

Birding at Gooseberry Falls State Park

Located on the shore of Lake Superior, this park is a good place to view the migration of a wide variety of bird species. Flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers and sparrows migrate through the area in large numbers.

Follow the Riverview trail through alder scrub and birch woods along the river edge. The trail continues to the wide-open waters of Lake Superior. This is a prime place to observe several species, in any season!

Take a hike along the Gitchi-Gami trail through an upland loop of birch and spruce woodland. This is a great place to view many species, including warblers, nesting gulls and birds of prey.

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		
Canada Goose	U	U	U		
Tundra Swan	U		U		
Wood Duck	U	O	U		
Blue-winged Teal	U		U		
Northern Shoveler	U		U		
Gadwall	U		U		
American Wigeon	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C		
American Black Duck	U		U		
Northern Pintail	U		U		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Canvasback	O		O		
Redhead	U		U		
Ring-necked Duck	U	R	U		
Greater Scaup	U		U		
Lesser Scaup	U		U		
Harlequin Duck	R		R	O	
Surf Scoter	R		R	O	
White-winged Scoter	R		R	O	
Black Scoter	R		R	O	
Long-tailed Duck	U		U	U	
Bufflehead	U		U	U	
Common Goldeneye	C		C	U	
Hooded Merganser	U	R	U	O	
Common Merganser	C	U	C	U	
Red-breasted Merganser	U	O	U	U	
Ruddy Duck		R			
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	U		U		
Horned Grebe	U		U		
Red-necked Grebe	U		U		
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Rock Pigeon	O	R	R	R	
Mourning Dove	U	O	U	R	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	O	R	O		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	O	U		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	U	C	C		
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	C	O	C		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail	O		O		
Sora	O	O	O		
American Coot	U		U		
CRANES					
Sandhill Crane	U		U		
PLOVERS					
Black-bellied Plover	U		U		
American Golden-plover	U		U		
Killdeer	O	O	O		
Semipalmated Plover	U		U		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Whimbrel	O		O		
Ruddy Turnstone	U		U		
Red Knot	O		O		
Stilt Sandpiper	O		O		
Sanderling	U		U		
Dunlin	U		U		
Baird's Sandpiper	U		U		
Least Sandpiper	U	O	U		
White-rumped Sandpiper	U	O	O		
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			O		
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	O	U		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U		
American Woodcock	C	C	C		
Wilson's Snipe	U		U		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	U		
Solitary Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U		U		
Greater Yellowlegs	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U				
Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C	O	
Herring Gull	C	C	C	C	
Iceland Gull	O		O	R	
Glaucous Gull	U		U	O	
Caspian Tern	O	R	O		
LOONS					
Red-throated Loon	O		O		
Pacific Loon			O		
Common Loon	C	C	C		
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	U	U	U		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	O	R	O		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
Great Blue Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	R	R	R		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	C	U	C		
OSPREY					
Osprey	U		U		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	U		U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	C		
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		
Northern Goshawk	U	O	U	O	
Bald Eagle	C	C	C	C	
Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	C		
Red-tailed Hawk	U		C	R	
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	
TYPICAL OWLS					
Great Horned Owl	U	O	U	O	
Snowy Owl				O	
Northern Hawk Owl				R	
Barred Owl	U	O	U	R	
Great Gray Owl				R	
Long-eared Owl	O	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Short-eared Owl	O		O		
Boreal Owl				O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	O	O	O		
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U		
WOODPECKERS					
Red-bellied Woodpecker	R		R		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	U	C		
Black-backed Woodpecker	R		R	R	
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	U	C		
Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
FALCONS					
American Kestrel	C	C	C		
Merlin	U	O	U		
Peregrine Falcon	U	O	U		
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	U	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	O	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	O	U		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	O	U		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U		
Alder Flycatcher	C	U	C		
Least Flycatcher	C	U	U		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
SHRIKES					
Northern Shrike			U	U	
VIREOS					
Blue-headed Vireo	U	U	U		
Philadelphia Vireo	O	R	O		
Warbling Vireo	U	O	U		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	U	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
Common Raven	C	O	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LARKS					
Horned Lark	C	U	C		
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow	U	O	O		
Tree Swallow	O	O	O		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		
Purple Martin	O	O	O		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	U	O	U		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Boreal Chickadee				R	
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	C	O	C		
WRENS					
House Wren	U	U	U		
Winter Wren	U	U	U		
Sedge Wren	U	U	U		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	C	U	C		
Mountain Bluebird			R		
Townsend's Solitaire			O		
Veery	C	C	O		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		O		
Swainson's Thrush	U	U	U		
Hermit Thrush	C	C	C		
American Robin	C	C	C	U	
Varied Thrush			R		
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	R	
Northern Mockingbird			R		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
STARLINGS					
European Starling	U	U	U	O	
WAXWINGS					
Bohemian Waxwing			C	U	
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	R	R	R	R	
PIPITS					
American Pipit	U		U		
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak	U	O	U	U	
Pine Grosbeak	O		O	O	
Purple Finch	C	U	C	U	
Common Redpoll	U		C	C	
Hoary Redpoll	R		O	O	
Red Crossbill	O		O	U	
White-winged Crossbill	O	R	O	U	
Pine Siskin	C	U	C	C	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U	
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Lapland Longspur	C		C		
Snow Bunting			C	R	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Lark Sparrow	R		R		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C		
Dark-eyed Junco	C	O	C	U	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		
Vesper Sparrow	R		R		
Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U	R	U		
Swamp Sparrow	U	R	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	O	R	O		
Eastern Meadowlark	U		U		
Western Meadowlark	O	O	O		
Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	U	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U		
Rusty Blackbird	C		C		
Brewer's Blackbird	U	R	U		
Common Grackle	C	U	C		
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Northern Waterthrush	U	O	U		
Golden-winged Warbler	O	R	O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	C		
Tennessee Warbler	C	O	C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C	U	C		
Connecticut Warbler	O	O	O		
Mourning Warbler	C	C	U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U	O	U		
Northern Parula	U	O	U		
Magnolia Warbler	C	C	C		
Bay-breasted Warbler	O	O	U		
Blackburnian Warbler	C	C	C		
Yellow Warbler	O	R	O		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	C	C		
Blackpoll Warbler	O	R	O		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	O	O	O		
Palm Warbler	C	R	C		
Pine Warbler	O	O	O		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	U	C		
Black-throated Green Warbler	C	C	C		
Canada Warbler	U	U	U		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Summer Tanager	R				
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Northern Cardinal	R	R	R	R	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U		
Indigo Bunting	U	U	U		

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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m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

BIRD CHECKLIST

**GOOSEBERRY FALLS
STATE PARK**

