

Common Birds of Tennant Lake

The **Great Blue Heron** can be seen regularly throughout the year around the edges of the lake hunting its favorite meal of fish or frogs. The **American Bittern** and **Green Heron**, although uncommon elsewhere in the Northwest, may be seen during the summer along the slough between Tennant Lake and Hovander Farm.

The summer ducks commonly seen in and around the lake are the **Blue-winged** and **Cinnamon Teal**, **Mallard** and the colorful **Wood Duck**. The winter complement of ducks (best before and after hunting season) include: **Wigeon**, **Shoveler**, **Ring-necked**, **Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Pintail**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Common Goldeneye** and the diminutive **Ruddy Duck**. Clay Pit Pond (access off Slater Road) is deeper than Tennant Lake and therefore more productive of diving ducks.

The **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Northern Harrier** are common all year and both nest within the park. Winter brings the possibility of northern hawks and falcons which should be looked for in the more open areas.

The **Barn Owl**, **Screech Owl** and **Great-horned Owl** are present all year and also nest in the area. As with the hawks, winter may produce northern owls such as the **Short-eared Owl** and in some years the **Snowy Owl**.

Mourning Doves are present all year in the cultivated areas of the park; this being another species that may be hard to find elsewhere in Western Washington.

Flickers are especially numerous along wood edges. The tiny **Downy Woodpecker** is common all year and the larger **Hairy Woodpecker** is present during winter. The huge **Pileated Woodpecker** is uncommon, but should be looked for in the deep woods.

Four species of **Swallows** occur here during the summer months (**Barn**, **Tree**, **Cliff** and **Violet-green**) and all raise young within the park.

Feeding flocks of **Chickadees**, **Kinglets** and **Bushtits** are common in the deciduous woods and may be accompanied by **Warblers** during the summer.

Birds typical of the marsh and best seen from the boardwalk trail and overlook are the **Marsh Wren**, **Common Yellow-throat** and the **Red-winged Blackbird**.

The **American Goldfinch** is common in the summer with small numbers remaining through the winter. The pale **Savannah Sparrow** inhabits most open areas while the darker **Song** and **Fox Sparrows** reside in woods and wood edges. **White-crowned Sparrows** are common along roadsides during winter with smaller numbers of **Golden-crowned Sparrows**.

Checklist of Birds Observed at Tennant Lake

This list represents several observers' records over a four year period. Occurrence nomenclature is based to some degree on Wahl's Birds of Whatcom County: Status and Distribution. Relative abundance and seasonal occurrence are for the Tennant Lake area specifically and birders are referred to Wahl's book for coverage of the entire county.

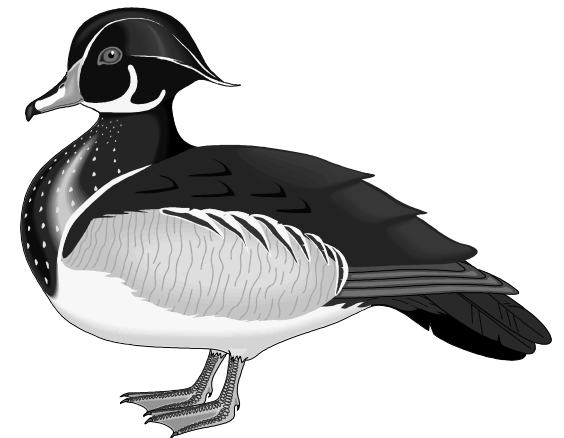
Birds marked with an asterisk are known to breed in the area or have been observed regularly during the nesting season.

Solid lines separate orders, dashed lines separate families.

Tennant Lake Interpretive Center
5236 Nielsen Ave.
Ferndale, Washington 98248



The Birds of Tennant Lake



Whatcom County Parks & Recreation

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Common Loon | Uncommon-winter |
| Western Grebe | Uncommon-winter |
| * Pied-billed Grebe | Common-resident |
| Red-necked Grebe | Uncommon-winter |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Common-winter |
| * Great Blue Heron | Common-resident |
| * Green Heron | Common-summer |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | Rare-migrant |
| * American Bittern | Common-summer |
| Tundra Swan | Common-winter |
| Trumpeter Swan | Common-winter |
| Canada Goose | Common-resident |
| Snow Goose | Uncommon-migrant |
| * Mallard | Common-resident |
| Gadwall | Uncommon-resident |
| Northern Pintail | Common-winter |
| Green-winged Teal | Common-winter |
| * Blue-winged Teal | Common-summer |
| * Cinnamon Teal | Common-summer |
| American Wigeon | Common-winter |
| Northern Shoveler | Common-winter |
| * Wood Duck | Common-summer |
| Redhead | Uncommon-winter |
| Ring-necked Duck | Common-winter |
| Canvasback | Uncommon-winter |
| Greater Scaup | Common-winter |
| Lesser Scaup | Uncommon-winter |
| Common Goldeneye | Common-winter |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | Uncommon-winter |
| Bufflehead | Common-winter |
| Ruddy Duck | Common-winter |
| Hooded Merganser | Uncommon-resident |
| Common Merganser | Common-winter |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Uncommon-winter |
| Turkey Vulture | Common-summer |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Common-winter |
| * Cooper's Hawk | Common-resident |
| Goshawk | Rare-winter |
| * Red-tailed Hawk | Common-resident |
| Rough-legged Hawk | Common-winter |
| * Bald Eagle | Common-resident |
| * Northern Harrier | Common-resident |
| Osprey | Uncommon-summer |

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Peregrine Falcon | Uncommon-winter |
| Merlin | Uncommon-winter |
| American Kestrel | Uncommon-winter |
| * Ruffed Grouse | Uncommon-resident |
| * Ring-necked Pheasant | Common-resident |
| Virginia Rail | Uncommon-resident |
| * Sora | Uncommon-summer |
| * American Coot | Common-resident |
| * Killdeer | Common-resident |
| * Common Snipe | Common-resident |
| * Spotted Sandpiper | Common-summer |
| Greater Yellowlegs | Common-migrant |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | Uncommon-migrant |
| Dunlin | Common-winter |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | Uncommon-migrant |
| Western Sandpiper | Uncommon-migrant |
| Glaucous-winged Gull | Common-resident |
| Herring Gull | Uncommon-migrant |
| Thayer's Gull | Uncommon-winter |
| California Gull | Uncommon-summer |
| Ring-billed Gull | Common-winter |
| Mew Gull | Common-winter |
| Bonaparte's Gull | Common-migrant |
| Caspian Tern | Uncommon-summer |
| * Band-tailed Pigeon | Common-summer |
| * Rock Dove | Common-resident |
| * Mourning Dove | Uncommon-resident |
| * Barn Owl | Common-resident |
| * Western Screech Owl | Common-resident |
| * Great-horned Owl | Common-resident |
| Long-eared Owl | Rare-winter |
| Short-eared Owl | Common-winter |
| * Northern Saw-whet Owl | Uncommon-resident |
| Snowy Owl | Rare-winter |
| Common Nighthawk | Uncommon-summer |
| Black Swift | Uncommon-summer |
| Vaux's Swift | Uncommon-summer |
| * Rufous Hummingbird | Common-summer |
| * Belted Kingfisher | Uncommon-resident |

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| * Northern Flicker | Common-resident |
| * Pileated Woodpecker | Uncommon-resident |
| Red-breasted Sapsucker | Uncommon-winter |
| Hairy Woodpecker | Uncommon-winter |
| * Downy Woodpecker | Common-resident |
| * Eastern Kingbird | Rare-summer |
| Willow Flycatcher | Uncommon-summer |
| Hammond's Flycatcher | Uncommon-summer |
| * Western Flycatcher | Common-summer |
| * Western Wood Peewee | Uncommon-summer |
| * Olive-sided Flycatcher | Common-summer |
| Horned Lark | Rare-winter |
| Rough-winged Swallow | Uncommon-summer |
| * Violet-green Swallow | Common-summer |
| * Tree Swallow | Common-summer |
| * Barn Swallow | Common-summer |
| * Cliff Swallow | Common-summer |
| Steller's Jay | Common-winter |
| Common Raven | Uncommon-resident |
| * American Crow | Common-resident |
| * Black-capped Chickadee | Common-resident |
| * Chestnut-backed Chickadee | Common-resident |
| * Bushtit | Common-resident |
| * Red-breasted Nuthatch | Common-resident |
| * Brown Creeper | Uncommon-resident |
| House Wren | Rare-summer |
| * Winter Wren | Common-resident |
| * Bewick's Wren | Common-resident |
| Marsh Wren | Common-resident |
| * American Robin | Common-resident |
| Varied Thrush | Common-winter |
| Hermit Thrush | Uncommon-summer |
| * Swainson's Thrush | Common-summer |
| Towson's Solitaire | Rare-migrant |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | Common-resident |
| * Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Common-winter |
| American Pipit | Uncommon-winter |

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| * Cedar Waxwing | Common-summer |
| Northern Shrike | Uncommon-winter |
| * European Starling | Common-resident |
| Red-eyed Vireo | Common-summer |
| Warbling Vireo | Common-summer |
| * Hutton's Vireo | Uncommon-resident |
| Common Yellowthroat | Common-summer |
| Black-thrt. Gray Warbler | Uncommon-migrant |
| * Wilson's Warbler | Common-summer |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | Uncommon-migrant |
| * Orange-crowned Warbler | Uncommon-summer |
| * Yellow Warbler | Common-summer |
| * Yellow-rumped Warbler ("Audubon's") | Common-migrant |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler "Myrtle" | Uncommon-resident |
| Nashville Warbler | Common-migrant |
| Magnolia Warbler | Uncommon-migrant |
| Rare-migrant | |
| * Western Meadowlark | Uncommon-resident |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | Rare-migrant |
| * Red-winged Blackbird | Common-resident |
| Northern Oriole "Bullocks" | Uncommon-summer |
| * Brewer's Blackbird | Common-resident |
| * Brown-headed Cowbird | Common-summer |
| * Western Tanager | Uncommon-summer |
| * Black-headed Grosbeak | Common-summer |
| Evening Grosbeak | Uncommon-resident |
| * Purple Finch | Uncommon-summer |
| * House Finch | Uncommon-winter |
| Pine Siskin | Common-resident |
| * American Goldfinch | Common-winter |
| * Spotted Towhee | Common-summer |
| * Savannah Sparrow | Common-resident |
| * Dark-eyed Junco | Common-summer |
| American Tree Sparrow | Rare-winter |
| * White-crowned Sparrow | Common-resident |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | Common-winter |
| Fox Sparrow | Common-winter |
| * Song Sparrow | Common-resident |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Rare-migrant/winter |
| * House Sparrow | Common-resident |