

Birding Opportunities at Prairie Smoke Dunes SNA

The most spectacular feature of the 1,280-acre Prairie Smoke Dunes is a large sand dune with a dry savannah plant community. This dune ranges from 40 to 50 feet high, with the leading edge of the dune forming an abrupt scarp nearly 60 feet high. Vegetation changes dramatically at the top of the dune face, with a dense forest of bur oak, basswood, green ash, and elm found on the north side. Other areas of the SNA harbor wet and wet-mesic prairie interspersed with Aspen. Highlights of the 82 known species of birds found here include: American Woodcock, Sandhill Crane, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-billed Magpie and Northern Waterthrush.

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	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse	C			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	C			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	C		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker			C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker				U
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher		U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo		U		

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Magpie			U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch			C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird		O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin		C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing			C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler			U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird		U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat		C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow			C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow	U	U		

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow				U
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C		C
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow				O
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow				O
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco				O
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C		C
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C		C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll				C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C		C

Additional Observations

Additional Observations (Continued)

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including project coordinator Melissa Driscoll, Bob Janssen, Jerry Bonkoski and 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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Prairie Smoke Dunes

Scientific and Natural Area



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



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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