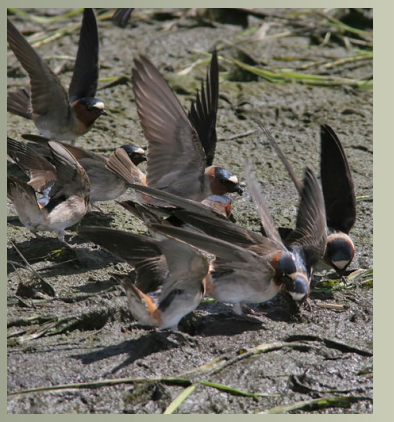
Resource Brief

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Northern Great Plains Network
Inventory & Monitoring Program



2016 Landbird Monitoring
Badlands National Park



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Cliff swallows collecting mud for their nests. These social birds often nest in large colonies on natural formations and human constructions.

Overview

Badlands National Park is the largest park in the Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network at over 240,000 acres. Roughly half of the park's acres are badland formations; the other half is mixed-grass prairie. The park lies at an avian crossroads where both eastern and western species can be observed.

The Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network developed a bird monitoring protocol jointly with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory). A panel design where grids are sampled on a rotation schedule was developed to facilitate complete coverage of the park. This research is a long-term effort to monitor species trends and densities.

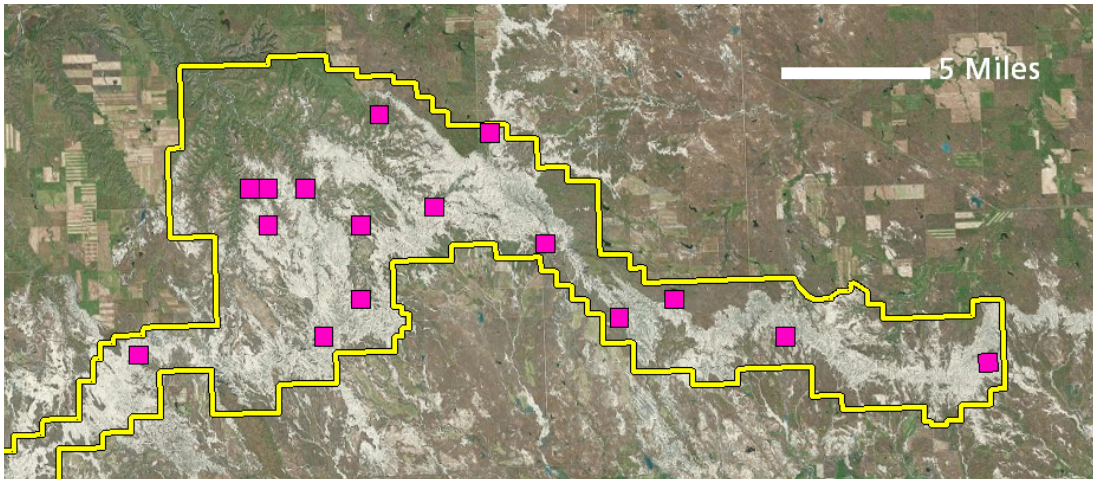
The 2016 breeding season was the fourth year of bird surveys at Badlands NP. Bird Conservancy surveyed 215 points and recorded 3,999 birds from 73 species.

Highlights

Cliff swallows were the most common species detected at Badlands NP with 27% of the species composition. Other common species included the western meadowlark (24%), mourning dove (7%), red-winged blackbird (6%), and brown-headed cowbird (5%). The European starling was the only non-native species detected.

Interesting Fact

Badlands NP recorded a four-fold increase in the number of cliff swallows detected over previous years (1064 in 2016 compared to 235 in 2015). This could be due to a new sample site in 2016 that was next to a wetland or badland wall, or a general population movement to the area. Expert ornithologists with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies could not explain the increase. However, cliff swallows are social birds and often nest in large colonies along cliffs, canyons, buildings and bridges.



Locations of the grids containing the 215 points surveyed at Badlands NP during the 2016 (solid, purple boxes) field season. Park boundary is shown with a yellow line.

Results of bird surveys at Badlands National Park

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

Common Name	2015	2016
American Bittern	1	0
American Coot	0	13
American Crow	42	92
American Goldfinch	10	15
American Kestrel	6	5
American Redstart	0	1
American White Pelican*	6	11
Bank Swallow*	3	3
Barn Swallow	1	11
Bell's Vireo	6	12
Black-billed Magpie*	10	1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	0
Blue Grosbeak	13	5
Blue Jay	1	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	0
Blue-winged Teal	4	3
Bobolink*	7	8
Brewer's Blackbird*	1	6
Brewer's Sparrow*	2	0
Brown Thrasher	6	16
Brown-headed Cowbird	127	216
Bullock's Oriole	1	2
Burrowing Owl*	2	4
Canada Goose	10	0
Cedar Waxwing	2	0
Chipping Sparrow	1	7
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	2
Cliff Swallow	235	1064
Common Grackle	4	21
Common Nighthawk*	2	26

Common Name	2015	2016
Common Yellowthroat	1	0
Cooper's Hawk	1	0
Dickcissel*	7	3
Eastern Bluebird	1	0
Eastern Kingbird*	6	9
European Starling	1	8
Field Sparrow*	8	27
Gadwall	0	2
Golden Eagle*	0	2
Grasshopper Sparrow*	96	129
Gray Catbird	0	1
Great Blue Heron	1	1
Greater Prairie-Chicken*	1	0
Horned Lark*	84	157
House Wren	11	3
Killdeer	9	10
Lark Bunting*	15	43
Lark Sparrow*	87	103
Least Flycatcher	0	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	1
Loggerhead Shrike*	2	5
Long-billed Curlew*	0	1
Mallard	11	8
Mountain Bluebird	6	8
Mourning Dove	269	286
Northern Flicker*	1	3
Northern Harrier*	1	2
Northern Pintail	2	1
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4	20
Orchard Oriole	1	4

Common Name	2015	2016
Pied-billed Grebe	0	1
Pine Siskin*	1	0
Prairie Falcon	5	0
Red-headed Woodpecker*	1	4
Red-tailed Hawk	1	4
Red-winged Blackbird	197	243
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	4
Rock Pigeon	5	10
Rock Wren*	77	131
Ruddy Duck	0	7
Savannah Sparrow	0	0
Say's Phoebe	25	65
Sharp-tailed Grouse*	8	8
Spotted Towhee	35	43
Swainson's Hawk	2	0
Turkey Vulture	2	5
Upland Sandpiper	16	18
Vesper Sparrow*	2	1
Violet-green Swallow	12	24
Western Kingbird	15	20
Western Meadowlark*	823	968
White-throated Swift	2	2
Wild Turkey	3	16
Willet*	2	0
Wilson's Phalarope	2	0
Yellow Warbler	22	22
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	12	6
Yellow-headed Blackbird	5	12
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0

Protocol Contact

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For more bird data

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

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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 NMEM • Niobrara NSR • Scotts Bluff NM • Theodore Roosevelt NP • Wind Cave NP