

## Birding Opportunities at Kasota Prairie SNA

Kasota Prairie SNA, 42 acres in size, is located a few miles SW of St. Peter, MN. The site provides some nice prairie habitat for birds. Located on an extensive rock terrace 70 feet above the Minnesota River Valley, the Kasota Prairie is named for its view, Kasota meaning “cleared-off place.” Prairie, wet meadow, oak woodland, and lowland hardwood plant communities thrive in the thin soils. The east side of the SNA is all prairie while the west side is the old river bank from the Glacial River Warren. The hillside is covered with mature deciduous trees. Grassland bird species predominate on the SNA, but with the close proximity to the Minnesota River, a few unusual species fly over the Kasota Prairie SNA, such as great blue heron, great egret, bald eagle and Forrester’s tern. Some seasonal ponds border the SNA on the NW corner of the SNA, which attracts some migrating waterfowl in the early spring. Both eastern and western meadowlarks can be seen here. Shrubby patches provide nesting and perching sites for open-country birds such as horned larks, loggerhead shrikes, and upland sandpipers. The SNA can be accessed by Township Road #157, which cuts through the center of the unit. Parking is available by the wood routed SNA sign. There are no established trails, but it is relatively easy to walk the complete SNA. Birder access is rated 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	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	C	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	U	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	U		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper’s Hawk	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson’s Snipe	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin’s Gull	U		U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster’s Tern	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	O	C	
<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"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
<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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	U	C	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"/> Horned Lark	C	C	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff 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	U		U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	C	O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	U		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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	C		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	C		C	
<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"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	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	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including Jerry Bonkoski, 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.

# Kasota Prairie

## Scientific and Natural Area

# BIRD Checklist



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

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

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

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

