



KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 2015 RESOURCE BRIEF



Above: American white pelicans coordinate their swimming to drive schooling fish towards shallow water where they can easily scoop the fish into their bills.

Photo Permission: Terry Sohl

Right: Point locations surveyed during the 2015 field season.

LANDBIRD MONITORING

Overview: Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site was established in 1974 to preserve and interpret an area rich in Hidatsa, Mandan and Arikara culture near the confluence of the Knife River and the Missouri River in North Dakota. The park encompasses 1,749 acres of native grasslands, riparian forests, sandbars, and wetlands.

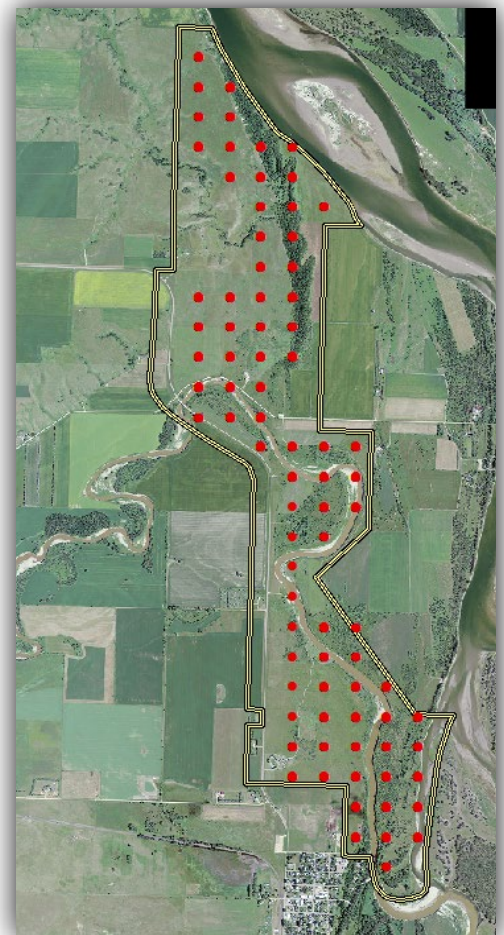
The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network developed a bird monitoring protocol jointly with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory). The 2015 breeding season was the third year of bird surveys at Knife River NHS. This research is the beginning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

Technicians surveyed 76 points in 2015, and a total of 2,085 birds representing 79 species were recorded.

Highlights: The ring-necked pheasant had the highest detection rate at 8% of the species composition. Other common species included the western meadowlark (7%), mourning dove (7%), clay-colored sparrow (7%), house wren (6%), and bobolink (5%). The pied-billed grebe was a new species for the park's NPSpecies list.

Several species at Knife River NHS are listed as species of importance by Partners in Flight and the state of North Dakota (page 2). The American white pelican is listed as a species of responsibility by the state of North Dakota. This designation was given to this species because the state is home to the largest nesting colony in North America.

Pelicans in adjacent states are vulnerable to habitat loss, and North Dakota may be the last breeding refuge for the population.





BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NHS

Common Name	2014	2015	Common Name	2014	2015	Common Name	2014	2015	Common Name	2014	2015
American Goldfinch	52	50	Cliff Swallow	32	0	Lark Bunting	3	0	Spotted Sandpiper	6	6
American Kestrel	2	5	Common Grackle	34	19	Lark Sparrow	11	7	Spotted Towhee	16	17
American Redstart	20	20	Common Yellowthroat	73	79	Lazuli Bunting	6	6	Tree Swallow	13	23
American Robin	34	50	Connecticut Warbler	1	0	Least Flycatcher	57	47	Turkey Vulture	11	0
American White	0	2	Cooper's Hawk	1	1	Mallard	20	3	Upland Sandpiper	6	26
Bald Eagle	4	0	Dickcissel	2	0	Mourning Dove	118	154	Vesper Sparrow	2	6
Baltimore Oriole	7	6	Downy Woodpecker	2	12	Northern Bobwhite	2	0	Warbling Vireo	20	6
Bank Swallow	87	30	Eastern Bluebird	15	10	Northern Flicker	17	48	Western Kingbird	19	6
Barn Swallow	6	5	Eastern Kingbird	32	26	Northern Harrier	2	1	Western Meadowlark	130	154
Black-and-white Warbler	4	1	Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	7	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	7	13	White-breasted Nuthatch	6	8
Black-billed Magpie	9	12	Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	3	Orchard Oriole	10	4	Wild Turkey	8	7
Black-capped Chickadee	8	9	European Starling	19	0	Pied-billed Grebe	0	2	Willow Flycatcher	3	5
Black-headed Grosbeak	15	7	Field Sparrow	36	32	Red-eyed Vireo	24	18	Wilson's Snipe	4	5
Blue Jay	3	4	Gadwall	2	1	Red-headed Woodpecker	9	5	Wood Duck	5	2
Blue-winged Teal	5	0	Grasshopper Sparrow	41	33	Red-tailed Hawk	2	2	Yellow Warbler	106	102
Bobolink	232	115	Gray Catbird	17	10	Red-winged Blackbird	50	77	Yellow-breasted Chat	4	0
Brewer's Blackbird	5	13	Great Crested Flycatcher	0	1	Ring-billed Gull	0	1	Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	2
Brown Thrasher	4	6	Great Horned Owl	3	3	Ring-necked Pheasant	121	166	Yellow-throated Vireo	5	0
Brown-headed Cowbird	100	87	Hairy Woodpecker	9	6	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	0			
California Gull	1	3	Hooded Merganser	1	0	Savannah Sparrow	11	5			
Canada Goose	48	3	Horned Lark	1	3	Say's Phoebe	1	0			
Cedar Waxwing	21	25	House Sparrow	0	1	Sedge Wren	20	74			
Chimney Swift	1	0	House Wren	106	131	Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	3			
Chipping Sparrow	2	2	Indigo Bunting	0	12	Short-eared Owl	0	1			
Clay-colored Sparrow	126	146	Killdeer	5	12	Song Sparrow	29	69			

New Species for Park

Species of Importance: Determined by Partners in Flight priority species list and State of North Dakota priority list.

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

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