

# Beneficial Management Practices For Species At Risk

## BURROWING OWL

- ◆ Maintain grassland pastures at least one quarter-section in size, preferably in close proximity to other grasslands.
- ◆ Avoid planting trees or shrubs on native or tame pasture and reduce or remove woody vegetation in native or tame grasslands by burning, grazing, mowing or manual removal.
- ◆ Graze the pasture in a pattern that creates a mosaic of shorter and taller vegetation.



Geoff Holroyd



Andrea Kotylak

- ◆ Reduce livestock use at nest sites during the nesting and young rearing periods (May through June) and avoid placing salt blocks near nest sites in order to reduce the risk of trampling and collapsing of burrows.
- ◆ Plow fields early, removing potential nest burrows in crop fields before the owls arrive to encourage them to nest in other grassland pastures.

- ◆ Use direct or zero-till seeding during the critical nesting period (May through June) to improve the chances of Burrowing Owl survival.
- ◆ Avoid spraying insecticides that reduce Burrowing Owl prey populations; if insect control is necessary, use an insecticide with the lowest toxicity to non-target organisms and avoid spraying insecticides within 600m of burrows that contain owls during the breeding season.



Dan Johnson

## PIPING PLOVER



David Krughoff

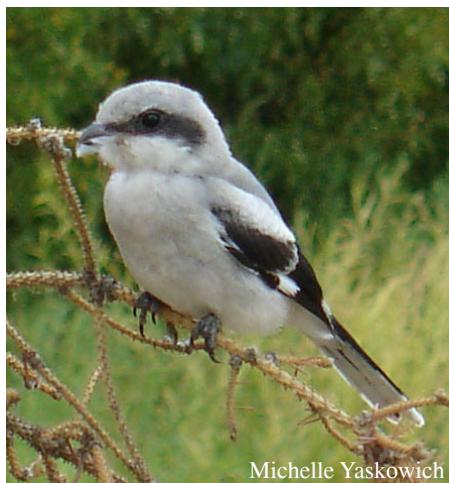
- ◆ Keep livestock away from Piping Plover nesting sites during the breeding season (May to July).
- ◆ Graze shorelines in early spring, late summer, or fall when plovers are not nesting and when the shoreline is dry to prevent pugging and hummocking (holes and mounds).
- ◆ Wetlands should not be drained as they provide more services to the ecosystem than just wildlife habitat, such as water filtration, recharging aquifers and capturing floodwater.

- ◆ Avoid constructing dams or dugouts that divert water away from natural water bodies that are used by plovers.

- ◆ Stagger the timing of withdrawals from water bodies, when possible, to prevent the water bodies from being drawn down too quickly or go dry.

- ◆ If the water needs to be drawn down, do it as slowly as possible (2 to 3 cm per week) in spring and summer to ensure prey availability for the plovers.

- ◆ Provide off-site watering facilities for livestock; this will reduce the disturbance to Piping Plover habitat during the breeding season.



## LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

- ◆ Maintain grassland pastures at least one quarter-section in size, preferably in close proximity to other grasslands.

- ◆ Prevent bird access to grain (clean up spilled grain and store grain in bird and rodent proof bins), and adjust feeding times to the afternoon when invasive species like European Starlings and sparrows are less active.

- ◆ Moderate grazing intensities, durations and frequencies between May and October to create a mosaic of shorter and taller grasses within a pasture.

- ◆ Plant trees and shrubs in areas where they already exist such as upgrading shelterbelts or in abandoned farmsteads.

- ◆ Plant woody vegetation at least 200m from busy roads.



*"Humanity in Harmony  
with Nature"*

- ◆ Restrict livestock access to woody vegetation, i.e. shelterbelts, during the spring when these plants are susceptible to damage, as livestock tend to destroy woody vegetation by rubbing.

- ◆ Use prescribed burning to manage woody vegetation and provide variable vegetation structure.