



# Aurora Wildlife Checklist

## Discover Aurora's True Nature

The Aurora Parks and Open Space System is a varied system of open space, trails, natural areas, golf courses, and reservoirs, comprising over 8,000 acres within the city of Aurora.

Open Space provides essential habitat for humans and wildlife. We invite you to explore your local open space system and discover Aurora's true nature.

### You can find five major ecosystems in Aurora:

- **Shortgrass prairie:** Plains Conservation Center and Aurora Reservoir
- **Lowland riparian:** Sand Creek, Star K Ranch, Coal Creek Arena, Piney Creek, and High Line Canal
- **Ponderosa pine savannah:** Ponderosa Preserve (guided tours only), and Kestrel Point
- **Urban/developed:** Aurora golf courses, Sports Park, Great Plains Park, and your backyard

This unique and varied mix of ecosystems makes Aurora a great place to watch wildlife. Use this basic checklist as a general guide for wildlife sightings in and around the city.

Please submit suggestions or exciting wildlife sightings to: [nature@auroragov.org](mailto:nature@auroragov.org). Please email [opensp@auroragov.org](mailto:opensp@auroragov.org) to request a free Parks & Open Space map.



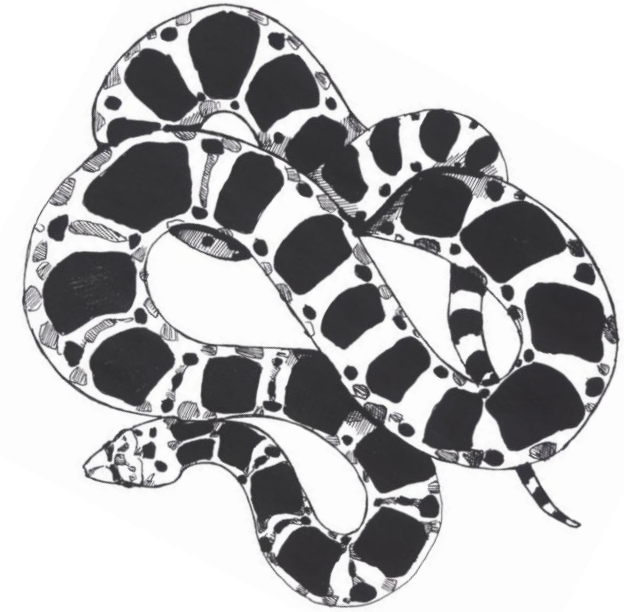
City of Aurora  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS)  
*The Quality of Life Department*

City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department  
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Room 4600  
Aurora, Colorado 80012



e-mail: [nature@auroragov.org](mailto:nature@auroragov.org) Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch 303.739.2428 [auroragov.org/nature](http://auroragov.org/nature)

## Discover Aurora's True Nature



## Aurora Wildlife Checklist

Date(s):

Location(s):

Observer(s):

Morrison Nature Center  
at Star K Ranch  
16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora, CO 80011  
303.739.2428 • [nature@auroragov.org](mailto:nature@auroragov.org)

**MAMMALS**

- little brown bat
- big brown bat
- desert cottontail
- eastern cottontail
- black-tailed jackrabbit
- thirteen-lined ground squirrel
- rock squirrel
- black-tailed prairie dog
- fox squirrel
- beaver
- deer mouse
- meadow vole
- muskrat
- porcupine
- coyote
- red fox
- raccoon
- long-tailed weasel
- badger
- striped skunk
- mule deer
- white-tailed deer
- pronghorn

**REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS**

- tiger salamander
- Woodhouse's toad
- striped chorus frog
- bullfrog\*
- northern leopard frog
- snapping turtle
- western painted turtle
- western box turtle
- short horned lizard
- yellow-bellied racer

- bullsnake
- western terrestrial garter snake
- plains garter snake
- prairie rattlesnake

**BIRDS**

- Canada goose
- wood duck
- gadwall
- American wigeon
- mallard
- blue-winged teal
- cinnamon teal
- northern shoveler
- northern pintail
- green-winged teal
- canvasback
- redhead
- ring-necked duck
- bufflehead
- common goldeneye
- hooded merganser
- common merganser
- ring-necked pheasant
- pied-billed grebe
- western grebe
- American white pelican
- double-crested cormorant
- great blue heron
- snowy egret
- black-crowned night heron
- white-faced ibis ^
- turkey vulture
- northern harrier
- osprey
- bald eagle

- sharp-shinned hawk
- Cooper's hawk
- Swainson's hawk
- red-tailed hawk
- ferruginous hawk ^
- rough-legged hawk
- golden eagle
- American kestrel
- prairie falcon
- American coot
- killdeer
- American avocet
- greater yellowlegs
- lesser yellowlegs
- willet
- western sandpiper
- ring-billed gull
- rock pigeon
- mourning dove
- great horned owl
- burrowing owl ^
- common nighthawk
- broad-tailed hummingbird
- belted kingfisher
- downy woodpecker
- northern flicker
- western kingbird
- eastern kingbird
- blue jay
- scrub-jay
- black-billed magpie
- American crow
- horned lark
- tree swallow
- violet-green swallow
- cliff swallow
- barn swallow
- black-capped chickadee
- white-breasted nuthatch
- red-breasted nuthatch

- pygmy nuthatch
- house wren
- mountain bluebird
- western bluebird
- American robin
- European starling\*
- yellow warbler
- western tanager
- lark bunting
- dark-eyed junco
- red-winged blackbird
- western meadowlark
- common grackle
- Bullock's oriole
- house finch
- lesser goldfinch
- American goldfinch
- house sparrow\*

**NOTES:**

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^ designates locally rare or threatened species  
 \* designates introduced species