

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 Kestrel * - SPc, SUc, Fc, Wc

Merlin – SPu, Fu, Wr

Gyr Falcon - 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, 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

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, Fu

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 – - SU a 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