

Birding Opportunities at Bluestem Prairie SNA

Bluestem Prairie SNA consists of 2,855 acres of mesic tallgrass prairie and wet blacksoil prairie located in what was once Glacial Lake Agassiz. The Buffalo River marks the north boundary of the SNA, commonly considered one of the highest quality prairie sites in the United States. Adjacent Buffalo River State Park adds to the size and importance of the native prairie protected here. More than 115 species of birds have been seen on the SNA including the Greater Prairie Chicken, Wilson's Phalarope and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The unit is partially owned by The Nature Conservancy, and they maintain two blinds where visitors can watch Prairie Chickens display during March and April. The dancing is spectacular and you can reserve front row seats by calling The Nature Conservancy at 218-498-2679.

Taxonomy, Season and Abundance Key

The names and taxonomic arrangement of species follows that of the Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota (January, 2005) prepared by the Minnesota Ornithological Union (MOU) Records Committee.

The **seasons** in the checklist are defined as follows:

Sp (Spring) = March, April, May

Su (Summer) = June, July

Fa (Fall) = August, September, October, November

Wi (Winter) = December, January, February

Abundance codes are defined as follows:

C = Common — present, relatively easy to find

U = Uncommon — observed, may be difficult to find

O = Occasional — may or may not be present in any year

R = Rare — has occurred at least once, may recur

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cackling Goose			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Prairie-Chicken	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle				O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Godwit	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull		O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo		O		

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl				O
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker		O		O
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	O	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Magpie	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	U	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird		U		

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark		R		

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	U			C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	U	U	U	

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including project coordinator Melissa Driscoll, Bob Janssen, Jerry Bonkoski and volunteer observers, as well as MOU records, and data contained in research reports. Funding for this project was provided in part by the State Wildlife Grants program administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Checklist layout by Jennifer Lintelmann. Persons interested in the sources used in preparation of this list may contact Project Supervisor/Nongame Specialist Katie Haws at 218-308-2641.

For more information contact DNR Information Center, 500 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 53155-4000 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-MIN-NDNR (646-6367).

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Bluestem Prairie

Scientific and Natural Area

BIIRD Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



MINNESOTA'S
WILD & RARE

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare is the state's conservation action plan for protecting Minnesota's native animal species that are rare or likely to become rare in the near future.

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