

	s	S	F	W	Habitat
Kinglets					
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r		u	o	W
Thrushes					
___ Eastern Bluebird*	o		o		PW
___ Western Bluebird*	o		o		PW
___ Mountain Bluebird	r		o		MPW
___ Townsend's Solitaire	o		o	o	W
___ Swainson's Thrush	r		r		W
___ Hermit Thrush	r		r		W
___ American Robin	a	a	a	a	PWO
Mimids					
___ Gray Catbird	o		o		W
___ Brown Thrasher	o		o		W
___ Sage Thrasher			o		P
___ Northern Mockingbird	o		o		P
Starlings					
___ European Starling	a	a	a		W
Nightjars					
___ Common Nighthawk*			o		O
___ Common Poorwill*	o				PW
Wood-warblers					
___ Ovenbird	o		o		W
___ Worm-eating Warbler*	o		o		W
___ Northern Waterthrush	o		o		CM
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u		W
___ Nashville Warbler*			o		W
___ Virginia's Warbler	o		o		W
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	o		o		MW
___ Common Yellowthroat	u	r	u		M
___ American Redstart	o		o		W
___ Northern Parula*	o		o		W
___ Magnolia Warbler*	o				MW
___ Yellow Warbler	c	c	c		W
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler*			o		W
___ Blackpoll Warbler	o		o		W
___ Palm Warbler*	o				MW
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	o	W
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler*			o		W
___ Townsend's Warbler*	o		o		W
___ Wilson's Warbler	r		u		W
Blackbirds					
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	r	r	r		M
___ Western Meadowlark	c	u	u	o	P
___ Orchard Oriole*	o	o			W
___ Bullock's Oriole	u	u	r		W
___ Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	a	c	MPW
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	u	u	u	o	W
___ Brewer's Blackbird	r	u	r	o	MPW
___ Common Grackle	a	a	c		LCWO
___ Great-tailed Grackle	o	o	o	o	MPW
Finches, Euphonias, & Allies					
___ House Finch	c	c	c	c	PWO
___ Pine Siskin*	o		o	o	W
___ Lesser Goldfinch	o	o	o		PW
___ American Goldfinch	c	c	c	u	PW

	s	S	F	W	Habitat
New World Sparrows					
___ Chipping Sparrow	u	r	c		PW
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	r		r		PW
___ Field Sparrow*			o		P
___ Brewer's Sparrow	u		u		P
___ Lark Sparrow	u	u	u		P
___ Lark Bunting	u	u	u		P
___ American Tree Sparrow	r		r	u	PW
___ Dark-eyed Junco	c	c	c	u	W
___ White-crowned Sparrow	c	c	c	c	PW
___ Golden-crowned Sparrow*	o		o	o	P
___ Harris's Sparrow*	o		o	o	PW
___ White-throated Sparrow*	o				MPW
___ Vesper Sparrow	u	u	u		P
___ Savannah Sparrow	u	r	u		P
___ Song Sparrow	c	c	c	u	CMW
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	o	CMW
___ Swamp Sparrow	o		o	o	CM
___ Green-tailed Towhee	o		o		W
___ Spotted Towhee	r	o	r	r	W
Old World Sparrows					
___ House Sparrow	u	c	u	o	W
Tanagers, Grosbeaks, & Allies					
___ Western Tanager	r		r		W
___ Black-headed Grosbeak*	r	o	r		W
___ Blue Grosbeak	r	r	r		P
___ Lazuli Bunting	o		o		MPW
___ Indigo Bunting*			o		P
Dippers					
___ American Dipper*				o	C
Yellow-breasted Chat					
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	r		r		W
Cranes					
___ Sandhill Crane*	r		r		O
Grouse, Quail, & Allies					
___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	o	o	o	o	PW
___ Wild Turkey*	o	o	o	o	PW
Pipits					
___ American Pipit	o		o	o	LCMP
Waxwings					
___ Cedar Waxwing	r		r	r	CW
***63 NEW BIRD SPECIES SPOTTED SINCE 2016					
In 2016, Bluff Lake completed a Lake Restoration Project which has resulted in Bluff Lake holding water year round. This has provided more habitats for waterfowl and overall has diversified and increased the wildlife who call Bluff Lake home. 63 new species of birds have been seen at Bluff Lake since 2016. These birds are marked with an asterisk on this list.					



Bald Eagles Photo by George Ho

WELCOME TO BLUFF LAKE NATURE CENTER, an urban wildlife refuge and outdoor classroom located in northeast Denver!

Bluff Lake's 123 acres, perfectly positioned along Sand Creek, protect a rare crossroads of habitats, providing a sanctuary for birds and birdwatchers alike. Make your way through some of the last shortgrass prairies in the metro area, explore riparian woodlands, look out across one of the most extensive cattail marshes in Denver, and enjoy close views of the lake itself. Birds abound in every habitat, and each season brings special birdwatching opportunities.

Updated
Spring 2021

www.blufflake.org

11255 E. MLK Jr Blvd
Denver, CO 80238

Open sunrise to
sunset every day

Free to the public
No dogs - No bikes



CHECKLIST OF THE

BIRDS OF BLUFF LAKE NATURE CENTER



Great Horned Owl Photo by Fred Hernandez III

OBSERVERS:

DATE:

WEATHER:

As a birdwatcher, you provide invaluable information on the habits and distribution of Bluff Lake's wildlife. We would love to hear what you have seen!

Submit your sightings online at eBird.com or email to info@blufflake.org.

BLUFFLAKE.ORG/BIRDWATCHING/

THIS CHECKLIST INCLUDES THE 218 BIRD SPECIES that have been recorded at Bluff Lake Nature Center to date. This total makes Bluff Lake one of the best publicly accessible birdwatching sites in Denver County. Some species are abundant year-round; others have only been seen once. Many more might be added to the list by the intrepid birdwatcher – will you see the 219th species?

Use this checklist along with your binoculars and a field guide to identify birds at Bluff Lake. Rarity codes tell how likely it is for a species to be present in a given season. Habitat codes tell where each species is likely to be seen. As you walk, make note of a bird's behavior, shape, coloration, and voice. Sketch or take photographs. Use a combination of your observations and the information in a field guide to identify the birds that you discover here.

HABITAT CODES SEASON CODES

- L** - Bluff Lake **s** - Spring
- C** - Sand Creek **S** - Summer
- M** - Cattail Marsh **F** - Fall
- P** - Shortgrass Prairie **W** - Winter
- W** - Riparian Woods
- O** - Flying Overhead

RARITY CODES

- a** - Abundant (a common species which is numerous)
- c** - Common (likely to be seen in suitable habitat)
- u** - Uncommon (might be seen in suitable habitat)
- r** - Rare (not always seen in a season)
- o** - Occasional (extraordinary; only one or two records)

Notes and Sketches

	s	S	F	W	Habitat
Waterfowl					
___ Snow Goose				o	LO
___ Ross's Goose*				o	C
___ Greater White-fronted Goose*				o	LO
___ Brant*	r		r	o	LCO
___ Cackling Goose	c	c	c	u	LCO
___ Canada Goose	u	u	u	a	LCO
___ Wood Duck	c	u	c	u	L
___ Blue-winged Teal	c	u	c		LC
___ Cinnamon Teal	c		c		LC
___ Green-winged Teal	c		c	c	LC
___ Northern Shoveler	c	u	c	c	LC
___ Gadwall	u		u	c	LC
___ American Widgeon	a	a	a	u	LC
___ Mallard	o	o	o	a	LC
___ Northern Pintail	o			o	LC
___ Canvasback*	u		r	r	L
___ Redhead	u		u	r	L
___ Ring-necked Duck	o			u	LC
___ Greater Scaup*	u		u	r	L
___ Lesser Scaup	u		u	u	LC
___ Bufflehead	u		u	u	LC
___ Common Goldeneye	u		u	u	LC
___ Hooded Merganser	u		r	u	LC
___ Common Merganser	o			r	LC
___ Red-breasted Merganser*	u		u	r	L
___ Ruddy Duck				o	L
Loons & Grebes					
___ Pied-billed Grebe	u	c	c		L
___ Horned Grebe*	o		o	o	L
___ Eared Grebe*	o		o		L
___ Western Grebe*	o	o	o		L
___ Common Loon*	o		o		L
Herons, Ibis, & Allies					
___ American Bittern*	o				M
___ Great Blue Heron	u	c	u		LCM
___ Great Egret			o		LCM
___ Snowy Egret	u	c	u		LCM
___ Cattle Egret*			o	o	LCM
___ Green Heron*		r	r		LCM
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	u	u	r		LC
___ White-faced Ibis*	o		o		L
Vultures, Eagles, & Hawks					
___ Turkey Vulture	r	r	u		WO
___ Osprey	o	o	o		LCO
___ Northern Harrier	r		r	u	MPO
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	r	r	r	r	WO
___ Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u	WO
___ Bald Eagle	r		r	u	LWO
___ Broad-winged Hawk*	o		o		WO
___ Swainson's Hawk	u	c	u		WO
___ Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c	WO
___ Rough-legged Hawk				r	PO
___ Ferruginous Hawk	o			o	PO
Falcons & Caracaras					
___ American Kestrel	c	c	c	c	PO
___ Merlin	o		o	r	W
___ Peregrine Falcon	o	o	o	o	PWO
___ Prairie Falcon	o		o	o	PO

	s	S	F	W	Habitat	
Rails & Gallinules						
___ Virginia Rail	r	r	r		M	
___ Sora	r	r	r		M	
___ American Coot	c	c	c	r	LM	
Shorebirds						
___ Black-necked Stilt	o		o		L	
___ American Avocet	u	u	r		L	
___ Killdeer	c	c	c	r	LP	
___ Baird's Sandpiper	o		o		L	
___ Least Sandpiper	o		o		L	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	o		o		L	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	o		o		L	
___ Wilson's Snipe	r	o	r	o	LM	
___ Wilson's Phalarope	r		o		L	
___ Red-necked Phalarope*	o		o		L	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	u	r	u		L	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	r		u		L	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	o		o		L	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	o		o		L	
Gulls & Terns						
___ Bonaparte's Gull*				o	L	
___ Franklin's Gull*	o				LO	
___ Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	c	O	
___ California Gull*	o		o	o	LO	
___ Caspian Tern*	o				LO	
Cormorants & Pelicans						
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	u		LCO	
___ American White Pelican	r	u	r		LO	
Larks						
___ Horned Lark	o	o	o	o	P	
Swifts						
___ Chimney Swift		o			O	
Hummingbirds						
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird	o		o		MPW	
___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird	o	r	o		MPW	
___ Rufous Hummingbird*		o	o		W	
___ Calliope Hummingbird*		o	o		W	
Kingfishers						
___ Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c	LC	
Woodpeckers						
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*				o	o	W
___ Red-naped Sapsucker*				o	o	W
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	o					W
___ Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	W	
___ Hairy Woodpecker	r	r	r	r	W	
___ Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c	W	
Owls						
___ Great Horned Owl	u	u	r	u	W	
___ Burrowing Owl		o			P	
___ Short-eared Owl*	o				WPO	
Shrikes						
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	o		o		P	
___ Northern Shrike				r	PW	

	s	S	F	W	Habitat
Tyrant Flycatchers: Pewees, Kingbirds, & Allies					
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	r		r		W
___ Western Wood-Pewee	u	u	u		W
___ Willow Flycatcher*	r		r		W
___ Least Flycatcher*	r		r		W
___ Gray Flycatcher*	o		o		PW
___ Dusky Flycatcher	o		o		W
___ Cordilleran Flycatcher*	o		o		W
___ Eastern Phoebe*	o				CPW
___ Say's Phoebe	c	c	u	o	CPW
___ Vermilion Flycatcher*				o	CW
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	o		o		W
___ Cassin's Kingbird*	o	o	o		PW
___ Western Kingbird	u	c	c		PW
___ Eastern Kingbird	u	u	u		PW
Vireos					
___ Cassin's Vireo	o		o		W
___ Plumbeous Vireo	o		o		W
___ Warbling Vireo	r	o	o		W
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	o		o		W
Jays, Magpies, Crows, & Ravens					
___ Steller's Jay*				o	WO
___ Blue Jay	u	u	u	r	W
___ Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay*	o	o	o	o	PW
___ Black-billed Magpie	c	c	c	c	W
___ American Crow	c	c	c	c	PWO
___ Common Raven	o		o	o	O
Pigeons & Doves					
___ Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	a	c	a	a	O
___ Eurasian Collard-Dove	u	u	u	u	W
___ White-winged Dove*		o			WO
___ Mourning Dove	c	a	c		WO
Martins & Swallows					
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u		LCMPWO
___ Tree Swallow	u	u	u		LCMPWO
___ Violet-green Swallow	r	r	r		LCMPWO
___ Bank Swallow	r	r	r		LCMWO
___ Barn Swallow	a	a	a		LCMPWO
___ Cliff Swallow	c	c	c		LCMPWO
Chickadees					
___ Black-capped Chickadee	a	c	a	a	W
Long-tailed Tits					
___ Bushtit	o	o	o	o	W
Nuthatches & Treecreepers					
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch*	o		o	o	W
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	u	u	c	u	W
___ Brown Creeper	r		r	u	W
Wrens					
___ Rock Wren	r		r		P
___ House Wren	u	c	r		CW
___ Marsh Wren	r	o	r	r	M
Gnatcatchers					
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	o		o		W