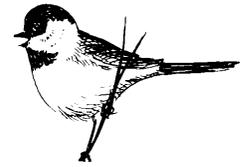


COMMON BIRDS of Gooseberry Falls State Park



Over 225 species visit or nest in the park. Some of these birds are commonly seen or heard year-round, while others are only commonly observed seasonally or during spring and fall migration.

- Black-capped Chickadee** (*black cap & bib, white cheeks, smaller than a sparrow, "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" voice)
- Pine Siskin** (*heavily streaked brown finch, some yellow on wings & tail base, pointed bill, social bird)
- American Goldfinch**
- Purple Finch**
- American Crow**
- Downy Woodpecker**
- Ruffed Grouse**
- Herring Gull** (*red spot on bill, pink legs, black wing tips with white spots)
- Eastern Phoebe**
- Red-eyed Vireo**
- Veery**
- Cedar Waxwing**
- Song Sparrow**
- Common Yellowthroat**



Other birds include (partial list):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk <input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk <input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard <input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye <input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser <input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper <input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker <input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher <input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Raven <input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet <input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart (warbler) <input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird (warbler) <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler <input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow <input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow <input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
|--|--|



Bird Identification Tips

When you see a bird make at least 3 observations, * such as:

- 📍 Location:** where exactly did you see the bird (*water, forest, field, feeder, tree top, tree trunk, lower branch, on the ground, roadside, trail side, shoreline, etc.*)
- 📏 Body size:** compare to a known bird (*smaller than a ... bigger than a ... plump like a ... slender like a ...*)
- 🎨 Colors & markings:** on wings, tail, back, belly, rump, head (*stripe above, through, or below eye, eye ring, etc.*)
- 👁 Other:** shape, length & color of tail, legs, bill (*long, short, thick, thin, curved, straight*)
sounds or movements (*travel alone or in groups, in-flight wing position--soaring, flapping, flap & glide, etc.*)

Parts of a Bird



*Jot down observation notes as soon as possible to help in identification.



Birds along the North Shore:

Area Specialties



E. Grosbeak

Raptors - The North Shore is one of the best places in North America to observe the fall raptor migration. Hawks, eagles, and falcons are concentrated here by the Lake, and on a good day (northwest winds) in September or October, it is possible to see thousands. Species include *Osprey*, *Bald Eagle*, *Northern Harrier*, *Sharp-shinned Hawk*, *Cooper's Hawk*, *Northern Goshawk*, *Broad-winged Hawk*, *Red-tailed Hawk*, *Golden Eagle*, *American Kestrel*, *Merlin*, and *Peregrine Falcon*.

Loons - Loons do not nest on Lake Superior, but the Big Lake is still a great place to find them. *Common loons* are common in spring and fall migration, as well as in mid-to-late summer, when adults who did not breed come out to the lake to fish. *Red-throated Loons* and *Pacific Loons* are rare migrants in the spring and fall.

Shorebirds - Over 20 kinds of shorebirds are seen along the North Shore. Shorebirds are sandpipers, plovers, and other wading birds. At Gooseberry, look near the mouth of the river, on the gravel bar, or on the Picnic Flow. The best times to look are in April and May, and again in August and September. However, *Killdeers* and *Spotted Sandpipers* are around all summer, and birds migrating south can turn up as early as late June.

Herring Gulls - The most easily-seen bird at Gooseberry, *Herring Gulls* are big, gray-backed gulls with pink legs. They nest on the cliff by the mouth of the river, and they are present year-round, but are not common in winter. Sometimes other gulls stop here when they see the flock of *Herring Gulls*. *Ring-billed Gulls*, which nest in Duluth, sometimes visit here in summer. In winter, northern gulls, such as *Glaucous Gulls*, *Thayer's Gulls*, and *Iceland Gulls* sometimes make brief appearances. *Great Black-backed Gulls* show up on rare occasions, but their range is expanding from the east, so eventually they may be regular residents on the North Shore.

Wood Warblers - Over 25 kinds of wood warblers can be seen in migration at Gooseberry, and almost 20 kinds nest here. Most eat only insects and are only here during the time that insects are abundant (late May through early September).

Winter Ducks - From late October into January, Lake Superior hosts several kinds of ducks that nest in the far north and are seen more often on the oceans. *Harlequin Ducks*, *Long-tailed Ducks* (formerly called Oldsquaws), *White-winged Scoters*, *Black Scoters*, and *Surf Scoters* are all seen almost every year along the North Shore.

Ruffed Grouse - These birds (sometimes called partridge) are very common in the forests of Gooseberry Falls. They are well-camouflaged and often sit still until you are almost upon them, when they fly in a loud blur of flapping wings. In the spring, the males "drum" (actually, flap their wings) as they perch on a downed log, trying to attract a mate. The sound they make has been described as similar to a "two-cycle engine starting up;" it's a sound you feel before you even hear it.

Common Raven - Ravens are present year-round in Northeastern Minnesota. They can be distinguished from *American Crows* by their massive bills; long, stretched-out wings; and by their tails, which come to a V (like the V in raven) behind them.



Crow

Raven

North Shore **Birding Year** Highlights

The first **spring** migrants arrive in early April with the "big push" of migration in late May, when over 150 species may be present in the park at once.

Summer nesting specialties along the North Shore include Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, many wood warblers, and more.

During **fall** look for the Common Nighthawk migration in late August, when thousands can fill the sky on warm evenings; the flood of songbirds heading south in early September; the peak of raptor migration in September and October, when the North Shore is one of the best places in North America to see migrating hawks; and the Arctic birds beginning to arrive in late October.

In **winter**, northern owls and winter finches such as redpolls, crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, and Evening Grosbeaks sometimes visit from Canada.