



WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK 2014 RESOURCE BRIEF



Above: The Red-headed Woodpecker is listed by Partners in Flight as a Common Bird in Steep Decline.

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: Wind Cave, which is one of the world's longest and most complex caves, became protected in 1903 as the eighth national park. The cave also protected 30,000 acres of above-ground features including mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine forest, and associated wildlife.

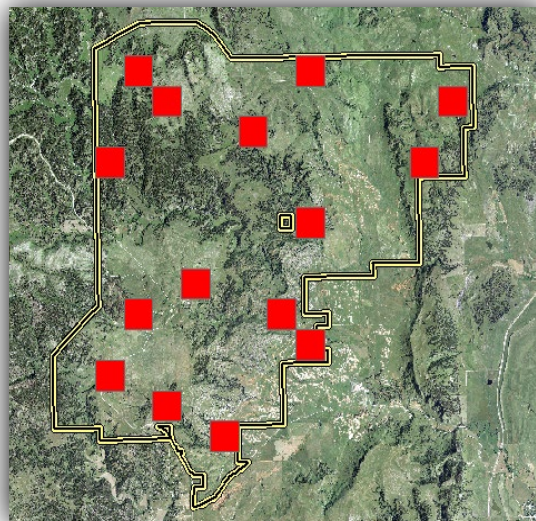
The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network assisted in development of a long-term bird monitoring protocol jointly with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO). A panel design where grids are surveyed on a rotating schedule was developed to facilitate complete coverage of the park. The 2014 breeding season was the second year of bird surveys for Wind Cave National Park.

RMBO technicians surveyed 179 points within 15 1km² grids; an increase from 160 surveyed in 2013. Surveys were conducted

in June and July, and a total of 2,121 birds representing 82 species was recorded.

Highlights: The Western Meadowlark was the most common detected species with 23% of the bird count composition. Other common species included the Spotted Towhee (7%), Grasshopper Sparrow (6%), Mourning Dove (5%), and Chipping Sparrow (4%). In addition, the Common Goldeneye and the Eurasian Collared-Dove were recorded as new species for the park. The Eurasian Collared-Dove is non-native to the area and is strongly dispersive. It was introduced into the Bahamas in the 1970's and spread to Florida in 1982. It currently occurs as far north as Alaska. Other non-native birds detected in 2014 were the European Starling, Ring-necked Pheasant and Rock Pigeon.

Wind Cave NP had 16 birds listed as Species of Importance by Partners and Flight and the state of South Dakota in 2014 (page 2). One of these species was the Red-headed Woodpecker; a species identified by Partners in Flight as a Common Bird in Steep Decline. Its population has declined 70% in the last half-century because of habitat loss and changes to its food supply. The Red-headed Woodpecker is one of only four North American woodpeckers known to store food, and it's the only one known to cover the stored food with wood or bark.



Right: Grid locations surveyed during the 2014 field season.



BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT WIND CAVE NP

Common Name	2013	2014	Common Name	2013	2014	Common Name	2013	2014	Common Name	2013	2014
American Crow	63	75	Cordilleran Flycatcher	0	5	Pygmy Nuthatch	1	0	Western Tanager	45	24
American Goldfinch	23	23	Dark-eyed Junco	11	13	Red Crossbill	5	16	Western Wood-Pewee	58	60
American Kestrel	10	17	Downy Woodpecker	1	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	25	21	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	22
American Redstart	0	1	Dusky Flycatcher	2	1	Red-eyed Vireo	5	4	Wild Turkey	8	4
American Robin	30	70	Eastern Bluebird	2	2	Red-headed Woodpecker	9	23	Yellow Warbler	20	22
Barn Swallow	2	4	Eastern Kingbird	21	22	Red-naped Sapsucker	12	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	10	18
Black-backed Woodpecker	0	2	Eurasian Collared-Dove	0	3	Red-tailed Hawk	5	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	29
Black-billed Magpie	22	68	European Starling	3	2	Red-winged Blackbird	5	1			
Black-capped Chickadee	37	32	Field Sparrow	42	45	Ring-necked Pheasant	0	1			
Black-headed Grosbeak	14	8	Grasshopper Sparrow	115	129	Rock Pigeon	3	3			
Blue Jay	0	2	Gray Catbird	0	1	Rock Wren	21	7			
Brewer's Blackbird	86	60	Gray Jay	3	0	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	0			
Brown Creeper	1	2	Hairy Woodpecker	7	9	Savannah Sparrow	0	1			
Brown Thrasher	9	7	Horned Lark	6	27	Say's Phoebe	3	3			
Brown-headed Cowbird	50	60	House Wren	11	11	Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	4			
Bullock's Oriole	0	3	Lark Sparrow	54	22	Song Sparrow	5	0			
Burrowing Owl	1	0	Lazuli Bunting	2	13	Spotted Towhee	138	157			
Canada Goose	0	4	Least Flycatcher	0	1	Swainson's Hawk	1	0			
Cedar Waxwing	2	13	Lewis's Woodpecker	0	1	Townsend's Solitaire	0	1			
Chipping Sparrow	80	90	Mallard	1	0	Tree Swallow	1	1			
Clark's Nutcracker	0	1	Mountain Bluebird	14	17	Turkey Vulture	4	7			
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	3	Mourning Dove	62	107	Upland Sandpiper	22	29			
Cliff Swallow	1	5	Northern Flicker	54	69	Veery	1	0			
Common Goldeneye	0	6	Orchard Oriole	0	1	Vesper Sparrow	48	61			
Common Grackle	0	3	Ovenbird	5	3	Violet-green Swallow	4	3			
Common Nighthawk	22	32	Pine Siskin	2	2	Warbling Vireo	9	0			
Common Poorwill	0	1	Pinyon Jay	0	3	Western Kingbird	4	1			
Common Yellowthroat	0	3	Plumbeous Vireo	11	7	Western Meadowlark	337	483			

* **Species of Importance** * 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**

