

## Birding Opportunities at Des Moines River Prairie SNA

Des Moines River Prairie SNA is a 210 acre unit located in the central portion of Jackson County, approximately 6 miles southeast of Windom, MN. The SNA is a good example of the prairie river floodplain. Rolling hilly upland prairies and slopes of water courses and small streams leading to the Des Moines River are also found here. In 2009 there were 129 species of birds recorded. It is likely that you will be greeted by a morning chorus of Meadowlark, Bobolink, Sedge Wren, Yellowthroat and Red-winged Blackbirds. This SNA is on the migration flyway of waterfowl and early spring visits might find White-fronted, Snow, Canada and Cackling Geese. In the spring of 2009, there was a Wild Turkey gobbling from the Des Moines River Valley and an Eastern Meadowlark was heard calling on the east-central portion of the SNA.

Breeding birds found on the SNA included Ring-necked Pheasant, Willow and Great-crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, House and Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Clay-colored, Field, Grasshopper, Song and Swamp Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Orchard and Baltimore Oriole and American Goldfinch

A visit to this SNA is a worthwhile if you are visiting SW Minnesota. A large number of birds can be seen here, as the habitat is in contrast with surrounding intensively farmed areas. There is extensive work being done by the DNR to reestablish this SNA as a primary example of the tall grass prairie as it occurred in Minnesota.

Access to the unit is off Jackson County roads 79 and 30. There is a boat access parking lot on the east side of the Des Moines River off of Jackson County Road #30. A restored prairie area of the SNA does border County 30 and there are three separate places along Jackson County # 79 on the east side of the SNA that provide access to the SNA. In the NE corner there is a field driveway access. The river bottom floodplains and the interior of the SNA are accessed from this point. Hiking is easy to moderate with most of the SNA being upland prairie.

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	U		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cackling Goose	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Trumpeter Swan	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	U		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	U		U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	U	
<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"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo	U		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

### 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

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including principal observer Jerry Bonkoski, 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 55155-4040 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-MIN-NDNR (646-6367).

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This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-296-6157 (Metro Area, TTY 651-296-5484, 800-657-3929

# Des Moines River 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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DNR Web Site: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

**Birding Opportunities at  
Des Moines River Prairie SNA (continued)**

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	C		C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	U	U	U	U

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	
<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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	U	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> LeConte's Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	U	U	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	C