

Birding Opportunities at Lost Valley Prairie SNA

Lost Valley Prairie SNA, a 200 acre preserve located in Washington County, is a great place to birdwatch in the East Metro area. This bluff prairie contains a series of limestone ridges and dry swales, or lowlands, where a rich collection of native prairie grasses thrive. Several studies have documented a total of 128 species on the site. Raptor visitors include bald eagles, northern harriers and red-tailed hawks. Woodland species such as red-bellied woodpecker, black-capped chickadee and yellow-rumped warbler can be easily seen. 20 warbler species have been sighted during migration. Open prairie species such as savannah sparrow, and Henslow's sparrow can also be seen. In the brushy areas look for clay-colored and field sparrows, gray catbirds, brown thrasher and song sparrow. During migration, LeConte's, white-throated, white-crowned and Lincoln's sparrows have been seen. Access and parking is available at a gated area at the terminus of Nyberg Avenue. There are no developed trails on the SNA, but walking is relatively easy through the prairie, and a maintenance road winds through the site. Birder access is rated excellent.

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"/> Snow Goose	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cackling Goose	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	U	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	O			

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-will	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Warbler	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow	U	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow			O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	U		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	O	O	O	O

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Bob Janssen, 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.

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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Lost Valley Prairie

Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



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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