The Dakotas – Birds & Mammals of the Badlands

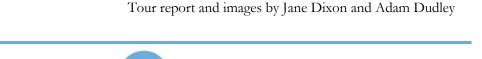
Naturetrek Tour Report

20th May - 2nd June 2023



Black Tern

Black-necked Grebe



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Tour Participants: Jane Dixon and Adam Dudley (leaders) with seven Naturetrek clients

Summary

What a fantastic array of wildlife, habitats, culture, scenery, and history this area of North America can boast. From northern prairie to dramatic canyons to Ponderosa Pine-covered rolling hills. North and South Dakota offers an adventure to any intrepid traveller. On our tour, we saw 154 species of bird including Mountain Bluebird, American Dipper, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Ferruginous Hawk. Mammals also feature highly in this area, and we spotted numerous herds of American Bison, Pronghorn, including a newly born fawn, White-tailed Jackrabbit, North American Porcupine, and Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel. We saw two species of snake: multiple Smooth Green Snake and Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer. Luckily, the weather was warm and dry, so the group was rewarded with over 35 species of butterfly including Indra Swallowtail, Western Pine Elfin, and numerous Gorgone Checkerspot.

Day 1

Saturday 20th May

In flight and local Hotel in Rapid City

The flight arrived on time, but unfortunately one guest missed the connecting flight in Dallas Fort Worth. We met six guests at Rapid City airport. A few calls and rapid problem solving by the tour leaders got the marooned guest a flight for the next day and a hotel room for the night. The fortunate side of this instance was the one guest had an early night in a plush hotel at the airport. The remaining guests had a longer day, but a restful sleep in Rapid City.

Day 2

Sunday 21st May

Badlands National Park

The group breakfasted and set off for Badlands National Park. As we loaded the cars, we saw Eastern Cottontail. The tour guides phones were ready to receive any messages from our stranded traveller. As we drove into the park, we had excellent views of American Bison, Black-Tailed Prairie Dog, Pronghorn, Bighorn Sheep with lambs, and Coyote. Birds of the prairies spotted were Rock Wren, Lark Sparrow, Western Meadowlark and Red-winged Blackbird. We stopped at numerous overlooks to admire the colourful striations of the Badlands and scan for wildlife.

We had a picnic lunch at the Catono picnic area and spotted Lark Sparrow. At this point, a phone call came in. Our late arrival had been lucky enough to grab a standby seat on the early flight out of Dallas Fort Worth. We reorganized the cars and one guide sped off the airport, an hour drive away. The other guide continued with the rest of the guests, to explore the Badlands further. We hiked the Fossil Exhibit trail and learned about the incredible prehistory of the area, with large numbers of dinosaurs present in this area in the past. We also hiked into the Badlands along the Castle Trail, where we found a group of four male Bighorn Sheep adorned with impressive, curled horns. Birds here included a fly-over Bald Eagle and a pair of stunning Mountain Bluebird. Later, along the Cliff Shelf Trail, we followed boardwalks and climbed stairs through a Juniper Forest perched along the Badlands Wall. Here we saw Least Chipmunk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and our first Mule Deer.

Everyone was reunited at Cedar Pass Lodge, where we had a relaxing dinner and a good night's sleep.



Bighorn Sheep

Day 3

Monday 22nd May

Black Hills

We started the day with a pre-breakfast stroll around the lodge grounds. We saw Mountain and Desert Cottontails plus Blue Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, Least Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, and Red-headed Woodpecker. A few of the group saw a Prairie Falcon as it flew towards the towering cliffs nearby.

After breakfast, we loaded up the cars and drove back towards Rapid City. Along the way, we saw Pronghorn and Coyote in the prairie by the road. After a fuel stop at Rapid City, we headed southwest towards the Black Hills. Our first stop was Mount Rushmore.

After admiring the heads of Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln, we strolled around the trail at the base of the cliff. Our first mammal was Least Chipmunk. We also spotted Red-naped Sapsucker, Pine Siskin, and had great views of the endemic White-winged Junco. Butterflies observed included Brown Elfin and Pearl Crescent. A White-tailed Deer observed us as we finished our walk.

Our next stop was lunch at the historic Sylvan Lake Lodge followed by a stroll around the lake and up the trail. There, we observed Yellow-rumped Warbler, an Osprey fishing, and a Mountain Bluebird. Butterflies included Mourning Cloak, Echo Azure, Variable Checkerspot, and Gray Comma. We heard numerous Boreal Chorus Frog calling but were unable to locate any individuals.

We arrived at our lodge late afternoon, freshened up and ate dinner. On the way back to the cabins we saw our first Common Nighthawk of the trip. Everyone had a restful night in the comfortable cabins among the Ponderosa Pine of the Black Hills.



Day 4

Custer State Park

Tuesday 23rd May

We had a pre-breakfast stroll around the lodge and found Painted Turtle and Northern Leopard Frog in the lake and surrounding reeds. In the trees, we saw Red-breasted Nuthatch, our first Red-headed Woodpecker (which are usually uncommon, but this year were very common throughout the tour), Western Wood-Pewee, Black-capped Chickadee, Western Tanager, and Violet-green Swallow.

After breakfast we drove south through the park towards Wind Cave National Park. There, we came across a huge herd of cow American Bison and calves. We sat in the cars and watched the herd wallowing, feeding, interacting, and strolling past our vehicles. One of the vehicles even got licked by a passing Bison. After 30 minutes or more we drove further down the road to find Pronghorn and numerous Black-tailed Prairie Dog towns. We got great shots of a male Pronghorn chewing the cud and enjoyed the antics of the numerous Prairie Dog. New butterflies included Common Ringlet and Checkered White.

As we drove further along the wildlife loop, we spotted Burro (Feral Donkey) on the side of the road. We stretched our legs with a short walk along French Creek Trail, which is in a lush green, rock-sided valley. We noticed American Redstart, Gray Catbird, Eastern Kingbird, Plumbeous Vireo, Black-billed Magpie, Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, and an impressive display by two Northern Goshawks as they performed their incredible "butterfly flight" overhead!

Lunch was at the State Game Lodge. Most of the group chose a sweet lunch of Berry Blitz, a crepe filled with cream cheese and a mixed berry sauce. Everyone agreed it was a delicious choice.

Following our break, we drove through the town of Custer to the Crazy Horse Memorial, which is a mountain monument under construction on privately held land. The memorial was commissioned by Henry Standing Bear, a Lakota elder, to be sculpted by Korczak Ziolkowski. The monument has been in progress since 1948 and is far from completion. Once completed, it will depict the Oglala Lakota warrior Crazy Horse, riding a horse and pointing to his tribal land. The Ziolkowski descendants still lead the ongoing construction. When completed, it will become the world's second tallest statue, after the Statue of Unity in India.

The group spent an hour exploring the Gallery of Native American Art and watching a documentary about the history and construction of Crazy Horse. We admired the sculpting work that continues but agreed that it would still be ongoing long after all or our lifetimes. It truly is an immense undertaking. When we were done, we drove back to our Lodge for the evening.

Day 5

Wednesday 24th May

Roby & Hell's Canyons and Elk Mountain

We started the morning with a Coyote chasing a White-tailed Deer as we headed for breakfast, an exciting sight. After boarding the vehicles, we drove to Custer and had an early breakfast at Calamity Jane's Café. After an excellent breakfast, we drove west towards Wyoming. After crossing the state line, we headed into Roby Canyon and the Black Hills National Forest. We parked the cars and began walking up the Ponderosa Pine filled canyon. The meadows were filled with Prairie Bluebells, Meadow Deathcamas, and Purple Shooting Stars.

The stroll up the canyon was very pleasant and we spotted numerous butterflies including Numerous Dreamy Duskywing, Gray and Juniper Hairstreaks, Anise, and Indra Swallowtails plus Olympia Marble. Birds included

Dusky Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Yellow Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Ovenbird (after much chasing!).

We drove into Wyoming to pick up lunch and drove to the fire tower on Elk Mountain. Along the way, we checked out some ranch pools and found Blue-winged Teal and American Coot.

As we drove up the freshly graded dirt road to the summit, we found many Red-headed and two Lewis' Woodpeckers. Unfortunately, no Elk were seen, and we descended to great views of Pronghorn and Black-tailed Prairie Dog.

We headed back into South Dakota and explored Hell Canyon. This steep-sided red rock canyon was filled with fresh spring greenery. We spotted Yellow-bellied Marmot at the top of the cliff and numerous Big Horn Sheep with lambs grazing in the shrubbery and resting on the cliff edges.

Birds seen included White-throated Swift, Northern Flicker, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Song Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Wren. New butterflies included Western Pine Elfin, Western Tailed Blue, and Gray Comma. After a fantastic day, we drove back to the lodge for dinner and a relaxing night's sleep.



Dreamy Duskywing & Western Pine Elfin

Day 6

Thursday 25th May

Spearfish Canyon

We breakfasted again at Calamity Jane's in Custer then set off to Hill City to pick up lunch. We turned onto Mystic Road and took the historical Burlington Trail to Cheyenne Crossing. Along the way, we stopped off at several roadside locations. We spotted Canada Jay and American Red Squirrel in the Black Hills Spruce by the road. Further north, we discovered a fantastic male Broad-tailed Hummingbird and Summer Azure by a bridge. We followed the route of the old railroad, which is now a cycle path. Near the old pioneer town of Mystic, we found a Yellow-bellied Marmot by the side of the road enjoying the fresh Dandelion flowers. At a pond near Hanna Campground, we noticed a Spotted Sandpiper and a California Tortoiseshell.

After a picnic lunch at Hanna Campground, we explored the 1-mile Nature Trail. It wound through the pines and spruce through a gulch above the campground. We saw Golden-crowned and Ruby Crowned Kinglet, plus Red-tailed Hawk, Dusky Flycatcher and Red-naped Sapsucker.

Returning to our cars, we continued heading north to Iron Creek Trail. Exploring the canyon, we were very pleased to find an American Dipper posing very nicely along the stream. Other observations included American Redstart, White-throated Swift, Cordilleran Flycatcher and Song Sparrow.

By this point in the late afternoon, we could see the gathering clouds and rumbles of thunder. We decided it was best to return to the cars and drive to our lodge for the next couple of nights, Spearfish Canyon Lodge. We enjoyed a lovely dinner at the lodge and retired for the night ready for another adventure tomorrow.



American Dipper & Canada Jay

Day 7

Friday 26th May

Bear's Teepee National Monument (Devil's Tower), Wyoming

After breakfast at the lodge, we hiked the Roughneck Falls Trails up the canyon from the lodge. We saw numerous Brown Trout in the river plus over 100 American Redstart and many Ruby-crowned Kinglet! It looked like there had been a "fall" of these species overnight. New for the bird list was Red-eyed Vireo, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We had great views of American Red Squirrel and had an interaction with a Yellow-bellied Marmot who growled at the group. Admiring the falls, we saw our second American Dipper of the tour. New butterflies included Satyr Comma and Common Checkered Skipper.

Returning to the lodge, we boarded the vehicles and drove north to Spearfish and into Wyoming. We were headed for Devil's Tower National Monument. The central core of a volcano long extinct, made famous by Close Encounters of the Third Kind, rises from the prairie as you drive towards it.

We stopped at the Prairie Dog town for a scan and then explored the Joyner Ridge Trail. We spotted Northern Crescent, Variable Checkerspot, Juniper Hairstreak, and Western Brown Elfin.

As we drove back towards South Dakota, the clouds were gathering over the prairie. It started to rain, but as we drove back into Spearfish Canyon it developed into a ferocious storm with hail that coated the road, plus gale force winds. We had to slow down to a crawl with hazard lights on. We made it safely back to the lodge, but it was a dramatic end to our day.

After another lovely dinner we retired for the evening to rest for tomorrow journey into North Dakota. On a night-time prowl, one of the guests spotted an American Mink near the lodge.

Day 8

Saturday 27th May

Little Missouri National Grassland, North Dakota

After breakfast at the lodge, we set off north to Spearfish. The road was clear of snow and the sun was shining. We searched for Mountain Goat on the cliffs, but to no avail. Stopping in Spearfish, we filled up with petrol and picked up a picnic lunch. Then we started our long drive towards North Dakota. To make the journey more interesting, we turned off the highway and took the dirt roads through the prairie and ranch land. Along the way, we stopped to scan pools and interesting features.

We spotted numerous Pronghorn by the road, but the exciting find was a female with a fawn. New habitat brings new birds, including Lark Bunting, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Grasshopper Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, Horned Lark, and Marbled Godwit.

Further along the road, we pulled over at a drainpipe where we noticed multiple butterflies puddling. The stop proved to be fruitful. We spotted 5 Plains Leopard Frog on the mud and 3 new butterfly species: Uhler's Arctic, Mellissa Blue, and Common Sootywing. Peering into the other end of the draining pipe, we found a North American Porcupine. It retreated into the pipe when we approached, but we were all able to see it with our binoculars when we crouched down. What a great find!

There were numerous raptors circling the prairie including Bald and Golden Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk with prey, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, and Red-tailed Hawk.

We enjoyed our picnic lunch at Reva Gap Campground. New species included Lazuli Bunting and Least Flycatcher, plus we saw another Yellow-breasted Chat. After a short stroll to an overlook with an incredible vista of dramatic Badlands, we began the long drive across the ranch and farmland into North Dakota and Medora. The roads are very straight and monotonous through this part of the Dakotas, only interrupted by corn silos and churches too large for the local population.

Finally, we reached the end of the rolling prairie and got our first glimpse of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, an endless sea of badlands stretching out before us. Shortly after we arrived at our lodge in Medora. We had dinner and retired for the evening.



American Red Squirrel & American Bison

Day 9

Sunday 28th May

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

We spent the whole day exploring Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This area was beloved by President Roosevelt who spent five years managing a ranch in this area while mourning his beloved family members. We scanned numerous Black-tailed Prairie Dog towns for Burrowing Owl but were unsuccessful. However, we did spot a Golden Eagle flying in front of a cliff behind the town. Following it soar, we realized it was flying close to a large nest stacked midway up the cliff. This nest had obviously been used for many years because it was a huge pile of branches and sticks metres high.

We observed a second adult arrive with prey, which the two chicks in the nest began to devour. Everyone had great views through the scope of this majestic family, and we were able to get distant shots of the nest. Other tourists were curious about we were seeing, and a number were excited as we were to view the spectacle through our scope.

Moving on, we found numerous American Bison and Wild Mustang herds from the cars. We hiked a few short trails, but because of the rain the evening before, the ground was rather muddy and slippy in places. We admired the scenery and took plenty of photos.

New birds for the trip included Downy Woodpecker, Clay-coloured Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Brown Thrasher. We were pleased to find a Sagebrush Checkerspot on one of the short overlook trails that we hiked. As we drove, there was a lone Pronghorn on a far slope, the only individual we saw in the park.

We finished the day with a brief stroll to the Little Missouri River. As we left, we turned to see a Bison had come down to the water's edge. We admired it for a short while, but retreated down the path as it began to wade the river towards us. What a great day in a fabulous park.

Day 10

Monday 29th May

Logging Camp Ranch

We set off after breakfast to drive south into the Little Missouri National Grasslands, a mixture of short grass prairie, badlands, and Ponderosa Pine. Not far from town, we screeched to a halt for a Smooth Green Snake on the road. This individual was very obliging, and we got great views and photos. Before we left, we encouraged it off the road, so it didn't become roadkill.

Our first trail along Plumley Draw took us into a prairie valley, where saw Cedar Waxwing, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, another Golden Eagle, and Barn Swallow. We also spotted numerous Gorgone Checkerspot, our first of many for the next few days.

We spotted individual Wild Turkey, Pronghorn, and a couple of Mule Deer by the sides of the road as we drove. We pulled over a few times to scan water courses and saw Tawny Crescent and a juvenile Common Snapping Turtle.

We arrived at the bunkhouse of Logging Camp Ranch to be met by the owner, John Hanson, and the cowhand, Cameron. Jennifer Hanson greeted us all as we entered the lodge-like dining area. We arrived just in time because the gathering clouds began to dump the rain that had be threatening our journey. While the thunder and lightening stormed around us, we enjoyed a ranch lunch followed by a great selection of desserts. John and Cameron had to leave for ranch chores, but Jennifer and her daughter, Alison, spoke to us about life on the ranch and the challenges

faced by living and working in such a remote area. Ranchers are resourceful, practical, and knowledgeable about the land and the vocation they are born into. It is eye-opening to learn how different their lives our to our own.

At the ranch we had views of Upland Sandpiper and Sharp-tailed Grouse. The best sighting was of a Muskrat in an ox-bow lake. It was very active swimming and collecting reeds and grasses, which it kept bringing back to its den in the bank. We watched for quite some time before we had to head back on the return journey to Medora.

We had great views of Cedar Waxwing on our final trail of the day. We freshened up after the dusty roads and enjoyed our last meal at the Rough Rider Inn.

Day 11

Tuesday 30th May

To Minot, North Dakota

Today was a 4-hour drive to Minot, ND. We breakfasted, loaded up and drove north to Watford City, where we collected picnic sandwiches. Our first stop was Crow Flies High Butte, which overlooks the Missouri River and great views. In the sage brush and grassy meadows, we found an Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer. This was an exciting find because the snake was proving difficult to see in the sage brush. After a short while the snake relaxed and slithered up the sage brush, so we were able to have great views of this lovely individual.

We ate our picnic lunch at Four Bears Park Picnic area. There we also spotted two new squirrels for the trip: Fox Squirrel and Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel. Birds included Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Killdeer, Forster's Tern, Say's Phoebe, and Mourning Dove.

After lunch, we headed east to Palermo NWR. We had entered the "pothole country". The prairie pothole system is found primarily in the glaciated northern Great Plains of the United States and Canada and is characterized by depressional wetlands formed by glaciers scraping the landscape during the Pleistocene era. These depressions now fill with rain and ground water and provide an important ecosystem for wildfowl and other wildlife.

On the large lake we spotted numerous species of duck, Black-necked Grebe, had an incredible view of a Sora, and saw our first American Black Tern, Ring-billed and California Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Swainson's Hawk, Western Kingbird, Marsh Wren, Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Bobolink.

After a satisfactory scan of the lake, we continued to our destination. Along the way, one of the guests noticed a large lagomorph. We stopped and pulled in and were pleased to see a White-tailed Jackrabbit in a grassy area by a city neighbourhood. These hares are not regularly seen and are sparsely distributed. A great find.

As we drove into our hotel, we saw several Richardson's Ground Squirrels in the slopes below our hotel. Guests wandered down to take a better look after we had unloaded and checked in. We finished the day with dinner at the hotel restaurant.



Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel; White-tailed Jackrabbit

Day 12

Wednesday 31st May

Lostwood and Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuges

We spent the whole day exploring "pot hill country". As the ranger mentioned at Lostwood NWR, this is "duck production" country. The ducks of North America spend the breeding season in the multitude of pools and lakes in this area and head south for the winters.

Our first great spot of the day was three Smooth Green Snakes on the dirt track, of which we had great views. We climbed the fire tower and scanned the reserve. We spotted Common Raven and numerous Ferruginous Hawk plus a Black Swallowtail at the base.

Exploring the auto route, we made multiple stops. Of the 81 species of bird seen highlights included Sharp-tailed Grouse, American Bittern, Red-necked Grebe, Black Tern, numerous species of duck, and Trumpeter Swan. As we were leaving the refuge, we spotted a Muskrat feeding on reeds at the edge of a pool.

We enjoyed a lovely lunch at Gathering Grounds in Kenmare, a small rural town and stop on the railroad line.

Later, we took a short stroll at Des Lacs NWR where we were entertained by a Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel. We also spotted Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Brown Thrasher, Pied-billed Grebe, Baltimore Oriole, and Least Flycatcher. By this point in the afternoon, the temperature was getting warm, and the group was tiring so we returned to our hotel in Minot for dinner and a good night's sleep.



Ferruginous Hawk & Wilson's Snipe.

Smooth Green Snake

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Thursday 1st June

Souris National Wildlife Refuge and Bismarck, North Dakota

After breakfast, we drove north again to Souris NWR and hiked a couple of trails by the river and ox-bow lake, and through the prairie. We spotted Northern Leopard Frog, Muskrat and numerous Gorgone Checkerspot. At the edge of a wooded valley, we added a few more species to the bird list including Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blackand-white Warbler, and Red-eyed, Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireo.

By lunchtime the temperatures were rising so we headed back to Minot for something to eat. Then we started our final drive of the tour to Bismarck. We made a pitstop at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Centre near Mandan Fort. A walk was planned, but due to the rising temperatures, the group agreed to continue to our hotel.

We checked in and relaxed for a couple of hours before walking to a local restaurant for a delicious final dinner.

We enjoyed our last breakfast together before 6 guests boarded the shuttle bus to the airport. Two tour guides and one guest remained and waved everyone off. The three remaining were continuing to Minnesota and Alaska for

Day 14

Bismarck Area

Friday 2nd June

Saturday 3rd June

Arrive London

Day 15

more adventures.

Everyone arrived home safely to spring in the UK.



Tour Report

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twitter	www.twitter.com/naturetrektours
Instagram	www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays

Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

N=Nea	ar-endemic I=Introduced					ľ	May - J	une 202	23				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	\checkmark											
Trumpeter Swan	Cygnus buccinator											\checkmark	\checkmark
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa							\checkmark					
Blue-winged Teal	Spatula discors				\checkmark			\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata							\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Gadwall	Mareca strepera							\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
American Wigeon	Mareca americana							\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark							
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	\checkmark									\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Green-winged Teal	Anas carolinensis										\checkmark		
Canvasback	Aythya valisineria							\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Redhead	Aythya americana							\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Ring-necked Duck	Aythya collaris										\checkmark	\checkmark	
Lesser Scaup	Aythya affinis										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola											\checkmark	
Ruddy Duck	Oxyura jamaicensis										\checkmark	\checkmark	
Wild Turkey	Meleagris gallopavo			\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Tympanuchus phasianellus									\checkmark		\checkmark	
Common Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus							\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			\checkmark				\checkmark		\checkmark			
Chimney Swift	Chaetura pelagica			\checkmark	\checkmark								
White-throated Swift	Aeronautes saxatalis	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark					
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Selasphorus platycercus					\checkmark							
Feral Rock Dove - I	Columba livia	\checkmark											
Eurasian Collared Dove - I	Streptopelia decaocto	\checkmark											
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	\checkmark											
Sora	Porzana carolina										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
American Coot	Fulica americana				\checkmark		\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps											\checkmark	

N=Nea	r-endemic I=Introduced					N	/lay - Ju	une 202	23				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena											\checkmark	
Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis										\checkmark	\checkmark	
Western Grebe	Aechmophorus occidentalis										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	\checkmark	\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Upland Sandpiper	Bartramia longicauda	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark
Marbled Godwit	Limosa fedoa							\checkmark					
White-rumped Sandpiper	Calidris fuscicollis							\checkmark					
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Calidris pusilla											\checkmark	
Wilson's Snipe	Gallinago delicata							\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark
Wilson's Phalarope	Phalaropus tricolor							\checkmark					\checkmark
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius					\checkmark			\checkmark		\checkmark		
Willet	Tringa semipalmata											\checkmark	
Franklin's Gull	Leucophaeus pipixcan												\checkmark
Ring-billed Gull	Larus delawarensis							\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
California Gull	Larus californicus										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri										\checkmark		\checkmark
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Double-crested Cormorant	Nannopterum auritum			\checkmark							\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus											\checkmark	
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias					\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	
American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos	\checkmark	\checkmark					\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	\checkmark											
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos							\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			
Cooper's Hawk	Accipiter cooperii					\checkmark		\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis			\checkmark									
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	\checkmark						\checkmark		\checkmark			\checkmark
Swainson's Hawk	Buteo swainsoni							\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
Ferruginous Hawk	Buteo regalis		\checkmark					\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes lewis				\checkmark								
Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	√	\checkmark	1	\checkmark	1	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	1		

N=Nea	r-endemic I=Introduced					I	May - J	une 202	23				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Red-naped Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus nuchalis		\checkmark			\checkmark							
Downy Woodpecker	Dryobates pubescens								\checkmark				
Hairy Woodpecker	Leuconotopicus villosus					\checkmark							\checkmark
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius		\checkmark										
Prairie Falcon	Falco mexicanus		\checkmark					\checkmark					
Merlin	Falco columbarius								\checkmark				
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe					\checkmark							\checkmark
Say's Phoebe	Sayornis saya	\checkmark						\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark	
Western Wood Pewee	Contopus sordidulus			\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Contopus virens												\checkmark
Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax traillii												\checkmark
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax minimus		\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
American Dusky Flycatcher	Empidonax oberholseri				\checkmark	\checkmark							
Cordilleran Flycatcher	Empidonax occidentalis				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						
Western Kingbird	Tyrannus verticalis	\checkmark	\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus			\checkmark			\checkmark						
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius Iudovicianus							\checkmark		\checkmark			
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus						\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark
Warbling Vireo	Vireo gilvus				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Plumbeous Vireo	Vireo plumbeus			\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark						
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons												\checkmark
Canada Jay	Perisoreus canadensis					\checkmark							
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata			\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark						\checkmark
Black-billed Magpie	Pica hudsonia	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark								
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	\checkmark											
Northern Raven	Corvus corax		\checkmark									\checkmark	\checkmark
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum								\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						
Horned Lark	Eremophila alpestris	\checkmark						\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark	
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor			\checkmark									
Violet-green Swallow	Tachycineta thalassina	✓	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						

N=Near-e	ndemic I=Introduced					r	May - Ju	une 202	3				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx serripennis			\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	\checkmark											
American Cliff Swallow	Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark							
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia									\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Corthylio calendula					\checkmark	\checkmark						
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus satrapa					\checkmark							
Rock Wren	Salpinctes obsoletus	\checkmark			\checkmark				\checkmark				
Marsh Wren	Cistothorus palustris										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon				\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea	\checkmark			\checkmark								
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta carolinensis												\checkmark
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis			\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark						
Grey Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis			\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum								\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	
Common Starling - I	Sturnus vulgaris	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark						
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia currucoides	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark			
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus			\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark			\checkmark			
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	\checkmark											
American Dipper	Cinclus mexicanus					\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark					
House Sparrow - I	Passer domesticus	\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Sprague's Pipit	Anthus spragueii											\checkmark	
House Finch	Haemorhous mexicanus	\checkmark							\checkmark				
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis			\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus		\checkmark										
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Calcarius ornatus							\checkmark					
Grasshopper Sparrow	Ammodramus savannarum	\checkmark						\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
Lark Sparrow	Chondestes grammacus	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark
Lark Bunting	Calamospiza melanocorys							\checkmark					
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		
Clay-coloured Sparrow	Spizella pallida								\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Field Sparrow	Spizella pusilla							\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark							

N=Ne	ar-endemic I=Introduced					ſ	/lay - Ju	une 202	23				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Vesper Sparrow	Pooecetes gramineus								\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
LeConte's Sparrow	Ammospiza leconteii										\checkmark		
Baird's Sparrow	Centronyx bairdii											\checkmark	
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis											\checkmark	
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Spotted Towhee	Pipilo maculatus	\checkmark		\checkmark									
Yellow-breasted Chat	Icteria virens			\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus							\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Western Meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta	\checkmark											
Bullock's Oriole	Icterus bullockii			\checkmark			\checkmark						
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula											\checkmark	\checkmark
Orchard Oriole	Icterus spurius		\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	\checkmark											
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	\checkmark											
Brewer's Blackbird	Euphagus cyanocephalus	\checkmark		\checkmark							\checkmark		
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	\checkmark											
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla				\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark			
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia								\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark
MacGillivray's Warbler	Geothlypis tolmiei						\checkmark						
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas					\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla			\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark			
American Yellow Warbler	Setophaga aestiva				\checkmark								
Myrtle Warbler	Setophaga coronata		\checkmark			\checkmark				\checkmark			
Western Tanager	Piranga ludoviciana			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark							
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus Iudovicianus						\checkmark						
Black-headed Grosbeak	Pheucticus melanocephalus			\checkmark									
Lazuli Bunting	Passerina amoena							\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			
Blue Grosbeak	Passerina caerulea		\checkmark		1	1		1			1		

Mammals

							May – 、	June 202	3				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Desert Cottontail - N	Sylvilagus audubonii	\checkmark	\checkmark										
Eastern Cottontail	Sylvilagus floridanus	\checkmark						\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Mountain Cottontail	Sylvilagus nuttallii		\checkmark			\checkmark							
White-tailed Jackrabbit	Lepus townsendii										\checkmark		
North American Porcupine	Erethizon dorsatum							\checkmark					
Arizona Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark				
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	Ictidomys tridecemlineatus										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Yellow-bellied Marmot	Marmota flaviventris				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						
Least Chipmunk	Neotamias minimus		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						
Fox Squirrel	Sciurus niger										\checkmark		
American Red Squirrel	Tamiasciurus hudsonicus					\checkmark	\checkmark						
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	Urocitellus richardsonii										\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Muskrat	Ondatra zibethicus									\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark
Coyote	Canis latrans	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark						\checkmark		
American Mink	Mustela vison							\checkmark					
Domestic Donkey - I	Equus asinus			\checkmark									
Domestic Horse - I	Equus caballus							\checkmark	\checkmark				
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus	√			\checkmark					\checkmark		\checkmark	
White-tailed Deer	Odocoileus virginianus	\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark						
American Bison - N	Bison bison	\checkmark		\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark				
Bighorn Sheep	Ovis canadensis	\checkmark			\checkmark								
Prairie Vole	Microtus ochrogaster										\checkmark		

Herps

							May – 、	June 202	3				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Painted Turtle	Chrysemys picta			\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark		\checkmark			\checkmark
Northern Leopard Frog	Lithobates pipiens			\checkmark		\checkmark							\checkmark
Boreal Chorus Frog	Pseudacris maculata					\checkmark							
Plains Leopard Frog	Lithobates blairi							\checkmark					
Smooth Green Snake	Opheodrys vernalis									\checkmark		\checkmark	
Common Snapping Turtle	Chelydra serpentina									\checkmark			
Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer	Coluber constrictor flaviventris										\checkmark		

Butterflies

							May – J	June 202	3				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	\checkmark											
Mourninng Cloak	Nymphalis antiopa		\checkmark			\checkmark							
Arrowhead Blue	Glaucopsyche piasus		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark							
Gray Comma	Polygonia progne		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark							
Checkered White	Pontia protodice		\checkmark	\checkmark							\checkmark		\checkmark
Brown Elfin	Callophrys augustinus		\checkmark			\checkmark							
Pearl Crescent	Phyciodes tharos		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark		
Variable Checkerspot	Euphydryas chalcedona		\checkmark				\checkmark						
Clouded/Orange Sulphur	Colias sp			\checkmark									
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui			\checkmark					\checkmark				\checkmark
Common Ringlet	Coenonympha tullia			\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Indra Swallowtail	Papilio indra					\checkmark							
Western Tiger Swallowtail	Papilio rutulus				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark			
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Papilio glaucus										\checkmark		
Anise Swallowtail	Papilio zelicaon				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark				
Olympia Marble	Euchloe olympia				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	
Juniper Hairstreak	Callophrys gryneus				\checkmark		\checkmark						

							May – 、	June 202	3				
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Western Pine Elfin	Callophrys eryphon				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						
Western Tailed Blue	Cupido amyntula				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						
Silver-spotted Skipper	Epargyreus clarus				\checkmark								
Dusted Skipper	Atrytonopsis hianna				\checkmark								
Dreamy Duskywing	Erynnis icelus				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark						
Summer Azure	Celastrina neglecta					\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark			
Silvery Blue	Glaucopsyche lygdamus					\checkmark							
California Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis californica					\checkmark							
Gray Hairstreak	Strymon melinus					\checkmark							
Northern Crescent	Phyciodes cocyta						\checkmark	\checkmark					
Common Checkered Skipper	Pyrgus communis						\checkmark						
Satyr Comma	Polygonia satyrus						\checkmark						
Melissa Blue	Lycaeides melissa							\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark
Common Sootywing	Pholisora catullus							\checkmark					
Uhler's Arctic	Oeneis uhleri varuna							\checkmark					
Sagebrush Checkerspot	Chlosyne acastus								\checkmark	\checkmark			
Tawny Crescent	Phyciodes batesii									\checkmark			
Silvery Checkerspot	Chlosyne nycteis										\checkmark		
Black Swallowtail	Papilio polyxenes											\checkmark	
Monarch	Danaus plexippus											\checkmark	
Gorgone Checkerspot	Chlosyne gorgone												\checkmark

Other invertebrates

			May – June 2023 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 1											
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24			21	28	29	30		1	
Snowberry Clearwing	Hemaris diffinis				\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark				
Common Green Darner	Anax junius												\checkmark	