



MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL 2014 RESOURCE BRIEF

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: Mount Rushmore National Memorial was established to communicate the founding, preservation, and unification of the United States with the faces of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt carved out of granite. Besides the famous faces, Mount Rushmore NMEM has over 1,200 acres of ponderosa pine forest with most of the avifauna being forest species.

The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network assisted with 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.

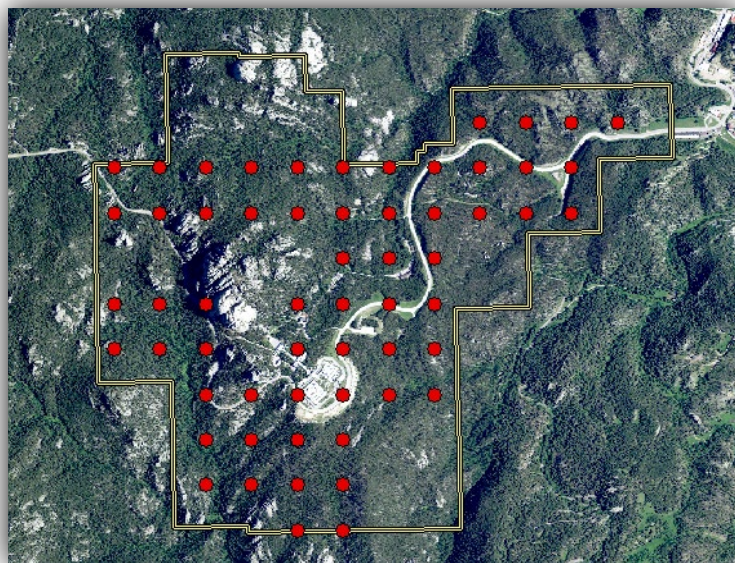
In 2014, the RMBO surveyed 59 points during the month of July. A total of 754 birds representing 43 species were recorded.

Highlights: The Yellow-rumped Warbler (15%) was the most common detected species. Other common species included the Violet-green Swallow (9%), Chipping Sparrow (8%), American Robin (7%), and White-throated Swift (7%).

In 2014, six new species were recorded for the park: Bell's Vireo, Cliff Swallow, Common Grackle, Tree Swallow, Yellow Warbler, and the Eurasian Collared-Dove (non-native). In addition, the Black-backed Woodpecker changed its status in NPSpecies from Unconfirmed to Present in Park. The Black-backed Woodpecker is on South Dakota's priority list as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. It is an uncommon woodpecker of the northern coniferous forests and follows outbreaks of wood-boring beetles in burned habitats.



Above: The Yellow-rumped Warbler was the most common detected bird during the 2014 field season.



Right: Point locations surveyed during the 2014 field season.



BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT MOUNT RUSHMORE NMEM

Common Name	2013	2014	Common Name	2013	2014
American Crow	5	5	MacGillivray's Warbler	0	3
American Goldfinch	5	0	Mountain Bluebird	2	2
American Redstart	12	0	Mourning Dove	12	0
American Robin	63	51	Northern Flicker	15	23
Bell's Vireo	0	1	Ovenbird	15	6
Belted Kingfisher	1	0	Pine Siskin	5	40
Black-backed Woodpecker	0	3	Plumbeous Vireo	9	9
Black-capped Chickadee	18	25	Red Crossbill	10	30
Black-headed Grosbeak	7	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	41	29
Brown Creeper	2	10	Red-eyed Vireo	2	0
Brown Thrasher	2	0	Red-naped Sapsucker	6	19
Brown-headed Cowbird	9	14	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	6
Canyon Wren	3	8	Song Sparrow	1	3
Cedar Waxwing	4	0	Spotted Towhee	1	1
Chimney Swift	1	0	Swainson's Thrush	5	14
Chipping Sparrow	30	59	Townsend's Solitaire	7	4
Cliff Swallow	0	1	Tree Swallow	0	1
Common Grackle	0	1	Turkey Vulture	0	1
Common Nighthawk	6	1	Veery	10	0
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	Violet-green Swallow	20	68
Cooper's Hawk	1	0	Warbling Vireo	34	10
Cordilleran Flycatcher	2	19	Western Tanager	15	20
Dark-eyed Junco	42	32	Western Wood-Pewee	20	21
Downy Woodpecker	4	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	19	24
Dusky Flycatcher	1	2	White-throated Swift	13	51
Eastern Bluebird	1	0	Willow Flycatcher	1	0
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0	2	Yellow Warbler	0	3
Hairy Woodpecker	3	13	Yellow-rumped Warbler	59	115
House Wren	6	0			

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

* **New Species for Park**
* **Species of Importance:**
Determined by Partners in
Flight priority species list and
State of South Dakota priority
list.

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