

Birds

of Kamloops



by

Rick Howie











Checklist & Status

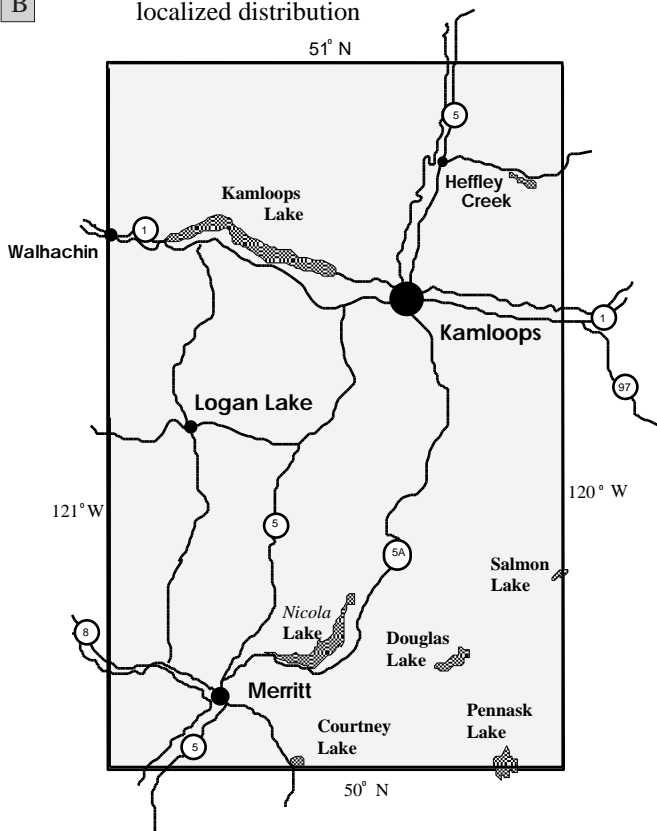
Birds of Kamloops
by
Rick Howie RP Bio

This checklist was created in 2004 prior to the taxonomic and name changes and the order of species as presented in the most recent American Ornithologists Union checklist for birds of North America. Since the Kamloops checklist was issued, 5 species have been added. They are Cackling Goose, Broad-winged Hawk, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared Dove and Eastern Phoebe. Convincing details or photographs were provided for the new species. Broad-tailed Hummingbird was added to the hypothetical list.

Pocket-sized, bound versions of the checklist are available (details provided at the end of the list). The author may be contacted at r.howie@shaw.ca

Species Status Symbols

	Abundant :	100+ individuals per day
	Common :	21-100 individuals per day
	Fairly Common :	6-20 individuals per day
	Uncommon :	0-5 individuals per day
	Rare :	0-5 individuals per season
	Casual :	seen more than once, not annual casual throughout period
	Accidental :	recorded once during the month
		has bred in checklist area
		probably breeds in checklist area
		localized distribution



SPECIES

Monthly Status

LOONS

Red-throated Loon	RTLO
Pacific Loon	PALO
Common Loon	COLO
Yellow-billed Loon	YBLO

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe	PBGR
Horned Grebe	HOGR
Red-necked Grebe	RNGR
Eared Grebe	EAGR
Western Grebe	WEGR
Clark's Grebe	CLGR

PELICANS to IBISES

American White Pelican	AWPE
Double-crested Cormorant	DCCO
American Bittern	AMBI
Great Blue Heron	GBHE
Great Egret	GREG
Cattle Egret	CAEG
Green Heron	GRHE
Black-crowned Night Heron	BCNH
Turkey Vulture	TUVU
White-faced Ibis	WFIB

GEESE & SWANS

Gt. White-fronted Goose	GWFG
Snow Goose	SNGO
Ross's Goose	ROGO
Canada Goose	CAGO
Brant	BRAN
Trumpeter Swan	TRUS
Tundra Swan	TUSW
Whooper Swan	WHSW

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SPECIES

Monthly Status

HAWKS to FALCONS

Osprey OSPR

Bald Eagle BAEA

Northern Harrier NOHA

Sharp-shinned Hawk SSHA

Cooper's Hawk COHA

Northern Goshawk NOGO

Swainson's Hawk SWHA

Red-tailed Hawk RTHA

Ferruginous Hawk FEHA

Rough-legged Hawk RLHA

Golden Eagle GOEA

American Kestrel AMKE

Merlin MERL

Gyrfalcon GYRF

Peregrine Falcon PEFA

Prairie Falcon PRFA

GROUSE to CRANES

Chukar (i) CHUK

Gray Partridge (i) GRPA

Ring-necked Pheasant (i) RNPH

Ruffed Grouse RUGR

Spruce Grouse SPGR

White-tailed Ptarmigan WTPT

Blue Grouse BLGR

Sharptailed Grouse STGR

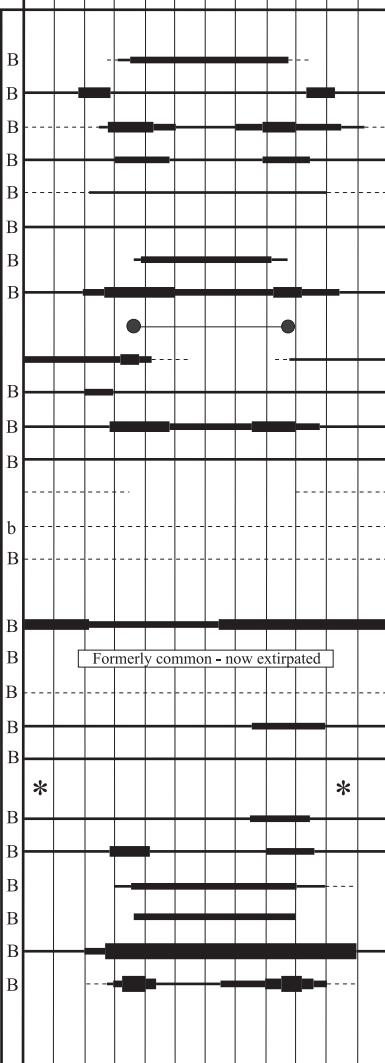
Virginia Rail VIRA

Sora SORA

American Coot AMCC

Sandhill Crane SACR

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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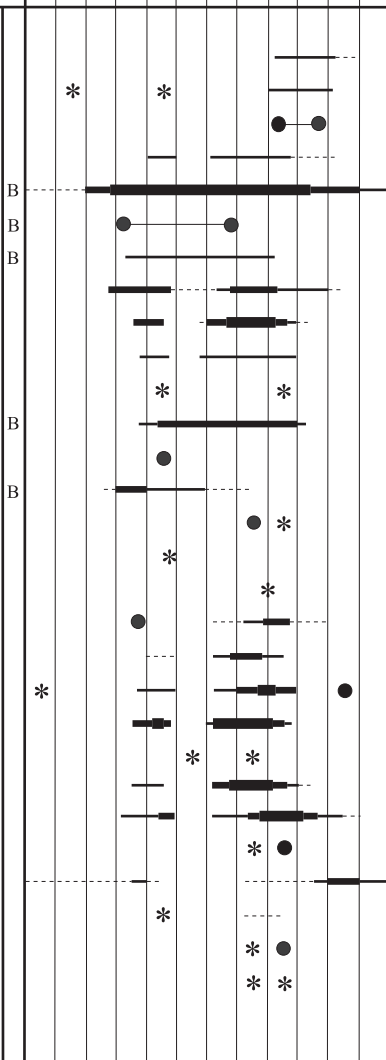
SPECIES

Monthly Status

PLOVERS to PHALAROPES

Black-bellied Plover	BBPL
American Golden Plover	AGPL
Pacific Golden Plover	PGPL
Semipalmated Plover	SEPL
Killdeer	KILL
Black-necked Stilt	BNST
American Avocet	AMAV
Greater Yellowlegs	GRYE
Lesser Yellowlegs	LEYE
Solitary Sandpiper	SOSA
Willet	WILL
Spotted Sandpiper	SPSA
Whimbrel	WHIM
Long-billed Curlew	LBCU
Ruddy Turnstone	RUTU
Black Turnstone	BLTU
Red Knot	REKN
Sanderling	SAND
Semipalmated Sandpiper	SESA
Western Sandpiper	WESA
Least Sandpiper	LESA
White-rumped Sandpiper	WRSA
Baird's Sandpiper	BASA
Pectoral Sandpiper	PESA
Sharptailed Sandpiper	SHSA
Dunlin	DUNL
Stilt Sandpiper	STSA
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	BBSA
Ruff	RUFF

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



SPECIES

Monthly Status

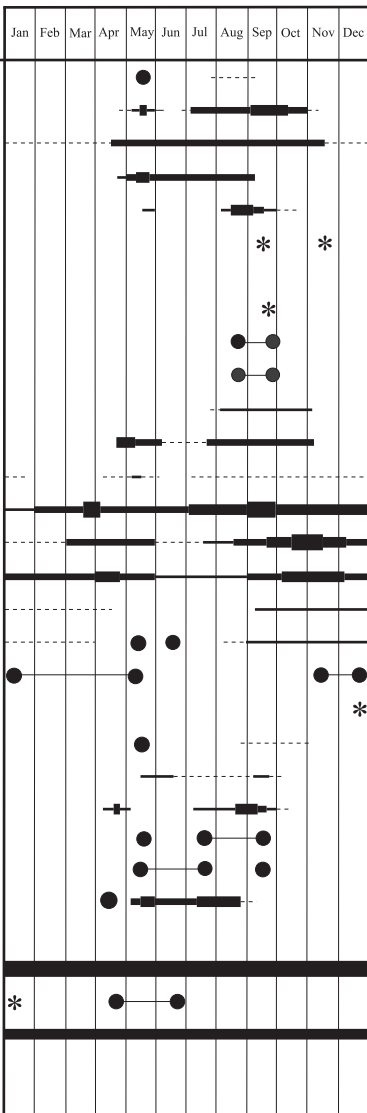
Short-billed Dowitcher	SBDO
Long-billed Dowitcher	LBDO
Common Snipe	COSN
Wilson's Phalarope	WIPH
Red-necked Phalarope	RNPL
Red Phalarope	REPH

GULLS & TERNS

Pomarine Jaeger	POJA
Parasitic Jaeger	PAJA
Long-tailed Jaeger	LTJA
Franklin's Gull	FRGU
Bonaparte's Gull	BOGU
Mew Gull	MEGU
Ring-billed Gull	RBGU
California Gull	CAGU
Herring Gull	HEGU
Thayer's Gull	THGU
Glaucous-winged Gull	GWGU
Glaucous Gull	GLGU
Great Black-backed Gull	GBGU
Sabine's Gull	SAGU
Caspian Tern	CATE
Common Tern	COTE
Arctic Tern	ARTE
Forster's Tern	FOTE
Black Tern	BLTE

DOVES to CUCKOOS

Rock Dove (i)	RODO
Band-tailed Pigeon	BTPI
Mourning Dove	MODO



SPECIES

Monthly Status

[illegible]

SPECIES

Monthly Status

JAYS & CROWS

Gray Jay	GRJA
Steller's Jay	STJA
Blue Jay	BLJA
Clark's Nutcracker	CLNU
Black-billed Magpie	BBMA
American Crow	AMCR
Common Raven	CORA

LARKS & SWALLOWS

Horned Lark	HOLA
Tree Swallow	TRSW
Violet-green Swallow	VGSW
N. Rough-winged Swallow	NRWS
Bank Swallow	BKSW
Cliff Swallow	CLSW
Barn Swallow	BASW

CHICKADEES to DIPPERS

Black-capped Chickadee	BCCH
Mountain Chickadee	MOCH
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	CBCH
Boreal Chickadee	BOCH
Red-breasted Nuthatch	RBNU
White-breasted Nuthatch	WBNU
Pygmy Nuthatch	PYNU
Brown Creeper	BRCR
Rock Wren	ROWR
Canyon Wren	CAWR
House Wren	HOWR
Winter Wren	WIWR
Marsh Wren	MAWR
American Dipper	AMDI

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SPECIES

Monthly Status

KINGLETS to THRUSHES

Golden-crowned Kinglet	GCKI
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	RCKI
Western Bluebird	WEBL
Mountain Bluebird	MOBL
Townsend's Solitaire	TOSO
Veery	VEER
Swainson's Thrush	SWTH
Hermit Thrush	HETH
American Robin	AMRO
Varied Thrush	VATH
Gray Catbird	GRCA
Northern Mockingbird	NOMO
Sage Thrasher	SATH

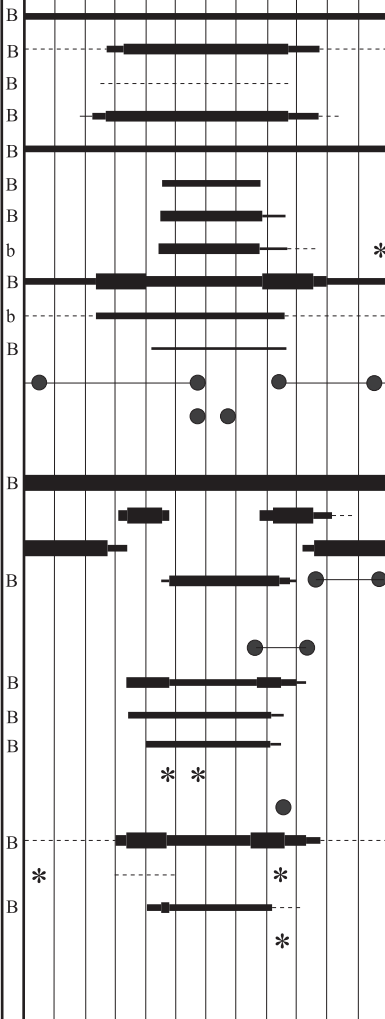
STARLINGS to WAXWINGS

European Starling	EUST
American Pipit	AMPI
Bohemian Waxwing	BOWA
Cedar Waxwing	CEWA

WOOD-WARBLEDERS

Tennessee Warbler	TEWA
Orange-crowned Warbler	OCWA
Nashville Warbler	NAWA
Yellow Warbler	YEWA
Chestnut-sided Warbler	CSWA
Magnolia Warbler	MAWA
Yellow-rumped Warbler <small>Audubon's</small>	YRWA
Yellow-rumped Warbler <small>Myrtle</small>	YRWA
Townsend's Warbler	TOWA
Black & White Warbler	BWWA

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



SPECIES

Monthly Status

			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
American Redstart	AMRE	b					-----							
Ovenbird	OVEN						*							
Northern Waterthrush	NOWA	b					-----							
MacGillivray's Warbler	MGWA	B					=====						*	
Common Yellowthroat	COYE	B					=====					*	*	
Wilson's Warbler	WIWA	B					=====							
Yellow-breasted Chat	YBCH								*					
TANAGERS to BUNTINGS														
Western Tanager	WETA	B					=====							●
Spotted Towhee	SPTO	B					=====							
American Tree Sparrow	ATSP													
Chipping Sparrow	CHSP	B *					=====							*
Clay-colored Sparrow	CCSP	b					-----							*
Brewer's Sparrow	BRSP	b					-----							
Vesper Sparrow	VESP	B					=====							
Lark Sparrow	LASP	B					-----							
Savannah Sparrow	SASP	B					=====							
Grasshopper Sparrow	GRSP	B						●						
Fox Sparrow	FOSP						-----							
Song Sparrow	SOSP	B					=====							
Lincoln's Sparrow	LISP	b					=====							
Swamp Sparrow	SWSP	*											*	
White-throated Sparrow	WTSP						-----							
Harris's Sparrow	HASP						-----							
White-crowned Sparrow	WCSP						=====							
Golden-crowned Sparrow	GCSP						-----							
Dark-eyed Junco	DEJU	B					=====							
Dark-eyed Junco	DEJU						-----							
Lapland Longspur	LALO						=====							
Snow Bunting	SNBU						=====							

SPECIES

Monthly Status

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	RBGR	B
Black-headed Grosbeak	BHGR	B
Lazuli Bunting	LABU	B
Indigo Bunting	INBU	B
BLACKBIRDS to FINCHES		
Bobolink	BOBO	B
Red-winged Blackbird	RWBL	B
Western Meadowlark	WEME	B
Yellow-headed Blackbird	YHBL	B
Rusty Blackbird	RUBL	B
Brewer's Blackbird	BRBL	B
Common Grackle	COGR	*
Brown-headed Cowbird	BHCO	B
Bullock's Oriole	BUOR	B
Brambling	BRAM	*
Gray- crowned Rosy Finch	GCRF	
Pine Grosbeak	PIGR	b
Purple Finch	PUFI	*
Cassin's Finch	CAFI	B
House Finch	HOFI	B
Red Crossbill	RECR	B
White-winged Crossbill	WWCR	B
Common Redpoll	CORE	
Hoary Redpoll	HORE	
Pine Siskin	PISI	B
American Goldfinch	AMGO	B
Evening Grosbeak	EVGR	B
House Sparrow	HOSP	B

Hypothetical Species

The following species have been reported but with insufficient details to confirm the sighting. However they are listed here in case the author incorrectly evaluated the observations.

Smew, Whooping Crane, Upland Sandpiper, White-headed Woodpecker, Hutton's Vireo, Bewick's Wren, LeConte's Sparrow.

Exotic Species

The following species have been observed but are undoubtedly escapes from captivity or were intentional introductions that have not established breeding populations.

Mute Swan, Mandarin Duck, Wild Turkey, California Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Ringed Turtle Dove.

Birdwatching Hotspots

These are a few locations favoured by birdwatchers in this area. A topographic or good road map should allow you to find these spots.

Tranquille Wildlife Management Area, Paul Creek drainage, Rose Hill - Knutsford area, Greenstone Mountain, the lake chain along Hwy. 5A to Merritt, Lindley Creek Road west of Merritt, Douglas Plateau, Beaver Ranch Flats wetland project on Guichon Ranch along Hwy. 5A & Lac du Bois Provincial Park. The many logging roads into the plateau area north of Kamloops can be very good as can the drive to Chase along the north side of the South Thompson River, especially during the winter.

Birding Etiquette

There are large ranches, private holdings and logging operations throughout the area. Please respect property, leave cattle gates as you find them and seek permission to visit private lands. Heed warning signs on logging roads and travel with care. Pull well off to the side and do not park on blind curves when stopping.

Birdwatching Dates of Interest

Special activities organized by the Kamloops Naturalists Club are open to the public, so watch newspapers for specific dates.

Guided trips - April to mid-July, September - October

Annual swan & eagle count - mid - January along South Thompson River

Christmas Bird Count - Dec. 15- 30 period

March 1 - early Robins are back & first Bluebirds may arrive, owls nesting

March 15 - first swallows should be back, Blackbirds active in marshes

April 18-25 - peak of Sandhill Crane migration through Knutsford

Mid-August - southbound migration of songbirds in full swing

Mid-October - arrival of winter visitors such as swans, Bohemian Waxwings

Notes

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

Weather _____

Observers _____

Daily Totals Species _____ Individuals _____

Sightings Welcomed

Persons wishing to add to the database for Kamloops birds and to improve the next edition of this checklist should contact :

Rick Howie 4898 Spuraway Road, Kamloops, BC, V2H 1M6

or

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Acknowledgements

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Technical assistance with the use of computer programs was provided by Murphy Shewchuck and Chuck Bishop.

Earlier versions of a Kamloops Checklist by Tom Jacobson provided a sound basis for this current version. Encouragement by the Kamloops Naturalists Club has always been appreciated.

Cover Photos

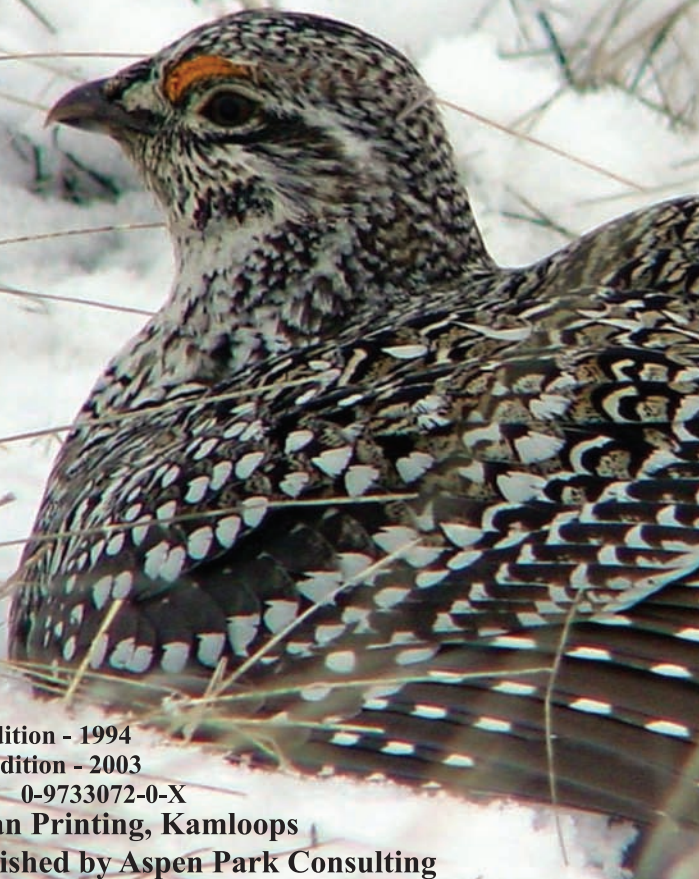
The Black-necked Stilt is a rare visitor to this area, but nested for the first time in British Columbia at Kamloops in 2002. The Sharptailed Grouse is a symbolic resident of the interior grasslands.

Both were photographed by Bob Scheer of Kamloops.

Symbol of the Grasslands

The Sharptailed Grouse undertakes exciting courtship dancing and displays on traditional gathering sites in the grasslands called "leks." From mid-March through mid-May, their rythmical drumming of the ground can be heard as the day dawns and most of us are still enjoying pillow time.

Without healthy grasslands, special birds like these may vanish forever.



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