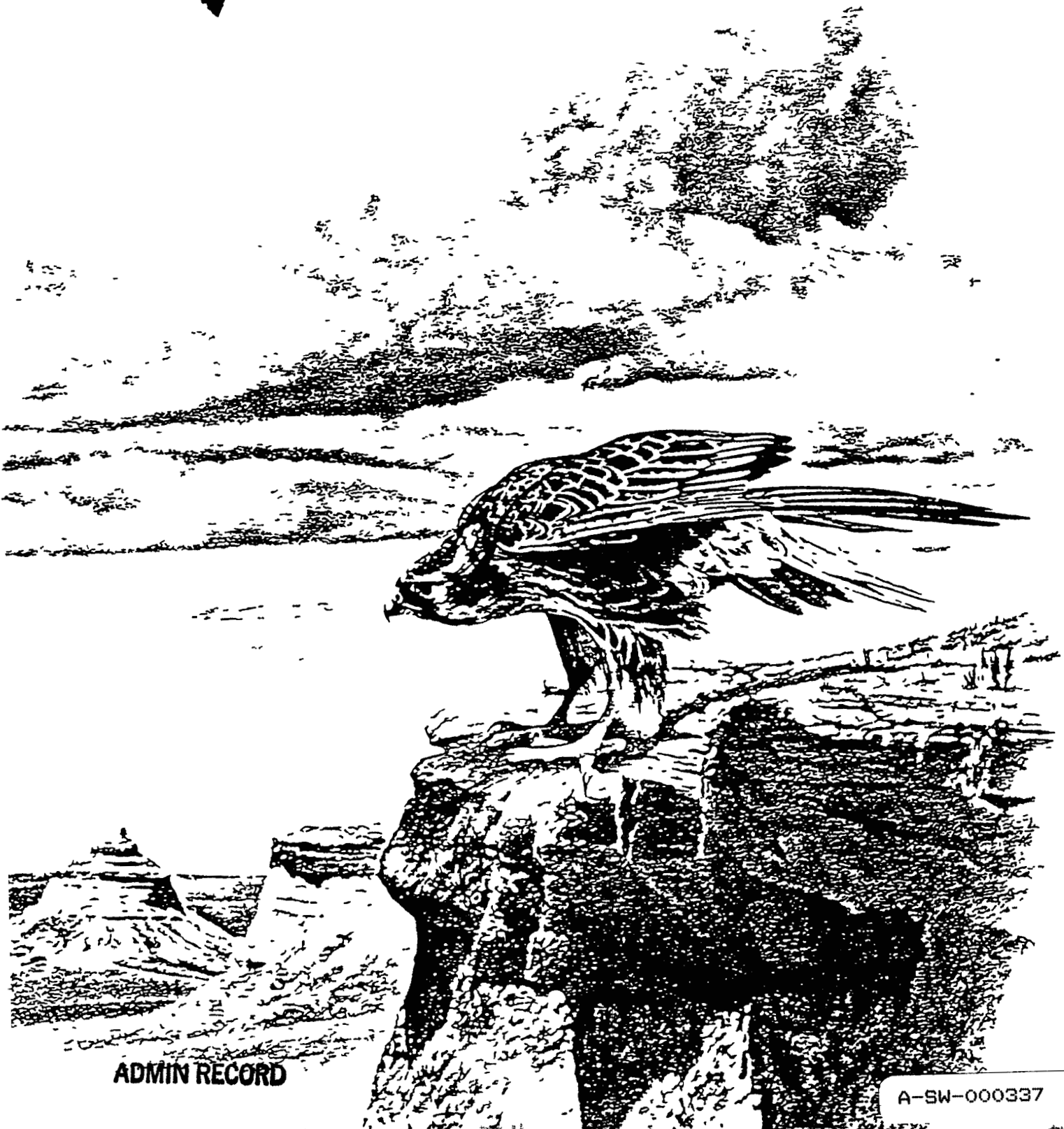


HISTORY
PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND
7/86



ADMIN RECORD

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INTRODUCTION
TO THE
PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND
HISTORY

This history of the Pawnee National Grassland was researched and prepared by Dorothy and Lee Rhoads, Forest Service Volunteers living near Briggsdale. It provides a good historical background of the settlement of the area and evolution of the National Grassland. Some of the current uses and features of the Pawnee are also discussed. I hope this brief history will help you more fully appreciate this unique resource and landscape called the Pawnee National Grassland.

GRANT GODBOLT
District Ranger

HISTORY
OF THE
PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND

During the early stages of American expansion, the high plains of northeastern Colorado were prime grazing land for large populations of deer, antelope, elk, and buffalo. The human population consisted of Indians and a few fur trappers. Before 1850, a fur trader named Elbridge Gerry settled where Crow Creek joined the South Platte River east of present-day Greeley. In 1861, John Wesley Iliff started his first cow camp on Crow Creek above Gerry's place. In 1866, the Union Pacific Railroad announced it would soon be laying rails across southwestern Nebraska. Buffalo were killed by the thousands to feed the railroad construction crews and for their hides, which were in great demand in the East. The buffalo soon became scarce. The next year, Iliff established a cow camp approximately 5 miles down Crow Creek from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to provide beef to the railroad crews and also establish a shipping point to the East. In 1868, he bought \$40,000 worth of cattle from Charles Goodnight, who trailed them north from Texas. This established the Goodnight-Loving trail through this area. Goodnight continued trailing herds for Iliff through 1876. By 1877, Iliff's domain stretched from the South Platte River north to the Chalk Bluffs by the Colorado-Wyoming border, and from the mountains east to the present Kansas border. He was the biggest cattleman in Colorado.

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed only 160 acres per homestead, and at least one-quarter (40 acres) of that had to be tilled. Later Acts allowed a total of 320 acres. One of these was the Timber Culture Act, enacted in 1873, allowing the settler to pick up an additional 160 acres by agreeing to plant 2,700 seedlings on 10 acres, of which 675 should be alive and healthy at the time of final proving up, 5 years later. These acts/laws were aimed primarily at land east of and along the west bank of the Mississippi River, and were not appropriate for the high plains. Major John Wesley Powell, an explorer of the West and later director of the United State Geological Survey, wrote a report in 1875, called "Lands of the Arid Region of the U S". He recommended that settlement areas be blocked out in no less than 1,275 acres, giving the settler a reasonable chance of survival. He further recommended that without a dependable water supply, it was futile to plow the grasslands. The lands should be left in grass, and that plots of less than 2,560 acres would not be successful in this dry area. The wisdom of these recommendations was demonstrated in later years.

Barbed wire was invented in 1874 and cattlemen were soon using it to enclose public lands for their free and exclusive use. By manipulating the Homestead Act of 1862, Iliff had his cowhands homestead and fence 160 acres at key locations surrounding water. He then purchased the established "homestead" from the cowhands. For example, the earliest record of homestead entry in the Pawnee Buttes area was by Peter Welch in 1887. However, he sold his tract to Iliff 2 years earlier. In 1885, President Grover Cleveland ordered all fences removed from public land. Although it took several years for this to be accomplished, it was the beginning of the end for the big ranchers like Iliff.

By the mid 1880's the homesteaders had begun breaking sod in the grassland country. The railroads encouraged settlers to come west with statements like "the rain-belt has moved westward" and "rain follows the plow". They wanted to attract farmers from the East and Midwest hoping that they would become future freight customers. In 1887, a branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy was built from Kansas through Sterling into Cheyenne.

The bitter winter of 1886-87 brought the loss of thousands of cattle by starvation or freezing to death. At this time Chicago beef prices also took a big drop and the large ranchers went broke. Farmers flocked to the big ranches which were being carved into quarter section (160 acres) homesteads. The dry years of 1889 and 1890 forced many newcomers to leave, and by 1893-94 it was so severe that many of the new towns that had sprung up along the railroad, like Stoneham, Raymer, and Buckingham, virtually dried up. A few settlers survived. One of these was Soren Nelson, in 1894 the first actual homesteader to file for his title. He was known as "Pawnee Buttes" Nelson from Texas to Montana.

By 1905, to approximately 1910, the rains returned to the grasslands and settlers migrated to the area in even greater numbers. Keota boomed, as did Grover and Briggsdale. Homesteading continued to increase over the next few years and reached its peak between 1914 and 1918. Over 35 percent of the land was plowed, forcing most of the large stockmen out of the area. By this time Illiff had moved on to Texas.

In 1918, Keota's population peaked around 140. All was going well until an influenza epidemic struck and many died. At the same time drought and hail also struck. When farm prices and production dropped, the farmers source of income was gone. Those who stayed struggled to keep their land. Two attempts were made to save the town and increase its income. Mining for kaolinite and oil drilling were to be financed out of Utah, but the deal fell through. Next, the Keota Pioneers Oil and Gas Association was organized and two shares of stock were given for each acre leased for mineral development. Although oil was discovered in 1924, it was too late to save the town. Nature at its worst struck that same year with cloudbursts, deep snows, high winds, tornadoes, hail, and lightning that burned the wheat. The Town Site Company put all lots on sale and Keota had seen the last of its prosperous days. Some farmers tried to return their land to grass, but few had much success. The period between 1929 and 1937 was a violent time on the plains with rustling, land jumping and even murder.

In the area east of the Rockies, from Texas to Montana, dryland farming became the major economy and large areas were plowed. During wet years, the yield was bountiful and more land came under the plow. With the advent of tractors and combines, even more land could be cultivated. By 1930, about 60 percent of the high plains grassland in Weld County had been plowed up. The big ranches were gone, and dryland farming was the dominate economy.

In the 1930's the drought and winds returned. Winds of 50-60 miles an hour became common along the Front Range of the Rockies from Texas to the Canadian border, carrying away the dry topsoil. During two dust storms the sun was almost blotted out in Washington D C, and dust reportedly fell on ships 300 miles out on the Atlantic. The farms were literally blown away and this "Dust Bowl" area became a virtual desert. These dry years and low prices again took their toll on farmers. Bankruptcy and tax sales were common and many of the

farmers gave up and moved on, leaving the land to be claimed by creditors and for delinquent taxes. By the mid 1930's, the northeastern Weld County population dwindled from a high of over 600 families to a low of around 64

During 1933-34, the Federal Government undertook a relief effort through the Work Project Administration (WPA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA) to stabilize the economy. However, this only prolonged the agony. Emergency funding was soon provided to resettle some of the families. The first land was purchased by 1934 and the families relocated on land more conducive to farming. Congress passed the "Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act" in 1937, authorizing the Soil Conservation Service to purchase sub-marginal farm land. The same year, the Resettlement Administration was formed in the Department of Agriculture. The stated objectives of the new office were "to relocate families, purchase the more severely damaged land, rehabilitate and develop the area, change the use on purchased lands and exert influence on the use of neighboring land, and maintain stability and flexibility of the land". The next 2 years saw the office change hands and names. It was the Farm Security Administration, the Land Policy Section of the Agriculture Department, and the Bureau of Agriculture Economics. Finally, in 1938 responsibility was given to the Soil Conservation Service where it remained until 1954, when it was transferred to the Forest Service. During the period of 1934-54, most of the present area was acquired through purchase, and in some cases by mutual transfer, (swapping). The acquired land was in many cases, small isolated parcels. The "swapping" was done to form more economic and manageable tracts for both the private owner and the Government.

The area along Crow Creek near Briggsdale, was the first reclamation and demonstration plot in this area. Seventy acres of meadow improvement began with the construction of two dams and three diversion ditches to spread the flood water over the meadows and provide limited irrigation on other areas. Throughout the other acquired areas, existing fences were torn down, moved, or new fences constructed to surround an economically manageable pasture. Springs were developed and wells dug. Windmills were erected and "catch basins" constructed to collect as much run-off water as possible. The policy was "no cow would have to go more than three-quarters of a mile for water". The plowed and denuded lands were planted to mostly crested wheatgrass, an introduced species from Russia which is well adapted to our climate and is palatable to livestock. Trees were planted to form wind breaks and provide habitat for wildlife. Within 2 years, the planted grasses revegetated the plowed areas, and grazing was allowed on a limited basis.

The Crow Valley Grazing Association was formed in 1937 in northwestern Weld County, the next year it changed its name to the Crow Valley Livestock Co-Operative, Inc. The association was composed of the ranchers in the area and the Soil Conservation Service on a cooperative basis. Grazing rules were agreed upon and the association was responsible for their execution. The Soil Conservation Service continued to develop conservation practices, rehabilitate the land, and monitor its use. The Pawnee area in northeastern Weld County was acquired in 1938, and the Pawnee Livestock Co-operative Association was formed in 1941. The next year the name was changed to the Pawnee Cooperative Grazing Association and its organization was patterned after the Crow Valley Association's success.

Formation of the grazing associations, fencing the area into larger tracts, and the use of range riders eliminated the unauthorized use of the public lands by "day herders" (ranchers from outside the area bringing in large herds and badly overgrazing the land--an off-shoot of the open range practice of former years) From the early days of the reclamation process to the present, grazing has shown an increase from practically none to around 9,000 head The native grasses are slowly replacing the crested wheat and other grasses planted as a conservation measure The soil blows very little now, but constant watch must be kept to prevent another dust bowl

This was not accomplished without trials, anger, and frustration Attempts were made to have the land returned to private ownership, but were defeated The deep-seated individualism of the westerner made it difficult for them to accept a change from the old ways. Successful demonstrations and evident restoration of the land occurred and gradually the new, proven methods of land management were accepted by most of the population, both association members and nonmembers

The area was transferred from the Soil Conservation Service to the Forest Service in 1954 The Forest Service began managing the area by the multiple-use sustained-yield concept The Forest Service was given permanent control in 1960, and the "National Grasslands" were formed The Pawnee National Grassland is one of 19 throughout the Nation: one each in Oregon and Idaho, the rest are scattered from Texas to North Dakota.

In 1960, the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act reaffirmed the right to develop mineral resources, primarily oil and gas The Forest Service specifies the revegetation procedures to be followed by the private operators while conducting their exploration, drilling, and production activities. Currently there are 210 active oil and gas leases (managed by the Bureau of Land Management) on the Pawnee National Grassland. As of June 1986, 21 of these have producing wells on them

There have been 12 Minuteman missile sites constructed on the Grassland These fenced areas (approximately 2 acres each) are administered by the U S Air Force and public access is not permitted

Photographers, birdwatchers, and hikers will find the Pawnee Buttes an interesting landmark The Buttes are sedimentary rock formations, one-half mile apart, rising 350 feet above the plains to an elevation of 5375 feet Due to the instability of these sandstone towers, climbing is not recommended

The cliffs in this area are a preferred nesting area for many birds of prey March through June is their critical breeding and nesting season, and disturbance at this time could cause the eggs to be abandoned Please remain on the established trail during this critical time. Binoculars are useful while observing these raptors

The Buttes are almost entirely surrounded by private land The Forest Service owns the West Butte and only a portion of the East Butte The only public access is the 2 mile foot trail that begins on the top of the escarpment

The Crow Valley Recreation Area, near Briggsdale, was part of one of the first reclamation projects in the area A ball diamond, picnic area with shelter, fire grates, roads, and rest rooms were constructed, mainly with Work Project

Administration (WPA) labor The town of Briggsdale formed a Park Committee, who contracted with the Resettlement Administration to maintain it in good condition, and to make improvements for a period of 10 years The contract could be renewed if both parties were agreeable. However, it was renewed only once In 1959, the community decided it did not wish to continue maintenance of the site, but retained the ball diamond under a Special Use Permit until 1977

The Forest Service has since developed camp sites, a cooking shelter, a water system, and an education center, constructed with the help of the Daughters of the American Revolution It was dedicated in 1981 to the memory of Steward J Adams, District Ranger of the Pawnee National Grassland at the time of his death in 1979 The Crow Valley Recreation Area is the only camping facility in this area

PATTERNS OF PLANT LIFE AT PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND

BY PAUL MORAN



SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Abronia fragrans</i>	sand verbena
<i>Agrohordeum macounii</i>	--
<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	crested wheatgrass
<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	western wheatgrass
<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	slender wheatgrass
<i>Allium textile</i>	wild onion
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	redroot
<i>Ambrosia elatior</i>	ragweed
<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	giant ragweed
<i>Arenaria hookeri</i>	Hooker sandwort
<i>Argemone intermedia</i>	prickly poppy
<i>Aristida longiseta</i>	red three-awn
<i>Artemisia filifolia</i>	sandsage
<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	fringed sage
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	prairie sage
<i>Asclepias arenaria</i>	milkweed
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	showy milkweed
<i>Astragalus adsurgens</i>	milkvetch
<i>Astragalus bisulcatus</i>	two-grooved milkvetch
<i>Astragalus drummondii</i>	Drummond milkvetch
<i>Astragalus gracilis</i>	milkvetch
<i>Astragalus missouriensis</i>	Missouri milkvetch
<i>Astragalus mollissimus</i>	woolly loco
<i>Astragalus sericoleucus</i>	milkvetch
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	four-winged saltbush
<i>Bahia oppositifolia</i>	plains bahia
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	side-oats grama
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	blue grama
<i>Brickellia grandiflora</i>	brickellia
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	smooth brome
<i>Bromus japonicus</i>	Japanese chess
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	cheatgrass
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	buffalo grass
<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>	prairie sandreed
<i>Calylophus hartwegii</i>	--
<i>Calylophus serrulatus</i>	--
<i>Carex eleocharis</i>	needleleaf sedge
<i>Carex filifolia</i>	threadleaf sedge
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	sedge
<i>Ceratoides lanata</i>	winterfat
<i>Chara sp</i>	alga
<i>Cheilanthes feei</i>	slender lip fern
<i>Chenopodium dessicatum</i>	goosefoot
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	rabbitbrush

SCIENTIFIC NAME

COMMON NAME

<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Cirsium canescens</i>	thistle
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	Rocky Mt. beeplant
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	bindweed
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	horseweed
<i>Croton texensis</i>	Texas croton
<i>Cryptantha celosioides</i>	cryptantha
<i>Cryptantha jamesii</i>	cryptantha
<i>Cryptantha minima</i>	cryptantha
<i>Cucurbita foetidissima</i>	wild gourd
<i>Cymopterus montanum</i>	breadroot
<i>Delphinium geyeri</i>	Geyer larkspur
<i>Delphinium virescens</i>	plains larkspur
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	flixweed
<i>Distichlis stricta</i>	saltgrass
<i>Dyssodia papposa</i>	fetid marigold
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	barnyard grass
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	needle spikesedge
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	common spikesedge
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wildrye
<i>Epilobium minutum</i>	willow-herb
<i>Erigeron pumilus</i>	low fleabane
<i>Eriogonum alatum</i>	winged eriogonum
<i>Eriogonum effusum</i>	bushy eriogonum
<i>Eriogonum flavum</i>	yellow eriogonum
<i>Euphorbia geyeri</i>	Geyer spurge
<i>Euphorbia marginata</i>	snow-on-the-mountain
<i>Euphorbia robusta</i>	Rocky Mountain spurge
<i>Euphorbia serpens</i>	serpent spurge
<i>Franseria discolor</i>	bursage
<i>Gaura coccinea</i>	scarlet gaura
<i>Gaura parviflora</i>	gaura
<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i>	gumweed
<i>Haplopappus acaulis</i>	stemless goldenweed
<i>Harbouria trachypleura</i>	whisk-broom parsley
<i>Hedeoma drummondii</i>	pennyroyal
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	common sunflower
<i>Heterotheca horrida</i>	golden aster
<i>Hymenopappus filifolius</i>	hymenopappas
<i>Hymenoxys acaulis</i>	stemless hymenoxys
<i>Ipomoea leptophylla</i>	bush morning-glory
<i>Ipomopsis laxiflora</i>	gilia
<i>Ipomopsis spicata</i>	spike gilia
<i>Iva axillaris</i>	poverty sumpweed
<i>Iva xanthifolia</i>	rag sumpweed
<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Baltic rush
<i>Juncus compressus</i>	rush
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Rocky Mountain juniper
<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	kochia
<i>Koeleria cristata</i>	junegrass

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Lactuca scariola -----	prickly lettuce
Lappula redowskii -----	stickseed
Lesquerella ludoviciana -----	silver bladderpod
Leucocrinum montanum -----	sand lily
Lithospermum incisum -----	narrow-leaved puccoon
Lygodesmia juncea -----	rush skeleton plant
Machaeranthera tanacetifolius -----	tansy-leaved aster
Melilotus alba -----	white sweetclover
Melilotus officinalis -----	yellow sweetclover
Mentzelia decapetalia -----	giant eveningstar
Muhlenbergia asperifolia -----	alkali muhly
Musineon divaricatum -----	musineon
Oenothera albicaulis -----	prairie evening-primrose
Oenothera canescens -----	pink evening-primrose
Oenothera coronopifolia -----	cut-leaf evening-primrose
Opuntia polyacantha -----	plains pricklypear
Orobanche fasciculata -----	broomrape
Oryzopsis hymenoides -----	Indian ricegrass
Oxybaphus linearis -----	narrow-leaved umbrellawort
Oxytropis sericea -----	silky loco
Paretaria pennsylvanica -----	Pennsylvania pellit
Parmelia sp. -----	lichen
Paronychia sessiliflora -----	nailwort
Parthenocissus vitacea -----	thicket creeper
Penstemon albidus -----	white penstemon
Penstemon angustifolius -----	narrow-leaved penstemon
Petalostemon candidus -----	white prairieclove
Phlox hoodii -----	Hood's phlox
Phyla cuneifolia -----	fog-fruit
Physalis lobata -----	purple groundcherry
Physalis virginiana -----	ground cherry
Plantago asiatica -----	Asian plantain
Plantago purshii -----	Pursh's plantain
Poa pratensis -----	Kentucky bluegrass
Polygonum pennsylvanicum -----	Pennsylvania knotweed
Polygonum ramossimum -----	bushy knotweed
Populus deltoides -----	plains cottonwood
Potamogeton pectinatus -----	pondweed
Potentilla rivalis -----	brook cinquefoil
Prunus pennsylvanica -----	pincherry
Psoralea tenuiflora -----	slimflower scurfpea
Ranunculus cymbalaria -----	shore buttercup
Ratibida columnifera -----	prairie coneflower
Rhus trilobata -----	squawbush
Ribes aureum -----	golden currant
Robinia neomexicana -----	New Mexico locust
Rorippa sinuata -----	rorippa

A MAMMAL CHECKLIST FOR THE PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND



Scientific Name	Common Name
Order INSECTIVORA -- Insectivores	
Family SORICIDAE -- Shrews	
Sorex cinereus	Masked shrew
Sorex vagrans	Vagrant shrew
Sorex nanus	Dwarf shrew
Sorex merriami	Merriam's shrew
Order CHIROPTERA -- Bats	
Family VESPERTILLIONIDAE -- Vespertilionid Bats	
Myotis lucifugus	Little brown myotis
Myotis evotis	Long-eared myotis
Myotis thysanodes	Fringed myotis
Myotis californicus	California myotis
Myotis subulatus	Small-footed myotis
Lasiorycteris noctivagans	Silver-haired bat
Eptesicus fuscus	Big brown bat
Order LAGOMORPHA -- Lagomorphs	
Family LEPORIDAE -- Hares and Rabbits	
Sylvilagus floridanus	Eastern cottontail
Sylvilagus nuttalli	Nuttall's cottontail
Sylvilagus audubonii	Desert cottontail
Lepus townsendii	White-tailed jack rabbit
Lepus californicus	Black-tailed jack rabbit
Order RODENTIA -- Rodents	
Family SCIURIDAE -- Squirrels	
Eutamias minimus	Least chipmunk
Marmota flaviventris	Yellow-bellied marmot
Spermophilus tridecemlineatus	Thirteen-lined ground squirrel
Cynomys ludovicianus	Black-tailed prairie dog
Sciurus niger	Fox squirrel

Scientific Name	Common Name
Family GEOMYIDAE -- Pocket gophers	
Thomomys talpoides	Northern pocket gopher
Family HETEROMYIDAE -- Heteromyids	
Perognthus fasciatus	Olive-backed pocket mouse
Perognthus flavescens	Plain pocket mouse
Perognthus flavus	Silky pocket mouse
Perognthus hispidus	Hispid pocket mouse
Dipodomys ordii	Ord's kangaroo rat
Family CASTORIDAE -- Beavers	
Castor canadensis	Beaver
Family CRICETIDAE -- New World Rats & Mice	
Reithrodontomys montanus	Plains harvest mouse
Reithrodontomys megalotis	Western harvest mouse
Peromyscus maniculatus	Deer mouse
Peromyscus difficilis	Rock mouse
Onychomys leucogaster	Northern grasshopper mouse
Neotoma mexicana	Mexican wood rat
Neotoma cinerea	Bushy-tailed wood rat
Microtus pennsylvanicus	Meadow vole
Microtus longicaudus	Long-tailed vole
Microtus ochrogaster	Prairie vole
Lagurus cutratus	Sagebrush vole
Ondatra zibethicus	Muskrat
Family MURUDAE -- Old World Rats & Mice	
Rattus norvegicus	Norway rat
Mus musculus	House mouse
Family ERETHIZONTIDAE -- New World Porcupines	
Erethizon dorsatum	Porcupine
Order CARNIVORA -- Carnivores	
Family CANIDAE -- Canids	
Canis latrans	Coyote
Vulpes vulpes	Red fox
Vulpes macrotis	Kit fox

Scientific Name	Common Name
Family PROCYONIDAE -- Procyonids	
Procyon lotor	Raccoons
Family MUSTELIDAE -- Mustelids	
Mustela erminea	Ermine
Mustela ferenata	Long-tailed weasel
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed ferret
Taxidea taxus	Badger
Spilogale putorius	Spotted skunk
Mephitis mephitis	Striped skunk
Family FELIDAE -- Cats	
Felis concolor	Mountain lion
Lynx rufus	Bobcat
Order ARTIODACTULA -- Even-toed Ungulates	
Family CERVIDAE -- Cervids	
Cervus canadensis	Wapiti
Odocoileus hemionus	Mule deer
Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer
Family ANTILOCAPRIDAE -- Pronghorn	
Antilocapra americana	Pronghorn

SHRIKES

- Northern Shrike W fc
- Loggerhead Shrike S c

STARLINGS VIREOS

- Starling R c
- Solitary Vireo M r
- Red-eyed Vireo S r
- Warbling Vireo M r

WARBLERS

- Tennessee Warbler M r
- Orange crowned Warbler M fc
- Virginia s Warbler M fc
- Yellow Warbler S c
- Magnolia Warbler M r
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) M c
- Yellow rumped Warbler (Audubon s) M c
- Townsend s Warbler M r
- Chestnut sided Warbler M r
- Blackpoll Warbler M r
- Ovenbird M r
- Northern Waterthrush M r
- MacGillivray s Warbler M u
- Common Yellowthroat S fc
- Yellow-breasted Chat S u
- Wilson s Warbler M c
- Canada Warbler M r
- American Redstart M u
- Blackburnian Warbler M r

WEAVER FINCHES

- House Sparrow R,c

BLACKBIRDS ORIOLES

- Bobolink S r
- Western Meadowlark R c
- Yellow-headed Blackbird S,fc
- Red-winged Blackbird R c
- Orchard Oriole S u
- Northern Oriole (Baltimore) S r
- Northern Oriole (Bullock s) S c
- Brewer s Blackbird S c
- Common Grackle S fc
- Brown-headed Cowbird S c

TANAGERS

- Western Tanager M r

FINCHES SPARROWS

- Rose-breasted Grosbeak M r
- Black headed Grosbeak S u

FINCHES SPARROWS

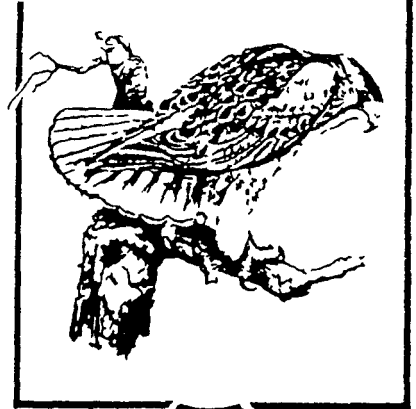
- Blue Grosbeak S u
- Pine Grosbeak W r
- Lazuli Bunting S u
- Dickcissel S r
- Cassin s Finch W r
- House Finch R c
- Gray crowned Rosy Finch W r
- Black Rosy Finch W r
- Common Redpoll W fc
- Pine Siskin R fc
- American Goldfinch R c
- Red Crossbill W r

FINCHES SPARROWS

- Green tailed Towhee M u
- Rufous-sided Towhee S u
- Lark Bunting S a
- Savannah Sparrow S u
- Grasshopper Sparrow S fc
- Baird s Sparrow M r
- Vesper Sparrow S c
- Lark Sparrow S c
- Cassin s Sparrow S u
- Black-throated Sparrow M r
- Sage Sparrow M r
- Dark-eyed Junco (white-winged) W r
- Dark-eyed Junco (slate-colored) W u
- Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) W c
- Gray-headed Junco W u
- Tree Sparrow W c
- Chipping Sparrow S fc
- Clay-colored Sparrow M fc
- Brewer s Sparrow S c
- Harris Sparrow M r
- White-crowned Sparrow W c
- Fox Sparrow M r
- Lincoln s Sparrow M r
- Song Sparrow R fc
- McCown s Longspur S fc
- Lapland Longspur W fc
- Smith s Longspur M r
- Chestnut-collared Longspur S u
- Snow Bunting W u

Field Checklist

BIRDS OF THE PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND



USDA Forest Service



Rocky Mountain Region

The Pawnee National Grassland administered by the Roosevelt National Forest, is located in Weld County northeastern Colorado. This 193,060 acre area of public land consists of native shortgrass prairie interspersed with some cultivated land.

A visitor map of the Grassland is available for ^{50¢} sale. You also may want a copy of two birding brochures, "Birding Auto Tour" and "Auto Winter Birding Tours."

Many people are surprised to learn that the shortgrass prairie supports great numbers of birds of many species especially during the breeding season. Compilation of available bird sightings by observers since 1962 has resulted in a list of 229 species. We wish to thank Dr. Ronald A. Ryder of Colorado State University for compiling this list. Dr. Ryder and Miss Nancy Hurley of the Denver Field Ornithologists collaborated in establishing abundance and seasonal occurrence designations for each species.

Observations of unlisted species of birds on the Grassland should be reported to the District Range Pawnee National Grassland Greeley Colorado 80631. Phone number (303) 353-5004.

Date _____ Time _____

Total Species _____

Observer _____

Weather _____

Common names after Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds (2nd edition 1961)

Conforms with A O U Checklist of North American Birds (5th edition 1957)

a — Abundant
 R — Resident
 M — Migrant
 W — Winter Resident
 S — Summer Resident
 c — Common
 ic — Fairly common
 u — Uncommon
 r — Rare



PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND
 660 "O" Street, Suite A
 Greeley, CO 80631
 303-353-5004

LOONS GREBES

Common Loon	W r
Horned Grebe	W r
Eared Grebe	M u
Western Grebe	M u
Pied billed Grebe	S u

EGRETS HERONS

Great Blue Heron	S u
Green Heron	S r
Black crowned Night Heron	S u
Yellow crowned Night Heron	M r
Snowy Egret	S u

IBIS

White faced Ibis	M, r
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DUCKS GEESE

Canada Goose	R u
Snow Goose	M u
Ross Goose	M r
Mallard	R c
Gadwall	R u
Pintail	M f c
Green winged Teal	M u
Blue-winged Teal	S f c
Cinnamon Teal	S u
American Wigeon	M u
Northern Shoveler	S u
Redhead	S u
Ring-necked Duck	M, u
Canvasback	S r
Greater Scaup	M r
Lesser Scaup	M f c
Common Goldeneye	M, u
Bufflehead	M u
Ruddy Duck	S r
Common Merganser	W c
Red-breasted Merganser	M r

VULTURES HAWKS EAGLES

Turkey Vulture	S r
Goshawk	M r
Sharp-shinned Hawk	R u
Cooper's Hawk	R u
Red-tailed Hawk	R f c
Red-tailed Hawk (Harlan's)	W r
Swainson's Hawk	S c
Rough-legged Hawk	W a
Ferruginous Hawk	R c
Golden Eagle	R c
Bald Eagle	W r
Marsh Hawk	R c
Osprey	M r
Gyr Falcon	W r
Prairie Falcon	R f c
Peregrine Falcon	M r
Merlin	W u
American Kestrel	R c

QUAIL PHEASANTS

Bobwhite	R u
Ring necked Pheasant	R f c

CRANES RAILS COOTS

Sandhill Crane	M u
Sora	S f c
American Coot	R f c

SHOREBIRDS

Semipalmated Plover	M r
Killdeer	R c
Mountain Plover	S c
Common Snipe	M u
Long billed Curlew	S u
Whimbrel	M r
Upland Sandpiper	S r
Spotted Sandpiper	S f c
Solitary Sandpiper	M f c
Willet	M u
Greater Yellowlegs	M u
Lesser Yellowlegs	M u
Pectoral Sandpiper	M u
Baird's Sandpiper	M f c
Least Sandpiper	M f c
Long billed Dowitcher	M f c
Stilt Sandpiper	M r
Semipalmated Sandpiper	M u
Western Sandpiper	M u
Marbled Godwit	M f c
Hudsonian Godwit	M r
American Avocet	S f c
Wilson's Phalarope	S f c
Northern Phalarope	M f c

GULLS TERNS

California Gull	S f c
Ring billed Gull	R c
Franklin's Gull	M a
Forster's Tern	S u
Least Tern	S r
Black Tern	S f c

CUCKOOS

Yellow billed Cuckoo	S u
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PIGEONS DOVES

Rock Dove	R c
Mourning Dove	S c

OWLS

Barn Owl	S u
Screech Owl	R u
Great Horned Owl	R f c
Snowy Owl	W r
Burrowing Owl	S f c
Long eared Owl	R r
Short eared Owl	R u
Saw whet Owl	R r

GOATSUCKERS NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS

Poorwill	S u
Common Nighthawk	S c
White throated Swift	S u

HUMMINGBIRDS

Broad tailed Hummingbird	S u
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KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher	R u
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WOODPECKERS

Common Flicker	
(Yellow shafted)	R u
Common Flicker	
(Red shafted)	R c
Red headed Woodpecker	S f c

WOODPECKERS

Yellow bellied Sapsucker	M r
Hairy Woodpecker	W u
Downy Woodpecker	W f c

FLYCATCHERS

Eastern Kingbird	S c
Western Kingbird	S c
Cassin's Kingbird	S r
Scissor tailed Flycatcher	S r
Ash throated Flycatcher	S r
Say's Phoebe	S c
Willow Flycatcher	S r
Western Flycatcher	M u
Western Wood Pewee	S c
Olive sided Flycatcher	M r

LARKS

Horned Lark	R a
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SWALLOWS

Violet-green Swallow	M u
Tree Swallow	M u
Bank Swallow	M, r
Rough-winged Swallow	S u
Barn Swallow	S c
Cliff Swallow	S f c
Purple Martin	S r

JAYS MAGPIES CROWS

Blue Jay	R u
Black-billed Magpie	R c
Common Crow	R f c
Piñon Jay	M r
Clark's Nutcracker	W r

CHICKADEES, CREEPERS NUTHATCHES

Black-capped Chickadee	R c
Mountain Chickadee	W u
White breasted Nuthatch	R u
Red breasted Nuthatch	W u
Brown Creeper	W, r

WRENS

House Wren	S c
Rock Wren	M c
Bewick's Wren	M u

MOCKINGBIRDS THRASHERS

Mockingbird	S f c
Gray Catbird	S, u
Brown Thrasher	S f c
Sage Thrasher	M c

KINGLETS THRUSHES

American Robin	S c
Hermit Thrush	M u
Swainson's Thrush	M f c
Veery	M r
Eastern Bluebird	S u
Mountain Bluebird	W u M a
Townsend's Solitaire	M u
Golden crowned Kinglet	W u
Ruby crowned Kinglet	M r

PIPITS WAXWINGS

Water Pipit	M r
Sprague's Pipit	M r
Bohemian Waxwing	W u
Cedar Waxwing	R r