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**BIRD STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION
ON THE
SHEYENNE NATIONAL GRASSLAND:
2010**



Greater Prairie-Chicken



by Dan Svingen and Ron Martin

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INTRODUCTION

This bird checklist concerns the area encompassed by the Sheyenne National Grassland's administrative boundary in southeastern North Dakota. The Sheyenne National Grassland (hereafter "Grassland") extends over 70,000 acres of wetland, tallgrass prairie, oak savannah, and eastern deciduous forest habitat in southeastern North Dakota (Figure 1). It is the largest publicly owned tallgrass prairie preserve in the United States and contains one of the nation's largest public tracts of Bur Oak savannah. A large population of Western Prairie Fringed Orchid, a threatened species, is found in the checklist area, as are more than 35 other rare plant species, and several rare butterfly species. The checklist area's bird community is of particular interest, because avian diversity (more than 270 species) and bird density is high, and because the checklist area's avifauna is among the most studied in the Northern Great Plains.

This book is an update of Martin and Svingen (2003). Its purpose is to summarize the status and distribution of birds within the checklist area as an aid to both visitors and managers. We hope that it is of use and inspires you to explore this fascinating site.

Figure 1. View of the Sheyenne National Grassland.



VISITING THE CHECKLIST AREA

Access is always a consideration when birding the checklist area. Off-road vehicle travel is prohibited. Many, but not all, two-track roads (Figure 2) are open to public use. If accessible, the open two-track roads can greatly aid your exploration in late spring, summer, and early fall.

Be sure to check whether a given two-track is approved for public use by referencing the travel map, which is available free of charge from the Sheyenne Ranger District office in Lisbon (see below for details). Be aware that use of the two-track roads may require a high-clearance vehicle.

Figure 2. Two-track road in South Durler Allotment.



When entering or leaving a pasture, be sure to leave the gate (either open or closed) as you found it. During winter and early spring, you would be advised to restrict your driving to the main roads. The entire Grassland is open to hiking. A 29-mile segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail is also available for exploration.

There are no poisonous animals in the checklist area. However, Poison Ivy is quite common. Mosquitoes, Deer Flies, and Horse Flies can be vicious companions during summer birding trips, making insect repellent and a stiff breeze helpful. You will likely pick up Wood Ticks if you cross any area with thick grass and brush. It is a good idea to stop periodically and brush off these hitchhikers. Although rare, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever has been found in North Dakota. Livestock will mostly ignore you if you keep your distance.

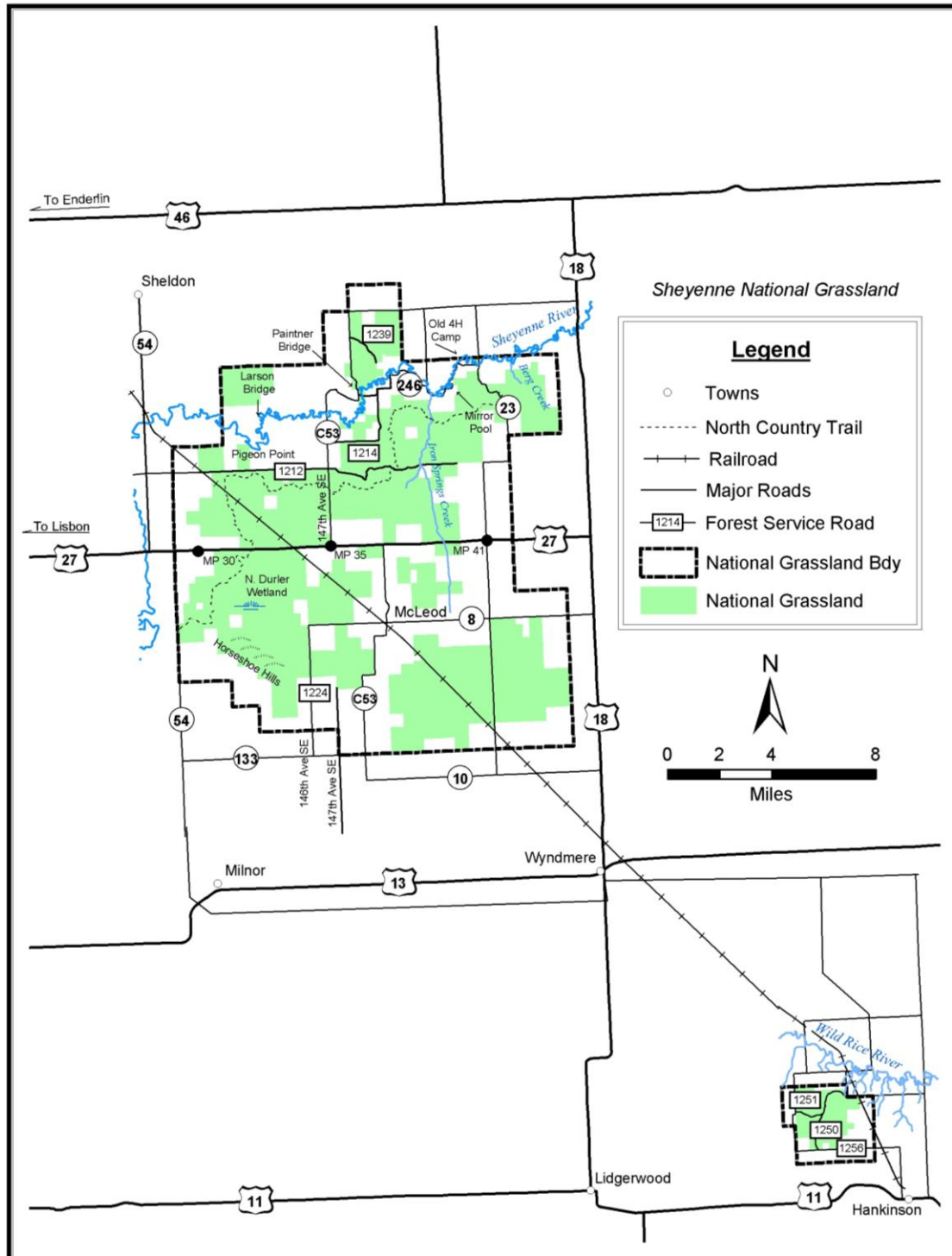
Food, fuel, and lodging are available in Enderlin, Hankinson, Lidgerwood, Lisbon, Milnor, and Wyndmere (Figure 4). A semi-primitive (water well, vault toilets) campground (Figure 3) is available on the Hankinson Unit, near Hankinson (Figure 4).

Public and private land is extensively intermingled within the Sheyenne National Grassland's administrative boundary; entry points into most public areas are marked by entrance signs or at least reflectors (Figure 2), but a Sheyenne National Grassland visitor map will greatly aid your navigating. The visitor map is sold (\$9) at the Sheyenne Ranger District Office, 1601 Main Street, Lisbon, ND 58054; phone 701-683-4342, email: SheyenneRangerDistrict@fs.fed.us. Additional information is available at: www.fs.fed.us/r1/dakotaprairie/.

Figure 3. Hankinson Hills Campground, Sheyenne National Grassland. May 2009.



Figure 4. Map of the checklist area as delineated by the Sheyenne National Grassland's administrative boundary.



WHERE TO BIRD IN THE CHECKLIST AREA

The Sheyenne National Grassland consists of two units. The larger parcel (~67,000 acres) surrounds McLeod, North Dakota (Figure 4). The smaller parcel (~2,800 acres) lies to the NW of Hankinson, North Dakota (Figure 4). The McLeod unit contains all of the checklist area's habitats. In contrast, the Hankinson unit mostly consists of mixed-grass prairie, oak savannah, and semiopen prairie. If you have limited birding time, we suggest you concentrate on the more diverse McLeod unit. In either unit, there is no one best place for visiting birders (Figure 5). The best strategy is simply to wander into the various habitats on public land. A few recommended stops follow. Note: most roads are gravel or dirt surfaced.

Figure 5. Birder.



South Durler Allotment

To explore grassland and wetland habitats, follow ND 27 east from Lisbon for 10.8 miles. At milepost 30, turn right (south). In 1 mile, go through the metal gate into South Durler Allotment, being sure to leave the gate as you found it. Follow the two-track southeast for another 2 miles, stopping often to scan and listen for birds. Regular summer birds include Marbled Godwits, Upland Sandpipers, Willets, Swainson's Hawks, Northern Harriers, Loggerhead Shrikes, Sedge Wrens, and Common Yellowthroats, as well as Lark, Savannah, and Grasshopper sparrows. When flooded, American Bitterns may use the large wetland. On occasion, Baird's Sparrows and Chestnut-collared Longspurs have been found here. On spring mornings, displaying Greater Prairie-Chickens can be found in this allotment, as can dancing Sharp-tailed Grouse.

Allotment R

Another good spot for grassland birds is Allotment R. To get there, follow ND 27 east from Lisbon for 22 miles. Zero your mileage at milepost 41, then go right (south). Allotment R starts on the left (east) side of the road at mile 3, and lies along both sides of the road between miles 4 and 6. Stop often to look and listen for Sharp-tailed Grouse, Loggerhead Shrikes, and Bobolinks. Unusual finds along this road have included Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Northern Mockingbirds.

Greater Prairie-Chickens

The checklist area supports North Dakota's only remnant population of Greater Prairie-Chickens (the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has now reestablished a population by Grand Forks too). The best way to see these birds (Figure 6) is to visit during a calm morning in April or early May. You can hear displaying males for a half mile or more. They are most active around dawn.

Lek locations vary year-to-year, and are monitored annually by Grassland staff. The majority of leks are in the area south of ND 27 and west of McLeod. The best strategy is to hear

displaying birds, then try to maneuver into a position where you can watch the birds from a distance. This species is of great conservation concern, and numbers are quite low. Please do not flush or disturb displaying birds.

Figure 6. Greater Prairie-Chicken.



American Woodcocks

American Woodcocks are difficult to find in North Dakota. The species regularly nests in the checklist area's scattered aspen clumps, especially those found north of ND 27. To reach a good spot to search for this species, follow ND 27 east from Lisbon for 16 miles. At milepost 35, turn left (north) on 147th Ave SE. You will cross the North Country Trail in 2 miles. Park where the trail crosses the road (watch for the walk-thru gate on the right [east] side of the road). Go through the walk-thru gate, and follow the trail northeast for a mile or so, as it passes through grasslands intermixed with patches of Bur Oak and Quaking Aspen. American Woodcocks can be heard displaying in this area during April evenings. Whip-poor-wills (rare but irregular) should be listened for from May to August.

Sheyenne River

Barred Owls, Pileated and Red-bellied woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatchers, American Redstarts, Ovenbirds, and Scarlet Tanagers all nest along the Sheyenne River, as do Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, and Warbling vireos. To explore suitable forest habitat, follow ND 27 east from Lisbon for 16 miles. At milepost 35, turn left (north) on 147th Ave SE. You will cross the Sheyenne River in 5 miles (private land); in another 2 miles, turn right (east) onto the road, proceed 200 yards, and park on the east side of Paintner Bridge. The land to the north and south is public land (see Grassland Visitor Map). Walk in either direction to find great birding.

Pigeon Point

The Nature Conservancy's Pigeon Point Preserve encompasses 570 acres along the Sheyenne River. To visit the mix of reclaimed fields and deciduous forest at Pigeon Point, follow ND 27 east from Lisbon for 16 miles. At milepost 35, turn left (north) on 147th Ave SE and drive 4 miles; then turn left (west) on 63rd St. SE (a.k.a. Forest Service 214). You will reach a "T" intersection in 2 miles. Turn left (south), proceed for a few hundred feet; then park near the

Pigeon Point entrance gate on the right (west) side of the road. Please do not block the gate. You can walk the entrance road downhill into the preserve and then wander among the trees and fields. There is no established trail system. Bird species at Pigeon Point are similar to the other forest areas described above. Additional birding opportunities await hikers on The Nature Conservancy's Brown Ranch, which consists of 1,531 acres of reclaimed and native tallgrass prairie. For more information, contact the Brown Ranch Headquarters 701-439-0841, or visit www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/northdakota/preserves/art9054.html.

Mirror Pool

One of the least disturbed tracts of riparian forest in the Sheyenne River valley is at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's NW Unit of the Mirror Pool Wildlife Management Area (WMA; Figure 7). To access this area from Lisbon, follow ND 27 east for 16 miles. At milepost 35, turn left (north) on 147th Ave SE. In 12.5 miles, turn right (east) onto Forest Service Road 1240A, along the north border of West A allotment. In another 1 mile, turn right (south) onto Forest Service Road 1240. Follow this new road south 2 miles to the WMA boundary. Continue for another mile to reach the road's end at a parking lot; then access the various trails and closed roads that wind through the riparian forest. Bird species here are similar to the other forest areas described above.

Figure 7. Mirror Pool Wildlife Management Area.



PAST RESEARCH

This checklist has benefited greatly from several bird-related research projects that have been conducted in the checklist area. A brief summary of these efforts follows.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Brown-headed Cowbirds are brood-parasites. In some areas, they may significantly reduce the productivity of grassland nesting songbirds. In 2000 and 2001, the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center monitored the movements and habitat use of radio-tagged cowbirds in the checklist area. The purpose was to evaluate the relationship between cowbird activity and the proximity and abundance of trees. In 2001, the study also monitored the fates and parasitism rates of grassland songbird nests at varying distances from wooded areas. When the analysis is completed, study results will likely be available at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center's website (www.npwrc.usgs.gov).

Figure 8. Brown-headed Cowbirds.



Christmas Bird Counts

Volunteer birders organized a short-lived Christmas Bird Count (CBC) centered in the checklist area. The count was held during the winters of 1972, 1973, and 1981. Additional information is available at the National Audubon Society's website (www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr/). Since 2000, staff from the Dakota Prairie Grasslands has spent one or two field days each winter to assess seasonal bird abundance and distribution.

Grassland Bird Populations

In 2002, the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center surveyed breeding birds in the checklist area. The purpose of this study was to assess the abundance, diversity, and distribution of breeding birds. Approximately 78 miles of transects were sampled, along which 5,000 birds of 87 species were found. The most abundant species were: Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark; and Grasshopper, Clay-colored, and Savannah sparrows (Cunningham et al. 2002). Sampling was also conducted in 2003, 2004, and 2005. Results were summarized in Cunningham et al. 2006.

Grassland Birds and Reserve Size

The “Bird Conservation Area” concept holds that grassland birds nesting in large parcels of quality habitat that are isolated from “hostile habitats” will have sufficient reproductive success to maintain their population levels. In the context of grasslands, “hostile habitats” are wooded areas. In order to test this concept, the U.S. Geological Survey’s Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center monitored grassland nesting birds from 1999-2001. The research entailed hundreds of hours of nest searching and monitoring. Approximately 250 nests were found each year. The most common nests encountered were those of these species: Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark; and Clay-colored, Savannah, Grasshopper, Field, Vesper, and Lark sparrows. For more information, read the annual reports available at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center’s website (www.npwrc.usgs.gov).

Figure 9. Researchers looking for bird nests.



Grassland Birds and Leafy Spurge

Leafy Spurge is an exotic, invasive weed that infests tens of thousands of acres of the checklist area. It outcompetes native vegetation and alters vegetative structure in a way that might negatively affect birds. During 1999-2000, bird surveys and nest searches were conducted in areas of low, medium, and high spurge infestation. Grasshopper and Savannah sparrow densities were lower in areas of high spurge infestation, but nest site selection and nest success were not influenced by spurge. Additional details can be found in Scheiman et al. (2003).

Greater Prairie-Chicken

As noted above, the checklist area supports North Dakota’s last remnant population of Greater Prairie-Chickens. Several research projects have been conducted to determine strategies to maintain and increase this population. A symposium summarizing this work was held at the 17th Prairie Grouse Technical Conference, in Crookston, Minnesota during September 1987. Topics included: past population fluctuations, habitat usage, trapping techniques, brood-rearing ecology, winter ecology, diets, livestock management, and effects of grazing, grassland habitat types, and habitat management by fire and mowing. Symposium papers were then printed in a technical report (Bjugstad 1988). Additional insight was provided in the summary completed by Svedarsky and Van Amburg (1996), which is available at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center’s website (www.npwrc.usgs.gov).

Unique Birds

Intermittently, the Sheyenne Ranger District is able to contract a birder to conduct targeted surveys on species of special interest. Past efforts have focused on those species that reach the extreme edge of their range in the checklist area. In 2003, Whip-poor-wills and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were surveyed, whereas Pileated and Red-bellied (Figure 10) woodpeckers were the focus of the 2004 effort. In 2006, surveys were conducted for Yellow Rails and Nelson's and Le Conte's sparrows.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This checklist is specific to those portions of Ransom and Richland counties encompassed by the administrative boundary of the checklist area (Figure 4). About one-half of the lands within this boundary are National Forest System lands; the remainder is largely privately owned.

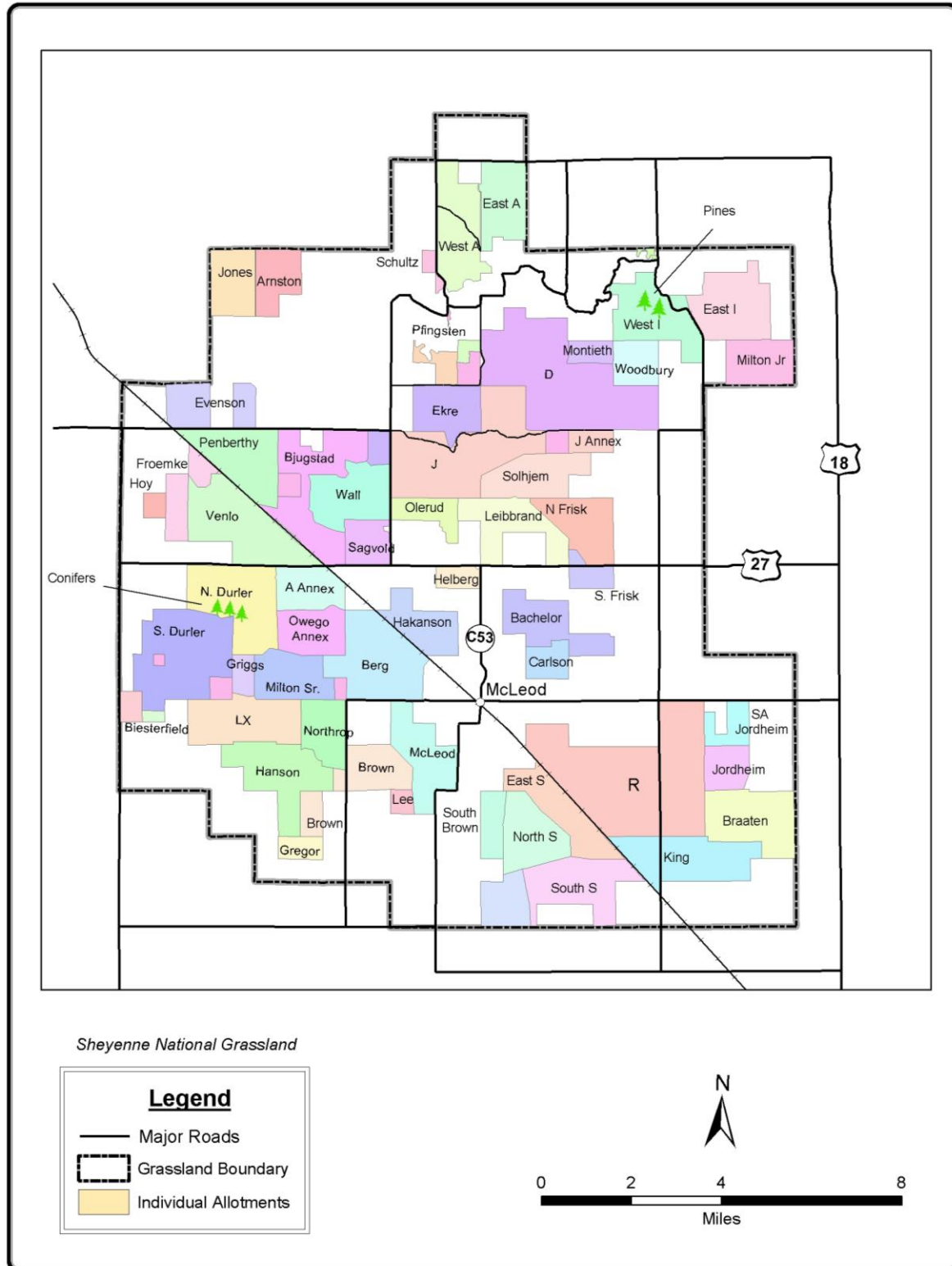
Locations:

By law, the checklist area (Figure 4) is managed for multiple uses, including livestock grazing, recreation, and conservation. Each year, approximately 10,000 cattle graze here, from May through mid-November. To facilitate livestock management, the checklist area has been divided into "grazing allotments" (Figure 11). Each allotment includes one or more pastures. Specific locations in this book are often referred to by the name of the encompassing grazing allotment. Other locations referred to in the following text may be shown on Figures 4 or 11.

Figure 10. Red-bellied Woodpecker.



Figure 11. Grazing allotments on the Shyenenne Ranger District. Note: the entire Hankinson Unit (not shown), is included within the Hankinson Allotment.



Habitats:

A variety of habitats exist across the checklist area. For our purposes, we have grouped them 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.

Coniferous Plantings: In the early and mid 20th century, a few small patches of conifers (Figure 12) were planted in what is now the checklist area.

These plantings were designed to stabilize sand blowouts, provide shade at homesteads, and provide wildlife habitat. The largest (58 acres) coniferous planting is in North Durler Allotment (Figure 12). Smaller patches are found in East I and West I allotments, and near Paintner Bridge.

Several bird species that are unusual in the checklist area are most easily found at these coniferous plantings. Examples include Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet owls; Cape May, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted warblers; Golden-crowned Kinglets; Purple Finches; and Red and White-winged crossbills.

Cropland: A large proportion of the private land within the checklist area's administrative boundary is cropland used for the production of wheat, potatoes, sunflowers, beans, and corn (Figure 13). Although these areas are little used by birds during summer, they provide favored feeding sites during other times of the year. Watch for Snow Geese, Ring-necked Pheasants, Killdeer, and Vesper Sparrows.

Eastern Deciduous Forest: The National Forest System lands within the checklist area encompass over 1,000 acres of eastern deciduous forest along the Sheyenne River (Figure 7). The mature forest is dominated by tree species such as: Bur Oak, Hackberry, American Elm (which is quickly being lost to Dutch Elm Disease), Basswood, and Green Ash. Cooper's Hawks, Black-billed Cuckoos, Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Blue Jays, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed

Figure 12. Fall bird survey in Coniferous Planting.



Figure 13. Cropland. September 2004.



Figure 14. Oak Savannah.



vireos, American Redstarts, Scarlet Tanagers, Ovenbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings are characteristic breeding birds. Because of its close association, we have included the Sheyenne River itself as part of this habitat. Reference in the following text to “riparian forest” means that portion of the eastern deciduous forest within a few hundred yards of the Sheyenne River.

Oak Savannah: The National Forest System lands within the checklist area include approximately 15,000 acres of oak savannah (Figure 14). This habitat is characterized by hills of loose sand covered by species such as: Bur Oak, Hackberry, Quaking Aspen, Western Snowberry, Kentucky Bluegrass, Sand Bluestem, and Leafy Spurge. Birds to watch for include Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Flickers, Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; and Chipping, Field, Lark, and Vesper sparrows.

Open Prairie: We use this term for grassland habitats with few or no trees (Figure 15). The vegetation is dominated by native species such as Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Switch Grass, Little Bluestem, Western Wheatgrass, Prairie Junegrass, and Blue Grama, and exotics such as Kentucky Bluegrass, Smooth Brome, and Leafy Spurge. Look in open prairie for Swainson’s Hawks, Greater Prairie-Chickens, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Marbled Godwits, Upland Sandpipers, and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Figure 15. Open Prairie.



Semiopen Prairie: Habitats dominated by grasses yet heavily intermixed with trees are termed “semiopen prairie” (Figure 1). Grass species are generally the same as those found in the Open Prairie habitats, but the presence of scattered clumps of Cottonwoods, Siberian Elms, Buckthorns, Eastern Red Cedars, Russian Olives, Green Ashes, Box Elders, and Quaking Aspens diversify the habitat structure. Red-tailed Hawks, Least Flycatchers, Field and Clay-colored sparrows, and Orchard Orioles prefer semiopen prairie habitat.

Figure 16. Wetland.



Wetlands: Wetland habitats are common and widespread in the checklist area. The amount of such habitat, however, varies widely year-to-year. For example, between 1992 and 1997, wetland habitat increased 2,600% due to a wet cycle. Most of those wetlands were absent by 2002, as drier

conditions returned. Because of the dynamic nature of these wetlands, it is often helpful to characterize them based on the length of time that they hold water in a given year.

Temporary wetlands are those that hold water for only a few weeks in the spring. Temporary wetlands are often very productive in terms of aquatic macroinvertebrates, making them favorite feeding sites for waterfowl and shorebirds. The dense vegetation that grows on these sites later in the summer creates favored nesting cover for Red-winged Blackbirds, Bobolinks, Sedge Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, and Le Conte's Sparrows.

Seasonal wetlands are typically dry or almost dry by late summer and fall. Emergent vegetation and open water are often interspersed throughout the wetland, creating the "hemi-marsh" habitat preferred by American Bitterns, Black-crowned Night-Herons, dabbling ducks, American Coots, Wilson's Phalaropes, Marsh Wrens, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and Nelson's Sparrows.

Semipermanent wetlands are those that typically do not dry up unless there is a drought. These wetlands usually have a deep-water area that is free of emergent vegetation. Semipermanent wetlands are preferred by waterbirds such as Western and Eared grebes, American White Pelicans, Canvasbacks, and Redheads.

Seasons:

We have defined the seasons as shown below. Be aware that movements of birds do not fit into easy seasonal categories. For example, some warblers begin their "fall" migration in July, whereas species such as Golden-crowned Kinglets may not finish their "fall" migration until late December.

- **Spring:** March 1 to May 31.
- **Summer:** June 1 to July 31.
- **Fall:** August 1 to November 30.
- **Winter:** December 1 to February 28.

Abundances:

The categories given below are based on a species' daily and seasonal totals. Daily totals refer to each species' peak numbers that could be found during a full day of birding in suitable habitat.

- A -abundant: daily peaks of 125 or more individuals; seasonal totals of 600 or more.
- C -common: daily peaks of 25-124 individuals; 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: less than 5 records, will probably occur again in the next decade.
- X -accidental: less 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(s), dependent young, etc.
- ? -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.

Nesting Information

In the following accounts we note which species have been confirmed as nesting birds in the checklist area. Observation of active nests, dependent broods, dependent fledglings, copulation, nest-building, or food-carrying adults was considered confirmation. Extensive data were available for several grassland bird species due to recent studies by the U.S. Geological Survey’s Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Nesting records collected by the Research Center are indicated by “NPWRC”, usually with a modifier to indicate which study was involved (BCA = Bird Conservation Area study, LS = Leafy Spurge Effect on Nesting Birds study, BHCO = Brown-headed Cowbird study).

Figure 17. Bird nest.



It should be stressed that the nesting locations noted in the following text merely indicate where breeding information has been recorded and was known to us. Undoubtedly these species nest in many other places as well. Very little data were available on woodland nesters. Visiting birders (Figure 18) can assist with data collection by reporting observations of nesting behaviors (see below). Information presented on probable nesting seasons was taken from: Stewart (1975) and Baicich and Harrison (1997).

Nomenclature, Capitalization, Plurals, Etc.

Bird nomenclature and species order follows that of the American Ornithologists’ Union (2007) checklist and its supplements up to and including #50. 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.”

Species Treated

This checklist discusses all bird species known to have been recorded within the administrative boundaries of the Sheyenne National Grassland. Additional species, such as Clark’s Grebe,

Little Blue Heron, Least Bittern, Caspian Tern, Townsend's Solitaire, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, and Evening Grosbeak have all been recorded nearby. Because there are no sightings from the checklist area itself, however, these species are excluded herein. The North Dakota Bird Records Committee has reviewed and rejected reports of Turkey Vulture (in winter), Red-shouldered Hawk, and Eastern Meadowlark from the checklist area. These species are likewise excluded, but might well occur.

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 18. Summer birder.



SUMMARY CHECKLIST

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
WATERFOWL					
Greater White-fronted Goose		C		F	
Snow Goose		A		C	
Ross's Goose		U		U	
Cackling Goose		C		C	
Canada Goose N		A	C	A	O
Tundra Swan		C		C	
Wood Duck N		F	F	F	
Gadwall N		C	C	C	
American Wigeon N?		F	U	F	
American Black Duck		R	R	R	
Mallard N		A	A	A	
Blue-winged Teal N		A	A	A	
Northern Shoveler N		C	C	C	
Northern Pintail N		C	F	C	
Green-winged Teal N		C	U	C	
Canvasback N		F	U	F	
Redhead N		C	F	C	
Ring-necked Duck		F	R	F	
Greater Scaup		R		R	
Lesser Scaup N?		C	U	C	
Bufflehead		C	R	C	
Common Goldeneye		U		U	
Hooded Merganser N		U	R	U	
Common Merganser		R		R	
Ruddy Duck N		C	F	C	
GAMEBIRDS					
Gray Partridge N		U	U	U	U
Ring-necked Pheasant N		A	A	A	A
Sharp-tailed Grouse N		F	F	F	F
Greater Prairie-Chicken N		U	U	U	U
Wild Turkey N		F	F	F	F
LOONS/GREBES					
Common Loon		O			
Pied-billed Grebe N		IC	IC	IC	
Horned Grebe		R	O	O	
Red-necked Grebe		R	O	O	

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Eared Grebe N		U	R	U	
Western Grebe		R	O	R	
PELICANS/CORMORANT					
American White Pelican		U	U	C	
Double-crested Cormorant		C	F	F	
HERONS/EGRETS					
American Bittern N		U	IU	U	
Great Blue Heron		U	U	U	
Great Egret		U	U	U	
Snowy Egret		R	R	R	
Cattle Egret		U	U	U	
Green Heron N		U	U	U	
Black-crowned Night-Heron		U	U	U	
White-faced Ibis		R	R	R	
VULTURES					
Turkey Vulture		U	U	U	
RAPTORS					
Osprey		R		R	
Bald Eagle		F	R	F	IU
Northern Harrier N?		F	F	F	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		U	O	U	
Cooper's Hawk N		U	U	U	
Northern Goshawk		R		R	R
Broad-winged Hawk N		U	R	U	
Swainson's Hawk N		U	U	U	
Red-tailed Hawk N		C	F	C	O
Ferruginous Hawk		O		O	
Rough-legged Hawk		F		F	IU
Golden Eagle		R		R	R
American Kestrel N		F	F	F	O
Merlin		U		U	R
Gyr Falcon		X			
Peregrine Falcon		R		R	
Prairie Falcon		O		O	O
RAILS/CRANES					
Yellow Rail N?		IU	IU		

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Virginia Rail N?		F	F		
Sora N		C	C	F	
American Coot N		A	A	A	
Sandhill Crane		F		U	
SHOREBIRDS					
Black-bellied Plover		F	U	U	
American Golden-Plover		F		U	
Semipalmated Plover		F	F	F	
Killdeer N		C	C	C	
American Avocet		U	R	U	
Spotted Sandpiper N?		U	U	U	
Solitary Sandpiper		U	U	U	
Greater Yellowlegs		F	F	F	
Willet N?		U	U	U	
Lesser Yellowlegs		C	C	C	
Upland Sandpiper N		C	C	F	
Hudsonian Godwit		U		O	
Marbled Godwit N		F	F	F	
Ruddy Turnstone		R	O	O	
Red Knot			O		
Sanderling		F	F	F	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		C	C	C	
Least Sandpiper		C	C	C	
White-rumped Sandpiper		C	C	O	
Baird's Sandpiper		C	C	C	
Pectoral Sandpiper		F	F	F	
Dunlin		F		R	
Stilt Sandpiper		C	C	C	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		R	R	R	
Short-billed Dowitcher		F	F	F	
Long-billed Dowitcher		F	C	C	
Wilson's Snipe N		C	C	C	
American Woodcock N		U	U	U	
Wilson's Phalarope N		C	C	C	
Red-necked Phalarope		U	U	U	
GULLS/TERNS					
Bonaparte's Gull		R		R	
Franklin's Gull		C	F	C	
Ring-billed Gull		F	F	F	
California Gull		O		O	

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Herring Gull		R		R	
Black Tern N		A	C	C	
Common Tern		O		O	
Forster's Tern		U	R	U	
DOVES/CUCKOOS					
Rock Pigeon N		F	F	F	F
Mourning Dove N		A	A	A	O
Yellow-billed Cuckoo N?		R	R	R	
Black-billed Cuckoo N		U	U	U	
OWLS					
Eastern Screech-Owl N?		U	U	U	U
Great Horned Owl N		F	F	F	F
Snowy Owl		IR	X	IR	IR
Burrowing Owl		E	E	E	
Barred Owl N		U	U	U	U
Long-eared Owl		R		R	
Short-eared Owl		IU	IU	IU	IU
Northern Saw-whet Owl		R		R	R
NIGHTJARS					
Common Nighthawk N		U	U	U	
Whip-poor-will N?		R	R		
SWIFTS TO KINGFISHER					
Chimney Swift		R	R	R	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird N?		U	U	U	
Belted Kingfisher N?		U	U	U	
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker N		U	U	U	
Red-bellied Woodpecker N		U	U	U	R
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker N		C	C	C	
Downy Woodpecker N?		F	F	F	F
Hairy Woodpecker N?		F	F	F	F
Northern Flicker N		C	C	C	R
Pileated Woodpecker N		U	U	U	U
FLYCATCHERS					
Olive-sided Flycatcher		R	R	R	
Eastern Wood-Pewee N		F	F	F	

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		R	R	R	
Alder Flycatcher		C	R	R	
Willow Flycatcher N?		F	F	R	
Least Flycatcher N		C	C	C	
Eastern Phoebe N		F	U	F	
Say's Phoebe		X			
Great Crested Flycatcher N?		F	F	F	
Western Kingbird N		F	F	F	
Eastern Kingbird N		A	A	A	
SHRIKES					
Loggerhead Shrike N		U	U	U	
Northern Shrike		U		U	U
VIREOS					
Yellow-throated Vireo N?		F	F	F	
Blue-headed Vireo		U		U	
Warbling Vireo N?		C	C	C	
Philadelphia Vireo		U		U	
Red-eyed Vireo N		C	C	C	
CROWS/JAYS					
Blue Jay N		F	F	F	F
Black-billed Magpie		O	O	O	O
American Crow N		A	C	A	U
Common Raven			O		
LARKS/SWALLOWS					
Horned Lark N		C	F	C	IU
Purple Martin		R	R	R	
Tree Swallow N		C	C	C	
N. Rough-winged Swallow N		F	F	R	
Bank Swallow N		C	C	C	
Cliff Swallow N		C	C	C	
Barn Swallow N		A	C	A	
CHICKADEES & ALLIES					
Black-capped Chickadee N		C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Nuthatch		IF		IF	R
White-breasted Nuthatch N		F	F	F	F
Brown Creeper		U		U	R

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
WRENS/KINGLETS					
House Wren N		A	A	A	
Winter Wren		R		R	
Sedge Wren N		IC	IC	IC	
Marsh Wren N		C	C	C	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		U		U	R
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		C		F	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		O	O		
THRUSHES/MIMICS					
Eastern Bluebird N		F	F	F	
Mountain Bluebird		O	O		
Veery N		F	F	U	
Gray-checked Thrush		F		R	
Swainson's Thrush		C	R	U	
Hermit Thrush		F	X	U	
Wood Thrush N		O	O		
American Robin N		A	A	A	O
Gray Catbird N		F	F	F	
Northern Mockingbird N			O		
Brown Thrasher N		F	F	F	
STARLING/PIPITS					
European Starling N		A	C	A	U
American Pipit		R		F	
Sprague's Pipit N?		O	O		
WAXWINGS					
Bohemian Waxwing		IC		IC	IC
Cedar Waxwing N		C	C	C	IC
WARBLERS					
Golden-winged Warbler		X			
Tennessee Warbler		C	R	F	
Orange-crowned Warbler		C		C	
Nashville Warbler		F		F	
Yellow Warbler N		C	C	C	
Chestnut-sided Warbler		F		F	
Magnolia Warbler		F		F	
Cape May Warbler		R		R	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		A		A	
Black-throated Green Warbler		R		R	

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Blackburnian Warbler		U		U	
Palm Warbler		U		U	
Bay-breasted Warbler		R		U	
Blackpoll Warbler		C		F	
Cerulean Warbler		O	O		
Black-and-white Warbler N?		F	F	F	
American Redstart N		C	C	F	
Worm-eating Warbler		X			
Ovenbird N		C	C	C	
Northern Waterthrush		C		F	
Connecticut Warbler		R	R	O	
Mourning Warbler		U	U	U	
Common Yellowthroat N		A	A	A	
Wilson's Warbler		F		F	
Canada Warbler		U		U	
Yellow-breasted Chat			X		
SPARROWS					
Spotted Towhee		R		R	
American Tree Sparrow		A		A	IU
Chipping Sparrow N		A	A	A	
Clay-colored Sparrow N		A	A	A	
Field Sparrow N		A	A	A	
Vesper Sparrow N		A	A	A	
Lark Sparrow N		F	F	F	
Lark Bunting N?			IR		
Savannah Sparrow N		A	A	A	
Grasshopper Sparrow N		A	A	F	
Baird's Sparrow N?		IR	IR		
Henslow's Sparrow N			O		
Le Conte's Sparrow N		U	U	R	
Nelson's Sparrow N?		U	U	R	
Fox Sparrow		U		U	
Song Sparrow N		C	C	C	
Lincoln's Sparrow		F		F	
Swamp Sparrow N		F	U	F	
White-throated Sparrow		C		C	O
Harris's Sparrow		C		C	O
White-crowned Sparrow		F		F	
Dark-eyed Junco		A		A	U
Lapland Longspur		A		A	IC
Smith's Longspur				R	

SPECIES	√	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Chestnut-collared Longspur N?		IU	IU	IU	
Snow Bunting		F		F	IA
TANAGERS					
Scarlet Tanager N		F	F	U	
CARDINALS/GROSBEAKS					
Northern Cardinal		O		O	O
Rose-breasted Grosbeak N		F	F	F	
Indigo Bunting N?		U	U	U	
Dickcissel N?		IF	IF		
BLACKBIRDS/ORIOLES					
Bobolink N		A	A	A	
Red-winged Blackbird N		A	A	A	R
Western Meadowlark N		A	A	A	O
Yellow-headed Blackbird N		A	C	A	
Rusty Blackbird		U		F	O
Brewer's Blackbird N		F	F	F	
Common Grackle N		A	A	A	O
Great-tailed Grackle			X		
Brown-headed Cowbird N		A	A	A	
Orchard Oriole N		F	F	U	
Bullock's Oriole		X			
Baltimore Oriole N		F	F	F	
FINCHES					
Pine Grosbeak		O		O	O
Purple Finch		F		F	F
House Finch N?		R	R	R	R
Red Crossbill		IU		IU	IU
White-winged Crossbill		IR		IR	IR
Common Redpoll		IA		IA	IA
Hoary Redpoll		IR		IR	IR
Pine Siskin N?		IU	IR	IF	IU
American Goldfinch N		A	A	A	U
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow N		C	C	C	C

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*)

Status: Common spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant.

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

High Counts: On April 13, 2005, in Biesterfield Allotment, 120 Greater White-fronted Geese flew overhead (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: North Dakota is a major migration path for Greater White-fronted Geese moving between their Arctic nesting grounds and Gulf Coast wintering areas, but most birds fly over without stopping. Look for stragglers in Snow Goose flocks. Migration peaks in late March and April and from late September to late October.

SNOW GOOSE (*Chen caerulescens*)

Status: Abundant spring migrant, common fall migrant.

Distribution: During migration, Snow Geese can be seen flying throughout the checklist area, as they move from loafing spots at wetlands to foraging areas in cropland.

Remarks: Large numbers of Snow Geese typically stage in the nearby Oakes area and at Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge. Migration peaks in April and from late September to early November. In recent years, small numbers (less than 50) of Snow Geese have summered in southeastern North Dakota, though none have yet been detected in the checklist area.

ROSS'S GOOSE (*Chen rossii*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: The distribution of the Ross's Goose and Snow Goose are the same.

High Counts: A large flock of Snow Geese that flew over North Durler Allotment on April 8, 2004 also contained 15 Ross's Geese (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Look for this species in large flocks of Snow Geese. The peak migration periods for Ross's Geese are April and October. A dead Ross's Goose was found in Oswego Annex on April 1, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

CACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*):

Status: Common spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: The distribution of the Cackling Goose and Snow Goose are the same.

Remarks: The Cackling Goose was designated as a separate species in the 2004 version of the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist (Banks et al. 2004). Its status within the checklist area is speculative, but reasonable, given its abundant status in surrounding areas (Martin et al. IN PREP).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

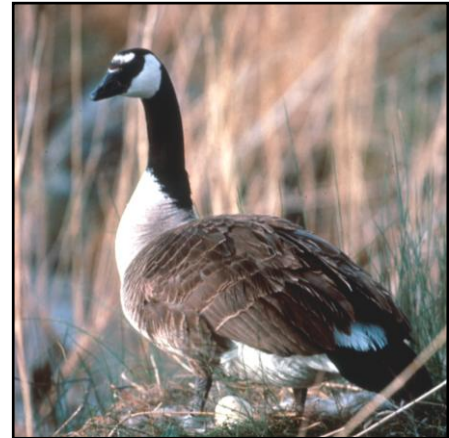
Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant, common summer resident, casual winter visitor.

Distribution: Canada Geese can be seen and heard flying throughout the checklist area. Staging and nesting birds are typically found in the checklist area's larger wetlands.

Nesting Records: Nests and broods have been found on most of the checklist area's large wetlands.

Remarks: Local numbers swell with migrants from mid March to late April, and again from October to late November. In some years, early migrants are seen by late February. The earliest records are of 1 bird heard near North Frisk Allotment on February 4, 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.), and of 4 birds seen at Bjugstad Allotment the same day (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.).

Figure 19. Canada Goose.



TUNDRA SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Tundra Swans are most likely to be seen flying overhead, although a few birds are occasionally present in the checklist area's cropland and larger wetlands.

High Counts: Ninety-two (92) Tundra Swans were seen feeding in partially flooded cropland near the Leibbrand Allotment on April 17, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: North Dakota is in the main migration path from coastal Alaska to the Chesapeake Bay area. Peak movement through southeastern North Dakota is during April and from early October to late November. The large wetlands available at nearby Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, Englevale Slough, and Kraft Slough are dependable spots for this species.

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*)

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

Distribution: Wood Ducks might be found in any seasonal or semipermanent wetland, but are most reliably found in backwaters along the Sheyenne River.

Nesting Records: Nests and broods have been seen on many wetlands. Dependent ducklings are commonly seen from late May through August.

High Counts: In October 2006, 70 Wood Ducks were present on the flooded beaver ponds within Pfingsten-Olson Allotment (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Breeding activity peaks from early May to mid July. Nesting boxes on the Mirror Pool Wildlife Management Area are heavily used. Migration is most noticeable during April, September, and October.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Gadwalls are found in temporary, seasonal, and semipermanent wetlands.

Nesting Records: Nests have been found in Braaten, East A, and East I allotments (NPWRC BCA). All active nests to date have been discovered in the short span from May 27 (1999) to June 20 (1999).

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

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*)

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

Distribution: American Wigeon can be found in temporary, seasonal, and semipermanent wetlands.

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests in the checklist area, though this has yet to be documented.

Remarks: Peak breeding is likely from early June to mid August, whereas April and September to late October are the most active periods for migration.

Figure 20. American Wigeon.



AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (*Anas rubripes*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: American Black Ducks are most likely to be found on large seasonal and semipermanent wetlands.

Remarks: From late May to early November, look for post-breeding or nonbreeding drakes in flocks of loafing Mallards. It is likely that no breeding occurs locally.

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: The adaptable Mallard can be found anywhere there is water.

Nesting Records: Several nests were found in the checklist area during NPWRC's BCA and LS studies. Dates of active nests ranged from May 6 (1999) to July 2 (2000). Locations included Arntson, Bachelor, East A, East I, Jordheim, N. Frisk, North S, SA Jordheim, and West A allotments.

Remarks: Late April to mid August is the peak of breeding. Spring migration runs from mid March to early May; fall flights are most obvious in October and November.

Figure 21. Blue-winged Teal.



BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Blue-winged Teal are found in temporary, seasonal, and semipermanent wetlands.

Nesting Records: During the BCA and LS studies, NPWRC found dozens of active nests in the checklist area. Active nest dates ranged from May 10 (1999) to June 27 (2000). An early nest with one egg was found on April 2, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Blue-winged Teal broods are commonly seen in the checklist area.

High Counts: A total of 800 Blue-winged Teal were present in several large flocks within the southeastern quarter of the checklist area on May 2, 2008 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Blue-winged Teal spend relatively little time in North Dakota; 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.

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Northern Shoveler are found in temporary, seasonal, and semipermanent wetlands.

Nesting Records: NPWRC (BCA and LS studies) documented several Northern Shoveler nests. Locations included the following allotments: Bachelor, East A, East I, N. Frisk, North S, S. Brown, and SA Jordheim. Dates of active nests varied from May 16 (2000) to July 9 (2000).

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

NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

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

Distribution: Northern Pintail are found in temporary, seasonal, and semipermanent wetlands.

Nesting Records: Nests have been found from May 22 (2001) to June 22 (2001) in Bachelor, Berg, Braaten, and East A allotments (NPWRC BCA). The species also has been found nesting in R Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

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: Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

Distribution: Green-winged Teal use temporary, seasonal, and semipermanent wetlands.

Nesting Records: Nests have been found in East I and N. Frisk allotments (NPWRC BCA). Known dates of active nests range from June 17 (2000) to July 5 (2000).

High Counts: There were 200 Green-winged Teal on a single pond within Bachelor Allotment

on April 15, 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: April and October are important migration months. Breeding activity peaks from mid May to mid August.

CANVASBACK (*Aythya valisineria*)

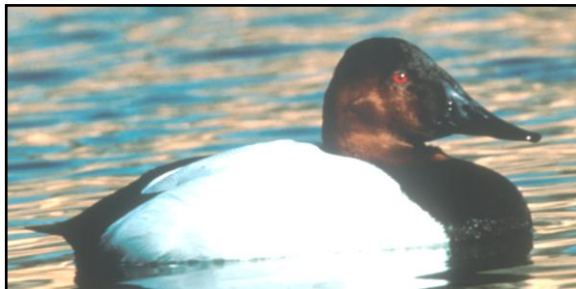
Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

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

Nesting Records: Breeding was confirmed on June 17, 1999 in Froemke Allotment (Dan Scheiman, pers. comm.). A hen with 9 young was noted on June 20, 2005 (location not noted; Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Peak breeding activity is from mid May to mid August, whereas mid April and October are the periods of greatest abundance.

Figure 22. Canvasback.



REDHEAD (*Aythya americana*)

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

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

Nesting Records: A hen with three young was in the southeast pasture of R Allotment on June 12, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

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

RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*)

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

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

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

GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Greater Scaup use the largest, deepest, least vegetated wetlands available in the checklist area (the availability and location of which changes year-to-year).

Remarks: Look for Greater Scaup in April and from October to early November.

LESSER SCAUP (*Aythya affinis*)

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

Distribution: Look for Lesser Scaup in the same habitats used by Canvasbacks and Redheads.

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests in the checklist area, but nesting has yet to be documented.

Remarks: Mid June to late August is the likely peak of breeding. Migrant numbers peak from April through early May, and again from October through early November.

BUFFLEHEAD (*Bucephala albeola*)

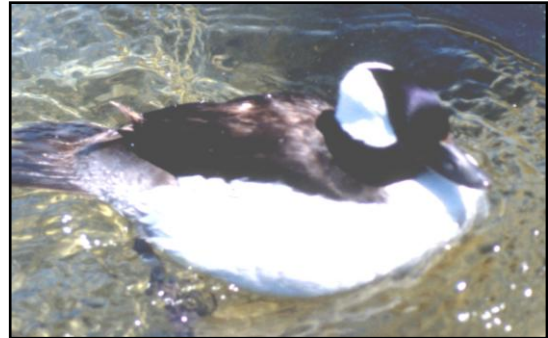
Status: Common spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor.

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

Remarks: Spring migration peaks in April, whereas fall migration peaks in the second half of October.

Many of the birds seen during summer in southeastern North Dakota are actually nonbreeding, immature males (Larry Igl, pers. comm.).

Figure 23. Bufflehead.



COMMON GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

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

Remarks: Migration occurs mostly from late March through early April and from mid October through early November. Common Goldeneyes are more likely to be encountered at nearby Kraft Slough, Englevale Slough, or Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge.

HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

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

Distribution: Hooded Mergansers can be found in a wide variety of semipermanent wetlands, but are most reliably found in backwaters along the Sheyenne River.

Nesting Records: A hen Hooded Merganser with a brood was found on an oxbow within the NW Mirror Pool Wildlife Management Area on June 10, 2003, with another brood seen nearby (Lambeth 2003). A hen with seven young was in the NW Mirror Pool Wildlife Management Area on May 25, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Early April and late October are the best periods to watch for migrating Hooded Mergansers. Peak breeding activities occur from May through early August.

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

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

High Counts: Four Common Mergansers were seen on April 3, 2004 within the Ransom County portion of the checklist area (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.).

Remarks: April and November are the best periods to watch for this migrant. This species is more likely to be encountered at nearby Kraft Slough, Englevale Slough, or Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common 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: Ruddy Duck broods have been noted in Bjugstad Allotment, but specific dates were not recorded (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

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

GRAY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*)

Status: Uncommon year-round resident.

Distribution: Gray Partridges use cropland and open and semiopen prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: Partridge broods have been seen throughout most of the checklist area.

High Counts: Nine Gray Partridge were found on February 14, 2004 across the checklist area (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Gray Partridge numbers fluctuate greatly year-to-year. They are especially vulnerable to harsh winters. Late May to late August is the peak of the breeding season. In winter, partridge are most likely to be seen near occupied farmsteads, especially where livestock are being fed.

Figure 24. Gray Partridge.



RING-NECKED PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Status: Abundant year-round resident.

Distribution: Ring-necked Pheasants use cropland and open and semiopen prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: Pheasant broods have been seen throughout most of the checklist area.

High Counts: Recent high counts for the checklist area include: 141 birds on February 14, 2007 (Mark Gonzalez, Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.), 200 birds on February 14, 2004 (Ron Martin, Bryan

Stotts, pers. comm.), and 247 birds on January 22, 2008 (Bill Bicknell, Mark Gonzalez, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

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. Ring-necked Pheasants are more common on adjacent private land than on the National Grassland itself. In winter, the species is most likely to be seen near occupied farmsteads, especially where livestock are being fed. Ring-necked Pheasant numbers fluctuate year-to-year; they are especially vulnerable to harsh winters.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)

Status: Fairly common year-round resident.

Distribution: Sharp-tailed Grouse use cropland and open and semiopen prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: A nest was found on June 4, 2001, in East A Allotment (NPWRC BCA). Several nests were found in mid to late May 2000, during NPWRC's LS study. Two adults and 5 young were in D Allotment on June 29, 1999 (Dan Scheiman, pers. comm.). Broods are commonly seen throughout the checklist area.

High Counts: On February 14, 2004, a total of 220 sharp-tailed grouse were found within the checklist area (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.), whereas 300 were found in the just the south one-half of the checklist area on February 14, 2004 (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

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. Systematic surveys 2005-2008 counted 867, 836, 829, and 610 male Sharp-tailed Grouse on National Forest System lands, respectively.

Figure 25. Sharp-tailed Grouse.



GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

Status: Uncommon year-round resident.

Distribution: Greater Prairie-Chicken use open prairie habitats. They are most abundant in the southern half of the checklist area.

Nesting Records: Numerous nests were documented by prairie-chicken researchers in the 1980's (Bjugstad 1988). On May 22, 2001, a nest was found in Bachelor Allotment by NPWRC BCA researchers.

High Counts: The 1973 and 1981 Christmas Bird Counts found 75 and 77 Greater Prairie-Chickens, respectively. Eighty (80) Greater Prairie-Chickens were discovered across the checklist area on February 14, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Males remain near the dancing grounds year-round. Display activity peaks from late March through early May. Late April to early July is the peak of breeding. Systematic surveys 2005-2008 counted 276, 275, 270, and 228 male Greater Prairie-Chickens on National Forest System lands, respectively.

WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

Status: Fairly common year-round resident.

Distribution: Watch for this species in semiopen prairie, oak savannah, cropland, and eastern deciduous forest. It is most numerous in oak savannah habitat.

Nesting Records: Wild Turkey nests were found during June 2000 in Ekre Allotment (NPWRC LS), and on June 17, 2001 in West I Allotment (NPWRC BCA).

High Counts: The 1981 Christmas Bird Count recorded 149 Wild Turkeys on or near the checklist area.

Remarks: Gobbling male turkeys can be heard in April and May. Breeding activities peak from April through July.

COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*)

Status: Casual spring migrant.

Distribution: Common Loons should be watched for on the Sheyenne River and at any large, deep, slough.

Remarks: Common Loons are closely associated with large (over 10 acres) lakes. Such habitat is usually lacking in the checklist area, but Common Loons are regularly seen at the suitable habitat available at nearby Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, Grass Lake, and Englevale Slough. In southeastern North Dakota, the peak of Common Loon spring migration is mid to late April, whereas fall migration occurs throughout most of October and early November. The only Grassland record to date is of a flying bird seen near D Allotment in May 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Status: Common but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Pied-billed Grebes can be found throughout the checklist area's wetland habitats. Look for them especially on semipermanent wetlands with extensive (33-66%) coverage of cattails and bulrush.

Nesting Records: Dependent young have been observed on a number of occasions, though specific dates and sites were not recorded (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Pied-billed Grebes typically arrive in early to mid April, with most birds departing by mid October. The peak of breeding activity is from late May to early August. Breeding numbers fluctuate year-to-year with the availability of suitable wetland habitat.

Figure 26. Pied-billed Grebe.



HORNED GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*)

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

Distribution: Horned Grebes are most likely to be found on wetlands with extensive open water and expansive beds of submergent vegetation, such as pondweed, watermilfoil, or bladderwort.

Remarks: Look for spring migrants during the last half of April. Fall migrants are most likely to be seen from mid September to early November.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*)

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

Distribution: Red-necked Grebes can be found in the same types of habitat described for Horned Grebes.

Remarks: Spring migration extends from mid April to mid May. Fall migrants move through from mid August through mid October. Populations in eastern North Dakota increased dramatically in the late 1990's as above-normal precipitation filled lakes and potholes throughout the region, but have since declined. This species has nested at nearby Englevale Slough and Lake Bertha.

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

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

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

Nesting Records: Small dependent young were noted in a flooded roadside ditch near McLeod on June 28, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Migrants are most likely to be seen from mid April to mid May, and again during October.

Figure 27. Eared Grebe with young.

**WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

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

Distribution: Western Grebes prefer large (more than 10 acres), deep, open wetlands with at least some emergent vegetation, such as cattails or bulrush.

Remarks: This species is common in southeastern North Dakota, and is only limited in the checklist area due to a lack of suitable habitat. It is a regular nester at nearby Grass Lake, Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, and Englevale Slough. Spring migration peaks from mid April to mid May, whereas fall migration peaks during October. Breeding occurs from late May through late August. A single bird was seen in June or July 2003 within the checklist area

(Lambeth 2003).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

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

Distribution: This species is found on large semipermanent wetlands where they feed on fish, salamanders, and frogs. Pelicans are frequently seen flying over the checklist area.

Remarks: Pelicans are usually present from early April to mid September. Most birds are likely nonbreeders, although nesting birds are known to forage at least 100 miles away from their large nesting colony at Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge, in Stutsman County.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

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

Distribution: Double-crested Cormorants prefer large semipermanent wetlands, especially those surrounded by dead trees.

High Counts: On April 27, 2004, 140 Double-crested Cormorants flew over S Allotment (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Spring migrants typically arrive in early April. The species is present through late October. There are currently several active rookeries in adjacent Sargent County and southern Richland County.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant, uncommon but irregular summer resident.

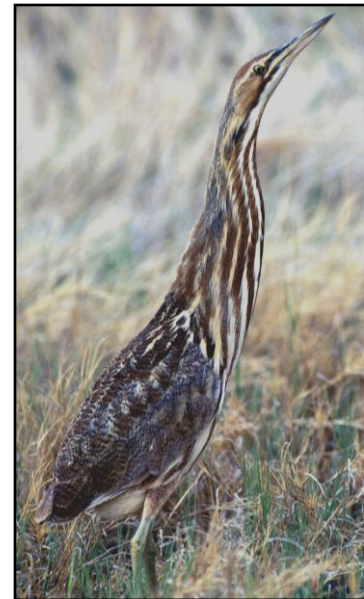
Distribution: This species use the edges of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with extensive stands of emergent vegetation.

Nesting Records: A nest was found in East I Allotment on June 17, 1999 (NPWRC BCA), and another was present near McLeod on June 30, 2000 (NPWRC LS).

High Counts: Two birds were present at each of two sites on October 25, 2007 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). On April 25, 2006, three American Bitterns were present in both Northrup Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.), and in South Durler Allotment (Bernadette Braun, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Watch for this species from mid April through late October, although 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.

Figure 28. 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 Sheyenne River and along the edge of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands throughout the checklist area.

Remarks: Birds arrive in late March to early April. Most depart during October. The closest known rookeries are at Grass Lake, Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, and southern Richland County. Great Blue Heron numbers in the checklist area typically increase in mid July as post-breeding birds disperse throughout southeastern North Dakota.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: When present, Great Egrets use the margins of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands in the open and semiopen prairie.

Remarks: Post-breeding wanderers can be encountered from early July to late September. The closest known rookery is at Grass Lake, Richland County.

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Snowy Egrets use the same types of habitat utilized by Great Egrets.

Remarks: Snowy Egrets are present at nearby nesting colonies from early May to early July. Post-breeding wanderers are seen into late September in the checklist area. This species nests near Oakes and in southern Richland County.

Figure 29. Cattle Egrets.



CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Cattle Egret often forage near livestock in open and semiopen prairie, and are occasionally seen along margins of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands.

High Counts: Approximately 80 Cattle Egrets were in Bachelor Allotment in August 1996 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Birds are present at nearby nesting colonies from mid April to late July, with post-breeding wanderers being seen well into fall. This species nests in southern Richland County, as well as at Lake Bertha, Cass County.

Figure 30. Green Heron.



GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Look for Green Herons along the Sheyenne River's riparian habitat.

Nesting Records: This species has nested at Mirror Pool WMA (Ron Martin, pers. know.).

Remarks: Green Herons are likely a rare nester, early May to late August, all along the Sheyenne River in Richland and Ransom counties. The best place to look for Green Herons in the checklist area is at NW Mirror Pool WMA and at Pigeon Point.

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

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

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

Remarks: Black-crowned Night-Heron migration peaks during May and during September and October. The closest known rookery is at Grass Lake, Richland County.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: This species prefers seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with extensive emergent vegetation. In the checklist area, it has only been recorded in prairie habitats.

Remark: White-faced Ibis are present in the area from early May until late September. It is rapidly increasing in southeastern North Dakota. A large nesting colony is located at Hecla, Brown County, South Dakota. A single White-faced Ibis was in the Hankinson Unit on May 18, 2006 (Ron Martin, Corey Ellingson, pers. obs.).

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

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

High Counts: Seven Turkey Vultures were sighted in West I Allotment on May 24, 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.), and near East A Allotment on May 26, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Look for Turkey Vultures from early April through September. Stragglers are seen into early October.

Figure 31. Osprey

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Osprey have been seen flying over the checklist areas. On occasion, perched birds have been found along the Sheyenne River.

Remarks: Migrants might be encountered from mid April through late May or from early September through mid October.



BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalis*)

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

Distribution: Bald Eagles have been seen throughout the checklist area, but are mostly commonly seen along the edge of the eastern deciduous forest, and in the open and semiopen prairie.

High Counts: Seven Bald Eagles (six adults and one immature) were seen March 16, 1999 northeast of SA Jordheim Allotment (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.); seven were also found across the checklist area on January 10, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Eight Bald Eagles were seen in March 1999 near Hanson Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.); 8 Bald Eagles were also recorded on January 10, 2006, across the entire checklist area (Lee Blaschke, Bernadette Braun, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Bald Eagles are regular migrants through southeastern North Dakota. Spring migration is most active in March and April, whereas fall migration stretches from September through December. An active Bald Eagle nest was found near Milnor in 2001 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.), just outside of the area covered by this checklist. A very large nest near Froemke Allotment, present since at least 2006, was likely built by a bald eagle (Dan Svingen, prof. opin.), though no bald eagles have subsequently been seen at the nest. An adult Bald Eagle was seen to take a Fox Squirrel on January 10, 2006 near the Hanson Allotment (Lee Blaschke, Bernadette Braun, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

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

Distribution: Northern Harriers can be seen throughout the checklist area, avoiding only heavily timbered areas along the Sheyenne River.

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests in the checklist area, but nesting has yet to be documented.

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

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*)

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

Distribution: Sharp-shinned Hawks are most often seen in or near wooded areas. Watch for them especially in riparian forest, in oak savannah, and in Quaking Aspen clumps within semiopen prairie.

Remarks: Sharp-shinned Hawks might be seen anytime from late March through late October, but are most likely to be encountered in April, September, or October.

COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

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

Nesting Records: An active Cooper's Hawk nest was found in West I Allotment during May 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Watch for Cooper's Hawks from late March through late October. Breeding activity is concentrated in May, June, and July.

Figure 32. Cooper's Hawk nestling.



NORTHERN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Status: Rare fall, winter, and spring visitor.

Distribution: Northern Goshawks might be encountered anywhere in the checklist area.

High Counts: Five Northern Goshawks were found across the checklist area on February 14, 2004 (Bryan Stotts and Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Watch for this species from mid October through early April. A late bird was in East I Allotment on May 25, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*)

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

Distribution: Broad-winged Hawks regularly use eastern deciduous forest, and are occasionally found in semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: A Broad-winged Hawk nest was found near the Old 4-H camp in summer 2001 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Migrants pass through from mid April to late May, and again during September. Breeding activity peaks from early May to mid July.

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Swainson's Hawks use the open and semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: Swainson's Hawk nests have been seen in numerous locations throughout the checklist area (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Swainson's Hawks are present from mid April to late September. Mid May to late July is the peak of breeding activity. Nests are typically built on the edge of small tree groves or in isolated cottonwood trees.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

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

Distribution: Red-tailed Hawks use the edges of woodland habitats.

Nesting Records: Red-tailed Hawk nests have been seen in numerous locations throughout the checklist area (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Red-tailed Hawks can be seen regularly from March through November. The breeding season peaks from early May to mid July. Single birds were found on both February 14, 2004 (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.) and January 10, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*)

Status: Casual spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Ferruginous Hawks are the least tree tolerant of North Dakota's nesting Buteos. Look for them in the most open prairie habitat available.

Remarks: Ferruginous Hawks are most likely to be encountered in March and April and from late August through October. In southeastern North Dakota, this species often nests in isolated cottonwood trees, in single row tree belts, or on powerline towers. An adult Ferruginous Hawk was noted near North Durler Allotment on March 24, 2007 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Figure 33. Rough-legged Hawk.



ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (*Buteo lagopus*)

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

Distribution: Rough-legged Hawks prefer foraging in open prairie habitats. They generally avoid the eastern deciduous forest and oak savannah habitats.

High Counts: On January 10, 2006, a tally of 17 Rough-legged Hawks was achieved by searching the entire checklist area (Lee Blaschke, Bernadette Braun, Mark Gonzalez, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: In mild winters, such as in 1999/2000, Rough-legged Hawks overwinter in the checklist areas. In harsh winters, the species does not overwinter anywhere in southeastern North Dakota.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Status: Rare fall, winter, and spring visitor.

Distribution: Golden Eagles can be encountered throughout the checklist area, but are most frequently seen in prairie habitats.

High Counts: Three Golden Eagles were found on the 1973 Christmas Bird Count, whereas two were found on the 1981 Christmas Bird Count. Three Golden Eagles were seen in one day in late January, 2003 in the checklist area (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Similarly, three Golden Eagles were found in the checklist area February 14, 2004 (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.) and January 10, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Four Golden Eagles were tallied January 16, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Golden Eagles have been found from October through April. October, November, and March are the most likely time periods.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

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

Distribution: American Kestrels use all habitats except the densest portions of eastern deciduous forest.

Nesting Records: An American Kestrel nest was found in Penberthy Allotment in summer 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.).

High Counts: Ten American Kestrels were noted within the Ransom portion of the checklist area on April 30, 2004 (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Birds are typically present from March through late October. Two American Kestrels were found on the 1981 Christmas Bird Count. Peak breeding is from mid May to late July. This species prefers nesting in cavities of isolated cottonwood trees

Figure 34. American Kestrel..



MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

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

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

High Counts: Three Merlins were found within the checklist area on March 29, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: In the last decade, Merlins have begun nesting in several North Dakota cities.

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*)

Status: Accidental spring visitor.

Distribution: This species uses the same habitats used by Peregrine Falcons.

Remarks: The only local record is of a very late bird in S and McLeod allotments on April 12, 2007 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Watch for this species in the checklist area's open prairie habitats, especially where wetlands and adjacent croplands also are available.

Remarks: Migrating Peregrines are most likely to be seen from mid April to late May, and again from early September through mid October.

PRAIRIE FALCON (*Falco mexicanus*)

Status: Casual fall, winter, and spring visitor.

Distribution: Prairie and Peregrine falcons use similar habitats.

Remarks: Look for Prairie Falcons from July through April, although mid July through October is the period that they are most likely to be seen.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

Status: Uncommon but irregular spring migrant and summer resident or visitor.

Distribution: Yellow Rails are dependent on seasonal and semipermanent wetlands, particularly fens. In North Dakota, they evidently prefer sites with few or no trees. Common emergent vegetation at occupied sites includes sedges and bulrush.

Nesting Records: This species might occasionally nest, but such activity has yet to be documented.

High Counts: Four or five Yellow Rails were heard in the South S West Allotment on June 6, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Yellow Rails are present in North Dakota from mid May to late July, with likely peak breeding from early June to mid July. The status of the Yellow Rail in the checklist area is largely unknown. The preferred type of wetland habitat (fens) is quite rare locally. A Yellow Rail was seen in South Penberthy Allotment in July 2000 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

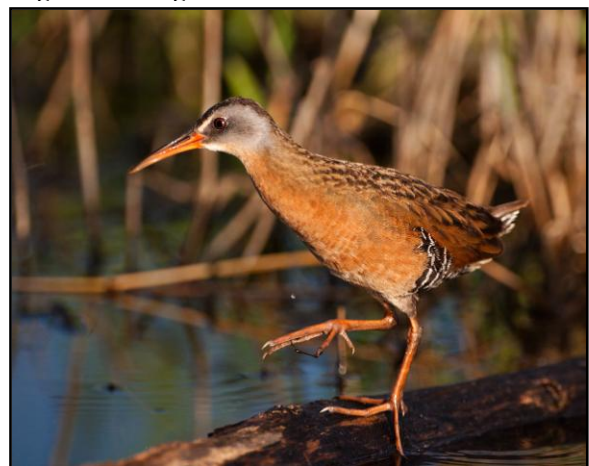
Researchers from Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center reported hearing Yellow Rails on two occasions in 1999 and 2000 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). During systematic surveys in 2006, Lambeth (2006) found 17 Yellow Rails at 12 of the 80 spots checked between May 30 and June 2, but only 4 birds were detected at three of the 27 spots checked June 20-22.

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola*)

Status: Fairly common spring migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Look for this species in seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with dense cattail, phragmites, and/or bulrush.

Figure 35. Virginia Rail.



Nesting Records: Virginia Rails undoubtedly nest in the checklist area, but that has yet to be documented.

High Counts: Six Virginia Rails were heard calling at night within the checklist area on June 11, 2006 (Lincoln Martin, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: This species typically arrives in early May. It likely persists into at least mid September, but the species becomes difficult to detect after mid July. Breeding activities likely peak from early June to late July. This species was found at 37 of 80 stops in late May/early June 2006 (Lambeth 2006).

SORA (*Porzana carolina*)

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

Distribution: Soras occupy a wide range of seasonal and semipermanent wetland habitats as long as sufficient amounts of emergent vegetation, such as bulrush or cattail, are present.

Nesting Records: Active Sora nests were found in East I and Jordheim allotments on May 18 and 22 (2001), respectively, by NPWRC BCA researchers. A juvenile Sora was seen in Owego Annex in summer 1996 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: This very vocal rail responds well to recordings of its call. It arrives in late April to early May, and is easy to detect until its departure in late September and early October, although the frequency of calling falls dramatically after July. Breeding activities peak from early June to late July. Sora were found at 41 of 80 stops in late May/early June 2006 (Lambeth 2006).

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Any seasonal or semipermanent wetland with open water might be used by American Coots.

Nesting Records: American Coot nests and broods are seen every year within the checklist area.

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 migrant, uncommon fall migrant.

Distribution: Sandhill Cranes are most often seen as they fly overhead. Occasionally, birds can be seen on the ground in cropland or near wetlands in open prairie habitat.

High Counts: In April 2000, approximately 200 Sandhill Cranes were seen loafing in North Durler (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Look for Sandhill Cranes from early April through mid May and from early September through mid October, although April and mid September are the most likely time periods to see this species.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

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

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

Remarks: Watch for this species in May and again from late July through October.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*)

Status: Fairly common spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant.

Distribution: Look for American Golden-Plovers in the same habitats that are used by Black-bellied Plovers.

High Counts: On May 26, 2006, 14 American Golden-Plovers were at a wetland in Braaten Allotment (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.); whereas 30 were seen near McLeod on September 28, 2004 (Tyler Bell pers. comm.).

Remarks: Look for American Golden-Plover throughout May and from mid August to early November. The species is most likely to be seen in mid May and from mid September to mid October.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

Status: Fairly common 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 are present in southeast North Dakota from mid April to mid June, and again from mid July through September. It is most likely to be found in May and from mid July through early September.

Figure 36. Semipalmated Plover.



KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Killdeers 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 cropland.

Nesting Records: NPWRC BCA researchers recorded Killdeer nests in East I (May 24, 2001) and East A allotments (June 4 and June 10, 2001). Killdeer broods are commonly seen during the summer throughout most of the checklist area.

Remarks: Killdeers are early migrants and are sometimes seen as early as mid March. A more typical arrival date is early April. The peak of breeding activity is early May to mid-July. Lingering birds can be found into mid October.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*)

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

Distribution: American Avocets use the nonvegetated edges of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands within prairie habitats.

Remarks: This species is present from mid April through October.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Spotted Sandpipers are most likely to be found along the Sheyenne River, but should be looked for along wetland edges throughout the checklist area.

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests, though nesting has yet to be documented.

Remarks: Spotted Sandpipers are present from late April to late September. Breeding activities likely occur in 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. They are most often found at wetlands bordered by trees.

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 and 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 late June into late October.

WILLET (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Willets use open prairie habitat.

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests, though nesting has not yet been documented.

Remarks: Willets are a conspicuous part of the Sheyenne's avifauna from mid April to late August. Mid May to late July is the likely peak of the breeding season for this species.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

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

Remarks: The Lesser Yellowleg's seasonality is similar to that of the Greater Yellowlegs, though the Lesser's migration peaks are a little later in the spring, and a little earlier in the fall.

Figure 37. Lesser Yellowlegs.



UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*)

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

Distribution: Upland Sandpipers use prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: NPWRC BCA researchers found several Upland Sandpiper nests. Locations included Bachelor, East A, King, N. Frisk, and SA Jordheim allotments. Dates of active nests ranged from May 22 (2001) to July 15 (2001). Broods have been seen at numerous locations throughout most of the checklist area.

Remarks: Upland Sandpipers may be encountered from early May to early August. Most breeding activities occur between late May and early July.

Figure 38. Upland Sandpiper.



HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*)

Status: Uncommon spring migrant, casual fall migrant.

Distribution: This species is found along wetland edges in prairie habitats.

High Counts: Four Hudsonian Godwits were in North Durler Allotment on an unspecified date in May 2007 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Hudsonian Godwits are most likely to be found from mid April to late May. During their southbound migration (late July through early October), the majority of Hudsonian Godwits migrate along the East Coast.

MARBLED GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*)

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

Distribution: Marbled Godwits use open prairie and wetland habitats.

Nesting Records: Several Marbled Godwit nests have been found in Bachelor, East A, N. Frisk, and North S allotments (NPWRC BCA; Dan Svingen, pers. know.). All active nests were discovered in the brief period from May 8 (2000) to May 25 (1999). Two half-grown chicks

were seen near Jones Allotment on July 1, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

High Counts: On May 30, 1992, 30 Marbled Godwits were seen on the Richland County portion of the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Marbled Godwits are a conspicuous part of the checklist area's avifauna from mid April to early August. The peak breeding season is from early May to late June. This species can sometimes be seen sitting on fenceposts.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

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

Distribution: This species is typically seen along wetland edges with wide margins of mud. It avoids wetlands in forested habitats.

Remarks: Ruddy Turnstones are most likely to be present from mid to late May, but might be found from early May to mid October.

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

Status: Casual summer visitor.

Distribution: Red Knots are found along wetland edges in prairie habitats. They prefer very large wetlands with extensive mud margins.

Remarks: Based on sightings elsewhere in southeastern North Dakota, the last week of May is the best time to look for Red Knots, but birds also might be encountered in August or September. The only local record is of a Red Knot seen near McLeod on July 24, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*)

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

Distribution: Sanderlings use the edges of wetlands in prairie habitats.

Remarks: Migrating Sanderlings pass through North Dakota from early May through October, but are most likely to be found in late May and during September.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: This species is found along wetland edges in prairie habitats.

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

Figure 39. Semipalmated Sandpiper.



LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Least Sandpipers use the edges of wetlands in prairie habitats.

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

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*)

Status: Common spring migrant and summer visitor, casual fall migrant.

Distribution: This species is found along edges of wetlands within prairie habitats.

High Counts: Forty (40) White-rumped Sandpipers were near South Brown Allotment on April 18, 2005 (Dan Svingen, Stacy Swenson, pers. obs.); whereas 100 were found in Braaten Allotment on May 26, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Spring migrants pass through from early May into mid June; peak numbers occur from mid May to early June. Look for fall migrants in September and October.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: This species is found along edges of wetlands within prairie habitats.

Remarks: Baird's Sandpipers might be encountered from early April through late October. Peak numbers occur from mid April through May and from early August to mid September.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*)

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

Distribution: This species is found along prairie wetland edges.

High Counts: On April 25, 2006, 150 Pectoral Sandpipers were found in Braaten Allotment (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Pectoral Sandpipers can be encountered from mid April through October. Peak numbers occur in early to mid May, and from early August to late September.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

Status: Fairly common spring migrant, rare fall migrant.

Distribution: Dunlins are found along wetland edges. They prefer sites with extensive margins of mud in the open and semiopen prairie.

High Counts: On May 26, 2006, 100 Dunlin were in Braaten Allotment, while another 40 were near South S West Allotment (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Figure 40. Dunlin.



Remarks: Peak numbers occur in May; fall migration is concentrated from mid September through October.

STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: This species is found along prairie wetland edges.

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

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tyngites subruficollis*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: This species is most likely to be seen at prairie wetlands with wide, dry-mud beaches. They also might be seen in cropland or recently cut hay fields.

Remarks: Buff-breasted Sandpipers pass through this area in late May and from late July through mid September.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*)

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

Distribution: This species is found along prairie wetland edges.

Remarks: Short-billed Dowitchers migrate through the checklist area in May, and again in July to mid September.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

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

Distribution: Long-billed dowitchers are found along prairie 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: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Wilson's Snipes use wetland edges and adjacent grasslands in open and semiopen prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: Several nests of this species have been found between May 18 (2000, 2001) and July 7 (2001) (NPWRC BCA and LS). Locations have included Braaten, East A, East I, North S, and SA Jordheim allotments. On April 25, 2006, Bernadette Braun found a nest with 4 eggs in South Durler Allotment.

Remarks: Wilson's Snipe are present from April through late October. Late May to early July is the peak of the breeding season. Lambeth (2006) reported finding 28 Wilson's Snipe on 12 of 80 stops between May 30 and June 2, 2006, but none during similar surveys June 20-22, 2006.

Figure 41. American Woodcock chick.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Scolopax minor*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Look for American Woodcocks in the Quaking Aspen stands within semiopen prairie habitat. They also can be found in eastern deciduous forest habitat along the Sheyenne River, especially in alder thickets.

Nesting Records: An American Woodcock nest was found on May 27, 2001 in West I Allotment by NPWRC BCA researchers, and was subsequently photographed by Jill Shaffer on May 30, 2001. Sargeant and Sargeant (2001) observed a female with two chicks in East Venlo Allotment on May 10, 1998. A woodcock chick (Figure 41) was photographed on June 9, 2003. Bryan Stotts found a nest with 4 eggs in Allotment D on April 27, 2004, and a brood of very young chicks in Berg Allotment on May 1, 2004. A relatively late nest was discovered in R West Allotment on June 23, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

High Counts: Four American Woodcocks were found at Mirror Pool WMA on April 5, 1985 (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: This species is present from early April through October. April to late July is the peak of the breeding season. The earliest local record is March 24 (2005) in South Durler Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Four late birds were in North Durler Allotment on November 1 (2005) (Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.).



WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Wilson's Phalaropes use a wide variety of wetland habitats in the open and semiopen prairie. They nest in adjacent grasslands.

Nesting Records: Wilson's phalarope are known to nest on the Sheyenne National Grassland (Figure 42, May 30, 2003). NPWRC BCA researchers found numerous Wilson's Phalarope nests. The dates of active nests ranged from May 18 (2000, 2001) to June 23 (2001). Locations included Berg, Braaten, East A, East I, Evanston, N. Durler, N. Frisk, North S, R, and West A allotments.

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 42. Wilson's Phalarope nest.



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 within the open and semiopen prairie.

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

BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

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

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, fairly common summer visitor.

Distribution: Franklin's Gulls use seasonal and semipermanent wetlands, and cropland in the open and semiopen prairie.

Remarks: Franklin's Gulls can be seen from April through October. Franklin's Gulls form colonies in various locations throughout southeastern North Dakota, depending on available water levels. The closest reliable spot is Englevale Slough.

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*)

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

Distribution: Temporary, seasonal, and semipermanent wetlands and cropland in the open and semiopen prairie comprise suitable habitat for this species.

Remarks: Ring-billed Gulls are present from mid March until wetlands freeze in the fall; a late bird was still present on National Forest System land on November 10, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm).

Figure 43. Ring-billed Gull.



CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*)

Status: Casual spring and fall migrant.

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

Remarks: California Gulls return to southeastern North Dakota in late March, with most birds departing the state by late September. The closest nesting colony is in Stutsman County.

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Herring Gulls should be looked for in the same habitats that are used by Ring-billed Gulls.

Remarks: Herring Gulls are most likely to be found in April and again in October. A Herring Gull was seen near Venlo Allotment on April 12, 2007 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm).

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)

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

Distribution: Black Terns use seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with extensive stands of emergent vegetation, particularly cattails and bulrush.

Nesting Records: Black Tern nests are known to nest in the checklist area (Figure 44).

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

Figure 44. Black Tern.



COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)

Status: Occasional spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Common Terns use seasonal and semipermanent wetlands in prairie habitats.

Remarks: Despite its' name, this species is a very local nester in North Dakota. It is most likely to be seen in the checklist area in May, August, or September.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*)

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

Distribution: Forster's Terns use seasonal and semipermanent wetlands that are within prairie habitats.

Remarks: Forster's Terns are most likely to be encountered in May, August, and September, though they are present in southeastern North Dakota from late April through October. There is a nesting colony at Lake Bertha, Cass County.

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Status: Fairly common year-round resident.

Distribution: Rock Doves are closely associated with farmsteads and grain storage facilities, but

might be seen flying overhead anywhere.

Nesting Records: Nesting has been noted at numerous bridges and barns.

High Counts: On February 26, 2010, 100 Rock Pigeons were found within the south half of the checklist area (Bernadette Braun, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: In the checklist area, this species is largely dependent on human-created structures.

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.

Nesting Record: Numerous nests of this species have been found. Sites have included East I, Jordheim, N. Frisk, Penberthy, R, SA Jordheim, and West I allotments. Known dates of active nests range from May 15 (2000) to July 16 (2000) (NPWRC BCA, BHCO, and LS studies).

High Counts: On January 16, 2004, Dan Svingen and Bryan Stotts found 30 Mourning Doves at a feedlot near the King Allotment.

Remarks: Mourning Doves arrive in late March and persist into at least November. Two birds were recorded on the 1981 Christmas Bird Count. Peak numbers occur in August and September. The long breeding season has a peak from early May to mid August. This was the eighth most abundant bird found during systematic surveys in 2002, accounting for 2% of all of the individual birds encountered (Cunningham et al. 2002).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Yellow-billed Cuckoos have been seen in tree groves in semiopen prairie habitat, but are most likely to be encountered along the Sheyenne River's riparian forest.

Nesting Records: Nesting might eventually be documented in the checklist area, but there are no known records to date.

High Counts: Eight yellow-billed cuckoo were found in the checklist area on June 12, 2006 (Lincoln Martin, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Yellow-billed Cuckoos are most likely to be present from June to August. Breeding phenology is likely similar to that of the Black-billed Cuckoo. Past sighting locations have included D, R, and West I allotments. A bird was photographed within the NW Mirror Pool WMA on June 3, 2006 (Figure 45). A late bird was photographed by Keith Frankii in Wall Allotment on September 21, 2006.

Figure 45. Yellow-billed Cuckoo.



BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Black-billed Cuckoos can be found in scattered tree groves in semiopen prairie habitats and in eastern deciduous forest habitat.

Nesting Records: Nesting confirmation was provided by observation of a copulating pair in R Allotment on June 28, 2003 (Lambeth 2003). On July 17, 2003, a black-billed cuckoo pair was seen food-carrying on the south side of Brown Ranch headquarters (Lambeth 2003).

High Counts: Eight black-billed cuckoo were found in the checklist area on June 12, 2006 (Lincoln Martin, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: This enigmatic species arrives in mid May or later, and often departs as early as late July. Mid June to late July is the peak of the breeding season. The West I Allotment has been particularly reliable for finding this species.

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Otis asio*)

Status: Uncommon year-round resident.

Distribution: This species uses the riparian forest along the Sheyenne River.

Nesting Records: Nesting might eventually be documented in the checklist area, but there are no known records to date.

High Counts: Two Eastern Screech-Owls were found near SA Jordheim Allotment on January 9, 2006 (Mark Gonzalez, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Three Eastern Screech-Owls were found along the Sheyenne River in the Richland County portion of the checklist area on April 5, 1985 (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: The probable breeding season is mid March through early July. Very little is known about this species' status and distribution.

Figure 46. Eastern Screech-owl.



GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*)

Status: Fairly common year-round resident.

Distribution: Great Horned Owls use small tree groves in semiopen prairie, and in any tree available in open prairie habitat. They can be found in eastern deciduous forest and oak savannah as well.

Nesting Records: Three fledglings were in the north portion of McLeod Allotment on July 23, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm).

High Counts: Eight (8) Great-horned Owls were found during two hours of owling along the Sheyenne River on January 15, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

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

SNOWY OWL (*Nyctea scandiaca*)

Status: Rare but irregular fall, winter, and spring visitor; accidental summer visitor.

Distribution: Snowy Owls use cropland and open and semiopen prairie.

Remarks: This species might be present anytime from early November to late March. A late bird was in Leibbrand Allotment, on May 25, 2006 (Bernadette Braun, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Another was photographed in North Durler Allotment on June 4, 2008 (Figure 47).

Figure 47. Snowy Owl.



BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*)

Status: Extirpated spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Remarks: This species likely formally nested in Richardson's Ground Squirrel colonies within the checklist area, but no Burrowing Owls have been seen there for many years.

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*)

Status: Uncommon year-round resident.

Distribution: Barred Owls are restricted to the densest, most diverse portions of the Sheyenne River's riparian forest.

Nesting Records: Two adults with dependent fledglings were found at the Mirror Pool WMA on May 12, 1990 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.). On July 7, 2000, an adult and three dependent fledglings were found in this same area (Corey Ellingson, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

High Counts: Twelve Barred Owls were found along the Sheyenne River in Richland County, on May 15, 1993 (Robert O'Connor, pers. comm.).

Remarks: The peak of breeding activity is April to July.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Migrating Long-eared Owls prefer roosting in coniferous plantings.

Remarks: A bird was in the west portion of Leibbrand Allotment on October 15, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.).

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

Status: Uncommon but irregular year-round visitor.

Distribution: Short-eared Owls use open and semiopen prairie, particularly conservation reserve program (CRP) fields. They prefer tall (>1 foot high) grass.

High Counts: Four Short-eared Owls were repeatedly observed in and near Venlo Allotment in April 2008 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Short-eared owls most often occur from October to mid April.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Aegolius acadicus*)

Status: Rare fall, winter, and spring visitor.

Distribution: In this area, Northern Saw-whet Owls prefer roosting in conifer groves in semiopen prairie.

High Counts: Two calling birds were found February 4, 2005 near Paintner Bridge (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Migrant and wintering birds occur from October to early May. A relatively late Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard calling on April 5, 1985 near Mirror Pool WMA in Richland County (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Figure 48. Common Nighthawk.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Although this species can be seen foraging throughout much of the checklist area, it is most likely to be found in oak savannah.

Nesting Records: A nest was found in Berg Allotment on June 23, 1999 (Dan Scheiman, pers. comm.). Two recently hatched young were found in West I Allotment on June 29, 2000 (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.). Two chicks were near ND Highway 27 milemarker 33 on June 27, 2003 (Lambeth 2003).

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 to July.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** (*Caprimulgus vociferus*)

Status: Rare spring migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Whip-poor-wills use eastern deciduous forest and oak savannah.

Nesting Records: Whip-poor-wills likely nest in the checklist area, but no nests or dependent young have yet been documented.

High Counts: Two birds were found at Mirror Pool WMA in Richland County on May 28, 1992 (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Birds arrive in early May. Breeding activities likely peak in June and July. Fall departure is unknown, but is most likely in late August or early September. The most reliable

locations for this species have been J, East I, and West A allotments; NW Mirror Pool Area, and along Forest Service Road 1241. During systematic surveys targeting this species, Lambeth (2003) found Whip-poor-wills only on June 8 and 10 at two sites, both in East I Allotment.

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: This species might be seen overhead anywhere, but it is most likely to be encountered along the Sheyenne River or in oak savannah habitat.

High Counts: On June 19, 2007, 5-6 Chimney Swifts were flying over the Morgan WMA (Mark Gonzalez, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Chimney Swifts nest in downtown Lisbon, and are present there from early May to mid September.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Ruby-throated Hummingbirds use eastern deciduous forest habitat. They also can be seen on occasion in the thicker portions of oak savannah habitat.

Nesting Records: Nesting might eventually be documented in the checklist area.

Remarks: Hummingbirds are present from early May to mid September. Breeding activities are likely concentrated in June and July.

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle alcyon*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Belted Kingfishers are most often found along the Sheyenne River. They also use larger sloughs in prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests in the checklist area, but such activity has yet to be documented.

Remarks: Watch for this species from early April through mid October. Breeding activities are likely concentrated between May and July.

Figure 49. Belted Kingfisher.



RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Red-headed Woodpeckers prefer the open stands of cottonwood trees in semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: A Red-headed Woodpecker nest was found in Venlo Allotment in May 1999 (NPWRC LS). On June 29, 2000, food-carrying adults were seen entering a nest cavity in Ekre

Allotment (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.). A juvenile bird was found near the entrance to West A Allotment on August 31, 2002, in loose association with 3 adults (Ron Martin, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: This species might be encountered from early May into mid September. Reliable areas in the past have included J and Ekre allotments, and along Forest Service Road 214 east of 147th Ave SE. Early June to early August is the Red-headed Woodpecker's breeding season. A Merlin was observed chasing a Red-headed Woodpecker in Pfingsten-Olson Allotment on the late date of October 5, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

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

Distribution: This species is restricted to eastern deciduous forest habitat along the Sheyenne River.

Nesting Records: A nest was found near Paintner Bridge in June 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.). Another nest was found July 6, 2002 in the NW Unit of Mirror Pool Wildlife Management Area (Jack Lefor, pers. comm.). An adult was seen feeding young along the Sheyenne River in the Richland County portion of Grassland on June 17, 2001 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

High Counts: Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers were in McLeod on January 23, 2008 (Mark Gonzalez, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Three Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen along the Sheyenne River on May 12, 1990 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.). Five were found along the Sheyenne River on May 28, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.). Five also were present there on July 6, 2002 (Jack Lefor, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: The peak of breeding activity occurs from May through July.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are easily found in eastern deciduous forest, semiopen prairie, and oak savannah.

Nesting Records: A nest was found in West I Allotment on June 30, 1999 (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.). Two active nests were present in Jones Allotment on July 1, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). An adult was seen feeding young in Jordheim Allotment on July 6, 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

High Counts: Twenty (20) Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted in the checklist area on May 18, 2006 (Corey Ellingson, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Watch for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers from mid April to early October. Late May to late August is the peak breeding season. The 2002 and 2003 summer populations on the National Forest System land within the checklist area were 693 and 601 individuals, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*)

Status: Fairly common year-round resident.

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

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests in the checklist area, but such activity has yet to be documented.

High Counts: On the 1981 Christmas Bird Count, 98 Downy Woodpeckers were found.

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

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*)

Status: Fairly common year-round resident.

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

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests in the checklist area, but such activity has yet to be documented.

High Counts: On the 1981 Christmas Bird Count, 119 Hairy Woodpeckers were found.

Remarks: The likely breeding season peak is from late April to mid July.

NORTHERN FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*)

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

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

Nesting Records: An active nest was found in a cottonwood tree along a section line road near Jones Allotment on July 1, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). A fledgling was seen in R Allotment on July 2, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

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.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

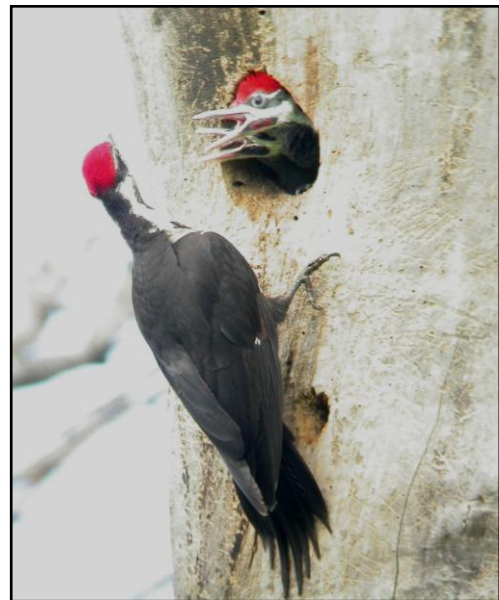
Status: Uncommon year-round resident.

Distribution: Pileated Woodpeckers are concentrated in the most extensive, densest portions of the Sheyenne River's riparian woodland. They also make at least some use of oak savannah and semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: A Pileated Woodpecker nest was photographed (Figure 50) in J Allotment on June 12, 2003 (Lambeth 2003). Two young Pileated Woodpeckers were found in Ekre Allotment on June 9, 2004 (Lambeth 2004). Two fledglings were found in R Allotment during August 2004 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Past sightings have been clustered in and near T135N, R53W (Dechant 2001).

Figure 50. Pileated Woodpecker.



Pileated Woodpeckers were suspected of nesting in J Allotment in 1999 and 2000, but this was not confirmed. The breeding season peak is from April through July.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Olive-sided Flycatchers prefer perching in snags on the edge of small clearings in eastern deciduous forest habitat.

Remarks: Migration peaks for this species occur from mid May to early June, and from early August to mid September. A bird was found near Pfingsten-Olson Allotment on August 31, 2002 (Ron Martin, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Figure 51. Olive-sided Flycatcher.



EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus virens*)

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

Distribution: This species uses Quaking Aspen stands in semiopen prairie, as well as eastern deciduous forest habitat.

Nesting Records: Stewart (1975) shows breeding confirmation for the area covered by this checklist.

High Counts: On June 12, 2006, Lincoln and Ron Martin found 10 Eastern Wood-Pewees in the checklist area. On May 29, 1992, Gordon Berkey and Ron Martin found 20 such birds.

Remarks: This species is present from mid May to mid September. The breeding season peak is from early June to late August.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Watch for this rare migrant in eastern deciduous forest habitat.

Remarks: Migrants are most likely to be encountered in late May through early June, and early August through early September. A bird was found along Berg Creek on August 27, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*)

Status: Common spring migrant, rare summer visitor and fall migrant.

Distribution: During migration, Alder Flycatchers use a wide variety of woodland habitats. They are most likely to be found in large stands of Quaking Aspen within the semiopen prairie and in riparian forest along the Sheyenne River.

Remarks: Spring migrants pass through from late May through early June. Fall migrants are on

the move from late July into late August. This species may be more abundant in fall migration than is indicated, but the fact that most birds are silent makes determining their true status difficult.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*)

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

Distribution: During migration, this species uses a wide variety of woodland habitats. Summer residents are restricted to relatively mesic woodlands, such as those along the Sheyenne River.

Nesting Records: Nesting might eventually be documented in the checklist area.

Remarks: This species is present from mid May to late August, though peak numbers are found from June to mid August, which corresponds to the likely peak breeding season.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Any spot with more than two trees seems capable of supporting this adaptable *Empidonax*.

Nesting Records: A Least Flycatcher was found on a nest in West I Allotment on May 27, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

High Counts: On May 17, 2002, 75 Least Flycatchers were found in the checklist area (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

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

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*)

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

Distribution: Eastern Phoebes use stream edges within eastern deciduous forest.

Nesting Records: Eastern Phoebe nests can be found under many of the bridges over the Sheyenne River, as well as under the North Country Trail's foot bridge above Iron Springs Creek (Figure 52).

Remarks: This flycatcher might be encountered from early April to late September. During nesting season (i.e. early May to mid July), this species is very local, usually only being seen near bridges or stream-side buildings that provide suitable nesting shelves.

Figure 52. Eastern Phoebe nest.



SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*)

Status: Accidental spring migrant.

Distribution: In southeastern North Dakota, Say's Phoebes are typically seen in semiopen prairie.

Remarks: The only local record is a bird seen April 17, 2004, 1 mile east and 0.5 mile north of Pigeon Point (David Lambeth, pers. obs.).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*)

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

Distribution: Great Crested Flycatchers are restricted to the Sheyenne River's riparian forest.

Nesting Records: Nesting might eventually be documented in the checklist area.

High Counts: On May 29, 1992, 42 Great Crested Flycatchers were found in the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Mid May to early September is the period to search for this species. Peak breeding likely occurs in early June to early August.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

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

Distribution: Western Kingbirds can be seen perched on wires, fenceposts, or trees throughout the open and semiopen prairie habitats. It also is prominent in oak savannah.

Nesting Records: An adult Western Kingbird was seen feeding fledglings in McLeod Allotment during July 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Western Kingbirds are numerous from early May to late August; some hardy individuals might be seen as late as the end of September. Mid June to mid July is the time of peak breeding.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

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

Nesting Records: Active nests have been found in D Allotment (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.), in Bjugstad Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.), and in SA Jordheim and West I allotments (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.; NPWRC BCA). Known dates of active nests range from June 12 (2000) to July 26 (2000). Fledglings are regularly seen (Figure 53).

Remarks: This species' seasonality is similar to that of the Western Kingbird. The 2002 and 2003 population estimates for National Forest System lands within the checklist area were 2,094 and 2,301 individuals, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).

Figure 53. Eastern Kingbird, fledgling & adult.



Figure 54. Fledgling Loggerhead Shrike

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Loggerhead Shrikes use brushy patches and shrub patches throughout the open and semiopen prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: Two fledglings and two adults were seen along the border of S. Brown Allotment on June 21, 2001 (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.).

Remarks: The breeding season peak is from early May to mid July. Loggerhead Shrikes are typically present from mid April to late August, but some birds linger into early October, at which time great care must be exercised to properly distinguish them from the more likely Northern Shrike. Forest Service Road 212 near Iron Springs is a good place to search for Loggerhead Shrikes.



NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)

Status: Uncommon fall, winter, and spring resident.

Distribution: Watch for Northern Shrikes on fenceposts and utility lines, and along the edges of small patches of trees or shrubs throughout the open and semiopen prairie habitats.

High Counts: Five Northern Shrikes were found across the checklist area on both March 9, 2004 and December 2, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Six Northern Shrikes were seen in this area on February 5, 2005 (Mark Gonzalez, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Most birds arrive in mid October and depart by early April.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*)

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

Distribution: This species is largely restricted to eastern deciduous forest habitat.

Nesting Records: Although not yet documented, this species undoubtedly nests in the checklist area.

High Counts: Eighteen Yellow-throated Vireos were recorded in the checklist area on both May 29, 1992 (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.), and June 12, 2006 (Lincoln Martin, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Yellow-throated Vireos typically arrive in mid May and depart in mid September. Late May to early August is likely the peak of breeding activity. To see this species, try the Paintner Bridge area.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Blue-headed Vireos use large patches of trees in semiopen prairie and in eastern deciduous forest habitats.

Remarks: This species migrates through during May and again from mid August through the end of September.

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Warbling Vireos can be found in oak savannah, in eastern deciduous forest habitat, and in the large Quaking Aspen groves within semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: Although not yet documented, this species undoubtedly nests in the checklist area.

Remarks: This species might be found from mid May through mid September, but is most likely to be found from late May through early September. The likely breeding season peak is from late May to late July.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Watch for Philadelphia Vireos in eastern deciduous forest habitat.

Remarks: This species has relatively brief migration windows in southeastern North Dakota. Look for them during the last two weeks of May and from mid August to mid September.

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Red-eyed Vireos can be found in oak savannah, in eastern deciduous forest habitat, and in large Quaking Aspen groves within semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: Fledgling Red-eyed Vireos were heard food-begging in East A Allotment in August 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Red-eyed Vireos are easy to find from mid May to mid September. Peak breeding activity is concentrated from mid June to early August.

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*)

Status: Fairly common year-round resident.

Distribution: This species is found in eastern deciduous forest habitat, oak savannah, and semiopen prairie.

Figure 55. Blue Jay.



Nesting Records: Fledgling Blue Jays were noted about 1 mile southeast of South Frisk Allotment in 2003 (Lambeth 2003).

High Counts: During the 1981 Christmas Bird Count, 116 Blue Jays were recorded; 25 Blue Jays were observed February 14, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: The probable breeding season peak is from late May to mid July.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (*Pica hudsonia*)

Status: Casual year-round visitor.

Distribution: Black-billed Magpies are most likely to be seen in semiopen prairie habitat.

High Counts: Twelve magpies were seen during the 1972 Christmas Bird Count.

Remarks: This species has become much less common and regular in recent years. The causes for the species' decline are not known.

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

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

Distribution: American Crows are seen and heard throughout the checklist area.

Nesting Records: Two nests of this species have been recorded: one in East I Allotment and one in West I Allotment. Both nests were found July 23 (one each in 2000 and 2001) (Dan Svingen, pers. know.).

Remarks: The American Crow's breeding season extends from late April into July.

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

Status: Casual summer visitor.

Distribution: Common Ravens are most likely to be encountered in semiopen prairie habitat.

Remarks: Two Common Ravens were seen in the checklist area on June 27, 2001 (Katy Phelps, pers. comm.). This is the only known record.

HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*)

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

Distribution: Horned Larks are prominent in open and semiopen habitats, especially in cropland and along roadways.

Nesting Records: Fledgling Horned Larks were photographed by Tom Cunningham in South Durler Allotment, during summer 2004 (Dan Svingen, pers. know.).

Remarks: Early April to late July encompasses the peak of the Horned Lark's protracted breeding season.

PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Watch for Purple Martins along the Sheyenne River and in semiopen prairie.

High Counts: Ten Purple Martins were seen in East I Allotment on August 23, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Purple Martins are present from mid April through early September. They nest annually in Hankinson, Lisbon, and Milnor.

Figure 56. Purple Martin.



TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Tree Swallows are easiest to find in semiopen prairie habitats, but also can be seen in open prairie and along the Sheyenne River.

High Counts: On April 24, 2006, 100 Tree Swallows were in Penberthy Allotment (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Nesting Records: Nesting Tree Swallows have been found across the checklist area, including the Hankinson Unit, using nest boxes and tree cavities.

Remarks: Peak annual numbers are seen between mid April and mid May. Most birds depart by mid September. Peak breeding activity occurs from mid May to mid July.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

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

Distribution: Watch for Northern Rough-winged Swallows along the Sheyenne River.

Nesting Records: Numerous Northern Rough-winged Swallow nesting burrows have been found at cutbanks along the Sheyenne River.

Remarks: Northern Rough-winged Swallows arrive in late April and early May, and are mostly southbound by early August. Mid May to mid July is the peak breeding season.

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Like the Northern Rough-winged Swallow, this species is largely restricted to the Sheyenne River.

Nesting Records: Numerous Bank Swallow nesting colonies have been found at cutbanks along the Sheyenne River. Fledglings are commonly seen nearby in mid July.

Remarks: Bank Swallows are relatively late migrants, arriving mostly in mid May. The highest numbers are seen from late July into late August. Most birds depart by early September. Mid May to mid July encompasses the time of peak breeding activity.

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Cliff Swallows can be seen in prairie habitats and in oak savannah.

Nesting Records: Cliff Swallows nests are easy to find under most of the bridges over the Sheyenne River.

Remarks: Cliff Swallows are present from late April to mid September. Late May to late July is the time of peak breeding activity.

Figure 57. Cliff Swallow.



BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

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

Distribution: Foraging birds are seen in prairie habitats throughout the checklist area.

Nesting Records: Nests have been noted on a variety of structures on and near the checklist area, including farm buildings and bridges.

Remarks: Barn Swallows begin to return in late April, and depart by mid October. Numbers are particularly high during September, when large flocks stage on and near the checklist area. Breeding activities occur mostly from late May to early August.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*)

Status: Common year-round resident.

Distribution: Black-capped Chickadees inhabit all of the checklist area's woodland habitats. The species is most abundant in eastern deciduous forest habitat.

Nesting Records: Nests and broods have been found across the checklist area in a variety of woodland sites.

High Counts: The 1981 Christmas Bird Count tallied 272 Black-capped Chickadees.

Remarks: The peak of the breeding season for Black-capped Chickadees is from late April to mid July.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*)

Status: Fairly common but irregular spring and fall migrant, rare winter resident.

Distribution: Red-breasted Nuthatches occur in all of the checklist area's wooded habitats, but are most dependable at the scattered coniferous stands, such as those in North Durler, West I, and SA Jordheim allotments.

Remarks: Peak movements are detected from mid March to late April, and from mid August through late November. This species might eventually be found here in summer.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*)

Status: Fairly common year-round resident.

Distribution: White-breasted Nuthatches are found throughout oak savannah, wooded portions of semiopen prairie, and eastern deciduous forest.

Nesting Records: An adult was seen feeding dependent fledglings on May 29, 1992 in the Ransom County portion of the checklist area, and a different family group was found in the Richland County portion on May 30, 1992 (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

High Counts: On the 1981 Christmas Bird Count, 113 White-breasted Nuthatches were found.

Remarks: White-breasted Nuthatches breed between mid April and early August, with peak activity occurring from late April to early July.

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*)

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

Distribution: Watch for Brown Creepers throughout oak savannah and eastern deciduous forest habitats.

High Counts: Five (5) Brown Creepers were recorded on both the 1972 and 1973 Christmas Bird Counts; 9 Brown Creepers were in North Durler Allotment on April 15, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Migration peaks in mid to late April and again in October and November.

Figure 58. Brown Creeper.



HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: This species uses all woodland habitats.

Nesting Records: House Wren nests and broods are commonly encountered in woodland areas across the checklist area. On July 1, 2002, an active House Wren nest was found within the overhead structure of Larson Bridge (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Most individuals do not arrive until early May. Numbers typically drop rapidly after mid September. Peak breeding activity is concentrated from late May to mid July. The 2002 and 2003 summer populations on the National Forest System land within the checklist area were 1,347 and 1,957 individuals, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Winter Wrens are most likely to be found in eastern deciduous forest habitat.

Remarks: Winter Wren migration is concentrated in April and early May and in October. This species prefers piles of brush and down wood within mesic forest sites. A bird was in the west

portion of Leibbrand Allotment on October 15, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm).

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*)

Status: Common but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Sedge Wrens use the densest grass stands in semiopen and open prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: Active nests were found in D and R allotments between July 13 and July 31, 2001 (NPWRC BHCO). Additional nests were found during the LS study.

Remarks: Males typically arrive in early May; females arrive in late May. This species is largely gone from the area after late September. The peak of nesting activity is mid June to early August.

Figure 59. Sedge Wren.



MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Watch for Marsh Wrens in extensive stands of cattails and bulrush on seasonal and semipermanent wetlands within open prairie habitats.

Nesting Records: Marsh Wren nests are commonly seen in suitable habitat, though a portion of these are “dummy” nests.

Remarks: Males typically arrive in late April or early May. This species is largely gone from the area after mid October. Peak nesting occurs from late May to early August. The 2002 and 2003 estimated summer populations on the National Forest System land within the checklist area were 893 and 850 individuals, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*)

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

Distribution: Golden-crowned Kinglets are closely associated with coniferous plantings, particularly spruce. They are most likely to be found at the spruce plantings in West I and North Durler allotments.

High Counts: An incredible 34 Golden-crowned Kinglets were in the small patch of conifers in Sagvold Allotment on April 6, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Numbers peak in April and again in October and November.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*)

Status: Common spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant.

Distribution: Ruby-crowned Kinglets use a wide variety of woodland habitats.

Remarks: Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers peak in early May and again from mid September to early October.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Polioptila caerulea*)

Status: Casual spring migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Blue-gray Gnatcatchers use complex woody habitats, such as the multistoried portions of the Sheyenne River's riparian forest, and large Quaking Aspen clumps in semiopen prairie.

Remarks: Most Blue-gray Gnatcatcher records from southeastern North Dakota occurred in May. The best place to look for this species in the checklist area would be along the Sheyenne River in and near Mirror Pool WMA, and near the pines in West I Allotment (a bird was seen near the pines in summer 2001, Fredric Van Hove, pers. comm.). A single bird was found May 25, 2002 in West A Allotment (Mary Ann Cunningham, pers. comm.).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*)

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

Distribution: Eastern Bluebirds use woodland edges in semiopen prairie, oak savannah, and eastern deciduous forest. They are often seen on utility wires and fences.

Nesting Records: A nest with young was found in the Richland County portion of the checklist area on May 29, 1992 (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.). This species has been seen entering nest boxes along the edge of East and West I allotments (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.), though details on dates and productivity were not recorded. Fledgling Eastern Bluebirds were found at Pigeon Point on July 6, 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.). An active nest was found within the metal hitching rail at the North Country trailhead in West I Allotment on June 4, 2008 (Cristi Lockman, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

High Counts: Twenty Eastern Bluebirds were seen in East I Allotment on August 30, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, 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 in large numbers. Fall migration occurs in October. The breeding season for Eastern Bluebirds is concentrated from early May to early July.

Figure 60. Eastern Bluebird.



MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia currucoides*)

Status: Casual spring migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Mountain Bluebirds are most likely to be seen in semiopen prairie and oak savannah.

Remarks: Mountain Bluebirds pass through in March or April. A singing bird was found on June 23, 1983 in the checklist area (Don Kubischta, pers. comm.). Although not yet detected in the checklist area during fall migration, this species should be watched for during October.

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*)

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

Distribution: The best Veery habitat available is the multistoried riparian habitat along the Sheyenne River. Veerys also use the Quaking Aspen stands in semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: A nest with eggs was found on May 29, 1992 in the Ransom County portion of the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

High Counts: On May 29, 1992, 13 Veerys were found in the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.); 15 were noted on June 12, 2006 (Lincoln Martin, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Mid May and late August seem to coincide with this species' migration peaks. Breeding activities occur from late May to late July.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus minimus*)

Status: Fairly common spring migrant, rare fall migrant.

Distribution: Gray-cheeked Thrushes use woodland habitats.

Remarks: Spring migrants pass through in May, whereas fall migration is concentrated in September and early October.

Figure 61. Gray-cheeked Thrush.



SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*)

Status: Common spring migrant, rare summer visitor, uncommon fall migrant.

Distribution: Swainson's Thrushes have been seen using all of the checklist area's woodland habitats, though they are most numerous in the Sheyenne River's riparian forest.

High Counts: On May 17, 2002, 90 Swainson's Thrushes were found in the checklist area (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Migration occurs in May and from late August through early October. The few summer records refer to spring migrants lingering into early June.

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*)

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

Distribution: Migrant Hermit Thrushes should be looked for in the same types of habitat that are used by Swainson's Thrush.

Remarks: Peak Hermit Thrush migration occurs in the last half of April and from late September through mid October. A Hermit Thrush was found near Pigeon Point on June 22, 2002 (Mary Ann Cunningham, pers. comm.).

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

Status: Casual spring migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: The Sheyenne River's riparian forest is the best place to search for Wood Thrushes.

Nesting Records: Robert E. Stewart observed a Wood Thrush pair constructing a nest in the Richland County portion of the Mirror Pool Wildlife Management Area. The nest was placed approximately 13 feet above the ground, in a Boxelder sapling (Lambeth and Lambeth 1979). A pair was observed nest building in West I Allotment on May 23, 2006 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: May and August are the most likely months to encounter migrant Wood Thrushes. On May 24-25, 2002, a Wood Thrush was found in West I Allotment (Ron Martin, pers. obs.). On May 30, 2002, a Wood Thrush was singing from the Horseshoe Hills area of South Durler (Mary Ann Cunningham, pers. comm.). On August 27, 2002, a singing bird was heard near Berg Creek, in East I Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). A singing bird was heard at the east end of the Mirror Pool WMA on June 8, 2004 (Dennis Wiesenborn, pers. comm.), while another was singing south of Paintner Bridge on May 15, 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). A singing bird was photographed (Figure 62) in West I Allotment on June 22, 2006.

Figure 62. Wood Thrush.

**AMERICAN ROBIN** (*Turdus migratorius*)

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

Distribution: This species is widely distributed. It can be found in and near all woodland habitats.

Nesting Records: Nests and fledglings are commonly encountered in the checklist area's woodland habitats.

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. Two American Robins were found January 10, 2006 at a farmstead south of McLeod (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*)

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

Distribution: Gray Catbirds can be found in semiopen prairie, oak savannah, and eastern deciduous forest habitats. Preferred sites are those that have a multistoried structure. The presence of a diverse, robust shrub layer is particularly important.

Nesting Records: A Gray Catbird nest was found June 30, 2001 in SA Jordheim Allotment (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.), and another nest was photographed in Arntson Allotment on June 27, 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.).

High Counts: On May 29, 1992, 26 Gray Catbirds were found in the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Mid May and early 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: Casual summer visitor or resident.

Distribution: The Northern Mockingbird is most likely to be seen in semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: A pair of Northern Mockingbirds was seen in R Allotment on July 1 and 2, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). The pair began building a nest on July 5 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.), but the effort was soon abandoned (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: A Fargo-Moorhead Audubon fieldtrip to the checklist area found a Northern Mockingbird in the checklist area in about 1990 (Robert O Connor, pers. comm.). Other records include: one at Mirror Pool WMA on July 19, 1992 (Mark Otnes, pers. comm.), and one in Penberthy Allotment on July 5, 2002 (Keith Corliss, Dean Riemer, pers. comm.). Igl and Martin (2002) also note a bird seen by R.E. Stewart, Sr., near Hankinson (T130N, R50W).

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*)

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

Distribution: Brown Thrashers can be found in semiopen prairie, oak savannah, and eastern deciduous forest habitats. Preferred sites are those with a multistoried structure. The presence of a diverse, robust shrub layer is particularly important.

Nesting Records: An adult bird was seen feeding dependent fledglings in Venlo Allotment on July 6, 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Migration is heavy in early May and September. The west end of Forest Service Road 212 at the north end of Venlo Allotment seems particularly good for this species.

Figure 63. Brown Thrasher.



EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant, common 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: An European Starling nest was found along a section line road near West A Allotment on July 1, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.), and another was in R Allotment on July 2, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

High Counts: Approximately 40 European Starlings were at a feedlot near the King Allotment on January 16, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Migration peaks in March and April, and again in October. Late April to mid June is the peak of breeding.

AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*)

Status: Rare spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant.

Distribution: Migrant American Pipits are seen in open prairie habitat at wetlands with wide mud beaches. They also can be encountered along roadways and in fallow cropland.

Remarks: Watch for American Pipits during the first half of May and again during September and October.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (*Anthus spragueii*)

Status: Casual spring migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Sprague's Pipits use very specific types of open prairie. They prefer dry native prairie that has been moderately or heavily grazed (depending on how productive the site is that year).

Nesting Records: This species might occasionally nest in the checklist area, especially in drier years.

Remarks: This species is very 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. A singing Sprague's Pipit was in Biesterfield Allotment May 20, 2004 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

Status: 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 on mast-producing trees, such as Serviceberry, Chokecherry, Russian Olive, and Eastern Red Cedar.

Remarks: This species is most likely to be seen between November and April. It is most often found in the company of Cedar Waxwings.

CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

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

Distribution: Nesting birds use any of the woodlands in semiopen prairie, oak savannah, and eastern deciduous forest. Wintering birds use the same habitats as Bohemian Waxwings.

Nesting Records: A Cedar Waxwing nest was found in West A on June 25, 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Peak breeding activity occurs from late June to mid August.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

Status: Accidental spring migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest.

Remarks: A Golden-winged Warbler was found May 24, 1997 near the Old 4-H camp in Richland County (Corey Ellingson, Clark Talkington, pers. comm.). Another bird was found in West I Allotment on May 24, 2002 (Keith Corliss, pers. comm.). Most North Dakota records are in May.

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Vermivora peregrina*)

Status: Common spring migrant, rare summer visitor, fairly common fall migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest, although it also can be found in oak savannah during spring.

Remarks: Numbers peak from mid to late May and again in late August and early September. One was along the Sheyenne River in Richland County on June 29, 1994 (Don Kubischta, pers. comm.); another was singing in North Durler Allotment on June 27, 2003 (Lambeth 2003).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest, although it also can be found in oak savannah habitat.

High Counts: Thirty birds were found near Paintner Bridge on May 23, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Orange-crowned Warblers can be found from late April to mid May as well as throughout September and into early October.

Figure 64. Orange-crowned Warbler.



NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Vermivora ruficapilla*)

Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest.

Remarks: Nashville Warblers migrate through North Dakota in May and from mid August to early October.

YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)

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

Distribution: Yellow Warblers use all of the checklist area's woodland habitats. They are most abundant in eastern deciduous forest.

Nesting Records: NPWRC (BCA) researchers found several active nests in SA Jordheim Allotment. Dates of active nests have ranged from June 8 (2000) to June 27 (2001) (NPWRC BCA).

High Counts: On May 29, 1992, 70 Yellow Warblers were recorded in the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Numbers build quickly in early May and taper off in early September. Early June to late July is the peak of breeding activities.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)

Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest.

High Counts: Forty (40) Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen along Berg Creek on August 30, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Mid to late May and the first half of September are the best times to search for Chestnut-sided Warblers.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Dendroica magnolia*)

Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest and coniferous plantings.

High Counts: Fourteen (14) Magnolia Warblers were in West I Allotment on May 20, 2004 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Mid to late May and early to mid September are the peaks of migration.

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Dendroica tigrina*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest and coniferous plantings.

Remarks: Cape May Warblers are most likely to be seen in the last half of May and the first half of September.

Figure 65. Yellow-rumped Warbler.



YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Yellow-rumped Warblers use all of the checklist area's woodland habitats. They are most abundant in eastern deciduous forest.

Remarks: Although present throughout much of April and May, and from September through mid October, the highest numbers are seen in the first half of May and the last half of September.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER
(*Dendroica virens*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Watch for this species in eastern deciduous forest and coniferous plantings.

Remarks: Migration occurs in May and in late August and September. Recent records include: three seen May 23, 1997 near the Old 4-H Camp (Corey Ellingson, Clark Talkington, pers. comm.); one seen at Pigeon Point on May 12, 2001 (Ron Martin, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.); one in West I Allotment on May 24, 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.); and an adult bird by the pines in West A Allotment on August 31, 2002 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Blackburnian Warblers use eastern deciduous forest and coniferous plantings.

High Counts: Six birds were feeding in the pine area of West I Allotment on August 30, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Migration occurs in mid May and in August and early September.

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Watch for this species in eastern deciduous forest and oak savannah habitat.

Remarks: Migration occurs in early May and in September to early October.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Dendroica castanea*)

Status: Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.

Distribution: Watch for this species in eastern deciduous forest.

Remarks: A bird was near the Old 4-H Camp on May 24, 1997 (Corey Ellingson, Clark Talkington, pers. comm.). With additional observation, this species will likely prove to be an uncommon, but regular spring migrant in mid May. Fall migrants pass through during August and September.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*)

Status: Common spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant.

Distribution: Blackpolls could be encountered in any of the checklist area's woodland habitats, particularly Quaking Aspen stands, coniferous plantings, and eastern deciduous forest.

High Counts: Ten Blackpolls were in West I Allotment on May 23, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.), whereas 50 were found in the checklist area on May 24, 1997 (Corey Ellingson, Clark Talkington, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Watch for Blackpolls throughout May and again in August and September.

Figure 66. Blackpoll Warbler.



CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*)

Status: Casual spring migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: Cerulean Warblers are most likely to be encountered in the Sheyenne River's riparian forest.

Remarks: A singing male was along the Sheyenne River in Richland County on June 1 and 2, 1967 (R. L. Kroodsma *vide* Ron Martin). Another was near the Old 4-H Camp on June 29, 1994 (Don Kubischta, pers. comm.). One was found in late May, 1996 in J Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Cerulean Warblers have nested about 75 miles east of the checklist area, in Minnesota.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*)

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

Distribution: Watch for this species in eastern deciduous forest and in Quaking Aspen patches within semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: This species undoubtedly nests, though nesting has yet to be confirmed.

Remarks: Black-and-white Warblers are present from early May to late September. Peak breeding activity likely occurs between June and late July.

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*)

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

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest. American Redstarts also are likely to be found in the Quaking Aspen stands.

Nesting Records: A nest was observed being built near Paintner Bridge in summer 1998 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

High Counts: On May 29, 1992, 80 American Redstarts were found in the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: American Redstarts are typically present from early May to mid September. This species prefers sites with a well-developed shrub and small tree layer, such as young or second growth stands and margins of forest openings. American Redstarts seem particularly common near Paintner Bridge.

Figure 67. American Redstart.



WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorum*)

Status: Accidental spring migrant.

Distribution: Worm-eating Warblers use eastern deciduous forest.

Remarks: A bird was found May 23, 2002 in West I Allotment (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). There are approximately 13 North Dakota records of this species.

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest and the Quaking Aspen stands within semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: Ovenbird nests were found in West I Allotment on May 30, 1992 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.), and June 30, 1999 (Dan Scheiman, pers. comm.). Nesting also has been noted in Pfingsten Allotment (Bernadette Braun, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Ovenbirds arrive in early May, and depart by late September. Peak breeding activity occurs from mid May to late July.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)

Status: Common spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest.

Remarks: Northern Waterthrush should be looked for in May and mid August to late September. They are most often seen along the edge of pools or streams

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*)

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

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest, especially sites with well-developed brush and shrub layers.

Remarks: Connecticut Warblers migrate through North Dakota from approximately May 20 to June 10, and again from approximately August 15 to September 15. A Connecticut Warbler was seen along Berg Creek on August 27, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.); another was photographed May 26, 2004 about 2 miles west of McLeod (David Lambeth, pers. comm.).

MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest, especially sites with well-developed brush and shrub layers.

Remarks: Mourning Warblers should be looked for in the last half of May and early June, and from mid August to mid September. An early migrant was found in the checklist area on May 12, 2001 (Ron Martin, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Common Yellowthroats are very widely distributed. They can be found in dense grass or brush within any mesic woodland or grassland habitat. They are most abundant in mesic habitats in open and semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: NPWRC BCA researchers found a nest on June 6, 2001 in SA Jordheim Allotment.

High Counts: On May 29, 1992, 40 Common Yellowthroats were found in the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: This species arrives in May and departs by late September. Early June to mid August is the peak breeding season for Common Yellowthroats. During systematic surveys in 2002, Common Yellowthroats accounted for 5% of all of the individual birds encountered (Cunningham et al. 2002). The 2002 and 2003 population estimates for National Forest System lands within the checklist area were 4,308 and 3,020 individual Common Yellowthroats, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).

Figure 68. Common Yellowthroat.



WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*)

Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Wilson's Warblers use eastern deciduous forest and oak savannah, as well as treed areas within semiopen prairie.

Remarks: The last half of May is the peak of spring migration, whereas mid August to mid September is the peak of fall migration.

CANADA WARBLER (*Wilsonia canadensis*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest.

High Counts: At least eight Canada Warblers were along Berg Creek (East I Allotment) on August 27, 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: This species passes through the area in the last half of May and from the last half of August into early September.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*)

Status: Accidental summer visitor.

Distribution: This species uses eastern deciduous forest and semi-open prairie.

Remarks: Yellow-breasted Chats use brush and shrub tangles on the edge of forested areas.

They are most likely to be found along riparian zones. The only local record to date is of a single bird seen June 24, 2000 near West I Allotment (Shane Patterson, Katy Phelps, pers. comm.).

SPOTTED TOWHEE (*Pipilo maculatus*)

Status: Rare spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Spotted Towhees are most likely to be found in eastern deciduous forest or semiopen prairie.

Remarks: Spotted Towhees prefer brush tangles and dense shrub patches, especially those in riparian areas. The checklist area is near the eastern edge of this species' range. Spring migration is typically from late April to mid May, whereas fall migration runs from mid September to mid October. There still remains much to be learned about towhee distribution in this part of North Dakota.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (*Spizella arborea*)

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

Distribution: American Tree Sparrows prefer "weedy" sites, such as along tree rows, small riparian zones, and cropland margins. They are most likely to be found in cropland, and open and semiopen prairie habitats.

High Counts: On the 1981 Christmas Bird Count, 158 American Tree Sparrows were found.

Remarks: October and mid March to mid April are the peaks of migration.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Although they can be found almost anywhere, Chipping Sparrows are especially prominent in oak savannah, along the margin of eastern deciduous forest habitat, in coniferous plantings, and in the semiopen prairie's aspen groves.

Nesting Records: Two nests of this species were found in Arntson Allotment, one each on May 23, 1999 and June 15, 2000 (NPWRC BCA). Another nest was found in J Allotment on June 7, 2001 (NPWRC BHCO).

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.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Clay-colored Sparrows use open and semiopen prairie habitats. They are found in close association with brush patches. Western Snowberry, Smooth Sumac, Chokecherry, and Hawthorne are favored species.

Nesting Records: Numerous Clay-colored Sparrow nests were found during NPWRC's research projects. Dates of active nests ranged from May 19 (1999) to August 13 (2001) (NPWRC BCA, BHCO, and LS studies).

Remarks: Arriving in early May, Clay-colored Sparrows start departing in August, and are mostly gone by late September. Peak breeding activity occurs from early June to mid July. During summer 2002, Clay-colored Sparrows accounted for more than 10% of the birds encountered along systematic transects (Cunningham et al. 2002).

Figure 69. Clay-colored Sparrow.



FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Look for this species in brush patches within semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: Field Sparrows were found nesting in Arntson and West I allotments between May 17 (2000) and July 24 (2000) (NPWRC BCA).

Remarks: Field Sparrows arrive in late April to early May, and depart by late September. Mid May to early August is the peak breeding season for this species. In 2001, Lisa Flaman photographed a nest on the Sheyenne National Grassland (Figure 7). The 2002 and 2003 population estimates for National Forest System lands within the checklist area were 1,294 and 2,045 individual Field Sparrows (Cunningham et al. 2003).

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Vesper Sparrows are widely distributed. Look for them especially in oak savannah, cropland, and along roadways in open and semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: Vesper Sparrow nests have been found in Arntson, D, East I, SA Jordheim, Schultz, and West I allotments. Dates of active nests have ranged from May 15 (2001) to July 26 (2001) (NPWRC BCA).

Remarks: Vesper Sparrows arrive in mid April and depart by mid October. Peak breeding is from late May to mid July. The 2002 and 2003 population estimates for National Forest System lands within the checklist area were 2,206 and 1,843 individual Vesper Sparrows, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*)

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

Distribution: Lark Sparrows are found along woodland edges, especially in semiopen prairie, oak savannah, and along the edge of eastern deciduous forest.

Nesting Records: Nests have been found from May 19 (1999) to July 20 (1999) in Arntson, East I, Jordheim, SA Jordheim, and West I allotments (NPWRC BCA).

An adult was seen feeding young in the Richland

County portion of the checklist area on May 30, 1992 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.). An active nest was noted in the Horseshoe Hills portion of South Durler Allotment on June 13, 2003 (Lambeth 2003). On July 6, 2002, a bird was seen nest building at Pigeon Point (Ron Martin, 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.

Figure 70. Lark Sparrow.

**LARK BUNTING** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

Status: Rare but irregular summer resident.

Distribution: Lark Buntings occur in open prairie.

Nesting Records: This species may have nested in the past, but no such information is available.

Remarks: Preferred habitat for this species is large grassland tracts with scattered shrubs, particularly Western Rose. They also are likely to be found on nearby CRP and hay fields. Lark Buntings spend a surprisingly 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. The species is rarely seen in September. In most years, Lark Buntings are completely absent from the checklist area. Invasion years typically coincide with drought conditions further west. Peak breeding activity likely encompasses the period from early June to early August.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Savannah Sparrows prefer prairie habitats. They are most often encountered along roads and in idle grassland.

Nesting Records: NPWRC (BCA, BHCO, LS) researchers have found numerous Savannah Sparrow nests at many different locations. Dates of active nests span the period from May 16 (2001) to July 23 (2001) (NPWRC BHCO).

Remarks: This is a common and widespread nester in North Dakota, with peak breeding activity occurring from early June to mid July. It is present from late April to mid October. Early birds were noted in South Durler Allotment on April 12, 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). The 2002 and 2003 population estimates for National Forest System lands within the checklist area were 6,934 and 4,745 individual Savannah Sparrows, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*)

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

Distribution: Grasshopper Sparrows use open and semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: NPWRC (BCA, BHCO, and LS studies) researchers found numerous Grasshopper Sparrow nests. Nest dates range from May 24 (1999) to July 30 (2001).

Remarks: Grasshopper Sparrows first arrive in early May, and start departing by early August. Breeding activity is concentrated into the period from early June to late July. This was the most abundant bird found during systematic surveys in 2002, accounting for 17% of the individual birds encountered (Cunningham et al. 2002). The 2002 and 2003 population estimates for National Forest System lands within the checklist area were 21,713 and 24,190 individual Grasshopper Sparrows, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003). A relatively late Grasshopper Sparrow was in Olerud Allotment on September 28, 2004 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Figure 71. Grasshopper Sparrow.



BAIRD'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus bairdii*)

Status: Rare but irregular spring migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Baird's Sparrows are limited to open prairie. They prefer sites with a relatively large component of native grass species and scattered forbs. Baird's Sparrows are sensitive to grass density and height, preferring moderately grazed pasture with relatively little litter accumulation.

Nesting Records: This species might occasionally nest, although there is no documentation of such activity.

Remarks: In North Dakota, male Baird's Sparrows arrive in early May, and are joined by females later in the month. Most Baird's Sparrows are gone by late August, but their fall status

is largely unknown. Baird's Sparrows are very opportunistic, moving widely year-to-year to find optimum nesting conditions. In wet years, the bulk of North Dakota's population moves to the western portion of the state, whereas dry years finds Baird's Sparrows nesting east to the Missouri Coteau and Drift Prairie. The most dependable spot in the checklist area in past years has been South Durler Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). NPWRC researcher Shane Patterson found a pair of birds, one singing, in West A Allotment in 2000. The birds were evidently only present for a few days (Dan Scheiman, pers. comm.). A singing bird was heard in Gregor Allotment on May 17, 2005 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

Status: Casual summer resident.

Distribution: When present, this species is found in dense grass stands within the open and semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: A Henslow's Sparrow nest was found in SA Jordheim Allotment on June 24, 2001 (Shaffer et al. 2003). This was North Dakota's first documented breeding for this species.

Remarks: During the wet cycle in the late 1990's a few Henslow's Sparrows were found in widely scattered locations throughout much of eastern North Dakota. In drier years, the species is likely completely absent from the state. Henslow's Sparrows were found in Evanson, Jones, and SA Jordheim allotments during summers 2000 and 2001 by NPWRC researchers (BCA, LS studies). On July 5, 1978, a male was found in A-Annex Allotment (Faanes 1981). On June 6, 2005 a male bird was heard in South S-west Allotment (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Donald Kubischta heard a Henslow's Sparrow near South Brown Allotment on June 11, 2005.

Le Conte's SPARROW (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

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

Distribution: Le Conte's Sparrows use dense, mesic grass stands in open prairie. They are most often found near wetlands.

Nesting Records: Adult Le Conte's Sparrows exhibiting nest defense behavior were noted in R and Bachelor allotments on May 24, 2000 and June 18, 2000, respectively (NPWRC researchers). A nest was found in Braaten Allotment on June 1, 1999 (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.).

High Counts: Eight Le Conte's Sparrows were in South Brown Allotment June 19, 2007 (Mark Gonzalez, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Le Conte's Sparrows can be found in southeastern North Dakota from early May to early October. The breeding season peaks from late May to mid August. West Penberthy

Allotment is a good place to search for Le Conte's Sparrows. Northrop Allotment on April 29, 2007 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). June 6, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Lambeth (2006) found May/early June 2006; but only 4 birds on 1 of 27 stops in late



NELSON'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

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

Distribution: Nelson's Sparrows use dense, emergent vegetation along wetland edges.

Nesting Records: This species might eventually be documented as a nester.

High Counts: Five or six birds were singing in South S West Allotment on June 6, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). Up to 8 birds were present in West S Allotment on June 6, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Birds arrive in late May and depart by September. The peak breeding season is likely mid June to early August. Singing birds were heard in N. Frisk Allotment on May 31, 1999 and June 23, 2001 (Jill Shaffer, pers. comm.). In summer 2001, the species was found near McLeod (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.). During his research in the checklist area in 1999 and 2000, Dan Scheiman found the species in several locations (Dan Scheiman, pers. comm.). Another likely spot is the large wetland in South Durler Allotment. Lambeth (2006) found 18 birds on 5 of 80 stops in late May/early June 2006; but only 1 bird on 1 of 27 stops in late June 2006.

FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Dense, low growing riparian shrubs are preferred by migrating Fox Sparrows. Look for them in eastern deciduous forest and in coniferous plantings.

High Counts: Three birds were in North Durler on an unspecified date in March 2003 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Migration peaks are April and October. To date, all local sightings have been of the "Red Fox Sparrow" (*P. i. iliaca*).

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*)

Status: 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: In 1999, active Song Sparrow nests were monitored in Jordheim Allotment from May 17 to June 18 (NPWRC BCA). Two nests were found in Helberg Allotment between June 21 and July 13, 2001 (NPWRC BHCO). A nest with one egg was found June 16, 2000 near McLeod (NPWRC LS).

Remarks: This species is easy to find from early April through mid October. Peak breeding occurs from mid May to early August.

Figure 73. Song Sparrow.



LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolnii*)

Status: Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

Distribution: Lincoln's Sparrows are most often found in brush tangles in semiopen prairie, oak savannah, and eastern deciduous forest habitats.

Remarks: Peak migration is in the first half of May and in the last half of September. Birds can often be found, however, from mid April through May, and from late August through mid October.

SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*)

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

Distribution: This species nests in dense cattail stands at seasonal and semipermanent wetlands in open prairie habitat. During migration it also uses the types of habitats utilized by Lincoln's Sparrows.

Nesting Records: A Swamp Sparrow nest was found in D Allotment in summer 2001 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

High Counts: Four birds were near Froemke Allotment on April 25, 2007 (Dan Svingen, Stacy Swenson, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Spring migrants typically arrive in late April or early May. Fall migration peaks from mid September to mid October. Peak breeding occurs from early June to early August.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.

Distribution: White-throated Sparrows are most often found in brush tangles in semiopen prairie, oak savannah, and eastern deciduous forest habitats.

Remarks: Mid April to late May and September through October are the peaks of migration. The only known winter record is of a bird found on the 1973 Christmas Bird Count.

HARRIS'S SPARROW (*Zonotrichia querula*)

Status: Common spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.

Distribution: Harris's Sparrows use brush and small tree rows in open prairie habitat. They especially like tree rows adjacent to sunflower fields.

Remarks: Late April to mid May and late September to mid October are the peaks of migration. A Harris's Sparrow was in McLeod on January 22, 2008 (Lee Blaschke, Mark Gonzalez, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Figure 74. Harris's Sparrow.



WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

Status: Fairly 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: Late April to mid May and September through October are the peaks of migration.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant, uncommon winter resident.

Distribution: Dark-eyed Juncos can be found along fence rows, tree rows, and in brush tangles throughout the checklist area.

Remarks: Juncos are present from early September through mid May. Most birds seen in the checklist area 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. oreganus*) are regularly seen in small numbers.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

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

Distribution: Lapland Longspurs use fallow fields and cropland in open prairie habitats.

High Counts: On April 30, 2004, 170 Lapland Longspurs were noted within the Ransom portion of the checklist area (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Spring migration peaks in April. Fall migrants are most numerous during October. The species can usually be found in southeastern North Dakota from late September through early May.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*)

Status: Uncommon fall migrant.

Distribution: Heavily grazed native open prairie, especially those spots within a few hundred yards of water, is the habitat most likely to be used by migrant Smith's Longspur.

Remarks: The migration period of this species is brief. In spring, they pass through North Dakota during late April and the first half of May (exact dates vary year-to-year). Fall migrants are present from late September to mid October. Single Smith's Longspurs were found in Leibbrand Allotment on October 12, 2004 and in Venlo Allotment on October 13, 2005, whereas two were in Olerud Allotment on October 11, 2005 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm). Eight Smith's Longspurs were in North Frisk Allotment October 26, 2004 (Mark Gonzalez, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Sixteen were present in Leibbrand Allotment on October 14, 2005 (Keith Corliss, Dean Reimer, pers. comm.).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

(*Calcarius ornatus*)

Status: Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Heavily grazed native open prairie is preferred by this species. It can sometimes be seen perched on fences.

Nesting Records: This species might nest, especially in dry years.

High Counts: On June 16, 1990, six Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found on National Forest System land within the checklist area (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Birds arrive in early to mid April, remaining into early September. Breeding activities are likely concentrated between early May to mid July.

Figure 75. Chestnut-collared Longspur.



SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Status: Fairly common fall and spring migrant, fairly common but irregular winter resident.

Distribution: Snow Buntings, often in association with Lapland Longspurs, use cropland in open prairie habitats.

High Counts: The 1972 Christmas Bird Count tallied 220 Snow Buntings. Five hundred were present near McLeod on February 14, 2007 (Bernadette Braun, Mark Gonzalez, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). One thousand Snow Buntings were on the south half of the McLeod Unit on January 16, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: This species typically arrives in mid October through November. Spring migrants are most numerous in March.

Figure 76. Snow Bunting.



SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*)

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

Distribution: Scarlet Tanagers nest in eastern deciduous forest and oak savannah habitats.

Nesting Records: An adult male was observed feeding a dependent fledgling in West I Allotment on July 1, 2002 (Bernadette Braun, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). Several dependent fledglings were found in the Hankinson Unit in July 2002 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

High Counts: Twenty (20) Scarlet Tanagers were seen along the Sheyenne River on May 29, 1992 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Scarlet Tanagers are typically present from mid May to late August. They are most likely to be seen in East I and West I allotments, and in the Hankinson Unit. Breeding activities are likely concentrated between early June and late July.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

Status: Casual spring and fall migrant and winter visitor or resident.

Distribution: The Sheyenne River's riparian forest offers the best local habitat for this species.

Remarks: A singing Northern Cardinal was near Paintner Bridge on May 27, 2008 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). A pair of Northern Cardinals visited a McLeod feeder throughout most of the December 2007 to March 2008 period (Clayton Johnson, pers. comm.).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

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

Distribution: Rose-breasted Grosbeaks can be found throughout eastern deciduous forest. They also are present in large Quaking Aspen groves within semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: A nest with eggs was photographed in West A Allotment on June 14, 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.), and a food-carrying female was seen at Paintner Bridge on July 2, 2002 (Dan Svingen, 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. The Paintner Bridge area is good for this species.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*)

Status: Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Eastern deciduous forest is the preferred habitat for Indigo Buntings.

Nesting Records: This species will likely be documented as a nester as soon as a concerted effort is made to locate a nest.

High Counts: Thirteen (13) Indigo Buntings were found along the Sheyenne River on May 29, 1992 (Ron Martin, pers. obs.), and 10 were seen in the checklist area on June 2, 1990 (Robert O'Connor, pers. comm.).

Remarks: Birds can be seen from mid May to late August. The probable breeding season is late May to late August.

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*)

Status: Fairly common but irregular spring migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Dickcissels use the densest mesic grassland sites available in open and semiopen prairie. They are especially numerous in CRP fields.

Nesting Records: On July 6, 2002, a broody-acting female was seen in Venlo Allotment (Ron Martin, pers. obs.). In July 2006 a fledgling was seen near East A (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

High Counts: On July 6, 2002, 12 Dickcissels were seen in Venlo Allotment (Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

obs.), whereas an incredible 115 were found in the checklist area on June 12, 2006 (Lincoln Martin, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Watch for Dickcissels in June and July. Very few females are seen in North Dakota, and so the majority of birds present are likely unmated males. Early June to mid August is the best time to look for nests.

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

Status: Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

Distribution: Bobolinks use the densest mesic grassland sites available in open and semiopen prairie. They are especially numerous at CRP fields.

Nesting Records: This widespread nester was found in numerous locations across the checklist area by NPWRC researchers. Dates of active nests range from May 29 (2000) to July 17 (2001) (NPWRC BCA, BHCO, and LS studies).

Remarks: Spring migrants peak in mid May. Numbers drop quickly in late August. Practically no birds are present by mid September. Breeding activities are concentrated between early June and mid July. This was the sixth most abundant bird found during systematic surveys in 2002, accounting for 3% of all of the individual birds encountered (Cunningham et al. 2002).

Figure 77. Bobolink.



RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

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

Distribution: Cattail and bulrush stands at seasonal and semipermanent wetlands within the open and semiopen prairies are regular nesting sites for Red-winged Blackbirds. During the non-breeding season, this species is often found in trees bordering cropland.

Nesting Records: Numerous Red-winged Blackbird nests were found by NPWRC BCA, BHCO, and LS researchers. Dates of active nests ranged from May 18 (2001) to July 21 (1999).

Remarks: Red-winged Blackbirds are regularly present from mid March to late October. Breeding occurs between mid May and late July. This was the second most abundant bird found during systematic surveys in 2002, accounting for 13% of all of the individual birds encountered (Cunningham et al. 2002). A single Red-winged Blackbird was present near McLeod on February 14, 2007 (Mark Gonzalez, Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella neglecta*)

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

Distribution: Western Meadowlarks use grass sites within the open and semiopen prairie.

Nesting Records: NPWRC BCA, BHCO, and LS researchers found active nests in numerous locations. Nest dates ranged from May 8 (2000) to July 30 (2001).

High Counts: A flock of 100 birds was in N. Durler Allotment on August 30, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Spring migrants begin arriving in mid to late March. Most birds depart by mid October. Early May to mid July is the peak of the breeding season. This was one of the most abundant birds found during systematic surveys in 2002, accounting for 6% of all of the individual birds encountered (Cunningham et al. 2002). Populations estimates for Western Meadowlarks on National Forest System land within the checklist area were 4,059 birds in 2002 and 3,635 birds in 2003 (Cunningham et al. 2003). Two birds were found January 10, 2006 within the checklist area (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

Figure 78. Western Meadowlark.



YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

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

Distribution: Cattail and bulrush stands at seasonal and semipermanent wetlands within the open and semiopen prairies are regular nesting sites for Yellow-headed Blackbirds. During the non-breeding season, this species is often found in trees bordering cropland.

Nesting Records: NPWRC BCA researchers found an active Yellow-headed Blackbird nest in N. Frisk Allotment on June 23, 2000.

Remarks: Large flocks of migrating Yellow-headed Blackbirds can be seen in April and September. Breeding activity is at its peak from mid May to mid July.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*)

Status: Uncommon spring migrant, fairly common fall migrant, casual winter resident.

Distribution: Rusty Blackbirds are most often found in trees bordering cropland within semiopen prairie. They also use wetland edges and mesic forested areas.

High Counts: Four (4) Rusty Blackbirds were found within the checklist area on February 26, 2010 (Bernadette Braun, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Migrants pass through this area in March and early April, and again in October and early November. One Rusty Blackbird was in a feedlot near King Allotment on January 16, 2004 (Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Figure 79. Brewer's Blackbird.



BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

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

Distribution: Brewer's Blackbirds use grassy sites within open and semiopen prairie. During the non-breeding season, Brewer's Blackbirds are often found in trees bordering cropland.

Nesting Records: A Brewer's Blackbird nest was found in East I Allotment on May 18, 2001 (NPWRC BCA). Nest defense behavior was noted in Ekre Yearling Allotment on July 2, 2002 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). A nest was found in Jones Allotment on June 25, 2001 (NPWRC BHCO).

High Counts: On April 18, 2006 there were 150 Brewer's Blackbirds in Allotment D (Bernadette Braun, pers. obs.).

Remarks: Brewer's Blackbird migration peaks in April and during September and October, with breeding peaking from late May to mid July.

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*)

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

Distribution: Common Grackles use all of the checklist area's habitats, and are frequently seen in and near adjacent cropland. They are most abundant as nesters in the residential areas of nearby Hankinson, Lisbon, and Milnor. During the nonbreeding season, Common Grackles are most often seen in trees near cropland or wetland habitats.

Nesting Records: Fledgling Common Grackles have been observed at numerous locations across the checklist area.

Remarks: Birds begin arriving in late March, with most birds departing in mid October. The peak of the breeding season is from early May to early July. One was near Ekre Allotment on February 14, 2004 (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, pers. obs.); six were in the checklist area on February 14, 2007 (Mark Gonzalez, Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

Status: Accidental summer visitor.

Distribution: Great-tailed Grackles are most likely to be found in or near large wetlands with extensive stands of cattails.

Remarks: The only Great-tailed Grackle records for this area are as follows: one bird in Bjugstad Allotment on June 21, 2000, and two birds there the following day (Shane Patterson, Dan Scheiman, comm.); five birds seen in West S Allotment on June 27, 2000 (Dan Scheiman, pers. comm.); and four birds seen in Bjugstad Allotment on July 8, 2000 (Corey Ellingson, Ron Martin, pers. obs.).

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: Brown-headed Cowbird eggs have been found in other species' nests (NPWRC BCA, LS, BHCO studies).

Remarks: This species is present from mid April until early August, when numbers start falling quickly. In most years, it is completely absent by mid September. The peak of the breeding season is from late May to mid July. This was the seventh most abundant species found during systematic surveys in 2002, accounting for 3% of all of the individual birds encountered (Cunningham et al. 2002).

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*)

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

Distribution: Orchard Orioles should be looked for in the small woodland patches within semiopen prairie habitat.

Nesting Records: After leaf fall, Orchard Oriole nests are relatively easy to find. Based on this evidence, the species has bred in numerous locations on and near the checklist area.

Remarks: Orchard Orioles do not arrive in numbers until mid to late May, numbers then fall quickly after early August. The peak of the breeding season is from early June to mid July.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*)

Status: Accidental spring migrant.

Distribution: This species uses similar habitat to that frequented by Baltimore Orioles.

Remarks: The only record is of a first-year male bird seen in East and West I Allotments on May 25, 2007 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*)

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

Distribution: Baltimore Orioles use large tree groves in semiopen prairie, but are most numerous in eastern deciduous forest.

Nesting Records: Like the Orchard Oriole, confirmation of breeding activity is easily found after leaf fall reveals the Baltimore Oriole's hanging nests. Such evidence has been observed in a wide variety of woodlands across the checklist area. An active nest was found in Arnston in summer 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.), and a family group was noted in East A in August 2002 (Keith Frankii, pers. comm.).

High Counts: Thirteen (13) Baltimore Orioles were seen on June 19, 2002 in South Durler

Figure 80. Baltimore Oriole.



Allotment (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.). On May 29, 1992, 16 Baltimore Orioles were found in the checklist area (Gordon Berkey, Ron Martin, pers. obs.). On June 12, 2006, Lincoln and Ron Martin recorded 24 Baltimore Orioles in the checklist area.

Remarks: Baltimore Orioles are present from early May through early September. The peak of the breeding season is from early June to early July. The 2003 and 2003 population estimates for Baltimore Orioles on National Forest System lands within the checklist area were 787 and 839 individuals, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).

PINE GROSBEAK (*Pinicola enucleator*)

Status: Casual spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

Distribution: Pine Grosbeaks use woodland habitats.

High Counts: During the 1972 Christmas Bird Count, observers tallied 22 Pine Grosbeaks.

Remarks: During invasion years, this species is present in southeast North Dakota from November through March. It is absent in most years. Three Pine Grosbeaks were found on the 1981 Christmas Bird Count.

PURPLE FINCH (*Carpodacus purpureus*)

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

Distribution: Purple Finches often use conifers. They also can be found in large blocks of deciduous trees near sunflower fields.

High Counts: Seventy (70) Purple Finches were found within the checklist area on February 26, 2010 (Bernadette Braun, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: April and September through November are the migration periods for Purple Finch. Look for them in North Durler and West I allotments. They are more easily found in the residential areas of Lisbon and Hankinson.

HOUSE FINCH (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

Status: Rare year-round visitor.

Distribution: House Finches are most likely to be found in the treed areas of semiopen prairie.

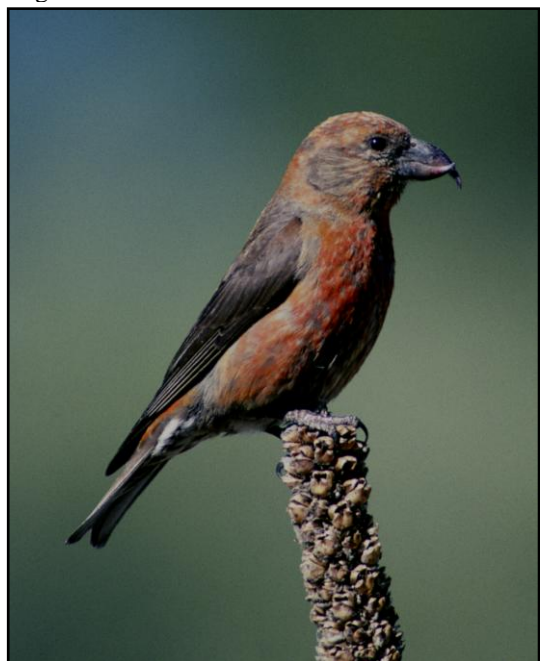
Nesting Records: This species likely nests locally, but this has yet to be documented.

Remarks: This species is closely associated with the residential areas of Hankinson, Lisbon, McLeod, and Milnor. It is rarely seen on the Sheyenne National Grassland itself. Breeding likely occurs from May to July.

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*)

Status: Uncommon but irregular spring and fall

Figure 81. Red Crossbill.



migrant and winter resident.

Distribution: Red Crossbills use coniferous plantings.

High Counts: The 1973 Christmas Bird Count recorded 57 Red Crossbills.

Remarks: Red Crossbills are most likely to be found during “good” cone crop years. October through May is the time to look for the crossbills, but they might be encountered any time of year. Look for them in North Durler and West I allotments, and in nearby residential areas.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (*Loxia leucoptera*)

Status: Rare but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

Distribution: White-winged Crossbills use the checklist area’s coniferous plantings.

Remarks: October through May is the time period to look for White-winged Crossbills, though they might eventually be found in summer as well. Both crossbill species are more likely to be seen in the residential areas of Hankinson, Lisbon, and Milnor, than in the checklist area itself. One was in North Durler on November 26, 2003 (Bryan Stotts, pers. comm.); four were in D Allotment on October 26, 2004 (Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

COMMON REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*)

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

Distribution: Common Redpolls use “weedy” habitats in semiopen prairie, such as tree rows, fence rows, and the margins of cropland. They are especially attracted to sunflower fields.

High Counts: The 1972 Christmas Bird Count recorded 880 Common Redpolls.

Remarks: Common Redpolls can be found from late October to early April.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Acanthis hornemanni*)

Status: Rare but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

Distribution: Hoary and Common redpolls use the same habitats.

High Counts: Three Hoary Redpolls were found in the checklist area on February 4, 2005 (Ron Martin, Bryan Stotts, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: December to early March is the time period that Hoary Redpolls might be present. This species should be especially looked for in those years when large numbers of Common Redpoll winter in North Dakota. Such years often correspond to years when relatively few American Goldfinch winter here.

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*)

Status: Uncommon but irregular spring migrant, rare but irregular summer resident, fairly common but irregular fall migrant, uncommon but irregular winter resident.

Distribution: Pine Siskins use tree rows in semiopen prairie, cropland (especially sunflower fields), and residential areas.

Nesting Records: This species likely nests within the checklist area, though this has yet to be confirmed.

High Counts: The 1973 Christmas Bird Count recorded 73 Pine Siskins.

Remarks: Pine Siskin likely breed from early April to mid June.

Figure 82. American Goldfinch.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*)

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

Distribution: American Goldfinches are found throughout the open and semiopen prairie, oak savannah, and eastern deciduous forest habitats. In winter, the species can be found at sunflower fields and in residential areas.

Nesting Records: Nests in D and West A allotments were active between July 11 (2001) and August 3 (2001) (NPWRC BHCO). Nests in West and East I allotments were found on July 23 (2001) and July 26 (2000) (NPWRC BCA). Two adults were observed feeding dependent fledglings in the pine area of West I Allotment on August 31, 2002 (Ron Martin, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

High Counts: Fifty American Goldfinch were near West A Allotment on January 10, 2006 (Lee Blaschke, Bernadette Braun, Dan Svingen, pers. obs.).

Remarks: The highest numbers occur from early May to late September. Breeding activity peaks from early July to early September. The 2003 and 2003 population estimates for American Goldfinch on National Forest System lands within the checklist area were 1,665 and 2,314 individuals, respectively (Cunningham et al. 2003).



HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Status: Common year-round resident.

Distribution: The House Sparrow is generally restricted to woodland and cropland near farmsteads and towns.

Nesting Records: House Sparrow nests and fledglings have been found in McLeod. House Sparrows undoubtedly nest at many of the farmsteads throughout the area covered by this book.

High Counts: The 1973 and 1981 Christmas Bird Counts found 398 and 471 House Sparrows, respectively.

Remarks: This species is easy to find in Hankinson, Lisbon, McLeod, and Milnor. The peak of breeding is May to July.

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