

Old World Warblers, Thrushes, and Allies

- American Dipper (Y)
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (S)
- Western Bluebird (S)
- Mountain Bluebird (S)
- Veery (S)
- Swainson's Thrush (S)
- Townsend's Solitaire (I)
- American Robin (Y)

Starlings and Mimids

- European Starling (Y)
- Northern Mockingbird (S)
- Gray Catbird (S)
- Sage Thrasher (S)

Waxwings

- Bohemian Waxwing (W)
- Cedar Waxwing (S)

Finches, Pipits, and Old World Sparrows

- House Finch (S)
- Cassin's Finch (I)
- Pine Siskin (Y)
- Lesser Goldfinch (S, M)
- American Goldfinch (M)
- American Pipit (M)
- House Sparrow (M, I)

Sparrows and Allies

- Green-tailed Towhee (S)
- Spotted Towhee (S)
- American Tree Sparrow (W)
- Chipping Sparrow (S, M)
- Clay-colored Sparrow (M)
- Brewer's Sparrow (S)
- Vesper Sparrow (S)
- Lark Sparrow (S)
- Sage Sparrow (S)
- Lark Bunting (S, M)
- Savannah Sparrow (S, M)
- Song Sparrow (S)
- Lincoln's Sparrow (S)
- White-crowned Sparrow (S, M)
- Sagebrush Sparrow (M)
- Grasshopper Sparrow (M)
- Dark-eyed Junco (Y)

Icterids

- Yellow-breasted Chat (S, M)
- Red-winged Blackbird (S)
- Western Meadowlark (S)
- Yellow-headed Blackbird (S)
- Brewer's Blackbird (S)
- Common Grackle (S)
- Brown-headed Cowbird (S)
- Bullock's Oriole (S)

Wood-Warblers

- Orange-crowned Warbler (S, M)
- Virginia's Warbler (S, M)
- Yellow Warbler (S, M)
- Black-throated Gray Warbler (S)
- Townsend's Warbler (M)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (S, M)
- American Redstart (S, M)
- MacGillivray's Warbler (S, M)
- Common Yellowthroat (S, M)
- Wilson's Warbler (S, M)

Tanagers and Allies

- Black-headed Grosbeak (S)
- Lazuli Bunting (S)

Other Birds Sighted/Field Notes

Disclaimer: This checklist is composed of bird species that are most likely to be seen at this state park. The intent of this list is to help park visitors identify the breadth of species most commonly associated with this location. Other species that are rarely observed were purposely omitted from this list.

Sources: CPW Resource Stewardship Breeding Bird Survey Project (CPW Parkwide Breeding Bird Survey, CPW State Park Raptor Monitoring Project, Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II, eBird, and other researched sources when available).

Birding Tips

-  Always view birds and other wildlife from a safe distance.
-  Use binoculars or a spotting scope for a closer view.
-  Protect young by avoiding nests or dens.
-  Help protect birds by using your senses to find them, not recorded calls.
-  To see more birds, keep voices and other sounds low.
-  Protect plants and wildlife by staying on trails and respecting closures.
-  Keep dogs leashed and under control at all times.
-  For the best viewing experience, leave pets at home.
-  Human food can hurt wildlife—please keep their diets wild.
-  Take nothing but pictures—leave what you find for others to enjoy.



Elkhead Reservoir State Park

135 County Road 28 • Craig, CO 81625
(970) 276-2061 • Fax (970) 276-2063
E-mail: yampa.river@state.co.us

cpw.state.co.us



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COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Birds at Elkhead Reservoir State Park



BIRD SPECIES CHECKLIST



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Black-billed Magpie

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Seasonal Visibility Key

- (S)—Summer
- (M)—Migration (Spring/Fall)
- (W)—Winter
- (I)—Infrequent
- (Y)—Year-round

Ducks, Geese, and Swans

- Canada Goose (S, M)
- Trumpeter Swan (I, M)
- Tundra Swan (I)
- Gadwall (S, M)
- American Wigeon (S, M)
- Mallard (S, M)
- Blue-winged Teal (S, M)
- Cinnamon Teal (S, M)
- Northern Shoveler (M)
- Northern Pintail (M)
- Green-winged Teal (S, M)
- Redhead (S, M)
- Ring-necked Duck (M)
- Lesser Scaup (M, I)
- White-winged Scoter (M, I)
- Black Scoter (M, I)
- Long-tailed Duck (M, I)
- Bufflehead (M)
- Common Goldeneye (M)
- Barrow's Goldeneye (M)
- Hooded Merganser (M)
- Common Merganser (M)
- Red-breasted Merganser (M)
- Ruddy Duck (S, M)

Landfowl

- Greater Sage-Grouse (Y)
- Sharp-tailed Grouse (Y)

Grebes

- Pied-billed Grebe (S, M)
- Horned Grebe (I)
- Eared Grebe (M)
- Western Grebe (M)

Pigeons, Doves and Cuckoos

- Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)
- Mourning Dove (S)

Goatsuckers

- Common Nighthawk (S)
- Common Poorwill (S)

Swifts

- White-throated Swift (S)

Hummingbirds

- Black-chinned Hummingbird (S)
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird (S)
- Calliope Hummingbird (M)
- Rufous Hummingbird (M)

Rails, Coots, and Cranes

- Virginia Rail (M, I)
- Sora (S)
- American Coot (S)
- Sandhill Crane (S, M)

Shorebirds

- Black-necked Stilt (M, I)
- American Avocet (S)
- Killdeer (S)
- Marbled Godwit (M)
- Baird's Sandpiper (S, I)
- Spotted Sandpiper (S)
- Greater Yellowlegs (M)
- Lesser Yellowlegs (M)
- Willet (M)
- Long-billed Curlew (M)
- Long-billed Dowitcher (M)
- Wilson's Snipe (S)
- Wilson's Phalarope (S)
- Red-necked Phalarope (M)

Gulls and Terns

- Bonaparte's Gull (M, I)
- Franklin's Gull (S, M)
- Ring-billed Gull (S, M)
- California Gull (S, M)
- Herring Gull (M, I)
- Caspian Tern (M, I)

Loons

- Pacific Loon (M, I)
- Common Loon (M)

Cormorants

- Double-crested Cormorant (M)

Pelicans

- American White Pelican (M)

Bitterns and Herons

- Great Blue Heron (S)
- Snowy Egret (M)
- Cattle Egret (M)

Ibises

- White-faced Ibis (M)

New World Vultures

- Turkey Vulture (S)

Osprey

- Osprey (S)

Diurnal Raptors

- Bald Eagle (Y)
- Northern Harrier (S, M)
- Cooper's Hawk (I)
- Swainson's Hawk (S, M)
- Red-tailed Hawk (Y)
- Ferruginous Hawk (M)
- Rough-legged Hawk (W)
- Golden Eagle (Y)

Owls

- Great Horned Owl (Y)

Kingfishers

- Belted Kingfisher (Y)

Woodpeckers

- Red-naped Sapsucker (S)
- Downy Woodpecker (Y)
- Hairy Woodpecker (Y)
- Northern Flicker (Y)

Falcons

- American Kestrel (Y)
- Peregrine Falcon (M)
- Prairie Falcon (S)

Tyrant Flycatchers

- Western Wood-Pewee (S)
- Willow Flycatcher (S)
- Dusky Flycatcher (S)
- Cordilleran Flycatcher (S)
- Say's Phoebe (S, M)
- Western Kingbird (M)
- Eastern Kingbird (M)

Shrikes and Vireos

- Loggerhead Shrike (S)
- Northern Shrike (W)
- Warbling Vireo (S)

Jays, Crows, and Allies

- Pinyon Jay (M)
- Steller's Jay (Y)
- Blue Jay (I)
- Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (Y)
- Black-billed Magpie (Y)
- Clark's Nutcracker (I)
- American Crow (Y)
- Common Raven (Y)

Larks

- Horned Lark (S, M)

Swallows

- Tree Swallow (S)
- Violet-green Swallow (S)
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (S)
- Bank Swallow (S)
- Cliff Swallow (S)
- Barn Swallow (S)

Chickadees

- Black-capped Chickadee (Y)
- Mountain Chickadee (M, W)

Nuthatches and Creepers

- White-breasted Nuthatch (Y)

Wrens

- Rock Wren (S)
- Canyon Wren (Y)
- House Wren (S)
- Marsh Wren (M)