



2016 Landbird Monitoring Agate Fossil Beds National Monument



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The male spotted sandpiper incubates the eggs and takes care of the young while the female defends their territory. Female spotted sandpipers will occasionally mate with up to 4 males and each will care for their clutch of eggs.

Locations of the 96 points surveyed at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument during the 2016 field season (purple circles).

Overview

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument consists of 3,000 acres of mixed grass prairie and a broad floodplain of the Niobrara River that has created a riparian area for water-loving plants and wetland birds.

The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network developed a bird monitoring protocol jointly with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory). The 2016 breeding season was the fourth year of bird surveys at Agate. This research is the beginning of a long-term effort to monitor species trends and densities.

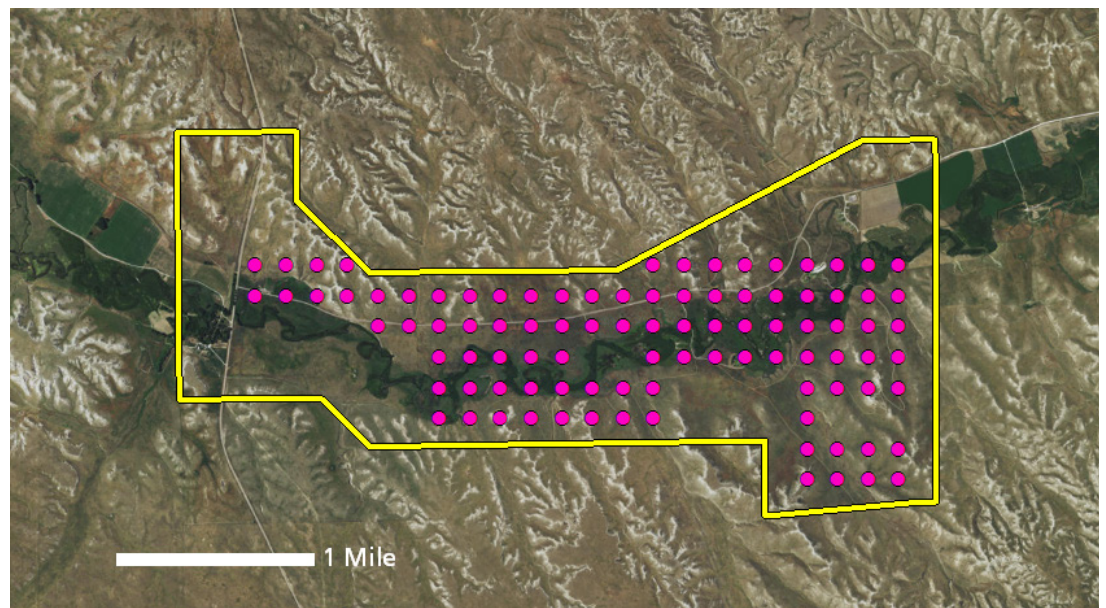
Bird Conservancy surveyed 96 points in 2016, and a total of 2,316 birds representing 64 species were recorded.

Highlights

The red-winged blackbird had the highest detection rate with 24% of the species composition. Other common species included the western meadowlark (21%), common yellowthroat (6%), mourning dove (6%), brown-headed cowbird (4%) and ring-neck pheasant (4%). Species detected for the first time at Agate since sampling began included the burrowing owl, willow flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, and spotted sandpiper.

Interesting Fact

The spotted sandpiper is the most common sandpiper in North America. It has a unique social life in which the male takes the active role in rearing the young. The male will incubate the eggs and take care of the young, while the female is the fierce defender of its territory.



Results of bird surveys at Agate Fossil Beds NM

* **Names of species of Importance are bold.** These were determined using priority lists from Partners in Flight and the State of Nebraska.

Common Name	2015	2016
American Avocet*	1	0
American Coot	2	0
American Goldfinch	16	28
American Kestrel	0	1
American Robin	3	13
Bank Swallow*	23	10
Barn Swallow	23	19
Belted Kingfisher*	1	1
Black-billed Cuckoo*	0	1
Blue Grosbeak	0	2
Blue Jay	4	5
Blue-winged Teal	15	5
Bobolink	6	1
Brewer's Blackbird*	0	1
Brown Thrasher	4	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	53	104
Bullock's Oriole*	2	3
Burrowing Owl*	0	1
Canada Goose	3	0
Cassin's Kingbird	0	8
Cinnamon Teal	0	2
Cliff Swallow	6	45
Common Grackle	7	5
Common Nighthawk*	18	30
Common Yellowthroat	83	135
Dickcissel	0	1
Eastern Kingbird	6	37
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	8
Eurasian Collared-Dove	40	35
European Starling	0	6
Field Sparrow	1	1
Grasshopper Sparrow*	55	53
Great Blue Heron	4	14
Green-winged Teal	0	1
Horned Lark*	33	41
House Wren	0	1

Common Name	2015	2016
Killdeer	19	75
Lark Bunting*	18	33
Lark Sparrow*	54	54
Lazuli Bunting	0	1
Mallard	10	16
Marsh Wren	0	5
Mourning Dove	78	145
Northern Flicker*	2	1
Northern Harrier*	2	0
N. Rough-winged Swallow	0	7
Northern Shoveler	2	0
Orchard Oriole	5	5
Pied-billed Grebe	2	0
Red-tailed Hawk	1	12
Red-winged Blackbird	477	562
Ring-necked Pheasant*	27	87
Rock Wren*	66	57
Say's Phoebe	23	27
Short-eared Owl*	0	3
Sora	22	3
Spotted Sandpiper	0	2
Swainson's Hawk*	0	2
Tree Swallow	0	2
Turkey Vulture	1	0
Upland Sandpiper	9	20
Vesper Sparrow	1	0
Virginia Rail*	1	2
Western Kingbird*	11	16
Western Meadowlark*	316	478
Western Wood-Pewee	8	9
Willow Flycatcher	0	1
Wilson's Phalarope	2	0
Wilson's Snipe	42	37
Wood Duck	2	8
Yellow Warbler	16	16
Yellow-breasted Chat*	0	2
Yellow-headed Blackbird	12	5

Protocol Contact

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For more bird data

Visit the Rocky Mountain
Avian Data Center online:
<http://adc.birdconservancy.org>

Northern Great Plains Network

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Network Parks: Agate Fossil Beds NM • Badlands NP • Devils Tower NM • Fort Laramie NHS • Fort Union Trading Post NHS • Jewel Cave NM • Knife River Indian Villages NHS • Missouri NRR • Mount Rushmore NM • Niobrara NSR • Scotts Bluff NM • Theodore Roosevelt NP • Wind Cave NP