

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 | | | C | | |
| 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 | | |

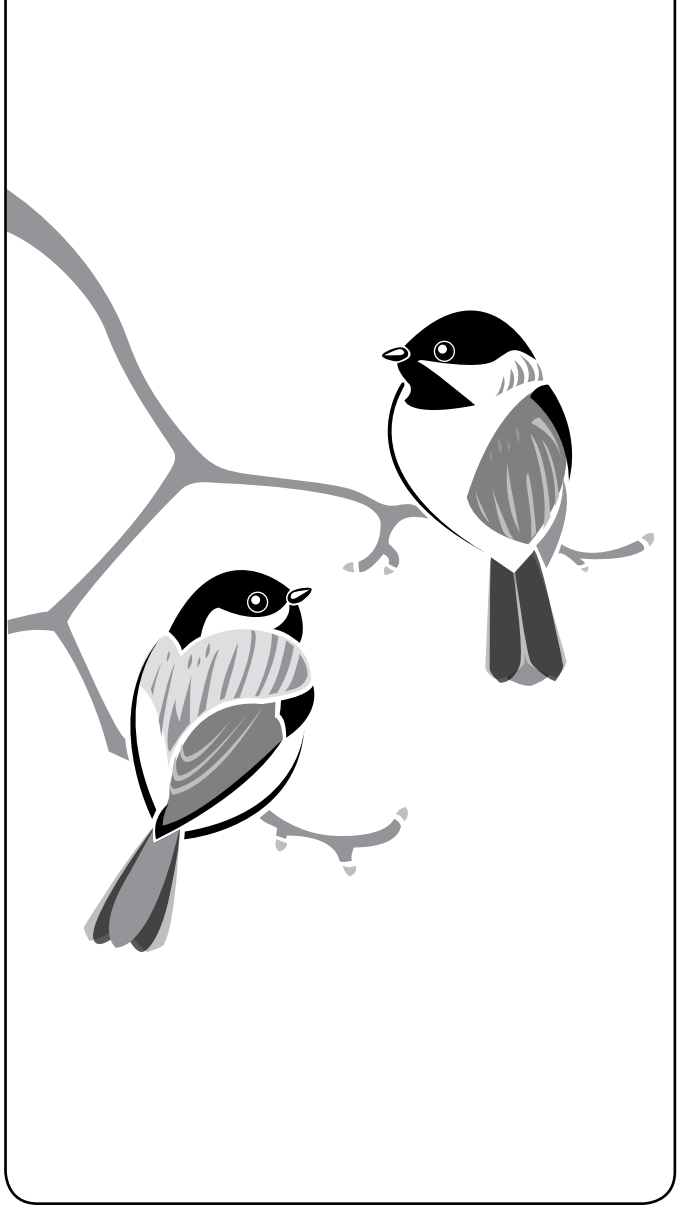
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|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| WARBLERS | | | | | |
| Ovenbird | C | C | C | | |
| Golden-winged Warbler | O | | O | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | C | C | C | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | U | | U | | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 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.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails,
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4039.
Phone: 651-259-5600.

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