

Birding at Scenic State Park

The Fire Tower Trail, leading through this magnificent forest, has always been a sought-after area for birders. This is one of the few places in the state where one can see Spruce Grouse with relative ease. Ruffed Grouse, Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and the occasional Black-backed Woodpecker are other treats along the trail. Red Crossbills can be heard during any season. Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush greet the birder with their beautiful songs.

Scenic is a great place for warblers; 24 species are regularly recorded in the park during migration and during the breeding season. The rare Connecticut warbler is found in the park. Merlins nest near the cabin along Coon Lake. Loons are common on the lake.

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	U	U	U		
Trumpeter Swan	U	U	U		
Wood Duck	U	U	U		
Blue-winged Teal	U		U		
Mallard	U		U		
Ring-necked Duck	U	U	U		
Lesser Scaup	O		O		
Common Goldeneye	U		U		
Hooded Merganser	U	U	U		
Common Merganser	U	U	U		
Red-breasted Merganser	O				
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Spruce Grouse	U	U	U	U	
GREBES					
Horned Grebe	O		O		
Red-necked Grebe	O		O		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	U	O	U		
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	U	O	U		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Least Sandpiper			O		
American Woodcock	C	C	C		
Wilson's Snipe	U	U	U		
Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U		
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Ring-billed Gull	U	U	U		
Common Tern	O		O		
LOONS					
Common Loon	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant			R		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Great Blue Heron	U	U	U		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	U	C	U		
OSPREY					
Osprey	U	U	U		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	O		O		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U		
Northern Goshawk	O		O		
Bald Eagle	C	C	C	O	
Broad-winged Hawk	C	C	U		
Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U		
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	O	
TYPICAL OWLS					
Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	U	U	O	O	
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U		
WOODPECKERS					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
Black-backed Woodpecker	O	O	O	O	
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C		
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	
FALCONS					
American Kestrel	U	U	U		
Merlin	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Eastern Kingbird	O	O	O		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Eastern Wood-pewee	U	U	U		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
VIREOS					
Yellow-throated Vireo	O	O	O		
Blue-headed 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	C	
Common Raven	C	C	C	C	
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Tree Swallow	U	U	U		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	U	U	U		
Cliff Swallow	U	U	U		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Boreal Chickadee	U	U	U	U	
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	U	
White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U	U	U		
WRENS					
Winter Wren	U	U	U		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	O	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
THRUSHES					
Veery	C	C	U		
Swainson's Thrush	U	U	U		
Hermit Thrush	C	C	C		
American Robin	C	C	C		
WAXWINGS					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C		
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak	O		O	O	
Pine Grosbeak	U		U	U	
Purple Finch	C	O	C	U	
Common Redpoll	U		C	C	
Red Crossbill	U	U	U	U	
White-winged Crossbill	O	O	O	U	
Pine Siskin	U	O	U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C		
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
Dark-eyed Junco	C	U	C		
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Baltimore Oriole	O	O	O		
Red-winged Blackbird	U	U	U		
Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U			
Common Grackle	U	U	U		

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

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails,
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4039.
Phone: 651-259-5600.

The Minnesota DNR prohibits discrimination in its programs and services based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation or disability. Persons with disabilities may request reasonable modifications to access or participate in DNR programs and services by contacting the DNR ADA Title II Coordinator at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 651-259-5488. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4049; or Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C. Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

© 2019, State of Minnesota, DNR

