



## GUIDE TO BIRDING

## GNP Intro to Birding:

Grasslands National Park is a haven for prairie bird enthusiasts. Both common and rare birds may be found here. Rock Wrens in the badlands, Golden Eagles in the buttes, Spotted Towhees in the riparian shrubs and Burrowing Owls on the prairie dog towns. Not to mention the Sprague's Pipit's in the native grasslands. Enjoy your time in the park and may your eyes enjoy the bounty of birds you find in the prairie sky!

## GNP Safety messages:

**Wilderness:** You are in a wilderness setting! Travel with sturdy footwear, hat & first aid kit.

**Weather:** Be prepared for extreme temperatures, strong winds and dangerous lightning. Roads become impassable when wet.

**Wildlife:** View wildlife from a distance. Be aware of rattlesnakes & bison.

**Water:** Potable water is not available in the park. Pack 2-3 litres per person daily.

**Wildfire:** No open fires - camp stoves only. Report all wildfires. Check with park staff for current conditions.

## Emergency Information:

**911 - all emergencies.**

**298-2166 - Park Warden Office**

**298-2257 - Visitor Centre**

## Legend

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### Season

<b>M</b>	Migrant visitor (spring and /or fall)
<b>Y</b>	Year-round resident
<b>W</b>	Winter resident
<b>S</b>	Summer resident

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### Abundance

<b>C</b>	Common	<b>R</b>	Rare
<b>U</b>	Uncommon	<b>V</b>	Vagrant

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### Status

<b>E</b>	Endangered
<b>T</b>	Threatend
<b>SP</b>	Special concern
<b>Ex</b>	Extirpated

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### Habitat

<b>R</b>	Riparian (Frenchman River, Rock Creek)
<b>V</b>	Valley bottoms, Wet meadows
<b>B</b>	Badlands (saline & eroded)
<b>W</b>	Standing water - shallow or seasonal ponds
<b>D</b>	Disturbed - townsites and farms
<b>C</b>	Cultivated
<b>T</b>	Tall grass
<b>S</b>	Short grass
<b>P</b>	Prairie dog towns
<b>F</b>	Sagebrush flats
<b>Tr</b>	Trees

## GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK BIRD LIST

### Species at Risk

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) makes designations on native species for mammals, birds, amphibians, fishes, arthropods, molluscs, plants, mosses and lichens. The Parks Canada Agency administers 145 national historic sites, 43 national parks and reserves and 3 national marine conservation areas. Of these, four have been designated as priority sites by Parks Canada, including Grasslands National Park, due to its large number of species at risk in the GNP and area. Throughout this brochure you will find interesting facts about some of these amazing prairie birds.



**Short-eared Owl:**  
(special concern) - voles are the chief ingredient in this owl's diet.

Sighted	Species	Season		Abundance	Status	Habitat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grebes					
	Pied-billed Grebe	S	U			R,W
	Horned Grebe	S	U			R,W
	Red-necked Grebe	M	R			R,W
	Eared Grebe	S	U			R,W
	Western Grebe	S	U			R,W
	Pelicans & Cormorants					
	American White Pelican	S	U			R
	Double-crested Cormorant	S	U			R
	Bitterns, Herons and Ibises					
	American Bittern	S	U			R
	Great Blue Heron	S	U			R,W
	Great Egret	M	V			R
	Snowy Egret	M	V			R
	Cattle Egret	M	V			C,D
	Black-crowned Night-Heron	S	U			R
	White-faced Ibis	M	V			R,W
	Geese, Swans and Ducks					
	Snow Goose	M	U			C,D
	Canada Goose	S	C			D,C,V,W
	Cackling Goose	M	U			D,C,V,W
	Tundra Swan	M	U			C,W
	Wood Duck	S	R			R
	Gadwall	S	C			W
	Cinnamon Teal	S	U			W
	Northern Shoveler	S	U			W
	Northern Pintail	S	U			W
	Green-winged Teal	S	U			W
	American Wigeon	S	U			W
	Mallard	Y	C			W
	Blue-winged Teal	S	C			W
	Canvasback	S	U			W
	Redhead	S	U			W
	Lesser Scaup	S	U			W
	Bufflehead	S	U			W
	Common Merganser	S	R			R
	Ruddy Duck	S	U			W
	Partridges, Pheasants & Grouse					
	Gray Partridge	Y	C			D,C
	Ring-necked Pheasant	Y	C			D,C,R



**Golden Eagle:** (uncommon) - Golden Eagles have a wingspan of 6.5 - 7.5 feet. One breeding pair will require 700 lbs of live food/ year (size of a yearling bison).

### Notes / Observations

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**GRASSLANDS  
NATIONAL PARK  
BIRD LIST**

Sighted  
Species

Season  
Abundance  
Status  
Habitat



**Mountain Plover:**  
(endangered) - prefers  
heavily grazed  
grassland.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruffed Grouse
	Greater Sage Grouse
	Sharp-tailed Grouse
	Greater Prairie-Chicken
	Vultures, Hawks, Eagles & Falcons
	Turkey Vulture
	Osprey
	Bald Eagle
	Northern Harrier
	Sharp-shinned Hawk
	Cooper's Hawk
	Northern Goshawk
	Broad-winged Hawk
	Swainson's Hawk
	Red-tailed Hawk
	Ferruginous Hawk
	Golden Eagle
	American Kestrel
	Merlin
	Peregrine Falcon
	Prairie Falcon
	Rails, Coots and Cranes
	Sora
	American Coot
	Whooping Crane
	Sandhill Crane
	Shorebirds, Gulls & Terns
	Black-bellied Plover
	American Golden-Plover
	Semipalmated Plover
	Piping Plover
	Killdeer
	Mountain Plover
	American Avocet
	Greater Yellowlegs
	Lesser Yellowlegs
	Solitary Sandpiper
	Willet
	Spotted Sandpiper
	Upland Sandpiper

Notes / Observations



**Sprague's Pipit:**  
(threatened) - performs  
the most prolonged  
courtship display of any  
bird. May perform up  
to 3 hours in the air  
before descending to  
the ground.

Y	R		T,Tr
Y	R	E	F
Y	C		S,F,C,T
Y		Ex	S,T,V
S	R		B,S,C
M	R		R
W,M	U		Tr
S	C		F,R,T
S	R		Tr,D,R
S	R		Tr,D,R
W	U		Tr,D
M	R		R,Tr
S	C		S,T,R
S	U		Tr
S	U	SP	S,B
Y	U		B,P
S	U		R,B,D
Y	U		R,D,Tr,B
M	R	T	T,S,B,D
Y	U		S,B,P,T
S	U		W
S	U		W
M	R		W
M	U		W,S,C
M	R		S,C
M	V		C,S,W
M	U		W
M	R	E	W
S	C		C,D,S,P
S	R	E	P,C
S	C		W
M	U		W
M	U		W
M	U		W,R
S	C		W,S,V,T
S	U		W
S	U		S,T,P

Notes / Observations

**GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK BIRD LIST**



**Sage Thrasher:**  
(endangered) - depends entirely on sage brush during the breeding season.

Notes / Observations

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Sighted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Species
<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-billed Curlew
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marbled Godwit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Knot
<input type="checkbox"/>	Short-billed Dowitcher
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wilson's Snipe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wilson's Phalarope
<input type="checkbox"/>	Franklin's Gull
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ring-billed Gull
<input type="checkbox"/>	California Gull
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Tern
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forster's Tern
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Tern
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pigeons and Doves
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Pigeon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Collared-Dove
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mourning Dove
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cuckoos
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-billed Cuckoo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Owls
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barn Owl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eastern Screech-Owl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Horned Owl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowy Owl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Burrowing Owl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-eared Owl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Short-eared Owl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Saw-whet Owl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goatsuckers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Nighthawk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Poorwill
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hummingbirds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kingfishers & Woodpeckers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Belted Kingfisher
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-headed Woodpecker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Downy Woodpecker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hairy Woodpecker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Flicker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flycatchers

Season	Abundance	Status	Habitat
S	C	SP	S,T
S	C		S,T
M	R		W
M	R		W
S	U		W,R
S	C		W
S	U		W,C,S,T
M	C		W,D,C,S,T
M	U		W,C,S,T
S	U		R,W
M	U		W
S	U		W
Y	U		D
Y	R		D
S	C		D,Tr
S	U		R,V
Y	V		S,T,C,Tr
Y	V		R,V,T,Tr
Y	C		Tr,R,D
W	U		S,T,C
S	U	E	PS,B
S	U		S,T,C,Tr
Y	U	SP	F,T,C,D
M	V		D,Tr
S	C		S,T,D
S	R		B
S	R		D,Tr
S	U		R,W
S	R		D,Tr
M	V		D,Tr
Y	C		D,Tr
Y	C		D,Tr
S	C		D,R,Tr



**Burrowing Owl:**  
(endangered) - will make a "hissing" sound like a rattlesnake to scare potential intruders.

Notes / Observations

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**GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK BIRD LIST**



**Loggerhead Shrike:** (threatened) - called the "butcher bird" for the habit of impaling prey on thorny bushes or barbed wire fences.

**Notes / Observations**

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Sighted  
Species

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Western Wood Pewee
	Willow Flycatcher
	Least Flycatcher
	Say's Phoebe
	Great Crested Flycatcher
	Western Kingbird
	Eastern Kingbird
	Shrikes
	Northern Shrike
	Loggerhead Shrike
	Larks
	Horned Lark
	Swallows
	Purple Martin
	Tree Swallow
	Violet-green Swallow
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
	Bank Swallow
	Cliff Swallow
	Barn Swallow
	Chickadees
	Black-capped Chickadee
	Nuthatches
	Red-breasted Nuthatch
	Wrens
	Rock Wren
	House Wren
	Marsh Wren
	Kinglets, Thrushes & Bluebirds
	Golden-crowned Kinglet
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
	Mountain Bluebird
	Townsend's Solitaire
	Veery
	Swainson's Thrush
	Hermit Thrush
	American Robin
	Mimic Thrushes
	Gray Catbird
	Northern Mockingbird

Season  
Abundance  
Status  
Habitat

S	U		D,Tr
S	U		R
S	C		R
S	U		S,T,B,C
M	V		R
S	U		R,D
S	C		R,D
W	U		R,D
S	U	T	R
Y	C		S,T,F,C
S	R		D
S	C		B,D,Tr
S	U		B,D
S	U		B,D
S	C		B,D
S	C		D,B
S	C		D
Y	R		D,Tr
W,M	R		D,Tr
S	C		B
S	C		S,T,C,D
S	R		W
M	U		D,Tr
M	U		D,Tr
S,M	U		D,S,T
W	U		D,Tr
S	U		D,R,Tr
M	U		D,Tr
M	U		D,Tr
S	C		D,Tr
S	C		R
S	V		R



**Ferruginous Hawk:** (special concern) - is one of two booted hawks in North America. Like the rough-legged hawk, they have feathers that go down the legs to their toes.

**Notes / Observations**

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**GRASSLANDS  
NATIONAL PARK  
BIRD LIST**



**Sage Grouse:**  
(endangered) - In Saskatchewan, pre-settlement Sage Grouse populations were estimated at 10,000 birds. In 2005, the population was estimated at less than 300 birds.

**Notes / Observations**

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**Sighted  
Species**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sage Thrasher
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brown Thrasher
<input type="checkbox"/>	Starlings
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Starling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pipits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sprague's Pipit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waxwings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bohemian Waxwing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cedar Waxwing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vireos
<input type="checkbox"/>	Warbling Vireo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-eyed Vireo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jays, Magpies and Crows
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Jay
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-billed Magpie
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Crow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Raven
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood-Warblers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tennessee Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange-crowned Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Magnolia Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow-rumped Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bay-breasted Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackpoll Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black & White Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Redstart
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conneticut Warbler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Yellowthroat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow-breasted Chat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tanagers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Tanager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Towhees, Sparrows & Longspurs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted Towhee
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Tree Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chipping Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clay-coloured Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brewer's Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vesper Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lark Sparrow

**Season  
Abundance  
Status  
Habitat**

S	R	E	F
S	R		F
S	C		R,D
Y	C		D,C
S	C	T	T,V
W	C		D,Tr
Y	U		D,Tr
S	U		R,D,Tr
S	U		R,D,Tr
M	R		D,Tr
Y	C		D,C,R
S	C		D,C,S,T
M	R		D,C,S,T
M	R		D,Tr
M	R		D,Tr
S	C		R,D,Tr
M	R		D,Tr
S	U		R,D,Tr
M	R		D,Tr
M	R		D,Tr
M	R		D,Tr
M	R		D,Tr
M	U		D,Tr
M	R		R
S	C		W,D,R
S	U		R,Tr
M	R		R,Tr
S	U		R,D
W	U		D,Tr
S	C		D,C
S	C		D,F,V
S	U		F,D
S	C		S,B,V
S	U		D,F,T



**Long-Billed Curlew:**  
(special concern) - largest shorebird of the Great Plains.

**Notes / Observations**

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# GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK BIRD LIST



**Sharp-Tailed Grouse:** (common) - Males display a courtship dance that includes pointing their tails up, spreading their wings, holding their heads low and stamping their feet in a stutter-dance to battle over territory and impress females. Sharp-Tailed Grouse are often mistaken for their cousin, the prairie chicken.

**Notes / Observations**

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Sighted	Species	Season	Abundance	Status	Habitat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lark Bunting	S	C		S,T,C,F
	Savannah Sparrow	S	C		T,S
	Grasshopper Sparrow	S	U		T,S
	Baird's Sparrow	S	C		T,S
	Leconte's Sparrow	S	R		T,S
	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	S	R		T,V
	Song Sparrow	S	C		S,C,D,Tr
	Lincoln's Sparrow	M	U		W,S,T
	Swamp Sparrow	M	U		W,R
	White-throated Sparrow	M	U		S,T,D,Tr
	Harris's Sparrow	M	U		D,C,V,Tr
	White-crowned Sparrow	M	U		D,C,V,Tr
	Dark-eyed Junco	W,M	C		D,C,S,T
	McCown's Longspur	S	U		C,S,D,B
	Lapland Longspur	W	U		C,S,T
	Chestnut-collared Longspur	S	C		T,S
	Snow Bunting	W	C		C,D,S,B
	<b>Cardinals</b>				
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M	U		D
	Black-headed Grosbeak	S	R		D,Tr
	Lazuli Bunting	S	R		S,T,D
	Dickcissel	S	V		R,D
	<b>Meadowlarks, Blackbirds &amp; Orioles</b>				
	Bobolink	S	U		R,T
	Red-winged Blackbird	S	C		R,W,C
	Western Meadowlark	S	C		D,S,T,C,F
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	S	U		R,W
	Brewer's Blackbird	S	U		C,R,V,F,T
	Common Grackle	S	C		C,D,Tr
	Brown-headed Cowbird	S	C		C,D,S,T
	Orchard Oriole	S	R		D,Tr
	Bullock's Oriole	S	R		Tr,D
	Baltimore Oriole	S	U		Tr,D
	<b>Finches</b>				
	Pine Grosbeak	W	V		D,Tr
	Common Redpoll	W	C		C,S,D
	Pine Siskin	W	U		D,Tr
	American Goldfinch	S	C		D,Tr
	Evening Grosbeak	W	U		D,Tr
	<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
	House Sparrow	Y	C		D



**Horned Lark:** (common) - Horned Larks are one of the first migrant birds to return to Saskatchewan in February or early March.

**Notes / Observations**

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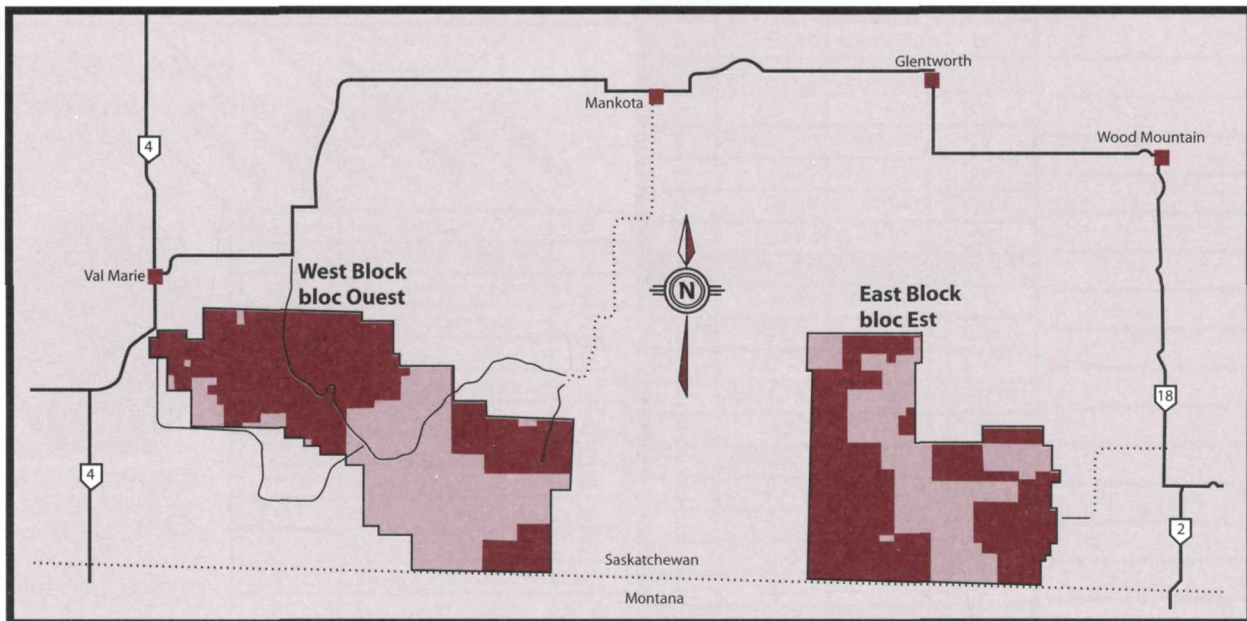
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**Park Information: Grasslands National Park**  
 Box 150  
 Val Marie, SK S0N 2T0  
 306-298-2257 306-298-2042 (fax)  
 E-Mail: [grasslands.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:grasslands.info@pc.gc.ca)  
 Website: [www.pc.gc.ca/grasslands](http://www.pc.gc.ca/grasslands)

**Reuse & Recycle!** - When finished using this brochure you may return it to park staff or the visitor centre, for reuse or recycling.

**Want to help? Here's how!**

If you observe a rare bird or unusual sighting, we want to hear about it. Please contact the visitor information centre or mail this bird checklist, complete with observation notes and visitor profile to the address listed above. Thank-you for your participation in prairie conservation and awareness!

Visitor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time of Sighting: \_\_\_\_\_

Locality of Sighting: \_\_\_\_\_

Visitor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Additional Observations &Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Renseignements sur le parc: Parc national des Prairies**  
 C.P. 150  
 Val Marie (Saskatchewan)  
 S0N 2T0  
 306-298-2257  
 306-298-2042 (télécopieur)  
 Courriel: [grasslands.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:grasslands.info@pc.gc.ca)  
 Site Web: [www.pc.gc.ca/prairies](http://www.pc.gc.ca/prairies)

**Réutilisez et recyclez!**

Lorsque vous en aurez terminé de la brochure, donnez-la à un employé du parc ou rapportez-la au centre d'accueil pour qu'elle soit réutilisée ou recyclée.

**Vous voulez aider? Voici comment!**

Si vous voyez un oiseau rare ou si vous remarquez quelque chose de particulier, nous voulons le savoir! Veuillez communiquer avec le centre d'accueil ou poster le relevé des oiseaux, comprenant les notes d'observation et le profil du visiteur, à l'adresse susmentionnée. Nous vous remercions de votre participation à la conservation de la prairie et à la cueillette d'information.

Nom du visiteur: \_\_\_\_\_

Date et heure de l'observation: \_\_\_\_\_

Endroit de l'observation: \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse du visiteur: \_\_\_\_\_

Observations et commentaires supplémentaires: \_\_\_\_\_

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