



**Bird Checklist:**

# Golden Ears Provincial Park

Maple Ridge

compiled by Al Grass

Golden Ears Provincial Park is located in north Maple Ridge, about 48 kilometres east of Vancouver. From its southern boundary, the park extends 55 kilometres northward through mountain wilderness to the southern boundary of Garibaldi Provincial Park. Recreational opportunities include walking, swimming, wildlife viewing, picnicking, camping, horseback riding, fishing, canoeing and boating. Many trails are found throughout the park.

Golden Ears Provincial Park is identified as a wildlife viewing site of British Columbia Wildlife Watch, the provincial wildlife viewing program. This site offers good birding, especially at Mike Lake, Alouette Lake, and Gold Creek, as well as opportunities to observe several mammal species.

This 55,594 hectare park is rich in human history. In the 1920's the click of the fallers' axes, the rasp of crosscut saws and the puff of steam engines were common sounds as massive trees up to 4 metres in diameter were felled, bucked and hauled on flat cars to log dumps on the Fraser River. Visitors can find abandoned steam donkey sleds, railroad rails and steel cables along many of the trails.

A map of the park is available from BC Parks [(604) 463-3513; Box 5000, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 7E3 or (604) 924-2200; 1610 Mt. Seymour Parkway, North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 1L3].

The following is a list of the bird species which may be observed in Golden Ears Provincial Park. The status of each species is indicated by an abundance level in each of four seasons. The standard four letter code is shown for each species. Birds known to have bred in this area are denoted by an asterisk (\*).

Note: The status of each species is based on the best available information and is subject to change as new observations are recorded. Many species are likely more abundant than listed below.

**Explanation of Symbols:**

**Sp Spring** March - May.  
**S Summer** June - mid August  
**F Fall** mid August - November  
**W Winter** December - February

**c Common:** almost always seen; large numbers  
**f Fairly Common:** usually observed; moderate numbers

**u Uncommon:** often seen, but not on every visit  
**r Rare:** seen a few times each year; may be hard to find

**ca Casual:** few known records, but to be expected  
**ac Accidental:** only 1 or 2 records; outside normal range

		Sp	S	F	W
COLO	Common Loon	r		r	
PBGR	* Pied-billed Grebe	r	r	r	r
HOGH	Horned Grebe				r
AMBI	American Bittern	ca	ca		
GBHE	Great Blue Heron	u	u	u	u
GRHE	Green Heron	ca			
TRUS	Trumpeter Swan			ca	
CAGO	* Canada Goose	f	f	f	f
WODU	* Wood Duck	r	r	r	r
GWTE	Green-winged Teal		ca		
MALL	* Mallard	u	u	u	u
RNDU	Ring-necked Duck				r
LESC	Lesser Scaup	ca		ca	
HADU	Harlequin Duck		ca		
COGO	Common Goldeneye				f
BUFF	* Bufflehead	r	r		u
HOME	* Hooded Merganser	r	r	r	r
COME	* Common Merganser	f	f	f	f
TUVU	Turkey Vulture	ca			
OSPR	* Osprey		u		
BAEA	Bald Eagle	u	u	u	u
SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk	r		r	

		Sp	S	F	W		Sp	S	F	W	
COHA	Cooper's Hawk	r	r	r	r	HAFL	* Hammond's Flycatcher			f	
NOGO	Northern Goshawk		ca			PSFL	* Pacific-slope Flycatcher			c	
RTHA	Red-tailed Hawk	u	u	u	u	EAKI	Eastern Kingbird			ca	
GOEA	Golden Eagle	ca	ca	ca		TRSW	* Tree Swallow			u	
AMKE	American Kestrel		ca			VGSW	* Violet-green Swallow			f	
MERL	Merlin		ca			NRWS	* Northern Rough-winged Swallow			u	
RNPH	Ring-necked Pheasant	ca	ca			CLSW	Cliff Swallow			r	
BLGR	* Blue Grouse	f	f	f	f	BASW	* Barn Swallow			c	
RUGR	* Ruffed Grouse	f	f	f	f	GRJA	* Gray Jay	r	r	r	r
WTPT	White-tailed Ptarmigan	r	r	r	r	STJA	* Steller's Jay	c	c	c	c
VIRA	Virginia Rail		ca			NOCR	* Northwestern Crow	c	c	c	c
SACR	Sandhill Crane	ca				CORA	* Common Raven	u	u	u	u
KILL	Killdeer	ca		ca		BCCH	* Black-capped Chickadee	f	f	f	f
SOSA	Solitary Sandpiper	ca				MOCH	Mountain Chickadee			ca	
SPSA	* Spotted Sandpiper		u			BOCH	Boreal Chickadee			ac	
COSH	Common Snipe		ca	ca	ca	CHCH	* Chestnut-backed Chickadee	f	f	f	f
RBGU	Ring-billed Gull		ca			BUSH	Bushtit			r	
GWGU	Glaucous-winged Gull	u	u	u	u	RBNU	* Red-breasted Nuthatch	u	u	u	u
MAMU	Marbled Murrelet			ca		BRCR	* Brown Creeper	u	u	u	u
RODO	Rock Dove		ca			BEWR	Bewick's Wren			r	r
BTPI	* Band-tailed Pigeon	u	u	u	u	HOWR	House Wren				ac
MOW	Mourning Dove		ca			WIWR	* Winter Wren	c	c	c	c
WSOW	* Western Screech-Owl	r	r	r	r	AMDI	American Dipper			r	
GHOW	Great Horned Owl	r	r	r	r	GCKI	* Golden-crowned Kinglet	c	c	c	c
NPOW	Northern Pygmy-Owl		ca			RCKI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	f		f	
BAOW	Barred Owl	r	r	r	r	MOBIL	Mountain Bluebird				ca
NSWO	Northern Saw-whet Owl	r	r	r	r	TOSO	Townsend's Solitaire			r	
CONI	Common Nighthawk		r			VEER	Veery			ca	
BLSW	Black Swift		r	ca		SWTH	* Swainson's Thrush			c	
VASW	Vaux's Swift		f	r		HETH	* Hermit Thrush	f	c	f	
RTHU	Ruby-throated Hummingbird		ac			AMRO	* American Robin.	r	c	r	r
RUHU	* Rufous Hummingbird		c			VATH	* Varied Thrush	c	c	c	c
BEKI	* Belted Kingfisher	f	f	f	f	AMPI	American Pipit			ca	
RBSA	* Red-breasted Sapsucker	f	f	f	f	CEWA	* Cedar Waxwing			f	
DOWO	Downy Woodpecker	r	r	r	r	NOSH	Northern Shrike				ca
HAWO	* Hairy Woodpecker	f	f	f	f	EUST	European Starling			u	
TTWO	Three-toed Woodpecker		r	r		SOYI	Solitary Vireo			r	
NOFL	Northern Flicker	r	r	r	r	HUVI	* Hutton's Vireo			r	
PIWO	* Pileated Woodpecker	r	r	r	r	WAVI	* Warbling Vireo			c	
OSFL	Olive-sided Flycatcher		r			REVI	Red-eyed Vireo			r	
WWPE	Western Wood-Pewee		r			OCWA	* Orange-crowned Warbler			f	
WIFL	* Willow Flycatcher		r			YEWA	* Yellow Warbler			r	

		Sp	S	F	W
YRWA	* Yellow-rumped Warbler	f	r	f	
BTGW	* Black-throated Gray Warbler		c		
TOWA	* Townsend's Warbler		f		
NOWA	Northern Waterthrush		ac		
MGWA	* MacGillivray's Warbler		r		
COYE	* Common Yellowthroat		f		
WIWA	* Wilson's Warbler	c	f	c	
WETA	* Western Tanager		f		
BHGR	* Black-headed Grosbeak		f		
RSTO	* Rufous-sided Towhee		r		
CHSP	Chipping Sparrow		r		
SAVS	Savannah Sparrow	ca			
FOSP	Fox Sparrow	ca	ca		
SOSP	* Song Sparrow	f	f	f	f
LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow		ca		
GCSP	Golden-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
WCSP	* White-crowned Sparrow		c		
DEJU	* Dark-eyed Junco	c	c	c	c
RWBL	Red-winged Blackbird		r		
WEME	Western Meadowlark		ca		
BRBL	Brewer's Blackbird	ca			
BHCO	Brown-headed Cowbird		f		
PIGR	Pine Grosbeak	ca			
PUFI	* Purple Finch	u	u	u	u
HOFI	House Finch		ca		
RECR	* Red Crossbill	c	c	c	c
WWCR	White-winged Crossbill	u	u	u	u
CORE	Common Redpoll				ca
PISI	* Pine Siskin	c	c	c	c
AMGO	American Goldfinch		r		
EVGR	* Evening Grosbeak	c	c	c	c

**Total Species: 137**

**Additional Sightings:**

(date, location, species, number, behaviour)

**Additional Sightings Requested:**

Bird sighting records are requested for all seasons. This will assist in determining the abundance level for each species. If you bird at Golden Ears, please forward your sightings.

**Recommended Birding Areas:**

The forest, marshy areas, streams and lakes of Golden Ears Provincial Park provide for the needs (food, water arid cover) of birds and other Wildlife. By visiting different habitats, you will see a greater variety of birds. Even though birds maybe found throughout the park, the following locations include a range of habitats and offer a variety of viewing opportunities.

Mike Lake

Mike Lake, including the surrounding forest, is the best binding locale in the park, including waterfowl, vireos, warblers, Common Loon and Pied-billed Grebe. Flycatching birds seen in drowned trees include Cedar Waxwing, Willow Flycatcher and swallows.

Spirea Nature Trail

There is a boardwalk through this interesting bog site, where the insect-eating sundew plant grows. Watch for Cedar Waxwing, MacGillivray's Warbler, Song Sparrow and swallows. Vaux's Swifts are seen overhead, especially on overcast days.

Alouette Lake Day Use Area

An open grassy picnic site on the northwestern side of the lake. Canada Geese and Brown-headed Cowbirds are common. Osprey may be seen hunting for fish over the lake.

Alouette and Gold Creek Campgrounds

There is good biding here. Excellent opportunities to view Red-breasted Sapsucker, Swainson's Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco and Steller's Jay. Fine dawn chorus.

Gold Creek

The Gold Creek area includes the West Canyon and Lower Falls Trails. This is a beautiful valley with a boulder strewn creek. Mountain Goats are sometimes seen on the domed peak at the start of these trails (Evans Peak). Black and Vaux's Swifts, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, American Dipper, Common Raven, Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk should be looked for:

Sub-alpine Trails

DO NOT VENTURE INTO THESE AREAS UNLESS YOU ARE PROPERLY EQUIPPED! Trails to the Golden Ears and up Alouette Mountain lead into the sub-alpine, including the majestic old-growth forest near Lake Beautiful on the Alouette Mountain Trail. Birds to look for here include Blue Grouse, Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush, and the rare Three-toed Woodpecker.

**Other Wildlife:**

There is a wide range of opportunities to observe mammal species at the park. Easily viewed species include Douglas squirrel and yellow pine chipmunk. Other mammals seen at the park include black-tailed deer, coyote and Northern flying squirrel. Mountain Goats are occasionally seen on high mountain rods faces. **Caution:** Black bears are frequently encountered throughout the park, including on hiking trails and occasionally in the public campgrounds and, picnic areas.

**Viewing Ethics for Conservation:**

Wildlife viewing demands courtesy and common sense. For the well being of the wildlife and habitats please follow these guidelines:

**Be Considerate of Wildlife** - Use binoculars to view wildlife from a distance rather than approaching them too closely.

**Be Considerate of Habitat** - Plants and the landscape are important parts of wildlife habitat. Please do not damage or remove them, and stay on designated trails or roads.

**Be Considerate of Other People** - Respect private property and the wildlife viewing activities of others.

**Control Pets** - Pets can harm wildlife and hinder viewing opportunities.

**Do Not Approach Young Wildlife** - Young wildlife are rarely 'abandoned' or lost. An adult is usually at a safe distance waiting for you to leave.

**Tips for Wildlife Viewers:**

These tips will improve your chances of seeing wildlife in their natural habitats. Remember, wildlife are 'wild' and they may choose not to be seen.

**Choose the Right Season and Time of Day** - Many species are most active during the cooler morning and evening. hours. A hot, dry, sunny afternoon is usually not the best time to look for wildlife.

**Be Patient and. Be Quiet** - Wildlife may be difficult to observe even though you have heard the species or detected their signs. If you remain still and quiet, wildlife will determine that you are no threat, and may become active and more visible.

**Use Binoculars or a Spotting Scope** - Visual aids can let you scan wide areas and will increase your chances to observe wildlife without disturbing them.

**Move Slowly and Reduce Visibility** - Wildlife will usually sense your presence long before you have sensed theirs. Most animals have a keen sense of hearing and smell, and most birds and large mammals have keen sight.



**British Columbia Wildlife Watch** is the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks' program designed to promote viewing opportunities within British Columbia. The protection of wildlife and their habitat, and a positive, safe experience for the viewer are the primary objectives of this program. Many local communities, other agencies and public conservation groups are involved. For more information on this or other, wildlife viewing sites, contact the Regional BC Environment office in Surrey [(604) 582-5200 or 1-800-665-7027; #300-10334-152A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8].

**Golden Ears Provincial Park Access:**

The main access point to Golden Ears Provincial Park is from Lougheed Highway (Highway 7) or Dewdney Trunk Road in Maple Ridge. Follow the park signs north on 232nd Street, and east onto Fern Crescent which leads directly to the park. The local horse trail network also leads to the park.

The sighting information in this checklist has been compiled by Al Grass of BC Parks, Additional bird records are requested, especially nesting records. This checklist will be revised when additional information is available. If you have new sightings, or any comments regarding the species listed, the frequency of occurrence, or the seasons indicated, please forward your comments in writing to **British Columbia Wildlife Watch**, BC Environment, #300-10334-152A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8.

This checklist has been produced by **British Columbia Wildlife Watch** with the assistance of the **Alouette Field Naturalists (AFN)**. Financial assistance was obtained by **AFN** from the **Community Partnership Program of Vancouver City Savings Credit Union**.



To contact the Alouette Field Naturalists write c/o 12554 Grace Street, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 5N2. The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists Foundation supports .the goals, objectives and activities of British Columbia Wildlife Watch.