

As of October 1993, 229 species, representing 40 families, have been recorded in the Municipality of Anchorage, excluding unsubstantiated reports of species of suspect origin. This checklist summarizes the general seasonal status for each of these species. Of the total recorded in Anchorage, 190 species occur annually as either regular migrants or winter residents. Phylogenetic sequence of English names as in Sibley and Ahlstrom (1990), Checklist of North American Birds (Sibley ed. 1983, and supplements); and the Checklist of Alaska Birds (D.D. Gibson, University of Alaska Museum, January 1993).

The area covered by this checklist extends from the Knik River in the north, south to Porage, and the Chugach Mountains on the east, west to Turnagain Arm-Knik Arm (Eastern Upper Cook Inlet). This area covers about 800 square miles. The avian habitats represented in this area can be divided into three general groups: coastal zone, birch/spruce forest, and alpine. The coastal zone includes the saline waters of the Eastern Upper Cook Inlet, tidal mudflats, and brackish-water wetlands. This zone is used by staging or passage migrants, principally waterfowl, shorebirds, and gulls. The birch/spruce forest zone occupies the upland between the coast and the Chugach Mountains, present mostly around and north of the metropolitan area. This zone is mainly used by breeding water birds and passerines, including most of the resident species. The majority of the subject land area comprises subalpine and alpine habitats of the Chugach Mountains. Except for the ptarmigan and ravens, few species are residents of this zone. Rather, this area is utilized during migration (raptors) or for breeding by such species as Golden Eagle, Surfbird, American Pipit, Northern Wheatear, American Tree Sparrow, and Rosy Finch.

LEGEND

- C common : occurs in nearly all proper habitats, but some suitable areas only sparsely or not at all, and/or the region regularly hosts large numbers of the species.
- U uncommon : occurs fairly regularly, uses little of the suitable habitat, and/or the region regularly hosts relatively small numbers of the species.
- R rare : species within or near its normal range, but may not occur annually; usually in very small numbers.
- CA casual : species beyond its normal range; few records, typically less than about 10, but irregular sightings are likely, usually in very small numbers.
- AC accidental : species well beyond its normal range and further sightings unlikely; only one or two records.
- * breeder + variable numbers
 † Anchorage & Eagle River Christmas Bird Count record(s)
- SP spring 16 March to 31 May
 S summer 1 June to 31 July
 F fall 1 August to 30 November
 W winter 1 December to 15 March

SPECIES	SP	S	F	W
Red-throated Loon*	R	R	R	
Pacific Loon*	U	U	U	
Common Loon*	U	U	U	
Pied-billed Grebe	AC	(ac)		
Horned Grebe*	C	C	C	
Red-necked Grebe*	C	C	C	
Leach's Storm-Petrel	CA			CA
Double-crested Cormorant	CA			CA
Pelagic Cormorant	AC			AC
Red-faced Cormorant	AC			AC
Great Blue Heron	CA			CA (ca)†
Tundra Swan	C			U
Trumpeter Swan*	U	CA	U	
Greater White-fronted Goose	U	CA	R	
Snow Goose	U	AC	CA	
Brant	CA	CA	AC	
Canada Goose*	C	C	C	(ca)†
Green-winged Teal*	C	C	C	(ca)†
Mallard*	C	C	C	C
Northern Pintail*	C	C	C	C
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C	CA
Cinnamon Teal	CA			
Northern Shoveler*	C	C	C	
Gadwall*	U	R	R	CA
Eurasian Wigeon	C	C	C	CA
American Wigeon*	C	C	C	(ca)†
Canvasback*	U	U	U	U
Redhead	U	CA	U	(ac)†
Ring-necked Duck*	U	U	U	(ca)†
Tufted Duck	AC			
Greater Scaup*	C	C	C	(ca)†
Lesser Scaup*	U	U	U	(ca)†
Common Eider	U	U	U	CA
Stellar's Eider	CA			CA
Harlequin Duck*	R	R	R	CA
Oldsquaw*	R	CA	R	
Black Scoter	CA	R	R	
Surf Scoter	CA	R	R	
White-winged Scoter	CA	R	R	
Common Goldeneye*	C	U	U	U
Barrow's Goldeneye*	U	U	U	U
Bufflehead	U	U	U	CA
Hooded Merganser	AC	U	U	U
Common Merganser*	U	R	U	U
Red-breasted Merganser	R	U	U	CA (ac)†

SPECIES	SP	S	F	W
Osprey	R	CA	R	
Bald Eagle*	U	R	U	R
Northern Harrier*	C	U	U	U
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	U	U	U	U
Northern Goshawk*	U	U	U	U
Sveinsson's Hawk	AC	AC	AC	AC
Red-tailed Hawk	U	R	U	CA
Rough-legged Hawk	U	U	U	CA
Golden Eagle*	U	U	U	CA
American Kestrel*	R	CA	R	
Merlin*	U	R	U	R
Peregrine Falcon	R	AC	R	CA
Gyrfalcon*	CA	CA	CA	R
Spruce Grouse*	C	C	C	C
Willow Ptarmigan* +	C	C	C	C
Rock Ptarmigan* +	R	R	R	R
White-tailed Ptarmigan* +	U	U	U	U
Sora	AC			
American Coot	CA	CA	CA	
Sandhill Crane*	C	R	U	
Black-bellied Plover	R	CA	R	
American Golden-Plover	U	U	U	
Pacific Golden-Plover	R?			
(Lesser Golden-Plover)	AC			
Semipalmated Plover*	C	C	C	
Killdeer*	R	R	R	
Black Oystercatcher	AC			
Greater Yellowlegs*	C	C	C	
Lesser Yellowlegs*	C	C	C	
Solitary Sandpiper*	U	U	U	
Wandering Tattler*	U	R	R	
Spotted Sandpiper*	C	C	C	
Terek Sandpiper	CA	CA	CA	
Upland Sandpiper	U	R	R	
Whimbrel	AC			
Bristle-thighed Curlew	U	U	U	
Hudsonian Godwit*	CA	CA	CA	
Bar-tailed Godwit	CA			
Marbled Godwit	R	AC		
Ruddy Turnstone	CA	U	U	
Black Turnstone	U	U	U	
Surfbird*	U	R	R	
Red Knot	U	AC		
Sanderling	R	U	U	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	U	U	

SPECIES	SP	S	F	W
Western Sandpiper	C	C	U	
Rufous-necked Stint	AC			
Least Sandpiper*	C	C	U	
Baird's Sandpiper	R	R	CA	
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	CA	U	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	CA	CA	CA	
Rock Sandpiper	R	CA	AC	
Dunlin	CA	CA	AC	
Silt Sandpiper	AC			
Short-billed Dowitcher*	C	C	C	
Long-billed Dowitcher	U	R	U	
Common Snipe*	C	C	C	(ca)†
Wilson's Phalarope(*?)	CA	CA		
Red-necked Phalarope*	C	C	U	
Red Phalarope	AC			
Parasitic Jaeger	CA	CA	CA	
Long-tailed Jaeger	CA	AC		
Franklin's Gull	AC			
Common Black-headed Gull	CA	CA		
Bonaparte's Gull*	C	C	U	
New Gull*	C	C	CA	
Ring-billed Gull	CA	AC		
California Gull	CA	CA	CA	
Herring Gull*	C	U	U	CA
Island Gull (inc Thayer's)	R	AC	U	CA
Slaty-backed Gull	CA	U	CA	
Glaucous-winged Gull*	C	C	C	CA
(Mostly hybrid w/Herring)				
Glaucous Gull	R	CA	U	CA
Black-legged Kittiwake	CA	CA	CA	AC
Sabine's Gull	AC			
Ivory Gull	C	C	U	
Caspian Tern	CA			
Arctic Tern*	C	C	U	
Common Murre	AC	AC	AC	CA
Rock Dove*	C	C	C	C
Mourning Dove	AC	AC	CA	
Great Horned Owl*	U	U	U	U
Snowy Owl	AC	CA	CA	CA
Northern Hawk Owl* +	R	R	R	R
Great Gray Owl	CA	CA	CA	CA
Short-eared Owl*	U	CA	R	
Boreal Owl*	U	U	U	U
Northern Saw-whet Owl*	U	U	U	U
Anna's Hummingbird	CA			CA (ac)
Costa's Hummingbird	AC			(ac)