

Birding Opportunities at Blue Devil Valley SNA

Blue Devil Valley SNA is a 30 acres in size. It contains a unique granite outcrop community within the Minnesota River Valley that supports one of the largest known populations of the rare five-lined skink, a reptile species, and also features birds of the Prairie Parkland Ecological Province. Management at this site is focused on enhancing the prairie and oak savanna communities by using prescribed fire and removal of encroaching woody plants such as eastern red cedar and buckthorn. The Nature Conservancy gifted this site as an SNA to the State of Minnesota. Spring through fall is a good time to view the wildflowers. Bird-watching is good in the spring, summer and fall. This SNA consists of dry prairie, overgrown oak savanna, dense deciduous woodlands, and rock outcrops pocked with wet depressions. There have been 64 bird species recorded at the SNA. Look for red-bellied woodpeckers, flickers, indigo buntings and other birds found in woody patches of the prairie. Ten sparrow species have been found here. A pond on the northern border is a good place to view water birds and migrants. Access is difficult and there are no developed trails. An abandoned field road begins at the parking area along Highway 39 and winds through the site. Birder access is medium, and it is a confusing area in which to navigate.

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"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	U	U	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"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	O	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"/> Purple Martin	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree 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"/> House Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	U	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	U	U	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<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	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<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	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	U	U	U	U
Additional Observations				

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Bob Janssen, 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.

Blue Devil Valley

Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____

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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