

# Pipestone



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Bird Checklist



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

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Established in 1937, Pipestone National Monument comprises 301 acres in a shallow valley. Most of the birds listed may be sighted as you walk the 3/4 mile circle trail that begins in the visitor center. The trail takes you through a variety of habitats that include an oak-ash woodland, marshy areas along Lake Hiawatha and Pipestone Creek, thickets of sumac and choke cherry, quartzite outcrops, and remnant tallgrass prairie. The diversity of habitats provides refuge for over 100 resident and migrant bird species.

### Birds Commonly Found At Pipestone

**Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)** Brown to gray bodies with very noticeable white bars on the underside of its wings and has a prominent white throat patch. Often seen in flight showing skilled flight displays. Call is rasping, nasal, descending buzz 'BEErzh.'



**Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*)** Blue-gray above, white below with a bushy crest. Found near streams and lakes, where they dive vertically into the water for food. Call is a loud, penetrating rattle.

**Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)** Black head, slate gray back; tail has a broad white terminal band. Commonly found in woodland clearings, farms, and orchards. Call is a series of 'dzeet' notes.



**Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*)** Often observed on or near the ground, thrashers have long tails and streaks on their undersides. Song is repeated twice, call is a sharp 'smack.'



**Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)** Dark, steel blue upper with yellow-tan underside. Often observed at dusk, darting around ponds and marshes for insects, constantly twittering and chattering.



**Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)** Bright yellow breast with large black mask, found all over the US is known for its loud, fast 'wicity-wicity-wit' song. Call is a sharp 'chip'.



**Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)** Large, mostly gray with a yellow bill. Frequently found standing at the edges of ponds or marshy areas, hunting for fish or frogs. Call is a harsh-sounding squawk.



**Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)** Black back with white on head, wings, and tail. Found in prairies and marshy areas, flight song is a series of joyous bubbling, tumbling, gurgling phrases with each note on a different pitch.



**Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)** Flickers are the only woodpeckers in North America that feed on the ground, but are commonly seen clinging to tree trunks. Colors range from brown to black, but most have a red patch on the nape. Call is a loud 'wicka-wicka-wicka' or loud 'kleer.'



### Additional Observations:

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Please report any unusual sightings to a park ranger at the visitor's center .

Pipestone National Monument  
36 Reservation Avenue  
Pipestone, MN 56164  
(507) 825-5464

**Bird Checklist Helpful Characteristics:**

**Season occurrence: S = Summer**

**W = Winter**

**M = Migration**

**Habitat Preference: P = Prairie**

**M = Marsh**

**T = Thickets**

**W = Woodlands**

**R = Residential (buildings)**

**Abundance: A = Abundant**

**C = Common**

**U = Uncommon**

**R = Rare**

**Family (Season,Habitat,Abundance)**

**Ducks, Geese (Anatidae)**

◊ Canada goose	S/M, M**, U
◊ Snow goose	M, M**, U
◊ Mallard	S*, M, U
◊ Blue-winged teal	S*, M, U
◊ Northern shoveler	S*, M, U
◊ Wood duck	S, M, U

**Partridge, Turkey (Phasianidae)**

◊ Ring-neck pheasant	R*, P/T, C
◊ Gray partridge	R*, P, U
◊ Wild turkey	R*, P/T, C

**New World Quail (Odontophoridae)**

◊ Northern bobwhite	R, P/T/W, R
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**Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)**

◊ Double-crested cormorant	S, M, U
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**Heron (Ardeidae)**

◊ Great blue heron	S, M, U
◊ Green heron	S, M, U

**Rails (Rallidae)**

◊ Sora rail	S, M, U
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**Hawks (Accipitridae)**

◊ Red-tailed hawk	S, **, U
◊ Broad-winged hawk	M*, W, U
◊ Swainson's hawk	S, **, R
◊ Northern harrier	S, P/M, R

**New World Vultures (Odontophoridae)**

◊ Turkey vulture	S, P, U
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**Falcons (Falconidae)**

◊ American kestrel	S, P, C
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**Plovers (Charadriidae)**

◊ Killdeer	S*, P/M, C
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**Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)**

◊ Upland sandpiper	S, P, U
◊ Spotted sandpiper	S, M, U
◊ American woodcock	S*, P/M/T/W, R

**Gulls (Laridae)**

◊ Franklin's gull	S, **, R
◊ Black tern	S, **, R

**Doves (Columbidae)**

◊ Rock dove	R, R, U
◊ Mourning dove	S*, P/T/W, A

**Cuckoos (Cuculidae)**

◊ Yellow-billed cuckoo	S, T/W, U
◊ Black-billed cuckoo	S, T/W, U

**Owls (Tytonidae)**

◊ Great-horned owl	R, W, U
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**Goatsuckers (Caprimulgidae)**

◊ Whip-poor-will	S, W, R
◊ Common nighthawk	S, P/W, U

**Swifts (Apodidae)**

◊ Chimney swift	S*, **, C
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**Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)**

◊ Ruby-throated hummingbird	S, P/W/R, U
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**Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)**

◊ Belted kingfisher	S*, M, C
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**Woodpeckers (Picidae)**

◊ Northern flicker	S, P/T/W, C
◊ Red-headed woodpecker	S, W, U
◊ Downy woodpecker	R, W, U
◊ Hairy woodpecker	R, W, U

**Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)**

◊ Eastern kingbird	S*, P/T, C
◊ Eastern phoebe	S, T/W/R, U
◊ Least flycatcher	S, T/W, U
◊ Great-crested flycatcher	S, W, U
◊ Western kingbird	S, W, R

**Swallows (Hiruninidae)**

◊ Tree swallow	S, All **, C
◊ Rough-winged swallow	S*, All**, C
◊ Barn swallow	S*, All**, C
◊ Cliff swallow	S, P**, C
◊ Purple martin	S, All**, C

**Jays, Crows (Corviidae)**

◊ Blue jay	R*, T/W, C
◊ American crow	R, P/W, C

**Vireos (Vireonidae)**

◊ Red-eyed vireo	M, W, U
◊ Warbling vireo	M, W, U

**Chickadees (Paridae)**

◊ Black-capped chickadee	R*, T/W, C
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**Creepers (Certhiidae)**

◊ Brown creeper	M, T/W, R
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**Nuthatches (Sittidae)**

◊ White-breasted nuthatch	M, W, R
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**Wrens (Troglodytidae)**

◊ House wren	S*, T/W, C
◊ Winter wren	M, T/W, R
◊ Sedge wren	S*, P/M, C

**Kinglets (Regulidae)**

◊ Golden-crowned kinglet	M, T/W, C
◊ Ruby-crowned kinglet	M, T/W, C

**Thrushes (Turdidae)**

◊ Eastern bluebird	S, W, U
◊ American robin	R*, All, A
◊ Wood thrush	M, T/W, R
◊ Hermit thrush	M, T/W, R
◊ Swainson's thrush	M, T/W, R
◊ Gray-cheeked thrush	M, T/W, R
◊ Veery	M, T/W, R

**Mockingbirds, Thrashers (Mimidae)**

◊ Gray catbird	S*, T/W, C
◊ Brown thrasher	S*, T/W, C

**Waxwings (Bombycillidae)**

◊ Cedar waxwing	S*, T/W, U
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**Warblers (Parulidae)**

◊ Black and white warbler	M, T/W, U
◊ Tennessee warbler	M, T/W, U
◊ Orange-crowned warbler	M, T/W, U
◊ Nashville warbler	S*, M/T, C
◊ Yellow warbler	M, T/W, U
◊ Yellow-rumped warbler	M, W, U
◊ Blackpoll warbler	M, T/W, U
◊ Mourning warbler	M, T/W, U
◊ Common yellowthroat	S*, M/T, C
◊ Canada warbler	M, T/W, U
◊ American redstart	M, T/W, U
◊ Chestnut-sided warbler	M, T/W, R
◊ Magnolia warbler	M, T/W, R

**Starlings (Sturnidae)**

◊ European starling	R*, All, A
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**Sparrow (Emberizidae)**

◊ Rufus-sided towhee	S, T/W, U
◊ Grasshopper sparrow	S*, P, C
◊ Henslow's sparrow	S, P, R
◊ Vesper sparrow	S, P, U
◊ Dark-eyed junco	W, P/W, C
◊ American tree sparrow	W, P/W, C
◊ Chipping sparrow	S, P/W, U
◊ Clay-colored sparrow	S*, P/T, C
◊ Harris' sparrow	M, T/W, R
◊ White-crowned sparrow	M, T/W, R
◊ White-throated sparrow	M, T/W, U
◊ Swamp sparrow	S, M/T, U
◊ Song sparrow	S*, M/T, C
◊ Savannah sparrow	S, M/P, U
◊ Field sparrow	S, W/P, U

**Cardinals (Cardinalidae)**

◊ Dickcissel	S, P, C
◊ Indigo bunting	S, T/W, U
◊ Rose-breasted grosbeak	S, T/W, U
◊ Evening grosbeak	M, T/W, U
◊ Blue grosbeak	W, T/W, R

**Blackbirds (Icteridae)**

◊ Bobolink	S*, P, A
◊ Eastern meadowlark	S, P, U
◊ Western meadowlark	S*, P, A
◊ Yellow-headed blackbird	S, P/M, U
◊ Red-winged blackbird	S*, P/M, A
◊ Orchard oriole	S, T/W, U
◊ Baltimore oriole	S, T/W, U
◊ Common grackle	S*, All, A
◊ Brown-headed cowbird	S*, All, C

**Finches (Fringillidae)**

◊ Purple finch	W, P/W, R
◊ House finch	S, R/P/W, C
◊ American goldfinch	R*, All, A

**Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)**

◊ House sparrow	R*, R, A
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\*Nesting recorded at Pipestone National Monument

\*\*Usually observed flying overhead