

Black-capped Chickadee, a common garden and woodland year round resident. Has a conspicuous black cap, bib, white cheeks and grey back. Feeds on seeds, insects, berries and is lively and vocal.



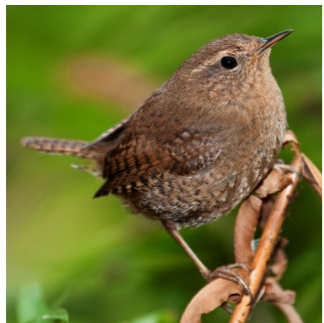
Chestnut-backed Chickadee, has a brown cap, black bib, white cheeks and chestnut back and rump.. Often seen in coniferous forests and seen more often in gardens.

Bushtit, a tiny grey-brown bird with pale belly found year round in gardens and mixed forests. Feeds on aphids, insects, spiders and seeds and builds a sock-like nest.



Red-breasted Nuthatch, is a year round resident in forests and gardens and has a striped head, grey back and rufous underparts. Creeps both up and down trees feeding on insects and hoards food wedging it into bark. Will visit feeders.

Brown Creeper, is a small well camouflaged bird that creeps up trees. Is resident year round in mixed woodland and has a high tinkling call. Makes a hammock nest in loose bark.



Pacific Wren, a secretive dark little bird found in woodlands year round; nests in dense brush near water. Has a stubby tail and dark barring on belly.

American Robin, a year round resident and migrant thrush with a black head, grey upper parts and rufous breast. It feeds on fruit, berries, worms and insects and has a beautiful song in spring.



Varied Thrush, winters locally in mixed forests; feeds on berries and insects. It has dark grey upper parts with orange on the wings, throat and breast. Has a distinctive black necklace and long eerie whistle.

Cedar Waxwing, a striking song-bird with pink-brown plumage and a yellow-tipped tail. Usually arrives mid-May to November but some overwinter. Feeds on berries.



Yellow-rumped Warbler, very common in spring and fall migration, often near water. The yellow rump and flanks are distinctive; if has yellow throat, called Audubon's; if has a white throat, called Myrtle's. 12 other warblers may be seen locally in migration.



Common Yellowthroat, common in shrubs, grassy fields and marshes in migration; also nest locally in shrubby wetlands. Male has black mask and yellow throat and breast, female dull with white eye ring.



Spotted Towhee, is a large, secretive resident sparrow seen in undergrowth. Has red eyes, white spotted black back, black throat and white belly with rufous flanks.



White-crowned Sparrow, seen in gardens, parks and woodlands. Has black and white striped head, white throat and yellow-orange bill.



Savannah Sparrow, often seen at Blackie Spit in summer, highly variable, it is a small bird with a yellowish eyebrow, light yellow on flanks and a white belly.

Dark-eyed Junco, a resident sparrow usually seen in winter feeding on insects and seed. Has a black head, brown back and flanks, white belly and flashes white tail feathers in flight.



House Finch, a common garden finch found locally year round. Male has a red head, throat and rump and the back, wings and underparts are streaked brown. Female is streaked brown. Feeds on seeds, fruit, flowers, leaves.



American Goldfinch, a common breeding songbird in Surrey woodlands and hedgerows. Male is bright yellow and black, female is brownish yellow. Feeds on seeds especially thistle.



Birds in Surrey

Surrey is a premier birding area located within the top rated Important Bird Area of 600 designated sites in Canada. The Fraser River delta in the north and the eastern Boundary Bay in the south frames Surrey's urban forests, farms & hedgerows and the 3 rivers, Serpentine, Nicomekl & Little Campbell, that flow into Boundary Bay. Bay habitats include deep waters, shoreline, salt marsh, mudflats & estuaries.



City of Surrey Parks offers free monthly birding walks, rain or shine. Dress for weather, bring binoculars if you have them.

For information: call 604-502-6065 or email: stewardship@surrey.ca

Birding Hotspots in Surrey:

Kwomais Point Park, 1367 128 Street
Blackie Spit (& Crescent Beach) , 3136 McBride Avenue
Elgin Heritage Park, 13601 Crescent Road
Serpentine Wildlife Management Area, 14246 44 Avenue
Mud Bay Park, 13030 48 Avenue
Sunnyside Urban Forest, 2598 144 Street
Redwood Park, 17900 20 Avenue
Little Campbell Forest Trail & hatchery, 1284 184 Street
Surrey Lake, 7500 152 Street
Godwin Farm Biodiversity Preserve Park, 9016 164 Street
Hi Knoll Park, 19569 Colebrook Road
Green Timbres Urban Forest, 14225 Green Timbers Way
Hawthorne Rotary Park, 10503 144 Street
Surrey Bend, 17775 104th Avenue
Tynehead Regional Park /hatchery, 17200 block, 96 Avenue

Resources:

BC Field Ornithologists, <https://bcfo.ca>
eBird, www.ebird.org
Birdlife International, www.datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/11056
Bird Studies Canada, <http://www.bsc-eoc.org>
Nature Guides BC, www.natureguidesbc.com
Nature Vancouver, http://www.naturevancouver.ca/Birding_Birding_Sites
North American Bird Sounds, www.naturesongs.com/birds.html

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Bald Eagle, Adult on left, juvenile on right.

A large bird of prey seen year round near water, usually hunting fish, duck, heron and gull. Look for their large nests, adult pairs are loyal to a nest site.



Northern Harrier, a resident, ground nesting raptor with distinctive white rump. Common flying low over marshes and fields hunting small mammals and birds. Female is brown, male is grey.

Red-tailed Hawk, seen year round in open habitats, woodlands and highway corridors hunting small mammals. The red tail is distinctive.

Peregrine Falcon, seen August to mid-May diving at high speed to catch prey, usually shorebirds. The falcon has a distinctive dark moustache that stands out against a whitish bib and dark grey upper parts.



Coopers Hawk, hunts birds, often at feeders and has been seen to feed on pigeons from the White Rock jetty. Has a larger head and longer tail than the Sharp-shinned Hawk.



Barred Owl, commonly seen in forests during the day and near feeders, hunts small birds and mammals. Adult to left, owlets on right.



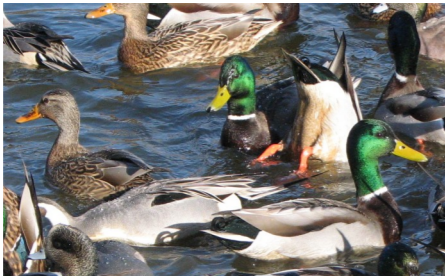
Great Blue Heron, a west coast subspecies that does not migrate, seen in fields, shorelines and highway verges hunting for fish and small mammals.





Wood Duck, a beautiful though shy resident found in open woodlands near water; nests in tree cavities and nest boxes. The male gives a whistle when alarmed.

Mallard, a very common and abundant duck in ponds and parks. Male has metallic green head, white collar, yellow bill and chestnut breast. Female is mottled.



American Wigeon, usually in flocks foraging in parks, marshes and foreshore. Male has a white head. The Eurasian Wigeon male has a rufous head.

Green-winged Teal, common in winter on marshes, ponds and shore, dabbling to forage, moving their bill side to side.

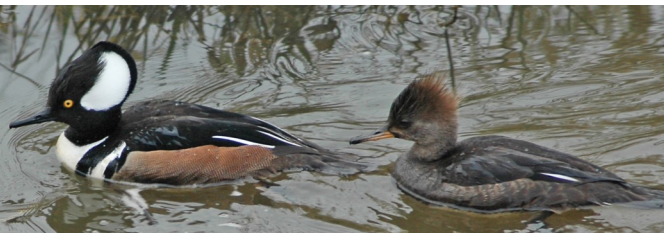


Norther Pintail, abundant winter visitor in marshes, ponds and along the foreshore dabbling in shallow water. Male has a long 'pin tail'.

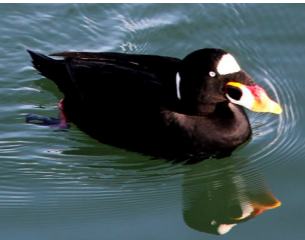
Harlequin, is a diving duck that feeds on molluscs, often seen on the rocky shore of Semiahmoo Bay and Kwomais Point.



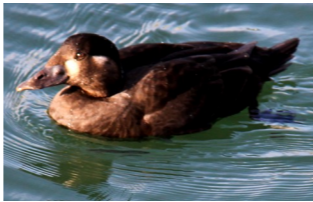
Bufflehead, a small diving duck that forages in ponds and sheltered marine waters for invertebrates. It is a hole nester in open woodlands near water.



Hooded Merganser, found on woodland ponds, sloughs and bays foraging for fish.



Surf Scoter, a seabird that overwinters locally; has a distinctive, colourful bill, usually seen off Semiahmoo Bay.



Common Loon, usually seen off Blackie Spit and Semiahmoo Bay in non breeding plumage in winter foraging for fish.



Horned Grebe, has a short straight bill, red eye and 'golden horns' in breeding season. Usually seen on coastal waters in winter in grey and white plumage.



Double-crested Cormorant, commonly seen at Blackie Spit. Distinguished by its orange-yellow throat patch, dives for fish.



Black Oystercatcher, usually seen off the rocky shore of Kwomais Point and recently at Blackie Spit where it feeds on mussels and shellfish. Nests on beach gravel.

Killdeer, a resident shorebird identified by its distinctive double neck band and piercing call when alarmed. Nests on gravel on open ground



Greater Yellowlegs, common migrant, often overwinters at Blackie Spit and Little Campbell estuary. Feeds on invertebrates on mudflats and foreshore. Note long yellow legs and a long, slightly upturned bill.

Dunlin, an overwintering shorebird with a drooping bill often seen in swirling flocks over the bay. Can often see them in breeding plumage in April and May before they migrate north to nest.



Long-billed Curlew, usually seen at Blackie Spit where one often overwinters. The small head and long curved bill is notable.

Marbled Godwit, has a long bicoloured, slightly upturned bill. Mottled brown/black above with barred breast below. Usually seen overwintering at Blackie Spit Park.



Glaucous-winged Gull, is one of the larger gulls, has pink legs, a large yellow bill with a red spot and dark eyes. The most common gull; often feeding on garbage, molluscs and sea stars.

Ring-billed Gull, a smaller gull with yellowish legs, a yellow bill with a black ring and pale eyes.

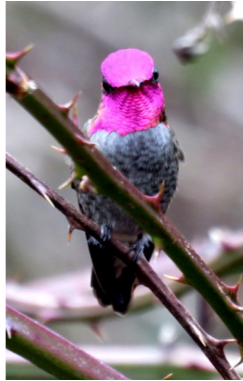


Eurasian Collared Dove, a year round resident from Europe, commonly seen in the suburbs and farm fields. Note the dark collar and pink feet.

Anna's Hummingbird, one of two species hummingbirds seen in Surrey; the Anna's now stays year round. The male has an iridescent rose red crown and throat with bronze green upper parts. They consume more insects than any other hummingbird in North America.



Rufous Hummingbird, migrates north in late winter following the flowering of red current and salmonberry, often returning to the same area each year. Slightly smaller than the Anna's above; the male has a rufous back and an orange-red gorget



Belted Kingfisher, the only kingfisher here, common along rivers, estuaries and ponds hunting for fish. Both male and female have a blue breast band and white belly; the female also has a rufous belly band.



Red-breasted Sapsucker, found in coniferous and mixed forests, often nests in birch trees. Has a red head, nape and breast, white wing patch and white rump. Drills small holes in a row on bark for sap and insects.



Downy Woodpecker, the smallest woodpecker in North America, in mixed forests year round. Has a black upper body with white breast and a red hind-crown patch on males; feeds on insects and seeds.

Pileated Woodpecker, a year round resident and the largest woodpecker in North America. Found in mixed forests feeding on insects. To attract a female, the male drums on a hollow tree, telephone pole and even flashing on buildings; the louder the better.



Northern Flicker, a common resident often seen on the ground feeding on insects. Has a white rump and red underwings seen in flight.

Steller's Jay, BC's provincial bird; has a black head with crest, and blue body. It is found in forests and well treed suburban areas year round feeding on seeds, nuts, fruits and small invertebrates.



Red-winged Blackbird, seen in local marshes, often year round. Male is black with a bright red shoulder patch edged with yellow. The female is smaller, brown and streaked.

Tree Swallow, has a shiny blue back and white underparts. It is the first swallow to arrive in spring; feeds on insects caught in flight. Usually nests near water, can be seen at the Serpentine Wildlife Management Area.

