

# Marita Payne Park Avian Checklist

2025 Edition



Compiled and designed by Kovy Frankel

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Marita Payne Park is a large urban park in the city of Vaughan. It hosts a remarkable number of birds, with one resident reportedly sighting some 140 species in the park! This incredible diversity is owed to the variety of habitats found within the park, including a pond, the West Don River, a forest, and areas of dense vegetation.

Over the last 6 years, I've been exploring Marita and adding the birds I found to my personal checklist. With the creation of the Marita Payne Park Avian Checklist, I hope that fellow bird watchers in the area may be able find new birds in the park and better understand its diversity.

The current checklist is based on records supplied by citizen science projects, namely eBird and iNaturalist. If you have a camera and an internet connection, you too can contribute to these global initiatives to document the world's bird species.

## Key

Species recorded in Marita Payne Pond are placed in the checklist below. Most are included based on photographic or audio evidence, those without are marked with an asterisk (\*). Species that are reported from Marita for the first time this year are bolded and marked with an exclamation point (!).

### Ducks, Geese, and Swans | *Anatidae*

- Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)
- Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)
- Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)
- Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)
- Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)
- Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)
- Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

### Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies | *Phasianidae*

- Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)
- Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)(\*)

### Grebes | *Podicipedidae*

- Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

### Pigeons and Doves | *Columbidae*

- Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)(\*)
- Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*)

### Swifts | *Apodidae*

- Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)(\*)

### Hummingbirds | *Trochilidae*

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)

### Plovers and Lapwings | *Charadriidae*

- Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)(\*)

### Sandpipers and Allies | *Scolopacidae*

- American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)(\*)
- Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

### Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers | *Laridae*

- Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)
- American Herring Gull (*Larus smithsonianus*)(\*)

### Cormorants and Shags | *Phalacrocoracidae*

- Double-crested Cormorant (*Nannopterum auritum*)

### Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns | *Ardeidae*

- Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)
- Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)
- Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

### New World Vultures | *Cathartidae*

- Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

### Hawks, Eagles, and Kites | *Accipitridae*

- Cooper's Hawk (*Astur cooperii*)
- Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

### Kingfishers | *Alcedinidae*

- Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*)

### Woodpeckers | *Picidae*

- Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)
- Hairy Woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus villosus*)
- Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*)
- Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)(\*)
- Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)

### Caracaras and Falcons | *Falconidae*

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)(\*)

### Tyrant Flycatchers | *Tyrannidae*

- Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)
- Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)(\*)
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)
- Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)
- Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*)(\*)
- Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)

### Vireos | *Vireonidae*

- Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)(\*)
- Eastern Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)
- Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)

### Crows, Jays, and Magpies | *Corvidae*

- Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*)
- Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)
- American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

### Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice | *Paridae*

- Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*)

### Swallows and Martins | *Hirundinidae*

- Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)(\*)
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)
- Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)(\*)

### Kinglets | *Regulidae*

- Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Corthylio calendula*)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)

### Waxwings | *Bombycillidae*

- Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

### Nuthatches | *Sittidae*

- Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)
- White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)

### Treecreepers | *Certhiidae*

- Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)

### Gnatcatchers and Gnatwrens | *Poliophtilidae*

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*)(\*)

### Wrens | *Troglodytidae*

- Northern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)(\*)
- Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*)(\*)
- Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)

### Mockingbirds and Thrashers | *Mimidae*

- Grey Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)
- Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*)(\*)
- Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)(\*)

### Starlings and Mynas | *Sturnidae*

- European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

### Thrushes | *Turdidae*

- Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)(\* )
- Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*)
- Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)(\* )
- American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

### Old World Sparrows | *Passeridae*

- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)(\* )

### Finches, Euphonias, and Allies | *Fringillidae*

- American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*)(\* )
- House Finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*)
- Purple Finch (*Haemorrhous purpureus*)

### New World Sparrows | *Passerellidae*

- Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)(\* )
- Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)
- Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)(\* )
- American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*)(\* )
- White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
- White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)
- Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)
- Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)(\* )
- Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)
- Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*)(\* )
- Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

### New World Blackbirds and Orioles | *Icteridae*

- Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*)(!)**
- Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*)
- Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)
- Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
- Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)(\* )
- Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)(\* )

### Wood-Warblers | *Parulidae*

- Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)
- Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*)(\* )
- Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*)(\* )
- Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)
- Nashville Warbler (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*)(\* )
- Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*)(\* )
- Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)
- Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*)(\* )
- American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*)(\* )
- Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*)(\* )
- Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*)
- Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*)(\* )
- Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)
- Northern Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga aestiva*)(\* )

- Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*)(\* )
- Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)
- Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*)(\* )
- Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*)(\* )
- Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*)(\* )
- Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*)

### Cardinals and Allies | *Cardinalidae*

- Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)(\* )
- Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

This checklist was made possible by the contributions of local birders and naturalists in Ontario. Their sightings on iNaturalist and eBird provide invaluable insights into the biodiversity on Marita Payne Pond. The relevant observations can be found by following the links below.

#### Sources:

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L22997533/bird-list>  
[https://inaturalist.ca/observations?place\\_id=193531&sub-view=map&taxon\\_id=3](https://inaturalist.ca/observations?place_id=193531&sub-view=map&taxon_id=3)  
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