

A Bird Friendly Habitat

The prairie restorations at Lakeshore State Park provide excellent food sources and habitats for a variety of birds.

The demonstration gardens at the north end of the park host a surprisingly diverse insect population, full of pollinators, dragonflies and damselflies. These provide food for the Swallows and Purple Martins, who often reside in the nesting boxes located throughout the park.

Red-Winged Blackbirds thrive in the cattails, and Green Herons hang out on the rocks in the wetland prairie. Great Blue Herons love strolling through the shallow waters of the pebble beach, where waterfowl and long-legged shorebirds are frequently seen.



The park's lagoon is the ideal location for insects that lay eggs in or near water, and is home to many insect larvae, an important food item for our park's fish. The smaller fish fall prey to the Double Crested Cormorants in the spring and fall. The crayfish near the rocky shorelines are a staple food for the Gulls that live in the park. Additionally, there are many aquatic plants in the lagoon, a favorite food source for Ducks.



Keep an eye on the sky for raptors, such as the Peregrine Falcon, that may be migrating or hunting. In recent years, a snowy owl has even been sighted during winter months.

Report Your Findings!

If you love birding and want to find out what others have observed, check out eBird.org, created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. Here you can create an account to submit your findings, look up information about different species, and search for bird sightings at Lakeshore State Park, as well as numerous other sites throughout the country.

eBird

Contact Us

If you have any questions about your visit or if you would like to share your experience or photos with us, please feel free to contact us or visit our Facebook page.

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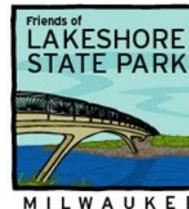
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<https://www.facebook.com/LakeshoreStateParkMKE>

The Friends of Lakeshore State Park partners with the WDNR and the community to establish LSP as Milwaukee's premier urban oasis. The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the park and its partners by raising funds for educational programming, events and infrastructure, as well as providing volunteers to enhance park services. To donate to this organization, please see the Friends website at FriendsLSP.org



500 N. HARBOR DR. MILWAUKEE, WI 53233

Bird Watching at Lakeshore State Park



Discover one of Wisconsin's premiere places to bird watch right here in the heart of Milwaukee! As part of the Lake Michigan Flyway, Lakeshore State Park hosts over 70 species of indigenous and migratory birds each year. From birds of prey and songbirds, to shore birds and waterfowl, you're sure to see an array of birds at any time of the year!



No Such Thing As A Seagull

You read that right. There's no such thing as a seagull. There are, however, a variety of birds that are classified as gulls. Lakeshore State Park hosts many different species throughout the year. Look at them closely to try and identify the ones you see!

What to Look For

Color patterns of their bills is one of the best ways to distinguish between gull species. Additionally, the color patterns of their wings and their overall size can aid in identification. However, first year gulls typically have more gray mottled feathers, which will transition into their adult patterns by 3 years old.

Herring Gull



Ring Billed Gull



Great Black Backed Gull



Bonaparte's Gull



Glaucous Gull



Iceland (Thayer's) Gull



Laughing Gull



Slaty Backed Gull



Bird Checklist

Ducks and Waterfowl

- American Black Duck
- American Wigeon
- Black Scoter
- Blue Winged Teal
- Bufflehead
- Canvasback
- Common Goldeneye
- Common Merganser
- Gadwall
- Greater Scaup
- Green-Wing Teal
- Harlequin Duck
- Hooded Merganser
- King Eider
- Lesser Scaup
- Long-Tailed Duck
- Mallard
- Northern Shoveler
- Red Breasted Merganser
- Redhead
- Ring-Neck Duck
- Ruddy Duck
- Surf Scoter
- White Winged Scoter
- American Coot
- Common Loon
- Double Crested Cormorant
- Eared Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Pied Billed Grebe
- American Pelican
- Canada Goose
- Snow Goose

Gulls and Terns

- Caspian Tern
- Forster's Tern
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Great Black Backed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Iceland (Thayer's) Gull
- Laughing Gull
- Ring Billed Gull
- Slaty Backed Gull

Herons and Bitterns

- Black Crowned Night Heron
- Great Blue Heron
- Green Heron
- Least Bittern

Swallows

- Bank Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Northern Rough Winged Swallow
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow

Shorebirds

- American Avocet
- American Golden Plover
- Black Bellied Plover
- Piping Plover
- Semi-palmated Plover
- Killdeer
- Dunlin
- Least Sandpiper
- Sanderling
- Semi-palmated Sandpiper
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Whimbrel
- Wilson's Phalarope

Sparrows

- American Tree Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Dark Eyed Junco
- Field Sparrow
- House Sparrow
- Lapland Longspur
- Savannah Sparrow
- Snow Bunting
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White Crowned Sparrow
- White Throated Sparrow

Blackbirds

- Bobolink
- Brown Headed Cowbird
- Common Grackle
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Red Winged Blackbird
- Yellow Headed Blackbird

Raptors

- American Kestrel
- Bald Eagle
- Cooper's Hawk
- Northern Harrier
- Osprey
- Peregrine Falcon
- Red Tailed Hawk
- Barred Owl
- Short Eared Owl
- Snowy Owl

Others

- American Crow
- American Goldfinch
- American Pipit
- American Robin
- Belted Kingfisher
- Black Capped Chickadee
- Blue Gray Gnatcatcher
- Brown Creeper
- Cedar Waxwing
- Eastern Kingbird
- Eastern Phoebe
- European Starling
- Golden Crowned Kinglet
- Gray Catbird
- Hermit Thrush
- Horned Lark
- House Finch
- Marsh Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Mourning Dove
- Rock Dove (Pigeon)
- Common Yellowthroat Warbler
- Orange Crowned Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Yellow Rumped Warbler