

Crandall Hills Prairie



Located: Southwestern Day County, 7 miles west of Bristol, SD to Crandall, SD.

Day County, Twp 120N Rng 59W and Twp 121N Rng 59W

Access: Privately owned lands, obtain permission before entering. Prairie and grassland birds can be viewed from the marked roads. All roads are maintained gravel.

Peckham Ranch, Crandall Hills (photo by Dennis Skadsen)

Description:

Some of the largest tracts of remnant tallgrass prairie are found in southwestern Day County in the area locally known as the Crandall Hills. Follow the route marked on the adjacent map beginning on 416th Ave west of Bristol, SD, proceeding south to near Crandall, SD, and then looping back to 413th Ave north to 147th St, finally heading east toward Bristol. This is an excellent area to look for grassland birds. On the upland prairies look for the Short-eared owl, Upland sandpiper, and Chestnut-collared longspur. On the lowland prairies Grasshopper, Henslow's, Savannah, and Vesper sparrows have been observed. Pronghorn antelope, reintroduced to the area in the 1960s, are often observed in the hills along the marked route. Due to the abundance and diversity of native prairie plants the Crandall Hills provides habitat for several species of prairie butterflies that include the Regal fritillary, Prairie ringlet, Plains skipper, Leonard's skipper and the rare Dakota skipper.

