

Birding Opportunities at Joseph A. Tauer Prairie SNA

This 80 acre SNA is located in Brown County, 10 miles SW of New Ulm. Portions of the SNA were previously farmed and are being restored to native prairie. Undisturbed mesic to wet mesic prairie is found in the remainder of the SNA. Birding at this SNA is best during migration, especially the spring migration when migrating waterfowl are seen overhead. 52 bird species have been sighted at this SNA. Large flocks of white-fronted and Canada geese have been seen during migrating over the SNA. Several grassland species, including grasshopper sparrow, dickcissel and bobolink can be seen here in the summer. A cattail pond in the southwest section is home to both sora and Virginia rail. Parking is available along township road 249 on the western boundary, and there is a field driveway at the southeast corner of the SNA off of County Road #22, for parking vehicles. There are no trails, but the SNA is well marked and easily viewable from the roads. Birder access is 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"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	U	U	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	O	U	O	
<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"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	

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

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Jerry Bonkoski, 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.

Joseph A. Taurer Prairie Scientific and Natural Area

BIIRD Checklist



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.

Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____

