

Birding Prairies and Potholes

North Dakota

June 21 – 28, 2021

Itinerary

Monday, June 21

Arrive in Bismarck and drive to Theodore Roosevelt NP - South Unit. We arrive in North Dakota and immediately drive west to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. On our way there we will stop at a few lakes to look for breeding waterfowl including **Gadwall, Western Grebe, and American White Pelican**. Comprising three geographically separated areas of Badlands in western North Dakota, Theodore Roosevelt National Park covers 70,446 acres. We will be visiting the South Unit near Medora, ND. 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. **Bison, Elk, and Prairie Dogs** are a few of the most popularly sought-after animals in the park. Of course, we will be focusing on the bird community that has an impressive list of nearly 200 species! **Night in Medora, ND**

Tuesday, June 22

Theo Roosevelt NP – South Unit. We will spend the day birding all around various hotspots of the park. Driving the loop in the south unit can bring a wide variety of birds including **Sharp-tailed Grouse, Golden Eagle, Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper (scarce), Black-billed Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Prairie Falcon, Say's Phoebe, Black-billed Magpie, Rock Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird**. We will take a break around midday to recover from the morning heat and then head back out in the late afternoon. **Night in Medora, ND**

Wednesday, June 23

Little Missouri River National Grassland – Today we will continue to bird in Theodore Roosevelt National Park but will also venture outside of the park to some locations within the Little Missouri River National Grassland. We will bird in some new locations and hope to add new species to our list including **Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow-breasted Chat, Grasshopper Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, Orchard Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, and Baltimore Oriole**. **Night in Bowman, ND**

Thursday June 24

Rhame Prairie – We will bird the far southwestern corner of North Dakota today, starting in Rhame Prairie. This is an excellent spot for species such as **Baird's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, Greater Sage Grouse, 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 lunch we will begin driving west for the 2nd segment of our

trip, the Prairie Potholes! We will stop at a lake or two on the way east to search for waterfowl and other species. **Night in Jamestown, ND**

Friday, June 25 – Sunday, June 27

Pothole Birding – Today begins the final segment of our trip. We will be exploring 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. The first two days we will bird around different sections of the Potholes and our third and final day we will either bird another new area or return to areas to go after particular species we missed. We will bird in Stutsman and Kidder Counties and will likely see **Ferruginous Hawk, Gray Partridge, Piping Plover, LeConte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.** We will spend at least one evening looking for owls. There are a nice variety of owls that breed in the prairie potholes of North Dakota including **Great Horned, Burrowing, Short-eared, Eastern Screech, and Long-eared Owls. Nights in Steele, ND**

Monday, June 28

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.