

Birding at Lake Bemidji State Park

The park's diverse habitat includes lakeshore, wetlands and woodlands that make it a great birding destination year-round.

Look for loons, mergansers, grebes, swans, geese, and ducks along the lakeshore of Lake Bemidji. Walk the quarter-mile bog boardwalk that winds through a boreal bog to Big Bog Lake and search for vireos, woodpeckers, warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, and the occasional common loon or trumpeter swan. A favorite is to view the bald eagle nest in the park from the Paul Bunyan State Trail.

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		
Cackling Goose	U		U		
Canada Goose	C	C	C	U	
Trumpeter Swan	O	U	O		
Tundra Swan	U		U	O	
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	O	U		
Northern Shoveler	U		U		
Gadwall	U	O	U	R	
American Wigeon	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C	O	
American Black Duck	U	O	U		
Northern Pintail			U		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Canvasback	O		O		
Redhead	O		O		
Ring-necked Duck	C	U	C	O	
Greater Scaup	U		U	O	
Lesser Scaup	U	R	U	O	
White-winged Scoter			O	O	
Bufflehead	C	O	C	O	
Common Goldeneye	C	U	C	O	
Hooded Merganser	C	C	C	O	
Common Merganser	C	C	C	O	
Red-breasted Merganser	U		U		
PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS					
Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	
Wild Turkey			O		
GREBES					
Pied-billed Grebe	U	O	U	R	
Horned Grebe	U		C		
Red-necked Grebe	U	O	U		
Western Grebe			O		
PIGEONS AND DOVES					
Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O	
Mourning Dove	U	U	U		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CUCKOOS					
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk	C	U	C		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	U				
SWIFTS					
Chimney Swift	U	U	U		
HUMMINGBIRDS					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS					
Virginia Rail	U	U	U		
Sora	C	C	U		
American Coot	U	U	U		
CRANES					
Sandhill Crane	O		O		
PLOVERS					
Killdeer	C	C	U		
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES					
Dunlin	O		O		
Least Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U		
American Woodcock	U	U	U		
Wilson's Snipe	U	U	U		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	U	U		
Solitary Sandpiper	U		U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	U		U		
Greater Yellowlegs	U		U		
GULLS, TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull	U	O	C		
Franklin's Gull	U	R	U		
Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C		
Herring Gull	U	U	U		
Caspian Tern	U	O	U		
Black Tern	U	U	O		
Common Tern	O				
Forster's Tern	U	O	U		
LOONS					
Common Loon	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CORMORANTS					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	O	C		
PELICANS					
American White Pelican	O	O	O		
BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS					
American Bittern	O	O	O		
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret			O		
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	O				
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture	U	U	U		
OSPREY					
Osprey	C	C	C		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES					
Northern Harrier	U		U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U		
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		
Northern Goshawk	O		O	O	
Bald Eagle	C	C	U	O	
Red-shouldered Hawk	R				
Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	U	U		
Rough-legged Hawk	O		U		
TYPICAL OWLS					
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Great Gray Owl				O	
Boreal Owl				O	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	U	U	U	O	
KINGFISHERS					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker	O		O		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	U	U	O	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C		
Black-backed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	U	
Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
FALCONS					
American Kestrel	U	U	U		
Merlin	U	U	U		
Peregrine Falcon	O		O		
FLYCATCHERS					
Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Eastern Wood-pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O	O	O		
Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		
SHRIKES					
Northern Shrike	U		U	U	
VIREOS					
Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	C	U	U		
Philadelphia Vireo	O		O		
Warbling Vireo	U	U	U		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		
JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
Black-billed Magpie			O	O	
American Crow	C	C	C	O	
Common Raven	U	U	U	C	
LARKS					
Horned Lark	O		O	O	
MARTINS, SWALLOWS					
Purple Martin	U	U	U		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	U		
Bank Swallow	C	C			
Cliff Swallow	C	C	U		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
CHICKADEES, TITMICE					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
NUTHATCHES					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
CREEPERS					
Brown Creeper	U	U	U	O	
WRENS					
House Wren	U	U	U		
Winter Wren	U	O	U		
Sedge Wren	U	U	U		
Marsh Wren	R	O			
KINGLETS					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	O	U	O	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	U	C		
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U		
Townsend's Solitaire			R		
Veery	U	U	O		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	C	C	C		
Wood Thrush	R	O	R		
American Robin	C	C	C	O	
THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS					
Gray Catbird	C	C	U		
Brown Thrasher	U	U	U		
STARLINGS					
European Starling	U	U	U	U	
WAXWINGS					
Bohemian Waxwing	O		O	O	
Cedar Waxwing	C	U	C	O	
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow	U	U	U	U	

STATE PARK BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
FINCHES					
Evening Grosbeak	U	O	U	U	
Pine Grosbeak	O		O	U	
Purple Finch	C	U	C	U	
Common Redpoll	U		C	C	
Hoary Redpoll				O	
Red Crossbill	U	O	U	U	
White-winged Crossbill	U		U	U	
Pine Siskin	U	U	U	U	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U	
LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS					
Lapland Longspur			U		
Snow Bunting			U	U	
TOWHEES, SPARROWS					
Eastern Towhee	U	U	U		
American Tree Sparrow	U		C	U	
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	U		
Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U		
Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U		
Savannah Sparrow	U	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	U	C		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Dark-eyed Junco	C	R	C		
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES					
Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	O	U		
Bobolink	U	U	U		
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	U		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U		
Rusty Blackbird	U		U		
Brewer's Blackbird	U	U	U		
Common Grackle	U	U	U		

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

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 BEMIDJI STATE PARK

