



FORT UNION TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 2014 RESOURCE BRIEF

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site was the grandest fort on the Upper Missouri River in the 1800's. The National Park Service acquired the fort in 1966. Today's Fort Union Trading Post NHS has been reconstructed to its appearance in 1851, at the height of the Indian and fur trades.

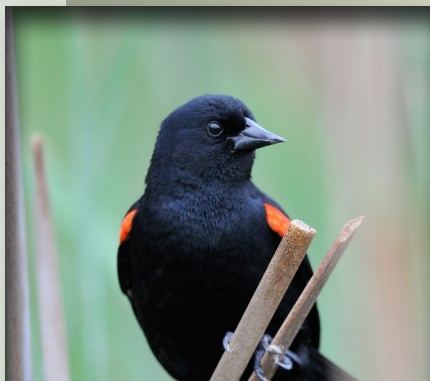
The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network assisted in development of a long-term bird monitoring protocol jointly with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO). The 2014 breeding season was the second year of bird surveys.

The park was too small (444 acres) to include the required number of grids; therefore, a uniform layer of points was placed over the park and these points were sampled about

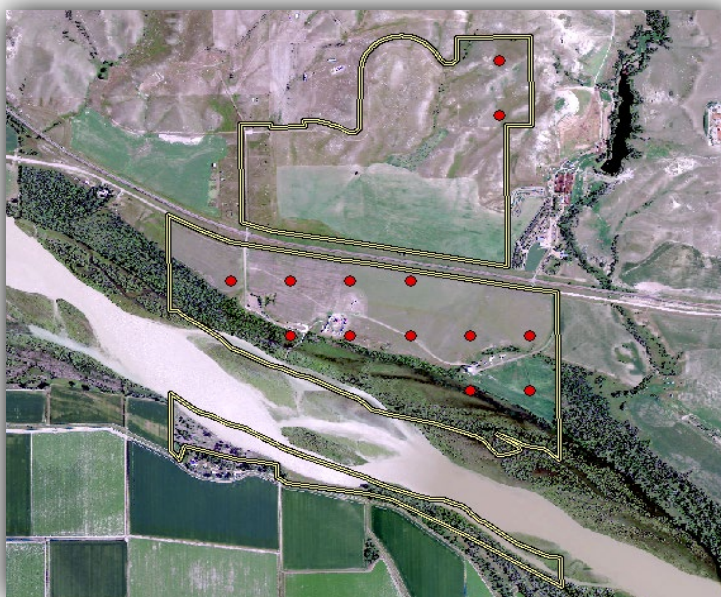
3 times each year. In June 2014, RMBO reported a total of 417 birds representing 47 species.

Highlights: The Red-winged Blackbird was the most common detected species in 2014 (page 2). Other common species included the Western Meadowlark, the Bank Swallow and the Franklin's Gull. Three species that were initially listed as unconfirmed in NPSpecies are now confirmed as present in the park: Black-billed Cuckoo, Say's Phoebe, and Upland Sandpiper.

Several species found in 2013 and 2014 are listed in the Partners in Flight species of importance and the North Dakota species priority list (page2).



Above: The Red-winged Blackbird had the highest detection during the 2014 field season. Photo Credit: Bill Thompson



Right: Point locations surveyed during the 2014 field season.



BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT FORT UNION TRADING POST NHS

Common Name	2013	2014	Common Name	2013	2014
American Crow	8	1	Lark Sparrow	15	16
American Goldfinch	16	1	Lazuli Bunting	27	4
American Redstart	8	1	Least Flycatcher	17	0
American Robin	15	14	Mallard	1	6
American White Pelican	0	2	Marsh Wren	1	0
Bald Eagle	0	1	Mourning Dove	28	24
Baltimore Oriole	0	1	Northern Flicker	7	3
Bank Swallow	19	34	Northern Harrier	1	0
Barn Swallow	10	11	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1	0
Black-and-white Warbler	8	0	Ovenbird	1	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	0	1	Red-eyed Vireo	13	2
Black-billed Magpie	5	2	Red-tailed Hawk	3	1
Black-capped Chickadee	3	0	Red-winged Blackbird	53	54
Black-headed Grosbeak	11	2	Ring-necked Pheasant	25	26
Bobolink	22	0	Rock Pigeon	8	2
Brewer's Blackbird	6	0	Savannah Sparrow	8	0
Brown Thrasher	2	1	Say's Phoebe	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	22	22	Sedge Wren	9	0
Cedar Waxwing	11	2	Song Sparrow	8	1
Chipping Sparrow	3	6	Sora	2	0
Clay-colored Sparrow	16	7	Spotted Sandpiper	1	0
Cliff Swallow	13	7	Spotted Towhee	6	1
Common Grackle	6	0	Tree Swallow	4	0
Common Nighthawk	1	0	Turkey Vulture	0	1
Common Yellowthroat	18	8	Upland Sandpiper	1	1
Eastern Bluebird	2	0	Vesper Sparrow	20	11
Eastern Kingbird	9	6	Virginia Rail	1	0
Field Sparrow	2	0	Warbling Vireo	13	0
Franklin's Gull	3	34	Western Kingbird	3	1
Grasshopper Sparrow	44	8	Western Meadowlark	75	45
Gray Catbird	3	2	Western Wood-Pewee	4	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2	0	Wood Duck	9	7
House Wren	23	1	Yellow Warbler	28	27
Killdeer	4	6	Yellow-breasted Chat	12	0

***Species of Importance:**
Determined by Partners in
Flight priority species list and
State of North Dakota 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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