

Birding Opportunities at Richard M. and Mathilda Rice-Elliott SNA

Located within the basin of Glacial Lake Agassiz, this 497-acre SNA owned by The Nature Conservancy contains undisturbed tallgrass and wet communities, with small scattered sedge meadows and willow thickets. Occasional boulders, called erratics, rest in earthen pits where they were deposited by a passing glacier long ago. Look for the Marbled Godwit, Upland Sandpiper, Greater Prairie Chicken, Bobolink, Sedge Wrens, and a variety of sparrows in the spring and early summer.

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	O			
☐ Snow Goose	O			
☐ Canada Goose	C	U		
☐ Tundra Swan	O			
☐ Mallard	C	C		
☐ Blue-winged Teal	U	U		
☐ Northern Shoveler	U			
☐ Northern Pintail		U		
☐ Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C		
☐ Greater Prairie-Chicken	C	C	C	C
☐ Common Loon		R		
☐ Double-crested Cormorant	O	O		
☐ Great Blue Heron	O	O		
☐ Great Egret	O	O		
☐ Green Heron		O		
☐ Bald Eagle	O			
☐ Northern Harrier	C	C	C	
☐ Cooper's Hawk	O		O	
☐ Red-tailed Hawk	O			
☐ American Kestrel	U	U	U	
☐ Prairie Falcon	R			
☐ Yellow Rail	O			
☐ Virginia Rail	O		O	
☐ Sora	O			
☐ Sandhill Crane	O			
☐ Killdeer	C	C		
☐ Upland Sandpiper	U	C		
☐ Marbled Godwit	C	C		
☐ Wilson's Snipe	C	C		
☐ Wilson's Phalarope	O			

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Black Tern		O		
☐ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
☐ Black-billed Cuckoo		O		
☐ Short-eared Owl	O	O		
☐ Ruby-throated Hummingbird			O	
☐ Downy Woodpecker	O	O	O	U
☐ Northern Flicker	C	U	U	
☐ Eastern Wood-Pewee		O		
☐ Alder Flycatcher		O		
☐ Willow Flycatcher		U	O	
☐ Least Flycatcher	U	U		
☐ Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
☐ Warbling Vireo	O	O		
☐ American Crow	C	C	C	U
☐ Horned Lark	C	O		O
☐ Tree Swallow	C	C		
☐ Northern Rough-winged Swallow		O		
☐ Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ House Wren	C		C	
☐ Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
☐ Marsh Wren	U	U		
☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O			
☐ Hermit Thrush	U			
☐ American Robin		U		
☐ Gray Catbird		U		
☐ Brown Thrasher	C	C		

SNA Bird Checklist		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐	Yellow Warbler	C	C		
☐	Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
☐	Chipping Sparrow	O			
☐	Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C		
☐	Vesper Sparrow	O			
☐	Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐	Grasshopper Sparrow		O		
☐	Le Conte's Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐	Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐	Swamp Sparrow	U	C	C	
☐	Bobolink	C	C	U	
☐	Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	U	
☐	Western Meadowlark	C	C		
☐	Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U		
☐	Brewer's Blackbird	C	C		
☐	Common Grackle	O	O		
☐	Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C		
☐	Orchard Oriole		O		
☐	Baltimore Oriole		O		
☐	Common Redpoll	U			C
☐	American Goldfinch	C	C	C	

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).

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Richard M. and Mathilda Rice-Elliott Scientific and Natural Area

Checklist



Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



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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.

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