

## 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
<b>GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS</b>					
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
<b>NEW WORLD QUAIL</b>					
Northern Bobwhite	O	O	O	O	
<b>PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS</b>					
Gray Partridge	U	U	U	U	
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	

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

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

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

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

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>SWIFTS</b>					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	O	U		
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS</b>					
Virginia Rail	U	O	U		
Sora	U	U	U		
American Coot	C		C		
<b>PLOVERS</b>					
Killdeer	C	C	C		
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>					
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
<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>					
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
<b>CORMORANTS</b>					
Double-crested Cormorant	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>PELICANS</b>					
American White Pelican	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS</b>					
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
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>OSPREY</b>					
Osprey	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>					
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
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>					
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
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
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
<b>FALCONS</b>					
American Kestrel	C	C	C		
Merlin	O		O		
Peregrine Falcon	R				
Prairie Falcon	R				

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
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
<b>SHRIKES</b>					
Loggerhead Shrike	U	O			
Northern Shrike	O		O	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>VIREOS</b>					
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
<b>JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS</b>					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>LARKS</b>					
Horned Lark	C	U	C	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>MARTINS, SWALLOWS</b>					
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
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	

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

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>CREEPERS</b>					
Brown Creeper	U		U	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>WRENS</b>					
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
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	R				
<b>KINGLETS</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	O	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
<b>THRUSHES</b>					
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	
<b>THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS</b>					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Curve-billed Thrasher			R		
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
Northern Mockingbird		R			
<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>PIPITS</b>					
American Pipit	U		U		
<b>FINCHES</b>					
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	
<b>LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS</b>					
Lapland Longspur	C		C	U	
Snow Bunting	C		C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>TOWHEES, SPARROWS</b>					
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		
<b>CHATS</b>					
Yellow-breasted Chat	R				
<b>BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES</b>					
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
<b>WARBLERS</b>					
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		
Conneticut 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		
<b>TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS</b>					
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.

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STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

# BIRD CHECKLIST

## BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK

