Birds of Presque Isle State Park

A Seasonal Guide to Over 330 Species

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Presque Isle State Park

Presque Isle is a 3,200-acre peninsula on the southern shore of Lake Erie in Erie County, Pennsylvania centered between the states of Ohio to the west and New York to the east. Its unique topography and geographical location make it unsurpassed in Western Pennsylvania for the large number and diversity of transient birds.

Habitats include:

- Lake Shoreline
- Sand dunes
- Ponds and marshes
- Upland plains and ridges
- Mixed secondary and old-growth forest

More than 333 species have been recorded within the boundaries of the park and surrounding waters, as well as the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. This total includes over 84 known or suspected nesting species.

Key to abbreviations

Seasons

Sp	Spring	March 1 – May 31
Su	Summer	June 1 – July 31
F	Fall	August 1 – November 30
W	Winter	December 1 – February 28

Frequency

A	Abundant	hard to miss in proper habitat
C	Common	very likely to be seen in proper habitat
U	Uncommon	present but not likely to be seen
O	Occasional	seen one to three times a season
R	Rare	seen at intervals of 2–5 years
S	Stray	recorded at least once but not expected during the season

Species designated by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program as endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

* Recently confirmed nesting or highly likely within park boundaries

Species' names and grouping are listed in taxonomic order following Clements, et al. 2025. The eBird/Clements checklist of the Birds of the World: v2025

Geese, Swans, Ducks

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Snow Goose	O		O	R
_____ Brant	R		O	R
_____ Cackling Goose	O		O	O
_____ Canada Goose*	A	A	A	C
_____ Mute Swan	O	R	R	R
_____ Trumpeter Swan	O	O	O	O
_____ Tundra Swan	C	R	C	C
_____ Wood Duck*	C	C	C	O
_____ Blue-winged Teal#	C	R	C	R
_____ Northern Shoveler	C	R	C	O
_____ Gadwall	C	O	C	U
_____ Eurasian Wigeon	R		R	
_____ American Wigeon	C	O	C	U
_____ Mallard*	C	C	C	C
_____ American Black Duck#	C	O	C	C
_____ Northern Pintail	C	R	C	O
_____ Green-winged Teal#	C	R	C	O
_____ Canvasback	C	R	C	C
_____ Redhead	C	R	C	C
_____ Ring-necked Duck	C	R	A	C
_____ Greater Scaup	A	U	A	C
_____ Lesser Scaup	A	U	A	C
_____ King Eider	S		R	R
_____ Harlequin Duck	R		O	R

Geese, Swans, Ducks – continued

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Surf Scoter	U		U	U
_____	White-winged Scoter	U	S	U	U
_____	Black Scoter	U		U	U
_____	Long-tailed Duck	U	S	U	U
_____	Bufflehead	A	O	A	C
_____	Common Goldeneye	A	O	A	C
_____	Hooded Merganser*	C	U	C	C
_____	Common Merganser*	C	U	C	C
_____	Red-breasted Merganser	A	U	C	C
_____	Ruddy Duck	C	R	C	U

Turkeys, Grouse, Pheasants

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Wild Turkey*	C	C	C	C

Pigeons, Doves

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
_____	Mourning Dove*	C	C	C	O

Cuckoos

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	R	U	
_____	Black-billed Cuckoo	U	R	U	

Nightjars

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Common Nighthawk#	C	S	C	
_____	Eastern Whip-poor-will*#	C	C	R	

Swifts

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Chimney Swift	C	U	C	

Hummingbirds

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	C	U	U	

Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Cranes

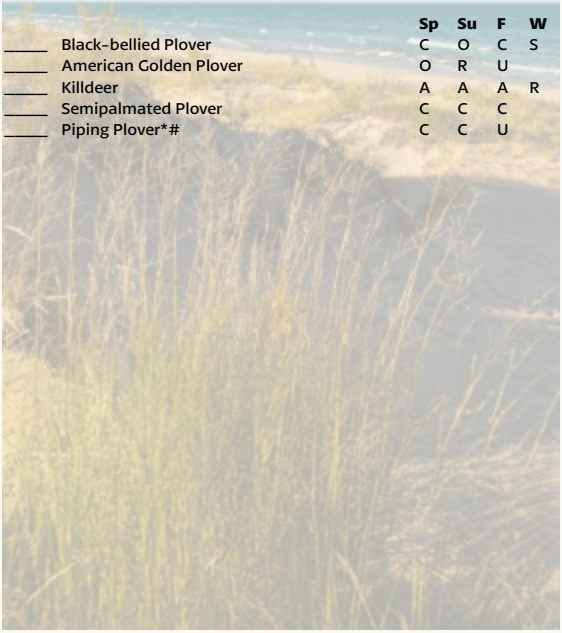
	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Virginia Rail*#	U	U	U	S
_____ Sora*#	U	U	U	S
_____ Common Gallinule*#	U	U	U	S
_____ American Coot*#	A	O	A	A
_____ Sandhill Crane*#	U	U	U	R

Avocets

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ American Avocet	O	O	O	

Plovers

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Black-bellied Plover	C	O	C	S
_____ American Golden Plover	O	R	U	
_____ Killdeer	A	A	A	R
_____ Semipalmated Plover	C	C	C	
_____ Piping Plover*#	C	C	U	



Sandpipers, Phalaropes

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Hudsonian Whimbrel	O	O	O	
_____	Hudsonian Godwit	R	S	R	
_____	Marbled Godwit	R	O	O	
_____	Short-billed Dowitcher	C	C	C	
_____	Long-billed Dowitcher	R	R	O	
_____	American Woodcock*	C	C	U	R
_____	Wilson's Snipe#	U		U	R
_____	Wilson's Phalarope*	R	R	R	
_____	Red Phalarope			R	S
_____	Red-necked Phalarope			R	
_____	Spotted Sandpiper*#	C	C	C	S
_____	Solitary Sandpiper	C	O	U	
_____	Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	C	S
_____	Willet	O	O	O	
_____	Greater Yellowlegs	C	U	C	S
_____	Ruddy Turnstone	C	O	C	R
_____	Red Knot#	O	R	O	
_____	Stilt Sandpiper	O	U	U	
_____	Buff-breasted Sandpiper			O	
_____	Sanderling	C	U	C	O
_____	Dunlin	C	O	C	O
_____	Purple Sandpiper	R		U	U
_____	Baird's Sandpiper	S	O	U	
_____	White-rumped Sandpiper	O	O	U	
_____	Least Sandpiper	C	C	C	
_____	Pectoral Sandpiper	U	U	U	
_____	Western Sandpiper		R	R	
_____	Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	C	C	

Jaegers, Gulls, Kittiwakes, Terns

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Parasitic Jaeger		S	O	O
_____	Pomarine Jaeger			R	R
_____	Little Gull	R	S	O	R
_____	Black-legged Kittiwake	S		R	S
_____	Sabine's Gull			R	S
_____	Bonaparte's Gull	C	U	C	C
_____	Black-headed Gull	R		R	S
_____	Laughing Gull	O	O	R	
_____	Franklin's Gull	R	R	R	S
_____	Ring-billed Gull	A	A	A	A
_____	American Herring Gull	A	A	A	A
_____	Great Black-backed Gull	C	U	C	C
_____	Glaucous Gull	U	S	O	U
_____	Lesser Black-backed Gull	U	U	U	U
_____	California Gull	R	S	R	R
_____	Iceland Gull	U		R	U
_____	Least Tern		R	R	
_____	Caspian Tern	C	C	C	
_____	Black Tern#	O	R	R	
_____	Forster's Tern	C	C	C	S
_____	Common Tern*#	C	C	C	S

Grebes

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Pied-billed Grebe*#	C	O	C	U
_____	Horned Grebe	C	O	C	U
_____	Red-necked Grebe	O		U	O
_____	Eared Grebe	O		O	O

Loons

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Red-throated Loon	O	S	U	U
_____	Common Loon	C	O	C	C

Cormorants

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Double-crested Cormorant	A	C	A	C

Ibises

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Glossy Ibis	R	S	S	

Bitterns, Night Herons, Herons, Egrets

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	American Bittern#	U	R	O	R
_____	Least Bittern*#	U	U	O	
_____	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	R	S	S	
_____	Black-crowned Night Heron	U	R	U	S
_____	Little Blue Heron	R	S	S	
_____	Tricolored Heron	R	R		
_____	Snowy Egret#	R	S	S	
_____	Green Heron*	C	C	C	
_____	Western Cattle-Egret#	R	S	S	
_____	Great Egret#	C	O	U	S
_____	Great Blue Heron#	C	C	C	U

Pelicans

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	American White Pelican	O	S	R	

New World Vultures

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Black Vulture	O			S
_____	Turkey Vulture	C	U	C	O

Ospreys

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Osprey*#	C	C	C	S

Eagles, Hawks

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Golden Eagle	O		S	
_____	Sharp-shinned Hawk#	C	S	U	O
_____	Cooper's Hawk*	C	U	U	U
_____	American Goshawk#	R		S	S
_____	Northern Harrier#	U		O	O
_____	Bald Eagle*#	C	C	C	C
_____	Broad-winged Hawk	C	R	O	
_____	Red-shouldered Hawk	C	R	U	U
_____	Red-tailed Hawk*	C	C	C	C
_____	Rough-legged Hawk	O		O	R

Owls

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Eastern Screech-Owl*	U	U	U	U
_____	Snowy Owl	O		O	O
_____	Great Horned Owl*	U	U	U	U
_____	Barred Owl	O	O	O	O
_____	Long-eared Owl#	O		R	R
_____	Short-eared Owl#	O		O	R
_____	Northern Saw-whet Owl	U		U	R

Kingfishers

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Belted Kingfisher*	C	C	C	U

Woodpeckers

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	S	C	S
_____	Red-headed Woodpecker*#	C	C	C	U
_____	Red-bellied Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
_____	Downy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
_____	Hairy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
_____	Pileated Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U
_____	Northern Flicker*	C	C	C	O

Falcons

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	American Kestrel*	C	U	C	R
_____	Merlin#	U	U	U	U
_____	Peregrine Falcon#	U	U	U	U

Tyrant Flycatchers

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Olive-sided Flycatcher	O	S	R	
_____	Eastern Wood-Pewee*	C	C	C	
_____	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher#	U	S	U	
_____	Acadian Flycatcher*	U	U	U	
_____	Alder Flycatcher	U	O	U	
_____	Willow Flycatcher*	C	C	U	
_____	Least Flycatcher	C	O	C	
_____	Eastern Phoebe*	C	C	C	R
_____	Great Crested Flycatcher*	C	U	U	
_____	Eastern Kingbird*	C	C	C	

Vireos

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	White-eyed Vireo	U	S	R	
_____	Yellow-throated Vireo	U	S	R	
_____	Blue-headed Vireo	C		C	
_____	Philadelphia Vireo	U		U	
_____	Eastern Warbling Vireo*	C	C	C	
_____	Red-eyed Vireo*	C	C	C	

Shrikes

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Northern Shrike#	O		O	R

Jays, Crows, Ravens

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Blue Jay*	C	C	C	C
_____	American Crow*	C	C	C	C
_____	Fish Crow	R			
_____	Common Raven	U	U	U	U

Chickadees, Titmice

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Black-capped Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
_____	Tufted Titmouse*	C	C	C	C

Larks

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Horned Lark	C	R	U	O

Swallows, Martins

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Bank Swallow*#	C	C	U	
_____	Tree Swallow*	C	C	C	S
_____	Purple Martin*#	C	C	C	
_____	Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	C	U	U	
_____	Barn Swallow*	C	C	C	
_____	Cliff Swallow	U		U	

Kinglets

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Ruby Crowned Kinglet	C	S	C	R
_____	Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	U

Nuthatches

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	White-breasted Nuthatch*	C	C	C	C
_____	Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	S	C	U

Creepers

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Brown Creeper	C		C	O

Gnatcatchers

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher*	C	U	U	

Wrens

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Northern House Wren*	C	C	C	
_____	Winter Wren	C		C	O
_____	Sedge Wren#	R		R	
_____	Marsh Wren*#	C	C	C	
_____	Carolina Wren*	C	C	C	U

Starlings

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	European Starling*	C	C	C	C

Mimids

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Gray Catbird*	C	C	C	O
_____	Brown Thrasher*	C	U	U	S
_____	Northern Mockingbird	O	O	O	

Thrushes

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Eastern Bluebird*	C	U	O	R
_____ Veery	C		U	
_____ Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U	
_____ Swainson's Thrush#	C		C	
_____ Hermit Thrush	C		C	U
_____ Wood Thrush	C	S	O	
_____ American Robin*	A	A	A	U

Waxwings

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Cedar Waxwing*	C	C	U	O

Old World Sparrows

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ House Sparrow*	C	C	C	C

Pipits

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ American Pipit	C	R	C	O

Finches

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Evening Grosbeak	R		S	R
_____ House Finch*	U	U	U	U
_____ Purple Finch	C		O	O
_____ Redpoll	O		O	O
_____ Pine Siskin#	O	S	O	R
_____ American Goldfinch*	C	U	C	U

Longspurs

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Lapland Longspur	U		U	O

Snow Buntings

	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Snow Bunting	C		C	U

New World Sparrows

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Grasshopper Sparrow	O			
_____	Chipping Sparrow*	C	C	C	S
_____	Clay-colored Sparrow#	O		S	
_____	Field Sparrow*	C	U	C	S
_____	American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C
_____	Fox Sparrow	C		U	R
_____	Dark-eyed Junco	C	S	C	C
_____	White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	S
_____	White-throated Sparrow#	C	R	C	U
_____	Vesper Sparrow#	U		R	
_____	Nelson's Sparrow	S		R	
_____	Savannah Sparrow	C	O	U	
_____	Song Sparrow*	C	C	C	U
_____	Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
_____	Swamp Sparrow*	C	C	C	O
_____	Eastern Towhee*	C	U	C	O

Chats, Bobolinks, Blackbirds, Orioles

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Yellow-breasted Chat#	O	S		
_____	Bobolink	C	S	U	
_____	Eastern Meadowlark	C		R	
_____	Orchard Oriole*	U	U		
_____	Baltimore Oriole*	C	C	U	
_____	Red-winged Blackbird*	A	A	C	U
_____	Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	U	U	O
_____	Rusty Blackbird	C		U	S
_____	Common Grackle*	A	C	U	O

Wood-warblers

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Ovenbird	C	S	U	
_____	Worm-eating Warbler	R			
_____	Northern Waterthrush	U		R	
_____	Golden-winged Warbler#	O		R	
_____	Blue-winged Warbler	U		R	
_____	Black-and-white Warbler	C	S	C	
_____	Prothonotary Warbler*#	O	R		
_____	Tennessee Warbler	C	S	C	
_____	Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
_____	Nashville Warbler#	C		C	
_____	Connecticut Warbler	R		R	
_____	Mourning Warbler	U	S	S	
_____	Kentucky Warbler	R			
_____	Common Yellowthroat*	C	C	C	O
_____	Hooded Warbler	U		R	
_____	American Redstart*	C	C	C	
_____	Cape May Warbler	C		C	
_____	Cerulean Warbler#	O			
_____	Northern Parula	C	S	U	
_____	Magnolia Warbler	C	S	C	
_____	Bay-breasted Warbler	C	S	C	
_____	Blackburnian Warbler	C		U	
_____	Northern Yellow Warbler*	A	A	C	
_____	Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	S	U	
_____	Blackpoll Warbler#	C	R	C	
_____	Black-throated Blue Warbler	C	S	C	
_____	Palm Warbler	C		C	
_____	Pine Warbler*	C	U	C	
_____	Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	R	C	C
_____	Yellow-throated Warbler	R			
_____	Prarie Warbler	O		S	
_____	Black-throated Green Warbler	C	R	C	
_____	Canada Warbler	U		O	
_____	Wilson's Warbler	U		O	

Tanagers

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Summer Tanager#	R			
_____	Scarlet Tanager	U	R	S	

Cardinalids

		Sp	Su	F	W
_____	Northern Cardinal*	C	C	C	C
_____	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	R	U	
_____	Indigo Bunting	C	R	U	

Species that have occurred at least once or less frequently than once every five years.

Ross's Goose
Greater White-fronted Goose
Tufted Duck
Barrow's Goldeneye
Northern Bobwhite
Ruffed Grouse
Ring-necked Pheasant
Band-tailed Pigeon
Common Ground Dove
White-winged Dove
Chuck-will's-Widow
King Rail#
Purple Gallinule
Wilson's Plover
Snowy Plover
Upland Sandpiper#
Long-billed Curlew
Surfbird
Ruff
Thick-billed Murre
Long-tailed Jaeger
Slaty-backed Gull
Arctic Tern
Roseate Tern
Royal Tern
Western Grebe
Pacific Loon
Wood Stork
Northern Gannet
Great Cormorant
White Ibis
Reddish Egret
Brown Pelican
Swallow-tailed Kite
Snail Kite
Mississippi Kite
Swainson's Hawk
American Barn Owl#
Boreal Owl
American Three-toed Woodpecker
Gyrfalcon
Say's Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Loggerhead Shrike#
Carolina Chickadee
Cave Swallow
Bicknell's Thrush
Northern Wheatear
Bohemian Waxwing
Pine Grosbeak
Red Crossbill#
White-winged Crossbill
Lark Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Harris's Sparrow
LeConte's Sparrow
Henslow's Sparrow
Spotted Towhee
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Swainson's Warbler
Kirtland's Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Blue Grosbeak
Dickcissel#

Special observations (breeding behavior, rare or out of season sightings, etc.) should be reported to :

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