

# RECONSIDERING NATIONAL PARK INTERPRETATION OF THE GREAT PLAINS AND TRANS-MISSISSIPPI WEST

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**ABSTRACT**—The National Park Service has generally interpreted its sites in the Great Plains in terms of a Eurocentric narrative of westward expansion. Though some sites are changing (e.g., Little Bighorn), others are not (e.g., Scotts Bluff). Even those sites that have changed still retain important elements of traditional narratives, which often date to the 1930s or to the Mission 66 period (1956–66). The newest sites, such as Washita Battlefield, tell newer stories that resonate well with today’s visitors. These provide a model for revising older sites. Giving greater attention to causes and consequences, aiming for a richer mix of disciplinary perspectives, including a wider range of historic and prehistoric peoples, and providing more balance in cases of war or cultural conflict will all improve interpretation. Exploring multiple meanings of resources such as wilderness will bring the National Park Service’s practices closer to modern academic literatures. Engaging both controversial histories and modern controversies over policy constitutes good pedagogy and should also be part of updated interpretative programs.

**Key Words:** westward expansion, interpretation, national parks

# EVALUATING THE ROLE OF LATINIDAD AND THE LATINO THREAT IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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**ABSTRACT**—Growing Latino populations in midwestern cities of the United States are leading to the creation of contested ethnic spaces and urban landscapes. In this article we examine the historical, demographic, and social contexts associated with a growing sense of *Latinidad* and the countervailing *Latino threat narrative* in Kansas City and St. Louis, the two largest metropolitan areas in Missouri. *Latinidad*, or a notion of belonging based on ethnic identity in Missouri, is being challenged by nativist discourses that frame the growing Latino population as a threat. We highlight the different historical trajectories and geographical characteristics that have created distinct demographic profiles among the emerging Latino populations of Kansas City and St. Louis. These demographic profiles reflect the historical and geographic specificities of each city, but also highlight the ways that the Latino populations in two geographically proximate urban areas in the Midwest can have different trajectories. Finally, we outline three instances of Latino struggles for social and/or political recognition in Missouri, and suggest that the meaning of Latino population growth for both cities will be contested through the conflicting discourses of *Latinidad* and Latino threat.

**Key Words:** demographics, *Latinidad*, Latino threat, Midwest, urban

# THE RIGHT CALL: BASEBALL COACHES' ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE UMPIRES

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**ABSTRACT**—On-field conversations and confrontations between baseball coaches and umpires have long been a part of the game. An umpire's decision can alter the course of the game, but little has been written about the exchanges between a coach or manager and umpire, especially in relation to theoretical considerations. This study applies management and leadership theories in exploring the strategies baseball coaches use to contest an umpire's decision. By using leadership scholar John E. Barbuto's concept of influence tactics and the various types of social power discussed by sociologists John R. French and Bertram Raven, the study also tests the congruence theory that baseball imitates the workplace. The investigators interviewed six high school and six college baseball coaches in Iowa and Nebraska and found that the strategies used by coaches to dispute calls can be categorized into five tenets: (1) coaches say it's their duty to question umpires and to keep their players from arguing with umpires; (2) coaches expect umpires to use their fellow crew members to help during close calls and to admit their mistakes; (3) coaches say they can help their cause by showing respect for umpires and building positive relationships with them; (4) coaches believe that discretion is important in deciding when they should argue a call; and (5) coaches say their arguments aren't meant to reverse a call but to prevent the umpire from making the same mistake later in the game or in future games. Such strategies are also used in the workplace by managers who want to influence employees or fellow managers, thus reinforcing the congruence theory and demonstrating the similarities between baseball and the workplace. Future research should examine the umpire's perspective during disputed calls and whether the approaches used by high school and college coaches are the same as those used by managers of professional baseball teams.

**Key Words:** baseball, coaches, influence tactics, social power, umpires

# DOCUMENTING CHANGE AT UPPER HAMBURG BEND: NEBRASKA'S FIRST SIDE-CHANNEL RESTORATION

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**ABSTRACT**—In 1996 a side channel was excavated on 629 hectares of former agricultural land at Upper Hamburg Bend on the Missouri River in Otoe County, NE. This was the first side channel constructed on the Missouri River in an attempt to restore lost aquatic habitat. The initial design was for an approximately 4,200 m long side channel to be constructed with a 3 m bottom width. Development of the site was to be dependent on flows diverted from the main channel of the river with a final projected top width of 61 m. The side channel was completed in the spring, and shortly thereafter the site was subjected to a series of flood events. The side channel has been subjected to periods of both high and low water since opening. We documented physical changes at the site with the aid of aerial photography, acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) surveys, and topographic surveys. By 2010 the side channel was 4,342 m long with a mean top width of 89.5 m. Channel development has occurred during periods of high and low water. ADCP surveys established that mean depths and velocities have increased since 2001. An increase in the amount of discharge through the side channel since 2001 has resulted in the loss of some of the shallower and lower velocity habitats. Modifications to the site may be necessary to reverse this loss of shallow, slow water habitat that the side channel was designed to provide. Although new off-channel aquatic habitat has been created, channel development has been impacted by the presence of rock control structures throughout the site. Reducing the number of control structures to the minimum necessary to prohibit the side channel from impacting adjacent properties may allow the continued restoration of lost alluvial processes through the ongoing process of bend development and migration.

**Key Words:** alluvial processes, chute, mitigation, pallid sturgeon, restoration, side channel

# INITIAL CHANGES IN SPECIES COVER FOLLOWING SAVANNA RESTORATION TREATMENTS IN WESTERN IOWA

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**ABSTRACT**—Study areas in the Iowa Loess Hills were used to evaluate short-term responses of understory species to three treatment methods designed to facilitate restoration of *Quercus macrocarpa* savanna. Treatments included burning alone, burning with thinning, and burning with clear-cutting. Plant abundance and diversity were compared before treatment and one year after treatment. Ninety-nine plant species were identified during the study, of which 40 were new following treatment, although most of these were forest associates. Increases in diversity of understory species were observed after treatment, particularly in plots with combined burning and thinning. The forb group was most consistent in response to treatment, increasing in cover an average of 9% in burn-only plots to 33% in burn-clear plots. *Carex* spp. and *Eupatorium rugosum* were the species most consistently responsive to treatments, but responses varied widely among other species. Density of canopy tree species generally did not decline with burning, indicating fire alone is ineffective in short-term removal of established trees. Although short term, our results suggest that a combination of prescribed burning and thinning of canopy trees is most likely to provide environmental conditions suitable for increasing the amount and diversity of herbaceous species comparable to a savanna ecosystem, while also increasing fine-fuel loads that will facilitate future prescribed burning.

**Key Words:** bur oak, Iowa, Loess Hills, *Quercus macrocarpa*, restoration, savanna

# MONITORING STANDING HERBAGE OF THE SANDS AND CHOPPY SANDS ECOLOGICAL VEGETATION TYPES IN THE NEBRASKA SANDHILLS

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**ABSTRACT**—A modified Robel pole with white and gray alternating bands (2.54 cm) was used to measure vegetation on sands and choppy sands ecological types in the Sandhills of Nebraska. Objectives were to determine the relationship between visual obstruction readings (VOR) and clipped standing herbage, develop guidelines for monitoring standing herbage, and provide sample size estimates. Visual obstruction measurements of standing herbage were linear, and regression coefficients were significant ( $P < 0.001$ ) for 125 transects ( $R^2 = 0.60$ ,  $SE = 496$  kg/ha). Clipped standing herbage ranged from 293 to 4389 kg/ha with a mean of 1,559 kg/ha. A minimum of four transects (20 stations/transect with four readings/station) is required for monitoring key areas or small areas up to 259 ha in size. Cluster analyses (ISODATA) applied to VOR and standing herbage resulted in four resource categories: short, short intermediate, intermediate, and tall. Band 3 corresponded to approximately 40% utilization of herbage. The protocol and guidelines developed provide managers with a tool that is cost effective, accurate, and reliable for management and monitoring standing herbage.

**Key Words:** grassland structure, livestock, management, Robel pole, wildlife

# REVIEW OF CONSPECIFIC ATTRACTION AND AREA SENSITIVITY OF GRASSLAND BIRDS

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**ABSTRACT**—Many species of grassland birds are area sensitive, which may exacerbate the ecological effects of the extensive loss and fragmentation of grasslands that has taken place across the northern Great Plains. However, the reasons for this area sensitivity are unclear, as vegetation structure, matrix composition, and restriction of movements among patches do not seem to provide viable explanations for species native to grasslands. Conspecific attraction, whereby species are behaviorally stimulated to select habitat or establish territories near individuals of the same species, may help explain this area sensitivity. We review and discuss theoretical and empirical research on avian conspecific attraction and area sensitivity of grassland birds. While the body of literature on these subjects is growing, there have been few experimental tests of conspecific attraction in grassland bird species and none that investigate its role in grassland-bird area sensitivity. We suggest that research into the role that conspecific attraction may play in grassland-bird habitat selection could provide new insights into the mechanisms behind area sensitivity in grassland birds and yield new management tools for their conservation.

**Key Words:** area sensitivity, behavioral ecology, conspecific attraction, grassland birds, landscape ecology

# NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF GREAT PLAINS PSEUDOSCORPIONS (ARACHNIDA: PSEUDOSCORPIONES)

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**ABSTRACT**—Pseudoscorpions are tiny, oval, brown, flattened arachnids that possess large “pinchers” in front of the body for capturing smaller prey. They generally live in forested habitats in soil litter or beneath loose bark. It has been presumed that pseudoscorpions are scarce in the Great Plains, except for along rivers, due to harsh climatic conditions. However, new records of pseudoscorpions from the Great Plains were derived from identification of specimens obtained from university and college collections, and from specimens collected by the first author. Records provided new revelations about distributions of not only the more commonly known pseudoscorpion species but also species previously not believed to be adaptable to grassland habitats. For example, *Dactylochelifer silvestris* Hoff, a western species, appears to be common throughout the Great Plains, with new state records from Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. In addition, *Parachernes nubilus* (Hoff) previously was not known from Kansas, Nebraska, or Texas, and *Parachernes virginicus* Hoff, *Apocheiridium stannardi* Hoff, *Hysterochelifer proprius* Hoff, and *Chthonius tetrachelatus* (Preyssler) are newly recorded for Nebraska. Records of *Microbisium parvulum* from Rapp (1978) in Nebraska were bolstered by five more in the state.

**Key Words:** pseudoscorpion, false scorpion, arthropod records, Great Plains, grasslands, ecology, yucca, sagebrush