

# Checklist for Beginner to Intermediate Birders

## Burlington, Ontario and Nearby Area

With a bit of effort, and in suitable locations at the right time of year, you have a good chance of spotting many of the birds listed below, right here in Burlington, or nearby Oakville, Hamilton, or Milton. Beginners should have a very good chance of spotting species highlighted in **bold**.

Watch [BurlingtonGreen](#)'s social media feeds where #DavesFeatheredFriends posts will regularly highlight many of the species below, along with tips on how to find them. You can also learn more about each species by searching them on [allaboutbirds.org](#). Happy birding!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### Legend:

(YR) = Year-round

(W) = fall/winter/early spring

(S) = spring/summer

(WI) = fall & winter of an irruption year

(M) = Mainly visible during spring migration and late summer/fall migration. Species may be visible over a period of days to several weeks.

Notes: While there are always exceptions, these are generally when a bird is expected to be present. The checklist follows a taxonomic order used in many field guides. It has been pared down to display local birds for a beginner to intermediate level. There are certainly more birds to be seen locally at a more advanced level!

### DUCKS

Ducks that dabble (feed on surface, shore, or tip down in shallow water):

- Wood Duck (YR)
- Northern Shoveller (W)
- Gadwall (YR)
- Mallard** (YR)
- American Black Duck** (YR)
- Northern Pintail (W)
- Green-winged Teal (W)

Ducks that dive (feed by diving, therefore are often a bit farther from shore):

- Canvasback** (W)
- Redhead** (W)
- Ring-necked Duck** (W)
- Greater Scaup** (W)

- Lesser Scaup** (W)
- White-winged Scoter** (W)
- Long-tailed Duck** (W)
- Bufflehead** (W)
- Common Goldeneye** (W)
- Hooded Merganser** (YR)
- Common Merganser (W)
- Red-breasted Merganser** (W)
- Ruddy Duck** (W)

### GEESE

- Canada Goose** (YR)

### SWANS

- Mute Swan** (YR)
- Trumpeter Swan** (W)

- Wild Turkey (YR)

#### GREBES

- Pied-billed Grebe (YR)
- Horned Grebe (W)
- Red-necked Grebe (YR)

- Rock Pigeon** (YR)
- Mourning Dove** (YR)
- Common Nighthawk (S)
- Chimney Swift** (S)
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (S)
- American Coot** (YR)
- Killdeer** (S) (often heard)
- Spotted Sandpiper** (S)

#### GULLS & TERNS

- Ring-billed Gull** (YR)
- Herring Gull** (YR)
- Great Black-backed Gull** (W)
- Caspian Tern** (S)
- Common Tern** (S)

#### LOONS

- Red-throated Loon (M)
- Common Loon (W)

- Double-crested Cormorant** (S)

#### HERONS & EGRETS

- Great Blue Heron** (S)
- Great Egret (S)
- Green Heron (S)
- Black-crowned Night Heron** (S)

- Turkey Vulture** (S)

- Osprey (S)

#### HAWKS & EAGLES

- Northern Harrier (YR)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** (YR)
- Cooper's Hawk** (YR)
- Bald Eagle** (YR)
- Red-tailed Hawk** (YR)

#### OWLS

- Eastern Screech Owl (YR)
- Great Horned Owl (YR)
- Snowy Owl (W)

- Belted Kingfisher** (S)

#### WOODPECKERS

- Red-bellied Woodpecker** (YR)
- Downy Woodpecker** (YR)
- Hairy Woodpecker** (YR)
- Northern Flicker** (YR)
- Pileated Woodpecker (YR)

#### FALCONS

- American Kestrel (S)
- Merlin (M)
- Peregrine Falcon (YR)

#### FLYCATCHERS

- Eastern Kingbird** (S)
- Eastern Wood-Pewee (S) (often heard)
- Least Flycatcher (S)
- Eastern Phoebe (S)

#### VIREOS

- Warbling Vireo (S)
- Red-eyed Vireo (S)

#### CROWS & JAYS

- Blue Jay** (YR)
- American Crow** (YR)
- Fish Crow (S)
- Common Raven (W)

## SWALLOWS

- Purple Martin (S)
- Tree Swallow** (S)
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (S)
- Cliff Swallow** (S)
- Barn Swallow** (S)
  
- Black-capped Chickadee** (YR)
- Red-breasted Nuthatch (WI)
- White-breasted Nuthatch** (YR)
- Brown Creeper** (W)

## WRENS

- House Wren** (S)
- Winter Wren (W)
- Carolina Wren** (YR) (often heard)
  
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** (YR)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (M)

## THRUSHES

- Eastern Bluebird** (YR)
- Veery (M) (often heard)
- Swainson's Thrush (M)
- Hermit Thrush (M)
- American Robin** (YR)

## MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS (mimics)

- Gray Catbird** (S) (often heard)
- Brown Thrasher (S)
- Northern Mockingbird** (YR)(often heard)
  
- European Starling** (YR) (non-native)
- Cedar Waxwing** (YR)
- House Sparrow** (YR) (non-native)

## FINCHES

- Evening Grosbeak (WI)
- House Finch (YR)
- Purple Finch (M) (WI)
- Common Redpoll (WI)
- Pine Siskin (WI)
- American Goldfinch** (YR)

## NEW WORLD SPARROWS

- Eastern Towhee (S)
- American Tree Sparrow** (W)
- Chipping Sparrow (S) (often heard)
- Field Sparrow (S)
- Song Sparrow** (S) (often heard)
- White-throated Sparrow** (W)
- White-crowned Sparrow (W)
- Dark-eyed Junco** (W)

## BLACKBIRDS

- Bobolink (S)
- Eastern Meadowlark (S)
- Baltimore Oriole** (S)
- Red-winged Blackbird** (S)
- Brown-headed Cowbird** (S)
- Common Grackle** (S)

## NEW WORLD WARBLERS

- Ovenbird (M) (often heard)
- Black-and-white Warbler** (M)
- Common Yellowthroat** (S) (often heard)
- American Redstart** (S) (often heard)
- Northern Parula (M)
- Magnolia Warbler (M)
- Bay-breasted Warbler (M)
- Blackburnian Warbler (M)
- Yellow Warbler** (S)
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** (M)(oft heard)
- Blackpoll Warbler (M)
- Black-throated Blue Warbler (M)
- Palm Warbler (M)
- Pine Warbler (M) (often heard)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** (M)
- Black-throated Green Warbler (M)

## CARDINALS & ALLIES

- Scarlet Tanager (M)
- Northern Cardinal** (YR) (often heard)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak (S)
- Indigo Bunting (S)