

## Birding Opportunities at Clinton Prairie SNA

Clinton Prairie SNA is a 160 acre parcel located within the Minnesota River Prairie Subsection, near the small town of Clinton. The unit lies on a gently rolling ground moraine with broad, rounded swells and scattered, shallow wet depressions and ponds. The calcareous soils on this site were formed of glacial drift of the Des Moines Lobe, and the prairie community is distinctive, and representative of the once vast prairie landscape. While past use as a hay meadow and air strip have disturbed the prairie, it is still an important remnant of gently rolling upland blacksoil mesic prairie, now scarce in the region. The area is dominated by grasses, with many unique flowering plants present. There have been 56 bird species sighted to date on the unit. The rare upland sandpiper and the endangered chestnut-collared longspur have occurred here. Also found in the area are bobolinks, Harris' sparrow, dickcissels and horned larks. Savanna and grasshopper sparrows are common in the grasslands, as well as western meadowlark. Watch for ducks such as northern shoveler and northern pintail during migration. Access is from Big Stone Co. Rd. 7 on the east and Big Stone Co. Rd. 6 on the south boundary; parking is in a small lot in the SW corner of the parcel. Although there are no trails, hiking is easy, and birder access is excellent.

### 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"/> Gadwall	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Golden-Plover	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Avocet	O			
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baird's Sandpiper	O	O	O	

SNA Bird Checklist	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	U	U	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	O		O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	U	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"/> Harris's Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	U		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird	C	C	C	

SNA Bird Checklist		Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Grackle	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orchard Oriole	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Goldfinch	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/>	House Sparrow	O	O	O	O
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.

# Clinton Prairie

## Scientific and Natural Area

# 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).

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