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of  
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Forest  
Service

Dakota  
Prairie  
Grasslands

**BIRD STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION  
ON THE  
CEDAR RIVER and GRAND RIVER  
NATIONAL GRASSLANDS:  
2011**



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<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>THE CHECKLIST AREA.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>VISITING THE CHECKLIST AREA .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>WHERE TO BIRD .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area .....	21
Pasture 7 and Lemmon Lake GPA.....	23
Pasture 8 .....	24
Pasture 9 .....	26
Shadehill Reservoir .....	27
Vobejda Lake Game Production Area .....	29
<b>BIRD-RELATED RESEARCH.....</b>	<b>30</b>
Baird’s Sparrow and Sprague’s Pipit Ecology.....	30
Birding .....	30
Breeding Bird Surveys .....	30
Burrowing Owl Monitoring .....	31
Christmas Bird Counts.....	32
Ferruginous Hawk Movements.....	32
Grassland Bird Ecology.....	33
Grassland Bird Surveys.....	33
Nesting Raptors.....	35
Sharp-tailed Grouse .....	35
Waterfowl Use of Stock Ponds.....	36
<b>HOW TO USE THIS BOOK .....</b>	<b>37</b>
Abbreviations .....	37
Abundance and Status .....	37
Habitats .....	38
CROPLAND .....	38
HAYFIELDS AND IDLE LANDS .....	38
MIXED-GRASS PRAIRIE .....	38
WETLANDS .....	39

Back to Top

WOODLAND .....	40
Locations .....	40
Nesting Information .....	44
Nomenclature, Capitalization, Plurals, Etc.....	44
Seasons .....	45
Species Treated.....	45
<b>CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>SUMMARY CHECKLIST .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>ANNOTATED CHECKLIST .....</b>	<b>55</b>
NOTE: Put mouse on bird you wish to link to and CTRL+Click to go there.	
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE .....	55
SNOW GOOSE .....	55
ROSS'S GOOSE.....	55
CAKCLING GOOSE.....	55
CANADA GOOSE .....	55
TRUMPETER SWAN .....	56
TUNDRA SWAN .....	56
WOOD DUCK .....	56
GADWALL .....	57
AMERICAN WIGEON .....	57
MALLARD .....	57
BLUE-WINGED TEAL .....	57
CINNAMON TEAL .....	58
NORTHERN SHOVELER .....	58
NORTHERN PINTAIL .....	58
GREEN-WINGED TEAL .....	58
CANVASBACK .....	59
REDHEAD.....	59
RING-NECKED DUCK.....	59
GREATER SCAUP.....	59
LESSER SCAUP .....	60

Back to Top

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.....	60
LONG-TAILED DUCK .....	60
BUFFLEHEAD .....	60
COMMON GOLDENEYE .....	61
BARROW’S GOLDENEYE .....	61
HOODED MERGANSER .....	61
COMMON MERGANSER.....	61
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER .....	62
RUDDY DUCK.....	62
GRAY PARTRIDGE .....	62
RING-NECKED PHEASANT .....	62
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE .....	63
WILD TURKEY .....	63
RED-THROATED LOON .....	63
PACIFIC LOON.....	64
COMMON LOON .....	64
PIED-BILLED GREBE .....	64
HORNED GREBE.....	64
RED-NECKED GREBE .....	65
EARED GREBE .....	65
WESTERN GREBE.....	65
CLARK’S GREBE.....	65
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT .....	66
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN .....	66
AMERICAN BITTERN .....	66
LEAST BITTERN .....	66
GREAT BLUE HERON.....	67
GREAT EGRET .....	67
SNOWY EGRET .....	67
LITTLE BLUE HERON .....	67

[Back to Top](#)

CATTLE EGRET .....	67
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON .....	68
WHITE-FACED IBIS.....	68
TURKEY VULTURE .....	68
OSPREY .....	68
BALD EAGLE.....	68
NORTHERN HARRIER.....	69
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK .....	69
COOPER’S HAWK.....	69
NORTHERN GOSHAWK.....	70
BROAD-WINGED HAWK .....	70
SWAINSON’S HAWK .....	70
RED-TAILED HAWK .....	70
FERRUGINOUS HAWK .....	71
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK .....	71
GOLDEN EAGLE .....	71
AMERICAN KESTREL .....	71
MERLIN.....	72
GYRFALCON.....	72
PEREGRINE FALCON .....	72
PRAIRIE FALCON.....	72
SORA .....	73
AMERICAN COOT .....	73
SANDHILL CRANE .....	73
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER .....	74
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.....	74
PIPING PLOVER.....	74
KILLDEER .....	75
AMERICAN AVOCET .....	75
SPOTTED SANDPIPER .....	75

Back to Top

SOLITARY SANDPIPER.....	75
GREATER YELLOWLEGS .....	76
LESSER YELLOWLEGS.....	76
UPLAND SANDPIPER.....	76
MARbled GODWIT .....	77
RUDDY TURNSTONE.....	77
SANDERLING .....	77
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.....	77
LEAST SANDPIPER .....	77
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER .....	78
BAIRD’S SANDPIPER .....	78
PECTORAL SANDPIPER .....	78
STILT SANDPIPER.....	78
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER .....	78
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.....	79
WILSON’S SNIPE .....	79
WILSON’S PHALAROPE.....	79
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE .....	79
RED PHALAROPE .....	79
BONAPARTE’S GULL .....	80
FRANKLIN’S GULL .....	80
RING-BILLED GULL.....	80
CALIFORNIA GULL .....	80
HERRING GULL .....	80
THAYER’S GULL.....	81
LEAST TERN .....	81
CASPIAN TERN.....	81
BLACK TERN.....	81
COMMON TERN .....	81
FORSTER’S TERN.....	82

## Back to Top

ROCK PIGEON .....	82
MOURNING DOVE .....	82
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO .....	82
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO .....	82
BARN OWL .....	83
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL .....	83
GREAT HORNED OWL .....	83
SNOWY OWL .....	83
BURROWING OWL .....	84
LONG-EARED OWL .....	84
SHORT-EARED OWL .....	84
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL .....	85
COMMON NIGHTHAWK .....	85
COMMON POORWILL .....	85
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD .....	85
BELTED KINGFISHER .....	86
LEWIS'S WOODPECKER .....	86
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER .....	86
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER .....	86
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER .....	87
DOWNY WOODPECKER .....	87
HAIRY WOODPECKER .....	87
NORTHERN FLICKER .....	87
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER .....	88
WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE .....	88
ALDER FLYCATCHER .....	88
WILLOW FLYCATCHER .....	88
LEAST FLYCATCHER .....	89
SAY'S PHOEBE .....	89
EASTERN KINGBIRD .....	89

## Back to Top

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE .....	90
NORTHERN SHRIKE.....	90
BLUE-HEADED VIREO .....	90
WARBLING VIREO.....	91
PHILADELPHIA VIREO .....	91
RED-EYED VIREO .....	91
GRAY JAY .....	91
BLUE JAY.....	92
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE.....	92
AMERICAN CROW .....	92
HORNED LARK .....	92
PURPLE MARTIN.....	93
TREE SWALLOW .....	93
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW .....	93
BANK SWALLOW .....	93
CLIFF SWALLOW .....	94
BARN SWALLOW .....	94
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE.....	94
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.....	94
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH .....	95
BROWN CREEPER .....	95
ROCK WREN .....	95
HOUSE WREN.....	96
MARSH WREN .....	96
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.....	96
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET .....	96
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET .....	96
EASTERN BLUEBIRD.....	97
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD .....	97
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE.....	97



[Back to Top](#)

VEERY .....	97
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH .....	98
SWAINSON'S THRUSH .....	98
HERMIT THRUSH .....	98
AMERICAN ROBIN .....	98
GRAY CATBIRD .....	99
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD .....	99
SAGE THRASHER.....	99
BROWN THRASHER .....	99
EUROPEAN STARLING .....	99
AMERICAN PIPIT.....	100
BOHEMIAN WAXWING .....	101
CEDAR WAXWING .....	101
LAPLAND LONGSPUR .....	101
SMITH'S LONGSPUR .....	102
MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR .....	102
SNOW BUNTING.....	103
TENNESSEE WARBLER .....	103
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.....	103
NASHVILLE WARBLER.....	104
NORTHERN PARULA .....	104
YELLOW WARBLER .....	104
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER .....	104
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER .....	104
PALM WARBLER .....	105
BLACKPOLL .....	105
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.....	105
AMERICAN REDSTART .....	105
OVENBIRD .....	105
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH.....	105

[Back to Top](#)

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT .....	106
WILSON'S WARBLER .....	106
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT .....	106
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW .....	107
CHIPPING SPARROW .....	107
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW .....	107
VESPER SPARROW.....	108
LARK SPARROW.....	108
SAVANNAH SPARROW .....	109
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.....	109
BAIRD'S SPARROW .....	110
Le CONTE'S SPARROW .....	110
SONG SPARROW .....	111
LINCOLN'S SPARROW.....	111
SWAMP SPARROW.....	111
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW .....	111
HARRIS'S SPARROW .....	112
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW .....	112
DARK-EYED JUNCO .....	112
SCARLET TANAGER.....	112
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK .....	112
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK.....	113
BLUE GROSBEAK.....	113
LAZULI BUNTING .....	113
INDIGO BUNTING .....	113
DICKCISSEL .....	114
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.....	114
WESTERN MEADOWLARK .....	115
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD .....	115
RUSTY BLACKBIRD .....	115

Back to Top

BREWER’S BLACKBIRD .....	116
COMMON GRACKLE .....	116
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD.....	116
ORCHARD ORIOLE .....	117
BULLOCK’S ORIOLE.....	117
BALTIMORE ORIOLE .....	117
PINE GROSBEAK .....	117
PURPLE FINCH .....	117
HOUSE FINCH .....	118
RED CROSSBILL.....	118
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL .....	118
COMMON REDPOLL .....	118
PINE SISKIN.....	119
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH .....	119
EVENING GROSBEAK .....	119
HOUSE SPARROW .....	119
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>121</b>

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## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1. Map of the checklist area.....	7
Figure 2. Grand River Ranger District Office .....	8
Figure 3. Map of Shadehill Reservoir area .....	9
Figure 4. SD Game, Fish, & Parks Office .....	10
Figure 5. Two-track road .....	11
Figure 6. Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area .....	12
Figure 7. Aspen Stand Special Interest Area .....	12
Figure 8. Aerial photo of Humphrey Draw.....	13
Figure 9. Pasture 7 .....	14
Figure 10. Map of Pasture 7.....	14
Figure 11. Aerial photo of Lemmon Lake GPA	15
Figure 12. Pasture 8 .....	15
Figure 13. Map of Pasture 8.....	16
Figure 14. Pasture 9 .....	17
Figure 15. Ferruginous Hawk nest.....	17
Figure 16. Shadehill Reservoir .....	18
Figure 17. Grand River below spillway .....	18
Figure 18. Start of two-track to N. Fork .....	19
Figure 19. Scanning wintering waterfowl.....	19
Figure 20. Hugh Glass Campground .....	20
Figure 21. Vobejda Reservoir .....	20
Figure 22. Baird's Sparrow.....	21
Figure 23. Cedar River Breeding Bird Survey.....	21
Figure 24. Burrowing Owl researchers .....	22
Figure 25. Shadehill Christmas Bird Count.....	23
Figure 26. Transmitter on a Ferruginous Hawk.....	23
Figure 27. RMBO surveyor .....	25
Figure 28. Banding Swainson's Hawks .....	26
Figure 29. Sharp-tailed Grouse & researcher .....	26
Figure 30. Stock pond .....	27
Figure 31. Mallards .....	27
Figure 32. CRP.....	29
Figure 33. Mixed-grass prairie.....	30
Figure 34. Green Ash woodland .....	31
Figure 35. Cedar River Allotments.....	32
Figure 36. Grand River (west) Allotments. ....	33
Figure 37. Grand River (east) Allotments.....	34
Figure 38. Sprague's Pipit nest .....	35
Figure 39. Spring snow .....	36
Figure 40. Woody draw and mixed-grass .....	37
Figure 41. Trumpeter Swan .....	47
Figure 42. Gadwall.....	48

Figure 43. Green-winged Teal .....	49
Figure 44. Ring-necked Duck .....	50
Figure 45. Surf Scoter .....	51
Figure 46. Hooded Merganser .....	52
Figure 47. Ring-necked Pheasant .....	53
Figure 48. Wild Turkey.....	54
Figure 49. Pied-billed Grebe nest .....	55
Figure 50. Western Grebe .....	56
Figure 51. American Bittern .....	57
Figure 52. Great Egret.....	58
Figure 53. White-faced Ibis .....	59
Figure 54. Cooper's Hawk.....	60
Figure 55. Swainson's Hawk & nest .....	61
Figure 56. American Kestrel.....	62
Figure 57. Prairie Falcon.....	63
Figure 58. Virginia Rail .....	64
Figure 59. Semipalmated Plover.....	65
Figure 60. American Avocet.....	66
Figure 61. Willet .....	67
Figure 62. Marbled Godwit.....	68
Figure 63. Baird's Sandpiper .....	69
Figure 64. Wilson's Phalarope.....	70
Figure 65. Ring-billed Gull.....	71
Figure 66. Least Tern.....	72
Figure 67. Eastern Screech-Owl .....	74
Figure 68. Short-eared Owl.....	75
Figure 69. Common Nighthawk .....	76
Figure 70. Red-headed Woodpecker.....	77
Figure 71. Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	79
Figure 72. Western Kingbird .....	80
Figure 73. Loggerhead Shrike.....	81
Figure 74. Warbling Vireo.....	82
Figure 75. Blue Jay .....	83
Figure 76. Bank Swallow.....	84
Figure 77. Barn Swallow .....	85
Figure 78. Rock Wren.....	86
Figure 79. Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....	87
Figure 80. Gray-cheeked Thrush .....	89
Figure 81. Gray Catbird .....	90
Figure 82. Sprague's Pipit.....	91
Figure 83. Cedar Waxwing .....	92
Figure 84. Chestnut-collared Longspur .....	93
Figure 85. McCown's Longspur .....	93
Figure 86. Orange-crowned Warbler .....	94
Figure 87. Black-and-white Warbler .....	96

Figure 88. Common Yellowthroat .....	97
Figure 89. Spotted Towhee .....	98
Figure 90. Field Sparrow .....	99
Figure 91. Lark Bunting.....	100
Figure 92. Baird's Sparrow.....	101
Figure 93. Fox Sparrow .....	102
Figure 94. Harris's Sparrow.....	103
Figure 95. Black-headed Grosbeak.....	104
Figure 96. Bobolink .....	106
Figure 97. Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	107
Figure 98. Brown-headed Cowbird.....	108
Figure 99. Purple Finch.....	109
Figure 100. Red Crossbill .....	110

[Back to Top](#)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Forest Service's Dakota Prairie Grasslands manages four Ranger Districts in North and South Dakota. One of those is the Grand River Ranger District (Figure 1), headquartered in Lemmon, South Dakota.

The Grand River Ranger District is comprised of two national grasslands. The Cedar River National Grassland encompasses about 6,800 acres of National Forest System land in Grant and Sioux counties, North Dakota. The Grand River National Grassland includes approximately 151,000 acres of National Forest System land in Corson, Perkins, and Ziebach counties, South Dakota.

This book is an update of Svingen et al. 2005. Its purpose is to summarize the status and distribution of birds on and near the Cedar River and Grand River National Grasslands as an aid to both visitors and managers.

## **THE CHECKLIST AREA**

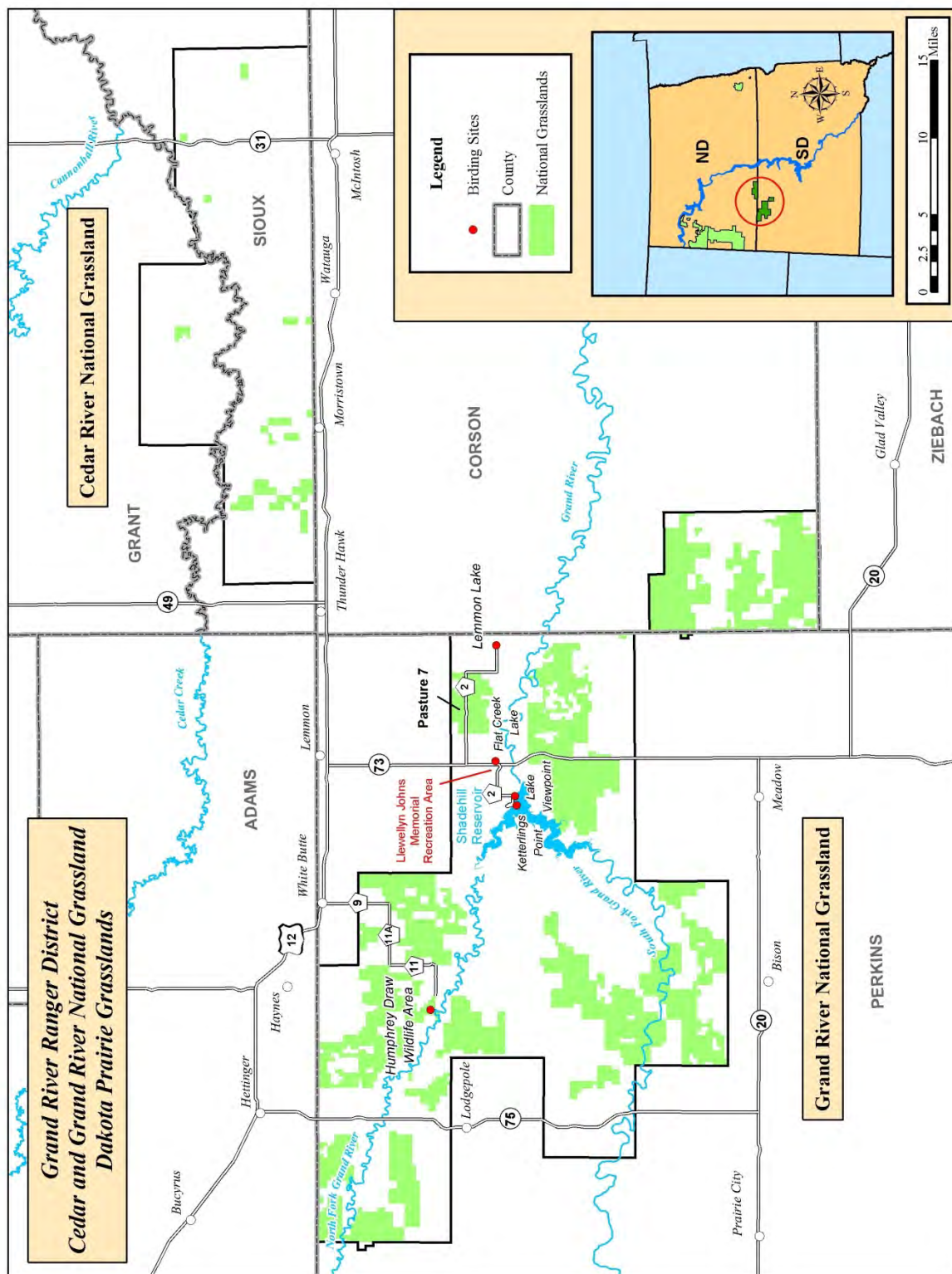
This checklist pertains to the entire 650,000-acre landscape within the administrative boundary of the Cedar River and Grand River National Grasslands. Only a quarter of that acreage, however, is National Forest System land. The remainder is private land (about 70%), Indian reservation land (~1%), state land (~3%), or U.S. Bureau of Reclamation land (~1%). The bulk of the data reported in this checklist is based on field work conducted on National Forest System and Bureau of Reclamation lands. The bird status and distribution reported herein may be slightly different, therefore, on the other land ownerships within the checklist area.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands within the checklist area are administered by South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, and are centered on Shadehill Reservoir. Those lands are managed for flood control and recreation.

Private lands within the checklist area are managed primarily for agricultural purposes, specifically livestock husbandry, and hay, sunflower, corn, and small grain (especially wheat) production. Tribal lands are mostly managed for livestock pasture. State land management varies by agency. State School Lands are managed for livestock pasture. Game, Fish, and Parks properties are managed for recreation or wildlife conservation.

By law, National Forest System lands are managed for multiple uses, including wildlife conservation, soil and water protection, and recreation. The most visible land use is livestock grazing. Each year, about 11,000 cattle graze the National Forest System land within the checklist area.

Figure 1. The checklist area.





## **VISITING THE CHECKLIST AREA**

Unless you have landowner permission to do otherwise, please restrict your birding to public roadways when birding outside of public land. Because of the complicated mix of private and public ownerships, it is useful to have a Grasslands Visitor Map to help ensure that you do not trespass on private land. Those maps are available for purchase (\$10) at the Grand River Ranger District office (Figure 2), 1005 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue West in Lemmon, SD 57638. Phone (605) 374-3592. Email: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/dakotaprairie/>.

Figure 2. Grand River Ranger District office.



Public walking access is allowed on all Bureau of Reclamation land in the checklist area, with the exception of Shadehill Dam control facilities. Motorized travel is restricted to designated roads. There are numerous developed recreational facilities on Bureau of Reclamation land. They include: Hugh Glass, Ketterling Point, Llewellyn Johns, Merrimans Grove, and West Boat Launch campgrounds/picnic areas; and Hugh Glass Monument (see Figure 3). Pit toilets are available at the campground/picnic areas and boat launches. For more information regarding Bureau of Reclamation land, contact the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks Department office (Figure 4), 19150 Summerville Road, P.O. Box 63, Shadehill, SD, 57638. Phone: (605) 374-5114. Email: [Shadehill@state.sd.us](mailto:Shadehill@state.sd.us).

**Map of Grand River National Grassland Area**

**Legend:**

- National Grassland (Green)
- BIA (Yellow)
- Grand River Grazing Association (Brown)
- BOR (Light Green)
- State (Blue)

**Scale:** 0 0.5 1 2 Miles

**Inset Map:** Shows the location of the Grand River National Grassland within the state of Montana.

**Key Features and Labels:**

- North Fork Grand River**
- Ketterlings Point**
- Lake Viewpoint**
- Shadehill Reservoir State Recreation Area**
- West Boat Launch**
- Parallel**
- Stickle River**
- Shadehill**
- Overlook**
- Pasture 7**
- Pasture 8**
- Pasture 9 Wildlife Area**
- Pasture 9**
- Llewellyn Johns Memorial State Rec Area**
- Lemmon Lake**
- State Game Production Area**
- Lemmon Lake**
- Penfield Ranch**
- Dewitt School**
- C Penfield Ranch**
- Penfield**
- Hugh Glass**
- South Cabin**
- Prairie Dog Town**
- Prairie Dog Ranch**
- H Wiesinger Ranch**
- Q Wiesinger Ranch**
- Townhall**
- SPACE**
- 725 221**
- 727 237**
- 73**
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- 93**
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Figure 4. South Dakota Department Game, Fish, and Parks' office at Shadehill, South Dakota.



Public walking access is allowed on all National Forest System land. Off-road vehicle travel is prohibited, but all paved, graveled, and designated two-track roads are open to the public (the Grand River Ranger District office can inform you which two-tracks are “designated” for public use). During winter and early spring, you would be well-advised to restrict your driving to the main roads. If dry, the two-track prairie trails (Figure 5) that bisect the various grazing pastures can greatly aid your exploration. Be aware that use of the two-track roads requires a high-clearance vehicle. When entering or leaving a pasture, be sure to leave all gates as you found them (i.e. either open or closed). Please note that vehicle use may be banned on two-track roads during periods of extreme fire danger.

As of this writing, the only developed recreational facility on National Forest System land within the checklist area is the Pasture 9 Wildlife Area’s picnic area (Figure 3) and associated Blacktail Trail. A pit toilet is available there. Additional facilities are anticipated (Timm 2010). For more information regarding National Forest System lands within the checklist area, contact the Grand River Ranger District office (see page 8 for details).

Figure 5. Gate marking entrance to a two-track road on National Forest System land, Grand River National Grassland.



The only poisonous animals in the checklist area are Western (“Prairie”) Rattlesnakes and Black Widow Spiders, though you will likely encounter neither. Be aware, however, that Poison Ivy is abundant (Hansen 2008). Mosquitoes, Deer Flies, and Horse Flies can be annoying companions during summer birding trips, making insect repellent and a stiff breeze helpful. You will likely pick up Wood Ticks if you step off of the road in spring or early summer. It is a good idea to stop periodically and brush those hitchhikers off.

Food, fuel, and lodging are available in Lemmon and Bison, SD; and Hettinger, ND. Medical clinics are available in Lemmon, SD and Hettinger, ND. Some services are also available in Lodgepole, McIntosh, Shadehill, and Watauga, SD. For more information, search online, or contact the following:

- Lemmon Economic Development, 101 3<sup>rd</sup> St. West, Lemmon, SD 57638. Phone: (605) 374-5699. [laced@lemmonsds.com](mailto:laced@lemmonsds.com).
- Hettinger Area Chamber of Commerce, 120 S. Main Street, PO Box 1031, Hettinger, ND 58639. Phone (701) 567-2531. [www.hettingernd.com](http://www.hettingernd.com).



## **WHERE TO BIRD**

The best way to explore the checklist area is to wander the various roads and trails that wind in and out of the public lands. A few particularly good sites are described below.

### **Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area**

From Lemmon, follow U.S. Highway 12 west 9.5 miles. At milepost 82, zero your mileage, then turn left (south) onto paved Perkins County Road 9 (a.k.a. White Butte Road). At mile 4.4 turn right (west) onto graveled Perkins County Road 11A. At mile 8.4, turn left (south) onto Perkins County Road 11 (a.k.a. Haynes Road). At mile 11.4, turn right (west) onto 108<sup>th</sup> Street. You will reach the eastern end of the 894-acre Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area, GRNG at mile 13.5. Park there; being careful to not block the gate (a parking lot is scheduled to be built here in the near future).

Walk west along Forest Service Road 5669, a two-track road which is closed to public motorized use. In the uplands, watch and listen for Golden Eagles, Swainson's and Red-tailed hawks, Gray Partridges, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasants, Say's Phoebe, Rock Wrens, and Grasshopper, Baird's, and Vesper sparrows.

You will reach Humphrey Draw itself (Figure 6) in about 0.5 mile. There you might find American Kestrels, Great Horned Owls, Black-billed Cuckoos, Northern Flickers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Black-billed Magpies, Eastern and Mountain bluebirds, Red-eyed and Warbling vireos, Orchard and Baltimore orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Spotted Towhees, Lark Sparrows, and Lazuli Buntings. Barn Owl has been seen here. A 9-acre inclusion of Quaking Aspen within Humphrey Draw is designated as the "Aspen Stand Special Interest Area" (Figure 7). It is one of the few such stands in the checklist area.

A short segment of the North Fork Grand River flows through Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area (Figure 8). Look there for species such as Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper,

Figure 6. Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area.

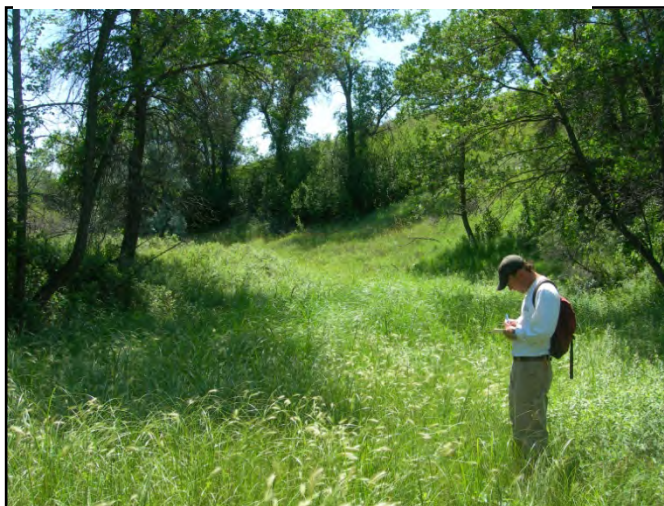


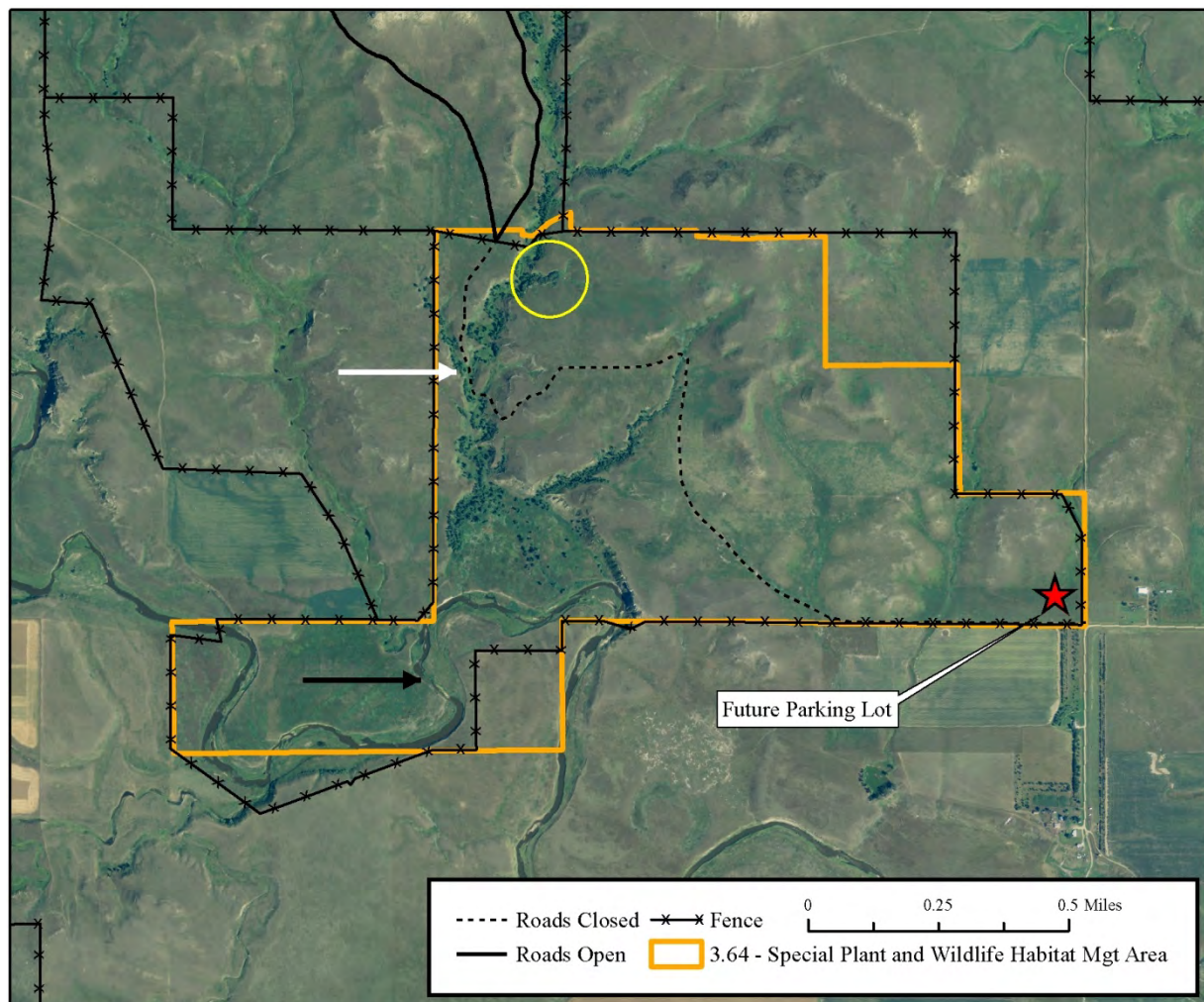
Figure 7. Aspen Stand Special Interest



Wilson's Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope.

Please note that the entire Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area is typically grazed for several days in the spring (mid-May) and/or fall (October). Please contact the Grand River Ranger District (page 8) for the grazing schedule if interested.

Figure 8. Aerial photograph (NAIP image) of Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area (management area 3.64), Grand River National Grassland. Black line is approximate location of perimeter fenceline. Red star denotes planned parking spot. Note too: Humphrey Draw (white arrow), Aspen Stand Special Interest Area (yellow circle), and North Fork Grand River (black





## **Pasture 7 and Lemmon Lake GPA**

From Lemmon, follow U.S. Highway 12 west 0.5 mile, then turn left (south) on SD Highway 73. After 9 miles (i.e. at milepost 232.6), turn left (east) onto graveled Perkins County Road 2 (a.k.a. Lemmon Lake Road).

You will enter Pasture 7, GRNG, two miles east of SD Highway 73. From there, it is public land (Figure 9) along both sides of the road for the next 4 miles. Stop often and listen for singing Sprague's Pipits and Baird's Sparrows. These species can also be found to the north and south along Forest Service Road 5769 (see Figure 10). Burrowing Owls can be seen in the scattered Black-tailed Prairie Dog colonies throughout Pasture 7 (Figure 10). Ferruginous Hawks may be present as well. The stockponds distributed throughout Pasture 7 (Figure 10) should be searched for waterbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds.

Figure 9. Pasture 7, looking westerly along Forest Service Road 5766.



At the east end of Pasture 7 (i.e. 6 miles east of SD Highway 73), turn right (south). In another 2 miles, turn left (east). The road dead-ends in a few miles within the Lemmon Lake Game Production Area (Figure 11). This ~300-acre South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks property encompasses 164-acre East Lemmon Lake Reservoir. It provides an excellent spot for a wide variety of wetland birds.

Figure 10. Pasture 7, showing locations of stock ponds and prairie dog colonies..

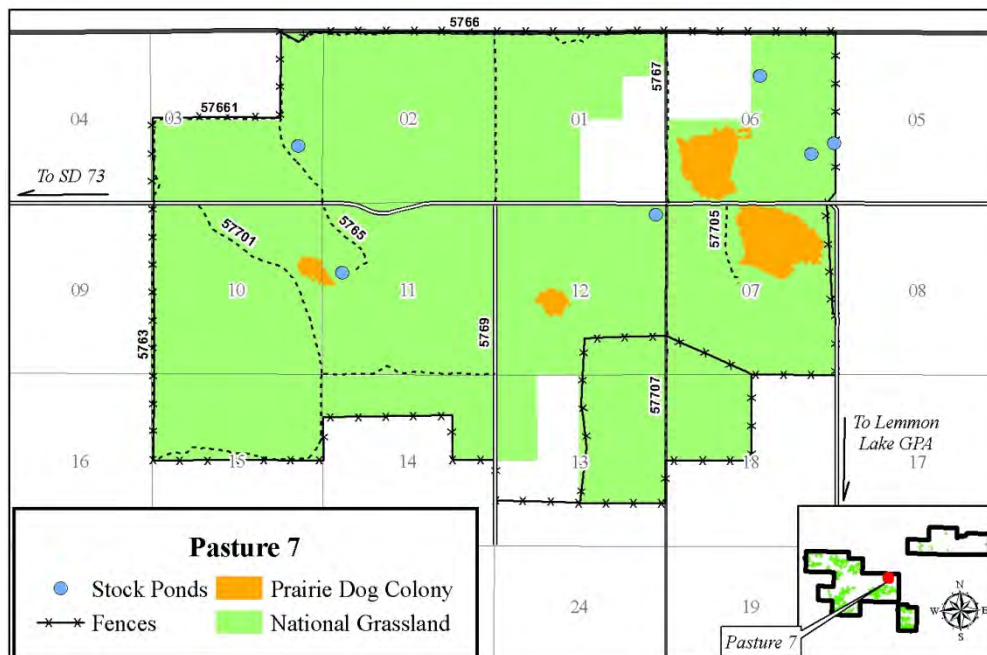


Figure 11. Aerial photograph (NAIP image) of Lemmon Lake Game Production Area.

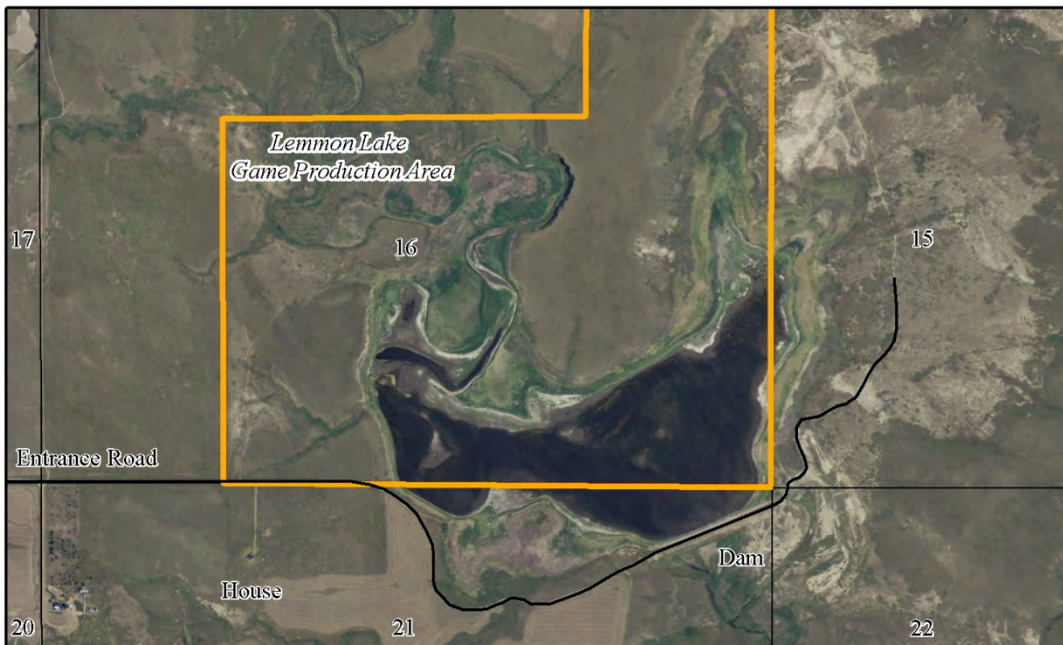


Figure 12. Pasture 8.

### **Pasture 8**

From Lemmon, follow U.S. Highway 12 west 0.5 mile, then turn left (south) on SD Highway 73. After 15 miles (i.e. at milepost 226.7), zero your mileage, then turn right (west) onto graveled Forest Service Road 5622, into Pasture 8, GRNG (Figure 12). As you enter Pasture 8, look to the right (north). There is usually a Sharp-tailed Grouse lek on the small hill here. You might also see a lek on the left (south) at mile 2. You will cross a creek at mile 3.1. At mile 3.7, stay left. You can now follow this road back to SD Highway

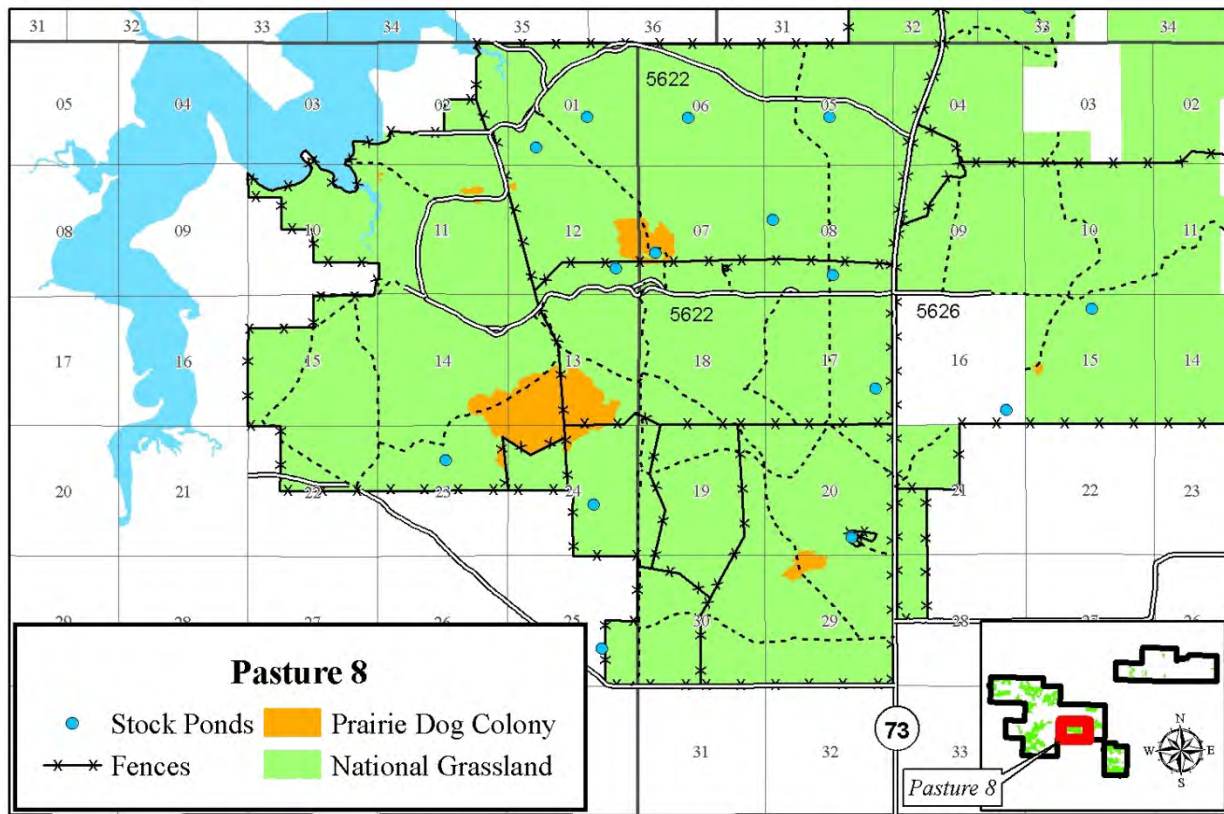


73, completing a 9.5-mile loop. Stop often to look and listen for Marbled Godwits, Upland Sandpipers, Sprague's Pipits, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, and Lark Buntings, as well as Vesper, Baird's, Savannah, and Grasshopper sparrows.

At mile 7, consider walking left (north) on Forest Service Road 5736 and following it for 0.2 mile to reach a small reservoir and nearby Black-tailed Prairie Dog colony (Figure 13). Scan the reservoir for a variety of waterbirds, and the prairie dog colony for Ferruginous Hawks, Burrowing Owls, and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. A bigger reservoir, and a larger prairie dog colony, are accessible to the southwest via Forest Service Road 5604, though that road should not be attempted without a high-clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle.



Figure 13. Pasture 8, showing locations of stock ponds and prairie dog colonies.



## **Pasture 9**

From Lemmon, follow U.S. Highway 12 west 0.5 mile, then turn left (south) on SD Highway 73. After 16.2 miles, zero your mileage, then turn left (east) onto graveled Forest Service Road 5626 into Pasture 9, GRNG (Figure 14). At mile 0.5, turn left (north) onto Forest Service Road 5740; watch the knobs in this area, as a Sharp-tailed Grouse lek is often present here.

At mile 1.5 you will reach the parking lot and picnic area within the ~100-acre Pasture 9 Wildlife Area (Figure 3). Scan the reservoir for waterbirds, then backtrack to Forest Service Road 5626, and turn left (east) to continue exploring Pasture 9. As of this writing, plans are to improve this road within the next few years to create a 14-mile long loop road that will weave in and out of National Forest System lands. Birds in Pasture 9 are similar to those listed above for Pastures 7 and 8. The chances of encountering Ferruginous Hawks and Prairie Falcons, however, are higher in Pasture 9 due to the greater availability of butte nest sites (Figure 15).

Figure 14. Pasture 9, Grand River National



Figure 15. Ferruginous Hawk nest atop a clay knob, Pasture 9, Grand River National Grassland. Note fledgling on ledge below nest.





### **Shadehill Reservoir**

Some of the best birding is found around Shadehill Reservoir (Figure 16). To get there from Lemmon, follow U.S. Highway 12 west 0.5 mile, then turn left (south) on SD Highway 73. After 11 miles, turn right (west) into the Llewellyn Johns Memorial State Recreation Area (Bureau of Reclamation). Least Flycatchers, Eastern and Western kingbirds, House Wrens, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Cedar Waxwings, Warbling Vireos, Chipping and Lark sparrows, Common Grackles, and Orchard and Baltimore orioles

summer here. This site can be particularly good during migration. When you are done in the picnic area, walk north to scan Flat Creek Lake for Western and Pied-billed grebes, American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and Canada Geese. Numerous shorebirds may be present during migration, depending on water level.

For additional birding, follow paved Perkins County Road 2 west from SD Highway 73 (this is the paved road between Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area and the Summerville Store). In 0.6 mile, turn left (southwest) onto the gravel road, passing through a mix of grassland and open Cottonwood woodland (Bureau of Reclamation). Stop often to look and listen for Red-tailed Hawks, Wild Turkeys, Red-eyed and Warbling vireos, and Eastern Bluebirds. About 0.5 mile south of County Road 2, the road splits; stay left

to reach the area below spillway in another 0.6 mile. At the spillway, scan the Grand River and riparian woodland for Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and Barn, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, and Cliff swallows. This part of the Grand River stays open year-round (Figure 17), and thus is often a lively spot during winter. As you backtrack to Perkins County Road 2, consider stopping at the Merrimans Grove Campground, which is on the right (east), about 0.2 mile north of the spillway (see Figure 3). The conifer trees there should be checked for locally-rare species such as migrating Tennessee Warblers, as well as wintering Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet owls, Townsend's Solitaire, Brown Creeper, Purple Finch, and Red and White-winged crossbills.

To bird Shadehill Reservoir itself, start at the junction of Perkins County Road 2 and SD Highway 73, then follow Perkins County Road 2 west (see Figure 3). After 2 miles, turn left (south) towards the Recreation Area. You will reach the swimming beach/boat ramp (fee,

Figure 16. Shadehill Reservoir.



Figure 17. Grand River, below spillway of Shadehill Dam.



Bureau of Reclamation) in another 1.2 miles. Eastern Screech-owls have been found in this general area. Yet another lake overview point is available one mile to the west at Ketterling's Point Campground (fee), an area of planted shrubs and trees along the north shore of Shadehill Reservoir. The diverse vegetation there often provides the best opportunities for finding migrant songbirds. Nesting species are similar to those at the Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area, but are both more numerous and diverse.

A secluded birding spot is available along the North Fork Grand River, but accessing this area is best done using a high-clearance vehicle. From the intersection of SD Highway 73 and Perkins County Road 2, follow Perkins County Road 2 west, then north, and then west again, for a total of 9 miles (see Figure 3). Rezero your mileage, then turn left (south) onto the two-track road (Figure 18). At mile 0.5, cross the right-hand (west) cattle guard onto public land (Bureau of Reclamation, managed by South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks). Follow the two-track as it swings to the west before continuing southward. A shelterbelt on the left (east) hosts many of the same species listed above for the Llewellyn Johns Memorial State Recreation Area. At mile 1.0 the two-track forks (note portions of these roads may be closed to motorized traffic, watch for signs). To the left (east) you will reach a relatively large stand of closed-canopy Cottonwoods and Green Ash in 0.5 mile. Look there for the woodland species listed above for the Llewellyn Johns Memorial State Recreation Area. West of the fork in the two-track road you will pass through a wide grass area, where Bobolinks, Dickcissels, Savannah Sparrows, and Lark Buntings might be found. Throughout this entire area, scan the slow-moving North Fork Grand River for Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Belted Kingfishers, and Bank and Northern Rough-winged swallows.

To explore along the south shore of Shadehill Reservoir, follow SD Highway 73 south from Lemmon for 12.8 miles. At milepost 229.1, turn right (west) onto graveled Perkins County Road 2A (a.k.a. Hugh Glass Drive). In 1.2 miles, note the very rough two-track road that cuts northeast. Follow it (via foot if you have any doubts regarding traction) as it drops down to the spillway area. When you are

Figure 18. Start of the two-track that descends to the North Fork Grand River.



Figure 19. Scanning wintering waterfowl from overlook by the southeast end of Shadehill Dam.





done exploring there, continue west on Perkins County Road 2A. Within another 0.2 mile, you will reach a pull-out on the right (northwest) at an overlook near Shadehill Dam (Figure 19). From there you can scan the reservoir for waterbirds. This is often the best viewpoint for scanning wintering waterfowl and their attendant Bald and Golden eagles. Approximately 2.2 miles southwest of the pull-out, Perkins County Road 2A reaches Hugh Glass Campground. The mix of deciduous and coniferous trees here (Figure 20) are again particularly good during migration and winter, hosting many of the same species described above for the other campground areas.

Figure 20. Coniferous trees at the Hugh Glass Campground.



The west side of Shadehill Res. is largely inaccessible. The major exception is the West Boat Launch Area, which provides not only vantage points to scan the water, but also additional shelterbelts and idled grass areas to search for migrating and wintering birds. The quickest route to get there from Lemmon, is to follow U.S. Highway 12 west for 9.5 miles. At milepost 82 turn left (south) onto paved Perkins County Road 9 (a.k.a. White Butte Road). In another 13 miles, turn left (east) onto graveled Perkins County 2A. After an additional 6 miles, you will reach the West Boat Launch Area. The campground here is to the north in another mile. Possible birds are similar to those described above for the other campground areas.

### **Vobejda Lake Game Production Area**

Another great wetland site is the Vobejda (“Vo-BA-da”) Lake GPA (Figure 21). To get there from Hettinger, ND; follow SD 75 south. After 10 miles, turn left (east) onto the roughly-graveled unmarked road. You will reach the GPA’s western edge in another two miles, where you can follow the very rough road as it parallels the preserve’s western border (be aware of your vehicle’s traction and clearance before attempting to drive this road). The 80-acre reservoir that forms the core of this GPA has attracted a wide variety of waterfowl and other waterbirds. Look especially for: Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks; Horned, Red-necked, Eared, and Western grebes; American Bitterns; Great, Snowy, and Cattle egrets; White-faced Ibises, Virginia Rails, Soras, Forster’s Terns, Marsh Wrens, and Swamp Sparrows.

Figure 21. Looking northerly to Vobejda Reservoir.



## **BIRD-RELATED RESEARCH**

Several bird-related research projects have been conducted in the checklist area. A brief summary of these follows.

### **Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit**

#### **Ecology**

Dakota Prairie Grasslands and Dakota Audubon cooperated on a study of Baird's Sparrow (Figure 22) and Sprague's Pipit ecology, 2006-2008. Dr. Maiken Winter conducted point counts at 113 locations, then compared occupied vs. unoccupied habitats. She found that Baird's Sparrows gravitated to Crested Wheatgrass stands. Sprague's Pipits used Crested Wheatgrass in proportion to its availability (i.e. Sprague's Pipits neither selected for nor against Crested Wheatgrass).

Both Baird's Sparrows and Sprague's Pipits favored sites with higher-than average vegetation and higher-than-average vegetative litter. Because of these findings, Dr. Winter concluded that both species would probably benefit from a decreased stocking rate (i.e. fewer cattle) which would allow for taller vegetation and a deeper buildup of litter. For more information, see Winter 2008.

Figure 22. Baird's Sparrow.



#### **Birding**

The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union held their annual meeting in Lemmon, SD, 13-15 May 2011. The field trips occurred within the checklist area, adding greatly to our knowledge of the avifauna present at that point in time.

### **Breeding Bird Surveys**

Since the 1960s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (and later the U.S. Geological Survey) has used birders to monitor breeding birds across North America. Participants drive established 25-mile

routes, stopping every 0.5 mile to look and listen for birds. One of these "Breeding Bird Survey" routes passes thru the Cedar River National Grassland (Figure 23). To access data from these efforts, visit the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's website ([www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov](http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov)).

Figure 23. Some of the habitat at stop #16, along the Cedar River Breeding Bird Survey. Hoopie Allotment, Cedar River National Grassland, Sioux County, ND.



## **Burrowing Owl Monitoring**

Burrowing Owls have declined throughout the northern portion of their range. They are now endangered in Canada, and their North Dakota range has shrunk by more than 25% (Murphy et al. 2001). Much of that decline is likely due to the great reduction in suitable habitat (colonies of Richardson Ground-squirrels and prairie dogs) on both the breeding and wintering grounds. Surveys on the Grasslands in 1997 showed that only some of the Black-tailed Prairie Dog colonies were occupied by Burrowing Owls (Sidle et al. 2001). Volunteer birders have monitored the Grasslands' Burrowing Owls ever since. For details, see: Svingen 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2007.

Dr. Craig Knowles surveyed Burrowing Owls at Black-tailed Prairie Dog colonies on the GRNG in 2001 and 2005, with funding provided by South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. In 2001, 55% of the surveyed colonies were used by owls. Owl density at occupied sites was 0.1 owl per acre. On average, he observed 2.9 juvenile owls per family. In 2005, 45% of the surveyed colonies were used by owls. Owl density at occupied sites that year was 0.07 owls per acre. On average there were 2.2 juvenile owls per family in 2005 (ibid). Additional information is available in Knowles 2006.

From 2006-2010, Dr. Martha Desmond led a team of New Mexico State University researchers (Figure 24) on an intensive study of the Grand River National Grassland's Burrowing Owl population as part of a large-scale effort throughout the Great Plains. Numerous partners were involved, including the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Part of that study used stable hydrogen isotope markers in Burrowing Owl feathers to investigate owl dispersal. Two distinct trends were noted: low survival for northern-origin owls (including those from the Grand River National Grassland), and an overall trend for owls to disperse in a northerly direction. The researchers cautioned, however, that if the Burrowing Owls were molting flight feathers either during or after migration, those results might be confounded. For more information on this aspect, see Dominguez 2010. Other results are still pending.

Figure 24. New Mexico State University researchers capturing Burrowing Owls for study, Grand River





### **Christmas Bird Counts**

Since 1900, birders have met at specific locations across the United States and Canada to census winter birds as part of a Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The Shadehill CBC was established in 1990. It has been run intermittently ever since (Figure 25). Not all of the data collected has been loaded into the nation-wide database. To download the information that is readily available, visit the National Audubon Society's website (<http://audubon2.org/birds/cbc/.html>).

Figure 25. Counting birds, Shadehill Christmas Bird Count, December 2009.



### **Ferruginous Hawk Movements**

Ferruginous Hawks have declined in many parts of their range. Most of the nesting territories active on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in past decades are now abandoned (Knowles 2001a, 2002).

From 2006-2010, a consortium of Canadian, American, and Mexican ornithologists engaged in a range-wide study of Ferruginous Hawk movements. A wide variety of partners were involved, including the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Birds from numerous locations in Canada, Mexico, and the United States were outfitted with transmitters. Several birds were captured on and near the Cedar River and Grand River National Grasslands (Figure 26). Data are currently in analysis. For more information, go online to: [www.ferruginoushawk.org](http://www.ferruginoushawk.org).

Figure 26. Global Positioning System (GPS) transmitter on a Ferruginous Hawk, Cedar River National Grassland.





## **Grassland Bird Ecology**

In summer 2007 and 2008, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks; Dakota State University, and South Dakota State University cooperated on a study of grassland bird habitat needs within the mixed-grass prairies of north-central South Dakota. Under the direction of Dr. Kristel Bakker, grassland birds were censused along fixed-width belt transects on 288 native sod sites in 29 counties. Several sample points were on the Grand River National Grassland. Study results showed that the occurrence and density of grassland-obligate birds were influenced by numerous habitat characteristics and at multiple scales. Exotic plant species had a negative effect on Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Western Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Lark Bunting, but had a positive effect on Bobolinks. At the patch level, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Sprague's Pipits, Grasshopper and Savannah sparrows, and Western Meadowlarks were negatively affected by woody species. The researchers concluded that it is critical that managers preserve as much native grassland as possible. Due to the diverse habitat requirements of the species of concern, they recommended that grassland habitats should be managed under varying management regimes ranging from idled, to heavily grazed or mowed. Furthermore, they recommended that reduction and removal of exotic plant species and woody edges should be pursued. For more information on this work, see Greer 2009.

## **Grassland Bird Surveys**

Dr. Craig Knowles and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, surveyed for Baird's Sparrows and Sprague's Pipits on the Grand River National Grassland in 2001. Ten routes totaling 150.3 miles were established along 2-track roads. At each one-mile interval, an observer scanned and listened for Baird's Sparrows and Sprague's Pipits for 10-minutes. An effort was also made to find Common Poorwills. Results are noted below in the species' accounts. For more information, see Knowles 2001b.

In 2002 and 2003, Dr. Doug Johnson, U.S. Geological Survey Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, coordinated surveys of breeding birds on the Cedar River National Grassland on behalf of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. The "area-search" method was used. In 2002, 42 quarter-sections were surveyed. In 2003, 39 quarter-sections were visited. Selected results are noted below in the species' accounts. For additional detail, see Johnson et al. 2002 and Johnson et al. 2003. Note: these survey results were reported as: # of indicated breeding pairs/100 ha. For the purposes of this checklist, we have converted those data to: # birds per square mile, by using the following equations: # indicated breeding pairs x 2 = # birds. # birds per 100 ha x 2.59 = # birds per square mile.

In 2002, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory conducted 141 point counts on 47 sections on the Grand River National Grassland as part of a multi-state effort involving a variety of partners, including the U.S. Forest Service. Three counts were conducted per section, from accessible roads. Each count lasted 5 minutes. Selected results are noted below in the species' accounts. For additional detail, see Hanni et al. 2003. Note: these survey results were reported as: # birds/square kilometer. For the purposes of this checklist, we have converted those data to: # birds per square mile, by using the following equation: # birds per square kilometer x 2.59 = # birds per square mile.

Since 2004, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and Dakota Prairie Grasslands have censused birds along two transects in each of four monitoring blocks on the Grand River National Grassland. These 3-mile x 3-mile blocks are centered on: Pasture 8, Pasture 9, 6E-South Allotment (all Perkins Co., SD); and Texley Allotment (Corson Co., SD). Along each transect, a single observer conducted up to eight five-minute point counts at stations located at 250 meter intervals. Selected results are noted below in the species' accounts. For additional detail, see Sparks et al. 2010. Note: these survey results were reported as # birds/square kilometer. For the purposes of this checklist, we have converted those data to # birds per square mile, by using the following equation: # birds per square kilometer x 2.59 = # birds per square mile.

Since 2009, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory crews (Figure 27), funded by a variety of partners, including the U.S. Forest Service, have censused birds on the Grasslands as part of a multi-state effort to quantify bird populations and trends within Bird Conservation Region #17 (i.e. eastern Montana, eastern Wyoming, and the western Dakotas). Four sample areas are located on the Cedar River National Grassland, Sioux Co., ND; the sample areas are centered on East Maier, Maier, North Community, and South Community allotments. Five sample areas are found on the Grand River National Grassland, centered on Allotments: 1B, 4B, 5A, 6E-South (all Perkins Co., SD), and Shambo (Corson Co., SD). Within each sample area breeding birds are surveyed from 16 points spaced 250-meters apart, in a 4x4 point grid. Selected results are noted below in the species' accounts. For additional detail, see White et al. 2010. Note: these survey results were reported as # birds/square kilometer. For the purposes of this checklist, we have converted those data to: # birds per square mile, by using the following equation: # birds per square kilometer x 2.59 = # birds per square mile.

Figure 27. Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory employee preparing to conduct bird surveys on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.



## **Nesting Raptors**

In 2001 and 2002, Dr. Craig Knowles and Dakota Prairie Grasslands conducted surveys of local nesting raptors on the Grand River National Grassland. Based on that survey information, Knowles estimated that approximately 5 Golden Eagle, 2 Red-tailed Hawk, 3 Ferruginous Hawk, 35 Swainson's Hawk, and 2 American Kestrels nests were active there each year. See Knowles 2001a, 2002 for more information.

In 2008, Dakota Prairie Grasslands and St. Cloud State University initiated a study of nesting raptor ecology on the Grand River National Grassland. Dr. Marco Restani is directing the ongoing field work (Figure 28) and data analysis.

Figure 28. Volunteer helping band Swainson's Hawk, Grand River National Grassland.



## **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands, in conjunction with Sitting Bull College's Dr. Jeremy Guinn and students, conducts regular surveys of Sharp-tailed Grouse populations on the Cedar River National Grassland.

Figure 29. Dr. Benjamin Geaumont preparing to release Sharp-tailed Grouse radioed for study. April 2009.

In 2009, Dakota Prairie Grasslands and North Dakota State University initiated a study of sharp-tailed grouse ecology on the Grand River National Grassland, under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Geaumont (Figure 29). In 2009, 47 birds were outfitted with radio transmitters. In 2010, 50 birds were so equipped. In the two years to date, 46 sharp-tailed grouse nests have been monitored. Mayfield nest success was 25% and 28%, 2009 and 2010, respectively. Nest loss was due to predation, and to a lesser extent, weather. Nesting hens selected for higher-than-average vegetative structure. Broods used native prairie and Alfalfa fields. Shrubs (such as Silver Sagebrush, Buffaloberry, Western Snowberry, Chokecherry, etc.) were used for shade, especially during the hottest periods of summer. Wintering birds used native prairie and cropland.





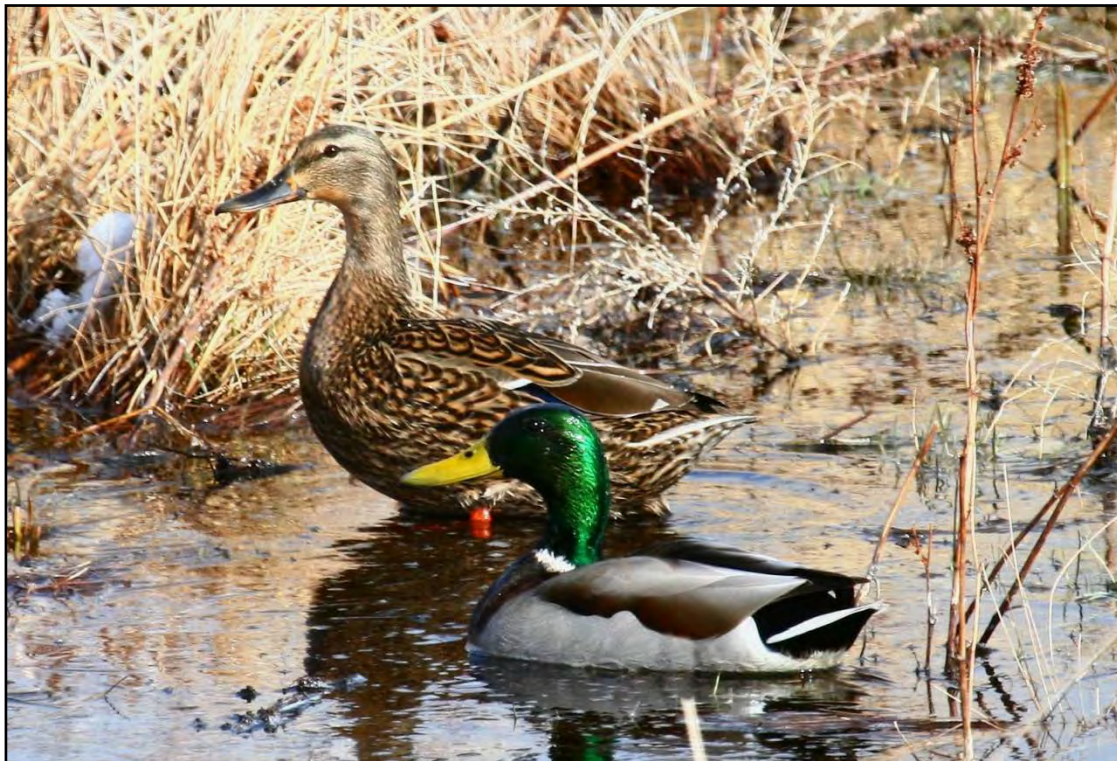
### **Waterfowl Use of Stock Ponds**

Hundreds of stock dams have been created in the checklist area to facilitate livestock management. Most of these structures created small ponds (Figure 30), ranging from 1 to 10 acres in size. In 2003 and 2004, Dakota Prairie Grasslands and the U. S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center quantified waterfowl use at some of those stock ponds, under the direction of Dr. Jane Austin. Mallard (Figure 31), Blue-winged Teal, and Gadwall were the most common among the 12 duck species observed using the ponds. Duck pairs and broods both responded positively: to the extent of flooded area, total wetland area within 2.5 miles, amount of emergent edge cover, and shoreline development index (a measure of a pond's convoluted shape). For more information, see Austin and Buhl 2009.

Figure 30. Stock ponds like this one are important to breeding waterfowl.



Figure 31. The Mallard was the most common duck species found during systematic surveys on the Grand River



## **HOW TO USE THIS BOOK**

### **Abbreviations**

Abbreviations used are defined as follows:

BBS = Breeding Bird Survey,  
BIA = Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
BOR = Bureau of Reclamation,  
Co. = County,  
CRNG = Cedar River National Grassland,  
CRP = Conservation Reserve Program,  
CBC = Shadehill Christmas Bird Count,  
GPA = Game Production Area,  
GRNG = Grand River National Grassland,  
m.ob. = many observers,  
ND = North Dakota,  
pers. comm. = personal communication,  
pers. obs. = personal observation,  
Res. = Reservoir,  
SD = South Dakota,  
U.S. = United States.

### **Abundance and Status**

The categories given below are based on the peak numbers that could be found during a full day (and season) of birding in appropriate habitat.

A -abundant: daily peaks of 125 or more, with at least 600 individuals seen per season.  
C -common: daily peaks of 25-124, with seasonal totals of 125-599 individuals.  
F -fairly common: daily peaks of 5-24 individuals; seasonal totals of 25-124 individuals.  
U -uncommon: daily peaks of 1-4 individuals; seasonal totals of 5-24 individuals.  
R -rare: daily peaks of 1-4 individuals; seasonal totals of 1-4 individuals.  
O -casual: fewer than 5 records, will probably occur again in the next decade.  
X -accidental: fewer than 5 records, will probably not occur again in the next decade.  
E -extirpated: species no longer occurs in the checklist area.  
I -irregular: the abundance varies; in some years the species may be absent, in others it may reach the level indicated.  
N -nester: breeding has been confirmed by observation of nest, dependent young, or food-carrying adult.  
? -status indicated has yet to be confirmed.

We use the term “resident” for individual birds that are likely to be present throughout a summer or winter season. We use the term “visitor” to indicate individuals that are likely to be present for only a short time during a summer or winter season.

## **Habitats**

For our purposes, we have grouped the checklist area's most common habitats into the following categories. These categories are general ones, and one habitat often blends into another. Category definitions are not meant to be definitive or technically precise.

### **CROPLAND**

Cropland is interspersed throughout the checklist area. Ring-necked Pheasants, Gray Partridges, Killdeer, Horned Larks, and Vesper Sparrows use cropland. After harvest, watch for raptors, particularly Red-tailed and Swainson's hawks. Waterfowl use these habitats too, as do Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings.

### **HAYFIELDS AND IDLE LANDS**

You will encounter scattered hayfields throughout the checklist area. Domestic grass and forb species, such as Smooth Brome, Intermediate Wheatgrass, Alfalfa, and Yellow Sweetclover, usually dominate.

In addition, some of the less productive cropland has been temporarily enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Under this program, the landowner plants a perennial grass cover, usually domestic grasses and forbs, and idles the land for 10 years in return for an annual payment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Other idled grass areas include those within the various recreation areas.

Figure 32. Conservation Reserve Program field.



Typical birds in hayfields and idled grass habitats include Northern Harriers, Ring-necked Pheasants, Common Yellowthroats, Bobolinks, Western Meadowlarks, Dickcissels (irregular), Grasshopper and Savannah sparrows, and Red-winged Blackbirds.

### **MIXED-GRASS PRAIRIE**

The checklist area's most abundant habitat is mixed-grass prairie (Figure 33). Primary plant species include Blue Grama, Needle-and-thread Grass, Needleleaf Sedge, Prairie Junegrass, Western Snowberry, and Western Wheatgrass, along with exotic species such as Crested Wheatgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, and Smooth Brome. Breeding birds include Sharp-tailed Grouse; Upland Sandpipers; Marbled Godwits; Sprague's Pipits; Savannah, Grasshopper, Vesper, and Baird's sparrows; and Chestnut-collared Longspurs.



Figure 33. Mixed-grass Prairie.



## WETLANDS

Wetlands are limited in the checklist area. Some small natural temporary, seasonal, and fen wetlands are present. The Grand River and its tributaries provide additional habitat. The hundreds of small reservoirs built to facilitate livestock management, however, provide the most extensive wetland habitat. These “stock ponds” are especially important to dabbling ducks, American Coots, migrant shorebirds, Killdeer, Wilson’s Phalaropes, and Red-winged and Yellow-headed blackbirds. Shadehill Reservoir provides the most extensive wetland habitat in the checklist area. That 5,000-acre lake is used by a variety of grebes and waterfowl, especially during migration.

## WOODLAND

Two kinds of native deciduous woodland occur in the checklist area.

The “Plains Cottonwood Woodland” is found mainly along the Grand, North Fork Grand, and South Fork Grand rivers. Large patches of this habitat host Great Horned Owls, American Kestrels, Wild Turkeys, Blue Jays, White-breasted Nuthatches, American Crows, Red-eyed Vireos, Eastern Bluebirds, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Warbling Vireos, and Chipping Sparrows.

Figure 34. Green Ash Woodland.



“Green Ash Woodland” (Figure 34) is mostly found as a narrow strip along smaller creeks. These woodlands typically contain American Plum, American Elm, Box Elder, Buffaloberry, Chokecherry, Green Ash, Serviceberry, and Western Snowberry. Green Ash Woodland is the most diverse and productive of the checklist area’s habitat. Summering birds include Red-tailed Hawks, Mourning Doves, Northern Flickers, Red-eyed and Warbling vireos, Least Flycatchers, Black-capped Chickadees, House Wrens, Brown Thrashers, Yellow Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Lazuli Buntings.

Anthropogenic deciduous woodlands are found in urban areas, farmsteads, shelterbelts, and recreational sites. Typical species include Box Elder, Green Ash, Plains Cottonwood, Siberian Elm, Chinese Elm, and Russian Olive. Birds are similar to those described above for the native deciduous woodlands.

Small patches of planted coniferous woodland also can be found in the checklist area. Common species include: Black Hills Spruce, Eastern Red Cedar, Ponderosa Pine, and Rocky Mountain Juniper. Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Red and White-winged crossbills are most likely to be found in this woodland type.

## **Locations**

Locations referred to in the text are shown on Figures 1, 3, 35, 36, & 37. The latter show the names of grazing allotments on the Cedar River (Figure 35) and Grand River (Figures 36 & 37) National Grasslands.



Figure 35. Grazing allotments on the Cedar River National Grassland.

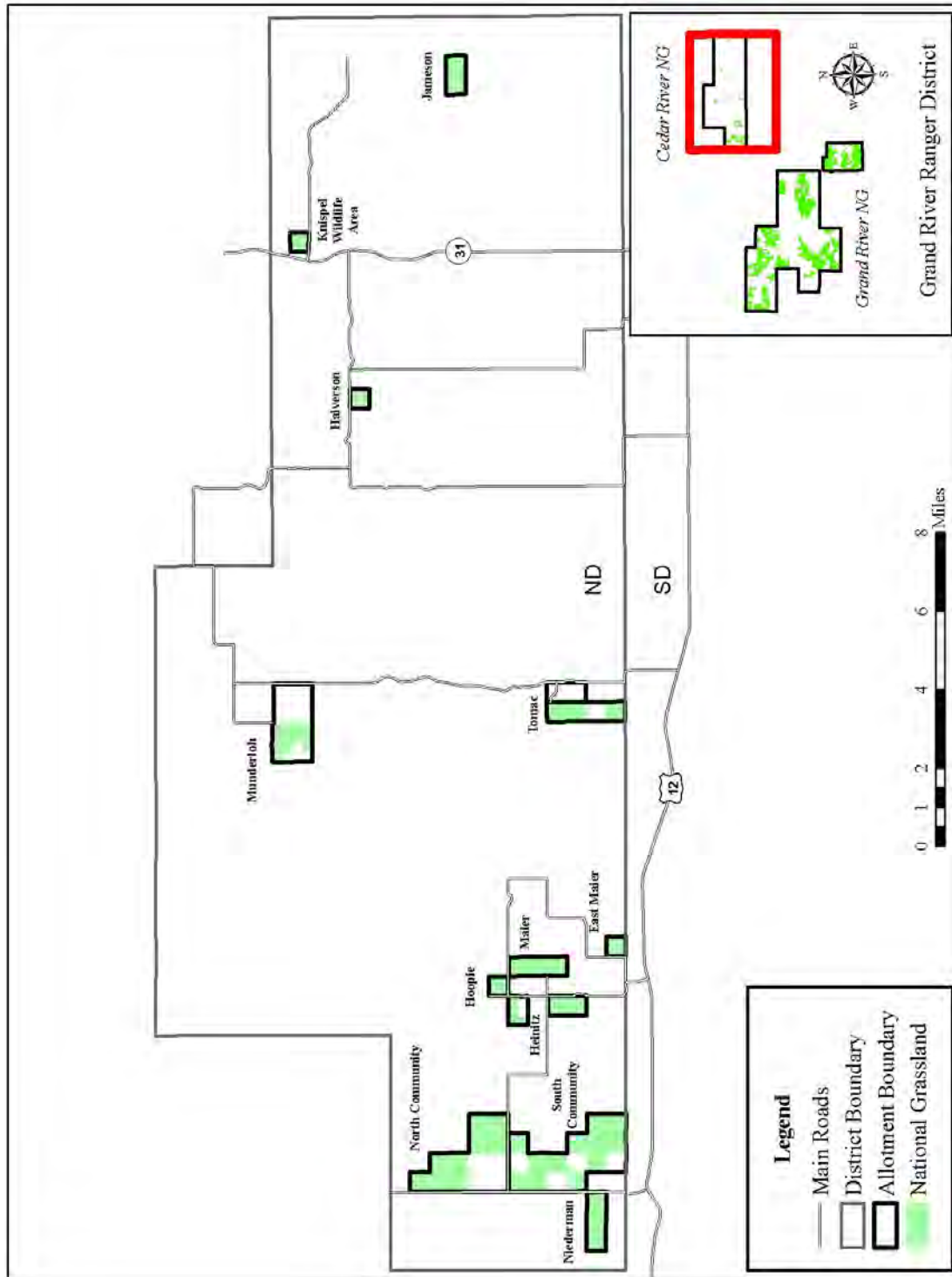


Figure 36. Grazing allotments on the Grand River National Grassland (west one-half).

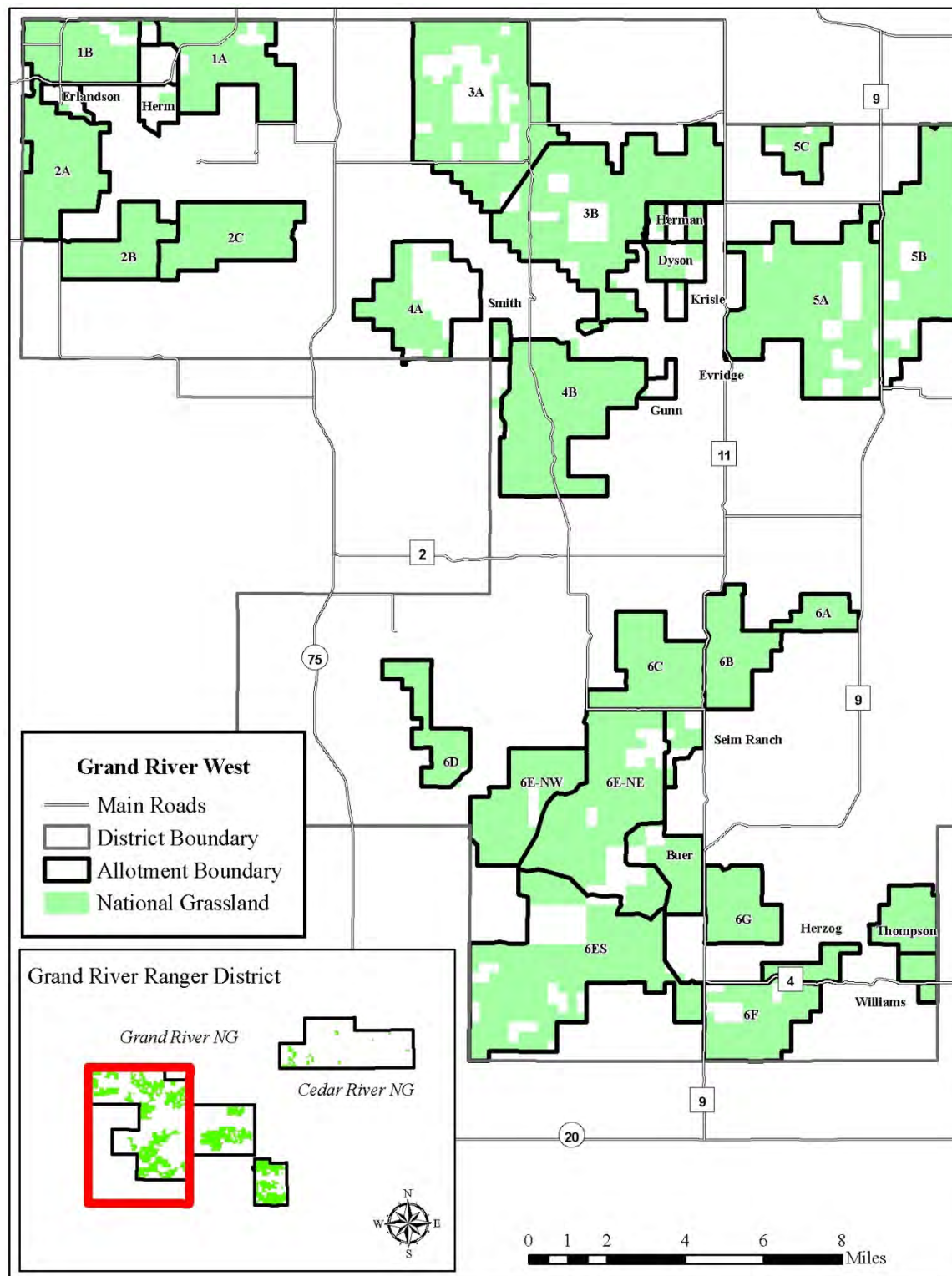
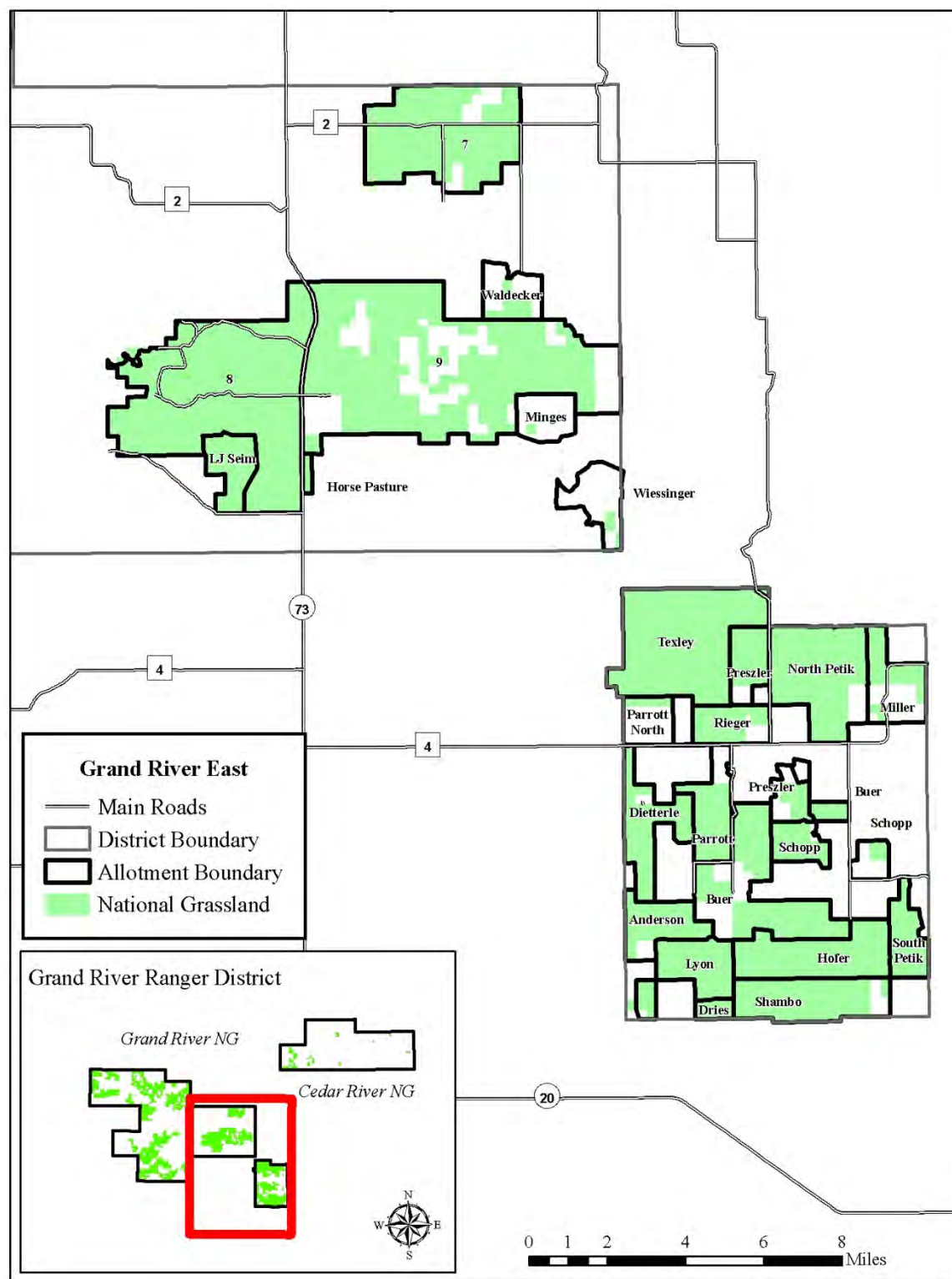


Figure 37. Grazing allotments on the Grand River National Grassland (east one-half).



### **Nesting Information**

In the following accounts we note which species have been confirmed as nesting birds in the checklist area. Breeding confirmation for several species was taken from Peterson (1995) or Tallman et al. (2002). Information presented on breeding phenology was taken from Peterson (1995) and Baicich and Harrison (1997). Visiting birders can assist with data collection by reporting observations of broods, food-carrying adults, or active nests.

Figure 38. Sprague's Pipit nest with eggs.



### **Nomenclature, Capitalization, Plurals, Etc.**

Bird nomenclature and species order follows that of American Ornithologists' Union (2011). We have adopted the convention of capitalizing proper names of plants and animals. We have retained the use of lower case when referring to a series. For example: we might say "Yellow Warblers, and Lark, Savannah, and Field sparrows can be found here." In general, we use the plural tense when listing birds, unless we specify them as species. For example: we would write, "Yellow Warblers can be seen here. Winter species include Northern Shrike and Common Redpoll."



## **Seasons**

We have defined the seasons as shown below. Be aware that movements of birds, like weather patterns (Figure 39), do not fit into easy seasonal categories. For example, some shorebirds begin their “fall” migration in July, whereas species such as Bald Eagles may not finish their “fall” migration until late December.

**Spring:** 1 March to 31 May

**Summer:** 1 June to 31 July

**Fall:** 1 August to 30 November

**Winter:** 1 December to 28 February

Figure 39. Spring snow on the Grand River National Grassland.



## **Species Treated**

We have included all bird species that have been confirmed within the checklist area. We collected sighting data by reviewing past issues (2000-2010) of *North American Birds*, interviewing birders; examining agency files; and sorting through researcher’s databases. Peterson (1995) and Tallman et al. (2002) were invaluable references for earlier data. As of this writing, the SD Breeding Bird Atlas update is being compiled, but is not yet available. Compared to Svingen et al. 2005, we have added Cackling Goose, Caspian Tern, Western Wood-Pewee, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray Jay, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Smith’s and McCown’s longspurs, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. We have removed American Golden-plover, Long-billed Curlew, and Nelson’s Sparrow, as we lack confirmation

that past sightings in the region occurred within the boundaries of the checklist area itself. Observers are asked to be especially watchful for these species, as well as for confirmation of the summer presence of Marsh Wren, Veery, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, and Ovenbird; and the fall presence of Gray-cheeked Thrush. Breeding confirmation is especially sought for those taxa indicated in the SUMMARY CHECKLIST as “N?”

## **CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES**

It is our intention to revise this checklist. Please report corrections, updates, unusually large numbers, or unusual sightings to: Grasslands Biologist, Dakota Prairie Grasslands, 240 W. Century Ave, Bismarck, ND 58503. Phone (701) 250-4443.

Figure 40. Woody draw and mixed-grass prairie habitat on the Grand River National



## **SUMMARY CHECKLIST**

- A -abundant: daily peaks of 125 or more, with at least 600 individuals seen per season.  
 C -common: daily peaks of 25-124, with seasonal totals of 125-599 individuals.  
 F -fairly common: daily peaks of 5-24 individuals; seasonal totals of 25-124 individuals.  
 U -uncommon: daily peaks of 1-4 individuals; seasonal totals of 5-24 individuals.  
 R -rare: daily peaks of 1-4 individuals; seasonal totals of 1-4 individuals.  
 O -casual: fewer than 5 records, will probably occur again in the next decade.  
 X -accidental: fewer than 5 records, will probably not occur again in the next decade.  
 E -extirpated: species no longer occurs in the checklist area.  
 I -irregular: the abundance varies; in some years the species may be absent, in others it may reach the level indicated.  
 N -nester: breeding confirmed by observation of nest, food-carrying adult, or dependent young.  
 ? -status indicated has yet to be confirmed.

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
<b>WATERFOWL</b>					
Greater White-fronted Goose		U		U	O
Snow Goose		AI		AI	O
Ross's Goose		R		R	
Cackling Goose		CI		C	CI
Canada Goose N		A	C	A	A
Trumpeter Swan N?		O	X		
Tundra Swan		O		R	X
Wood Duck N		R	R	R	O
Gadwall N		A	A	A	O
American Wigeon N		F	F	F	O
Mallard N		A	A	A	A
Blue-winged Teal N		A	A	A	
Cinnamon Teal		O			
Northern Shoveler N		C	F	C	
Northern Pintail N		C	F	C	O
Green-winged Teal N		F	U	F	O
Canvasback N		F	U	F	
Redhead N		F	U	F	O
Ring-necked Duck		F	U	F	
Greater Scaup		R		R	
Lesser Scaup		F	R	F	O
Surf Scoter				X	
White-winged Scoter				X	
Long-tailed Duck		X			
Bufflehead		U		U	O
Common Goldeneye		U		U	R
Barrow's Goldeneye				X	

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Hooded Merganser N		R	O	R	
Common Merganser		C		C	R
Red-breasted Merganser		R		R	O
Ruddy Duck N		F	U	F	
<b>GAMEBIRDS</b>					
Gray Partridge N		U	U	U	U
Ring-necked Pheasant N		A	A	A	A
Sharp-tailed Grouse N		C	C	C	C
Wild Turkey N		F	F	F	F
<b>LOONS/GREBES</b>					
Red-throated Loon				X	
Pacific Loon				O	
Common Loon		R	X	R	
Pied-billed Grebe N		U	U	U	
Horned Grebe		U		U	
Red-necked Grebe				O	
Eared Grebe N?		C	U	C	
Western Grebe N?		F	R	F	
Clark's Grebe		RI	RI	RI	
<b>CORMORANT/PELICAN</b>					
Double-crested Cormorant N?		C	U	C	
American White Pelican		C	U	C	
<b>HERONS/EGRETS</b>					
American Bittern N		R	R	R	
Least Bittern		X			
Great Blue Heron N		U	U	U	
Great Egret		O	O		
Snowy Egret				O	
Little Blue Heron		X			
Cattle Egret		O			
Black-crowned Night-Heron		R	R	R	
White-faced Ibis		R	R	R	
<b>VULTURE</b>					
Turkey Vulture N?		U	U	U	
<b>RAPTORS</b>					
Osprey		R	X	R	
Bald Eagle N		U	R	U	F



SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Northern Harrier N		F	U	F	RI
Sharp-shinned Hawk		U		U	O
Cooper's Hawk N		U	R	U	O
Northern Goshawk		R		R	R
Broad-winged Hawk		R		R	
Swainson's Hawk N		F	F	F	
Red-tailed Hawk N		F	F	F	R
Ferruginous Hawk N		U	U	U	O
Rough-legged Hawk		U		U	UI
Golden Eagle N		U	U	U	U
American Kestrel N		U	U	U	O
Merlin		R		R	R
Gyr Falcon		O		O	O
Peregrine Falcon		R		R	
Prairie Falcon N		U	R	U	R
<b>RAILS/CRANES</b>					
Virginia Rail N		R	R	R	
Sora N		U	U	U	
American Coot N		C	C	C	RI
Sandhill Crane		F		F	X
<b>SHOREBIRDS</b>					
Black-bellied Plover		R	R	R	
Semipalmated Plover		U	U	U	
Piping Plover		O	O		
Killdeer N		C	C	C	
American Avocet N		U	U	U	
Spotted Sandpiper N		U	U	U	
Solitary Sandpiper		U	U	U	
Greater Yellowlegs		F	U	F	
Willet N		F	U	F	
Lesser Yellowlegs		C	U	C	
Upland Sandpiper N		F	F	F	
Marbled Godwit N		F	U	F	
Ruddy Turnstone			O	O	
Sanderling		R	R	R	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		C	C	C	
Least Sandpiper		C	C	C	
White-rumped Sandpiper		R	R		
Baird's Sandpiper		C	C	C	
Pectoral Sandpiper		U	U	U	
Stilt Sandpiper		U	U	U	

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Short-billed Dowitcher		O	O	O	
Long-billed Dowitcher		F	F	F	
Wilson's Snipe N		U	R	U	
Wilson's Phalarope N		C	F	C	
Red-necked Phalarope		U	U	U	
Red Phalarope		X			
<b>GULLS/TERNs</b>					
Bonaparte's Gull		U	R	U	
Franklin's Gull		C	U	C	
Ring-billed Gull		C	F	C	O
California Gull		U	U	U	
Herring Gull		U		U	O
Thayer's Gull		X			
Least Tern			X		
Caspian Tern		O			
Black Tern N?		F	F	F	
Common Tern		R			
Forster's Tern N?		C	U	C	
<b>DOVES/CUCKOOS</b>					
Rock Pigeon N		C	C	C	C
Mourning Dove N		A	A	A	O
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			X		
Black-billed Cuckoo N?		RI	RI	O	
<b>OWLS</b>					
Barn Owl		X		X	
Eastern Screech-Owl N		R	R	R	R
Great Horned Owl N		U	U	U	U
Snowy Owl		R		R	R
Burrowing Owl N		U	U	U	
Long-eared Owl N		RI	RI	RI	O
Short-eared Owl N		UI	UI	UI	UI
Northern Saw-whet Owl		O		O	O
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>					
Common Nighthawk N		F	F	F	
Common Poorwill N?		R	R		
<b>HUMMINGBIRD/KINGFISHER</b>					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			O	R	
Belted Kingfisher N		U	U	U	O

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>					
Lewis's Woodpecker			X		
Red-headed Woodpecker N		R	R	R	
Red-bellied Woodpecker					X
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		R		R	
Downy Woodpecker N?		U	U	U	U
Hairy Woodpecker N?		U	U	U	U
Northern Flicker N		F	F	F	R
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>					
Olive-sided Flycatcher		O		O	
Western Wood-Pewee		O			
Alder Flycatcher		R	R		
Willow Flycatcher N		U	U	U	
Least Flycatcher N		F	F	F	
Say's Phoebe N		U	U	U	
Western Kingbird N		C	C	C	
Eastern Kingbird N		C	C	C	
<b>SHRIKES</b>					
Loggerhead Shrike N		U	U	U	
Northern Shrike		UI		UI	UI
<b>VIREOS</b>					
Blue-headed Vireo		O		O	
Warbling Vireo N		F	F	F	
Philadelphia Vireo		O			
Red-eyed Vireo N?		U	R	U	
<b>CORVIDS</b>					
Gray Jay					X
Blue Jay N?		U	U	U	R
Black-billed Magpie N		F	F	F	F
American Crow N		C	U	C	RI
<b>LARK/SWALLOWS</b>					
Horned Lark N		A	A	A	AI
Purple Martin		O			
Tree Swallow N		F	U	F	
Northern Rough-w. Swallow N		U	U	U	
Bank Swallow N		C	C	C	
Cliff Swallow N		A	A	A	

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Barn Swallow N		C	C	C	
<b>CHICKADEE &amp; ALLIES</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee N?		U	U	U	U
Red-breasted Nuthatch N		U	O	U	O
White-breasted Nuthatch N?		U	U	U	U
Brown Creeper		R		R	R
<b>WRENS/KINGLETS</b>					
Rock Wren N		U	U	U	
House Wren N		C	C	C	
Marsh Wren		R		R	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		X			
Golden-crowned Kinglet		U		U	R
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		U		U	
<b>THRUSHES/MIMICS</b>					
Eastern Bluebird N		R	R	R	X
Mountain Bluebird N		U	U	U	
Townsend's Solitaire		R		R	R
Veery		R			
Gray-cheeked Thrush		U			
Swainson's Thrush		F		U	
Hermit Thrush		R		R	
American Robin N		C	C	C	FI
Gray Catbird N		U	U	U	
Northern Mockingbird		X	X		
Sage Thrasher				X	
Brown Thrasher N		F	F	F	
<b>STARLING/PIPITS</b>					
European Starling N		C	C	C	U
American Pipit		F		F	
Sprague's Pipit N		F	F	F	
<b>WAXWINGS</b>					
Bohemian Waxwing		FI		FI	FI
Cedar Waxwing N		F	R	F	CI
<b>LONGSPURS</b>					
Lapland Longspur		F		F	UI
Chestnut-collared Longspur N		A	A	A	
Smith's Longspur				O	



SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
McCown's Longspur		X	X	X	
Snow Bunting		R		R	R
<b>WARBLERS</b>					
Tennessee Warbler		R		R	
Orange-crowned Warbler		F		F	
Nashville Warbler		R		R	
Northern Parula		X			
Yellow Warbler N		C	C	U	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		C		C	
Black-throated Green Warbler		X			
Palm Warbler		R		R	
Blackpoll Warbler		F		U	
Black-and-white Warbler		R		R	
American Redstart		U		U	
Ovenbird		U		U	
Northern Waterthrush		R		R	
Common Yellowthroat N		C	C	C	
Wilson's Warbler		R		U	
Yellow-breasted Chat		U	O	U	
<b>SPARROWS</b>					
Spotted Towhee N?		F	U	F	X
American Tree Sparrow		F		F	RI
Chipping Sparrow N		C	F	C	
Clay-colored Sparrow N?		F	R	U	
Field Sparrow N?		U	U	U	
Vesper Sparrow N		C	F	C	
Lark Sparrow N		U	U	U	
Lark Bunting N		CI	CI	CI	
Savannah Sparrow N		C	U	C	
Grasshopper Sparrow N		A	A	A	
Baird's Sparrow N		UI	UI	UI	
Le Conte's Sparrow		O	X		
Fox Sparrow		O		O	
Song Sparrow N		F	F	F	
Lincoln's Sparrow		U		U	
Swamp Sparrow		O		O	
White-throated Sparrow		U		U	
Harris's Sparrow		U		U	O
White-crowned Sparrow		C		C	
Dark-eyed Junco		C		C	R

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
<b>TANAGER</b>					
Scarlet Tanager		X			
<b>GROSBEAKS</b>					
Rose-breasted Grosbeak N		R	R	R	
Black-headed Grosbeak N		U	U	U	
Blue Grosbeak			X	X	
Lazuli Bunting N		U	U	U	
Indigo Bunting		R	O	R	
Dickcissel N		RI	RI		
<b>BLACKBIRDS/ORIOLES</b>					
Bobolink N		F	F	U	
Red-winged Blackbird N		C	C	C	RI
Western Meadowlark N		A	A	A	O
Yellow-headed Blackbird N		C	C	C	
Rusty Blackbird		R		R	RI
Brewer's Blackbird N		U	U	U	
Common Grackle N		C	C	C	O
Brown-headed Cowbird N		A	A	A	
Orchard Oriole N		U	U	U	
Bullock's Oriole			X		
Baltimore Oriole N		U	U	U	
<b>FINCHES</b>					
Pine Grosbeak					X
Purple Finch		R		R	FI
House Finch N		U	U	U	U
Red Crossbill		RI	RI	RI	RI
White-winged Crossbill					O
Common Redpoll		UI		UI	UI
Pine Siskin N?		FI	RI	FI	FI
American Goldfinch N		C	C	C	UI
Evening Grosbeak					E
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>					
House Sparrow N		C	C	C	C

## **ANNOTATED CHECKLIST**

### GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Look for Greater White-fronted Geese on large wetlands and in cropland.

**Remarks:** Northwestern SD is outside of the main migration path for Greater White-fronted Geese through the Northern Great Plains. Small numbers, however, are occasionally seen, usually with large flocks of Canada or Snow Geese. White-fronted migration peaks in April and from late September to late October. One bird was found on the 1998 CBC.

### SNOW GOOSE (*Chen caerulescens*)

**Status:** Abundant but irregular spring and fall migrant, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** Snow Geese use both cropland and large reservoirs in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Migration peaks in April and from late September to early November. One Snow Goose with found on the CBC held 18 December 2008.

### ROSS'S GOOSE (*Chen rossii*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** The distribution of the Ross's Goose is the same as the Snow Goose.

**Remarks:** Look for this species in large flocks of Snow Geese. The peak migration periods for Ross's Geese are April and October.

### CAKCLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*)

**Status:** Common but irregular spring migrant, common fall migrant, common but irregular winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Cackling Geese use cropland and wetland habitats.

**High Counts:** On the CBCs on 14 December 2006 and 21 December 2007, 500 and 1000 Cackling Geese were present, respectively.

**Remarks:** This species was only recently (i.e. 2004) split from the Canada Goose. Much remains to be learned about its status within the checklist area.

### CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant, common summer resident, abundant winter resident.

**Distribution:** Canada Geese use both cropland and wetlands in the checklist area. Staging and wintering birds are typically found on the largest reservoirs available; local breeders are more widespread, regularly using stock ponds as small as 5 acres (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Nesting Records:** Canada Goose nests and broods are commonly observed in the checklist area. In Pasture 9, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 18 April 2010, a Canada Goose was found incubating atop a tree nest that had been built and used by a Ferruginous Hawk in 2008; the nest had been used by a Great Horned Owl in 2009 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** On the 14 December 2006 CBC, 9,500 Canada Geese were tallied.

**Remarks:** Local numbers swell with migrants from mid-March to late April, and again from October to early November. Early April to mid-August is the peak of breeding. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 2.3 and 0.1 Canada Geese per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009. Canada Geese and Mallards typically maintain a small opening in the ice of Shadehill Res. through the winter.

#### TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant, accidental summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Trumpeter and Tundra swans use similar habitats.

**Remarks:** The only local records are of a pair seen at a large stockpond near the Hoopee Allotment, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND on 1 April 2004 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.); and of a pair (Figure 41) at and near Lemmon Lake GPA on 14-16 May 2011 (Jeff Palmer, pers comm., m.ob.), that appeared to be nesting ([www.flickr.com/photos/siouxfalls/sets72157626754651732/show/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/siouxfalls/sets72157626754651732/show/)). One of the birds was still present as of 19 June 2011; however, no other evidence of nesting was found.

Figure 41. Trumpeter Swan.



#### TUNDRA SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant, rare fall migrant, accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Tundra Swans use larger reservoirs within the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Northwestern SD is off the main migration path for this species. Peak movement is during April and from early October to mid-November. Tallman et al. (2002) show a winter record for this species at Shadehill Res. on 16 December 1970.

#### WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Wood Ducks might be found in any seasonal or semi permanent wetland, but are most reliably found along large creeks and rivers.

**Nesting Records:** Wood Duck broods have been seen at Lemmon Lake GPA (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). A Wood Duck hen and brood were along the lower reaches of the North Fork Grand River on 7 July 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Migration occurs in April, September, and October; breeding occurs from early May to mid-July. A male was found at the Shadehill Dam spillway on the 16 December 2010 CBC.



**GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** Gadwall can be found in all wetland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Broods have been seen on many of the checklist area's stock ponds.

**High Counts:** Three Gadwalls were found during the CBC on 15 December 2010.

**Remarks:** Peak migration is from mid-April to mid-May, and again from September to October. Late May to late August is the peak of breeding.

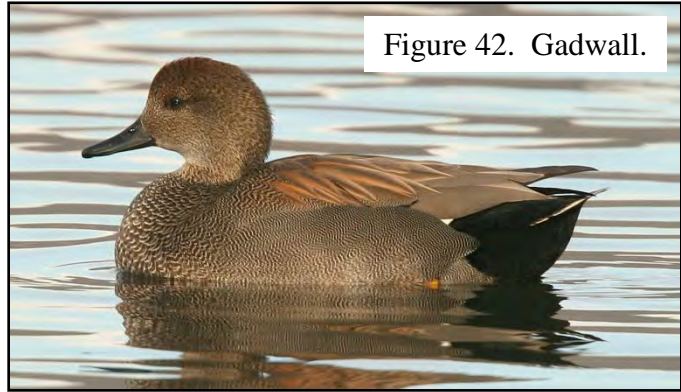


Figure 42. Gadwall.

**AMERICAN WIGEON** (*Anas americana*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** Like Gadwall, American Wigeon can be found in all wetland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Broods have been seen on many of the checklist area's stock ponds.

**High Counts:** Twenty-seven (27) American Wigeon were at the largest stockpond in Pasture 8 on 5 June 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). The CBC held 14 December 2006 found 21 American Wigeons.

**Remarks:** April and September to mid-October are the most active periods for migration, whereas early June to mid-August is the peak of breeding.

**MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

**Status:** Abundant year-round resident.

**Distribution:** The adaptable Mallard can be found anywhere there is water. They are also regularly seen in cropland

**Nesting Records:** Broods have been seen on many of the checklist area's stock ponds, as well as along numerous creeks and rivers.

**High Counts:** Approximately 15,000 Mallards were present for the 14 December 2006 CBC.

**Remarks:** Spring migration runs from mid-March to early May; fall flights are most obvious in October and November. Late April to mid-August is the peak of breeding. Although this species is present year-round, the bulk of summer birds are likely different individuals than the bulk of winter ones.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** (*Anas discors*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** All wetland habitats are used by this species.

**Nesting Records:** Blue-winged Teal broods are noted annually in the checklist area at both stock ponds and along the larger creeks.

**Remarks:** Blue-winged Teal spend relatively little time in the Dakotas; most birds arrive in the second half of April, and depart in mid-September or early October. Mid-May to mid-August is the peak of breeding.

**CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas cyanoptera*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Cinnamon Teal use wetland habitats.

**Remarks:** The only local record is of a male bird seen near Pasture 8, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 11 May 1996 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**NORTHERN SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses wetland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Broods are seen annually in the checklist area, on both stock ponds and along the larger creeks.

**Remarks:** Peak movements are from mid-April to mid-May and again from September through October. Mid-May to mid-August is the peak of breeding.

**NORTHERN PINTAIL** (*Anas acuta*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Northern Pintails use wetlands and cropland.

**Nesting Records:** Broods are seen annually in the checklist area, on both stock ponds and along the larger creeks.

**High Counts:** Eight (8) Northern Pintail were found on the 21 December 2007 CBC.

**Remarks:** The peak breeding season for the Northern Pintail is from early April to early August. Annual numbers are at their highest in late March and throughout October.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** (*Anas crecca*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident, casual winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses wetlands.

**Nesting Records:** Broods have been seen on many of checklist area's stock ponds.

**Remarks:** April and October are important migration months. Breeding activity peaks from mid-May to mid-August. A bird was found on the CBC held 15 December 2005.



Figure 43. Green-winged Teal.

**CANVASBACK** (*Aythya valisineria*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Canvasbacks favor semi permanent wetlands with moderate amounts of emergent cover such as cattails or bulrushes, and extensive beds of submergent vegetation (pondweed, coontail, milfoil, etc.).

**Nesting Records:** Canvasback broods have been seen at Lemmon Lake GPA (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Early April and mid-September through October are the periods of greatest abundance. Peak breeding activity is from mid-May to mid-August.

**REDHEAD** (*Aythya americana*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Redheads and Canvasbacks are often found using the same habitat.

**Nesting Records:** Broods have been seen on stock ponds within the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Two birds were found at the Shadhill Dam spillway during the 15 December 2010 CBC.

**Remarks:** Early April and October are the periods of greatest abundance. Peak breeding activity occurs from early June to late August.

**RING-NECKED DUCK**

(*Aythya collaris*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Look for Ring-necked Ducks in the same types of habitats used by Canvasback and Redheads.

**High Counts:** Nineteen (19) Ring-necked Ducks were on a stockpond in Allotment 2C-East, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 1 May 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Migration is most active in April and again in early October.



Figure 44. Ring-necked Duck.

**GREATER SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Look for Greater Scaup at the largest bodies of water available in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** This species is most likely to be found during April, October, and November.

**LESSER SCAUP** (*Aythya affinis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Look for Lesser Scaup in the same habitats used by Canvasback.

**High Counts:** Four birds were found at the Shadehill Dam spillway during the 14 December 2006 CBC.

**Remarks:** Migrant numbers peak from April through early May, and again from October through early November. A bird was also found on the 1995 CBC.

**SURF SCOTER** (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Look for this species on Shadehill Res. and other large bodies of water.

**Remarks:** A Surf Scoter accompanied White-winged Scoters at Lemmon Lake GPA in the fall of 1986, while another Surf Scoter stayed for about two weeks at Vobejda GPA in autumn 1997 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).



**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** (*Melanitta fusca*)

**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Look for this species on Shadehill Res. and other large bodies of water.

**Remarks:** At least two birds were at Lemmon Lake GPA in the fall of 1986 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** (*Clangula hyemalis*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Look for this species on Shadehill Res. and other large bodies of water.

**Remarks:** A Long-tailed Duck was at Shadehill Res. on 27 April 1988, in the company of Common Goldeneyes (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**BUFFLEHEAD** (*Bucephala albeola*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** Migrating Buffleheads use a variety of wetland types, but are most likely to be found on semipermanent wetlands with extensive submergent vegetation beds.

**High Counts:** Two birds were found during the 21 December 2007 CBC.

**Remarks:** Spring migration peaks in April; fall migration peaks in the second half of October.



### COMMON GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Common Goldeneye use the largest, deepest, least vegetated wetlands present.

**High Counts:** The 14 December 2006 CBC found 16 Common Goldeneyes.

**Remarks:** Migration occurs mostly from late March through early April and from mid-October through late November.

### BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*)

**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Barrow's Goldeneye use the largest, deepest, least vegetated wetlands present.

**Remarks:** The only record is of an immature male seen at Shadehill Res. on 14 December 2003 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

### HOODED MERGANSER

(*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, casual summer resident.

**Distribution:** Hooded Merganser use wetlands, especially semi-permanent and permanent ones.

**Nesting Records:** A hen Hooded Merganser with brood was found on a stockpond on the GRNG during systematic surveys in summer 2003 (Dr. Jane Austin, pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** April and October are the peak migration months for Hooded Mergansers, while May to July is the peak of breeding. On 6 June 2002, two females were found at a stockpond in the Miller Allotment, GRNG, Corson Co., SD; while another female was found the same day at a stockpond in Allotment 2B, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

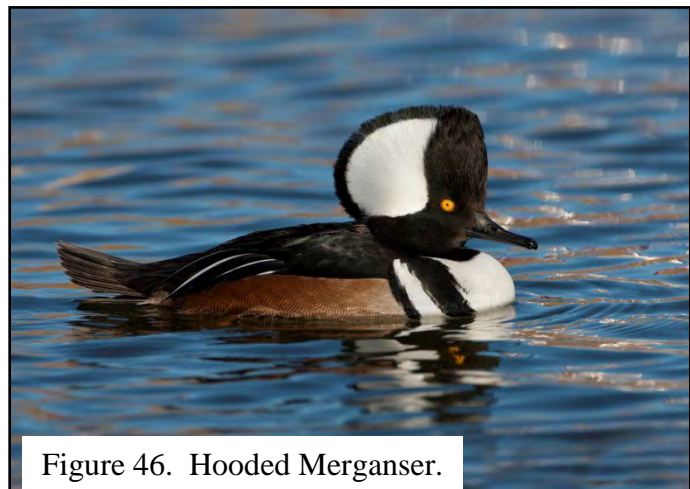


Figure 46. Hooded Merganser.

### COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, rare winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Common Mergansers use the largest, deepest, least vegetated wetlands available.

**High Counts:** The 1999 CBC found 42 Common Mergansers.

**Remarks:** April and November are the best periods to watch for migrating Common Mergansers. Relatively late birds included two at Lemmon Lake GPA and one at the Pasture 9 Wildlife Area, GRNG, on 13 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.; m.ob.).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Red-breasted Mergansers use the same types of habitat favored by Common Mergansers.

**Remarks:** This species is most likely to be found during March, April, October, and November. A Red-breasted Merganser was at Shadehill Res. on 4 December 1988 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**RUDDY DUCK** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Ruddy Ducks use a variety of wetland types, but are most likely to be found on semipermanent wetlands with sufficient growths of emergent vegetation, such as cattail or bulrush.

**Nesting Records:** This species has been confirmed as a local breeder (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Early May is the peak of spring numbers, whereas fall numbers swell from mid-August to mid-October. Mid-June to late August is the peak of breeding.

**GRAY PARTRIDGE** (*Perdix perdix*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Gray Partridge use all open habitats. They are most often encountered in or adjacent to cropland, hayland, or CRP fields. In winter, partridge are most likely to be seen near occupied farmsteads (especially where livestock are being fed), or in harvested grain or sunflower fields.

**Nesting Records:** Partridge broods are found annually within the checklist area.

**High Counts:** The 2002 CBC recorded 15 Gray Partridges.

**Remarks:** Gray Partridge numbers fluctuate from year-to-year. They are especially vulnerable to harsh winters and wet springs. Late May to late August is the peak of the breeding season.

**RING-NECKED PHEASANT** (*Phasianus colchicus*)

**Status:** Abundant year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Ring-necked Pheasants and Gray Partridge use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Pheasant broods are seen annually throughout the checklist area.

**High Counts:** The 18 December 2008 CBC found 3114 Ring-necked Pheasants.

**Remarks:** Mid-May to mid-August is the peak of breeding. Males can be heard calling during the early morning hours, from April through June. Sparks et al. (2010) found an



Figure 47. Ring-necked Pheasant.

average of 2.8 pheasants per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 6.2 and 5.5 Ring-necked Pheasants per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009. Pheasants are likely even more numerous on private lands within the checklist area, due to both denser grass habitats and adjacency of cropland.

**SHARP-TAILED GROUSE** (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)

**Status:** Common year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Sharp-tailed Grouse are occasionally seen perched in isolated trees, and often roost or loaf in large shrub patches. They are most often encountered in or adjacent to cropland, hayland, CRP fields or mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Nests and broods are commonly seen throughout the checklist area.

**High Counts:** The 15 December 2010 CBC found 830 Sharp-tailed Grouse.

**Remarks:** Male Sharp-tailed Grouse gather at leks to attract mates. Males can be observed on the leks from late March to mid-May, and again in mid-to late September. Peak activity is typically in the first 2 hours after dawn, during mid-to late April.

**WILD TURKEY** (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

**Status:** Fairly common year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Watch for Wild Turkeys in extensive woodland habitats, especially near cropland or farmsteads.

**Nesting Records:** Numerous nests and broods have been seen in the checklist area.

**High Counts:** The 18 December 2008 CBC found 54 Wild Turkeys.

**Remarks:** Displaying Wild Turkeys can be heard in April and May. Breeding activities peak from April through July.



Figure 48. Wild Turkey.

**RED-THROATED LOON** (*Gavia stellata*)

**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Red-throated Loons are most likely to be detected on Shadehill Res., Flat Creek, or Lemmon Lake GPA.

**Remarks:** The only local record of this species was of a single bird at Shadehill Res. on 16 November 2003 (Jack Lefor pers. comm.). This species is considered accidental in both ND and SD.

**PACIFIC LOON** (*Gavia pacifica*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Pacific Loons should be looked for at the same sites recommended for Red-throated Loons.

**Remarks:** The only local specific record of this species was of a bird at Shadehill Res. 18 October 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. comm.), but several other birds have been noted in late fall on unspecified dates (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**COMMON LOON** (*Gavia immer*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant; accidental summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Common Loons should be watched for at Shadehill Res., Flat Creek, and Lemmon Lake GPA, as well as at the largest of the stock ponds, especially those which are fish-bearing.

**High Counts:** Four Common Loons were at Shadehill Res. on 18 October 2002 (Ron Martin and Clark Talkington, pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** Common Loons are closely associated with large (over 10 acres), deep waterbodies. Common Loon migration is most active in mid-April, October, and early November. A bird was at Lemmon Lake GPA on 10 June 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**PIED-BILLED GREBE** (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

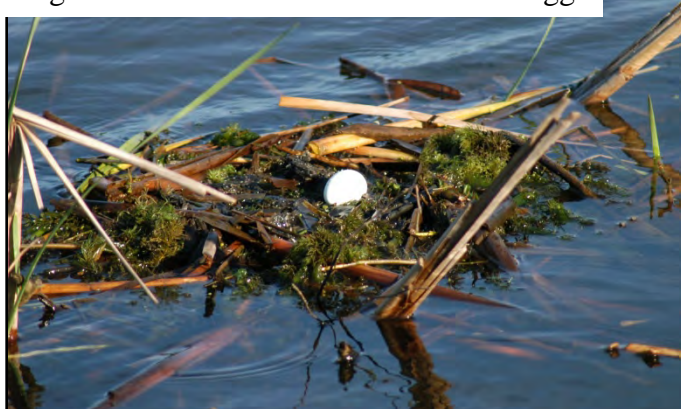
**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Pied-billed Grebes use reservoirs that have an extensive (33%-66%) coverage of cattails and bulrush.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Pied-billed Grebes typically arrive in mid-April, with most birds departing by mid-October. The peak of breeding activity is from late May to early August.

Figure 49. Pied-billed Grebe nest with egg.



**HORNED GREBE** (*Podiceps auritus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Horned Grebes use the same type of habitat favored by Eared Grebes.

**High Counts:** Fifteen (15) Horned Grebes were at Shadehill Res. on 18 September 1999 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species might be present from mid-April to mid-May, and during October.



**RED-NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps grisegena*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Look for migrant birds on large reservoirs.

**Remarks:** Local records include one at Lemmon Lake GPA on 27 October 1985 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.), and one at Shadehill Res. on 18 October 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. comm.).

**EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Look for Eared Grebes on large reservoirs with open water and extensive beds of submergent vegetation, such as pondweed, watermilfoil, and bladderwort.

**High Counts:** Thirty-five (35) Eared Grebes were at Lemmon Lake GPA on 17 June 2010 (Nancy Drilling, pers. comm.).

**Nesting Records:** Local nesting has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**Remarks:** Migrants are most numerous from mid-April to mid-May, and again during September and October. May to August is the likely peak of breeding season.

**WESTERN GREBE**

(*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident.

**Distribution:** Western Grebes prefer reservoirs with at least some emergent vegetation, such as cattails or bulrush.

**Nesting Records:** Local nesting has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**Remarks:** Spring migration peaks from mid-April to mid-May, whereas fall migration peaks during October. May to August is the likely peak of breeding season.



Figure 50. Western Grebe.

**CLARK'S GREBE** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)

**Status:** Rare but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Clark's and Western grebes use the same types of habitat.

**Remarks:** Western and Clark's grebes have similar migration seasons. Much remains to be learned of this species' local status. A Clark's Grebe was at Lemmon Lake GPA 14 May 2011 (Scott Stolz, pers. comm., m.ob.). Please report any sightings of Clark's Grebe within the checklist area.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Double-crested Cormorants prefer large reservoirs.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding has yet to be confirmed in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** This species typically arrives in early April and is then present through late October. They are often seen in the same areas as American White Pelicans. May to August is the likely peak of breeding.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** American White Pelicans are found on large reservoirs and along the Grand, North Fork Grand, and South Fork Grand rivers.

**Remarks:** Pelicans are usually present from early April to mid-September. Most summer birds are likely nonbreeders, as no nearby nesting colonies are known.

**AMERICAN BITTERN** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species use the edges of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with extensive stands of emergent vegetation, such as cattail, bulrush, Whitetop, Slough Sedge, and Tall Mannagrass.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species should be watched for from mid-April through early October, though it is most likely to be found from early May to late August. Mid-June to late July is considered the peak of the breeding season.

**LEAST BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with extensive stands of cattail.

**Remarks:** The only local record is of a bird found at Lemmon Lake GPA on 25 May 1986 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).



Figure 51. American Bittern.

**GREAT BLUE HERON** (*Ardea herodias*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Great Blue Herons can be seen along the edges of rivers, streams, and reservoirs throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Seven to eight active nests were found along the North Fork Grand River at Shadehill Res., on 8 June 2005, 26 April 2006, and 25 April 2007 (Nancy Drilling, pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** Great Blue Herons arrive in early April. Most depart during October. Breeding season activity peaks from late April to early August.

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Great Egrets use the same types of habitat used by Great Blue Herons.

**Remarks:** Great Egrets migrate north in April and May. Post-breeding wanderers might be encountered from early July to late September, though we know of no fall records to date.



Figure 52. Great Egret.

**SNOWY EGRET** (*Egretta thula*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Snowy Egrets are most likely to be found along margins of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands.

**Remarks:** The only local record is of a bird at Vobejda Lake GPA in August 2005 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** (*Egretta caerulea*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Little Blue Herons use the same types of habitat used by Great Blue Herons.

**Remarks:** The only local Little Blue Heron record is of one photographed at Shadehill Res. on 1 May 1988 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Cattle Egrets often forage near livestock and along margins of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands.

**Remarks:** You are most likely to encounter this species during May.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species prefers seasonal and semipermanant wetlands with extensive emergent vegetation.

**Remarks:** Migration peaks during the second half of April and during September and October. No nearby rookeries are known.

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** (*Plegadis chihi*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species prefers seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with emergent vegetation.

**Remark:** White-faced Ibis might be present anytime between late April and late September. There are no known nearby rookeries. An agitated bird was seen on private land near GRNG, Allotment 2A, Perkins Co, SD on 3 June 2007 (Jan Sailer, Gerry Sailer, pers. comm.).

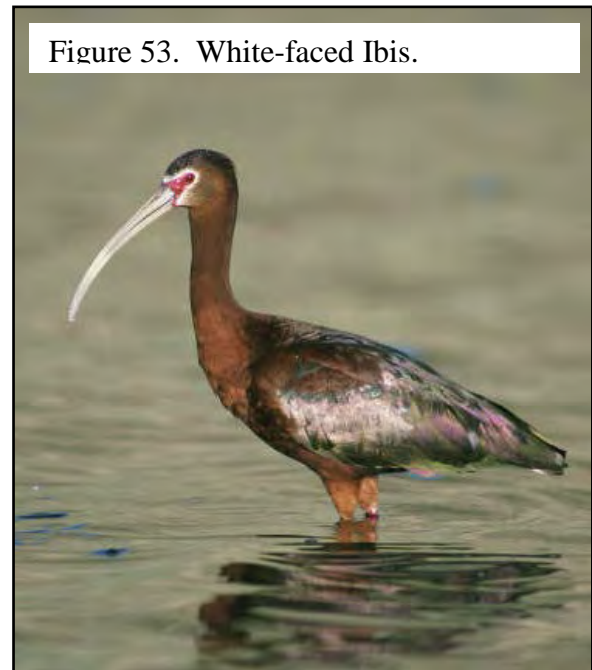


Figure 53. White-faced Ibis.

**TURKEY VULTURE** (*Cathartes aura*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Turkey Vultures are seen in flight throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**Remarks:** Look for Turkey Vultures from early April through September. Stragglers are seen into early October. May to July is the likely peak of breeding activity.

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, accidental summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Ospreys forage in large reservoirs.

**Remarks:** Migrants might be encountered from late April through early May or from late September through mid-October. An Osprey was observed fishing at Shadehill Res. on 7 July 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**BALD EAGLE** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident, fairly common winter resident.

**Distribution:** Bald Eagles are seen throughout the checklist area, but are most often seen in deciduous woodland (especially along large rivers or reservoirs).



**Nesting Records:** A Bald Eagle nest with 3 chicks was discovered on 19 May 2005 approximately 3 miles downstream of Shadehill Dam (Craig Knowles, pers. comm.). Another nest was found near Allotment 6G, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD in April 2008; a nearby nest was active in spring 2009-2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). The fate of these nestings is unknown.

**High Counts:** The 15 December 2010 CBC found 17 Bald Eagles.

**Remarks:** One-two adult birds were repeatedly seen at Lemmon Lake GPA in spring and summer 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Bald Eagles are regular migrants through northwestern SD. Migration is most active in March and April, and from September through December. March to July is the peak of breeding activities. This species has increased in the checklist area in recent years; the bulk of the sightings are within a few miles of Shadehill Res.

#### NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident, rare but irregular winter resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Northern Harriers can be seen throughout the checklist area, avoiding only dense woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). Knowles (2002) found a female Northern Harrier feigning injury when flushed from a grassy coulee in Pasture 9, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD.

**High Counts:** Seven (7) Northern Harriers were found during the 21 December 2007 CBC.

**Remarks:** Northern Harriers are regularly present from early March to late November. The peak breeding season is from early May to mid-July.

#### SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** Sharp-shinned Hawks are most often seen in or near woodland.

**Remarks:** Sharp-shinned Hawks are most likely to be encountered in April or September/October. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was found on the 1993 CBC.

#### COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** An active nest was found at Merrimans Grove Campground, Shadehill Res., Perkins Co., SD on 14 May 2011 (Nancy Drilling, pers. comm., m.ob.).



Figure 54. Cooper's Hawk.

**Remarks:** Watch for Cooper's Hawks from late March through late October; breeding peaks from late April to mid-July. A Cooper's Hawk was found during the 16 December 2009 CBC.

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK** (*Accipiter gentilis*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

**Distribution:** Northern Goshawks are most often encountered in or near woodland.

**High Counts:** Two Northern Goshawks were found on the 1996 CBC.

**Remarks:** Watch for this species from mid-October through March. The numbers of migrant and winter birds fluctuate, reaching peaks approximately every 10 years.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** (*Buteo platypterus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**High Counts:** Three birds, including a dark-morph, were found near Shadehill Res., on 14 May 2011 (Ron Martin, pers. comm., m.ob.).

**Distribution:** Broad-winged Hawks regularly use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Migrants pass through from mid-April to late May, and again during September.

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** (*Buteo swainsoni*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Swainson's Hawks nest along woodland edges, and forage in open habitats, including cropland, hayland, CRP fields, and mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Numerous Swainson's Hawk nests (Figure 55) are found annually within the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Swainson's Hawks are present from mid-April to mid-September. Mid-May to late July is the peak of breeding activity.

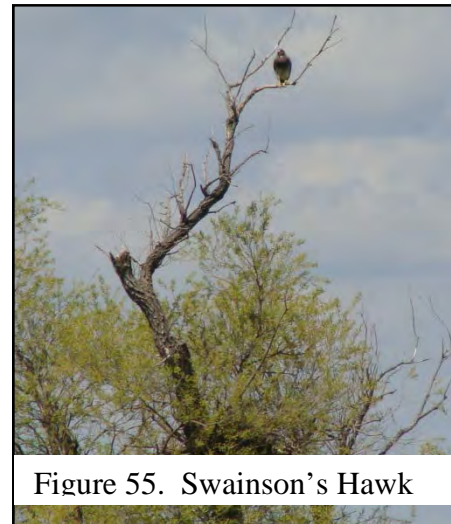


Figure 55. Swainson's Hawk

**RED-TAILED HAWK** (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, rare winter resident.

**Distribution:** Red-tailed and Swainson's hawks use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Red-tailed Hawk nests are found annually within the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Nine (9) Red-tailed Hawks were found on the 15 December 2010 CBC.

**Remarks:** Red-tailed Hawks can be seen regularly from March through November.

### FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Ferruginous Hawks use the same types of habitat favored by Red-tailed and Swainson's hawks.

**Nesting Records:** Ferruginous Hawk nests are found annually within the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Ferruginous Hawks migrate in March/April and from late August through October. Late April to early July is the peak of breeding activities. This species is often seen at or near prairie dog colonies. Single birds were found during the 15 December 2005, 18 December 2008, and 16 December 2009 CBCs; another was found during count week of the 21 December 2007 CBC. This species appears to be declining within the checklist area (Dan Svingen, pers. obs. for years 1999-2011).

### ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (*Buteo lagopus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, uncommon but irregular winter resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Rough-legged Hawks forage in cropland, hayland, CRP fields, and mixed-grass prairie. They also forage along wetland edges.

**High Counts:** The 18 December 2008 CBC recorded 31 Rough-legged Hawks.

**Remarks:** In most of ND and SD, this species overwinters during mild winters, but moves further south during harsh winters.

### GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-long resident.

**Distribution:** Golden Eagles can be encountered throughout the checklist area; they use a wide variety of habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Golden Eagles nests are found annually within the checklist area.

**High Counts:** The 18 December 2008 CBC recorded 10 Golden Eagles.

**Remarks:** Early April to late June is considered the peak of the breeding season.

### AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** American Kestrels nest in tree or cliff cavities. The great majority of nests are located in Plains Cottonwoods. Foraging birds can be found in all of the checklist area's habitats.

**Nesting Records:** American Kestrel nests are found annually within the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Two American Kestrels were recorded during the CBC on 15 December 2010.

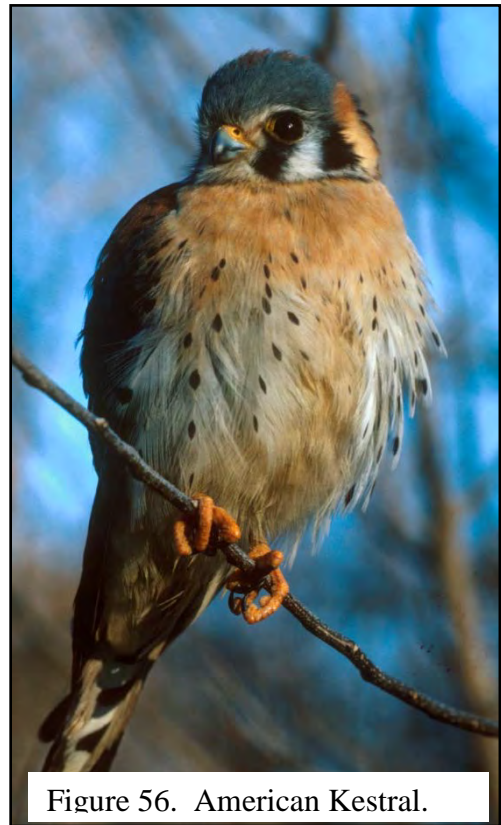


Figure 56. American Kestrel.



**Remarks:** Birds are present from March through late October. Peak breeding is from mid-May to late July. A single American Kestrel was found during the 1999 CBC. This species appears to be declining within the checklist area (Dan Svingen, pers. obs. for years 1999-2011).

**MERLIN** (*Falco columbarius*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Merlins might be seen in any of the checklist area's habitats.

**Remarks:** This species regularly nests in adjacent Harding County, SD. Both "Prairie" (*F. c. richardsonii*) and "Taiga" (*F. c. columbarius*) Merlins pass through the checklist area during migration. Spring migration peaks in March and April, whereas fall migrants can be encountered anytime between August and December.

**GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

**Distribution:** Gyrfalcons use all of the checklist area's habitats, avoiding only the densest portion of the woodland habitats.

**High Counts:** Two Gyrfalcons were found during the 1990 CBC.

**Remarks:** Gyrfalcons are most often seen in the checklist area between November and March.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Peregrine Falcons use the same types of habitats used by Gyrfalcons.

**Remarks:** Migrating Peregrines are most likely to be seen from mid-April to late May, and again from early September through mid-October. Both "American" (*F. p. anatum*) and "Tundra" (*F. p. tundrius*) subspecies pass through the checklist area.

**PRAIRIE FALCON** (*Falco mexicanus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer and winter resident.

**Distribution:** Prairie Falcons can be seen across the checklist area but are most often encountered near badland topography.

**Nesting Records:** Knowles (2002) reported a nest in Pasture 9, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD in 2002.

**High Counts:** Two Prairie Falcons were found during the 15 December 2010 CBC.

**Remarks:** Early April through mid-July is the peak of breeding.



Figure 57. Prairie Falcon.



**VIRGINIA RAIL** (*Rallus limicola*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Look for this species at seasonal, semipermanent, or permanent wetlands with dense emergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** Dependent chicks with an accompanying adult were seen in Allotment 1B, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 26 June 2001 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species typically arrives in early May. It likely persists into at least mid-September, but becomes difficult to detect after mid-July. Breeding activities peak from early June to late July. Virginia Rails are limited in the checklist area by the scarcity of suitable habitat.



Figure 58. Virginia Rail.

**SORA** (*Porzana carolina*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Soras and Virginia rails use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This vocal rail arrives in early May, and is easy to detect until its departure in late September, although the frequency of calling falls dramatically after July. Breeding activities peak from early June to late July.

**AMERICAN COOT** (*Fulica americana*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, rare but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** American Coots use wetland habitats, particularly those with stands of emergent and submergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** American Coot nests and broods are found annually within the checklist area.

**High Counts:** The 15 December 2010 CBC tallied 4 American Coots in the spillway area below Shadehill Dam.

**Remarks:** American Coots arrive in mid-April and persist until mid-October. Early May to mid-August is the peak of the breeding season.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Sandhill Cranes are most often detected as they fly overhead. Occasionally, birds

can be seen on the ground near wetlands in mixed-grass prairie habitat, or feeding in cropland. **Remarks:** Look for Sandhill Cranes from early April through mid-May, and late July through mid-October, although April and mid-September/October are the most likely time periods. On favored passage days, thousands of birds might be seen migrating through the checklist area (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). A single bird was associated with the Canada Goose flock at Shadehill Res. during the 18 December 2008 CBC.

#### BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Black-bellied Plovers are most likely to be seen at wetlands with wide margins of mud. They also are occasionally seen in fallow cropland.

**Remarks:** Watch for this species in May, and again from late July through early November.

#### SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is most likely to be seen along wetland edges with wide margins of mud.

**Remarks:** Semipalmated Plovers may be present from mid-April through September. They are most likely to be found in May and from mid-July through September.

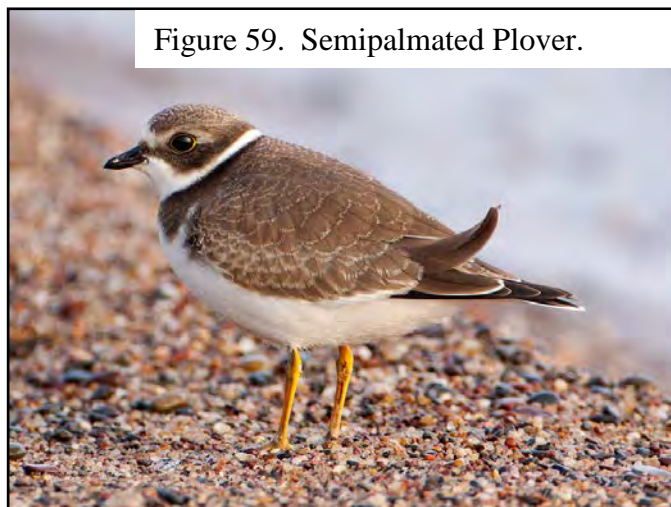


Figure 59. Semipalmated Plover.

#### PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is most likely to be seen along wetland edges with wide margins of mud (especially mud with pea-sized gravel mixed in).

**Remarks:** A Piping Plover was at Shadehill Res. in May 1992 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). One was at Flat Creek Lake near Shadehill Res. on 18 June 2008 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.). Three Piping Plover were at Ketterling's Point, Shadehill Res., on 1 June 2005 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.). Another was along Shadehill Res., Pasture 8 GRNG (Section 3), Perkins Co., SD on 27 April 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

### KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Killdeer are most likely to be seen along wetland edges with wide margins of mud, but they are seen in a variety of habitats, including along roadsides and in fallow fields.

**Nesting Records:** Nests and broods are commonly seen in the checklist area each year.

**Remarks:** Killdeer are early migrants and are sometimes seen as early as mid-March. A more typical arrival date is early April. Lingering birds can be found into mid-October. Early May to mid-July is the peak of breeding. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 6.6 Killdeer per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 4.5 and 9.1 Killdeer per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

### AMERICAN AVOCET

(*Recurvirostra americana*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** American Avocets use wetland habitats; in the checklist area they are most often seen at reservoirs.

**Nesting Records:** This species has been confirmed as a local nester (in Pasture 7, GRNG; David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Avocets are present from mid-April through October. Mid-May to early July is the peak of the breeding season.

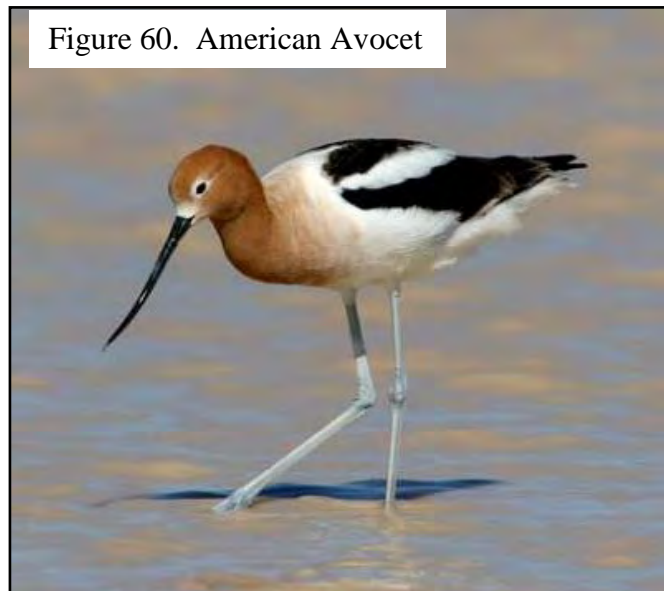


Figure 60. American Avocet

### SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Spotted Sandpipers use wetlands; they are most likely to be found at large permanent wetlands or along the Grand, North Fork Grand, or South Fork Grand rivers.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Spotted Sandpipers are present from mid-April to late September. Breeding activities occur from early June to mid-July.

### SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Look for Solitary Sandpipers along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** Solitary Sandpipers are most likely to be encountered in early May, and from mid-July to mid-September.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along shallow wetland edges, seeming to prefer sites with wide mud margins.

**Remarks:** Watch for Greater Yellowlegs in April and early May, and again from mid-June into October.

**WILLET** (*Tringa semipalmata*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Willets use wetlands and adjacent uplands in mixed-grass prairie habitat.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Willets are present from mid-April to mid-September. Mid-May to late July is the peak of the breeding season for this species.



Figure 61:Willet.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa flavipes*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found in the same kinds of habitats that are used by Greater Yellowlegs.

**Remarks:** The Lesser Yellowlegs' seasonality is similar to that of the Greater Yellowlegs'.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** (*Bartramia longicauda*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Upland Sandpipers use mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Upland Sandpiper nests and broods are encountered annually in the checklist area. For example, an active nest was found in Halverson Allotment, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND on 9 June 2009 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Upland Sandpipers may be encountered from early May to early August. Most breeding activities occur between late May and early July. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 52.2 Upland Sandpipers per square mile on the GRNG, 2004-2009. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 2.3 and 28.3 Upland Sandpipers per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.



**MARBLED GODWIT** (*Limosa fedoa*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Marbled Godwits use wetlands and adjacent uplands in mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). An adult bird was seen guarding a brood at a stockpond in Texley Allotment, GRNG, Corson Co., SD on 5 June 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Marbled Godwits are present from mid-April to late August. The peak breeding season is from early May to late June. This species can sometimes be seen sitting on fenceposts.

Figure 62. Marbled Godwit.



**RUDDY TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*)

**Status:** Casual summer visitor and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species is most likely to be seen along wetland edges with wide margins of mud or gravel.

**Remarks:** Ruddy Turnstones are most likely to be found in July and August.

**SANDERLING** (*Calidris alba*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Sanderlings use wetland edges.

**High Counts:** Three were at Lemmon Lake GPA on 14 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.; m.ob.).

**Remarks:** Sanderlings pass through the checklist area from early May through October, but are most likely in late May and during September. An early bird was along Shadehill Res., Pasture 8, GRNG (Section 3), Perkins Co., SD on 27 April 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs., m.ob.).

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** (*Calidris pusilla*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Semipalmated Sandpipers are found along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** This species might be encountered from mid-April through late September, but peak numbers occur in late May and from mid-July to mid-August.

**LEAST SANDPIPER** (*Calidris minutilla*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Least Sandpipers use the edges of wetlands.

**Remarks:** This species might be encountered from mid-April through mid-October, but peak numbers occur in May and from mid-July to mid-September.

#### WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**High Counts:** On 4 June 2002, 19 White-rumped Sandpipers were found at a stockpond in Pasture 7, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Spring migrants pass through from early May into mid-June; peak numbers occur from mid-May to early June.

#### BAIRD'S SANDPIPER

(*Calidris bairdii*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** Baird's Sandpipers might be encountered from mid-April through mid-October. Peak numbers occur in April/May and August/September.

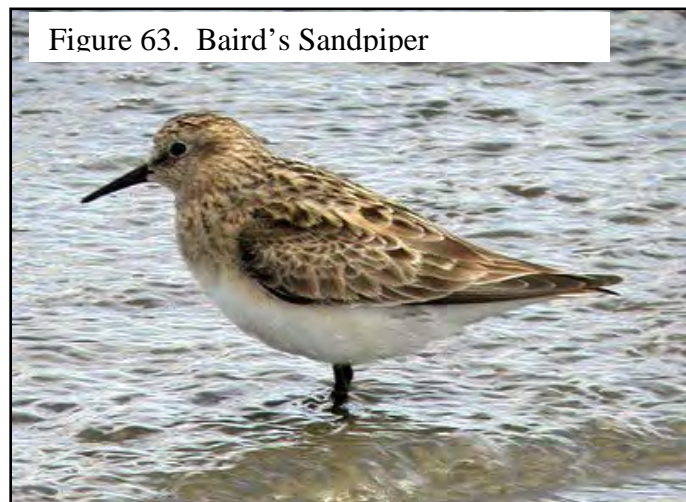


Figure 63. Baird's Sandpiper

#### PECTORAL SANDPIPER

(*Calidris melanotos*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** Pectoral Sandpipers can be encountered from mid-April through early November. Peak numbers occur from mid-April through May, and from early August to mid-September.

#### STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** Peak migration for Stilt Sandpipers is in May and in late July, though they can be encountered for most of the period between late April and mid-October.

#### SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** Look for Short-billed Dowitchers in May, and again in July and August. This species has been found at Lemmon Lake GPA (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** This species is present for most of the late April to late October period. Peak numbers occur from mid-August to mid-October.

**WILSON'S SNIPE** (*Gallinago delicata*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident.

**Distribution:** Wilson's Snipe use wetland edges.

**Nesting Records:** This species has been confirmed as a local breeder (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Wilson's Snipe are present from April through late October. Late May to early July is the peak of the breeding season.

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE**

(*Phalaropus tricolor*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer resident.

**Distribution:** Wilson's Phalaropes use wetlands for foraging. They nest in adjacent grassland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Wilson's Phalarope nests and broods have been found at or near many of the checklist area's wetlands.

**Remarks:** Wilson's Phalaropes are present from mid-April to mid-September. Late May to early July is the peak of the breeding season.

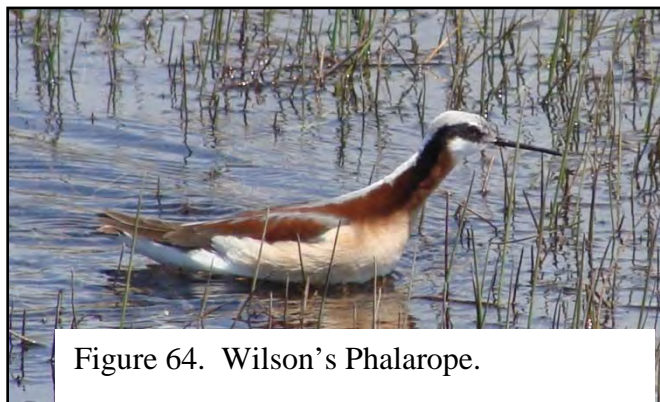


Figure 64. Wilson's Phalarope.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Migrant Red-necked Phalaropes are most often found on large, deep wetlands.

**Remarks:** This species is present from May into early June and again from July through October, though peak numbers occur in late May and again in August.

**RED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Migrant Red Phalaropes are most often found on large, deep wetlands.

**Remarks:** David and Carolyn Griffiths found a bird at Shadehill Res., Perkins Co., SD on 26 May 1990.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL** (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Bonaparte's Gulls use large wetlands, especially those with extensive open water.

**High Counts:** Ten were at Shadehill Res. on 18 October 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** Spring migration for Bonaparte's Gulls peaks from mid-April to mid-May. Fall migration is more protracted, with birds present from August into late October.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Franklin's Gulls use seasonal and semipermanent wetlands, and cropland.

**Remarks:** Franklin's Gulls are present in the area from April through October.

Figure 65. Ring-billed Gull.

**RING-BILLED GULL**

(*Larus delawarensis*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer visitor, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Ring-billed Gulls use wetlands (especially large reservoirs), and cropland.

**High Counts:** Twelve Ring-billed Gulls were found on the 16 December 1999 CBC.

**Remarks:** Ring-billed Gulls are typically present from late March until wetlands freeze in the fall.



**CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Look for California Gulls in the same habitats that are used by Ring-billed Gulls.

**Remarks:** California Gulls return to the checklist area in late March, with most birds departing the state by late September.

**HERRING GULL** (*Larus argentatus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Herring Gulls use wetlands, especially large reservoirs.

**High Counts:** Two Herring Gulls were found during the 16 December 1999 CBC.

**Remarks:** Herring Gulls are most likely to be found in April and again in October.



**THAYER'S GULL** (*Larus thayeri*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Thayer's and Herring gulls use similar habitats.

**Remarks:** A bird was found at Shadehill Res. on 21 March 1987 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**LEAST TERN** (*Sternula antillarum*)

**Status:** Accidental summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Least Terns use large rivers and reservoirs.

**Remarks:** A bird was seen on 14 June 1988 at Shadehill Res. (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**CASPIAN TERN** (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

**Status:** Casual spring visitor.

**Distribution:** Caspian Terns use large rivers and reservoirs.

**Remarks:** A bird was seen on 7 May 2011 at Shadehill Res. (Dan Svingen, pers. obs., m.ob.). Two were at nearby Flat Creek Lake on 14 May 2011 (ibid).



Figure 66. Least Tern.

**BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias niger*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Black Terns use wetlands, especially large reservoirs with extensive stands of emergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**Remarks:** Black Terns can be seen from late April to mid-September, with peak numbers occurring in late May and mid-July to mid-August. The peak of the breeding season is likely late May to early August.

**COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Common Terns use wetlands, especially large reservoirs.

**Remarks:** Almost all local sightings of Common Terns have been at Shadehill Res., in mid- to late May. Just north of the checklist area, Ron Martin (pers. comm.) notes that the species can be detected during migration at large water bodies in inclement weather or at first light, before the birds resume migration. This species should also be looked for in summer and fall. A bird was at Lemmon Lake GPA on 14 May 2011 (Ron Martin, pers. comm., m.ob.).

**FORSTER'S TERN** (*Sterna forsteri*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Forster's Terns use wetlands, especially large reservoirs with extensive stands of emergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**Remarks:** Forster's Terns are most likely to be encountered in May, August, and September, though they are present in northwestern SD from May through October. If breeding does occur within the checklist area, it would be concentrated in June and July.

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*)

**Status:** Common year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Rock Pigeons are closely associated with farmsteads but might be seen flying overhead anywhere in the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Rock Pigeons regularly nest on Shadehill Dam (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** The 1996 CBC recorded 50 birds.

**Remarks:** Locally, this species is largely dependent on anthropogenic structures and habitats.

**MOURNING DOVE** (*Zenaida macroura*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Mourning Doves are seen throughout the checklist area's habitats.

**Nesting Record:** Nests and fledglings are seen annually within the checklist area.

**Remarks:** The hardiest Mourning Doves arrive in late March and persist into at least November. Peak numbers occur in August and September. The long breeding season has a peak from early May to mid-August. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 21.5 Mourning Doves per square mile on the GRNG, 2004-2009. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 9.7 and 16.0 Mourning Doves per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** (*Coccyzus americanus*)

**Status:** Accidental summer resident.

**Distribution:** Yellow-billed Cuckoos use deciduous woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen and heard in Pasture 6E-North, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD in summer 1999 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)

**Status:** Rare but irregular spring migrant and summer resident, casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos use similar habitat.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**Remarks:** This enigmatic species arrives in mid-May or later, and often departs as early as late July. Mid-June to late July is probably the peak of the breeding season. A calling bird was heard in Allotment 6E-South, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 1 June 2006 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

An agitated bird was seen near Lodgepole, South Dakota on 18 July 2009 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.).

#### BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

**Status:** Accidental spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland and human structures such as barns, silos, and abandoned homes.

**Remarks:** A Barn Owl was seen in Pasture 6E-South, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD during spring 2001 (Knowles 2001a). Another was seen during September 2005 in Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD (Dan Svingen, Skip Hegman, pers. obs.). A bird was at Merriams Grove Campground on 14 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs; m.ob.).

#### EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops asio*)

**Status:** Rare year-round resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses Plains Cottonwood woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed for this species (along Shadehill Reservoir, David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** The breeding season is mid-March through early July. Very little is known of this species' local status and distribution.



Figure 67. Eastern Screech-Owl.

#### GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Great Horned Owls use all of the checklist area's wooded habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Great Horned Owl nests and fledglings are encountered annually within the checklist area.

**High Count:** During the CBC on December 18, 2008, 12 Great Horned Owls were found.

**Remarks:** Peak nesting activity occurs from early March to late June.

#### SNOWY OWL (*Bubo scandiacus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and winter resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Snowy Owls use mixed-grass prairie and cropland habitats.

**Remarks:** This species might be present from early November into late March. A bird was seen on private land near Allotment 6E-South, GRNG, on 5 February 2006 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.).

### BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species is limited to mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Dependent fledglings are regularly seen at prairie dog colonies.

**Remarks:** Over 99% of the Burrowing Owl observations on the Grasslands have been at or near Black-tailed Prairie Dog colonies. The species is present from late April through September. Late May to early August is the peak of the breeding season. An early bird was seen at a Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Colony (#642-1, in T18N, R18W, Sec. 8, Corson Co., SD) on 7 April 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

### LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)

**Status:** Rare but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous and coniferous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Six or seven Long-eared Owls were found in a Buffaloberry patch on private land near GRNG Allotment 2A on 11 August 2008 (Jan and Gerry Sailer, pers. comm.). An active nest was found within an old Black-billed Magpie nest, in Pasture 8, GRNG on 14 May 2011 (Doug Backlund, pers. comm., m.ob.). The young were “branching on 10 June 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**High Count:** Two birds were found on the 2001 CBC (Jan Sailer, David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). Four Long-eared Owls were found on private land near GRNG Allotment 2A on 14 October 2007 (Jan and Gerry Sailer, pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** This species apparently migrates in April, October, and November. Nesting activities are concentrated from May to July. Knowles (2001a) walked 50-miles of hardwood draws on the GRNG in spring and summer 2001. He confirmed one Long-eared Owl in a well-developed Green Ash stand north of Square Butte, in Allotment 6E-South, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD. In 2002, Knowles found a Long-eared Owl in suitable nesting habitat in the Corson Co. portion of the GRNG (Knowles 2002). Single Long-eared Owls were found in both the Merrimans Grove and Hugh Glass campgrounds, Shadehill Res., Perkins Co., SD during 15 December 2010 CBC.

### SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

**Status:** Uncommon but irregular year-round visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Short-eared Owls use mixed-grass prairie, hayfields, and CRP fields.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed for this species (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** Ten Short-eared Owls were seen in Allotment 3A, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 2 July 2004 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Late April to mid-July is the



Figure 68. Short-eared Owl.



peak of breeding. Several Short-eareds were present from at least April to July 2004, with individuals seen in Allotments 1A, 1B, 3A, and 3B, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

#### NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Aegolius acadicus*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant and winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Northern Saw-whet Owls use coniferous woodland.

**Remarks:** Migrant and wintering birds occur from October to early April. A bird was found at the Merrimans Grove Campground, Shadehill Res., Perkins Co., SD during the CBC on December 15, 2010.

#### COMMON NIGHTHAWK

(*Chordeiles minor*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species can be seen throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding confirmation is shown in Peterson (1995).

**Remarks:** Common Nighthawks are present from late May through early September; peak numbers occur during the last half of August. The breeding season peaks from mid-June through July.

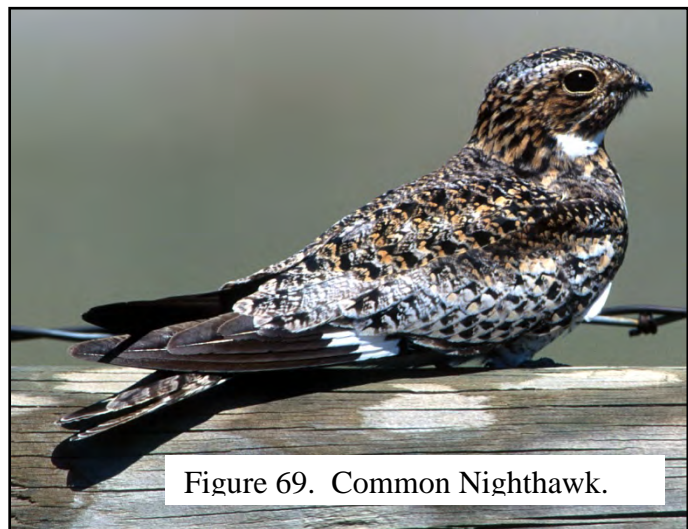


Figure 69. Common Nighthawk.

#### COMMON POORWILL (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Common Poorwills use mixed-grass prairie, especially in areas with eroded clay buttes (i.e. “badlands”).

**Nesting Records:** Confirmation of local breeding is not yet available.

**Remarks:** During systematic surveys in 2001, Knowles (2001b) found Common Poorwills at 3 of 46 listening stations. He also heard Common Poorwills at the Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD. Breeding activities likely peak in June and July.

#### RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*)

**Status:** Casual summer visitor, rare fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Ruby-throated Hummingbirds use deciduous woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** Hummingbirds are most likely to be seen from mid-July to mid-September.

**BELTED KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle alcyon*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** Belted Kingfishers use wetlands; especially at large reservoirs and rivers.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Watch for this species from early April through mid-October. Breeding activities are concentrated between May and July. A bird was at the Shadehill Dam spillway during the CBC on 14 December 2006.

**LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes lewis*)

**Status:** Accidental summer visitor.

**Distribution:** The only local record was of a bird in deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** A bird was present on private land near GRNG Allotment 6E-North, Perkins Co., SD on 25 June 2004 (Jan and Gerry Sailer, pers. comm.).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER**

(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Red-headed Woodpeckers prefer Plains Cottonwood woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Single Red-headed Woodpecker nests were found in Allotment 4A, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD during 1995, 1998, and 1999 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species might be encountered from early May into mid-September. Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in Allotment 1A and Allotment 5C, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 10 June 2005 and 30 May 2005, respectively (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). Another was seen on private land near the Allotment 5A Wildlife Area, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 29 June 2006 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

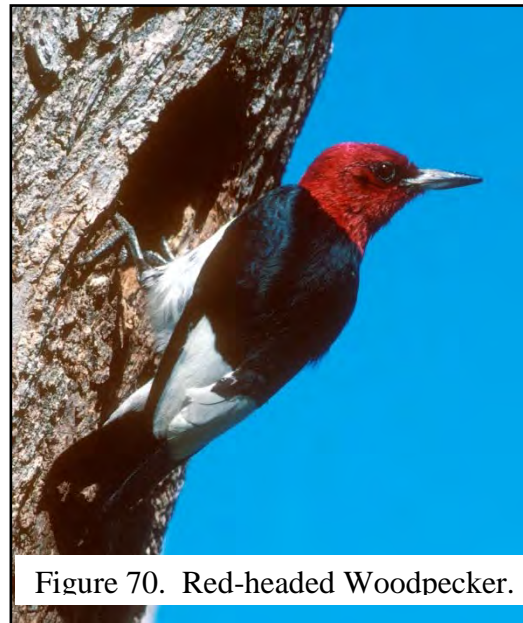


Figure 70. Red-headed Woodpecker.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

**Status:** Accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** The only local record was of a bird in Plains Cottonwood woodland.

**Remarks:** A winter Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen at Merrimans Grove Campground, Shadehill Res., Perkins Co., SD (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.), on an unspecified date.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers use woodland habitats.

**Remarks:** Watch for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers from mid-April to mid-May, and again from mid-September to mid-October.

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Downy Woodpeckers can be seen in any woodland habitat. They are most abundant in the Grand River's riparian woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**High Counts:** Three birds were found on the 1999 CBC.

**Remarks:** The likely breeding season peak is mid-May to mid-July.

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Hairy Woodpeckers have the same distribution pattern as Downy Woodpeckers.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**High Counts:** Two birds were found during the CBC in both 2000 and on 21 December 2007.

**Remarks:** The breeding season likely peaks from late April to mid-July.

NORTHERN FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, rare winter resident.

**Distribution:** Northern Flickers use all of the checklist area's woodland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Flicker nests are encountered annually in the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Eight "Yellow-shafted" Northern Flickers were found on the 15 December 2010 CBC, whereas three "Red-Shafted" birds were present during the 21 December 2007 CBC.

**Remarks:** This species is most likely to be found from early April to mid-October. The breeding season peak is from early May to early July. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 4.7 Northern Flickers per square mile on the GRNG in 2009.

### OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

(*Contopus cooperi*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Olive-sided Flycatchers use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Migration peaks for this species occur from mid-May to early June, and from mid-August to mid-September. The species has not yet been detected locally during summer.



Figure 71. Olive-sided Flycatcher.

### WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE

(*Contopus sordidulus*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitats.

**Remarks:** One or two birds have been found in May during several of the last twenty years. All sightings to date within the checklist area have been from the north shore of Shadehill Res. (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

### ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** During migration, Alder Flycatchers use a wide variety of woodland habitats.

**Remarks:** Spring migrants pass through from late May through early June. Fall migrants are on the move from mid-July into late August and likely occur in the checklist area then as well, although this species similarity to Willow Flycatcher greatly complicates determining its true status. Alder Flycatchers are annual migrants in small numbers throughout southwestern ND (Ron Martin, pers. comm.). The species may be more regular in the checklist area than indicated.

### WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** During migration, this species uses a wide variety of woodland habitats. In summer, birds should be looked for in deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** This species nested annually in Allotment 3A, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD, 1995-2002 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Spring migration is active in May. Late June to late July is the peak of the breeding season. Determining this species' fall status is problematic due to its identification difficulty.



**LEAST FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax minimus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Least Flycatchers use deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed for this species (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Watch for this species from mid-May to early September. The peak breeding season is early June to mid-July.

**SAY'S PHOEBE** (*Sayornis saya*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Say's Phoebes use mixed-grass prairie, particularly where eroded clay buttes or old buildings are present.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). Three dependent fledglings and an accompanying adult were seen in the Humphrey Draw Wildlife Area, GRNG, Perkins County, SD on 7 July 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This hardy flycatcher might be encountered from early April to late September. The peak of breeding is from late May to late July.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Western Kingbirds can be seen perched on wires, fenceposts, or trees throughout the checklist area's varied habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Western Kingbirds are typically present from early May to late August. Mid-June to mid-July is the time of peak breeding. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 14.0 Western Kingbirds per square mile, 2004-2009 on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 5.6 and 9.6 Western Kingbirds per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.



Figure 72. Western Kingbird.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses the same habitats as the Western Kingbird.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). An Eastern Kingbird nest was found in Tomac Allotment, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND on 6 July 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species' seasonality is similar to that of the Western Kingbird. Johnson et al. (2002) estimated 5.3 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~10.6 individual) Eastern Kingbirds per square mile on the CRNG in 2002. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 12.2 Eastern Kingbirds per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 12.0 and 2.0 Eastern Kingbirds per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

## LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

(*Lanius ludovicianus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Loggerhead Shrikes use brush and shrub patches in or near mixed-grass prairie, cropland, hayland, or CRP fields.

**Nesting Records:** Three or four dependent fledglings were tended by two adult birds along the lower reaches of the North Fork Grand River on 7 and 8 July 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Loggerhead Shrikes are typically present from early April to late August, but some birds linger into late October, at which time great care must be exercised to properly distinguish them from the more likely Northern Shrike. The breeding season peak is from early May to mid-July. Knowles (2001b) indicated that Buffaloberry thickets appeared to be the primary nesting habitat for this species. He also found active shrike nests inside of abandoned Black-billed Magpie nests (Knowles 2001b, 2002; one such nest was found in 2001, another in 2002 in a different location).



Figure 73. Loggerhead Shrike.

## NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)

**Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

**Distribution:** Northern and Loggerhead shrikes use similar habitat.

**High Counts:** Six birds were found on the 15 December 2010 CBC.

**Remarks:** Northern Shrike may be present anytime between mid-October and late March. An adult bird was seen near the Munderloh Allotment, CRNG, Grant Co., ND on 24 March 2007 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

## BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Blue-headed Vireos use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** This species migrates through the checklist area during May and again from mid-August through the end of September. Single birds were found in Pasture 8 (Doug Backlund, pers. comm.) on 14 May 2011; and at Llwellyn Johns Memorial Recreation Area on 15 May 2011 (ibid).

**WARBLING VIREO** (*Vireo gilvus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Warbling Vireos can be found in deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species can be found from mid-May through the end of September, but is most likely to be found from mid-May through the end of August. The breeding season peak is from late May to late July. Please report any sightings of the western North American race of this species.



Figure 74. Warbling Vireo.

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO**

(*Vireo philadelphicus*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** The only record is of a bird at Merrimans Grove campground, Shadehill Res., Perkins Co., SD on 28 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**RED-EYED VIREO** (*Vireo olivaceus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident.

**Distribution:** Red-eyed Vireos can be found in deciduous woodland habitat.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has not yet been confirmed in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Red-eyed Vireos may be present from mid-May to mid-September. Peak breeding activity is likely concentrated from mid-June to early August.

**GRAY JAY** (*Perisoreus canadensis*)

**Status:** Accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** This species uses coniferous and deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** The only report from the checklist area is of a bird seen on private land near GRNG Allotment 6E-South, Perkins Co., SD on 2 January 2009 (Gerry Sailer, pers. comm.).

**BLUE JAY** (*Cyanocitta cristata*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident, rare winter resident.

**Distribution:** This species is found in deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has not yet been confirmed.

**Remarks:** The probable breeding season peak is from late May to mid-July. The degree to which local breeding birds migrate in-and-out of the checklist area is unknown.

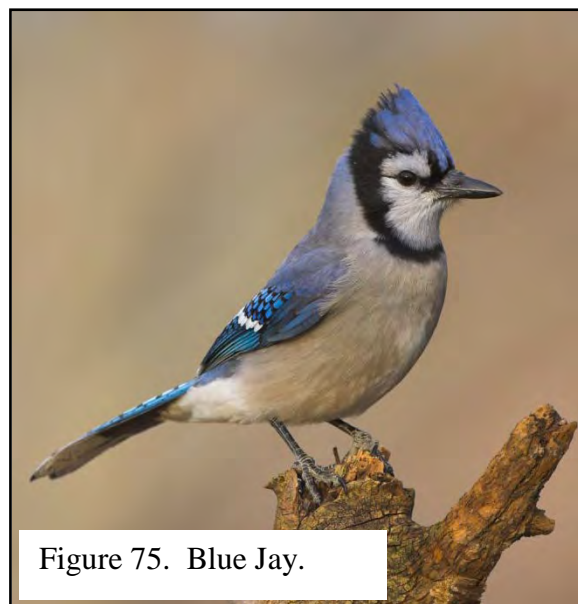


Figure 75. Blue Jay.

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** (*Pica hudsonia*)

**Status:** Fairly common year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Black-billed Magpies are most likely to be seen in woodland or mixed-grass habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Magpie nests are noted annually within the checklist area. Knowles (2001a, 2002) found 180 nests in systematic surveys, of which 20 were active.

**High Counts:** Nine birds were found during the 1991 CBC. On the CBC held 15 December 2005, 12 Black-billed Magpies were tallied.

**Remarks:** Early May to early July is the peak of the magpie's breeding season.

**AMERICAN CROW** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident, rare but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** American Crows are seen and heard throughout the checklist area, but are most often seen in woody draws and near human habitations.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.; Knowles 2002, p. 7).

**High Counts:** Seven birds were found during the 2002 CBC.

**Remarks:** American Crows nest April through June. They are regularly present, March to November.

**HORNED LARK** (*Eremophila alpestris*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident, abundant but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** Horned Larks are prominent in mixed-grass prairie and cropland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding confirmation is shown in Peterson (1995).

**High Counts:** The 18 December 2008 CBC recorded 979 Horned Larks.

**Remarks:** Late April to late July encompasses the peak of the Horned Lark's protracted breeding season. Johnson et al. (2002) estimated 7.8 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~15.6 individual) Horned Larks per square mile on the CRNG in 2002. Hanni et al. (2003) estimated that there



were 102.8 Horned Larks per square mile on the GRNG in 2002. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 146.2 Horned Larks per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 109.8 and 75.1 Horned Larks per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

**PURPLE MARTIN** (*Progne subis*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Purple Martins are most likely to be seen along the major rivers and near large reservoirs.

**Remarks:** The only known record specific to the checklist area is of a male bird seen 7 May 2011 at Hugh Glass Campground (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). This species will likely prove to be more regular than is currently known.

**TREE SWALLOW** (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Tree Swallows are most often found along the major rivers and near large reservoirs, but can be seen in a wide variety of habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Nesting Tree Swallows are found annually across the checklist area using nest boxes and tree cavities.

**Remarks:** Peak annual numbers are seen between mid-April and mid-May. Many birds depart by late July or early August, but some may still be present to mid-October. Peak breeding activity is from early June to mid-July.

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Watch for Northern Rough-winged Swallows along the shores of the checklist area's largest stockponds, reservoirs, creeks, and rivers.

**Nesting Records:** Numerous Northern Rough-winged Swallow nesting burrows have been found in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** These swallows arrive in late April and early May; most are southbound by early August. Mid-May to mid-July is peak breeding time.

**BANK SWALLOW** (*Riparia riparia*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Bank Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallow use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Numerous Bank Swallow nesting burrows have been found at cutbanks along



Figure 76. Bank Swallow.

major rivers and large reservoirs throughout the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Bank Swallows are relatively late migrants, arriving mostly in mid-May. The highest numbers are seen in the last half of August. Most birds depart by early September. Mid-May to mid-July encompasses the time of peak breeding activity.

#### CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Cliff Swallows can be seen foraging in any open habitat. They nest on cliffs, bridges, and buildings throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Nests of this species are found annually within the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Cliff Swallows are present from late April to mid-September. Late May to late July is the time of peak breeding activity.

#### BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species is most often seen near human habitations. Foraging birds are seen in a variety of habitats throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Nests of this species are easy to find each year.

**Remarks:** Barn Swallows return north in late April, and depart by mid-October.

Breeding activities occur mostly from late May to early August. This species will build its nests inside of the shallow caves and alcoves that pocket clay buttes, as well as at the more typical bridges and farm buildings. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 12.0 Barn Swallows per square mile on the GRNG in 2009.



Figure 77. Barn Swallow.

#### BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Black-capped Chickadees inhabit woodlands. The species is most abundant in deciduous woodland habitat.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**High Counts:** The peak number recorded during the CBC was 12 during the 1998 count.

**Remarks:** The likely peak of the breeding season for Black-capped Chickadees is from late April to mid-July. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 2.1 Black-capped Chickadees per square mile on the GRNG in 2009.

#### RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual summer and winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Red-breasted Nuthatches occur in woodland habitat, especially conifers.

**Nesting Records:** A nest at Merrimans Grove Campground, Shadehill Res., Perkins Co., SD was active 14 May 2011 (Ron Martin, pers. comm.; m.ob).

**Remarks:** Peak movements are detected from mid-March to late April, and from mid-August through late November. Breeding peaks in May and June. One bird was found on the 21 December 2007 CBC.

#### WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** White-breasted Nuthatches are found in woodland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**High Count:** Five birds were found during the 1996 CBC.

**Remarks:** White-breasted Nuthatches breed between mid-April and early August with peak activity likely occurring from late April to early July. How much, if any, inter-seasonal movement occurs by the checklist area's White-breasted Nuthatches, is unknown.

#### BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Watch for Brown Creepers throughout coniferous and deciduous woodland habitats.

**Remarks:** Migration peaks in mid-April and again in mid-September to mid-November.

#### ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses clay buttes and rock outcrops.

**Nesting Records:** Rock Wren nests have been found in Allotment 3A, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** A Rock Wren was found in Pasture 9, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 23 April 2009 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Most individuals do not arrive until early May, and leave sometime in September. Peak breeding activity is concentrated from late May to mid-July.

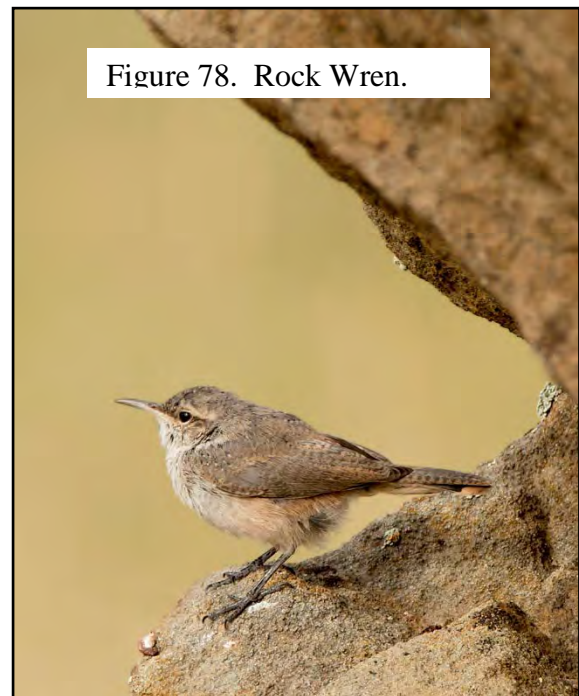


Figure 78. Rock Wren.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** House Wren nests and fledglings are easy to find in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Most individuals do not arrive until early May. Numbers typically drop rapidly after mid-September. Peak breeding activity is from late May to mid-July.

MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Watch for Marsh Wrens in extensive stands of cattails and bulrush at wetlands, particularly those that are seasonal, semipermanent, or permanent.

**Remarks:** Marsh Wrens migrate in April/May and September/October. This species' local status during the summer is unknown.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Polioptila caerulea*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** A bird was at Hugh Glass Campground, on 14 May 2011 (Eric Likness, pers. comm.).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Golden-crowned Kinglets are closely associated with conifers, particularly spruce. They are most likely to be found at spruce plantings (such as those found at farmsteads or towns).

**Remarks:** Numbers peak in April and again in late September to November.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

(*Regulus calendula*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Ruby-crowned Kinglets use a wide variety of woodland.

**Remarks:** Numbers peak from mid-April to mid-May and again from September to early October.



Figure 79. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.



**EASTERN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia sialis*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident, accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Eastern Bluebirds use woodland edges in mixed-grass prairie and the interior of open deciduous woodland, particularly Plains Cottonwood woodland. They are also seen on utility wires and fences.

**Nesting Records:** Eastern Bluebirds are known to nest in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Although some birds are seen as early as mid-March, mid-April is a more typical time for Eastern Bluebirds to arrive. Fall migration occurs in October. The breeding season for Eastern Bluebirds is concentrated from early May to early July. A single bird was found on the 15 December 2005 CBC.

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Mountain and Eastern bluebirds use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Mountain Bluebirds are known to nest in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Mountain Bluebirds arrive in early March and depart by late October. Peak breeding activities occur between early May and early August.

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** (*Myadestes townsendi*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

**Distribution:** Townsend's Solitaires use coniferous and deciduous woodland.

**High Counts:** Five Townsend's Solitaires were found during the 1998 CBC.

**Remarks:** This species may be present anytime between October and April. Its presence seems positively correlated to local availability of juniper berries.

**VEERY** (*Catharus fuscescens*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Veerys use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Mid-May seems to coincide with this species' local migration peak; Veerys often go undetected during fall migration across large swaths of the Northern Great Plains.

## GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH

(*Catharus minimus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Gray-cheeked Thrushes use woodland habitats.

**High Counts:** North Community Allotment, CRNG, held 4 birds on 12 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Spring migrants pass through in May; the local status of Gray-cheeked Thrushes during autumn is unknown.

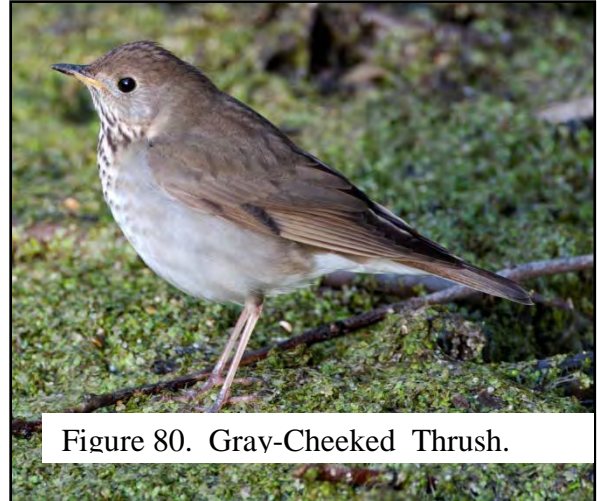


Figure 80. Gray-Cheeked Thrush.

## SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant

**Distribution:** Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes use similar habitats.

**High Counts:** There were 25 birds in the Shadehill Res. vicinity on 14 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Migration occurs in May and from late August through September.

## HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Migrant Hermit Thrushes use woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** Migration peaks in the last half of April and from late September to late October.

## AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, fairly common but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** This species is widely distributed. It can be found in and near all woodland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** This species commonly nests across the checklist area. Nests and fledglings are easy to find.

**High Counts:** The 15 December 2010 CBC recorded 61 American Robins.

**Remarks:** Migrant numbers peak in April and again from September through mid-October.

Breeding occurs from mid-April to mid-August, with peak activity from late April to late July.

White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 4.4 American Robins per square mile on the GRNG in 2009.

## GRAY CATBIRD

(*Dumetella carolinensis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Gray Catbirds use brush patches in deciduous woodland. They are most numerous in Green Ash woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Two dependent fledglings, along with two adult birds, were at Merrimans Grove, Shadehill Res., Perkins Co., SD on 7 July 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).



Figure 81 Gray Catbird.

**Remarks:** Mid-May and mid-September are the peak migration periods for this species. The peak of the breeding season is early June to late July.

## NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** The Northern Mockingbird uses deciduous woodland habitats.

**Remarks:** A single bird was on private land near GRNG Allotment 6E-South, Perkins Co., SD on 29 April 2007 (Jan and Gerry Sailer, pers. obs.). A pair summered at Lemmon Lake GPA in 1986 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

## SAGE THRASHER (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Sage Thrashers are most likely to be seen near sagebrush in open grassland habitat.

**Remarks:** The only record is of a bird seen in Allotment 3A, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD, on 15 August 2005 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

## BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Brown Thrashers and Gray Catbirds use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Brown Thrashers are known to nest in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Spring migration is concentrated in early May, whereas fall migration is conducted throughout September. The peak of the breeding season is early June to late July.

## EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, uncommon winter resident.

**Distribution:** This adaptable species can be seen throughout the checklist area. It is most numerous in trees near farmsteads and in residential areas.

**Nesting Records:** Starlings nest in tree cavities throughout the checklist area. Nests and fledglings are easy to find.

**High Counts:** The 1998 CBC recorded 45 European Starlings.

**Remarks:** Late April to mid-June is the peak of breeding. During winter, Starlings can be found in northwestern SD near feedlots and in large towns and cities, but the species is largely absent from the Grasslands themselves.

#### AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Migrant American Pipits are seen at wetlands with wide mud beaches. They also can be encountered along roadways and in cropland and native prairie.

**High Counts:** On 7 October 2009, 25 American Pipits were seen feeding in a recently burned portion of the Knispel Wildlife Area, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Watch for American Pipits during early May and again during September and into October. A bird was in Pasture 7, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 15 May 2011 (Dave Swanson, pers. comm.).

#### SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (*Anthus spragueii*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Sprague's Pipits use very specific types of mixed-grass prairie. They prefer dry native mixed-grass prairie that has been moderately grazed.

**Nesting Records:** Local nesting has been confirmed for this species (in Allotment 3B, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD; David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** In May 2004, singing Sprague's Pipits were heard at 57 of 58 stops on the GRNG in Perkins and Corson counties, SD, within Texley, Petik, North Parrot, 6E-South, 6E-North, and 6C Allotments (Mark Gonzalez, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species is hard to detect unless it is heard singing. Singing activity is most apparent from early May to early June, and again from late June to late July. Knowles (2001b) still found displaying pipits in early August. Over the entire study period, Knowles (2001b) found Sprague's pipits to be widely distributed on the GRNG. The species was present at 14% of his observation stations during systemic surveys. He believed the species was associated with broad areas of lightly-grazed upland prairie with a significant native-grass component. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 11.2 Sprague's Pipits per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. A late bird was found 15 November 2005 in South Community Allotment, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

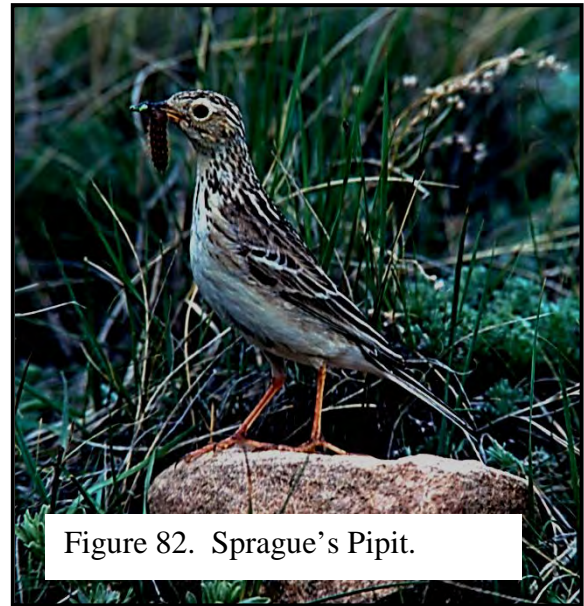


Figure 82. Sprague's Pipit.



**BOHEMIAN WAXWING** (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

**Status:** Fairly common but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Bohemian Waxwings can be found in any woodland habitat, although they tend to focus in on berry-producing trees, such as Serviceberry, Chokecherry, Russian Olive, and Rocky Mountain Juniper.

**High Counts:** The 1990 CBC tallied 54 Bohemian Waxwings.

**Remarks:** Bohemian Waxwings may be present anytime between October and April. Bohemian Waxwings are often found in the company of Cedar Waxwings.

**CEDAR WAXWING** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident, common but irregular winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Nesting birds use deciduous woodland. Wintering birds use the same habitats as the Bohemian Waxwing.

**Nesting Records:** Cedar Waxwing nests have been found in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). A bird was seen stealing nesting material from a Western Kingbird nest at the LLeewelyn Johns Recreation Site, Shadehill Res., on 2 July 2009 (Nancy Drilling, pers. comm.).

**High Counts:** The 18 December 2008 CBC recorded 300 Cedar Waxwings.

**Remarks:** Peak breeding activity occurs from late June to mid-August.



Figure 83. Cedar Waxwing.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR** (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** Lapland Longspurs are most often found along roadways and in cropland. They can also be found in mixed-grass prairie.

**High Counts:** The 21 December 2007 CBC recorded 305 Lapland Longspurs.

**Remarks:** Migration peaks in April and again in October.

## CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

(*Calcarius ornatus*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Heavily grazed native mixed-grass prairie is preferred by this species.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding confirmation is shown in Peterson (1995), and has been documented by other workers as well (e.g. Johnson et al. 2002).

**Remarks:** Birds arrive in early to mid-April and are present into late September; a few remain into mid-October. For example, Chestnut-collared Longspurs were still present 17 October 2007 and 16 October 2008 in GRNG, Perkins County, SD Allotments 6E-south and 6D, respectively (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Breeding activities are concentrated between early May and mid-July. Johnson et al. (2002) estimated 33.1 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~66.2 individual) Chestnut-collared Longspurs per square mile on the CRNG in 2002. A year later, the estimate was 43.1 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~86.2 individual; Johnson et al. 2003). In 2002, Hanni et al. (2003) estimated that there were 163.6 Chestnut-collared Longspurs per square mile on the GRNG. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 95.6 Chestnut-collared Longspurs there per square mile, 2004-2009. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 159.5 and 272.4 Chestnut-collared Longspurs per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.



Figure 84. Chestnut-collared Longspur.

## SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species prefers heavily-grazed patches within mixed-grass prairie that has been moderately-grazed overall.

**Remarks:** One bird was found on 17 October 2007 in 6E-South Allotment, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD (i.e. T19N, R13E, Section 25 SW; Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Two birds were found in the Munderloh Allotment, CRNG, Grant Co., ND on September 30, 2008 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

## MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR

(*Rhynchophanes mccownii*)

**Status:** Accidental spring and fall migrant, and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species prefers very heavily grazed mixed-grass prairie.

**Remarks:** One female or non-adult male bird was found on a Black-tailed Prairie Dog colony (#595-2, in T21N, R16W, Sec. 12 NW), Pasture 7, GRNG, Perkins Co.,



Figure 85. McCown's Longspur.

SD on 14 October 2008 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Interestingly, David and Carolyn Griffiths have seen McCown's Longspurs on about the same day (i.e. the week of the pheasant-season opening) just to the north of this location in ND (outside of the checklist area). A female bird (Figure 85) was found on a Black-tailed Prairie Dog colony (#642-1, in T18N, R18W, Sec. 8 NW), Buer Allotment, north unit, GRNG, Corson Co., SD on 7 April 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Two birds were found near colony #639-4 (T21N, R16E, Sec. 7), Pasture 7, GRNG on 13-14 May 2011 (Ricky Olson, pers. comm., m.ob.). A male was photographed there on 3 June 2011 (Bill Unzen, pers. comm.).

#### SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and winter resident or resident.

**Distribution:** Snow Bunting use roadsides, cropland, and mixed-grass prairie.

**High Counts:** Thirty (30) Snow Buntings were found on the CBC held 21 December 2007; 30 birds were also found on private land near GRNG Allotment 2A, Perkins Co., SD on 25 January 2011 (Jan and Gerry Sailer, pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** This species might be found anytime from mid-October through late March. Snow Buntings may be found in association with Lapland Longspurs.

#### TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** Numbers peak from mid- to late May and again from August to early September. Detection of late-migrating birds in early June would not be unexpected.

#### ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis celata*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.

**High Counts:** Approximately 30 birds were seen in the checklist area on 14 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs., m.ob.).

**Remarks:** Orange-crowned Warblers can be found from mid-April to mid-May and from September to early October.



Figure 86. Orange-crowned Warbler.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** Nashville Warblers migrate through the checklist area in May and from mid-August through September.

NORTHERN PARULA (*Parula americana*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** A bird was at Hugh Glass Campground, on 15 May 2011 (Todd Jensen, pers. comm., m.ob.).

YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)

**Status:** Common spring migrant and summer resident, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Yellow Warblers use wooded habitats. They are most abundant in multi-storied deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Numerous Yellow Warbler nests and dependent fledglings have been found in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Numbers build quickly in early May and taper off in early September. Early June to late July is the peak of breeding activities. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 12.8 Yellow Warblers per square mile on the GRNG in 2009.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Yellow-rumped Warblers use all of the checklist area's woodland habitats.

**High Counts:** Approximately 50 birds were seen in the checklist area on 14 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs., m.ob.).

**Remarks:** Although present throughout April and May and from September through October, the highest numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers are seen in the first half of May and the last half of September. The vast majority of migrants are of the Myrtle subspecies (*D. c. coronata*).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** A bird was at Hugh Glass Campground, on 15 May 2011 (Doug Chapman, pers. comm., m.ob.).



**PALM WARBLER** (*Dendroica palmarum*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Watch for this species in woodland habitat and along wetland margins.

**Remarks:** Migration occurs in early May and in August and September.

**BLACKPOLL** (*Dendroica striata*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Blackpolls use both deciduous and coniferous woodland habitats.

**Remarks:** Watch for Blackpolls throughout May and again in August and September.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER**

(*Mniotilta varia*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Watch for this species in woodland habitat.

**High Counts:** Three birds were seen in the checklist area on 14 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs., m.ob.).

**Remarks:** Black-and-white Warblers are present from late April through May and in August and September. This species' summer status is uncertain.

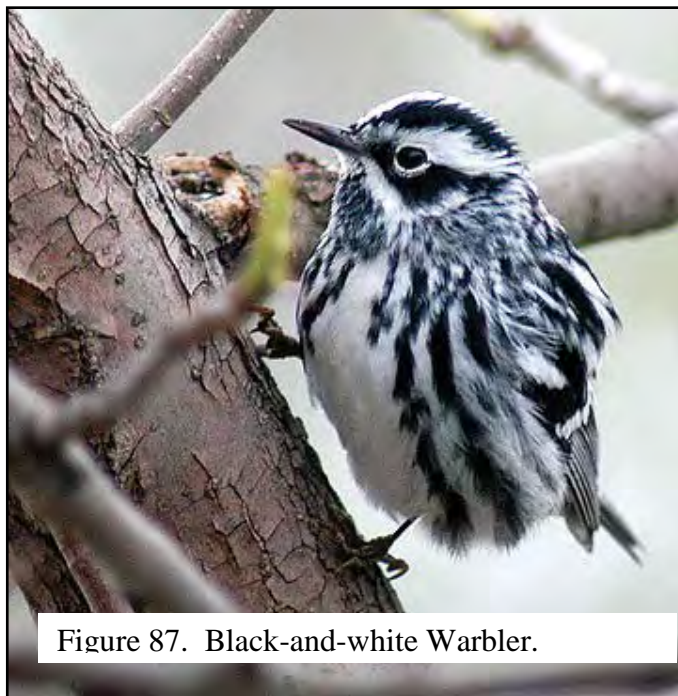


Figure 87. Black-and-white Warbler.

**AMERICAN REDSTART** (*Setophaga ruticilla*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** American Redstarts are typically present in May and in August to mid-September. This species prefers sites with a well-developed shrub and small tree layer. This species' summer status is uncertain.

**OVENBIRD** (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Ovenbirds uses deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Ovenbirds are present in May and August/September; their summer status is uncertain.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** (*Parkesia noveboracensis*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland. It is most likely to be seen along the edges of pools or streams.

**Remarks:** Northern Waterthrush should be looked for in May and from mid-August to late September.

## COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

(*Geothlypis trichas*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Common Yellowthroats are widely distributed. They can be found in dense grass or brush in mixed-grass prairie, woodland, cropland, hayfields, and CRP fields.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species arrives in early May and departs by late September. Early June to mid-August is the peak breeding season for Common Yellowthroats. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 11.2 and 2.5 Common Yellowthroats per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.



Figure 88. Common Yellowthroat.

## WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Wilson's Warblers use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** The last half of May and mid-August to mid-September are peak migration windows.

## YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Yellow-breasted Chats use deciduous shrub patches within the mixed-grass prairie, as well as all of the woodland habitats.

**Remarks:** This species is most likely to be seen in May and September; its status during the summer period is largely unknown, though one bird was recorded along the Cedar River BBS in 1989. One was in a wooded draw on private land near GRNG Allotment 6E-South on 1 July 2004 (Jan and Gerry Sailer, pers. comm.).

## SPOTTED TOWHEE (*Pipilo maculatus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident, accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Spotted Towhees use brush tangles and dense shrub patches in deciduous woodland.



Figure 89. Spotted Towhee.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed.

**Remarks:** Spring migration is typically from mid-April to mid-May, whereas fall migration runs from mid-September to mid-October. Late May to mid-July is the likely peak of breeding activities. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 1.6 Spotted Towhees per square mile on the GRNG in 2009. A Spotted Towhee was found on the 16 December 2009 CBC.

#### AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (*Spizella arborea*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** American Tree Sparrows prefer “weedy” habitats, such as along tree rows, riparian zones, and cropland margins.

**High Counts:** The 16 December 2009 CBC recorded 131 American Tree Sparrows.

**Remarks:** Mid-March to mid-April and October are the peaks of migration.

#### CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer resident.

**Distribution:** Chipping Sparrows use woodland habitats; they also make use of grassland and cropland edges during migration.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Birds arrive in mid-April and can often be seen into mid-October. Breeding season activity is concentrated between early June and early August. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 9.5 Chipping Sparrows per square mile on the CRNG in 2009.

#### CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring migrant, rare summer resident, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Clay-colored Sparrows use brush patches within the mixed-grass prairie habitat. Western Snowberry, Chokecherry, and Hawthorne are favored species.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed.

**Remarks:** Arriving in early May, Clay-colored Sparrows start departing in August and are mostly gone by mid-September. Peak breeding activity likely occurs from early June to mid-July. During summer, this species is even rarer on the GRNG than it is on the CRNG. Johnson et al. (2002, 2003) reported 1 detection each year on the CRNG, for an estimated density of 0.6 bird per square mile. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 9.5 Clay-colored Sparrows per square mile on the CRNG in 2009. Hanni et al. (2002) and White et al. (2010) reported no detections on the GRNG. Sparks et al. (2010) only reports from the GRNG were of 1 bird in 2007 and 2 birds in 2009.

#### FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Field Sparrows are most numerous in woody draws.

**Nesting Records:** Local nesting has yet to be confirmed.

**High Counts:** Five birds were found on 13



Figure 90. Field Sparrow.



May 2011 in Pasture 8, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Field Sparrows arrive in early May, and depart by late September. Mid-May to early August is the probable breeding season for this species. Dr. Winter (unpubl. data) found a Field Sparrow in summer 2005 (at point count #635-02). Within the checklist area, this species (and its habitat) seems most widespread on BOR land.

#### VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer resident.

**Distribution:** Vesper Sparrows are widely distributed. Look for them especially along field margins and roadways in cropland and mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Vesper Sparrow nests and dependent fledglings are noted on an annual basis in the checklist area. A nest with nestlings was found in Pasture 8, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 26 May 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Vesper Sparrows arrive in mid-April and depart in late August and early September. Peak breeding is from late May to mid-July. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 0.5 and 2.5 Vesper Sparrows per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

#### LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Lark Sparrows are found along woodland edges.

**Nesting Records:** Lark Sparrow nests have been found in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** Twenty birds were found on 13 May 2011 in Pasture 8, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Spring migration occurs from mid-April to mid-May. This species declines during August and is mostly absent by early September. Breeding activity peaks from late May to mid-July.

#### LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

**Status:** Common but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Lark Buntings occur in mixed-grass prairie with scattered shrubs. They also are likely to be found on CRP and hay fields.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding confirmation is shown in Peterson (1995). A nest was photographed at Lemmon Lake GPA on 9 June 2011.

**High Counts:** Forty Lark Buntings were found near Pasture 7, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 25 May 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Lark Buntings spend a surprisingly



Figure 91. Lark Bunting nest.



short time in the Northern Great Plains. They often do not arrive until late May or early June, and then start departing by late July or early August. In most areas of SD, the species is rarely seen in September. Peak breeding activity encompasses the period from early June to early August. This species is well-known for its irruptive population patterns; being numerous some years, absent others. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 52.0 Lark Buntings per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 1.6 and 3.2 Lark Buntings per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

#### SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Savannah Sparrows prefer relatively mesic mixed-grass prairie, hayfields, and CRP fields.

**Nesting Records:** Adults with dependent young were found at numerous locations on the GRNG in 1985 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs).

**Remarks:** Savannah Sparrows are present in the checklist area from late April to early October. Peak breeding activity occurs from early June to mid-July. This species is more abundant in summer on the CRNG than it is on the GRNG. Johnson et al. (2002) estimated 6.5 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~13 individual) Savannah Sparrows per square mile on the CRNG in 2002. Hanni et al. (2002), Sparks et al. (2010), and White et al. (2010) reported no detections on the GRNG.

#### GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Grasshopper and Savannah sparrows use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Several Grasshopper Sparrow nests and dependent fledglings have been found on both Grasslands (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.). See also Johnson et al. 2002.

**Remarks:** Grasshopper Sparrows first arrive in early May and start departing by early August. Breeding activity is concentrated from early June to late July. Johnson et al. (2002) estimated 34.1 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~68.2 individual) Grasshopper Sparrows per square mile on the CRNG in 2002. A year later, the estimate was 58.2 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~116.4 individual; Johnson et al. 2003). Hanni et al. (2003) estimated that there were 131 Grasshopper Sparrows per square mile on the GRNG in 2002. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 175.5 Grasshopper Sparrows per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 153.3 and 167.6 Grasshopper Sparrows per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009. Relatively late sightings include: 1 in Maier Allotment, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND on 7 October 2009; 1 in Knispel Wildlife Area, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND on 12 October 2009; 12 in South Community Allotment, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND 15 October 2010; and at least 8 in North Community Allotment, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND, 15 October 2010 (all Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**BAIRD'S SPARROW** (*Ammodramus bairdii*)

**Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Baird's Sparrows use hayfields, CRP fields, and mixed-grass prairie. They prefer sites with a relatively large component of native grass species and scattered forbs, but commonly use crested wheatgrass planting as well. Baird's Sparrows are sensitive to grass density and height and prefer moderately-grazed pasture with relatively moderate vegetative litter.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (in Allotment 1B, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD; David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** Up to 15 Baird's Sparrows were found on the CRNG in May 2000 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species' abundance varies markedly year-to-year in response to vegetative conditions. They are most numerous in years with extensive residual vegetation, such as occurs in years following above-normal precipitation during the growing season. Look for them between May and September. Breeding activity is concentrated between May and early July. Knowles (2001) observed Baird's Sparrows at 8% of his survey stations on 6 of 10 routes laid out across the GRNG. All but one of the 20 birds found were in the northern portion of that National Grassland, and all but two observations were at grassland sites where Crested Wheatgrass was a dominant plant species. However, none of the Baird's Sparrows were in dense monocultures of Crested Wheatgrass. None of the birds were found in areas that appeared to have been moderately or heavily grazed. Johnson et al. (2002) estimated that there were 4 Baird's Sparrows per square mile on the CRNG in 2002; the estimated density in 2003 was 5.6 Baird's Sparrows per square mile (Johnson et al. 2003). Sparks et al. (2010), working on the GRNG, detected 0 birds during systematic surveys in 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2008; 1 bird in 2005, and 13 birds in 2009.

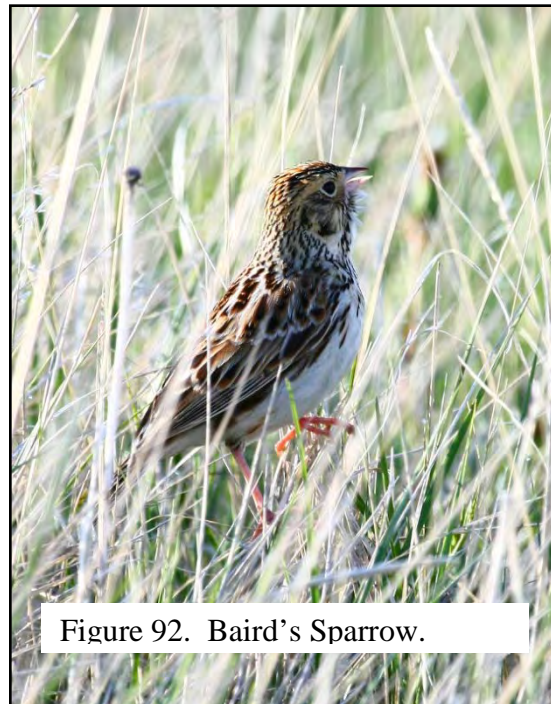


Figure 92. Baird's Sparrow.

**Le CONTE'S SPARROW** (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant, accidental summer resident.

**Distribution:** Le Conte's Sparrows use dense CRP fields. They are most often found near wetlands.

**Remarks:** Le Conte's Sparrows migrate from late April to mid-May. This species should be looked for in suitable habitat during summer as well. Tallman et al. (2002) cite an unpublished record from 7 June 1970 in Perkins Co., SD. A Le Conte's Sparrow was found in Allotment 3A, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD in May 1990 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**FOX SPARROW** (*Passerella iliaca*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Dense, low growing riparian shrubs are preferred by migrating Fox Sparrows. Look for them in deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Migration peaks are April and October. A Fox Sparrow was found in the North Community Allotment Wildlife Area, CRNG, Sioux Co., ND on 23 April 2009 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). To date, all local sightings have been of the “Red Fox Sparrow” (*P. i. iliaca*).

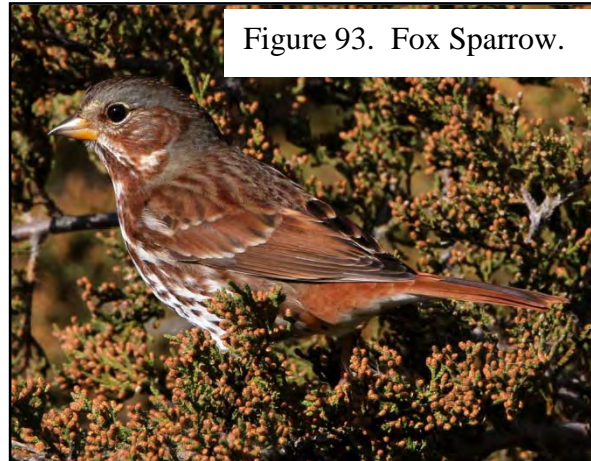


Figure 93. Fox Sparrow.

**SONG SPARROW** (*Melospiza melodia*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Song Sparrows are widely distributed, using dense grass stands and brush tangles in or near wetlands across the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species is easy to find from early April through mid-October. Peak breeding occurs from mid-May to early August.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** (*Melospiza lincolnii*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Lincoln's Sparrows are most often found in brush tangles in deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Peak migration is in early May and in September. Birds can often be found, however, from mid-April through May and from mid-August through mid-October.

**SWAMP SPARROW** (*Melospiza georgiana*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses dense cattail and deciduous brush stands during migration.

**Remarks:** Spring migrants pass through in late April or early May. Fall migration peaks from mid-September to mid-October.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** White-throated Sparrows are most often found in brush tangles in deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Mid-April to late May and September/October are the peaks of migration.

**HARRIS'S SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia querula*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Harris's Sparrows use brush and small tree rows in or adjacent to cropland and mixed-grass prairie habitat. They are often seen at feedlots, as well as human habitations.

**Remarks:** Mid-April to late May and mid-September to mid-October are the peaks of migration. Five Harris's Sparrows were found on the 21 December 2007 CBC.



Figure 94. Harris's Sparrow.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**

(*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This sparrow species can be found along fence rows, tree rows, and in brush tangles throughout the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Mid-April to late May and September/October are the peaks of migration. Tallman et al. (2002) point out that the white-lored "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow (*Z. l. gambelii*) occurs more frequently in western South Dakota than does the black-lored nominate White-crowned Sparrow (*Z. l. leucophrys*).

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** (*Junco hyemalis*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, rare winter resident.

**Distribution:** Dark-eyed Juncos can be found along fence rows, tree rows, and in brush tangles throughout the checklist area.

**High Counts:** The 2002 and 2006 CBCs recorded 15 Dark-eyed Juncos, each.

**Remarks:** Juncos may be present from early September through mid-May. Most birds seen locally are attributable to the "Slate-colored Junco" (*J. h. hyemalis*), although both the "Pink-sided Junco" (*J. h. mearnsi*) and the "Oregon Junco" (*J. h. oregonus*) are also regular.

**SCARLET TANAGER** (*Piranga olivacea*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Scarlet Tanagers use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** The only record is of a female near Merrimans Grove Campground, Shadehill Res., on 10 May 2007 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.).

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.



**Distribution:** Rose-breasted Grosbeaks use deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks nested along the north shore of Shadehill Res. in 1987 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Spring migration occurs from early to late May. Fall migration occurs from late August to late September, whereas breeding is completed mostly from early June to mid-July. A male was at Shadehill Res. on 10 May 2007 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.); three were at Llewellyn Johns Memorial Recreation Area on 14 May 2011 (Ron Martin, Dan Svingen, pers. obs., m.ob.).

## BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

(*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Black-headed Grosbeaks use deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Dependent fledglings have been encountered several times within the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Migration and breeding seasonality is similar to the Rose-breasted Grosbeak.



Figure 95. Black-headed Grosbeak.

## BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*)

**Status:** Accidental summer resident and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Blue Grosbeaks use deciduous woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** Single males were on private land near Allotment 6E-South, GRNG, Perkins Co., SD on 20 August 2005 and 16 July 2008 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.). Pairs were present there 21 August 2005 and 30 August 2009 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.).

## LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Watch for this species near woodland edges. Lazuli Buntings are particularly common in Green Ash Woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding has been confirmed in the checklist area (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Lazuli Buntings can be seen from mid-May to late August. Peak breeding activities occur between early June and late August.

## INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, casual summer resident.

**Distribution:** Deciduous woodland is the preferred habitat for Indigo Buntings.

**Remarks:** Birds might be seen from mid-May to late August.

**DICKCISSEL** (*Spiza americana*)

**Status:** Rare but irregular spring migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Dickcissels use the densest mesic grassland habitats available in the checklist area. They are most likely to occur in CRP fields.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** North Community Allotment, CRNG, contained 70 Bobolinks on 12 May 2011 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Watch for Dickcissels in late May or early June to mid-August. Breeding activities are concentrated in June and July. White et al. (2010) recorded two detections on the GRNG in 2007, but none in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2009.

**BOBOLINK** (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring migrant and summer resident, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Bobolinks use mesic mixed-grass prairie, croplands, hayfields, and CRP fields.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Spring migrants peak in early to mid-May with numbers dropping after late July. Practically no birds are present by mid-September. Breeding activities are concentrated between early June and mid-July. This species is more abundant on the CRNG than on the GRNG. Johnson et al. (2003) estimated that there were 23 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~46 individual) Bobolinks per square mile on the CRNG in 2003. Hanni et al. (2003) did not report the species from the GRNG that same year. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 95.2 Bobolinks per square mile on the CRNG in 2009, but did not detect it on the GRNG.

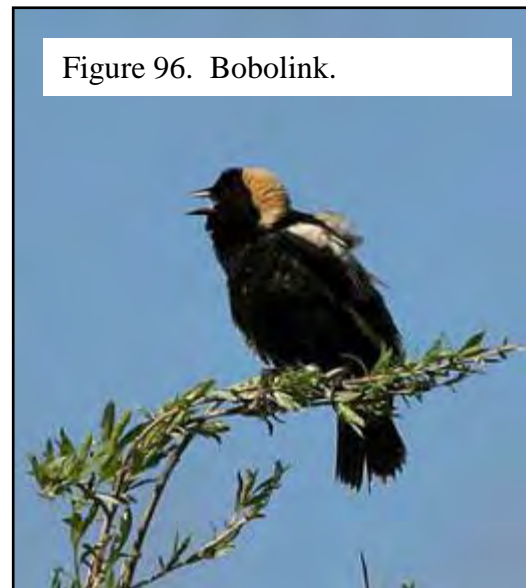


Figure 96. Bobolink.

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, rare but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** Red-winged Blackbirds nest at wetlands with cattail and/or bulrush stands. During the non-breeding season, this species is often found in trees bordering agricultural fields.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** Fifty (50) Red-winged Blackbirds were found during the 1999 CBC.

**Remarks:** Red-winged Blackbirds are regularly present from mid-March to late October. Breeding occurs between mid-May and late July. Johnson et al. (2002) estimated 9.5 indicated breeding pairs (i.e. ~19 individual) of Red-winged Blackbirds per square mile on the CRNG in 2002. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 17.1 Red-winged Blackbirds per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 80.5 and 35 Red-

winged Blackbirds per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

#### WESTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella neglecta*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Western Meadowlark use mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Breeding confirmation is shown in Peterson (1995).

**Remarks:** Spring migrants typically arrive in mid-March. Most birds depart by mid-October. Early May to mid-July is the peak of the breeding season. Johnson et al. (2002) estimated ~81 individual Western Meadowlarks per square mile on the CRNG in 2002. A year later, the estimate was 103.4 individuals per square mile (Johnson et al. 2003). Hanni et al. (2003) estimated that there were 110.1 Western Meadowlarks per square mile on the GRNG in 2002. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 239.3 Western Meadowlarks per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 105.8 and 84 Western Meadowlarks per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009. A single bird wintered on private land near GRNG Allotment 6E-South, Perkins Co., SD, January through mid-March 2011 (Jan Sailer, pers. comm.).

#### YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

(*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Yellow-headed Blackbirds nest at wetlands with cattail and/or bulrush stands. During the non-breeding season, this species is often found in trees bordering agricultural fields.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Large flocks of migrating Yellow-headed Blackbirds can be seen in April and September. A few birds can often be found in October. Breeding activity is at its peak from mid-May to mid-July.



Figure 97. Yellow-headed Blackbird.

#### RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, rare but irregular winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Rusty Blackbirds are most often found in trees bordering cropland or feedlots.

**High Counts:** The 16 December 2009 CBC tallied 32 Rusty Blackbirds.

**Remarks:** Migrants pass through this area in March and early April and again in October and early November.

### BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Brewer's Blackbirds use mixed-grass prairie. During the non-breeding season, Brewer's Blackbirds are often found in trees bordering cropland or feedlots.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Brewer's Blackbird migration peaks in April and during September and October. Breeding peaks from late May to mid-July. From 2004-2009, Sparks et al. (2010) only detections on the GRNG, were of two birds in 2007. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 2.8 Brewer's Blackbirds per square mile on the CRNG in 2009.

### COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Common Grackles use all of the checklist area's habitats. They are most frequently seen in or near cropland and in residential areas.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Birds typically arrive in late March with most birds departing by mid-October. The peak of the breeding season is from early May to early July. Single birds were found during the 1992, 1996, and 1999 CBC, as well as during count week of the 2001/2002 CBC.

### BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

(*Molothrus ater*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Brown-headed Cowbirds can be found throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** This species is present from early April until mid-August, when numbers start falling quickly. In most years, it is completely absent by late September. The peak of the breeding season is from late May to mid-July. Johnson et al. (2002, 2003) tallied male and female cowbirds separately on the CRNG. The total density of cowbirds per square mile was estimated at 29.2 birds in 2002 and 22.8 birds in 2003. Hanni et al. (2003) estimated that there were 137.1 Brown-headed Cowbirds per square mile on the GRNG in 2002. Sparks et al. (2010) found an average of 68.6 Brown-headed Cowbirds per square mile, 2004-2009, on the GRNG. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 143.8 and 158.8 Brown-headed Cowbirds per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

Figure 98. Brown-headed Cowbirds.





ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Orchard Orioles should be looked for in deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Orchard Orioles do not arrive in numbers until mid-May, numbers then fall quickly after late July. The peak of the breeding season is from early June to mid-July. This species is often found at farmsteads.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*)

**Status:** Accidental summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This oriole should be looked for in deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** A flock of about 6 birds was found in a wooded draw on private land near GRNG Allotment 6E-South, Perkins Co., SD on 12 June 1993 (Jan and Gerry Sailer, pers. comm.).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Baltimore Orioles use deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Adult Baltimore Orioles have been seen with dependent young near Shadehill Res. several years (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**Remarks:** Baltimore Orioles are present from early May through late August. The peak of the breeding season is from early June to early July.

PINE GROSBEAK (*Pinicola enucleator*)

**Status:** Accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Pine Grosbeaks use habitats similar to those used by Purple Finches.

**Remarks:** Approximately 10-15 Pine Grosbeaks were near Shadehill Res. on 14 December 2004 (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

PURPLE FINCH

(*Carpodacus purpureus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, fairly common but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** Purple Finches often use conifers in residential areas. They also can be found in large blocks of deciduous trees near sunflower fields.

**High Counts:** The 1996 CBC recorded 32 Purple Finches; 35 were found on the 21 December 2007 CBC.

**Remarks:** April and September through November are the migration periods for Purple Finch. This species visits feeders.



Figure 99. Purple Finch.

**HOUSE FINCH** (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** House Finches are most likely to be found in residential areas, where they visit feeders, and nest in coniferous or deciduous plantings.

**Nesting Record(s):** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** Thirty-four (34) House finches were found during the 2000 CBC.

**Remarks:** This species is rarely seen on the National Grasslands. Breeding activities occur from May to July.

**RED CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*)

**Status:** Rare but irregular year-round resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Red Crossbills prefer conifer plantings.

**Remarks:** Red Crossbills are most likely to be found during “good” cone crop years.

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**

(*Loxia leucoptera*)

**Status:** Casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** White-winged Crossbills use the same type of habitat that support Red Crossbills.

**High Counts:** Two White-winged Crossbills were found during the 2002 CBC.

**Remarks:** October through May is the time to look for White-winged Crossbills, though the species has been recorded locally only during the winter, to date.

Figure 100. Red Crossbill.



**COMMON REDPOLL** (*Acanthis flammea*)

**Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

**Distribution:** Common Redpolls use “weedy” habitats in mixed-grass prairie, such as tree rows, fence rows, and the margins of agricultural fields. They are especially attracted to sunflower fields.

**High Counts:** The 2000 CBC recorded 80 Common Redpolls.

**Remarks:** Common Redpolls might be found from late October to late March. To our knowledge, Hoary Redpolls have not been recorded within the checklist area.

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*)

**Status:** Fairly common but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident, rare but irregular summer resident.

**Distribution:** Pine Siskins use woodlands. During fall and winter, they also use cropland, particularly sunflower fields.

**High Counts:** The 2000 CBC recorded 28 Pine Siskins.

**Nesting Records:** This species has not yet been confirmed as a local nester.

**Remarks:** This species is often seen in company with American Goldfinches. Nesting birds should be looked for in coniferous woodland, April through June, following invasion years.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, uncommon but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** American Goldfinches use all of the checklist area's habitats, but are most regularly found in deciduous woodland. In winter, the species can be found at sunflower fields and in residential areas, especially at feeders.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Count(s):** The 15 December 2010 CBC recorded 26 American Goldfinches.

**Remarks:** The highest numbers occur from early May to late September. Breeding activity peaks from early July to early September. White et al. (2010) estimated that there were 5.4 and 3.7 American Goldfinches per square mile on the CRNG and GRNG, respectively, in 2009.

EVENING GROSBEAK (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

**Status:** Extirpated, formerly a winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Evening Grosbeaks use tree rows in mixed-grass prairie and near cropland (especially sunflower fields). They can also be found in deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** In the 1970s and 1980s, early October to late April was the period that this species could be found in the checklist area. The species has not been recorded here for >20 years.

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

**Status:** Common year-round resident.

**Distribution:** The House Sparrow is generally restricted to farmsteads and towns, where it uses feeders, deciduous and coniferous plantings, and parking lots, among a wide variety of other habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has been confirmed (David and Carolyn Griffiths, pers. obs.).

**High Counts:** The 1993 CBC recorded 650 House Sparrows.

**Remarks:** The peak of breeding is May to July.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)