

BIRDS RECORDED AT INGLEWOOD BIRD SANCTUARY,
CALGARY

(compiled from the observations of
members of the Calgary Bird Club)

by

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Introduction

No less than 135 species of birds have been recorded at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary or on the river close-by since 1956 by members of the Calgary Bird Club. In the accompanying table their occurrence is recorded on a month by month basis:

x = an observation is on record for that month.

? = the species almost certainly occurs at Inglewood during that month though no written record of this is available.

- = the species may be considered regular in the period of months so joined together.

During the winter months (December through February) not more than thirty species have been recorded from Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. During the summer months (June and July) between forty and fifty species occur, but the number that actually breed at Inglewood has not yet been exactly ascertained.

During the spring migration period (March through May) there is a steady increase in the number of species from a low point in March to 74 species recorded for May. During the fall migration period (August through November) there is a decline from 72 species recorded for August to about twenty species in November.

It is quite apparent, therefore, that the most interesting time for people to visit the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary to watch birds is during the peaks of the spring and fall migration in May and August. Indeed 65 of the 135 species recorded at Inglewood have been observed only during the migratory periods. The reason for this is that these species include a number which breed in the broad bands of boreal forest and arctic tundra that lie north of the Canadian prairies. In making their "overflight" across the prairies, these woodland and tundra species settle to feed at the few "oases" of suitable habitat that they can find, and Inglewood Bird Sanctuary is one of these.

If one looks down the table he can see quite distinct patterns of occurrence at Inglewood of the various species-groups:

Year-round residents: These include a small number of "nuisance" or undesirable species such as Mallard, Black-billed Magpie, European Starling and House Sparrow, two of which are human introductions. They also include two introduced game birds: the

Ring-necked Pheasant and Hungarian Partridge. The more attractive year-round residents are the Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker and Black-capped Chickadee. It is evident, therefore, that the year-round residents are an artificial group, partly hardy native species, partly introductions. Among the three important nuisance species only the Mallard is native, and it is only wintering along the Bow River because of the warm water pumped into the river by the city.

Winter visitors: In addition to the species just mentioned the following are to be seen at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary only during the winter months: Common Goldeneye (and occasionally Barrow's Goldeneye), Bufflehead, Bald Eagle, Pigeon Hawk, Mountain Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing and Common Redpoll.

Summer visitors: These include Pintail, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed and Franklin's Gull, Mourning Dove, Yellow-shafted Flicker, several flycatchers and swallows, House Wren, Robin, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch, Common Grackle, Clay-coloured Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

Unlike the winter visitors for which the "x" symbols are found only at the sides of the chart, the "x" symbols of the summer visitors are confined to the central columns of the chart.

Migrants: The species which occur at Inglewood only during migration in spring and fall stand out from the table because they appear only in the columns for April and May and/or August and September, but not in June or July. These migrants include the following: Red-breasted Merganser, several shorebirds, several gulls and terns, and many vireos, warblers, and sparrows. The most unusual species recorded at Inglewood was an Iceland Gull observed there in April 1957.

One species now found at Inglewood is of special interest. Ten years ago the White-breasted Nuthatch was hardly known at Calgary; now it is seen regularly.

It should not be assumed that the information given in the table is complete - it clearly is not. From time to time new species will be added and anyone may add the occurrence of listed species in additional months to those recorded in the table. I shall be glad to have additions pointed out to me.

25th February, 1967

I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the Calgary Bird Club whose observations have contributed to this paper, particularly to Kevin Van Tighem for his numerous observations which contributed greatly to the completeness of the following tables. Dr. M.T. Myres pointed out to me the value of bringing all the Inglewood observations together and I would like to acknowledge the great assistance he gave me in preparing this report.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Eared Grebe						x						
Great Blue Heron								x - x				
Whistling Swan				x								
Canada Goose				x					x - x			
Mallard	x - x - ?	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x
Pintail				x - x	- x	- ?	- x	- x				x
Green-winged Teal		x						x - x				
Blue-winged Teal				x - x	- x						x	
Shoveller								x				
Baldpate					x		x			x		x
Wood Duck	x		x		x				x			
Redhead	x											x
Canvasback					x							
Lesser Scaup	x					x	x				x	x
Common Goldeneye	x - x	- x	- x	- x							x - x	
Barrow's Goldeneye	x - x											x
Bufflehead	x - ?	- x	- x									x
Common Merganser	x - x	- ?	- x	- x			x		x - x	- x	- x	- x
Red-breasted Merganser				x								
Turkey Vulture					x							
Goshawk					x							
Sharp-shinned Hawk				x								
Cooper's Hawk									x			
Red-tailed Hawk					x - x	- ?	- x	- x				
Swainson's Hawk					x							
Bald Eagle	x - x											
Marsh Hawk				x					x			
Pigeon Hawk	x - x										x - x	
Sparrow Hawk				x - x	- x	- x	- x					
Ring-necked Pheasant	x - x	- ?	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x
Hungarian Partridge	x - x	- ?	- x	- x	- ?	- ?	- ?	- ?	- ?	- ?	- x	- x
American Coot											x	x
Killdeer			x - x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- x	- ?	- x	- x
Wilson's Snipe								x - x				x
Long-billed Curlew								x				
Upland Plover								x				

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Spotted Sandpiper					x - x - ?			x - x				
Solitary Sandpiper					x			x - x				
Greater Yellowlegs								x - x				
Lesser Yellowlegs								x - x				
Pectoral Sandpiper									x			
Baird's Sandpiper								x				
American Avocet								x				
Iceland Gull				x								
Herring Gull				x - x				x - x				
California Gull				x - x - x				x - x				
Ring-billed Gull				x - x - x - x				x - x				
Franklin's Gull				x - x - x - x				x - x				
Bonaparte's Gull					x			x			x	
Common Tern					x			x - x				
Black Tern					x		x - x					
Rock Dove	x - x - x - x			x - x - x - x				x - x - x - x		x - x - x - x		
Mourning Dove					x - x - x - x			x - x				
Great Horned Owl											x - x	
Common Nighthawk							x - x					
Belted Kingfisher	x - x - ? - ?			x - x - x - x				x - x - ? - ?				x
Yellow-shafted Flicker				x - x - ? - x				x				
Red-shafted Flicker				x - x			x					
Hairy Woodpecker									x			
Downy Woodpecker	x - x - x - x			x - x - x - x			? - ?	x - ?		x - x - x		x
Eastern Kingbird					x - x - x - x							
Western Kingbird						x						
Traill's Flycatcher					x - x - ? - x							
Least Flycatcher					x - x - ? - x							
Western Wood Pewee					x - x - ? - x							
Violet-green Swallow					x							
Tree Swallow				x - x - x - x								
Bank Swallow					x - x - x - x							
Rough-winged Swallow						x						
Cliff Swallow					x - ? - x - x							
Black-billed Magpie	x - x - x - x			x - x - x - x				x - x - x - x		x - x - x - x		

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Common Crow				x - x - x								
Black-capped Chickadee	x - x - x			? - x - ?				x - x - x		x - x - x		
Mountain Chickadee	x - x											x
White-breasted Nuthatch	x - x - x				x						x - x	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				x - x				x		x - x		
Brown Creeper		x										x
House Wren					x - x - x							
Winter Wren									x			
Catbird								x				
Robin				x - x - x				x - x				
Swainson's Thrush					x - x							
Veery					x							
Golden-crowned Kinglet		x										x
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								x		x		
Bohemian Waxwing	x - x										x - x	
Cedar Waxwing												
European Starling	x - x - x			x - x - x				x - x - x		x - x - x		
Red-eyed Vireo								x				
Philadelphia Vireo					x							
Warbling Vireo					x - x			x				
Black & White Warbler								x				
Tennessee Warbler					x			x - x				
Orange-crowned Warbler					x							
Parula Warbler								x				
Yellow Warbler					x - x - x			x				
Magnolia Warbler								x				
Myrtle Warbler					x				x			
Audubon's Warbler					x							
Townsend's Warbler								x				
Bay-breasted Warbler								x - x				
Blackpoll Warbler								x				
Palm Warbler								x		x		
Ovenbird								x - x				
Northern Waterthrush								x - x				
Connecticut Warbler								x				

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Mourning Warbler								x					
Yellowthroat					x			x					
Wilson's Warbler					x			x - x					
American Redstart					x			x - x					
House Sparrow	x - x - x - ?				x - x - ?			x - x - ?			x - x		
Western Meadowlark					x								
Red-winged Blackbird					x - x - x								
Baltimore Oriole					x - x - x								
Brewer's Blackbird					x - x				x				
Common Grackle					x - x - x - x								
Brown-headed Cowbird					x								
Western Tanager					x								
Rose-breasted Grosbeak								x					
Pine Grosbeak	x												
Common Redpoll	x - x - x												
Pine Siskin					x - ? - ? - x - x								
American Goldfinch					x - x - ? - x - x								
Savannah Sparrow					x								
Le Conte's Sparrow								x					
Slate-coloured Junco				x						x			
Oregon Junco				x									
Tree Sparrow				x									
Vesper Sparrow					x								
Chipping Sparrow				x - x				x					
Clay-coloured Sparrow				x - x - x - x									
White-crowned Sparrow				x - x					x				
White-throated Sparrow									x				
Fox Sparrow									x				
Song Sparrow					x - x - x								
<u>TOTALS</u>													
Species 135	24	23	17	39	74	47	43	72	49	18	22	28	
	WINTER		SPRING MIGRATION			SUMMER		FALL MIGRATION				WINTER	

AMENDMENT

The totals on p. 6 should be amended as follows:---

Winter: 25 and 24 species for Jan and Feb. and 30 species for
December

Spring Migration: 23, 45 and 94 species for March, April & May

Summer: 57 and 56 for June and July

Fall Migration: 122, 93, 25 and 24 species for August--November

TOTAL Number of Species recorded at Inglewood now stands at 181