

Osborn, R.G., C.D. Dieter, K.F. Higgins, and R.E. Usgaard. 1997. Bird flight characteristics near wind turbines in Minnesota. *American Midland Naturalist* 139:29-38.

Abstract: During 1994-1995, we saw 70 species of birds on Buffalo Ridge Wind Resource Area. In both years bird abundance peaked in spring. Red-winged blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), common grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and barn swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) were the species most commonly seen. Most birds (82-84%) flew above or below the height range of wind turbine blades (22-55 m). The Buffalo Ridge Wind Resource Area poses little threat to resident or migrating birds at its current operating level.