



THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK 2015 RESOURCE BRIEF

LANDBIRD MONITORING



Above: The short-eared owl is frequently seen during daylight in open areas with low vegetation.
[Photo Permission: Terry Sohl](#)

Overview: Theodore Roosevelt National Park encompasses over 70,000 acres of prairies, badlands, and riparian habitat. The Little Missouri River winds through all three units of the park and attracts numerous bird species to its floodplain cottonwood forest.

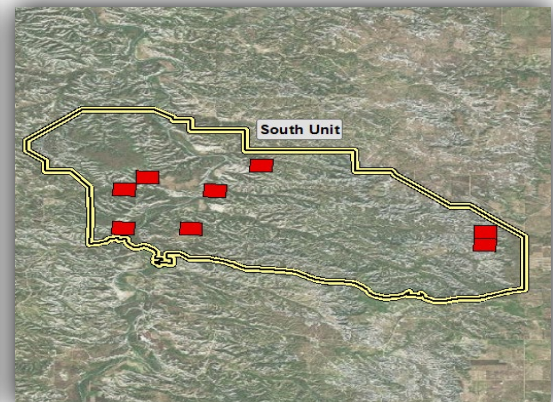
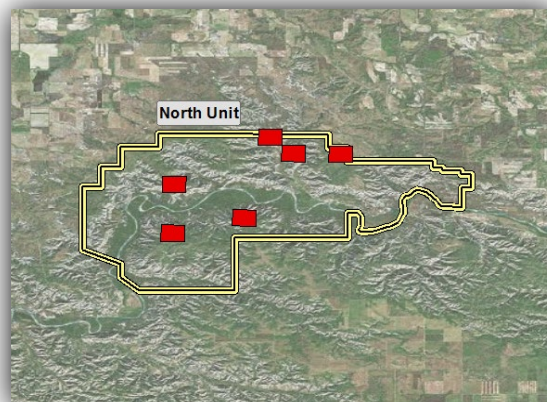
The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network developed a bird monitoring protocol jointly with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory). A panel design where grids are surveyed on a rotating schedule was developed to facilitate complete coverage of the park. This research is the beginning of a long-term effort to monitor species trends and densities. The 2015 breeding season was the third year of bird surveys at Theodore Roosevelt NP.

Technicians surveyed 133 points and a total of 2,047 birds representing 66 species were recorded.

Highlights: The spotted towhee had the highest detection rate with 15% of the species composition. Other common species included the Western meadowlark (14%), field sparrow (9%), mourning dove (7%), grasshopper sparrow (5%), and yellow-breasted chat (5%). The house finch and the white-throated swift were new species for the park. Interestingly, this is the first report of a white-throated swift in the state of North Dakota since 1977.

Several species at Theodore Roosevelt are listed as species of importance by Partners in Flight and the state of North Dakota (page 2). The short-eared owl is listed as a common bird in steep decline in the 2014 State of the Birds Report. Its population has declined by 80% since 1966; likely due to an increase in agriculture, livestock grazing, and development. The short-eared owl requires large tracts of open grassland and is sensitive to habitat loss and fragmentation.

Right: Grid locations surveyed during the 2015 field season.





BIRD SPECIES DETECTED AT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

Common Name	2014	2015	Common Name	2014	2015	Common Name	2014	2015	Common Name	2014	2015
American Goldfinch	42	49	Common Grackle	5	0	Northern Flicker	10	11	Violet-green Swallow	7	2
American Kestrel	3	1	Common Nighthawk	1	0	Northern Harrier	4	10	Warbling Vireo	1	4
American Redstart	29	26	Common Yellowthroat	16	28	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4	0	Western Kingbird	4	7
American Robin	19	5	Cooper's Hawk	1	0	Orchard Oriole	1	0	Western Meadowlark	200	279
American White Pelican	7	1	Dark-eyed Junco	1	0	Ovenbird	20	17	Western Wood-Pewee	0	5
Baird's Sparrow	1	0	Downy Woodpecker	1	1	Plumbeous Vireo	0	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	1
Bank Swallow	2	0	Eastern Bluebird	0	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	White-throated Swift	0	2
Barn Swallow	22	4	Eastern Kingbird	4	4	Red-eyed Vireo	49	13	Wild Turkey	1	4
Black-and-white Warbler	15	21	Field Sparrow	212	174	Red-headed Woodpecker	3	2	Wilson's Phalarope	1	0
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	0	Golden Eagle	1	0	Red-tailed Hawk	0	1	Yellow Warbler	74	43
Black-billed Magpie	56	32	Grasshopper Sparrow	44	104	Red-winged Blackbird	15	19	Yellow-breasted Chat	60	110
Black-capped Chickadee	13	12	Gray Catbird	4	1	Ring-necked Pheasant	9	54	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0
Blue Grosbeak	0	1	Hairy Woodpecker	2	1	Rock Pigeon	3	2			
Blue Jay	0	1	House Finch	0	1	Rock Wren	38	37			
Bobolink	9	25	House Wren	14	48	Say's Phoebe	20	9			
Brewer's Blackbird	4	0	Killdeer	8	1	Sharp-tailed Grouse	3	13			
Brewer's Sparrow	1	0	Lark Bunting	15	4	Short-eared Owl	0	2			
Brown Thrasher	4	5	Lark Sparrow	47	36	Song Sparrow	1	0			
Brown-headed Cowbird	92	66	Lazuli Bunting	94	44	Spotted Towhee	241	298			
Bullock's Oriole	0	3	Least Flycatcher	0	3	Swainson's Hawk	2	0			
Canada Goose	19	1	Loggerhead Shrike	2	0	Tree Swallow	2	0			
Cedar Waxwing	79	20	Mallard	11	2	Turkey Vulture	9	1			
Chipping Sparrow	80	48	Mountain Bluebird	18	10	Upland Sandpiper	0	1			
Clay-colored Sparrow	5	45	Mourning Dove	147	144	Veery	2	0			
Cliff Swallow	42	0	Northern Bobwhite	1	0	Vesper Sparrow	43	51			

New Species for Park

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

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

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