

A.E. Wilson Park Bird List 1985-2010

By H. D. (Sandy) Ayer and Brett Quiring

This list is the culmination of over 20 years of birding. The list began with Sandy Ayer who started observing birds in the park in 1985 and continued until he left Regina in 2003. Sandy visited the park about once a week for over fifteen years and he created the first list in 2000. The list was intended to supplement the article “The Joys of Urban Birding: Regina’s A. E. Wilson Park.” *The Blue Jay* 58 (December 2000): 168-77. Shortly after Sandy left, Brett Quiring moved into the area and began birding the park, with the help of the original checklist. Brett birds in the park several times a week every week of the year and has contributed the bulk of sightings from 2006 until 2010. Several observations were also added from other birders that visit the park on a less regular basis. Brett records all his observations for the park in public online birding database www.ebird.ca. A.E. Wilson Park is listed as a hotspot in the database and its records are open to the public. It is great tool to see what is currently in the park and allows others to contribute to growing data of bird populations in the park.

The checklist covers not only the park proper but also “LeConte’s Field,” the excellent chunk of grassland habitat at the western end of the park that is bounded by Dieppe neighbourhood on the south, Wascana Creek on the west and north, and the power lines on the east. Some observations are also from adjoining urban areas around the park.

In total 196 species birds have been observed in the park. The high number of birds is a testament to the good and varied habitat that exists in the park and makes the park one of the best areas of Regina for birding, outside Wascana Park. The best spots in the park are the islands in the west end of the park. These islands are meant to represent a prairie and boreal habit and attract many birds to stop over during migration, especially warblers and sparrows. The LeConte’s field also provides critical habitat for marsh birds, including nesting areas for the threatened Bobolink.

It is hoped that this checklist will encourage more birders to visit the park regularly and that it will stimulate local naturalists to ensure that the park and its environs are protected from any development that would harm wildlife.

Explanation of Symbols

SP

Spring

March to May

S	Summer	June to mid-August
F	Fall	mid-August to October
W	Winter	November to February
a	Abundant	Always Seen
c	Common	Usually Seen
u	Uncommon	Sometimes Seen
r	Rare	Not Seen Every Year
e	Extremely rare	2-3 records
ca	Casual	One record
acc	Accidental	Outside Normal Range
b	Confirmed Breeding	
b?	Likely Breeding	

Species	Sp	S	F	W	Notes
Common Loon	CA				May 2002
Pied-billed Grebe	C	U	C		
Horned Grebe	C		U		
Red-necked Grebe	R	R	E		
Eared Grebe	R		R		
Western Grebe	U	E	R		
Clark's Grebe	CA				May 4-9, 2002
American White Pelican	U	U	R		
Double-crested Cormorant	U	R	C		
American Bittern	E	E			Seen in 1985 & 2008
Great Blue Heron	R		R		
Black-crowned Night Heron	R		R		

Greater White-fronted Goose	E		E		
Snow Goose	U		U		
Ross Goose			CA		November 11, 2008 with a flock of Canada Geese
Cackling Goose			U		Often seen in November
Canada Goose	A	A	A	U	B
Tundra Swan	R		U		
Wood Duck	E		E		
Gadwall	C	C	C		B
American Widgeon	A	A	A		B
Mallard	A	A	A	R	B – stays over winter if open water is present
Blue-winged Teal	C	A	A		B
Northern Shoveler	A	C	C		B
Northern Pintail	U	R	R		B
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Canvasback	C	R	R		B
Redhead	C	E	U		
Ring-necked Duck	U		U		
Greater Scaup	R		R		
Lesser Scaup	C		U		
Surf Scoter			CA		October 9, 1984
Bufflehead	U		U		

Common Goldeneye	U		R		
Hooded Merganser	R	E	R		
Common Merganser	R				
Red-breasted Merganser	CA				April 1994
Ruddy Duck	U	E	R		
Turkey Vulture	E				April 2008
Osprey	R				
Bald Eagle			E		October 5, 2009
Northern Harrier	U	U	U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	E	
Cooper's Hawk	E	E	E		
Northern Goshawk				CA	
Broad-winged hawk	E		E		
Swainson's Hawk	U	U	U		Often breeds nearby
Red-tailed Hawk	U	R	U		
Rough-legged Hawk			CA		
American Kestrel	R	R	R		
Merlin	A	C	C		B
Peregrine Falcon			E		October 2007 and possible may 1999
Gray Partridge	U	U	U	C	B?
Sharp-tailed Grouse	U			C	

Sora	U		U		
American Coot	U		C		
Sandhill Crane	U		U		
Black-bellied Plover	CA				May 2002
Killdeer	C	C	C		B
American Avocet	U		R		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	U	C		B
Solitary Sandpiper	U				
Greater Yellowlegs		C	C		
Willet	C		U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U			
Upland Sandpiper		CA			August 12, 1997
Marbled Godwit	CA				May 11, 2002
Semipalmated Sandpiper	R				May 1996 and 2007
Long-billed Dowitcher			CA		August 24, 1994
Wilson's Snipe	U		U		
Wilson's Phalarope	E				
Bonaparte's Gull	CA				May 8, 2002
Franklin's Gull	U	U	U		
Ring-billed Gull	A	A	A		
California Gull	CA				March 21, 2008. Likely more common in spring, but very similar to Ring-billed Gull

Black Tern	U	U			
Common Tern	U		U		
Forster's Tern	C	U	C		
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	B Numbers dropping since 2007
Eurasian Collared Dove				CA	Seen twice in February 2008
Mourning Dove	C	A	C		B
Black-billed Cuckoo		CA			July 12, 2005
Great Horned Owl	E	E		E	
Snowy Owl	CA				April 30, 1993
Burrowing Owl					B Extirpated early 1980s
Short-eared Owl	R	R			
Common Nighthawk	E	E			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	R	E			
Belted Kingfisher	U		U		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U		
Downy Woodpecker	C	E	U	C	B?
Hairy Woodpecker	U		E	U	
Northern Flicker	C	C	A	C	B?
Olive-sided Flycatcher	E		R		
Western Wood-Pewee	E		E		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	CA				May, 2009

Alder Flycatcher	E				May 27, 2000
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		B
Eastern Phoebe	R		E		
Say's Phoebe	CA				May 6, 2000
Great Crested Flycatcher			CA		Sept, 7, 2010
Western Kingbird	C	C	C		B
Eastern Kingbird	C	A	C		B
Loggerhead Shrike	E	E	E		May have breed in 1988
Northern Shrike	R		R	E	
Blue-headed Vireo	E				
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		B
Philadelphia Vireo	CA				May 15, 1999
Red-eyed Vireo	U	R	U		
Blue Jay	E		E		
Black-billed Magpie	A	C	A	A	
American Crow	C	U	U	E	B?
Common Raven			E	U	First seen October 2007
Purple Martin	C	A	C		B
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		B
Bank Swallow	CA				
Barn Swallow	A	A	C		B

Cliff Swallow	R	R			
Black-capped Chickadee	U	E	U	U	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	A	U	A	A	B?
White-breasted Nuthatch	E			R	First pair seen winter 2009-2010
Brown Creeper	CA				Seen twice in March 2009
House Wren	C	C	C		B
Winter Wren	CA				September 30, 2000
Sedge Wren		U	U		B
Marsh Wren			R		
Golden-crowned Kinglet			U	E	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U		
Eastern Bluebird	E				
Mountain Bluebird	CA				March 27, 2010
Townsend's Solitaire	E			E	Up to four individuals seen between Dec 23, 2007 and April 1, 2008
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	C		U		
Hermit Thrush	U		U		
American Robin	A	A	A	R	B
Gray Catbird	U	C	C		B
Brown Thrasher	C	C	C		B
European Starling	E			E	

American Pipit			CA		
Bohemian Waxwing	C		R	C	Not seen every year
Cedar Waxwing	U	A	A		B
Tennessee Warbler	U		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C		
Nashville Warbler			CA		October 5, 1997
Yellow Warbler	C	A	A		B
Chestnut-sided Warbler	E		E		
Magnolia Warbler	R				
Cape May Warbler	E		E		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	A		A		
Palm Warbler	R		U		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		R		
Black-and-white Warbler	R		R		
American Redstart	U		U		
Ovenbird	R		R		
Northern Waterthrush	R		R		
Connecticut Warbler	E				May 22 , 2000 and May 26, 2008
Mourning Warbler	E				
Common Yellowthroat	C	A	A		B
Wilson's Warbler	R		R		

Spotted Towhee	R				
American Tree Sparrow	U		U		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		B
Clay-colored Sparrow	A	A	C		B
Vesper Sparrow	U		U		
Lark Sparrow	E				
Savannah Sparrow	U		U		
Le Conte's Sparrow	E	U	U		B Numbers falling since 2006
Nelson's Sparrow		CA			Heard July 28, 2008
Fox Sparrow	E		R		
Song Sparrow	A	C	C		B
Lincoln's Sparrow	C	E	C		
Swamp Sparrow			R		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Golden-crowned Sparrow	ACC				April 26-27 1998
Harris's Sparrow	C		C		
White-crowned Sparrow	C		A		
Dark-eyed Junco	A		A	U	
Rose-Breasted Gosbeak	U	E	U		
Bobolink	U	R	U		B?
Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A		B

Western Meadowlark	A	A	A		B
Yellow-headed Blackbird	R		R		
Rusty Blackbird			U		
Brewer's Blackbird	C	U	U		B
Common Grackle	A	A	C		B
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	R		B
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	U		B
Purple Finch	R		E		
House Finch	C	C	C	C	B First seen Sept 7, 1996
Red Crossbill	E		E		
White-winged Crossbill	R			U	
Common Redpoll			E	R	
Hoary Redpoll				E	A pair present in winter of 2006-2007
Pine Siskin	U	U	C		
American Goldfinch		C	C		B?
House Sparrow	A	A	A	A	B