



2016 Landbird Monitoring Jewel Cave National Monument



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Say's phoebe were recorded at Jewel Cave National Monument for the first time in 2016.

Overview

Jewel Cave National Monument is recognized as the third longest cave in the world. It has over 180 miles of mapped and surveyed passages and many more miles yet to be discovered. Above ground, the 1,275 acre park was transformed by the Jasper fire in 2001. It now supports coniferous forest and prairie 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 Jewel Cave NM. This research is the beginning of a long-term effort to monitor species trends and densities.

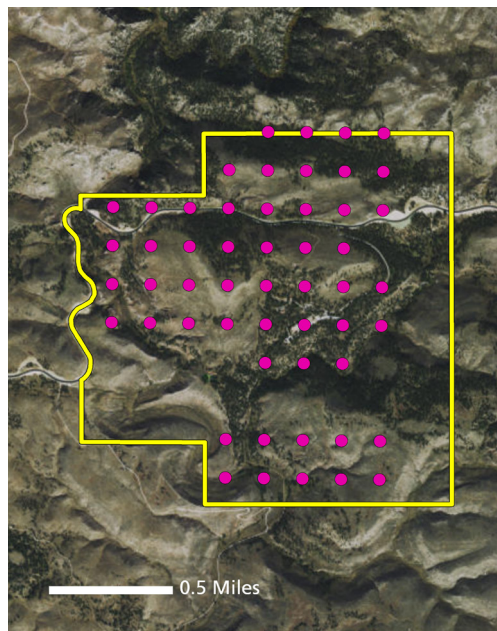
Technicians surveyed 62 points in 2016. A total of 651 birds representing 42 species were recorded.

Highlights

The American robin was the most common species detected with 13% of the species composition. Other common species included the western wood-pewee (9%), mourning dove (8%), red-headed woodpecker (8%), and the house wren (6%). The ruby-crowned kinglet and the Say's phoebe were recorded for the first time since monitoring began at the park. The Say's phoebe is also a new species for the park species list. The movement of this species to the Monument is likely a result of the Jasper Fire changing the landscape from forest to open prairie.

Interesting Fact

The Say's phoebe lives in open grasslands as well as dry, sparsely vegetated areas including sagebrush flats, badlands, canyons, and borders. They will nest in a variety of places including buildings, mailboxes, machinery, and even in old nests built by other species.



Locations of the 62 points surveyed at Jewel Cave National Monument during the 2016 field season (purple circles).

Results of bird surveys at Jewel Cave National Monument

* **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 Crow	1	2
American Goldfinch	14	2
American Kestrel	6	6
American Robin	68	87
Black-capped Chickadee	13	19
Black-headed Grosbeak	0	2
Brown Creeper	1	0
Brown Thrasher	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	42	28
Canyon Wren	1	0
Cassin's Finch	11	12
Cedar Waxwing	1	0
Chipping Sparrow	78	16
Cliff Swallow	0	1
Common Nighthawk*	13	8
Cooper's Hawk	1	0
Dark-eyed Junco	17	15
Dusky Flycatcher	52	1
Eastern Bluebird	2	17
Eastern Kingbird*	6	1
Gray Jay	8	0
Great Horned Owl	4	0
Hairy Woodpecker	19	14
House Wren	109	39
MacGillivray's Warbler	2	0
Mountain Bluebird	21	16

Common Name	2015	2016
Mourning Dove	40	57
Northern Flicker*	95	31
Ovenbird	0	3
Plumbeous Vireo	30	4
Red Crossbill*	157	11
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	11
Red-eyed Vireo	0	3
Red-headed Woodpecker*	54	56
Red-naped Sapsucker	1	0
Red-tailed Hawk	1	0
Rock Wren*	14	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	1
Say's Phoebe	0	2
Spotted Towhee	44	25
Townsend's Solitaire	9	1
Turkey Vulture	0	4
Vesper Sparrow*	59	10
Violet-green Swallow	34	6
Warbling Vireo	8	0
Western Meadowlark*	0	18
Western Tanager	57	15
Western Wood-Pewee	115	61
White-breasted Nuthatch	26	25
White-throated Swift	6	0
Wild Turkey	1	3
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	61	15

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