

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LARKS					
Horned Lark	U	U	U		
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow	C	C	C		
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		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Tufted Titmouse	R				
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	O	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U	O	U	O	
WRENS					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	O		O		
Sedge Wren	C	C	C		
Marsh Wren	U	U	U		
GNATCATCHERS					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	R	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C		
Mountain Bluebird	R				
Townsend's Solitaire			R		
Veery	U	U			
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson’s Thrush	C		C		
Hermit Thrush	C		C		
Wood Thrush	O	O			
American Robin	C	C	C	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	C	C	C		
Northern Mockingbird	R	R			
STARLINGS					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
WAXWINGS					
Bohemian Waxwing				O	
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	U	U	U	U	
PIPITS					
American Pipit	O		O		
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak				O	
Pine Grosbeak	R			R	
House Finch	U	U	U	U	
Purple Finch	U		U	O	
Common Redpoll	O			U	
Hoary Redpoll				O	
Red Crossbill				R	
White-winged Crossbill				R	
Pine Siskin	O		O	O	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Lapland Longspur	U		U	U	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	R				
Smith's Longspur			R		
Snow Bunting	U		U	U	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	O		
Lark Sparrow	U	U	U		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C		
Field Sparrow	U	U	U		
Fox Sparrow	U		U		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
White-crowned Sparrow	C		C		
Harris’s Sparrow	C		C		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U		
LeConte's Sparrow	U	U	U		
Henslow's Sparrow		R			
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln’s Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
Eastern Towhee	O	O	O		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U		
Bobolink	C	C	C		
Eastern Meadowlark	R	R			
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	U		U		
Brewer’s Blackbird	C	C	C		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Northern Waterthrush	U		U		
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C		
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C		C		
Connecticut Warbler	R				
Mourning Warbler	U		U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		U		
Northern Parula	O		O		
Magnolia Warbler	C		C		
Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U		


STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	O	O		
Blackpoll Warbler	U		U		
Palm Warbler	U		U		
Pine Warbler	O		O		
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	O		O	O	
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.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4039. Phone: 651-259-5600.

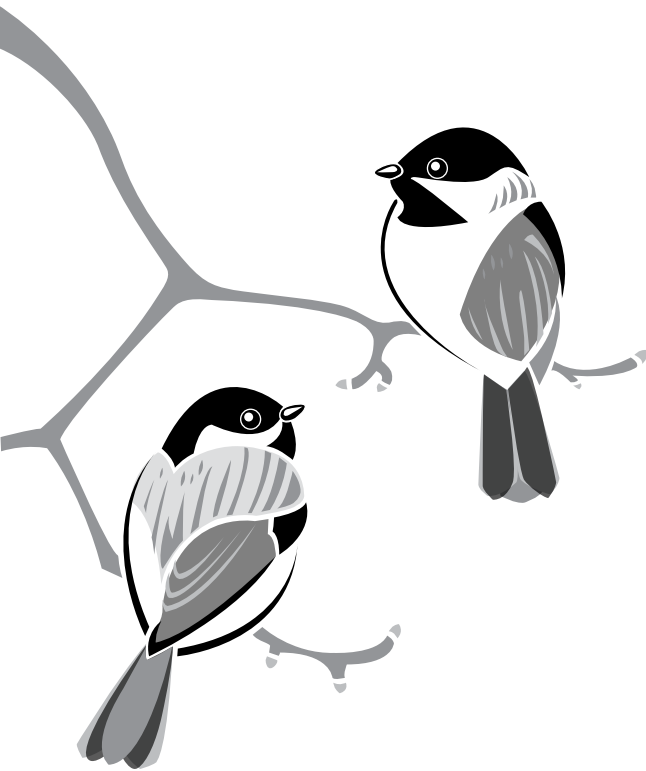
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BIRD CHECKLIST

BUFFALO RIVER STATE PARK



Birding at Buffalo River State Park

Buffalo River State Park, with the adjoining Bluestem Prairie Scientific and Natural Area and MSUM Regional Science Center, form one of the largest native prairie areas in Minnesota. It offers prime habitat for many prairie bird species. This is probably the only place in the state where one can drive a car up to a prairie chicken lek and watch the birds perform without getting out of the car. Clay-colored, grasshopper, savannah, and the secretive Henslow’s and LeConte’s sparrows are found on the prairie. Upland sandpipers, northern harriers and the occasional short-eared owl hunt over the grasslands. The grasslands on the south edge are a gathering place for thousands of Brewer’s blackbirds in the fall. The wooded areas, especially along the Buffalo River, are great for migratory warblers, vireos, sparrows, thrushes and flycatchers.

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	O		O		
Cackling Goose	O		O		
Canada Goose	C	C	C		
Trumpeter Swan	O	U	O		
Tundra Swan	O		O		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	U	U	U		
Northern Shoveler	U		U		
American Wigeon	O		O		
Mallard	C	C	C		
Northern Pintail	O		O		
Green-winged Teal	O		O		
Canvasback	O		O		
Redhead	O		O		
Ring-necked Duck	O		O		
Lesser Scaup	O		O		
Bufflehead	O		O		
Common Goldeneye	O		O		
Hooded Merganser	U	U	U		
Common Merganser	O		O		
Red-breasted Merganser	O		O		
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Gray Partridge	U	U	U	U	
Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U	
Ruffed Grouse	O	O	O	O	
Greater Prairie-Chicken	C	C	C	C	
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	O				
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Rock Pigeon	U	U	U		
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	R	
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	O	O	O		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	U		U		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	O				

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	U	U	U		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Yellow Rail	R				
Virginia Rail	U	U	U		
Sora	U	U	U		
American Coot	O	O	O		
CRANES					
Sandhill Crane	U	U	U		
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	U	U	U		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Upland Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Marbled Godwit	O	O			
Least Sandpiper	O		O		
Pectoral Sandpiper	O		O		
American Woodcock	U	U	U		
Wilson's Snipe	U	U	U		
Spotted Sandpiper	U	C	U		
Solitary Sandpiper	O		O		
Lesser Yellowlegs	O		O		
Greater Yellowlegs	O		O		
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Franklin's Gull	U	U	U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	U	C		
Herring Gull	O		O		
Black Tern	O		O		
Forster's Tern	O		O		
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	U	U	U		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Great Blue Heron	U	U	U		
Great Egret	O				
Green Heron	O	O			
Black-crowned Night-heron	O				
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	O	O	O		
OSPREY					
Osprey	O	O	O		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Golden Eagle				O	
Northern Harrier	U	U	U	O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O		
Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O		
Northern Goshawk			O	O	
Bald Eagle	U	U	U	U	
Red-shouldered Hawk	O	R	O		
Broad-winged Hawk	U	O	U		
Swainson's Hawk	O				
Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	O	
Rough-legged Hawk	O		O	O	
Ferruginous Hawk	R				
TYPICAL OWLS					
Eastern Screech Owl	O	O	O	O	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Snowy Owl				O	
Burrowing Owl	R				
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Long-eared Owl	O		O	R	
Short-eared Owl	O		O	O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	O		O	R	
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	O	R	R		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	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	U	U	U	O	
Merlin	O		O		
Prairie Falcon	R		R		
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Western Kingbird	O	O	O		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U		
Western Wood-Pewee		R			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O		
Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
SHRIKES					
Loggerhead Shrike	R	R			
Northern Shrike			O	O	
VIREOS					
White-eyed Vireo	R	R			
Yellow-throated Vireo	C	C	C		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	O		O		
Warbling Vireo	U	U	U		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Gray Jay			R		
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
Black-billed Magpie	O	O	O	O	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
Common Raven	U	U	U	U	