

Birding at Grand Portage State Park

Grand Portage State Park contains 300 acres of boreal forest along the Pigeon River on the Minnesota-Ontario border. There are only two trails in the park but the one leading to the High Falls offers fantastic birding! Over 20 species of warblers have been recorded along this trail.

Bald Eagles are often seen flying over the river from the observation deck behind the visitor center. Merlins are regular nesters in the park. The Pigeon River widens to form a number of quiet pools before flowing into Lake Superior. These pools are good areas for water birds such as ducks, mergansers, herons, gulls and kingfishers.

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					
Canada Goose	C	C	C		
Wood Duck	U	U	U		
Blue-winged Teal	U	U	U		
Mallard	U	U	U		
American Black Duck	U	U	U		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Ring-necked Duck	U	U	U		
Harlequin Duck			O		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Common Goldeneye	C	C	C		
Hooded Merganser	U	U	U		
Common Merganser	C	C	C		
Red-breasted Merganser	U	U	U		
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	C		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U		U		
GULLS, TERNS					
Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C		
Herring Gull	C	C	C	U	
LOONS					
Common Loon	U	U	U		
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	U		U		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
Great Blue Heron	U	U	U		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	U	U	U		
OSPREY					
Osprey	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	O	U		
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		
Bald Eagle	C	C	C	U	
Red-shouldered Hawk			R		
Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U		
Red-tailed Hawk	U		U	O	
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
WOODPECKERS					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C		
Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	U	U	
FALCONS					
Merlin	U	U	U		
FLYCATCHERS					
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O		
Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
VIREOS					
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	U	O	U		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Blue Jay	U	U	U	U	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
Common Raven	C	C	C	C	
LARKS					
Horned Lark	U		C		
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Tree Swallow	U	U	U		
Cliff Swallow	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Boreal Chickadee	U	U	U	U	
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U	U	U		
WRENS					
Winter Wren	U	U	U		
Marsh Wren	O	O	O		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
THRUSHES					
Veery	C	C	U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	C	C	C		
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
STARLINGS					
European Starling	O	O	O	O	
WAXWINGS					
Cedar Waxwing	U	U	U	U	
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak	O		O	O	
Pine Grosbeak	U		U	U	
House Finch	O	O	O	O	
Purple Finch	C	O	C	U	
Common Redpoll	U		U	U	
Hoary Redpoll	O			O	
White-winged Crossbill	O		O	O	
Pine Siskin	U	O	U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C		
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Lapland Longspur	U		U		
Snow Bunting			C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C		
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		
Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Red-winged Blackbird	U	U	U		
Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U	U		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		

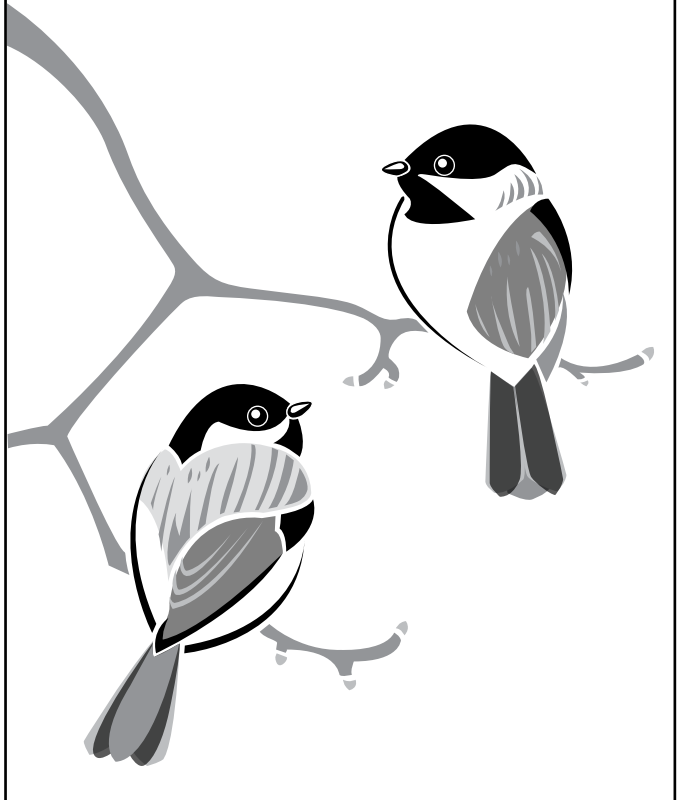
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Golden-winged Warbler	O		O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	C		
Tennessee Warbler	U		U		
Orange-crowned Warbler	O		O		
Nashville Warbler	C	C	C		
Mourning Warbler	C	C	C		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		U		
Northern Parula	C	C	C		
Magnolia Warbler	C	C	C		
Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U		
Blackburnian Warbler	U	U	U		
Yellow Warbler	U	U	U		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	C	C		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	U		U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	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					
Northern Cardinal	O	O	O	O	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U		

m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

BIRD CHECKLIST

GRAND PORTAGE STATE PARK



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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