



2016 Landbird Monitoring Scotts Bluff National Monument



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Western meadowlarks were the most commonly detected species at Scotts Bluff National Monument during the 2016 surveys.

Overview

Scotts Bluff National Monument was established in 1919 to preserve and protect Scotts Bluff, Oregon Trail, Mitchell Pass and the adjacent prairie lands. Most of the Monument lands are in native mixed-grass prairie with some previously disturbed areas with a variety of non-native vegetation. Scotts Bluff is one of the few places in the Panhandle of Nebraska where wildlife is protected in a natural environment.

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 Scotts Bluff NM. This research is the beginning of a long-term effort to monitor species trends and densities.

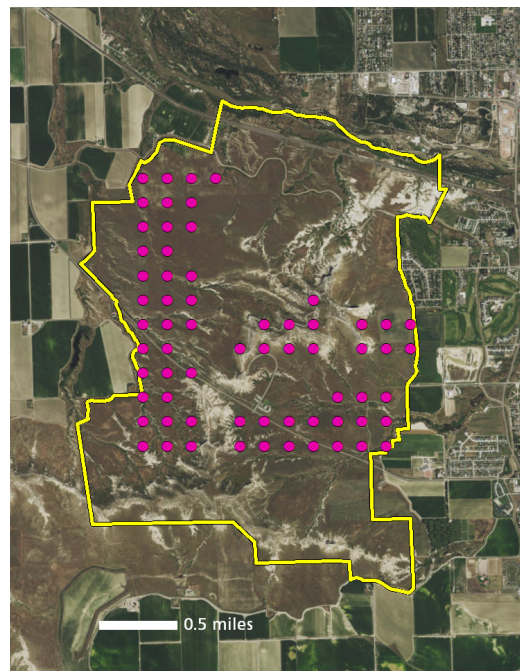
The Bird Conservancy surveyed 65 points in 2016. A total of 1,041 birds representing 57 species were recorded.

Highlights

The western meadowlark had the highest detection rate with 16% of the species composition. Other common species included the spotted towhee (8%), mourning dove (7%), yellow breasted chat (6%), and grasshopper sparrow (5%). Species that were recorded for the first time since monitoring began were the American redstart, eastern bluebird, loggerhead shrike, and yellow-rumped warbler.

Interesting Fact

Western meadowlarks can be found in grasslands, prairies, meadows, and agricultural fields. The female meadowlark will use her bill to shape a depression in the soil, and use vegetation around the nest to make a waterproof dome by weaving together grass and shrub pieces. Western meadowlarks are extremely sensitive when incubating their eggs and will abandon their nest if a human gets too close.



Locations of the 65 points surveyed at Scotts Bluff National Monument during the 2016 field season.

Results of bird surveys at Scotts Bluff National Monument

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

Protocol Contact

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Common Name	2015	2016
American Crow	8	30
American Goldfinch	31	36
American Kestrel	6	9
American Redstart	0	1
American Robin	25	6
Bank Swallow*	24	0
Barn Swallow	1	3
Belted Kingfisher*	1	0
Black-billed Magpie	36	12
Black-capped Chickadee	1	3
Black-headed Grosbeak	1	0
Blue Grosbeak	41	42
Blue Jay	8	4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	16	18
Brewer's Blackbird*	0	1
Brown Thrasher	6	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	44	40
Bullock's Oriole*	1	3
Canada Goose	19	13
Cedar Waxwing	8	4
Chimney Swift*	1	1
Chipping Sparrow	2	4
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	2
Cliff Swallow	78	36
Common Grackle	123	52
Common Nighthawk*	1	4
Common Yellowthroat	1	0
Eastern Bluebird	0	1
Eastern Kingbird	2	1
Eurasian Collared-Dove	8	5
European Starling	48	19
Grasshopper Sparrow*	83	56
Great Blue Heron	1	0
Great Horned Owl	1	7
Horned Lark*	9	6

Common Name	2015	2016
House Finch	6	5
House Sparrow	6	0
House Wren	3	4
Indigo Bunting	2	3
Killdeer	1	0
Lark Bunting*	2	1
Lark Sparrow*	74	46
Lazuli Bunting	17	24
Loggerhead Shrike*	0	1
Mallard	1	1
Mourning Dove	84	78
Northern Flicker*	0	3
N. Rough-winged Swallow	12	0
Orchard Oriole	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2
Red-winged Blackbird	0	3
Ring-necked Pheasant*	30	35
Rock Pigeon	5	2
Rock Wren*	60	45
Say's Phoebe	23	7
Sharp-tailed Grouse*	1	0
Spotted Towhee	85	84
Swainson's Hawk*	1	0
Turkey Vulture	2	0
Upland Sandpiper	1	0
Vesper Sparrow	1	0
Violet-green Swallow*	0	5
Western Kingbird*	24	13
Western Meadowlark*	228	162
Western Wood-Pewee	1	1
White-throated Swift*	53	26
Wild Turkey	1	2
Yellow Warbler	4	2
Yellow-breasted Chat*	58	64
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	1

For more bird data

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

Northern Great Plains Network

231 East St. Joseph Street
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go.nps.gov/ngpn

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