

Birding at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Encompassing 4,000 acres of state park are forest, lakeshore and wetland. These diverse habitats provide a great variety of birding opportunities.

The shoreline of Lake Vermilion is especially good for migrant warblers, vireos, flycatchers and thrushes. Lake Vermilion is also an excellent place to observe common loon, bald eagle, osprey and herring gull. The Swedetown Trail passes near ponds which harbor a number of duck species and a few species of shorebirds during migration periods. The Miner's Trail is a good place to see ruffed grouse and evening grosbeak. The Crosscut Trail passes a number of wetlands which provide resting spots for tundra swan and other waterfowl.

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 or 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					
Canada Goose	C	C	C		
Trumpeter Swan	U		U		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
American Wigeon	U		U		
American Black Duck	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Northern Shoveler	U	U	U		
Northern Pintail	O		O		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Redhead	O		O		
Ring-necked Duck	U	U	U		
Greater Scaup	O		O		
Lesser Scaup	U		U		
Bufflehead	U		U		
Common Goldeneye	C	C	C		
Hooded Merganser	C	C	C		
Common Merganser	O	U	O		
Red-breasted Merganser	O		O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ruffed Grouse	U	U	U	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	U	
Mourning Dove	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawks	O		U		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	U	U	O		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail		U			

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SANDPIPERS					
Least Sandpiper	U		U		
Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C		
Solitary Sandpiper	U		U		
Greater Yellowlegs	U	U	U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U		U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C		
Herring Gull	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
LOONS					
Common Loon	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
Great Blue Heron	U	U	U		
Green Heron	U	O	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
OSPREY					
Osprey	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KITES, ACCIPETERS, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Bald Eagle	U	U	U		
Northern Harrier	U	U	U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U		
Northern Goshawk	O		O	O	
Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U		
Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SCREECH-OWLS, OWLS					
Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O	
Barred Owl	O	O	O	O	
Great Gray Owl			O	O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	O	O	O	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
WOODPECKERS					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CARACARAS, FALCONS					
American Kestrel	U	U	U		
Merlin	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FLYCATCHERS					
Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O		
Eastern Wood-pewee	U	C	U		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O	O	O		
Alder Flycatcher	O	U	O		
Least Flycatcher	U	C	U		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SHRIKES					
Northern Shrike			O	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
VIdeos					
Yellow-throated Vireo	O	R	O		
Blue-headed Vireo	U	U	U		
Philadelphia Vireo	U	O	U		
Warbling Vireo	O	O	O		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
JAYS, NUTCRACKERS, MAGPIES, CROWS					
Canada Jay	O	O	O	O	
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	U	
Common Raven	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		
Cliff Swallow	U	U	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Boreal Chickadee	O		O	O	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U	U	U	O	
WRENS					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U	U	U		
Sedge Wren	U	U	U		
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U		
Veery	C	C	C		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		O		
Swainson's Thrush	U	C	C		
Hermit Thrush	U	U	U		
American Robin	C	C	C		
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
STARLINGS					
European Starling	C	C	C	O	
WAXWINGS					
Bohemian Waxwing			O	O	
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	O	
PIPITS					
American Pipit			O		
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak	U	O	U	U	
Pine Grosbeak			O	O	
House Finch	U	U	U		
Purple Finch	C	U	C	U	
Red Crossbill	O	O	O		
Common Redpoll				O	
Pine Siskin	U	O	U		
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
SNOWBUNTINGS, LONGSPURS					
Lapland Longspur	U		U		
Snow Bunting			U	U	
WARBLERS					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Northern Waterthrush	U	U	U		
Golden-winged Warbler		U			
Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	C		
Tennessee Warbler	U		U		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C	C	C		
Mourning Warbler	U	U	U		
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	O		O		
Northern Parula	U	U	U		
Magnolia Warbler	U	C	U		
Blackburnian Warbler	U	C	U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	U	U		
Blackpoll Warbler	O		U		
Palm Warbler	U		U		
Pine Warbler	U	C	U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	U	C		
Black-throated Green Warbler	U	C	U		
Canada Warbler	U	U	U		
Wilson's Warbler	O		U		
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	O	
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	O	U		
Vesper Sparrow	O		O		
Savannah Sparrow	U		U		
Fox Sparrow	C		C		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Harris's Sparrow	O		U		
Dark-eyed Junco	C	O	C	O	
TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Indigo Bunting	O	O	O		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Bobolink	O		O		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Rusty Blackbird	U		U		
Common Grackle	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	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

LAKE VERMILION-SUDAN
UNDERGROUND MINE
STATE PARK

