



2016 Landbird Monitoring Wind Cave National Park



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Bobolink were recorded at Wind Cave National Park in 2016, the first time since monitoring began there.

Overview

Wind Cave National Park, which is one of the world's longest and most complex caves, became protected in 1903 as the eighth national park. The park also protects 30,000 acres of above-ground features including mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine forest, and associated wildlife.

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). The 2016 breeding season was the fourth year of bird surveys for Wind Cave National Park.

Technicians surveyed 188 points and a total of 2,593 birds representing 81

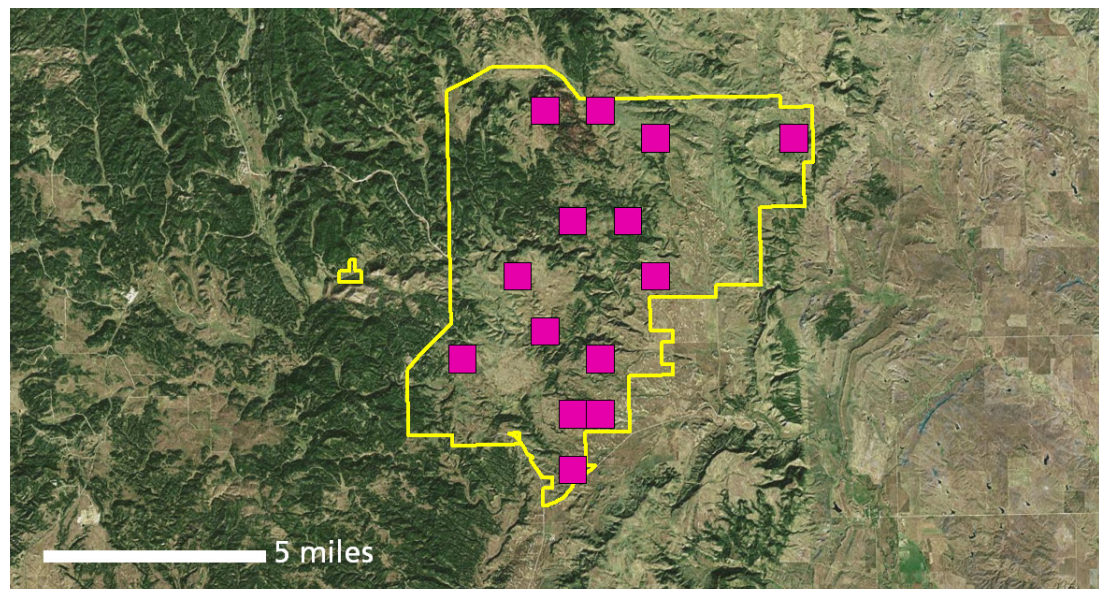
species were recorded.

Highlights

The Western Meadowlark had the highest detection rate with 29% of the species composition. Other common species included spotted towhee (7%), grasshopper sparrow (6%), mourning dove (5%), vesper sparrow (5%) and the brown-headed cowbird (4%). Species that were recorded for the first time since monitoring began included the Bobolink and MacGillivray's warbler.

Interesting Fact

The bobolink has one of the longest migrations of any songbird. It travels approximately 12,500 miles to and from South America every year. A migrating Bobolink orients itself with earth's magnetic fields and also uses the starry night sky to navigate their travels.



Locations of the grids containing the 188 points surveyed at Wind Cave National Park during the 2016 field season (solid purple squares).

Results of bird surveys at Wind Cave 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 Crow	97	81
American Goldfinch	42	61
American Kestrel	4	4
American Robin	62	59
Barn Swallow	1	0
Black-billed Magpie*	78	65
Black-capped Chickadee	47	55
Black-headed Grosbeak	0	5
Blue Jay	2	6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	12
Bobolink*	0	2
Brewer's Blackbird	72	60
Brown Thrasher	6	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	38	110
Bullock's Oriole	2	0
Canada Goose	0	6
Canyon Wren	0	3
Cedar Waxwing	5	3
Chipping Sparrow	56	50
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0
Cliff Swallow	23	2
Common Grackle	0	4
Common Nighthawk*	24	35
Common Poorwill	0	2
Common Yellowthroat	0	1
Cordilleran Flycatcher	0	3
Dark-eyed Junco	6	0
Dickcissel*	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	0	2
Dusky Flycatcher	3	1
Eastern Bluebird	1	6

Common Name	2015	2016
Eastern Kingbird*	5	25
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0	3
European Starling	1	4
Field Sparrow*	37	69
Golden Eagle*	1	1
Grasshopper Sparrow*	140	167
Gray Catbird	1	0
Gray Jay	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	3	4
Hermit Thrush	0	1
Horned Lark*	4	3
House Wren	18	12
Killdeer	0	6
Lark Sparrow*	51	71
Lazuli Bunting*	1	8
Least Flycatcher	1	0
Lewis's Woodpecker*	0	2
Loggerhead Shrike*	0	2
Long-billed Curlew*	2	0
MacGillivray's Warbler	0	1
Mallard	0	4
Marbled Godwit	3	0
Merlin	0	2
Mountain Bluebird	8	20
Mourning Dove	107	136
Northern Flicker*	63	29
N. Rough-winged Swallow	0	4
Ovenbird	2	17
Pine Siskin*	0	1
Plumbeous Vireo	1	6
Prairie Falcon	0	1

Common Name	2015	2016
Red Crossbill*	42	43
Red-breasted Nuthatch	21	24
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0
Red-headed Woodpecker*	20	31
Red-tailed Hawk	2	2
Red-winged Blackbird	0	23
Ring-necked Pheasant*	0	1
Rock Pigeon	2	4
Rock Wren*	7	1
Say's Phoebe	0	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0
Sharp-tailed Grouse*	0	4
Spotted Towhee	155	193
Swainson's Thrush	1	0
Townsend's Solitaire	0	4
Tree Swallow	3	0
Turkey Vulture	17	13
Upland Sandpiper	42	11
Vesper Sparrow*	92	81
Violet-green Swallow	0	11
Western Kingbird	3	2
Western Meadowlark*	454	763
Western Tanager	33	11
Western Wood-Pewee	27	44
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	6
White-throated Swift	0	1
Wild Turkey	5	16
Yellow Warbler	19	29
Yellow-breasted Chat	27	22
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	8

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