

Field Checklist of the Birds of Yellowstone National Park

prepared by Terry McEneaney
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Three hundred and eleven species of birds have been documented to date in Yellowstone, since it was established in 1872. This is quite remarkable, especially when one considers the harsh environmental conditions that characterize the area. Yellowstone National Park has a unique array of temperate zone fauna. In the past, the birdlife of Yellowstone has been overlooked due to attention given to the more obvious large mammals that dominate the landscape. This trend is changing, however, due to a broader emphasis of resource priorities and concerns, coupled with an increased public demand for bird information.

Species are listed according to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-List of North American Birds*, seventh edition, 1998. Hypothetical birds and birds that have not been recorded in the last 50 years have not been included in this checklist.

Note: This bird checklist is made available through the cooperative efforts of Yellowstone National Park and the American Birding Association. Additional copies are available for purchase through the Yellowstone Association, PO Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190, or by contacting ABA Sales. The purpose of this checklist is to provide up-to-date information on Yellowstone birds, while at the same time solicit private funds for Yellowstone bird projects. Already established is the Yellowstone Bird Fund, an endowment fund specifically earmarked for bird conservation projects that directly help Yellowstone birds. Of particular interest to Yellowstone are projects that assist in Trumpeter Swan conservation and preserving bird habitat in the Neotropics. Contributions to the Yellowstone Bird Fund will assist future bird projects designed to protect resident and migrant birds. Park visitors interested in the conservation of Yellowstone's birds or a Yellowstone bird endowment are asked to make tax-deductible donations to: Yellowstone Park Foundation, Yellowstone Bird Fund, 37 East Main, Suite 4, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

We would like to thank the American Birding Association for their assistance in producing this checklist. For those individuals interested in joining an organization dedicated to birds and birding, we recommend the American Birding Association, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934 (800-850-2473).

Additional copies of this checklist, along with a free catalog completely describing a wide selection of birding books, birding accessories, and optical equipment, are available from:

ABA Sales
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Legend

B = breeders, species known to have nested or produced dependent young in Yellowstone in recent years.

* = less than 20 documented records of this species exist in Yellowstone over the last 50 years.

+ = YNP Center For Resources welcomes additional information regarding this species.

N = Neotropical Migrants birds known to spend the summer season in north temperate North America and winter in the Neotropics (i.e., the area of the New World that lies south of Central Mexico and Cuba and north of northern Argentina and southern Brazil). *Special Note: a vast majority of the neotropical migrant landbirds/songbirds found in Yellowstone spend the winter in western Mexico.*

Loons				
Red-throated Loon (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)	*			
Pacific Loon (<i>Gavia pacifica</i>)	+			
Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	B			
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)	BN			
Horned Grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)	+N			
Red-necked Grebe (<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>)	B+			
Eared Grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)	B			
Western Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>)	N			
Clark's Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>)	*N			
Pelicans				
American White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)	BN			
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	B			
Bitterns and Herons				
American Bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>)	B*N			
Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)	B			
Great Egret (<i>Ardea alba</i>)	*N			
Snowy Egret (<i>Egretta thula</i>)	*N			
Tricolored Heron (<i>Egretta tricolor</i>)	*N			
Cattle Egret (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)	*N			
Green Heron (<i>Butorides virescens</i>)	*N			
Black-crowned Night-Heron (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>)	*N			
Ibises and Spoonbills				
White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)	*N			
Storks				
Wood Stork (<i>Mycteria americana</i>)	*N			
American Vultures				
Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	+N			
Swans, Geese, and Ducks				
Greater White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	*N			
Snow Goose (<i>Chen caerulescens</i>)	+			
Ross's Goose (<i>Chen rossii</i>)	*			

Long-billed Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>)	+			
Common Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)	B			
Wilson's Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>)	B+			
Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)	*			
Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
Franklin's Gull (<i>Larus pipixcan</i>)	+			
Bonaparte's Gull (<i>Larus philadelphia</i>)	*			
Mew Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	*			
Ring-billed Gull (<i>Larus delawarensis</i>)				
California Gull (<i>Larus californicus</i>)	B			
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	*			
Sabine's Gull (<i>Xema sabini</i>)	*			
Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>)	B			
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	*			
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)	*			
Forster's Tern (<i>Sterna forsteri</i>)	*			
Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>)	B+			
Auks, Murres, and Puffins				
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	*			
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Dove (<i>Columba livia</i>)	B			
Band-tailed Pigeon (<i>Columba fasciata</i>)	*N			
Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)	B+N			
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis				
Black-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>)	*N			
Barn Owls				
Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	*			
Typical Owls				
Flammulated Owl (<i>Otus flammeolus</i>)	*			
Western Screech-Owl (<i>Otus kennicottii</i>)	*			
Eastern Screech-Owl (<i>Otus asio</i>)	*			
Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)	B			
Northern Pygmy-Owl (<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>)	B+			
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	*N			
Great Gray Owl (<i>Strix nebulosa</i>)	B+			
Long-eared Owl (<i>Asio otus</i>)	B*N			
Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	B*N			
Boreal Owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>)	B+			
Northern Saw-whet Owl (<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>)	B+			
Goatsuckers				
Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>)	B+N			
Swifts				
Vaux's Swift (<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>)	*N			
White-throated Swift (<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>)	BN			
Hummingbirds				
Calliope Hummingbird (<i>Stellula calliope</i>)	B+N			

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>)	B+N			
Rufous Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>)	B+N			
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher (<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>)	B			
Woodpeckers and Allies				
Lewis's Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	B+			
Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	*			
Red-bellied Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>)	*			
Williamson's Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)	B+N			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>)	*N			
Red-naped Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>)	BN			
Downy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides pubescens</i>)	B*			
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>)	B			
White-headed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>)	*			
Three-toed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>)	B+			
Black-backed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides arcticus</i>)	B+			
Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)	BN			
Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)	*			
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	BN			
Western Wood-Pewee (<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>)	BN			
Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	B*N			
Least Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax minimus</i>)	*N			
Hammond's Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax hammondi</i>)	BN			
Gray Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>)	B*N			
Dusky Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>)	BN			
Cordilleran Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>)	B*N			
Say's Phoebe (<i>Sayornis saya</i>)	*N			
Ash-throated Flycatcher (<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>)	*N			
Western Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>)	*N			
Eastern Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>)	+N			
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>)	*			
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	+N			
Northern Shrike (<i>Lanius excubitor</i>)	+			
Vireos				
Yellow-throated Vireo (<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>)	*N			
Blue-headed Vireo (<i>Vireo solitarius</i>)	*N			
Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireo gilvus</i>)	BN			
Philadelphia Vireo (<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>)	*N			
Red-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>)	*N			
Jays, Magpies, and Crows				
Gray Jay (<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>)	B			
Steller's Jay (<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>)	B			
Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)	*			
Pinyon Jay (<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>)	*			
Clark's Nutcracker (<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>)	B			

American Magpie (<i>Pica hudsonia</i>)	B			
American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	B			
Common Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)	B			
Larks				
Horned Lark (<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>)	BN			
Swallows				
Tree Swallow (<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>)	BN			
Violet-green Swallow (<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>)	BN			
Northern Rough-winged (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>)	BN			
Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	BN			
Cliff Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>)	BN			
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	BN			
Titmice				
Black-capped Chickadee (<i>Poecile atricapilla</i>)	B+			
Mountain Chickadee (<i>Poecile gambeli</i>)	B			
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta canadensis</i>)	B			
White-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>)	B+			
Pygmy Nuthatch (<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>)	*			
Creepers				
Brown Creeper (<i>Certhia americana</i>)	B			
Wrens				
Rock Wren (<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>)	BN			
Canyon Wren (<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>)	*			
House Wren (<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>)	BN			
Winter Wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>)	*			
Sedge Wren (<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>)	*N			
Marsh Wren (<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>)	*N			
Dippers				
American Dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>)	B			
Old World Warblers, Gnatcatchers, Old World Flycatchers, Thrushes, and Wrenit				
Golden-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus satrapa</i>)	B+N			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus calendula</i>)	BN			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (<i>Poliopitila caerulea</i>)	*N			
Western Bluebird (<i>Sialia mexicana</i>)	*N			
Mountain Bluebird (<i>Sialia currucoides</i>)	BN			
Townsend's Solitaire (<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>)	B			
Veery (<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>)	*N			
Swainson's Thrush (<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>)	B+N			
Hermit Thrush (<i>Catharus guttatus</i>)	BN			
American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	BN			
Varied Thrush (<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>)	*			
Mockingbirds, Thrashers, and Allies				
Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)	*N			
Northern Mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	*N			

Sage Thrasher (<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>)	BN			
Brown Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>)	*			
Starlings and Allies				
European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	B			
Wagtails and Pipits				
American Pipit (<i>Anthus rubescens</i>)	BN			
Sprague's Pipit (<i>Anthus spragueii</i>)	*N			
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>)				
Cedar Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>)	B+N			
Silky-flycatchers				
Phainopepla (<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>)	*			
Wood-Warblers, Bananaquit, Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Sparrows, Buntings, Blackbirds, and Allies				
Tennessee Warbler (<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>)	*N			
Orange-crowned Warbler (<i>Vermivora celata</i>)	B+N			
Nashville Warbler (<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>)	*			
Virginia's Warbler (<i>Vermivora virginiae</i>)	*			
Yellow Warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>)	BN			
Chestnut-sided Warbler (<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>)	*N			
Cape May Warbler (<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>)	*N			
Yellow-rumped Warbler (<i>Dendroica coronata</i>)	BN			
Townsend's Warbler (<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>)	*N			
Blackburnian Warbler (<i>Dendroica fusca</i>)	*N			
Yellow-throated Warbler (<i>Dendroica dominica</i>)	*N			
Bay-breasted Warbler (<i>Dendroica castanea</i>)	*N			
Blackpoll Warbler (<i>Dendroica striata</i>)	*N			
Black-and-white Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)	*N			
American Redstart (<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>)	*N			
Prothonotary Warbler (<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>)	*N			
Ovenbird (<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>)	*N			
Northern Waterthrush (<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>)	B+N			
MacGillivray's Warbler (<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>)	BN			
Common Yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)	BN			
Wilson's Warbler (<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>)	BN			
Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>)	*N			
Scarlet Tanager (<i>Piranga olivacea</i>)	*N			
Western Tanager (<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>)	BN			
Green-tailed Towhee (<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>)	BN			
Spotted Towhee (<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>)	*N			
American Tree Sparrow (<i>Spizella arborea</i>)	*			
Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella passerina</i>)	BN			
Clay-colored Sparrow (<i>Spizella pallida</i>)	*N			
Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	BN			
Field Sparrow (<i>Spizella pusilla</i>)	*			
Black-chinned Sparrow (<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>)	*N			
Vesper Sparrow (<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>)	BN			

Lark Sparrow (<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>)	*N			
Black-throated Sparrow (<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>)	*N			
Lark Bunting (<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>)	*N			
Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>)	BN			
Grasshopper Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>)	*N			
Le Conte's Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>)	*N			
Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>)	B*N			
Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>)	BN			
Lincoln's Sparrow (<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>)	BN			
Swamp Sparrow (<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>)	*			
White-throated Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>)	*			
Harris's Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>)	*			
White-crowned Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>)	BN			
Dark-eyed Junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>)	BN			
McCown's Longspur (<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>)	*N			
Lapland Longspur (<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>)	*			
Snow Bunting (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>)	*			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>)	*N			
Black-headed Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>)	*N			
Lazuli Bunting (<i>Passerina amoena</i>)	BN			
Indigo Bunting (<i>Passerina cyanea</i>)	*N			
Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>)	*N			
Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)	BN			
Western Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>)	BN			
Yellow-headed Blackbird (<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>)	BN			
Brewer's Blackbird (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>)	BN			
Common Grackle (<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>)	*			
Brown-headed Cowbird (<i>Molothrus ater</i>)	BN			
Baltimore Oriole (<i>Icterus galbula</i>)	*N			
Bullock's Oriole (<i>Icterus bullockii</i>)	*N			
Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies				
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>)				
Black Rosy-Finch (<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>)	B			
Pine Grosbeak (<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>)	B			
Purple Finch (<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>)	*			
Cassin's Finch (<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>)	BN			
House Finch (<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>)	B+			
Red Crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)	B			
White-winged Crossbill (<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>)	B+			
Common Redpoll (<i>Carduelis flammea</i>)	*			
Pine Siskin (<i>Carduelis pinus</i>)	BN			
American Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis tristis</i>)	+N			
Evening Grosbeak (<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>)	+			
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	B			

Yellowstone National Park Bird Observation Form

Species:

Date observed:	Time:	Date of report:
Reporter's name:		Observer's name:
Reporter's address:		Observer's address:
Witnesses:		Observer's phone:

Specific location in Yellowstone:

Describe the type of **habitat** the bird was found occupying:

Type of plumage/age:	Weather conditions: (<i>choose one</i>): Sunny Stormy Overcast
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Optics used: (*choose one*):

Unaided eye Binoculars Spotting scope

Number of years of previous experience with this species:

Number of times you have observed this species in the past ten years:

Describe the characteristics of the bird you found. Record relevant information such as size, color, shape/length of bill, legs, tail, voice, behavior, number of individuals observed, sex, and how you eliminated look-alike species.