

Expected Breeding Birds in Minnesota's Prairie Parkland and Tallgrass Aspen  
Parklands Landscape Region

**MINNESOTA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS - Expected species in the Prairie Parkland and Tallgrass Aspen Parklands  
Ecoregion**

**TOTAL species = 213**

**Counties in ecoregion:** Prairie: Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Clay, Cottonwood, Faribault, Grant, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac que Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Martin, Meeker, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Norman, Pipestone, Pope, Redwood, Rock, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Watonwan, Wilkin, Yellow Medicine. Parkland: Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau

**Code:** 4 letter alpha abbreviation code that can be used by observers on the field card;

source: Institute for Bird Populations ([www.birdpop.org/AlphaCodes.htm](http://www.birdpop.org/AlphaCodes.htm) )

**Safe Dates:** These dates provide an approximate window of the breeding season for each species;

see the discussion on safe dates in the MNBBA Handbook

**Distribution comments:** Species that are present in the parkland are noted; when species are present only in counties at the edge of the region the notation is N and S (in this ecoregion the division between N and S is considered to be between Traverse and Big Stone counties); flyovers should be noted as Cornell evidence code O; "rare" species are rare within the region

**LANDTYPE HABITAT**

**# of species / landtype**

**Water** = lake, pond, stream shore, marsh, fen, open bog **38**  
**Open** = prairie, field, brushland, shrub swamp, band, cliff **33**  
**Forest** = forest, wooded swamp, cutover, savanna, orchard, forested bog, floodplain w/trees **40**  
**Mixed** = edge, fragmented, suburban, urban; farmstead **16**

**# of species – Tallgrass Aspen Parkland only** **59**

\* Denotes species that are colonial; the priority is to report colony locations

Species	Code	Safe Dates	Distribution comments	Landtype Habitat
Canada Goose	CANG	4/10 - 8/1		water
Trumpeter Swan	TRUS	5/1 - 8/1		water
Wood Duck	WODU	5/1 - 8/1		water
Gadwall	GADW	5/15 - 8/1		water
American Wigeon	AMWI	5/15 - 8/1		water
American Black Duck	ABDU	5/15 - 8/1	parkland; elsewhere- very rare	water
Mallard	MALL	5/1 - 8/1		water
Blue-winged Teal	BWTE	5/10 - 8/1		water
Northern Shoveler	NSHO	5/10 - 8/1		water
Northern Pintail	NOPI	5/10 - 8/1		water
Green-winged Teal	GWTE	5/20 - 8/1		water
Canvasback	CANV	5/20 - 8/1		water
Redhead	REDH	5/20 - 8/1		water
Ring-necked Duck	RNDU	5/20 - 8/1		water
Lesser Scaup	LESC	5/20 - 8/1		water
Bufflehead	BUFF	5/20 - 8/1	parkland only	water
Common Goldeneye	COGO	5/15 - 8/1	parkland only	water
Hooded Merganser	HOME	5/15 - 8/1		water
Ruddy Duck	RUDU	6/10 - 8/1		water
Gray Partridge	GRAP	4/20 - 8/10		open
Ring-necked Pheasant	RNEP	4/20 - 7/20		open
Ruffed Grouse	RUGR	4/10 - 7/20	parkland; elsewhere - very rare	forest
Spruce Grouse	SPGR	4/10 - 8/10	Roseau only	forest
Sharp-tailed Grouse	STGR	4/1 - 7/10	parkland only	open
Greater Prairie-Chicken	GRPC	4/1 - 7/10	parkland; also Wilkin, Norman, Clay	open

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Wild Turkey	WITU	4/20 - 7/20		mixed
Common Loon	COLO	5/1 - 7/7	rare S of Minnesota River	water
Pied-billed Grebe	PBGR	5/1 - 8/1		water
Horned Grebe	HOGR	6/1 - 8/1 *	parkland only - very rare	water
Red-necked Grebe	RNGR	5/15 - 8/1 *		water
Eared Grebe	EAGR	5/20 - 8/1 *		water
Western Grebe	WEGR	5/20 - 8/1 *		water
American White Pelican	AWPE	5/20 - 7/15 *	colony; also flyovers	water
Double-crested Cormorant	DCCO	5/20 - 8/15 *	colony; also flyovers	water
American Bittern	AMBI	5/20 - 8/1		water
Least Bittern	LEBI	6/1 - 8/1		water
Great Blue Heron	GBHE	5/1 - 8/1 *		water
Great Egret	GREG	5/20 - 8/1 *		water
Green Heron	GRHE	6/1 - 8/15 *		water
Black-crowned Night Heron	BCNH	5/20 - 8/15 *		water
Turkey Vulture	TUVU	5/10 - 8/1		open; forest
Osprey	OSPR	6/1 - 8/1	parkland; elsewhere - rare	water; nest - forest
Bald Eagle	BAEA	5/1 - 8/10		water; nest - forest
Northern Harrier	NOHA	5/20 - 8/1		open
Sharp-shinned Hawk	SSHA	5/20 - 8/1	Roseau only	forest
Cooper's Hawk	COHA	5/20 - 8/10		forest
Red-shouldered Hawk	RSHA	5/1 - 8/1	rare	forest
Broad-winged Hawk	BWHA	6/10 - 8/1	rare	forest
Swainson's Hawk	SWHA	5/20 - 8/1		open
Red-tailed Hawk	RTHA	4/20 - 8/1		mixed
American Kestrel	MAKE	5/20 - 8/1		open
Merlin	MERL	5/20 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
Yellow Rail	YEAR	5/20 - 8/10	parkland; rest of N 1/2 - very rare	water
Virginia Rail	VIRA	5/20 - 8/10		water
Sora	SORA	5/20 - 8/10		water
Common Moorhen	COMO	6/1 - 8/10	Nobles, Watonwan only - very rare	water
American Coot	AMCO	5/20 - 8/10		water
Sandhill Crane	SACR	5/1 - 8/1	parkland; elsewhere - rare	water
Killdeer	KILL	5/1 - 8/1		open
Spotted Sandpiper	SPSA	5/20 - 7/20		water
Upland Sandpiper	UPSA	5/20 - 7/20		open
Marbled Godwit	MAGO	5/10 - 7/20		open
Wilson's Snipe	WISN	5/1 - 8/1		water; forest
American Woodcock	AMWO	5/1 - 8/1	parkland; elsewhere - rare	forest
Wilson's Phalarope	WIPH	6/1 - 8/1		water
Franklin's Gull	FRGU	6/1 - 7/20 *	colony; also flyovers	water

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Ring-billed Gull	RBGU	5/15 - 8/1 *	colony; also flyovers	water
Black Tern	BLTE	6/1 - 8/1 *	colony	water
Forster's Tern	FOTE	6/1 - 8/1 *	colony; also flyovers	water
Rock Pigeon	ROPI	4/1 - 8/1		mixed
Eurasian Collared-Dove	EUCD	5/1 - 8/1	S tier counties only - rare	mixed
Mourning Dove	MODO	5/1 - 8/1		mixed
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	YBCU	6/5 - 8/1		forest
Black-billed Cuckoo	BBCU	6/5 - 8/1		forest
Eastern Screech-Owl	EASO	3/20 - 8/10	S 1/2; elsewhere - very rare	forest
Great Horned Owl	GHOW	1/20 - 7/1		mixed; forest
Barred Owl	BADO	3/10 - 7/20		forest
Great Gray Owl	GGOW	5/1 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
Long-eared Owl	LEOW	5/1 - 8/1	very rare	forest
Short-eared Owl	SEOW	5/1 - 8/1	parkland only	open
Boreal Owl	BOOW	5/1 - 8/1	Roseau only - very rare	forest
Northern Saw-whet Owl	NSWO	5/1 - 8/1	very rare	forest
Common Nighthawk	CONI	6/1 - 7/20		open; mxied
Whip-poor-will	WPWI	6/1 - 8/1	parkland; rare elsewhere	forest
Chimney Swift	CHSW	6/1 - 8/1		mixed
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	RTHU	6/1 - 8/1		forest; mixed
Belted Kingfisher	BEKI	5/10 - 8/1		water; nest - open
Red-headed Woodpecker	RHWO	6/1 - 8/1		mixed
Red-bellied Woodpecker	RBWO	4/1 - 8/1		forest
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	YBSA	5/20 - 8/1		forest
Downy Woodpecker	DOWO	4/1 - 8/1		forest
Hairy Woodpecker	HAWO	4/1 - 8/1		forest
American Three-toed Woodpecker	ATTW	5/10 - 7/20	Roseau only	forest
Black-backed Woodpecker	BBWO	5/10 - 7/20	Roseau only	forest
Northern Flicker	NOFL	5/20 - 8/1		forest
Pileated Woodpecker	PIWO	4/1 - 8/1		forest
Olive-sided Flycatcher	OSFL	6/10 - 7/20	parkland only	forest
Eastern Wood-Pewee	EAWP	6/5 - 8/1		forest
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	YBFL	6/10 - 7/20	parkland only	forest
Acadian Flycatcher	ACFL	6/5 - 8/1	S 1/2 only - very rare	forest
Alder Flycatcher	ALFL	6/5 - 8/1	parkland; rest of N 1/2 only - rare	open
Willow Flycatcher	WIFL	6/5 - 8/1		open
Least Flycatcher	LEFL	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Eastern Phoebe	EAPH	5/10 - 8/1		mixed
Great Crested Flycatcher	GCFL	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Western Kingbird	WEKI	6/1 - 8/1		open
Eastern Kingbird	EAKI	6/1 - 8/1		open
Loggerhead Shrike	LOSH	5/10 - 8/1	rare	mixed

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Bell's Vireo	BEVI	6/1 - 8/1	S 1/2 only - very rare	open
Yellow-throated Vireo	YTVI	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Blue-headed Vireo	BHVI	6/1 - 7/20	Roseau only	forest
Warbling Vireo	WAVI	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Red-eyed Vireo	REVI	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Gray Jay	GRAJ	4/1 - 7/1	parkland only - rare	forest
Blue Jay	BLJA	5/20 - 7/15		forest; mixed
Black-billed Magpie	BBMA	4/1 - 8/1	parkland; also Clay, Norman	mixed
American Crow	AMCR	5/1 - 7/15		mixed; forest
Common Raven	CORA	4/1 - 7/1	parkland only	forest
Horned Lark	HOLA	5/1 - 8/1		open
Purple Martin	PUMA	5/20 - 7/10		open; mixed
Tree Swallow	TRES	5/10 - 7/10		open
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	NRWS	5/20 - 7/10		open
Bank Swallow	BANS	5/20 - 7/10		open
Cliff Swallow	CLSW	5/20 - 7/10		open; mixed
Barn Swallow	BARS	5/20 - 7/10		open; mixed
Black-capped Chickadee	BCCH	4/10 - 8/1		forest
Boreal Chickadee	BOCH	5/10 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
Red-breasted Nuthatch	RBNU	4/10 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
White-breasted Nuthatch	WBNU	4/1 - 8/1		forest
Brown Creeper	BRCR	6/1 - 8/10	parkland; elsewhere - rare	forest
House Wren	HOWR	5/20 - 8/1		mixed; forest
Winter Wren	WIWR	6/1 - 8/10	parkland; elsewhere - very rare	forest
Sedge Wren	SEWR	6/1 - 8/10		open
Marsh Wren	MAWR	6/1 - 8/10		water
Golden-crowned Kinglet	GCKI	5/20 - 8/1	parkland only - rare	forest
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	RCKI	6/1 - 8/1	parkland only - rare	forest
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	BGGN	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Eastern Bluebird	EABL	5/10 - 8/1		open
Veery	VEER	6/1 - 7/20		forest
Swainson's Thrush	SWTH	6/1 - 7/20	parkland only	forest
Hermit Thrush	HETH	5/20 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
Wood Thrush	WOTH	6/1 - 7/20		forest
American Robin	AMRO	5/10 - 8/10		forest; mixed
Gray Catbird	GRCA	5/20 - 8/1		forest; mixed
Brown Thrasher	BRTH	5/20 - 8/1		forest; mixed
European Starling	EUST	4/1 - 8/1		mixed
Cedar Waxwing	CEDW	6/10 - 8/10		forest
Blue-winged Warbler	BWWA	6/1 - 8/1	S 1/2 only - very rare	forest

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Golden-winged Warbler	GWWA	6/1 - 8/1	parkland only	open
Tennessee Warbler	TEWA	6/10 - 7/10	Roseau only	forest
Nashville Warbler	NAWA	6/5 - 7/20	N 1/2 only - rare	forest
Northern Parula	NOPA	6/5 - 7/20	Roseau only	forest
Yellow Warbler	YWAR	6/1 - 8/1		forest; mixed
Chestnut-sided Warbler	CSWA	6/5 - 8/1	parkland; elsewhere - rare	forest
Magnolia Warbler	MAWA	6/5 - 8/1	Roseau only	forest
Cape May Warbler	CMWA	6/1 - 7/20	Roseau only	forest
Yellow-rumped Warbler	YRWA	6/1 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
Black-throated Green Warbler	BTNW	6/5 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
Blackburnian Warbler	BLBW	6/5 - 7/20	parkland only	forest
Pine Warbler	PIWA	5/20 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
Palm Warbler	PAWA	6/1 - 8/1	parkland only - rare	forest
Bay-breasted Warbler	BBWA	6/1 - 8/1	Roseau only	forest
Cerulean Warbler	CERW	6/1 - 8/1	S 1/2 only - very rare	forest
Black-and-white Warbler	BAWW	5/20 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
American Redstart	AMRE	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Prothonotary Warbler	PROW	6/1 - 8/1	Redwood only	forest
Ovenbird	OVEN	5/20 - 8/1		forest
Northern Waterthrush	NOWA	6/5 - 8/1	parkland only - rare	forest
Louisiana Waterthrush	LOWA	5/1 - 7/1	Minn. River valley only - very rare	forest
Connecticut Warbler	CONW	6/10 - 8/5	parkland only -rare	forest
Mourning Warbler	MOWA	6/10 - 8/5	parkland; elsewhere - very rare	forest
Common Yellowthroat	COYE	6/1 - 8/1		forest; water
Canada Warbler	CAWA	6/10 - 8/5	Roseau only	forest
Scarlet Tanager	SCTA	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Eastern Towhee	EATO	6/1 - 8/1		forest
Chipping Sparrow	CHSP	5/20 - 8/1		forest; mixed
Clay-colored Sparrow	CCSP	6/1 - 8/1		open
Field Sparrow	FISP	5/20 - 8/1		open
Vesper Sparrow	VESP	5/20 - 8/1		open
Lark Sparrow	LASP	6/1 - 8/1	rare	open
Savannah Sparrow	SAVS	5/20 - 8/1		open
Grasshopper Sparrow	GRSP	6/1 - 8/1		open
Henslow's Sparrow	HESP	6/5 - 8/1	S 1/2 only - rare	open
Le Conte's Sparrow	LCSP	6/1 - 8/1	parkland; elsewhere -rare	open
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	NSTS	6/1 - 8/1	parkland; elsewhere - very rare	water
Song Sparrow	SOSP	5/10 - 8/1		mixed
Lincoln's Sparrow	LISP	6/5 - 7/20	Roseau only	forest
Swamp Sparrow	SWSP	5/20 - 8/1		open
White-throated Sparrow	WTSP	5/20 - 7/20	N 1/2 only	forest
Dark-eyed Junco	DEJU	5/20 - 8/1	parkland only	forest
Chestnut-collared Longspur	CCLO	5/20 - 8/1	N 1/2 only - very rare	open
Northern Cardinal	NOCA	4/10 - 8/1		mixed
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	RBGR	6/1 - 8/5		forest
Blue Grosbeak	BLGR	6/1 - 8/1	Minn. River valley and S only	mixed
Indigo Bunting	INBU	6/1 - 8/1		forest; mixed
Dickcissel	DICK	6/1 - 8/1		open

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Bobolink	BOBO	6/1 - 7/20		open
Red-winged Blackbird	RWBL	5/1 - 7/20		water
Eastern Meadowlark	EAME	5/10 - 7/20	S 1/2; elsewhere - rare	open
Western Meadowlark	WEME	5/10 - 7/20		open
Yellow-headed Blackbird	YHBL	5/20 - 7/20		water
Brewer's Blackbird	BRBL	5/10 - 7/20		open
Common Grackle	COGR	5/1 - 7/20		mixed; open
Great-tailed Grackle	GRGR	5/10 - 7/20	S tier of counties only	open; mixed
Brown-headed Cowbird	BHCO	5/10 - 7/20		open; mixed
Orchard Oriole	OROR	6/1 - 8/1		forest; mixed
Baltimore Oriole	BAOR	6/1 - 8/1		forest; mixed
Purple Finch	PUFI	5/20 - 8/10	parkland only	forest
House Finch	HOFI	4/10 - 8/10		mixed
Pine Siskin	PISI	5/20 - 7/20	parkland only	forest
American Goldfinch	AMGO	6/10 - 8/20		forest
Evening Grosbeak	EVGR	5/20 - 8/10	Roseau only	forest
House Sparrow	HOSP	4/10 - 8/10		mixed