



**Thunder Bay  
Field Naturalists**

## Checklist of Birds of Thunder Bay District, Ontario

There have been 370 species of birds recorded within the Thunder Bay District in Ontario **as of December 31, 2022**. This checklist was compiled in large part by the former Thunder Bay Field Naturalists bird records chair, Nick Escott, and current chair, Brian Ratcliff using information supplied by members and friends of TBFN. **This is the official Checklist of Birds of Thunder Bay District, Ontario.**

Nomenclature and taxonomy follow the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds and its supplements. The Thunder Bay District checklist is updated regularly on the TBFN website ([tbfn.net](http://tbfn.net)) to include new species or to reflect taxonomical changes made by the AOU.

### **Rare Bird Documentation**

Species marked with asterisks (\*) are considered rare. If any of these species or any that are not on the Checklist are observed, complete details of the sighting should be recorded and forwarded to the Bird Records Chair of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, Brian Ratcliff at [bratcliff@tbaytel.net](mailto:bratcliff@tbaytel.net).

### **Rarity codes**

xx – Species considered rare in Northern Ontario by the Ontario Bird Records Committee  
x – Additional species considered rare in Thunder Bay District

### **Status codes**

P – Permanent resident; breeds here  
S – Summer resident; usually nests in the Thunder Bay District  
W – Winter resident  
M – Spring and/or fall migrant; expected every year  
C – Casual in Thunder Bay District, has been reported in 3 to 7 of the past 10 years  
A – Accidental in Thunder Bay District, has been reported in no more than 2 of the past 10 years  
E – Extinct or extirpated; not expected to be seen

Thunder Bay District Checklist of Birds		
Rarity code	Common Name	Status
<b>DUCKS, GEESE and SWANS</b>		
	Greater White-fronted Goose	M
	Snow Goose	M
	Ross's Goose	M
x	Brant	A
	Cackling Goose	M
	Canada Goose	S
xx	Mute Swan	A
x	Trumpeter Swan	S
	Tundra Swan	M
	Wood Duck	S
	Gadwall	M
xx	Eurasian Wigeon	C
	American Wigeon	S
	American Black Duck	S
	Mallard	S
	Blue-winged Teal	S
xx	Cinnamon Teal	A
	Northern Shoveler	M
	Northern Pintail	M
xx	Garganey	A
	Green-winged Teal	S
	Canvasback	M
	Redhead	M
	Ring-necked Duck	S
xx	Tufted Duck	A
	Greater Scaup	M
	Lesser Scaup	M

x	King Eider	A
xx	Harlequin Duck	M
	Surf Scoter	M
	White-winged Scoter	M
	Black Scoter	M
	Long-tailed Duck	M
	Bufflehead	S
	Common Goldeneye	P
xx	Barrow's Goldeneye	A
	Hooded Merganser	S
	Common Merganser	S
	Red-breasted Merganser	S
	Ruddy Duck	M
<b>PARTRIDGES, GROUSE and TURKEYS</b>		
	Gray Partridge	E
	Ring-necked Pheasant	P
	Ruffed Grouse	P
	Spruce Grouse	P
xx	Willow Ptarmigan	A
	Sharp-tailed Grouse	P
xx	Greater Prairie-Chicken	E
	Wild Turkey	P
<b>GREBES</b>		
	Pied-billed Grebe	S
	Horned Grebe	M
	Red-necked Grebe	S
x	Eared Grebe	A
xx	Western Grebe	A
<b>PIGEONS and DOVES</b>		
	Rock Pigeon	P

xx	Band-tailed Pigeon	A
xx	Eurasian Collared-Dove	A
	Passenger Pigeon	E
xx	Common Ground-Dove	A
xx	White-winged Dove	C
	Mourning Dove	P
<b>CUCKOOS and ANIS</b>		
x	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C
	Black-billed Cuckoo	S
xx	Grooved-billed Ani	A
<b>GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS and HUMMINGBIRDS</b>		
	Common Nighthawk	S
	Eastern Whip-poor-will	S
	Chimney Swift	S
xx	Mexican Violetear	A
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	S
xx	Anna's Hummingbird	A
xx	Rufous Hummingbird	C
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES and COOTS</b>		
xx	Yellow Rail	A
	Virginia Rail	S
	Sora	S
xx	Common Gallinule	A
	American Coot	M
<b>CRANES</b>		
	Sandhill Crane	S
<b>STILTS and AVOCETS</b>		
xx	American Avocet	A

<b>PLOVERS</b>		
	Black-bellied Plover	M
	American Golden-Plover	M
xx	Snowy Plover	A
	Semipalmated Plover	M
xx	Piping Plover	A
	Killdeer	S
<b>SANDPIPERS and PHALAROPES</b>		
x	Upland Sandpiper	A
	Whimbrel	M
	Hudsonian Godwit	M
	Marbled Godwit	M
x	Ruddy Turnstone	C
x	Red Knot	C
xx	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	A
	Stilt Sandpiper	M
	Sanderling	M
	Dunlin	M
xx	Purple Sandpiper	A
	Baird's Sandpiper	M
	Least Sandpiper	M
	White-rumped Sandpiper	M
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	M
	Pectoral Sandpiper	M
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	M
xx	Western Sandpiper	A
	Short-billed Dowitcher	M
x	Long-billed Dowitcher	C
	Wilson's Snipe	S
	American Woodcock	S
	Spotted Sandpiper	S

	Solitary Sandpiper	S
	Greater Yellowlegs	S
xx	Willet	C
	Lesser Yellowlegs	M
x	Wilson's Phalarope	C
x	Red-necked Phalarope	C
xx	Red Phalarope	A
<b>JAEGERS</b>		
xx	Pomarine Jaeger	A
x	Parasitic Jaeger	C
xx	Long-tailed Jaeger	A
<b>GULLS and TERNS</b>		
xx	Ivory Gull	A
xx	Sabine's Gull	A
	Bonaparte's Gull	S
xx	Little Gull	A
x	Franklin's Gull	C
xx	Mew Gull	A
	Ring-billed Gull	S
xx	California Gull	A
	Herring Gull	S
	Thayer's Gull	M
	Iceland Gull	M
xx	Lesser Black-backed Gull	C
xx	Slaty-backed Gull	A
	Glaucous Gull	W
	Greater Black-backed Gull	M
	Caspian Tern	S
x	Black Tern	C
	Common Tern	S
xx	Arctic Tern	A

xx	Forster's Tern	A
<b>LOONS</b>		
	Red-throated Loon	M
xx	Pacific Loon	C
	Common Loon	S
<b>SHEARWATERS and PETRELS</b>		
xx	Northern Fulmar	A
<b>CORMORANTS and PELICANS</b>		
	Double-crested Cormorant	S
	American White Pelican	S
<b>HERONS and BITTERNs</b>		
	American Bittern	S
xx	Least Bittern	A
	Great Blue Heron	S
xx	Great Egret	C
xx	Snowy Egret	A
xx	Little Blue Heron	A
xx	Tricolored Heron	A
xx	Cattle Egret	C
xx	Green Heron	C
xx	Black-crowned Night-Heron	C
<b>VULTURES AND OSPREY</b>		
xx	Black Vulture	A
	Turkey Vulture	S
	Osprey	S
<b>HAWKS, KITES and EAGLES</b>		
	Bald Eagle	P

	Northern Harrier	S
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	S
	Cooper's Hawk	S
	Northern Goshawk	P
	Broad-winged Hawk	S
xx	Swainson's Hawk	A
	Red-tailed Hawk	S
	Rough-legged Hawk	M
	Golden Eagle	M
<b>OWLS</b>		
xx	Barn Owl	A
	Great Horned Owl	P
	Snowy Owl	W
	Northern Hawk Owl	P
xx	Burrowing Owl	A
	Barred Owl	P
	Great Gray Owl	P
	Long-eared Owl	S
	Short-eared Owl	S
	Boreal Owl	P
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	S
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>		
	Belted Kingfisher	S
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>		
xx	Lewis's Woodpecker	A
x	Red-headed Woodpecker	M
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	W
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	S
	Downy Woodpecker	P
	Hairy Woodpecker	P
	American Three-toed Woodpecker	P

	Black-backed Woodpecker	P
	Northern Flicker	S
	Pileated Woodpecker	P
<b>CARACARAS and FALCONS</b>		
xx	Crested Caracara	A
	American Kestrel	S
	Merlin	S
	Gyr Falcon	W
	Peregrine Falcon	S
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>		
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	S
	Eastern Wood-Pewee	S
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	S
	Alder Flycatcher	S
xx	Willow Flycatcher	A
	Least Flycatcher	S
xx	Dusky Flycatcher	A
	Eastern Phoebe	S
xx	Say's Phoebe	C
xx	Ash-throated Flycatcher	A
	Great Crested Flycatcher	S
xx	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	A
xx	Tropical Kingbird	A
xx	Cassin's Kingbird	A
x	Western Kingbird	C
	Eastern Kingbird	S
xx	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C
xx	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	A
<b>SHRIKES</b>		
xx	Loggerhead Shrike	C

	Northern Shrike	W
<b>VIREOS</b>		
xx	White-eyed Vireo	A
xx	Bell's Vireo	A
x	Yellow-throated Vireo	A
	Blue-headed Vireo	S
	Philadelphia Vireo	S
x	Warbling Vireo	A
	Red-eyed Vireo	S
<b>CROWS and JAYS</b>		
	Gray Jay	P
	Blue Jay	P
xx	Clark's Nutcracker	A
x	Black-billed Magpie	C
	American Crow	P
	Common Raven	P
<b>LARKS</b>		
	Horned Lark	M
<b>SWALLOWS</b>		
x	Purple Martin	A
	Tree Swallow	S
xx	Violet-green Swallow	A
x	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	S
	Bank Swallow	S
	Cliff Swallow	S
	Barn Swallow	S
<b>CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES and CREEPERS</b>		
	Black-capped Chickadee	P

	Boreal Chickadee	P
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	P
	White-breasted Nuthatch	P
	Brown Creeper	S
<b>WRENS</b>		
xx	Rock Wren	A
	House Wren	S
	Winter Wren	S
	Sedge Wren	S
x	Marsh Wren	C
xx	Carolina Wren	A
xx	Bewick's Wren	A
<b>GNATCATCHERS and KINGLETS</b>		
xx	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	S
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	S
<b>OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS</b>		
xx	Northern Wheatear	A
<b>THRUSHES</b>		
	Eastern Bluebird	S
xx	Mountain Bluebird	A
	Townsend's Solitaire	W
	Veery	S
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	M
	Swainson's Thrush	S
	Hermit Thrush	S
x	Wood Thrush	C
	American Robin	S
	Varied Thrush	W

<b>MOCKINGBIRDS and THRASHERS</b>		
	Gray Catbird	S
	Brown Thrasher	S
xx	Sage Thrasher	A
	Northern Mockingbird	M
<b>STARLINGS</b>		
	European Starling	P
<b>WAXWINGS</b>		
	Bohemian Waxwing	W
	Cedar Waxwing	S
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>		
	House Sparrow	P
xx	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	C
<b>PIPITS</b>		
	American Pipit	M
xx	Sprague's Pipit	A
<b>FINCHES</b>		
xx	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	C
	Pine Grosbeak	W
x	House Finch	P
	Purple Finch	S
	Red Crossbill	P
	White-winged Crossbill	P
	Common Redpoll	W
	Hoary Redpoll	W
	Pine Siskin	P
	American Goldfinch	S

	Evening Grosbeak	P
<b>LONGSPURS and SNOW BUNTINGS</b>		
	Lapland Longspur	M
xx	Chestnut-collared Longspur	A
xx	Smith's Longspur	C
	Snow Bunting	M
<b>NEW WORLD WARBLERS</b>		
	Ovenbird	S
	Northern Waterthrush	S
x	Golden-winged Warbler	C
xx	Blue-winged Warbler	A
	Black-and-white Warbler	S
	Tennessee Warbler	S
	Orange-crowned Warbler	M
	Nashville Warbler	S
xx	Virginia's Warbler	A
	Connecticut Warbler	S
	Mourning Warbler	S
xx	Kentucky Warbler	A
	Common Yellowthroat	S
xx	Hooded Warbler	A
	American Redstart	S
	Cape May Warbler	S
	Northern Parula	S
	Magnolia Warbler	S
	Bay-breasted Warbler	S
	Blackburnian Warbler	S
	Yellow Warbler	S
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	S
	Blackpoll Warbler	M
	Black-throated Blue Warbler	S

	Palm Warbler	S
x	Pine Warbler	C
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	S
xx	Yellow-throated Warbler	A
xx	Prairie Warbler	A
xx	Townsend's Warbler	A
	Black-throated Green Warbler	S
	Canada Warbler	S
	Wilson's Warbler	S
xx	Yellow-breasted Chat	A
<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS</b>		
xx	Green-tailed Towhee	A
xx	Spotted Towhee	C
x	Eastern Towhee	W
xx	Cassin's Sparrow	A
	American Tree Sparrow	M
	Chipping Sparrow	S
	Clay-colored Sparrow	S
xx	Brewer's Sparrow	A
xx	Field Sparrow	C
	Vesper Sparrow	S
x	Lark Sparrow	M
xx	Black-throated Sparrow	A
xx	Lark Bunting	C
	Savannah Sparrow	S
xx	Grasshopper Sparrow	C
	Le Conte's Sparrow	S
x	Nelson's Sparrow	A
	Fox Sparrow	M
	Song Sparrow	S
	Lincoln's Sparrow	S
	Swamp Sparrow	S

	White-throated Sparrow	S
	Harris's Sparrow	M
	White-crowned Sparrow	M
xx	Golden-crowned Sparrow	A
	Dark-eyed Junco	S
<b>CARDINALS and allies</b>		
xx	Summer Tanager	M
	Scarlet Tanager	S
xx	Western Tanager	C
	Northern Cardinal	P
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	S
xx	Black-headed Grosbeak	A
xx	Blue Grosbeak	C
xx	Lazuli Bunting	A
	Indigo Bunting	S
xx	Painted Bunting	C
xx	Dickcissel	C
<b>NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS</b>		
	Bobolink	S
	Red-winged Blackbird	S
x	Eastern Meadowlark	A
	Western Meadowlark	M
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	M
	Rusty Blackbird	S
	Brewer's Blackbird	S
	Common Grackle	S
	Brown-headed Cowbird	S
xx	Orchard Oriole	C
xx	Bullock's Oriole	A
	Baltimore Oriole	M
xx	Scott's Oriole	A



<b>ESCAPEES</b>		
	American Flamingo	
	European Goldfinch	
	Common Chaffinch	
	Eurasian Siskin	
	Chukar	
	Black-necked Swan	
	Zebra Finch	
	Diamond Dove	
	Ring Turtle Dove	
	Budgerigar	
	Golden Pheasant	
	Mandarin Duck	
	Cockatiel	
<b>UNCONFIRMED - Not accepted by Ont Bird Rec Comm</b>		
	MacGillivray's Warbler	
	Cerulean Warbler	
	Yellow-billed Loon	