

Birding Opportunities at Sandpiper Prairie SNA

Sandpiper Prairie SNA is a 553 acre unit located in the Red River Valley. The SNA is a beautiful mix of dry, wet, and dry mesic prairie communities. Large cottonwood and aspen trees attract vireos, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, and orioles. Willow and alder thickets harbor flycatchers and the occasional Long-eared Owl. Wetlands provide homes for rails, ducks, bitterns and even tundra swans. Finally, the dry and wet prairies attract a number of sparrows and blackbirds.

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	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Trumpeter Swan	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-tailed Grouse				O
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Prairie-Chicken	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ferruginous Hawk			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Godwit	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Owl	O			

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	U	O	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	O	O	U	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	U	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	U	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	O	O	O	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	U	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling		U		

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	U		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C			
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	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"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	U	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll				C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	

Additional Observations

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including project coordinator Melissa Driscoll, Carol Schumacher, 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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Sandpiper 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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