

Birding Opportunities at Uncas Dunes SNA

This large SNA, 745 acres in size, is located within the Sand Dunes State Forest, in the Anoka Sandplain Subsection. There are two separate units, one west and south of Lake Ann and the other 2 miles to the southeast just south of the St. Francis River off of CSA Hwy 15. Both units contain relic dune fields associated with Glacial Lake Grantsburg. Native plant communities include dry barrens oak savanna, oak forest, and sedge meadow. The rare Uncas skipper gives this site its name; this is one of only two sites in the state where this species is found. There are also several rare plant and bird species as well. A total of 105 bird species have been seen at Uncas Dunes. Birdlife is diverse, with 12 species of warblers recorded. Whip-poor-wills and barred owls have been seen here. Look for ruffed grouse and wild turkeys in the area. Access to the Lake Ann unit is from the east side, from 245th Ave. along one of the two trails that cross the SNA. Additional parking is found in the Sand Dunes State Forest Campground on the north end of this unit. Parking for the southern unit is along the gravel road to the south. Birder access is rated difficult due to lack of trails within the unit.

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		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-will	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	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	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike			O	O
<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	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	O		O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	U		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	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<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	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll			O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	O	O	O	O

Additional Observations

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Bob Janssen, John F. Lane, 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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Uncas Dunes Scientific and Natural Area

BIIRD Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____

