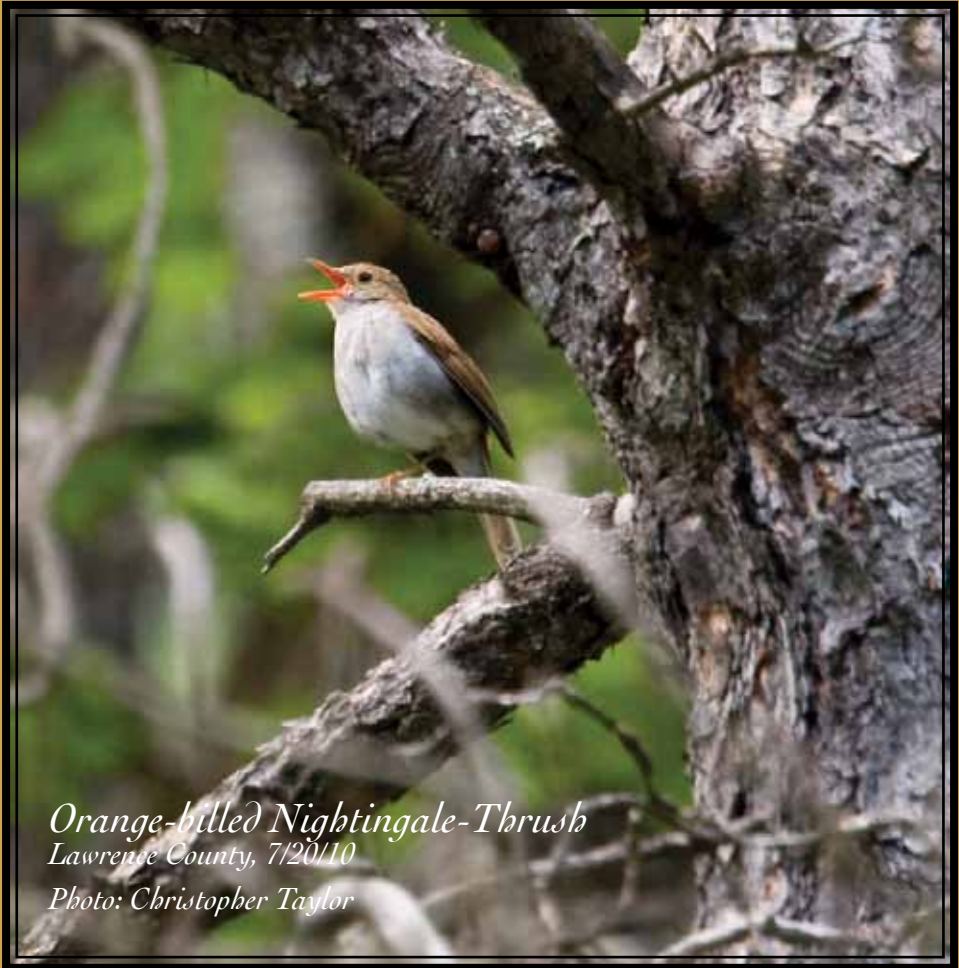


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# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

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*Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush*  
*Lawrence County, 7/20/10*  
*Photo: Christopher Taylor*

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S O U T H          D A K O T A  
B I R D     N O T E S

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION  
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March deadline is February 15  
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 December deadline is November 15

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This will be my last President's Page. I wish to address our membership on two issues.

*Todd Jensen*

First, we as an organization have been very fortunate that we have had members who continually are willing to serve within the SDOU on committees, as board of directors members and as officers, plus members setting up and running the spring and fall meetings. While we have benefitted from their generosity greatly, we cannot become too very dependent on them. Continually relying on just a few can lead to burn out and perhaps even feelings of being taken for granted. Also, new blood needs to be entering the leadership positions bringing new energies and thought-provoking ideas. Birdwatching has become a very rapidly growing form of recreation. However, as I have observed those attending our spring and fall meetings our membership seems to have stopped attracting those in their teens and twenties. We are starting to age, folks, with most members in their thirties, forties, fifties and



above. While we say it often, it is becoming critical that we attract new (and younger) members to SDOU; thus creating leadership for the future. It is not difficult and does not require you to be a professional ornithologist. Who knows?—you may have skills that you have not put to use or were unaware that you possessed. Board of Directors (BOD) members are elected for a three-year term and just need to be a member in good standing (dues current and attend at least half of BOD meetings). Officers are selected by the board from the currently elected BOD. Officers are the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian and Editor. All are elected each fall at the BOD meeting. The Editor, Librarian, Secretary and Treasurer change less often as it is difficult to fill these positions and also provide continuity for the organization. The individuals serving these positions have been very gracious in serving these position long term. The vice-president and president's positions are generally elected to two one-year terms. The vice-president then usually moves into the president's position. The editor of *South Dakota Bird Notes* has the most work of any of the officers. Other positions require less time. To find out what is required one can go to the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation. As the new calendar year approaches, consider serving SDOU.

Secondly, the push for crops as bio-fuels is in my opinion a terrible use for food crops, considering all the people worldwide who are malnourished, leading to many deaths. To increase crop yields for bio-fuels the trend is to "tile" existing wetlands; tiling means draining them. Thereby a resulting loss of wetland habitat long-term could, in effect, cause a significant loss of habitat for shorebirds and other wetland habitat species. The other side effect that people do not consider is that water still has to go *someplace*, so those still-extant wetlands, creeks, lakes, ponds, rivers and streams will flood even worse due to the increased volume being forced into fewer areas for water to be channeled. If we want to protect South Dakota's wetlands birds, then we need to double and re-double our effort towards wetland conservation. One way is through the purchase of a US Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, most of which goes toward purchasing wetlands, providing habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and non-game species plus fisheries as well. Even birdwatching and other wildlife viewing on a number of NWR require you show this stamp. At the current cost of \$15.00 it's a bargain.

I want to wish you all good birding for this and the years to come.

# NESTING SAW-WHET OWLS IN HARDING COUNTY

by Charlie Miller • Buffalo, SD 57720

In the summer of 2002 after reading an article in *Audubon* magazine about nest boxes for Eastern Screech-Owls, I placed eleven boxes in the Slim Buttes and Cave Hills. In 2003 I didn't have any luck with screech-owls, but two boxes had been used by Northern Saw-whet Owls. Although I didn't check early enough to gather any data, it did spark my interest for what has followed. That summer I began adding boxes, establishing seven different areas in the North and South Cave Hills, the Slim Buttes and the East and West Short Pines. I have nests located in stands of ponderosa pine and deciduous draws with the most success occurring in the deciduous draws. Usage varies substantially from year to year, and seems to be quite concentrated under good conditions. One area in the south Slim Buttes just over a mile long by less than one half mile wide contains fourteen nest boxes. It encompasses a large spring-fed draw with numerous smaller side drainages and is filled with a nice mix of ash, box elder, open areas and ponderosa pine. In 2006 none of the boxes were used. In 2007 seven out of the fourteen boxes were successfully used, fledging a total of thirty-seven owlets. Three boxes in the heart of the draw, spaced three to four hundred yards apart in the form of a rough triangle, were all used and fledged seventeen owlets. In 2008 only one box was used, fledging three owlets.

I start checking boxes in early to mid-March during the day by approaching the nest tree just close enough to check the opening for an owl, and at night by listening for advertising calls near the nest box. Another reliable indicator is the presence of dark gray downy feathers from the brood patch stuck to the edge of the opening. Any boxes showing promise are noted. I try to open and check all nest boxes twice, the first time in late April or early May and again in July. Active nests I attempt to check more frequently, although distance, time constraints and the growing number of boxes hasn't allowed checking as often as I would like. The female in most cases is looking from the opening as you approach and will fly off to a nearby perch, watching intently while the nest is checked, returning within a few minutes after you leave. There have been nine occasions where the female has remained in the nest box while it was checked. This seems to be an individual behavior, so far exhibited by only three different owls. It has happened two years in a row in the same nest box which does raise the question, "Does the same owl use the same nest site in consecutive years?" Also of note there have been six times where an owl has been present early but no eggs were laid. These were possibly males unsuccessful in their attempts to attract a mate. One box in particular contained twenty-eight pellets and some prey remains. To date, 24 March 2007 has been the earliest date with an owl on eggs, and 29 July 2004 the latest date with young still in the nest. The earliest date to have an owl in the nest box is 11 March 2007.

I note the number of eggs and or owlets as well as unconsumed prey, usually mice and voles, though on one occasion a Yellow-rumped Warbler. The amount of prey varies from box to box and from year to year but is usually present, in particular, early in the nesting cycle when the female is incubating or the young are still very small. One box in the north Slim Buttes contained four very small owlets (less than

a week old), three eggs (which later hatched), eight voles and three mice. Clutch size has ranged from two to nine eggs, with four, five, or six being most common. I remove and analyze the prey material after the young have fledged. Of the forty-eight successful nesting attempts (nests which fledged at least one owlet) all contained numerous rodent bones and skulls, usually quite fragmented. Twenty-seven nests contained small bird remains, usually in the form of feathers (some of which can be identified). The following have been noted: House Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Cedar Waxwing, and blue primary feathers probably from either an Eastern or Mountain Bluebird or Lazuli Bunting. Two nests contained bat skulls and wing bones (metacarpals and phalanges). One of these also contained a small metal band on which I wasn't able to make out any markings. Nest box mortality seems to be fairly common with twenty nests containing the remains of twenty-nine owlets of various ages. Also, thirteen nests contained a total of sixteen eggs that hadn't hatched. I didn't keep track of this from the beginning but insect remains were fairly common.

In Table 1, I have listed seven nests as lost to predation and seven as abandoned. This area has several unanswered questions and is open to speculation but is broken down as follows:

- In two nests the eggs were taken before any had hatched.
- Another nest had two very small owlets and two eggs taken.
- One nest had two owlets fairly close to fledging taken from the nest. Numerous feathers were found on the ground at the base of the tree.
- One nest had five dead owlets the oldest of which were fully feathered close to fledging age. I'm guessing something possibly happened to the parents.
- In two nests the eggs were broken in one and intact in the other but both nests contained numerous adult saw-whet feathers including primary feathers.
- Three nests had eggs laid late and were abandoned sometime between the first and second check.
- Two of these nests had only one egg; the other nest had four eggs with partially developed embryos.
- Three nests had a total of eleven eggs laid early and were abandoned before the first check in April.
- The last case I checked the box 5 May and the female was incubating two eggs. The next check three weeks later the female was gone and both eggs had holes poked in them.

Other residents of the nest boxes have been Mountain Bluebirds (successful nests); Eastern Screech-Owls (both as a nest and a roost); Northern Flickers (roost only); Wood rats (numerous times as a midden and twice as a nest with young); European Starling (nests); American Kestrels (four nests); and, surprisingly, House Wrens (numerous times as a dummy nest and nine times where they actually nested). One of my better boxes has been up for six years and has been used each year, the first, fourth and fifth year by saw-whets. The second and third year it was used by American Kestrels, and in 2009, a pair of House Wrens successfully raised a clutch.

Although the owls were generally silent, vocalizations in and around the nest were as follows: (1) A slower subdued version of the advertising call by the male during the day, usually a few notes followed by silence when you approach the nest. I've only heard this call early in the nesting cycle while the female is laying eggs or

incubating. (2) Bill clapping. On a few occasions, when flushed from the nest the female will perch nearby and bill clap. Young that are close to fledging will also sometimes do this when the nest is opened. (3) Peeping eggs. I've heard this on two occasions, both times during the day. One egg had a one-eighth inch hole in it and I watched briefly while the owlet worked at enlarging it. This peeping sound is loud enough to be heard from the ground below the nest. (4) Begging calls. These can be heard shortly after sunset near a nest with recently fledged young. Also I've been lucky enough to find fledglings perched in a tree near the nest during the day. And at night, with the aid of a flashlight and their calls, I've found them moving in the trees nearby.

Each year I look forward to the new nesting season with a good deal of anticipation. There is something about approaching a nest box for the first time in the spring and seeing an owl looking back that I'll never tire of. They're fascinating little birds full of new surprises and unanswered questions, most of which will require someone with more time and expertise than I possess to answer. A few examples:

- (1) What becomes of the young after they fledge, how far do they disperse, and how many survive their first year?
- (2) The number of successful nests that contain the partial remains of owlets is another mystery.
- (3) Are they nomadic? Are they taking advantage of a spike in prey numbers, as the year 2007 in Table 1 might suggest?
- (4) And lastly, as nocturnal as they are, I'd be interested in knowing how susceptible they are to West Nile Virus.



*Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Cave Hills of Harding County, South Dakota  
Photo: Doug Backlund*

TABLE 1. NESTING SAW-WHET OWLS IN HARDING COUNTY

NEST BOX RESULTS									
DATE	2003*	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTALS	
AVAILABLE NEST BOXES	11	36	56	57	66	74	74		
NESTING ATTEMPTS**	2	10	9	2	30	12	5	70	
SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS	N.A	7	6	2	24	7	2	48	
NESTS ABANDONED	N.A	1	0	0	2	2	2	7	
NESTS LOST TO PREDATION	N.A	0	2	0	3	1	1	7	
EGGS LAID	N.A	43	32	8	155	49	20	307	
EGGS HATCHED	N.A.	38	24	8	135	29	8	242	
OWLETS FLEDGED	N.A	33	21	7	116	22	2	201	

\*2003 WASN'T CHECKED EARLY ENOUGH TO GATHER ANY DATA, NOT INCLUDED IN TOTALS.

\*\*NUMBER INCLUDES BOXES WHICH HAD AN OWL PRESENT EARLY BUT NO EGGS WERE LAID. THIS

HAPPENED ON SIX OCCASIONS. ALSO INCLUDES TWO NATURAL CAVITY NESTS, ONE IN 2004 AND

ONE IN 2005 FOR WHICH NO NUMBERS WERE AVAILABLE. BOTH NESTS WERE IN CAVITIES USED THE

YEAR BEFORE BY NORTHERN FLICKERS. THE AVERAGE CLUTCH SIZE HAS BEEN 4.95 EGGS.

78.8% OF EGGS LAID HAVE HATCHED. 83.06% OF HATCHLINGS HAVE FLEDGED AND 65.47% OF

EGGS LAID HAVE RESULTED IN A FLEDGED OWLET.

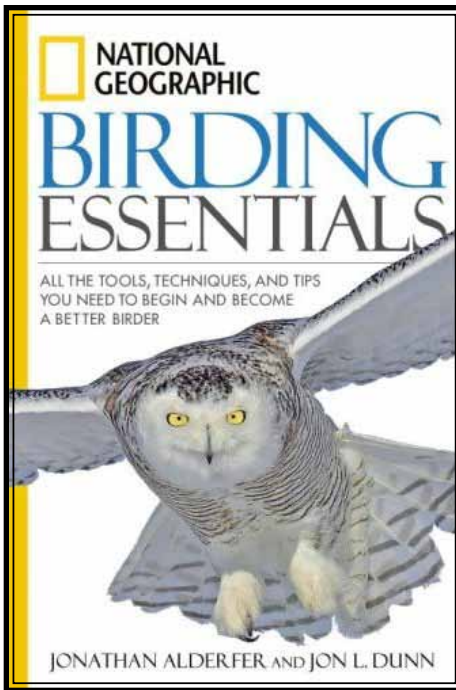
# BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BIRDING ESSENTIALS: All the Tools, Techniques, and Tips You Need to Begin and Become a Better Birder.** Jonathan Alderfer and Jon L. Dunn. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. October, 2007. \$15.95. 224 pp.

This book is accurately described by its title. Most *South Dakota Bird Notes* readers are probably beyond this book's intended readership. Nevertheless, many of us know beginning birders who would benefit from a gift of this book, which is lavishly illustrated with color photographs.

You can get the gist of this book by perusing the chapter titles. *The Pleasures of Birding* serves as the book's introduction. *Getting Started* covers binoculars and field guides. *Status and Distribution* discusses bird ranges and *Parts of a Bird* discusses, in great detail, bird anatomy. *How to Identify Birds* is a primer on the art of bird identification. *Variation in Birds* covers topics such as sexual variation, molt, age and seasonal variations, subspecies, and other ways that birds do not necessarily resemble their field guide portraits.



*Snowy Owl cover of Birding Essentials*  
Photo: David Hemmings

Intermediate and advanced birders will be most interested in *Identification Challenges*, *Field Craft*, and *Taxonomy and Nomenclature*. The identification section may be worth the price of the book, and includes coverage of what the authors consider the dozen most difficult birds to identify. Included in this list, among other birds, are dowitchers, Mourning and MacGillivray's Warblers, and Common and Hoary Redpolls. The *Field Craft* chapter instructs readers on what they can do with their birding—Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, etc.—and promotes the seldom-practiced art of field sketching. Many other topics related to specialized birding locations, equipment, and other resources are also mentioned here. The final chapter will introduce the new birder to concepts in the classification of birds. The book ends with a two-page glossary and a one-page list of additional reading and websites.

My major criticism of the book is that, when the authors reference field guides, they focus almost exclusively on their own (the fifth edition of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*.) Although the authors write, “we recognize the usefulness and unique qualities of other field guides currently in print,” they self-servingly discuss none of them in the chapter on field guides. Sibley and Plough (the later out of print), but not Peterson, are listed in the short *Additional Reading* section at the end of the book.



Just the mention of southern Arizona often evokes images of beautiful (but harsh) cactus-studded landscapes, deadly rattlesnakes, scorpions, spiders, and a dangerously hot and dry desert climate. Many people tend to stay away from this area during the summer because of the aforementioned reasons, but for fifteen die-hard young birders, the likes of Gray Hawks, White-eared Hummingbirds, Elegant Trogons, Red-faced Warbler, were good reasons to come to such an extreme place.

For many young birders, their first southern Arizona experience comes to them through Camp Chiricahua, a twelve-day long birding experience where teens from all corners of the country come not only to see some of the most amazing birds around, but also to meet other people their age with whom they share an interest. Run by Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours, and sponsored by the American Birding Association, this trip is very well put together and introduces people like myself not only to the astounding birds of the region, but also to the insects, plants, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and geology as well.

As soon as I got off the plane in Tucson and met Dave Jasper and Rob Day—the trip leaders—I knew I was in good hands. I was the first attendee to arrive at the airport so I took the half-hour spent waiting for another young birder to show up to get to know the leaders. Dave Jasper is a long-time resident of southeast Arizona, has led tours for countless people over the years and really knows how to put on a successful trip. Rob Day is a school teacher and birder from California. Not only is he an excellent birder, but he also excelled at identifying the lizards and snakes we came across. As the “chef” on the trip, he prepared a lot of great meals! Showing up a bit later was the camp counselor, Rebekah, who is in her twenties. She was also an enthusiastic birder and kept things running smoothly. I got along well with all of the leaders and enjoyed birding with them.

Finding a person with a strong interest in birds is often hard to do, so I never really met another young birder before this. It was great to finally talk about birds with someone my age who was knowledgeable about the avian realm. Overwhelming was the fact that thirteen more young birders—four girls and nine boys—were still coming!

We were shuttled from the airport to a nearby hotel, where birder after birder arrived as the day went on. Birding outside the hotel filled our afternoon, and as more people showed up, we kept revisiting birds we had previously found to point them out to the new arrivals. This was a good introduction to each other as it gave us an opportunity to get to know each person in the familiar atmosphere of birding.

Such a long trip cannot be fully described easily, but amongst the many experiences, the day in Cave Creek Canyon stands out; we were in search of the elusive, but rather tame, Elegant Trogon. We often heard this bird before we saw it, and every time it called, we slowly closed in on this spectacular red, green, and yellow bird. Finding a life bird such as the trogon is a great experience, but unfortunately in a place where so many birds are new, one can sometimes find that they take these birds for granted. Sometimes, I took myself aside to really think about what I had just seen.

Many learning experiences punctuated the trip and always kept things interesting. Being taught about birding techniques, studying an unusual plant, and spending time talking, exploring, and being with other young birders are just a few of the many learning experiences that will always stick with me. I think that we need more opportunities like this for young birders so they may not only meet with other people their age, but also spend time with the many amazing adult birders there are. A program such as Camp Chiricahua in the Midwest would be great, only on a smaller scale, perhaps led by the birders of the area over a weekend.

## BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD NESTING IN THE BLACK HILLS

Ricky D. Olson • PO BOX 622 • Ft. Pierre SD 57532

In the late afternoon of 26 June 2010, Kenny Miller, Scott Stolz and I were birding Hell Canyon in Custer County. One of our target birds was Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Scott needed to see one for his South Dakota Life List and Kenny and I just enjoy seeing hummingbirds. We had traveled just a ways down the hiking trail when Kenny started hearing the trill of male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. In about one quarter mile of the trail, we saw four different males displaying on territory. We enjoyed watching the displays and had good looks at the males perching on nearby dead branches.

Kenny noticed a hummingbird hovering high up next to a Ponderosa Pine. He said, "This hummingbird isn't producing a trill sound," so we were all looking at the hummingbird, when it darted into branches of the tree. Kenny was able to follow it and then said in a loud, surprised voice, "It landed on a nest". We looked up and sure enough you could clearly see the silhouette of a hummingbird sitting on a cup nest.

We watched the female come off the nest and catch insects. She would then return to the nest. Once it looked like she might be feeding young as she perched on the side of the nest and dipped her head down into the nest several times.

The next day we returned and digiscoped some pictures of the female hummingbird and its nest. It would leave and return to the nest often, but it never repeated the feeding-like action of the evening before. Thus, we surmised she might have been only turning the eggs in the nest.

The nest was located on a branch near the end of a pine bough. It was located, by our estimation, about sixty feet high. It was a very small cup nest adorned with grayish lichen on the outside. The height of this nest in the tree is not typical for Broad-tailed Hummingbird nests. The *Birds of North America* states that normal height for a nest site in conifers is often on low branches 0.3 to 1.5 m above ground or extending out over streams (Calder and Calder 1992). A nesting reference book I have states the following, "...nest built on a low horizontal twig of a tree or shrub, often overhanging a stream three-thirty feet up, but often low". (Baicich and Harrison, 1997)

Since the 2000 Jasper Burn there have been many reports of male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds displaying in Hell Canyon. Although many people surmised the species was breeding there and other places in the Black Hills, no nests or young had been documented in recent history. Historically, there are only two documented breeding records: a nest with young was reported from the Black Hills by Holden to Coues (1874) (Over and Thoms, 1946) and young were reported from Lead, SD in 1929 (Tallman, et al.)

The nearest breeding population is located in the mountains of Wyoming (Tallman, et al., 2002). Curiously, the *Birds of North America* does not list any breeding records for South Dakota (Calder and Calder 1992). The species maps in Sheri Williamson's hummingbird book are up to date and correct at the time of printing, showing all our South Dakota records (Williamson 2001).

Baicich, Paul J., and Colin J.O. Harrison. 1997. *A Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North America, Second Edition*. Academic Press, San Diego CA Pg 51-52

Calder, William A. and Lorene L. Calder. 1992. Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/016doi:10.2173/bna.16>

Over, W.H. and Craig S. Thoms. 1946. *Birds of South Dakota*. Revised Edition. Univ of S.D. Museum, Natural history Series No. 1, Pg 142

Tallman, D.A., D.L. Swanson, and J.S. Palmer. *Birds of South Dakota, Third Edition*. South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, 2002. Aberdeen SD, Pg 205

Williamson, Sheri L. 2001. *Hummingbirds of North America*. Peterson Field Guides. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston New York

# BOOK REVIEW

## *BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA / BIRDS OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICA: A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE*

Paul Sterry and Brian E. Small Princeton University Press, October, 2009 Eastern, \$19.95 (\$45 Hardcover). 336 pp; Western, \$18.95 (\$36 Hardcover). 416 pp.

Entering the already crowded photographic field guide offerings, including the recently published National Wildlife Federation *Field Guide to Birds of North America* (Brinkley and Tufts) and the Smithsonian *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (Floyd), as well as the older Stokes and Audubon Guides, are the twin volumes *Birds of Eastern North America/Birds of Western North America: A Photographic Guide* by Paul Sterry and Brian E. Small. In turning the very first page, these new field guides have one thing that is very apparent—many fantastic photographs. Not only are the photographs large, but usually very crisp and full of detail. Brian Small who took the majority of the photos is to be congratulated.

The general layout chosen is successful in allowing as many large photographs to be included as possible and although some may find the layout inconsistent and crowded, many of the plates are well laid out and short on wasted space. Most species are represented by several photographs, allowing for different poses to show critical field marks, or to show field marks when perched or in flight or when there is age, sex, or geographical variation. Smaller inset photographs are also often included to show similar species, range-restricted species, or additional plumages. The plates face the text and maps, allowing for quick reference.

The use of larger photos has one added benefit; the additional space allows for more informative text than one usually finds in a field guide. Aiding species identification, the introductory notes and description sections are extensive and generally well-written, giving pertinent information on what field marks to look for and how to differentiate similar species. Observation tips are also provided, although, surprisingly, many species are stated to be both easy to find and see. Although small, the maps accurately and clearly show the range of most species, indicating the breeding and non-breeding ranges when necessary. The maps include northern Mexico and some of the islands of the Caribbean as well, providing useful information for marginally occurring species. Besides the usual information on how to use the guide, glossary, and bird topography, the introduction includes an extensive survey of the various habitats one may encounter in the region covered by the guide.

The authors state that these guides are “intended to cater for the needs of the keen birder—the sort of person whose enthusiasm is built on several years of experience—while not neglecting the needs of the beginner.” The large, detailed images chosen and the well-written text certainly contribute to the guide’s usefulness. But, too many species are missing. The keen birder needs more possibilities, not fewer. They need to know about the less common, range-restricted species as well as regularly occurring visitors. The guide even makes a point of stating that a generous selection of vagrants and regional rarities are included. But, important missing species include such regularly occurring widespread visitors as, Ruff/Reeve and Curlew Sandpiper, and range-restricted or seasonal species including Black-capped Petrel, Least Storm-Petrel, Craveri’s Murrelet, and Yellow-footed Gull. Surprisingly, Mandarin Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Rose-ringed Parakeet, and other non-established exotics made the cut and are included. Also, several widespread geographical forms are missing including the Atlantic coast race of Seaside Sparrow, “Sooty” Fox Sparrow, and the widespread Pacific Coast race of the Song Sparrow.

It is also not exactly clear where the authors drew the boundary dividing west from east. This is especially confusing with regard to states that straddle the middle of the country

including such popular birding destinations as the Dakotas and Texas. One would need to consult both volumes to look up Baird's Sparrow and Scarlet Tanager in South Dakota or Hook-billed Kite and Altamira Oriole in the Rio Grande Valley.

Photographic guides are typically problematic in that they lack enough space to properly illustrate all distinctive plumages. These guides make the common mistake of giving adult male breeding season plumages preference and prominence in the plates. More experienced birders need larger images of the harder to identify plumages, i. e. female and immature plumages as well as birds during the non-breeding season. It is these plumages which are often most confusing and challenging, and more often than not, neglected in field guides. And although the text often accurately describes these differences, a good image is always worth a thousand words.

The maps appear accurate and are generally adequate, but do the maps need to be of the entire North American continent north of Mexico, when each guide covers only the eastern or western portion of the map? Larger, regionally oriented (east or west) maps could have provided even more detail or such important information as migration and vagrancy.

Lastly, how do these guides serve novice birders? The generous, well-written text and large images will certainly benefit new and beginning birders, but these attributes also limit the number of species included on a given page to usually two or three species. This means that similar species may be spread across several pages, thus hindering quick reference in the field.

These guides are certainly worthy as a secondary field guide and photographic reference. No question, they are certainly the best photographic guides currently available. But "keen" birders heading into the field, would be better served by the more complete National Geographic or Sibley field guides. And for the novice birder, the Peterson field guides are hard to beat for accurate simplicity and intelligent arrangement of similar species. *Alan Knue, 3037 NE 91st St., Seattle WA 98115*

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## **SDOU SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT – 2010**

Scholarships and Awards Committee: Jocelyn Lee Baker (Chair), Nelda Holden and Galen Steffen.

**T**he Alfred Hinds Memorial Award for Ornithology in the amount of \$100 was awarded to Mickie Hortness of Rapid City. Ms. Hortness was recommended by Dr. James Mortimer, a veterinarian with the Canyon Lake Veterinary Hospital, also of Rapid City. Since 1998, Ms. Hortness has worked at the veterinary hospital accepting all injured birds ranging from starlings to Snowy Owls. She has averaged 150 birds a year with as many as 196 in one year. In addition to working full time as a Registered Veterinary Technologist, she has had as many as 31 birds under her care at one time. The award was presented to Mickie Hortness to assist her with the expense she encounters nursing injured birds in her care.

The recipient of the Kenneth H. Husmann Memorial Scholarship for 2010-2011 in the amount of \$500 was Joseph Manthey, a Master's of Science student at Black Hills State University (Spearfish, SD). Mr. Manthey was recommended for the award by Dr. Garth Spellman who states "Mr. Manthey's research project, 'Phylogeography of the Brown Creeper' should be of broad interest in the scientific community. The research uses genetic variation to reconstruct the history of speciation in a North American songbird and explicitly tests hypotheses using data analyses rooted in coalescent theory.

## 2009 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

David L. Swanson. Department of Biology. University of South Dakota. Vermillion 57069.  
Email: david.swanson@usd.edu

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) met on 17 May 2009 at Custer and on 22 November 2009 at Pierre. The members of the committee were David Swanson (secretary), Ricky Olson, Todd Jensen, J. David Williams, and Jeffrey Palmer. All members either attended each meeting or voted *in absentia*.

Springer (1988. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 40:67-70) outlined the purpose and voting procedures of the RBRC. The RBRC strongly encourages observers of rare or unusual birds in South Dakota to report their observations to the secretary of the RBRC (David Swanson of Vermillion, SD), preferably via email at david.swanson@usd.edu. A *Rare Bird Report Form* is available in electronic format for this purpose from David Swanson, or a form can be downloaded from <www.sdou.org> by clicking on the *Seasonal Reporting* link and then clicking on the link for the *Rare Bird Report Form*. A summary of the type of information desired by the RBRC in a rare bird report can be found in Swanson (2004. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 56:88-95).

The RBRC requests rare bird reports for species listed as hypothetical or accidental in the state, including species reported from a portion of the state where that species is listed as accidental. A listing of birds belonging to these categories in South Dakota is provided in the latest version of the checklist of South Dakota birds, accessible at <www.sdou.org> by clicking on the *Seasonal Reporting* link and then clicking on the link for the *South Dakota State Checklist*. Information regarding species listed as accidental for only a portion of the state can be found in Tallman et al. (2002. *Birds of South Dakota*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, SDOU, Aberdeen, SD). The RBRC regularly adds or removes species from the review list, based on current data, and these changes to the review list are reported in previous reports of the RBRC in *South Dakota Bird Notes*. In addition, reports are requested for observations listed in the "Species Requiring Acceptance by the Rare Bird Records Committee" section in the Seasonal Reports of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Observers whose records are accepted (Classes 1 and 2) are encouraged to publish these records in *South Dakota Bird Notes*, so details of the observation can be communicated to a wider audience.

Following are the results of the committee's action since the last report in the September 2009 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. The numbers included in parentheses along with some reports indicate the committee's vote. If no numbers are listed, the vote was unanimous (5-0) or 4-0 if a committee member submitted the report. The committee wishes to emphasize that a rating of Class 3 or 4 (non-accepted record) does not imply any personal criticism of the observer. Such a rating only means that the information provided in the report, in the opinion of the committee, did not conclusively eliminate other similar species.

### **CLASS 1 (Accepted - Specimen, photograph, or recording).**

Tundra Swan. 24 August 2008. One adult in Stanley Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund and Ricky Olson. Accidental in summer.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck. 17-22 July 2009. Two at Lennox, Lincoln Co. Photographed. John Carlson. First state record.

Black Scoter. 19 November 2008. Oahe tailrace area, Stanley Co. Photographed. Scott Stolz, Ricky Olson and Geno Adams. Casual fall migrant.

Barrow's Goldeneye. 16-23 November 2008. One adult male at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund. Accidental away from Black Hills.

Yellow-billed Loon. 29 December 2008. One in immature winter plumage below Ft. Randall Dam, Gregory Co. Photographed. Ron Mabie and Bill Bossman. First state record. (SDBN 61:10-11).

Brown Pelican. 27 May 2009. One first-year bird at Big Bend Dam, Lyman Co. Photographed.

Bill Bossman. Fifth state record.

Sandhill Crane. 8-20 June 2008. Pair and one colt at Nisland Slough, Butte Co. Scott Weins and Elizabeth Krueger. Photographed. Accidental breeder. (SDBN 61:38-40).

Snowy Plover. 10-12 May 2005. One adult in Lake Co. Photographed. Jeff Palmer. Third state record.

Snowy Plover. 10 May 2009. One adult at Blunt Wetland, Hughes Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller and Ricky Olson. Seventh state record.

Black-necked Stilt. 21-28 June 2009. Three alternate-plumaged adults at Stone Lake, Sully Co., with one bird on a nest. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Casual summer resident and nesting species.

Whimbrel. 20 May 2009. One at Lewis and Clark Marina, Yankton Co. Photographed. Roger Dietrich. Casual migrant.

Whimbrel. 15 August 2009. One in Sully Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Casual migrant.

Western Sandpiper. 9 May 2009. One breeding adult near Onida, Sully Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Casual spring migrant.

Iceland Gull. 27 January – 3 March 2008. One second-cycle bird at Oahe tailrace, Stanley/Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Casual migrant and winter visitor.

Great Black-backed Gull. 19-26 March 2009. One first-winter bird near Pierre, Hughes/Stanley Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Second state record.

White-winged Dove. 4 May 2009. One at Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed. Heather Morijah. Casual migrant.

Rufous Hummingbird. 30-31 August 2006. One juvenile male in Pierre, Hughes Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller, Ricky Olson and Doug Backlund. Accidental in eastern South Dakota.

Anna's Hummingbird. 19 August-29 October 2008. One immature male at Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed. Jocelyn Baker, Jennifer Fowler, and Cathy and Bob Druckrey. First state record. (SDBN 60:88-89).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. 15 October 2008. One adult male in Brookings Co. Photographed. Kent Jensen. Accidental. (SDBN 61:29).

Carolina Wren. 5 January 2009. One at Spearfish, Lawrence Co. Photographed. Jocelyn Baker. Accidental in western South Dakota.

Mountain Bluebird. 12 January-15 March 2008. One at Lake Vermillion Recreation Area, McCook Co. Photographed. Jeff Palmer. Accidental in winter outside of southwestern South Dakota.

Black-throated Gray Warbler. 23 April 2009. One in Highmore, Hyde Co. Photographed. Eric Bruhnke and John Rohrback. Seventh state record (SDBN 61:55).

Yellow-throated Warbler. 16 May 2009. One at Lake Hiddenwood State Park, Walworth Co. Photographed. Gary Olson and Dan Streifel. Seventh state record. (SDBN 61:25).

Prothonotary Warbler. 13 June 2009. Pair at Appley-Von Hagel Wetland, Union Co., on an active nest. Photographed. Gary and Jan Small. First nesting record for South Dakota. (SDBN 61:55).

Worm-eating Warbler. 23-24 May 2009. One adult male at North Cave Hills, Harding Co. Photographed. Charlie and Kenny Miller, Doug Backlund.

Henslow's Sparrow. 28 May – 11 June 2005. One in Miner Co. Jeff Palmer and Robb Schenck. Photographed. Casual summer resident in eastern South Dakota. (SDBN 57:45).

Bullock's Oriole. 17 November 2008. One first-year male at St. Onge, Lawrence Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Very late fall migrant.

Purple Finch. 1 December 2007. One female or immature at Sturgis, Meade Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. The status of Purple Finch in the Black Hills is currently uncertain.

Purple Finch. 2 December 2007. One adult male at Whitewood, Lawrence Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. The status of Purple Finch in the Black Hills is currently uncertain.

Purple Finch. 30 March 2009. One female at Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed. Caroline Stafford. The status of Purple Finch in the Black Hills is currently uncertain.

Hoary Redpoll. 12 January 2009. One in Ft. Pierre, Stanley Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson.

(3 Class 1P, 1 Class 2). Irregular winter visitor.

Hoary Redpoll. 19 January 2009. One, Lyman Co. Photo. Doug Backlund. Irregular winter visitor.  
Hoary Redpoll. 8 February 2009. One adult male in Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson.  
Irregular winter visitor.  
Lesser Goldfinch. 5 May 2008. One first-year male at Spearfish, Lawrence Co. Photographed.  
Scott Weins and Elizabeth Krueger. Outside of normal range in southern Black Hills.

**CLASS 2 (Accepted – Satisfactory written description).**

Greater Scaup. 3-8 December 2008. One adult male at Canyon Lake, Rapid City, Pennington Co. Jocelyn Baker. Accidental in winter in western South Dakota.  
Common Goldeneye. 9 June 2007. One adult male at Lake Mitchell, Brookings Co. Jeff Palmer. Accidental in summer.  
Common Loon. 4 July 2009. One in basic plumage at Bear Butte Lake, Meade Co. Todd Jensen and Jocelyn Baker. Casual summer visitor in western South Dakota.  
Sandhill Crane. 31 July – 2 August 2009. Two in Hutchinson Co. Ron Spomer. Casual summer resident.  
Ruddy Turnstone. 3 November 2007. One in basic plumage at Lake Preston, Kingsbury Co. Jeff Palmer. Latest fall record.  
Red Knot. 4 August 2008. 30 individuals at Lake Preston, Kingsbury Co. Jeff Palmer. (3 Class 2, 1 Class 3). Accidental fall migrant.  
Iceland Gull. 4 November 2007. One first-winter bird at Big Bend Dam tailrace, Lyman Co. Ricky Olson. Casual migrant and winter visitor.  
Iceland Gull. 25 November 2007. One first-winter bird at Hipple Lake, Farm Island, Hughes Co. Ricky Olson. Casual migrant and winter visitor.  
Rufous Hummingbird. 9 July 2007. One adult male in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Todd Jensen. Accidental eastern South Dakota.  
Carolina Wren. 16 August 2009. One at Cold Brook Reservoir, Fall River Co. Jeff Palmer. Accidental in western South Dakota.  
Tennessee Warbler. 4 July 2009. One adult male in Custer Co. Todd Jensen, Jocelyn Baker, and Jennifer Fowler. Accidental summer visitor west.  
Green-tailed Towhee. 22 May 2009. One adult at West Short Pine Hills, Harding Co. Charlie and Kenny Miller. Accidental.  
Cassin's Sparrow. 17 June 2008. One west of Edgemont, Fall River Co. Jeff Palmer. Third state record.  
Henslow's Sparrow. 2-16 June 2007. One in Lake Co. Jeff Palmer. Casual summer resident in eastern South Dakota.  
McCown's Longspur. 14 October 2008. One female or immature male in Perkins Co. Dan Svingen. (4 Class 2, 1 Class 3). Accidental.  
Purple Finch. 24 December 2007. Three females and one male in Short Pine Hills, Harding Co. Kenny Miller. The status of Purple Finch in northwestern South Dakota is currently uncertain.  
Hoary Redpoll. 5 March 2009. One in Dewey Co. Scott Stolz. (4 Class 2, 1 Class 3). Irregular winter visitor.

**CLASS 3 (Not accepted – Identification possibly correct but description not completely convincing).**

Horned Grebe. 22 August 2009. One in basic plumage at Bear Butte Lake, Meade Co. The report was incomplete. No mention of the size, shape or color of the bill was provided. In addition, no mention was made of the size of the bird or the length of the neck, and no comparison was offered with other grebes having white necks, so Western and Clark's Grebe were not ruled out.  
Little Blue Heron. 20 November 2008. One at Hipple Lake, Hughes Co. (2 Class 2, 3 Class 3). Dissenting committee members noted that the report was very incomplete and, while

suggestive of a Little Blue Heron, there was no mention of any contrast in color between the head/neck and the remainder of the body or the bicolored bill. Thus, other herons, particularly Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, could not be conclusively eliminated.

Iceland Gull. 26 January – 2 March 2008. One first-winter bird at Oahe tailrace, Stanley/Hughes Co. This report and accompanying photos were sent to Kim Eckert for his comments. He mentioned that the bird in this report looked good for Iceland, but that the possibility of Thayer's Gull or a hybrid could not be ruled out. The committee followed his recommendation and gave the report a Class 3 rating.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. 29 April 2009. One second-cycle bird at Waubay NWR, Day Co. (3 Class 2, 2 Class 3). The report did not mention the age of the gull nor provide a description of the head, so while the report was suggestive of Lesser Black-backed Gull, California Gull was not conclusively eliminated in the opinion of the dissenting committee members.

Hoary Redpoll. 5 March 2009. One in Walworth Co. (2 Class 2, 3 Class 3). This report was rather incomplete. The dissenting committee members noted that the descriptions of the undertail coverts and underparts, particularly, were not very detailed, and felt that Common Redpoll could not be conclusively eliminated.

Hoary Redpoll. 11 January 2009. One adult in Stanley Co. Photographed. The committee noted that the bird pictured in the photos accompanying the report had frosty-edged feathers only down the middle of the back. The feathers on the sides of the back were relatively dark. Also the flanks of the pictured bird had relatively heavy streaking, although the rump was quite white. Thus, the committee felt that Common Redpoll was not conclusively eliminated.

#### **CLASS 4 (Not accepted – Identification probably or certainly incorrect).**

Anna's Hummingbird. 19 August 2007. One immature/female at Nemo, Lawrence Co. Photographed. (1 Class 3, 3 Class 4). The committee received information from noted hummingbird identification expert Sheri Williamson on this record. Ms. Williamson noted that "the plain-looking whitish to pale gray underparts, blackish mask, and extensive white on R5," as well as the "graduated widths of the primaries" on the bird in the photographs submitted along with the report support the identification of this bird as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The committee felt that the bird in question was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

In other business, the committee discussed what to do about multiple-observer reports that would constitute first state records. The consensus of the committee was that individual observers should submit separate reports for the bird in question, to provide additional details for the committee to consider.

#### **SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION**

Greater Scaup. 22 November 2009. Three females at Wall, Pennington Co.

Red-throated Loon. 15 November 2009. One immature at Cow Creek embayment, Lake Oahe, Sully Co.

Mountain Plover. 14 August 2009. One in basic plumage at Salt Lake, Deuel Co.

Long-tailed Jaeger. 10 September 2009. One immature bird at Mobridge, Walworth Co.

Glaucous-winged Gull. 5-18 January 2009. One first-cycle bird near Pierre, Hughes/Stanley Co.

Iceland Gull. 30 November 2009. One first-cycle bird at Big Bend Dam tailrace, Lyman Co.

Barn Owl. 1 May 2009. One bird near Sturgis, Meade Co.

Black-chinned Hummingbird. 6-22 October 2009. One immature female at Bowdle, Edmunds Co.

Orange-crowned Warbler. 22 November 2009. One at Farm Island, Hughes Co.



# SEASONAL REPORTS

## The 2010 Spring Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer  
01 March 2010 to 31 May 2010

College of Arts & Sciences  
Dakota State University  
Madison, SD 57042

There were 324 species, including ten rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (2000-2009) average is 321. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (dates that are among the earliest/latest included in the online database and species that are out of range). For early/late migration dates, I have listed the three earliest/latest dates (by county); however, if these did not include a sighting East River, West River, and along the Missouri River, I have given the earliest/latest reported date in the missing region also. Finally, included at the end is a list of species (10) that were not reported this year and might be expected during the Spring Season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during spring in at least 2 of the previous 5 years. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of consecutive years (up to 4) that the species has appeared on the list during the season.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 13 Mar Yankton RND; 17 Mar Charles Mix RM; 18 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 18 Mar Minnehaha MRZ ... Late: 11 May McPherson BJU; 22 Apr Deuel BJU; 10 Apr McCook JSP; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Snow Goose** Early: 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 13 Mar Clay GJS

**Ross's Goose** Early: 16 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 20 Mar Hughes KM, RDO; 20 Mar Sully RDO; 17 Apr Harding CEM ... Late: 05 Apr Charles Mix DS; 30 Mar Marshall GO

**Cackling Goose** Early: 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 12 Mar Hughes DB; 18 Mar Minnehaha MRZ ... Late: 08 Apr Day GO; 28 Mar Brookings KCJ; 26 Mar Roberts MO; 26 Mar Hand DB; 21 Mar Hughes RDO

**Canada Goose** Confirmed Breeding: **04 Apr Bennett (ON) ND**

**Trumpeter Swan** All Reports: 04 Apr Bennett (22) ND; 09 Apr Meade JLB, RSL; 26 Apr Jackson BJU

**Tundra Swan** All Reports: 26 Mar Roberts (300) MO; 29 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; **20 Apr Roberts BJU**

**Wood Duck** Early: 01 Mar Pennington JLB; 08 Mar Lake JSP; 21 Mar Hughes RDO

**Gadwall** Early: 04 Mar Pennington JLB; 05 Mar Roberts MO; 08 Mar Lake JSP; 08 Mar Stanley RDO

**American Wigeon** Early: 01 Mar Pennington JLB; 18 Mar Yankton GJS; 19 Mar Hughes KM; 20 Mar Brookings JSP

**American Black Duck** All Reports: **30 Apr Day MO; 01 May Brookings JSP; 10 May Day BJU; 21 May Spink BJU**

**Blue-winged Teal** Early: 27 Mar Yankton BFH; 30 Mar Brown GO; 30 Mar Day GO; 04 Apr Bennett ND; 04 Apr Meade JLB

**Cinnamon Teal** Early: 14 Apr Hand DB; 16 Apr Meade RSL; 20 Apr Hughes KM, RDO ... Late: 23 May Stanley RDO; 16 May Meade APB; 08 May Hand DB

**Northern Shoveler** Early: 13 Mar Lake JSP; 14 Mar Fall River RSL; 17 Mar Meade JLB; 18 Mar Charles Mix RM

**Northern Pintail** Early: 07 Mar Stanley RDO; 12 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 13 Mar Hughes DB; 13 Mar Sully KM; 15 Mar Custer MMM

**Green-winged Teal** Early: 14 Mar Yankton RND; 19 Mar Hughes KM; 24 Mar Custer JLB; 26 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 26 Mar Brookings KCJ

**Canvasback** Early: 11 Mar McCook *fide* BFW; 18 Mar Charles Mix RM; 18 Mar Yankton GJS; 25 Mar Meade JLB, RSL, EEM

**Redhead** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 01 Mar Pennington JLB; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 05 Mar Roberts MO

**Ring-necked Duck** Early: 01 Mar Pennington JLB; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 05 Mar Charles Mix RM; 25 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 25 Mar Brookings KCJ

**Greater Scaup** Early: 12 Mar Pennington JLB; 17 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Hughes RDO; 26 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 26 Mar Hand DB ... Late: **14 May Deuel BJU; 06 May Hughes BJU; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 24 Mar Pennington JLB**

**Lesser Scaup** Early: 06 Mar Charles Mix RM; 06 Mar Lake JSP; 12 Mar Pennington JLB

**Long-tailed Duck** Only Report: 10 Mar Charles Mix RM

**Bufflehead** Early: 01 Mar Pennington JLB; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 18 Mar Yankton GJS; 20 Mar Brookings JSP ... Late: 31 May Meade JLB; 22 May Custer MMM; 16 May Pennington JLB; 15 May Brookings JSP; 20 Apr Hughes RDO

**Common Goldeneye** Late: 14 May Meade EEM; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 20 Apr Grant BJU; 18 Apr Hughes KM

**Hooded Merganser** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Pennington JLB; 14 Mar Yankton RND; 20 Mar Brookings JSP ... Late: 27 May Spink BJU; 21 May Lincoln DC; 15 May Meade RSL; 08 May Clay GJS

**Common Merganser** Late: 15 May Pennington JF; 14 May Meade EEM; 09 May Lawrence VDF; 09 May Custer ND; 06 May Hughes BJU; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 20 Apr Grant BJU

**Red-breasted Merganser** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 20 Mar Brookings JSP ... Late: 12 May Hughes KM; 11 May Buffalo ND; 09 May Stanley KM; 20 Apr Grant BJU

**Ruddy Duck** Early: 08 Mar Lake JSP; 11 Mar Charles Mix RM; 14 Mar Yankton RND; 08 Apr Meade RSL

**Ruffed Grouse** All Reports: 11 Apr Lawrence ND; 03 May Pennington BJU

**Greater Sage-Grouse** reported from Butte and Harding counties

**Northern Bobwhite** Only Report: 24 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Common Loon** Early: 29 Mar Charles Mix RM; 01 Apr Stanley RDO; 06 Apr Hughes KM; 16 Apr Marshall GO; 02 May Pennington ND ... Late: 31 May Stanley RDO; 26 May Hughes KM; 26 May Aurora ND; 04 May Pennington BJU

**Pied-billed Grebe** Early: 25 Mar Brookings KCJ; 27 Mar Lake JSP; 30 Mar Marshall GO; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM; 12 Apr Meade JLB

**Horned Grebe** Early: **08 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 19 Mar Hughes RDO; 24 Mar Stanley KM; 04 Apr Meade JLB; 10 Apr McCook JSP ... Late: **30 May McPherson JDW**; 26 May Potter BJU; 15 May Harding CEM

**Red-necked Grebe** All Reports: 30 Apr Day MO; 04 May Butte BJU; 11 May McPherson BJU; 14 May Deuel BJU; 25 May Marshall GO; 28 May Brown BJU

**Eared Grebe** Early: 02 Apr Charles Mix RM; 10 Apr Sully KM; 21 Apr Hughes RDO; 22 Apr Meade RSL; 01 May Hand DB

**Western Grebe** Early: 08 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Stanley RDO; 15 Apr Hughes KM; 16 Apr Meade EEM; 20 Apr Roberts BJU

**Clark's Grebe** Early: **15 Apr Hughes KM**; 25 Apr Stanley RDO; 18 May Spink BJU

**American White Pelican** Early: 30 Mar Stanley RDO; 03 Apr Bennett ND; 03 Apr Brookings JSP

**Double-crested Cormorant** Early: 25 Mar Brookings KCJ; 27 Mar Charles Mix RM; 27 Mar Lake JSP; 03 Apr Bennett ND

**American Bittern** Early: **07 Apr Brookings KCJ**; 16 Apr Turner RND; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 27 Apr Stanley KM; 12 May Bennett ND

**Least Bittern** Only Report: 28 May Brown BJU

**Great Blue Heron** Early: 22 Mar Custer MMM; 27 Mar Charles Mix DS, RM; 27 Mar Lake JSP

**Great Egret** Early: 03 Apr Brookings JSP; 10 Apr McCook JSP; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 29 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Snowy Egret** Early: 29 Apr Charles Mix RM; 30 Apr Day MO; 01 May Brookings JSP

**Little Blue Heron** Only Report: 28 May Brown BJU

**Cattle Egret** Early: **10 Apr Brown GO**; **10 Apr Hughes RDO**; 15 Apr Brookings KCJ; 15 Apr Charles Mix RM; 06 May Haakon BJU

**Green Heron** Early: 08 May Union GJS; 11 May Stanley KM, RDO; 15 May Brown GO

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Early: 01 May Hand DB; 06 May Lake JSP; 06 May Spink BJU; 12 May Bennett ND; 15 May Union KM

**White-faced Ibis** Early: **12 Apr Ziebach DB**; 16 Apr Turner RND; 18 Apr Buffalo *fide* BFW

**Turkey Vulture** Early: 27 Mar Clay DS, GJS; 30 Mar Charles Mix RM; 31 Mar Pennington MMM; 03 Apr Brookings JSP; 03 Apr Brown MRZ

**Osprey** Early: 14 Apr Hughes DB, EDS; 18 Apr Lawrence JF; 18 Apr Stanley RDO; 06 May Spink BJU

**Northern Harrier** Early: 06 Mar Sully KM; 07 Mar Stanley KM; 12 Mar Custer MMM; 20 Mar Brookings JSP

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Late: 16 Apr Marshall GO; 12 Apr Hughes KM; 27 Mar Charles Mix RM

**Northern Goshawk** Only Report: 05 May Lawrence BJU

**Broad-winged Hawk** Early: **12 Apr Hughes KM**; 17 Apr Union GJS; 18 Apr Stanley RDO; 22 Apr Brown GO; 30 Apr Harding CEM, KM ... Late: 30 May Lawrence JLB; 23 May Minnehaha RSL, GO; 22 May Lincoln RM; 21 May Union RDO

**Swainson's Hawk** Early: 26 Mar Brookings KCJ; 03 Apr Bennett ND; 08 Apr Brown GO; 10 Apr Sully KM  
**Red-tailed Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Mar Custer (NB) MMM  
**Ferruginous Hawk** Early: 11 Mar Harding CEM; 13 Mar Butte JLB; 21 Mar Pennington JLB; 04 Apr Sully RDO; 11 May McPherson BJU  
**Rough-legged Hawk** Late: 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 12 Apr Butte CEM; 11 Apr Lyman RDO  
**Golden Eagle** Late: 05 Apr Hand DB; 04 Apr Sully RDO  
**American Kestrel** Confirmed Breeding: 23 May Harding (ON) CEM  
**Merlin** Late: 08 May Union GJS; 01 May Lincoln DS; 16 Apr Hughes EDS  
**Peregrine Falcon** Early: 12 Apr Pennington MMM; 13 Apr Meade RSL; 30 Apr Beadle *fide* BFW; 08 May Sully KM ... Late: 22 May Union KCJ; 18 May Spink BJU; 13 May Minnehaha TJ; 13 May Hand BJU; 12 May Bennett ND  
**Prairie Falcon** Late: 13 Mar Sully KM  
**Virginia Rail** Early: 10 May Lyman RDO; 15 May Brookings JSP; 15 May Brown GO; 17 May Pennington JLB  
**Sora** Early: 20 Apr Grant BJU; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 22 Apr Buffalo BFW; 04 May Butte BJU; 04 May Meade BJU  
**American Coot** Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 06 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP  
**Sandhill Crane** Early: 18 Mar Jerauld *fide* BFW; 18 Mar Sanborn *fide* BFW; 28 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 30 Mar Custer MMM; 10 Apr Charles Mix RM; 10 Apr Hughes KM ... Late: 18 May Yankton MO; 12 May Bennett ND; 11 May Brown BJU  
**Whooping Crane** All Reports: 05-10 Apr Charles Mix (11 adults) RM, DS, RND, DC  
**Black-bellied Plover** Early: 16 Apr Hughes KM; 08 May Bennett TJ; 14 May Lyman KM; 14 May Spink BJU ... Late: 25 May Spink BJU; 23 May Lyman RDO, KM; 22 May Lincoln RDO, JSP  
**American Golden-Plover** Early: 18 Apr Sully KM, RDO; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 23 Apr Clay DS ... Late: 31 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 25 May Spink BJU; 23 May McCook KM; 08 May Union GJS ... also reported 18 May Spink (12728) BJU  
**Semipalmated Plover** Early: 24 Apr Hughes KM; 06 May Charles Mix RM; 06 May Hand BJU; 13 May Bennett ND ... Late: 28 May Brown BJU; 25 May Spink BJU; 23 May Lincoln RDO; 18 May Tripp RDO; 15 May Union GJS  
**Piping Plover** Early: 24 Apr Hughes KM; 01 May Stanley RDO; 03 May Hand DB; 06 May Meade JLB  
**Killdeer** Early: 18 Mar Charles Mix RM; 18 Mar Clay GJS; 18 Mar Custer MMM; 20 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 20 Mar Sanborn *fide* BFW  
**Black-necked Stilt** Only Report: 25 May Spink BJU  
**American Avocet** Early: 03 Apr Bennett ND; 06 Apr Charles Mix RM; 06 Apr Harding CEM; 24 Apr Hand DB  
**Spotted Sandpiper** Early: 27 Apr Clay DS; 04 May Butte BJU; 05 May Pennington JLB; 06 May Lake JSP  
**Solitary Sandpiper** Early: 30 Apr Brookings KCJ; 03 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 04 May Clay DS; 16 May Jones RDO ... Late: 21 May Lincoln DC; 18 May Spink BJU; 13 May Minnehaha TJ; 13 May Hughes KM  
**Greater Yellowlegs** Early: 02 Apr Clay DS; 05 Apr Hand DB; 08 Apr Brookings KCJ; 08 Apr Charles Mix RND, RM; 12 Apr Meade JLB ... Late: 31 May Meade JLB; 23 May Turner KM; 22 May Union KCJ  
**Willet** Early: 23 Apr Charles Mix RM; 23 Apr Hughes KM, RDO; 24 Apr Custer MMM; 24 Apr Hand DB  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** Early: 08 Apr Charles Mix RND, RM; 09 Apr Hand DB; 11 Apr Lyman RDO; 29 Apr Custer MMM ... Late: 23 May Stanley RDO; 23 May Minnehaha GO; 22 May Union KCJ; 22 May Lincoln RSL; 18 May Tripp RDO  
**Upland Sandpiper** Early: 19 Apr Stanley RDO; 22 Apr Beadle *fide* BFW; 26 Apr Custer MMM  
**Whimbrel** Only Report: 02 May Meade RSL  
**Long-billed Curlew** Early: 02 Apr Pennington MMM; 03 Apr Bennett ND; 05 Apr Custer MMM; 11 Apr Stanley KM, RDO

**Hudsonian Godwit** Early: 18 Apr Sully KM, RDO; 19 Apr Charles Mix RM; 25 Apr Beadle *fide* BFW; 18 May Tripp RDO ... Late: 25 May Spink BJU; 23 May Turner KM; 23 May Lyman RDO, KM; 23 May Lincoln RDO

**Marbled Godwit** Early: 10 Apr Sully KM; 11 Apr Lyman RDO; 14 Apr Hyde *fide* BFW; 16 Apr Hand DB; 20 Apr Meade RSL

**Ruddy Turnstone** Early: **08 May Hughes KM**; 14 May Deuel BJU; 14 May Spink BJU ... Late: 25 May Spink BJU; 15 May Brookings JSP

**Sanderling** Early: 06 May Stanley RDO; 08 May Hughes KM; 11 May McPherson BJU ... Late: 28 May Brown BJU; 25 May Spink BJU; 14 May Deuel BJU; 09 May Hughes RDO

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Early: 22 Apr Hughes KM; 08 May Stanley RDO; 09 May Hand DB; 16 May Jones RDO ... Late: 31 May Meade JLB; 28 May Brown BJU; 27 May Faulk BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU

**Least Sandpiper** Early: 06 May Hughes BJU; 08 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 08 May Stanley RDO; 18 May Tripp RDO ... Late: 25 May Spink BJU; 24 May Minnehaha RSL; 23 May Stanley RDO; 22 May Custer MMM

**White-rumped Sandpiper** Early: 08 May Hand *fide* BFW; 10 May Lyman RDO; 10 May Marshall BJU; 18 May Tripp

**Baird's Sandpiper** Early: 28 Mar Hand DB; 28 Mar Hughes KM; 08 Apr Charles Mix RM; 15 May Harding CEM ... Late: 28 May Brown BJU; 25 May Spink BJU; 23 May Stanley RDO; 23 May Lyman RDO; 23 May Lincoln KCJ, DC; 18 May Tripp RDO

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Early: 19 Apr Brookings KCJ; 19 Apr Charles Mix RM; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 04 May Meade BJU ... Late: 25 May Spink BJU; 24 May Minnehaha RSL; 23 May Lyman RDO; 18 May Tripp RDO

**Dunlin** Early: 06 May Hand BJU; 06 May Hughes BJU; 10 May Day BJU; 10 May Marshall BJU ... Late: 25 May Spink BJU; 25 May Hand BJU; 23 May McCook KM; 23 May Lincoln KCJ; 15 May Lyman KM

**Stilt Sandpiper** Early: 02 May Sully *fide* BFW; 07 May Hughes KM; 10 May Lyman RDO; 10 May Marshall BJU; 16 May Jones RDO; 16 May Pennington JLB ... Late: 28 May Brown BJU; 25 May Spink BJU; 25 May Hughes KM; 18 May Tripp RDO

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** All Reports: **10 May Marshall BJU**; 18 May Spink BJU

**Short-billed Dowitcher** Early: 23 Apr Charles Mix RM; 28 Apr Stanley RDO; 06 May Hughes BJU; 10 May Brown BJU; 10 May Marshall BJU ... Late: 18 May Spink BJU; 13 May Hand BJU

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Early: 12 Apr Charles Mix RM; 22 Apr Hughes KM; 29 Apr Hand DB; 06 May Meade JLB ... Late: 16 May Jones RDO; 15 May Hutchinson RDO; 15 May Harding CEM; 13 May Hyde BJU

**Wilson's Snipe** Early: 01 Mar Meade EEM; 03 Apr Brown GO; 03 Apr Marshall GO; 04 Apr Clay DS

**American Woodcock** Early: 28 Mar Hughes KM, RDO; 07 Apr Brookings KCJ; 20 May Lincoln KM

**Wilson's Phalarope** Early: 21 Apr Hughes RDO; 22 Apr Charles Mix RM; 23 Apr Clay DS; 24 Apr Hand DB; 30 Apr Harding CEM; 30 Apr Meade RSL

**Red-necked Phalarope** All Reports: 08 May Sully KM; 18 May Spink BJU; 21 May Spink BJU; 25 May Spink BJU

**Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 28 Mar Charles Mix RM; 30 Mar Stanley RDO; 03 Apr Brookings JSP; 02 May Meade RSL ... Late: 29 May Stanley RDO; 12 May Hughes RDO; 11 May McPherson BJU

**Franklin's Gull** Early: 27 Mar Stanley KM; 27 Mar Yankton BFH; 28 Mar Charles Mix RM; 02 Apr Hand DB; 15 Apr Meade RSL

**Mew Gull** All Reports: 01 Apr Stanley RDO; 03 Apr Stanley RDO; **04 Apr Stanley RDO**

**Ring-billed Gull** Early: 04 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 06 Mar Stanley RDO; 14 Mar Custer RSL; 18 Mar Sanborn *fide* BFW

**California Gull** Early: 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 14 Mar Hughes RDO; 27 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Apr Butte JLB; 30 Apr Day MO

**Herring Gull** Early: 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 14 Mar Hughes RDO; 20 Mar Brookings JSP; 04 May Butte BJU ... Late: 14 May Deuel BJU; 11 May Brown BJU; 02 May Stanley RDO

**Thayer's Gull** Late: **25 Apr Hughes RDO**; **09 Apr Stanley RDO**; 27 Mar Charles Mix DS

**Iceland Gull** Late: **03 Apr Stanley RDO**; **27 Mar Hughes RDO, KM**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Early: 06 Mar Stanley RDO; 10 Apr Hughes RDO ... Late: **22 May Stanley DB**; 25 Apr Hughes RDO

**Glaucous Gull** Late: **18 Apr Stanley RDO**; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM; 27 Mar Kingsbury JSP

**Least Tern** Only Report: 22 May Union KCJ

**Caspian Tern** Early: 20 Apr Hughes RDO; 28 Apr Stanley RDO; 04 May Butte BJU; 06 May Hand BJU ... Late: 31 May Stanley RDO; 26 May Hughes KM; 13 May Spink BJU; 05 May Butte BJU

**Black Tern** Early: **28 Apr Stanley RDO**; 06 May Hughes BJU; 08 May Clay GJS; 10 May Day BJU; 10 May Marshall BJU; 18 May Tripp RDO

**Common Tern** Early: 04 May Hand *fide* BFW; 06 May Hughes BJU; 06 May Stanley BJU; 14 May Meade EEM

**Forster's Tern** Early: 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 24 Apr Hughes KM; 24 Apr Yankton RND; 08 May Bennett TJ

**Mourning Dove** Early: 14 Mar Clay GJS; 14 Mar Yankton RND; 22 Mar Charles Mix RM; 29 Mar Brown GO; 04 Apr Bennett ND

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: **16 May Stanley KM**; 18 May Roberts MO; 21 May Dewey ND; 22 May Lincoln RM; 23 May Lincoln DC

**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 19 May Spink BJU; 21 May Lincoln GO; 23 May Lincoln MO

**Barn Owl** Early: 28 Mar Hughes KM, RDO; 12 Apr Hand DB; 13 May Bon Homme DS

**Burrowing Owl** Early: 05 Apr Custer MMM; 10 Apr Hand DB; 10 Apr Harding CEM; 11 Apr Stanley KM, RDO

**Barred Owl** All Reports: **15-23 May Lincoln MS, KM, MO, RDO, RSL, RM, DC**

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Late: 14 Mar Hughes KM ... Confirmed Breeding: 15 May Harding (NY) CEM ... also reported 02 Apr Bennett ND

**Common Nighthawk** Early: **12 Apr Beadle BFW**; **24 Apr Hughes EDS**; 18 May Yankton MO; 26 May Custer MMM

**Common Poorwill** Early: **27 Apr Fall River BJU, ND**; 19 May Dewey ND; 27 May Harding KM

**Whip-poor-will** Early: **20 Apr Yankton RND**; 22 Apr Charles Mix RM; 14 May Lincoln KM

**Chimney Swift** Early: 29 Apr Clay GJS; 30 Apr Lake JSP; 02 May Hughes RDO; 17 May Pennington RSL

**White-throated Swift** Early: 26 Apr Fall River BJU, ND; 05 May Lawrence BJU; 15 May Harding CEM

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Early: 09 May Charles Mix RM; 15 May Clay GJS; 18 May Lincoln MO

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** All Reports: 21 May Custer JF; 28 May Pennington JLB; 29 May Lawrence VDF; 30 May Lawrence JLB

**Belted Kingfisher** Early: 01 Mar Pennington JLB; 28 Mar Brown GO; 02 Apr Minnehaha MS; 21 Apr Stanley KM

**Lewis's Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 28 May Pennington (ON) JLB

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Early: 04 Mar Lawrence JLB; 04 May Clay GJS; 08 May Union GJS; 14 May Lincoln DC; 14 May Marshall GO; 14 May Minnehaha MS

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Early: 09 Apr Walworth GO; 15 Apr Brookings KCJ; 16 Apr Hughes KM

**Red-naped Sapsucker** All Reports: 28 Apr Custer BJU; 02 May Pennington BJU; 05 May Lawrence BJU; 09 May Custer ND; 15 May Pennington JF; 29 May Lawrence JLB

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** All Reports: 02 May Custer BJU; 02 May Pennington BJU; 09 May Custer ND

**Black-backed Woodpecker** Only Report: 02 May Custer BJU

**Northern Flicker** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 06 Mar Lawrence JLB; 11 Mar Brown GO

**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 30 Apr Roberts MO

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Early: 15 May Union GJS; 22 May Lincoln RM; 23 May Minnehaha GO, RSL ... Late: 29 May Grant BJU; 28 May Brown BJU; 25 May Spink BJU; 20 May Union RDO

**Western Wood-Pewee** Early: 21 May Meade JF; 28 May Harding CEM, KM; 29 May Pennington JLB

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Early: **06 May Hughes BJU**; **14 May Spink BJU**; 18 May Union MO

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** All Reports: **19 May Union MO**; 22 May Lincoln RM; 23 May Lincoln DC; 28 May Brown BJU; 29 May Grant BJU

**Alder Flycatcher** All Reports: 22 May Lincoln DC, KM, RSL; 25 May Spink BJU; 28 May Brown BJU

**Willow Flycatcher** Early: **30 Apr Brookings KCJ**; 23 May Turner KM; 25 May Hand BJU; 25 May Spink BJU; 25 May Stanley KM

**Least Flycatcher** Early: 30 Apr Brookings KCJ; 07 May Pennington RSL; 08 May Union GJS

**Dusky Flycatcher** All Reports: 21 May Custer JF; 28 May Pennington JLB; 30 May Custer JF

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** All Reports: 16 May Meade APB; 24 May Lawrence VDF; 29 May Lawrence JLB; 30 May Custer JF; 30 May Lawrence JLB; 31 May Pennington RSL

**Eastern Phoebe** Early: 27 Mar Lake JSP; 01 Apr Clay DS; 02 Apr Minnehaha MS; 18 Apr Pennington RSL

**Say's Phoebe** Early: 03 Apr Bennett ND; 11 Apr Stanley RDO; 12 Apr Pennington MMM; 16 Apr Hand DB

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Early: 10 May Stanley ND; 15 May Lincoln MS; 15 May Union DS, KM; 17 May Custer MMM

**Western Kingbird** Early: 30 Apr Charles Mix RM; 30 Apr Hand DB; 01 May Stanley RDO; 04 May Meade BJU

**Eastern Kingbird** Early: 04 May Clay DS; 08 May Union GJS; 09 May Custer MMM; 13 May Beadle *fide* BFW

**Loggerhead Shrike** Early: 07 Apr Custer MMM; 10 Apr Harding CEM; 11 Apr Hand DB; 11 Apr Stanley RDO

**Northern Shrike** Late: 04 Apr Sully RDO; 21 Mar Pennington JLB; 17 Mar Custer MMM; 05 Mar Day MO

**Bell's Vireo** All Reports: 18 May Hughes KM; 22 May Hughes DB; 22 May Stanley DB; 23 May Turner KM; 31 May Stanley RDO

**Yellow-throated Vireo** Early: 08 May Union DS, GJS; 14 May Lincoln DC, KM; 15 May Brookings JSP; 15 May Clay GJS

**Plumbeous Vireo** All Reports: 21 May Meade JF; 23 May Harding CEM

**Blue-headed Vireo** Early: 30 Apr Brookings KCJ; 10 May Stanley KM; 13 May Hand DB ... Late: 22 May Union KCJ; 21 May Lincoln DC; 20 May Day GO

**Warbling Vireo** Early: 30 Apr Clay GJS; 06 May Hughes BJU; 12 May Charles Mix RM; 12 May Gregory ND; 14 May Codington BJU; 14 May Lincoln DC; 14 May Spink BJU; 16 May Pennington JLB

**Philadelphia Vireo** All Reports: 18 May Spink BJU; 21 May Minnehaha JSP

**Red-eyed Vireo** Early: 15 May Lincoln MS; 15 May Union GJS, KM; 18 May Spink BJU; 21 May Meade JF

**Pinyon Jay** Only Report: 30 May Meade JLB

**Clark's Nutcracker** All Reports: 09 May Custer ND; 15 May Harding CEM

**Purple Martin** Early: 15 Apr Brookings KCJ; 17 Apr Grant GO; 18 Apr Hughes EDS

**Tree Swallow** Early: 01 Apr Clay GJS; 03 Apr Brookings JSP; 04 Apr Bennett ND

**Violet-green Swallow** Early: 26 Apr Fall River BJU, ND; 05 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Meade APB

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** Early: 24 Apr Stanley KM; 24 Apr Yankton RND; 30 Apr Meade RSL; 10 May Day BJU; 10 May Marshall BJU

**Bank Swallow** Early: 24 Apr Stanley KM; 03 May Brown GO; 06 May Hughes BJU

**Cliff Swallow** Early: 24 Apr Charles Mix RM; 24 Apr Stanley KM; 25 Apr Brookings JSP; 04 May Pennington ND

**Barn Swallow** Early: 11 Apr Clay GJS; 20 Apr Grant BJU; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 26 Apr Fall River BJU

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Late: 14 May Lake JSP; 12 May Brown GO; 30 Apr Brookings KCJ; 17 Apr Union GJS

**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 28 Mar Pennington RSL; 30 Apr Custer BJU; 29 May Pennington JLB

**Brown Creeper** Late: 22 Apr Hughes KM; 17 Apr Sully KM; 17 Apr Lake JSP

**Rock Wren** Early: 29 Apr Custer BJU; 04 May Butte BJU; 05 May Lawrence BJU; 06 May Hughes BJU

**House Wren** Early: 24 Apr Yankton RND; 25 Apr Charles Mix RM; 28 Apr Clay GJS; 30 Apr Roberts MO; 07 May Pennington JLB, RSL

**Sedge Wren** Early: 06 May Lake JSP; 08 May Jerauld BFW; 08 May Moody JSP; 13 May Hyde BJU

**Marsh Wren** Early: 16 Apr Hughes KM; 30 Apr Roberts MO; 04 May Clay DS; 08 May Bennett TJ

**American Dipper** All Reports: 05 May Lawrence BJU; 29 May Lawrence JLB

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Late: 19 Apr Charles Mix RM; 18 Apr Hughes KM; 17 Apr Stanley KM; 10 Apr McCook JSP

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Early: 03 Apr Brookings JSP; 04 Apr Clay DS; 10 Apr McCook JSP; 18 Apr Lawrence JF ... Late: 17 May Brown GO; 15 May Clay GJS; 15 May Brookings KCJ

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Early: 24 Apr Union DS; 02 May Clay GJS; 02 May Minnehaha TJ; 21 May Custer JF

**Eastern Bluebird** Early: 07 Mar Hughes KM; 14 Mar Custer RSL; 20 Mar Brookings JSP

**Mountain Bluebird** Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 04 Mar Haakon MMM; 04 Mar Meade JLB; 07 Mar Stanley KM, RDO

**Townsend's Solitaire** Late: 27 Mar Hughes DB

**Veery** All Reports: 16 May Stanley RDO; 19 May Union MO; 21 May Meade JF; 21 May Union KM; 23 May Harding CEM; 29 May Lawrence JLB

**Gray-checked Thrush** Early: 06 May Clay DS; 07 May Hughes KM; 08 May Sully KM; 14 May Roberts GO ... Late: 22 May Union KCJ; 22 May Stanley DB; 21 May Minnehaha JSP

**Swainson's Thrush** Early: 30 Apr Hand DB; 03 May Brown GO; 06 May Hughes BJU; 06 May Pennington MMM; 06 May Stanley KM ... Late: 28 May Brown BJU; 25 May Stanley KM; 25 May Hand BJU

**Hermit Thrush** Early: 04 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 10 Apr Brown GO; 17 Apr Sully KM ... Late: 11 May Minnehaha MRZ; 06 May Hughes BJU; 25 Apr Marshall GO

**Wood Thrush** Early: 11 May Brown BJU; 11 May Lake JSP; 14 May Lincoln DC, KM; 18 May Union MO

**Gray Catbird** Early: 03 May Clay DS; 05 May Stanley KM; 09 May Pennington RSL; 10 May Minnehaha MRZ

**Northern Mockingbird** Early: **11 Apr Marshall RDO**; 05 May Lawrence BJU; 20 May Hughes DB

**Sage Thrasher** Only Report: **05 May Butte BJU**

**Brown Thrasher** Early: 06 Apr Clay DS; 17 Apr Brookings KCJ; 17 Apr Roberts GO; 04 May Butte BJU; 04 May Meade BJU

**American Pipit** Early: 16 Apr Hand DB; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 04 May Butte BJU; 05 May Hughes KM ... Late: **18 May Spink BJU**; 14 May Deuel BJU; 14 May Codington BJU; 14 May Clark BJU; 09 May Hughes RDO

**Sprague's Pipit** Early: **28 Apr Custer MMM**; 02 May Union GJS; 08 May Clay GJS; 08 May Lyman RDO

**Blue-winged Warbler** Early: 18 May Lincoln MO

**Golden-winged Warbler** All Reports: 15 May Brookings JSP; 21 May Lincoln GO, MO

**Tennessee Warbler** Early: **01 May Lincoln DS**; 06 May Hughes BJU; 09 May Stanley KM

**Orange-crowned Warbler** Early: 22 Apr Hughes KM; 24 Apr Clay GJS; 24 Apr Miner JSP; 24 Apr Union DS; 30 Apr Pennington MMM ... Late: 22 May Stanley DB; 19 May Marshall GO; 18 May Walworth GO; 18 May Campbell GO; 16 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Jones RDO

**Nashville Warbler** Early: 11 May Lake JSP; 13 May Brown GO; 13 May Hand BJU, DB; 13 May Stanley KM ... Late: 25 May Spink BJU; 22 May Lincoln DC; 20 May Day GO; 19 May Union MO

**Virginia's Warbler** Only Report: 21 May Custer JF

**Northern Parula** All Reports: 08 May Union DS; 18 May Spink BJU; 18 May Walworth GO; 22 May Lincoln DC

**Yellow Warbler** Early: **23 Apr Beadle fide BFW**; 07 May Clay DS; 08 May Bennett TJ; 08 May Pennington RSL; 08 May Sully KM; 08 May Tripp RDO; 08 May Union GJS

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** Early: 16 May Minnehaha TJ, MS; 18 May Spink BJU; 19 May Marshall GO; 19 May Union MO ... Late: 29 May Grant BJU; 25 May Spink BJU; 23 May Minnehaha RM, RSL, GO; 20 May Union RDO, KM

**Magnolia Warbler** Early: 14 May Lake JSP; 14 May Lincoln DC; 15 May Brown GO; 15 May Charles Mix RM; 15 May Union KM ... Late: 22 May Stanley DB; 22 May Lincoln RM, KM, DC; 21 May Minnehaha JSP

**Cape May Warbler** All Reports: 16 May Brown GO; 18 May Spink BJU; 18 May Walworth GO; 21 May Spink BJU

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** Only Report: 10 May Grant BJU

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Early: 12 Apr Brown GO; 12 Apr Hughes KM; 15 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Harding CEM ... Late: 21 May Lincoln GO; 20 May Union RDO; 20 May Day GO

**Black-throated Green Warbler** Early: 09 May Stanley KM, RDO; 15 May Brookings KCJ; 19 May Marshall GO; 19 May Spink BJU; 19 May Union MO ... Late: 22 May Lincoln DC; 21 May Spink BJU

**Blackburnian Warbler** Early: **09 May Stanley KM, RDO**; 19 May Spink BJU; 19 May Union MO ... Late: 29 May Grant BJU; 28 May Brown BJU; 22 May Union KCJ

**Palm Warbler** Early: 29 Apr Stanley RDO; 07 May Clay DS; 08 May Union GJS; 10 May Day BJU; 10 May Grant BJU ... Late: 18 May Walworth GO; 17 May Brown GO; 15 May Brookings JSP, KCJ

**Bay-breasted Warbler** All Reports: 15 May Brookings JSP; 19 May Spink BJU; 20 May Day GO; 21 May Lincoln GO, MO; 22 May Lincoln DC

**Blackpoll Warbler** Early: 07 May Hughes KM; 09 May Charles Mix RM; 09 May Stanley KM, RDO; 13 May Pennington JLB; 14 May Lake JSP ... Late: 25 May Hand BJU; 24 May Brown GO; 23 May Minnehaha RM, RSL, GO; 22 May Union KCJ; 22 May Stanley DB; 22 May Hughes DB; 16 May Jones RDO

**Black-and-white Warbler** Early: 30 Apr Brookings KCJ; 01 May Brown BK; 04 May Lake JSP; 07 May Hughes KM; 08 May Bennett TJ ... Late: 22 May Minnehaha KM; 22 May Lincoln DC; 21 May Union DC; 21 May Meade JF

**American Redstart** Early: 13 May Pennington JLB; 14 May Minnehaha MS; 15 May Brookings KCJ, JSP; 15 May Harding CEM; 15 May Lincoln MS; 15 May Union GJS, KM

**Ovenbird** Early: 07 May Stanley KM; 13 May Brown GO; 13 May Minnehaha TJ; 15 May Harding CEM

**Northern Waterthrush** Early: **29 Apr Custer BJU**; 06 May Hughes BJU; 07 May Clay DS; 08 May Moody JSP ... Late: 22 May Lincoln RM; 21 May Minnehaha JSP; 19 May Spink BJU; 16 May Stanley RDO, KM; 08 May Bennett TJ

**Connecticut Warbler** All Reports: **16 May Brown BK**; 23 May Minnehaha DC; 25 May Spink BJU

**Mourning Warbler** Early: 16 May Stanley KM, RDO; 19 May Clay MO; 19 May Hughes EDS; 21 May Lincoln GO, KM, MO, RDO; 21 May Minnehaha JSP; 21 May Spink BJU ... Late: 25 May Spink BJU; 23 May Lincoln DC; 23 May Clay GJS

**MacGillivray's Warbler** All Reports: 29 May Lawrence JLB; 30 May Lawrence JLB

**Common Yellowthroat** Early: 04 May Clay DS; 06 May Hughes BJU; 06 May Stanley KM; 07 May Pennington JLB, RSL; 10 May Day BJU; 10 May Grant BJU; 10 May Marshall BJU

**Wilson's Warbler** Early: 05 May Pennington JLB; 09 May Stanley KM, RDO; 15 May Brookings KCJ, JSP; 15 May Brown GO ... Late: 25 May Hand BJU; 22 May Hughes DB; 18 May Spink BJU

**Canada Warbler** Early: 15 May Brown GO; 18 May Clay MO; 19 May Marshall GO; 19 May Spink BJU ... Late: 23 May Lincoln DC; 21 May Minnehaha JSP

**Yellow-breasted Chat** Early: 15 May Pennington JF; 17 May Hughes EDS; 21 May Spink BJU

**Summer Tanager** Only Report: 04 May Stanley KM

**Scarlet Tanager** Early: 14 May Lincoln DC; 15 May Union DS, GJS, KM; 16 May Jones RDO; 16 May Stanley KM, RDO

**Western Tanager** Early: 07 May Hughes DB, KM; 16 May Meade APB; 27 May Lawrence VDF

**Spotted Towhee** Early: 16 Apr Hand DB; 16 Apr Hughes KM; 17 Apr Charles Mix RM; 21 Apr Pennington RSL

**Eastern Towhee** Early: 16 Apr Clay GJS; 24 Apr Yankton RND; 27 Apr Charles Mix RM; 02 May Minnehaha TJ

**American Tree Sparrow** Late: **15 May Charles Mix RM**; 11 Apr Hand DB; 09 Apr Walworth GO; 03 Apr Pennington JLB

**Chipping Sparrow** Early: 06 Apr Clay DS; 14 Apr Beadle *fide* BFW; 15 Apr Brookings KCJ; 26 Apr Fall River BJU

**Clay-colored Sparrow** Early: **22 Apr Deuel BJU**; 29 Apr Beadle *fide* BFW; 30 Apr Clay GJS; 02 May Pennington MMM

**Brewer's Sparrow** All Reports: **05 May Butte BJU**; 05 May Harding CEM; 15 May Harding CEM; 23 May Custer MMM

**Field Sparrow** Early: 10 Apr McCook JSP; 16 Apr Hand DB; 17 Apr Charles Mix RM; 17 Apr Roberts GO; 17 Apr Union GJS; 04 May Butte BJU; 04 May Meade BJU

**Vesper Sparrow** Early: **02 Apr Clay DS**; 03 Apr Bennett ND; 09 Apr Hand DB

**Lark Sparrow** Early: 02 May Clay GJS; 04 May Stanley RDO; 06 May Charles Mix RM; 06 May Pennington MMM; 09 May Minnehaha MRZ

**Lark Bunting** Early: 08 May Jerauld BFW; 11 May Custer MMM; 14 May Fall River ND

**Savannah Sparrow** Early: 12 Apr Charles Mix RM; 17 Apr Hand DB; 20 Apr Grant BJU; 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 20 Apr Sanborn *fide* BFW; 21 Apr Custer MMM

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Early: **24 Apr Clay GJS**; 04 May Hyde *fide* BFW; 08 May Hughes KM; 08 May Sully KM; 09 May Custer MMM; 11 May McPherson BJU

**Baird's Sparrow** Early: **29 Apr Custer BJU**; 11 May McPherson BJU; 15 May Harding CEM



**Le Conte's Sparrow** All Reports: 25 Apr Hughes KM; 06 May Hughes BJU; 11 May McPherson BJU; 20 May Lincoln KM, MO; 25 May Spink BJU

**Nelson's Sparrow** Only Report: **21 May Spink BJU**

**Fox Sparrow** Early: 10 Mar Brookings KCJ; 27 Mar Clay GJS; 04 Apr Day GO; 04 Apr Roberts GO ... Late: 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 15 Apr Brookings KCJ; 12 Apr Brown GO

**Song Sparrow** Early: 24 Mar Pennington JLB; 27 Mar Hughes DB; 27 Mar Kingsbury JSP

**Lincoln's Sparrow** Early: 20 Apr Brown GO; 24 Apr Clay GJS; 24 Apr Miner JSP; 28 Apr Harding CEM ... Late: 23 May Custer MMM; 21 May Lincoln MO; 19 May Clay GJS

**Swamp Sparrow** Early: 22 Apr Deuel BJU; 24 Apr Miner JSP; 30 Apr Roberts MO; 13 May Charles Mix RM

**White-throated Sparrow** Early: 12 Apr Brown GO; 15 Apr Clay GJS; 18 Apr Brookings KCJ; 05 May Lawrence BJU ... Late: 21 May Spink BJU; 21 May Lincoln MO; 16 May Stanley KM; 16 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Hughes DB; 16 May Brown GO; 16 May Beadle *fide* BFW

**Harris's Sparrow** Early: 06 Mar Clay GJS; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM; 24 Apr Miner JSP; 09 May Custer MMM; 09 May Harding CEM; 09 May Pennington JF ... Late: 18 May Walworth GO; 16 May Stanley KM; 16 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Jones RDO; 16 May Hughes DB; 16 May Brown GO

**White-crowned Sparrow** Early: 15 Apr Custer MMM; 27 Apr Charles Mix RM; 28 Apr Harding CEM; 29 Apr Brown GO ... Late: 22 May Stanley DB; 22 May Custer MMM; 16 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Jones RDO; 16 May Hughes DB; 16 May Clay GJS; 16 May Brown GO

**Dark-eyed Junco** Late: 20 Apr Roberts BJU; 20 Apr Hughes EDS; 19 Apr Brookings KCJ

**Lapland Longspur** All Reports: 03 Apr Marshall GO; 04 Apr Sully RDO; 09 Apr Hand DB; 23 Apr Grant BJU; **06 May Haakon BJU**

**Smith's Longspur** Only Report: **22 Apr Deuel BJU**

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Early: 01 Apr Custer MMM; 05 Apr Hand DB; 10 Apr Sully KM

**Snow Bunting** All Reports: 04 Mar Faulk MMM; 05 Mar Roberts MO

**Northern Cardinal** reported 29 Mar Pennington JLB

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Early: 01 May Clay GJS; 10 May Charles Mix RM; 11 May Hand DB; 11 May Lake JSP; 11 May Stanley RDO; 15 May Pennington JF

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Early: **22 Apr Harding CEM**; 02 May Stanley RDO; 08 May Hughes DB, EDS

**Blue Grosbeak** All Reports: 17 May Custer MMM; 22 May Lincoln RM; 23 May Lincoln DC; 23 May Minnehaha GO, RSL

**Lazuli Bunting** Early: 10 May Lawrence VDF; 10 May Pennington RSL; 15 May Brown GO; 21 May Union KM, RDO

**Indigo Bunting** Early: 11 May Buffalo *fide* BFW; 15 May Clay GJS; 15 May Lyman KM, RDO; 15 May Union GJS, KM; 17 May Lawrence VDF; 18 May Lincoln MO

**Dickcissel** Early: 22 May Lincoln DC; 23 May Minnehaha JSP; 23 May Turner KM; 27 May Charles Mix RM

**Bobolink** Early: 04 May Clay GJS; 09 May Hand DB; 10 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 12 May Tripp ND

**Red-winged Blackbird** Early: 02 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Butte JLB; 04 Mar Lawrence JLB; 05 Mar Roberts MO

**Eastern Meadowlark** Only Report: 08 May Bennett TJ

**Western Meadowlark** Early: 06 Mar Hughes KM; 12 Mar Meade EEM; 18 Mar Clay GJS; 18 Mar Jones ND; 25 Mar Brookings KCJ

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Early: 07 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW; 03 Apr Bennett ND; 03 Apr Brown GO; 03 Apr Marshall GO; 04 Apr Sully RDO

**Rusty Blackbird** All Reports: 26 Mar Roberts MO; 27 Mar Charles Mix DS; **14 May Lincoln DC**

**Brewer's Blackbird** Early: 15 Apr Meade JLB; 16 Apr Hand DB; 18 Apr Sully KM

**Common Grackle** Early: 09 Mar Lake JSP; 14 Mar Clay GJS; 18 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 01 Apr Pennington JLB

**Great-tailed Grackle** Early: 02 Apr Charles Mix RM; 19 Apr Brookings KCJ; 14 May Lyman KM, RDO

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Early: 19 Mar Clay GJS; 09 Apr Brookings KCJ; 10 Apr Lake JSP; 26 Apr Fall River BJU

**Orchard Oriole** Early: 09 May Stanley KM; 12 May Gregory ND; 14 May Lincoln DC; 16 May Pennington JLB

**Bullock's Oriole** Only Report: 22 May Custer MMM  
**Baltimore Oriole** Early: 27 Apr **Charles Mix RM**; 04 May Clay GJS; 07 May Minnehaha MRZ; 10 May Meade EEM  
**Purple Finch** Late: 09 May Lake JSP; 30 Apr Brookings KCJ; 07 Apr Hughes EDS  
**Cassin's Finch** reported 06 Mar Lawrence RSL; 06 Mar Meade JLB, RSL; 07 Mar Pennington RSL; 10 Mar Pennington (25) RSL; 01 May Custer BJU; 07 May Lawrence VDF  
**House Finch** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Apr Harding (NY) CEM  
**Common Redpoll** All Reports: 13 Mar Lake JSP; 18 Mar Lake JSP; 08 Apr Lake JSP  
**Pine Siskin** Late: 22 May Hughes DB; 07 May Minnehaha MRZ; 05 May Brown GO  
**Evening Grosbeak** All Reports: 02 May Pennington BJU; 31 May Lawrence VDF

**Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee**

**Tundra Swan** 11 May Brown BJU; 21 May Spink BJU  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** 22 May Minnehaha SDOU  
**Glossy Ibis** 10 May Marshall BJU; 11 May Brown (9) BJU; 14 May Lyman KM, RDO; 14 May Spink BJU; 16 May Lyman RDO; 26 May Walworth BJU; 28 May Brown BJU; 30 May Tripp RDO  
**Peregrine Falcon** 12 Mar Hughes DB  
**Common Moorhen** 28 May Brown BJU  
**Long-billed Curlew** 11 May McPherson BJU  
**Laughing Gull** 19 May Buffalo WB  
**Arctic Tern** 12 May Stanley RDO  
**Chuck-will's-widow** 18 May Yankton MO  
**Pileated Woodpecker** 20 Mar Brookings JSP; 03 Apr Brookings JSP  
**Philadelphia Vireo** 26 May Pennington JF  
**Rock Wren** 16 May Minnehaha TJ  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 12 Apr Hughes KM  
**Cerulean Warbler** 14 May Lincoln DC  
**Prothonotary Warbler** 18-22 May Union MO, KM, RDO, DC, KCJ  
**Worm-eating Warbler** 21 May Lincoln KCJ  
**McCown's Longspur** 11 Apr Butte ND

**Species Expected But Not Reported**

White-winged Scoter (3), Barrow's Goldeneye, Gyrfalcon, Snowy Owl, Carolina Wren (3), Winter Wren, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Warbler, White-winged Crossbill

**Contributing Observers**

DB	Doug Backlund	MMM	Michael M. Melius
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	CEM	Charlie Miller
APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	EEM	Ernest E. Miller
WB	William Bossman	KM	Kenny Miller
DC	Doug Chapman	GO	Gary Olson
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
ND	Nancy Drilling	MO	Mark Otnes
BFW	Bridgette Flanders-Wanner	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
VDF	Vic & Donna Fondy	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
JF	Jennifer Fowler	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
BFH	Bill Huser	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
KCJ	Kent C. Jensen	DS	David Swanson
TJ	Todd Jensen	BJU	Bill J. Unzen
BK	Brian Kringen	SW	Scott Weins
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	JDW	J. David Williams
RM	Ron Mabie	MRZ	Mick Zerr

# BIRDING HOTSPOTS IN SD

2010 and MORE WOW! Birds

RICKY D. OLSON

The following species are observations either posted to the sd-birds list-serve, the SDOU database or gleaned from second-hand reports. Sadly, several will probably never be submitted to the SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee for documentation, but are listed in this article for informational purposes. None will become official records until passed by the SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee.

The most important bird to be found had to be the **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush** found in Spearfish Canyon by Eric Ripma of Indiana. If accepted, it would be only the third United States record, the only record north of Texas, and, of course, a first South Dakota record.

There was also a report, with an accompanying photo, of a **Black Rail** with young in Potter County. It would be a first state record and also a first breeding record.

It's hard to believe that a record of a jaeger would come in third in a yearly report, much less a seasonal report in South Dakota, but that's what has happened. A presumed **Long-tailed Jaeger** discovered by Rex Riis, put on a show in the Oahe Dam tailrace for several days in June. Also in June, two Brown Pelicans were observed in the Big Bend Dam tailrace area. This is the second year in a row a Brown Pelican has made an appearance in the Big Bend tailrace.

Other potential records include a first South Dakota breeding record of **Bewick's Wren** reported in Fall River County and the first nesting record in over 100 years of a **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in South Dakota, reported from Custer County. Also, from Fall River County came a report of a **Cassin's Sparrow**. There was seemingly an invasion of **Glossy Ibis**—twenty-seven individuals in eight counties were reported; the possibility that they nested somewhere is certainly tantalizing. An Arctic Tern and a Laughing Gull were reported in the Oahe Dam tailrace area this season. Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed, one in Butte County and another in McPherson County. Also, Cassin's Kingbirds were seen, one each in Custer County and Corson County. [Has anyone checked for them in Yellow Bear Canyon lately?] Henslow's Sparrows were reported from Gregory and Brookings County.

There is also a report, with photos, of a **Mottled Duck** in Marshall County, another potential first state record. Three broods of Common Moorhens were documented in Brown County.

As far as my guesses for the fall season, how do you beat this last season? I will predict we will see many gull and tern species feeding below the Missouri River dams. Because of high water, the dam discharges will remain constant bringing in feeding birds. I will go out on a limb and predict another jaeger will be seen. Also the river might produce some good sightings of uncommon waterfowl and loons.



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