

Species noted to use alpine and other high-elevation habitats in *The Birds of British Columbia, vols 1-3*

Group	Species	Vol	Page	Highest elevation recorded (m)	Highest breeding elevation (m)	Main high elevation habitats	Status at high elevation	Other main habitats	Most abundant ecoprovince-summer	Most abundant ecoprovince-winter	Comments
Loons	Common Loon	1	162	2290	1520	O	nr	WO	CI, SI	WVI, GD	breeds at Chilkat Pass with other Loons
Ducks	Mallard	1	290	3000	1300	O	nr	WOURG	CI	GD	
Ducks	Northern Pintail	1	294	2500	1070	O	nr	WORG	CI, SI	GD	
Ducks	Blue-winged Teal	1	298	2200	1200	O	nr	WORG	CI	X	
Ducks	Harlequin Duck	1	334	nr	2100	O	b	OF	scattered	WVI, GD	12 of 17 breeding records were over 1000m
Ducks	White-winged Scoter	1	344	2000	1530	O	nr	OF	CI	OCI, GD	
Ducks	Barrow's Goldeneye	1	352	2400	1830	O	m	OWF	CI	GD	
Hawks	Bald Eagle	2	14	2380	1370	nr	nr	OW	OCI, GD	SMC	
Hawks	Northern Harrier	2	22	2440	1010	S	ma	RG	SI	GD	
Hawks	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	24	2590	910	AS	m	O	scattered	GD, SI	winters below 600m
Hawks	Northern Goshawk	2	28	2290	1400	AS	m	URF	scattered	scattered	
Hawks	Swainson's Hawk	2	32	2290	457	AS	m	RG	SI	X	has been found over mountain summits on VI
Hawks	Red-tailed Hawk	2	34	2500	2230	AS	m	RGF	SI, GD	GD	much of autumn movement probably along ridges
Hawks	Rough-legged Hawk	2	40	2130	nr	S	m	RG	SI, GD	GD	no breeding records in BC
Hawks	Golden Eagle	2	44	3200	1220	A	bmr	RG	NBM	nr	usually nests on cliff ledges
Falcons	American Kestrel	2	48	2560	1770	S	m	RG	CI, SI	X	
Falcons	Merlin	2	50	2070	790	S	m	OFU	scattered	scattered	
Falcons	Peregrine Falcon	2	54	2410	nr	S	m	OR	OCI	GD	
Falcons	Gyr Falcon	2	58	nr	1740	AS	b	OR	NBM	GD	nests on cliffs and outcrops, near tundra
Falcons	Prairie Falcon	2	60	2440	900	AS	m	G	SI	SI	
Grouse	Spruce Grouse	2	74	2500	2100	M	r	C	scattered	scattered	
Grouse	Blue Grouse	2	76	2050	nr	AS	ab	FM	GD	GD	
Grouse	Willow Ptarmigan	2	80	1980	1830	AS	ab	M	NBM	NBM	
Grouse	Rock Ptarmigan	2	82	2450	1980	AS	ab	M	NBM	NBM	
Grouse	White-tailed Ptarmigan	2	84	2800	2650	ASK	r	M	scattered	scattered	
Grouse	Ruffed Grouse	2	86	2225	2130	M	b	F	scattered	scattered	nests found in alpine and subalpine areas
Grouse	Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	88	2135	1190	nr	nr	GRF	CI	CI	
Shorebirds	Semipalmated Plover	2	118	nr	1430	QA	m	O	OCI	X	
Shorebirds	Killdeer	2	120	nr	1500	AM	bm	ROU	SI, GD, CI	X	occurs up to snowline in fall migration, nests in clear-cuts at high elevation
Shorebirds	Spotted Sandpiper	2	152	2150	1800	S	b	OF	scattered	X	
Shorebirds	Baird's Sandpiper	2	190	2400	nr	QA	m	ORW	scattered	X	
Shorebirds	Red-necked Phalarope	2	216	1200	nr	QA	m	OW	NBM	X	uses alpine lakes and ponds on fall migration; more pelagic in spring
Gulls	Long-tailed Jaeger	2	224	2800	nr	AS	m	O	X	X	suggested alpine migration route through interior (otherwise pelagic)
Gulls	Bonaparte's Gull	2	236	1700	1318	QW	b	OWQ	CI	GD	will breed in alpine marshes and at the edge of alpine ponds
Doves	Band-tailed Pigeon	2	342	1830	760	S	a	UR	GD	GD	moves up to feed on ripening fruits
Owls	Great-horned Owl	2	360	2040	1220	nr	nr	FRW	scattered	scattered	
Owls	Snowy Owl	2	362	1830	nr	S	nr	GW	X	GD	inhabits alpine meadows
Owls	Northern Hawk Owl	2	364	2650	1830	M	b	GW	NBM	scattered	nests found near treeline
Owls	Northern Pygmy-Owl	2	366	1710	1220	M	b	FR	GD, SI, CI	GD	moves from forested mountains to lower elevs in late autumn and winter
Owls	Long-eared Owl	2	380	2135	1020	M	nr	FW	SI	SI	two found roosting at 2135m in Manning Park, mid-Aug, subalpine fir
Owls	Short-eared Owl	2	382	2165	975	S	nr	RG	SI	GD	recorded at timberline (2165m)
Owls	Boreal Owl	2	386	nr	1500	M	ar	C	scattered	scattered	recorded at 3300m in Colorado; poorly known in BC
Owls	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	388	2200	1220	nr	nr	FRW	SI, GD, OCI	SI, GD, OCI	
Swifts	Black Swift	2	396	2600	nr	A	nr	F	WVI, GD	X	
Swifts	Vaux's Swift	2	400	2100	530	AM	nr	F	GD	X	
Hummingbirds	Calliope Hummingbird	2	412	2050	1980	S	ma	DR	SI	X	
Hummingbirds	Rufous Hummingbird	2	416	2260	1830	S	ma	FRU	GD	X	
Kingfishers	Belted Kingfisher	2	418	2000	1370	O	nr	WQO	scattered	GD, OCI	moves to lower elevations in winter
Woodpeckers	Hairy Woodpecker	2	438	1900	1830	M	a	F	scattered	scattered	
Woodpeckers	Tree-toed Woodpecker	2	442	2100	1690	M	nr	F	scattered	scattered	
Woodpeckers	Black-backed Woodpecker	2	444	1890	1440	M	nr	F	scattered	scattered	
Woodpeckers	Northern Flicker	2	448	nr	2100	S	b	GRUD	scattered	scattered	
Flycatchers	Olive-sided Flycatcher	3	20	2400	2200	MSA	b	CW	SBI, GD	X	much more abundant at higher elevations
Flycatchers	Western Wood-Pewee	3	26	1900	1700	nr	nr	FR	SBI	X	some nests located near talus
Flycatchers	Hammond's Flycatcher	3	56	nr	nr	M	b	F	SIM	X	occurs up to treeline, but most common at mid- elevations
Flycatchers	Dusky Flycatcher	3	62	nr	2300	M	b	M	SI	X	avalanche slopes, open forest areas
Flycatchers	Say's Phoebe	3	84	3200	1860	AS	ba	GR	SI, NBM	X	nests associated with cliffs, man-made structures
Larks	Horned Lark	3	120	nr	2800	A	bm	GR	CI	SI	"Pallid" subspecies breeds in alpine
Swallows	Cliff Swallow	3	168	2200	1750	nr	nr	GR	CI	X	
Swallows	Barn Swallow	3	178	2400	2160	nr	nr	RU	GD	X	
Corvids	Gray Jay	3	188	2300	2100	SM	r	C	SIM	SIM	

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 Compiled by S. Ogle, Mar 98
 Source: Campbell, R.W. et al. 1997. *The Birds of British Columbia*. Vols 1-3. R. Br. Columbia Mus., Victoria

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Corvids	Steller's Jay	3	194	2150	1830	M	ra	FU	GD	GD	moves up in summer from lowland wintering sites
Corvids	Clark's Nutcracker	3	210	2600	1890	S	ba	M	SI	SI	some stay at timberline throughout the year, others move lower
Corvids	Common Raven	3	236	2200	1320	AS	rv	UR	SIM	SIM, SI	
Chickadees	Black-capped Chickadee	3	246	2300	1500	M	a	D	SIM	GD	may move to higher elevations in autumn and winter
Chickadees	Mountain Chickadee	3	250	2300	2100	M	ba	F	SI	SI	moves lower in winter
Chickadees	Boreal Chickadee	3	256	2200	1850	SM	r	C	NBM	SIM	
Chickadees	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	3	262	2200	1450	M	a	F	OCI, GD, WVI	OCI, GD, WVI	some disperse to higher elevations after breeding
Nuthatches	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	272	2200	2100	M	ba	C	SI	GD	moves down in winter
Creepers	Brown Creeper	3	292	2000	1200	M	a	C	GD	GD	may move down in winter
Wrens	Rock Wren	3	298	2400	2100	A	b	R	SI	SI	in alpine, breeds in talus and boulder fields; lower down, any rocky areas
Wrens	Winter Wren	3	322	2250	2100	MK	ba	CR	GD	GD	moves down in winter
Dipper	American Dipper	3	336	nr	2140	O	ba	Q	SIM	GD	moves downstream in winter
Kinglets	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	344	2100	2070	M	nr	F	GD	GD	
Kinglets	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	350	2340	2070	M	nr	F	CI	GD	migrates altitudinally and latitudinally in winter
Thrushes	Mountain Bluebird	3	366	2700	2700	AS	bm	GR	SI	X	
Thrushes	Townsend's Solitaire	3	376	2500	2400	ASM	bm	FR	SI, CI, SIM	SI	probably uses ridges on fall migration
Thrushes	Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	390	nr	870	SM	b	F	NBM	X	inhabits northern parkland with dense shrubbery
Thrushes	Hermit Thrush	3	402	nr	2200	SMK	b	F	OCI	GD	
Thrushes	American Robin	3	410	2425	2200	SK	bm	FRUO	GD	GD	
Thrushes	Varied Thrush	3	422	2000	1860	M	b	C	OCI, SIM	GD	
Pipits	American Pipit	3	452	2819	2400	A	bm	RO	NBM, SIM	GD	
Waxwings	Bohemian Waxwing	3	462	2400	1550	M	ba	FR	NBM	SI	forages on berries and insects at higher elevations in late summer
Waxwings	Cedar Waxwing	3	468	2250	1530	M	nr	FR	GD	GD	found at lower elevations than Bohemian Waxwing
LEGEND											
Habitats									Ecoprovinces		
A	alpine tundra				b	breeding			NBM	Northern Boreal Mountains	
S	alpine meadows				a	altitudinal migrant			OCI	Queen Charlotte Islands	
K	krummholz				m	latitudinal migrant			CI	Central Interior	
M	montane forest				v	visitor (doesn't nest in habitat)			SMC	Southern Mainland Coast	
V	avalanche chutes				w	winters			WVI	Western Vancouver Island	
F	forest (deciduous or conifer)				r	resident			GD	Georgia Depression	
C	coniferous forest								SI	Southern Interior	
D	deciduous forest								SIM	Southern Interior Mountains	
O	ocean (beach, pelagic, estuary)								X	Rarely occurs in province	
W	wetlands										
G	grasslands										
Q	other aquatic habitats				nr	no data recorded					
R	rural, agricultural areas										
U	urban settings										