

Birdwatching



The high elevation plateau that makes up much of the West Chilcotin does not support exotic song birds, but the birds it does have are magnificent. Predator birds include hawks, owls, Osprey, and the Bald Eagle. Our area is also home to the Trumpeter Swan, thought to be brought back from the brink of extinction by Ralph Edwards of Lonesome Lake who homesteaded in a long valley now within Tweedsmuir Park.

Woodland Birds

Woodland birds include at least three species of woodpecker, including the huge and rare Pileated Woodpecker, grouse, ptarmigan, Cedar Waxwing, chickadees, Whiskey Jacks, Nutcracker, red winged blackbirds, mountain blue bird, tree, cliff, and barn swallows, flickers, and Rufous hummingbirds.

Songbirds

Some small songbirds migrate through on their way north or to the the Coast. Those can include Grosbeaks, redpolls, purple finch, goldfinch, Pine Siskin and dark eyed Junco to name a few that pass through. And of course, you can't forget the ever present and wily Raven.



The Chilcotin also supports nesting colonies of the American White Pelican at several area lakes including Anahim and Nimpo Lake. There are Blue Herons, grebes, terns, geese, ducks, teal, Sandhill cranes, American Bittern, and many variety of ducks including merganser, Barrow's Goldeneye, buffleheads and numerous other species of waterfowl.

A true barometer of the good health of a lake is the loon and it's a favorite of most visitors. Best known for it's maniacal laugh the bird populates many of the lakes in the Chilcotin and provides



Photo courtesy Alfred Schulte

hours of evening enjoyment for those sitting around a campfire, listening to the breeding pairs calling out to one another.

Migratory Route

The West Chilcotin is part of the Pacific Flyway migration route, where millions of birds migrate annually. This provides the birdwatcher lots of opportunity to enjoy and photograph a very wide variety of bird species.



Birdwatching in the West Chilcotin is sponsored by:

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