

## Birding Opportunities at Osmundson Prairie SNA

Osmundson Prairie SNA, located in Faribault County, is a small but nice prairie remnant, surrounded by intensive agriculture. Although only six acres in size, this postage size remnant does provide habitat for prairie birds. On this site is found a rare remnant of the mesic blacksoil prairie community that supports two rare plant species; rattlesnake master and tuberous Indian plantain. The SNA is hilly prairie with no trees present. A total of 55 bird species have been seen here. Birding at this SNA is best during the migration seasons, and it is a good stopping place for migrating sparrows. Most of the species of birds seen are flyovers, rather than residents. However, the SNA does have a few nesting species, including ring-necked pheasant, clay-colored, vesper, savannah and song sparrow, eastern meadowlark and red-winged blackbird. Parking is on the NE corner of the SNA along Township Rd. 331, where there is a field driveway. There is a sign marking the SNA visible from this parking area. The SNA does not have any trails, but walking is easy through the prairie. Birder access is very good.

### 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"/> Canada Goose	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	O		U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	U	O	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> LeConte's Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	O	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Jerry Bonkoski, 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 Lintemann. Persons interested in the sources used in preparation of this list may contact Project Supervisor/Nongame Specialist Katie Haws at 218-308-2641.

# Osmundson Prairie Scientific and Natural Area

## BIIRD Checklist



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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*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.

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

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

