

Birding Opportunities at Cold Spring Heron Colony

This SNA, located in Stearns County, was gifted to the DNR by The Nature Conservancy. It consists mainly of floodplain forest plus a small prairie hill from which the former rookery may be observed. The two parts of this SNA, totaling 62 acres, are separated by Hwy 23 and a railroad. Additionally, the Sauk River separates the observation hill from the floodplain forest. At the original heron colony, no nesting Great Blue Herons have been recorded since 1989. However the area remains excellent habitat for other species of birds. A total of 79 species were recorded during the survey year. Wild Turkeys nested in 2008. A single Red-shouldered Hawk was seen in May 2008 and likely nests on the SNA. Fourteen species of warblers are found here including summer resident Yellow Warblers, American Redstarts and Common Yellowthroats. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were also present. Eastern Wood-Pewee and Great Crested Flycatcher were present during the breeding season.

There are no trails on this SNA and hiking varies from relatively easy to difficult depending on the vegetation and time of year. Parking for the prairie observation hill south of the river and Hwy 23 is on the west side of the hill. There is a tunnel under Hwy 23 through which one may reach the river after crossing the railroad grade. Access to the floodplain forest north of the river is by river only. A DNR permit is also required to visit the floodplain forest (or rookery area) on this SNA. Permits are required from April 1 to July 15th (the bird's breeding season.)

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"/> Mallard	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	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	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	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"/> Horned Lark	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	U	U	U	
<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"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	U	O	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<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"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U	
<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	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including principal observer Bob Janssen, 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 55155-4040 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-MIN-NDNR (646-6367).

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Cold Spring Heron Colony

Scientific and Natural Area

BIIRD Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



MINNESOTA'S
WILD & RARE

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.