

## Birding at Afton State Park

Try heading 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 option to spot birds. Blue-gray gnatcatchers tend to hang out near the shelter building along this trail. Also, be sure to check the beach area during the spring ice break up on the river as the open water attracts many species and numbers of waterfowl. (P-R-AJ-AK-Q-O)

Exploring the north Prairie loop's large expanses of prairies and grassland offer nice opportunities to see Boblinks and Henslow's sparrows along with 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
<b>GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS</b>					
Snow Goose	R		O		
Greater White-fronted Goose	R				
Cackling Goose	R		O		
Canada Goose	C	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	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				
<b>PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS</b>					
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	
<b>GREBES</b>					
Pied-billed Grebe	O		O		
<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES</b>					
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	
<b>CUCKOOS</b>					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>					
Common Nighthawk	U	U	U		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	U	U	O		
<b>SWIFTS</b>					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C		
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS</b>					
Sora	O		R		
American Coot	O		R		
<b>CRANES</b>					
Sandhill Crane	O	O	O		
<b>PLOVERS</b>					
Black-bellied Plover			U		
Killdeer	C	C	C		
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>					
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		
<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>					
Bonaparte's Gull			O		
Franklin's Gull			U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	O	C	R	
Herring Gull	C	O	C		
Caspian Tern	O		O		
<b>LOONS</b>					
Common Loon	U		R		
<b>CORMORANTS</b>					
Double-crested Cormorant	U	O	U		
<b>PELICANS</b>					
American White Pelican	U	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS</b>					
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	U	O	U		
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	R				
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		
<b>OSPREY</b>					
Osprey	U	U	U		
<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>					
Golden Eagle	R		R		
White-tailed Kite	R				
Northern Harrier	U		U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U	
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	O	
Bald Eagle	U	U	U	O	
Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O	O		
Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C		
Swainson's Hawk	R		R		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	
Rough-legged Hawk	O		O	O	
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>					
Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Short-eared Owl			R	O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	O		O	R	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	U	C		
Black-backed Woodpecker				O	
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	R	
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>FALCONS</b>					
American Kestrel	C	C	C	U	
Merlin	U	O	U	R	
Peregrine Falcon	O	R	R		
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Western Kingbird	O	O			
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	O	U		
Eastern Wood-pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U		
Alder Flycatcher	U	O	U		
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
<b>SHRIKES</b>					
Northern Shrike	U		U	U	
<b>VIREOS</b>					
White-eyed Vireo	R				
Yellow-throated Vireo	C	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
<b>JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS</b>					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
Common Raven	R	R	R	R	
<b>LARKS</b>					
Horned Lark	U		U	O	
<b>MARTINS, SWALLOWS</b>					
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		

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	
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
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		
Conneticut 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.

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STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

# BIRD CHECKLIST

## AFTON STATE PARK

