

# Park Habitats

Three major habitats are found at Writing-on-Stone: the upland prairie; the hoodoo/cliff; and the riverside or riparian habitats. Each habitat provides breeding and nesting sites for different species of birds. As you are bird-watching, you will notice that distinct groups of birds are found in each of these environments. This list includes information on the usual breeding habitat of resident birds.

# Home on the Range

Writing-on-Stone is home to a number of significant bird species. Some birds, such as the Rufous-sided Towhee and Rock Wren, are scarce in Alberta, but common in the Park. Yellow-breasted Chats and Black-headed Grosbeaks are at the northern limit of their range. The Ferruginous hawk, one of Canada's threatened species, is also occasionally seen at Writing-on-Stone.

# Protected Habitats

By protecting important bird habitats, the significance of Writing-on-Stone goes beyond a long list of birds. The hoodoos and cliffs found in the Archaeological Preserve provide critical undisturbed nesting areas for birds of prey. The riparian habitat, where many of the Park's birds nest and feed, is now a threatened environment on the prairies. The upland prairie of the Park is home to many birds typical of the grasslands, but this habitat is also disappearing fast. We must ensure that these habitats, both in the Park and throughout the prairies, continue to be protected in the future.

# Contact

**Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park**  
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Milk River, AB T0K 1M0  
Email: [writingonstone@gov.ab.ca](mailto:writingonstone@gov.ab.ca)

**Programs and Resource Management**  
Phone: 403-647-2364  
Toll-Free: 310-0000 in Alberta

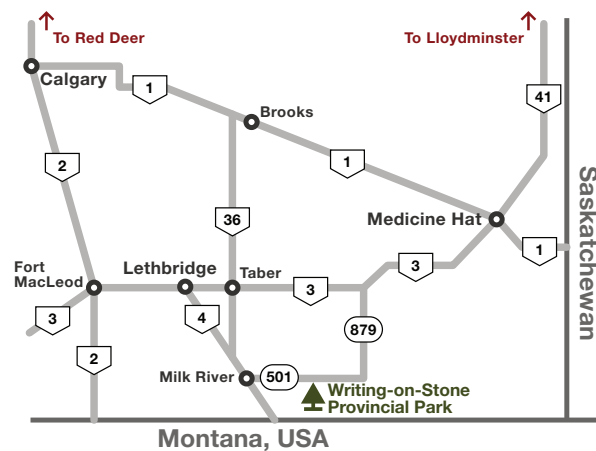
**Individual Campsite and Group Camping Reservations**  
Web: [shop.albertaparks.ca](http://shop.albertaparks.ca)  
Phone: 1-877-537-2757

**General Provincial Park Information**  
Web: [albertaparks.ca](http://albertaparks.ca)  
Toll Free: 1-877-537-2757

**Illegal Activity/Public Safety (24/7)**  
Phone: 310-LAND (5263)

**Fire Bans in Alberta**  
Web: [albertafirebans.ca](http://albertafirebans.ca)

**Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)**  
Phone: 911

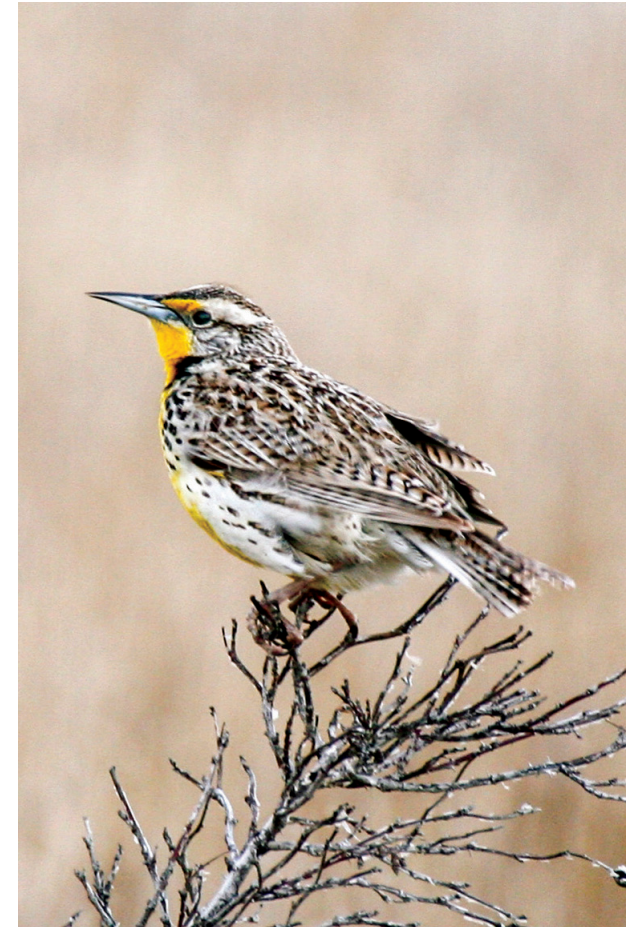


Cover Image: Western Meadowlark  
Updated February 2024



# Birding

## Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi Provincial Park



Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi  
A UNESCO World Heritage Site



# Checklist

## Swans, Geese, and Ducks

American Wigeon
Blue-winged Teal
Canada Goose
Common Merganser
Gadwall
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Northern Shoveler
Red-breasted Merganser
Redhead
Snow Goose
Tundra Swan

## Grouse, Pheasants and Partridges

Gray Partridge
Ring-necked Pheasant
Sharp-tailed Grouse

## Pelicans and Cormorants

American White Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant

## Hérons

Black-crowned Night Heron
Great Blue Heron

## Vulture and Osprey

Osprey
Turkey Vulture

## Hawks and Eagles

Bald Eagle
Broad-winged Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Golden Eagle
Northern Goshawk

Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk

## Rails

Sora
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## Shorebirds and Gulls

American Avocet
Bonaparte's Gull
California Gull
Caspian Tern
Franklin's Gull
Greater Yellowlegs
Killdeer
Least Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Long-billed Curlew
Marbled Godwit
Ring-billed Gull
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Willet
Wilson's Phalarope

## Pigeons and Doves

Mourning Dove
Rock Dove

## Cuckoos

Black-billed cuckoo
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## Owls

Great Horned Owl
Long-eared Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Short-eared Owl

## Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk
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## Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird

## Kingfishers and Woodpeckers

Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

## Falcons

American Kestrel
Merlin
Prairie Falcon

## Flycatchers

Eastern Kingbird
Great Crested Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Western Kingbird
Western Wood Pewee

## Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike
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## Vireos

Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Solitary Vireo
Warbling Vireo

## Magpies and Crows

American Crow
Black-billed Magpie
Common Raven

## Larks

Horned Lark
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## Swallows

Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Tree Swallow
Violet Green Swallow

## Chickadees

Black-capped Chickadee
Mountain Chickadee

## Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch

## Creepers

Brown Creeper
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## Wrens

House Wren
Rock Wren

## Kinglets, Thrushes and Bluebirds

American Robin
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Hermit Thrush
Mountain Bluebird
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Swainson's Thrush
Townsend's Solitaire
Veery
Varied Thrush

## Mimic Thrushes

Brown Thrasher
Gray Catbird
Sage Thrasher

## Starlings

European Starling
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## Pitpits

Spragues's Pitpit
Water (American) Pitpit

## Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing
Cedar Waxwing

## Wood Warblers

American Redstart
Black and White Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Magnolia Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Northern Parula
Northern Waterthrush
Orange-crowned Warbler
Ovenbird
Palm Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler

## Tanagers

Western Tanager
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## Towhees, Sparrows, and Longspurs

American Tree Sparrow
Baird's Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Harris' Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Lark Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
McCowan's Longspur
Spotted Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow

## Grosbeaks and Buntings

Lazuli Bunting
Black-headed Grosbeak
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

## Blackbirds and Allies

Baltimore Oriole
Brewer's Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Northern Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird

## Finches

American Goldfinch
Common Redpoll
Evening Grosbeak
Pine Grosbeak
Pine Siskin
Red Crossbill
Rosy Finch

## Old World Sparrow

House Sparrow
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## New Records

We are interested in updating this checklist. If you see species in the park that are not listed here, or if you can provide any new information, we would like to hear from you!