

## THE PAINTER MARSH BIRD INVENTORY – HENNEPIN COUNTY

From August 27, 2011 to June 26, 2012 a total of 15 surveys were conducted at Painter Marsh located in western Hennepin County, Minnesota. The purpose of these surveys was to inventory the bird species and individual birds that occur at this site during all seasons of the year. Surveys were conducted at five different sites that were assigned to me by personnel at the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. The five sites were as follows with the number of bird species recorded at each site:

- Rye Property – located along County Road 26 – 80 species recorded
- Chute Site (horse barn) - 57 species recorded
- WB site – located across from horse barn – 78 species recorded
- Kowalke-Sorenson property – 63 species recorded
- Marvin Johnson property – 71 species recorded

A total of 117 species and approximately 5,000 individual birds were recorded during the 15 surveys. These species are listed on the attached Total Inventory & Status sheets. I have also included a Status column which indicates whether the species was Common (C), Uncommon (U) or Occasional (O) at the site. If the species was considered a migrant this is indicated by the symbol M. All other species not marked with an M could be considered as possible breeders at the site.

Some species that deserve special comment include the following:

- Trumpeter Swan - pair present in 2012
- Green Heron – increased numbers in 2012
- Red-shouldered Hawk - pair in woods at horse barn site in 2011-12
- Sandhill Crane – pair on Marvin Johnson property – June 2012
- Sora and Virginia Rail present during 2012
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher present and probably nesting at WB site during 2012
- 18 species of warblers recorded, mostly migrants. Common Yellowthroat and American Redstart common breeders
- 11 species of sparrows recorded, mostly migrants. Song and Swamp Sparrow common breeders in the marsh

Painter Marsh, including the surrounding woodlands and grassland habitat, is an excellent place for birdlife as the surveys indicate. The oak and deciduous woodlands on the Marvin Johnson property and at the WB site are excellent examples of mature woodlands which need preservation in this region. As the habitat in and around the marsh is improved and preserved an increase in breeding birds and migrant birds should be realized.

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