

A Unique Diversity A remarkable variety of birds can be seen in the Cypress Hills. Dusky Flycatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers and many other birds are common in the Cypress Hills but far from their usual ranges. Ferruginous Hawks, Northern Shrikes and Baird's Sparrows, all occasionally seen here, are threatened species. Some birds very rarely seen in western Canada, such as the Common Poorwill, have been recorded. Another unusual bird, the Wild Turkey, was introduced to the hills in the 1960's.

Park Habitats Four major habitats are found in the Cypress Hills, an area now jointly protected by Alberta and Saskatchewan as Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. As you are bird-watching, you will notice that different birds tend to nest in each habitat, while they often feed in several. This checklist includes information on breeding habitats.

Legend Only records for the Alberta portion of Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park are included.

R – Residence Status
 S - summer resident
 W – winter resident/visitor
 Y – year-round resident
 V – visitor/accidental
 M – migrant (spring and /or fall)

V – very common R – rare
 C – common X – extremely rare

N – Primary Nesting Habitat
 G – mixed-grass and fescue grasslands
 W – wetlands, streams, lakes and vicinity
 A – aspen and mixed woodlands, shrublands
 F – spruce and pine coniferous forests

LOONS			
__ Common Loon		M	R
GREBES			
__ Pied-billed Grebe		S	R W
__ Horned Grebe		S	C W
__ Red-necked Grebe		S	V W
__ Eared Grebe		S	C W
__ Western Grebe		M	C

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS			
__ American White Pelican		V	R
__ Double-crested Cormorant		V	R

HERONS AND BITTERNS			
__ American Bittern		M	R
__ Great Blue Heron		V	C
__ Black-crowned Night Heron		M	X

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS			
__ Tundra Swan		M	C
__ Trumpeter Swan		V	X
__ Snow Goose		M	R
__ Canada Goose		S	V W
__ Wood Duck		M	X
__ Green-winged Teal		S	C W
__ American Black Duck		M	X
__ Mallard		S	V W
__ Northern Pintail		S	C W
__ Blue-winged Teal		S	C W
__ Cinnamon Teal		V	R
__ Northern Shoveler		S	C W
__ Gadwall		S	C W
__ American Wigeon		S	V W
__ Canvasback		S	C W
__ Redhead		M	C
__ Ring-necked Duck		S	C W
__ Lesser Scaup		S	C W
__ White-winged Scoter		S	C W
__ Common Goldeneye		M	R
__ Barrow's Goldeneye		V	X
__ Bufflehead		S	R W
__ Common Merganser		S	R W
__ Red-breasted Merganser		M	R
__ Ruddy Duck		S	R W

HAWKS EAGLES AND FALCONS			
__ Turkey Vulture		V	X
__ Osprey		M	R
__ Bald Eagle		M	R
__ Northern Harrier		S	R G
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk		S	R F
__ Cooper's Hawk		S	X F
__ Northern Goshawk		Y	R A
__ Broad-winged Hawk		S	R F/A
__ Swainson's Hawk		S	C A
__ Red-tailed Hawk		S	C F/A
__ Ferruginous Hawk		S	R G/A
__ Rough-legged Hawk		M	R

__ Golden Eagle		V	R
__ American Kestrel		S	C A/G
__ Merlin		S	C F/A
__ Prairie Falcon		V	R

GROUSE, PHEASANTS, PARTRIDGES AND TURKEYS			
__ Grey Partridge (introduced)		Y	C G
__ Ring-necked Pheasant (introduced)		Y	C A/G
__ Ruffed Grouse (introduced)		Y	C A
__ Sage Grouse		V	X
__ Sharp-tailed Grouse		Y	R G/A
__ Wild Turkey (introduced)		Y	C A

RAILS AND COOTS			
__ Sora		S	R W
__ American Coot		S	C W

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS			
__ Black-billed plover		M	R
__ Piping Plover		V	X
__ Killdeer		S	C W
__ Mountain Plover		V	X
__ American Avocet		V	C
__ Greater Yellowlegs		M	R
__ Lesser Yellowlegs		M	R
__ Solitary Sandpiper		S	X W
__ Willet		S	R W
__ Spotted Sandpiper		S	V W
__ Upland Sandpiper		S	R G
__ Long-billed Curlew		V	R
__ Marbled Godwit		V	R
__ Sanderling		M	X
__ Least Sandpiper		M	R
__ Baird's Sandpiper		M	R
__ Pectoral Sandpiper		M	X
__ Common Snipe		S	C W
__ Wilson's Phalarope		S	C W
__ Red-necked Phalarope		M	X
__ Long-tailed Jaeger		V	X
__ Franklin's Gull		V	C
__ Ring-billed Gull		V	V
__ California Gull		V	V
__ Sabine's Gull		M	X
__ Common Tern		V	C
__ Forester's Tern		M	X
__ Black Tern		S	C W

PIGEONS AND DOVES			
__ Rock Dove		Y	C A

__ Morning Dove		S	C F/A
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OWLS			
__ Common Barn Owl		V	X
__ Great Horned Owl		Y	C F/A
__ Burrowing Owl		V	X
__ Long-eared Owl		S	R F/A
__ Short-eared Owl		M	X
__ Northern Saw-whet Owl		Y	R F/A

GOATSUCKERS			
__ Common Nighthawk		S	C A/G
__ Common Poorwill		V	X

HUMMINGBIRDS			
__ Ruby-throated Hummingbird		V	X

KINGFISHERS AND WOODPECKERS			
__ Belted Kingfisher		S	C W
__ Red-headed Woodpecker		V	X
__ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		S	C A
__ Red-naped Sapsucker		S	C A
__ Downy Woodpecker		Y	C A
__ Hairy Woodpecker		Y	C A
__ Three-toed Woodpecker		Y	X F
__ Northern Flicker		S	C A
__ Pileated Woodpecker		Y	X A/F

PERCHING BIRDS			
<i>Flycatchers</i>			
__ Olive-sided Flycatcher		V	R
__ Western Wood Pewee		S	C A/F
__ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		V	X
__ Least Flycatcher		S	C A
__ Dusky Flycatcher		S	C A
__ Eastern Phoebe		V	X
__ Say's Phoebe		M	R
__ Western Kingbird		M	R
__ Eastern Kingbird		S	C G/A

<i>Larks</i>			
__ Horned Lark		V	R
<i>Swallows</i>			
__ Tree Swallows		S	C W
__ Violet Green Swallow		M	C
__ Northern Rough-winged Swallow		S	C A
__ Bank Swallow		S	C G/A
__ Cliff Swallow		M	R
__ Barn Swallow		S	C G/A

BIRDS

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park



An island of forest in a sea of grass, the unique environment of the Cypress Hills provides habitats for both typical prairie birds and for many species usually found in the foothills and forests far to the west and north. To date, nearly 220 bird species have been recorded in Cypress Hills Provincial Park. This guide will help you enjoy your bird-watching experience.



Jays, Magpies and Crows

__ Clark's Nutcracker	V	X	
__ Black-billed Magpie	Y	V	A
__ American Crow	Y	C	A/F
__ Common Raven	W	R	

Chickadees

__ Black-capped Chickadee	Y	V	A
__ Mountain Chickadee	V	R	

Nuthatches

__ Red-breasted Nuthatch	Y	C	F
__ White-breasted Nuthatch	Y	R	A

Creepers

__ Brown Creeper	Y	R	F/A
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Wrens

__ Rock Wren	S	R	G
__ House Wren	S	C	A
__ Winter Wren	W	X	
__ Marsh Wren	S	X	W

Kinglets, Thrushes and Bluebirds

__ Golden-crowned Kinglet	Y	R	F
__ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	S	C	F
__ Eastern Bluebird	V	X	
__ Mountain Bluebird	S	C	A
__ Townsend's Solitaire	S	R	A
__ Veery	S	R	A
__ Swainson's Thrush	S	R	F
__ American Robin	S	V	A
__ Varied Thrush	V	X	

Mimic Thrushes

__ Gray Catbird	S	C	A
__ Brown Thrasher	S	R	A

Pipits

__ Sprague's Pipit	S	C	G
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Waxwings

__ Bohemian Waxwing	W	R	
__ Cedar Waxwing	S	C	A/F

Shrikes

__ Northern Shrike	W	R	
__ Loggerhead Shrike	V	X	

Starlings

__ European Starling	S	C	A
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Vireos

__ Solitary Vireo	S	R	A/F
__ Warbling Vireo	S	C	A
__ Philadelphia Vireo	M	X	
__ Red-eyed Vireo	S	C	A

Wood Warblers

__ Tennessee Warbler	M	R	
__ Orange-crowned Warbler	S	C	A
__ Nashville Warbler	M	R	
__ Yellow Warbler	S	V	A
__ Magnolia Warbler	M	R	
__ Cape May Warbler	M	X	
__ Yellow-rumped Warbler	S	V	F
__ Townsend's Warbler	M	R	
__ Blackpoll Warbler	M	C	
__ Pine Warbler	V	X	
__ Black and White Warbler	M	R	
__ American Redstart	S	C	A
__ Ovenbird	S	C	A
__ Northern Waterthrush	M	X	
__ MacGillivray's Warbler	S	C	A
__ Common Yellowthroat	S	V	A
__ Wilson's Warbler	M	C	
__ Yellow-breasted Chat	S	X	A

Tanagers

__ Western Tanager	S	R	F
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Grosbeaks and Buntings

__ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M	R	
__ Lazuli Bunting	S	R	A
__ Indigo bunting	V	X	

Towhees, Sparrows and Longspurs

__ Rufous-sided Towhee	S	C	A
__ American Tree Sparrow	M	C	
__ Chipping Sparrow	S	V	A
__ Clay-coloured Sparrow	S	C	A
__ Vesper Sparrow	S	V	G
__ Lark Sparrow	V	R	
__ Lark Bunting	V	R	
__ Savannah Sparrow	S	V	G
__ Baird's Sparrow	S	R	G
__ Grasshopper Sparrow	S	R	G
__ LeConte's Sparrow	M	R	
__ Song Sparrow	S	C	A

__ White-throated Sparrow	S	R	F/A
__ White-crowned Sparrow	S	V	A
__ Dark-eyed Junco	Y	V	F/A
__ McCowan's Longspur	V	R	
__ Lapland Longspur	M	X	
__ Chestnut-collared Longspur	S	R	G
__ Snow Bunting	W	R	

Meadowlarks, Blackbirds and Orioles

__ Bobolink	S	R	G
__ Red-winged Blackbirds	S	V	W
__ Western Meadowlark	S	C	G
__ Yellow-headed Blackbird	S	V	W
__ Brewer's Blackbird	S	V	A
__ Common Grackle	V	R	
__ Brown-headed Cowbird	V	R	
__ Northern Oriole	S	R	A

Finches

__ Rosy Finch	W	X	
__ Pine Grosbeak	W	R	
__ Purple Finch	M	X	
__ Cassin's finch	S	X	F
__ Red Crossbill	Y	R	F
__ White-winged Crossbill	Y	R	F
__ Common Redpoll	W	R	
__ Pine Siskin	S	C	F
__ American Goldfinch	S	V	A
__ Evening Grosbeak	W	R	

Old World (Weaver) Sparrows

__ House Sparrow	Y	R	A
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For More Information	
We are interested in updating this checklist, and would like to hear from you if you can provide any new information or sighting records. If you have any comments or questions, drop by the Visitor Centre, or write to:	
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