

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
Brown Booby - SUa (7/12/16)
 Double-crested Cormorant – SPc, SUu, Fc,
 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, Wu
 Bufflehead – SPc, Fc, Wc
 Common Goldeneye – SPc, Fu, Wc
Barrow's Goldeneye # Wa- 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
Gyrfalcon - Fa ,Wa
 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, Wu
 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
Boreal Chickadee - Wa (2/23/2019)
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 – SUa 7/10/15
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 – Wa
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 – Wr
House Sparrow* - SPu, SUu, Fu, Wu