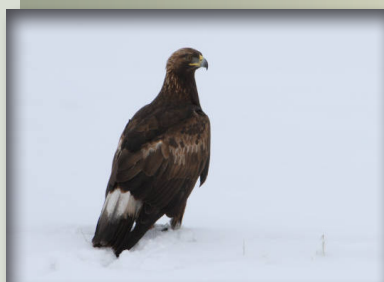




FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 2015 RESOURCE BRIEF



Above: A juvenile golden eagle. They are often mistaken for bald eagles because of their white tail feathers which they keep until 4 years of age.

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: Fort Laramie National Historic Site was an outpost that played a crucial role in the transformation of the West, first as fur-trading center, then as military garrison. The site is located near the confluence of the Laramie River and Platte River. Despite its small acreage (886 acres), the bird community is diverse given the riparian areas along the rivers.

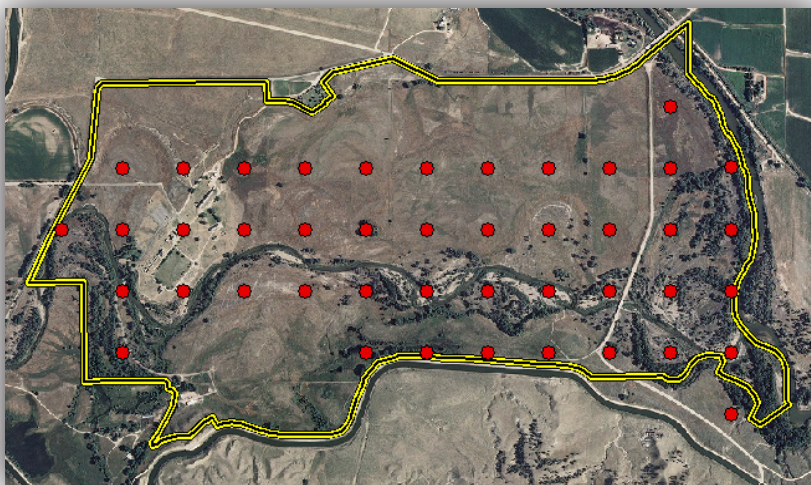
The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network developed a long-term bird monitoring protocol jointly with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory). The 2015 breeding season was the third year of surveys for Fort Laramie NHS. This research is the beginning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

The Bird Conservancy surveyed 43 points across the park and a total of 886 birds representing 68 species were recorded.

Highlights: The Western meadowlark (15%) and the mourning dove (9%) had the

highest detection rates followed by the common grackle (8%). Other common species included the European startling, red-winged blackbird, and house wren; each with 6% of the species composition. The dusky flycatcher was a new species recorded for the park and will be added to NPSpecies.

Several species found at Fort Laramie are listed as species of importance by Partners in Flight and the State of Wyoming (page 2). One of these species, the golden eagle, was recorded for the first time since monitoring began at Fort Laramie. It is listed as a “Potential Concern” because most recorded deaths are attributed to humans. Urbanization, agricultural development, and changes in wildfire occurrence have compromised nesting and hunting grounds in certain areas of the west, but overall its population is stable.



Right: Grid locations surveyed during the 2015 field season.



BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Common Name	2014	2015	Common Name	2014	2015	Common Name	2014	2015
American Crow	2	0	Double-crested Cormorant	1	0	Ovenbird	0	1
American Goldfinch	10	14	Downy Woodpecker	3	4	Pine Siskin	0	35
American Kestrel	1	0	Dusky Flycatcher	0	3	Red Crossbill	1	0
American Redstart	0	2	Eastern Bluebird	0	1	Red-eyed Vireo	1	0
American Robin	10	22	Eastern Kingbird	21	11	Red-headed Woodpecker	2	1
Baltimore Oriole	3	0	Eurasian Collared-Dove	19	1	Red-tailed Hawk	5	3
Bank Swallow	0	5	European Starling	58	54	Red-winged Blackbird	21	56
Barn Swallow	14	6	Golden Eagle	0	1	Rock Pigeon	65	0
Belted Kingfisher	1	0	Grasshopper Sparrow	3	9	Sandhill Crane	0	1
Black-billed Magpie	0	2	Gray Catbird	0	2	Say's Phoebe	3	4
Black-capped Chickadee	4	5	Great Blue Heron	1	1	Song Sparrow	2	0
Black-headed Grosbeak	15	10	Great Horned Owl	0	1	Spotted Sandpiper	3	0
Blue Grosbeak	2	0	Green-tailed Towhee	0	1	Spotted Towhee	4	9
Blue Jay	12	22	Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	Tree Swallow	0	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	1	Hermit Thrush	0	1	Vesper Sparrow	0	2
Brewer's Blackbird	1	4	House Wren	31	60	Violet-green Swallow	1	1
Brown Thrasher	5	5	Killdeer	5	3	Warbling Vireo	4	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	22	20	Lark Bunting	21	0	Western Grebe	1	0
Bullock's Oriole	14	12	Lark Sparrow	17	26	Western Kingbird	44	41
Canada Goose	32	8	Least Flycatcher	0	5	Western Meadowlark	63	129
Caspian Tern	1	0	Lincoln's Sparrow	0	1	Western Tanager	1	0
Cedar Waxwing	0	1	Loggerhead Shrike	0	1	Western Wood-Pewee	15	3
Chipping Sparrow	0	3	Mallard	2	0	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	1	Mountain Bluebird	0	2	Wild Turkey	3	2
Cliff Swallow	38	16	Mourning Dove	64	82	Wilson's Snipe	2	0
Common Grackle	33	76	Northern Flicker	10	7	Wood Duck	4	8
Common Loon	2	0	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	3	6	Yellow Warbler	44	35
Common Merganser	1	2	Orchard Oriole	6	4	Yellow-breasted Chat	3	3
Common Yellowthroat	9	15	Osprey	1	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	4

*New Species for Park

*Species of Importance:

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

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