

Birding Opportunities at St. Croix Savanna SNA

The Saint Croix Savanna SNA is located just south of the town of Bayport, in Washington County, and is 148 acres in size. Scattered bur oak and pin oak on the open gravel prairie become increasingly dense toward the northeast and northwest, forming first an oak savanna and then an oak woodland. Large areas of former cropland on the SNA has been planted to native prairie grasses. Stunning views of the river valley can be had from the SNA, and it is the best sand-gravel prairie and oak savanna along the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Bird diversity is high, with 115 bird species sighted. That diversity reflects the unique nature of the SNA, with forest-affiliated species in abundance, as well as birds of more open habitats. Look for soaring turkey vultures, osprey and red-tailed hawks in the valley. Blue-gray gnatcatchers have been seen here, and other rarities include the Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow. In the oak forest you may find scarlet tanagers, chipping sparrows, cedar waxwings and gray catbirds. Eastern towhee's are present along the bluff ridge, and dickcissels were probable nesters in 2006. Parking is available on the south end of the site along State Hwy. 95 and adjacent to the Inspiration Housing Development Project on the northern boundary of the unit. There are no developed trails in the SNA. A maintenance road enters the site from the north and goes about 1/3 of the way into the site. 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"/> Canada Goose	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	O		O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	U		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	U		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll			O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	O	O	O	O

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Bob Janssen, William H. Longley, 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 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.

Saint Croix Savanna

Scientific and Natural Area

BIIRD Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____

