

Birding on Sausal Creek

Sausal Creek flows from the East Bay Hills to the Oakland Estuary, passing through habitat zones with different bird species. Friends have been documenting the presence of the birds over time to see the effects of creek restoration efforts, as well as the general effects of urbanization. This list is the result of that work.

You can find a wide variety of birds, from shore and water birds at the mouth; urban robins, doves and mockingbirds over culverted areas; songbirds, chickadees, towhees, and phoebes at creekside; plus raptors and jays. Listen for the typewriter-like sound of the ruby-crowned kinglet in spring, or the trill of a wren.

Please enjoy the birds. **And if you note the number observed using this checklist, send a copy to us at FOOSC, P.O. Box 2737, Oakland, CA 94602, so we can add the information to our ongoing documentation.** This list and more information are also available on our website, www.sausalcreek.org.

KEY

Zone: 1, 2, 3 or 4: see map on right flap.
"W" indicates a bird found over water

#: Abundance

The status of most species varies between watershed zones. Abundance categories reflect a species' status in appropriate habitat for the zones listed for that species.

A=abundant: almost always encountered, often occur in all zones

C=common: usually encountered in one or more zones

U=uncommon: occasionally encountered, often restricted to one or two zones

R=rare: rarely encountered, usually restricted to one zone

Pres: Presence

Gives a season, a time range in months, or:

Resident—year-round resident, most nest in the watershed

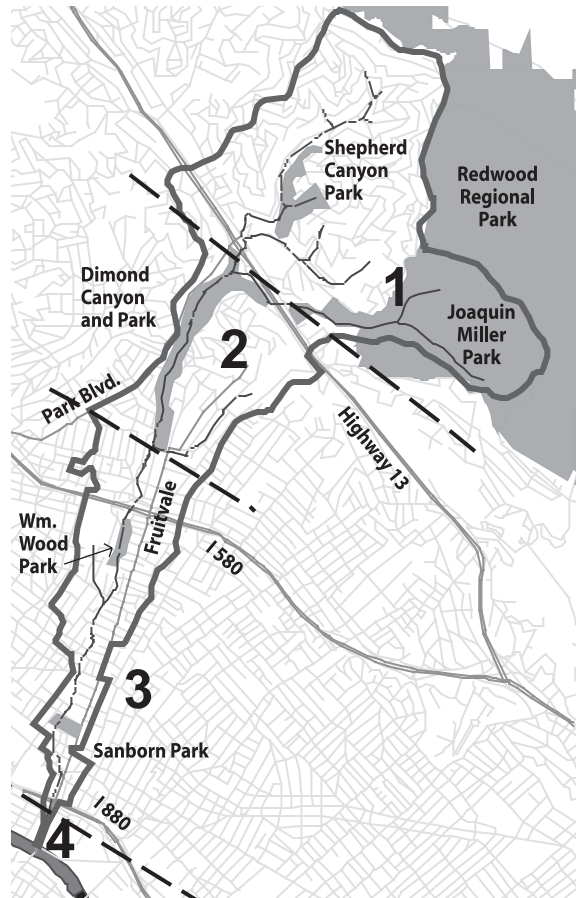
Casual—one or more records but not recorded annually, generally not known to use habitat within the watershed for any length of time, often recorded as a flyover.

☒	Zone	Name	#	Pres
	4	American white pelican	R	Casual
	4	double-crested cormorant	U	Casual
	4	great blue heron	U	Casual
	4	great egret	U	Casual
	4	snowy egret	U	Casual
	1,2,3,4	turkey vulture	C	Resident
	2,4	mallard	C	Resident
	2	northern harrier	R	Casual
	1,2	sharp-shinned hawk	U	Casual
	1,2	Cooper's hawk	C	Resident
	1,2	red-shouldered hawk	C	Resident
	1,2	red-tailed hawk	C	Resident
	1	golden eagle	R	Casual
	1	Merlin	R	Casual
	1	California quail	U	Resident
	4	ring-billed gull	C	Resident
	3,4	California gull	C	Resident
	4	western gull	C	Resident
	4	glaucous-winged gull	R	Casual
	4	Forster's tern	C	Resident
	3	rock dove	A	Resident
	1	band-tailed pigeon	C	Resident
	1,2	mourning dove	C	Resident
	1	great horned owl	U	Resident
	1	white-throated swift	U	Casual
	1,2,3,4	Anna's hummingbird	A	Resident
	1	rufous hummingbird	U	Casual
	1,2	Allen's hummingbird	C	Jan-Sep
	4,W	belted kingfisher	R	Casual
	1	red-breasted sapsucker	R	Winter
	1,2	Nuttall's woodpecker	C	Resident
	1,2	downy woodpecker	C	Resident
	1,2	hairy woodpecker	C	Resident
	1,2	northern flicker	C	Resident
	1	pileated woodpecker	R	Casual
	1,2	olive-sided flycatcher	C	Apr-Oct
	1,2	Pacific-slope flycatcher	C	Mar-Oct
	1,2,3,4	black phoebe	C	Resident
	1,2	Cassin's vireo	U	Apr-Aug
	1,2	Hutton's vireo	C	Resident
	1,2	warbling vireo	U	Mar-Oct
	1,2	Steller's jay	A	Resident
	1,2	western scrub-jay	A	Resident
	2	American crow	R	Casual
	1,2	common raven	C	Resident
	1,2	violet-green swallow	U	Resident

☒	Zone	Name	#	Pres
	1,2	northern rough-winged swallow	R	Spr-Sum
	1,2	chestnut-backed chickadee	C	Resident
	1,2	oak titmouse	C	Resident
	1,2,3,4	common bushtit	A	Resident
	1,2	red-breasted nuthatch	C	Resident
	1	pygmy nuthatch	C	Resident
	1	brown creeper	C	Resident
	1,2	Bewick's wren	A	Resident
	1	winter wren	U	Resident
	1,2	ruby-crowned kinglet	C	Oct-Apr
	1	western bluebird	R	Casual
	1	Swainson's thrush	U	Apr-Sep
	1	hermit thrush	C	Winter
	1,2,3,4	American robin	A	Resident
	1	varied thrush	U	Winter
	1	wrentit	C	Resident
	3	northern mockingbird	C	Resident
	1	California thrasher	R	Resident
	3	European starling	C	Resident
	2,3	cedar waxwing	C	Sep-May
	1	orange-crowned warbler	C	Mar-Oct
	1,2	yellow warbler	U	Casual
	1,2,3	yellow-rumped warbler	C	Winter
	1,2	Townsend's warbler	U	Aug-May
	1,2	Wilson's warbler	C	Apr-Sep
	2	western tanager	U	Casual
	1,2	spotted towhee	C	Resident
	1,2,3,4	California towhee	A	Resident
	1	fox sparrow	C	Oct-Apr
	1,2,3,4	song sparrow	A	Resident
	2	Lincoln's sparrow	U	Winter
	1,2	white-crowned sparrow	C	Winter
	1,2	golden-crowned sparrow	C	Sep-May
	1,2,3	dark-eyed junco	A	Resident
	1,2	black-headed grosbeak	U	May-Sep
	1	lazuli bunting	U	Spr-Sum
	4	red-winged blackbird	U	Casual
	2,3	Brewer's blackbird	C	Resident
	2,3	brown-headed cowbird	U	Resident
	1,2	Bullock's oriole	U	Summer
	1,2	purple finch	C	Resident
	1,2,3,4	house finch	A	Resident
	1	pine siskin	C	Casual
	1,2,3,4	lesser goldfinch	C	Resident
	1,2	American goldfinch	C	Resident
	3	house sparrow	A	Resident

Sausal Creek Birding Zones

The birds you find will vary, depending on the section of the watershed. This map shows the four zones that are used in the checklist.



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- Birding Zone Boundaries
- ▭ Watershed Boundary
- Visible Creek
- - - Culverted Creek
- Parks
- Major Roads
- Other Roads
- Oakland Estuary

Zones

- 1 Above Highway 13
- 2 Dimond Park and Canyon
- 3 Urban areas near Fruitvale Ave.
- 4 At the Oakland Estuary

About Friends of Sausal Creek

The Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) was formed in 1996 to protect and enhance the ecology of the Sausal Creek watershed. Our vision is a healthy riparian greenway from the hills to the Bay where both people and the creek's plant and animal inhabitants can thrive.

In addition to the bird monitoring group, whose efforts produced this checklist, Friends projects include extensive creek restoration in Dimond Canyon, a native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park to propagate restoration plants, a native plant demonstration garden in Dimond Park, water and insect monitoring along the creek's course, and oyster restoration at the mouth of the creek. Many volunteers have participated in creek workdays, including special events for Earth Day, Creek to Bay Day, and local festivals such as Dia de los Muertos.

The birding group conducts frequent activities including hikes of the watershed, field trips, and monitoring at key locations in the watershed. Your contribution of data on the status and distribution of birds in the watershed is important and will help in refining this checklist. We will update this brochure on a regular basis to reflect new information.

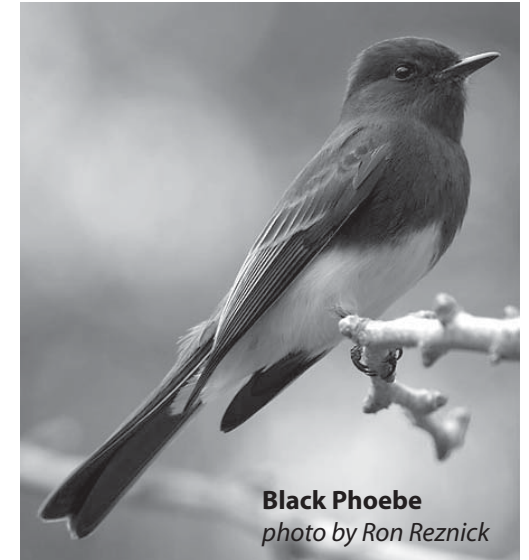
To volunteer, receive a newsletter, make a tax-deductible donation or become a member of the Friends of Sausal Creek, please contact us:

Website: www.sausalcreek.org
Phone: (510) 501-FOSC (3672)
Email: coordinator@sausalcreek.org
Address: P.O. Box 2737, Oakland, CA 94602

**Friends of
Sausal Creek
promoting
watershed
awareness**



Birds of the Sausal Creek Watershed A Checklist



Black Phoebe
photo by Ron Reznick

Good Birding Locations

Zone 1

- Trails near the Joaquin Miller Park Horse Arena, off Skyline Boulevard
- Palos Colorados Trail, from Joaquin Miller Court and Mountain Boulevard

Zone 2

- Dimond Canyon and Dimond Park, where El Centro Boulevard crosses Sausal Creek

Zone 3

- Sanborn Park at the back; William D. Wood Park, at the end of School Street

Zone 4

- Fishing pier by Fruitvale Bridge

A project of the
Friends of Sausal Creek
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