

# Birds in Langley

The Langleys, with their great variety of habitat that extends from the Fraser River to the North, through the City of Langley and the rural agricultural land to the US border, are home to a large cross section of birds.



## Bald Eagle

This very large bird of prey can be seen throughout the year, often near water. It feeds on fish, carrion, and birds such as ducks and gulls. The speckled brown juvenile takes 4 years to acquire the white head and tail and yellow beak of an adult.



## Red-tailed Hawk

This is a very common hawk in Langley, found year-round in open habitats, woodlands, and highway corridors. It feeds on small mammals. Adults have a distinctive red tail and dark leading edges on the wings.



## Cooper's Hawk

This bird preys on small birds and often takes them at bird feeders. Will perch in full view in a tree or on a post. Similar in size to a Crow but with a longer tail. Juvenile birds are brown with a streaked breast.



## Barn Owl

This nocturnal owl can sometimes be seen flying low across the road at night as it hunts for rodents. It is easily identified by its orange and white plumage and can often be found nesting in old barns.



## Barred Owl

This owl is a woodland bird that can sometimes be seen during the day sitting on a branch waiting for its prey. Note the barred breast and black eyes.



## Great Blue Heron

A patient hunter, the Great Blue Heron often waits in shallow water to spear fish, frogs and snakes. It can also be seen in fields hunting for mice or voles.

## Yellow-rumped Warbler



This warbler is very common in spring and fall migration; some occur year-round. Yellow rump and flanks are distinctive in all plumages. Most have yellow throat (Audubon's); Myrtle's is white. About 10 other warbler species occur on migration.

## Spotted Towhee



This large, secretive, resident sparrow lives in dense undergrowth. It has red eyes, a white-spotted, black back, black breast, white belly, and rufous sides. It eats insects, spiders, seeds and fruits. Listen for the towhee's harsh and trilling calls to locate it.

## Purple Finch



Another garden finch found here year-round. The male has extensive red colour on the front and back while the female is distinguished from the female house finch by a bold yellow white 'eyebrow'.

## House Finch



A familiar garden finch, the male has a pink head, throat and rump. Its back, wings and under-parts are streaked brown. Found locally year-round, it feeds on seeds, flowers, leaves and fruit.

## American Goldfinch



A small finch with a loud, tuneful song. The breeding male is bright yellow and black; the female is more muted brownish yellow. This seed eater is a common breeding bird in rural Langley wherever there are bushes, hedgerows and small trees.

## Pine Siskin



A small finch with a brown streaked body, white wing-bars and yellow edges to the wings. It is very common some winters. It forages on the ground and in trees for seeds and insects. When eating from conifers, it often hangs upside down.

Photos & text contributed by members of the Delta Naturalists Society and the  
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## Marsh Wren



A noisy cattail marsh dweller, more often heard than seen. It is reddish brown above, paler below with a prominent white eyebrow. It can be found year-round in Langley but is most vocal and visible in spring. It can be seen in marshes such as Brydon Lagoon and Derby Reach Bog.

## Pacific Wren



One of our smallest birds, it is found in woodlands throughout Langley, including Sendall Gardens. It's loud and long song can be heard in spring as it claims its territory.

## Bewick's Wren



This year-round resident is easily identified by its white 'eyebrow'. It prefers bushy areas where it mostly eats insects. In winter it sometimes visits feeders to feast on suet.

## Brown Creeper



Look for this small, well-camouflaged bird climbing up the trunks of conifers, its brown plumage blending perfectly with its surroundings. It is resident in Langley forests and well-treed neighbourhoods but easily over-looked. Its song is high and tinkling.

## American Robin



A familiar North American thrush, found year-round in Langley. It has grey upper parts, black head, and orange-red breast. This thrush has a beautiful spring song. It lays 3 to 7 pale blue eggs and feeds on fruits, berries, worms and insects.

## Varied Thrush



This thrush winters in coniferous forests and well-treed suburbs in Langley. Its long, eerie whistle is unmistakable. Dark grey upper parts are mottled with orange on the wings; its throat and belly are also orange. It feeds on berries and insects, often on shady ground.

## Cedar Waxwing



This striking songbird is often seen in small flocks. It arrives in mid-May and most have left by November; a few overwinter. Pink-brown plumage and yellow-tipped tail are diagnostic. A fruit-eater, it can become intoxicated on fermented berries in winter.

## Northern Flicker



A common, resident woodpecker that feeds on insects on the ground and excavates a nest hole in snags. It has a distinctive white rump, often visible in flight. Buffy underparts are spotted and the underneath of its wings are red.

## Tree Swallow



This swallow has a shiny blue back and white underparts. It is the first swallow to return in spring to its nesting grounds in Langley. It feeds on insects, caught in flight. It often nests near water in trees and nest boxes.

## Barn Swallow



This once common swallow is now endangered, although still seen regularly in Langley. It has blue-black upper parts, red-brown forehead, chin and throat, and a deeply forked tail. It nests in barns and sheds and feeds on insects.

## Black-capped Chickadee



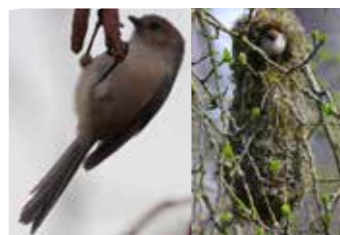
A very common garden and woodland bird, resident year-round in Delta. It has conspicuous black cap, bib and white cheeks. Grey back and buff flanks distinguish it from Chestnut-backed Chickadee. It feeds on insects, seeds, berries and is lively and vocal are home to a large cross section of birds.

## Chestnut-backed Chickadee



A common year-round resident in gardens and woodlands. The chestnut-coloured flanks and back easily identify it. This bird feeds on insects and seeds.

## Bushtit



A tiny bird with grey-brown upper parts, pale belly and a long tail. Found locally year-round, it feeds on aphids and other insects, spiders and seeds. It lays 5 - 7 eggs in a suspended gourd-shaped nest woven from mosses, lichens and other plants. In winter, flocks of 50 or more are not uncommon.

## Red-breasted Nuthatch



A colourful bird with striped head and rust-red under-parts. It is resident year round in forests and well-treed gardens. Unlike the Brown Creeper, nuthatches can climb headfirst down trees as well as up. They feed on seeds and nuts, hoarding excess food by wedging it into bark crevices.





### Double-crested Cormorant

A fish-eating bird that catches its prey by diving. It can often be seen in winter at Brydon Lagoon or along the Fraser River.



### Wood Duck

This beautiful duck is a fairly common resident nesting in tree cavities and nest boxes. Note the female's tear-drop shaped white patch around the eye. The male gives a thin high whistle when alarmed. It is found in small ponds and wet woodlands such as the Derby Reach bog off the Houston Trail.



### Mallard

Our commonest resident dabbling duck, the Mallard can be found on ponds and lakes throughout Langley. Large numbers over-winter here and can be seen feeding in the fields in spring.



### American Wigeon

Flocks of wigeon are a very common winter sight in ponds. This dabbler feeds on aquatic plants. It is known as "baldpate" for its white forehead and crown. Among these ducks you may see a Eurasian Wigeon, similar but with a rusty-red head.



### Northern Shoveler

The Shoveler's huge, shovel-like bill serves to sift surface water for plant food and small aquatic animals. A fairly common winter resident, it may be seen in Aldergrove Regional Park, Brydon Lagoon and similar locations.



### Northern Pintail

The male of this species has a long "pin" tail. It is an abundant winter visitor, found in marshes, ponds and fields. It dabbles in shallow water, feeding on plants and small aquatic animals. Seen from September to mid-May.



### Green-winged Teal

This common winter visitor is the smallest of the ducks and is seen on marshes and ponds, often with other ducks. The male has a high pitched 'preep-preep' call.



### Bufflehead

This small diving duck arrives in large numbers in mid-October to overwinter. It can be found on any body of water – freshwater ponds, marine bays - diving for snails, insects and worms. They nest in holes in trees.



### Common Goldeneye

In winter these diving ducks can be seen on ponds and lakes such as Brydon Lagoon. Both the male and female have yellow eyes, hence the name, 'Goldeneye'. The male bird has a round face patch while the similar Barrow's Goldeneye has a tear-drop shaped face patch.



### Hooded Merganser

A fish-eating duck frequenting quiet backwaters, sloughs, ponds and bays. They are often seen in pairs; the male and female have very different plumage. Red-breasted and Common Mergansers are also found in Langley.



### Common Merganser

These fish eaters spend the winter in the Lower Mainland and can be seen on the Fraser River, Brydon Lagoon and similar bodies of water.



### Killdeer

The Killdeer is a resident shorebird but many also migrate through in spring and fall. It is identified by its double neck band and by its kill-dee kill-dee call. It prefers open habitats like road edges and plowed fields, and nests on the bare ground.



### Eurasian Collared-Dove

This pale grey dove, a native of Europe and Asia, moved into Langley as part of an overall "invasion" of North America since the 1980s. It is now a year-round resident, feeding mostly on seeds on the ground, and is common around farms. Note dark collar and pink feet.



### Steller's Jay

This species is the western equivalent of the blue jay. It has a black head with a crest, and a dark blue body. It is found in forests and well-treed suburban areas year-round. Feeds on seeds, nuts, fruits and small invertebrates. It is B.C.'s Provincial Bird!



### Anna's Hummingbird

One of two species of hummingbirds found in Langley, the Anna's is a year-round resident. The male has bronzed-green upper parts, grey below and an iridescent crimson red crown and throat. They consume more insects than any other hummingbird in North America.



### Rufous Hummingbird

Slightly smaller than the Anna's, the male Rufous has a bright red-orange throat and mostly rufous-red plumage. It breeds locally in summer, moving to Mexico in winter. This species nests the furthest north of all hummers. It often returns to the same feeder every year.



### Downy Woodpecker

The smallest North American woodpecker, this bird is black and white with a red hindcrown patch in males. Found locally year-round, it feeds on insects and seeds and lays up to 7 eggs which are incubated for 12 days by both parents.



### Hairy Woodpecker

Similar to the Downy Woodpecker but larger and less common. Has a much longer beak than the Downy. Often seen at feeders.



### Northwestern Crow

A very common bird that thrives around humans and can frequently be seen raiding garbage bags for food scraps. In the breeding season crows are a major predator of song birds.



### Red-winged Blackbird

The song of this marsh-dweller is a familiar spring sound. The male's plumage is jet-black with bright red shoulder patches edged with yellow. Females resemble sparrows but are longer-billed and more heavily streaked. It nests in freshwater cattail marshes and winters in flocks in agricultural areas.



### Brewer's Blackbird

A year-round resident, this member of the Blackbird family can be seen in large flocks in winter, often around farms. In summer they can be seen along rural roads where they nest in the ditches.



### European Starling

Brought to Canada by European settlers, the Starling has thrived. In winter starlings congregate in large flocks, feeding in the fields by day before returning noisily to their roost.



### Golden-crowned Sparrow

A western sparrow, wintering in Langley. Flocks feed on the ground in agricultural areas, dykes and parks. In winter plumage, golden head stripe may be faint. One of 12 or so sparrow species regularly occurring in region.



### White-crowned Sparrow

Similar to the Golden-crowned which it is often seen with in winter, this sparrow is found here year-round. Its cheerful song can be heard in urban areas where it nests on the ground among low shrubs.



### House Sparrow

As its name implies, this common local bird likes to nest in houses and outbuildings. The male has a black bib and grey cap. It feeds on seeds and can often be seen at bird feeders.



### Song Sparrow

Our commonest sparrow, found year-round in bushy areas, woodlands and wetlands. Note the dark spot on the breast.



### Fox Sparrow

Similar to the Song Sparrow but a little larger with a noticeably yellow lower bill. Likes to forage near and under bushes by vigorously scratching leaves to expose insects.



### Dark-eyed Junco

A resident sparrow, found year-round but more common in winter. Local subspecies has a white belly, black head, brown back and sides. Flocks feed on the ground, scratching for seeds and insects. It flashes the white edges of its tail when it flies.