

## Birding at Beaver Creek Valley State Park

Beaver Creek, within Beaver Creek Valley State Park, provides some of the most desirable habitat in the state for nesting Louisiana waterthrush and Acadian flycatcher. Both species are of special concern in Minnesota. The park also is an excellent area for viewing warblers, vireos, thrushes, sparrows, flycatchers, wrens, tanagers and woodpeckers.

The Beaver Creek Valley trail travels along the heart of the valley and provides some of the best birding opportunities.

Listen closely during your visit to the park. Barred and Great Horned Owls are heard frequently in the valley.

### 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
<b>GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS</b>					
Canada Goose	C	C	C	O	
Tundra Swan	U		U		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Mallard	C	C	C		
<b>PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS</b>					
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	
<b>PIGEONS, DOVES</b>					
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	
<b>CUCKOOS</b>					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>					
Common Nighthawk	U	U	U		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	C	C			
<b>SWIFTS</b>					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	O	C		
<b>PLOVERS</b>					
Killdeer	C	C	C	R	
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>					
American Woodcock	U	U	U		
Wilson's Snipe	U	U	U	R	
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Lesser Yellowlegs	O		O		
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS</b>					
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	R	
Green Heron	C	C	C		
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		
<b>OSPREY</b>					
Osprey	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>					
Golden Eagle	O		O	O	
Northern Harrier	U	U	U	O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	O	
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	O	
Bald Eagle	C	U	C	U	
Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	O	
Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U	
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>					
Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	O		O	O	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	O	
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U	O	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C		C	R	
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O	
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	
<b>FALCONS</b>					
American Kestrel	C	C	C	U	
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Acadian Flycatcher	U	U	O		
Alder Flycatcher	O		O		
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>SHRIKES</b>					
Northern Shrike	O		O	O	
<b>VIREOS</b>					
Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
<b>JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS</b>					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
<b>LARKS</b>					
Horned Lark	C	U	C	U	
<b>MARTINS, SWALLOWS</b>					
Bank Swallow	C	C	C		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C		
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Tufted Titmouse	O	O	O	O	
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	U	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
<b>CREEPERS</b>					
Brown Creeper	U		U	U	
<b>WRENS</b>					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U	O	U	O	
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C		
<b>KINGLETS</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	U	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>THRUSHES</b>					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O	
Veery	C	U	U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	C		C	R	
Wood Thrush	U	U	U		
American Robin	C	C	C	U	
<b>THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS</b>					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	C	C	C		
Northern Mockingbird	O		O		
<b>STARLINGS</b>					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	
<b>FINCHES</b>					
House Finch	U	U	U	U	
Purple Finch	C		C	C	
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Pine Siskin	U		U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	
<b>LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS</b>					
Snow Bunting	U		O	U	
<b>TOWHEES, SPARROWS</b>					
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Field Sparrow	U	U	U	R	
Fox Sparrow	C		C		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Song Sparrow	C	C	C	O	
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C	R	
Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	R	
<b>BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES</b>					
Bobolink	C	C	C		
Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	O	
Orchard Oriole	U	U			
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	O	
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	O	
Rusty Blackbird	C		C	O	
Common Grackle	C	C	C	O	
<b>WARBLERS</b>					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Louisiana Waterthrush	U	U	O		
Northern Waterthrush	C		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	U		O		
Blue-winged Warbler	U	U	O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C		
Prothonotary Warbler	U	U	U		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C		C		
Mourning Warbler	U		U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		U		
Cerulean Warbler	U	U	O		
Northern Parula	U		U		
Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U		
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		C		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	C		C		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	R	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		
Canada Warbler	U		U		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		
<b>TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS</b>					
Summer Tanager	O	O			
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		

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.

The Minnesota DNR prohibits discrimination in its programs and services based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation or disability. Persons with disabilities may request reasonable modifications to access or participate in DNR programs and services by contacting the DNR ADA Title II Coordinator at [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) or 651-259-5488. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4049; or Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C. Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

© 2020, State of Minnesota, DNR

**m** MINNESOTA  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

# BIRD CHECKLIST

## BEAVER CREEK VALLEY STATE PARK

