

Season	B/W		Sp	S	F	W
Rails, Gallinules, & Coots	Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	B	C	A	C	R
	Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)		U		U	
	Rough-legged Hawk (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>)		C			C
	Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
	+ Virginia Rail (<i>Rallus limicola</i>)	B	R	R	R	R
	Sora (<i>Porzana carolina</i>)	B	C	C	C	
	American Coot (<i>Fulica americana</i>)	B	A	A	A	U
	Cranes					
	Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>)	B	C	C	C	
	Plovers					
+ Black-bellied Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)		U		U		
+ Semipalmated Plover (<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>)		U		U		
Killdeer (<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>)	B	C	C	C	U	
Stilts & Avocets						
+ Black-necked Stilt (<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>)		R		R		
+ American Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>)		R		R		
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, & Allies						
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularia</i>)	B	C	C	C	C	
+ Solitary Sandpiper (<i>Tringa solitaria</i>)		R		R		
Greater Yellowlegs (<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>)		U		U		
+ Willet (<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>)			U	U	U	
+ Lesser Yellowlegs (<i>Tringa flavipes</i>)		R	R	R	R	
+ Upland Sandpiper (<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>)		R	R	R	R	
+ Long-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	B	R	R	R	R	
+ Marbled Godwit (<i>Limosa fedoa</i>)		R		R		
+ Ruddy Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)		R		R		
+ Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)		R		R		
+ Semipalmated Sandpiper (<i>Calidris pusilla</i>)		R		R		
+ Western Sandpiper (<i>Calidris mauri</i>)				R		

Using this checklist

Rare bird and raptor observation forms are available online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/nature-science/birds.htm> and at park visitor centers.

- + Indicates species for which documentation is requested to improve the park's bird database. *Please complete a rare bird form.*
- * Indicates raptor species. *Please complete a raptor observation form.*

Breeding status

- (B) **Breeding:** Confirmed as breeding in Yellowstone.
- (b) **Unconfirmed breeding:** Suspected of breeding, but not confirmed by eggs or young.

Seasons

- (Sp) **Spring:** March – May
(S) **Summer:** June – August
(F) **Fall:** September – November
(W) **Winter:** December – March

Abundance Categories

- (A) **Abundant:** Found in moderate to large numbers and easily found in appropriate habitat.
- (C) **Common:** Found in moderate numbers and usually easy to find in appropriate habitat.
- (U) **Uncommon:** Found in small numbers and usually, but not always, found with some effort in appropriate habitat.
- (R) **Rare:** Occurs annually in very small numbers or in a very restricted habitat. Difficult to find.
- (O) **Occasional:** Occurs in some years, but not every year.

Season		B/W	
		Sp	S
Loons			
Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)		B	U
Grebes			
Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)		B	C
Horned Grebe + (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)			R
+ Red-necked Grebe (<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>)			R
+ Western Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>)		b	R
+ Clark's Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>)			R
Cormorants			
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)		B	U
Pelicans			
American White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)		B	C
Herons			
Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)		B	C
Black-crowned Night-Heron (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>)			R
Ibises			
White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)			R
Vultures			
+ Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)			U
*Hawks, Eagles, & Allies			
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)		B	C
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucophalus</i>)		B	C
Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)		B	U
Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)		B	U
Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)		B	U
Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)		B	U
Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platyterus</i>)			R
Swainson's Hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>)		B	U

Accidental and vagrant species

The species listed below are accidental, vagrant, or species with few observations. Please document any sightings of these species with a rare bird form including a photograph if possible.

Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Whooper Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Chukar, Gray Partridge, Wild Turkey, Pacific Loon, American Bittern, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow Rail, Whooping Crane, Hudsonian Godwit, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Mew Gull, Black Tern, Arctic Tern, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black-billed Cuckoo, Flammulated Owl, Snowy Owl, Burrowing Owl, Crested Caracara, Least Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Pygmy Nuthatch, Canyon Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Varied Thrush, Lapland Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Ovenbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Clay-colored Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Sagebrush Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch.

For more information

If you would like to learn more about birds, these and other items are sold by the Yellowstone Association in visitor centers:

The Easy Bird Guide: Western Region, by John and Edith Bull

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, by Jon Dunn and John Alderfer

The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America, by David Allen Sibley

Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Western Region, by
Donald and Lillian Stokes

The following book is out of print, but a unique Yellowstone reference:

Birds of Yellowstone, by Terry McEneaney

Geese, Swans & Ducks				
Season		B/W	S	F
B/W		Sp	S	F
+ Snow Goose (<i>Chen caerulescens</i>)				
		R		R
+ Ross's Goose (<i>Chen rossii</i>)				
		R	R	R
Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)				
B	A	A	A	C
+ Trumpeter Swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>)				
	B	U	U	C
+ Tundra Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>)				
		U		U
+ Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)				
		R		R
Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)				
B	C	C	C	U
B	C	C	C	U
American Wigeon (<i>Anas americana</i>)				
B	C	C	C	U
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)				
B	A	A	A	A
Blue-winged Teal (<i>Anas discors</i>)				
B	U	U	U	O
B	C	C	C	C
Cinnamon Teal (<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
Northern Shoveler (<i>Anas aclypeata</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)				
B	C	C	C	U
Green-winged Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)				
B	U	U	U	U
B	U	U	U	U
Canvasback (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)				
B	U	U	U	U
Redhead (<i>Aythya americana</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
Ring-necked Duck (<i>Aythya collaris</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
+ Greater Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)				
		R		R
Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
B	U	U	U	U
+ Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)				
B	U	U	U	U
Bufflehead (<i>Bucephala albeola</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
Common Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)				
		C		C
Barrow's Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala islandica</i>)				
B	A	A	A	A
Hooded Merganser (<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>)				
B	R	O	R	O
Common Merganser (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
(Mergus serrator)				
		U		U
Red-breasted Merganser				
		U		U
Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
Grouse				
Ruffed Grouse (<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>)				
B	C	C	C	C
Dusky Grouse (<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>)				
B	C	C	C	R



Yellowstone National Park offers birds an array of habitat types: lower elevation sagebrush-grasslands and riparian-willow communities, mid-elevation forests of lodgepole pines and other conifers, high elevation alpine meadows and whitebark pine forests. The park's signature geyser basins and areas of thermal features also provide habitat for birds year-round. Consequently, a diversity of birds occurs in the park, especially during migration and summer.

This checklist follows American Ornithologists' Union 7th edition guidelines and was revised in April, 2014 to include the seasonal abundance of each species. Bird species that are accidental, vagrants, and those with few verified observations have been grouped at the end of the checklist. Some species listed in previous revisions lacked adequate documentation, so they were removed from the current checklist.

We thank you for your interest in the birds of Yellowstone. Your observations contribute to knowledge and conservation of birds found in the park.

—Yellowstone National Park Bird Program



Yellowstone National Park
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone, WY 82190

www.nps.gov/yell

	B/b	Season			
		Sp	S	F	W
+ Least Sandpiper (<i>Calidris minutilla</i>)		R		R	
+ White-rumped Sandpiper (<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>)		R		R	
+ Baird's Sandpiper (<i>Calidris bairdii</i>)		U		U	
+ Pectoral Sandpiper (<i>Calidris melanotos</i>)		R		R	
+ Short-billed Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>)		R		R	
+ Long-billed Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>)		U		U	
Wilson’s Snipe (<i>Gallinago delicata</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
+ Wilson’s Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>)	B	U	U	U	
+ Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)		R		R	
Gulls & Terns					
+ Bonaparte’s Gull (<i>Larus philadelphia</i>)		R		R	
+ Franklin’s Gull (<i>Larus pipixcan</i>)		R	R	R	
Ring-billed Gull (<i>Larus delawarensis</i>)		C	C	C	
California Gull (<i>Larus californicus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
+ Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)		R		R	
+ Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Common Tern + (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)		R		R	
Forster's Tern + (<i>Sterna forsteri</i>)		R	R	R	
Pigeons & Doves					
Rock Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
+ Eurasian Collared-Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)		R	R	R	
Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)	B	R	R	R	
*Owls					
Western Screech-Owl (<i>Megascops kennicottii</i>)		R	R	R	
Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
Northern Pygmy-Owl (<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>)	B	R	R	R	R
Great Gray Owl (<i>Strix nebulosa</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Long-eared Owl (<i>Asio otus</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Boreal Owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Northern Saw-whet Owl (<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Goatsuckers					
Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>)	B		C	C	
Swifts					
White-throated Swift (<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>)	B		U	U	
Hummingbirds					
+ Broad-tailed Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>)	B		R		
+ Rufous Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>)	B		R		
+ Calliope Hummingbird (<i>Stellula calliope</i>)	B		R		
Kingfishers					
Belted Kingfisher (<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Woodpeckers & Allies					
+ Lewis’s Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	B	R	R	R	
+ Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)		R	R	R	
Williamson’s Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Red-naped Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Downy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides pubescens</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
+ American Three-toed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides dorsalis</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
+ Black-backed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides arcticus</i>)	B	R	R	R	R
Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
+Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)	B	R	R	R	R
Falcons*					
American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)		R		R	
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Prairie Falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Tyrant Flycatchers					
Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Western Wood-Pewee (<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	B	U	U	U	

	B/b	Season			
		Sp	S	F	W
Hammond’s Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Dusky Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>)	B	C	C	C	
+ Cordilleran Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>)	b	R	R	R	
+ Western Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>)			R	R	
+ Eastern Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>)			R	R	
Shrikes					
+ Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)		R	R	R	
+ Northern Shrike (<i>Lanius excubitor</i>)				U	U
Vireos					
Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireo gilvus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Jays, Magpies, & Crows					
Gray Jay (<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
+ Pinyon Jay (<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>)		R	R	R	R
Steller’s Jays (<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
+ Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)				R	
Clark’s Nutcracker (<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>)	B	A	A	A	A
Black-billed Magpie (<i>Pica hudsonia</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Common Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)	B	A	A	A	A
Larks					
Horned Lark (<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Swallows					
Tree Swallow (<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>)	B	U	C	U	
Violet-green Swallow (<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>)	B	U	C	U	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>)	B	R	U	R	
Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	B	R	U	R	
Cliff Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>)	B	U	C	U	
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	B	R	U	R	
Chickadees, Nuthatches & Allies					
Black-capped Chickadee (<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Mountain Chickadee (<i>Poecile gambeli</i>)	B	A	A	A	A
Red-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta canadensis</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
White-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Brown Creeper (<i>Certhia americana</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Wrens					
Rock Wren (<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
House Wren (<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>)	B	C	C	C	
+ Marsh Wren (<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Dippers					
American Dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Kinglets, Old World Warblers & Gnatcatchers					
Golden-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus satrapa</i>)	B	R	R	R	R
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus calendula</i>)	B	A	A	A	
Thrushes					
+ Western Bluebird (<i>Sialia mexicana</i>)		R	R	R	
Mountain Bluebird (<i>Sialia currucoides</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Townsend’s Solitaire (<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
Veery (<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Swainson’s Thrush (<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Hermit Thrush (<i>Catharus guttatus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	B	A	A	A	U
Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)	B	R	R	R	O
Mimids					
Sage Thrasher (<i>Orescoptes montanus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Starlings & Allies					
European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgarus</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Wagtails & Pipits					
American Pipit (<i>Anthus rubescens</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Waxwings & Silky-flycatchers					
Bohemian Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla garrulous</i>)				C	C
Cedar Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>)	B	U	U	U	U

	B/b	Season			
		Sp	S	F	W
Wood-warblers, Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Sparrows, Buntings, Blackbirds, & Allies					
+ Snow Bunting (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>)					O
+ Northern Waterthrush (<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>)	b	R	R	R	
+ Black-and-white Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)		R		R	
+ Tennessee Warbler (<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>)		R		R	
Orange-crowned Warber (<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>)	B	U	U	U	
+ Nashville Warbler (<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>)		R		R	
MacGillivray's Warbler (<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Common Yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)	B	C	C	C	
+ American Redstart (<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>)	B	R	R		
+ Blackburnian Warbler (<i>Setophaga fusca</i>)		R		R	
Yellow Warbler (<i>Setophaga petechia</i>)	B	C	C	C	
+ Blackpoll Warbler (<i>Setophaga striata</i>)		R		R	
Yellow-rumped Warbler (<i>Setophaga coronata</i>)	B	A	A	A	
+ Townsend's Warbler (<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>)		U		U	
Wilson's Warbler (<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Green-tailed Towhee (<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
+ Spotted Towhee (<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>)	B	R	R	R	
American Tree Sparrow (<i>Spizella arborea</i>)					U
Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella passerine</i>)	B	A	A	A	
Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Vesper Sparrow (<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Lark Sparrow (<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>)		O	O	O	
Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>)	B	C	C	C	
+ Grasshopper Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>)			O		
Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Lincoln's Sparrow (<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>)	B	C	C	C	
White-crowned Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Dark-eyed Junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>)	B	A	A	A	O
Western Tanager (<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>)	B	C	C	C	
+ Black-headed Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>)	b	R	R	R	
Lazuli Bunting (<i>Passerina amoena</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)	B	C	C	C	O
Western Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Yellow-headed Blackbird (<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Brewer's Blackbird (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Brown-headed Cowbird (<i>Molothrus ater</i>)	B	C	C	C	
+ Bullock's Oriole (<i>Icterus bullockii</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Finches & Allies					
+ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (<i>Leucosticte tephroctis</i>)	B	O	O	O	R
Black-rosy Finch (<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Pine Grosbeak (<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Cassin's Finch (<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
Red Crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
White-winged Crossbill (<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>)	b	R	R	R	R
Common Redpoll (<i>Acanthis flammea</i>)		R			U
Pine Siskin (<i>Spinus pinus</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
+ American Goldfinch (<i>Spinus tristis</i>)	B	R	R	R	R
Evening Grosbeak (<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>)	B	O	O	O	O
Old World Sparrows					
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	B	C	C	C	U