



North Dakota

Prairie Birding at its Best!

Tour Leader: Eric Ripma
May 26 - June 1, 2027

Itinerary Overview:

May 26: Arrival in Bismarck, ND - Transfer to Dickinson

May 27: Little Missouri National Grassland (LMNG) and the Little Missouri River

May 28: Southern portions of Little Missouri National Grassland

May 29: Missouri River and McKenzie Slough - Transfer to Steele

May 30: Horsehead Lake Area

May 31: Chase Lake NWR and surroundings - Transfer to Bismarck

June 1: Departure from Bismarck, ND

Detailed Itinerary:

May 26: Arrival in Bismarck, ND - Transfer to 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 the Little Missouri National Grassland, the largest national grassland in the country. Time permitting, we will bird around a lake just outside of Dickinson in the evening.

-Overnight: Dickinson, ND



Chestnut-collared Longspur

May 27: Little Missouri National Grassland (LMNG) and the Little Missouri River

Today we'll visit Little Missouri National Grassland. As we explore the vast expanses of this property, we'll search for Chestnut-collared Longspur, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Baird's Sparrow, and Sprague's Pipit

among the more common species such as Western Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, and Grasshopper Sparrows. We'll also visit a couple of Black-tailed Prairie Dog towns where we will look for the Burrowing Owls that nest within the towns.

In the afternoon we will visit Rough Rider State Park and spend time birding the riparian habitats that this park protects. We will be looking for Bullock's Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Spotted Towhee, Ovenbird, and many others!

-Overnight: Dickinson, ND

May 28: Southern portions of Little Missouri National Grassland

On this day we will spend time birding portions of the Little Missouri National Grassland to the south of where we birded the previous day. As we head into these southern sections, we will spend time in more grassland, Ponderosa Pine forest, badland, and riparian habitats. Some of the species we will be searching for include Golden Eagle, Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Bluebird, and Sprague's Pipit. We will also spend time looking for any species we may have missed the previous day. Our list for today is sure to be long and varied.

-Overnight: Dickinson, ND

May 29: Missouri River and McKenzie Slough - Transfer to Steele

We'll begin our drive east toward Steele with a couple birding stops along the way along the Missouri River. We hope to see many riparian species and uncommon breeders such as Least Tern and Piping-Plover. After lunch in Bismarck, 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 should also



Yellow-headed Blackbird

get our first close looks at many species of ducks and grebes. We plan to make it to our hotel in Steele by the late afternoon/early evening.

-Overnight: Steele, ND

May 30: Horsehead Lake Area

The entire day will be spent birding the portion of the 'prairie pothole' region around Horsehead Lake. 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 on the eastern side of Horsehead Lake where species such as Common Tern, American Bittern, Red-necked Grebes, and many others are common.

-Overnight: Steele, ND

May 31: Chase Lake NWR and surroundings - 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 we have seen thus far, the guide will make a decision as to the best locations to visit during much of the day.

-Overnight: Bismarck, ND

June 1: Departure from Bismarck, ND



American Bittern



Marbled Godwit



Nelson's Sparrow

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Bismarck, North Dakota: \$4,299

Single Supplement: \$700

Minimum Participants: 3

Maximum Participants: 6

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 25, 2027).

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

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