

## Birding Opportunities at Franconia Bluffs SNA

This is another newly established SNA located in Franconia Township, Chisago County adjacent to Highway 95. Franconia Bluffs is divided into two units consisting of approximately 87 acres of deciduous woodland on a bluff overlooking the St. Croix River. The south unit had not been established at the time of this survey. An old farm field is located on top of the bluff along the west edge of the SNA. A total of 88 bird species have been recorded during recent surveys of the area. Flycatchers, especially Great Crested, Least and Eastern Wood-Pewee's were well represented. Two Wood Thrushes were seen and heard from the bluff-side during the surveys. Scarlet Tanagers were recorded at four different times in this same location. 16 species of warblers were recorded during the surveys, six of which were potential breeders on the site. Of special interest was the number of Blue-winged Warblers recorded. Sparrows were found in an old farm field on the property, especially during fall migration when hundreds of White-throated and Fox Sparrows were found. The bluff side of the SNA is very difficult to visit because of the steep hillside which is full of wet boggy springs, but the unique habitats of the bluff make it worth a visit.

Access to the northeast unit is from Hwy. 95, along a narrow easement to the wooded bluff. The south unit is adjacent to Hwy. 95. No parking areas have been established. yet Please do not park along Franconia Trail.

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	R	R	R	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	R	R	R	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U	
<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	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo	O		O	
<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	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler	U	U	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	U		U	
<hr/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	O		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	
<hr/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	U	U	U	
<hr/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	
<hr/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U

### 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

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including principal observer Bob Janssen, 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 55155-4040  
651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-MIN-NDNR (646-6367).

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This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-296-6157 (Metro Area, TTY 651-296-5484, 800-657-3929

# Franconia Bluffs

## Scientific and Natural Area

# Checklist



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

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

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

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



MINNESOTA'S  
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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.

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