

Birding at Blue Mounds State Park

Blue Mounds attracts a wide variety of interesting and unusual birds, including a number of casual and accidental species. This is a reliable place find the blue grosbeak and other western birds that stray into Minnesota.

Mound Creek provides scarce water access in lake-less Rock County. Large areas of prairie that have been removed in most places from Minnesota provides habitat for grassland species. Turkey vultures nest on sheer cliff ledges of the mound.

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					
Snow Goose	U		U		
Greater White-fronted Goose	O				
Canada Goose	C	C	C		
Tundra Swan	O		O		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Northern Shoveler	U		U		
Gadwall	U		U		
American Wigeon	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Redhead	U		U		
Ring-necked Duck	U		U		
Lesser Scaup	U		U		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Hooded Merganser	U	U	U		
Common Merganser	U		U		
Ruddy Duck	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NEW WORLD QUAIL					
Northern Bobwhite	O	O	O	O	
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Gray Partridge	U	U	U	U	
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	U	U	U		
Horned Grebe	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	O		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	C	C	C		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	O	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	O	U		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail	U	O	U		
Sora	U	U	U		
American Coot	C		C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Upland Sandpiper	U	U			
Long-Billed Curlew		R			
Marbled Godwit	O				
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	U	U		
American Woodcock	U		U		
Wilson's Snipe	U		U	O	
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Solitary Sandpiper	U		U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Franklin's Gull	U		U		
Ring-billed Gull	C		C		
Black Tern	U		U		
Forster's Tern	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	O	O	O		
Snowy Egret	R				
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	O	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
OSPREY					
Osprey	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	U		U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U		
Cooper's Hawk	U		U		
Bald Eagle	U		U		
Broad-winged Hawk	U		U		
Swainson's Hawk	U		U		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C		
Rough-legged Hawk	O		U	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
TYPICAL OWLS					
Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Snowy Owl			O	O	
Long-eared Owl	O				
Short-eared Owl	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	U	C	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FALCONS					
American Kestrel	C	C	C		
Merlin	O		O		
Peregrine Falcon	R				
Prairie Falcon	R				

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Western Kingbird	U	U	U		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	R				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O		
Alder Flycatcher	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
Say's Pheobe	R	R			

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SHRIKES					
Loggerhead Shrike	U	O			
Northern Shrike	O		O	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
VIREOS					
White-eyed Vireo	R				
Yellow-throated Vireo	U		U		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	O		O		
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
Red-eyed Vireo	C		C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LARKS					
Horned Lark	C	U	C	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow	U	U	U		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C		
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U		
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U		U	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WRENS					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U		U		
Sedge Wren	U	U	U		
Marsh Wren	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GNATCATCHERS					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	R				
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	O	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C		
Mountain Bluebird	R				
Veery	U		O		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	U		U		
Wood Thrush	O	O			
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Curve-billed Thrasher			R		
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
Northern Mockingbird		R			
STARLINGS					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
WAXWINGS					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	
PIPITS					
American Pipit	U		U		
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak			O	O	
House Finch	U	U	U	U	
Purple Finch	U		U	O	
Common Redpoll				O	
Red Crossbill	R		R		
Pine Siskin	U		U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U	
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Lapland Longspur	U		U		
Snow Bunting	C		C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	U		
Lark Sparrow	O	O			
Lark Bunting	R	R			
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	O	U		
Field Sparrow	U	U	U		
Brewer's Sparrow			R		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C		
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	O	
Harris's Sparrow	U		U	O	
White-throated Sparrow	C		C	O	
Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U		
LeConte's Sparrow	O		O		
Nelson's Sparrow	R		R		
Henslow's Sparrow	R				
Savannah Sparrow	C	U	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U		
Eastern Towhee	U		U		
CHATS					
Yellow-breasted Chat	R				
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U		
Bobolink	C	C	C		
Eastern Meadowlark	R	R			
Western Meadowlark	C	C	C		
Orchard Oriole	U	U			
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C		
Rusty Blackbird	C		C		
Brewer's Blackbird	U	O	U		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C		C		
Northern Waterthrush	U		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	U		U		
Black-and-white Warbler	U		U		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	U		U		
Connecticut Warbler	O		O		
Mourning Warbler	U		U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cerulean Warbler	O	O			
Northern Parula	U		U		
Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O		
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	U		U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
Prairie Warbler		R			
Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		
Canada Warbler	U		U		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Northern Cardinal	O	O	O		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Black-headed Grosbeak			R		
Blue Grosbeak	U	U	U		
Lazuli Bunting	R				
Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		
Dickcissel	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.

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m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

BIRD CHECKLIST

BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK

