

Birding Opportunities at Black Dog Nature Preserve SNA

Black Dog Nature Preserve SNA is an expanse of wetland and prairie communities in the Minnesota River Valley of the Twin Cities area. The 126 acre unit was named after the great Dakota Sioux chief. Black Dog Nature Preserve SNA contains excellent examples of mesic and wet prairies, and degraded calcareous fen plant communities, which are among the rarest plant communities in the state. A calcareous fen is an endangered plant community dominated by grasses, sedges, and other vegetation adapted to its unusual calcium-rich groundwater, which flows year round. These habitats are host to a variety of wetland bird species, both during migration and for nesting. An urban sanctuary, Black Dog Nature Preserve SNA lies within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. An interpretive sign marks the end of a hiking trail through the Refuge that traverses the site parallel to the railroad track. This trail traverses good willow flycatcher, sedge wren and common yellowthroat habitat. Look for goldfinches, yellow warblers and cardinals here in abundance. Bell's vireo and yellow-breasted chat are rarities that have been documented here. A total of 81 bird species have been seen on the SNA. Located in the Minnesota River Valley. This SNA is comprised of prairie, mixed sedge, willow and cottonwood wetlands, mixed woodlands, and brushy areas which are found along Cliff Road (Dakota Co. Road 32). Access is from a large parking lot on Cliff Road, where the interpretive trail starts. Birder access is rated as good.

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	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Bittern		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	C	U	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull			O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	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	C	C	C	O

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike			O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Bell's Vireo	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	O	O	O	
<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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	U		U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	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.

Black Dog Nature Preserve

Scientific and Natural Area

BIIRD 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).

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