

## Birding Opportunities at Yellow Bank Hills SNA

Yellow Bank Hills SNA is an 80 acre preserve located in the Minnesota River Prairie landscape, in Lac qui Parle County. A dry, sand-gravel prairie community typical of the Great Plains is found here, and includes four rare Minnesota plant species: Missouri milkvetch, Nuttall's violet, cut-leaf ironplant, and soft goldenrod. A total of 84 bird species have been sighted on the unit. Look for western meadowlarks, eastern kingbirds, dickcissels and Harris's sparrow. The adjacent Pegg Lake is a great spot for observing waterfowl during spring migration, as well as American white pelicans, grebes, and gulls at other times. The cattails harbor yellow-headed blackbirds, and marsh and sedge wrens.

Access can be gained from Lac qui Parle Co. Rd. 7 on the east, and Co. Rd. 24 on the north. There are no trails on the site, but hiking is relatively easy from the Co. Rd. 7 parking pull-off, although the hills are steep. Birder access is excellent, and the site is definitely worth a visit.

### 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"/> Tundra Swan			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eared Grebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Grebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U	U	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	U	U	U	U
<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	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	U	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	O	O	O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow				O
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	U		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

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 Lintelmann. Persons interested in the sources used in preparation of this list may contact the 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).

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*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.

# Yellow Bank Hills

## Scientific and Natural Area

# BIRD Checklist



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

