

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS Sp S F W DATE

WARBLERS

<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		

TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS

<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	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.

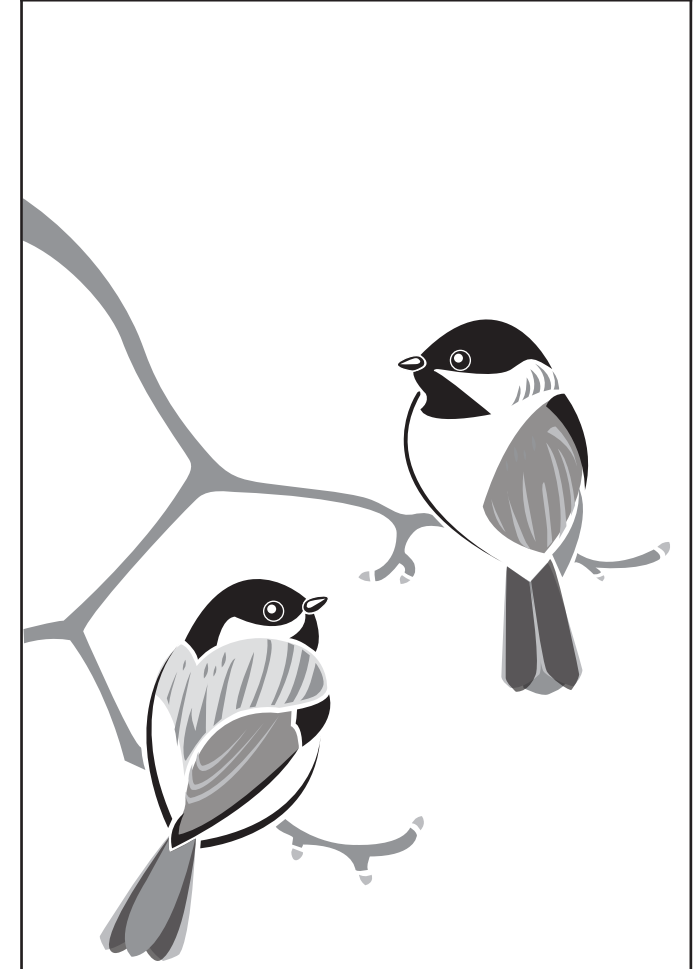
The Minnesota DNR prohibits discrimination in its programs and services based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation or disability. Persons with disabilities may request reasonable modifications to access or participate in DNR programs and services by contacting the DNR ADA Title II Coordinator at info.dnr@state.mn.us 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.

© 2025, State of Minnesota, DNR



BIRD CHECKLIST

GARDEN ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA



Birding at Garden Island S.R.A.

Find a prime birding area at the eastern tip of the island. This sand spit is home to a cacophony of ring-billed gulls, herring gulls, common terns, American white pelicans and spotted sandpipers. A host of other shorebirds may also be seen.

There are no trails in the forested area of the island. However, a walk from the day-use area docks towards the forested edge may yield sightings of killdeer, song sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, cedar waxwings, red-eyed vireos and bald eagles. Large populations of Baltimore orioles may also be spotted.

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 RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	O				
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	C	C	C		
PIGEONS, DOVES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	O	O	O		
PLOVERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Plover	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Piping Plover		O			
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Sanderling	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> White-rumped Sandpiper	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
GULLS, TERNS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull		U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Tern	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Arctic Tern		R			
LOONS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	U	U	U		
CORMORANTS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		
PELICANS					
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	C	C	C		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk		O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WOODPECKERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
<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		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	
FALCONS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon	O	O	O		
FLYCATCHERS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
VIREOS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Jay		R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven	C	C	C	C	
LARKS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C		C		
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	O	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	O	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	O	O	O		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
NUTHATCHES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	U	
WRENS					
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	O	O	O		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KINGLETS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
THRUSHES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	U	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C		
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	O	O	O		
WAXWINGS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
PIPITS					
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit			C		
FINCHES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak	O	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C		
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	U		U		
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C	O	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	C		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	U		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U	O	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	O	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C		