



North Dakota

Prairie Birding at its Best!

Tour Leader: Eric Ripma
May 28-June 3, 2022

Come explore the prairies and potholes of North Dakota! We'll be searching for the many specialty species of the region such as Red-necked and Clark's Grebes, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Sprague's Pipit, Baird's, LeConte's and Nelson's Sparrows, and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. If we are lucky, we might even hear the elusive Yellow Rail!

Itinerary Overview:

May 28: Arrival in Bismarck, ND and transfer to hotel in Dickinson

May 29: Full day birding Little Missouri National Grassland (LMNG) and the Little Missouri River

May 30: Full day birding Rhame Prairie and southern portions of LMNG

May 31: Birding across North Dakota on our transfer to Steele

June 1: Full day birding Dewald Slough/Lake Etta, Big Muddy Lake, Horsehead Lake

June 2: Full day birding around Chase Lake NWR and MacLean Bottoms and transfer to Bismarck

June 3: Departure from Bismarck, ND

Detailed Itinerary:

May 28: Arrival in Bismarck, ND and transfer to hotel in Dickinson

Upon arrival in Bismarck, your leader will meet you at the airport. From Bismarck, we will travel west for an hour and a half to Dickinson which lies just east of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Little Missouri National Grassland. Time permitting, we will bird around a lake just outside of Dickinson in the evening.

-Overnight: Dickinson, ND

May 29: Full day birding Little Missouri National Grassland (LMNG) and the Little Missouri River

Today we'll visit the largest grassland in the United States, Little Missouri National Grassland. As we explore the vast expanses of this property, we'll search for Chestnut-collared Longspur, Baird's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, an assortment of western songbirds such as Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, and a variety of breeding waterfowl.

-Overnight: Dickinson, ND

May 30: Full day birding Rhame Prairie and southern portions of LMNG

We will spend most of the day birding the Rhame Prairie area in search of species such as McCown's Longspur, Long-billed Curlew, Ferruginous Hawk,



Chestnut-collared Longspur

Burrowing Owl, Baird's Sparrow, and Sprague's Pipit.

-Overnight: Dickinson, ND

May 31: Birding across North Dakota on our transfer to Steele

We'll begin our drive east toward Steele and bird along the Missouri River in the morning. We hope to see many riparian species and uncommon breeders such as Least Tern and Piping Plover.

In the afternoon, we'll make our first stop in the 'prairie pothole' region at McKenzie Slough where species such as Black Tern and Yellow-headed Blackbird are abundant. We plan to make it to our hotel in Steele by the late afternoon/early evening.

-Overnight: Steele, ND



Black Tern

June 1: Full day birding Dewald Slough/Lake Etta, Big Muddy Lake, Horsehead Lake

The entire day will be spent birding a portion of the 'prairie pothole' region. In the early morning, there can be so many birds singing that it's almost overwhelming! We'll search for species such as Western, Clark's, and Eared Grebes, Wilson's Phalaropes, Marbled Godwits, and LeConte's and Nelson's Sparrows. In the afternoon, we'll bird around Horsehead Lake where species such as Common Tern, American Bittern, Red-necked Grebes, and many others are rather common.

-Overnight: Steele, ND

June 2: Full day birding around Chase Lake NWR and MacLean Bottoms and transfer to Bismarck

Our final day of birding on this tour will begin at Chase Lake NWR which contains the largest breeding colony of American White Pelicans in the United States. Depending on what species have been recently seen, the guide will make a decision as to the best locations to visit during much of the day. Time permitting, we'll bird along the Missouri River in the late afternoon after transferring back to Bismarck.

-Overnight: Bismarck, ND



LeConte's Sparrow

June 3: Departure from Bismarck, ND

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Bismarck, North Dakota: \$2,399

Single Supplement: \$500

Minimum Participants: 4

Maximum Participants: 5

Price Includes:

Expert Guide

Ground Transportation in North Dakota

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Bismarck, ND

Visa and Passport Fees (if applicable)

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Tips

Travel Insurance

Deposit:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (February 28, 2022).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:

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