

Birding Opportunities at Pig's Eye Heron Rookery SNA

This metropolitan site, named after its famous settler, Pig's Eye Perrant, is notable for being one of the largest nesting sites for colonial waterbirds within the state. Although only 100 acres in size, its floodplain forest is teeming with bird life. Species that nest in the rookery include great blue heron, great egret, black-crowned night-heron, double-crested cormorant, and yellow-crowned night heron. This is one of the four places in the state where yellow-crowned night herons are known to nest. Bald eagles also nest in the immediate vicinity and may often be seen roosting in trees on the island. In addition to its importance as a nesting colony site, the area surrounding the island is a major resting, loafing and feeding area for large numbers of American white pelicans and ring-billed gulls, especially in the fall. A total of 89 species have been documented on the island. As the site is an island, access is by canoe or boat, but the area is off-limits to birders from March-July due to its status as an active waterbird colony site. Birder access is difficult.

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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	U	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot	O	O	O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	U	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	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	U

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Sprague's Pipit			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prothonotary Warbler	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow			C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	U	U	U	U

Additional Observations

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Bob Janssen, 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 Lintemann. Persons interested in the sources used in preparation of this list may contact Project Supervisor/Nongame Specialist Katie Haws at 218-308-2641.

Pig's Eye Heron Rookery

Scientific and Natural Area

BIRD Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____

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)



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 Resources
 DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us