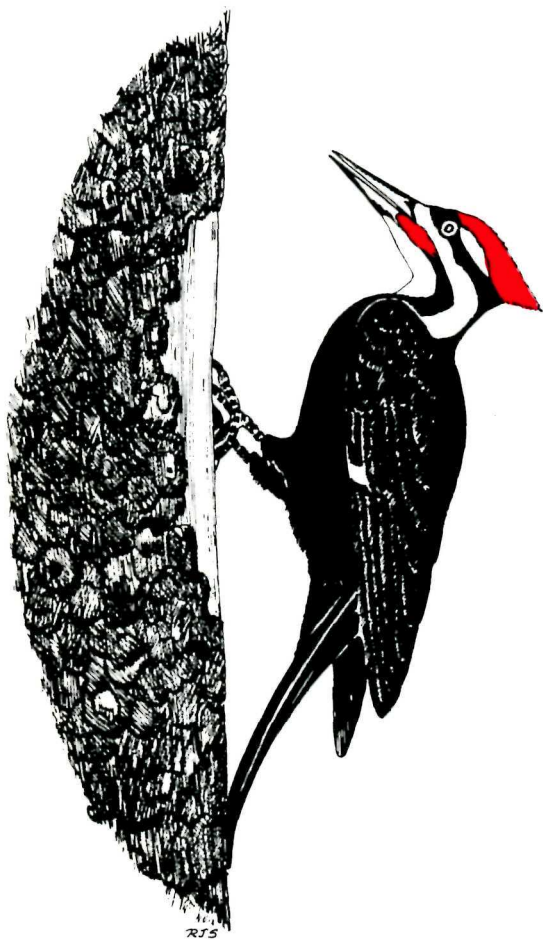


BIRDS of KEJIMKUJIK



 Parks Canada

CHECKLIST

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL
PARK

Pileated Woodpecker - *Dryocopus pileatus*

Our cover portrays one of Kejimikujik's most striking birds, the Pileated Woodpecker. Although the present name refers to the red crest or "pileum" on its head, this woodpecker was known in many regions by names such as stump-breaker or cock-of-the-woods. Like other woodpeckers, this species has a stout chisel-like bill used for hole-pecking and drumming, and a long spear-like tongue used in probing for wood-boring insects. A stiff tail and specially adapted feet, with two toes gripping forward and backward, brace the pileated Woodpecker for climbing.

Kejimikujik National Park is a good area for the Pileated Woodpecker, which prefers mature hardwood forests and other woods with large trees. These common park habitats provide ample nesting sites and food sources for this uncommon crow-sized woodpecker. Watch high in trees where the Pileated Woodpecker has pecked large, oval holes while feeding or building a nest.

Birds of Kejimikujik

During your visit to Kejimikujik National Park you are certain to become aware of birds. This may be because birds are more abundant and easier to observe than many other kinds of wildlife. Their varied colours, graceful movements and melodious calls have attracted man's attention for centuries. Early Micmac Indians who hunted and fished in Kejimikujik knew and respected the birdlife they encountered. They etched drawings in the rocks of figures such as Kaloo, a giant legendary bird that resembles our Great Blue Heron. From those early days to the present, man has watched birds with a fascination born of curiosity. Today we hope to interest you in the birdlife of Kejimikujik, for in this and other National Parks, excellent opportunities exist for observing birds in a natural and protected environment.

Kejimikujik National Park preserves 147 square miles of interior southwestern Nova Scotia. Experience the many different land and freshwater habitats, places that provide homes for some of the 160 bird species recorded here to date (November, 1976).

Landbirds are abundant in the park. They occupy a variety of habitats, including bogs, barrens, old fields, floodplains and many types of forests. Kejimikujik is a meeting place for two major forest types. The softwood forests, found more extensively in northern Canada, support several boreal bird species. These include the inquisitive Boreal Chickadee, the Spruce Grouse, the Gray Jay or "Whiskeyjack" and the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. Also present are southern hardwood forests which are home to the Scarlet Tanager, Great Crested Flycatcher and Wood Thrush, all rare birds in Nova Scotia. Landbird communities like these are a significant feature of birdlife in this park.

Waterbirds are not common in Kejimikujik. The park's inland location and largely non-productive waters combine to restrict waterbird numbers and variety, although several striking and uncommon species like the Osprey, Hooded Merganser and Wood Duck, can be found nesting in small numbers.

How to Birdwatch

Different bird species are active during all hours of the day or night, throughout the year. The best time to find many of them is in early morning, on a dry sunny day with little wind. For best results, use a pair of binoculars, a good field guide and a copy of this checklist.

You will observe more birds if you walk slowly or stand partially hidden in one spot for a few minutes. Some species are attracted by squeaking sounds equivalent to kissing the back of your hand or uttering P-S-S-H P-S-S-H noises. Wherever you "bird", look at all levels of vegetation, and try to notice songs, sizes, colours and field marks (eye-rings, wing-bars, etc.) of the birds you see.

When to Birdwatch

Seasons of the year, like the time of day, can also affect your birdwatching success. Spring, with its warming temperatures and renewal of food resources, brings on a flurry of activity. Our early migrants (waterbirds, black-birds, sparrows and thrushes like the American Robin) arrive here in late March and April. It's not until about May 20 that warblers and several other insect-eating birds reach their peak. This is an excellent time of year to watch or photograph birds, when the males show off their breeding colours and the leaves are not yet out to obscure your view. As spring progresses, the last of the migrants arrive, until by mid-June all of our summer residents are present. During this season try a stroll along the lower part of the Mersey River Trail where forest and river edge bird species are found.

By early summer most birds are busy courting, defending their territories, feeding or nest-building. Now is the time to rise with the sun, when male birds are in full song and often easy to locate along routes like the Peter Point Trail. At night, Barred Owls and Great Horned Owls hoot in woods around the main park road and campground areas. As summer continues, active nests contain young birds which need constant feeding by their parents. More than any other stage in their lives, this is a time when birds are most vulnerable and should not be disturbed! From mid-June to July, the young start appearing. Watch

carefully for broods of the Ruffed Grouse or Spruce Grouse along roadsides, or for fluffy flotillas of Black Ducks and Common Mergansers riding the waves of a lake or river.

With August comes the end of the birds' summer, when evenings resound with their own special sounds, like the whirr of stiff wing tips from a nighthawk diving, or the wailing cry of a Common Loon on the lake at dusk. During late August and September, landbirds gather in flocks and feed constantly to prepare themselves for the upcoming southward migration. Their bright spring feathers and melodious songs turn into drab fall colours and confusing call notes. Large flocks of swallows meet over the floodplain at Jacques Landing, while mixed flocks of woodland birds funnel through areas like Jim Charles Point. The peak of fall migration occurs during the first two weeks of September and by the end of October migration is usually completed.

With the arrival of winter, bird populations reach a low point. Small mixed flocks of chickadees, kinglets, nuthatches and woodpeckers wander from one habitat to another in search of food. In years of good cone crops, flocks of finches (siskins, crossbills and grosbeaks) come to harvest the seeds. Occasional waterbirds are found at this time of year huddled in scattered waterholes along the Mersey River or Grafton Brook. In winter months, we suggest a visit to a number of different habitats during a warm sunny day. If you have a pair of snowshoes or cross-country skis, you can visit areas like Jim Charles Point or Peter Point, and combine a refreshing hike with your birdwatching activities.

Where to Birdwatch

There are many areas within Kejimikujik National Park that will expose you to particular habitats and increase your chances of finding certain bird species.

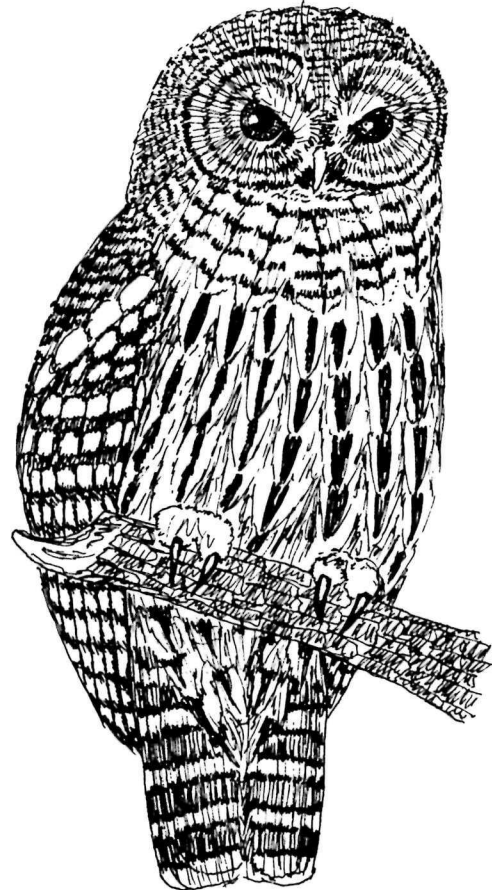
To observe waterbirds during spring, summer and fall, take a canoe trip along the Mersey, West or Little Rivers, or among the islands of Kejimikujik Lake. Grafton Lake is also an excellent area to view birds that feed or nest near water.

Here a nature trail may introduce you to species like the Wood Duck, Tree Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Rusty Blackbird, Belted Kingfisher, and if you're lucky, an Osprey. The miles of shoreline or small islands scattered throughout the lakes are home to birds not commonly found in other park areas, including Spotted Sandpipers, Great Black-backed Gulls, Common Terns, Yellow Warblers and Song Sparrows.

To observe landbirds during spring, summer and fall we also suggest a walk along the Mersey River Trail or Beech Grove Trail. Two particularly interesting and out of the way areas for birdwatching are the old-growth hemlocks at Big Dam Lake, where Bay-breasted, Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers are found in high numbers; and the mature hardwood forest north of Mountain Lake, where woodpeckers abound. But of all park environments, the Jeremy Bay campground area is one of the best locations to start your birding. Between the sunrise song of the Hermit Thrush and the nightly hoots of the Barred Owl you should be able to observe at least 20 different bird species here.

Birdwatching in Kejimikujik can be a rewarding experience for both newcomers and old hands and can easily be combined with many forms of recreational activity. Whatever you discover in Kejimikujik, we hope you will share it with others. If you desire further information about birds or any other park features, please contact a Park Interpreter. Details of evening programs, guided walks and special events that interpret Kejimikujik's birdlife are available from bulletin boards posted throughout the park, or by asking attendants at the Information and Exhibit Centres.

We wish you a pleasant visit to Kejimikujik and hope that your birdwatching activities help make your stay a memorable one.



Relative Abundance	
c — common	— a species found in many habitats, often in varying numbers
u — uncommon	— a species found in low numbers or only in certain habitats
r — rare	— a species usually found several times or less each year, often on an irregular basis
h — hypothetical	— a species recorded on three or less occasions but lacking confirmation by tape of song, photograph or specimen

Seasonal Occurrence

SP	— Spring (March 16-May 31)
S	— Summer (June 1-August 31)
F	— Fall (September 1-November 30)
W	— Winter (December 1-March 15)

Status

R	— resident
M	— migrant
V	— visitor or transient
*	— confirmed breeding record

Sixty-four bird species are confirmed breeders in Kejimikujik, while at least fifty or more species probably breed here.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS

	SP	S	F	W
Common Loon* R	u	u	u	—
Pied-billed Grebe V	—	r	r	—
Double-crested Cormorant V	r	r	r	—
Great Blue Heron* R	u	u	u	r
Great Egret V	—	r	—	—
Black-crowned Night Heron V	r	r	—	—
American Bittern* R	u	u	u	—
Canada Goose M	r	—	r	r
Mallard	—	h	—	—
Black Duck* R	u	u	u	r
Green-winged Teal M	r	—	r	—
Blue-winged Teal M	r	—	r	—
Wood Duck* R	r	r	r	—
Ring-necked Duck* R	r	r	r	—
Common Goldeneye V	u	—	r	r
White-winged Scoter	h	—	—	—
Hooded Merganser* R	r	r	r	—

	SP	S	F	W
Common Merganser* R	u	u	u	—
Red-breasted Merganser	—	h	—	—
Goshawk* R	u	u	u	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk R	u	u	u	r
Cooper's Hawk	—	h	h	—
Red-tailed Hawk* R	c	c	c	u
Broad-winged Hawk V	r	r	r	—
Bald Eagle V	r	r	r	r
Marsh Hawk R	r	r	r	—
Osprey* R	r	r	r	r
Merlin V	r	—	r	r
American Kestrel R	u	u	u	—
Spruce Grouse* R	u	u	u	u
Ruffed Grouse* R	u-c	u-c	u-c	u-c
Ring-necked Pheasant V	r	r	r	r
Semipalmated Plover M	—	—	r	—
Killdeer	—	h	—	—
Black-bellied Plover	—	h	—	—
American Woodcock* R	u	u	u	—
Common Snipe* R	u	u	u	r
Spotted Sandpiper* R	u	u	u	—
Solitary Sandpiper M	—	r	r	—
Greater Yellowlegs M	r	—	r	—
Pectoral Sandpiper	—	—	h	—
Semipalmated Sandpiper	—	h	—	—
Northern Phalarope M	—	—	r	—
Great Black-backed Gull* R	u	u	u	—
Herring Gull V	r	r	r	r
Common Tern* R	r	u	r	—
Black Tern	—	h	—	—
Rock Dove	—	h	—	—
Mourning Dove	—	—	h	—
Black-billed Cuckoo R	—	r	—	—
Great Horned Owl R	u	u	u	u
Snowy Owl	—	—	—	h
Barred Owl* R	c	c	c	c
Long-eared Owl R	r	r	—	—
Saw-whet Owl R	u	u	—	—
Whip-poor-will	h	—	h	—
Common Nighthawk* R	u	c	u	—
Chimney Swift* R	u	u	—	—
Ruby-throated Hummingbird* R	u	u	r	—
Belted Kingfisher* R	u	u	u	r
Common Flicker* R	c	c	c	—
Pileated Woodpecker* R	u	u	u	u
Red-headed Woodpecker	h	h	—	—
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* R	c	c	u	—
Hairy Woodpecker* R	c	c	c	c
Downy Woodpecker* R	c	c	c	c
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker* R	u	u	u	u

	SP	S	F	W
Eastern Kingbird* R	u	u	u	—
Great Crested Flycatcher R	r	r	—	—
Eastern Phoebe* M, R	r	r	—	—
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher R	r	u	—	—
Alder Flycatcher R	r	u	—	—
Least Flycatcher* R	u	c	c	—
Eastern Wood Pewee* R	r	u	u	—
Olive-sided Flycatcher R	u	u	—	—
Tree Swallow* R	c	c	—	—
Bank Swallow	h	—	—	—
Rough-winged Swallow	—	h	—	—
Barn Swallow* R	u	u	u	—
Cliff Swallow* M, R	r	r	—	—
Gray Jay R	u	u	u	u
Blue Jay R	c	c	c	u
Common Raven* R	u	u	u	u
Common Crow R	u	u	u	u
Black-capped Chickadee R	c	c	c	c
Boreal Chickadee R	u	u	u	u
White-breasted Nuthatch R	u	u	u	u
Red-breasted Nuthatch R	r-u	r-u	r-u	r-u
Brown Creeper R	u	u	u	u
Winter Wren R	u	u	r	—
Mockingbird	h	h	—	—
Gray Catbird* R	u	u	u	—
American Robin* R	c	c	c	r
Wood Thrush M, R	r	r	r	—
Hermit Thrush* R	c	c	c	—
Swainson's Thrush* R	u	c	u	—
Veery* R	u	c	u	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet R	u	u	u	u
Ruby-crowned Kinglet R	c	c	c	—
Water Pipit, M	—	—	u	—
Cedar Waxwing V	r-u	r-u	r-u	—
Starling* R, V	u	u	u	r
Solitary Vireo* R	c	c	c	—
Red-eyed Vireo* R	u	c	c	—
Philadelphia Vireo V	r	r	—	—
Black-and-White Warbler R	u	c	u	—
Tennessee Warbler M, R	r	r	—	—
Nashville Warbler R	u	u	u	—
Parula Warbler* R	u	c	u	—
Yellow Warbler R	u	u	u	—
Magnolia Warbler R	u	c	u	—
Cape May Warbler M, R	r	r	—	—
Black-throated Blue Warbler* R	u	c	u	—
Yellow-rumped Warbler R	c	c	c	r
Black-throated Green Warbler R	u	c	u	—
Blackburnian Warbler R	u	u	u	—
Chestnut-sided Warbler* R	u	c	u	—
Bay-breasted Warbler R	u	u	u	—
Blackpoll Warbler M, R	u	r	u	—
Palm Warbler* R	c	c	c	—
Ovenbird* R	u	c	u	—

	SP	S	F	W
Northern Waterthrush R	u	u	r	—
Mourning Warbler M	r	—	—	—
Common Yellowthroat* R	u	u	u	—
Wilson's Warbler M	r	—	—	—
Canada Warbler* R	u	u	r	—
American Redstart* R	u	c	u	—
House Sparrow V	r	r	r	—
Bobolink V	r	—	—	—
Eastern Meadowlark	—	—	h	—
Red-winged Blackbird* R	u	u	u	—
Northern Oriole* M, R	r	r	—	—
Rusty Blackbird* R	u	u	u	—
Common Grackle* R	u	u	u	—
Brown-headed Cowbird* R	u	u	u	r
Scarlet Tanager R	r	r	—	—
Rose-breasted Grosbeak* R	u	u	r	—
Indigo Bunting	h	—	—	—
Evening Grosbeak V	r	r	r-u	r-u
Purple Finch* R	u	u	u	r
Pine Grosbeak R	u	u	u	u
Common Redpoll	—	—	—	h
Pine Siskin R	u	u	u-c	u-c
American Goldfinch R	u	u	u	r
Red Crossbill R	r	r	r-u	r-u
White-winged Crossbill R	r	r	r-u	r-u
Rufous-sided Towhee V	r	—	—	—
Savannah Sparrow R	r	r	—	—
Vesper Sparrow V	r	r	—	—
Dark-eyed Junco* R	c	c	c	r-u
Tree Sparrow V	—	—	u	—
Chipping Sparrow M, R	r	r	u	—
Field Sparrow	—	—	h	—
White-crowned Sparrow M	—	—	r	—
White-throated Sparrow* R	c	c	c	r
Fox Sparrow M	r	—	r	—
Lincoln's Sparrow R	r	r	r	—
Swamp Sparrow* R	u	u	u	—
Song Sparrow* R	u	u	u	—
Snow Bunting V	—	—	r-u	r-u



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Date: _____

Locality: _____

Habitat: _____

Weather: _____

Observer's Name; _____

Address: _____

Additions and alterations to this checklist are welcomed. Nesting records of all species are especially desired. If you wish, please submit your notes with your name and address to the: Superintendent, Kejimikujik National Park, Maitland Bridge, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia.