

## Birding Opportunities at Verlyn Marth Memorial Prairie SNA

This 34-acre SNA was named after Verlyn Marth, a citizen known locally for his botanical skills and his prairie protection advocacy. He had observed this site, with its two dry-mesic prairie knolls and its cattail marsh/sedge meadow, as it was used for pasture land during the 1930s and 40s. When he saw it being plowed and planted, he purchased the land to prevent further destruction. From then on, he worked to manage it as a prairie and restore it to its original condition. His journals detail his work and his evaluation of it. Although small, the area is diverse and 72 bird species have been seen here, first by Marth and later by other birders. Wood Ducks, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and American White Pelicans can be seen on the pond, while Short Eared Owls, Upland Sandpipers and Marbled Godwits can be glimpsed in the on the upland areas.

### 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"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Grebe		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron			C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-Heron		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk		O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Godwit	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Tern	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern		O	O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C	C		U
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow			O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow		U		

Additional Observations

Additional Observations (Continued)

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including project coordinator Melissa Driscoll, Carol Schumacher, and 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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# Verlyn Marth Memorial

## Scientific and Natural Area

# Checklist



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



*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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