

Birding at Great River Bluffs State Park

Walking to one of the many scenic overlooks in the park is a great way to spot birds. The trails through the woods are home to nesting flycatchers, pewees and vireos. You might even spot the beautiful scarlet tanager along the way.

Looking for something unique? The park's grasslands are one of the few places in Minnesota where you can regularly spot a Henslow's Sparrow.

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	O	
Tundra Swan	C		C		
Wood Duck	C	C	C	O	
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Mallard	C	C	C	U	
Hooded Merganser	C		C	O	

NEW WORLD QUAIL	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Northern Bobwhite	O	O	O	O	

PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	

PIGEONS AND DOVES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	

CUCKOOS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		

NIGHTJARS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Common Nighthawk	C	C	C		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	U	U			

SWIFTS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		

HUMMINGBIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C		

CRANES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Sandhill Crane	O	R			

PLOVERS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Killdeer	C	C	C	R	

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
American Woodcock	U	O	U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U		
Greater Yellowlegs	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Franklin's Gull	U		U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	U	C	O	
Herring Gull	C		C	O	
Forster's Tern	U	O	U		

CORMORANTS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Double-crested Cormorant	O		R		

PELICANS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
American White Pelican	U	O	U		

BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	R	
Great Egret	U	U	U		
Green Heron	U	U	U		

NEW WORLD VULTURES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		

OSPREY	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Osprey	U	U	U		

KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Golden Eagle	O		O	O	
Northern Harrier	U	U	U	O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	O	
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	O	
Bald Eagle	C	U	C	C	
Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	U	
Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	

TYPICAL OWLS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Short-eared Owl	O		O	O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	O		O	O	

KINGFISHERS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U	O	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	U	C		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O	
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	

FALCONS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
American Kestrel	C	C	C	U	
Merlin	U		U		
Peregrine Falcon	U	U	U	R	

FLYCATCHERS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U		
Eastern Wood-pewee	C	C	C		
Alder Flycatcher	U	R	U		
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		

SHRIKES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Northern Shrike	O		O	O	

VIREOS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
White-eyed Vireo		R			
Bell's Vireo	O	O			
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		

JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	

LARKS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Horned Lark	C	U	C	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow	C	C	C		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C		
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		

CHICKADEES, TITMICE	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Tufted Titmouse	O	O	O	O	

NUTHATCHES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	U	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	

CREEPERS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Brown Creeper	U		U	U	

WRENS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U	O	U	R	
Sedge Wren	U	U	U		

GNATCATCHERS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C		

KINGLETS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	U	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		

THRUSHES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O	
Veery	U	U	O		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U	R	U		
Hermit Thrush	U		U		
Wood Thrush	U	U	U		
American Robin	C	C	C	U	

THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		

STARLINGS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
European Starling	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WAXWINGS					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	
FINCHES					
House Finch	O	C	O		
Purple Finch	C		C	C	
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Pine Siskin	U		U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	O		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Field Sparrow	C	C	U		
Fox Sparrow	C		C		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		
Henslow's Sparrow	U	U	O		
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C	O	
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	R	
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Bobolink	C	C	C		
Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	O	
Orchard Oriole	U	U	U		
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	O	
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U		
Rusty Blackbird	C		C	O	
Common Grackle	C	C	C	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Louisiana Waterthrush	U	O			
Northern Waterthrush	C		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	U	U	U		
Blue-winged Warbler	U	U	O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C	R	C		
Mourning Warbler	U	O	U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
Hooded Warbler	R				
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		U		
Cerulean Warbler	U	O	O		
Northern Parula	U		U		
Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U		
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		C		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	C		C		
Pine Warbler	U		U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	R	
Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		
Canada Warbler	U		U		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
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	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

**GREAT RIVER BLUFFS STATE
PARK**

