

Birding at Savannah Portage State Park

Savanna Portage State Park consists of over 15,000 acres of bogs, marshes, lakes, rivers and rolling hills. This northern park boasts a diversity of songbirds. Thirty species of neotropical warblers and vireos occur in the park, the vast majority of which remain to nest during June and July. Due to a high population of small mammals, the park also provides important habitat for owls. Great gray, great horned, barred, long-eared, short-eared and northern saw-whet owls occur in the park.

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					
Canada Goose	C	C	C		
Trumpeter Swan	U	U	U		
Tundra Swan	U		U		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	U	U	U		
Northern Shoveler	U		U		
Gadwall	U		U		
American Wigeon	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C		
American Black Duck	U		U		
Northern Pintail	U		U		
Green-winged Teal	C		C		
Canvasback	U		U		
Redhead	U		U		
Ring-necked Duck	C	C	C		
Greater Scaup	U		U		
Lesser Scaup	C		C		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Common Goldeneye	C	C	C		
Hooded Merganser	U	U	U		
Common Merganser	C		C		
Red-breasted Merganser	U		U		
Ruddy Duck	U		U		
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ruffed Grouse	U	U	U	U	
Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U	
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C		
Horned Grebe	U		U		
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Mourning Dove	C	C	C		
CUCKOOS					
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	C		C		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	O	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail	O	O	O		
Sora	C	C	U		
American Coot	U	U	U		
CRANES					
Sandhill Crane	U	U	U		
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	C		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	U	U		
American Woodcock	C	U	U		
Wilson's Snipe	C	C	C		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Solitary Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	C	C	C		
Greater Yellowlegs	U		U		
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	C		C		
Herring Gull	C		C		
Caspian Tern	U		U		
Black Tern	U	U	U		
LOONS					
Common Loon	C	C	C		
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	C		C		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	U		U		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Green Heron	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		
OSPREY					
Osprey	C	C	C		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Golden Eagle	R		R		
Northern Harrier	U	U	U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	C		C		
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		
Northern Goshawk	O	O	O	U	
Bald Eagle	C	C	C		
Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U		
Broad-winged Hawk	C	C	C		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C		
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	
TYPICAL OWLS					
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Great Gray Owl	R	R	O	O	
Long-eared Owl	O	O	O		
Short-eared Owl	O		O		
Boreal Owl				R	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	U	U	U	O	
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	O		O		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
Black-backed Woodpecker	O	R	O	O	
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	U		U		
Peregrine Falcon	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Alder Flycatcher	C	C	U		
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	C		C		
Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	U	U	U		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Gray Jay	U	U	U	U	
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	U	
Common Raven	C	C	C	C	
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow	U	U	U		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	U	U	U		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	C	C	C	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WRENS					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U	U	U		
Sedge Wren	C	C	C		
Marsh Wren	C	C	C		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	C	C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	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	C		
Wood Thrush	U	U	O		
American Robin	C	C	C		
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	
PIPITS					
American Pipit	U		U		
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak	U	U	U	U	
Pine Grosbeak	U		U	U	
House Finch	O	O	O		
Purple Finch	C		C	U	
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Hoary Redpoll				O	
Red Crossbill	U	U	U	U	
White-winged Crossbill	U		U	U	
Pine Siskin	C		C	C	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Lapland Longspur	U		U		
Snow Bunting	U		U	U	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Fox Sparrow	C		C		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U	
Dark-eyed Junco	C	U	C	O	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		
LeConte's Sparrow	U	U	U		
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U		
Eastern Meadowlark	O	O	O		
Western Meadowlark	O	O	O		
Orchard Oriole	O	O	O		
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U		
Rusty Blackbird	C		C		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		

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

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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m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

BIRD CHECKLIST

SAVANNAH PORTAGE STATE
PARK

