

Birding at Fort Snelling State Park

A visit to the lowland river habitats in this park provide outstanding spots for bird watching. Situated at the confluence of two major migration corridors, the park boasts excellent habitat for resident birds and passersby alike. The mixture of lake, marsh, shore and forest provide great habitat for flycatchers and swallows.

Take a trip over to Gun Club Lake, on the Dakota County side of the park, for a great area to view congregating American coots, diving ducks, great blue herons, great egrets and double-crested cormorants.

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		
Greater White-fronted Goose	R				
Canada Goose	C	C	C	O	
Trumpeter Swan	R		O		
Tundra Swan	O		O		
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	O	
American Black Duck	O		O	O	
Northern Pintail	U		U		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Canvasback	U		U		
Redhead	U	O	O		
Ring-necked Duck	U		U		
Greater Scaup	O		O		
Lesser Scaup	U		U		
Surf Scoter	R		R		
White-winged Scoter			R		
Long-tailed Duck	R		R		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Common Goldeneye	U		U		
Hooded Merganser	U		U		
Common Merganser	U		U		
Red-breasted Merganser	U		U		
Ruddy Duck	O	O	O		
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U	
Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U	
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C		
Horned Grebe	U		U		
Red-necked Grebe	U		U		
Eared Grebe	O		O		
Western Grebe	O				

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PIGEONS, DOVES					
Rock Pigeon		C	C	C	C
Mourning Dove		C	C	C	O
CUCKOOS					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U	U	U	
Black-billed Cuckoo		U	U	U	
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk		U	U	U	
Eastern Whip-poor-will		R		R	
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift		C	C	C	
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		C	U	C	
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
King Rail			R		
Virginia Rail		U	U	U	
Sora		U	U	U	
Common Moorhen		R	R	R	
American Coot		C	C	C	
PLOVERS					
Killdeer		C	C	C	
Semipalmated Plover		O		O	
Piping Plover		R		R	
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Whimbrel			R		
Ruddy Turnstone			R		
Stilt Sandpiper			O		
Sanderling			O		
Dunlin			O		
Least Sandpiper			O		
White-rumped Sandpiper			O		
Pectoral Sandpiper			O		
Semipalmated Sandpiper			O		
Short-billed Dowitcher		O	O	O	
Long-billed Dowitcher		O		O	
American Woodcock		O	R	U	
Wilson's Snipe		U	U	U	
Spotted Sandpiper		U	U	U	

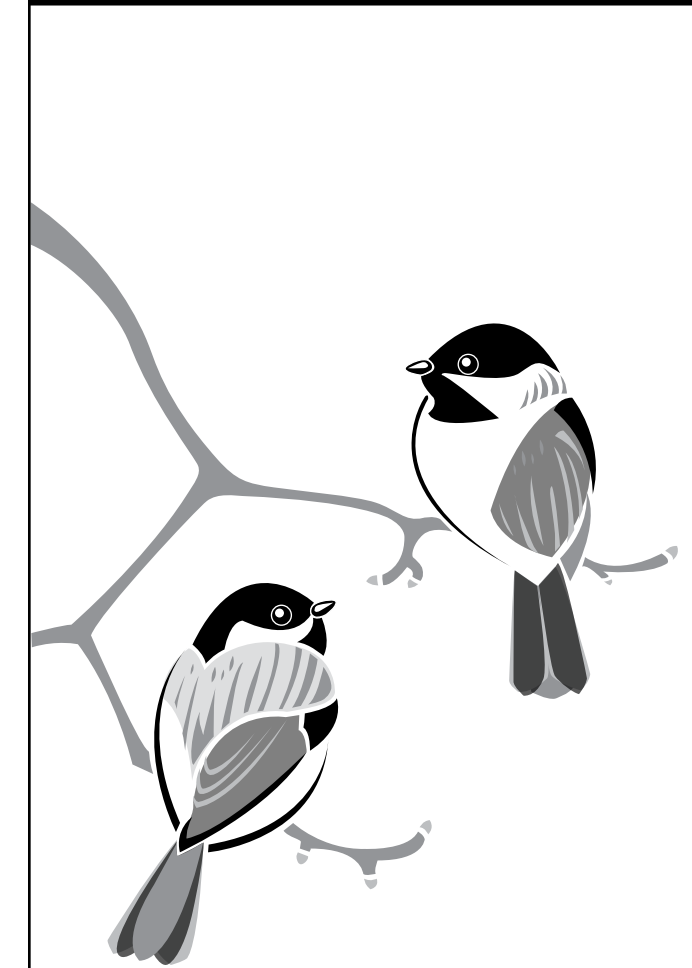
STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Solitary Sandpiper	O		O		
Lesser Yellowlegs	O	O	O		
Willet	O		O		
Greater Yellowlegs	O		O		
Wilson's Phalarope	O		O		
Red-necked Phalarope	O		O		
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Franklin's Gull	U		U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C		
Herring Gull	C		C		
Glaucous Gull	O		O		
Caspian Tern	U		U		
Black Tern	U	U	U		
Common Tern	O		O		
Forster's Tern	U	U	U		
LOONS					
Common Loon	O		O		
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	O		O		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Least Bittern	O	O	O		
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	C	C	C		
Little Blue Heron	R				
Cattle Egret	O	O	O		
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	U	U	U		
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	R				
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	U	U	U		
OSPREY					
Osprey	O	O	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	U		U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U		
Cooper's Hawk	U		U	U	
Northern Goshawk			O	O	
Bald Eagle	U	U	U	O	
Red-shouldered Hawk	O				
Broad-winged Hawk	U	O	U		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U	
TYPICAL OWLS					
Eastern Screech Owl	O	O	O	O	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Snowy Owl				R	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Long-eared Owl	O	R	O	O	
Short-eared Owl	O		O	R	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	R		R	R	
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	O	
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	O	O	O		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	U	U		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	U	C	O	
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	
FALCONS					
American Kestrel	U	U	U	U	
Merlin	O		O		
Peregrine Falcon	U	U	U		
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Eastern Wood-pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U		
Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	U	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
SHRIKES					
Loggerhead Shrike	O	R	O		
Northern Shrike	O		O	O	
VIREOS					
Bell's Vireo	R	R	R		
Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, CROWS, MAGPIES, RAVENS					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	
LARKS					
Horned Lark	O	O	O	U	
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Bank Swallow	C	C	C		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	U	U	U		
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Tufted Titmouse	R	R	R	R	
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	O	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U		U	U	

BIRD CHECKLIST

FORT SNELLING 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.

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WRENS			
House Wren		C	
Winter Wren			
Sedge Wren		U	
Marsh Wren		U	
GNATCATCHERS			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		U	
KINGLETS			
Golden-crowned Kinglet			U
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
THRUSHES			
Eastern Bluebird		U	O
Mountain Bluebird			
Veery		R	
Gray-cheeked Thrush			
Swainson's Thrush			
Hermit Thrush			
Wood Thrush		U	
American Robin		C	O
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS			
Gray Catbird		C	
Brown Thrasher		U	
STARLINGS			
European Starling		C	C
WAXWINGS			
Bohemian Waxwing			O
Cedar Waxwing		C	U
OLD WORLD SPARROWS			
House Sparrow		C	C
PIPITS			
American Pipit			
FINCHES			
Evening Grosbeak			
House Finch		C	C
Purple Finch			O
Common Redpoll			O
Pine Siskin			O
American Goldfinch		C	C

LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS			
Lapland Longspur			
Snow Bunting			O
TOWHEES, SPARROWS			
Grasshopper Sparrow		O	
Lark Sparrow		O	
Chipping Sparrow		C	
Clay-colored Sparrow		O	
Field Sparrow		O	
Fox Sparrow			
American Tree Sparrow			U
Dark-eyed Junco			C
White-crowned Sparrow			
Harris's Sparrow			
White-throated Sparrow			
Vesper Sparrow		O	
Savannah Sparrow		O	
Song Sparrow		C	
Lincoln's Sparrow			
Swamp Sparrow		C	
Eastern Towhee		U	
CHATS			
Yellow-breasted Chat		R	
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES			
Yellow-headed Blackbird		O	
Bobolink		O	
Eastern Meadowlark		O	
Western Meadowlark		O	
Orchard Oriole		O	
Baltimore Oriole		C	
Red-winged Blackbird		C	O
Brown-headed Cowbird		C	O
Rusty Blackbird			
Common Grackle		C	O

WARBLERS			
Ovenbird		O	
Louisiana Waterthrush			
Northern Waterthrush			
Golden-winged Warbler			
Blue-winged Warbler		R	
Black-and-white Warbler			
Prothonotary Warbler		O	
Tennessee Warbler		U	
Orange-crowned Warbler			
Nashville Warbler			
Conneticut Warbler			
Mourning Warbler			
Common Yellowthroat		C	
American Redstart		C	
Cape May Warbler			
Northern Parula			
Magnolia Warbler			
Bay-breasted Warbler			
Blackburnian Warbler			
Yellow Warbler		C	
Chestnut-sided Warbler			
Blackpoll Warbler			
Black-throated Blue Warbler			
Palm Warbler			
Pine Warbler			
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Yellow-throated Warbler			
Black-throated Green Warbler			
Canada Warbler			
Wilson's Warbler		U	
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS			
Scarlet Tanager		U	
Northern Cardinal		C	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		C	
Indigo Bunting		C	
Dickcissel		O	