

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch					
O	O				
White-breasted Nuthatch					
C	C	C	C		
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper		U	U		
WRENS					
House Wren		C	C	C	
Winter Wren		O	O		
Sedge Wren		C	C	C	
Marsh Wren		U	U	U	
GNATCATCHERS					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		O	O		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet		C	C	O	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		C	C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird		C	C	C	
Mountain Bluebird		R			
Veery		U	U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush		O	O		
Swainson's Thrush		U	U		
Hermit Thrush		U	U		
Wood Thrush		U	U	U	
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	O
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow		C	C	C	C
FINCHES					
House Finch		U	U	U	U
Purple Finch		U	U	U	
Common Redpoll		O	O	O	
Pine Siskin		O	O	O	
American Goldfinch		C	C	C	U

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Lapland Longspur		U	U		
Snow Bunting		U	U	U	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Grasshopper Sparrow		U	U	O	
Lark Sparrow		O	O	O	
Chipping Sparrow		C	C	C	
Clay-colored Sparrow		C	C	C	
Field Sparrow		C	C	C	
Fox Sparrow		C		C	
American Tree Sparrow		C		C	
Dark-eyed Junco		C		C	U
White-crowned Sparrow		U		U	
Harris's Sparrow		U		U	
White-throated Sparrow		C		C	
Vesper Sparrow		C	C	C	
LeConte's Sparrow		O		O	
Savannah Sparrow		C	U	C	
Song Sparrow		C	C	C	
Lincoln's Sparrow		U		U	
Swamp Sparrow		C	C	C	
Eastern Towhee		U	O	U	
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird		C	C	C	
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	U	
Rusty Blackbird		C		C	
Brewer's Blackbird		C	U	U	
Common Grackle		C	C	C	O
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Scarlet Tanager		U	U	U	
Northern Cardinal		C	C	U	U
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		C	C	C	
Indigo Bunting		C	C	C	
Dickcissel		O	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird		C	O	C	
Northern Waterthrush		U		U	
Black-and-white Warbler		C		C	
T					

Birding at Big Stone Lake State Park

This park is made up of two units with over 1,000 acres extending along the eastern shore of Big Stone Lake. With over 200 species recorded in the park, it is a premier birdwatching location in Minnesota. It is also one of the best places in the state to spot orchard orioles. The Meadowbrook Unit has large areas of grasses and marsh, as well as savanna type woodlands. Look for a variety of sparrows and marsh birds. The lake itself is a splendid place to view waterfowl migration. The Bonanza Unit features large areas of grasslands on hillsides.

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					
Snow Goose	U	U			
Ross's Goose	O	O			
Greater White-fronted Goose	O	O			
Canada Goose	C	C	C	O	
Tundra Swan	U	U			
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C			
Northern Shoveler	U	C			
Gadwall	U	U			
American Wigeon	U	U			
Mallard	C	C			
American Black Duck	O	O			
Northern Pintail	U	U			
Green-winged Teal	U	U			
Canvasback	U	U			
Redhead	U	U			
Ring-necked Duck	C	C			
Greater Scaup	U	U			
Lesser Scaup	C	C			
White-winged Scoter	O				
Bufflehead	U	C			
Common Goldeneye	U	U			
Hooded Merganser	C	U	C		
Common Merganser	U	U			
Red-breasted Merganser	U	U			
Ruddy Duck	U	U			
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Gray Partridge	O	O	O	O	
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	
Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C		
Horned Grebe	U	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					
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk					
Common Nighthawk	U	O	U		
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift					
Chimney Swift	U	U	U		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail					
Virginia Rail	O	O	O		
Sora					
Sora	U	U	U		
American Coot					
American Coot	C	U	C		
CRANES					
Sandhill Crane					
Sandhill Crane	O	O			
PLOVERS					
American Golden-plover					
American Golden-plover	O	O			
Killdeer					
Killdeer	C	C	C		
SANDPIPER AND ALLIES					
Least Sandpiper					
Least Sandpiper	O	O	O		
Pectoral Sandpiper					
Pectoral Sandpiper	O	O	O		
Semipalmated Sandpiper					
Semipalmated Sandpiper	O	O			
American Woodcock					
American Woodcock	O	O			
Wilson's Snipe					
Wilson's Snipe	C	U	C		
Spotted Sandpiper					
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Solitary Sandpiper					
Solitary Sandpiper	O	O	O		
Lesser Yellowlegs					
Lesser Yellowlegs	O	O	O		
Greater Yellowlegs					
Greater Yellowlegs	O	O			
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Franklin's Gull					
Franklin's Gull	U	U	C		
Ring-billed Gull					
Ring-billed Gull	C	U	C		
Herring Gull					
Herring Gull	O	O	O		
Black Tern					
Black Tern	U	U	U		
Common Tern					
Common Tern	O	O			
Forster's Tern					
Forster's Tern	C	C	U		
LOONS					
Common Loon					
Common Loon	O	O			
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican					
American White Pelican	C	U	C		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern					
American Bittern	O	O			
Least Bittern					
Least Bittern	O	O			
Great Blue Heron					
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret					
Great Egret	U	U	U		
Cattle Egret					
Cattle Egret	O	O	O		
Green Heron					
Green Heron	C	C	C		
Black-crowned Night-heron					
Black-crowned Night-heron	O	O	O		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					