

## Birding at Old Mill State Park

The bench located up above the WPA Era Structures on the western bank of the Middle River is an excellent place to sit and watch birds of all sorts. Excellent view shed of the lower bowl of the park with views along the river, the pond, and the woods. Bring a pair of binoculars for an enhanced experience.

Hike across the stone bridge and up to the bench overlooking the Middle River. As you walk through the woods look for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, sparrows, and thrushes. Once at the bench, watch for swallows flying over the river.

### 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
<b>GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS</b>					
Canada Goose	U	U	U		
Tundra Swan	U		U		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	U	U	U		
Mallard	U	U	U		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Hooded Merganser	U	U	U		
Red-breasted Merganser	O		O		
<b>PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS</b>					
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Sharp-tailed Grouse				O	
<b>GREBES</b>					
Western Grebe	R		R		
<b>PIGEONS, DOVES</b>					
Rock Pigeon	U	U	U		
Mourning Dove	C	C	C		
<b>CUCKOOS</b>					
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>					
Common Nighthawk	U	U	U		
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	U		
<b>CRANES</b>					
Sandhill Crane	C	C	C		
<b>PLOVERS</b>					
Killdeer	C	C	C		
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>					
Upland Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Marbled Godwit	U	U	U		
Wilson's Snipe	U	U	U		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	U		
Solitary Sandpiper	U	U			
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U		
<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>					
Franklin's Gull	U		U		
Black Tern	U	U	U		
Common Tern	R				

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>LOONS</b>					
Common Loon	U	U	U		
<b>CORMORANTS</b>					
Double-crested Cormorant	O	O	O		
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS</b>					
Great Blue Heron	U	U	U		
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>					
Turkey Vulture	U	O	U		
<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>					
Northern Harrier	U	U	U		
Cooper's Hawk	U	O	U		
Bald Eagle	U		U		
Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U		
Swainson's Hawk	O	O	O		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C		
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>					
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Snowy Owl			O	O	
Great Gray Owl				R	
Long-eared Owl	U	U	U		
Short-eared Owl		R			
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	R		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C		
Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O	
<b>FALCONS</b>					
American Kestrel	C	C	C		
Peregrine Falcon	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Western Kingbird	O	O	O		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O	O	O		
Alder Flycatcher	O	O	O		
Least Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
<b>VIROES</b>					
Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	O		O		
Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	U	U	U		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
<b>JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS</b>					
Gray Jay		O	O	O	
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
Black-billed Magpie	U	U	U	U	
American Crow	C	C	C		
Common Raven	U	U	U		
<b>MARTINS, SWALLOWS</b>					
Bank Swallow	C	C	U		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O	O			
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>					
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
<b>CREEPERS</b>					
Brown Creeper	U	U	U	R	
<b>WRENS</b>					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Sedge Wren	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		R			
<b>KINGLETS</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
<b>THRUSHES</b>					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C		
Veery	U	U			
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	U		U		
American Robin	C	C	C		
<b>THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS</b>					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	C	C	C		
<b>STARLINGS</b>					
European Starling	O	O	O	O	
<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C		
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>					
House Sparrow	U	U	U		
<b>FINCHES</b>					
Red Crossbill				O	
Pine Siskin	U		U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C		
<b>LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS</b>					
Snow Bunting	U		O	U	
<b>TOWHEES, SPARROWS</b>					
Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U			
Lark Sparrow	C	C			
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
American Tree Sparrow	U		U		
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		
LeConte's Sparrow	O	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Nelson's Sparrow	R	R			
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Eastern Towhee	U	U	U		
<b>BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES</b>					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U		
Bobolink	U	U	U		
Western Meadowlark	U	U	U		
Baltimore Oriole	C	U	U		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C		
Brewer's Blackbird	U	U	U		
Common Grackle	U	U	U		
<b>WARBLERS</b>					
Ovenbird	U	U	U		
Northern Waterthrush	U		U		
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C		
Tennessee Warbler	U		U		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C		C		
Mourning Warbler	O		O		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	U	U	U		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	C		C		
Pine Warbler	U	U	U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
Canada Warbler	U	U	U		
Wilson's Warbler	C		C		
<b>TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS</b>					
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	U	U		
Indigo Bunting	U	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

## OLD MILL STATE PARK

