

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 variey 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 - Occassional (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 | | |
| Blue-winged Teal | C | C | C | | |
| Northern Shoveler | U | U | U | | |
| American Wigeon | U | | U | | |
| Mallard | C | C | C | | |
| American Black Duck | 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 | | |
| PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS | | | | | |
| Ruffed Grouse | U | U | U | U | |
| GREBES | | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | U | U | U | | |
| PIGEONS, DOVES | | | | | |
| Rock Pigeon | O | O | O | U | |
| Mourning Dove | U | U | U | | |
| NIGHTJARS | | | | | |
| Common Nighthawks | O | | U | | |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | U | U | O | | |
| HUMMINGBIRDS | | | | | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | U | U | U | | |
| RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS | | | | | |
| Virginia Rail | | U | | | |
| PLOVERS | | | | | |
| Killdeer | C | C | C | | |

| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|--|----|---|---|---|------|
| SANDPIPERS, AND ALLIES | | | | | |
| Least Sandpiper | U | | U | | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | U | | U | | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | C | C | C | | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | U | | U | | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | U | U | U | | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | U | U | U | | |
| GULLS, TERNS | | | | | |
| Bonaparte’s Gull | U | | U | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | C | C | C | | |
| Herring Gull | C | C | C | | |
| LOONS | | | | | |
| Common Loon | C | C | C | | |
| CORMORANTS | | | | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | U | U | U | | |
| BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS | | | | | |
| Great Blue Heron | U | U | U | | |
| Green Heron | U | O | U | | |
| NEW WORLD VULTURES | | | | | |
| Turkey Vulture | C | C | C | | |
| OSPREY | | | | | |
| Osprey | U | U | U | | |
| KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES | | | | | |
| Northern Harrier | U | U | U | | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | U | U | U | | |
| Northern Goshawk | O | | O | O | |
| Bald Eagle | U | U | U | | |
| Broad-winged Hawk | U | U | U | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | U | U | U | | |
| TYPICAL 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 | |
| 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 | |
| FALCONS | | | | | |
| American Kestrel | U | U | U | | |
| Merlin | U | U | U | | |
| FLYCATCHERS | | | | | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | U | U | U | | |
| 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 | | |
| SHRIKES | | | | | |
| Northern Shrike | | | O | O | |
| VIREOS | | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| JAYS, CROWS, MAGPIES, RAVENS | | | | | |
| Canada Jay | O | O | O | O | |
| Blue Jay | C | C | C | C | |
| American Crow | C | C | C | U | |
| Common Raven | C | C | C | C | |
| MARTINS, SWALLOWS | | | | | |
| Tree Swallow | C | C | C | | |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | U | U | U | | |
| Barn Swallow | C | C | C | | |
| Cliff Swallow | U | U | U | | |
| 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 | |
| Common Redpoll | | | | O | |
| Red Crossbill | O | O | O | | |
| Pine Siskin | U | O | U | | |
| American Goldfinch | C | C | C | U | |

| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|---------------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS | | | | | |
| Lapland Longspur | U | | U | | |
| Snow Bunting | | | U | U | |
| TOWHEES, SPARROWS | | | | | |
| Chipping Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | U | O | U | | |
| Fox Sparrow | C | | C | | |
| American Tree Sparrow | C | | C | O | |
| Dark-eyed Junco | C | O | C | O | |
| Harris’s Sparrow | O | | U | | |
| White-throated Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| Vesper Sparrow | O | | O | | |
| Savannah Sparrow | U | | U | | |
| Song Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| Lincoln’s Sparrow | U | | U | | |
| Swamp Sparrow | C | C | C | | |
| BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES | | | | | |
| Bobolink | O | | O | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | C | C | C | | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | C | C | C | | |
| Rusty Blackbird | U | | U | | |
| Common Grackle | C | C | C | | |
| 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 | | |


| STATE PARK BIRDS | Sp | S | F | W | DATE |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| 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 | | |
| TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS | | | | | |
| Scarlet Tanager | U | U | U | | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | C | C | C | | |
| Indigo Bunting | O | 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.

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BIRD CHECKLIST

LAKE VERMILION-SUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK

