

Birding at Wild River State Park

Located along the wild and scenic St. Croix River, the park contains nearly 7,000 acres of diverse habitat. You'll find lowland forest along with oak woods, prairie openings, marsh, old farmland and stands of maple, basswood, aspen and white pine. This variety of habitat draws over 200 species of birds to the park.

Head to the river to see trumpeter swans or bald eagles. Visit in spring for the migration of warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers and sparrows.

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 | | |
| Canada Goose | C | C | C | U | |
| Trumpeter Swan | C | O | U | C | |
| Tundra Swan | U | | U | | |
| Wood Duck | C | C | C | | |
| Blue-winged Teal | C | C | C | | |
| Northern Shoveler | U | | U | | |
| American Wigeon | U | | U | | |
| Mallard | C | C | C | O | |
| Green-winged Teal | U | | U | | |
| Ring-necked Duck | U | | U | | |
| Lesser Scaup | U | | U | | |
| Bufflehead | U | | U | | |
| Common Goldeneye | U | | U | O | |
| Hooded Merganser | U | O | U | R | |
| Common Merganser | U | | U | | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | U | | U | | |
| PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS | | | | | |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | C | C | C | C | |
| Ruffed Grouse | C | C | C | C | |
| Wild Turkey | C | C | C | C | |
| GREBES | | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | U | U | U | | |
| PIGEONS AND DOVES | | | | | |
| Rock Pigeon | C | C | C | C | |
| Mourning Dove | C | C | C | O | |
| CUCKOOS | | | | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | U | U | O | | |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | U | U | U | | |
| NIGHTJARS | | | | | |
| Common Nighthawk | U | U | U | | |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | O | O | | | |
| SWIFTS | | | | | |
| Chimney Swift | C | C | C | | |
| HUMMINGBIRDS | | | | | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | C | U | C | | |

| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|---|----|---|---|---|------|
| RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS | | | | | |
| Sora | U | U | U | | |
| American Coot | U | U | U | | |
| CRANES | | | | | |
| Sandhill Crane | O | U | O | | |
| PLOVERS | | | | | |
| Killdeer | C | C | C | | |
| SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES | | | | | |
| Least Sandpiper | U | U | U | | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | U | | U | | |
| American Woodcock | U | U | U | | |
| Wilson's Snipe | U | U | U | O | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | C | C | C | | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | U | U | U | | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | U | U | U | | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | U | | U | | |
| GULLS, TERNS | | | | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | C | C | C | | |
| Herring Gull | U | O | U | | |
| Black Tern | U | U | U | | |
| Common Tern | O | R | O | | |
| Forster's Tern | U | | U | | |
| LOONS | | | | | |
| Common Loon | U | U | U | | |
| CORMORANTS | | | | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | U | U | U | | |
| PELICANS | | | | | |
| American White Pelican | U | U | U | | |
| BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS | | | | | |
| American Bittern | O | O | O | | |
| Great Blue Heron | C | C | C | | |
| Great Egret | U | U | U | | |
| Snowy Egret | R | | | | |
| Green Heron | U | U | U | | |
| Black-crowned Night-heron | U | U | U | | |
| NEW WORLD VULTURES | | | | | |
| Turkey Vulture | C | C | C | | |

| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| OSPREY | | | | | |
| Osprey | U | U | U | | |
| KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES | | | | | |
| Swallow-tailed Kite | | | R | | |
| Golden Eagle | | | O | O | |
| Northern Harrier | U | U | U | O | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | U | R | U | O | |
| Cooper's Hawk | U | U | U | O | |
| Northern Goshawk | O | | O | O | |
| Bald Eagle | C | U | C | U | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | U | U | U | U | |
| Broad-winged Hawk | C | U | U | | |
| Swainson's Hawk | O | | O | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | C | C | C | U | |
| Rough-legged Hawk | U | | U | U | |
| TYPICAL OWLS | | | | | |
| Eastern Screech Owl | U | U | U | U | |
| Great Horned Owl | U | U | U | U | |
| Snowy Owl | O | | O | O | |
| Barred Owl | U | U | U | U | |
| Great Gray Owl | | | | R | |
| Long-eared Owl | O | | O | O | |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | O | | O | O | |
| KINGFISHERS | | | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | C | C | C | | |
| WOODPECKERS | | | | | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | U | U | U | | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | C | C | C | C | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | C | U | C | | |
| 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 | U | |
| Merlin | U | | U | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | U | | U | | |

| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| FLYCATCHERS | | | | | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | C | C | C | | |
| Western Kingbird | O | O | O | | |
| Eastern Kingbird | C | C | C | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | O | O | O | | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | C | C | C | | |
| Alder Flycatcher | U | O | U | | |
| Willow Flycatcher | U | O | 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 | U | | U | | |
| Philadelphia Vireo | U | R | U | | |
| Warbling Vireo | C | C | C | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | C | C | C | | |
| JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS | | | | | |
| Blue Jay | C | C | C | C | |
| American Crow | C | C | C | C | |
| Common Raven | C | U | C | C | |
| LARKS | | | | | |
| Horned Lark | U | U | U | U | |
| MARTINS, SWALLOWS | | | | | |
| Purple Martin | U | U | U | | |
| Tree Swallow | C | C | C | | |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | C | C | C | | |
| Bank Swallow | C | C | C | | |
| Cliff Swallow | C | C | C | | |
| Barn Swallow | C | C | C | | |
| CHICKADEES, TITMICE | | | | | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | C | C | C | C | |
| Tufted Titmouse | R | R | R | | |
| NUTHATCHES | | | | | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | U | O | U | U | |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | C | C | C | C | |

| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|--------------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| CREEPERS | | | | | |
| Brown Creeper | U | O | U | O | |
| WRENS | | | | | |
| House Wren | C | C | C | | |
| Winter Wren | U | O | U | R | |
| Sedge Wren | C | C | U | | |
| Marsh Wren | U | U | U | | |
| GNATCATCHERS | | | | | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | U | U | U | | |
| KINGLETS | | | | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | C | O | C | O | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | C | R | C | | |
| THRUSHES | | | | | |
| Eastern Bluebird | C | C | C | | |
| Veery | U | U | | | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | U | | U | | |
| Swainson's Thrush | U | | U | | |
| Hermit Thrush | C | | C | | |
| Wood Thrush | U | U | U | | |
| American Robin | C | C | C | O | |
| THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS | | | | | |
| Gray Catbird | C | C | C | | |
| Brown Thrasher | C | C | C | | |
| STARLINGS | | | | | |
| European Starling | C | C | C | C | |
| WAXWINGS | | | | | |
| Bohemian Waxwing | O | | | O | |
| Cedar Waxwing | C | C | C | U | |
| OLD WORLD SPARROWS | | | | | |
| House Sparrow | C | C | C | C | |
| FINCHES | | | | | |
| Evening Grosbeak | | | O | O | |
| House Finch | O | O | O | O | |
| Purple Finch | C | R | C | C | |
| Common Redpoll | O | | O | U | |
| Hoary Redpoll | O | | | O | |
| Red Crossbill | | | O | O | |
| Pine Siskin | C | U | C | C | |

| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|---------------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| American Goldfinch | C | C | C | C | |
| LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS | | | | | |
| Snow Bunting | U | | U | U | |
| TOWHEES, SPARROWS | | | | | |
| Eastern Towhee | U | U | U | | |
| American Tree Sparrow | C | | C | C | |
| Chipping Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | U | U | U | | |
| Field Sparrow | U | U | U | | |
| Vesper Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| Lark Sparrow | U | U | | | |
| Savannah Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | U | U | O | | |
| Henslow's Sparrow | O | O | | | |
| Fox Sparrow | U | | U | | |
| Song Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | U | U | U | | |
| Swamp Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| White-throated Sparrow | C | | C | | |
| Harris's Sparrow | U | | U | | |
| White-crowned Sparrow | U | | U | | |
| Dark-eyed Junco | C | | C | C | |
| BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES | | | | | |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | U | U | U | | |
| Bobolink | C | C | C | | |
| Eastern Meadowlark | C | C | C | | |
| Western Meadowlark | C | C | C | | |
| Orchard Oriole | O | O | | | |
| Baltimore Oriole | C | C | C | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | C | C | C | | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | C | C | U | | |
| Rusty Blackbird | U | | U | R | |
| Brewer's Blackbird | C | U | U | | |
| Common Grackle | C | C | C | | |
| WARBLERS | | | | | |
| Ovenbird | C | C | C | | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | U | U | | | |
| Northern Waterthrush | U | U | U | | |

| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| Golden-winged Warbler | U | U | O | | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | U | U | O | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | C | U | C | | |
| Prothonotary Warbler | O | O | | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | C | | C | | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | U | | U | | |
| Nashville Warbler | C | U | C | | |
| Connecticut Warbler | U | | O | | |
| Mourning Warbler | U | | U | | |
| Common Yellowthroat | C | C | C | | |
| American Redstart | C | C | C | | |
| Cerulean Warbler | O | O | O | | |
| Northern Parula | U | | U | | |
| Magnolia Warbler | U | R | U | | |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | U | | U | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | U | | U | | |
| Yellow Warbler | C | C | C | | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | C | U | C | | |
| Blackpoll Warbler | U | | U | | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | O | | O | | |
| Palm Warbler | C | | C | | |
| Pine Warbler | U | O | U | | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | C | | C | | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | U | | U | | |
| Canada Warbler | U | | U | | |
| Wilson's Warbler | U | | U | | |
| TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS | | | | | |
| Scarlet Tanager | U | U | U | | |
| Northern Cardinal | C | C | C | C | |
| 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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m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

BIRD CHECKLIST

WILD RIVER STATE PARK

