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## Montana Prairie Spring A Naturalist Journeys, LLC Birding and Nature Tour

June 8-15, 2013

*John Carlson and Woody Wheeler, guides, with 6 participants: Lori, Chris, Graham, Ed, John, and Mary.  
Species List compiled by John Carlson.*

1. **Pied-billed Grebe** (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – One found in south Valley County on a reservoir.
2. **Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*) – Observed at Lake Elmo in Billings and Bowdoin NWR.
3. **Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) – Viewed at Lake Elmo in Billings, Fort Peck, and Bowdoin NWR.
4. **American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) – Flying flocks observed most days as well as birds at their breeding colony at Bowdoin NWR.
5. **Double-crested Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – Noted at a number of locations with large water bodies throughout the trip.
6. **American Bittern** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) – One individual observed at Bowdoin NWR.
7. **Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) – Individuals observed daily including a nesting colony at Fort Peck.
8. **White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*) – Observed at Bowdoin NWR
9. **Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*) – Common throughout the trip.
10. **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – Common at location with water throughout the trip.
11. **Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*) - Common at location with water throughout the trip.
12. **Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*) – Observed in Valley and Phillips counties at locations with water.
13. **American Wigeon** (*Anas Americana*) - Common at location with water throughout the trip.
14. **Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) - Common at location with water throughout the trip.
15. **Cinnamon Teal** (*Anas cyanoptera*) – a few individuals observed at Bowdoin NWR
16. **Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*) - Common at location with water throughout the trip.
17. **Canvasback** (*Aythya valisineria*) – Found in Valley and Phillips counties at locations with water.
18. **Redhead** (*Aythya americana*) – Found in Valley and Phillips counties at locations with water.

19. **Lesser Scaup** (*Aythya affini*) – Found in Valley and Phillips counties at locations with water.
20. **Common Goldeneye** (*Bucephala clangula*) – Observed in Valley County.
21. **Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) – Found in Valley and Phillips counties at locations with water.
22. **Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) – Numerous individuals flying throughout the trip as well as a roost with about 20 individuals near Fort Peck.
23. **Northern Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*) – Commonly found throughout the trip.
24. **Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) – Individuals were located throughout the trip including one on a nest north of Glasgow.
25. **Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – A few individuals were noted throughout the trip.
26. **Ferruginous Hawk** (*Buteo regalis*) – A few individuals were noted throughout the trip including one on a nest north of Glasgow.
27. **Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – Two individuals were viewed in south Valley County. One was chased by a Swainson's Hawk and the other by a Long-billed Curlew.
28. **Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – One adult was detected flying upstream near Pompey's Pillar.
29. **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Numerous individuals were found throughout the trip including a number of nests.
30. **American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*) – Observations of this species were scattered throughout the entire trip.
31. **Gray Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*) - A couple of birds were noted as they flushed and flew across the road in south Valley County.
32. **Ring-necked Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*) – This species was commonly heard and observed throughout the trip.
33. **Sharp-tailed Grouse** (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)– Great views of four individuals at the Little Bighorn Battlefield and brief views on a lek in northern Valley County.
34. **American Coot** (*Fulica americana*) – Fairly common on water bodies throughout the trip.
35. **Sora** (*Porzana carolina*) – Most often heard at Bowdoin and observed there as well.
36. **Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*) – Heard and observed at Bowdoin NWR.
37. **Mountain Plover** (*Charadrius montanus*) – A number of individuals observed in south Valley County.
38. **Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferus*) - Observed throughout the trip including four fuzzy young at Bowdoin NWR.
39. **American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*) – Mostly found a Bowdoin NWR although others were found at a number of locations throughout the trip.
40. **Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Found at Bowdoin NWR in good numbers including birds on nests.
41. **Willet** (*Tringa semipalmata*) – Observed at small wetlands throughout the trip.
42. **Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularius*) – Observed on shorelines at various locations throughout the week.
43. **Long-billed Curlew** (*Numenius americanus*) – A number of individuals were found in grassland habitats throughout the trip including good looks at one at the Matador Ranch in south Phillips County.
44. **Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*) – A number of individuals were observed throughout the trip.
45. **Baird's Sandpiper** (*Calidris bairdii*) – a few were observed at Bowdoin NWR.

46. **Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – Many individuals observed in small water bodies throughout the trip.
47. **Franklin's Gull** (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) – Many individuals observed in and around Bowdoin NWR.
48. **Ring-billed Gull** (*Larus delawarensis*) – common gull found throughout the trip.
49. **California Gull** (*Larus californicus*) – common gull found throughout the trip.
50. **Forster's Tern** (*Sterna forsteri*) – Good looks at this species on a small island at Bowdoin NWR.
51. **Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger*) – A few individuals were observed at Bowdoin NWR.
52. **Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*) – Observed throughout the trip.
53. **Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*) – Observed throughout the trip.
54. **Eurasian Collared Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) – Common in most towns throughout the trip.
55. **Great Horned Owl** (*Bubo virginianus*) – One adult and one fledgling observed at a park in Jordan.
56. **Burrowing Owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) – Observed in south Valley County and at a prairie dog town in Phillips County.
57. **Eastern Screech-Owl** (*Megascops asio*) – One adult and 4 fledglings observed at Two Moon Park in Billings.
58. **Common Poorwill** (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) – One bird heard calling and observed briefly at dusk just south of Fort Peck.
59. **Common Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles minor*) – This species was observed throughout the trip.
60. **Chimney Swift** (*Chaetura pelagica*) – Observed in the towns of Fort Peck and Malta.
61. **White-throated Swift** (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) – A number of individuals were observed at Pompey's Pillar.
62. **Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) – Good looks at one individual along the Missouri River just downstream from Fort Peck.
63. **Red-naped Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*) – One male observed in Camp Creek Campground, Little Rocky Mountains.
64. **Downy Woodpecker** (*Picoides pubescens*) – Observed in Malta.
65. **Hairy Woodpecker** (*Picoides villosus*) – Found in Fort Peck at the Carlson house.
66. **Northern Flicker** (*Colaptes auratus*) – Common in riparian areas throughout the trip.
67. **Western Wood Pewee** (*Contopus sordidulus*) – Common in riparian areas throughout the trip.
68. **Least Flycatcher** (*Empidonax minimus*) – Common in riparian areas throughout the trip.
69. **Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) – A few individuals were seen at various places throughout the trip.
70. **Eastern Kingbird** (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) – Many observed throughout the trip.
71. **Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) – Many observed throughout the trip.
72. **Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – A few were observed here and there, but we also found a nesting pair in south Valley County.
73. **Red-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo olivaceus*) – Heard well and also observed at Two Moon Park in Billings and the park in Jordan.
74. **Warbling Vireo** (*Vireo gilvus*) – Heard and observed in riparian habitats along the Yellowstone and Missouri River.
75. **Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*) – Found in Malta.
76. **Black-billed Magpie** (*Pica hudsonia*) – Found throughout the trip in small numbers.

77. **Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) - Found throughout the trip in small numbers.
78. **American Crow** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) - Found throughout the trip in small numbers.
79. **Horned Lark** (*Eremophila alpestris*) – Common throughout the trip.
80. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) -
81. **Violet-green Swallow** (*Tachycineta thalassina*) – Noted at Fort Peck and Pompey’s Pillar.
82. **Tree Swallow** (*Tachycineta bicolor*) – Rather common and found throughout the trip.
83. **Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) – Common and found throughout the trip including a number nesting under the bridge near Pompey’s Pillar.
84. **Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*) – Common and found throughout the trip.
85. **Black-capped Chickadee** (*Poecile atricapillus*) – A few individuals located in various riparian areas.
86. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta canadensis*) – Individuals noted in Fort Peck and at Camp Creek campground in the Little Rocky Mountains.
87. **White-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta carolinensis*) – One individual noted near Pompey’s Pillar.
88. **House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon*) -
89. **Marsh Wren** (*Cistothorus palustris*) – Very vocal and observed at Bowdoin NWR.
90. **Rock Wren** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) – A few birds observed near Fort Peck.
91. **Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*) – One female observed at the rest area between Winnett and Jordan.
92. **American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*) – Common throughout the trip, but still one of Chris’s favorites.
93. **Veery** (*Catharus fuscescens*) – A number of birds were heard and observed at Camp Creek Campground, Little Rocky Mountains.
94. **Swainson’s Thrush** (*Catharus ustulatus*) – Heard at Camp Creek Campground, Little Rocky Mountains.
95. **Gray Catbird** (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – Common in riparian areas throughout the trip.
96. **Brown Thrasher** (*Toxostoma rufum*) – Common in riparian areas throughout the trip.
97. **European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Common and found in municipal areas throughout the trip.
98. **Sprague’s Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*) – Heard and observed in north Valley County and at the Matador Ranch in south Phillips County.
99. **Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) – Common in riparian areas throughout the trip.
100. **Yellow Warbler** (*Setophaga petechia*) – Common in riparian areas throughout the trip.
101. **American Redstart** (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – Heard and observed well in Two Moon Park in Billings and other locations along the Yellowstone River.
102. **Ovenbird** (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) – Heard and observed at Two Moon Park in Billings and Camp Creek Campground in the Little Rocky Mountains.
103. **MacGillivray’s Warbler** (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) - Heard and observed at Two Moon Park in Billings and Camp Creek Campground in the Little Rocky Mountains.
104. **Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*) – Common in riparian and wetland areas throughout the trip.
105. **Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Icteria virens*) – Observed in riparian areas throughout the trip, but particularly common in Two Moon Park, Billings.
106. **Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) - One male observed at Fort Peck below the dam.

107. **Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) – Observed frequently at Two Moon Park and Fort Peck.
108. **Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*) – Observed at Lake Elmo in Billings and also Fort Peck.
109. **Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*) – A few individuals were noted at various locations throughout the trip.
110. **Brewer's Sparrow** (*Spizella breweri*) – Few individuals were located in sage habitats in south Valley County.
111. **Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*) – A few individuals were located at Bowdoin NWR
112. **Chipping Sparrow** (*Spizella passerina*) – This species was seen at Fort Peck and at the Little Bighorn Battlefield.
113. **Baird's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus bairdii*) – Found in north Valley County and Bowdoin NWR.
114. **Grasshopper Sparrow** (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – Found singing and observed well at Bowdoin NWR.
115. **Savannah Sparrow** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) - Found singing and observed well at Bowdoin NWR.
116. **Vesper Sparrow** (*Pooecetes gramineus*) – Observed in north Valley County and Phillips County.
117. **Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) – Numerous throughout the trip.
118. **Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*) – Common throughout the trip.
119. **Song Sparrow** (*Melospiza melodia*) – Regularly found in brushy riparian areas throughout the trip.
120. **McCown's Longspur** (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*) – Many observed in south Valley County.
121. **Chestnut-collared Longspur** (*Calcarius ornatus*) – Observed in grassland habitats throughout the trip.
122. **Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*) – Common throughout the trip.
123. **Bobolink** (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) – Observed at a few locations just outside Bowdoin NWR.
124. **Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Molothrus ater*) -
125. **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) – numerous at Bowdoin NWR.
126. **Red-winged Blackbird** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) – Common throughout the trip.
127. **Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) - Common throughout the trip.
128. **Common Grackle** (*Quiscalus quiscula*) - Common throughout the trip.
129. **Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*) – Observed at Fort Peck, Pompey's Pillar and great views at Little Bighorn Battlefield.
130. **Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*) – Found at Fort Peck.
131. **Orchard Oriole** (*Icterus spurius*) – Observed in Jordan and Fort Peck.
132. **House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) - Common throughout the trip.
133. **Pine Siskin** (*Spinus pinus*) – Found at Fort Peck and Malta.
134. **American Goldfinch** (*Spinus tristis*) - Common throughout the trip.
135. **House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) – Common in towns throughout the trip.

## Herps

1. **Painted Turtle** (*Chrysemys picta*) - Common in most larger water bodies.
2. **Boreal Chorus Frog** (*Pseudacris maculata*) – Very common throughout the trip wherever there was water. Never observed but heard well.

## Mammals

1. Coyote (*Canis latrans*) – Observed at Bowdoin NWR.
2. Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) – Found regularly on the trip.
3. White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Found regularly on the trip.
4. Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) – Observed at Fort Peck.
5. Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) – One found dead on the road at Fort Peck.
6. Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) – Found on colonies in Billings and Phillips County.
7. Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) – found throughout the trip in open habitats.
8. Richardson’s Ground Squirrel (*Uroditellus richardsonii*) – Located in Malta.
9. Eastern Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) – Found in Billings and Fort Peck.
10. Yellow-bellied Marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*) – One individual found at Pompey’s Pillar.
11. Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) – Found at Fort Peck.
12. Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) – A few individuals were found dead on the road throughout the trip.
13. American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*) – One fast moving individual was found at Bowdoin NWR

NWR – National Wildlife Refuge