

Bird Checklist for US Army Garrison Alaska: Tanana Flats Training Area



The Tanana Flats Training Area (TFTA) occupies 653,746 acres of the Middle Tanana River Basin. The Tanana Flats supports a complex mosaic of ecosystems and is situated on a large alluvial fan and glacial outwash complex built out of the north side of the Alaska Range. Both surface and subsurface water move across the Tanana Flats on a very low gradient originating from mountain glaciers that discharge to the Tanana River. A portion of the groundwater surfaces in springs and diffuse upwellings contributing to an extensive system of fens. The Flats also include a variety of other habitats, such as forests of white spruce, paper birch, and quaking aspen; black spruce bogs; thickets of willow and alder; and grasslands and meadows. These habitats are important to a variety of songbirds, shorebirds, and upland game birds. Some of the more significant species known to utilize the area are: sandhill crane, trumpeter swan, Canada geese, American wigeon, green-winged teal, mallard, northern pintail, blue-winged teal, northern shoveler, and scaup (both lesser and greater). Other bird species known to use this area include: bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, short-eared owls, northern hawk owls, and numerous small passerine species including warblers, thrushes, blackbirds, and sparrows.

This document lists all species which could be observed on Fort Wainwright, Alaska: Tanana Flats Training Lands at some time during the year. The abundance of each species is disseminated by season

Sp - Spring - March to May
F - Fall - August to October
S - Summer - June to July
W - Winter - November to February

Habitat Most Likely Found
 A general habitat description for individual species during the breeding season if a migratory species, or year-round if a resident species.

Seasonal abundance on Fort Wainwright, Alaska: Tanana Flats Training Area is described as follows:
C = Common (certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat). Widely distributed, and relatively easy to detect.
U = Uncommon (present but not certain to be seen; or locally distributed). Usually present in relatively low numbers, unevenly distributed. Not observed regularly.
R = Rare. Present annually in very low numbers or locally distributed. Infrequently encountered, or seen only a few times annually.
O = Occasional (seen only a few times in a five-year period).
X = Accidental (has been seen only once or twice) Does not occur annually. Species beyond normal range. May not occur again.
 * - birds known to nest in the region (Interior Alaska)

Status
Y = Year-round resident.
B = Breeding species (migratory).
 * = Breeding on TFTA has been documented for this species through observation of eggs, nests, or dependent (unfledged or recently fledged) young.
M = Migrant non-breeder traveling between summer and winter range.
V = Visitor from outside its normal range.

LOONS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Gaviidae</i>						
Common Loon*	U	U	U	-	B*	Ponds & Lakes
Arctic Loon*	O	O	O	-	B	Ponds & Lakes
Red-throated Loon*	O	O	U	-	B	Ponds & Lakes
Pacific Loon*	U	U	U	-	B*	Ponds & Lakes

GREBES	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Podicipedidae</i>						
Red-necked Grebe*	U	U	U	-	B*	Marshes & Ponds
Horned Grebe*	U	U	U	-	B*	Marshes & Ponds

WADING BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Ardeidae</i>						
Great Blue Heron	X	X	-	-	V	Marshes, Lakes & Rivers

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Anatidae</i>						
Tundra Swan	U	O	U	-	M	Tundra Lakes & Ponds
Trumpeter Swan*	U	U	U	-	B*	Lakes, Oxbows & Slow Moving Streams
Canada Goose*	C	U	C	-	B*	Marshes, meadows & Slow Moving Water
Brant	R	R	-	-	V	Small lakes, Ponds & Sloughs
Greater White-fronted Goose	C	O	C	-	M	Arctic Tundra Deltas & Water Pocked Areas
Snow Goose	O	-	O	-	M	Tundra Lakes & Ponds
Mallard*	C	C	C	-	B*	Shallow Lakes, Ponds & Marshes
Gadwall	O	O	O	-	M	Marshes & Small Lakes
Northern Pintail*	C	C	C	-	B*	Shallow Lakes, Ponds & Marshes
Green-winged Teal*	C	C	C	-	B*	Shallow Ponds, Sloughs & Marshes
Blue-winged Teal*	U	U	U	-	B	Shallow Ponds, Sloughs & Marshes
Northern Shoveler*	C	C	C	-	B*	Shallow Ponds & Sluggish Marshes
American Wigeon*	C	C	C	-	B*	Shallow Lakes, Ponds & Marshes
Canvasback*	U	U	U	-	B	Shallow Lakes, Ponds & Marshes
Redhead*	O	O	O	-	B	Ponds, Marshes, Sloughs & Pothole Lakes
Ring-necked Duck*	U	U	U	-	B	Marshes, Sloughs, Bogs & Lakes
Greater Scaup*	U	U	U	-	B	Ponds & Lakes
Lesser Scaup*	U	U	U	-	B	Ponds, Marshes, Small Lakes
Common Goldeneye*	U	U	U	-	B*	Ponds, Rivers, Marshes & Lakes
Barrow's Goldeneye*	U	U	U	-	B*	Ponds & Lakes
Bufflehead*	U	U	U	-	B*	Ponds & Lakes
Long-tailed Duck	U	O	O	-	B	Shallow Lakes
Harlequin Duck*	U	O	O	-	B	Fast-flowing Streams
White-winged Scoter*	U	U	U	-	B	Ponds, Lakes, Sluggish Streams
Black Scoter	U	U	U	-	B	Lakes & Pools
Surf Scoter*	U	U	U	-	B	Bogs, Ponds & Sluggish Streams
Ruddy Duck	O	R	R	-	M	Marshes, Lakes & Ponds
Common Merganser*	U	U	U	-	B*	Lakes & Rivers
Red-breasted Merganser*	U	U	U	-	B*	Rivers, Lakes & Ponds

HAWKS, EAGLES	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Accipitridae</i>						
Northern Goshawk*	U	U	U	O	B	Mixed Forrest & Open Woodlands
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	U	U	U	-	B	Coniferous / Deciduous Woodlands
Red-tailed Hawk*	U	U	U	O	B	Woodlands & Open Country
Swainson's Hawk	O	-	-	M	M	Woodlands near Streams & Open Areas
Rough-legged Hawk	U	O	U	-	B	Open Coniferous Forests & Tundra
Golden Eagle	U	O	U	-	M	Open Areas, Mountains & Hills
Bald Eagle*	U	U	U	U	B	Open Areas Along Rivers & Lakes
Northern Harrier*	U	U	U	O	B	Wet Meadows, Marshes, Sloughs & Fields
Osprey*	U	U	U	-	B*	Along Streams, Rivers and Lakes

FALCONS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Falconidae</i>						
Gyr Falcon*	R	O	R	-	M	Arctic Tundra, Rocky Outcrops & Cliffs
Peregrine Falcon*	O	O	O	-	B	Mountainous, Rocky Areas Near Rivers
Merlin*	U	U	U	-	B	Open Woodland
American Kestrel*	U	U	U	-	B*	Open or Partly Open Habitats

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Phasianidae</i>						
Spruce Grouse*	U	U	U	U	Y	Mature, Old Growth Coniferous
Ruffed Grouse*	U	U	U	U	Y	Aspen, Mixed Forests & Dense Understory
Willow Ptarmigan*	U	U	U	U	Y	Low Tundra, Especially Shrubby Areas
Rock Ptarmigan*	U	U	U	U	Y	High, Rocky Alpine Tundra
White-tailed Ptarmigan*	O	O	O	O	Y	Alpine Tundra
Sharp-tailed Grouse*	U	U	U	U	Y	Partially Cleared Boreal Forest

CRANES	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Gruidae</i>						
Sandhill Crane*	C	U	C	-	B*	Wet Meadows & Grasslands

RAILS, COOTS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Rallidae</i>						
Sora	R	R	-	-	V	Marshes
American Coot	O	O	-	-	V	Ponds, Marshes, Rivers & Lakes

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Laridae</i>						
Long-tailed Jaeger	R	R	-	-	M	Flats in Open Alpine Tundra
Glaucous Gull	R	R	-	-	M	Margins of Tundra Lakes
Herring Gull	U	U	U	-	B*	Marshes, Rocky Terraces & Tundra
Mew Gull*	C	C	U	-	B*	Margins of Lakes & Rivers
Bonaparte's Gull*	U	U	O	-	B	Ponds & Lakes in Coniferous Woodlands
Arctic Tern*	U	U	O	-	B*	Margins of Lakes & Rivers

PLOVERS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Charadriidae</i>						
Semipalmated Plover*	U	U	U	-	B*	Sandy / Gravely Areas, or Tundra
Killdeer	O	O	-	-	V	Fields, Meadows & Freshwater Margins
American Golden-Plover*	R	R	-	-	B	Grassy Tundra
Black-bellied Plover	O	O	-	-	M	Tundra

SANDPIPERS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Scolopacidae</i>						
Hudsonian Godwit	R	O	-	-	M	Sedge, Moss & Lichen Tundra
Whimbrel	U	O	-	-	M	Sedge Meadows, Bogs, Tundra & Heath
Upland Sandpiper*	U	U	U	-	B	Grasslands, Dry Meadows & Fields
Greater Yellowlegs	R	R	-	-	M	Muskeg & Tundra
Lesser Yellowlegs*	C	C	U	-	B*	Muskeg, Tundra, & Woodlands Clearings
Solitary Sandpiper*	U	C	U	-	B*	Muskeg Bogs in Spruce Forests
Spotted Sandpiper*	U	C	U	-	B*	Rivers, Sloughs, Streams & Lakes
Wandering Tattler	R	R	O	-	M	Mountainous Streams, Lakes & Meadows
Ruddy Turnstone	R	-	-	-	M	Dry Dwarf-shrub Tundra
Wilson's Snipe*	U	C	U	-	B	Sedge Meadows & Marshes
Long-billed Dowitcher	U	R	-	-	M	Grass Tundra & Wet Meadows
Surf-bird	O	O	-	-	M	Rocky Mountainous Tundra
Semipalmated Sandpiper	R	O	-	-	M	Open Tundra
Western Sandpiper	R	R	-	-	M	Sedge-dwarf Shrub Tundra
Least Sandpiper*	R	R	-	-	M	Mossy or Wet Grassy Tundra
White-rumped Sandpiper	R	R	-	-	M	Mossy or Grassy Tundra
Baird's Sandpiper*	R	R	-	-	M	Dry Coastal & Alpine Tundra
Pectoral Sandpiper	R	O	-	-	M	Wet Coastal or Drier Upland Tundra
Dunlin	R	-	-	-	M	Wet Coastal Tundra
Stilt Sandpiper	R	-	-	-	M	Sedge Tundra
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	U	-	-	-	M	Dry Grassy Tundra
Red-necked Phalarope*	U	U	-	-	M	Grass-Sedge Borders of Ponds & Lakes

DOVES	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Columbidae</i>						
Rock Pigeon*	R	R	R	R	Y	Urban Areas
Mourning Dove	R	R	-	-	V	Edge Habitats

OWLS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Strigidae</i>						
Great Horned Owl*	U	U	U	U	Y	Coniferous or Deciduous Woodlands
Snowy Owl	-	-	O	O	V	Rock Outcrops & Mounds on Tundra
Northern Hawk Owl*	U	U	U	U	Y	Edges, Open Areas & Sparse Woodlands
Great Gray Owl*	R	R	R	R	Y	Boreal & Dense Coniferous Forests & Bogs
Short-eared Owl*	U	U	O	-	B	Marshes, Tundra & Meadows
Boreal Owl*	U	U	U	U	Y	Mixed Forests, Bogs & Muskeg

HUMMINGBIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Trochilidae</i>						
Rufous Hummingbird	R	-	-	-	V	Coniferous Forest Edges & Sub-alpine Shrub

KINGFISHERS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Alcedinidae</i>						
Belted Kingfisher*	U	U	U	-	B	Rivers & Streams

WOODPECKERS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Picidae</i>						
Northern Flicker*	U	U	U	O	B	Most Wooded Habitats
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	R	-	-	V	Mixed Forest
Hairy Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U	Y	Coniferous, Deciduous & Mixed Forests
Downy Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U	Y	Deciduous & Mixed Forests
Black-backed Woodpecker*	R	R	R	R	Y	Coniferous Forests & Standing Dead Trees
American Three-toed Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U	Y	Coniferous Forests & Standing Dead Trees

FLYCATCHERS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Tyrannidae</i>						
Say's Phoebe*	U	U	-	-	B	Open Woodland & treeless Areas With Cliffs
Alder Flycatcher*	C	C	U	-	B	Wet Lowland Areas With Alder and Willow
Hammond's Flycatcher*	U	U	U	-	B	Mixed & Aspen Forests
Western Wood-Pewee*	R	R	O	-	B	Edges, Meadows, in Boreal Mixed Forests
Olive-sided Flycatcher*	U	U	O	-	B	Edges, Meadows, in Boreal Mixed Forests

SHRIKES	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Laniidae</i>						
Northern Shrike*	U	U	U	-	B	Semi-open Areas Near Streams or Edges

CORVIDS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Corvidae</i>						
Gray Jay*	U	U	U	U	Y	Coniferous & Mixed Forests & Open Habitats
Black-billed Magpie*	U	U	U	U	Y	Open, Brushy Habitats With Scattered Trees
Common Raven*	C	C	C	C	Y	Widespread

LARKS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Alaudidae</i>						
Horned Lark	R	O	O	-	V	Open Tundra

SWALLOW	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Hirundinidae</i>						
Violet-green Swallow*	C	C	O	-	B	Coniferous / Deciduous Open Forests
Tree Swallow*	C	C	O	-	B	Edges of Woodlands Near Water
Bank Swallow*	U	U	O	-	B	Sandy, Vertical Banks Along Rivers & Lakes
Cliff Swallow*	C	C	-	-	B*	Man-made Structures Near Mud Sources

CHICKADEES	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Paridae</i>						
Black-capped Chickadee*	C	C	C	C	Y	Deciduous or Mixed Forests & Riparian Areas
Gray-headed Chickadee	O	O	R	R	V	Coniferous Forests, Riparian Willow & Aspen
Boreal Chickadee*	C	C	C	C	Y	Coniferous and Mixed Forests

NUTHATCHES	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
Family: <i>Sittidae</i>						
Red-breasted Nuthatch*	R	R	R	R	V	Coniferous, Mixed Forests & Aspen Stands

CREEPERS	Sp	S	F	W	Status	Habitat Most Likely Found
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