

# Friends of the Mississippi River

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*Working to protect the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area*

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## Birds of the Mississippi River Gorge Area<sup>1</sup>

Dave Zumeta

### Abundance, Season, and Breeding Status Codes

*Abundance codes* are defined as follows:

- C = Common – usually present, relatively easy to find
- U = Uncommon – usually present, but may be difficult to find
- O = Occasional - observed four or more times, but not usually present
- R = Rare - observed one to three times

The *seasons* in the list are defined as follows:

- p = permanent resident
- s = summer resident or visitor (June - July)
- w = winter resident or visitor (December - February)
- m = spring and/or fall migrant (March - May and/or August - November)

The *breeding status* of the bird species in the list is defined as follows:

- \* = breeding confirmed (nest found, or adults seen feeding young) (40 species)
- + = breeding likely (adult pair or one or more singing males present through June or later at least once since 1995) (17 species)

**Note:** Status refers to **the Mississippi River gorge area only**. This list includes 180 species of birds, of which 57 are confirmed or likely breeding species. A number of species listed exclusively as migrants or as occurring in summer breed in adjacent or nearby areas but are not known to breed in the gorge area. Species in this category are noted.

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<sup>1</sup> The geographic area covered by this list includes the surface waters of the Mississippi River and adjacent park land **on the west side of the river only** from the Army Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam #1 immediately south of the Ford Bridge north to the Soo Line Railroad bridge near 26th Street. The first row of houses and yards on the west side of Seabury Avenue and Edmund Avenue are included in the list area, as are the disjunct oval park located between 34th and 35th Streets and the residential neighborhood between 46th Avenue South on the west, 32nd Street on the north, and 36th Street on the south. The Becketwood grounds west to 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue South are also included. This list was compiled from observations made by Dave Zumeta between May, 1988 and May, 2018. A number of supplemental observations made by Cole Bauer, Joan Galli, Craig Larson, Lee Pfannmuller, Karl Roe, Julian Sellers, Gregg Severson, and the late Bud Tordoff are gratefully acknowledged.

Mississippi Gorge Bird List                      Dave Zumeta                      Page 1 of 5

<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>
Ross's Goose	R m (March 8-9, 2016; photographs by Gregg Severson)
Canada Goose	C p* (bred 2015)
Tundra Swan	U m
Wood Duck	U m, s* (bred 2010)
American Black Duck	R m (March 2008))
Mallard	C p* (bred 2015)
Blue-winged Teal	U m (previously s+, but not seen in s in past 20+ years)
Northern Shoveler	R m (April 2008)
Green-winged Teal	Rm (April 21; 23, 2018 – Cole Bauer; Lee Pfannmuller)
Redhead	R m (April 21, 2018 – Cole Bauer)
Ring-necked Duck	R m (April 2008; April 24, 2018 - 4)
Lesser Scaup	U m (April 23, 2018 – 16)
Bufflehead	U m (April 23, 2018 – 25+)
Common Goldeneye	U m, w
Hooded Merganser	U m
Common Merganser	C m, w (injured female summered below Ford Dam, 2006)
Red-breasted Merganser	R m (April 2008; April 23 [6] and 25 [2], 2018)
Ruddy Duck	R m (April 2008; April 23, 2018 - 18)
Ring-necked Pheasant	R s
Wild Turkey	U p
Common Loon	U m, R w (Dec. 18-19, 1993 – JS); April 23, 2018 – 25 LP)
Pied-billed Grebe	O m, R s, w (December 17, 1994 – Julian Sellers)
Horned Grebe	R m (April 2008; April 21 [10+, CB] and 23 [17], 2018)
Red-necked Grebe	R m (April 2008; April 21 [5, CB]; 24 [LP]; 25, 2018)
Eared Grebe	R m (April 2008)
Double-crested Cormorant	C m, s (summer visitor – does not breed in gorge area)
American White Pelican	R m (September 2016; April 21, 2018)
Great Blue Heron	C m, s (summer visitor – does not breed in gorge area)
Great Egret	C m, s (summer visitor – does not breed in gorge area)
Green Heron	R m
Black-crowned Night-Heron	U m, s (much less common, 2007-2018, than previously; summer visitor – does not breed in gorge area)
Turkey Vulture	C m, s (much more common than in 1990s; summer visitor - not known to breed in gorge area)
Osprey	U m (much more common than in 1990s)
Bald Eagle	C p* (much more common than in 1990s; bred 2018)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U m, R w (December 2015)
Cooper's Hawk	C m, s*, O w (bred 2018)
Broad-winged Hawk	U m, s* (bred 2018)
Red-tailed Hawk	U p, O s (bred nearby 1996; not known to breed in gorge area)
American Kestrel	U m, O s, R w (probably bred nearby in 1990s; not known to breed in gorge area)
Merlin	O m, w* (bred, 2017)
Peregrine Falcon	C p* (bred on Ford bridge, 2015; bred by Ford dam, 2018)
Prairie Falcon	R m (November 29, 1996, Julian Sellers)
Virginia Rail	R m (early October - November 2, 1964, Mrs. L. H. Dahl, Loon 37:54)

American Coot	R m (April 2008)
Sandhill Crane	O m
Killdeer	C m, R s (no breeding evidence since early 1990s)
Spotted Sandpiper	U m, s+ (present throughout June 2006, 2010)
Solitary Sandpiper	R m (first record May 2015)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	R m
American Woodcock	U m
Bonaparte's Gull	R m (April 23, 26 [83+], 28, 2018)
Franklin's Gull	R m
Ring-billed Gull	C m, U s, O w (summer visitor – does not breed in gorge area)
Herring Gull	C m, R s, O w (late June 2006)
Caspian Tern	U m
Black Tern	R m (May)
Forster's Tern	U m, R s (no recent records in migration or summer)
Rock Pigeon	C p+
Mourning Dove	C p+, U w
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	R m, s (2 seen in early June 2015)
Black-billed Cuckoo	R m, s (1 seen in mid-June 2007)
Eastern Screech-Owl	U p+ (less common than in 1990s and early 2000s)
Great Horned Owl	U p, R s (no breeding evidence from gorge area)
Barred Owl	U p* (more common than in 1990s)
Common Nighthawk	C m, s+
Eastern Whip-poor-will	O m (2004)
Chimney Swift	C m, s+
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C m, U s* (bred 2002 and likely other years, 7 Oaks Park)
Belted Kingfisher	U m, s+
Red-headed Woodpecker	O m
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C p* (bred 2018)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U m
Downy Woodpecker	C p* (bred 2016)
Hairy Woodpecker	C p* (bred 2013)
Northern Flicker	C m, O s+, w (less common summer, more common winter than in 1990s)
Pileated Woodpecker	U p* (bred 2016; 2018)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U m
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C m, s+
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U m (regular, especially late May through early June)
Alder Flycatcher	R m
Willow Flycatcher	R m
Least Flycatcher	C m
Eastern Phoebe	C m, s* (bred 2007)
Great Crested Flycatcher	C m, s+
Eastern Kingbird	U m (breeds nearby)
Northern Shrike	R w
Yellow-throated Vireo	C m, U s+ (more common in summer than in 1990s)
Blue-headed Vireo	C m
Warbling Vireo	C m, R s+ (not present most summers)
Philadelphia Vireo	U m
Red-eyed Vireo	C m, s* (bred 2015)

Blue Jay	C p*
American Crow	C p* (bred 2006)
Purple Martin	U m (bred nearby in 1990s, but not since 2000)
Tree Swallow	C m, R s* (bred 2003 by Lock and Dam #1)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C m, s+
Bank Swallow	C m, s* (bred 2016)
Cliff Swallow	C m, s* (bred 2016)
Barn Swallow	C m, U s (probably breeds nearby, no breeding evidence from gorge area)
Black-capped Chickadee	C p* (bred 2016, 2018)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U m, w, O s (sporadic, not present every year, no breeding evidence from gorge area)
White-breasted Nuthatch	C p* (bred 2005)
Brown Creeper	C m, U w
House Wren	C m, s* (bred 2016)
Winter Wren	U m
Carolina Wren	R s (also seen in several winters on east side of river)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C m, s* (bred 2012; absent before 2000, now common)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C m
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C m
Eastern Bluebird	U m, s* (breeds regularly at Becketwood)
Townsend's Solitaire	R m (5/4-5/18, 45 <sup>th</sup> St E & 46 <sup>th</sup> Ave S, Craig Larson photo)
Veery	U m
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U m (regular in mid- to late May)
Swainson's Thrush	C m
Hermit Thrush	C m
Wood Thrush	O m, R s (observed in early June 2015)
American Robin	C p* (numbers variable in w, from O to C, bred 2015)
Gray Catbird	C m, s*
Brown Thrasher	U m (uncommon; less common than in 1990s)
European Starling	U p*
Cedar Waxwing	U p* (bred 2010; sporadic, absent most winters)
Ovenbird	C m
Northern Waterthrush	C m
Golden-winged Warbler	U m
Blue-winged Warbler	R m (May)
Black-and-White Warbler	C m
Tennessee Warbler	C m
Orange-crowned Warbler	U m
Nashville Warbler	C m
Connecticut Warbler	O m in 1990s, now a R m
Mourning Warbler	O m (less common than in 1990s)
Common Yellowthroat	C m, O s+ (first summer record 2006 - not always present)
Hooded Warbler	R m (May)
American Redstart	C m, O s* (first summer record 2010; bred 2015)
Cape May Warbler	U m
Northern Parula	U m
Magnolia Warbler	C m
Bay-breasted Warbler	U m
Blackburnian Warbler	U m

Yellow Warbler	C m
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C m
Blackpoll Warbler	C m
Black-throated Blue Warbler	R m (September)
Palm Warbler	C m
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C m
Black-throated Green Warbler	U m
Canada Warbler	U m
Wilson's Warbler	U m
Eastern Towhee	U m
American Tree Sparrow	O m, w
Chipping Sparrow	C m, s* (bred 2007)
Clay-colored Sparrow	R m (two dates in May 2018)
Field Sparrow	R m (May)
Fox Sparrow	U m
Song Sparrow	C m, s+
Lincoln's Sparrow	U m
Swamp Sparrow	U m
White-throated Sparrow	C m, O w (not present most winters)
Harris' Sparrow	R m (May)
White-crowned Sparrow	R m (May, 1 date in May 2018)
Dark-eyed Junco	C m, w
Scarlet Tanager	U m, s (regular mid-May through early June; occurred in late June 2015, but there is no breeding evidence)
Northern Cardinal	C p* (bred 2018)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C m (formerly s+; no summer records since early 1990s)
Indigo Bunting	C m, s* (bred 2016; increasingly common in summer)
Bobolink	R m
Red-winged Blackbird	C m, O s+ (not present most summers)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	R m (May)
Common Grackle	C m, U s* (no recent breeding records)
Brown-headed Cowbird	C m, U s*
Orchard Oriole	R m (May)
Baltimore Oriole	C m, O s* (much less common in summer than in 1990s)
House Finch	C p*
Purple Finch	U m, O w (not present most winters)
Red Crossbill	O m, w (sporadic, not present every year) (April 5, 2017)
White-winged Crossbill	R m
Common Redpoll	U m, w (sporadic, numbers vary, not present every year)
Pine Siskin	U p+ (sporadic, numbers vary, not present most summers)
American Goldfinch	C p* (not present some winters)
House Sparrow	C p*

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*Friends of the Mississippi River* is the leading citizen organization working to protect and enhance the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities area. We strive to create positive changes that improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, create education and recreation opportunities and inspire widespread commitment to this natural wonder that flows through our community.