



FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 2014 RESOURCE BRIEF

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: Fort Laramie National Historic Site was an outpost that played a crucial role in the transformation of the West, first as a fur-trading center, then as military garrison. The site is located near the confluence of the Laramie River and Platte River. Despite its small acreage (833 acres), the bird community is diverse given the riparian areas along the rivers.

The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network assisted in 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 for Fort Laramie NHS.

The RMBO surveyed 44 points across the park. The counts were conducted in May, and a total of 794 birds representing 63 species were recorded.

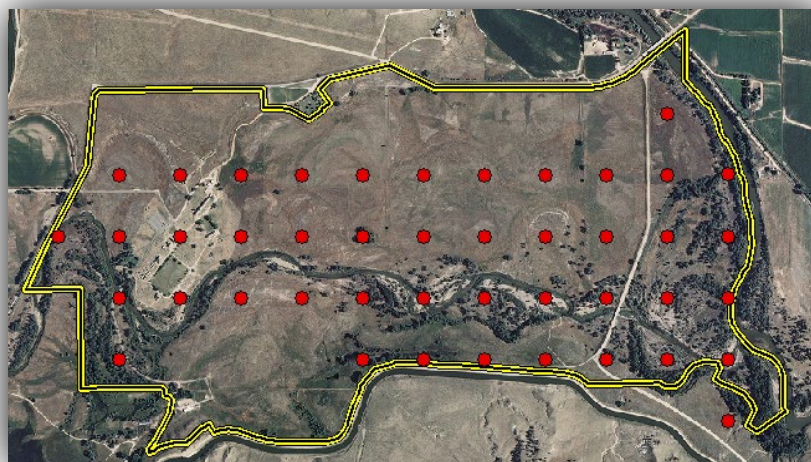
Highlights: The Rock Pigeon (8%), Mourning Dove (8%) and Western Meadowlark (8%) were the most common detected species in the park. Other common species included the European Starling (7%), Western Kingbird (6%), and Yellow Warbler (6%). The large percentages of the non-native Rock Pigeon and European Starling may reflect the close proximity of a cattle feed lot to the park.

The Common Loon was a new species for the park and is listed on the State of Wyoming's priority list as a Species of Greatest Need. Since the mid-2000's, the Common Loons population has declined by nearly 42%. It's sharp decline may be due to its high sensitivity to human disturbance during nesting.

Several species found at Fort Laramie NHS in 2013 and 2014 are listed as Species of Importance by Partners in Flight and the State of Wyoming (page 2).



Above: The Yellow Warbler was common during the 2013 and 2014 field seasons. Photo Credit: Bill Thompson



Right: Point locations surveyed during the 2014 field season.



BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT FORT LARAMIE NHS

Common Name	2013	2014	Common Name	2013	2014
American Crow	2	2	House Wren	47	31
American Goldfinch	14	10	Killdeer	16	5
American Kestrel	1	1	Lark Bunting	0	21
American Robin	17	10	Lark Sparrow	6	17
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4	0	Mallard	3	2
Bald Eagle	1	0	Mourning Dove	73	64
Baltimore Oriole	3	3	Northern Flicker	15	10
Barn Swallow	2	14	Northern Harrier	1	0
Belted Kingfisher	4	1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	79	3
Black-billed Magpie	1	0	Orchard Oriole	3	6
Black-capped Chickadee	1	4	Osprey	0	1
Black-headed Grosbeak	13	15	Red Crossbill	0	1
Blue Grosbeak	0	2	Red-eyed Vireo	0	1
Blue Jay	28	12	Red-headed Woodpecker	2	2
Brewer's Blackbird	4	1	Red-tailed Hawk	2	5
Brown Thrasher	1	5	Red-winged Blackbird	25	21
Brown-headed Cowbird	9	22	Rock Pigeon	105	65
Bullock's Oriole	28	14	Say's Phoebe	0	3
Canada Goose	1	32	Song Sparrow	0	2
Caspian Tern	0	1	Spotted Sandpiper	3	3
Cliff Swallow	313	38	Spotted Towhee	3	4
Common Grackle	25	33	Swainson's Thrush	1	0
Common Loon*	0	2	Vesper Sparrow	6	0
Common Merganser	3	1	Violet-green Swallow	25	1
Common Nighthawk	2	0	Warbling Vireo	4	4
Common Yellowthroat	13	9	Western Grebe	1	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1	1	Western Kingbird	45	44
Downy Woodpecker	5	3	Western Meadowlark	92	63
Eastern Kingbird	6	21	Western Tanager	1	1
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0	19	Western Wood-Pewee	23	15
European Starling	33	58	White-breasted Nuthatch	1	3
Grasshopper Sparrow	14	3	Wild Turkey	12	3
Gray Catbird	1	0	Wilson's Snipe	2	2
Great Blue Heron	3	1	Wood Duck	5	4
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	0	Yellow Warbler	34	44
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	4	3
Hermit Thrush	1	0			

*New Species for Park

*Species of Importance:
Determined by Partners in
Flight priority species list and
State of Wyoming priority list.

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

