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# Reserve BIRDS OF THE NEBRASKA PINE RIDGE

iska National Forest lidge Ranger District)

and

**Oglala** National

Grassland

## FIELD CHECKLIST

Nebraska's Pine Ridge Area is rich in birdlife. This checklist includes 235 bird species found

in the 51,000-acre Nebraska National Forest and 94,000-acre Oglala National Grassland, as well as, Fort Robinson and Chadron State Parks and adjacent private lands in Dawes County and northern Sioux County in northwest Nebraska.

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

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

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

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

### **CHECKLIST SYMBOLS**

#### NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS:

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

#### **RELATIVE ABUNDANCE:**

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

## MANAGEMENT DIVISIONS

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

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

## SEASONAL OCCURRENCE

- M = Migrant (primarily spring and fall, or transient anytime)
- W = Winter visitor (primarily Dec., Jan., Feb. occurrence)
- S = Summer resident (indicates nesting, June and July occurrence)
- R = Permanent resident (found year round)

## MAJOR HABITATS USED

#### TERRESTRIAL HABITATS

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

#### WETLAND HABITATS

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

#### SPECIAL HABITATS

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

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
· GAVIIDAE: LOONS ·		
Common Loon	6	M * (0)
* PODICIPEDIDAE: GREBES •		
Pied-billed Grebe	6,7	S (0)
Horned Grebe	6	M * (o)
Eared Grebe	6,7	M, S * (o)
U Western Grebe	6	M (o)
Clark's Grebe	6	M ? (o)
* PELICANIDAE: PELICANS *	<b>C</b> 0	14 (a)
American White Pelican	6,8	M (o)
* PHALACRCORACIDAE: CORM	ORANTS *	
Double-crested Cormorant	6,8,1	M, S ?
		, 2 .
* ARDEIDAE: BITTERNS AND HE	ERONS *	
American Bittem	7	S (0)
Great Blue Heron	7, 8,1	S
Black-crowned Night Heron	7, 8, 1	М
* ANATIDAE: SWANS, GEESE, D		
Trumpeter Swan	6, 7	M * (o)
	6, 8, 11	М
Ross' Goose	6, 8, 11	M ?
Canada Goose	5, 6,8,11	M, S ?
Wood Duck	6, 7, 1	S
Green-winged Teal	5, 6, 7, 8	M, S*(0)
	5, 6, 7, 8	S, R *
Northern Pintail	5, 6,7, 8	S (0)
Blue-winged Teal	5, 6, 7, 8	S (0)
	5, 6, 7, 8	M*, S? (0)
Northern Shoveler	5, 6, 7, 8	S (0)
Gadwall American Wigeon	5, 6, 7, 8	S (0)
	5, 6, 7, 8 6, 7	S (o)
	6,7	M (o)
Ring-necked Duck	6,7	M, S ? (o) M (o)
Lesser Scaup	6,7	M (0)
Common Goldeneye	6	M, W *
□ Bufflehead	6	M
Hooded Merganser	6	M*
Common Merganser	6	M, W *
Ruddy Duck	6,7	S (0)
	0, 1	0 (0)
* CATHARTIDAE: VULTURES *		
Turkey Vulture 10	), 12, 1, 2, 3, 4,	5 S (p)
* ACCIPITRIDAE: KITES, EAGLE		
Osprey     Bald Eagle	6,1	M* W
Northern Harrier	6, 1, 9, ALL	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2, 3, 5, 7 1, 3	S, R * (o) M, R * (p)
Cooper's Hawk	1, 3	M, R (p) M, S? (p)
Northern Goshawk	1, 3	W*(p)
Broad-winged Hawk (N)	1, 3, 5, 8	W (p) M *
Swainson's Hawk (N)	1, 5, 5, 8	S (0)
Red-tailed Hawk	14, 5, 9, 11	S, R *
Ferruginous Hawk	2, 4, 5, 9, 14	M, S*(0)
L. Chagnous riam	2, 1, 0, 0, 14	iii, 0 (0)

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
* ACCIPITRIDAE: KITES, EAGLES	HAWKS, CONT. *	
C Rough-legged Hawk	5, 14	W (o)
Golden Eagle	10, 14, 9, ALL	R
* FALCONIDAE: FALCONS		
American Kestrel	13, 14, 11	S, R *
Merlin (N)     Demonstrate Calegory (N)	14, 11, 8	M. R * (p)
Peregrine Falcon (N) Prairie Falcon	4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14	м.
	10, 4, 5, 9	R
* PHASIANIDAE: PHEASAN	T. GROUSE. TURKEY	, QUAIL *
Ring-necked Pheasant	3, 5, 7, 11	R
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2, 3, 5, 11	R
Wild Turkey	3, 11, 14	R (p)
* RALLIDAE: RAIL AND COO		0 (1)
Uirginia Rail	7	S (0)
Sora	7	S (0)
American Coot	6, 7	S (0)
* GRUIDAE: CRANES *		
Sandhill Crane	8, 11	м
	· ·	
* CHARADRIIDAE: PLOVER	S *	
Black-bellied Plover	8	M * (o)
Semi-palmated Plover	8	M (o)
□ Killdeer	4, 8, 9	S
American Avocet	6,7 (short), 8	M, S * (o)
*SCOLOPACIDAE: SANDPIF		PES *
Greater Yellowlegs	8	M
Lesser Yellowlegs	8	M
Solitary Sandpiper	8	M
□ Willet	5, 7 (short), 8	M, S*(0)
Spotted Sandpiper	8	S
Upland Sandpiper (N)	5	S
Long-billed Curlew (N)	4, 5, 8, 9	S (0)
Marbled Godwit	5, 7 (short), 8	M (0)
Sanderling	8	M * (o)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8	M (o)
Western Sandpiper	8	M (o)
Least Sandpiper	8	M (o)
U White-rumped Sandpiper	8	M * (o)
Baird's Sandpiper	8	M (0)
Pectoral Sandpiper	8	M (o)
Stilt Sandpiper	8	M (o)
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	4, 8	M ? (o)
Short-billed Dowitcher	8	M ? (o)
Long-billed Dowitcher	8	M (o)
Common Snipe	5 (wet meadow), 7, 8	
Wilson's Phalarope	6, 7 (short), 8	S (o)
Red-necked Phalarope	6, 8	M ? (o)
*LARIDAE: JAEGERS, GULL	S AND TERNS *	
Franklin's Gull	6, 7, 8	м
Bonaparte's Gull	6, 8	М *
Ring-billed Gull	6, 8	м
🗆 California Gull	6, 8	Μ?
Herring Gull	6, 8	M *

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
* LARIDAE: JAEGERS, GULLS AND TE		М?
Common Tem     Forster's Tem	6, 8 6, 7, 8	M
	6, 7, 8	M , S * (o)
* COLUMBIDAE: PEGEONS ANI		R
	10, 11, 12 14, 2, 3, 5, 11	S
	14, 2, 0, 0, 11	0
* CUCULIDAE: CUCKOOS *		
Black-billed Cuckoo (N)	1, 3	S
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (N)	1, 3	S
* TYTONIDAE: BARN OWL *		
Barn Owl	10, 11, 12, 14	S *
* STRIGIDAE: TYPICAL OWLS *		-
Eastern Screech Owl	1, 3	R
Great Horned Owl	14, ALL	R
Snowy Owl Burrowing Owl (N)	4, 5, 11 4, 9	W * (o) S (o)
Long-eared Owl	4, 5 14	R*(p)
Short-eared Owl	2, 5, 7, 1	R*(o)
□ Northern Saw-whet Owl	1, 3	R?(p)
	,	4 <i>7</i>
* CAPRIMULGIDAE: GOATSUCI		
Common Nighthawk (N)	4, 5, 11, 1	S
Common Poorwill	10, 1	S (p)
* APODIDAE: SWIFTS *		
Chimney Swift (N)	12	S *
□ White-throated Swift (N)	10	S (p)
* TROCHILIDAE: HUMMINGBIR		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (N)		Μ?
Rufous Hummingbird (N)	12 (feeders)	M
	12 (1000010)	
* ALCEDINADAE: KINGFISHERS		
Belted Kingfisher	6, 10	S, R *
* PICIDAE: WOODPECKERS *		
Lewis' Woodpecker	13, 14	S (p)
Read-headed Woodpecker	13, 14	S
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	W*, R?
Red-naped Sapsucker	1	M?(p)
Downy Woodpecker	1	R
Hairy Woodpecker	1, 13	R
Northern Flicker	13, 14	R
* TYRANNIDAE: TYRANT FLYC	ATCHERS *	
Olive-sided Flycatcher (N)	1	м •
U Western Wood Pewee (N)	1	S (p)
Eastern Wood Pewee (N)	1	M ?
Willow Flycatcher (N)	3	M, S *
Least Flycatcher (N)	1, 3	М
Cordilleran Flycatcher (N)	1, 10	S*(p)
Eastern Phoebe	1, 12 4, 5, 10	S⁺ S
Great Crested Flycatcher (N)	4, 5, 10	S
Cassin's Kingbird (N)	14	M, S? (p)

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
* TYRANNIDAE: TYRANT FLYCATCHER		
Western Kingbird (N)	14	S
Eastern Kingbird (N)	14	S
* ALAUDIDAE: LARKS *		
Horned Lark	4 0 11	
	4, 9, 11	R (o)
* HIRUNINIDAE: SWALLOWS *		
Tree Swallow	14, 6	S*
□ Violet-green Swallow (N)	10, 14, 6	S (p)
N. Rough-winged Swallow (N)	10,6	S
Bank Swallow (N)	10, 6	S?
Cliff Swallow (N)	10, 12, 6	S
Barn Swallow (N)	12, 6	s
. ,		
* CORVIDAE: JAYS AND CROW	/S *	
Blue Jay	1, 14	R
Pinyon Jay	14, 12 (feeders)	R (p)
Clark's Nutcracker	1	W*(p)
Black-billed Magpie	14	R
American Crow	14	R(p)
* PARIDAE: TITMICE *		
Black-capped Chickadee	1, 12 (feeders)	R (p)
* SITTIDAE: NUTHATCHES *		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1, 12 (feeders)	R (p)
White-breasted Nuthatch	1, 12 (feeders)	R (p)
Pygmy Nuthatch	1, 12 (leedels)	R (p)
L r ygny wunaten		11 (p)
* CERTHIDAE: CREEPERS *		
Brown Creeper	1, 13	W, R * (p)
* TROGLODYTIDAE: WRENS *	10	
	10	S
House Wren (N)	1, 12	S
Winter Wren	3	W*(p)
Marsh Wren	7 (tall)	S * (o)
• MUSCICAPIDAE: KINGLETS	ND THRUSHES	•
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	M, W*(p)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1, 3	M
Eastern Bluebird	13, 14	S*(p)
Mountian Bluebird	13, 14	S (p)
Townsend's Solitaire	1, 3	W, S? (p)
□ Veery (N)	3	M*
Gray-cheeked Thrush (N)	1, 3	M *
Swainson's Thrush (N)	1, 3	М
American Robin	1, 3, 14	R(p)
• MIMIDAE: MOCKERS AND TH		
Gray Catbird (N)	1, 3	S
Northern Mockingbird	14, 3	S*
Sage Thrasher	2	S ? (0)
Brown Thrasher	1,3	S
*MOTACILLIDAE: PIPITS *		
American Pipit	4, 5, 8, 11	M (o)
	4, 0, 0, 11	(U)

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
*BOMBYCILLIDAE: WAXWING Bohemian Waxwing Cedar Waxwing	G <b>S *</b> 1, 3 1,3	W ⁺ R
* LANIIDAE: SHRIKES *		
Northern Shrike	14 3, 14	W S
	5, 14	0
* STURNIDAE: STARLINGS *	14, 12, 11	R
* VIREONIDAE: VIREOS *		
Bell's Vireo (N)	3	S*
Solitary Vireo (N)	1, 3	S*(p)
Warbling Vireo (N)	1	S
Red-eyed Vireo (N)	1, 3	S (p)
* EMBERIZIDAE: WARBLERS, S (SUB-FAMILY PARULINAE: WOO		BIRDS, ETC. *
Tennessee Warbler (N)	1	м •
Orange-crowned Warbler (N)	) 1, 3	м
□ Nashville Warbler (N)	1,3	М *
Yellow Warbler (N)	1, 3	S
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1, 3	S (p)
Blackpoll Warbler (N)	1	M.+
Black and White Warbler (N)	1, 3	S*(p)
American Redstart (N)	1	S (p)
Ovenbird (N)	1,3	S (p)
Northern Waterthrush (N)	3	M.+
MacGillivray's Warbler (N)	3	м•
Common Yellowthroat	3, 7	S
U Wilson's Warbler (N)	1,3	М
□ Yellow-breasted Chat (N)	3	S (p)
(THRAUPINAE: TANAGERS)	1	S (n)
Western Tanager (N)		S (p)
(CARDINALINAE: CARDINALS, G	ROSBEAKS, AND BUNT	INGS)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (N)	) 1, 3	М *
Black-headed Grosbeak (N)	1, 3	S (p)
Blue Grosbeak (N)	3	S
Lazuli Bunting (N)	1, 3	S (p)
Indigo Bunting (N)	1, 3	S
Dickcissel (N)	3, 5, 11	S
(EMBERIZINAE: TOWHEE, SPARI	ROWS. JUNCOS. LONG	SPURS)
Rufous-sided Towhee	3	S
American Tree Sparrow	3, 11	Ŵ
Chipping Sparrow (N)	3, 11, 14	S (p)
Clay-colored Sparrow (N)	2, 3, 11	M
Brewer's Sparrow (N)	2	S*(0)
Field Sparrow	3, 11, 14	M *
Vesper Sparrow	2, 5, 11, 14	M (o) S (p)
Lark Sparrow (N)	2, 3, 11, 14	S
Lark Bunting (N)	2, 4, 5, 11	S (0)
Savannah Sparrow	5 (wet meadow), 11	M, S, * (0)
Grasshopper Sparrow (N)	5, 11	S
Song Sparrow	3, 7, 11	M, W * (p)
Lincoln's Sparrow (N)	3, 11	M
U White-throated Sparrow	3, 11	M

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
(EMBERIZINAE: TOWHEE, SPARRO	WS, JUNCOS, LONGSPUR	RS, CONT.)
White-crowned Sparrow	3, 11	М
Harris' Sparrow	3, 11	M, W * (p)
Dark-eyed Junco	3, 11, 14	W (p)
(White-winged race)	1, 14	R (p)
McCown's Longspur	4, 9, 11	M (o)
Lapland Longspur	4, 5, 1	W (o)
Chestnut-collared Longspur	4, 5, 9, 11	S (o)
Snow Bunting	4, 5, 11	W * (o)
(ICTERINAE: MEADOWLARKS, E	LACKBIRDS AND ORIOLE	s)
Bobolink (N)	5 (wet meadow), 11	S*
Red-winged Blackbird	3, 7, 11	S
C Western Meadowlark	2, 4, 5, 9, 11	S
Yellow-headed Blackbird (N	) 7, 11	S (0)
Rusty Blackbird	3, 11	M *
Brewer's Blackbird	3, 11	S (p)
Common Grackle	1, 11	S
Brown-headed Cowbird	ALL	S
Orchard Oriole (N)	1,3	S
Northern Oriole (N)	1,3	S
* FRINGILLIDAE: FINCHES *		
Rosy Finch	10, 11, 12 (feeders)	W *
Purple Finch	1, 3, 12 (feeders)	W*(p)
Cassin's Finch	1, 3, 12 (feeders)	W*, R?(p)
House Finch	1, 12 (feeders)	R
Red Crossbill	1, 12 (feeders)	R (p)
Common Redpoll	3, 1, 12 (feeders)	W
Pine Siskin	1, 3, 11, 12 (feeders)	R (p)
American Goldfinch	1, 3, 11, 12 (feeders)	R
Evening Grosbeak	1, 12 (feeders)	W (p)
* PASSERIDAE: WEAVER FIN	NCHES *	
□ House Sparrow	11, 12 (feeders)	R
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