

## Species of Habitat Fragmentation Concern

**Species:** Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)

**Habitat Preference:** Seasonal resident, species nests in North Dakota. Historically Baird's Sparrow was one of the most common prairie birds but now considered rare throughout its range and only locally abundant depending on the condition of grasslands (Green et al., 2002). Prefers native prairie, but will utilize CRP grasslands, and lightly to moderately grazed pastures (Hagen et al., 2005). In northwestern North Dakota, Baird's Sparrow territories characterized as, "...grasslands with litter up to 2 cm deep, <10% woody cover, relatively high forb coverage (29%), intermediate vegetation with mean height 23 cm and with patchy distribution of forbs, grass, and bare soil; litter depth greater inside territories than outside (1.19 vs. 0.87 cm), and sites with shrub cover >25% avoided.." (Green et al., 2002).

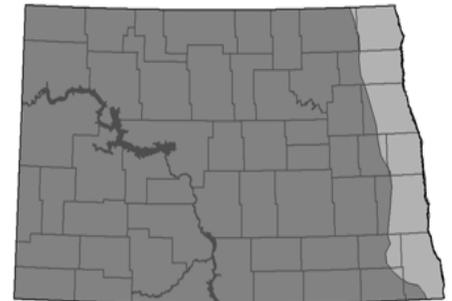
**Habitat Fragmentation Concerns:** Species of Conservation Priority in North Dakota because of significant population declines and restricted breeding range (Level I; Hagen et al., 2005). Density and occurrence of Baird's Sparrows is sensitive to habitat patch size (Ribic et al., 2009). Roads appear to impact abundance of Baird's Sparrows in native prairie (Green et al., 2002). Loss of grassland habitat through conversion for agricultural use, invasive species and proliferation of shrubs due to fire suppression major threats to species survival (Green et al., 2002; Hagen et al., 2005)

### General Review Literature:

- Green, M. T., P. E. Lowther, S. L. Jones, S. K. Davis and B. C. Dale. 2002. Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/638>
- Hagen, S.K., P.T. Isakson, and S.R. Dyke. 2005. North Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Bismarck, ND. 454 pp. <http://gf.nd.gov/conservation/cwcs.html>
- Ribic, C.A., R.R. Koford, J.R. Herkert, D.H. Johnson, N.D. Niemuth, D.E. Naugle, K.K. Bakker, D.W. Sample, and R.B. Renfrew. 2009. Area sensitivity in North American grassland birds: Patterns and process. *Auk* 126:233-244.



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**Map of Species Range in North Dakota**  
Source: Hagen et al., 2005

Additional Species Management Information: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/bais/bais.htm>