

## **Upland Sandpiper Reproduction and Other Delights at Buena Vista Grasslands In 2013**

By Mike Huebschen

The Upland Sandpipers at Buena Vista grasslands intersected with my visits there on a number of occasions in 2013. Not only was I fortunate in capturing on memory card the poses of an adult perched on a beautifully weathered wooden fence post, but was also treated to their power line ballet on several occasions. On 11 July I got to watch three juveniles picking up gravel on the road bed. They allowed a small number of hurried photos before scurrying back into the field from whence they had emerged. Their slightly gangly, fuzzy forms brought that tingly sensation to the perception center.

Savannah Sparrows allowed some decent photos at a number of locales. The ever hyper-kinetic Bobolinks were a challenge to photograph. The native Meadowlarks there were just as big a challenge to approach for photos. My limited successes left plenty of room for future improvements. The effervescent Dickcissels were there again in 2013, although probably in lesser numbers than in 2012, as seemed to be the case in the rest of the state.

A number of sightings of Orchard Orioles sparked hopes for future contact and photographs. Clay-colored and Henslow's Sparrows are also on that list.

On a nearby dairyfarm in Portage County, I took in the "eleventh hour" displays of Greater Prairie Chickens on two cold (one very frosty) early May mornings. On both occasions, I noted a Peregrine Falcon buzzing the birds and flushing them from the booming ground.