

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY BIRDING CHECKLIST

Over 420 species of birds have occurred in the Willamette Valley region. The following list of 250 species includes those most likely to be detected, along with a few more rare birds that are often sought by visitors. The following symbols are used to indicate the relative ease of detecting (seeing or hearing) these birds during a given season:

- Very rarely detected
- Rarely detected
- Occasionally detected
- Regularly detected
- Very regularly detected

These symbols are not intended to indicate relative abundance. Some birds such as owls may be difficult to detect even if fairly common. Others such as Osprey are conspicuous and hence easy to detect, even if they are present only in small numbers.

Species that breed in the region are indicated by an asterisk(\*). Species that are not native to the region, but were introduced by humans either directly to the region or indirectly to other parts of North America, are indicated by (i). The following letter codes are used to indicate the most likely area to encounter bird species:

- C Most often seen along Columbia River
- F Most often seen at Fern Ridge
- N More often found in northern Willamette Valley
- S More often found in southern Willamette Valley
- a Agricultural fields, pastures
- b Brushland, brushy edges
- c Coniferous forest
- d Deciduous or mixed deciduous-coniferous forest
- g Grassland, prairie & savanna
- m Mountains (Coast Range or Cascades)
- o Oak woodlands
- p Ponds, lakes, rivers, treatment ponds
- r Riparian forest and edges
- u Urbanized areas, towns
- w Wetlands and marshes

More detailed information on breeding bird status is available in the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas, published by Oregon Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440. Visit [www.oregonbirds.org](http://www.oregonbirds.org) for additional references, for detailed information on the timing of migration for birds in the Willamette Valley, and for links to e-mail lists that give reports on locally rare birds.

Sp	Su	F	W	Species	Habitat
●	●	●	●	Greater White-fronted Goose	a,p,w
-	-	-	-	Emperor Goose	a,p,w
○	○	●	○	Snow Goose	a,p,w
-	-	○	○	Ross' Goose	a,p,w
■	■	■	■	Canada Goose*	a,p,w
●	●	●	●	Cackling Goose	a,p,w
-	-	-	-	Brant	a,p,w
-	-	○	○	Trumpeter Swan	a,p,w
○	○	●	●	Tundra Swan	a,p,w
●	●	●	●	Wood Duck*	p,d
○	○	○	○	Gadwall*	p,w
○	○	○	○	Eurasian Wigeon	a,p,w
●	●	●	●	American Wigeon	a,p,w
■	●	■	■	Mallard*	p,w
●	○	○	○	Blue-winged Teal*	p,w
●	●	○	○	Cinnamon Teal*	p,w
●	○	○	■	Northern Shoveler*	p,w
○	○	○	■	Northern Pintail*	p,w
■	○	○	■	Green-winged Teal	p,w
●	-	○	○	Canvasback	p,w
○	○	○	○	Redhead	p,w
●	○	○	■	Ring-necked Duck	p,w
-	-	○	○	Tufted Duck	p,w
○	○	○	○	Greater Scaup	p,w,C
●	●	●	●	Lesser Scaup	p,w
●	●	○	○	Harlequin Duck*	m
○	○	○	○	Surf Scoter	p
-	-	-	-	Long-tailed Duck	p
●	○	○	●	Bufflehead	p,w
○	○	○	○	Common Goldeneye	p
○	○	○	○	Barrow's Goldeneye	p
●	●	●	●	Hooded Merganser*	p,w
●	●	●	●	Common Merganser*	p
○	○	○	○	Red-breasted Merganser	p
●	○	○	●	Ruddy Duck*	p,w
					<i>Nests rarely at Fern Ridge.</i>
●	●	●	●	Ring-necked Pheasant* (i)	a,b
●	●	●	●	Ruffed Grouse*	m,d
●	●	●	●	Sooty Grouse*	m,c
					<i>Formerly considered to be coastal subspecies of Blue Grouse.</i>
●	●	●	●	Wild Turkey* (i)	o,d
					<i>Flocks are common in rural residential areas.</i>
●	●	●	●	Mountain Quail*	m,o
					<i>Brushy slopes, clearcuts</i>
●	●	●	●	California Quail* (i)	b,a,o
					<i>Native to SW Oregon but introduced to valley.</i>
○	○	○	○	Red-throated Loon	p,C
-	-	-	-	Pacific Loon	p,C
○	○	○	○	Common Loon	p,C
●	●	●	●	Pied-billed Grebe*	p,w
○	○	○	○	Horned Grebe	p,C
-	-	-	-	Red-necked Grebe	p,C
○	○	-	-	Eared Grebe	p,C

  

Sp	Su	F	W	Species	Habitat
●	●	○	○	Western Grebe*	p,w,F
○	○	-	-	Clark's Grebe*	p,w,F
○	○	○	○	American White Pelican	p,w,F
●	○	●	●	Double-crested Cormorant	p
					<i>Mostly along major rivers</i>
●	●	○	-	American Bittern*	w
●	●	●	■	Great Blue Heron*	a,p,w
●	○	●	●	Great Egret	a,p,w
●	●	○	○	Green Heron*	w,r
○	○	○	-	Black-crowned Night-Heron	w,r
					<i>Rare away from local roosts</i>
●	■	●	●	Turkey Vulture*	a,g,r
●	●	●	○	Osprey*	p
●	○	○	○	White-tailed Kite*	g,S
●	●	●	●	Bald Eagle*	a,p,w
●	○	○	○	Northern Harrier*	a,w
●	○	○	○	Sharp-shinned Hawk*	c
●	○	○	○	Cooper's Hawk*	d,o
○	○	○	○	Northern Goshawk	m,c
●	○	○	○	Red-shouldered Hawk*	r,S
					<i>Local in moist woodlands</i>
○	○	-	-	Swainson's Hawk	a,g
■	■	■	■	Red-tailed Hawk*	a,g,r
					<i>"Harlan's" form occurs rarely in winter</i>
○	○	○	○	Ferruginous Hawk	a,g
○	○	○	○	Rough-legged Hawk	a,g
○	-	-	○	Golden Eagle*	g,m
					<i>Rare away from nesting area in Coburg Hills</i>
■	■	■	■	American Kestrel*	a,g
○	-	-	○	Merlin	a,o,u
					<i>Often around finch flocks.</i>
-	-	-	○	Gyr Falcon	a,g
					<i>Around grazing waterfowl flocks.</i>
○	○	○	○	Peregrine Falcon	a,g,w
					<i>Around waterfowl and shorebirds.</i>
-	-	-	○	Prairie Falcon	a,g
●	●	○	○	Virginia Rail*	w
●	●	○	○	Sora*	w
●	●	●	●	American Coot*	p,w
○	○	○	○	Sandhill Crane	a,w,C
					<i>Sauvie Island</i>
○	○	○	○	Black-bellied Plover	w,a
-	-	-	○	American Golden-Plover	w,a
-	-	-	○	Pacific Golden-Plover	w,a
●	●	●	●	Semipalmated Plover	w,a
●	●	●	■	Killdeer*	a,w
○	○	○	○	Black-necked Stilt*	w
●	●	○	○	Greater Yellowlegs	w,p,a
●	●	○	-	Lesser Yellowlegs	w,p,a
●	○	○	○	Solitary Sandpiper	p,w
●	●	●	●	Spotted Sandpiper*	p,w
○	○	-	-	Whimbrel	w
●	●	○	○	Western Sandpiper	w,p,a
●	●	●	●	Least Sandpiper	w,p,a
○	○	○	○	Baird's Sandpiper	w,p
					<i>Dry mud margins around wetlands.</i>

Sp	Su	F	W	Species	Habitat
○	●	○		Pectoral Sandpiper	w,p
●	○	●	●	Dunlin	w,p,a
○	○	○	○	Stilt Sandpiper	w,p
○	○	○	○	Ruff	w,p
○	○	○	○	Short-billed Dowitcher	w,p
●	●	●	●	Long-billed Dowitcher	w,p,a
●	○	●	●	Wilson's Snipe*	w,a
●	●	○	○	Wilson's Phalarope*	w,S
●	○	○	○	Red-necked Phalarope	p
○	○	○	○	Bonaparte's Gull	p
●	○	●	●	Mew Gull	a,p
●	○	●	●	Ring-billed Gull	a,p
●	○	●	●	California Gull	a,p
●	○	●	●	Herring Gull	a,p
●	○	●	●	Thayer's Gull	a,p
○	○	○	○	Western Gull	a,p,C
●	○	●	●	Glaucous-winged Gull	a,p
-	-	○	○	Glaucous Gull	a,p
●	●	○	○	Caspian Tern	p,C,F
○	○	○	○	Common Tern	p
○	○	○	○	Forster's Tern	p,w
●	●	○	○	Black Tern*	w,F
○	○	○	○	Marbled Murrelet*	m,c
<i>Threatened; nests in old-growth forest in western Coast Range.</i>					
●	●	●	●	Rock Pigeon* (i)	u,a
●	●	○	○	Band-tailed Pigeon*	d,c
○	○	○	○	Eurasian Collared-Dove (i)	u
<i>Recently established in region.</i>					
●	●	●	○	Mourning Dove*	a,r
●	●	○	○	Barn Owl*	a,g
●	○	○	○	Western Screech-Owl*	r,d,c,o
●	●	●	○	Great Horned Owl*	a,d,o
●	○	○	○	Northern Pygmy-Owl*	m,c
-	-	○	○	Burrowing Owl	g,a
○	-	○	○	Spotted Owl*	m,c
<i>Threatened; nests in old-growth forest.</i>					
●	○	-	-	Barred Owl*	d,c,r
-	-	-	○	Great Gray Owl	m,c
-	-	-	○	Long-eared Owl	r,w
○	○	○	○	Short-eared Owl*	w,a
<i>Rare local breeder.</i>					
●	○	○	○	Northern Saw-whet Owl*	c
○	○	○	○	Common Nighthawk*	m,p
<i>Declining species; nests in open habitats in mountains and on gravel bars along river.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Black Swift	m
<i>Waterfalls.</i>					
●	●	○	○	Vaux's Swift*	c,u
<i>Nests and roosts in hollow snags and chimneys.</i>					
-	-	○	○	Black-chinned Hummingbird	m,S
●	○	○	○	Anna's Hummingbird*	u,o
<i>Parks, gardens.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Calliope Hummingbird	m,S
<i>Regular but sparse spring migrant through E side of valley.</i>					
●	●	○	○	Rufous Hummingbird*	r,d,c,u
●	●	●	●	Belted Kingfisher*	p
○	○	○	○	Lewis's Woodpecker	o
●	●	●	●	Acorn Woodpecker*	o
<i>Local in stable colonies.</i>					

Sp	Su	F	W	Species	Habitat
●	●	●	●	Red-breasted Sapsucker*	r,d,c
●	●	●	○	Downy Woodpecker*	r,d,b
●	●	○	○	Hairy Woodpecker*	m,c
■	■	■	■	Northern Flicker*	d,c,r,o,u
<i>Red-shafted form resident; Yellow-shafted and intergrades occur in winter.</i>					
●	●	○	○	Pileated Woodpecker*	c,d,r
<i>Large-diameter snags.</i>					
●	●	○	○	Olive-sided Flycatcher*	m,c
<i>Perches in scattered tall trees above canopy.</i>					
●	■	○	○	Western Wood-Pewee*	o,r,d
●	○	○	○	Willow Flycatcher*	r,m
<i>Willow thickets, regenerating clearcuts.</i>					
●	○	○	○	Hammond's Flycatcher*	m,c
<i>Uses high perches in mature forests.</i>					
○	○	-	-	Dusky Flycatcher	r,o
●	●	○	○	Pacific-slope Flycatcher*	d,r,c
●	●	○	○	Black Phoebe*	o,r,S
<i>Near water in riparian edges.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Say's Phoebe	a,g
○	○	○	○	Ash-throated Flycatcher	o
○	○	○	○	Western Kingbird*	g,o,S
-	○	○	○	Eastern Kingbird*	g,C
<i>Has nested at Sandy River Delta.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Loggerhead Shrike	g
○	○	○	○	Northern Shrike	a,g,b
●	○	○	○	Cassin's Vireo*	r,d
●	○	○	○	Hutton's Vireo*	o,r
●	○	○	○	Warbling Vireo*	d,r
○	○	○	○	Red-eyed Vireo*	d,r
<i>Riparian gallery forest with tall cottonwoods.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Gray Jay*	m,c
■	■	■	■	Steller's Jay*	c,d
■	■	■	■	Western Scrub-Jay*	o,d
-	-	○	○	Clark's Nutcracker	m,c
■	■	■	■	American Crow*	a,u
●	●	●	○	Common Raven*	m,c,a
○	○	○	○	Horned Lark*	g
<i>Streaked Horned Lark is imperiled endemic subspecies; other subspecies occur in winter.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Purple Martin*	p,m,C,F
<i>Local near open water where nest boxes are provided; rare around clearcuts.</i>					
●	●	○	○	Tree Swallow*	c,d
●	■	○	○	Violet-green Swallow*	d,r,u
●	○	○	○	Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	o
<i>Nests in stream and river banks.</i>					
●	●	○	○	Cliff Swallow*	a
<i>Open areas near bridges, barns.</i>					
●	■	○	○	Barn Swallow*	a,u
■	■	■	■	Black-capped Chickadee*	d,o,r
●	●	●	○	Chestnut-backed Chickadee*	c
●	●	●	○	Bush-tit*	o,r,b
●	●	●	○	Red-breasted Nuthatch*	c
●	○	○	○	White-breasted Nuthatch*	o
●	○	○	○	Brown Creeper*	c,d
○	○	○	○	Rock Wren	m
<i>May nest rarely on rock outcrops and clearcuts.</i>					
●	●	●	○	Bewick's Wren*	r,b
●	○	○	○	House Wren*	o,r
●	○	○	○	Winter Wren*	c,d
<i>Pacific subspecies.</i>					

Sp	Su	F	W	Species	Habitat
●	●	○	○	Marsh Wren*	w
○	○	○	○	American Dipper*	m
<i>Fast-flowing streams and rivers.</i>					
●	○	○	○	Golden-crowned Kinglet*	c
●	○	○	○	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	d,r,b
○	○	○	○	Western Bluebird*	o,m
○	○	○	○	Mountain Bluebird	g,m
○	○	○	○	Townsend's Solitaire*	m
<i>Nests sparsely in forest openings.</i>					
●	■	○	○	Swainson's Thrush*	d,r,c
○	○	○	○	Hermit Thrush*	m,c,r
<i>Nests in higher mountains; winters in valley.</i>					
■	●	○	○	American Robin*	a,g,r,u
●	○	○	○	Varied Thrush*	c,d
<i>Some move from mountains into valley in winter.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Wrentit*	b
■	■	■	■	European Starling* (i)	u,a
○	○	○	○	American Pipit	a,p,m
<i>Fields and mudflats in winter; Coast Range peaks in migration.</i>					
●	■	○	○	Cedar Waxwing*	r
●	○	○	○	Orange-crowned Warbler*	r,d
○	○	○	○	Nashville Warbler*	o,S
○	○	○	○	Yellow Warbler*	r
●	○	○	○	Yellow-rumped Warbler*	c,d,r,a
<i>Audubon's form nests sparsely in Coast range; common along with Myrtle in winter.</i>					
●	○	○	○	Black-throated Gray Warbler*	o,d
○	○	○	○	Townsend's Warbler	m,c
○	○	○	○	Hermit Warbler*	m,c
○	○	○	○	MacGillivray's Warbler*	m,c,d
<i>Forests with dense understorey, regenerating clearcuts.</i>					
●	■	○	○	Common Yellowthroat*	b,w,a
●	○	○	○	Wilson's Warbler*	m,c,d,r
<i>Forests with dense understorey.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Yellow-breasted Chat*	b,r
●	○	○	○	Western Tanager*	c,d
●	○	○	○	Spotted Towhee*	r,b
○	○	○	○	Chipping Sparrow*	o,S
<i>Winters rarely in old filbert orchards.</i>					
-	-	○	○	Clay-colored Sparrow*	r,a,b
○	○	○	○	Brewer's Sparrow	g
○	○	○	○	Vesper Sparrow*	o,g,S
<i>Oregon subspecies is declining; found in open savanna and weedy Christmas tree farms.</i>					
○	○	○	○	Lark Sparrow	g,a
●	■	○	○	Savannah Sparrow*	a,g
○	○	○	○	Grasshopper Sparrow*	g,S
<i>Breeds locally near Brownsville, Fern Ridge, and Finley NWR</i>					
○	○	○	○	Fox Sparrow	b
<i>Sooty form is common in winter; other forms are rare.</i>					
■	○	○	○	Song Sparrow*	r,b
○	○	○	○	Lincoln's Sparrow	w,b
○	○	○	○	Swamp Sparrow	w
○	○	○	○	White-throated Sparrow	r,b
-	-	○	○	Harris's Sparrow	b
●	○	○	○	White-crowned Sparrow*	g,a,b,r
●	○	○	○	Golden-crowned Sparrow	r,b
■	○	○	○	Dark-eyed Junco*	c,d,o,b
○	○	○	○	Lapland Longspur	g,a
○	○	○	○	Snow Bunting	m,g,a

## Sp Su F W Species

Sp	Su	F	W	Species	Habitat
●	●	○		Black-headed Grosbeak*	r,d,o
●	●	○		Lazuli Bunting*	o,S
●	●	●	●	Red-winged Blackbird*	w,a
●	○	●	●	Western Meadowlark*	g,a
●	○	○	○	Yellow-headed Blackbird*	w
●	●	●	●	Brewer's Blackbird*	a,g,u
●	●	○	○	Brown-headed Cowbird*	r,a
●	●	○	○	Bullock's Oriole*	d,r
-	○	○	○	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	m
<i>Hepburn's form occurs on Coast Range peaks in winter.</i>					
●	●	●	●	Purple Finch*	r,d,c
●	●	●	●	House Finch*	r,u
●	●	●	●	Red Crossbill*	c
<i>Several types occur, separated by calls.</i>					
●	●	●	●	Pine Siskin*	m,c,d
<i>Flocks visit lowland feeders in fall.</i>					
●	●	●	●	Lesser Goldfinch*	o,S
●	●	●	●	American Goldfinch*	b,a,o,u
●	●	●	●	Evening Grosbeak*	m,c,d
<i>Flocks to big-leaf maples in spring.</i>					
●	●	●	●	House Sparrow* (i)	u,a



Hammond's Flycatcher  
PHOTO BY:  
STEPHEN PARSONS



The Important Bird Area (IBA) Program is a joint effort between the National Audubon Society and BirdLife International to identify a network of sites that provide critical habitat for birds. The IBA program recognizes that habitat loss and fragmentation are the most serious threats facing populations of birds around the world. Through partnerships, Audubon and BirdLife International identify places that are critical to birds during parts of their life cycle (breeding, wintering, feeding, and migrating). Through the designation of sites as IBAs, they hope to minimize the effects that loss and degradation of habitat can have on bird populations. An IBA may be just a few acres or thousands of acres, on public or private land, and protected or unprotected. The Audubon Society of Portland's IBA program identifies places in Oregon that are outstanding in their importance for birds, and encourages the continued health of bird habitat through the efforts of volunteers who raise awareness and carry out conservation and monitoring. There are more than 80 IBAs in Oregon, including 11 in the Willamette Valley. When you see the bird icon below a site description (🐦), that tells you that the site is an Oregon IBA.

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**Jane Hartline & Mark Greenfield**  
on behalf of Audubon Society of Portland  
www.audubonportland.org  
503.292.9453

**Lane County Audubon Society**  
www.laneaudubon.org  
541.485.BIRD

## Oregon Field Ornithologists

www.oregonbirds.org  
mail@oregonbirds.org

**Salem Audubon Society**  
audubons.qwestoffice.net  
503.588.7340

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,  
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www.fws.gov/WillametteValley/complex  
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www.lcog.org  
webupdates@lcog.org

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www.dfw.state.or.us  
800.720.ODFW

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