Downy Woodpecker
The smallest North American woodpecker, this bird is black and white with a red hindcrown patch in males. Found locally year-round, it feeds on insects and seeds and lays up to 7 eggs which are incubated for 12 days by both parents.

Northern Flicker
The smallest North American woodpecker, this bird feeds on insects on the ground and excavates a nest hole in snags. It has a distinctive white rump, often visible in flight. Burly uppersides are spotted and the underneath of its wings are red.

Tree Swallow
This swallow has a shiny blue back and white underparts. It is the only swallow to return in spring to its nesting grounds in Delta. It feeds on insects, caught in flight. It often nests near water in trees and next to a stream; look for it in summer in Boundary Bay Regional Park.

Barn Swallow
This thrives in all kinds of open places. It has blue-black upper parts, red-brown forehead, chin and throat, and deeply forked tail. It nests in barns and sheds and feeds on insects.

Black-capped Chickadee
A very common garden and woodland bird, this bird is found year-round in Delta. It has conspicuous black cap, bib and white cheeks. Grey back and buff flanks distinguish it from Chestnut-backed Chickadee. It feeds on insects, seeds, berries and is lively and vocal.

Bushtit
This bird with grey-brown upper parts, pale-belly and a long tail, found locally year-round, it feeds on aphids and other insects, spiders, and seeds. 5-7 eggs are laid in a suspended, gourd-shaped nest woven from plants and lichens. In winter flowers of 50 or more are uncomman.

Marsh Wren
A noisy cattail marsh dweller, more often heard than seen. It is reddish brown above, paler below with a prominent white eyebrow. It can be found year-round in Delta but is most vocal and visible in spring. Bewick’s and Pacific Wrens are found here too.

Red-breasted Nuthatch
A colourful bird, with a striped head and neck and grey underparts. It is a resident year-round in forests and well-treed gardens. Unlike Brown Nuthatch, nuthatches can climb headfirst down trees as well as up. It feeds on seeds and nuts, hearding excess food by wedging it in bark.

Brown Creeper
Look for this small, well-camouflaged bird climbing up the trunks of conifers, its brown plumage blending perfectly with its surroundings. It is resident in Delta forests and well-treed neighbourhoods but easily overlooked. Its song is high and tinkling.

American Robin
A familiar North-American thrush, found year-round in Delta. Its plumage is red-black with white shoulder patches on the back, black head, and orange-red breast. This thrush has a beautiful spineless plumage but always has a white-tinged rump. It is a resident year-round in Delta and feeds on insects and seeds. 5-7 eggs are laid in a well-constructed cup-shaped nest.

Varied Thrush
This thrives winters in coniferous forests and well-treed suburbs in Delta. Its long, white tail is diagnostic. A fruit-eater, it can become well-known through its song, and its flight. It nests in freshwater rail marshes and winters in flocks in agricultural areas.

House Finch
A familiar garden finch, males have pink-red head, throat and rump. Its black, wings and undertail are streaked brown. Found locally year-round, it feeds on seeds, flowers, leaves and fruit. Purple Finch is found here too.

Golden-crowned Sparrow
A western sparrow, wintering in Delta. Rocks feeds on the ground in agricultural areas, dykes and parks. In winter plumage, yellow rump may be faint. One of 12 or so sparrow species regularly occurring in region. The related White-crowned Sparrow nests in coniferous forests around the world.

Dark-eyed Junco
A resident sparrow, found year-round but more common in winter. Local subspecies has a white belly, black head, brown back and sides. Rocks feeds on the ground, scratching for seeds and insects. It flashes the white edges of its tail when it flies.

Red-winged Blackbird
The song of this marsh-dweller is a familiar spring sound. Its plumage is red-black with bright red shoulder patches edged with yellow. Females have a variable plumage but are longer-billed and more heavily streaked. It nests in freshwater rail marshes and winters in flocks in agricultural areas.

Yellow-rumped Warbler
This warbler is very common in spring, yellow rump and flanks are distinctive. In all plumages, most have yellow throat (Audubon’s); Myrtle’s is white. About 10 other warbler species occur on migration.

Spotted Towhee
This large, secretive, resident sparrow lives in dense shade and forests. It is red eyes, a white-spotted, black back, black breast, white belly, and rufous sides. It eats insects, spiders, and seeds. Listen for the towhee’s harsh and trilling calls to locate it.

Bald Eagle
This very large bird of prey can be seen throughout the year, often near water. It feeds on fish, carrion, and birds such as ducks and gulls. The speckled brown juvenile takes 4 years to acquire the white head and tail and yellow beak of an adult.

Northern Harrier
A ground-nesting, resident raptor, with large wings, a short tail, and shaped flight. It flies low to “harry” prey such as small mammals and birds. Commonly seen in winter in marshes and fields, especially near Boundary Bay. The female is brown, the male is grey.

Red-tailed Hawk
This is a very common hawk in Delta, found year-round in open habitats, woodlands, and highway corridors. It feeds on small mammals. Juveniles have a distinctive red tail and dark leading edges on the wings.

Peregrine Falcon
The falcon’s long wings are sharply pointed at the tips and its distinct dark moustache stands out against a whithibib and dark grey upper parts. It lives at high speed to catch prey such as hares, geese and herons. It is commonly seen August to mid-May.

Short-eared Owl
This owl often flies during daylight hours in winter, in open marsh or fields near Boundary Bay. It is brown, wings and tail are longer-billed and more heavily streaked. It forages on the ground and in trees for seeds and insects. When eating from conifers it often hangs upside down.

Great Horned Owl
Look for this resident owl in large trees where it nests during the day. It is dark brown with large ear tufts. It swallows all but its larger prey items whole – the bones, fur and feathers are then regurgitated in the form of pellets.

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American Goldfinch
A small finch with a loud, tuneful song. The males show off bright yellow and black; the female is more muted brownish yellow. This seed-eater is a common breeder throughout Delta wherever there are bushes, hedgerows and small trees.

Yellow-jacketed Warbler
This warbler is very common in spring and fall migration, some occur year-round. Yellow wings and tail are diagnostic. A fruit-eater, it can become intoxicated on fermented berries in winter.

Northwestern Golden-crowned Sparrow
A western sparrow, wintering in Delta. Rocks feeds on the ground in agricultural areas, dykes and parks. In winter plumage, yellow rump may be faint. One of 12 or so sparrow species regularly occurring in region. The related White-crowned Sparrow nests in coniferous forests around the world.

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Great Blue Heron
Delta birds belong to a west coast subspecies. A patient hunter, it often waits in shallow water to speckle fish, frogs and snakes or rodents in fields. Its flight profile is distinctive, with its neck folded back. A rookery is located near the Tuwassun ferry crossing.

Black-crowned Night-Heron
This species is rare in B.C. and is best seen at Reifel Bird Sanctuary where a few winter annually (September to April). It has a shorter neck than the Great Blue Heron. This stocky bird mainly hunts for fish at night.

Sandhill Crane
A tall, stately bird with very long legs; it flies with outstretched neck. Groups are seen in fields during migration and at Reifel Bird Sanctuary where a pair regularly nests. They have grey plumage and a red patch on the head.

Trumpeter Swan
Trumpeters are the largest swans. Flocks of this bird regularly nest. They have grey plumage and a red patch on the head.

Snow Goose
Tens of thousands of Snow Geese migrate from Russia in fall, returning north in spring. Many stay for the winter. They eat aquatic plants and grasses and vegetation in noisy flocks numbering in the thousands, especially off Westham Island.

Brant
A sea goose that migrates through Delta, with some wintering here in shallow bays with eelgrass. Brant flock in the fall forage on eelgrass and other aquatic plants. Look for them on or near the beach at 12th Ave. Dyke, Beach Grove, from November to May.

Wood Duck
This beautiful duck is a fairly common resident, nesting in willows and elderberry bushes. Note the female’s tear-drop shaped white patch around the eye. Male gives thin, high whistle when alarmed. Find them in the South Arm Marshes and other wet woodlands.

American Wigeon
Rocks of wigeon are very common winter sites for ponds and bays of Delta. This dabbling feeds on aquatic plants. It is known as Field Wigeon in its white forehead and crown. Among these ducks you may see a Eurasian Wigeon, similar to but with a red head.

Northern Shoveler
This species is common in Delta. Look for them on Boundary Bay and in lagoons and marshes around the Delta.

Green-winged Teal
This common winter visitor is the smallest of the ducks and is seen on marshes, ponds and backwaters, sloughs, and bays. Look for them with other ducks. Look for it at Boundary Bay Regional Park, near the 12th Ave. Dyke.

Barrow’s Goldeneye
Rocks of this diving duck are frequenting quiet backwaters, sloughs, ponds and bays. They are often seen in pairs; the male has a black band around its neck, different plumage. Red-breasted and Common Mergansers are also found in Delta.

Double-crested Cormorant & Pelagic Cormorant
The Double-crested is distinguished by its orange-yellow throat patch. The Pelagic is smaller with a thin bill and has a white flank patch in summer. Both dive for fish and are commonly seen on the coast.

Black Oystercatcher
This striking shorebird is common on rocky shores and beaches. Look along the Tuwassun ferry jetty, where pairs frequently nest on the beach. Be careful where you step; it lays its eggs on the ground.

Kildeer
This is a resident shorebird seen in pairs. It feeds on coastal mudflats, such as along the Tsawwassen ferry jetty. Both male and female have very different plumage. They are often seen in pairs; the male has a white head and body, red breast and chest, and yellow legs. Look for it on the B.C. coast; flocks of up to 100,000 are seen locally in summer, moving to Mexico in winter. This species nests the furthest north of any shorebirds. It is now a year-round resident, feeding mostly on seeds on the ground, and is common around farms. Note dark collar and pink feet.

Eurasian Collared-Dove
This pale grey dove, a native of Europe and Asia, moved into Delta as part of an identified “invasion” of North America since the 1980s. It is now a year-round resident, feeding mostly on seeds on the ground, and is common around farms. Note dark collar and pink feet.

Anna’s Hummingbird
One of two species of hummingbirds found in Delta, this is the western equivalent of the Anna’s Hummingbird found in Mexico. The male has bronzed-green upper parts, grey below and an indistinct crimson crest and throat. They consume more insects than any other hummingbird in North America.

Rufous Hummingbird
Smaller slightly than Anna’s, the male Rufous has a bright red-orange throat and matching head and crown plumage. It breeds locally in summer, moving to Mexico in winter. This species nests the furthest north of all hummingbirds. It returns to the same feeder every year.

Steller’s Jay
This species is the western equivalent of the blue jay. It has a black head with a crest, and a dark blue body. It is found in forests and well-treed suburban areas year-round. Feeds on nuts, seeds, fruits, and small invertebrates. It is B.C.’s Provincial Bird!