



Bird Checklist



USFWS / MATT POOLE

Established in 1937, Pipestone National Monument comprises 301 acres in a shallow valley. Most of the birds listed may be seen as you walk the 3/4 mile circle trail that begins at 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 ‘wichity-witchity-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.’

Please report any unusual sightings to a park ranger at the Visitor Center.

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

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