

How Many Birds Can You See Around You?

Do you enjoy watching birds and learning their names and habits? A few moments of observation along the Big River Estuary will reward you with a variety of bird sightings, and sounds! Here are photographs of some of the more common birds seen at different seasons in and along the river.



Mallard ▲
Anas platyrhynchos ▶
Food: aquatic plants, insects
Seen: year round



Belted Kingfisher
Ceryle alcyon ▶
Food: small fish, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic insects
Seen: year round



Killdeer ▲
Charadrius vociferus
Food: earthworms, snails, crayfish, grasshoppers
Seen: year round
Count the feet!



Western Grebe
Aechmophorus occidentalis ▶
Food: fish
Seen: fall through spring



Double-crested Cormorant
Phalacrocorax auritus ▲
Food: fish
Seen: fall through spring



Common Loon *Gavia immer* ▲
Food: fish
Seen fall through spring;
unusual in summer



◀ Western Gull
Larus occidentalis
Food: scavenger
Seen: year round



▲ Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*
Food: small fish, insects, mollusks, crustaceans
Seen: year round



Great Egret ▶
Ardea alba
Food: fish, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and small mammals
Seen: fall through spring



Osprey
Pandion haliaetus ▶
Food: fish
Seen: spring through fall



All Bird Photos Courtesy of Ron LeValley