

2 0 1 0 B I R D G U I D E

the
CRESTVIEW *wildlife*

BIRDING IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!



Downy Woodpecker

One of my most regular visitors are the downy woodpeckers. They enjoy the suet and oil sunflower. In the spring they bring their babies by to teach them how to feed. It is always a sweet sight seeing the parents care for their young.

✧ *A passion for nature!* ✧

Here at the edge of the city, with miles of park land right at your feet, wildlife abounds. If you love being close to nature then this is a great place to live.

MORE THAN YOU CAN COUNT

Since I work at Wildbirds Unlimited, bird feeding came as part of my training. Little did I know that I was in a perfect spot to see almost every bird there is to see! I have been feeding and watching the birds here now for many years, and truly

sometimes there are more than I can count! There are seasonal birds and a large base of year round birds. If you don't believe in feeding, don't worry, the oaks and brush cover provide plenty for the bird watcher. The following is my very own sight list for right outside this window



What works best here

Feeding the birds here is tricky. You must first have a squirrel proof feeder. They will eat you out of house and home otherwise. Next use Hulled

Sunflower Seed. This reduces much of the mess that can fall on the deck. Use a long deck extension or hang it from the overhang to keep the racoons out too. Sit back and enjoy the birds. I also feed suet under a

squirrel baffle and provide for the Anna's Hummingbird which is here year round.





American Goldfinch, Robins, Crows are common, but Band Tailed Pigeons are a rare visitor.

The Usual Suspects



The Bewicks Wren is a regular but shy.



The Lesser Goldfinch stays year round and the males stay yellow.

Bushtits will come in a large group in winter for the bugs in the bushes and if you put out suet.



The Spotted Towhee is always in the bushes.



Black Capped Chickadees are at home here.



The Brown Creeper will never come to the deck. It stays out on the oak trees.

Both the Scrub and Stellars Jays alert the rest to danger.



House Finches will love Black Oil Sunflower



Morning Doves feed below the deck.



Chestnut Backed Chickadees come in groups in the winter.



The Northern Flickers will be shy about the suet feeder if they see you inside!

Rotate Image Right



The Red Breasted Nuthatches have the cutest babies!



The Dark Eyed Junco comes to Sunflower in the winter.



White Breasted Nuthatches visit but like the oaks better.



Song Sparrows are here and occasionally visit the deck.

Red Breasted Sapsuckers can be seen occasionally.



Yes there is the eternal House Sparrow and Starlings but these birds are invasive so stick to straight black oil and they will be discouraged!

Seasonal Visitors



I only see the Western Bluebird at the winter Solstice time. They come to eat the ripe

mistletoe berries in the oak trees. Sometimes they will even visit the bird bath.



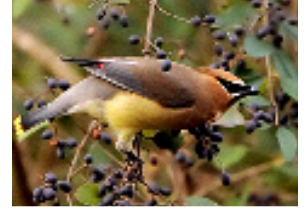
Spring and Fall the Black Headed Grosbeaks move through. elsewhere in summer.



Pine Siskins also move through in Spring and Fall.



The prettiest is the Western Tanager which moves through in Spring and Fall. They visit the evergreens out front.



The Cedar Waxwing will be seen in Spring and Fall. They come to the large maple and oak trees.

Spring Is Here!



The Violet Green Swallows show up about the equinox and fly wonderfully up and down the street.



The call of the Red Winged Black Bird is also a spring clue.



Rufous Hummingbirds show up in February for the Summer.



*Warblers
Abound!*



Golden Crowned and Orange Crowned Kinglets come by.



I saw the Black Throated Gray last year.



Pretty Golden Crowned and White Crowned Sparrows come in the early spring.



April and May sees the oaks covered in all kinds of warblers like this Common Yellow Throat. This Spring I saw the MacGillivray's Warbler (below) or was it the Nashville? They look similar and sometimes they don't hold still long enough!



This handsome fellow is a Townsend's Warbler. I find him a sight for sore eyes at the end of winter.



This Yellow Rumped Warbler is quite common.



*Summer is
Coming!*



I have seen the Fox Sparrow only rarely and the Western Wood Peewee sometimes calls.



The Wilson's Warbler sticks close to the oak tree.



You know it is almost Summer when you hear the echoing call of the Swainson's Thrush in June.



This is a Yellow Warbler.



The Varied Thrush is a common summer resident. Of course the list of the usual suspects are here year round.



Throughout the year you can hear the calls of the Northern Saw Whet and the Western Screech owls.

High and Fast Fliers



The Coopers Hawks are always around though seen rarely until they zip by.



Red Tailed Hawks make their home in the park.



There is a Bald Eagle nest just down by the river.



Osprey call and give each other fish in the air during mating season.

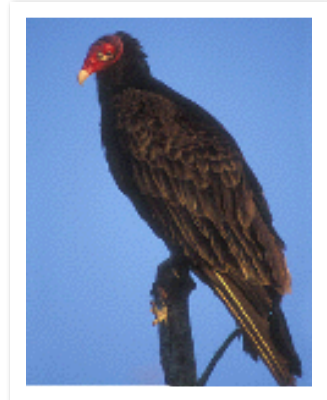
Night Sounds



Barred Owls and Great Horned Owls start calling as early as January to pair up for mating. Sometimes you will see a Great Horned during the day when the young are about to fledge.



Sharp Shinned Hawks land on the deck sometimes in their hunt for small birds.



The great Turkey Vulture arrives in Spring to circle lazily on the air.

In The Park

Minto Brown Park is a great place to just get out into nature. It provides a close escape for the outdoors person. Besides bird life, there are also deer and coyotes, the former to be seen on the back grassy area of the condo and the latter to be heard at night sometimes. They make the park their home.

There are literally too many animals to count. My most rare encounter was with two river otters that had come up the little creek by the bridge one February afternoon!

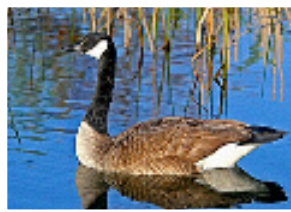


The Great Blue Herons

are a sight to see.



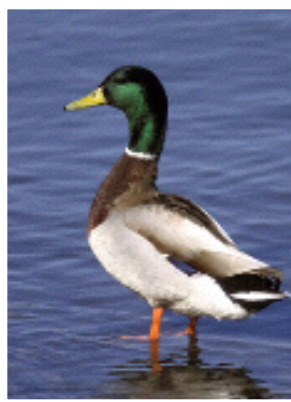
I once saw a Green Heron down on the dock at the pond.



Great flocks of Canada Geese arrive in Winter to graze the fields. Along with a variety of other geese.



This year I saw a Green Winged Teal for the first time.



Mallards are at the pond year round.



There are also Belted Kingfishers to be heard more than seen in the park.

A Perfect Location

The best thing about this location is that it is a short bike ride to either the park or downtown. Not only does the park offer the best of wildlife, downtown has blossomed into a thriving place for art events, music and unique boutique shops. So whether you like the wildlife of city or nature or both, the Crestview Townhomes can offer up a good mix of both!