# **BIRDS OF CAMP POLK MEADOW PRESERVE**



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Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is a birding hot spot, home to 180+ different species! Here are some fun facts about ten birds you might see here:



### American robin Turdus migratorius

One of the most commonly seen birds! This red-breasted beauty lives in cities, farms, and open woodlands. It eats fruits and insects, and appears to "listen" to the ground when stalking earthworms!

Most commonly seen: Year-round



# Black-billed magpie

Large, noisy jay; mostly black with bluegreen on back and wings. Found in open woodlands, prairie, and along streams. Eats berries, insects, carrion, and eggs. Can take up to 40 hours to build nests!

Most commonly seen: Year-round



### Calliope hummingbird Selasphorus calliope

Tiny, bright green hummingbird with bright magenta throat. Found in meadows, canyons, and along streams. Feeds on flower nectar and insects. Smallest long-distance migrant in the world!

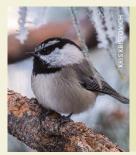
Most commonly seen: March-May



### **Evening grosbeak** Coccothraustes vespertinus

This species with striking plumage migrates irregularly. It can stay in northern forests year-round, or migrate far south if northern cone crops are poor. In the West, these birds migrate to lower elevations in winter.

Most commonly seen: Spring, Fall



### Mountain chickadee Poecile gambeli

Tiny and vocal, this bird sings its name, "chicka- dee-dee-dee!" You are likely to find them flocked up with pygmy nuthatches and ruby-crowned kinglets, flittering in evergreens, gleaning insects and small seeds.

Most commonly seen: Year-round

### Northern flicker Colaptes auratus

Flickers are woodpeckers that make themselves known! If their beauty doesn't grab you, their drumming on a stove pipe or sharp piercing call will. Look high and low as they also forage on the ground.

Most commonly seen: Year-round

### **Red-winged blackbird** Agelaius phoeniceus

Male red-winged blackbirds are bright, iconic, and raucous dwellers of ponds and streamsides. Their female counterparts however, are brown, streaky, and shy. Identifying them can be tricky!



Most commonly seen: March-November

### **Spotted towhee** *Pipilo maculatus*

The distinctive color of this bird helps highlight its presence when it sings from shrubs during the breeding season. This plumage also helps it blend into the leaf litter when looking for insects on the ground.

Most commonly seen: March-November

### Western bluebird Sialia mexicana

Bluebirds are cavity nesters, raising their young in holes in trees. They catch insects on the fly. Males are bright blue with rust breast, females are more grey-brown with a blue tinge.

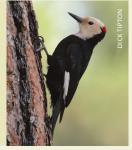
Most commonly seen: March-May

### White-headed woodpecker Dryobates albolarvatus

These distinctive birds use mature ponderosa pines for foraging and snags (dead standing trees) for nesting. When searching for insects, they tend not to drill into wood, but rather flake away bark or probe into needle clusters.

Most commonly seen: Year-round







# **Feathered Friend Fun Facts**



More than pretty plumage! Birds are important pollinators, helping grow new plants and then moving seeds from established plants to new terrain.



Woodpeckers have long tongues! They can be up to 1/3 of their total body length and they help protect their brains as they pound against surfaces with their bill.



Birds can help us understand the health of our environment. Their presence or absence can indicate healthy habitat and reflect larger trends like the impacts of climate change or the success of restoration projects.



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