

Birding Opportunities at Compass Prairie SNA

Compass Prairie SNA is a 20 acre SNA located in the south central portion of Nobles County, approximately 10 miles SW of Worthington. This site is the largest known prairie remnant in Nobles County.

A total of 55 bird species have been recorded at Compass Prairie. June breeding species include Sedge Wren, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird and Ring-necked Pheasant. A creek/tributary flows from the NE corner to the SW section of the SNA, continuing on to the Rock River. There are a couple of mature deciduous trees along the eastern edge of the SNA, and several willow thickets within the SNA, which provide nesting habitat for Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat. The remainder of the SNA is prairie grassland, which attracts a few other nesting species, including Swamp, Vesper, Savannah and Song Sparrow and Bobolink.

A diversity of nearby habitats result in a number of species being seen flying over the area. The area is also an attractive resting spot for migrating species of grassland birds.

This SNA is located on the North side of Nobles Co. Hwy. 56. The SNA is marked by a DNR sign and there is parking available along the county road. Access is easy from the county road, and walking in the SNA is easy to moderate.

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	U		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	U		U	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	U

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 Jerry Bonkoski, 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 US Fish and Wildlife Service. Checklist layout by Jennifer Lintelmann. 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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Compass Prairie

Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



MINNESOTA'S
WILD & RARE

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.

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