

## Birding at Bear Head Lake State Park

Take a hike along the Taconite Trail near Eagles Nest Lake #3 for an especially good place to see boreal species include gray jay, ruffed grouse, black-backed woodpecker and hermit thrush. Winter wren abound along the trail and an even an occasional Connecticut warbler may be heard here.

Picnickers keep an eye out for bald eagle and merlin in the picnic areas. An evening visit to the park is also a great time to hear the calls of the common loon. Our state bird is regularly seen on Bear Head and Eagles Nest lakes.

### 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>					
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Mallard	U	U	U		
Ring-necked Duck	O	O	O		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Common Goldeneye	C		C		
Hooded Merganser	U	U	U		
Common Merganser	C	C	C		
<b>PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS</b>					
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Spruce Grouse	U	U	U	U	
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>					
American Woodcock	U	U	U		
Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Solitary Sandpiper	O				
<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>					
Ring-billed Gull	U	U	U		
Herring Gull	C	C	C		
<b>LOONS</b>					
Common Loon	C	C	C		
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS</b>					
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		
<b>OSPREY</b>					
Osprey	C	C	C		
<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>					
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	O	U		
Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O		
Bald Eagle	C	C	C	O	
Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U		
Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>					
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	C	C	C	C	
Great Gray Owl			O	O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	O	O	O		
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U		
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	O	O	O	O	
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		
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
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>SHRIKES</b>					
Northern Shrike			O	O	
<b>VIREOS</b>					
Blue-headed Vireo	U	U	U		
Philadelphia Vireo	O		O		
Warbling 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	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>MARTINS, SWALLOWS</b>					
Tree Swallow	O	O	O		
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Boreal Chickadee	O	O		O	
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
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	O	C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	O	C		
<b>THRUSHES</b>					
Veery	C	C	U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		O		
Swainson's Thrush	U	U	U		
Hermit Thrush	C	C	C		
Wood Thrush	O	O			
American Robin	C	C	C		
<b>THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS</b>					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C		
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>					
House Sparrow	O	O	O	O	
<b>FINCHES</b>					
Evening Grosbeak	O	O	O	O	
Pine Grosbeak			O	O	
Purple Finch	C	U	C	U	
Common Redpoll			O	O	
Red Crossbill	O	O	O	O	
White-winged Crossbill	O	O	O	O	
Pine Siskin	U	O	U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C		

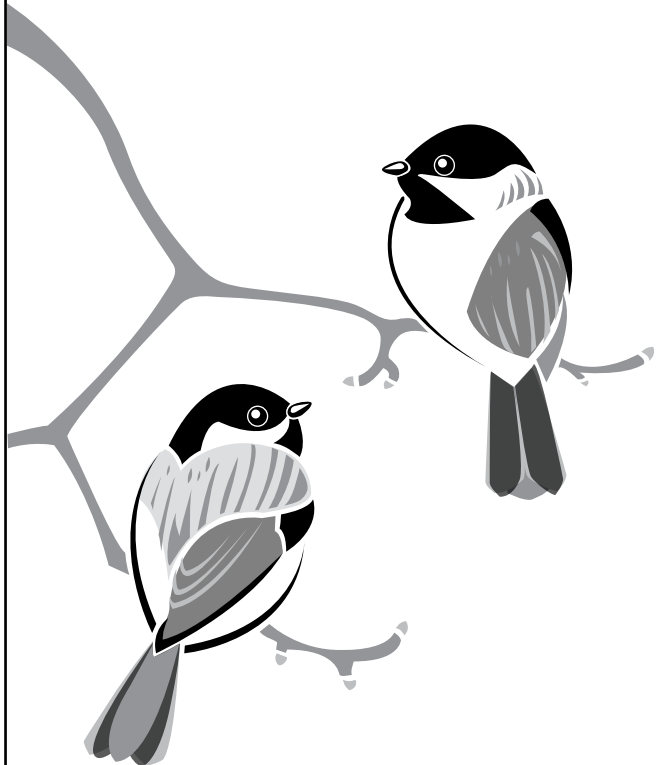
STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS</b>					
Snow Bunting			U		
<b>TOWHEES, SPARROWS</b>					
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	O	
Dark-eyed Junco	C	U	C		
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U		
<b>BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES</b>					
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U	U		
Common Grackle	U	U	U		
<b>WARBLERS</b>					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Northern Waterthrush	U	U	U		
Golden-winged Warbler	O	O	O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	C		
Tennessee Warbler	U		U		
Orange-crowned Warbler	O		O		
Nashville Warbler	U	U	U		
Conneticut Warbler	O	O			
Mourning Warbler	U	U	U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U	U	U		
Northern Parula	C	C	C		
Magnolia Warbler	C	C	C		
Bay-breasted Warbler	U	O	U		
Blackburnian Warbler	U	U	U		
Yellow Warbler	U	U	U		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	U	U		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	U		U		
Pine Warbler	C	C	C		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Black-throated Green Warbler	C	C	C		
Canada Warbler	U	U	U		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		
<b>TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS</b>					
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U		

**m MINNESOTA**  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

# BIRD CHECKLIST

## BEAR HEAD LAKE STATE PARK



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.

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