

## Birding Opportunities at Rice Lake Savanna SNA

Rice Lake Savanna SNA is an 80 acre parcel, located in Sherburne County, on the Anoka Sandplain. Glacial meltwaters out of the north deposited their outwash sands across this large plain, providing the basis for an open, grassy landscape dotted with bur and pin oak, and interspersed with small wetlands. Plant communities here include dry barrens oak savanna and sedge meadow. Eighty-two bird species have been observed here, most are forest associated. Look for northern flickers, eastern bluebirds and yellow-rumped warblers in the wooded areas, with clay-colored sparrows, field sparrows and sandhill cranes in the more open portions of the SNA. Chipping sparrows and red-breasted nuthatch are regulars in the remaining pines. Rarities have included whip-poor-will, orchard oriole and ash-throated flycatcher.

A small parking area in the NW corner of the unit is located adjacent to 120th Ave. There are no trails, and hiking is difficult due to conifer cutting that has taken place in the past. There is also extensive poison ivy on the unit. Birder access is rated as difficult.

### 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	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-will	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	O		O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	O		O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	O	O	O	
<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	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	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, 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.

# Rice Lake Savanna

## Scientific and Natural Area

# BIIRD Checklist



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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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