

Birding Opportunities at Wolsfeld Woods SNA

Wolsfeld Woods SNA is a 221 acre preserve located in Hennepin County. It is a premier example of the original "Big Woods" forest that once covered the south central part of the state. It is one of the last remnant mature hardwood stands in the Twin Cities. Very few remnants remain due to urban expansion, agriculture, and industrial development. This large, mature stand of hardwoods covers gently rolling hills with a variety of tree species, including red oak, ironwood, butternut, maple, elm, and basswood. The SNA includes a portion of Wolsfeld Lake and a cattail marsh. The variety of habitats makes for excellent birding. 150 bird species have been found, and red-shouldered hawks nest here. On the lake, 12 duck species have been seen along with trumpeter swans, pied-billed grebe, and even common loon. 27 species of warblers have been recorded, and in the spring the woods resound with bird songs of all kinds.

Over a mile of well-defined trails lead through the SNA. Parking is in the church parking lot at the north end of Brown Road on Co. Rd. 6. Visitors are required to stay on marked trails. Dogs are not permitted. Birder access is rated excellent.

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"/> Trumpeter Swan	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra Swan	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	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	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech-Owl	O	O	O	O

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<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"/> Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	O	O	O	
<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"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	O		O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	U	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler	O		O	
<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"/> Northern Parula	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean Warbler	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	O		O	
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow				U
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U
<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"/> Bobolink	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Bob Janssen, Bill Marengo, volunteer observers, as well as 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 53155-4000, 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-MIN-NDNR (646-6367).

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Wolsfeld Woods

Scientific and Natural Area

BIRD 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.

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