Birding Boyer upland and Erskine, May 15, 2009

I scoured Boyer's ranch today for curlews but no luck. I suspect the occassional birds that have been seen by Boyer are migrant birds headed for southern BC or southern Alberta. Viewing conditions were excellent today so if a curlew was present I should have found it. It was rather quiet for birds. Few migrant songbirds are back. A Western Meadowlark and Vesper Sparrow were singing on territory. An adult Golden Eagle was in the area where we found immatures last year. I suspect the birds last year are now adults. They hang out in the most remote and protected part of his ranch. The significant find was a pair of Swainson's Hawks soaring over the south end of his property. They are new for the Boyer bird list and are a National Audubon Watchlist species.

At Erskine, two pairs for Barrow’s Goldeneye were present in the oxbow.