGU	Mew Gull			f	c	BUSH	* Bushtit	c	c	c	c										
RBGU	Ring-billed Gull	u	f	f	f																
HEGU	Herring Gull				r	BEWR	* Bewick's Wren	f	f	f	f										
THGU	Thayer's Gull				u	WIWR	Winter Wren				u										
GWGU	Glaucous-winged Gull	c	c	c	c	MAWR	* Marsh Wren	c	c	c	u										
CATE	Caspian Tern		ac																		
FOTE	Forster's Tern		ac			GCKI	Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		u	u										
BLTE	Black Tern		ca			RCKI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u										
RODO	Rock Dove	c	c	c	c	MOBL	Mountain Bluebird	ca													
BTPI	Band-tailed Pigeon		u			AMRO	* American Robin	c	c	c	f										
MODO	Mourning Dove	u	u	u																	
						AMPI	American Pipit	r		f											
BNOW	* Barn Owl	r	r	r	r																
SNOW	Snowy Owl				r	CEWA	* Cedar Waxwing	r	f	f	r										
SEOW	* Short-eared Owl	u	u	u	u	NOSH	Northern Shrike	r		r	r										
CONI	* Common Nighthawk		u			EUST	* European Starling	c	c	c	c										
BLSW	Black Swift		r																		
VASW	Vaux's Swift		r			OCWA	* Orange-crowned Warbler	f	f	r											

Other Wildlife:

SWA has good mammal viewing opportunities. Muskrats may be observed in the marshes year-round, especially from March through November. Eastern cottontails and coyotes may be seen throughout the year along the dykes and in the open fields. Harbour seals may be seen in the Serpentine River year-round.

Serpentine Wildlife Area Access:

Road access to the Serpentine Wildlife Area is from 40th Avenue, west off Highway 99A (King George Highway) just north of Highway 99. Many of the interior dykes are closed year-round to public access. Please respect no access signs. Dogs must be kept on leash at all times when visiting the area.

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