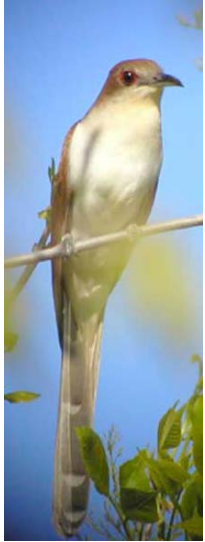




Birding in the Sheyenne River Valley by Jean Legge, Dakota Birding

Most wanted birds in the Sheyenne River valley that people travel to see include:

1. Black-billed Cuckoo*
2. Yellow-billed Cuckoo* (rare-found only along river in Sheyenne Grassland area)
3. Eastern Wood Pewee
4. Grasshopper sparrow
5. Clay-colored sparrow
6. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow*
7. Bobolink
8. Ferruginous Hawk*
9. LeConte's Sparrow*
10. Yellow Rail *
11. Eastern Screech Owl
12. Upland Sandpiper
13. Sharp-tailed Grouse*
14. Black Terns
15. American Avocet
16. Wilson's Phalarope
17. Gray Partridge*
18. Dicksissel*
19. Great Crested Flycatcher*
20. Western Kingbird
21. Vesper Sparrow
22. Indigo Bunting
23. Yellow-headed Blackbird
24. Pileated Woodpecker
25. Red-headed Woodpecker
26. Bald Eagle



Black-billed Cuckoo



Top Left- Grasshopper Sparrow
Top Right- Clay-colored Sparrow
Middle: American Avocet
Bottom: Gray Partridge



The birds seen in the river valley in the spring are attractive because they are in breeding plumage and exhibit interesting breeding behaviors and songs.

Spring migration could include any number of warblers and thrushes- the timing is approximate and is based on the weather. The major waterfowl migration is more of a plains observation, but there is plenty to see if you venture out of the river valley to view it.

Fall migration for warblers and sparrows is challenging because the birds have lost their breeding coloration but thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds can be seen as they wend their way south.

The best birding action is during spring migration and early summer breeding season.