

Birds of the Nebraska Pine Ridge
Nebraska National Forest (Pine Ridge Ranger District)
And Oglala National Grassland
Field Checklist

Nebraska's Pine Ridge Area is rich in birdlife. This checklist includes 235 bird species found in the 51,000-acre Nebraska National Forest and 94,000-acre Oglala National Grassland, as well as, Fort Robinson and Chadron State Parks and adjacent private lands in Dawes County and northern Sioux County in northwest Nebraska.

This part of Nebraska is noted for the fragrant pine forests, the majestic buttes of the Pine Ridge escarpment, and badlands formations, as well as extensive native grasslands, the White River and Whitney Lake. Land uses include a variety of outdoor and wildlife related recreation as well as livestock grazing and both irrigated and dryland farming. Also, some logging occurs on both public and private land.

This revision of the Pine Ridge Area bird checklist has been compiled by Richard A. Peterson.

Observers are encouraged to report observations of species listed as rare or uncertain occurrence status, and species not listed to:

Pine Ridge Ranger District Office near Chadron (Phone 308/432-4475).

CHECKLIST SYMBOLS

Neotropical Migrants:

This term describes species that breed in North America and spend their nonbreeding period primarily south of the United States. It is limited to species that use terrestrial habitats. These species are designated with and (N) after the species name. The populations of some of these species are declining, and studies are underway to determine the causes.

Relative Abundance:

Most species listed in this checklist occur regularly within the area described above, however, some species are designated as rare (*) because they occur irregularly, and/or in very low numbers. A few species are thought to be regular, but are listed as uncertain (?) because of few reports and/or the difficulty of identification.

MANAGEMENT DIVISIONS

Species that primarily occur in the Nebraska National Forest = (p)

Species that primarily occur in the Oglala National Grassland = (o)

SEASONAL OCCURRENCE

M = Migrant (primarily spring and fall, or transient anytime)

W = Winter visitor (primarily Dec., Jan., Feb. occurrence)

S = Summer resident (indicates nesting, June and July occurrence)

R = Permanent resident (found year round)

MAJOR HABITATS USED

Terrestrial Habitats

1. **Trees:** Ponderosa pine on the Pine Ridge escarpment and cottonwood, peachleaf willow, green ash, boxelder, elm, hackberry, and some juniper in wooded draws, riparian areas and shelterbelts.
2. **Upland Shrubs:** Snowberry, skunkbush sumac, and a very limited area of big sagebrush near Sugarloaf Butte.
3. **Other Shrubs:** Chokecherry, American plum, buffaloberry, and willow, found primarily in wooded draws, riparian areas, and shelterbelts.
4. **Short Grass:** Primarily buffalograss and blue grama on Oglala National Grassland.
5. **Mid and Tall Grass:** Green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, little bluestem, bluegrass, smooth brome, and prairie sandreed.

Wetland Habitats

- 6. **Open Water:** Occurs in streams, stockponds and reservoirs (mostly ice covered mid-November to mid-March).
- 7. **Marsh:** Primarily sedges, rush, cattails and bulrushes around reservoirs.
- 8. **Shorelines:** Bare ground around reservoirs, and along streams.

Special Habitats

- 9. **Prairie Dog Colonies:** Very limited on Oglala National Grassland.
- 10. Cliffs and steep banks, buttes, badlands, cutbanks and gullies.
- 11. Cropland and weed patches: private land and road ditches.
- 12. Buildings, bridges and various structures, mostly on private land.
- 13. Burned areas with standing dead trees.
- 14. **Woodland/Forest Edge:** Trees with adjacent grasslands.

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE	SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE
GAVIDAE: LOONS			ANATIDAE: SWANS, GEESE, AND DUCKS		
Common Loon	6	M* (o)	Trumpeter Swan	6,7	M* (o)
			Snow Goose	6,8,11	M
PODICIPEDIDAE: GREBES			Ross' Goose	6,8,11	M ?
Pied-billed Grebe	6,7	S (o)	Canada Goose	5,6,8,11	M,S ?
Horned Grebe	6	M* (o)	Wood Duck	6,7,1	S
Eared Grebe	6,7	M,S* (o)	Green-winged Teal	5,6,7,8	M,S* (o)
Western Grebe	6	M (o)	Mallard	5,6,7,8	S,R*
Clark's Grebe	6	M ? (o)	Northern Pintail	5,6,7,8	S (o)
			Blue-winged Teal	5,6,7,8	S (o)
PELICANIDAE: PELICANS			Cinnamon Teal	5,6,7,8	M*,S? (o)
American White Pelican	6,8	M (o)	Northern Shoveler	5,6,7,8	S (o)
			Gadwall	5,6,7,8	S (o)
PHALACRCORACID AE: COMMORANTS			American Wigeon	5,6,7,8	S (o)
Double-crested Cormorant	6,8,1	M,S ?	Canvasback	6,7	M (o)
			Redhead	6,7	M,S? (o)
ARDEIDAE: BITTERN AND HERONS			Ring-necked Duck	6,7	M (o)
American Bittern	7	S (o)	Lesser Scaup	6,7	M (o)
Great Blue Heron	7,8,1	S	Common Goldeneye	6	M,W*
Black-crowned Night Heron	7,8,1	M	Bufflehead	6	M
			Hooded Merganser	6	M*
			Common Merganser	6	M,W*
			Ruddy Duck	6,7	S (o)

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE	SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE
CATHARTIDAE: VULTURES			RALLIDAE: RAIL AND COOTS		
Turkey Vulture	10,12,1,2,3, 4,5	S (p)	Virginia Rail	7	S (o)
			Sora	7	S (o)
ACCIPITRIDAE: KITES, EAGLES, HAWKS			American Coot	6,7	S (o)
Osprey	6,1	M*			
Bald Eagle	6,1,9, ALL	W	GRUIDAE: CRANES		
Northern Harrier	2,3,5,7	S,R* (o)	Sandhill Crane	8,11	M
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,3	M,R* (p)			
Cooper's Hawk	1,3	M,S? (p)	CHARADRIIDAE: PLOVERS		
Northern Goshawk	1,3	W* (p)	Black-bellied Plover	8	M* (o)
Broad-winged Hawk (N)	1,3,5,8	M*	Semi-palmated Plover	8	M (o)
Swainson's Hawk (N)	14,5,9,11	S (o)	Killdeer	4,8,9	S
Red-tailed Hawk	14,5,9,11	S,R*	American Avocet	6,7 (short), 8	M,S* (o)
Ferruginous Hawk	2,4,5,9,14	M,S* (o)			
Rough-legged Hawk	5,14	W (o)	SCOLOPACIDAE: SANDPIPERS AND PHALAROPES		
Golden Eagle	10,14,9, ALL	R	Greater Yellowlegs	8	M
			Lesser Yellowlegs	8	M
FALCONIDAE: FALCONS			Solitary Sandpiper	8	M
American Kestrel	13,14,11	S,R*	Willet	5,7, (short), 8	M,S* (O)
Merlin (N)	14,11,8	M,R* (p)	Spotted Sandpiper	8	S
Peregrine Falcon (N)	4,5,8,9,11, 14	M*	Upland Sandpiper (N)	5	S
Prairie Falcon	10,4,5,9	R	Long-billed Curlew (N)	4,5,8,9	S (o)
			Marbled Godwit	5,7, (short), 8	M* (o)
PHASIANIDAE: PHEASANT, GROUSE, TURKEY, QUAIL			Sanderling	8	M* (o)
Ring-necked Pheasant	3,5,7,11	R	Semipalmated Sandpiper	8	M (o)
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2,3,5,11	R	Western Sandpiper	8	M (o)
Wild Turkey	3,11,14	R (p)	Least Sandpiper	8	M (o)
			White-rumped Sandpiper	8	M* (o)
			Baird's Sandpiper	8	M (o)

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE	SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE
Pectoral Sandpiper	8	M (o)	STRIGIDAE: TYPICAL OWLS		
Stilt Sandpiper	8	M (o)	Eastern Screech Owl	1,3	R
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	4,8	M?	Great Horned Owl	14, ALL	R
Short-billed Dowitcher	8	M? (o)	Snowy Owl	4,5,11	W* (o)
Long-billed Dowitcher	8	M (o)	Burrowing Owl (N)	4,9	S (o)
Common Snipe	5 (wet meadow), 7,8	M,S?	Long-eared Owl	14	R* (p)
Wilson's Phalarope	6,7(short),8	S (o)	Short-eared Owl	2,5,7,1	R* (o)
Red-necked Phalarope	6,8	M? (o)	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1,3	R? (p)
LARIDAE: JAEGERS, GULLS, AND TERNS			CAPRIMULGIDAE: GOATSUCKERS		
Franklin's Gull	6,7,8	M	Common Nighthawk (N)	4,5,11,1	S
Bonaparte's Gull	6,8	M*	Common Poorwill	10,1	S (p)
Ring-billed Gull	6,8	M			
California Gull	6,8	M?	APODIDAE: SWIFTS		
Herring Gull	6,8	M*	Chimney Swift (N)	12	S*
Common Tern	6,8	M?	White-throated Swift (N)	10	S (p)
Forester's Tern	6,7,8	M			
Black Tern	6,7,8	M,S* (o)	TROCHILIDAE: HUMMINGBIRDS		
			Broad-tailed Hummingbird (N)	12 (Feeders)	M?
COLUMBIDAE: PEGEONS AND DOVES			Rufous Hummingbird (N)	12 (feeders)	M
Rock Dove	10, 11, 12	R			
Mourning Dove	14,2,3,5,11	S	ALCEDINADAE: KINGFISHERS		
			Belted kingfisher	6,10	S,R*
CUCULIDAE: CUCKOOS					
Black-billed Cuckoo (N)	1,3	S			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (N)	1,3	S			
TYTONIDAE: BARN OWL					
Barn Owl	10,11,12,14	S*			

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE	SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE
PICIDAE: WOODPECKERS			HIRUNINIDAE: SWALLOWS		
Lewis' Woodpecker	13,14	S (p)	Tree Swallow	14,6	S*
Red-headed Woodpecker	13,14	S	Violet-green Swallow (N)	10,14,6	S (p)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	W*,R?	N. Rough-winged Swallow (N)	10,6	S
Red-naped Sapsucker	1	M? (p)	Bank Swallow (N)	10,6	S?
Downy Woodpecker	1	R	Cliff Swallow (N)	10,12,6	S
Hairy Woodpecker	1,13	R	Barn Swallow (N)	12,6	S
Northern Flicker	13,14	R			
			CORVIDAE: JAYS AND CROWS		
TYRANNIDAE: TYRANT FLYCATCHERS			Blue Jay	1,14	R
Olive-sided Flycatcher (N)	1	M*	Pinyon Jay	14,12 (feeders)	R (p)
Western Wood Pewee (N)	1	S (p)	Clark's Nutcracker	1	W* (p)
Eastern Wood Pewee (N)	1	M?	Black-billed Magpie	14	R
Willow Flycatcher (N)	3	M,S*	American Crow	14	R (p)
Least Flycatcher (N)	1,3	M			
Cordelleran Flycatcher (N)	1,10	S*(p)	PARIDAE: TITMICE		
Eastern Phoebe	1,12	S*	Black-capped Chickadee	1,12 (feeders)	R (p)
Say's Phoebe	4,5,10	S			
Great Crested Flycatcher (N)	1	S	SITTIDAE: NUTHATCHES		
Cassin's Kingbird (N)	14	M,S? (p)	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1,12 (feeders)	R (p)
Western Kingbird (N)	14	S	White-breasted Nuthatch	1,12 (feeders)	R (p)
Eastern Kingbird (N)	14	S	Pygmy Nuthatch	1	R (p)
ALAUDIDAE: LARKS			CERTHIDAE: CREEPERS		
Horned Lark	4,9,11	R (o)	Brown Creeper	1,13	W,R* (p)

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE	SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE
TROGLODYTIDAE: WRENS			LANIIDAE: SHRIKES		
Rock Wren	10	S	Northern Shrike	14	W
House Wren (N)	1,12	S	Loggerhead Shrike	3,14	S
Winter Wren	3	W* (p)			
Marsh Wren	7 (tall)	S* (o)	STURNIDAE: STARLINGS		
			European Starling	14,12,11	R
MUSCICAPIDAE: KINGLETS AND THRUSHES					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	M,W* (p)	VIREONIDAE: VIREOS		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1,3	M	Bell's Vireo (N)	3	S*
Eastern Bluebird	13,14	S* (p)	Solitary Vireo (N)	1,3	S* (p)
Mountain Bluebird	13,14	S (p)	Warbling Vireo (N)	1	S
Townsend's Solitaire	1,3	W,S? (p)	Red-eyed Vireo (N)	1,3	S (p)
Veery (N)	3	M*			
Gray-cheeked Thrush (N)	1,3	M*	EMBERIZIDAE: WARBLERS, SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS,ETC.		
Swainson's Thrush (N)	1,3	M	(Sub-family Parulinae	: Wood	Warblers)
American Robin	1,3,14	R (p)	Tennessee Warbler (N)	1	M*
			Orange-crowned Warbler (N)	1,3	M
MIMIDAE: MOCKERS AND THRASHERS			Nashville Warbler (N)	1,3	M*
Gray Catbird (N)			Yellow Warbler (N)	1,3	S
Northern Mockingbird			Yellow-rumped Warbler	1,3	S (p)
Sage Thrasher			Blackpoll Warbler (N)	1	M*
Brown Thrasher			Black and White Warbler (N)	1,3	S* (p)
			American Redstart (N)	1	S (p)
MOTACILLIDAE: PIPITS			Ovenbird (N)	1,3	S (p)
American Pipit	4,5,8,11	M (o)	Northern Waterthrush (N)	3	M*
			MacGillivray's Warbler (N)	3	M*
BOMBYCILLIDAE: WAXWINGS			Common Yellowthroat	3,7	S
Bohemian Waxwing	1,3	W*	Wilson's Warbler (N)	1,3	M
Cedar Waxwing	1,3	R	Yellow-breasted Chat (N)	3	S (p)

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE	SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE
(Thraupinae: Tanagers)			Grasshopper Sparrow (N)	5,11	S
Western Tanager (N)	1	S (p)	Song Sparrow	3,7,11	M,W* (p)
			Lincoln's Sparrow (N)	3,11	M
(Cardinalinae: Cardinals, Grosbeaks Buntings)			White-throated Sparrow	3,11	M
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (N)	1,3	M*	White-crowned Sparrow	3,11	M
Black-headed Grosbeak (N)	1,3	S (p)	Harris' Sparrow	3,11	M,W* (p)
Blue Grosbeak (N)	3	S	Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged race)	3,11,14 1,14	W (p) R (p)
Lazuli Bunting (N)	1,3	S (p)	McCown's Longspur	4,9,11	M (o)
Indigo Bunting (N)	1,3	S	Lapland Longspur	4,5,1	W (o)
Dickcissel (N)	3,5,11	S	Chestnut-collared Longspur	4,5,9,11	S (o)
			Snow Bunting	4,5,11	W* (o)
(Emberizinae: Towhee, Sparrows, Juncos, and Longspurs)					
Rufous-sided Towhee	3	S	(Icterinae: Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, and Orioles)		
American Tree Sparrow	3,11	W	Bobolink (N)	5(wet meadow), 11	S*
Chipping Sparrow (N)	3,11,14	S (p)	Red-winged Blackbird	3,7,11	S
Clay-colored Sparrow (N)	2,3,11	M	Western Meadowlark	2,4,5,9,11	S
Brewer's Sparrow (N)	2	S* (o)	Yellow-headed Blackbird (N)	7,11	S (o)
Field Sparrow	3,11,14	M*	Rusty Blackbird	3,11	M*
Vesper Sparrow	2,5,11,14	M (o) S (p)	Brewer's Blackbird	3,11	S (p)
Lark Sparrow (N)	2,3,11,14	S	Common Grackle	1,11	S
Lark Bunting (N)	2,4,5,11	S (o)	Brown-headed Cowbird	ALL	S
Savannah Sparrow	5(wet meadow),11	M,S,* (o)	Orchard Oriole (N)	1,3	S
			Northern Oriole (N)	1,3	S

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE	SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURANCE
FRINGILLIDAE: FINCHES					
Rosy Finch	10,11,12 (feeders)	W*			
Purple Finch	1,3,12 (feeders)	W* (p)			
Cassin's Finch	1,3,12 (feeders)	W*,R? (p)			
House Finch	1,12 (feeders)	R			
Red Crossbill	1,12 (feeders)	R (p)			
Common Redpoll	3,1,12 (feeders)	W			
Pine Siskin	1,3,11,12 (feeders)	R (p)			
American Goldfinch	1,3,11,12 (feeders)	R			
Evening Grosbeak	1,12 (feeders)	W (p)			
PASSERIDAE: WEAVER FINCHES					
House Sparrow	11,12 (feeders)	R			