

Birding at Father Hennepin State Park

This park is located on the southeast shore of Mille Lacs Lake, making it a great place to view waterfowl and shorebirds. Each spring and fall the lake serves as a stopover for flocks of migrating ducks, geese and swans.

Hike to Pope Point to look for eagles, loons, osprey, or even rare common terns flying overhead. The island just off shore is one of the few places in Minnesota where the common tern nests. Trails that wind through hardwood forest are habitat for songbirds, woodpeckers and hawks. The wetland area near the park entrance also provides great birding opportunities.

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

PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U	
Ruffed Grouse	U	U	U	U	

GREBES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C		
Horned Grebe	C		C		
Red-necked Grebe	C	U	C		

PIGEONS AND DOVES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	O	O		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	C	C	C		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	O	O	O		
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail	U	U	U		
Sora	C	C	U		
American Coot	U	U	C		
CRANES					
Sandhill Crane	U	U	U		
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	C		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Least Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	U	U		
American Woodcock	U	U	U		
Wilson's Snipe	C	C	C		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		

GULLS, TERNS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Bonaparte's Gull	C		C		
Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C		
Herring Gull	C	U	C		
Caspian Tern	U	O	U		
Black Tern	U	U	U		
Common Tern	C	C	C		
Forster's Tern	U	U	U		

LOONS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Common Loon	C	C	C		

CORMORANTS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		

PELICANS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
American White Pelican	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Least Bittern	O	O			
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	U		U		
Green Heron	C	C	U		
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		
OSPREY					
Osprey	C	C	C		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	C	C	C		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	C		C		
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		
Northern Goshawk	O		O	O	
Bald Eagle	C	C	C		
Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U		
Broad-winged Hawk	C	C	C		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U	
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	

TYPICAL OWLS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Eastern Screech Owl	O	O	O	O	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Snowy Owl	O		O	O	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Long-eared Owl	O	O	O		
Short-eared Owl	O		O		
Northern Saw-whet Owl	U	U	U		

KINGFISHERS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		

WOODPECKERS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C		
Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FALCONS					
American Kestrel	C	C	C		
Merlin	O		O		
Peregrine Falcon	U		U		
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	O	U		
Eastern Wood-pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U		
Alder Flycatcher	C	C	U		
Willow Flycatcher	O	O	O		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		

SHRIKES	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Loggerhead Shrike	O	O	R		
Northern Shrike	U		U	U	

VIREOS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	U	U	U		
Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	U	U	U		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		

JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
Common Raven	U	U	U	U	

LARKS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Horned Lark	U	U	U	O	

MARTINS, SWALLOWS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Bank Swallow	C	C	C		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C		
Purple Martin	C	C	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	C	C	C		

CHICKADEES, TITMICE	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	C	C	C	O	
WRENS					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U	U	U		
Sedge Wren	C	C	C		
Marsh Wren	C	C	C		
GNATCATCHERS					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	O	O		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	C	C	U	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C		
Veery	U	U	U		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	C		C		
Wood Thrush	U	U	O		
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	C	C	C		
STARLINGS					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	
WAXWINGS					
Bohemian Waxwing	O		O	O	
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	U	U	U	U	
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak	U	U	U	U	
Pine Grosbeak	O		O	O	
House Finch	U	U	U	U	
Purple Finch	C	C	C	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Common Redpoll	O		O	O	
Hoary Redpoll	O		O	O	
Red Crossbill	O		O	O	
White-winged Crossbill	O			O	
Pine Siskin	C	U	C	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U	
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Snow Bunting	U		U	U	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O	O		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Field Sparrow	O	O	O		
Fox Sparrow	C		C		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		
Vesper Sparrow	O	O	O		
LeConte's Sparrow	U	U	U		
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
Eastern Towhee	U		U		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U		
Bobolink	U	U	U		
Eastern Meadowlark	U	U	U		
Western Meadowlark	O	O	O		
Orchard Oriole	O	O	O		
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	C	U		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Northern Waterthrush	U		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	U	U	U		
Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	C		
Tennessee Warbler	C	R	C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C	O	C		
Conneticut Warbler	O		O		
Mourning Warbler	C	C	U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
Hooded Warbler	R				
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	U		U		
Cerulean Warbler	O	O			
Northern Parula	U		U		
Magnolia Warbler	C	C	C		
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	O	R	O		
Palm Warbler	C		C		
Pine Warbler	U	U	U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	O	C		
Black-throated Green Warbler	U	U	U		
Canada Warbler	U	U	U		
Wilson's Warbler	C		C		
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Northern Cardinal	O	O	O	O	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		

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

FATHER HENNEPIN STATE PARK

