

Birding Opportunities at Rock Ridge Prairie

Rock Ridge Prairie, 203 acres and located in Cottonwood County near Jeffers, is one of the highest quality black-soil prairies remaining in SW Minnesota. This SNA contains remnant prairie, a prairie restoration, and agricultural fields that will be restored to prairie in the future. A pond and evergreen plantings occur in a small area on the northeast corner of the site. Fifty-three species of birds have been observed here. Prairie associated species such as clay-colored sparrow, Smith's longspur and bobolink make their homes here. This area is one of the few places in the state where birders can regularly find Smith's longspurs during their spring and fall migration periods.

Access is best from the Township Road that runs along the south boundary or from Cottonwood County Road 2 on the east boundary of the SNA. There are no trails on the SNA but hiking is relatively easy on the prairie.

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
☐ Wood Duck	U	U	U	
☐ Gray Partridge	U	U	U	U
☐ Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
☐ Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	
☐ Northern Harrier	U	U	U	
☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
☐ Red-tailed Hawk	O	O	O	O
☐ Killdeer	U	U	U	
☐ Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	U
☐ Mourning Dove	C	U	C	
☐ Chimney Swift	O	O	O	
☐ Downy Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
☐ Hairy Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
☐ Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
☐ Blue Jay	U	U	U	O
☐ American Crow	C	C	C	U
☐ Horned Lark	U	U	U	
☐ Tree Swallow	U	U	U	
☐ Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
☐ Black-capped Chickadee	O	O	O	
☐ White-breasted Nuthatch	O	O	O	
☐ House Wren	O	O	O	
☐ Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
☐ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	
☐ Eastern Bluebird	U	O	U	
☐ American Robin	C	O	C	
☐ Gray Catbird	O	O	O	
☐ Brown Thrasher	O	O	O	
☐ European Starling	C	C	C	U
☐ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
☐ Palm Warbler	U		U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
☐ Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	
☐ Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U	U	
☐ Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O		
☐ Fox Sparrow	U		U	
☐ Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
☐ Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
☐ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	
☐ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	O
☐ Smith's Longspur	U		U	
☐ Bobolink	C	C	C	
☐ Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
☐ Western Meadowlark	C	C	C	
☐ Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	
☐ Common Grackle	C	C	C	
☐ Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U	O	
☐ American Goldfinch	O	O	O	
☐ House Sparrow	U	U	U	U

Rock Ridge Prairie

Scientific and Natural Area

BIRD Checklist

This checklist contains the names of all birds that have been documented at this site by reliable observers, including principal observer Bob Janssen, 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 55155-4040 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-MIN-NDNR (646-6367).

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Date: _____

Weather: _____

Observers: _____

Notes: _____



MINNESOTA'S
WILD & RARE

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