



**Thunder Bay
Field Naturalists**

Checklist of Birds of Thunder Bay District, Ontario

There have been 373 species of birds recorded within the Thunder Bay District in Ontario **as of December 31, 2023**. 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.**

The Thunder Bay District checklist is updated regularly on the TBFN website (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.

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
DUCKS, GEESE and SWANS		
	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
PARTRIDGES, GROUSE and TURKEYS		
	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
GREBES		
	Pied-billed Grebe	S
	Horned Grebe	M
	Red-necked Grebe	S
x	Eared Grebe	A
xx	Western Grebe	A
PIGEONS and DOVES		
	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
CUCKOOS and ANIS		
x	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C
	Black-billed Cuckoo	S
xx	Grooved-billed Ani	A
GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS and HUMMINGBIRDS		
	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
RAILS, GALLINULES and COOTS		
xx	Yellow Rail	A
	Virginia Rail	S
	Sora	S
xx	Common Gallinule	A
	American Coot	M
CRANES		
	Sandhill Crane	S
STILTS and AVOCETS		
xx	American Avocet	A

PLOVERS		
	Black-bellied Plover	M
	American Golden-Plover	M
xx	Snowy Plover	A
	Semipalmated Plover	M
xx	Piping Plover	A
	Killdeer	S
SANDPIPERS and PHALAROPES		
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
JAEGERS		
xx	Pomarine Jaeger	A
x	Parasitic Jaeger	C
xx	Long-tailed Jaeger	A
ALCIDS		
xx	Ancient Murrelet	A
GULLS and TERNS		
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
LOONS		
	Red-throated Loon	M
xx	Pacific Loon	C
	Common Loon	S
SHEARWATERS and PETRELS		
xx	Northern Fulmar	A
CORMORANTS and PELICANS		
	Double-crested Cormorant	S
	American White Pelican	S
HERONS and BITTERNS		
	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	Western Cattle Egret	C
xx	Green Heron	C
xx	Black-crowned Night-Heron	C
VULTURES AND OSPREY		
xx	Black Vulture	A
	Turkey Vulture	S
	Osprey	S

HAWKS, KITES and EAGLES		
	Bald Eagle	P
	Northern Harrier	S
xx	Mississippi Kite	A
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	S
	Cooper's Hawk	S
	American Goshawk	P
	Broad-winged Hawk	S
xx	Swainson's Hawk	A
	Red-tailed Hawk	S
	Rough-legged Hawk	M
	Golden Eagle	M
OWLS		
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
KINGFISHERS		
	Belted Kingfisher	S
WOODPECKERS		
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
CARACARAS and FALCONS		
xx	Crested Caracara	A
	American Kestrel	S
	Merlin	S
	Gyr Falcon	W
	Peregrine Falcon	S
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS		
	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
SHRIKES		
xx	Loggerhead Shrike	C
	Northern Shrike	W
VIREOS		
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
CROWS and JAYS		
	Gray Jay	P
	Blue Jay	P
xx	Clark's Nutcracker	A
x	Black-billed Magpie	C
	American Crow	P
	Common Raven	P
LARKS		
	Horned Lark	M
SWALLOWS		
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
CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES and CREEPERS		
	Black-capped Chickadee	P
	Boreal Chickadee	P
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	P
	White-breasted Nuthatch	P
	Brown Creeper	S
WRENS		
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
GNATCATCHERS and KINGLETS		
xx	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	S
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	S
OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS		
xx	Northern Wheatear	A
THRUSHES		
	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
MOCKINGBIRDS and THRASHERS		
	Gray Catbird	S
	Brown Thrasher	S
xx	Sage Thrasher	A
	Northern Mockingbird	M
STARLINGS		
	European Starling	P
WAXWINGS		
	Bohemian Waxwing	W
	Cedar Waxwing	S
OLD WORLD SPARROWS		
	House Sparrow	P
xx	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	C
PIPITS		
	American Pipit	M
xx	Sprague's Pipit	A
FINCHES		
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
LONGSPURS and SNOW BUNTINGS		
	Lapland Longspur	M
xx	Chestnut-collared Longspur	A
xx	Smith's Longspur	C
	Snow Bunting	M
NEW WORLD WARBLERS		
	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
xx	MacGillivray's Warbler	A
	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
	NEW WORLD SPARROWS	
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
	CARDINALS and allies	
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
	NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS	
	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

ESCAPEES		
	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	
UNCONFIRMED - Not accepted by Ont Bird Rec Comm		
	Cerulean Warbler	
	Yellow-billed Loon	