



2016 Landbird Monitoring Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site



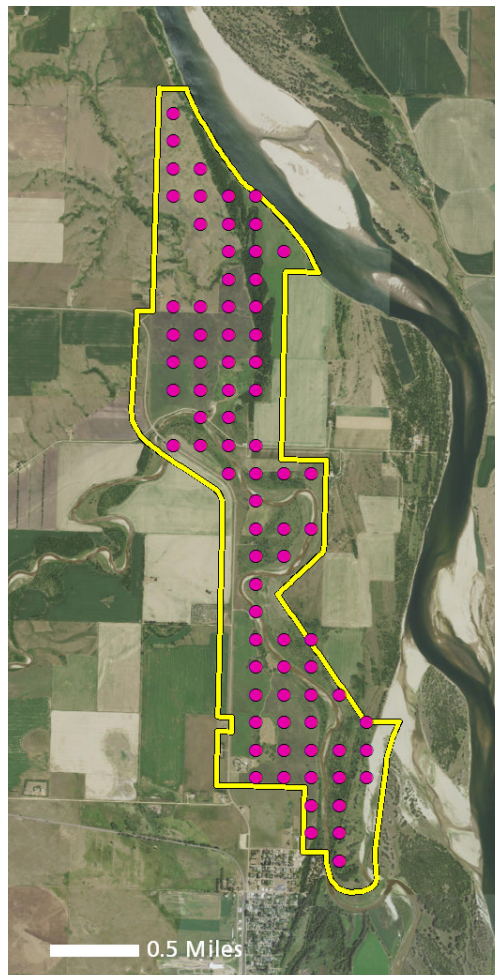
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Sprague's pipit were recorded at the park in 2016, the first time since monitoring began there.

Left: Locations of 79 points surveyed at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site during the 2016 field season. Park boundary is shown with a yellow line.

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 Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory). The 2016 breeding season was the fourth 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 79 points in 2016, and a total of 1,510 birds representing 78 species were recorded.

Highlights

The non-native ring-necked pheasant had the highest detection rate at 9% of the species composition. Other common species included the clay-colored sparrow (7%), mourning dove (6%), brown-headed cowbird (6%), and yellow warbler (5%). The rose-breasted grosbeak, Sprague's pipit, Swainson's hawk, and yellow-bellied sapsucker were recorded for the first time since monitoring began at the park.

Interesting Fact

The Sprague's pipit is a rare grassland bird with populations in steep decline. According the Northern American Breeding Bird Survey, its population has declined nearly 79% since 1966. The Sprague's pipit dramatic decline is due to loss of native prairie converted for farmland and overgrazing.

Results of bird surveys at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

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

Common Name	2015	2016
American Crow	1	0
American Goldfinch	50	34
American Kestrel*	5	2
American Redstart	20	17
American Robin	50	58
American White Pelican*	2	10
Bald Eagle*	0	5
Baltimore Oriole	6	5
Bank Swallow*	30	48
Barn Swallow	5	1
Black-and-white Warbler	1	2
Black-billed Magpie*	12	11
Black-capped Chickadee	9	6
Black-headed Grosbeak	7	3
Blue Jay	4	9
Bobolink*	115	40
Brewer's Blackbird	13	61
Brown Thrasher	6	9
Brown-headed Cowbird	87	91
California Gull	3	0
Canada Goose	3	7
Cedar Waxwing	25	17
Chipping Sparrow	2	3
Clay-colored Sparrow	146	105
Cliff Swallow	0	20
Common Grackle	19	12
Common Nighthawk	0	1
Common Yellowthroat	79	41
Cooper's Hawk	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	12	8
Eastern Bluebird*	10	3

Common Name	2015	2016
Eastern Kingbird	26	28
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7	2
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	4
European Starling	0	4
Field Sparrow*	32	45
Gadwall	1	0
Grasshopper Sparrow*	33	31
Gray Catbird	10	7
Great Blue Heron	0	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	0
Great Horned Owl	3	1
Hairy Woodpecker	6	7
Horned Lark	3	0
House Sparrow	1	0
House Wren	131	65
Indigo Bunting	12	0
Killdeer	12	6
Lark Sparrow*	7	2
Lazuli Bunting*	6	4
Least Flycatcher	47	29
Least Tern*	0	3
Mallard	3	8
Mourning Dove	154	96
Northern Flicker*	48	42
Northern Harrier*	1	1
N. Rough-winged Swallow	13	10
Orchard Oriole	4	1
Pied-billed Grebe	2	0
Red-eyed Vireo	18	10
Red-headed Woodpecker*	5	7
Red-tailed Hawk	2	4

Common Name	2015	2016
Red-winged Blackbird	77	61
Ring-billed Gull	1	0
Ring-necked Pheasant	166	132
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	2
Savannah Sparrow	5	5
Sedge Wren	74	2
Sharp-tailed Grouse*	3	0
Short-eared Owl*	1	4
Song Sparrow	69	40
Sora	1	0
Spotted Sandpiper	6	2
Spotted Towhee	17	8
Sprague's Pipit*	0	1
Swainson's Hawk*	0	1
Tree Swallow	23	19
Turkey Vulture	0	7
Upland Sandpiper	26	17
Vesper Sparrow*	6	9
Warbling Vireo	6	2
Western Kingbird	6	4
Western Meadowlark*	154	62
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	5
Wild Turkey	7	5
Willow Flycatcher	5	0
Wilson's Snipe	5	0
Wood Duck	2	0
Yellow Warbler	102	72
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	1
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2	0

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