



2016 Landbird Monitoring Theodore Roosevelt National Park



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Chestnut-collared longspur were detected in 2016 for the first time since monitoring began at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, longspur populations have declined by 82% since 1966 and are listed as a species at risk of extinction without significant conservation action.

Locations of the 14 grids (including 172 points) surveyed at Theodore Roosevelt National Park during the 2016 field season.

Overview

Theodore Roosevelt National Park encompasses over 70,000 acres of prairies, badlands, and riparian habitat. The Little Missouri River winds through all three units of the park and attracts numerous bird species to its floodplain cottonwood forest.

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

The 2016 breeding season was the fourth year of bird surveys at Theodore Roosevelt NP. Technicians surveyed

172 points and a total of 3,216 birds representing 69 species were recorded.

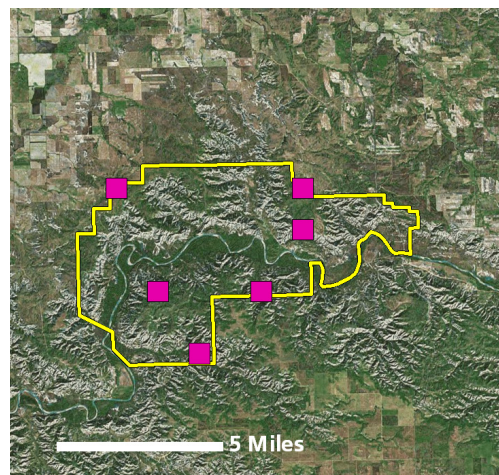
Highlights

The spotted towhee had the highest detection rate with 11% of the species composition. Other common species included the Western meadowlark (10%), field sparrow (9%), mourning dove (7%), grasshopper sparrow (5%), and yellow-breasted chat (6%). Species that were recorded for the first time since monitoring began were the bald eagle, chestnut-collared longspur, common poorwill, common raven, pine siskin, savannah sparrow, and yellow-headed blackbird.

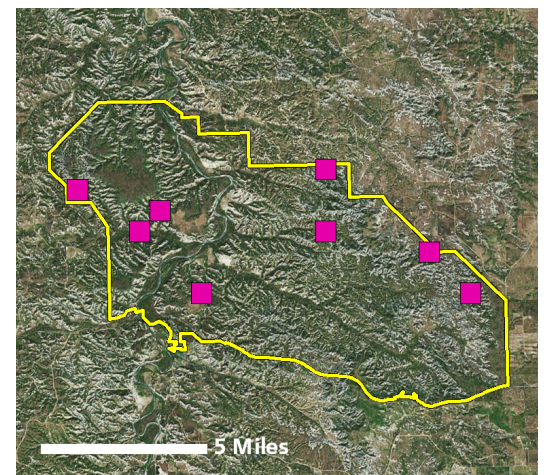
Interesting Fact

The chestnut-collared longspur historically nested in areas recently grazed by bison or disturbed by fire. Today, it prefers short-grass plains and will often use mowed areas such as airstrips or grazed native prairie habitats.

THRO North Unit



THRO South Unit



Results of bird surveys at Theodore Roosevelt National Park

* **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	73	114
American Goldfinch	49	102
American Kestrel*	1	2
American Redstart	26	57
American Robin	5	14
American White Pelican*	1	0
Bald Eagle*	0	1
Barn Swallow	4	7
Belted Kingfisher*	0	1
Black-and-white Warbler	21	25
Black-billed Magpie*	32	53
Black-capped Chickadee	12	15
Black-headed Grosbeak	0	2
Blue Grosbeak	1	0
Blue Jay	1	0
Bobolink*	25	40
Brewer's Blackbird	0	19
Brown Thrasher*	5	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	66	106
Bullock's Oriole	3	0
Canada Goose	1	0
Cedar Waxwing	20	24
Chestnut-collared Longspur*	0	1
Chipping Sparrow	48	79
Clay-colored Sparrow	45	35
Cliff Swallow	0	1
Common Grackle	0	1
Common Poorwill	0	1
Common Raven	0	1
Common Yellowthroat	28	61
Downy Woodpecker	1	2
Eastern Bluebird	1	13
Eastern Kingbird*	4	11
Field Sparrow*	174	274
Grasshopper Sparrow*	104	170
Gray Catbird	1	14
Hairy Woodpecker	1	3
House Finch	1	0
House Wren	48	69
Killdeer	1	2
Lark Bunting*	4	0

Common Name	2015	2016
Lark Sparrow	36	29
Lazuli Bunting	44	151
Least Flycatcher	3	17
Mallard	2	1
Mountain Bluebird	10	30
Mourning Dove	144	227
Northern Flicker*	11	23
Northern Harrier*	10	7
N. Rough-winged Swallow	0	5
Orchard Oriole	0	1
Ovenbird	17	37
Pine Siskin*	0	1
Plumbeous Vireo	3	0
Prairie Falcon*	0	3
Red-eyed Vireo	13	49
Red-headed Woodpecker*	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	9
Red-winged Blackbird	19	12
Ring-necked Pheasant	54	104
Rock Pigeon	2	14
Rock Wren*	37	51
Savannah Sparrow*	0	1
Say's Phoebe	9	16
Sharp-tailed Grouse*	13	8
Short-eared Owl*	2	0
Song Sparrow	0	2
Spotted Towhee	298	368
Turkey Vulture	1	0
Upland Sandpiper	1	4
Vesper Sparrow*	51	85
Violet-green Swallow	2	4
Warbling Vireo	4	0
Western Kingbird	7	1
Western Meadowlark*	279	336
Western Wood-Pewee	5	0
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	0
White-throated Swift	2	0
Wild Turkey	4	3
Yellow Warbler	43	81
Yellow-breasted Chat	110	208
Yellow-headed Blackbird*	0	1

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