

Itinerary

June 15 Bismarck

Please plan to arrive in Bismarck anytime this afternoon.

June 16 Fort Lincoln State Park

Our first spot to bird in North Dakota will be the extensive and historical Fort Lincoln State Park. Situated along the Missouri River. Here we will get our first “western” species, such as **Western Kingbird, Western Meadowlark and Lazuli Bunting. American Redstarts** and **Black-and-white Warblers** sing from the woodland fringes and **Least Tern** and **Piping Plover** occur on the sandbanks in the Missouri River. We will then head west with a picnic lunch along the way, stopping to look for **Yellow-headed Blackbird, Bank Swallow, American White Pelican and a good selection of waterfowl. Night in Dickinson**

June 17 Theodore Roosevelt NP

Comprising three geographically separated areas of Badlands in western North Dakota, Theodore Roosevelt National Park covers 70,446 acres. The national park is located where the Great Plains of the Midwest meet the Badlands, an area of rolling hills and small mountains that appear to be painted they are so varied in their coloration. We will be visiting the South Unit near Medora, ND, where we will look for **American Bison, Elk, and Prairie Dogs**. Of course, we will also be focusing on the bird community that has an impressive list of nearly 200 species! We will spend the day birding all around various hotspots of the park. Driving the loop can bring a wide variety of birds including **Sharp-tailed Grouse, Golden Eagle, Northern Harrier, Burrowing Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Prairie Falcon, Say’s Phoebe, Black-billed Magpie, Rock Wren, and Mountain Bluebird**. We will take a break around midday and then head back out in the late afternoon. **Night in Dickinson**

June 18 Little Missouri River National Grassland

Today we will continue to bird in the general area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, but will venture outside of the park to several locations within the Little Missouri River National Grassland. The open scenery is spectacular and the new locations will add many new species to our list including, **Baird’s Clay-colored, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows, Sprague’s Pipit, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, Upland Sandpiper, Golden Eagle** and many more prairie species. **Night in Bowman**

June 19 Rhame Prairie Area

This morning we will drive for about an hour to reach the far southwestern corner of North Dakota today. The Rhame Prairie area is an excellent spot for species such as, **Brewer’s Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, and Long-billed Curlew**. We will also visit some other nearby hotspots where we will try to add species such as, **Lark Sparrow, Horned Lark, Loggerhead Shrike, and Chestnut-collared Longspur**. After dinner we will have an optional excursion to look for Common Poorwill, Great Horned Owl and other nocturnal species. **Night in Bowman**

June 20 Drive to Jamestown

Today begins the final segment of our trip. We will spend the morning birding our way towards Jamestown and start to explore the Prairie Pothole region of North Dakota. Numerous waterfowl breed in the small wetlands that dot the prairie landscape as well as a wide diversity of other species. Jamestown is the furthest east we plan to be with chances for **Yellow-throated Vireo and American Redstart**, but it's the waterfowl and shorebirds that we will now be concentrating on. Arrowwood NWR can be full of waterfowl. Including **Western and Eared Grebes, and American White Pelican**, as well as a great spot for **Sedge and Marsh Wren** and the elusive **Nelson's Sparrow**. **Night in Jamestown**

June 21- 23 Kidder County

After birding around Jamestown we will head into Kidder County. The next three days we will very exciting as we bird around different sections of the prairie potholes. We will bird in the wide open spaces of Stutsman and Kidder Counties, which are agricultural, but with hundreds of small lakes and marshes. We will look for **Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks, Gray Partridge, LeConte's and Nelson's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Black, Caspian and Forster's Terns, California Gull, American and Least Bittern** and a great supporting cast of wetland species. **Nights in Steele**

June 24

We will drive back to Bismarck for folks that are flying home. If we have time in the morning we will bird a couple birding hotspots en route to Bismarck.