

Using this checklist

* Indicates non-native species.

Breeding status

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

Seasons

- (Sp) **Spring:** mid-March–early June
 (S) **Summer:** early June–mid-August
 (F) **Fall:** mid-August–November
 (W) **Winter:** December–mid-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.

Accidental and vagrant species

The species listed below are accidental, vagrant, or species with few observations. Please document any observations of accidental and vagrant species and any species not on this bird checklist online at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/wildlife-sightings.htm>. Please include a detailed description of the bird, its behavior, location and date of observation, and a photo 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, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow Rail, Whooping Crane, Sabine's Gull, Mew Gull, Black Tern, Arctic Tern, Pacific Loon, American Bittern, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Flammulated Owl, Western Screech Owl, Snowy Owl, Burrowing Owl, Crested Caracara, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Pygmy Nuthatch, Canyon Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Varied Thrush, Lesser Goldfinch, Lapland Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Black-throated Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Sagebrush Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bobolink, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Ovenbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

More Information:

Chesser, R. T., K. J. Burns, C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, A. W. Kratter, I. J. Lovette, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., D. F. Stotz, and K. Winker. 2019. Check-list of North American Birds (online). *American Ornithological Society*. <http://checklist.aou.org/taxa>



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 the American Ornithological Society, *Checklist of North American Birds*, and was revised in May, 2020. Bird species that are accidental, vagrant, 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. This checklist was designed to help you determine the likelihood of observing various bird species.

Thank you for your interest in the birds of Yellowstone. Your observations contribute to knowledge and conservation of birds found here.

—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
Geese, Swans & Ducks					
Snow Goose (<i>Anser caerulescens</i>)		R		R	
Ross's Goose (<i>Anser 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	U	C
Tundra Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>)		U		U	
Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)		R		R	
Blue-winged Teal (<i>Spatula discors</i>)	B	U	U	U	O
Cinnamon Teal (<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Northern Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>)	B	C	C	C	O
Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>)	B	C	C	C	U
American Wigeon (<i>Mareca americana</i>)	B	C	C	C	U
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	B	A	A	A	A
Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	B	C	C	C	U
Green-winged Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	B	C	C	C	U
Canvasback (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Redhead (<i>Aythya americana</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Ring-necked Duck (<i>Aythya collaris</i>)	B	C	C	C	O
Greater Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)		R		R	
Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)	B	C	C	C	O
Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)	B	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
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)		U		U	
Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Grouse					
Ruffed Grouse (<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
Dusky Grouse (<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>)	B	C	C	C	R

	B/b	Season			
		Sp	S	F	W
Grebes					
Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)	B	C	C	C	O
Horned Grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)	B	R	O	R	
Red-necked Grebe (<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Eared Grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Western Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>)	b	R	R	R	
Clark's Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</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>Zenaidura macroura</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Nighthawks					
Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>)	B		C	C	
Swifts & Hummingbirds					
White-throated Swift (<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>)	B		R		
Rufous Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>)	B		R		
Calliope Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus calliope</i>)	B		R		
Rails, Coots, & Cranes					
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
Sandhill Crane (<i>Antigone canadensis</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Stilts & Avocets					
Black-necked Stilt (<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>)		R		R	
American Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>)		R		R	

	B/b	Season			
		Sp	S	F	W
Plovers					
Black-bellied Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)		R		R	
Killdeer (<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>)	B	C	C	C	U
Semipalmated Plover (<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>)		R		R	
Sandpipers & Allies					
Upland Sandpiper (<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>)		R	R	R	
Long-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	B	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	
Baird's Sandpiper (<i>Calidris bairdii</i>)		U		U	
Least Sandpiper (<i>Calidris minutilla</i>)		R		R	
White-rumped Sandpiper (<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>)		R		R	
Pectoral Sandpiper (<i>Calidris melanotos</i>)		R		R	
Semipalmated Sandpiper (<i>Calidris pusilla</i>)		R		R	
Western Sandpiper (<i>Calidris mauri</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
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularia</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Solitary Sandpiper (<i>Tringa solitaria</i>)		R		R	
Lesser Yellowlegs (<i>Tringa flavipes</i>)		R	R	R	
Willet (<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>)		U	U	U	
Greater Yellowlegs (<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>)		U		U	
Wilson's Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)		R		R	

	B/b	Season			
		Sp	S	F	W
Gulls & Terns					
Bonaparte's Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>)		R		R	
Franklin's Gull (<i>Leucophaeus 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>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)		R		R	
Forster's Tern (<i>Sterna forsteri</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Loons					
Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Cormorants					
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Pelicans, Herons, & Ibises					
American White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
Black-crowned Night-Heron (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>)		R	R	R	
White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)		R		R	
Vultures					
Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)		U	U	U	
Hawks, Eagles, & Allies					
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Northern Harrier (<i>Circus hudsonius</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus</i>)		R		R	
Swainson's Hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>)	B	U	C	C	
Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	B	C	A	C	R
Rough-legged Hawk (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>)		U		U	R
Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)		U		U	
Owls					
Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
Northern Pygmy-Owl (<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>)	B	R	R	R	U
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	R	R	R	R
Northern Saw-whet Owl (<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>)	B	R	R	R	R
Kingfishers					
Belted Kingfisher (<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Woodpeckers & Allies					
Lewis's Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	B	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	
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
Downy Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates villosus</i>)	B	C	C	C	C
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	U	U	U	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
Flycatchers					
Western Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>)		R	R	R	
Eastern Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>)		R	R	R	
Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Western Wood-Pewee (<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>)	B	U	U	U	

	B/b	Season			
		Sp	S	F	W
Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Hammond's Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax hammondi</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	
Shrikes					
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)		R	R	R	
Northern Shrike (<i>Lanius borealis</i>)				U	U
Vireos					
Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireo gilvus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Jays, Magpies, Crows, & Ravens					
Canada Jay (<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Pinyon Jay (<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>)		R	R	R	R
Steller's Jay (<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)		R		O	
Clark's Nutcracker (<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>)	B	A	A	A	A
Black-billed Magpie (<i>Pica hudsonia</i>)	B	A	A	A	A
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					
Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	B	R	U	R	
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	
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	B	R	U	R	
Cliff Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>)	B	U	C	U	
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					
Golden-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus satrapa</i>)	B	R	U	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
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
Catbirds & Thrashers					
Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)	B	R	U	U	
Sage Thrasher (<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Starlings					
*European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
Waxwings					
Bohemian Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>)				C	C
Cedar Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Old World Sparrows					
*House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	C	C	C	U	
Pipits					
American Pipit (<i>Anthus rubescens</i>)	B	R	R	R	

	B/b	Season			
		Sp	S	F	W
Finches & Allies					
Evening Grosbeak (<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>)	B	O	O	O	O
Pine Grosbeak (<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>)		O	O	O	R
Black-rosy Finch (<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>)	B	U	U	U	R
House Finch (<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>)		R	R	R	R
Cassin's Finch (<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
Common Redpoll (<i>Acanthis flammea</i>)		R			U
Red Crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)	B	U	U	U	U
White-winged Crossbill (<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>)	b	R	R	R	R
Pine Siskin (<i>Spinus pinus</i>)	B	C	C	C	R
American Goldfinch (<i>Spinus tristis</i>)	B	R	R	R	R
Snow Buntings					
Snow Bunting (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>)					O
Sparrows					
Grasshopper Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>)			O		
Lark Sparrow (<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>)		O	O	O	
Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella passerina</i>)	B	A	A	A	
Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>)	B	R	R	R	
American Tree Sparrow (<i>Spizelloides arborea</i>)					U
Dark-eyed Junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>)	B	A	A	A	O
White-crowned Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Vesper Sparrow (<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Lincoln's Sparrow (<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Green-tailed Towhee (<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Spotted Towhee (<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Blackbirds & Allies					
Yellow-headed Blackbird (<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Western Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Bullock's Oriole (<i>Icterus bullockii</i>)	B	R	R	R	
Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)	B	C	C	C	O
Brown-headed Cowbird (<i>Molothrus ater</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Brewer's Blackbird (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>)	B	C	C	C	
Warblers					
Northern Waterthrush (<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>)	b	R	R	R	
Black-and-white Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)		R	O	R	
Tennessee Warbler (<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>)		R		R	
Orange-crowned Warbler (<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Nashville Warbler (<i>Leiothlypis 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	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>)		R		R	
Wilson's Warbler (<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>)	B	U	U	U	
Tanagers & Allies					
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	