

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
☐ Canada Goose	C	C	C	O
☐ Wood Duck	C	C	C	
☐ Gadwall	U			
☐ American Wigeon	U		U	
☐ Mallard	C	C	C	U
☐ Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C	
☐ Northern Shoveler	U		U	
☐ Hooded Merganser	U		U	
☐ Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	U
☐ Wild Turkey	C	U	U	U
☐ Great Blue Heron	C	C	U	
☐ Great Egret	U	U	U	
☐ Green Heron	U		U	
☐ Turkey Vulture	U	C	C	
☐ Bald Eagle	U		U	U
☐ Northern Harrier	U		U	
☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	
☐ Cooper’s Hawk	U	U	U	
☐ Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
☐ American Kestrel	C	C	C	U
☐ Merlin	O		O	
☐ Killdeer	C	C	C	
☐ Upland Sandpiper		O		
☐ Wilson’s Snipe	U		U	
☐ Franklin’s Gull	U		U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Ring-billed Gull	U	U	U	
☐ Forster’s Tern	O	O		
☐ Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
☐ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O
☐ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U	
☐ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	U	C	
☐ Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	
☐ Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	O	C	
☐ Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
☐ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O
☐ Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
☐ Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
☐ Least Flycatcher	C	C	C	
☐ Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	
☐ Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
☐ Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
☐ Loggerhead Shrike	O	O		
☐ Warbling Vireo	U	C	U	
☐ Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	
☐ Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
☐ American Crow	C	C	C	C
☐ Horned Lark	C	C	U	U
☐ Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	
☐ Bank Swallow	U	U	U	
☐ Cliff Swallow	U	U	U	
☐ Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
☐ Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	O
☐ White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
☐ Brown Creeper	C		C	U
☐ House Wren	C	C	C	
☐ Winter Wren	U		U	
☐ Sedge Wren	U	U	U	
☐ Marsh Wren	U	U	U	
☐ Golden-crowned Kinglet	C		C	O
☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
☐ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	C	O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	O
☐ American Robin	C	C	C	U
☐ Gray Catbird	C	C	C	
☐ Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	
☐ European Starling	C	C	C	C
☐ American Pipit	U		U	
☐ Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
☐ Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	
☐ Nashville Warbler	C		C	
☐ Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	
☐ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
☐ Black-and-white Warbler	C		U	
☐ American Redstart	C	C	C	
☐ Ovenbird	C	C	C	
☐ Common Yellowthroat	C	C	U	
☐ Eastern Towhee	U	U	U	
☐ American Tree Sparrow	C		C	C
☐ Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U	
☐ Field Sparrow	C	C	U	
☐ Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Lark Sparrow	O	O		
☐ Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U	
☐ Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	U	
☐ Le Conte's Sparrow			O	
☐ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			O	
☐ Fox Sparrow	C		C	
☐ Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
☐ Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U	
☐ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
☐ Harris's Sparrow	U		U	
☐ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
☐ Lapland Longspur	U		U	U
☐ Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
☐ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	
☐ Indigo Bunting	C	C	C	
☐ Dickcissel	O	O		
☐ Bobolink	C	C	C	
☐ Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
☐ Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Western Meadowlark	U	U	U	
☐ Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U	
☐ Rusty Blackbird	U		U	
☐ Common Grackle	C	C	C	
☐ Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
☐ Orchard Oriole	U	U	U	
☐ Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	
☐ House Finch	C	C	C	C
☐ American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
☐ 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).

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, sexual orientation, membership or activity in a local commission, or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-297-1158 (Metro Area, TTY 651-296-5484, 800-657-3929



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: _____



© 2008 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological Resources
DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us