

Birding Opportunities at Clear Lake SNA

Clear Lake SNA is a 78 acre parcel located on the banks of the Mississippi River, in Stearns County. Located in the Anoka Sandplain Subsection, the site consists of a dense deciduous woodland, with a steep incline leading to river's edge and associated grass and brush. It contains a mosaic of oak forest, floodplain forest, and old field sumac thicket, along with a small population of the very rare Hill's thistle. The Hill's thistle is generally found in transition zones between major forest and prairie communities on dry, sandy or gravelly soil. A total of 84 bird species have been sighted on the unit; this low species diversity may be reflective of the small size and limited habitat diversity on the site. Look for wild turkeys in the woodlands, and listen for the song of the yellow-rumped warbler and rose-breasted grosbeak during June. Red-shouldered hawks can be seen regularly, and winter wren is also occasionally seen. Blue-gray gnatcatchers may also be seen here, as well as sandhill cranes. There are no developed trails. There is access from a small parking area off of County 57 near an entrance gate. Birder access would be rated difficult due to steep terrain and lack of trails.

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
☐ Canada Goose	C	C	C	
☐ Wood Duck	U	U	U	
☐ Mallard	U	U	U	
☐ Common Goldeneye	U		U	O
☐ Common Merganser	O		O	O
☐ Wild Turkey	O	O	O	O
☐ Double-crested Cormorant	O		O	
☐ Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
☐ Green Heron	O	O	O	
☐ Turkey Vulture	O	O	O	
☐ Bald Eagle	O		O	O
☐ Northern Harrier	O		O	
☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
☐ Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
☐ Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	
☐ Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	O
☐ Sandhill Crane	O			
☐ Killdeer	U	U	U	
☐ Spotted Sandpiper	O	O	O	
☐ Solitary Sandpiper	O		O	
☐ Ring-billed Gull	O		O	
☐ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
☐ Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O
☐ Barred Owl	O	O	O	O

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Chimney Swift	U	U	U	
☐ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	O		O	
☐ Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O		O	
☐ Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O
☐ Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
☐ Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	
☐ Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U	U	
☐ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O	
☐ Least Flycatcher	O	O	O	
☐ Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
☐ Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
☐ Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U	
☐ Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	
☐ Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
☐ American Crow	C	C	C	C
☐ Horned Lark	O	O	O	
☐ Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ Bank Swallow	O	O	O	
☐ Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ Barn Swallow	U	U	U	
☐ Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
☐ Red-breasted Nuthatch	O		O	O
☐ White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
☐ House Wren	U	U	U	
☐ Winter Wren	O		O	
☐ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
☐ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	O	O	
☐ Eastern Bluebird	C	U	C	
☐ Hermit Thrush	U		U	
☐ American Robin	C	C	C	
☐ Gray Catbird	U	U	U	
☐ Brown Thrasher	O	O	O	
☐ European Starling	U	U	U	U
☐ Cedar Waxwing	U	U	U	O
☐ Tennessee Warbler	U		U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
☐ Nashville Warbler	U		U	
☐ Yellow Warbler	O	O	O	
☐ Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
☐ Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
☐ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
☐ Blackburnian Warbler	O		O	
☐ Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O	
☐ Black-and-white Warbler	O		O	
☐ American Redstart	O	O	O	
☐ Ovenbird	O	O	O	
☐ Common Yellowthroat	O	O	O	
☐ Wilson's Warbler	O		O	
☐ Scarlet Tanager	O	O	O	
☐ American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U
☐ Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Clay-colored Sparrow	O		O	
☐ Field Sparrow	U	U	U	
☐ Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U	
☐ Savannah Sparrow	O		O	
☐ Fox Sparrow	O		O	
☐ Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Lincoln's Sparrow	O		O	
☐ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
☐ White-crowned Sparrow	O		O	
☐ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U
☐ Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
☐ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U	
☐ Indigo Bunting	U	U	U	
☐ Bobolink	O		O	
☐ Red-winged Blackbird	C	O	C	
☐ Common Grackle	C	C	C	
☐ Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
☐ Baltimore Oriole	O	O	O	
☐ House Finch	C	C	C	U
☐ American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
☐ House Sparrow	O	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.

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.

Clear Lake

Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



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