



BIRDS OF MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY, ALASKA

A CHECKLIST

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH
AND GAME, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

PHONE (907) 267-2180

LEGEND

- 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 or the sanctuary regularly hosts large numbers of the species.
- U Uncommon - species occurs regularly, but uses only some or very little of the suitable habitat or the sanctuary regularly hosts relatively small numbers of the species; not observed regularly even in proper habitats.
- R Rare - species occurs, or probably occurs, regularly on and near the sanctuary, but in very small numbers.
- A Casual/Accidental - species has been recorded no more than a few times, but irregular observations are likely over a period of years or a species so far from its normal range that further observations are unlikely.
- * Nesting - Known or probable nesting in the sanctuary.
- No records.
- Sp Spring - May to mid-June.
- Su Summer - mid-June to August.

SPECIES

STATUS

Sp Su

FAMILY: Gaviidae

___ red-throated loon <u>Gavia stellata</u>	C	C*
___ Pacific loon <u>G. pacifica</u>	R	A
___ common loon <u>G. immer</u>	R	A

FAMILY: Podicipedidae

___ horned grebe <u>Podiceps auritus</u>	R	R
___ red-necked grebe <u>P. grisegena</u>	R	R

FAMILY: Procellariidae

___ northern fulmar <u>Fulmarus glacialis</u>	R	R
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FAMILY: Hydrobatidae

___ fork-tailed storm-petrel <u>Oceanodroma furcata</u>	--	R
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FAMILY: Phalacrocoracidae

___ pelagic cormorant <u>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</u>	U	U*
___ double-crested cormorant <u>P. auritus</u>	C	C*

FAMILY: Anatidae

___ tundra swan <u>Cygnus columbianus</u>	R	R
___ greater white-fronted goose <u>Anser albifrons</u>	R	R
___ snow goose <u>Chen caerulescens</u>	R	A
___ emperor goose <u>C. canagica</u>	R	A
___ brant <u>Branta bernicla</u>	C	R
___ Canada goose <u>B. canadensis</u>	C	--
___ green-winged teal <u>Anas crecca</u>	C	U*
___ mallard <u>A. platyrhynchos</u>	C	U*
___ northern pintail <u>A. acuta</u>	C	R*
___ northern shoveler <u>A. clypeata</u>	R	--
___ Eurasian wigeon <u>A. penelope</u>	A	A
___ American wigeon <u>A. americana</u>	U	R
___ greater scaup <u>Aythya marila</u>	C	R
___ common eider <u>Somateria mollissima</u>	U	U
___ king eider <u>S. spectabilis</u>	R	R
___ Steller's eider <u>Polysticta stelleri</u>	R	R

_____	harlequin duck <u>Histrionicus histrionicus</u>	C	C*
_____	oldsquaw <u>Clangula hyemalis</u>	C	U
_____	black scoter <u>Melanitta nigra</u>	U	U
_____	surf scoter <u>M. perspicillata</u>	C	U
_____	white-winged scoter <u>M. fusca</u>	U	C*
_____	common goldeneye <u>Bucephala clangula</u>	U	R
_____	Barrow's goldeneye <u>B. islandica</u>	U	U
_____	common merganser <u>Mergus merganser</u>	U	U
_____	red-breasted merganser <u>M. serrator</u>	C	C*

FAMILY: Accipitridae

_____	osprey <u>Pandion haliaetus</u>	R	R
_____	bald eagle <u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>	C	C*
_____	golden eagle <u>Aquila chrysaetos</u>	A	--
_____	northern harrier <u>Circus cyaneus</u>	U	U*
_____	sharp-shinned hawk <u>Accipiter striatus</u>	R	R
_____	rough-legged hawk <u>Buteo lagopus</u>	C	C*

FAMILY: Falconidae

_____	American kestrel <u>Falco sparverius</u>	R	R
_____	merlin <u>F. columbarius</u>	--	R
_____	peregrine falcon <u>F. peregrinus</u>	R	R*
_____	gyrfalcon <u>F. rusticolus</u>	--	R

FAMILY: Phasianidae

_____	willow ptarmigan <u>Lagopus lagopus</u>	U	U*
_____	rock ptarmigan <u>L. mutus</u>	R	R

FAMILY: Gruidae

_____	sandhill crane <u>Grus canadensis</u>	--	R
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FAMILY: Charadriidae

_____	black-bellied plover <u>Pluvialis squatarola</u>	U	R
_____	lesser golden-plover <u>P. dominica</u>	R	--
_____	semipalmated plover <u>Charadrius semipalmatus</u>	C	C*

FAMILY: Haematopodidae

_____	black oystercatcher <u>Haematopus bachmani</u>	R	R*
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FAMILY: Scolopacidae

_____	greater yellowlegs <u>Tringa melanoleuca</u>	U	U*
_____	solitary sandpiper <u>T. solitaria</u>	R	--
_____	wandering tattler <u>Heteroscelus incanus</u>	--	R
_____	spotted sandpiper <u>Actitis macularia</u>	--	R
_____	whimbrel <u>Numenius phaeopus</u>	A	--
_____	bar-tailed godwit <u>Limosa lapponica</u>	R	R
_____	ruddy turnstone <u>Arenaria interpres</u>	R	R
_____	black turnstone <u>A. melanocephala</u>	U	U
_____	surfbird <u>Aphriza virgata</u>	U	U
_____	red knot <u>Calidris canutus</u>	R	R
_____	western sandpiper <u>C. mauri</u>	C	C
_____	least sandpiper <u>C. minutilla</u>	U	U
_____	pectoral sandpiper <u>C. melanotos</u>	--	A
_____	rock sandpiper <u>C. pilocnemis</u>	U	U
_____	dunlin <u>C. alpina</u>	U	R
_____	short-billed dowitcher <u>Limnodromus griseus</u>	R	A
_____	common snipe <u>Gallinago gallinago</u>	C	C*
_____	red-necked phalarope <u>Phalaropus lobatus</u>	U	U
_____	red phalarope <u>P. fulicaria</u>	U	U

FAMILY: Laridae

_____ parasitic jaeger <u>Stercorarius parasiticus</u>	R	R
_____ Bonaparte's gull <u>Larus philadelphia</u>	U	U*
_____ mew gull <u>L. canus</u>	C	C*
_____ herring gull <u>L. argentatus</u>	R	R*
_____ glaucous-winged gull <u>L. glaucescens</u>	C	C*
_____ black-legged kittiwake <u>Rissa tridactyla</u>	C	C*
_____ Sabine's gull <u>Xema sabini</u>	R	R*
_____ arctic tern <u>Sterna paradisaea</u>	C	--
_____ Aleutian tern <u>S. aleutica</u>	R	R

FAMILY: Alcidae

_____ common murre <u>Uria aalge</u>	C	C*
_____ pigeon guillemot <u>Cephus columba</u>	C	C*
_____ marbled murrelet <u>Brachyramphus marmoratus</u>	R	R
_____ parakeet auklet <u>Cyclorhynchus psittacula</u>	R	R
_____ crested auklet <u>Aethia cristatella</u>	R	R
_____ tufted puffin <u>Fratercula cirrhata</u>	U	U*
_____ horned puffin <u>E. corniculata</u>	U	U*

FAMILY: Columbidae

_____ domestic pigeon (banded)	--	A
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FAMILY: Strigidae

_____ northern hawk owl <u>Surnia ulula</u>	R	R
_____ short-eared owl <u>Asio flammeus</u>	R	U*

FAMILY: Alcedinidae

_____ belted kingfisher <u>Ceryle alcyon</u>	R	R
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FAMILY: Picidae

_____ northern flicker <u>Colaptes auratus</u>	A	A
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FAMILY: Hirundinidae

_____ tree swallow <u>Tachycineta bicolor</u>	C	C*
_____ violet-green swallow <u>I. thalassina</u>	R	R
_____ bank swallow <u>Riparia riparia</u>	R	R*
_____ cliff swallow <u>Hirundo pyrrhonota</u>	R	R*

FAMILY: Corvidae

_____ gray jay <u>Perisoreus canadensis</u>	A	--
_____ black-billed magpie <u>Pica pica</u>	R	R*
_____ northwestern crow <u>Corvus caurinus</u>	R	--
_____ common raven <u>C. corax</u>	C	C*

FAMILY: Paridae

_____ black-capped chickadee <u>Parus atricapillus</u>	--	R
_____ boreal chickadee <u>P. hudsonicus</u>	--	A

FAMILY: Cindidae

_____ American dipper <u>Cinclus mexicanus</u>	U	U*
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FAMILY: Muscicapidae

_____ ruby-crowned kinglet <u>Regulus calendula</u>	A	A
_____ gray-cheeked thrush <u>Catharus minimus</u>	U	U*
_____ hermit thrush <u>C. guttatus</u>	C	C*
_____ American robin <u>Turdus migratorius</u>	C	U*
_____ varied thrush <u>Ixoreus naevius</u>	A	--

FAMILY: Motacillidae

____ American pipit Anthus rubescens U U*

FAMILY: Bombycillidae

____ Bohemian waxwing Bombycilla garrulus A --

FAMILY: Laniidae

____ northern shrike Lanius excubitor -- U

FAMILY: Emberizidae

____ orange-crowned warbler Vermivora celata U U*

____ yellow warbler Dendroica petechia C C*

____ yellow-rumped warbler D. coronata U U*

____ northern waterthrush Seiurus noveboracensis R R*

____ Wilson's warbler Wilsonia pusilla C U*

____ American tree sparrow Spizella arborea C C*

____ savannah sparrow Passerculus sandwichensis C C*

____ fox sparrow Passerella iliaca C C*

____ song sparrow Melospiza melodia C C*

____ golden-crowned sparrow Zonotrichia atricapilla C C*

____ white-crowned sparrow Z. leucophrys A R

____ dark-eyed junco Junco hyemalis R R

____ Lapland longspur Calcarius lapponicus R --

____ snow bunting Plectrophenax nivalis R R

____ McKay's bunting P. hyperboreus A A

____ rusty blackbird Euphagus carolinus A A

FAMILY: Fringillidae

____ rosy finch Leucosticte arctoa U U

____ pine grosbeak Pinicola enucleator A A

____ common redpoll Carduelis flammea U C

OTHER BIRDS EXPECTED

____ red-faced cormorant Phalacrocorax urile

____ Kittlitz's murrelet Brachyramphus brevirostris

REPORTING NEW OR UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Any birds listed as "rare" or "casual/accidental" on this list, and any evidence of nesting (nest or juveniles) for a bird not listed as a breeding species, should be shown to McNeil River staff for verification. If a bird not included in this checklist is seen, it should also be verified.

To document a sighting you may take a photograph, preferably using a telephoto lens. Whether or not a photo is taken, you should take a very careful look at the bird, remembering as much detail as possible. Point out the bird to others without saying what you think it is. If possible, compare notes while looking at the bird after other observers have had a chance identify it. Before checking a field guide, write a brief description and sketch the bird showing the pattern of markings and labeling colors. Then check your field guide to confirm your sighting. Report unusual sightings to McNeil River staff as soon as possible.

Bird species were compiled by Larry Aumiller, Polly Hessing, and Colleen Matt from 1976 to 1990. Observations were made as early as May 1 and as late as October 30, but were generally made between early June and late August. Aumiller and Hessing estimated relative abundance daily from May 3 to August 4, 1984. The seasonal status of birds, based on this tally, was modified by subjective estimates for other years.

This checklist should be considered provisional. Additional breeding and casual/accidental birds are likely to be observed. Hopefully, this list will focus additional attention on the birds of McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, and it will be updated periodically as new observations are collected.

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Compiled by Larry Aumiller, Colleen Matt, and Rick Sinnott, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage. Spring 1991.

