



**Birds of Green Lake**  
by  
**Martin Muller**

Green Lake Park, Seattle, encompasses 256 acres of water and about 100 acres of land. The water is shallow, with a mean depth of 3.3 meters (13 feet). The deepest spot is 8 meters (29 feet). The lake originated after the last Ice Age, roughly 15,000 years ago. Today it is considered an old lake, rich in naturally accumulated nutrients (eutrophic). For at least the past 7000 years the lake has experienced periodic algal blooms. This is a sign of the lake's natural succession. If left alone the lake would gradually, over the course of centuries, turn into a swamp and finally a wooded depression amongst the hills. Green Lake Park is the most heavily used park in Seattle, possibly the state. Despite heavy and varied use, wildlife manages to remain present in the park. To date 168 species of birds have been identified in the park, with an additional 13 in Woodland Park. The lake contains a variety of fish, both indigenous and introduced. Frogs, turtles, Opossum and Raccoon occur as well. This Green Lake bird list is based on published records, my own records started in 1983 as well as information provided by many bird watchers. In particular I would like to thank Gene Hunn, Ruth Taylor and Scott Richardson for their contributions and Gary Mozel and Greg Toffic for additional Woodland Park species. The taxonomic order and bird names used in this list follow the seventh edition of the American Ornithologist's Union checklist for North America (1998) and supplements (2000 – 2007). Abundance is based on my own monthly counts from November 1987 through 1988 and weekly counts from January 1988 through October 1999.

**All birds are protected by Federal, State and City laws and must not be harassed in any way.**

**BIRD LIST KEY**

**S(easons)**

- SP** - Spring (March - May)
- S** - Summer (June - August)
- F** - Fall (September - November)
- W** - Winter (December - February)

**H(abitat Codes)**

- A** - Aerial (including those species only recorded in flight over the park)
- D** - Diving platforms
- F** - Forest/stands of trees
- H** - Human habitation
- I** - Island
- L** - Open water/Lake
- M** - Meadow/grass
- S** - Shore/reeds
- T** - Thicket

**Abundance Codes**

- C** - Common; occurs regularly in at least moderate numbers
- U** - Uncommon; occurs regularly, but in small numbers
- R** - Rare; seldom recorded
- Ca** - Casual; out of normal range or seen out of normal season
- A** - Accidental; only one record and far out of normal range
- M** - During migration

- \* = Known to nest in the Park
- I = Introduced, non-native species

Species	H	S	S	F	W
<b>WATERFOWL, ANATIDAE</b>					
Greater White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons</i> )	LS	U	-	U	U
Snow Goose ( <i>Chen caerulescens</i> )	L	-	-	-	R
Brant ( <i>Branta bernicla</i> )	L	-	-	-	R
Cackling Goose ( <i>Branta hutchinsii</i> )	S	-	U	U	U
Canada Goose ( <i>Branta canadensis</i> )*	S	C	C	C	C
Mute Swan ( <i>Cygnus olor</i> ) I	L	U	-	U	-
Trumpeter Swan ( <i>Cygnus buccinator</i> )	L	R	-	R	-
Tundra Swan ( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> )	L	-	-	R	R
Muscovy Duck (domestic) ( <i>Carina moschata</i> ) I	LS	U	U	U	U
Wood Duck ( <i>Aix sponsa</i> )	L	U	U	U	U
Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> ) *	LS	C	C	C	C
Eurasian Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> )	LS	U	-	U	C
American Wigeon ( <i>Anas americana</i> )	LS	C	-	C	C
American Black Duck ( <i>Anas rubripes</i> )	L	R	-	R	-
Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) *	LS	C	C	C	C
Blue-winged Teal ( <i>Anas discors</i> )	L	U	-	-	-
Cinnamon Teal ( <i>Anas cyanoptera</i> )	L	U	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> )	L	C	-	U	C
Northern Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )	L	U	-	C	C
Green-winged Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	L	U	-	U	U

Canvasback ( <i>Aythya valisineria</i> )	L	-	-	-	U
Redhead ( <i>Aythya americana</i> )	L	-	-	R	R
Ring-necked Duck ( <i>Aythya collaris</i> )	L	U	-	U	U
Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> )	L	-	-	-	R
Greater Scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> )	L	U	-	-	C
Lesser Scaup ( <i>Aythya affinis</i> )	L	U	-	-	C
Surf Scoter ( <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i> )	L	-	-	R	-
White-winged Scoter ( <i>Melanitta fusca</i> )	L	-	-	R	R
Bufflehead ( <i>Bucephala albeola</i> )	L	C	-	C	C
Common Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> )	L	C	-	C	C
Barrow's Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala islandica</i> )	L	U	-	U	C
Hooded Merganser ( <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> )	L	C	-	C	C
Common Merganser ( <i>Mergus merganser</i> )	L	C	-	C	C
Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> )	L	U	-	U	U
Ruddy Duck ( <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> )	L	C	-	C	C
<b>LOONS, GAVIIDAE</b>					
Red-Throated Loon ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> )	L				R
Common Loon ( <i>Gavia Immer</i> )	L	O	-	-	O
<b>GREBES, PODICIPEDIDAE</b>					
Pied-billed Grebe ( <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> ) *	L	C	C	C	C
Horned Grebe ( <i>Podiceps auritus</i> )	L	U	-	U	U
Red-necked Grebe ( <i>Podiceps grisegena</i> )	L	R	-	R	-
Eared Grebe ( <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> )	L	R	-	-	-
Western Grebe ( <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i> )	L	C	-	C	C
<b>CORMORANTS, PHALACROCORACIDAE</b>					
Double-crested Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> )	LD	C	R	C	C
Pelagic Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i> )	LD	-	-	-	R
<b>HERONS, ARDEIDA</b>					
American Bittern ( <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> )	S	R	-	R	-
Great Blue Heron ( <i>Ardea herodias</i> )	S	C	C	C	C
Cattle Egret ( <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> )	S	R	-	-	R
Green Heron ( <i>Butorides virescens</i> )	S	U	-	U	-
<b>VULTURES, CATHARTIDAE</b>					
Turkey Vulture ( <i>Cathartes aura</i> )	A	M	-	M	-
<b>OSPREY, EAGLES, HAWKS, ACCIPITIDAE</b>					
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )	A	R	U	C	-
Bald Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> ) *	FI	C	C	U	C
Northern Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> )	A	R	-	-	R
Sharp-shinned Hawk ( <i>Accipiter striatus</i> )	F	U	U	U	C
Cooper's Hawk ( <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> )	F	U	U	U	C
Red-tailed Hawk ( <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> )	A	U	U	U	C
<b>FALCONS, FALCONIDAE</b>					
American Kestrel ( <i>Falco sparverius</i> )	AF	-	-	-	R
Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> )	AF	U	-	-	U
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	AF	U	U	U	U
<b>RALLIDAE, RAILS</b>					
Sora ( <i>Porzana carolina</i> )	S	R	-	R	-
American Coot ( <i>Fulica americana</i> ) *	LS	C	C	C	C
<b>PLOVERS, CHARADRIIDAE</b>					
Killdeer ( <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> )	MP	C	C	C	C
<b>SANDPIPERS, SCOLOPACIDAE</b>					
Greater Yellowlegs ( <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i> )	MP	R	-	-	R
Lesser Yellowlegs ( <i>Tringa flavipes</i> )	MP	R	-	-	R
Wandering Tattler ( <i>Heteroscelus incanus</i> )	MP	-	-	-	R

Spotted Sandpiper ( <i>Actitis macularia</i> )	PI	U	C	C	U
Least Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris minutilla</i> )	S	U	-	U	-
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )	S	U	-	U	U
Long-billed Dowitcher ( <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> )	S	R	-	R	-
Wilson's Snipe ( <i>Gallinago delicata</i> )	S	U	-	U	-
GULLS & TERNS, LARIDAE					
Black-legged Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa trydactyla</i> )	PL	-	-	-	R
Bonaparte's Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus Philadelphia</i> )	AP	C	-	U	C
Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> )	PA	-	-	R	-
Little Gull ( <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> )	AL	R	-	-	-
Franklin's Gull ( <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i> )	AL	-	-	R	R
Heermann's Gull ( <i>Larus heermanni</i> )	SP	-	-	-	R
Mew Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> )	SP	C	-	C	C
Ring-billed Gull ( <i>Larus delawarensis</i> )	SP	C	U	C	C
Western Gull ( <i>Larus occidentalis</i> )	SP	C	-	C	C
California Gull ( <i>Larus californicus</i> )	SP	C	-	C	C
Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	SP	C	-	C	C
Thayer's Gull ( <i>Larus thayeri</i> )	SP	C	-	C	C
Glaucous-winged Gull ( <i>Larus glaucescens</i> )	SP	C	U	C	C
Glaucous Gull ( <i>Larus hyperboreus</i> )	SP	R	-	R	R
Caspian Tern ( <i>Sterna caspia</i> )	AP	-	U	C	-
Black Tern ( <i>Chlidonias niger</i> )	AP	-	-	R	-
Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> )	AP	-	U	C	-
PIGEONS & DOVES, COLUMBIDAE					
Rock Pigeon ( <i>Columba livia</i> ) I	SH	C	C	C	C
Band-tailed Pigeon ( <i>Patagioenas fasciata</i> )	SF	-	-	-	R
BARN OWLS, TYTONIDAE					
Barn Owl ( <i>Tyto alba</i> )	FA	R	-	-	R
TYPICAL OWLS, STRIGIDAE					
Great-horned Owl ( <i>Bubo virginianus</i> )	FA	R	-	-	R
Snowy Owl ( <i>Nyctea scandiaca</i> )	HA	-	-	-	R
Barred Owl ( <i>Strix varia</i> )	FA	R	-	-	R
Short-eared Owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> )	FA	R	-	-	-
NIGHTHAWKS, CAPRIMULGIDAE					
Common Nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles minor</i> )	A	-	-	R	-
SWIFTS, APODIDAE					
Vaux' Swift ( <i>Chaetura vauxi</i> )	A	U	U	-	-
HUMMINGBIRDS, TROCHILIDAE					
Anna's Hummingbird ( <i>Calypte anna</i> )	FT	U	U	U	U
Rufous Hummingbird ( <i>Selasphorus rufus</i> )	FT	-	U	-	-
KINGFISHERS, ALCEDINIDAE					
Belted Kingfisher ( <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i> )	FS	C	U	C	C
WOODPECKERS, PICIDAE					
Red-breasted Sapsucker ( <i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i> )	F	U	-	-	C
Downy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides pubescens</i> ) *	F	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides villosus</i> )	F	-	-	-	R
Northern Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> ) *	F	C	C	C	C
Pileated Woodpecker ( <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i> )	F	R	-	-	R
FLYCATCHERS, TYRANNIDAE					
Western Wood-Pewee ( <i>Contopus sordidulus</i> )	FA	C	U	-	-
Pacific-slope Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax difficilis</i> )	FA	U	U	U	-
Eastern Kingbird ( <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> )	FA	-	-	R	-
VIREOS, VIREONIDAE					
Hutton's Vireo ( <i>Vireo huttoni</i> )	FT	-	U	-	-

Warbling Vireo ( <i>Vireo gilvus</i> )	FT	-	U	U	-
CORVIDS, CORVIDAE					
Steller's Jay ( <i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i> )	F	C	-	U	C
American Crow ( <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> )*	MF	C	C	C	C
Common Raven ( <i>Corvus corax</i> )	A	-	-	R	R
SWALLOWS, HIRUNDINIDAE					
Purple Martin ( <i>Progne subis</i> )	A	R	R	-	-
Tree Swallow ( <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> )*	FA	C	U	-	-
Violet-green Swallow ( <i>Tachycineta thalassina</i> )	FA	C	C	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow ( <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> )	FA	U	U	-	-
Cliff Swallow ( <i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i> )	FA	C	U	-	-
Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	TA	U	C	C	-
CHICKADEES, PARIDAE					
Black-capped Chickadee ( <i>Poecile atricapillus</i> ) *	FT	C	C	C	C
Mountain Chickadee ( <i>Poecile gambeli</i> )	FT	-	-	-	R
Chestnut-backed Chickadee ( <i>Poecile rufescens</i> )	FT	U	-	U	C
BUSHTITS, AEGITHALIDAE					
Bushtit ( <i>Psaltriparus minimus</i> ) *	FT	C	U	C	C
NUTHATCHES, SITTIDAE					
Red-breasted Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta canadensis</i> ) *	F	C	C	C	C
CREEPERS, CERTHIDAE					
Brown Creeper ( <i>Certhia americana</i> )	F	C	-	U	C
WRENS, TROGLODYTIDAE					
Bewick's Wren ( <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> )	TS	U	-	U	U
Winter Wren ( <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> )	TS	-	-	U	U
Marsh Wren ( <i>Cistothorus palustris</i> )	TS	-	-	U	U
DIPPERS, CINCLIDAE					
American Dipper ( <i>Cinclus mexicanus</i> )	SP	R	-	R	-
KINGLETS, REGULIDAE					
Golden-crowned Kinglet ( <i>Regulus satrapa</i> )	FT	C	-	U	C
Ruby-crowned Kinglet ( <i>Regulus calendula</i> )	FT	C	-	U	C
THRUSHES, TURDIDAE					
Townsend's Solitaire ( <i>Myadestes townsendi</i> )	FT	R	-	-	R
American Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )	FM	U	U	U	C
Varied Thrush ( <i>Ixoreus naevius</i> )	FT	U	-	-	U
STARLINGS, STURNIDAE					
European Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> ) I	TM	C	C	C	C
PIPITS, MOTACILLIDAE					
American Pipit ( <i>Anthus rubescens</i> )	S	U	U	-	-
WAXWINGS, BOMBYCILLIDAE					
Bohemian Waxwing ( <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i> )	FT	U	U	U	U
Cedar Waxwing ( <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i> )	FT	U	U	U	C
WOOD WARBLERS, PARULIDAE					
Orange-crowned Warbler ( <i>Vermivora celata</i> )	FT	C	-	-	C
Yellow Warbler ( <i>Dendroica petechia</i> )	FT	C	U	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler ( <i>Dendroica coronata</i> )	FT	C	U	C	C
Black-throated Gray Warbler ( <i>Dendroica nigrescens</i> )	FT	C	U	U	-
Townsend's Warbler ( <i>Dendroica townsendi</i> )	FT	C	U	U	-
Common Yellowthroat ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )	FT	U	U	-	-
Wilson's Warbler ( <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i> )	FT	C	U	U	-
TANAGERS, THRAUPIDAE					
Western Tanager ( <i>Piranga ludoviciana</i> )	FT	C	U	C	-
SPARROWS, EMBERIZIDAE					

Spotted Towhee ( <i>Pipilo maculatus</i> )	FT	C	U	U	U
Vesper Sparrow ( <i>Pooecetes gramineus</i> )	FT	R	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow ( <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> )	MT	U	U	-	U
Fox Sparrow ( <i>Passerella iliaca</i> )	T	U	-	-	U
Song Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> ) *	ST	C	C	C	C
White-crowned Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> )	T	U	-	-	U
Golden-crowned Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i> )	T	U	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco ( <i>Junco hyemalis</i> )	FT	C	U	U	C
Black-headed Grosbeak ( <i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i> )	FT	R	-	-	-
BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES, ICTERIDAE					
Red-winged Blackbird ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> ) *	S	C	C	U	C
Yellow-headed Blackbird ( <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> )	S	R	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird ( <i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i> ) *	SM	C	C	C	C
Brown-headed Cowbird ( <i>Molothrus ater</i> )	FT	U	U	-	-
Bullock's Oriole ( <i>Icterus bullockii</i> ) *	FT	U	U	-	-
FINCHES, FRINGILLIDAE					
Purple Finch ( <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> )	FT	U	-	-	U
House Finch ( <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i> )	FT	C	C	C	C
Red Crossbill ( <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> )	FT	R	-	-	-
Common Redpoll ( <i>Carduelis flammea</i> )	FT	-	-	-	R
Pine Siskin ( <i>Carduelis pinus</i> )	FT	C	U	U	C
American Goldfinch ( <i>Carduelis tristis</i> )	FT	C	U	U	C
Evening Grosbeak ( <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i> )	FT	-	-	-	U
OLD WORLD SPARROWS, PASSERIDAE					
House Sparrow ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> ) I *	FT	C	C	C	C

Additional species seen in Woodland Park but not (yet) in Green Lake Park, contributed by Gary Mozel and Greg Toffic of the Woodland Park Zoo.

California Quail ( <i>Callipepla californica</i> )	MT	?	?	?	?
Black-crowned Night Heron ( <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> )	ST	-	R	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk ( <i>Buteo lagopus</i> )	A	-	-	-	R
Sandhill Crane ( <i>Grus canadensis</i> )	A	-	-	R	-
Olive-sided Flycatcher ( <i>Contopus cooperi</i> )	FT	U	-	-	-
Hammond's Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax hammondi</i> )	FT	R	-	-	-
Northern Shrike ( <i>Lanius exubitor</i> )	F	-	-	-	R
Townsend's Solitaire ( <i>Myadestes townsendi</i> )	MT	R	-	R	-
Swainson's Thrush ( <i>Catharus ustulatus</i> )	MT	-	-	R	-
Hermit Thrush ( <i>Catharus guttatus</i> )	MT	U	-	U	U
Nashville Warbler ( <i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i> )	FT	R	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> )	FT	U	-	-	-
Black-headed Grosbeak ( <i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i> )	FT	R	-	R	-