

## Birding at Fort Snelling State Park

A visit to the lowland river habitats in this park provide outstanding spots for bird watching. Situated at the confluence of two major migration corridors, the park boasts excellent habitat for resident birds and passersby alike. The mixture of lake, marsh, shore and forest provide great habitat for flycatchers and swallows.

Take a trip over to Gun Club Lake, on the Dakota County side of the park, for a great area to view congregating American coots, diving ducks, great blue herons, great egrets and double-crested cormorants.

### 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	O		O		
Greater White-fronted Goose	R				
Canada Goose	C	C	C	O	
Trumpeter Swan	R		O		
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	O	
American Black Duck	O		O	O	
Northern Pintail	U		U		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Canvasback	U		U		
Redhead	U	O	O		
Ring-necked Duck	U		U		
Greater Scaup	O		O		
Lesser Scaup	U		U		
Surf Scoter	R		R		
White-winged Scoter			R		
Long-tailed Duck	R		R		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Common Goldeneye	U		U		
Hooded Merganser	U		U		
Common Merganser	U		U		
Red-breasted Merganser	U		U		
Ruddy Duck	O	O	O		
<b>PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS</b>					
Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U	
Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U	
<b>GREBES</b>					
Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C		
Horned Grebe	U		U		
Red-necked Grebe	U		U		
Eared Grebe	O		O		
Western Grebe	O				

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<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		R		R	
<b>SWIFTS</b>					
Chimney Swift		C	C	C	
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		C	U	C	
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS</b>					
King Rail			R		
Virginia Rail		U	U	U	
Sora		U	U	U	
Common Moorhen		R	R	R	
American Coot		C	C	C	
<b>PLOVERS</b>					
Killdeer		C	C	C	
Semipalmated Plover		O		O	
Piping Plover		R		R	
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>					
Whimbrel		R		R	
Ruddy Turnstone		R		R	
Stilt Sandpiper		O		O	
Sanderling		O		O	
Dunlin		O		O	
Least Sandpiper		O		O	
White-rumped Sandpiper		O			
Pectoral Sandpiper		O		O	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		O		O	
Short-billed Dowitcher		O	O	O	
Long-billed Dowitcher		O		O	
American Woodcock		O	R	U	
Wilson's Snipe		U	U	U	
Spotted Sandpiper		U	U	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Solitary Sandpiper	O		O		
Lesser Yellowlegs	O	O	O		
Willet	O		O		
Greater Yellowlegs	O		O		
Wilson's Phalarope	O		O		
Red-necked Phalarope	O		O		
<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Franklin's Gull	U		U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C		
Herring Gull	C		C		
Glaucous Gull	O		O		
Caspian Tern	U		U		
Black Tern	U	U	U		
Common Tern	O		O		
Forster's Tern	U	U	U		
<b>LOONS</b>					
Common Loon	O		O		
<b>CORMORANTS</b>					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		
<b>PELICANS</b>					
American White Pelican	O		O		
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS</b>					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Least Bittern	O	O	O		
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	C	C	C		
Little Blue Heron	R				
Cattle Egret	O	O	O		
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	U	U	U		
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	R				
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>					
Turkey Vulture	U	U	U		
<b>OSPREY</b>					
Osprey	O	O	O		

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	U	
Northern Goshawk			O	O	
Bald Eagle	U	U	U	O	
Red-shouldered Hawk	O				
Broad-winged Hawk	U	O	U		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>					
Eastern Screech Owl	O	O	O	O	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Snowy Owl				R	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Long-eared Owl	O	R	O	O	
Short-eared Owl	O		O	R	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	R		R	R	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	O	
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
Red-headed Woodpecker	O	O	O		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	U	U		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	U	C	O	
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	
<b>FALCONS</b>					
American Kestrel	U	U	U	U	
Merlin	O		O		
Peregrine Falcon	U	U	U		
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U		
Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	U	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
<b>SHRIKES</b>					
Loggerhead Shrike	O	R	O		
Northern Shrike	O		O	O	
<b>VIREOS</b>					
Bell's Vireo	R	R	R		
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, CROWS, MAGPIES, RAVENS</b>					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
<b>LARKS</b>					
Horned Lark	O	O	O	U	
<b>MARTINS, SWALLOWS</b>					
Bank Swallow	C	C	C		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	U	U	U		
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Tufted Titmouse	R	R	R	R	
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	O	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
<b>CREEPERS</b>					
Brown Creeper	U		U	U	

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		
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U		
<b>KINGLETS</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
<b>THRUSHES</b>					
Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	O	
Mountain Bluebird	R				
Veery	U	R	O		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	U		U		
Wood Thrush	U	U	U		
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
<b>THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS</b>					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
<b>STARLINGS</b>					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
Bohemian Waxwing	O		O	O	
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	
<b>PIPITS</b>					
American Pipit	O		O		
<b>FINCHES</b>					
Evening Grosbeak			O		
House Finch	C	C	C	C	
Purple Finch	U		U	O	
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Pine Siskin	O		O	O	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	

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

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

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STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

# BIRD CHECKLIST

## FORT SNELLING STATE PARK

