

# Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

## National Wildlife Refuge



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
 3815 American Boulevard East  
 Bloomington, MN 55425-1600  
 952/854 5900

Minnesota Valley's website address:  
<http://midwest.fws.gov/minnesotavalley>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
 1 800/344 WILD (9453)  
<http://www.fws.gov>

Deaf/hard of hearing individuals may reach  
 Minnesota Valley NWR through the Federal  
 Information Relay System at 1 800/877 8339

Available in alternative formats upon request.



SPECIES	NE	SP	SU	F	W
<b>KINGLETS &amp; GNATCATCHERS</b>					
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet		u		u	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet		c		u	
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	N	u	u	o	
<b>THRUSHES &amp; ALLIES</b>					
___ Eastern Bluebird	N	u	u	u	
___ Townsend's Solitaire				x	
___ Veery		o		r	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush		u		r	
___ Swainson's Thrush		u	r	r	
___ Hermit Thrush		u		u	r
___ Wood Thrush	P	o	o	o	
___ American Robin	N	a	a	a	u
___ Gray Catbird	N	c	c	c	
___ Northern Mockingbird				x	
___ Brown Thrasher	N	u	u	o	
<b>STARLINGS</b>					
___ European Starling	N	c	c	c	c
<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
___ Bohemian Waxwing		x		x	x
___ Cedar Waxwing	N	u	c	u	o
<b>WOOD WARBLERS</b>					
___ Blue-winged Warbler	P	c	c	r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler		u	r	r	
___ Tennessee Warbler		c	c	c	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler		u		u	
___ Nashville Warbler		c	u	c	
___ Northern Parula		o	r	o	
___ Yellow Warbler	N	c	c	o	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	P	u	o	u	
___ Magnolia Warbler		u	o	u	
___ Cape May Warbler		o		o	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler		r		r	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler		a		a	r
___ Black-throated Green Warbler		u		o	
___ Blackburnian Warbler		u		u	
___ Pine Warbler		r		r	
___ Prairie Warbler		x			
___ Palm Warbler		c		c	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler			o	o	
___ Blackpoll Warbler		u		o	
___ Cerulean Warbler		r		r	
___ Black-and-white Warbler		u		u	
___ American Redstart	N	c	c	c	
___ Prothonotary Warbler	N	o	o	r	
___ Worm-eating Warbler		r			
___ Ovenbird	P	u	o	u	
___ Northern Waterthrush		u	o	o	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush		x			
___ Kentucky Warbler			x		
___ Connecticut Warbler		r	r	r	
___ Mourning Warbler		o	o	o	
___ Common Yellowthroat	N	c	c	c	
___ Hooded Warbler		x			
___ Wilson's Warbler		u	o	u	
___ Canada Warbler		o	o	o	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	N	r	r	r	
<b>TANAGERS</b>					
___ Summer Tanager		x			
___ Scarlet Tanager	N	u	u	r	
___ Western Tanager		x			
<b>SPARROWS, BUNTINGS, &amp; GROSBEAKS</b>					
___ Eastern Towhee	P	o	o	o	
___ Spotted Towhee		x			
___ American Tree Sparrow		c		c	c
___ Chipping Sparrow	N	c	c	u	
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	N	c	u	o	
___ Field Sparrow	N	c	u	c	r
___ Vesper Sparrow	N	o	o	o	
___ Lark Sparrow	P	o	o		
___ Savannah Sparrow	N	u	u	u	
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	N	o	o		
___ Henslow's Sparrow	P	o	u	r	
___ Le Conte's Sparrow		r		r	
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow		r	r	r	

SPECIES	NE	SP	SU	F	W
<b>SPARROW, BUNTINGS, &amp; GROSBEAKS, cont.</b>					
___ Fox Sparrow			u		u
___ Song Sparrow	N	c	c	c	r
___ Lincoln's Sparrow		u		u	
___ Swamp Sparrow	N	u	u	u	
___ White-throated Sparrow		c		c	r
___ Harris' Sparrow		o		o	
___ White-crowned Sparrow		u		u	
___ Dark-eyed Junco		c		c	c
___ Lapland Longspur		r		r	c
___ Snow Bunting		r		r	r
___ Northern Cardinal	N	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	N	c	c	c	
___ Blue Grosbeak			x		
___ Indigo Bunting	N	c	c	o	
___ Dickcissel	N		o		
<b>BLACKBIRDS &amp; ALLIES</b>					
___ Bobolink			o		
___ Red-winged Blackbird	N	a	a	a	u
___ Eastern Meadowlark	P	o	o	r	
___ Western Meadowlark		r	r	r	
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	N	u	u	r	
___ Rusty Blackbird		o		o	r
___ Brewer's Blackbird		o		o	
___ Common Grackle	N	a	a	a	o
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	N	a	c	r	
___ Orchard Oriole	P	o	o	r	
___ Baltimore Oriole	N	u	u	r	
<b>FINCHES</b>					
___ Purple Finch		o		o	o
___ House Finch	N	c	c	c	c
___ Red Crossbill					r
___ White-winged Crossbill					r
___ Common Redpoll		r		r	o
___ Hoary Redpoll					x
___ Pine Siskin		o		o	o
___ American Goldfinch	N	c	c	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak					x
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>					
___ House Sparrow	N	c	c	c	c

Note: If you observe any unusual species (i.e. those listed here as accidental or rare), or any species not included on the list, please report your sightings to refuge staff. We encourage well-described sightings to assist us in revising this checklist.

**Other species (list):**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Location(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



The "Blue Goose" symbolizes the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of over 530 refuges protected and managed for wildlife, habitat, and people.

**Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Bird Checklist**

**A Home for Birds**

Like most units of the 93-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System, Minnesota Valley attracts an international clientele. The prairies, woodlands, marshes, and lakes attract many types of shorebirds, waterfowl, and songbirds to the refuge as a stopover on their migration route between their breeding grounds further north and their wintering areas in the southern hemisphere. This greatly highlights the importance of protecting natural habitat to help in the migrants' journey. Annually over 200 species can be found at the refuge, with over 100 species nesting here.

**Birding at Minnesota Valley**

This checklist represents the 297 species that have been recorded at the refuge. Spring and fall feature spectacular migrations, with significant peak periods in early May (songbirds), August (shorebirds and songbirds), and October (waterfowl). Some choice birding locations include the Bass Ponds/Old Cedar areas (Long Meadow Lake Unit), Chaska Lake (Chaska Unit), Louisville Swamp (Louisville Swamp Unit), upland prairie areas of the Rapids Lake Unit, and the feeders at both the Bloomington Visitor Center and the Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center.

**Legend**

*Symbols used are as follows:*

NE -- Nesting status

SP -- March-May

SU -- June-August\*

F -- September-November

W -- December-February

\*Note: summer occurrence may not indicate nesting, as many species of warblers and shorebirds migrate through the area in the latter half of the summer

**Occurrence codes**

a — abundant - a species that is widespread and in large numbers  
 c — common - certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat, not in large numbers  
 u — uncommon - present but not always seen  
 o — occasional - seen only a few times during the season; usually local and/or in very small numbers  
 r — rare - to be expected, but only once every 2 to 5 years  
 x — accidental - not to be expected; out of normal range

N — Nesting has been confirmed at the Refuge

P — Nesting is probable, but not confirmed

*Checklist revised October 2008 by Barry Jones.*

**SPECIES**

**DUCKS, GEESE, & SWANS**

___ Greater White-fronted Goose		r			r	
___ Snow Goose						r
___ Canada Goose	N	a	c	a	a	
___ Cackling Goose		o		o		
___ Mute Swan	P	r	r	r	r	
___ Trumpeter Swan	P	u	u	u	u	
___ Tundra Swan						o
___ Wood Duck	N	a	u	a	o	
___ Gadwall		c		c		o
___ American Wigeon		c	r	c		
___ American Black Duck		u		u		u
___ Mallard	N	a	a	a	a	
___ Blue-winged Teal	N	c	u	c		
___ Cinnamon Teal		x				
___ Northern Shoveler		c	r	c	r	
___ Northern Pintail		o		u	r	
___ Green-winged Teal		u	r	c	o	
___ Canvasback		u		u	r	
___ Redhead		u		r	o	r
___ Ring-necked Duck		u		u	r	
___ Greater Scaup		r		r		
___ Lesser Scaup		c		u		
___ Harlequin Duck						x
___ Surf Scoter		x				
___ White-winged Scoter		x		x		
___ Long-tailed Duck		x				x
___ Bufflehead		c		u	r	c
___ Common Goldeneye		c		u		c
___ Barrow's Goldeneye	r			r		
___ Hooded Merganser	N	c	o	u	o	
___ Common Merganser		c		c		c
___ Red-breasted Merganser		u		u		
___ Ruddy Duck	N	u	r	u		

**UPLAND GAME BIRDS**

___ Gray Partridge		x	x	x	x	
___ Ring-necked Pheasant	N	c	c	c	c	
___ Ruffed Grouse		x	x	x	x	
___ Wild Turkey	N	u	u	u	u	

**LOONS & GREBES**

___ Pacific Loon					x	
___ Common Loon		o		o		
___ Pied-billed Grebe	N	c	o	c	r	
___ Horned Grebe		u		r		
___ Red-necked Grebe		r		r		
___ Eared Grebe		x	x			
___ Western Grebe		x				

**PELICANS & CORMORANTS**

___ American White Pelican		u		o	u	o
___ Double-crested Cormorant	P	c	c	c	c	c

**HERONS & BITTERNS**

___ American Bittern	N	o		o	o	
___ Least Bittern	N	u	u	u	u	
___ Great Blue Heron	N	c	c	c	c	r
___ Great Egret	N	c	c	c	c	
___ Snowy Egret			x			
___ Little Blue Heron		x	x			
___ Tricolored Heron		x				
___ Cattle Egret		x			x	
___ Green Heron	N	u	u	u	u	
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	N	o	o	o	o	r
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron		x				
___ White-faced Ibis		x				

**BIRDS OF PREY**

___ Turkey Vulture		u		u	u	
___ Osprey	N	o	u	o		
___ Mississippi Kite		x				
___ Bald Eagle	N	c	c	c	c	
___ Northern Harrier		o	r	o		r
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk		u		u	u	o
___ Cooper's Hawk	N	u	o	u	o	
___ Northern Goshawk		r		r		r

**SPECIES**

**BIRDS OF PREY, cont.**

___ Red-shouldered Hawk	N	r	r	r	r	
___ Broad-winged Hawk		o	r	o		
___ Red-tailed Hawk	N	c	c	c	c	
___ Rough-legged Hawk		o		o		o
___ Golden Eagle		x				x
___ American Kestrel	N	u	u	u	u	
___ Merlin		x		x		u
___ Peregrine Falcon	N	u	u	u	u	
___ Prairie Falcon					x	

**RAILS & CRANES**

___ King Rail			x			
___ Virginia Rail	N	u	u	o		
___ Sora	N	c	u	c		
___ Common Moorhen		r	r	r		
___ American Coot	N	a	u	a		r
___ Sandhill Crane		r	r			

**SHOREBIRDS**

___ Black-bellied Plover		r		r		
___ American Golden Plover		x		x		
___ Semipalmated Plover		r	r	r		
___ Piping Plover		x		x		
___ Killdeer	N	c	c	c		
___ Black-necked Stilt		x				
___ American Avocet		r		r		
___ Spotted Sandpiper	N	c	c	o		
___ Solitary Sandpiper		c	u	u		
___ Greater Yellowlegs		u	u	o		
___ Willet		x		x		
___ Lesser Yellowlegs		u	u	o		
___ Upland Sandpiper		x	x	x		
___ Hudsonian Godwit		x		x		
___ Marbled Godwit			x			
___ Ruddy Turnstone		x	x	x		
___ Sanderling		x		x		
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper		o	o	o		
___ Least Sandpiper		u	u	o		
___ White-rumped Sandpiper		x	x			
___ Baird's Sandpiper		r	r	r		
___ Pectoral Sandpiper		o	u	o		
___ Dunlin		r	r	r		
___ Stilt Sandpiper		o	o	o		
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper		x	r	x		
___ Ruff			x			
___ Short-billed Dowitcher		r		o		
___ Long-billed Dowitcher		x		x		
___ Common Snipe	N	o	r	o	r	
___ American Woodcock	N	u	o	r		
___ Wilson's Phalarope		r	r	r		
___ Red-necked Phalarope		x		x		

**GULLS & TERNs**

___ Franklin's Gull		r		u		
___ Bonaparte's Gull		o		o		
___ Ring-billed Gull		a	c	a	c	
___ Herring Gull		u		c	c	
___ Thayer's Gull				o	o	
___ Iceland Gull				o	o	r
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull				r	r	
___ Slaty-backed Gull						x
___ Glaucous-winged Gull					x	
___ Glaucous Gull		o				o
___ Great Black-backed Gull						r
___ Black-legged Kittiwake						x
___ Caspian Tern		o	r	o		
___ Black Tern	N	u	u	r		
___ Common Tern		x		x		
___ Forster's Tern	N	o	o	r		

**PIGEONS & DOVES**

___ Rock Pigeon	N	u	u	u	u	
___ Mourning Dove	N	c	c	c	c	

**CUCKOOS**

___ Black-billed Cuckoo	N	o	o	o		
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo		o	o	o		

**SPECIES**

**OWLS**

___ Eastern Screech Owl	N	r	r	r	r	
___ Great Horned Owl	N	u	u	u	u	
___ Snowy Owl						r
___ Barred Owl	P	u	u	u	u	
___ Great Gray Owl						x
___ Long-eared Owl					r	o
___ Short-eared Owl					r	r
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl						

**NIGHTJARS & SWIFTS**

___ Common Nighthawk	N	u	o	u		
___ Whip-poor-will		r		c		
___ Chimney Swift	N	c	c	c		

**HUMMINGBIRDS**

___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	N	u	u	u		
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**KINGFISHERS**

___ Belted Kingfisher	N	u	u	u		r
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**WOODPECKERS**

___ Red-headed Woodpecker	N	u	u	o		
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	N	c	c	c		c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	N	u	u	u		
___ Downy Woodpecker	N	c	c	c		c
___ Hairy Woodpecker	N	c	c	c		c
___ Northern Flicker	N	c	c	c		r
___ Pileated Woodpecker	N	u	u	u		u

**FLYCATCHERS**

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher			o	r		
___ Eastern Wood Pewee	N	u	u	u		
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		r		r		
___ Acadian Flycatcher				r		
___ Alder Flycatcher		o	o	r		
___ Willow Flycatcher	P	u	u	o		
___ Least Flycatcher	P	c	u	o		
___ Eastern Phoebe	N	u	u	u		
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	N	u	u	u		
___ Western Kingbird		x	x	x		
___ Eastern Kingbird	N	u	u	o		

**SHRIKES**

___ Loggerhead Shrike			x	x	x	
___ Northern Shrike		o		o		u

**VIROES**

___ White-eyed Vireo						
___ Bell's Vireo	N	o	o	o		
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	N	u	u	u		
___ Blue-headed Vireo		u	u	u		
___ Warbling Vireo	P	c	c	o		
___ Philadelphia Vireo		o		o		
___ Red-eyed Vireo	P	o	c	c		

**CROWS & JAYS**

___ Blue Jay	N	c	c	c	c	
___ American Crow	N	a	a	a	a	

**LARKS & PIPITS**

___ Horned Lark		o	o	o		r
___ American Pipit		r				

**SWALLOWS**

___ Purple Martin	N	r	o	c		
___ Tree Swallow	N	c	c	c		u
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow	N	c	c	c		u
___ Bank Swallow	N	u	u	u		r
___ Cliff Swallow	N	u	u	u		u
___ Barn Swallow	N	c	c	c		

**CHICKADEES & TITMICE**

___ Black-capped Chickadee	N	a	a	a	a	
___ Tufted Titmouse		x	x	x	x	

**NUTHATCHES**

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch		o	r	o		o
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	N	c	c	c	c	

**CREEPERS**

___ Brown Creeper		u		u		u
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**WRENS**

___ Rock Wren		x		r	r	r
___ Carolina Wren		r		c		u
___ House Wren	N	c	c	c		u
___ Winter Wren		o				o
___ Sedge Wren	N	u	u	u		o
___ Marsh Wren	N	u	u	u		u