BIRDING THE KIM WILLIAMS TRAIL

BY LARRY WEEKS

During the past 5 years, I have made hundreds of birding trips along the Kim Williams Trail as part of my hiking tour up Mt. Sentinel. A typical hike starts at Rattlesnake Creek on East Front Street; crosses the Van Buren Street walkbridge; traverses Jacobs' Island, the Riverfront Trail to the Madison Street Bridge, and back to the University. After climbing to the top of Mt. Sentinel, I descend the Hellgate Canyon Trail and bird the Kim Williams Trail back to the Van Buren Street walkbridge. The species tabulated below include only those sighted along the river corridor.

I have documented 86 bird species shown in the table by season of year observed and frequency of sightings. As you would expect, some of the more common birds are seen throughout the year. Some birds are only seen in the winter months such as the Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes and Bohemian Waxwing. Some are only seen in migration such as Common Yellowthroat in the fall and White-crowned Sparrow in the spring and again in the fall. I have seen Merlin, Pygmy Owl, Common Snipe, Prothonatory Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat only once in the 5-year period.

Species	Season				Species	Season			
	W	S	S	F		W	S	S	F
Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c	Black-capped Chickadee	c	c	c	c
Canada Goose	o		o		Red-breasted Nuthatch	o	c	c	o
Barrow's Goldeneye	o				House Wren			o	
Common Goldeneye	c				Gray Catbird		c	c	
Bufflehead		o			American Robin	o	c	c	c
Wood Duck			o	o	Townsend's Solitaire	o	c	c	c
Hooded Merganzer				o	Swainson's Thrush			c	o
Common Merganzer	c	c	c	c	Warbling Vireo		c	c	c
Mallard	c	c	c	c	Cassin's Vireo		c	c	c
Red-tailed Hawk			o		Ruby-crowned Kinglet			o	o
Cooper's hawk	o		o	o	Yellow-rumped Warbler		o	c	c
Sharp-shinned hawk			o	o	Prothonotary Warbler			r	
Kestrel			c	o	Yellow-breasted Chat			r	
Bald Eagle	c	o			Yellow Warbler		c	c	c
Osprey		c	c	c	American Redstart		c	c	
Merlin	r				Common Yellowthroat				c
Northern Pygmy-Owl	r				Wilson's Warbler		o	o	o
Ring-necked Pheasant		c	c	c	Orange-crowned Warbler		o	o	
Mourning Dove		o	o		MacGillivray's Warbler			c	
Rock Dove	c	c	c	c	Nashville Warbler		c	c	o
Killdeer		o	o		Brewer's Blackbird		c	c	
Spotted Sandpiper		c	c	c	Brown-headed Cowbird		c	c	
Common Snipe				r	European Starling	o	c	c	c
Calliope Hummingbird		c	c		Red-winged blackbird		c	c	
Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c	Bullock's Oriole		c	c	
Hairy Woodpecker			c	o	Western Tanager		c	c	
Downy Woodpecker		c	c	c	Western Meadowlark				o
Pileated Woodpecker		c	o	c	House Finch	c	c	c	c
Eastern Kingbird			o		Red Crossbill		o	o	
Western Wood-Pewee			c	o	Pine Siskin		c	c	c

Species	Season				Species	Season			
	W	S	S	F		W	S	S	F
Willow flycatcher			c		Evening Grosbeak		o	o	
Cordilleran Flycatcher		c	c	o	American Goldfinch			o	o
Vaux's Swift			o		Lazuli Bunting		c	c	
Cliff Swallow		c	c		Black-headed Grosbeak		c	c	o
Barn Swallow			c		Spotted Towhee		c	c	o
N. Rough-winged Swallow		o	o		Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)		c	c	c
Tree Swallow			o		Song Sparrow	o	c	c	c
Violet-green Swallow		c	c		White-crowned Sparrow		o		o
Clark's Nutcracker			o	o	Chipping Sparrow		c	c	
Black-billed Magpie	c		o	c	House Sparrow	c	c	c	c
American Crow	c	c	c	c	Cedar Waxwing	o	c	c	c
Common Raven	c	c	c	c	Bohemian Waxwing	o	o		
Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c	American Dipper	c	c	c	c

Abundance

c—common, seen on at least 50% of visits
o—occassional, seen on 10% to 50% of visits
r—rare, seen once

Season

W—December, January, February
S—March, April, May
S—June, July, August
F—September, October, November