

#301, 5204-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT  
X1A 1E2

April 15<sup>th</sup> 2008



## Greetings from the NWT/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey!

The NWT/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey is entering its 14<sup>th</sup> year of amassing information on bird distribution across the Territories. The Checklist Survey is a volunteer program that hundreds of researchers, tourists, government staff, and lodge owners have participated in since 1995.

Your observations are important. The data collected is used by government and non-government organizations for bird conservation and management. If you have not participated before, why not **make 2008 your first year surveying!** Even if you can only identify a few species (e.g. Snow Geese, Canada Geese or Snow Buntings), we encourage you to share your observations and take pictures of species you aren't sure about (we will assist you with identification once you have sent us the pictures).

As a researcher in northern Canada, you are in an excellent position to contribute to the Checklist Survey database. You and your staff visit parts of the Territories that few other people ever see, and so your input is valuable. **We would appreciate it if you or your assistants could fill out a few forms over the course of your field season in the north. If you already keep daily bird lists in your camp, and do not wish to fill out individual forms, please contact us to make alternate data-sharing arrangements.** (E.g. We can easily accept Excel or similar tables with bird observations.)

This package includes:

- (1) A brief description of the Checklist program
- (2) A map of NWT/NU showing where we have information from, and areas for which we are missing bird information.
- (3) A printable copy of the Checklist form (includes instructions on how to complete the form).

Please return any completed forms to the address marked on the Survey forms. You can download additional forms from the Survey website, [www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist](http://www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist).

If you have any questions about the Survey, or how to participate in it, please call Craig Machtans at (867) 669-4771, or e-mail [NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca](mailto:NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca). If you know any other scientists that will be conducting research in the north this year, please share this letter and package with them.

**Thank you!**

The NWT/NU Bird Checklist Survey  
& Canadian Wildlife Service, Yellowknife



## Canadian Wildlife Service – Environment Canada Northwest Territories/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey

The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada is requesting CiCAT IPY members to voluntarily participate in the NWT/NU Bird Checklist Survey program. This bird monitoring program relies on the observations and reports of volunteers. It was initiated in 1995 by the Canadian Wildlife Service to collect information on the distribution, abundance and breeding status of birds in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Your participation in the program will increase the baseline knowledge of bird species in the Arctic. Take a look at the map on the next page and see if your project will be visiting a region for which we have no information collected to date.

### **Why collect bird data for NWT/NU?**

Checklist data can provide a great deal of useful information that is otherwise difficult to collect in a large, remote area like the North. By working cooperatively with volunteers, a database of bird sightings is being used as baseline information for further studies, environmental assessments, more accurate mapping of bird distributions, and (if the database becomes large enough) detecting major bird population changes.

### **What information is collected?**

The program is designed for convenience. Bird observations can be as specific as reporting an actual point count for birds, or as simple as the number of species observed at a camp over a one week period. The program collects information on all birds including: breeding status, nest information, and general location and habitat type where the birds were observed.

### **Can anyone access these data?**

Yes. Information from the Checklist Database may be obtained by contacting the Canadian Wildlife Service. Data can be sorted and retrieved by geographic coordinates, individual species, species groups, land claim, Bird Conservation Regions, National Parks or Territory.

### **Species at Risk**

The program is particularly interested in collecting observations of species at risk such as Whooping Crane, Yellow Rail, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Short-eared Owl**, Common Nighthawk, Rusty Blackbird, **Red Knot**, **Ivory Gull**, or Eskimo Curlew.

### **Contact Canadian Wildlife Service for more information**

- Website: [www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist](http://www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist)  
(download PDF versions of the Checklist forms in English or French)
- Email: [NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca](mailto:NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca)
- Phone: (867) 669-4773
- Mail: NWT/NU Bird Checklist Survey, Canadian Wildlife Service, 301-5204 50<sup>th</sup> Ave, Yellowknife NT, X1A 1E2



*Bird observations collected during your project activities are a valuable contribution to wildlife monitoring and management!*

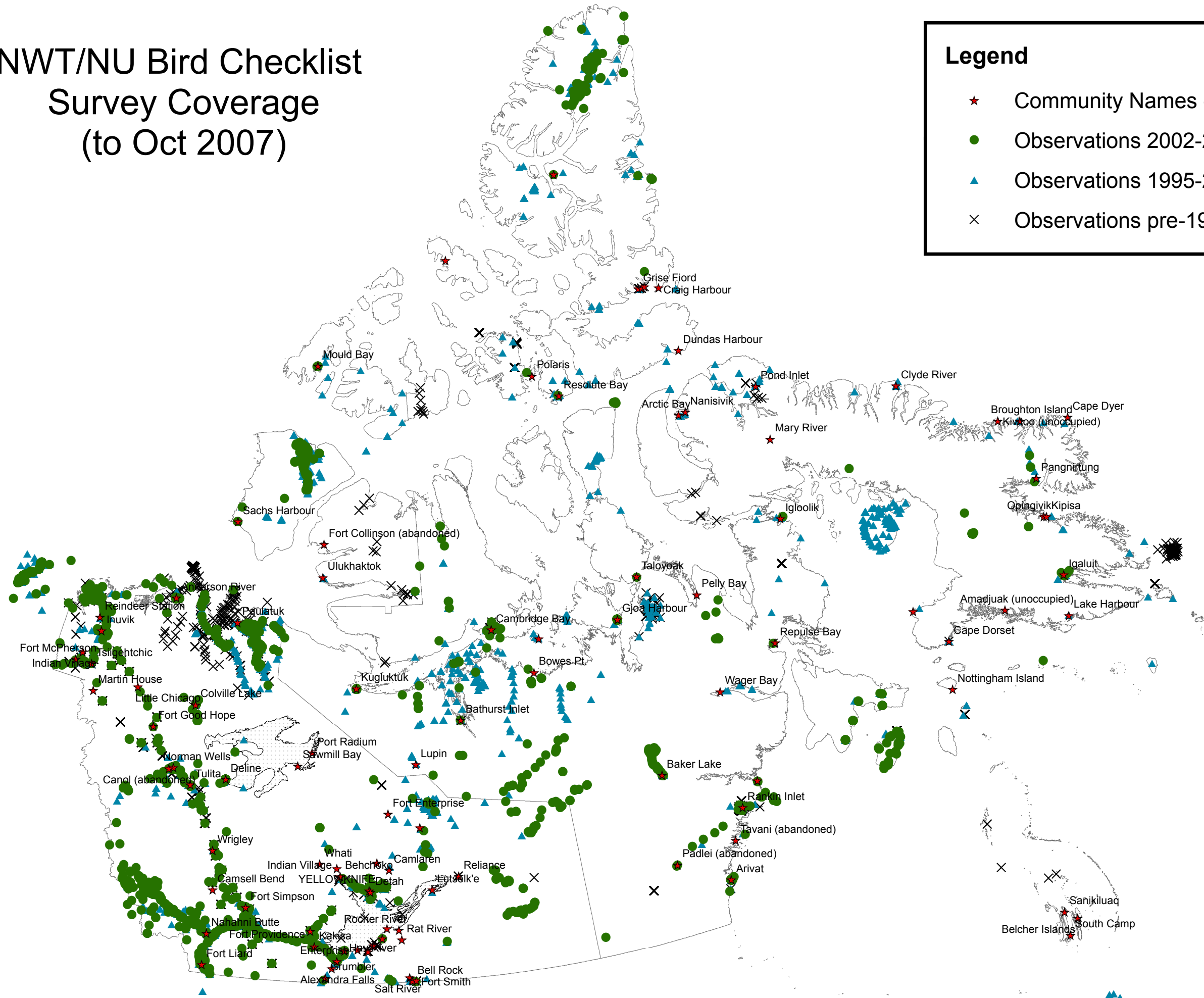




# NWT/NU Bird Checklist Survey Coverage (to Oct 2007)

**Legend**

- ★ Community Names - NT & NU
- Observations 2002-2007
- ▲ Observations 1995-2001
- × Observations pre-1995



# NWT-Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey Form

The NWT-Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey is part of a national effort to collect scientific data on the geographic distribution, abundance and breeding status of birds. Your data may be used for conservation decisions made in the north.



The Survey is administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, in cooperation with Parks Canada and the Governments of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Please visit our website to learn more about the program: [www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist](http://www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist)

Please read and follow these steps to help us find out more about birds North of 60.

1. Fill out the personal and location information (sections A-C).
2. On the list (section D) record the number (or best estimate) of birds you observe and a breeding code for a 24 hour or shorter period in a 10x10 km or smaller area.
3. Fill out section 'F' if your observations are from above the treeline.
4. Return your completed form(s) to:

NWT-Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Suite 301, 5204-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife NT X1A 1E2 CANADA  
Fax: +867.873.8185  
e-Mail: [NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca](mailto:NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca)

Revised Feb 2007

## A. OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Observer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of additional observers (note all or list a number):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (day/month/year)

Start Time: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. (circle one)

End Time: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Total observation time: \_\_\_\_\_ (hours)

Location Information: Name of area, feature, or location.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_"

Longitude: \_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_"

Or UTM's ↓

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM Easting \_\_\_\_\_ North \_\_\_\_\_ (in metres)

## B. COMMENTS

Provide notes on unusual observations such as rarities, extra-limital sightings, odd behaviour, odd habitat associations. For rare or unusual birds, include photographs for verification. Give a detailed description of identifying features and behaviour

**C. PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION** (Check ✓one)

**What Kind of Count Did You Do?**

- Casual Observation   
(feeder count, individual bird note, etc)
- Point or Stationary Count   
(ensure duration is recorded on first page)
- Transect or Travelling Count   
Distance traveled during count \_\_\_\_\_ km
- Area Count/Search   
Area covered for count \_\_\_\_\_ km<sup>2</sup>
- Non-Standard (>24 hrs)

**How Inclusive Was Your Count?**

- This list reports all birds seen at the site   
or is limited to one or a few species at the site

**What is your birdwatching skill level?**

Ability of observer (or group) to detect and identify all species present (including ID by songs/calls) was:

- Fair  (know 50-75%)      Good  (76-99%)      Excellent  (>99%)

**Weather conditions** for detecting birds in the area visited:

- Fair       Good       Excellent

**What Kind of Habitat Were You in?**

Circle the dominant habitat type and check all others that apply:

- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest     | <input type="checkbox"/> Taiga            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet Tundra | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Tundra       | <input type="checkbox"/> Polygonal Tundra |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riverine   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake             | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh/Wetland    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estuary    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tidal Marsh      | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Marine   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sea Ice    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tidal Mud Flat   | <input type="checkbox"/> Network of ponds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpine     | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Settlement |   |
- Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**E. EXTRA INFORMATION**

**Age and Sex of Birds:** Record the number of adults in the main part of the form. Use the **Comments** section of this form to record the number of juveniles and/or the number of males or females.

**Nest Records:** The Checklist database accepts nest records, using the same methods and cards as the Ontario Nest Record Scheme. Go to our website to find the necessary materials.

**F. OBSERVATIONS AT OR BEYOND THE TREELINE**

\*This supplementary information contributes to PRISM (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring) - an international initiative that documents breeding conditions for shorebirds in arctic regions.\*

Please provide an estimate of snow cover in your study area during your observations:

Overall snow cover \_\_\_\_\_%      On flat ground \_\_\_\_\_%  
Permanent snow cover \_\_\_\_\_%      On slopes \_\_\_\_\_%

Ice cover on local lakes during your observations: \_\_\_\_\_%

Did any major storms/snowfalls/bad weather occur?

- No  
 During your survey  
 During the previous 24-48 hours

**Tips to avoid common problems:**

1. Fill out the date field.
2. Give the best coordinates or location information you can.
3. Instead of using "lots" or "many" to describe how many birds you counted, estimate a minimum number and make a comment that it was a minimum estimate.
4. Record the highest breeding status code for each species if possible. If you leave the field blank, your observations will all be marked with code "X".

**Thank you for participating!**

Please note that all bird data submitted to this program is in the public domain. No personal data is released.

Canada

D. SPECIES	#	BR
Red-throated Loon		
Pacific Loon		
Common Loon		
Yellow-billed Loon		
Pied-billed Grebe		
Horned Grebe		
Red-necked Grebe		
Eared Grebe		
Northern Fulmar		
Greater Shearwater		
American White Pelican		
Double-crested Cormorant		
American Bittern		
Tundra Swan		
Trumpeter Swan		
Greater White-fronted Goose		
Snow Goose		
Ross's Goose		
Brant		
Canada Goose		
Cackling Goose		
Green-winged Teal		
American Black Duck		
Mallard		
Northern Pintail		
Blue-winged Teal		
Northern Shoveler		
Gadwall		
American Wigeon		
Canvasback		
Redhead		
Ring-necked Duck		
Greater Scaup		
Lesser Scaup		
Common Eider		
King Eider		
Harlequin Duck		
Long-tailed Duck		
Black Scoter		

SPECIES	#	BR
Surf Scoter		
White-winged Scoter		
Common Goldeneye		
Barrow's Goldeneye		
Bufflehead		
Hooded Merganser		
Common Merganser		
Red-breasted Merganser		
Ruddy Duck		
Osprey		
Bald Eagle		
Golden Eagle		
Northern Harrier		
Sharp-shinned Hawk		
Cooper's Hawk		
Northern Goshawk		
Swainson's Hawk		
Red-tailed Hawk		
Rough-legged Hawk		
Broad-winged Hawk		
American Kestrel		
Merlin		
Peregrine Falcon		
Gyrfalcon		
Spruce Grouse		
Dusky (Blue) Grouse		
Willow Ptarmigan		
Rock Ptarmigan		
White-tailed Ptarmigan		
Ruffed Grouse		
Sharp-tailed Grouse		
Yellow Rail		
Sora		
American Coot		
Sandhill Crane		
Whooping Crane		
Black-bellied Plover		
American Golden Plover		
Common Ringed Plover		

SPECIES	#	BR
Semipalmated Plover		
Killdeer		
American Avocet		
Greater Yellowlegs		
Lesser Yellowlegs		
Solitary Sandpiper		
Wandering Tattler		
Spotted Sandpiper		
Upland Sandpiper		
Eskimo Curlew		
Whimbrel		
Hudsonian Godwit		
Marbled Godwit		
Ruddy Turnstone		
Red Knot		
Sanderling		
Semipalmated Sandpiper		
Western Sandpiper		
Least Sandpiper		
White-rumped Sandpiper		
Baird's Sandpiper		
Pectoral Sandpiper		
Purple Sandpiper		
Dunlin		
Stilt Sandpiper		
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		
Short-billed Dowitcher		
Long-billed Dowitcher		
Wilson's Snipe		
Wilson's Phalarope		
Red-necked Phalarope		
Red Phalarope		
Pomarine Jaeger		
Parasitic Jaeger		
Long-tailed Jaeger		
Franklin's Gull		
Little Gull		
Bonaparte's Gull		
Mew Gull		

SPECIES	#	BR
Ring-billed Gull		
California Gull		
Herring Gull		
Thayer's Gull		
Iceland Gull		
Glaucous Gull		
Great Black-backed Gull		
Black-legged Kittiwake		
Ross's Gull		
Sabine's Gull		
Ivory Gull		
Caspian Tern		
Common Tern		
Arctic Tern		
Black Tern		
Dovekie		
Thick-billed Murre		
Razorbill		
Black Guillemot		
Atlantic Puffin		
Mourning Dove		
Great Horned Owl		
Snowy Owl		
Northern Hawk Owl		
Barred Owl		
Great Gray Owl		
Long-eared Owl		
Short-eared Owl		
Boreal Owl		
Common Nighthawk		
Belted Kingfisher		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
Downy Woodpecker		
Hairy Woodpecker		
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker		
Black-backed Woodpecker		
Northern Flicker		
Pileated Woodpecker		
Olive-sided Flycatcher		

SPECIES	#	BR
Western Wood-pewee		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		
Alder Flycatcher		
Least Flycatcher		
Hammond's Flycatcher		
Eastern Phoebe		
Say's Phoebe		
Eastern Kingbird		
Northern Shrike		
Blue-headed Vireo		
Warbling Vireo		
Red-eyed Vireo		
Philadelphia Vireo		
Gray Jay		
Black-billed Magpie		
American Crow		
Common Raven		
Horned Lark		
Tree Swallow		
Violet-green Swallow		
Bank Swallow		
Cliff Swallow		
Barn Swallow		
Black-capped Chickadee		
Gray-headed Chickadee		
Boreal Chickadee		
Red-breasted Nuthatch		
Winter Wren		
Marsh Wren		
American Dipper		
Golden-crowned Kinglet		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
Northern Wheatear		
Mountain Bluebird		
Townsend's Solitaire		
Gray-cheeked Thrush		
Swainson's Thrush		
Hermit Thrush		
American Robin		

SPECIES	#	BR
Varied Thrush		
Yellow Wagtail		
American Pipit		
Bohemian Waxwing		
Cedar Waxwing		
European Starling		
Tennessee Warbler		
Orange-crowned Warbler		
Yellow Warbler		
Magnolia Warbler		
Yellow-rumped Warbler		
Cape May Warbler		
Palm Warbler		
Bay-breasted Warbler		
Black-and-White Warbler		
Blackpoll Warbler		
Mourning Warbler		
McGillivray's Warbler		
Connecticut Warbler		
Canada Warbler		
Wilson's Warbler		
Ovenbird		
Northern Waterthrush		
Common Yellowthroat		
American Redstart		
Western Tanager		
American Tree Sparrow		
Chipping Sparrow		
Clay-colored Sparrow		
Vesper Sparrow		
Savannah Sparrow		
Le Conte's Sparrow		
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow		
Fox Sparrow		
Song Sparrow		
Lincoln's Sparrow		
Swamp Sparrow		
White-throated Sparrow		
Golden-crowned Sparrow		

SPECIES	#	BR
Harris's Sparrow		
White-crowned Sparrow		
Dark-eyed Junco		
Lapland Longspur		
Smith's Longspur		
Snow Bunting		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
Red-winged Blackbird		
Yellow-headed Blackbird		
Rusty Blackbird		
Brewer's Blackbird		
Common Grackle		
Brown-headed Cowbird		

SPECIES	#	BR
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch		
Pine Grosbeak		
Purple Finch		
Red Crossbill		
White-winged Crossbill		
Common Redpoll		
Hoary Redpoll		
Pine Siskin		
Evening Grosbeak		
House Sparrow		
<b>SPECIES NOT ON LIST</b>		

BREEDING EVIDENCE CODES (BR column on checklist)

Level of evidence	Code	Description
Observed	X	Bird identified, but no indication of breeding or outside of breeding season
Possible	H	Bird observed and/or breeding calls heard in suitable nesting habitat during the breeding season
Probable	P	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat
	T	Territory presumed through territorial nesting behaviour at same location on at least two occasions a week or more apart
	C	Courtship behaviour between a male and a female
	V	Visiting probable nest site, without other evidence
Confirmed	N	Nest building/excavation of nest hole by Wrens or Woodpeckers
	NB	Nest building or adult carrying nest material; do not use this code for wrens or woodpeckers
	DD	Distraction display or injury feigning
	UN	Used nest or egg shells found
	FL	Recently fledged young or downy young
	ON	Occupied nest indicated by adult entering or leaving nest site or adult seen incubating
	CF	Adult seen carrying food or faecal sac of young
NE	Nest with eggs	
NY	Nest with young	