

Birding at Split Rock Creek State Park

This park is a birding “island” in a sea of agriculture. Split Rock Lake is the only sizable lake in this area and attracts great numbers of waterfowl. The woodlands, which are also scarce in this area, are attractive to many migrant species such as sparrows, warblers and flycatchers. Upland sandpipers, western meadowlarks and numerous species of sparrow have been found nesting in the grassland and agricultural land to the south and west of the lake. The cattail marsh at the north end of the lake is a good place to view marsh wrens.

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					
Snow Goose	U		U		
Ross's Goose	O		O		
Greater White-fronted Goose	O				
Cackling Goose	U		U		
Canada Goose	C	C	C	O	
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Northern Shoveler	U		U		
Gadwall	U		U		
American Wigeon	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C		
Northern Pintail	U		U		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Canvasback	U		U		
Redhead	U		U		
Ring-necked Duck	U		U		
Lesser Scaup	U		U		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Common Goldeneye	U		U		
Hooded Merganser	U				
Common Merganser	U		U		
Red-breasted Merganser	U		U		
Ruddy Duck	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Gray Partridge	U	U	U	U	
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	U	U	U		
Horned Grebe	O		O		
Red-necked Grebe	O		O		
Eared Grebe	O		O		
Western Grebe	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Eurasian Collared Dove				R	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	O	O	O		
Black-billed Cuckoo	O	O	O		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	U		U		
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U		U		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail	U	U	U		
Sora	U	U	U		
American Coot	C	C	C		
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	C		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Upland Sandpiper	O	O			
Hudsonian Godwit	O				
Baird's Sandpiper	O		O		
Least Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U		
American Woodcock	O		O		
Wilson's Snipe	C		C		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Solitary Sandpiper	U	O	U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U		
Willet	O	O			
Greater Yellowlegs	U				

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	O		O		
Franklin's Gull	U		C		
Ring-billed Gull	C		C		
California Gull	R				
Black Tern	U		U		
Common Tern		R			
Forster's Tern	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LOONS					
Common Loon	R	R			

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	U		U		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	U		U		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O		O		
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	U	O	U		
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	O	O	O		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	U		U		
OSPREY					
Osprey	O		O		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	U		U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U		
Cooper's Hawk	U		U		
Bald Eagle	U		U		
Broad-winged Hawk	U		U		
Swainson's Hawk	U		U		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U	
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	
TYPICAL OWLS					
Eastern Screech Owl	O	O	O	O	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	U		U	U	
Short-eared Owl	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FALCONS					
American Kestrel	C	C	C	U	
Prairie Falcon			R		
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O		
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
SHRIKES					
Loggerhead Shrike	O		O		
Northern Shrike	O		O	O	
VIREOS					
Yellow-throated Vireo	O		O		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	O		O		
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	U	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
LARKS					
Horned Lark	C	U	C	U	
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow	U	U	U		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C		
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch			O		
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U		U	O	
WRENS					
Rock Wren	R				
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	O		O		
Sedge Wren	C	C	C		
Marsh Wren	U	U	U		
GNATCATCHERS					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C		
Veery	O		O		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	U		U		
Wood Thrush	O				
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
STARLINGS					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
WAXWINGS					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	U	U	U	U	
PIPITS					
American Pipit	U		C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FINCHES					
House Finch	U	U	U	U	
Purple Finch	U		U	U	
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Red Crossbill	O		O		
Pine Siskin	O		O	O	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C		
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Lapland Longspur	U		U		
Snow Bunting	C		C	C	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O	O		
Lark Sparrow	O	O	O		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	O	O	O		
Field Sparrow	U	U	U		
Fox Sparrow	C		C		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	C		C		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		
LeConte's Sparrow			U		
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	C	U	C		
Eastern Towhee	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U		
Bobolink	C	C	C		
Western Meadowlark	C	C	C		
Orchard Oriole	U	U			
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C		
Rusty Blackbird	C		C		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	U	U	U		
Northern Waterthrush	U		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	O		O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C		C		
Connecticut Warbler	O		O		
Mourning Warbler	U		U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	U	U	U		
Northern Parula	U		U		
Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O		
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		U		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	C		C		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		
Canada Warbler	U		U		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Scarlet Tanager	O	O	O		
Northern Cardinal	O	O	O	O	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		
Dickcissel	O	O			

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

SPLIT ROCK CREEK STATE PARK

