

Birding Opportunities at Chimney Rock SNA

A refuge for migrating songbirds amidst the agricultural lands of Dakota County, the forest, fields and edges between offer food and shelter to many birds. Highlights are the species that nest here including: Scarlet Tanager, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-Eyed Vireo and Vesper Sparrow. In all seasons you could expect to find Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy, Hairy, Red-Bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers. Wild turkey and even an Eastern Screech Owl are possible. The following list is really only a one year snapshot of the potential upland bird species which can be seen.

Chimney Rock SNA is in a portion of the state that escaped the last glacial advance and is characterized by deposits of wind-blown loess (silt) over bedrock. The site contains a significant geologic feature consisting of three St. Peter Sandstone chimney formations capped by Platteville Formation rock. The harder Platteville capstone has protected the soft sandstone from eroding, preserving the unusual and attractive chimney formations. In 1888, several of these formations in the area were described, but by 1980 only Chimney Rock remained in relatively good condition. The SNA also contains four native plant communities characteristic of the dry sandy soils that underlie the site. Within these communities four rare plant species can be found growing: kittentails, beach heather, Canada frostweed and narrow-leaved pinweed. A portion of this site was a gift from a private landowner. Dakota County assisted in the protection of this site.

Chimney Rock SNA is located from Hastings 4 miles south on US Highway 61, then 2 miles west on County Road 77 (205th Street East). Continue 1 mile south on County Highway 89 (Joan Avenue). Park on west road shoulder..

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	U	U	U	
<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	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker				
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acadian Flycatcher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo				
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo				

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike				O
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C	C		C
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	U	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"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher		U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	U	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	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, 2009) 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 Kevin Smith, MOU records, and data contained in research reports.

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Alternative format available upon request.

Chimney Rock

Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____

