



DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT 2015 RESOURCE BRIEF



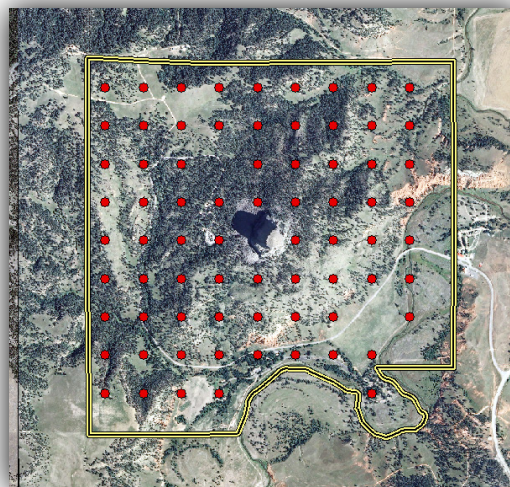
Above: The Red Crossbill is dependent on coniferous forest seed cones and may wander widely in search of a good cone crop. It uses its unique bill to extract the cone seed. The crossed tips of the bill push the scale up, exposing the seed inside.

Right: Point locations surveyed during the 2015 field season.

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: Devils Tower National Monument (DETO) was established to preserve and protect a unique geologic formation that protrudes from the surrounding landscape. This small 1,347 acre monument has a diverse landscape including Ponderosa pine forest, bur oak, and cottonwood floodplain. The Monument supports a variety of birds; and the tower is a popular nesting site for Prairie and Peregrine Falcons.

The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network developed a bird monitoring protocol jointly with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory). The 2015 breeding season was the third year of bird surveys at Devils Tower NM. This research is the beginning of a long-term effort to monitor species trends and densities.



The Bird Conservancy surveyed 74 points in 2015, and a total of 1551 birds representing 63 species were recorded.

Highlights: The white-throated swift (10%) and the American robin (9%) were the most common detected species. Other common species were the brown-headed cowbird, house wren, and the western wood-pewee each having 5% of the species composition. Non-native species included the Eurasian-collared dove, rock pigeon, and European starling.

Thirteen species found at DETO have been identified as species of concern (see back page) including the Red Crossbill. Scientists have recently identified as many as eight different species of crossbills across the continent. Interestingly, they may occur in the same area but do not appear to interbreed.

The location of crossbill populations vary widely between years as the birds search for a good cone crop before selecting a home for breeding. Although its overall population is stable; some of the races are localized by specialization and are vulnerable to habitat loss. For this reason, it is listed as a species of concern.



BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT DEVILS TOWER NM

Common Name	2014	2015		2014	2015
American Coot	1	0	Mountain Bluebird	7	21
American Crow	15	9	Mourning Dove	37	36
American Goldfinch	8	38	Northern Flicker	7	22
American Kestrel	1	3	Ovenbird	0	1
American Robin	69	143	Peregrine Falcon	1	4
Bald Eagle	0	1	Pine Siskin	3	8
Barn Swallow	1	0	Pinyon Jay	2	29
Black-billed Magpie	20	25	Plumbeous Vireo	14	20
Black-capped Chickadee	33	33	Pygmy Nuthatch	1	0
Black-headed Grosbeak	5	8	Red Crossbill	4	19
Blue Jay	8	19	Red-breasted Nuthatch	36	73
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	0	Red-eyed Vireo	3	3
Brown Creeper	13	0	Red-headed Woodpecker	11	20
Brown-headed Cowbird	64	90	Red-tailed Hawk	0	1
Bullock's Oriole	6	21	Red-winged Blackbird	1	18
Canada Goose	19	42	Rock Pigeon	9	6
Cedar Waxwing	1	4	Rock Wren	8	32
Chipping Sparrow	66	66	Say's Phoebe	2	7
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	1	Spotted Towhee	47	43
Cliff Swallow	3	0	Townsend's Solitaire	4	2
Common Nighthawk	1	0	Turkey Vulture	22	34
Common Poorwill	1	0	Unknown Sapsucker	0	9
Common Yellowthroat	0	1	Vesper Sparrow	1	1
Dark-eyed Junco	4	1	Violet-green Swallow	61	32
Downy Woodpecker	4	7	Warbling Vireo	1	0
Dusky Flycatcher	2	0	Western Kingbird	1	7
Eastern Kingbird	5	5	Western Meadowlark	53	72
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5	9	Western Tanager	6	9
European Starling	0	1	Western Wood-Pewee	35	76
Gray Catbird	1	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	37	20
Great Horned Owl	0	1	White-crowned Sparrow	0	3
Hairy Woodpecker	3	4	White-throated Swift	51	161
Hermit Thrush	0	2	Wild Turkey	14	3
House Wren	64	84	Wilson's Warbler	1	0
Lark Sparrow	38	50	Yellow Warbler	38	45
Least Flycatcher	2	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	21	43

***Species of Importance:**

Determined by Partners in Flight priority species list and State of Wyoming priority list.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. 2015. The Rocky Mountain Avian Data Center. Brighton, CO. <http://adc.rmbo.org>. (Accessed January 24, 2016).

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