

A Checklist of the Birds of Merrill Creek Reservoir



Seasons Defined by this list: Spring (SP) March – May, Summer (SU) June – August, Fall (F) September – November, Winter (W) December – February

Status: Common (c), Uncommon (u), Rare (r), Accidental (a), Breeding (*), Species of special concern (#), Extirpated = were once found at MCR, but no longer

Accidentals in *Italics* with earliest sighting dates if available.

Loons, Grebes, Cormorants

- Red-throated Loon – SPu, Fu
- Pacific Loon – SPa, Fa 5/9/1992*
- Common Loon – SPc, SUu, Fc, Wu
- Pied-billed Grebe# – SPc, SUu, Fc, Wu
- Horned Grebe – SPc, Fc, Wu
- Red-necked Grebe – SPu, Fu
- Western Grebe – Wa 1/31/2007*
- American White Pelican – Spa 6/23/2008*
- Brown Pelican Fa # 11/27/2007*
- Double-crested Cormorant – SPc, SUu, Fc, Wr
- Great Cormorant – Fr
- Anhinga – SUa 8/31/2003*

Wading Birds

- Great Blue Heron # – SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu
- Great Egret – SPu, SUu, Fu
- Snowy Egret – SPR, SUR, Fr
- Little Blue Heron – SUR, Fr
- Cattle Egret – SPu, SUu, Fu
- Green Heron* - SPc, SUc, Fc
- Black-crowned Night Heron # – SPR, SUR, Fr

Waterfowl

- Greater White-fronted Goose – SPR, Fr, Wr
- Snow Goose – SPc, Fu, Wc
- Ross’s Goose – Wa 1/29/2007*
- Canada Goose * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc
- Cackling Goose – Fr, Wr
- Brant – SPR, Fr
- Barnacle Goose – Wa 12/3/1998*
- Mute Swan – Wu

- Tundra Swan – Wr
- Wood Duck * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wr
- Gadwall – Spu, Fu, Wu
- Eurasian Widgeon – Wa 1/15/97 &2/27/25*

- American Wigeon – SPc, Fu, Wu
- American Black Duck – SPc, Fc, Wc
- Mallard * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc
- Blue-winged Teal – SPu, Fu
- Northern Shoveler – SPu, Fu
- Northern Pintail – SPu, Fc, Wc
- Green-winged Teal – SPu, Fu, Wu
- Canvasback – SPR, Fu, Wu
- Redhead – SPu, Fu, Wu

- Ring-necked Duck – SPc, Fc, Wc
- Greater Scaup – SPR, Fr, Wr
- Lesser Scaup – SPu, Fu, Wu
- Surf Scoter – SPu, Fu
- White-winged Scoter – SPR, Fr
- Black Scoter – SPu, Fu
- Long-tailed Duck – SPu, Fu
- Bufflehead – SPc, Fc, Wc
- Common Goldeneye – SPc, Fu, Wc
- Barrow’s Goldeneye # - 2/5/2002*
- Hooded Merganser – SPc, Fc, Wr
- Common Merganser – SPc, Fc, Wc
- Red-breasted Merganser – SPu, Fu
- Ruddy Duck – SPR, Fu, Wu

Diurnal Raptors (Vultures, Hawks and Eagles)

- Black Vulture – SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu
- Turkey Vulture * – SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu
- Osprey # – SPc, SUc, Fc
- Swallow-tailed Kite – SUa 8/31/2004*
- Mississippi Kite – Spa 5/15/2005*
- Bald Eagle * # - SPc, SUu, Fc, Wc
- Northern Harrier #– SPu, SUu, Fc, Wu
- Sharp-shined Hawk * – SPc, SUR, Fc, Wu
- Cooper’s Hawk * # - SPc, SUu, Fc, Wu
- Northern Goshawk #- SPR, Fu, Wr
- Red-shouldered Hawk # - SPc, Fc, Wr
- Broad-winged Hawk – SPc, SUu, Fc
- Swainson’s Hawk – Fa 10/31/2002*
- Red-tailed Hawk * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc
- Rough-legged Hawk – SPR, Fr, Wr
- Golden Eagle – SPR, Fu, Wr
- American Kestral * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc
- Merlin – SPu, Fu, Wr
- Gyr Falcon - Fa*
- Peregrine Falcon # – SPR, Fu, Wr

Game Birds

- Ring-necked Pheasant * - SPu, SUu, Fu,Wu
- Ruffed Grouse * - (extirpated)
- Wild Turkey * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc
- Northern Bobwhite *- (extirpated)
- American Coot – SPu, Fu, Wu
- Sandhill Crane #– Fa 10/30/09*

Shorebirds (Plovers & Sandpipers)

- Black-bellied Plover – SPR, Fr
- American Golden Plover – Fa 9/19/2011*
- Semipalmated Plover – SPR, Fr
- Killdeer * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu
- American Avocet – SUa 8/04/2010*
- Greater Yellowlegs – SPu, SUu, Fu
- Lesser Yellowlegs – SPu, Fu
- Solitary Sandpiper – SPu, SUR, Fu
- Willet – SUa 8/04/2010*
- Spotted Sandpiper – SPc, SUc, Fc
- Semipalmated Sandpiper – SPu, Fu
- Sanderling – SUa 8/23/2012*
- Least Sandpiper – SPu, Fu
- White-rumped Sandpiper – SPR, Fr
- Pectoral Sandpiper – SPu, Fu
- Dunlin – SPR, Fr
- Wilson’s Snipe – SPR, Fr
- American Woodcock * - SPu, SUu,
- Red-necked Phalarope - Fa 10/6/2010*
- Gulls & Terns**
- Laughing Gull – SPR, SUR, Fr
- Little Gull – SPR
- Black-headed Gull – Fr
- Bonaparte’s Gull – SPu, SUR, Fu
- Ring-billed Gull – SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc
- California Gull – Wa 2/11/2009*
- Herring Gull – SPc, SUR, Fc, Wc
- Iceland Gull – SPR, Fr, Wr
- Lesser Black-backed Gull – SPu, Fc, Wc
- Glaucous Gull – SPR, Fr, Wr
- Great Black-backed Gull – SPu, Fu, Wu
- Sabine’s Gull – Spa,Fa 10/10/2000*
- Caspian Tern – SPR, SUR, Fr
- Common Tern – SPR, Fr
- Forster’s Tern – SUR, Fr
- Black Tern – SPR, SUR, Fr
- Doves, Owls, Night Jars & Woodpeckers**
- Rock Pigeon * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc
- Mourning Dove *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc
- Common Ground Dove – SUa 7/18/2008*
- Black-billed Cuckoo * - SPc, SUu, Fc
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo * - SPc, SUc, Fc

Eastern Screech Owl *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Great Horned Owl *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Snowy Owl – Fa 11/19/2011

Barred Owl * # SPr, SUr, Fr, Wr

Long-eared Owl # – SPr, Fr, Wr

Short-eared Owl # – SPr, Fr

Northern Saw-whet Owl – SPr, Wr

Common Nighthawk *- SPc, SUc, Fu

Whip-poor-will – SPr, Fr

Chimney Swift – SPc, SUc, Fc

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *- SPc, SUc, Fc

Rufous Hummingbird – SUa 8/26/09

Belted Kingfisher – SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu

Red-headed Woodpecker #– SPr, Fr

Red-bellied Woodpecker *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – SPu, Fu, Wu

Downy Woodpecker *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Hairy Woodpecker *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Northern Flicker *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu

Pileated Woodpecker *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Flycatchers and Swallows

Olive-sided Flycatcher – SPr, Fr

Eastern Wood-Pewee *- SPc, SUc, Fc

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – SPr, Fr

Acadian Flycatcher * #- SPu, SUu

Alder Flycatcher – SPr, SUu, Fr

Willow Flycatcher * #- SPu, SUu, Fu

Least Flycatcher – SPu, Fu

Eastern Phoebe *- SPc, Suc, Fc, Wr

Great Crested Flycatcher *- SPc, SUc, Fc

Western Kingbird – Fa 9/22/20

Eastern Kingbird *- SPc, SUc, Fc

Horned Lark – SPr, Fr, Wr

Purple Martin *- SPc, SUc, Fc

Tree Swallow *- SPc, SUc, Fc

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *- SPc, SUc, Fc

Bank Swallow – SPc, SUc, Fc

Cliff Swallow* - SPc, SUc, Fu

Barn Swallow* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Jays, Crows, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creeper, Wrens

Blue Jay *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

American Crow *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Fish Crow *- SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu

Common Raven – SPu, SUu, Fu, Wu

Carolina Chickadee – SPr, Fr

Black-capped Chickadee* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Tufted Titmouse* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Red-breasted Nuthatch* - SPc, SUu, Fc, Wu

White-breasted Nuthatch* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Brown Creeper* - SPc, SUu, Fc, Wc

Carolina Wren* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

House Wren* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Winter Wren – SPu, Fu, Wu

Marsh Wren – SPr, SUr, Fr

Kinglets, Gnatcatcher, Thrushes, Mockingbirds, Shrikes,Starlings

Golden-crowned Kinglet* - SPc, SUr, Fc, Wc

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – SPc, Fc, Wu

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* - SPu, SUu, Fu

Eastern Bluebird* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Townsend’s Solitaire – Fa 10/25/2007

Veery* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Gray-cheeked Thrush – SPr, Fr

Swainson’s Thrush – SPu, Fu

Hermit Thrush – SPc, Fc, Wu

Wood Thrush* - SPc, SUc, Fc

American Robin* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Gray Catbird* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wr

Northern Mockingbird* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Brown Thrasher* - SPu, SUu, Fu

European Starling* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

American Pipit – SPu, Fu

Cedar Waxwing* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Vireos and Warblers

White-eyed Vireo *- SPu, SUu, Fr

Yellow-throated Vireo *- SPc, SUc, Fc

Blue-headed Vireo – SPc, SUr, Fc

Warbling Vireo *- SPu, SUu, Fu

Philadelphia Vireo – Fr

Red-eyed Vireo *- SPc, Suc, Fc

Blue-winged Warbler* - SPc, Suc, Fc

Golden-winged Warbler – SPr, Fr

Lawrence’s Warbler (hybrid) SUa

Brewster’s Warbler (hybrid) SUa

Tennessee Warbler – SPu, Fu

Orange-crowned Warbler – Fa 10/17/2007

Nashville Warbler – SPu, Fu

Northern Parula – SPc, Fc

Yellow Warbler* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Chestnut-sided Warbler* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Magnolia Warbler - SPc, SUr, Fc

Cape May Warbler – SPr, Fr

Black-throated Blue Warbler – SPc, Fc

Yellow-rumped Warbler – SPc, Fc, Wu

Black-throated Green Warbler – SPc, Fc

Blackburnian Warbler – SPu, Fu

Yellow-throated Warbler – SUa 8/11/2010

Pine Warbler* - SPc, SUu, Fu

Prairie Warbler* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Palm Warbler – SPc, Fc

Bay-breasted Warbler – SPr, Fr

Blackpoll Warbler – SPc, Fc

Cerulean Warbler*# - SPr, SUr, Fr

Black-and-white Warbler* - SPc, SUc, Fc

American Redstart* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Prothonotary Warbler# - Fa 9/7/2009

Worm-eating Warbler* - SPu, SUu, Fr

Swainson’s Warbler – SUa 6/7/2007

Ovenbird* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Northern Waterthrush – SPu, Fu

Louisiana Waterthrush* - SPu, SUu, Fu

Kentucky Warbler* – SPr, SUr

Connecticut Warbler – Fr

Mourning Warbler – SPr, SUr, Fr

Common Yellowthroat* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Hooded Warbler*# - SPu, SUr, Fr

Wilson’s Warbler – SPu, SUr, Fu

Canada Warbler – SPc, Fc

Yellow-breasted Chat – SPr, SUr, Fr

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Sparrows

Summer Tanager – SPr, SUu, Fr

Scarlet Tanager* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Northern Cardinal* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Rose-breasted Grosbeak* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Indigo Bunting* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Eastern Towhee* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wr

American Tree Sparrow – SPc, Fc, Wc

Chipping Sparrow* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Clay-colored Sparrow – SPr, Fr

Field Sparrow* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu

Vesper Sparrow# – SPr, SUr, Fr

Savannah Sparrow# – SPu, SUu, Fu

Grasshopper Sparrow# – SPu, SUu, Fu

Henslow’s Sparrow# – Fa 11/2/2008

Fox Sparrow – SPu, Fu, Wu

Song Sparrow* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Lincoln’s Sparrow – SPr, Fu

Swamp Sparrow – SPu, Fu, Wu

White-throated Sparrow – SPc, Fc, Wc

White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco Fa 10/17/2012

White-crowned Sparrow – SPu, Fr, Wr

Dark-eyed Junco – SPc, Fc, Wc

Snow Bunting – SPr, Fu

Blackbirds, Orioles, Finches, House Sparrow

Bobolink# – SPu, SUu, Fu

Red-winged Blackbird* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu

Eastern Meadowlark – SPu, SUu, Fu, Wr

Rusty Blackbird – SPu, Fu, Wr

Common Grackle* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Brown-headed Cowbird* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wu

Orchard Oriole* - SPu, SUu

Baltimore Oriole* - SPc, SUc, Fc

Pine Grosbeak – SPr, Fr, Wr

Purple Finch – SPc, SUr, Fc, Wu

House Finch* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Red Crossbill – Fr, Wr

White-winged Crossbill – Fr, Wr

Common Redpoll – SPr, Wr

Hoary Redpoll – Wr

Pine Siskin – SPu, Fu, Wu

American Goldfinch* - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Evening Grosbeak – SPr, Fr, Wr

House Sparrow* - SPu, SUu, Fu, Wu