

Birding Opportunities at Cedar Mountain SNA

This unique 317 acre SNA is found within the Minnesota River Subsection of the Prairie Parkland Province. Cedar Mountain SNA lies on bedrock knobs and ridges that, at 3.4 billion years old, include some of the oldest rocks known to occur in North America. These knobs were once islands in Glacial River Warren, the huge river that drained Glacial Lake Agassiz at the end of the last glacial period and cut the valley now occupied by the Minnesota River. The central knob in the area includes two rock types known only from this site: Cedar Mountain Gabbro and Cedar Mountain Granodiorite. The SNA supports areas of native dry and mesic prairie, rock outcrop, flood plain forest, and oak woodland habitats. The high quality prairies and rock outcrops of Cedar Mountain SNA are uncommon in Minnesota and becoming increasingly rare due mostly to human activities. 117 bird species have been sighted at this SNA, and because of the presence of a small pond on the S. end of the unit, there are some shorebirds and waterfowl that can be seen. Look for seven flycatcher species here, as well as 17 sparrow species, and also a good number of migratory warblers! Yellow-billed and black-billed Cuckoos are occasionally sighted, and look for indigo buntings in brushy areas. The area is accessed from a parking area on the north side of Renville Co. Rd. 48. Wabasha Creek must be forded on foot, which can be problematic during times of high water. There are no developed trails. Alternately, visitors may access the SNA through the Cedar Mountain WMA on the east side of the SNA. An entrance road off of Co. Rd. 11 leads to a parking area. Birder access is difficult to moderate due to necessity of fording the creek from the south or walking through the prairie restoration in the WMA on the east, but it is an excellent birding area.

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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope	O			

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	U	U	
<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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike			O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	
<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"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	O	O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	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	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<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	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	U	U	U	U

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 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.

Cedar Mountain

Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____

