

BIRD LIST FOR MINNEKHADA REG. PARK AND AREA

The following is a list of the 151 species observed at Minnehada Regional Park and in the immediate area. Given current information, the species are, when in-season and in suitable habitat, either common, uncommon, rare, or casual.

Common is defined as a species that should be found, in suitable habitat, on every visit. Uncommon indicates that the species are not easily found but are present in limited numbers or are secretive. Rare means that the species can be present in very low numbers or may be difficult to find. Casual identifies a species considered very rare with only 1-3 records known.

COMMON

Great Blue Heron	Bushlitt
Canada Goose	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Duck	Winter Wren
Mallard	Marsh Wren
Green-winged Teal	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Wigeon	Swainson's Thrush
Bufflehead	American Robin
Hooded Merganser	Varied Thrush
Common Merganser	Cedar Waxwing
Osprey	European Starling
Bald Eagle	Warbling Vireo
Northern Harrier	Red-eyed Vireo
Red-tailed Hawk	Orange-crowned Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Yellow Warbler
Mew Gull	Common Yellowthroat
Glaucous-winged Gull	Wilson's Warbler
Rufous Hummingbird	Black-headed Grosbeak
Downy Woodpecker	Rufous-sided Towhee
Northern Flicker	Savannah Sparrow
Willow Flycatcher	Song Sparrow
Tree Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Violet-green Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco
Cliff Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Barn Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Steller's Jay	House Finch
Northwestern Crow	Pine Siskin
Common Raven	American Goldfinch
Black-capped Chickadee	

Other nearby birding areas: DeBouville Slough and the Pitt River dykes are adjacent to Minnehada Regional Park and offer further superb birding opportunities. To learn more about these areas, pick up a copy of the Burke Mountain Naturalists' brochure "The Birds of DeBouville Slough", available at local libraries.

UNCOMMON

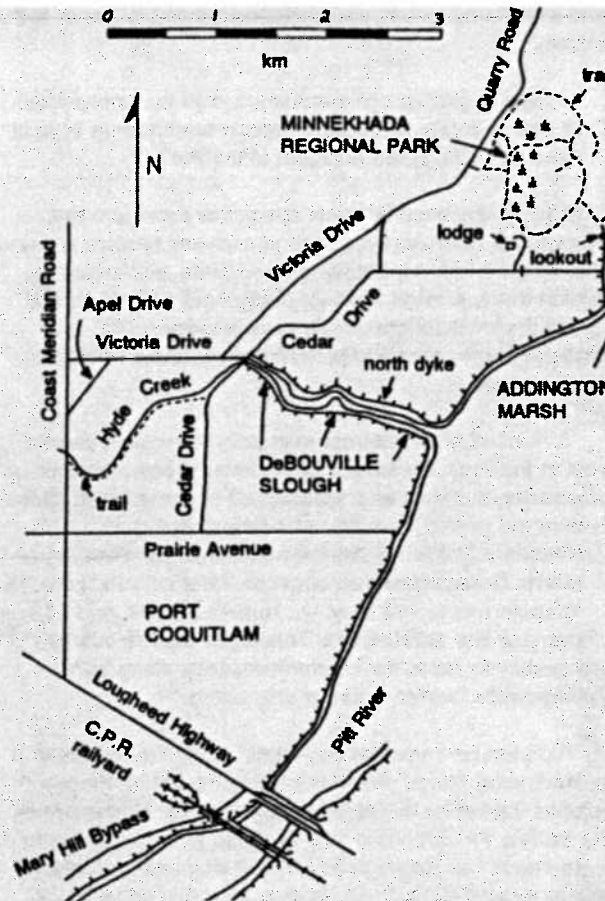
Pied-billed Grebe	Belted Kingfisher
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-breasted Sapsucker
Green-backed Heron	Hairy Woodpecker
Trumpeter Swan	Pileated Woodpecker
Northern Pintail	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Blue-winged Teal	Western Wood-Pewee
Cinnamon Teal	Hammond's Flycatcher
Gadwall	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Lesser Scaup	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Common Goldeneye	Brown Creeper
Barrow's Goldeneye	Bewick's Wren
Red-breasted Merganser	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Hermit Thrush
Cooper's Hawk	American Pipit
Rough-legged Hawk	Northern Shrike
American Kestrel	Solitary Vireo
Blue Grouse	Hutton's Vireo
Ruffed Grouse	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Virginia Rail	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Sora	Townsend's Warbler
American Coot	MacGillivray's Warbler
Killdeer	Western Tanager
Common Snipe	Fox Sparrow
California Gull	Lincoln's Sparrow
Rock Dove	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Band-tailed Pigeon	Northern Oriole
Great Horned Owl	Purple Finch
Common Nighthawk	Red Crossbill
Black Swift	Evening Grosbeak
Vaux's Swift	

RARE

Common Loon	Mourning Dove
Horned Grebe	Barn Owl
American Bittern	Western Screech-Owl
Tundra Swan	Northern Pygmy Owl
Snow Goose	Barred Owl
Northern Shoveler	Short-eared Owl
Greater Scaup	Townsend's Solitaire
Ruddy Duck	Western Kingbird
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Kingbird
Merlin	Townsend's Solitaire
Peregrine Falcon	Gray Catbird
Sandhill Crane	Bohemian Waxwing
Pectoral Sandpiper	Western Meadowlark
Greater Yellowlegs	White-winged Crossbill
Thayer's Gull	

CASUAL

Common Poorwill	Chipping Sparrow
American Redstart	White-throated Sparrow



DIRECTIONS: Minnehada Regional Park is located in northeast Coquitlam, 7 km from the Lougheed Highway. Turn north onto Coast Meridian Road and follow the signs to the Quarry Road entrance and parking area.

Caution: Always lock your vehicle and do not leave valuables anywhere in the vehicle.



For more information about the Burke Mountain Naturalists (a member club of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists), write to Box 52540, 1102 - 2929 Barnet Highway, Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 7J4, or phone 936-4108 or 463-2507.



For additional information about Minnehada Reg. Park write to G.V.R.D., Central Area Parks Office, 9174 Avalon Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V3N 4G8, or phone the office at 520-6442.

Text by: Christine Hanrahan
Design, Layout, Editing and Direction Map by: April Mol
Park Map by: G.V.R.D. Parks Department and April Mol
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BURKE MOUNTAIN NATURALISTS



THE BIRDS OF MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK AND AREA

Nestled at the foot of Burke Mountain in northeast Coquitlam, is a little bit of paradise called Minnehada Regional Park. The variety of habitats, ranging from high rocky knolls to marshes, from deep coniferous woods to stands of alder and birch, and brushy thickets, is reflected in the diversity of birds present. Hawks, owls, grouse, waterfowl, herons, woodpeckers and a variety of songbirds make the Park a satisfying destination for birdwatchers.

Bird records have been collected over a number of years by interested birders and by staff of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (G.V.R.D.) Parks Department, including more recently, members of the Burke Mountain Naturalists. As of March 1993 the bird list stands at 151 species. This includes birds observed in the Park and in the immediate vicinity, including Addington Marsh, the fields in front of Minnehada Lodge, and along Oliver Road east of the Park gate. We recommend that you obtain a park map, available at the entrance kiosks, and carry a good bird guide to aid in bird identification.

ALL YEAR: A number of bird species live in the Park year round and are called 'resident' species. Although you should be able to find them at any time of year, some are more readily observed in certain seasons.

From the Quarry Road parking lot the trail passes through a stand of red alder before entering a forest of cedar, hemlock and Douglas fir where it forks and forks again, giving birders the choice of longer or shorter walks. One trail encircles the Park and takes in a variety of habitats. From this main trail several others branch off to the marsh in the centre of the Park. Following the perimeter trail with side-trips to the marsh will enable the careful observer to find a number of different birds.

Black-capped Chickadees can be found anywhere in the Park, while the similar, but less common, Chestnut-backed Chickadees are usually found in the coniferous woods. A high-pitched two-note call indicates the secretive Brown Creeper. This tiny bird creeps up conifer

trunks probing the bark for insects. Another small forest-dweller is the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** which scurries down tree trunks head first. Other birds to look for in the coniferous woods at any time of year are **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, **Downy Woodpeckers** and **Hairy Woodpeckers**, and the crow-sized **Pileated Woodpecker**. Look for elongated holes and fresh woodchips at the base of a 'wildlife tree' (or snag), signs of recent **Pileated Woodpecker** activity.

Both **Ruffed Grouse** and **Blue Grouse** inhabit the Park but tend to be fairly secretive, except in spring when their loud booming calls can be heard anywhere in the Park. One of the better locations to find **Ruffed Grouse** is along the North Trail. **Winter Wrens** are abundant and their long, musical song is one of the prettiest to fill the woods.

Brushy thickets along the marsh attract a number of species including **Song Sparrows**, **Rufous-sided Towhees**, and **Marsh Wrens**. **Great Blue Herons** feed in the marsh year-round, along with **Mallards** and **Wood Ducks**.

SPRING: By March, **Tree Swallows** can be found swooping over the marsh with the very similar **Violet-green Swallows**. **Barn Swallows**, and in smaller numbers, **Cliff Swallows** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** also occur.

American Bittern, **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** along with the fish-eating **Pied-billed Grebe** should all be looked for in the South Marsh. Did you know that many species of grebes, including the **Pied-billed**, consume large quantities of their own feathers? Some biologists believe they do this because they cannot properly digest fish bones and the feathers act as stomach padding, protecting them against punctures from sharp bones. Scan the North Marsh for waterfowl including **Red-breasted Merganser** which, although a common species elsewhere, is seldom seen in the Park.

From the **Panabode Trail** a short side-trail leads outside Park boundaries to a lookout offering superb views over **Addington Marsh** and the **Pitt River**. From there scan the marsh for ducks including **Cinnamon Teal** and **Blue-winged Teal** which have returned by mid-spring. If lucky you may see a **Sandhill Crane**. From a distance these stately birds can be confused with herons, but in fact they are quite different and belong in a separate family. **Sandhill Cranes** have slaty gray plumage, sometimes tinged with brown, a distinctive red patch on their forehead, and a considerably shorter bill. If you see them in flight notice the long, straight neck. Herons fly with their neck held in an s-curve. **Northern Harriers**, readily identified by their long tail, slender wings,

and white rump patch, can be found hunting low over the marsh.

Spring migration can sometimes yield the unexpected. One year a **White-throated Sparrow** turned up in April at the end of **Oliver Road** adjacent to the Park.

SUMMER: By summer most species are well into the business of rearing young, and some early nesters are on their second broods. Standing dead trees, also called **wildlife trees**, provide sites for cavity nesting **Tree and Violet-green Swallows**, **Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers**, chickadees, nuthatches, and a host of other species.

A number of neotropical migrants return each year to nest in the Park. Swallows, flycatchers, vireos, warblers, grosbeaks, thrushes and tanagers all spend most of their lives in the tropics, coming north only to breed. **Swainson's Thrushes**, **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, and **Western Tanagers** are amongst the later arrivals. Look for them in mid to late May. **Hermite Thrushes**, told from the very similar **Swainson's Thrush** by their rufous tail, are usually found in the coniferous woods along with **Townsend's Warblers** and the tanagers.

Riparian (streamside) vegetation along the marsh and by **Addington Marsh** provides nesting habitat for many species. Listen for the easily recognized 'fitz-bew' song of the **Willow Flycatchers**. You might be fortunate enough to see male **Common Yellowthroat** warblers performing showy display flights in which they may rise up to 30 metres in the air, singing loudly as they go... all to attract a female. **Yellow Warblers**, **Wilson's Warblers**, **Marsh Wrens** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** are some of the other species that find a home in this habitat.

Alder dominated woods form only a small section of the Park but they provide habitat for **Warbling Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo**. In the dense understory **Bewick's Wrens** find safe nest sites in downed logs or brushy piles.

If you walk quietly along the ditches by **Addington Marsh** you might flush the uncommon **Green-backed Heron** which nests in nearby **DeBouville Slough**. **Eastern Kingbirds** are sometimes seen in the vicinity of the marsh and the rare **Western Kingbird** has been observed in front of the Lodge.

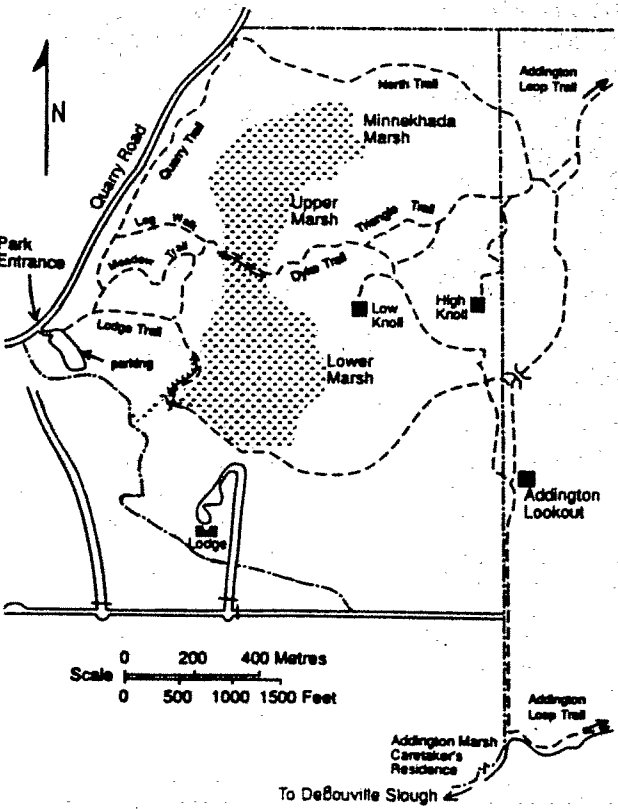
From the **Dyke Trail** head up to the **Low Knoll** which offers a birds-eye view of the North and South Marshes. From here you may spot a resident **Red-tailed Hawk** or even a **Turkey Vulture**, a rare summer visitor to the area. On days when the clouds lie low, flocks of both **Black and Vaux's Swifts** can be enjoyed from this vantage point. Swifts fly on stiffly-held wings that seldom seem to move.

If you are feeling ambitious, a trek to the top of the **High Knoll** will provide even more wide-ranging views including across **Addington Marsh** to the **Pitt River** where you will probably see **Ospreys** fishing the river.

Rarities don't occur only during migration, and it is best to keep your eyes and ears open throughout the year for unexpected surprises such as the **Chipping Sparrow** which turned up one June. Also in June there was an unconfirmed report of an **American Redstart** warbler. Erratic species such as many 'winter finches' can arrive at any season and **White-winged Crossbills** were observed in the summer of 1985.

FALL: As the days shorten birds get ready for their long southward journey. By mid-September most of the swallows have departed, followed over the next few weeks by warblers, flycatchers, vireos and other migrants, their numbers swollen as birds from further north pass through the area.

Many overwintering species begin arriving by October. The pasture in front of the Lodge and the old-field habitat across **Oliver Road** often hold **Northern Shrikes**, once known as 'butcherbirds' from their habit of impaling prey on thorns. **Short-eared Owls** frequent this habitat along



with **Rough-legged Hawks**. Various sparrows begin to make their appearance as fall progresses. The rather elusive **Lincoln's Sparrow** can be found in shrubby thickets around the marsh. **Fox Sparrows** are often confused with **Song Sparrows**, but look for a chunkier build, an unstriped head, very heavy breast streakings, and a pale lower bill. The **Fox Sparrow** overwinters in the area. Look also for **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and **White-crowned Sparrows** in brushy thickets along the marsh and by cleared areas. Over the years, some interesting species have turned up in the **Minnehada Park** area. Perhaps the most noteworthy to date was the **Common Poorwill** found dead on **Quarry Road** by the Park in October 1987. This species is considered accidental in the **Greater Vancouver Region**.

WINTER: Waterfowl numbers increase in the winter months and many of the twenty-three species counted in the Park and area are found during this season. One of the best places locally to see **Ring-necked Ducks**, identified by the ring around their bill, is in the North Marsh of the Park. Look also for the common **Green-winged Teal**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers**, **Northern Shovelers**, and **American Wigeon** amongst many other species.

Northern Pygmy Owl has been seen during the winter near **Addington Marsh** at the east end of **Oliver Road**, and on the **Low Knoll** in the Park. **Great Horned Owls** are easier to find in late winter when they begin breeding. Look for them especially along the **Panabode Trail** near the picnic area by the Lodge.

Raptors are more readily found at this time of year. Both **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and **Cooper's Hawk**, two small woodland hawks nearly identical in plumage and shape, can be found along the forest edges. Falcons are identified by their long tail, pointed wings, rounded head and, generally, a moustache stripe. Look for **American Kestrel**, the large **Peregrine Falcon**, and the smaller, darker **Mertin**.

Winter can bring other interesting birds such as **Townsend's Solitaire**, a gray thrush with white outer-tail feathers. Look for it especially in front of the Lodge. **Bohemian Waxwings** are more often found in winter when they can occur in large flocks seeking berry and fruit trees. However, they are considered an 'erratic' species, their appearance each winter by no means guaranteed! Although similar to the smaller **Cedar Waxwing**, which also occurs in the Park, the **Bohemian** has a pale gray belly, chestnut under the tail and a patch of white on the wings.