

February 16, 1981

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BD.

To: David G. Potter,
Refuge Manager
Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge
Cayuga, ND 58103

From: David Lambeth
1909 20th Ave. S
Grand Forks, ND 58201

RE: Species of Management Concern

General Comments:

Various activities of man are impacting the various species of birds in different ways. Some are actually benefiting from current agricultural practices, planting of shelterbelts, and diversification of trees and other plantings within towns and cities. Many others, however, are experiencing declines because their natural habitats are being destroyed and they are unable to adapt to the man-altered environment. It would seem that there can be no escape from what appears to be a general decline which will eventually leave us with only remanent populations. In the more serious cases, extinction may result.

Two very pressing, worldwide problems could lead to changes which might greatly accelerate the decline of vulnerable species. These are the increasing scarcity and cost of energy, and overpopulation. Either can result in presently "marginal" lands becoming profitable for agricultural use. For example, there are those who believe sunflower oil can be used as a fuel, cattails can provide biomass for fuel, or gasohol is an answer to our energy problems. Sales of grain overseas can drive prices up until it becomes profitable to bring marginal lands into production. In summary, the relative small percentage of native habitats left could disappear quickly.

Species which are particularly vulnerable include:

1. Woodland species. As heating fuel becomes more costly and scarcer, wood becomes more attractive. Cavity nesters and species which derive much of their food from dead trees will be jeopardized. A farmer wishing to clear a tract of woodlands will now find it not only easier, but profitable to do so. A combination of selective harvesting and increased use of nest boxes will be needed to keep woodland populations at a relatively high level.
2. Species requiring native grasslands. It is my impression that farmers are trying to grow sunflowers on lands formerly left idle or used for grazing. Once these lands are plowed under, a number of grassland species are gone for years, perhaps decades even if the land is left idle. In the western part of North Dakota, vast areas are being developed for oil or coal.
3. Wetlands. As is well known by everyone, these continue to be drained. Many seasonal wetlands are plowed and cultivated in the drier years. Others suffer degradation from farming practices.

One can hope that additional acres will continue to be acquired for wildlife refuges, waterfowl production areas, state game refuges, etc..

On this and the following pages, a number of the species listed in the various appendices are commented on whenever I have definite impressions of relevance to E. ND.

Bald Eagle: We now know a surprising number follow the Red River North during the Spring Migration. Last year, about a dozen were reported from Fargo and Grand Forks. This should be only a small fraction of the actual number. Bald Eagles have been found with regularity at L. Ardoch NWR, and occasionally at Kellys Slough NWR.

Peregrine Falcon: About two or three sightings per year in the eastern half of the state.

Whooping Crane: Sightings are generally West of a line running from Long Lake NWR to Salyer NWR.

Eskimo Curlew: Spring 1980 report in American Birds for the Prairie Provinces region reported a sighting by former Northern Great Plains regional editor, David Hatch, somewhere in the Winnipeg vicinity. So, maybe this species is not extinct and may still migrate through the Great Plains.

White-faced Ibis: Occasional sightings have been made for many years in ND. Definitely nested at Long Lake NWR in 1978 and at Kraft Slough in 1979.

Osprey: A few, generally 5 or less, are reported during the migrations.

Prairie Falcon: A few are found in the eastern part of ND in fall and winter. A study reported in Feb. 81 issue of North Dakota Outdoors indicated 55 nests were found in summer 1980 in ND Badlands. This is far more than many would have believed possible.

Merlin: A very few winter in E. ND. Also seen in migration.

Long-billed Curlew: Can still be found as a breeding bird in sw ND. Used to breed in Red River Valley several decades ago. Not being seen as a migrant either.

Burrowing Owl: Almost certainly becoming more local in distribution.

White Pelican: Principal and perhaps the only regular breeding colony in ND is at Chase Lake. Numbers there have been relatively stable?

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Rather rare migrant, but is usually found by those who search through shorebird flocks during the migrations.

Least Tern: The northernmost breeding population is apparently one between Garrison Dam and Lake Oahe. In Am. Birds, 33, 875, ten colonies of 111 adults and fledglings were counted in this stretch between July 14-29, 1979.

Purple Martin: See Stewart, Breeding Birds of North Dakota for status. Why be concerned about a species which so readily adapts to nesting boxes? This species comes back so early that a number often die during late, cold springs (1979, for example). But I don't feel there is reason for concern.

Duck Species: Refuge data is far better than any I can hope to gather, so will not comment.

Upland Sandpiper: Habitat sensitive. Best habitat slowly declining.

Western Grebe: If in trouble, surely because of habitat loss.

Least Bittern: Always very rare in ND.

American Bittern: Same comment as for W. Grebe

Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: Former can be quite common during spring migration if one watches for hawks flying along the Red River. I receive almost no information for either from the nesting season. In my opinion, Cooper's is always very rare in E. ND, at least the areas I cover.

Marsh Hawk: Still a very common hawk, especially in migration. But, its prime habitat seems very susceptible to development.

Golden Eagle: A few in E. ND in winter and during migration.

King Rail: Very rare in ND at any time. but it is hard to know the true status of this species in any part of its range.

Yellow Rail: Migration status is unknown, very rarely observed. Perhaps only two or three breeding localities known for state.

Piping Plover: I hope Craig Faanes will help with this one. There are major breeding populations in Kidder County, etc.

Hudsonian Godwit: Fairly common spring migrant (flock sizes up to 100). Very rare migrant in Fall.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Rather local populations, Habitat sensitive.

Eastern Bluebird: Has probably disappeared from a number of areas shown in Stewart. Still easily found in Turtle Mountains and Sheyenne River South of Leonard. Still found along James River and in Pembina Hills. Rarely seen even in migration in Red River Valley where it once nested. Plenty of reasons to be concerned.

Sprague's Pipit: Still fairly common where suitable habitat remains. Dependent on native grasslands.

Loggerhead Shrike: Becoming increasingly hard to find in E. ND. Loss of suitable habitat.

Bell's Vireo: See Stewart. ND is on the very edge of its range.

Yellow Warbler: Still common, but I have the impression that Breeding Bird Surveys show a steady, slow decline.

Dickcissel: Erratic in E. ND. May be reason for concern.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Can be extremely common in suitable habitat, for example, the Sheyenne National Grasslands. Habitat in jeopardy and is shrinking.

Baird's Sparrow: Same comment as for Grasshopper Sparrow

LeConte's Sparrow: Same comment as for Short-billed Marsh Wren.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Populations within Red River Valley not mentioned in Stewart (especially Kelly's Slough NWR).

Additional References Recommended:

Stewart, R.E. 1975. Breeding Birds of North Dakota. Tri-College Center for Environmental Studies. (For ND, should be relied on rather than Johnsgard's book. Johnsgard notes in his book that most of his information on ND comes from Stewart)

McKenna, M.G., and Seabloom, R.W., Endangered, Threatened and Peripheral Wildlife of North Dakota, 1979, Institute for Ecological Studies, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. (apparently this reference was not consulted. Bird species listed are as follows:

Endangered: Bald Eagle, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, and Whooping Crane.

Threatened: White-winged Scoter, Greater Prairie Chicken, Least Tern, and McCown's Longspur

Peripheral (found at only a few sites, are on the edge of their range in ND, have not had an appreciably more widespread distribution in North Dakota in the past): Long-billed Curlew (I believe this should be considered threatened as its range has definitely decreased in ND), Common Loon, C. Goldeneye, Poor-will, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, N. Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow.

The Authors: list 21 more species they consider accidental and or hypothetical and therefore they do not include. However, definite nesting records have been obtained within the past three years for six of these species: Cinnamon Teal, American Woodcock, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Wood Thrush, and Blue Grosbeak. An additional species, Purple Finch, had been observed nesting in previous years (see Stewart).

There are a number of biological investigations that have been carried out in connection with the Garrison Diversion Project.

Comments on species mentioned in Appendix 4:

The following species are fairly common to common in E. ND, but I consider their habitat vulnerable to development and populations may decline in proportion: Eared Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Swainson's Hawk, American Kestrel, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Franklin's Gull, and Long-billed Marsh Wren.

Snowy Egret: Rarely seen in ND and no definite nest records for state.

Turkey Vulture: Rarely seen in migration in E. ND. Can be found along Missouri and in the Badlands

Black-necked Stilt: Casual or accidental status in ND

Forster's Tern: Habitat sensitive.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Should not be considered as rare to uncommon in E. ND. I believe definite nest records were obtained last summer.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Difficult to know if it is declining. Uncommon to fairly common.

Barn Owl: Has always been very rare in ND. Only one or two records in last 10 years?

Long-eared Owl: Uncommon in migration. Need to know more.

Short-eared Owl: Can be rather common in some seasons and nearly absent in others (Summer 1980) for example). Habitat declining.

Common Nighthawk: Local and uncommon in ND. Don't know if status is changing.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Fairly common in good habitat, but cutting of trees for firewood could be a problem.

Hairy Woodpecker: ~~Not~~ ^{but not} on Blue List because of concern in Great Plains -- still common and I have heard little to indicate that it is declining. But like all Woodland species, it is vulnerable to loss of woodlands.

Downy Woodpecker: Only concern is about its habitat.

W. Wood Pewee: Local populations in extreme sw ND.

Bank Swallow: I know of no reasons to be concerned.

Mountain Bluebird: Status of ND populations not known. Rather local in distribution.

Cedar Waxwing: Common.

Warbling Vireo: I believe at least some ND BBS are showing declines.

C. Yellowthroat: Should always be common in ND as long as we have marshes and wetlands.

Bobolink: Common and is often found on BBS in wheatfields and the like. Is it breeding successfully in such places? Is it adapting?

Orchard Oriole: I have the impression that it is becoming more common in ND. Perhaps because of the shelterbelts.

Lark Bunting: Abundant in parts of w. and c. ND. Eastern limit of its range fluctuates.

Vesper Sparrow: I assume ^{is} ~~that~~ species is Blue-listed because of what is happening in the East. In ND, I find it to be fairly common even in the highly disturbed habitats of the Red River Valley. As far as I can tell, it does not require native or natural habitat.

Clay-colored Sparrow: In ND, no reason for concern at present.

Field Sparrow: The present limit of its range seems to be the Sheyenne River in Richland and Ransom Counties.

McCown's Longspur: This species probably should be considered as threatened in ND. Consult Stewart. I think the situation has probably worsened since the time of his book. However, the one native prairie he mentions as still having breeding pairs -- I found a few pairs there last summer.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Very common to abundant in much of ND. But almost gone from Red River Valley because of loss of habitat.

Comments on Species listed in Appendix 5:

Great Blue Heron: Gathering support for Blue Listing. Needs to be watched.

Black Tern: Considerable support for Blue Listing.

Screech Owl: Limited surveys through the technique of playing taped calls are showing that this species is fairly common and perhaps common in the wooded river valleys such as the Red, Turtle, James.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Rare and very local in ND

Eastern Kingbird: I see no reason for concern. Same for House Wren.

Cliff Swallow: Nesting colonies very common under many bridges. If anything, it is probably expanding.

Red-eyed Vireo: Status needs to be watched as it may need fairly large tracts of mature deciduous woodlands.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Rather common in w. ND. Wonder if habitat and range is decreasing?

Comments on Appendix 6:

Species which may be declining and need to be watched:

California Gull (there is concern in other parts of the country, I don't know what is happening here), Least Flycatcher, Brewer's Blackbird (I know of one birder in the Grand Forks area for 25 years who believes they are much less common in this area),

Comments on Species listed as Peripheral in Appendix I:

Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, and Horned Grebe: Each breeds locally in ND. Each a prime example of cases where we need more information.

Cattle Egret: Has been breeding in ND for several years.

Great Egret: Still no nesting record for state, despite the fact it is fairly easily found, spring thru fall.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. About a half dozen sightings in the last ten years.

Wood Duck: I have the impression from what I have read that it has increased markedly over the past few years. Arrowwood has excellent success with their nesting box program.

Harlequin Duck: Only a handful of records for ND

Other ducks listed as P: Consult Stewart

Red-shouldered Hawk: Status uncertain, casual or possibly rare.

Broad-winged Hawk: Fairly common migrant, at least in the Red River Valley. Important breeding bird in Turtle Mountains (see Stewart)

C. Gallinule: On hypothetical list for ND.

Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, and Short-billed Dowitcher: Each should be considered to be at least uncommon in migration. Black-bellieds are fairly common.

N. Phalarope: Can be seen by the thousands in migration.

Herring Gull and Bonaparte's Gull: Either can be found with regularity during migration.

Caspian Tern: At least one breeding record for ND. Usually one or two reports each year for migration period.

Barred Owl: No definite ^{breeding} record for ND, although one pair has been found nearly every year at Icelandic State Park for about 7 or 8 years now. It will be no surprise to find that it breeds along the Sheyenne.

Great Gray and Boreal Owl: Very rare winter visitors.

Whip-poor-will: Check Stewart. No longer found in summer, occasionally during migration.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Uncommon nesting species in E. ND. May be good reasons to be concerned.

- Pileated Woodpecker: Rare in the better wooded valleys in E. ND. At least one nesting record. Continued presence depends on woodlands.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Rare migrant
- Winter Wren: Rare migrant
- Varied Thrush: Very rare in winter
- WoodThrush: Now two definite breeding records for ND. Probably present every year in some of the better wooded valleys in E. ND
- Yellow-throated Vireo: Fairly common breeding bird in parts of E. ND
- Philadelphia Vireo: Nothing to add to what Stewart indicates.
- Tennessee Migrant: Perhaps our 2nd or 3rd most common ^{Warbler} migrant.
- Nashville Warbler: Fairly common migrant
- Northern Parula: Rare migrant
- Cerulean Warbler: Very rare, not reported every year
- Louisiana Waterthrush: At least two records for ND
- Kentucky Warbler: One record for ND
- Rusty Blackbird: Common migrant
- Scarlet Tanager: Locally uncommon breeding bird in E. ND
- Summer Tanager: Approx. 4 records for ND
- Purple Finch: Fairly common at times, a few nesting records.
- White-winged Crossbill: Irregular migrant and winter visitor
- Henslow's Sparrow: Only one or two records
- White-throated Sparrow: Abundant migrant, see Stewart about possible breeding in Turtle Mountains.
- Swamp Sparrow: Fairly common migrant. Rare and local as a breeding bird. Ex., found regularly at Kelly's Slough NWR.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TEWAUKON N W
REFUGE

FEB 12 '81 REC'D

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Plans

TO : Assistant Area Manager (R & W), Bismarck,
North Dakota

FROM : THRU: Acting Director, NPWRC *By Stundell*
Wildlife Biologist, Northern Prairie *2/11/81*
Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, ND

DATE: February 11, 1981

SUBJECT: Selection of Species of Management Concern (Acting RD Jones' November 6, 1980 Memo)

I have reviewed subject memo and am glad to see that increased emphasis on non-game wildlife on Service lands is apparently on the horizon. I am a little concerned, however, with the initial attempt to single out individual species for management emphasis. I would think that management emphasis should be directed at ecosystems--not single species. In so doing, not only the target species, but also the others associated with the target will benefit. For example, the Snowy Plover is included as a "species initially selected". My experience with this species indicates that it is closely associated with sandy beach habitats or drier portions of alkali wetlands. I definitely see advantages to managing this species with the objective of increasing its population. However, the American Avocet (also included in one of the Appendices), is quite highly dependent upon alkali wetlands during the nesting season, and also during winter and migration. My concern for single species management is that, in managing for the Snowy Plover, might we harm the Avocet? If we manage the alkali wetland ecosystem, however, we should ultimately benefit not only those two shorebirds, but probably all others using the habitat as well.

Secondly, I question the use of the National Audubon Societies "Blue-list", as published in American Birds. The Blue List was originally conceived as "an early warning system" to alert us to possible changes in a species' status. In this light, it is a worthwhile and much needed endeavor. However, the data collection method leaves something to be desired, and quite frankly, is probably not very scientifically grounded. Once each year, readers of American Birds are asked to vote on species which to them appear to be declining. When an observer makes his choices, he is also supposed to report the number of years he has bird-watched in his area, and also the amount of time spent in the field each year. By knowing this, the compilers of the votes can put more "weight" to the vote of a long-time observer, and those of a newcomer are less important and carry less "weight". There is no place in the process where hard scientific data are required. Also, regional editors of American Birds put their comments into the process. These individuals are supposed to be well grounded in the region--regional experts. However, the ability and experience of these individuals ranges from professional ornithologists and top-notch bird watchers to the proverbial "little-old-lady-in-tennis shoes". I don't think the Fish and Wildlife Service should put itself in the position of relying heavily on these types of data.



Third, I have a few comments on the "Selection Criteria for Species of Management Concern". Under Environmental Change, factor 4 "limiting habitat has experienced within the past 5 years or is currently experiencing equal to or greater than 10 percent per year", I found it quite hard to imagine where we would get the data to support this type of contention. Wetlands are probably the most intensively managed and protected resource in Region 6, yet we can only make guesstimates at the acreage of this habitat lost each year. The Service may come under fire for making management decisions based on fragmentary or guesswork data. These comments are also fitting for factor 5. Unless a species resides in cropland or residential areas, it would be safe to assume that 25% of the species habitat is anticipated for disruption or development. A recent published report on current land-uses indicated that only 30% of all native natural vegetation remained in North Dakota in 1977. For South Dakota the figure was 50%, and for Iowa it was 8%. In North Dakota alone, only 2% of the states area is forested, and the combination of riparian habitat destruction, logging and the spread of Dutch Elm Disease make this a highly susceptible habitat. The 25% figure should be lowered or deleted completely.

Listed below are my specific comments on individual species which I believe are in need of management on Service lands. I would like to stress again, however, that we should be managing ecosystems, not species. These comments will follow the various appendices attached to your memo. The lack of a comment concerning individual species indicates agreement with its inclusion in a particular Appendix.

APPENDIX 3

SPECIES INITIALLY SELECTED - COMMENTARY

II. Federally Delisted Species

- A. White-faced Ibis - apparently restricted to deep water marshes supporting an abundance of cattails and other emergent aquatic vegetation. Recent evidence suggests that this species is experiencing a population and range expansion throughout the southern and northern Great Plains.
- B. Ferruginous Hawk - the comments provided in the memo are obviously taken from recent issues of American Birds. The population existing in central North Dakota may be the largest in North America. Out here, this hawk has adapted to changes in the nesting habitat base by using haystacks, rockpiles and power transmission line towers for nest placement, in addition to traditional natural sites. My real concern for this species lies with its prey base (primarily Richardson's Ground Squirrels) and the impact of prairie conversion of that prey base.

- C. Long-billed Curlew - the historical range of this species in North Dakota included much of the state west of the Missouri River, and also scattered areas east to the Red River Valley. Currently, this species is restricted primarily to the extreme southwestern corner of the state, and there only in loose, widely separated colonies. Intensified agricultural expansion has resulted in a decreasing breeding range for this species. Probably one of the last strongholds for this species in Region 6, is the Sandhills of western Nebraska. Even there, however, the increased emphasis on native prairie conversion and the expansion of center-pivot irrigation systems threatens the Long-billed Curlew. This is one species which I think should be receiving widespread, increased emphasis by the Service.
- D. Burrowing Owl - A strong candidate for increased concern on Service lands. Because this species is highly dependent upon burrows created by ground squirrels, prairie dogs and other burrowing mammals, these animals should be encouraged on Service lands to insure the continued existence of Burrowing Owls.

III. State Listed Species

- A. White Pelican - This species most definitely fits the criterion of susceptibility to catastrophic declines in the population. Existing colonies need to be protected if not already. Because this bird is well known for flying long distances from the colony site to feeding areas, it will be difficult to adequately protect feeding habitats. Thus, nesting colony protection is probably the best management technique.
- B. Mountain Plover - This species is extirpated from North Dakota. The results of five years of extensive fieldwork on grasslands of six Region 6 states revealed that Mountain Plovers nested only on the Pawnee National Grasslands, Colorado; Shirley Basin, Wyoming, and C. M. Russell NWR, Montana. On CMR, all nesting colonies existed exclusively in prairie dog towns.
- C. Least Tern - This species is highly vulnerable to habitat disturbance. Few nesting colonies of the Interior race remain in Region 6. Research done on the Platte River, Nebraska by me in 1979 revealed that only about 30 pairs still nest there. The primary threat to that population is the growth of woody vegetation on sandy river channel islands. Along the Missouri River in North Dakota in 1979, about 100 adults were found in a 60 mile stretch of river from Garrison Dam to Bismarck. In 1980, only 30 adults were found in the same area. If this species

occurs on any Service lands in Region 6, it should receive priority management consideration.

IV. Additional Given Species

- A. Mid-continent Population of Sandhill Crane - This population concentrates in three distinctive staging areas along the Platte and North Platte Rivers, not South Platte as indicated in the memo.
- B. Upland Sandpiper - Because of loss of native prairie nesting habitat, this bird should be the subject of increased management emphasis on Service lands.
- C. Piping Plover - This species has experienced widespread extirpation as a breeder all along the U. S. east coast. As early as the 1930's, it was extirpated from Ohio. Currently on the Great Lakes probably fewer than 10 pairs breed annually; Minnesota has about 6 pairs, Wisconsin and Michigan about 2 each. Along the Platte River in Nebraska, Piping Plovers nest in habitat similar to the Least Tern. In 1979, about 100 Piping Plover pairs existed in the study area. The North Dakota population has been estimated to range from 500 to 1,400 pairs annually. This is apparently the largest population remaining in North America; about 500 pairs are known from Saskatchewan. In North Dakota, Piping Plovers nest primarily on the shore of alkali lakes. These lakes are currently threatened by several agricultural diversion projects and also by dropping water tables associated with increased center pivot irrigation systems. Northern Prairie has research proposed that would investigate the habitat characteristics of nesting territories, reproductive performance and feeding ecology.
- D. Sprague's Pipit - There is no doubt that habitat loss is occurring in its limited breeding range, and the word "possible" should be removed from your memo. This species is very closely associated with lightly to moderately grazed native prairie; they are virtually non-existent on heavily grazed prairie. The Center of breeding season abundance appears to be northwestern North Dakota and northeastern North Dakota and northeastern and north-central Montana. Habitat conversion to agricultural production is very intense in that area, and preferred nesting habitat is further limited because of intensive grazing activities. This, too, is a species that should be of special management concern on all Service lands.
- E. Loggerhead Shrike - I agree with its inclusion on your list. Research is needed to determine the causes of its decline. It is rapidly declining in North Dakota and practically everywhere else except in Texas.

- F. Brown-headed Cowbird - I don't believe there is much utility in including this species because of the parasitism problem. Unless we eliminated the population (which is impossible) or sterilized all the males (also impossible), there isn't much we can do to decrease the impact.
- G. Baird's Sparrow - See comments regarding the Sprague's Pipit.
- H. LeConte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrow - Protection and preservation of sedge meadow wetlands is one of the most important management considerations I know of for these species. One problem with obtaining data on populations of either species is their extremely high-pitched voices which are inaudible to many people.

APPENDIX 4

SPECIES NOT SELECTED PENDING FURTHER EXAMINATION

- A. Marbled Godwit - I give full support to including this species. Habitat loss, both wetland and native prairie, are potential problems. Along with the Marbled Godwit, the Willet should also be included. The third year of a 3-year research project on these two species will be completed in 1981. Some of the problems are being identified in that research.
- B. American Avocet - Most of the comments presented for the Piping Plover apply to the American Avocet as well - except population figures.
- C. Forster's Tern - Definitely in need of management consideration because of continual habitat loss. This species along with the Common Tern is in very real danger. Both are already state-listed in Minnesota and Wisconsin where they were common nesters until several years ago.
- D. Red-headed Woodpecker - Although this species is very common in some areas, a continual threat is the usurption of nesting cavities by starlings. A prime candidate for snag management.
- E. Warbling Vireo - In the eastern U.S., there is apparently a strong correlation between the spread of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and the rapid decline of this species. DED is just now making strong inroads into many of the riparian ecosystems of the plains. That along with destruction of riparian woodlands by public works projects, urban-residential development and others, could spell serious trouble for this species.

- F. Lark Bunting - Agree with you synopsis, and believe it should be included as a selected species.
- G. Chestnut-collared Longspur - Facing problems similar to other prairie nesters, although it is tolerant of heavily grazed prairie.

APPENDIX 5

SPECIES EXAMINED BUT NOT SELECTED

- A. Willet - see earlier comments under Marbled Godwit.
- B. Black Tern - I am surprised that the species was not mentioned earlier - it is definitely in need of increased consideration and should be of management concern in Region 6. Results of BBS routes surveyed throughout North America indicate that significant population declines are occurring along the periphery of its range. Only in the Drift Plain and Missouri Coteau of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and southern Canada is this species "holding its own", and then only marginally. A manuscript describing these results is in preparation. Because of the rapid destruction of nesting habitat in the prairies, the Black Tern most definitely needs to receive increased management emphasis.
- C. Red-shafted Flicker - This is no longer a valid species. It, the Yellow-shafted and Gilded Flickers were lumped into one species by the American Ornithologists Union in 1973. The correct name for this species is Common Flicker. The three former species are now all sub species.
- D. Brewer's Sparrow - There have been tremendous losses of preferred sagebrush nesting habitat throughout Region 6. This is another one we should be concerned with on Service lands.

APPENDIX 6

SPECIES NOT EXAMINED

- A. Common Raven - This species have been extirpated as a breeder from North Dakota.

APPENDIX 7

SPECIES OF UNKNOWN STATUS

As near as I can tell, all of these species with the exception of the Barn Owl were included in earlier Appendices, thus indicating there is knowledge of each one's status.


Craig A. Faanes