

Birding Opportunities at Ottertail Prairie SNA

Ottertail Prairie is a 320-acre wet to wet-mesic prairie interlaced with shallow, seasonally inundated pools. Wetter areas support willow and alder thickets and the prairie's habitat quality is enhanced by it's proximity to other protected prairie and mowed grasslands nearby. Marbled Godwit, Upland sandpiper, Greater Prairie Chicken, Swamp Sparrow and LeConte's sparrow are all common here in the spring. Wilson's Phalarope, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Trumpeter Swan, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon are some of the rarest of the 89 species that have been seen here.

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
☐ Greater White-fronted Goose	U			
☐ Snow Goose	O			
☐ Canada Goose	C	C	C	
☐ Trumpeter Swan		O		
☐ Tundra Swan	O			
☐ Gadwall		U		
☐ Mallard	C	C	C	
☐ Blue-winged Teal	C	C		
☐ Northern Shoveler	C	U	C	
☐ Northern Pintail	U	C		
☐ Green-winged Teal		C		
☐ Redhead		O		
☐ Gray Partridge		O		
☐ Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C		C
☐ Greater Prairie-Chicken	C	C	C	C
☐ American White Pelican	O			
☐ American Bittern	U	U		
☐ Great Blue Heron	O	O		
☐ Great Egret	C	C	C	
☐ Turkey Vulture	O			
☐ Bald Eagle	O			
☐ Northern Harrier	C	C	C	
☐ Red-tailed Hawk		C		
☐ American Kestrel	O	O		
☐ Merlin	O		O	
☐ Prairie Falcon	O			
☐ Yellow Rail	O			
☐ Virginia Rail		U		
☐ Sora	U	U		
☐ Killdeer	C	C		
☐ American Avocet	O			
☐ Upland Sandpiper		C	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Marbled Godwit	C	C		
☐ Pectoral Sandpiper		O		
☐ Stilt Sandpiper		O		
☐ Wilson's Snipe	U	U		
☐ Wilson's Phalarope		O		
☐ Franklin's Gull		O		
☐ Forster's Tern			O	
☐ Black Tern		O		
☐ Rock Pigeon	O	O		
☐ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
☐ Black-billed Cuckoo		O		
☐ Great Horned Owl	O	O		
☐ Short-eared Owl			U	
☐ Hairy Woodpecker		U	U	
☐ Northern Flicker	U	U		
☐ Alder Flycatcher			U	
☐ Willow Flycatcher		C	C	
☐ Least Flycatcher		O		
☐ Western Kingbird		O		
☐ Eastern Kingbird		C	C	
☐ American Crow	U	U		
☐ Horned Lark	C	U		
☐ Tree Swallow	U	C	C	
☐ Barn Swallow	U	C	C	
☐ White-breasted Nuthatch		O		
☐ House Wren		O		
☐ Sedge Wren	U	C	C	
☐ Marsh Wren		C		
☐ American Robin	U	C		

SNA Bird Checklist		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Gray Catbird			U		
☐ Brown Thrasher			O		
☐ European Starling			O		
☐ Yellow Warbler			C		
☐ Common Yellowthroat			C	U	
☐ Chipping Sparrow		O			
☐ Clay-colored Sparrow		U	C	U	
☐ Field Sparrow			O		
☐ Vesper Sparrow		O			
☐ Savannah Sparrow		C	C	U	
☐ Grasshopper Sparrow			U		
☐ Le Conte's Sparrow		U	C	C	
☐ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			R		
☐ Song Sparrow		U	C		
☐ Swamp Sparrow		C	C	U	
☐ White-throated Sparrow		O			
☐ Harris's Sparrow		O			
☐ White-crowned Sparrow		O			
☐ Bobolink			C		
☐ Red-winged Blackbird		C	C	U	
☐ Eastern Meadowlark		R			
☐ Western Meadowlark		C	C	C	
☐ Yellow-headed Blackbird		C	C		
☐ Brewer's Blackbird		U	C		
☐ Common Grackle		U	C		
☐ Brown-headed Cowbird		U	C	U	
☐ Common Redpoll					C
☐ American Goldfinch			C	C	U

Additional Observations

Additional Observations (Continued)

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including project coordinator Melissa Driscoll, Carol Schumacher, and 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).

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

Ottertall Prairie

Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



MINNESOTA'S
WILD & RARE

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.

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