



NIOBARRA NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER 2014 RESOURCE BRIEF

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: The Niobrara National Scenic River is a crossroads where many animal and plant species coexist. This area is unique in that six major ecosystems converge including northern boreal forest, western forest, eastern deciduous forest, tallgrass prairie, mixed-grass prairie, and shortgrass prairie. The central reach of the Niobrara River serves as an east-west avian corridor. As a result, the Niobrara Valley supports exceptional biological diversity of birds.

The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring (NGPN) developed a long-term bird monitoring protocol jointly with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) and three other Inventory and Monitoring Networks (Sonoran Desert, Chihuahuan Desert, and Southern Plains). The 2014 breeding season was the first year of surveys for Niobrara National Scenic River.

The RMBO surveyed 12 grids and 141 points. The counts were conducted 5 days in June and 3 days in July. A total of 2,377 birds representing 77 species were recorded at Niobrara National Scenic River. Bird monitoring will resume again in June of 2015.

Highlights: The Dickcissel, was the second-most commonly detected species on the Niobrara River. Other common species included Mourning Dove, Field Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Brown-headed Cowbird, Chipping Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, American Crow, American Goldfinch and the Grasshopper Sparrow. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a new species for the park's National Park Service Species List, was detected on three grids. Only one non-native species was found, the European Starling.

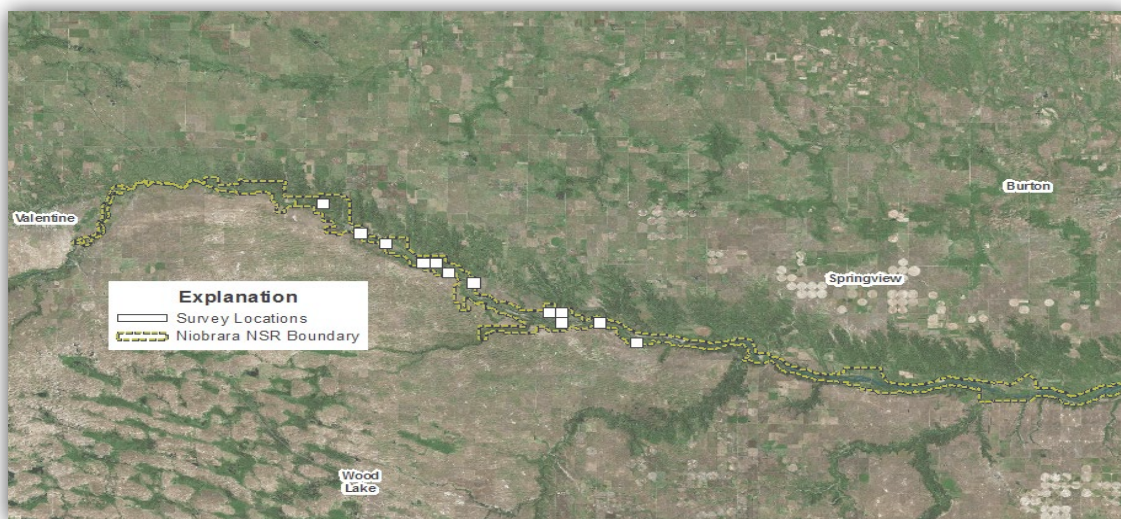


Bill Thompson

Top: Canoers on the Niobrara NSR

Above Left: The Dickcissel was the second-most common detected species.

Right: Survey locations during the 2014 field season





BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT NIOBRARA NSR

American Avocet	Common Grackle	Red-bellied Woodpecker*
American Crow	Common Nighthawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch
American Goldfinch	Common Yellowthroat	Red-eyed Vireo
American Kestrel	Cooper's Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker*
American Redstart	Dickcissel*	Red-tailed Hawk
American Robin	Downy Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
American White Pelican	Eastern Bluebird	Song Sparrow
Bald Eagle*	Eastern Kingbird	Spotted Sandpiper
Baltimore Oriole	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Spotted Towhee
Bank Swallow	European Starling	Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow	Field Sparrow	Turkey Vulture
Bell's Vireo*	Grasshopper Sparrow*	Upland Sandpiper
Belted Kingfisher	Gray Catbird	Virginia Rail
Black-and-white Warbler	Great Blue Heron	Warbling Vireo
Black-billed Cuckoo	Great Crested Flycatcher	Western Meadowlark
Black-capped Chickadee	Hairy Woodpecker	Western Wood-Pewee
Black-headed Grosbeak	Horned Lark	White-breasted Nuthatch
Blue Grosbeak	House Wren	Wild Turkey
Blue Jay	Indigo Bunting*	Yellow Warbler
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**	Killdeer	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Blue-winged Teal	Lark Sparrow	Yellow-breasted Chat
Brown Creeper	Mourning Dove	* Species of Concern
Brown Thrasher*	Northern Bobwhite	**New Species for Park
Brown-headed Cowbird	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	
Canada Goose	Orchard Oriole	
Cedar Waxwing	Ovenbird	
Chipping Sparrow	Red Crossbill	



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Network Parks: Agate Fossil Beds NM • Badlands NP • Devils Tower NM • Fort Laramie NHS • Fort Union Trading Post NHS • Jewel Cave NM • Knife River Indian Villages NHS • Missouri NRR • Mount Rushmore NMEM • Niobrara NSR • Scotts Bluff NM • Theodore Roosevelt NP • Wind Cave NP