from the Permit Area and contained habitats not found in the Permit Area. Together, the pond, marsh, and riparian trees at Plot 6 constituted an oasis that attracted not only waterfowl, marsh birds, and riparian obligates (some of which nested there) but also migrants (including passerines) that used this taller, denser vegetation for cover and foraging during stopovers. Twenty-two species were detected at the other seven plots in habitat that is found within the Permit Area. Horned lark and western meadowlark were each found at six of the seven small plots, the only species found during all four survey seasons, and the most commonly detected species. Rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) was detected during spring, summer, and fall seasons (at the three plots containing a small amount of exposed rock). Six species were detected multiple times during spring and summer seasons; these were Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), sagebrush sparrow (*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*), and sage thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*). All these birds are presumed to breed in or near the Permit Area, and active nests of horned lark, lark sparrow, and common nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) were found incidentally during other surveys. Mountain bluebirds (*Sialia currucoides*) were detected at two plots, but these detections occurred on a single fall survey day. ~~Twelve~~Nine other species were detected on a single occasion and at a single plot: ferruginous hawk, California quail (*Callipepla californica*), ~~mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), common raven, barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*),~~ northern flicker, greater yellowlegs, canyon wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*), American robin, black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), ~~white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*),~~ dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), ~~Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*),~~ and ~~house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*).~~lazuli bunting.

2.22.2 RAPTOR NEST SURVEYS

Three raptor nests were active in 2013. One of these, a common raven nest, was active again in 2014. A burrowing owl nest was identified by the presence of an adult owl and an abundance at the burrow entrance of pellets and excrement of this species. Only a single individual was ever seen at any one time, however, so whether a breeding attempt occurred remains uncertain. (Surveys did not begin in 2013 until after breeding would be expected to be complete.) A successful breeding attempt by long-eared owls was documented by the presence at the pond of three young of this species and a stick nest in a tree with pellets and excrement in and beneath it. This nest was likely originally built by black-billed magpies (*Pica hudsonia*).

One active ferruginous hawk nest was observed within the 2-Mile Buffer Study Area during the April 27, 2014, aerial raptor nesting survey performed by NWC (NWC, 2014). Within 10 m of the active ferruginous hawk nest, there was an inactive alternate nest. There were also two older inactive nests built by ferruginous hawks approximately 2 and 3 kilometers (km) to the northeast and east-northeast of the active nest. These nests likely represented a separate ferruginous hawk breeding territory from the past. Three active common raven nests were also located during the aerial survey. These nests could be used in future years by raptors, especially by great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) or prairie falcon, both of which will use stick nests constructed by other species. There were two other inactive stick nests (besides those of ferruginous hawk) identified during the aerial survey.

Raptor nest surveys were flown within the 2-Mile Buffer Study Area on April 21 and 28, 2017, in conjunction with the greater sage-grouse lek surveys. Potential nesting sites for raptors were surveyed from 100 ft to 350 ft from the aircraft. Nest site transect routes were flown along likely habitat on rock outcroppings, cliff faces, trees, and powerline structures. No occupied raptor nests were recorded during