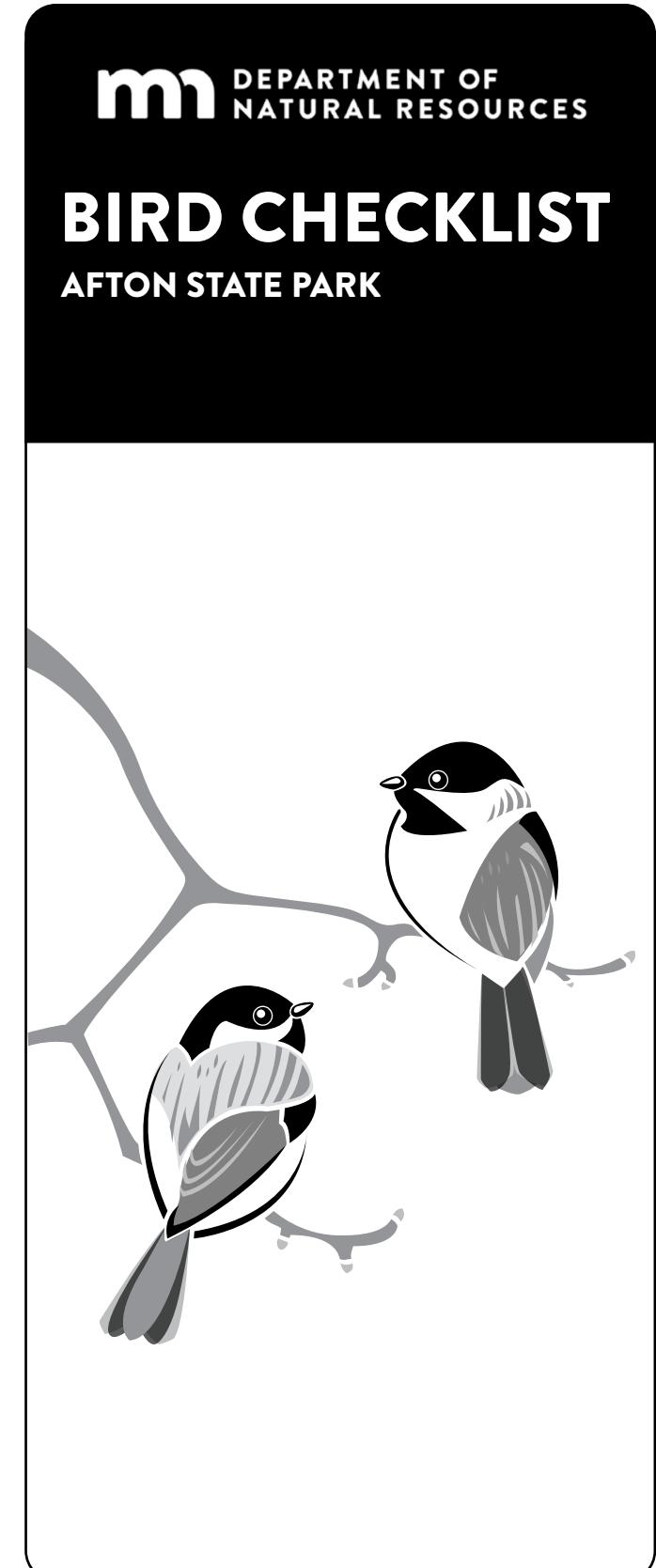


STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Tufted Titmouse	O	O	O		
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
<b>CREEPERS</b>					
Brown Creeper	U	O	U	O	
<b>WRENS</b>					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U		U		
Sedge Wren	C	C	U		
Marsh Wren	R	R			
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C		
<b>KINGLETS</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	U	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
<b>THRUSHES</b>					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O	
Townsend's Solitaire	R		O	O	
Veery	U	U	U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U	R	U		
Hermit Thrush	C		C	R	
Wood Thrush	U	U	U		
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
<b>THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS</b>					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C	C	
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
<b>STARLINGS</b>					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>FINCHES</b>					
Pine Grosbeak				O	
House Finch	C	C	C	C	
Purple Finch	U	U	U	O	
<b>COMMON REDPOLL</b>					
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Red Crossbill	O		O	O	
White-winged Crossbill				O	
Pine Siskin	C	C	U		
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	
<b>LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS</b>					
Snow Bunting			U	R	
<b>TOWHEES, SPARROWS</b>					
Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	O		
Lark Sparrow	O	U	R		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Field Sparrow	C	C	C		
Fox Sparrow	C		C		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C	
Dark-eyed Junco	C	C	C		
White-crowned Sparrow	U	R	U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C		
Henslow's Sparrow	U	U	O		
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C		
Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U		
Eastern Towhee	U	U	U		
<b>CHATS</b>					
Yellow-breasted Chat	R	R			
<b>BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES</b>					
Bobolink	C	C	C		
Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C		
Western Meadowlark	O	O			
Orchard Oriole	U	U			

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>BALTIMORE ORIOLE</b>					
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C		
Brewer's Blackbird	R	R	R		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		
<b>WARBLERS</b>					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Louisiana Waterthrush	O				
Northern Waterthrush	C		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	U		O		
Blue-winged Warbler	U	C	O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C	O	C		
Prothonotary Warbler	U	U	U		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C	R	C		
Connecticut Warbler	U		U		
Mourning Warbler	U	R	U		
Kentucky Warbler	O	O			
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
Hooded Warbler	O	O	O		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		U		
Cerulean Warbler	O	R	O		
Northern Parula	U		U		
Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U		
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	C	C		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	R		R		
Palm Warbler	C		C		
Pine Warbler	U	O	U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		
Canada Warbler	U	R	U		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS</b>					
Summer Tanager	O	O	R		
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Western Tanager	R				
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		
Dickcissel	O	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.

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](mailto: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.

© 2025, State of Minnesota, DNR

## Birding at Afton State Park

Head down the bike trail from the visitor center for a chance to observe birds along the edge between the forest and prairie. (J-I-H-E-D-AQ-AP on the U R Here map)

A hike from the visitor center to the swimming beach is another great opportunity to spot birds. Blue-gray gnatcatchers tend to hang out near the shelter building along this trail. In spring, check the beach area as the river ice breaks up and the open water attracts numerous waterfowl species. (P-R-AJ-AK-Q-O)

Explore the north prairie loop for large expanses of prairie and grassland. You may see bobolinks, Henslow's sparrows or other prairie/grassland species. (AA-AB-AD-AE-AG-AH)

### 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	R	O			
Greater White-fronted Goose	R				
Cackling Goose	R	O			
Canada Goose	C	C	U		
Trumpeter Swan	O	R	U		
Tundra Swan	O	O			
Wood Duck	U	U	U		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Northern Shoveler	O				
Gadwall	R				
American Wigeon	O				
Mallard	C	C	O		
American Black Duck		O			
Northern Pintail	R				
Green-winged Teal	R				
Canvasback	R				
Redhead	R				
Ring-necked Duck	O	U			
Greater Scaup	R				
Lesser Scaup	O	U			
Bufflehead	O	R	R		
Common Goldeneye	O	R	R		
Hooded Merganser	O		R		
Common Merganser	O	U	O		
Red-breasted Merganser	O				

#### 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	O	O			
-------------------	---	---	--	--	--

#### PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	

#### CUCKOOS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		

### STATE PARK BIRDS

	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
--	----	---	---	---	------

#### NIGHTJARS

Common Nighthawk	U	U	U		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	U	U	O		

#### SWIFTS

Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
---------------	---	---	---	--	--

#### HUMMINGBIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C		
---------------------------	---	---	---	--	--

#### RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS

Sora	O	R			
American Coot	O	R			

#### CRANES

Sandhill Crane	O	O	O		
----------------	---	---	---	--	--

#### PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover			U		
Killdeer	C	C	C		

#### SANDPIPERs AND ALLIES

American Woodcock	O	U	O		
Wilson's Snipe	R		R		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Solitary Sandpiper	O	O			
Lesser Yellowlegs	R				
Greater Yellowlegs			U		

#### GULLS, TERNS

Bonaparte's Gull			O		
Franklin's Gull			U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	O	C	R	
Herring Gull	C	O	C		
Caspian Tern	O	O			

#### LOONS

Common Loon	U	R			
-------------	---	---	--	--	--

#### CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant	U	O	U		
--------------------------	---	---	---	--	--

#### PELICANS

American White Pelican	U	O	O		
------------------------	---	---	---	--	--

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		

### STATE PARK BIRDS

	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
--	----	---	---	---	------

#### BITTERNs, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS

Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	U	O	U		
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	R				

#### NEW WORLD VULTURES