

# BIG ISLAND STATE PARK

## BIRD Checklist



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks & Recreation

DNR Web Site: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

Birds of Big Island State Park	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	C	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bohemian Waxwing	O			O
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler	U		U	

Birds of Big Island State Park	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Blue Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean Warbler	U	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prothonotary Warbler	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	C		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler	U		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Towhee				R
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow	R		R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	

Birds of Big Island State Park	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird	C	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Grosbeak	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

March 2004

# Birding Opportunities at Big Island State Park

Due to the variety of habitats present, Big Island State Park boasts one of the largest and most diverse bird checklists of any state park in Minnesota. These habitats include Albert Lea Lake, a gathering place for abundant numbers of migrant waterfowl and gulls. Marsh, prairie and woodland are also prevalent. The Great Marsh is an excellent area for viewing waterfowl. Woodlands and edge habitat provide areas for flycatchers, sparrows, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers and vireos. Numerous ponds offer feeding and gathering areas for five species of swallows.

## Season and Abundance Key

The **seasons** in the checklist are defined as follows:

**Sp** (Spring) = March, April, May

**Su** (Summer) = June, July

**Fa** (Fall) = August, September, October, November

**Wi** (Winter) = December, January, February

**Abundance codes** are defined as follows:

**C** = Common — present, relatively easy to find

**U** = Uncommon — observed, may be difficult to find

**O** = Occasional — may or may not be present in any year

**R** = Rare — has occurred at least once, may or may not be expected to recur

The names and taxonomic arrangement of species follows that of the Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota (January, 2001), prepared by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee.

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented in the park by reliable observers. It was constructed by Robert B. Janssen and the MN DNR-Division of Parks & Recreation using observations of Mr. Janssen, park staff and other observers, as well as Minnesota Ornithologist's Union records and data contained in research reports. If you are interested in the specific sources used for a particular park, contact the Parks Division Resource Management Program Coordinator by telephone at 651-297-1158 or by mail at MNDNR-Parks, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 39 St. Paul, MN 55155-4039.

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Birds of Big Island State Park	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra Swan	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cinnamon Teal	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Scaup	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Duck	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Grebe	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eared Grebe	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Grebe	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	

Birds of Big Island State Park	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	C	U	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Plover			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Piping Plover	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willet			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-rumped Sandpiper			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stilt Sandpiper			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Dowitcher	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wison's Snipe	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope	U		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull	U	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	C	O	C	

Birds of Big Island State Park	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Tern	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Owl				
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Gray Owl				R
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Owl	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-will	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acadian Flycatcher	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Bell's Vireo	R			