

DISCOVER WELD COUNTY COLORADO

Video Transcript for Pawnee National Grassland Self-Guided Bird Tour:

Lori Bell, District Ranger for the Pawnee National Grassland, speaking.

[Lori Bell, District Range Manager for the Pawnee National Grassland speaking]

“A great thing to do in the spring is to go out to the Pawnee National Grassland and take the bird tour route. It's a 21-mile route, and the roads are all in really good shape. There are multiple pull-outs, approximately 12 or 13 pull outs, and there are signs at each pull out that talk about the bird species that you might find there.

“Some of the bird species are American Kestrel, Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, Longspur, Curlew and various hawk species -- the Ferruginous Hawk, the Red Tail, the Swainson's Hawk. The Burrowing Owl habitat is on the prairie dog towns, and so they will use some of the burrows that the prairie dogs created, and they nest in those spots. So if you see a prairie dog town, you will see prairie dogs and there is a good chance you will see some burrowing owls, too.

“Binoculars are a must, especially during the spring season (when) a lot of these birds are nesting. They get kind of nervous if people get too close; it can affect their ability to raise their young or to stay the eggs so you will want to keep your distance and keep your visits a little short and then move on.

“Plan on anywhere from two to two and a half hours. And it depends on the time of year and the time of day you go out too as to how successful you will be at seeing these birds. Also we have several outfitter guide permits, and there are tours that go out and look at these bird species. These tours include people from the United Kingdom and all over the country...it is world renowned as a good place to see (birds) especially the Plover.”

The Pawnee National Grassland Visitors Center is located at 660 O Street in Greeley.



WWW.DISCOVERWELD.COM

