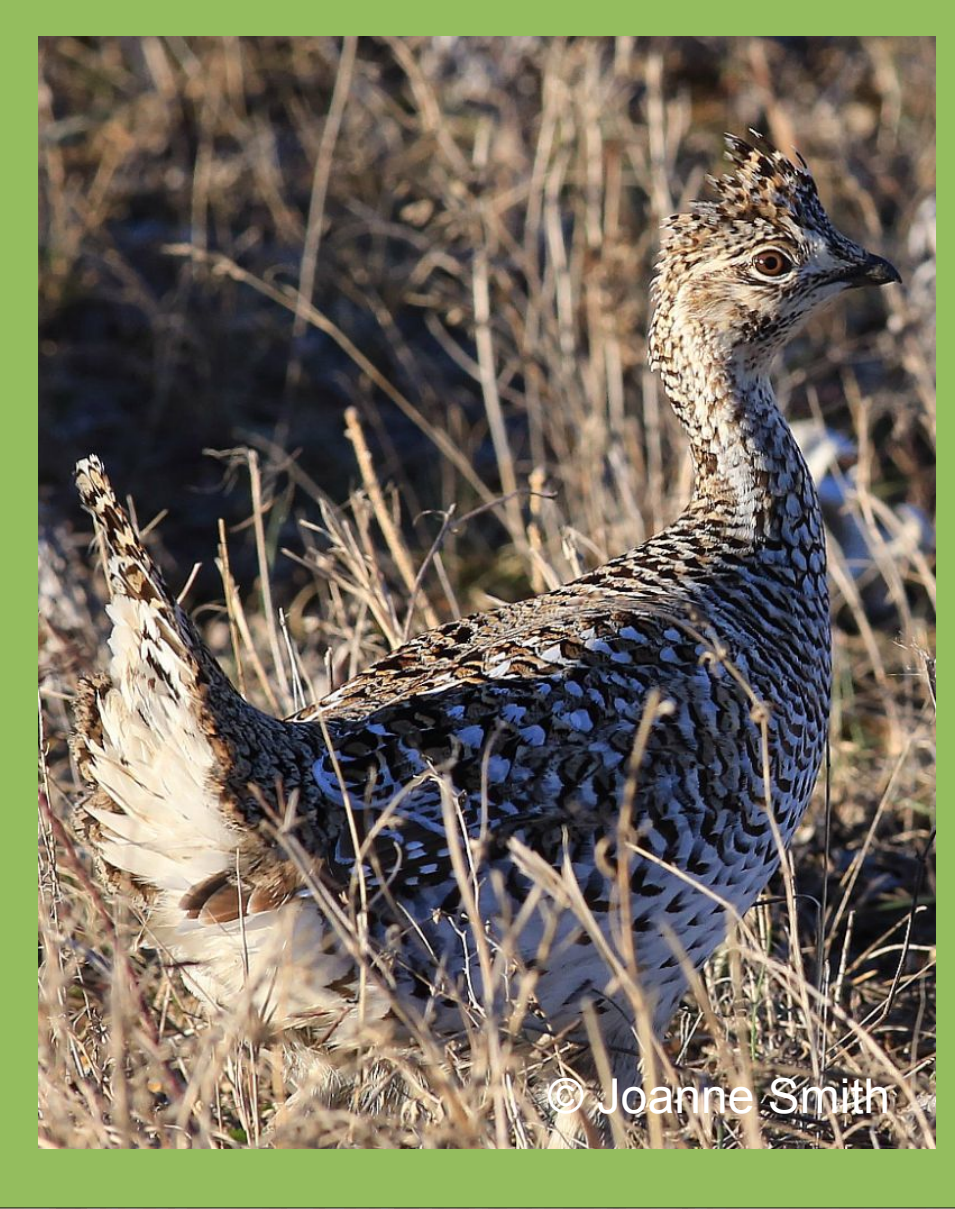


Southwestern Manitoba Mixed-Grass Prairie Important Bird Area Species

Sharp-tailed Grouse



ID: 17”, chicken-like bird with a distinctive pale, pointed tail. Spotted brown and white patterning. **Song:** Odd clucks, coos, and hoots, interspersed with soft chatter, produced by feet stamping. **Habitat:** Found in grassy areas with some trees or shrubs, often in small groups. Known for its group courtship displays involving stamping, dancing, cooing, and neck sac inflation.

Northern Harrier



ID: 18”, slim, long-tailed, long-winged hawk. Owl-like face with small, hooked bill. Males primarily grey with white stomach, females primarily brown. White rump patch obvious in flight. **Song:** Quick series of high-pitched, almost whistle-like calls – *kek kek kek*. **Habitat:** Found around wide open grasslands and marshes, often gliding low, with V-shaped wing formation.

Swainson's Hawk



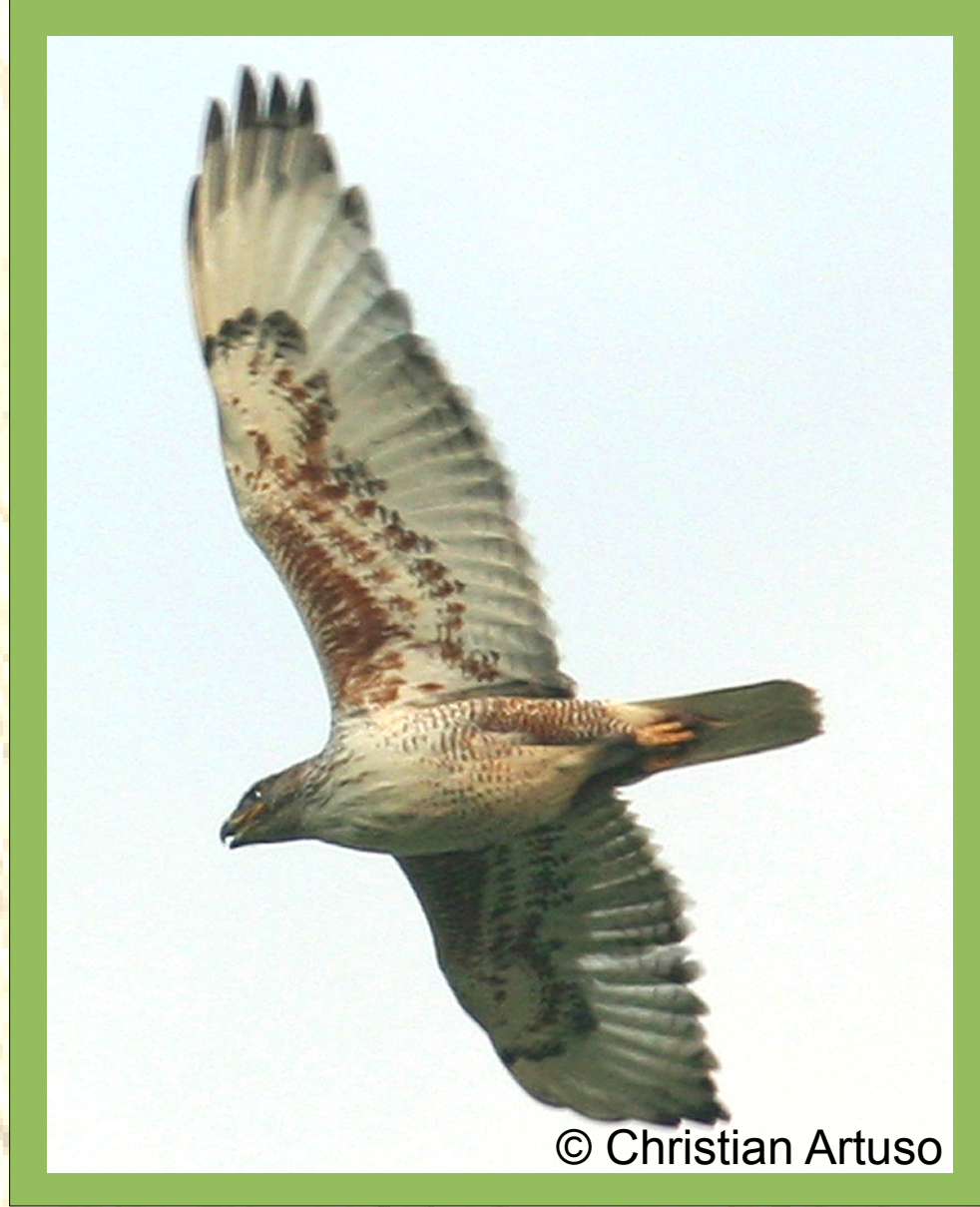
ID: 19”, slim, short-tailed, broad-winged hawk. Distinctive light coloured belly with reddish brown chest. Underwings contrast light wing linings to dark flight feathers. **Song:** Long, shrill, descending *kreeeee*. **Habitat:** Prefers grassland and agricultural land with a few scattered trees. May be seen hunting from air, or from perch on poles and posts.

Red-tailed Hawk



ID: 19”, broad, stocky hawk, with rounded wings and short, red tail. Brown above and pale below, with streaked belly, though plumage can vary. **Song:** High-pitched, descending, hoarse scream – *keeee-ar*. **Habitat:** Found soaring in wide circles over open fields, or hunting from poles or trees at the edges of fields. Most common North American hawk.

Ferruginous Hawk



ID: 23”, broad head, long, tapered wings, dark back and dark tipped flight feathers. Head and underparts plumage varies from light to dark. Largest North American hawk. **Song:** Low, scratchy cry – *kree-ah*. **Habitat:** Nests in isolated trees or rock outcrops of grasslands. Hunts from air, perches on posts and trees, or can be spotted on ground.

Killdeer



ID: 10.5”, tall, slender plover with a long tail, and dark, distinctive double breastband. Orange-buff rump conspicuous in flight. **Song:** Named for its high, plaintive, piping *kill-deer* call. **Habitat:** Open areas with low vegetation. Runs in spurts, stopping abruptly to survey.

Upland Sandpiper



ID: 12”, grassland shorebird with thin neck, small head, long, yellow legs, and straight, medium-length bill. Marbled black and brown back, streaked breast and off-white or buffy belly. **Song:** Odd, bubbling whistle which rises then falls – *bubuLEE-hLEEyooo*. **Habitat:** Found alone or in small groups, in short-to-medium grasslands, rather than typical shorebird habitat. Calls from the air, posts and poles.

Marbled Godwit



ID: 18”, large shorebird with long, slightly upturned bill with dark tip and pinkish base. Rich buff brown with pale breast and cinnamon wing linings. **Song:** Series of rolling, nasal, gull-like calls – *kowEto kowEto kowEto kowEto*. **Habitat:** Nests near prairie ponds and feeds around wet, bare ground. May be seen in flocks, or among other shorebirds.

Wilson's Phalarope



ID: 9.25”, slender, pointed bill. Females are brighter than males with distinctive pinkish throat, and black mask extending down the neck. **Song:** Low, muffled, nasal grunting or moaning – *quoit quoit quoit*. **Habitat:** Found around shallow prairie wetlands. Often swim in tight circles, jabbing nervously at the water to feed.

Franklin's Gull



ID: 14.5”, small, black-headed gull with white underparts, grey wings, black wing tips, black legs, dark bill, and black-marked tail. **Song:** Nasal, hollow laughing – *ha-ha ha-ha*. **Habitat:** Found near lakes, beaches, marshes, and farmland, often in small flocks, sometimes following plows.

Short-eared Owl



ID: 15”, medium-sized, mottled-brown owl, with a pale, streaked chest, and large head. Notable dark triangle around each eye. **Song:** Repetitive, scratchy barking. **Habitat:** Found in open prairies and marshes, hunting low over fields with floppy, erratic wingbeats, looking somewhat like a giant moth. Known to hunt during the day.

Burrowing Owl



ID: 9.5”, small owl with long legs, short tail, no ear tufts, a barred chest, and a spotted back. Notable white throat and eyebrow. **Song:** Soft, repeated *coo-coooo*. **Habitat:** Found in flat, open, shortgrass prairies, nesting in abandoned burrows of animals such as ground squirrels. Can be seen on ground or resting on fence posts. Known to hunt during the day.

Say's Phoebe



ID: 7.5”, slender flycatcher, overall grey-brown, with buffy-orange belly, long black tail, and black bill. **Song:** Alternating low, whistled phrases, one descending and one ascending – *pidiweew, pidireep, pidiweew, pidireep*. **Habitat:** Found in dry, open and semi-open prairie and farmland, perching or hovering low over fields. May be spotted by its tail wagging habit.

Western Kingbird



ID: 8.75”, flycatcher with yellow belly, pale grey breast and head, black tail with narrow white sides, long wings and flat bill. **Song:** High, squeaky, chattering *pik pik pik PEEKado*, which rises then falls in pitch. **Habitat:** Found in open, lowland grassland, perched on trees or utility lines. Adaptable to human development, though may aggressively defend territory.

Eastern Kingbird



ID: 8.5”, medium-sized songbird with large head, straight bill, and square, white-tipped tail. Contrast of blackish-grey back and white stomach, with an especially dark head. **Song:** Sharp, sputtering *peeps*, followed by a descending buzz – *kzeeer*. **Habitat:** Found in open grassland, marshes, and forest edges, perching on wires and fences, or fluttering over grasses, hunting insects.

Loggerhead Shrike



ID: 9”, thick-bodied songbird, long tail, large head, and thick, hooked bill. Mostly grey, with wide black mask and bill, black wing and tail markings, and white cheek. **Song:** Repetitive, sharp, rhythmic, two-syllable phrases – *ker-dee ker-dee*. **Habitat:** Lightly-treed grasslands. Not common, but can be seen hunting from perches such as utility poles, fences, bushes, and trees.