

Birding at Lake Shetek State Park

The trail around Loon Island is a good place to view species such as Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, various species of woodpeckers including Pileated woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Nuthatches and Chickadees.

The Eastlick Marsh observation deck has a spotting scope and interpretive signage highlighting the Pelicans, Mallards, Canadian Geese, Red-winged Blackbirds and other waterfowl that can be seen. It is also a good place to be able to view prairie bird species such as Swallows, Bluebirds, Bobolinks, Sparrows, Pheasants and Turkey Vultures.

Another hotspot for viewing waterfowl is from the Webster Island Trail, which overlooks Webster Slough. It is a quiet wetland area that is often home to various waterfowl due to the lack of boat traffic.

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	U				
Canada Goose	C	C	C		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Northern Shoveler	U		U		
Gadwall	U		U		
American Wigeon	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C	U	
Northern Pintail	U		U		
Green-winged Teal	O		U		
Canvasback	U		U		
Redhead	U		U		
Ring-necked Duck	U		U		
Greater Scaup	R				
Lesser Scaup	C		C		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Common Goldeneye	U		U		
Hooded Merganser	U		U		
Common Merganser	U		U		
Red-breasted Merganser	U		U		
Ruddy Duck	U		U		
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Gray Partridge	U	U	U	U	
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	
Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U	
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C		
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	O		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	U		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Sora	C	C	C		
American Coot	C	C	C		
PLOVERS					
Black-bellied Plover	U		U		
Killdeer	C	C	C		
Semipalmated Plover	U		U		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Upland Sandpiper	O	O			
Hudsonian Godwit	U		U		
Stilt Sandpiper	U	U			
Sanderling			O		
Least Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	R	R			
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U		
Long-billed Dowitcher	U		U		
Wilson's Snipe	C		C		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Lesser Yellowlegs	C	C	C		
Greater Yellowlegs	U		U		
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Franklin's Gull	C		C		
Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C		
California Gull	R				
Herring Gull	U		U		
Caspian Tern	O		O		
Black Tern	U	U	U		
Forster's Tern	U	U	U		
LOONS					
Common Loon	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	C	C	U		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O		O		
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	C	C	C		
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	U	U	U		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		
OSPREY					
Osprey	U		U		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	U	U	U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	O	
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		
Bald Eagle	U	U	U	O	
Broad-winged Hawk	U		U		
Swainson's Hawk	U	U	U		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U	
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	
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	U	U			
Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FALCONS					
American Kestrel	C	C	C	U	
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Western Kingbird	U	U	U		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R		O		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Willow 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		
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	U	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
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	U	O	U	U	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	C		C	U	

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

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	O		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Field Sparrow	U	U	U		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		
Nelson's Sparrow				R	
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U		
Bobolink	C	C	C		
Western Meadowlark	C	C	C		
Orchard Oriole	U	U			
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	O	
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C		
Rusty Blackbird	U		U		
Brewer's Blackbird	U	O	U		
Common Grackle	C	C	C	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	U		U		
Northern Waterthrush	O		O		
Golden-winged Warbler	U		U		
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C		C		
Mourning Warbler	U		U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U				
Northern Parula	U		U		
Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		C		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	U		U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
Canada Warbler	O		O		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Scarlet Tanager	U		U		
Northern Cardinal	U	U	U	U	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		
Dickcissel	U	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 SHETEK STATE PARK

