

# Welcome!

In 1906 Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks, established Glenwood Park because it contained many diverse habitats. The park was later renamed Theodore Wirth Park after its creator. Over the years, the park has grown to be the largest in the Minneapolis Park System.

This bird checklist contains species most likely to be seen in the Theodore Wirth Park. Birdwatchers will find many species of birds occupying the prairies, bog, creek, lake and wooded areas within the park. It does not include species considered rare for the Twin Cities area. The checklist is organized by taxonomic relationships of related species.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is interested in bird sightings in the Park. Please visit the Martha Crone Shelter in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden within Theodore Wirth Park and add your birding data to our records.

## Important Bird Area (IBA) status awarded to Theodore Wirth Park in 2007

The importance of Theodore Wirth Park as an urban sanctuary for birds has been recognized by Audubon Minnesota. Theodore Wirth Park has recently been awarded IBA status by the National Audubon Society. The park will be included with the established Chain of Lakes IBA. The IBA program is a global effort to identify areas that are critical to birds during some part of their life cycle and to focus conservation efforts at protecting these sites.

For more information about IBA locations in Minnesota and nationwide visit the National Audubon Society's website at [www.audubon.org/bird/iba/](http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/)

## TIPS FOR IDENTIFYING BIRDS

For greater success in bird identification, use a systematic approach.

Be familiar with your bird field guide. In most cases birds that are similar in shape and lifestyle are grouped together.

Watch the bird until it leaves. Systematically take note of all of the bird's features before referring to the field guide. Use the following checklist as a guide.

### Size

Compare the size to that of a familiar bird such as a robin or crow.

### Bill shape

Does the bird have the heavy bill of a seed eater or thin bill of an insect eater?

### Field marks

Look for eye lines, eye rings, wing bars and spots on the breast or belly.

### Tail shape

Does the tail have a square end, rounded end or forked end?

### Color

Color is very helpful, but not always reliable. Note colors as best as you can.

### Behavior

What is the bird doing and how does it move?

### Location

Where is the bird located: on the ground, in water, on a tree trunk or in the upper branches of a tree? What habitat does it occupy?

After making a mental note of the features, write a description of the features or record the description into a hand-held tape recorder before referring to your field guide. Use your notes to compare features seen to those in the guide. A sketch of the bird will also be useful to identify the bird and can be used for future reference.



American Goldfinch  
*Carduelis tristis*

# ELOISE BUTLER Wildflower Garden & Bird Sanctuary

# SUMMER

## BIRD CHECKLIST

June – July – August



Environmental Operations  
3800 Bryant Avenue S  
Minneapolis, MN 55409  
[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)

✓	COMMON NAME	H	A
	Pied-billed Grebe	L	u
	Red-necked Grebe	L	u
	Double-crested Cormorant	L	c
	American Bittern	W	u
	Least Bittern	W	u
	Great Blue Heron	W	c
	Great Egret	W	c
	Green Heron	W	c
	Black-crowned Night Heron	W	c
	Canada Goose	L	c
	Wood Duck	W	c
	American Black Duck	L	u
	Mallard	L	c
	Blue-winged Teal	L	c
	Northern Shoveler	L	u
	Gadwall	L	u
	Ruddy Duck	L	u
	Turkey Vulture	O	u
	Northern Harrier	O,G	c
	Cooper's Hawk	F	u
	Broad-winged Hawk	O,F	u
	Red-tailed Hawk	O,F	c
	American Kestrel	O,G	c
	Ring-necked Pheasant	G,S	c
	Wild Turkey	F	u
	Virginia Rail	W	c
	Sora	W	c
	American Coot	L	c
	Killdeer	L,G	c
	Spotted Sandpiper	B	c
	Common Snipe	B	c
	American Woodcock	B	u
	√		

✓	COMMON NAME	H	A
	Ring-Billed Gull	L,O	u
	Herring Gull	L,O	u
	Forster's Tern	L	u
	Black Tern	L	c
	Rock Dove	U	c
	Mourning Dove	G,F	c
	Black-billed Cuckoo	F	c
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	F	u
	Eastern Screech Owl	F	c
	Great Horned Owl	F	c
	Barred Owl	F	c
	Common Nighthawk	O,U	c
	Chimney Swift	O,U	c
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	F,U	c
	Belted Kingfisher	F,C	c
	Red-headed Woodpecker	F	c
	Red-Bellied Woodpecker	F	c
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	F	u
	Downy Woodpecker	F	c
	Hairy Woodpecker	F	c
	Northern Flicker	F	c
	Pileated Woodpecker	F	c
	Eastern Wood Peewee	F	c
	Alder Flycatcher	S,F	u
	Willow Flycatcher	S,F	c
	Least Flycatcher	F	c
	Eastern Phoebe	S,F	c
	Great Crested Flycatcher	F	c
	Eastern Kingbird	S,F,G	c
	Horned Lark	G	c
	Purple Martin	U,O	c
	Tree Swallow	O,S	c

✓	COMMON NAME	H	A
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O,C	c
	Bank Swallow	O,C	c
	Cliff Swallow	C,U	u
	Barn Swallow	U,O	c
	Blue Jay	F,U	c
	American Crow	F,O	c
	Black-capped Chickadee	F,U	c
	White-breasted Nuthatch	F	c
	Brown Creeper	F	u
	House Wren	U,F	c
	Sedge Wren	G	c
	Marsh Wren	W	c
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	F	u
	Eastern Bluebird	G	c
	Veery	F	u
	Wood Thrush	F	u
	American Robin	F,U	c
	Gray Catbird	F,U	c
	Brown Thrasher	F,U	c
	Cedar Waxwing	F,U	c
	European Starling	U	c
	Yellow-throated Vireo	F	u
	Warbling Vireo	F	c
	Red-eyed Vireo	F	c
	Blue-winged Warbler	S	u
	Yellow Warbler	S	c
	American Redstart	F	c
	Ovenbird	S	u
	Common Yellowthroat	W,s	c
	Scarlet Tanager	F	c
	Northern Cardinal	F,U	c
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	F	c

✓	COMMON NAME	H	A
	Indigo Bunting	S	c
	Dickcissel	G	u
	Rufous-sided Towhee	S	u
	Chipping Sparrow	S,F,U	c
	Clay-colored Sparrow	S,F	u
	Field Sparrow	S,F	c
	Vesper Sparrow	G	c
	Lark Sparrow	F,G	u
	Savannah Sparrow	G	c
	Grasshopper Sparrow	G	u
	Song Sparrow	W,S	c
	Swamp Sparrow	W,S	c
	Bobolink	G	c
	Red-winged Blackbird	W,G	c
	Eastern Meadowlark	G	c
	Western Meadowlark	G	c
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	W	c
	Brewer's Blackbird	G	c
	Common Grackle	F,G,U	c
	Brown-headed Cowbird	F,G,U	c
	Baltimore Oriole	F	c
	American Goldfinch	F,S	c
	House Finch	U	c
	House Sparrow	U	c

**H-Habitat**

**A-Abundance**  
**c** common in this area  
**u** uncommon in this area

Today's date .....

Notes: