

Birding Opportunities at Iron Springs Bog SNA

Iron Springs Bog SNA is located just NW of Itasca State Park in Clearwater County. The entry road to the SNA is somewhat difficult to find and is located off of Minnesota Hwy. 200. The field driveway leads to the SNA. There is an abandoned powerline right of way that runs along the south side of this 215 acre SNA. There are no maintained trails into the SNA, and walking conditions are moderate to difficult.

There are varied habitats within the unit, from upland features to wet boggy areas that contain iron-rich seepage upwellings, and a trout stream that runs through the center of the SNA. Plant communities represented in the SNA include raised bed conifer, swamp forest, boreal forest and pine forest. The area has been studied for years by researchers, including personnel at the University of MN Itasca Biological Station.

Although small in size, there have been 111 bird species recorded in this SNA, including nesting Gray Jays. Of particular interest are 21 species of warblers that have been recorded during migration or the nesting season. Listen for Common Loon, Common Raven and woodpeckers as you enjoy the pleasant walk along the power line right of way. The SNA is filled with bird songs during the breeding season of May and June. The wetland area along the stream provides habitat for Yellow and Nashville Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Swamp Sparrows and Sedge Wrens. Wilson's Snipe can be heard winnowing in this area during May and June. During migration watch for raptors and other birds passing overhead.

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"/> Canada Goose	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	C	C	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Dove	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-will	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	C	
<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	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	C	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<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"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	C	C	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	C	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula	C	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	C	U	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	O

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including principal observer Jerry Bonkoski, as well as MOU records, and data contained in research reports. 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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Iron Springs Bog

Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____

