

Birding at John A. Latsch State Park

John A. Latsch State Park is located in the heart of the Mississippi River flyway, an essential migration route for hundreds of bird species. It serves as a stopover point for migrants such as warblers, flycatchers, orioles, sparrows and thrushes. Peregrine falcons have been nesting on the cliff faces in the park since the mid-eighties .

Take the climb up the River Overlook Trail. There is excellent woodland and bluff habitat for breeding species such as tanagers, flycatchers and woodpeckers. Keep an eye out for soaring eagles, hawks and vultures using warm columns of air near the bluffs to rise above the valley .

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	C	C	C		
Tundra Swan	C		C		
Wood Duck	C	C	C	O	
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Gadwall	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C	U	
Canvasback	C		C	R	
Redhead	C		U	R	
Ring-necked Duck	C		C	R	
Greater Scaup	U		U	R	
Lesser Scaup	C	C	C	U	
Bufflehead	C		C	O	
Common Goldeneye	C		C	C	
Hooded Merganser	C		C	O	
Common Merganser	C		C	U	
Red-breasted Merganser	U		U	R	
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	U	U	U		
PIGEONS, DOVES					
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	C	C	C		
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
American Coot	C	U	C	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	C	R	
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
American Woodcock	U	U	U		
GULLS, TERNS					
Ring-billed Gull	C	U	C	O	
Herring Gull	C	O	C	O	
Black Tern	U	U	U		
Common Tern	U		U		
LOONS					
Common Loon	O		O		
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	U		U		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	U	U	U		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		
OSPREY					
Osprey	U	U	U		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Golden Eagle	O		O	O	
Northern Harrier	U	U	U	O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	O	
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	O	
Northern Goshawk	O		O	O	
Bald Eagle	C	U	C	U	
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					
Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
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					
American Kestrel	C	C	C	U	
Peregrine Falcon	U	R	U		
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U		
Eastern Wood-pewee	C	C	C		
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
VIREOS					
Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow	U	U	U		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	U		
Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	O	U	O	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U	O	U	U	
WRENS					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U	O	U	O	
GNATCATCHERS					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	U	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O	
Veery	U	U	U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson’s Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	C		C		
Wood Thrush	U	U	U		
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
STARLINGS					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
WAXWINGS					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak	O		O	O	
House Finch	C	C	C	U	
Purple Finch	C		C	C	
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Pine Siskin	U		U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
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		
Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
Eastern Towhee	U	U	U		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Bobolink	C	C	C		
Orchard Oriole	U	U	O		
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	O	
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	O	O	
Rusty Blackbird	C		C	O	
Common Grackle	C	C	C	O	
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Lousiana Waterthrush	O	O	O		
Northern Waterthrush	C		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	U	O	U		
Blue-winged Warbler	U	U			
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C		
Prothonatary Warbler	U	U	O		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C		C		
Conneticut Warbler	U		O		
Mourning Warbler	U		U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		U		
Cerulean Warbler	U	O	O		
Northern Parula	U		U		


STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
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		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
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		

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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BIRD CHECKLIST

JOHN A. LATSCH STATE PARK

