



# Bird Checklists of the United States

## Bitterroot National Forest



*Hamilton, Montana*

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The Bitterroot National Forest and Bitterroot Valley offer a unique birding experience. Elevations range from 3200 feet in the valley to mountain peaks over 10,000 feet. Precipitation varies from 10-12 inches on the valley floor to over 90 inches in the Bitterroot mountains. The diverse climate and topography produce many specialized bird habitats including varied forest communities, mountain peaks and meadows as well as streams, lakes, and other wetland areas.

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### **Relative abundance**

a - abundant: very numerous  
c - common: likely to be seen or heard  
u - uncommon: present but not certain to be seen  
o - occasional: seen a few times a season  
r - rare: seldom seen

### **Seasonal occurrence**

PR - Permanent Resident  
WR - Winter Resident  
SR - Summer Resident  
M - Migrant

### **Habitat**

1 - Bitterroot River  
2 - wetlands/marshes  
3 - open grass/shrubs  
4 - mountain streams/lakes  
5 - cliffs/canyons

- 6 - forest edges
- 7 - dry forest
- 8 - moist forest
- 9 - high elevation forests/alpine

WATER BIRDS		ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___	Common Loon	r	M	2,4
___	Pied-billed Grebe	c	PR	2,4
___	Horned Grebe	o	SR	2,4
___	Red-necked Grebe	o	M	2,4
___	Eared Grebe	o	SR	4
___	Western Grebe	o	M	2,4
___	Clark's Grebe	r	M	2,4
___	American White Pelican	r	M	2
___	Double-crested Cormorant	c	SR	2
___	American Bittern	u	SR	2
___	Great Blue Heron	c	PR	1,2,4
___	Black-crowned Night-Heron	r	M	2
___	White-faced Ibis	r	M	2,3
___	Tundra Swan	c	M	1,2,3
___	Trumpeter Swan	r	M	1,2
___	Greater White-fronted Goose	r	M	2,3
___	Snow Goose	c	M	2,3
___	Ross' Goose	o	M	1,2
___	Canada Goose	a	PR	1-4
___	Wood Duck	c	PR	1,2,4
___	Green-winged Teal	c	PR	1,2,4
___	Mallard	c	PR	1,2,4
___	Northern Pintail	u	PR	1,2,4
___	Blue-winged Teal	c	SR	1,2,4
___	Cinnamon Teal	a	SR	1,2,4
___	Northern Shoveler	c	SR	1,2,4
___	Gadwall	u	PR	1,2,4
___	Eurasian Wigeon	o	M	1,2,4
___	American Wigeon	u	PR	1,2,4
___	Canvasback	o	PR	1,2,4
___	Redhead	c	SR	1,2
___	Ring-necked Duck	u	SR	1,2
___	Greater Scaup	r	M	1,2
___	Lesser Scaup	u	PR	1,2,4
___	Harlequin Duck	r	SR	4
___	White-winged Scoter	r	M	2
___	Common Goldeneye	u	PR	1,2,4
___	Barrow's Goldeneye	o	PR	1,2,4
___	Bufflehead	u	PR	1,2,4
___	Hooded Merganser	u	SR	1,2,4
___	Common Merganser	c	PR	1,2,4
___	Red-breasted Merganser	r	M	1,2,4
___	Ruddy Duck	u	PR	2
BIRDS OF PREY		ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___	Turkey Vulture	u	SR	3,5,6
___	Osprey	c	SR	1,2,4

___	Bald Eagle	u	PR	1,2,4
___	Northern Harrier	c	PR	2,3
___	Sharp-shinned Hawk	o	PR	1,5,6,7
___	Cooper's Hawk	o	PR	1,5,6
___	Northern Goshawk	u	PR	6,7,8
___	Swainson's Hawk	o	SR	3,5,6,9
___	Red-tailed Hawk	c	PR	1,3,6,7
___	Ferruginous Hawk	r	M	3
___	Rough-legged Hawk	c	WR	2,3
___	Golden Eagle	o	PR	3,5,6,9
___	American Kestrel	c	PR	1,3,6,7
___	Merlin	o	PR	2,3,5,6
___	Peregrine Falcon	o	SR	2,3,5,6
___	Gyr Falcon	r	M	5,9
___	Prairie Falcon	o	PR	3,5,6

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GAME BIRDS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
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___	Gray Partridge	o	PR	3
___	Chukar	r	PR	3,5
___	Ring-necked Pheasant	a	PR	2,3
___	Spruce Grouse (Franklin's)	u	PR	6-9
___	Blue Grouse	u	PR	6,7,9
___	Ruffed Grouse	c	PR	1,4,6
___	Wild Turkey	r	PR	6,7

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MARSH/ShORE BIRDS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
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___	Virginia Rail	u	SR	2
___	Sora	u	SR	1,2,4
___	American Coot	a	PR	1,2,4
___	Sandhill Crane	o	SR	2,3
___	Black-bellied Plover	o	M	2
___	Semipalmated Plover	c	M	2
___	Killdeer	a	PR	1-4
___	American Avocet	o	M	2
___	Greater Yellowlegs	o	M	2
___	Lesser Yellowlegs	u	M	2
___	Solitary Sandpiper	o	M	1,2,4
___	Willet	r	M	2
___	Spotted Sandpiper	c	SR	1,2,4
___	Upland Sandpiper	o	SR	3
___	Whimbrel	r	M	2,3
___	Long-billed Curlew	o	SR	2,3,4
___	Marbled Godwit	r	M	2
___	Sanderling	r	M	2
___	Semipalmated Sandpiper	o	M	2
___	Western Sandpiper	o	M	1,2
___	Least Sandpiper	o	M	2
___	Baird's Sandpiper	o	M	2
___	Pectoral Sandpiper	o	M	2
___	Dunlin	r	M	2
___	Stilt Sandpiper	r	M	2
___	Long-billed Dowitcher	c	M	2

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SNIPe/PHALAROPES	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
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___ Common Snipe	c	PR	2, 3, 4
___ Wilson's Phalarope	c	SR	2
___ Red-necked Phalarope	c	M	2

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GULLS/TERNs	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ Franklin's Gull	o	M	2
___ Bonaparte's Gull	o	M	1, 2, 4
___ Ring-billed Gull	o	M	1, 2, 4
___ California Gull	o	M	1, 2, 4
___ Caspian Tern	r	M	2
___ Common Tern	r	M	2
___ Forster's Tern	r	M	2
___ Black Tern	u	SR	2

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DOVES/CUCKOOS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ Rock Dove	c	PR	3, 5
___ Mourning Dove	c	PR	3, 6
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	M	1, 3, 6

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OWLS/NIGHTJARS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ Flammulated Owl	u	SR	6, 7, 8
___ Western Screech-Owl	u	PR	1, 6
___ Great Horned Owl	c	PR	1-8
___ Snowy Owl	r	WR	3
___ Northern Pygmy-Owl	u	PR	1, 4, 6, 7, 9
___ Burrowing Owl	r	SR	3
___ Great Gray Owl	r	PR	1, 6, 7, 8
___ Long-eared Owl	o	PR	1, 3, 4, 6
___ Short-eared Owl	u	PR	2, 3
___ Boreal Owl	u	PR	6, 7, 9
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl	u	PR	1, 7
___ Common Nighthawk	c	SR	1, 2, 3, 6

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SWIFTS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ Black Swift	o	SR	4, 5, 6, 9
___ Vaux's Swift	u	SR	6, 7
___ White-throated Swift	u	SR	5, 6, 7

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HUMMINGBIRDS/KINGFISHER	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird	u	SR	1, 3, 4
___ Calliope Hummingbird	c	SR	6-9
___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird	r	SR	4, 6-9
___ Rufous Hummingbird	c	SR	1, 3, 4, 6
___ Belted Kingfisher	c	PR	1, 2, 4

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WOODPECKERS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ Lewis' Woodpecker	c	PR	1, 6
___ Red-naped Sapsucker	u	SR	1, 4-7
___ Williamson's Sapsucker	r	SR	6-9
___ Downy Woodpecker	c	PR	1, 4, 6, 7
___ Hairy Woodpecker	c	PR	1, 6-9

___	Three-toed Woodpecker	r	PR	6-9
___	Black-backed Woodpecker	u	PR	6-9
___	Northern Flicker	c	PR	1, 3, 4, 6-8
___	Pileated Woodpecker	u	PR	1, 7

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FLYCATCHERS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Olive-sided Flycatcher	u	SR	6, 9
___	Western Wood-pewee	c	SR	1, 4, 6
___	Willow Flycatcher	c	SR	1, 3, 4, 6
___	Least Flycatcher	u	SR	4, 6
___	Hammond's Flycatcher	u	SR	7, 8, 9
___	Dusky Flycatcher	u	SR	3, 6
___	Cordilleran Flycatcher	u	SR	1, 4, 8
___	Say's Phoebe	u	SR	3, 5
___	Western Kingbird	u	SR	3, 4, 6
___	Eastern Kingbird	c	SR	1, 3, 4, 6

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LARK/SWALLOWS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Horned Lark	u	PR	3, 9
___	Tree Swallow	c	SR	1-4
___	Violet-green Swallow	u	SR	1-6
___	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	SR	1-5
___	Bank Swallow	c	SR	1-5
___	Cliff Swallow	u	SR	1-5
___	Barn Swallow	c	SR	1-5

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JAYS/CROW/RAVEN	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Gray Jay	u	PR	6-9
___	Steller's Jay	u	PR	6-9
___	Blue Jay	r	PR	1, 2, 3, 6
___	Pinon Jay	r	M	3, 6, 7
___	Clark's Nutcracker	c	PR	6-9
___	Black-billed Magpie	a	PR	1-6
___	American Crow	o	PR	1, 3, 6, 7
___	Common Raven	u	PR	3, 5-9

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CHICKADEES/NUTHATCHES/CREEPER	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Black-capped Chickadee	c	PR	1, 4, 6
___	Mountain Chickadee	u	PR	6-9
___	Boreal Chickadee	r	M	6, 7, 8
___	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	r	WR	1, 4, 6, 8
___	Red-breasted Nuthatch	c	PR	6-9
___	White-breasted Nuthatch	c	PR	1, 4, 6
___	Pygmy Nuthatch	u	PR	1, 6, 7
___	Brown Creeper	u	PR	1, 7, 8, 9

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WRENS/DIPPER/KINGLETS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Rock Wren	u	SR	5
___	Canyon Wren	r	PR	5
___	House Wren	c	SR	1, 3, 4, 6
___	Winter Wren	u	PR	4, 6-9
___	Marsh Wren	c	PR	2

___	American Dipper	u	PR	1, 4
___	Golden-crowned Kinglet	u	PR	1, 4, 6-9
___	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c	SR	1, 4, 6-9

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	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Western Bluebird	r	SR	3, 6
___	Mountain Bluebird	u	SR	3, 6, 9
___	Townsend's Solitaire	u	PR	5-9
___	Veery	o	SR	1, 4
___	Swainson's Thrush	u	SR	1, 6, 7
___	Hermit Thrush	u	SR	6, 7
___	American Robin	a	PR	1, 3, 4, 6-8
___	Varied Thrush	u	SR	1, 4, 8

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	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Gray Catbird	u	SR	1, 4
___	Sage Thrasher	r	M	3
___	American Pipit	o	SR	3, 9

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	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Bohemian Waxwing	u	WR	3, 6
___	Cedar Waxwing	u	PR	1, 3, 4, 6, 8
___	Northern Shrike	u	WR	3, 6
___	Loggerhead Shrike	r	M	3, 6
___	European Starling	a	PR	3, 6

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	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Solitary Vireo	u	SR	1, 4, 6, 7
___	Warbling Vireo	c	SR	1, 4, 6, 7, 8
___	Red-eyed Vireo	u	SR	1, 4
___	Tennessee Warbler	r	M	1, 4, 6
___	Orange-crowned Warbler	u	SR	3, 4, 6
___	Nashville Warbler	o	SR	1, 4, 6
___	Yellow Warbler	c	SR	1, 4
___	Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	SR	1, 3, 4, 6-9
___	Townsend's Warbler	u	SR	7, 8, 9
___	American Redstart	o	SR	1, 4
___	Northern Waterthrush	o	SR	4
___	MacGillivray's Warbler	u	SR	1, 4
___	Common Yellowthroat	c	SR	1, 2, 4
___	Wilson's Warbler	u	SR	14
___	Yellow-breasted Chat	r	SR	14

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	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Western Tanager	c	SR	1, 6-9
___	Black-headed Grosbeak	u	SR	1, 3, 4, 6

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	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT	
___	Lazuli Bunting	u	SR	1, 3, 4, 6
___	Rufous-sided Towhee	u	SR	1, 4, 6

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SPARROWS	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ American Tree Sparrow	c	WR	1, 3, 4, 6
___ Chipping Sparrow	c	SR	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
___ Brewer's Sparrow	u	SR	3, 9
___ Vesper Sparrow	c	SR	3
___ Lark Sparrow	r	SR	3
___ Savannah Sparrow	c	SR	3
___ Fox Sparrow	r	SR	1, 3, 4, 6
___ Song Sparrow	c	PR	1, 2, 4
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u	SR	1, 3, 4, 6
___ White-throated Sparrow	r	M	1, 3, 6-9
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u	SR	1-4, 6
___ Harris' Sparrow	r	WR	3, 4, 6
___ Dark-eyed Junco	c	PR	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
___ Lapland Longspur	r	M	3
___ Snow Bunting	r	WR	3

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BLACKBIRDS/ORIOLE	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ Bobolink	u	SR	2, 3
___ Red-winged Blackbird	a	PR	1, 2, 3
___ Western Meadowlark	c	PR	3
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	a	SR	2
___ Brewer's Blackbird	c	SR	3
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	c	SR	1, 3
___ Northern Oriole	u	SR	1, 3

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FINCHES	ABUNDANCE	SEASON	HABITAT
___ Rosy Finch	r	PR	3, 9
___ Pine Grosbeak	u	PR	1, 4, 6, 7, 9
___ Cassin's Finch	u	PR	4, 6, 7, 8, 9
___ House Finch	c	PR	1, 3, 4, 6
___ Red Crossbill	c	PR	6-9
___ White-winged Crossbill	r	PR	8
___ Common Redpoll	u	WR	3, 4, 6, 7, 8
___ Pine Siskin	c	PR	4, 6-9
___ American Goldfinch	u	PR	1, 3, 4, 6
___ Evening Grosbeak	c	PR	1, 4, 6, 7, 8
___ House Sparrow	c	PR	1, 3

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