

Birding Opportunities at Mound Springs Prairie SNA

Mound Spring Prairie SNA is a 465 acre unit, located in western Yellow Medicine County, immediately adjacent to South Dakota. This unit preserves one of the largest remaining prairie complexes on the Prairie Coteau of SW MN. Mound Spring Prairie SNA is made up of two parts that are connected only by a narrow border strip of land on the West. A diverse dry prairie is found at the site, as well as a wetland area. The site name comes from the interesting domed seepage wetlands "mound springs", which are actually part of a rare calcareous seepage fen. A total of 104 bird species have been recorded on the unit. Eleven raptor species have been sighted, including Swainson's Hawk and Great Horned Owl. The grasslands provide ample habitat for sixteen sparrow species. Other notable grassland birds include Loggerhead Shrike, Western Kingbird, and Horned Lark. Several shorebirds can also be found, including Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper. Access to this site is actually from Gary N. Dakota.

From Gary, go east on what becomes MN Co. Hwy. 4 for ½ mile, then south 1 mi. on a gravel road. After the road turns west, park on the south side of the road.

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Canada Goose	C		C	
Wood Duck	U	U	U	
Gadwall	U		U	
Mallard	C	C	C	
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C	
Northern Shoveler	C		U	
Redhead	U			
Ring-necked Duck	U			
Lesser Scaup	U			
Hooded Merganser	U			
Gray Partridge	O	O	O	O
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
Sharp-tailed Grouse	O			
Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U
American White Pelican			C	
Double-crested Cormorant	O		O	
Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
Turkey Vulture	O		O	
Bald Eagle	C	U	C	C
Northern Harrier	O		O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
Cooper's Hawk	U	O	U	R
Broad-winged Hawk	O		O	
Swainson's Hawk	O		O	
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U
Rough-legged Hawk	O			
American Kestrel	O		O	
Peregrine Falcon	O		O	
Prairie Falcon			O	
Virginia Rail		O		
Sora	O			
American Golden-plover	U			
Killdeer	C	C	C	
Lesser Yellowlegs	U		U	
Solitary Sandpiper	U	U	C	
Upland Sandpiper	C	C	C	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U	
Least Sandpiper	O		O	
Wilson's Snipe	C	C	C	
American Woodcock	O		O	
Wilson's Phalarope	O			
Franklin's Gull	U	O	C	
Ring-billed Gull		O		
Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
Eurasian Collared-Dove	U	U	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
Black-billed Cuckoo		O		

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
Snowy Owl	R	R		U
Common Nighthawk	U	U	U	
Chimney Swift	O	O	O	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U	
Belted Kingfisher	C	U	C	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	U	C	C
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	U	C	
Downy Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
Hairy Woodpecker	C	U	C	C
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O
Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	C	C	
Vermillion Flycatcher			R	
Willow Flycatcher	U	C	U	
Least Flycatcher	U	U	U	
Eastern Phoebe	O	O	O	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
Western Kingbird	U	U	U	
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
Loggerhead Shrike	O			
Warbling Vireo	U	C	U	
Red-eyed Vireo	U	C	C	
Blue Jay	U	U	C	U
American Crow	C	C	C	U
Horned Lark	C	U	U	
Purple martin	U	U	C	
Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
Swallow	O	O	O	
Bank Swallow	U	U		
Cliff Swallow	O			
Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
Black-capped Chickadee	O	O	O	O
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
House Wren	C	C	C	
Sedge Wren	U	U	U	
Marsh Wren	C	C	C	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		C	
Eastern Bluebird	U		C	
Swainson's Thrush	O		O	
American Robin	C	C	C	
Gray Catbird	U	U	U	
Northern Mockingbird	R	R		
Brown Thrasher	C	C	U	
European Starling	C	C	C	
Cedar Waxwing	U	C	C	U
Orange-crowned warbler	C		C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
American Redstart	C	C	C	
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
Eastern Towhee	O		O	
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U
Chipping Sparrow	U	U	U	
Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C	
Field Sparrow	C	C	C	
Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U	
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U		
Henslow's Sparrow	R	R	R	
Fox Sparrow	U		U	
Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	
Swamp Sparrow	O	O	O	
White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
Harris's Sparrow	C		C	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U
Lapland Longspur	C		C	
Smiths Longspur	O		R	
Snow Bunting	U		U	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	U	
Indigo Bunting	U	C	U	
Dickcissel	O	C	U	
Bobolink	O		O	
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	O		O	
Rusty Blackbird	U		U	
Brewer's Blackbird	O		O	
Common Grackle	C	C	C	
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
Orchard Oriole	C	C		
Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
House Finch			O	
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	
House Sparrow	O	O	O	O

Season and Abundance Key

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

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Mound Spring Prairie

Scientific and Natural Area



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____