

Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

Project Type Species monitoring

Title Avian monitoring in the Black Hills

In a nutshell The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) have cooperatively monitored birds in ten habitat types. Target species were identified within each habitat type to assist the Forest Service in assessing bird responses to management activities. Because of new monitoring activities, BHNF needed to reduce their commitment to avian monitoring in two habitat types - aspen and shrublands. This project allowed monitoring to continue in these two habitat types.

Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- ruffed grouse (*Bonassa umbellus*)

Relevant Habitats aspen and shrubland habitats

Cooperators Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and Black Hills National Forest

Purpose

- monitor aspen and shrubland habitats on Black Hills National Forest using techniques developed by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Timeframe 2006 - 2010

Location Black Hills of South Dakota

Summary or Important Findings

- These species had the highest estimated densities of all bird species detected in aspen: chipping sparrow, warbling vireo, dark-eyed junco, red crossbill, and dusky flycatcher. Sixty-one species were detected on aspen habitat transects.
- These species had the highest estimated densities of all species detected in pine-juniper shrubland: chipping sparrow, dusky flycatcher, spotted towhee, brown-headed cowbird, and dark-eyed junco. Sixty species were detected on shrubland habitat transects.
- This portion of the monitoring program was part of a larger monitoring program described in annual reports prepared by the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. A link to those reports is included below.

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More Information

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Avian Data Center, downloads section:

<http://www.rmbo.org/public/monitoring/downloads.aspx>