

This is a list of bird species known to occur in the region and their expected frequency of occurrence in each season *in their preferred habitat*. Hypothetical or exotic species are not included.

The region covered by this checklist includes south-central Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska. The covered area does not extend south of Point Mackenzie, north or west of Petersville or east of Eureka, and it does not extend beyond borough borders. The region includes coastal, birch/spruce forest, lake/stream, wetland, taiga, and alpine tundra habitats. *A Birder's Guide to Alaska* by George West is highly recommended for anyone interested in birding Alaska.

Legend

A - Abundant. Species occurs repeatedly in proper habitats with available habitat heavily utilized. The area may regularly host great numbers of the species.

C - Common. Species occurs in all or nearly all proper habitats but some areas of presumed suitable habitat are occupied sparsely or not at all. The area may regularly host large numbers of the species.

U - Uncommon. Species occurs regularly but utilizes very little of the suitable habitat. The species is not observed regularly even in proper habitats.

R - Rare. Species occurs, or probably occurs, regularly within the region but in very small numbers.

Ca - Casual. Species has been recorded no more than a few times but irregular observations are likely over a period of years.

Ac - Accidental. Species has been recorded only a time or two and is so far from its usual range that further observations are unlikely.

Sp Spring 16 March to 31 May
 S Summer 1 June to 31 July
 F Fall 1 August to 31 October
 W Winter 1 November to 15 March

* Indicates irruptive species.

Italicized species were introduced to the region.

SPECIES	Sp	S	F	W	SPECIES	Sp	S	F	W	SPECIES	Sp	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-Throated Loon	Ca	Ca	Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Black Scoter	Ca	Ca			<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Loon	U	U	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead	U		U		<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper	Ca			
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	U	U	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	U	U	U	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Whimbrel	C	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-Billed Loon		Ac	Ac		<input type="checkbox"/> Barrow's Goldeneye	C	C	C	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Hudsonian Godwit	U	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Grebe	U	U	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	Ca				<input type="checkbox"/> Bar-tailed Godwit	Ca			Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-necked Grebe	A	A	C		<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	U	R	U	R	<input type="checkbox"/> Surf-bird	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Grebe				Ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanderling	Ca			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fork-tailed Storm Petrel				Ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck		Ca	Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-palmated Sandpiper	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant		Ca			<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	U	R	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Western Sandpiper	U			U
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra Swan	C		C		<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	C	U	C	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Baird's Sandpiper	R			R
<input type="checkbox"/> Trumpeter Swan	U	R	U	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	C	R	<input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper	C			
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	C	Ca	Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	C	Ac	Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk	Ca		Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Dunlin	Ca			
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	A	U	C	R	<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	U	C	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Short-billed Dowitcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cackling Goose	R	Ca		Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	C	Ca	C	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Dowitcher	U	R	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brant	Ca				<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle	U	U	U	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	A	A	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barnacle Goose	Ac				<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	U	U	U	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Red-necked Phalarope	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck				Ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin	U	U	U	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Parasitic Jaeger	Ca	Ca		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	A	A	A	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon	R	R	R	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Jaeger	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	A	C	C		<input type="checkbox"/> Gyrfalcon	R	R	R	R	<input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	R				<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ruffed Grouse</i>	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> Mew Gull	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eurasian Wigeon	R				<input type="checkbox"/> Spruce Grouse	C	C	C	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	C	C	C	Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	C	C	C		<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Ptarmigan	C	C	C	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Glaucous-winged Gull	U	U	U	Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	C	C	C		<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Ptarmigan	C	C	C	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Glaucous Gull	R	R		Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	R	R			<input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed Ptarmigan	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> Slaty-backed Gull				Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	C	C	C	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Sora		Ca			<input type="checkbox"/> Arctic Tern	C	C	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback	U	U	U		<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot				Ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Common Murre				Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	R	R	R		<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	C	U	C	Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rock Pigeon</i>	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	U	U	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Plover	R		Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Great-horned Owl	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Scaup	C	C	C		<input type="checkbox"/> American Golden Plover	U	R	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Owl				Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	U	U	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-palmated Plover	C	C	C		<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Hawk Owl	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Harlequin Duck	U	U	R		<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	R	R			<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pygmy Owl				Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Duck	R	R			<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	A	C	C		<input type="checkbox"/> Great Gray Owl	R	R	R	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Surf Scoter	U	R			<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	A	C	C		<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl	U	R	R	R
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Scoter	U	R	R		<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	U	U	R		<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal Owl	U	U	U	U
					<input type="checkbox"/> Wandering Tattler	R	U	R		<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl	R	R	R	R

SPECIES	Sp	S	F	W	SPECIES	Sp	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Anna's Hummingbird			Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Rufous Hummingbird	Ca	Ca	Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	Ca	Ca		Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	R	<input type="checkbox"/> American Dipper	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Spotted Woodpecker	Ac			Ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	R	R	R	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	C	C	Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Arctic Warbler	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Three-toed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Wheatear		R		Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-backed Woodpecker	R	R	R	R	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Bluebird	Ca	Ca		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	R	R	R	Ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Solitaire	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U			<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Wood-Pewee	U	U	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	U	C	U		<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hammond's Flycatcher	Ca	Ca			<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Say's Phoebe		R			<input type="checkbox"/> Varied Thrush	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird		Ac			<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Jay	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> Bohemian Waxwing*	U	U	U	A*
<input type="checkbox"/> Steller's Jay	Ca		R	R	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Magpie	C	C	C	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northwestern Crow	Ca				<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	A	C	C	Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven	A	A	A	A	<input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Warbler	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	U	R	Ca		<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C			<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	U	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Violet-green Swallow	C	C			<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	U	U			<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	U	U	R	Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	U	U			<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	Ca	Ca			<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	C	C	U	Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	U	U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Ca			Ca	<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U	U	U	Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal Chickadee	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	C	C	U	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Sparrow	C	C	C	Ca
					<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C	C	C	U
					<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	C	R	R	

SPECIES	Sp	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting	U	U		C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	R	R		Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird				Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	U	U	U	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle				Ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird		Ca	Ac	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	R	R	R	Ca
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Grosbeak*	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill*	Ca			
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Crossbill*	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoary Redpoll*				R
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin*	U	U	U	U

UNSUBSTANTIATED SPECIES
(Single sighting by a single observer, not documented)

Northern Fulmar	Black-legged Kittiwake
Ruddy Turnstone	Mourning Dove
Black Turnstone	Common Nighthawk
Spotted Redshank	Clark's Nutcracker
Stilt Sandpiper	

This list was prepared by Cecily Fritz, Paul Fritz, Nancy Moore, Jill Parson, Bob Sartor, Charlotte Sartor and Bob Winckler, members of Mat-Su Birders, a local birding club. To contact Mat-Su Birders send e-mail to: msbirder@mtaonline.net. To report a bird observation contact the Alaska Birding Group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/akbirding> or call the Upper Cook Inlet Bird Hotline at: (907) 338-2473.

Many additional individuals provided needed assistance in reviewing this list. Regretfully, those persons number too many to name in this limited space. Special thanks to Michael Bronson, compiler and editor of the original *Checklist of Birds of the Palmer Area* in 1984 with subsequent editions through 1993. His work served as our inspiration. Also, R. L. Scher for bravely giving us access to his vast Upper Cook Inlet Bird Sightings Records in support of this project.

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BIRDS of
SOUTH/CENTRAL
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA
BOROUGH, ALASKA
2005

(A CHECKLIST)

