

Birding at Afton State Park

Try heading down the bike trail from the visitor center for a chance to observe birds along the edge between the forest and prairie. (J-I-H-E-D-AQ-AP on the U R Here map)

A hike from the visitor center to the swimming beach is another great option to spot birds. Blue-gray gnatcatchers tend to hang out near the shelter building along this trail. Also, be sure to check the beach area during the spring ice break up on the river as the open water attracts many species and numbers of waterfowl. (P-R-AJ-AK-Q-O)

Exploring the north Prairie loop's large expanses of prairies and grassland offer nice opportunities to see Boblinks and Henslow's sparrows along with other prairie/grassland species. (AA-AB-AD-AE-AG-AH)

Key

Occurrence

Sp - Spring (Mar—May)

S - Summer (Jun—Jul)

F - Fall (Aug—Nov)

W - Winter (Dec—Feb)

Abundance

C - Common (Present, relatively easy to find)

U - Uncommon (Present, not certain to be seen)

O - Occasional (Infrequent, may not return each year)

R - Rare (Observed at least once, may not return)

Date: Enter the date you saw the bird.

Bird Identification Tips

When you observe a bird, make note of at least three characteristics.

Location: Where did you see the bird? (water, forest, feeder, lower branch, tree trunk, etc.)

Body size and shape: Compare to a known bird. (smaller than a...bigger than a...plump like a...slender like a...) Look at tail, legs and bill. (long, short, thick, thin, curved, straight)

Colors and markings: Look on wings, tail, back, belly, rump and head. (stripe above eye, white spot on tail, etc.)

Sounds and movements: How do they act and sound? (travel alone or in groups, in-flight wing position - soaring, flapping, flap and glide, etc.)

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	R		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Cackling Goose	R		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Trumpeter Swan	O		R	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra Swan	O		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	O				
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	O				
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck			O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	O		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Scaup	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	O		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead	O		R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	O		R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	O			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	O		U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser	O				
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	
GREBES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	O		O		
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	
CUCKOOS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NIGHTJARS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Whip-poor-will	U	U	O		
SWIFTS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	O		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot	O		R		
CRANES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	O	O	O		
PLOVERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Plover			U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	O	U	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	R		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	O		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs			U		
GULLS, TERNS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull			O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull			U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	C	O	C	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	C	O	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern	O		O		
LOONS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	U		R		
CORMORANTS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	U	O	U		
PELICANS					
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	U	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	U	O	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-heron	R				
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		
OSPREY					
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	U	U	U		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle	R		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed Kite	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	U	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk	R		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	O		O	O	
TYPICAL OWLS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl			R	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl	O		O	R	
KINGFISHERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
WOODPECKERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-backed Woodpecker				O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FALCONS					
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin	U	O	U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon	O	R	R		
FLYCATCHERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird	O	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	O	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-pewee	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	U	O	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
SHRIKES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike	U		U	U	
VIREOS					
<input type="checkbox"/> White-eyed Vireo	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	C	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven	R	R	R	R	
LARKS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	U		U	O	
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse	O	O	O		
NUTHATCHES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	U	O	U	O	
WRENS					
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	R	R			
GNATCATCHERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C		
KINGLETS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
THRUSHES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Solitaire	R		O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	C		C	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	O	
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
STARLINGS					
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	C	
WAXWINGS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FINCHES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Grosbeak				O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	U	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill	O		O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Crossbill				O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	C		C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting			U	R	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow	O	U	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow	U	U	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	U	U	U		
CHATS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat	R	R			
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	O	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	U	U			

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird	R	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C		
WARBLERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush	O				
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	C		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler	U		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	U	C	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Prothonotary Warbler	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C	R	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Warbler	O	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler	O	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean Warbler	O	R	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Blue Warbler	R		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler	U	O	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	U	R	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Tanager	O	O	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Tanager	R				
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	O	O	O		

Checklist created by Robert B. Janssen, Jerry Bonkoski and MNDNR. Data was gathered from MNDNR staff observations, public observations and Minnesota Ornithologist's Union records. Nomenclature and organization of checklist based off of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (7th edition) as currently supplemented.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4039. Phone: 651-259-5600.

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m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

BIRD CHECKLIST

AFTON STATE PARK

