



DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT 2014 RESOURCE BRIEF



Above: A Peregrine Falcon was detected nesting on the tower during the 2014 survey and two chicks were documented as successfully fledged from the nest. Photo Credit: Dan Licht

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: Devils Tower National Monument was established to preserve and protect a geologic formation that protrudes from the surrounding landscape. Within this small 1,347 acre monument, many outside influences affect the flora and fauna at Devils Tower. The tower is a known nesting site for Prairie Falcons and Peregrine Falcons.

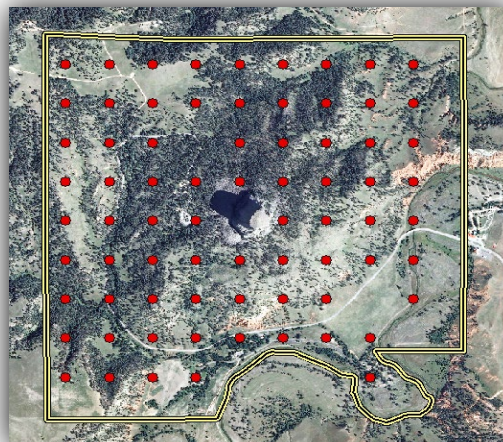
The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network assisted in the development of a long-term bird monitoring protocol jointly with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO). The 2014 breeding season was the second year of bird surveys at Devils Tower NM.

The RMBO surveyed 73 points in May 2014, and a total of 1003 birds representing 62 species were recorded.

Highlights: The American Robin and the Chipping Sparrow were the most common detected species in the park each having 7% of the species composition. Other common species included the Brown-headed Cowbird, House Wren, and the Violet-green Swallow all representing 6% of the composition.

In 2014, three new species were recorded for the park: American Coot, Pygmy Nuthatch, and the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (page2). This observation of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher could be the result of the bird “overshooting” its spring migration or because the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher’s breeding range is expanding northward possibly in relation to increasing average temperatures.

In 2013, two Peregrine Falcon chicks were reported flying where a pair of nesting falcons had been observed. During the 2014 survey, an adult Peregrine Falcon was observed nesting on the Tower during surveys. Three chicks were subsequently observed at the aerie, which was located on the west face of the Tower. Two of these chicks successfully fledged. During the nesting period and for 2 1/2 weeks following fledging, the nesting area of the Tower was closed to rock climbing for protection of both the birds and the climbers.



Right: Point locations surveyed during the 2014 field season.



BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT DEVILS TOWER NM

Common Name	2013	2014	Common Name	2013	2014
American Coot	0	1	Mourning Dove	21	37
American Crow	6	15	Northern Flicker	46	7
American Goldfinch	49	8	Ovenbird	2	0
American Kestrel	3	1	Peregrine Falcon	0	1
American Robin	94	69	Pine Siskin	3	3
Barn Swallow	1	1	Pinyon Jay	1	2
Black-billed Magpie	6	20	Plumbeous Vireo	18	14
Black-capped Chickadee	45	33	Prairie Falcon	1	0
Black-headed Grosbeak	4	5	Pygmy Nuthatch*	0	1
Blue Jay	10	8	Red Crossbill	0	4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	53	36
Blue-winged Teal	1	0	Red-eyed Vireo	1	3
Brewer's Blackbird	3	0	Red-headed Woodpecker	0	11
Brown Creeper	17	13	Red-winged Blackbird	19	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	84	64	Rock Pigeon	1	9
Bullock's Oriole	6	6	Rock Wren	5	8
Canada Goose	32	19	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	0
Cedar Waxwing	0	1	Say's Phoebe	4	2
Chipping Sparrow	86	66	Spotted Towhee	60	47
Cliff Swallow	14	3	Swainson's Thrush	1	0
Common Grackle	4	0	Townsend's Solitaire	12	4
Common Nighthawk	0	1	Tree Swallow	6	0
Common Poorwill	0	1	Turkey Vulture	23	22
Common Raven	1	0	Vesper Sparrow	1	1
Dark-eyed Junco	4	4	Violet-green Swallow	26	61
Downy Woodpecker	5	4	Warbling Vireo	2	1
Dusky Flycatcher	0	2	Western Kingbird	0	1
Eastern Kingbird	2	5	Western Meadowlark	34	53
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	5	Western Tanager	2	6
European Starling	13	0	Western Wood-Pewee	29	35
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	0	White-breasted Nuthatch	24	37
Gray Catbird	0	1	White-throated Swift	55	51
Hairy Woodpecker	4	3	Wild Turkey	6	14
House Wren	57	64	Wilson's Warbler	0	1
Lark Bunting	1	0	Wood Duck	5	0
Lark Sparrow	34	38	Yellow Warbler	38	38
Lazuli Bunting	6	0			

* New Species for Park

*Species of Importance:

Determined by Partners in
Flight priority species list and
State of Wyoming priority list.

*Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. 2014. The Rocky Mountain Avian Data Center. { web app}. Brighton, CO. <http://adc.rmbo.org>. (Accessed December 4, 2014).

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