

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>THRUSHES</b>					
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U				
Swainson's Thrush	U		U		
Hermit Thrush	C		C		
Wood Thrush	O	O	O		
American Robin	C	C	C	O	

<b>THRASHERS, MOCKINGBIRDS</b>					
Gray Catbird	C	C	C		
Brown Thrasher	C	C	C		

<b>STARLINGS</b>					
European Starling	C	C	C	C	

<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	

<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>					
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	

<b>FINCHES</b>					
House Finch	C	C	C	C	
Purple Finch	O		O	O	
Pine Siskin	O		O		
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	

<b>TOWHEES, SPARROWS</b>					
Lark Sparrow	O		O		
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		
Clay-colored Sparrow	O		O		
Field Sparrow	C	C	U		
Fox Sparrow	C		C		
American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C	
Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U		
Harris's Sparrow	U		U		
White-throated Sparrow	C		C		
Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U		
Henslow's Sparrow			O		
Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C		
Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		
Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C		
Eastern Towhee	U	U	U		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES</b>					
Bobolink	U	U	U		
Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C		
Western Meadowlark	C	C	C		
Orchard Oriole			O		
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U		
Rusty Blackbird	C		C		
Common Grackle	C	C	C	O	

<b>WARBLERS</b>					
Ovenbird	C	C	C		
Northern Waterthrush	U		U		
Golden-winged Warbler	U		O		
Blue-winged Warbler	U	U	O		
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C		
Prothonotary Warbler	O	O			
Tennessee Warbler	C		C		
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		
Nashville Warbler	C		C		
Mourning Warbler	U	O			
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		
American Redstart	C	C	C		
Cape May Warbler	O		O		
Cerulean Warbler			O		
Northern Parula	U		U		
Magnolia Warbler	U		U		
Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U		
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		C		
Palm Warbler	U		U		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C		
Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		
Canada Warbler	U		U		
Wilson's Warbler	U		U		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>TANAGERS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS</b>					
Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U		
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		
Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		
Dickcissel		O			

Checklist created by Robert B. Janssen, Jerry Bonkoski and MNDNR. Data was gathered from MNDNR staff observations, public observations and Minnesota Ornithologist's Union records. Nomenclature and organization of checklist based off of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (7th edition) as currently supplemented.

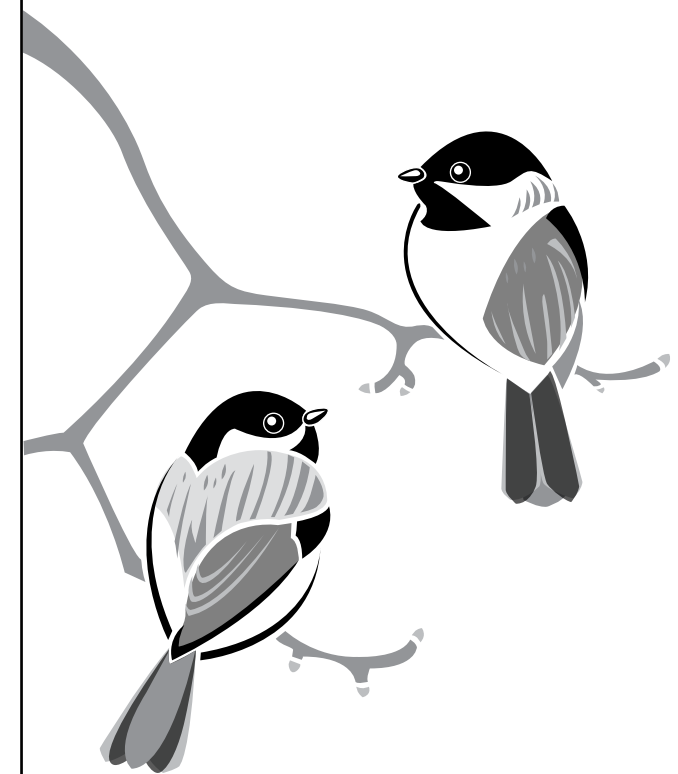
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4039. Phone: 651-259-5600.

The Minnesota DNR prohibits discrimination in its programs and services based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation or disability. Persons with disabilities may request reasonable modifications to access or participate in DNR programs and services by contacting the DNR ADA Title II Coordinator at [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) or 651-259-5488. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4049; or Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C. Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

© 2025, State of Minnesota, DNR

# BIRD CHECKLIST

## MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE RECREATION AREA



## Birding at Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area

This long, linear property has multiple units with a magnificent combination of habitats. You'll find river lowlands, floodplain forests, lakes, marshes and prairie all located along the Minnesota River. Portions of this recreation area stretch through the southwestern suburbs and communities of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

These diverse habitats draw a wide variety of birds. Look for wading birds, waterfowl, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, vireos, swallows and sparrows. The fall migration of sparrows is excellent in the grass and brush habitat.

### Key

#### Occurrence

**Sp** - Spring (Mar—May)

**S** - Summer (Jun—Jul)

**F** - Fall (Aug—Nov)

**W** - Winter (Dec—Feb)

#### Abundance

**C** - Common (Present, relatively easy to find)

**U** - Uncommon (Present, not certain to be seen)

**O** - Occasional (Infrequent, may not return each year)

**R** - Rare (Observed at least once, may not return)

**Date:** Enter the date you saw the bird.

## Bird Identification Tips

When you observe a bird, make note of at least three characteristics.

**Location:** Where did you see the bird? (water, forest, feeder, lower branch, tree trunk, etc.)

**Body size and shape:** Compare to a known bird. (smaller than a...bigger than a...plump like a...slender like a...) Look at tail, legs and bill. (long, short, thick, thin, curved, straight)

**Colors and markings:** Look on wings, tail, back, belly, rump and head. (stripe above eye, white spot on tail, etc.)

**Sounds and movements:** How do they act and sound? (travel alone or in groups, in-flight wing position - soaring, flapping, flap and glide, etc.)

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS</b>					
Snow Goose	O		O		
Canada Goose	C	C	C		
Tundra Swan			O		
Wood Duck	C	C	C		
Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C		
Northern Shoveler	U		U		
Gadwall	U		U		
American Wigeon	U		U		
Mallard	C	C	C		
American Black Duck	U		U		
Northern Pintail	U		U		
Green-winged Teal	U		U		
Redhead	O			O	
Ring-necked Duck	U				
Greater Scaup	O				
Lesser Scaup	U		U		
Bufflehead	O				
Common Goldeneye	O				
Hooded Merganser	U	U			
Common Merganser	U				
Ruddy Duck			O		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>PARTRIDGE, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS</b>					
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	
Ruffed Grouse		R			
Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>GREBES</b>					
Pied-billed Grebe	O		O		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES</b>					
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>CUCKOOS</b>					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		
Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>					
Common Nighthawk		O			
Eastern Whip-poor-will		O			

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>SWIFTS</b>					
Chimney Swift	U	U	U		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS</b>					
Sora	O		O		
American Coot	U	U	U		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>CRANES</b>					
Sandhill Crane	O				

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>PLOVERS</b>					
Killdeer	C	C	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>					
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	O	U		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U		
American Woodcock	U		U		
Wilson's Snipe	U		C		
Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U		
Lesser Yellowlegs	O		O		
Greater Yellowlegs	O		O		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>					
Bonaparte's Gull	O		O		
Franklin's Gull			O		
Ring-billed Gull	C	U	C		
Herring Gull	U		U		
Thayer's Gull	O				
Caspian Tern			O		
Forster's Tern	U	O			

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>CORMORANTS</b>					
Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>PELICANS</b>					
American White Pelican			U		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, NIGHT-HERONS</b>					
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C		
Great Egret	C	U	C		
Green Heron	U	U	U		
Black-crowned Night-heron	U	U	U		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>					
Turkey Vulture	C	U	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>OSPREY</b>					
Osprey	O		O		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>					
Northern Harrier	U	U	U		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U		
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U		
Bald Eagle	C	U	C		
Red-shouldered Hawk	O		O		
Broad-winged Hawk	U		U		
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>					
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	
Long-eared Owl			O		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>					
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C		C		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O	
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>FALCONS</b>					
American Kestrel	C	C	C	U	
Peregrine Falcon			O		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U		
Acadian Flycatcher		O			
Alder Flycatcher	U	O	U		
Willow Flycatcher	U	O	U		
Least Flycatcher	C	C	C		
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>SHRIKES</b>					
Loggerhead Shrike	O	O			
Northern Shrike				O	

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>VIREOS</b>					
Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U		
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U		
Philadelphia Vireo	U		U		
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C		
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS, RAVENS</b>					
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	
American Crow	C	C	C	C	

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>LARKS</b>					
Horned Lark	O		O		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>MARTINS, SWALLOWS</b>					
Bank Swallow	U	U	U		
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		
Purple Martin	O		O		
Barn Swallow	C	C	C		
Cliff Swallow	C	U	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	
Tufted Titmouse	O				

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	O	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>CREEPERS</b>					
Brown Creeper		O			

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>WRENS</b>					
House Wren	C	C	C		
Winter Wren	U		U		
Sedge Wren	U	U	U		
Marsh Wren	U	U	U		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C		

STATE RECREATION AREA BIRDS	Sp	S	F	W	DATE
<b>KINGLETS</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	O	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C		