

## Birding Opportunities at Helen Allison Savanna SNA

This SNA lies within the Anoka Sandplain, providing an excellent example of sand dune plant succession, with blowouts and dunes in various stages of stabilization by pioneer species. Helen Allison Savanna, located in Anoka County, is 80 acres in size. The unit is adjacent to Cedar Creek Natural History Area. Community types found on the site include dry barrens, oak savanna, and sedge meadows in scattered depressions. Trees and shrubs characteristic of a savanna are found here, with oaks and aspen dominating. 92 bird species have been recorded on the SNA. Look for sandhill crane in the marshes, as well as red-winged blackbird and common yellowthroat. In the wooded areas, seven woodpecker species can be seen, as well as kinglets, brown thrasher, wild turkey and eastern towhee. Field, lark and vesper sparrows can be easily seen here, as well as eastern bluebirds. Parking is on the southeast corner of the SNA off of Co. Rd. 15. There are no developed trails in the SNA, but an old field road leads west from the parking area and walking is easy in the open savanna. The area can also be accessed off the north boundary along Co. Rd. 26. Birder access is 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
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	U	U	U	O

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Say's Phoebe	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin			O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	C	C	C	U

Additional Observations

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.

# Helen Allison Savanna

## Scientific and Natural Area

# BIIRD Checklist



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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 inquires 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.



© 2008 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
 Division of Ecological Resources  
 DNR Web Site: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)