

Birding Opportunities at Harry W. Cater Homestead Prairie SNA

This SNA, gifted by the family of Harry W. Cater who homesteaded here, covers a sandy river terrace deposited by glacial meltwaters draining through here about 10,000 years ago. The unit, located in Sherburne County, is 133 acres in size. Plant communities include dry, upland oak savanna, mesic and wet-mesic prairie openings in aspen groves, floodplain forest along the Elk River, wet meadow and marsh on peat. 100 bird species have been documented on the property, with highlights being the red-shouldered hawk, blue-headed vireo, golden-winged warbler, and Harris's sparrow. Unfortunately, there is no road access to the property, so birding opportunities are very difficult at best, with access by boat or canoe on the Elk River or across private property with permission of the landowner required.

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	C	C	C	
☐ Mallard	C	C	C	
☐ Ring-necked Duck	O		O	
☐ Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U
☐ Ruffed Grouse	U	U	U	U
☐ Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C
☐ Pied-billed Grebe	O	O	O	
☐ Double-crested Cormorant	O	O	O	
☐ Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
☐ Bald Eagle	O		O	
☐ Northern Harrier	O	O	O	
☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
☐ Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	
☐ Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O	O	
☐ Broad-winged Hawk	O	O	O	
☐ Red-tailed Hawk	O	O	O	
☐ Sandhill Crane	O		O	
☐ Killdeer	O	O	O	
☐ Spotted Sandpiper	O	O	O	
☐ Solitary Sandpiper	O		O	
☐ American Woodcock	O		O	
☐ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
☐ Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Short-eared Owl	O		O	
☐ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	O		O	
☐ Belted Kingfisher	O	O	O	
☐ Red-headed Woodpecker	O		O	
☐ Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	
☐ Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
☐ Eastern Wood-Pewee	O	O	O	
☐ Alder Flycatcher	O	O	O	
☐ Willow Flycatcher	O		O	
☐ Least Flycatcher	O	O	O	
☐ Eastern Phoebe	U	U	U	
☐ Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
☐ Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
☐ Yellow-throated Vireo	O		O	
☐ Blue-headed Vireo	O		O	
☐ Warbling Vireo	O	O	O	
☐ Philadelphia Vireo	O		O	
☐ Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
☐ 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	O	O	O	
☐ Bank Swallow	U	U	U	
☐ Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	
☐ Red-breasted Nuthatch	O		O	
☐ White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
☐ House Wren	U	U	U	
☐ Winter Wren	O		O	
☐ Sedge Wren	U	U	U	
☐ Marsh Wren	U	U	U	
☐ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
☐ Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
☐ Veery	U	U	U	
☐ Swainson's Thrush	U		U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Hermit Thrush	U		U	
☐ Wood Thrush	U	U	U	
☐ American Robin	C	C	C	
☐ Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
☐ Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	
☐ European Starling	U	U	U	U
☐ American Pipit	O		O	
☐ Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U
☐ Golden-winged Warbler	O		O	
☐ Tennessee Warbler	U		U	
☐ Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
☐ Nashville Warbler	U		U	
☐ Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
☐ Cape May Warbler	O		O	
☐ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
☐ Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O	
☐ Palm Warbler	O		O	
☐ Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O	
☐ Black-and-white Warbler	O		O	
☐ American Redstart	O	O	O	
☐ Ovenbird	O	O	O	
☐ Northern Waterthrush	U	U	U	
☐ Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
☐ Wilson's Warbler	O		O	
☐ Eastern Towhee	O		O	
☐ American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U
☐ Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Clay-colored Sparrow	O	O	O	
☐ Vesper Sparrow	O	O	O	
☐ Fox Sparrow	U		U	
☐ Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	
☐ Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
☐ Harris's Sparrow	U		U	
☐ White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	
☐ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U
☐ Lapland Longspur	O		O	
☐ Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
☐ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
☐ Indigo Bunting	O	O	O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Bobolink	O	O	O	
☐ Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
☐ Rusty Blackbird	O		U	
☐ Common Grackle	C	C	C	
☐ Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
☐ Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
☐ Purple Finch	U		U	O
☐ House Finch	C	C	C	U
☐ American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
☐ House Sparrow	O	O	O	O

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 55155-4000, 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-MIN-NDNR (646-6367).

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Harry Cater Homestead Prairie Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



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