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

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including principal observer Bob Janssen, MOU records, and data contained in research reports. Checklist layout by Jennifer Lintelman. 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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Birding Opportunities at Hovland Woods SNA

Hovland Woods SNA, a large pristine forested natural area, contains mature and old-growth virgin forest communities now rare in the region. Beaver flowages, an alder swamp and a tributary of the Flute Reed River are also found on the property. Large, old white spruce and white pine provide habitat for rare lichens and nesting eagles. Other species found on the site, and in the general area, include animal species such as the Eastern Gray Wolf and Pine Marten. The area, located in Cook County, is over 280 acres in size.

Forty-nine species of birds were recorded on the site. Fourteen species of warblers were seen in various parts of the SNA. Black and White, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green Warblers and American Redstarts were especially common. The site may also be important for migration, as in 2010, a large migration (500 plus) of American Crows passed over the area in a few minutes. Two Red-tailed Hawks, a Golden Eagle and 20 Common Ravens were mixed in with the migrating crows. Red-eyed Vireos, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, White-throated Sparrows and American Robins were also common at the site.

This large and beautiful SNA is one of the more difficult natural areas to access. The best access to Hovland Woods is via the Superior Hiking Trail which touches the southern boundary of the SNA. A parking lot for the trail is located off County Road 70/Camp 20 Road. The SE corner of the SNA is located approximately 1.2 miles in on the Superior Hiking Trail. The boundary has been surveyed and will soon be posted.