

## 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
<b>GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS</b>					
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				
<b>PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS</b>					
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Spruce Grouse	U	U	U	U	
<b>GREBES</b>					
Horned Grebe	O		O		
Red-necked Grebe	O		O		
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>					
Common Nighthawk	U	O	U		
<b>SWIFTS</b>					
Chimney Swift	U	O	U		
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>					
Least Sandpiper			O		
American Woodcock	C	C	C		
Wilson's Snipe	U	U	U		
Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U		
<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Ring-billed Gull	U	U	U		
Common Tern	O		O		
<b>LOONS</b>					
Common Loon	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>CORMORANTS</b>					
Double-crested Cormorant			R		
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS</b>					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Great Blue Heron	U	U	U		
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>					
Turkey Vulture	U	C	U		
<b>OSPREY</b>					
Osprey	U	U	U		
<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>					
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	
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>					
Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	U	U	O	O	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U		
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
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	
<b>FALCONS</b>					
American Kestrel	U	U	U		
Merlin	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
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		
<b>VIREOS</b>					
Yellow-throated Vireo	O	O	O		
Blue-headed Vireo	U	U	U		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
<b>JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS</b>					
Gray Jay	U	U	U	U	
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
Common Raven	C	C	C	C	
<b>MARTINS, SWALLOWS</b>					
Tree Swallow	U	U	U		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	U	U	U		
Cliff Swallow	U	U	U		
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Boreal Chickadee	U	U	U	U	
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	U	
White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	
<b>CREEPERS</b>					
Brown Creeper	U	U	U		
<b>WRENS</b>					
Winter Wren	U	U	U		
<b>KINGLETS</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	O	C		

**THRUSHES**

Veery	C		
Swainson's Thrush	U		
Hermit Thrush	C		
American Robin	C		

**WAXWINGS**

Cedar Waxwing	C		
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**FINCHES**

Evening Grosbeak		O	
Pine Grosbeak		U	
Purple Finch	O	U	
Common Redpoll		C	
Red Crossbill	U	U	
White-winged Crossbill	O	U	
Pine Siskin	O	U	
American Goldfinch	C		

**TOWHEES, SPARROWS**

Chipping Sparrow	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U		
Fox Sparrow			
Dark-eyed Junco	U		
White-crowned Sparrow			
White-throated Sparrow	C		
Song Sparrow	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow			
Swamp Sparrow	U		

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES**

Baltimore Oriole	O		
Red-winged Blackbird	U		
Brown-headed Cowbird	U		
Common Grackle	U		

**WARBLERS**

Ovenbird	C		
Northern Waterthrush	U		
Golden-winged Warbler	O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C		
Tennessee Warbler			
Orange-crowned Warbler			
Nashville Warbler	C		
Connecticut Warbler	U		
Mourning Warbler	C		
Common Yellowthroat	C		
American Redstart	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		
Northern Parula	C		
Magnolia Warbler	C		
Bay-breasted Warbler	O		
Blackburnian Warbler	U		
Yellow Warbler	U		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		
Blackpoll Warbler			
Palm Warbler	U		
Pine Warbler	U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		
Black-throated Green Warbler	C		
Canada Warbler	U		

**TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS**

Scarlet Tanager	O		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	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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**mn MINNESOTA**  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS  
**BIRD CHECKLIST**  
SCENIC STATE PARK

