

Birding Opportunities at Western Prairie SNA

Western Prairie SNA is 320 acres in size, and is located within the basin of Glacial Lake Agassiz between two former shorelines. The sand, loam, and clay soils support moist sedge meadows, tallgrass prairie, and prairie wetlands, as well as a small saline area high in mineral salts. Some of the 81 species of birds seen here include Greater Prairie Chickens, Prairie Falcons, Yellow Rails, Marbled Godwits, Wilson's Phalaropes, Henslow's Sparrows, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The unit is owned by The Nature Conservancy.

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"/> Snow Goose	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra Swan	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	C			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Prairie-Chicken	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	C	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk				O
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Falcon	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Rail	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Godwit	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-billed Dowitcher	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope	O	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove		C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	U	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird		O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow		C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow	U	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting				U
<hr/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole		O		
<hr/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll				C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	

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).

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, sexual orientation, membership or activity in a local commission, or disability. Discrimination inquires should be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-297-1158 (Metro Area, TTY 651-296-5484, 800-657-3929

Western Prairie

Scientific and Natural Area

BIRD 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.

© 2008 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 Division of Ecological Services
 DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us