

Birding at Lake Carlos State Park

The park's diverse habitat includes lakeshore, wetlands, woodlands and grasslands that make it a popular birding destination. A staff favorite is to walk along the lake from the beach to Hidden Lake Group Camp where you can find more than 50 species in the spring (mid-May). During migration, large numbers of warblers, vireos, flycatcher, thrushes, and sparrows move through the park's woodland and grassland areas.

The Prairie Pothole, Hidden Lake and Wetland Overlook Trails are excellent for water bird viewing. Watch for waterfowl on Lake Carlos and along the Long Prairie River during late fall through early spring.

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		O		
Cackling Goose	U		U		
Canada Goose	C	C	C	U	
Trumpeter Swan	C	U	C	C	
Tundra Swan	C		U		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Northern Shoveler	C	U	C		
Gadwall	U	O	U		
American Wigeon	U	O	U		
Mallard	C	C	C	U	
Northern Pintail	U	O	U		
Green-winged Teal	C		C		
Canvasback	U		U		
Redhead	U		U		
Ring-necked Duck	C		C		
Greater Scaup	O		O	R	
Lesser Scaup	C		C	R	
Surf Scoter				R	
White-winged Scoter				R	
Black Scoter				R	
Bufflehead	C		C	R	
Common Goldeneye	C	O	C	U	
Hooded Merganser	C	U	C	O	
Common Merganser	C		C	O	
Red-breasted Merganser	U		O		
Ruddy Duck	U	U	U		
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	
Ruffed Grouse	U	U	U	U	
Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U	
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	R	
Horned Grebe	U		U		
Red-necked Grebe	U	U	U		
Eared Grebe	O	O	O		
Western Grebe	O	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PIGEONS, DOVES					
Rock Pigeon		C	C	C	C
Mourning Dove		C	C	C	O
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U	O	O	
Black-billed Cuckoo		U	U	U	
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk		C	C	C	
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift		C	C	C	
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		C	C	C	
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail		U	U	U	
Sora		C	C	C	
American Coot		C	C	C	
CRANES					
Sandhill Crane		U	O	U	
PLOVERS					
Killdeer		C	C	C	
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
American Woodcock		U	U	U	
Wilson's Snipe		C	C	C	
Spotted Sandpiper		C	C	C	
Solitary Sandpiper		U	U	U	
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull		U		U	
Franklin's Gull		C	U	C	
Ring-billed Gull		C	C	C	R
Herring Gull		U	U	U	R
Caspian Tern		U	O		
Black Tern		U	U	U	
Common Tern		U		U	
Forster's Tern		U	U	U	
LOONS					
Common Loon		C	C	C	
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant		C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PELICANS					
American White Pelican		C	C	C	
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern		O	O	O	
Least Bittern		O	O	O	
Great Blue Heron		C	C	C	
Great Egret		U	U	U	
Green Heron		U	U	U	
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture		U	U	U	
OSPREY					
Osprey		U	U	U	
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier		C	C	C	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		U		U	O
Cooper's Hawk		U	U	U	
Bald Eagle		U	U	C	O
Red-shouldered Hawk		U	U	O	
Broad-winged Hawk		C	C	C	
Red-tailed Hawk		C	C	C	U
Rough-legged Hawk		U		U	O
TYPICAL OWLS					
Eastern Screech Owl		U	U	U	U
Great Horned Owl		U	U	U	
Barred Owl		U	U	U	U
Northern Saw-whet Owl		U	O	U	
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher		C	C	C	
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker		U	U	U	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		U	U	U	C
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		C	C	C	
Downy Woodpecker		C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker		C	C	C	C
Northern Flicker		C	C	C	R
Pileated Woodpecker		C	C	C	C
FALCONS					
American Kestrel		C	C	C	O

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher		C	C	C	
Eastern Kingbird		C	C	C	
Olive-sided Flycatcher		O	O	O	
Eastern Wood-pewee		C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		O		O	
Alder Flycatcher		O	O	O	
Willow Flycatcher		U	U	O	
Least Flycatcher		C	C	C	
Eastern Phoebe		C	C	C	
SHRIKES					
Northern Shrike		U		U	U
VIREOS					
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					
Blue Jay		C	C	C	C
American Crow		C	C	C	C
Common Raven		U	O	U	U
LARKS					
Horned Lark		C	C	C	U
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow		U	U	U	
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					
Black-capped Chickadee		C	C	C	C
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch		C	U	C	C
White-breasted Nuthatch		C	C	C	C
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper		U		U	U

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WRENS					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	O		O		
Sedge Wren	C	C	C		
Marsh Wren	C	C	C		
GNATCATCHERS					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	O	O		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	O		U	O	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	C	C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C		
Veery	U	U	U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	C		C		
Wood Thrush	U	U	O		
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	C	C	C		
STARLINGS					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
WAXWINGS					
Bohemian Waxwing	O		O	O	
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	O	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	
PIPITS					
American Pipit	U		C		
FINCHES					
House Finch	U	U	U	U	
Purple Finch	C	U	C	O	
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Hoary Redpoll	O		O	O	
Red Crossbill	O		O	O	
Pine Siskin	U	U	U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Snow Bunting	C		C	C	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C		
Field Sparrow	U	U	O		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	O	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	O	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C	O	C		
Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		
Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		C		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	O	O		
Bobolink	C	C	U		
Western Meadowlark	U	O	O		
Orchard Oriole	U	O	O		
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	U		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U		
Rusty Blackbird	U		U		
Brewer's Blackbird	U	U	C		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Northern Waterthrush	C		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	U		O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C	U	C		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		C		
Nashville Warbler	U		O		
Mourning Warbler	O		O		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		R		
Northern Parula	R		R		
Magnolia Warbler	U		O		
Bay-breasted Warbler	U		O		
Blackburnian Warbler	U		O		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	O	U		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		R		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	O		O		
Palm Warbler	C		C		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O		
Canada Warbler	U		O		
Wilson's Warbler	U		O		
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Northern Cardinal	O	O	O		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Indigo Bunting	C	C	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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STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

BIRD CHECKLIST

LAKE CARLOS STATE PARK

