

Birding at Lake Maria State Park

With over 220 species having been recorded here, Lake Maria State Park an excellent location for birding.

Taking a walk through the hardwood forest sections of the park give you great opportunities to spot warblers, vireos, flycatchers and nesting areas for ruffed grouse, red-shouldered hawks and cerulean warblers.

When visiting the lake and marsh areas of the park, keep an eye out for nesting ducks, loons, grebes, terns and rails.

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		
Greater White-fronted Goose	O				
Cackling Goose	U		U		
Canada Goose	C	C	C		
Trumpeter Swan	U	U	U	O	
Tundra Swan	U		U		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Northern Shoveler	C		C		
Gadwall	C		C		
American Wigeon	C		C		
Mallard	C	C	C		
American Black Duck	U		U		
Northern Pintail	U		U		
Green-winged Teal	C		C		
Canvasback	C		C		
Redhead	C		C		
Ring-necked Duck	C		C		
Lesser Scaup	C	O	C		
Bufflehead	C		C		
Common Goldeneye	C		C		
Hooded Merganser	C	U	C		
Common Merganser	C		C		
Red-breasted Merganser	C		C		
Ruddy Duck	C	C	C		

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

GREBES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C		
Horned Grebe	U		U		
Red-necked Grebe	U	U	U		

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

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	U	U	U		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	O	O			
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail	C	C	U		
Sora	C	C	C		
American Coot	C	C	C	U	
CRANES					
Sandhill Crane	U	O	U		
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	C		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Dunlin	U		U		
Least Sandpiper	C	C	C		
American Woodcock	U	U	U		
Wilson's Snipe	C	C	C		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Solitary Sandpiper	C	U	C		
Lesser Yellowlegs	C	C	C		
Greater Yellowlegs	U		U		
Wilson's Phalarope	U	O	O		

GULLS, TERNS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Franklin's Gull	U	O	U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	U	C		
Herring Gull	C	O	C		
Caspian Tern	U		U		
Black Tern	C	C	C		
Common Tern	U		U		
Forster's Tern	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LOONS					
Common Loon	C	U	C		
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	U	U	U		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Least Bittern	U	U	U		
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	C	C	C		
Green Heron	C	C	C		
Black-crowned Night-heron	U	U	U		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	C	U	U		
OSPREY					
Osprey	C	C	C		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	U	U	U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	R	U		
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		
Northern Goshawk	O		O	O	
Bald Eagle	C	C	C	R	
Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U		
Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U	
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	
Snowy Owl	O		O	O	
Barred Owl	C	C	C	C	
Long-eared Owl	O		O	O	
Short-eared Owl	O		O	O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	O		O	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	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		
Merlin	O		O		
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	R	U		
Eastern Wood-pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U		
Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
SHRIKES					
Northern Shrike	O		O	O	
VIREOS					
Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	U	U	U		
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	
Common Raven	R			R	

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

MARTINS, SWALLOWS				
Bank Swallow		C		
Tree Swallow		C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		C		
Purple Martin		U		
Barn Swallow		C		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE				
Black-capped Chickadee		C	C	
NUTHATCHES				
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
White-breasted Nuthatch		C	C	
CREEPERS				
Brown Creeper		O	U	
WRENS				
House Wren		C		
Winter Wren				
Sedge Wren		C		
Marsh Wren		C		
GNATCATCHERS				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		C		
KINGLETS				
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
THRUSHES				
Eastern Bluebird		C		
Veery		U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
Swainson's Thrush				
Hermit Thrush				R
Wood Thrush		U		
American Robin		C		O
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS				
Gray Catbird		C		
Brown Thrasher		C		
STARLINGS				
European Starling		C	C	
WAXWINGS				
Cedar Waxwing		C	R	

OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
House Sparrow		C	C	
FINCHES				
Evening Grosbeak				O
House Finch				
Purple Finch				C
Common Redpoll				O
Hoary Redpoll				R
Pine Siskin				C
American Goldfinch		C		C
TOWHEES, SPARROWS				
Grasshopper Sparrow		U		
Chipping Sparrow		C		
Clay-colored Sparrow		O		
Field Sparrow		C		
Fox Sparrow				
American Tree Sparrow				C
Dark-eyed Junco				C
White-crowned Sparrow				
Harris's Sparrow				
White-throated Sparrow				
Vesper Sparrow		C		
Le Conte's Sparrow				
Savannah Sparrow		C		
Song Sparrow		C		
Lincoln's Sparrow				
Swamp Sparrow		C		
Eastern Towhee		U		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES				
Yellow-headed Blackbird		C		
Bobolink		C		
Eastern Meadowlark		C		
Western Meadowlark		C		
Orchard Oriole		O		
Baltimore Oriole		C		
Red-winged Blackbird		C		
Brown-headed Cowbird		C		
Rusty Blackbird				

Brewer's Blackbird		U		
Common Grackle		C		
WARBLERS				
Ovenbird		C		
Louisiana Waterthrush				
Northern Waterthrush				
Golden-winged Warbler				
Blue-winged Warbler		U		
Black-and-white Warbler				
Tennessee Warbler		R		
Orange-crowned Warbler				
Nashville Warbler				
Connecticut Warbler				
Mourning Warbler				
Common Yellowthroat		C		
American Redstart		C		
Cape May Warbler				
Cerulean Warbler		U		
Northern Parula				
Magnolia Warbler				
Bay-breasted Warbler				
Blackburnian Warbler				
Yellow Warbler		C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler		U		
Blackpoll Warbler				
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
Palm Warbler				
Pine Warbler				
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
Black-throated Green Warbler				
Canada Warbler				
Wilson's Warbler				
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS				
Scarlet Tanager		U		
Northern Cardinal		C	C	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		C		
Indigo Bunting		C		
Dickcissel		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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BIRD CHECKLIST

LAKE MARIA STATE PARK

