

Birding Opportunities at Avon Hills Forest SNA

This unique SNA located in Stearns County preserves a piece of the Avon Hills. It is divided into two units, totaling 354 acres; a north unit and a south unit which are approximately 3.75 miles apart. Both units contain large tracts of hilly, oak forest, interspersed with forested swamps, marshes, and lakes. The large deciduous woodlands in the south unit contain excellent habitat for Cerulean Warbler and Red-shouldered Hawk. The Veery is common in these woodlands and 16 species of warblers were recorded during the migration period with five of these species remaining to breed on the SNA. The Virginia and Sora Rail were recorded in the marsh areas. In general, this SNA, with its rolling forested hills and wetlands is excellent habitat for birds of many species. 120 species were recorded during the one year survey. There are no developed trails in either unit. Access for hiking is only available along boundary roads; Quaker Road, which runs along the north side of the north unit and Schuman Lake Road which forms the south boundary of the south unit. The Stearns County Lake Wobegon Trail runs along the south boundary of the north unit. Road-side parking is available along Quaker Road and in a parking lot off of Schuman Lake Road.

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	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	O	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	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	U	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<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"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	U	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
<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"/> Cerulean Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U	
<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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U	
<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	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
<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 principal observer Bob Jansen, 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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Avon Hills Forest

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.