



Some characteristics of bird species expected to use Larch Sanctuary and adjacent areas for nesting or feeding.

Species (Arrival/departure)	Nesting Habits	Feeding Behavior	Plantings	Management Recommendations	
				Nest Structures	Feeding
American Kestrel (Apr. to Sep.)	Tree cavities, crevices, cliffs, building recesses, nest boxes	Hunts from a perch; insects, grasshoppers, crickets, frogs, mice		Nest box: 3" hole size, 10-30 feet high	
Northern Saw-whet Owl (unknown migration)	Nests in tree cavities, woodpecker holes, occasionally nest boxes	Small mammals, small birds, insects, frogs		Nest box	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (mid-May to late Aug.)	Wooded deciduous edges, gardens, nests on limbs with overhead canopy. 3-7m high	Flower nectar, small insects, spiders, tree sap	Tubular flowers, honeysuckle, bee balm, hollyhocks, salvia, verbena, petunia, dahlia,		Feeders: syrup start with 1 sugar: 4 water, then reduce to 1:6 or 1:9
Downy Woodpecker (resident)	Deciduous/mixed wood forest, shelterbelts, parks golf courses. Excavate cavities in dead trees	Wood-boring larva, beetles, some fruits and seed, sap		Leave some dead trees/snags standing	Hanging feeders: suet or peanut butter; sunflower seed
Hairy Woodpecker (resident)	Deciduous/mixed wood, Often around openings and edges	Ants, caterpillars, beetles, sap		As above for Downy	As above for Downy
Northern Flicker (late-March to late-Sep.)	Deciduous, mixed wood, coniferous, open areas, edges, shelterbelts, make cavity in dead deciduous, poles, fencepost; nest box	Forage on the ground & trees; ants insect larvae, beetles, some worms and berries		Nest box: 2.5" hole, southeast facing, 6-30 ft. high, fill w/wood chips/shavings	May come to feeder: suet, peanut butter, corn

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Pileated Woodpecker (resident)	Prefer mature mixed and deciduous, large dead or dying trees (40-50 cm) for nesting, also in urban areas. Excavate cavities	Feed on live, dead or downed trees. Wood boring insects, larva, carpenter ants, fruit and nuts.			Occasionally come to feeder: suet; best to fix to tree; non-hanging
Eastern Phoebe (mid-Apr. to early Sep.)	Open wooded areas, near edges and water, around humans, cottages, farms, culverts, ledges, eaves	Hawk insects from a perch; also seeds and wild berries (winter)		Open nest boxes with canopy, ledges/shelves under eaves	
Purple Martin (early-May to mid-Sep.)	Under natural conditions prefer mature woodlands, burns, cliff crevices, woodpecker holes; now mostly use nest boxes	Forage on the wing for Mayflies, flying ants, dragonflies, butterflies and moths		Colonial nest boxes: painted white, 10-15 ft. high, away from buildings/trees, 2.125" round hole	
Tree Swallow (mid-Apr. to late-Aug.)	Natural cavities, woodpecker holes in mature woodlands, often near ponds, lakes, or wet areas	Forage on the wing on mostly flying insects; will eat berries in inclement weather		Single or colonial nest boxes: 5-15 ft. high, 1.375" hole, round, east facing	
Blue Jay (resident-may be partially migratory)	Mixed and deciduous forest, semi-open, ornamentals and urban landscapes; usually nest in conifers	Omnivorous diet, fruits, insects, grains, and eggs/nestlings of other songbirds	Conifers for nesting		Frequent feeders - sunflower seeds & peanuts
Black-capped Chickadee (Resident)	Prefer deciduous and mixed-wood; nest in cavities of dead trees, snags, or broken tops	Feed mainly on insects on trees, insect eggs, seeds and berries		Nest boxes: hole size 1.125", 5-15 ft. high, away from prevailing wind; place shavings/ wood chips in box; they like to excavate	Frequent feeders - sunflower seeds, peanuts, suet, peanut butter
Red-breasted Nuthatch (resident- some may migrate)	Prefer coniferous and mixedwood, urban areas, nest in dead/decaying trees, stump, post 2-12m above ground	Feed largely on coniferous seeds, also spiders and insects		Nest box: 1.25" hole, away from prevailing wind, 5-15 ft. high, shavings in bottom, they like to excavate	Frequent feeders – sunflower seeds, suet and peanut butter

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White-breasted Nuthatch (resident)	Mature deciduous, mixed wood, and coniferous forests, use other cavities or excavate their own	Glean insects from bark and limbs, berries, sunflower seeds		Nest box: 1.375" hole, 5-20 ft high; like to excavate as above	Make use of feeders; sunflower seeds, suet, peanut butter
House Wren (mid-May to mid-Sep)	Open woodland, thickets, coulees, backyards, shelterbelts, nest in cavities and nest boxes	Feed entirely on insects	Planting dense shrubbery near fences and corners	Nest box: 1.25" hole, 5-10 ft high,	
Mountain Bluebird (mid-Mar. to early Sep)	Open woodlands, edges scattered trees, burns and farmland, cavity nesters, woodpecker holes or nest boxes.	Hover while foraging for insects, mainly crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, some worms and wild fruit		Nest box: 1.56" hole, 3-6 ft high, preferably east facing	
American Robin (early-Mar. to early-Oct)	Woodlands, open areas, edges, urban, ornamental and shade trees; nest in trees, shrubs, ledges, eaves.	Feed on worms, insects, berries, fruit, earthworms in urban areas	Food shrubs and fruits	Ledges and platforms under eaves	Feeder: corn, suet or peanut butter
Gray Catbird (mid-May to early-Sep)	Dense shrubby areas, edges, along streams and roadsides; nest less than 3m from ground	Feed on insects, spiders, berries and cultivated fruit	Plant shrubs for nesting and food		
Bohemian Waxwing (winter to mid-Apr.)	Nest in boreal forest to the north	Prefer mountain ash and juniper berries; also saskatoons, choke cherries, rose hips, raspberries, strawberries, cedar	Plant food trees and shrubs		Feeder: wheat
Cedar Waxwing (late May/Aug./Sep)	Deciduous woodland, edges, but will use ornamental trees and shrubs near human habitation, 2-16m high	Insects gleaned from leaves or 'hawked' from perches. Fruits, berries fall and winter	Ornamental trees and shrubs; fruit and berry plants		

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Chipping Sparrow (mid-Apr to Aug./Sep.)	Open deciduous, mixed and coniferous forests, openings, edges, farms and residential, nest in shrubs and trees	Feeds on lawns, hedgerows, meadows for insects mainly; some seeds	Shrubs, gardens		
Song Sparrow (mid-Apr to late-Sep)	Shrubby growth along woodland edges, gardens and farmland thickets, hedgerows, shrubbery @ buildings	Scratches for insects and seeds in leaf litter	Plant tall shrubs		May come to sunflower seeds, canola, safflower,
Dark-eyed Junco (mid-Mar. to mid-Oct.)	Coniferous and mixed-wood openings, clearings edges, burns, cutover areas, occasionally parks, cottages, residential, gardens; nest on the ground under tree roots, stumps, logs	Forage on the ground, scratch for seeds, insects and berries		Downed brushpiles for nesting and foraging	Pick up seeds from feeders, Niger seed, corn, safflower, hemp, millet
Common Redpoll (winter visitor, Oct. to Apr.)	Breeds in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, although there are records of nesting in Central AB.	Feed on seeds of coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubs, weed seeds, spilled grain			Frequent feeders: millet, corn, thistle, canola, hemp, sunflower seed
Pine Siskin (irruptive migrant, late-May to early Nov., some over-wintering)	Coniferous and mixed-wood; at times ornamentals or shade trees in residential areas	Often hang upside down to feed on seeds of conifers, birch, alder, weed seeds, thistle, dandelion, insects.			Frequent feeders: Niger, millet, thistle, canola,
American Goldfinch (early-June to mid-Sep)	Overgrown fields, pastures, fencerows, roadsides, residential gardens, farmyards, nest in shrubs/trees < 6m high	Seed eaters, prefer dandelion and thistle seed	Shrubs for nesting and dandelions for feeding		May come to millet, thistle or sunflower

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Evening Grosbeak (irruptive migrant)	Secretive nester in coniferous and mixed-wood, nest may be 18m above ground.	Mainly seed eaters, particularly Manitoba maple, also eat buds, cones and fruit	Plant Manitoba maple		Frequent feeders: corn, sunflower seed safflower
House Sparrow (resident)	Always associated with humans, nest in crevices, cavities, nest boxes	Seed eaters, cultivated crop seeds, grass seeds, insects, household scraps		Use nest boxes, are aggressive to other nesters, proper hole will deter their use	Use feeders: millet, wheat, safflower and sunflower