

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF IONA ISLAND, RICHMOND BC

February 1, 2011 Edition: Version 3

compiled by Rick Toochin

Comments? Contact E-Fauna BC

Iona Island, located just north of Sea Island and the Vancouver International Airport, has long been recognized across North America as one of the best places to study shorebirds. The riverbank, Fraser River tidal flat, marsh, grassland and beach habitats attract a wide range of bird species, including many rare and vagrant species.

Area Covered

The checklist area includes Iona Beach Regional Park, a 114 hectare Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) park flanked by the intertidal foreshore. The checklist area is all of Iona Island including the immediate waters around the Iona South (often called the "West") Jetty, the North Arm Jetty, a portion of the North Arm of the Fraser River, McDonald Slough, and the Iona-Sea Island Causeway which joins Iona and Sea Islands. The checklist area does not include Sea Island.

Area Map

For more information on this area and for a map of Iona Beach Regional Park, contact the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department in writing (4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4G8) or by phone at (604) 432-6350.

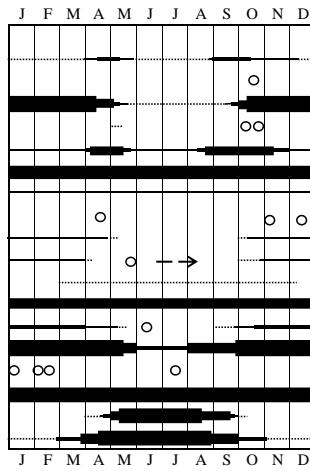
Report Rare Bird Sightings

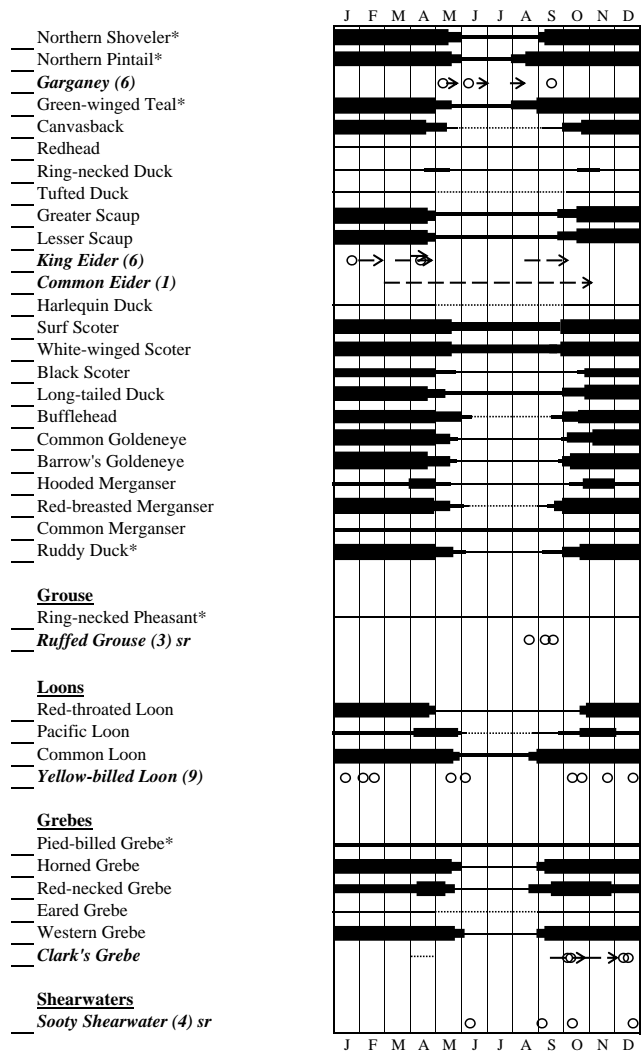
Please record all sightings for species that are out-of-season, that are written in italics or are new for the checklist area in the sighting log book located near the entrance to the park.

Key:		Common: 25+ seen or heard daily
		Fairly common: 5-25 seen/heard daily
		Uncommon: 0-5 seen or heard daily
		Rare: 1-10 records per year
		Casual: not seen every year (2-10 records)
	○	Accidental: single sighting of species (1-4 days)
	- - - - ->	Accidental: duration of stay (5+ days)
	[X]	Extirpated: once a resident but no longer found in checklist area
	*	Known to nest in checklist area
	(#)	The total number of documented sightings in checklist area of a casual or accidental species
	sr	sight record either by a single observer or not photographed but documented by a written description

Italicized species are not seen every year.

- Geese, Swans & Ducks**
- Greater White-fronted Goose
 - *Emperor Goose (1) sr*
 - Snow Goose
 - *Ross' Goose (4)*
 - Cackling Goose
 - Canada Goose*
 - Brant
 - *Mute Swan (3)*
 - Trumpeter Swan
 - Tundra Swan
 - **Wood Duck**
 - Gadwall*
 - Eurasian Wigeon
 - American Wigeon*
 - *American Black Duck (4)*
 - Mallard*
 - Blue-winged Teal*
 - Cinnamon Teal*





Storm-Petrels
 ___ *Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (2) sr*

Pelicans
 ___ *American White Pelican*
 ___ *Brown Pelican*

Cormorants
 ___ Brand's Cormorant
 ___ Double-crested Cormorant*
 ___ Pelagic Cormorant

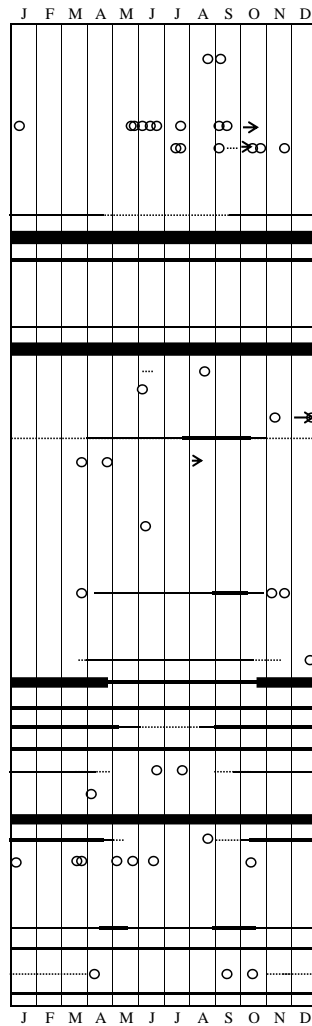
Bitterns & Herons
 ___ American Bittern*
 ___ Great Blue Heron
 ___ *Great Egret (3)*
 ___ *Snowy Egret (1) sr*
 ___ *Cattle Egret (3)*
 ___ Green Heron
 ___ *Black-crowned Night-Heron (3)*

Ibises
 ___ *White-faced Ibis (1) sr*

Vultures
 ___ Turkey Vulture

Raptors
 ___ Osprey
 ___ Bald Eagle
 ___ Northern Harrier*
 ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk
 ___ Cooper's Hawk*
 ___ Northern Goshawk
 ___ *Swainson's Hawk (1) sr*
 ___ Red-tailed Hawk*
 ___ Rough-legged Hawk
 ___ *Golden Eagle (7)*

Falcons
 ___ American Kestrel
 ___ Merlin
 ___ *Gyr Falcon*
 ___ Peregrine Falcon



Rails & Coots

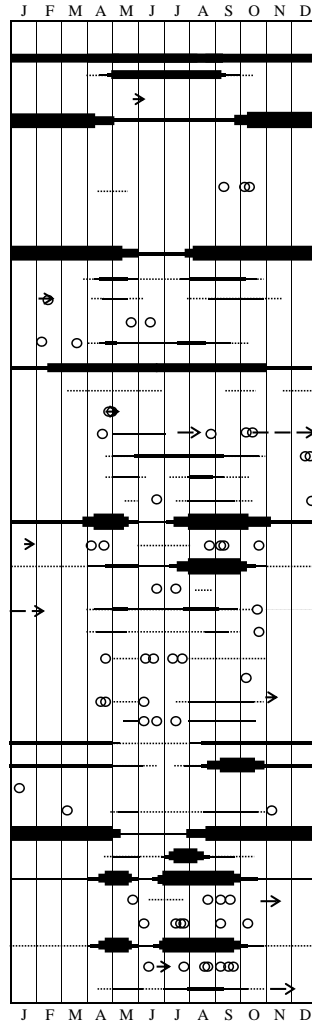
- Virginia Rail*
- Sora*
- **Common Moorhen (1)**
- American Coot*

Cranes

- **Sandhill Crane**

Shorebirds

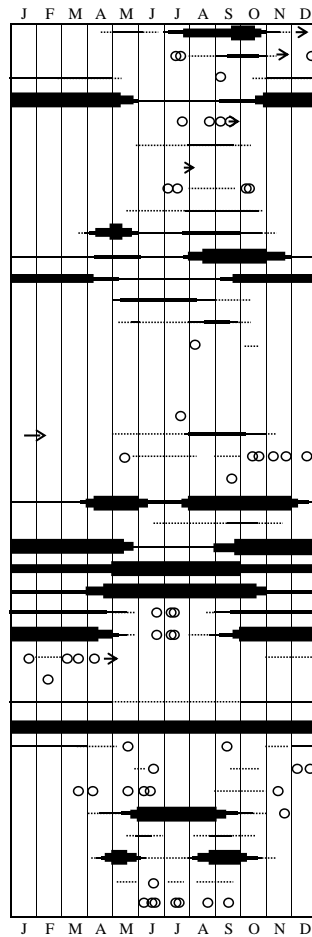
- Black-bellied Plover
- American Golden-Plover
- Pacific Golden-Plover
- **Snowy Plover (2)**
- Semipalmated Plover*
- Killdeer*
- **Black Oystercatcher**
- **Black-necked Stilt (3)**
- **American Avocet**
- Spotted Sandpiper*
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Wandering Tattler
- Greater Yellowlegs
- **Willet**
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- **Upland Sandpiper (6)**
- Whimbrel
- Long-billed Curlew
- **Hudsonian Godwit**
- **Bar-tailed Godwit (1) sr**
- Marbled Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Black Turnstone
- Surfbird
- **Great Knot (1) sr**
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- **Red-necked Stint**
- **Little Stint (6)**
- Least Sandpiper
- **White-rumped Sandpiper (8)**
- Baird's Sandpiper



- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Rock Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- **Curlew Sandpiper (5)**
- Stilt Sandpiper
- **Spoon-billed Sandpiper (1)**
- **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**
- Ruff
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Wilson's Snipe
- Wilson's Phalarope*
- Red-necked Phalarope
- **Red Phalarope (4)**

Gulls & Terns

- **Laughing Gull (1) sr**
- Franklin's Gull
- **Little Gull**
- **Black-headed Gull (1)**
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Heermann's Gull
- Mew Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- California Gull
- Herring Gull
- Thayer's Gull
- **Iceland Gull**
- **Slaty-backed Gull (1) sr**
- Western Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull*
- Glaucous Gull
- **Sabine's Gull**
- **Black-legged Kittiwake**
- Caspian Tern*
- Black Tern
- Common Tern
- **Arctic Tern**
- **Forster's Tern (7)**



- Jaegers**
- *Pomarine Jaeger*
- Parasitic Jaeger
- *Long-tailed Jaeger (9)*

- Alcids**
- Common Murre
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Marbled Murrelet
- Ancient Murrelet
- *Cassin's Auklet (1) sr*
- Rhinoceros Auklet
- *Tufted Puffin (1) sr*

- Doves & Pigeons**
- Rock Pigeon*
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- *Eurasian Collared-Dove (2)*
- Mourning Dove

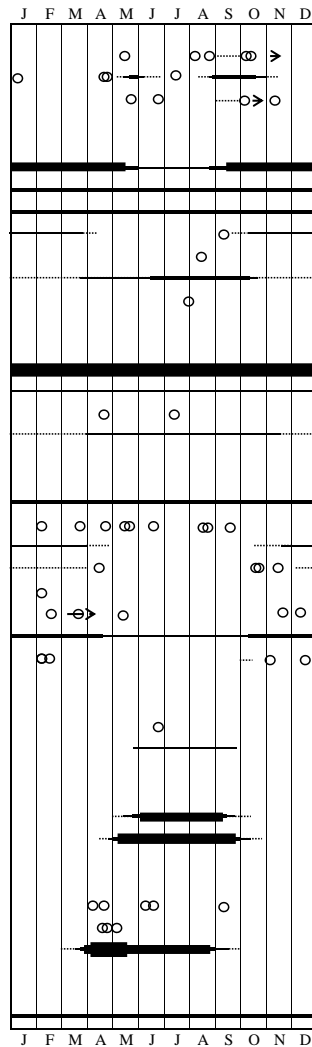
- Owls**
- Barn Owl*
- *Great Horned Owl (9)*
- Snowy Owl
- *Burrowing Owl (7)*
- *Barred Owl (1)*
- *Long-eared Owl (7)*
- Short-eared Owl
- *Northern Saw-whet Owl (6)*

- Goatsuckers**
- *Lesser Nighthawk (1)*
- Common Nighthawk*

- Swifts**
- Black Swift
- Vaux's Swift

- Hummingbirds**
- *Anna's Hummingbird (5)*
- *Calliope Hummingbird (3)*
- Rufous Hummingbird*

- Kingfishers**
- Belted Kingfisher*



- Woodpeckers**
 — *Red-breasted Sapsucker* (2)
 — Downy Woodpecker*
 — *Hairy Woodpecker* (8)
 — Northern Flicker
 — *Pileated Woodpecker* (6)

- Flycatchers**
 — Olive-sided Flycatcher
 — Western Wood-Pewee
 — *Alder Flycatcher* (2)
 — Willow Flycatcher*
 — *Least Flycatcher* (4)
 — Hammond's Flycatcher
 — *Dusky Flycatcher* (4)
 — Pacific-slope Flycatcher
 — *Black Phoebe* (1)
 — *Say's Phoebe*
 — *Ash-throated Flycatcher* (2)
 — *Tropical Kingbird* (1)
 — Western Kingbird
 — Eastern Kingbird
 — *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* (1)

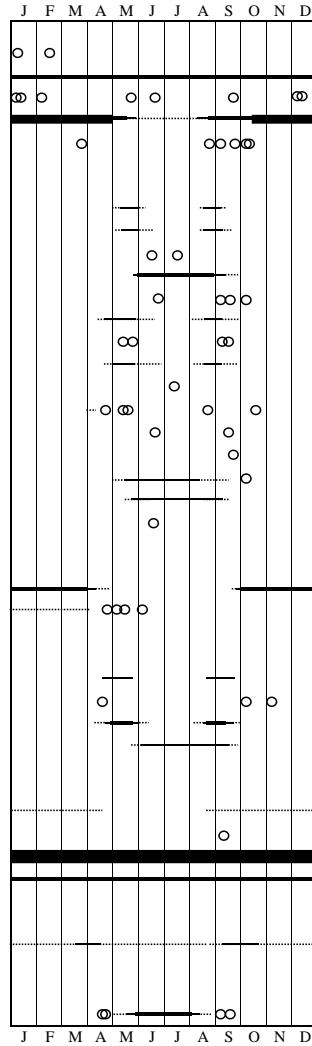
- Shrikes**
 — Northern Shrike
 — *Loggerhead Shrike* (6)

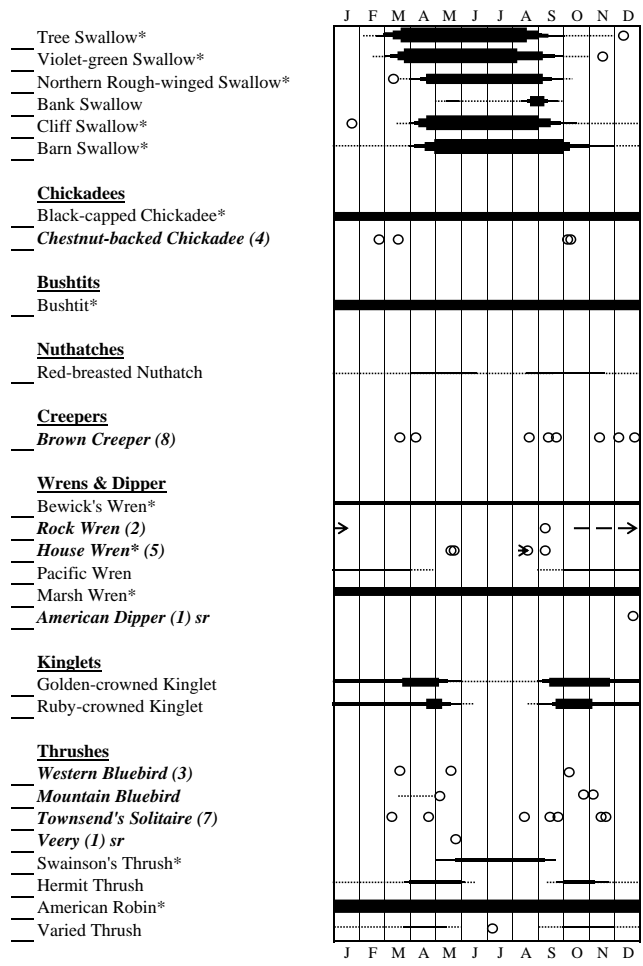
- Vireos**
 — Cassin's Vireo
 — *Hutton's Vireo* (3)
 — Warbling Vireo
 — Red-eyed Vireo

- Corvids**
 — *Steller's Jay*
 — *Black-billed Magpie* (1)
 — Northwestern Crow*
 — Common Raven

- Larks**
 — Horned Lark*

- Swallows**
 — Purple Martin*





- Mimic Thrushes**
- *Gray Catbird (1)*
- *Northern Mockingbird (1)*
- *Sage Thrasher (2)*

- Starlings**
- European Starling*
- *Crested Myna* (X)*

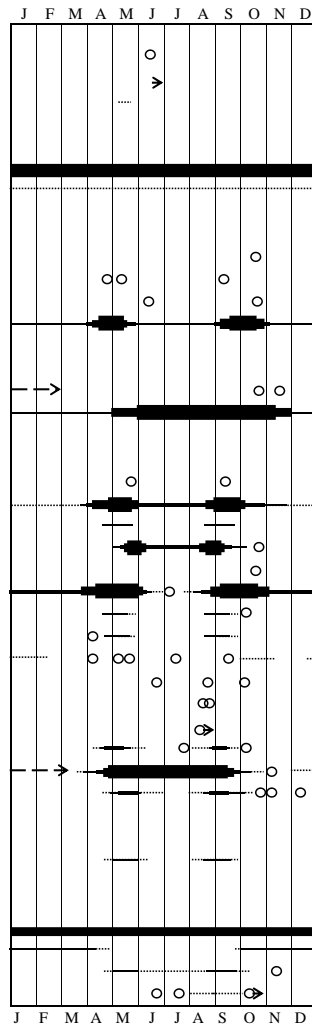
- Wagtails & Pipits**
- *Eastern Yellow Wagtail (1) sr*
- *White Wagtail (3) sr*
- *Red-throated Pipit (2) sr*
- American Pipit

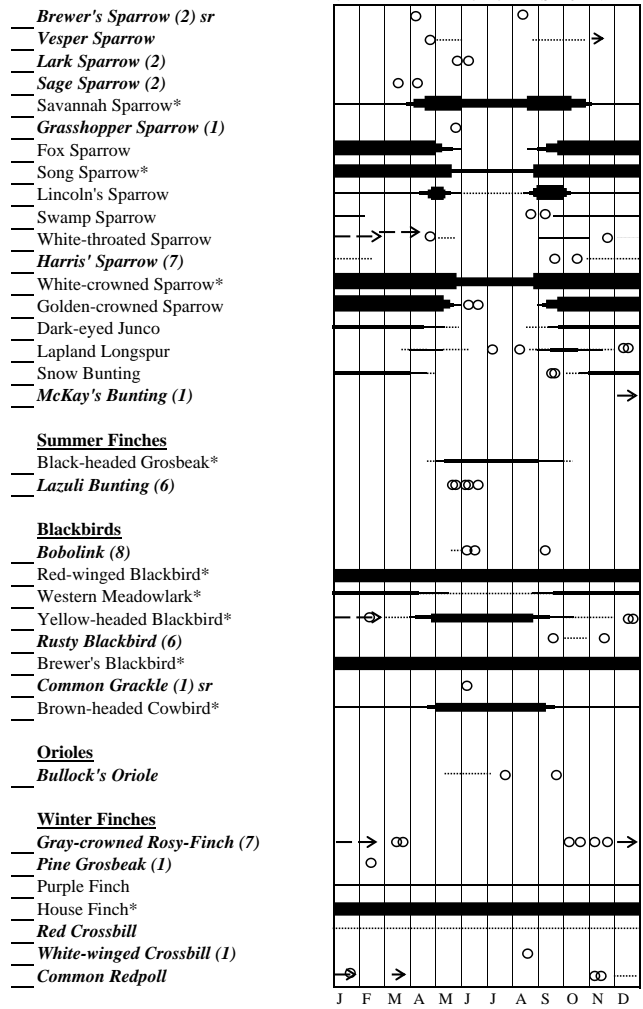
- Waxwings**
- *Bohemian Waxwing (3)*
- Cedar Waxwing*

- Warblers**
- *Tennessee Warbler (2) sr*
- Orange-crowned Warbler*
- Nashville Warbler
- Yellow Warbler*
- *Black-throated Blue Warbler (1)sr*
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Townsend's Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- *Blackpoll Warbler (3)*
- *American Redstart (2)*
- *Northern Waterthrush (2)*
- MacGillivray's Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat*
- Wilson's Warbler

- Tanagers**
- Western Tanager

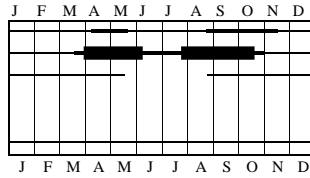
- Sparrows**
- Spotted Towhee*
- American Tree Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow*
- *Clay-colored Sparrow*





Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch*
 Evening Grosbeak

Old World Sparrows
 House Sparrow*



Total: 321 species, including 67 breeding species and 119 species seen less than once per year.

Observer _____

Date and Time _____

Locality _____

Notes _____

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank all past and present members of the VNHS. The checklist would not have been possible without the help of Tom Brown, R. Wayne Campbell, Richard Cannings, Larry Cowan, Kyle Elliott, GVRD Parks West Area Staff, Tom Plath, John and Mike Toochn. A special thanks is given to the management and staff of the Iona Island Sewage Treatment Plant for their kindness in allowing birders to have access to the sewage ponds for over thirty years.

Iona Island Access:

Refer to a detailed Vancouver and area road map.

From Richmond: From Bridgeport Rd. westbound, travel over the new one way Bridge onto Miller Rd. Proceed straight towards the Airport. Turn right at Templeton St. and proceed straight onto Grauer Rd. Follow the GVRD signs to Iona Beach Regional Park.

From Vancouver: Travel southbound over the Arthur Laing Bridge towards the Airport on Grant McConachie Way. At Templeton St. turn right and proceed straight on Grauer Rd. Follow the GVRD signs to Iona Beach Regional Park.

From Surrey/White Rock/North Delta: Take Highway 91 northbound, cross the Alex Fraser Bridge and turn left at the Richmond exit. Travel along this "Richmond Connector" to the Hwy 99 exit, turn right and travel north-bound on Hwy 99 to the Bridgeport Rd. exit. At the lights turn left on Bridgeport Rd. travelling over the new one way Bridge onto Miller Rd. Proceed to Templeton St and turn right. Head straight on Templeton St. and proceed across Grant McConachie Way onto Grauer Rd. From here follow the GVRD signs to Iona Beach Regional Park.