
SOUTH DAKOTA

Ornithologists' Union



Rough-legged Hawk

Photo: Doug Backlund

S O U T H  D A K O T A

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE:

If it were not for a change of Editors, this December, 2006, issue of Bird Notes, which is coming to you several months late, would slide into history with no indication that any delay had ever taken place. Let me take this opportunity to thank, with gratitude, Eric Liknes for his efforts as Editor and wish him well in his new professorship and in the major task of building his ornithology research program at Northern State University. And, let me welcome, with gratitude, Doug Chapman, our new editor. Please read his introductory article on Page 64.



Let me also introduce myself. I have been an avid amateur birder for the last twenty years and am a life member of SDOU. I am a retired non-profit organization CEO, co-owner of a small real estate business with my husband, Bill, and currently do a little consulting for a South Dakota software company with a birding software program for PDAs (Palms). My three favorite South Dakota birding spots are Newton Hills State Park, Sica Hollow State Park, and Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge. I savor springtime birding through the pothole areas of eastern South Dakota. I hope, one day soon, to find in Minnehaha County a Northern Saw-whet Owl and a successful nest of Bald Eagles. I have authored two birding trail guidebooks for eastern South Dakota for the state tourism office and have conducted, with fellow SDOU board member Linda Johnson, four summer bird surveys for the non-game wildlife division of SD Game Fish and Parks.

Through birding I have developed a great appreciation for the habitat protection efforts of both the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which maintains Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in South Dakota, and SD GF&P, which maintains Game Production Areas (GPAs) throughout the state. Many of these WPAs and GPAs are terrific birding areas and are open to the public. I have always purchased an annual South Dakota park sticker to support GF&P, and lately I have been purchasing a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (aka Federal Duck Stamp), neither for hunting nor stamp collecting, but simply to support the wetland protection efforts of USFWS. I understand that 98% of the \$15 cost of the stamp goes into wetland protection. I keep my stamp in a plastic case just its size and keep it fastened to my birding vest. The stamp also grants free admission to all National Wildlife Refuges in the country that charge fees. If you, too, think this is a good way to support wetland habitat protection, and decide to purchase a federal duck stamp, I will be glad to give you a plastic key chain stamp holder like mine.

The Spring Meeting for 2008 is being planned for the Lake Andes/Pickstown area from May 16-18, 2008. Please watch for the specifics in Bird Notes or online at SDOU's website: www.sdou.org.

I look forward to serving SDOU and would be glad to hear your ideas for improving the organization.

See good birds.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Draeger".

FROM OUR PAST...

...IN SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

L. M. BAYLOR

"BEFORE SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES"

Many SDOU members have shared distress due to a delay in publishing *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Perhaps reviewing some early history of our journal's publication will allay feelings about the recent situation.

Inevitably, transitions in the editorship of *Bird Notes* have led to these delays with regular publication. People do not stand in line awaiting a turn to become editor. Searching for a new editor is time consuming. Then the new editor needs substantial time to publish the next issue.

Consider the qualities of an editor of *Bird Notes*. That person needs knowledge of birds in South Dakota, competent language and writing skills, and knowledge of or an ability to learn publication processes. Above all, the person must have sufficient spare time and willingness to assume a task for which remuneration is mere satisfaction with doing a good job. All too seldom do we express appreciation for the editor's service.

The challenge of prompt publication came to SDOU even before the first issue of *Bird Notes*, which finally appeared as Vol. 1, No. 1 (July, 1949). At hand is a four-page, mimeographed prepublication dated April 15, 1949. That was the date the SDOU founders had set to initiate *South Dakota Bird Notes*. The prepublication, titled "Preliminary Bulletin of South Dakota Ornithologist's Union," served as a newsletter issued by Herman F. Chapman, primary founder and first President of SDOU.

Addressed to all SDOU members, the opening paragraph of this bulletin stated: "You have been promised a quarterly publication, 'South Dakota Bird Notes,' and plans for the first issue go forward slowly and carefully. However, there are some matters which seem to call for early attention, and officers want to report progress, hence this informal preliminary bulletin."

President Chapman wrote about SDOU's purpose to fulfill "the need for state-wide observation of bird life and dissemination of the information thus obtained." Contributions from member observers, according to Chapman, would "thus help write the full story of South Dakota birds."

The bulletin also offered suggestions as to useful books about South Dakota's birds. In addition to R. T. Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds* and *Field Guide to Western Birds*, Chapman mentioned *Birds of South Dakota*, by Over and Toms, available for 50 cents, and Reed's pocket-sized *Land Birds East of the Rockies* at \$1.75.

The Membership Committee reported 151 charter members as of April 15, 1949, with good membership representation for eastern South Dakota and the Black Hills. Few members resided, however, in the area between the Missouri River and the Black Hills. In 1949, as now, the fervent plea was, "We need more members."

The preliminary bulletin ended with greetings and congratulations on the formation of the South Dakota Ornithologist's Union from Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Ottumwa, IA, president of the Iowa Ornithologist's Union. He remarked: "Your organization...should strive to make people aware...that birds are valuable, not just because of beauty, but because they are cogs in the great machine of Nature."

EDITORIAL:

Hopefully, this *Bird Notes* you hold in your hand is introduction enough, but just in case some may want a tidbit about me personally, I'll mention that I started birding in South Dakota when I was 7-8 years old. I remember an American Goldfinch nesting in the shrubs outside my bedroom window. I would watch mesmerized as a House Sparrow would parasitize the nest and then the finches would build a nest over their own eggs as well as the unfamiliar new one. It became seven layers deep. I remember that, but I don't remember how it ended, and, of course, I didn't know their names or why they were doing this, but I was fascinated.

When I was twelve, I wanted to know what a bird was in the creek outside our cabin in the Black Hills. My parents looked and just said—"Oh, I don't know, dear. A sparrow I guess," and turned away. After a bit of youthful contemplation, I said quietly to myself, "No it's not..." I used my vacation allowance to purchase a Golden Guide in a Rapid City bookstore and discovered it was a Water Ouzel, (now renamed American Dipper). I was hooked.

This is your journal: a record of birdlife in South Dakota and some articles that will be of interest to South Dakota birders and ornithologists. I am quick to say both birder and ornithologist because I am the first editor since 1979 who is just a birder, not an ornithologist. I am sure that we will all get along just fine, though. After all, it's really about birds for all of us.

Some topics for you to consider writing on for your *Bird Notes'* friends to read:

- For those wishing to submit photos (or artwork—see below): In addition to the cover photo in full color, I am going to include a smaller full color photo on the back cover; also, I am going to include a page or two of bird photos in black and white. Please indicate any parameters you wish to assign to any photos. I will certainly respect the owner's wishes. I may also come begging for photos.
- "Meet a SD birder." Interview a birder you feel especially important to you.
- "My Favorite Birding Spot in SD" This would include birds and habitat and scenery to share. Just what you enjoy about the place(s). "The spot I saw the Worm-eating Warbler" might work nicely.
- Young Birder Column articles; Caity Reiland-Smith is the Youth Editor.
- Bird Artists and their Art. See above under photos. (I know you are out there.)
- "Tips on Feeders" —someone adept at feeders can contribute some tips.
- Lepidoptery for Birders 101. I can write a bit (novice stuff) but maybe Garry Marrone of Ft. Pierre could contribute? More and more birders are finding how well butterflies and birds mesh. Birdless days are often best for leps.
- Birds missed for a time in SD: their present status, i.e. Barred Owl, Cerulean Warbler, etc.
- Avian Flu and WNV science; to know some concrete facts when we are asked by people we meet when they find out we "Like Birds." I always get those questions. I'm not very good at answering them.
- Perhaps a Bird ID quiz, or BirdCam sightings.
- Any possible threats to birdlife in SD.

Please send any suggestions you may have for a subject to include in *Bird Notes*.

Thank you all very much.

Doug Chapman

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL BANDING IN CENTRAL SOUTH DAKOTA 2002-2005

Doug Backlund
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Pierre, SD 57501

The winter status of Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) in South Dakota outside of the Black Hills has been sketchy at best until the Pierre Christmas Bird Count in 1999. On that CBC, Kenny Miller and Charles Sisk located a NSWO on Farm Island that subsequently spent the winter in a small area of the island (Backlund and Olson, 2000). Another winter record of a NSWO on Farm Island was reported on January 15, 1995 (Backlund, D., 1995) but this owl was only seen once.

Ricky Olson, Kenny Miller and I gained valuable knowledge from our observations of the Farm Island wintering owl in 1999. We learned how to locate winter roosts by searching in cedars and pines for whitewash and the presence of pellets. After locating the roosts, it is just a matter of checking back to see if a NSWO is still using the roost. Using this method we have become quite successful in locating NSWO in winter. Roosts are usually in conifers but not always in the thickest conifers. We sometimes find NSWO roosting in isolated cedars, especially if they are located in a deciduous thicket. Calls can be effective in locating owls at night but we also know from experience that not all owls will respond to calls.

I attempted on several occasions to band NSWO using the techniques described by banders in other areas of the county, using playback calls and mist nets, to call in migrating owls. This method has not worked here. The only workable method of catching and banding owls has been to locate roosts, then either catch the owl with a hand net, set up a mist net and flush the owl into it, or come back at night, set up a net and call it in. Despite (or because of) the tame nature of the owls, they can be frustratingly difficult to catch using these methods.

My intent in banding NSWO was answer some of the questions raised by Kenny Miller in his recent SDBN article (Miller, K., 2006). Specifically, I wanted to see if the same owls were returning winter after winter, to prove that individual owls were wintering, and to estimate abundance. During the years 2002 and 2003 I banded six owls but I didn't have much time for the project. None of those owls were recaptured, but I banded three different owls in two winters at Billy Goat Jump, near the Oahe Dam in Stanley County.

In the fall of 2004 I decided to make a concerted effort to band some owls. I banded 18 NSWO, 3 Eastern Screech-owls (including one red morph) and 2 Long-eared Owls. Table 1 lists the results of the NSWO banding. Sex and age is not recorded.

NSWO proved to be more abundant than I had ever imagined. Five NSWO were banded in the Billy Goat Jump area between February 24 and March 2, an area less than 640 acres in size. An additional owl was recaptured in that period, a NSWO that was banded November 11, 2004 and captured again in March 2, 2005, making a total of at least six NSWO present in the Billy Goat Jump area in late winter. The recaptured owl weighed 74 g. when banded and 80 g. after wintering in the area.

Two additional NSWO were recaptured, one 12 days from the first capture and the other was recaptured 9 days after first capture. One owl was recaptured about 1/2 mile from the original banding site, the other was recaptured close to the original banding site (Table 1).

In summary, NSWO are wintering in the central South Dakota and in higher densities than I expected. Density of a minimum of six NSWO per square mile occurred. No winter-to-winter recaptures have occurred yet.

Table 1. NSWO Banding Results 2002-2005

Billy Goat Jump T6N R30E Sec. 25 BHM, Stanley Co.
 California Beach T112N R80W Sec. 26 5th PM, Hughes Co.
 Fishhead Shelterbelt T5N R31E Sec. 8 BHM, Stanley Co.
 Medicine Knoll Creek T110N R77W Sec. 14 5th PM, Hughes Co.
 Little Bend T115N R81W Sec 33, 21, 20 5th PM, Sully Co.
 Degrey T109N R76W Sec. 2, 5th PM, Hughes Co.

	Band Number	Year	Month	Day	Location	Wgt	Wing Chord	Recapture
	* recaptured later							
NSWO	1353-38105	2002	3	24	Billy Goat Jump	110	133	
NSWO	1353-38106	2003	1	2	California Beach	98.7	132	
NSWO	1353-38107	2003	1	4	Billy Goat Jump	83.2	131	
NSWO	1353-38108	2003	1	4	DeGrey	105.4	137	
NSWO	1353-38109	2003	11	15	Billy Goat Jump	90	131	
NSWO	1353-38110	2003	12	23	California Beach	82	126	
NSWO	1353-38111	2004	2	13	Little Bend	70	136	
NSWO	1353-38112	2004	2	21	Little Bend	87	130	
NSWO	0844-75901	2004	11	8	Billy Goat Jump	77	127	
NSWO	0844-75902*	2004	11	8	Billy Goat Jump	74	128	
NSWO	0844-75903*	2004	11	8	California Beach	76	132	
NSWO	0844-75905	2004	11	8	Fishhead Shelterbelt	92	142	
NSWO	0844-75904	2004	11	8	Near the Fishhead Shelterbelt	77	130	
NSWO	0844-75906	2004	11	13	California Beach	96	143	
NSWO	0844-75903	2004	11	20	California Beach			Recaptured on Western Road, about .5 mile from banding site at California Beach.
NSWO	0844-75913	2004	11	23	Farm Island	84	133	
NSWO	0844-75907*	2004	11	23	Medicine Knoll Creek	8.8	138	

NSWO	0844-75914	2004	12	2	Farm Island	88	135	
NSWO	0844-75907	2004	12	2	Medicine Knoll Creek			Recaptured at site of banding
NSWO	0844-75915	2004	12	25	Little Bend	83	129	
NSWO	0844-75916	2005	2	24	Billy Goat Jump	94	142	
NSWO	0844-75917	2005	2	26	Billy Goat Jump	105	138	
NSWO	0844-75918	2005	2	26	Billy Goat Jump	94	138	
NSWO	0844-75919	2005	3	1	California Beach	101	140	
NSWO	0844-75902	2005	3	2	Billy Goat Jump	80		Recaptured at site of banding
NSWO	0844-75920	2005	3	2	Billy Goat Jump	103	139	
NSWO	0844-75921	2005	3	2	Billy Goat Jump	100	141	

Acknowledgements:

Banding was done under Banding Permit #21966 State of South Dakota non-game. Kenny Miller and Rick Olson reported many NSWO roost sites that I was able to work. Alyssa Kiesow, Jeff Shearer, and Carol Aron helped with banding on various occasions. I especially thank Charlene “Charlie” Bessken for tolerating many cold nights and long hikes carrying mist nets and banding equipment through dark and treacherous terrain. I appreciate everyone’s help and assistance.

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Backlund, D. 1995. Northern Saw-whet Owl on Farm Island. South Dakota Bird Notes 47(3): 63.
 Backlund, D. and R.D. Olson, 2000. Northern Saw-whet Owl Winters on Farm Island. South Dakota Bird Notes 52(3): 56-57.
 Miller, Kenny, 2006. Northern Saw-whet Owls in Central South Dakota. South Dakota Bird Notes 58(1): 6-8.

*Northern Saw-whet Owl,
 Hughes County, SD.*
Photo: Doug Backlund



Bird Notes Articles

By
Ricky D. Olson

I will be submitting several articles to be published in this publication (*South Dakota Bird Notes*). I am not writing these articles because I am egotistic or like to see my name in print. I am writing these articles for three reasons. Two of the reasons are because of comments made by SDOU founding members. Their comments have sort of haunted me, making me feel guilty about not writing articles about rare bird sightings and breeding bird records. So, here are my reasons:

1. A couple of years ago at an SDOU board meeting, *Bird Notes* was being discussed and Les Baylor said, "Where are the stories?" He further stated that all the data in *Bird Notes* was fine. But he missed the color and human touch that stories of bird sightings brought to *Bird Notes*.
2. I was birding with Bruce Harris and we observed several Osprey. In our discussion, I stated that I might see 8-10 Osprey in spring migration in the Pierre area nowadays. He was surprised at the number and said that should be put in *SD Bird Notes*. The point I am getting at here is that not everybody in SDOU receives birding listserves, searches the web, receives three birding magazines, or purchases every new field guide that comes out. They rely on *SD Bird Notes* to find about new species becoming casual migrants, population increases, and breeding population expansions in South Dakota.
3. South Dakota birders (myself included), have long complained about Field Guides not showing correct breeding bird populations, ranges of birds, etc., in their publications. The newest National Geographic Field Guide is still omitting some species breeding populations in South Dakota. In my opinion, articles in *Bird Notes* on new state records, new breeding records, etc., are more apt to show up in a literature search than if a person has to pour through seasonal reports when updating field guides. I guess I am saying that if we want the information to be shown correctly, we need to make it more readily obtainable by publishing articles in *Bird Notes*.

FIRST STATE RECORD OF GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Ricky D. Olson

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Ft. Pierre, SD 57532

On April 8, 2006, I had just spent the last three days attending a union convention in Aberdeen, SD. I decided to skip the Saturday night banquet and try to bird a little on the way home. I cut across Sully County and look for waterfowl at Stone Lake. This turned out to be a great decision! To my amazement there were several hundred gulls there. They were feeding on dead carp. Stone Lake water levels had steadily receded due to prolonged drought in the area. It apparently had just experienced a large winterkill of fish.

About 7:30 pm I started scanning the gulls with my spotting scope. On a sandbar about one-half mile away I spotted this large, very dark-mantled gull. It had the blackest mantle I had ever seen on a gull. The mantle was many shades blacker than a Lesser Black-backed Gull's mantle. I surmised it to be an adult-plumaged Great Black-backed Gull. It was over one-half mile away and it would be dark by the time I hiked to it. So I quickly digiscoped a couple of pictures even though it was a good one-half mile away. I decided to go home and return in the morning.

When I arrived home I called Todd Jensen because he had seen a Great Black-backed Gull. We discussed the gull I had observed and narrowed the field to either a Great Black-backed Gull or a Kelp Gull. We guessed it was probably a Great Black-backed Gull. We discussed what field marks I should look for in the morning.

I called Kenny Miller, told him about the gull and asked him to accompany me the next morning. He excitedly agreed to go look for the gull. We arrived the next morning and scoped the lake without success. We decided to hike the northern shoreline. During our hike we observed two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, three Glaucous Gulls, and many Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Then after about a mile of hiking we finally spotted the gull at about 300 feet.

Before hiking, Kenny and I had consulted field guides and discussed what field marks Todd had mentioned. Therefore we knew what field marks to look for if we saw the gull. So while observing it through a spotting scope we both noted the following field marks: the gull was very large, it had a very black mantle, large white crescents and skirt, large yellow bill with a red spot on the lower mandible, bulky body with heavy chest, the folded wing tip had three white windows and the very tip was white. But because of bright sunlight we could not positively tell the leg color.

So Kenny moved closer and confirmed the pink leg color. Kenny then decided to move even closer. While Kenny was moving I stayed stationary and watched the gull. The gull leaned its head way back and started calling very loudly several times as it bobbed its head back and forth. The gull then took flight. I yelled at Kenny in order to alert him of the gull's flight. He stopped and looked at the gull as it flew right over him. The gull attained altitude, circled above us for about five minutes, and then flew north. The gull was never seen again.

I called Todd on my cell phone and discussed the in-flight field marks as I was noting them. Kenny was also noting the field marks. We were both able to note the following ID marks: the upper wing in flight appeared all black with very little contrast with the wing ends (unlike a Lesser Black-backed whose wing ends are darker than rest of the wing); the very end of the wing tip was white and covered a fairly large area; and the underwing had a very pronounced dark elongated triangle that ran from the wing tip to the armpit on the trailing edge of the wing.

This was the first record of a Great Black-backed Gull in South Dakota. The SDOU Rare Bird Committee accepted this record in the fall of 2006.



The Great Black-backed Gull is the largest gull in the world. Ricky Olson and Kenny Miller were lucky enough to see South Dakota's first (and as of press time, only) record of this huge gull. This bird was photographed at Virginia Beach, VA, on 5/21/04.

Photo: Jerry Acton



A Black Scoter (left), and his Long-tailed Duck friend were seen at the Oahe Dam tailrace. Both are occasional vagrants in South Dakota. Stanley County, SD. 10/22/06

Photo: Doug Backlund



In South Dakota, we know winter is coming when we see the American Tree Sparrow show up in their favorite brushy areas. Hughes County, SD. 3/25/06

Photo: Terry Sohl



This Iceland Gull (flying, top right) with several Herring Gulls, was present at LaFramboise Island Causeway, Hughes County, SD, 2/11/06.

Photo: Doug Backlund



Sprague's Pipits have been found recently in the autumn on the banks of War Creek near the Richland Wildlife Area in the Ft. Pierre National Grasslands; Jones County, SD. 9/11/05

Photo: Doug Backlund



Gyrfalcons have been reliable in central South Dakota for several years now. The new National Geographic Guide shows the Pierre area as a wintering ground. Lyman, County, SD. 2/16/04

Photo: Terry Sohl

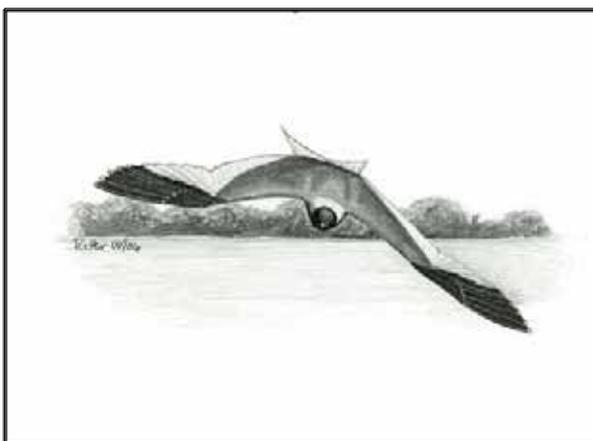


Red-tailed Hawks are found in South Dakota in all seasons. The dark morph and the rufous morph are found occasionally as well as the less common Krider's Hawk and Harlan's Hawk races. This textbook example of the Eastern light morph was caught taking off in flight near Lake Thompson, Kingsbury County, SD. 9/30/06

Photo: Terry Sohl

Sabine's Gull is a rare vagrant to South Dakota, not found very often too far from the Missouri River. It is a very beautiful bird in flight. Graphite medium, 8/06.

Artwork: Michael Retter



Common Mergansers grace a few of South Dakota's largest water bodies in migration. In addition, where there is open water to be found, they will spend the winter. Hughes County, SD. 3/26/06

Photo: Doug Backlund



Ferruginous Hawks ("iron-colored" = rusty) are a majestic raptor seen on the grasslands of South Dakota. This bird shows well the rusty leg feathers that gives the bird its name. Stanley County, SD. 11/11/04

Photo: Terry Sohl

SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2006 Summer Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 June 2006 to 31 July 2006

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

There were 247 species, including 10 rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (1996-2005) average is 248.

Greater White-fronted Goose Only Report: 01 Jun Jerauld *fide* BFW

Snow Goose All Reports: 03 Jun Lake MS; 10 Jun Kingsbury JSP

Trumpeter Swan All Reports: 25 Jun Tripp RDO; 02 Jul Tripp RDO

Wood Duck Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Hughes (PY) DB; 05 Jun Day (PY) WS; 30 Jun Pennington (PY) JLB; 01 Jul McCook (PY) JSP; 18 Jul Lake (PY) DC

American Wigeon All Reports: 25 Jun Meade JLB; 04 Jul Minnehaha DC; 18 Jul Grant BU

Mallard Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Pennington JLB

Cinnamon Teal Only Report: 07 Jun Codington WS

Green-winged Teal All Reports: 03 Jun Minnehaha JSP; 10 Jun Kingsbury JSP

Canvasback Confirmed Breeding: **19 Jul Minnehaha (PY) DC** ... also reported 05 Jun Deuel BU; 13 Jun Deuel BU; 29 Jun Deuel BU

Redhead Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jul Minnehaha (PY) DC

Ring-necked Duck All Reports: 13 Jun Deuel BU; 13 Jun Grant BU

Lesser Scaup All Reports: 03 Jun Minnehaha JSP; 13 Jun Deuel BU; 29 Jun Deuel BU; 18 Jul Deuel BU

Hooded Merganser Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Day (PY) WS

Common Merganser Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Pennington (PY) JLB; 11 Jul Pennington (PY) ND ... also reported 13 Jun Pennington ND; 31 Jul Pennington JLB

Ruddy Duck Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jul Lake (PY) DC

Gray Partridge Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jul Minnehaha (PY) DC ... also reported 03 Jun Minnehaha JSP; 03 Jun Moody MS; 01 Jul McCook JSP; 07 Jul Brown MMM; 09 Jul Harding CEM; 29 Jul Kingsbury DC

Ring-necked Pheasant Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Stanley (PY) RDO; 01 Jul McCook (PY) JSP; 08 Jul Brookings (PY) JSP; 22 Jul Miner (PY) JSP

Ruffed Grouse Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Lawrence (PY) JSP

Greater Sage-Grouse All Reports: 02 Jun Harding CEM; 17 Jul Harding CEM

Sharp-tailed Grouse Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Meade (PY) JLB

Greater Prairie-Chicken All Reports: 18 Jun Jones DB; 04 Jul Stanley DC; 08 Jul Grant BU; 23 Jul Jones DB; 23 Jul Stanley DB

Wild Turkey Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Day (PY) ND; 24 Jul Pennington (PY) JLB

Northern Bobwhite Only Report: 16 Jul Clay DS

Common Loon All Reports: 03 Jun Minnehaha JSP; 03 Jun Stanley RDO; 08 Jun Stanley RDO; 11 Jun Minnehaha MRZ; 23 Jun Grant ND; 23 Jul Stanley DB

Pied-billed Grebe Confirmed Breeding in Brookings, Brown, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Roberts, Tripp, and Turner counties

Red-necked Grebe Confirmed Breeding in Day, Deuel, Marshall, and Roberts counties

Eared Grebe Confirmed Breeding in Brown, Campbell, Codington, Day, Edmunds, Marshall, McPherson, and Walworth counties

Western Grebe Confirmed Breeding in Brookings, Brown, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, and Roberts counties

Clark's Grebe All Reports: 13 Jun Deuel BU; 08 Jul Roberts BU

Double-crested Cormorant Confirmed Breeding in Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Corson, Day, Edmunds, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Perkins, Roberts, Spink, Walworth

Great Blue Heron Confirmed Breeding in Brookings, Butte, Clark, Codington, Corson, Custer, Day, Edmunds, Hand, Jackson, Jones, Kingsbury, Lawrence, Lyman, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, and Stanley counties

Great Egret Confirmed Breeding in Brookings, Codington, Day, Kingsbury, Marshall, and McCook counties

Snowy Egret Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Codington (NY – 68 nests) ND; 19 Jun Kingsbury (NY – 58 nests) ND

Cattle Egret Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Brown (NE – 250 adults) ND; 19 Jun Blythe Slough, Codington County (NY – 51 nests) ND; 19 Jun Goose Lake, Codington County (NY – 214 nests) ND; 19 Jun Lake Albert, Kingsbury County (NY – 367 nests) ND

Green Heron Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Grant (NY – 1 nest) ND

Black-crowned Night-Heron Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Brown (ON – 1 nest) ND; 02 Jun Brown (NE – 10 nests) ND; 19 Jun Goose Lake, Codington County (NY – 104 nests) ND; 19 Jun Blythe Slough (ON – 15 nests) ND; 19 Jun Lake Albert, Kingsbury County (NY – 48 nests) ND

White-faced Ibis Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Brown (NE – 75 adults) ND ... also reported 01 Jun Brown ND; 17 Jun Brown RDO; 06 Jul Hyde ND; 20 Jul McPherson ND

Osprey Confirmed Breeding in Custer, Lawrence, and Pennington counties

Bald Eagle Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Day (ON) ND ... also reported 08 Jun Roberts ND; 03 Jul Lawrence DC; 18 Jul Kingsbury DC

Sharp-shinned Hawk Only Report: 27 Jun Fall River RAP

Cooper's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Hughes (ON) DB ... also reported 02 Jun Minnehaha MS; 07 Jun Minnehaha MRZ; 21 Jul Day MO

Northern Goshawk Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Pennington (NY) DB ... also reported 16 Jun Meade AKB

Swainson's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Harding (ON) CEM

Red-tailed Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 17 Jun Harding (NY) CEM

Ferruginous Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Jerauld (NY) *fide* BFW

Golden Eagle Confirmed Breeding: 31 Jul Meade (FL) EEM ... also reported 15 Jun Fall River RAP; 29 Jun Meade EEM; 04 Jul Harding CEM; 09 Jul Harding CEM; 30 Jul Custer JSP

American Kestrel Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Harding (CF) CEM; 19 Jun Day (FL) WS

Prairie Falcon All Reports: 24 Jun Meade APB; 02 Jul Jackson DC; 27 Jul Custer MMM

American Coot Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Meade (PY) JLB; 01 Jul McCook (PY) JSP; 08 Jul Brookings (PY) JSP; 22 Jul Miner (PY) JSP

Black-bellied Plover All Reports: **17 Jun Brown RDO**; 09 Jul Beadle *fide* BFW; 29 Jul Sully RDO; 30 Jul Sully RDO

Semipalmated Plover Early: 03 Jul Pennington DC; 18 Jul Deuel BU; 22 Jul Sully RDO

Piping Plover All Reports: 04 Jun Stanley RDO; 12 Jul Shannon ND; 24 Jul Deuel BU; 29 Jul Sully RDO; 30 Jul Union BFH

Killdeer Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul McCook (PY) JSP; 04 Jul Brown (DD) MRZ; 08 Jul Brookings (PY) JSP

American Avocet Confirmed Breeding in Brown, Day, Edmunds, Fall River, Faulk, McPherson, Roberts, Spink, and Sully counties

Greater Yellowlegs Early: 08 Jul Brookings JSP; 08 Jul Grant BU; 08 Jul Roberts BU; 22 Jul Sully RDO

Lesser Yellowlegs Early: 25 Jun Meade JLB; 29 Jun Deuel BU; 01 Jul McCook JSP; 22 Jul Sully RDO

Solitary Sandpiper Early: **01 Jul McCook JSP**; 08 Jul Grant BU; 08 Jul Roberts BU; 17 Jul Clay DS; 23 Jul Jones DB

Willet Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Campbell (PY) ND; 12 Jul Shannon (PY) ND

Spotted Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Sully (PY) RDO

Upland Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding in Butte, Faulk, Hyde, Lake, McPherson, Stanley, Sully, and Walworth counties

Long-billed Curlew Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Custer (PY) MMM ... also reported 04 Jul Harding CEM; 13 Jul Custer MMM; 23 Jul Pennington JLB

Hudsonian Godwit Only Report: **10 Jun Kingsbury JSP**

Marbled Godwit Confirmed Breeding in Edmunds, Fall River, Hand, McPherson, Spink, Stanley, and Ziebach counties

Sanderling Late: 04 Jun Stanley RDO ... Early: 22 Jul Sully RDO; 24 Jul Deuel BU; 29 Jul Kingsbury DC

Semipalmated Sandpiper Late: 05 Jun Deuel BU; 03 Jun Lake JSP ... Early: 01 Jul McCook JSP; 03 Jul Meade DC; 09 Jul Hand *fide* BFW; 22 Jul Sully RDO

Least Sandpiper Early: 29 Jun Deuel BU; 01 Jul McCook JSP; 05 Jul Brown ND; 20 Jul Meade JLB; 22 Jul Sully RDO

White-rumped Sandpiper All Reports: 10 Jul Deuel BU; 03 Jul Meade DC; 10 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 05 Jun Deuel BU; 03 Jun Lake JSP

Baird's Sandpiper Early: 03 Jul Meade DC; 10 Jul Deuel BU; 18 Jul Kingsbury DC; 22 Jul Sully RDO

Pectoral Sandpiper Late: 10 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 03 Jun Lake JSP ... Early: 01 Jul McCook JSP; 10 Jul Deuel BU; 18 Jul Grant BU; 20 Jul Meade JLB; 22 Jul Sully RDO

Stilt Sandpiper Early: **29 Jun Deuel BU**; 01 Jul McCook JSP; 15 Jul Lake DC; 22 Jul Sully RDO

Buff-breasted Sandpiper Early: **22 Jul Sully RDO**; 24 Jul Deuel BU; 27 Jul Lincoln DC

Short-billed Dowitcher Early: 29 Jun Deuel BU; 18 Jul Grant BU; 21 Jul Day MO; 22 Jul Sully RDO

Long-billed Dowitcher All Reports: 03 Jul Meade DC; 22 Jul Sully RDO; 28 Jul Sully RDO; 29 Jul Kingsbury DC; 29 Jul Sully RDO; 30 Jul Sully RDO

American Woodcock Only Report: 13 Jun Grant BU

Wilson's Phalarope Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun McPherson (PY) ND

Red-necked Phalarope All Reports: 05 Jun Deuel BU; 22 Jul Sully RDO; 24 Jul Deuel BU; 28 Jul Sully RDO; 30 Jul Sully RDO

Franklin's Gull Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Brown (NE – 600 adults) ND; 22 Jun Day (NE – 180 adults) ND

California Gull Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Stanley (PY) RDO; 11 Jun Stanley (NY – 320 adults) ND

Caspian Tern Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jun Stanley (ON) RDO**; **11 Jun Stanley (ON – 26 adults) ND**

Common Tern Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Stanley (ON) RDO; 11 Jun Dewey (NY – 80 adults) ND; 11 Jun Stanley (NE – 24 adults) ND ... also reported 29 Jun McPherson ND

Forster's Tern Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Brown (NE – 12 nests) ND; 13 Jun Brown (NE – 14 adults) ND; 22 Jun Day (NE – 40 adults) ND; 27 Jun Brown (NY – 61 nests) ND

Least Tern Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

Black Tern Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Roberts (NE – 50 adults) ND; 21 Jun Roberts (NY – 20 adults) ND; 25 Jun Brown (NY – 25 nests) ND; 26 Jun Marshall (NY – 2 adults) ND; 12 Jul Hamlin (CF – 8 adults) ND; 13 Jul Roberts (NY – 5 nests) ND

Eurasian Collared-Dove All Reports: 03 Jun Stanley RDO; 01 Jul McCook JSP; 02 Jul Tripp RDO; 04 Jul Lake DC

Yellow-billed Cuckoo Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Tripp (CF) RDO

Barn Owl Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Sully (NY – 3 nests) DB ... also reported 01 Jul Bon Homme BFH; 01 Jul Stanley GO

Eastern Screech Owl Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Stanley (FL) RDO ... also reported 03 Jun Minnehaha MRZ; 19 Jul Lake JSP

Great Horned Owl All Reports: 02 Jun Minnehaha MS; 03 Jun Harding CEM; 13 Jun Deuel BU; 18 Jun Harding CEM; 01 Jul McCook JSP; 19 Jul Minnehaha DC

Burrowing Owl Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jul Faulk (FL) MMM** ... also reported **05 Jun Spink fide DB**; 08 Jul Hand GO

Short-eared Owl All Reports: 04 Jul Jackson DC; 04 Jul Stanley DC; 10 Jul Deuel BU; 17 Jul Custer MMM; 25 Jul Fall River ND; 29 Jul Kingsbury DC

Northern Saw-whet Owl Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Harding (NY) CEM ... also reported 03 Jun Harding CEM; 11 Jun Harding CEM; 15 Jul Harding CEM

Common Nighthawk Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jul Custer (DD) MMM

Common Poorwill All Reports: 02 Jun Meade APB; 02-03 Jun Harding CEM; 04 Jul Meade APB; 11 Jul Meade APB

Chuck-will's-widow Only Report: 01 Jul Stanley DB, GO

Whip-poor-will Only Report: 15 Jun Lincoln RDO

White-throated Swift All Reports: 17 Jun Harding CEM; 28 Jun Custer JLB; 21 Jul Meade AKB; 22 Jul Meade APB; 24 Jul Pennington JLB; 26 Jul Pennington JLB

Calliope Hummingbird All Reports: 27 Jul Pennington DS, JSP; 29-31 Jul Meade EEM; **30 Jul Pennington (3) DS, JSP**

Broad-tailed Hummingbird All Reports: 23 Jul Pennington RDO; 27 Jul Pennington TJ

Rufous Hummingbird Early: 23 Jul Pennington RDO; 27 Jul Meade EEM

Red-headed Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Minnehaha (CF) DC

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker All Reports: 13 Jun Grant BU; 14 Jun Lincoln RDO; 25 Jun Brookings BU; 01 Jul Minnehaha TS; 08 Jul Roberts BU

Red-naped Sapsucker Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (NY) JF ... also reported 16 Jun Custer RC; 24 Jul Pennington JLB; 28 Jul Pennington JSP

Downy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Hairy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

American Three-toed Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lawrence (ON) DC ... also reported 29 Jul Lawrence JSP

Black-backed Woodpecker All Reports: 14 Jun Meade AKB; 01 Jul Pennington RC

Northern Flicker Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Tripp (CF) RDO; 05 Jul Faulk (NY) MMM

Olive-sided Flycatcher Only Report: 03 Jun Minnehaha JSP

Western Wood-Pewee Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

Willow Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Faulk (NE) MMM

Least Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Harding (ON) CEM

Dusky Flycatcher All Reports: 02 Jul Lawrence DC; 31 Jul Lawrence JSP

Cordilleran Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lawrence (ON) DC; 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

Eastern Phoebe Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Minnehaha (ON) MRZ; 08 Jul Brookings (NY) JSP

Say's Phoebe Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Lyman (NY) RDO; 13 Jun Stanley (NB) RDO; 04 Jul Lyman (NE) RDO; 21 Jul Meade (ON) EEM

Western Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Stanley (ON) RDO; 19 Jul Minnehaha (CF) DC; 23 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB

Eastern Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF; 04 Jul Pennington (CN) JLB

Bell's Vireo Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Tripp (CF) RDO

Yellow-throated Vireo All Reports: 03 Jun Minnehaha JSP; 11 Jun Grant BU; 15 Jun Lincoln RDO; 18 Jul Day WS; 21 Jul Day MO; 22 Jul Clay DS

Plumbeous Vireo Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF ... also reported 28 Jun Custer JLB; 26 Jul Pennington JLB; 30 Jul Custer JSP

Warbling Vireo Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

Red-eyed Vireo Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

Gray Jay All Reports: 23 Jul Pennington MMM; 28 Jul Pennington JSP

Blue Jay Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Clark's Nutcracker All Reports: 04 Jun Custer RAP; 16 Jun Custer RC

Purple Martin All Reports: 01 Jun Hughes DB; 25 Jun Brookings BU; 01 Jul McCook JSP; 08 Jul Brookings JSP; 19 Jul Minnehaha DC; 29 Jul Kingsbury JSP

Violet-green Swallow All Reports: 28 Jun Custer JLB; 30 Jun Pennington JLB; 03 Jul Custer JF; 24 Jul Pennington JLB

Northern Rough-winged Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Pennington (CN) JLB

Bank Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Sully (ON) RDO; 03 Jul Brown (CF) MRZ

Cliff Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Hughes (ON) RDO; 19 Jun Stanley (ON) RDO

Barn Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Stanley (NY) RDO

Black-capped Chickadee Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Custer (FL) MMM; 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF; 03 Jul Minnehaha (FL) MRZ

Red-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF ... also reported **23 Jul Hughes DB**

White-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Custer (FL) MMM; 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF; 03 Jul Minnehaha (FL) MRZ

Pygmy Nuthatch All Reports: 22 Jun Fall River RAP; 26 Jun Fall River RAP; 01 Jul Pennington RC; 18 Jul Fall River RAP

Rock Wren Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (CF) JF

Carolina Wren Only Report: **05 Jul Faulk MMM**

House Wren Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Fall River (CF) JF

American Dipper Only Report: 02 Jul Lawrence DC

Golden-crowned Kinglet Only Report: 23 Jul Pennington MMM

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher All Reports: 01 Jun Lincoln MRZ; 01 Jul Minnehaha TS; 30 Jul Custer JSP

Eastern Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Custer (FL) MMM; 25 Jun Tripp (CF) RDO

Mountain Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (CF) JF; 11 Jun Harding (CF) CEM; 18 Jun Harding (NB) CEM

Townsend's Solitaire All Reports: 28 Jun Custer JLB; 03 Jul Custer JF; 24 Jul Pennington JLB; 28 Jul Pennington JSP

Veery All Reports: 17 Jun Harding CEM; 03 Jul Roberts MO

Swainson's Thrush Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lawrence (DD) DC ... also reported 03 Jul Pennington JLB

Wood Thrush All Reports: 03 Jun Minnehaha JSP; 14 Jun Lincoln RDO

American Robin Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Tripp (CF) RDO; 03 Jul Custer (CF) JF; 23 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB

Gray Catbird Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB; 13 Jul Minnehaha (DD) MRZ

Northern Mockingbird Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Stanley (ON) RDO ... also reported 03 Jun Fall River RAP; **08 Jun Stanley (5) RDO**; 01 Jul Stanley GO

Sage Thrasher Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Butte (FY) CEM

Brown Thrasher Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Stanley (ON) RDO; 06 Jul Faulk (CF) MMM

Sprague's Pipit Only Report: **24 Jul Brown CG**

Blue-winged Warbler Only Report: 14 Jun Lincoln RDO

Virginia's Warbler All Reports: 03 Jul Custer DC; 04 Jun Custer RAP; 30 Jul Custer JSP

Yellow Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Fall River (FY) JF; 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF; 08 Jul Brookings (CF) JSP

Yellow-rumped Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Harding (CF) CEM ... also reported 03 Jul Pennington DC, JLB; 25 Jul Meade AKB

Black-and-white Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

Ovenbird Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

MacGillivray's Warbler Only Report: 31 Jul Lawrence JSP

Common Yellowthroat Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

Canada Warbler Only Report: 02 Jun Hand BFW

Yellow-breasted Chat Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Fall River (CF) JF

Scarlet Tanager All Reports: 10 Jun Lincoln MRZ; 14 Jun Lincoln RDO; 21 Jul Roberts MO; 22 Jul Clay DS

Western Tanager Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Meade (ON) AKB; 03 Jul Custer (CF) JF

Spotted Towhee Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Fall River (CF) JF; 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

Eastern Towhee All Reports: 03 Jun Minnehaha JSP; 04 Jun Minnehaha MS; 10 Jun Lincoln MRZ; 14 Jun Lincoln RDO

Lark Bunting Confirmed Breeding in Custer, Fall River, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, and Todd counties

Grasshopper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Hyde (ON) *fide* BFW; 12 Jun Stanley (CF) RDO; 29 Jun Buffalo (NE) *fide* BFW; 30 Jun Walworth (CF) ND; 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF; 04 Jul Stanley (CF) RDO

Le Conte's Sparrow Only Report: 13 Jun Grant BU

Swamp Sparrow All Reports: 13 Jun Deuel BU; 13 Jun Grant BU; 25 Jun Brookings BU; 08 Jul Brookings JSP; 08 Jul Roberts BU; 29 Jul Kingsbury DC

Dark-eyed Junco All Reports: 17 Jun Harding CEM; 01 Jul Meade APB; 03 Jul Meade AKB; 03 Jul Pennington JLB; 19 Jul Meade AKB

Chestnut-collared Longspur Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun McPherson (FY) ND

Black-headed Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

Blue Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Stanley (NE) RDO ... also reported 13 Jun Grant BU; 25 Jun Brookings BU; 01 Jul McCook JSP; 02 Jul Hughes DB; 19 Jul Minnehaha DC

Lazuli Bunting All Reports: 11 Jun Harding CEM; 18 Jun Harding CEM; 25 Jun Tripp RDO; 28 Jun Custer JLB; 09 Jul Meade APB; 09 Jul Harding CEM

Dickcissel Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jul Minnehaha (CF) DC; 19 Jul Minnehaha (CF) DC; 29 Jul Minnehaha (CF) DC

Red-winged Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Brown (NB) RDO; 30 Jun Pennington (FY) JLB; 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF; 13 Jul Minnehaha (DD) MRZ

Western Meadowlark Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Stanley (CF) RDO; 03 Jul Custer (CF) JF; 04 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB

Yellow-headed Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Hughes (CF) RDO

Brewer's Blackbird All Reports: 13 Jun Grant BU; 03 Jul Custer JF; 08 Jul Roberts BU; 24 Jul Pennington JLB

Common Grackle Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ; 03 Jun Stanley (CF) RDO; 30 Jun Pennington (FL) JLB; 04 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB; 04 Jul Stanley (CF) RDO; 13 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Great-tailed Grackle All Reports: 17 Jun Brown RDO; 08 Jul Roberts BU; 13 Jul Minnehaha MRZ; 19 Jul Minnehaha DC

Brown-headed Cowbird Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Day (FL) ND; 13 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Orchard Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Sully (CF) RDO; 02 Jul Fall River (CF) JF; 18 Jul Minnehaha (CF) DC

Bullock's Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (CF) JF ... also reported 09 Jul Harding CEM; 10 Jul Pennington MMM

Baltimore Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Sully (CF) RDO; 15 Jun Lincoln (ON) RDO; 13 Jul Minnehaha (PE) MRZ; 15 Jul Minnehaha (CF) DC

House Finch Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Meade (NE) EEM; 02 Jul Fall River (CF) JF; 18 Jul Pennington (NY) JLB

Red Crossbill All Reports: 03 Jul Pennington JLB; 07 Jul Meade EEM; 24 Jul Pennington JLB; 26 Jul Pennington JLB; 26 Jul Meade EEM; 28 Jul Fall River RAP

Pine Siskin All Reports: 03 Jul Pennington JLB; 11 Jul Meade EEM; 31 Jul Meade EEM

American Goldfinch Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (FY) JF

House Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Tundra Swan 27 Jun Bauer WPA, Beadle County (6) *fide* BFW

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 17 Jun Brown RDO; 28 Jun Brown ND

Glossy Ibis 17 Jun Brown RDO; 14 Jul Brown JSP, DS
Peregrine Falcon 08 Jul Grant BU
Common Moorhen 03 Jun Brown (3) NS; 04 Jun Brown ND
Whimbrel 06 Jun Codrington WS
Western Sandpiper 28-30 Jul Sully RDO
White-winged Dove 08 Jul Beadle RDO
Henslow's Sparrow 18 Jul Minnehaha DC
White-crowned Sparrow 01-12 Jul Custer MMM

Corrections/Additions from Past Reports

Peregrine Falcon 17 Jun 2005 Fall River (Rare Bird Report Required) RAP

Contributing Observers

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A common summer breeder in parts of South Dakota, the Black-and-white Warbler perks up any summer day with its quiet but heartfelt song. Big Sioux Recreation Area, Minnehaha County, SD. 9/3/07

Photo: Terry Sohl

Please Note:

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BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD. Vol. 11. Old World Flycatchers to Old World Warblers. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot, and David Cristie, Eds. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona \$245.00. (www.hbw.com.)

Consider the plight of the Humblot's Flycatcher. A small, drab, brown-backed, streaky breasted Old World Flycatcher, present only in the Comoro Islands between Africa and Madagascar. Today it is relatively common, but increasing human populations are cutting down its forest habitat. Commercial logging and browsing cattle also threaten its habitat. Introduced rats and Common Mynas threaten its young and nests. And, if all those threats were not enough, all 10,000 known Humblot's Flycatchers live on the slopes of an active volcano!

Should we care if the Humblot's Flycatcher becomes extinct? Extinction is a natural process in living systems—after all, if it were not for extinction, there would be no room for new species to evolve. The plethora of endangered and threatened bird species covered in this Handbook suggests something else is afoot here—namely extinction due to the action of one species—humans.

The forward to this book, entitled Ecological Significance of Bird Populations, suggests why we should care about the fate of individual bird species. Birds are critical to so much of our planet's ecology. To name but a few roles birds play in ecology—seed dispersal, pollination, predation and pest control, scavenging, nutrient deposition (the moving of nutrients from one habitat to another), and essential role players in the cogs of the planetary ecological engine. Finally, birds serve as agents of aesthetic inspiration. A species such as our own, that does not value biodiversity, is probably doomed to extinction. I have only touched on the breadth of the 40-page forward; most readers will find it accessible and interesting information.

How do you foster respect for bird diversity? One way is to catalog the diversity of the world's birds, such as this magnificent series does. This volume covers eight bird families with which most of us are unfamiliar. Kinglets and gnatcatchers will probably be the only ones most South Dakota birders will recognize. The unfamiliar families include Old World Flycatchers, Batises and Wattle-eyes, Fantails, Monarch-flycatchers, Cisticolas, and Old World Warblers.

The format of the Handbook is now familiar to readers of my reviews of previous volumes. Each bird family account begins with a general review of the family, and includes glorious photographs of the species therein. Topics covered include systematics, habitat, habits (including voice, feeding,

and breeding) and conservation. Following the family account are plates showing various plumages of the birds of the world. Although the plates are painted by almost a dozen different artists, the excellence of the plates is uniform throughout the book. Accompanying the plates are accounts of individual species. These accounts cover species-specific information and include range maps and conservation status.

In past reviews I have commented that, at first glance, the price of \$245.00 seems expensive. The sheer size and quality of the book, however, make it a bargain. After all, the price is only a bit over \$30.00 per bird family, less than other single-family bird books that lack the photographs and plates included here. Various discounts and installment plans are also available through the Lynx website at: <http://www.hbw.com>.

But what about a farmer in the Comoro Islands? How can he or she come to care about Humblot's Flycatchers? Can this farmer be convinced that birds represent canaries in the coal mine otherwise known as Planet Earth? Perhaps the answer lies in the same way we in America have become ecologically aware—the widespread popularity of field guides. Included with this volume of the Handbook is an insert advertising a program to produce a popular field guide for each of the world's countries. Birdlife International proposes to put a bird guide into the hands of every bird enthusiast in the world—a program called the Local Field Guide Legacy. The flier gives us all an opportunity to contribute to this unique and valuable cause. Let us hope that it is not too late for the Humblot's flycatcher.

~ Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401

GENERAL NOTES:

Towards Safer Towers ...from the American Bird Conservancy

One of the greatest perils to migrating birds is the more than 100,000 lighted communication towers that span the nation. Tower lights confuse night-flying birds and actually attract them, resulting in collisions that kill as many as 50 million birds each year. Research indicates that simply switching from solid state to strobe lights can significantly reduce avian mortality. Pressure from the American Bird Conservancy and its partners resulted in the Federal Aviation Administration issuing a memo recommending the use of white strobe lights as the preferred lighting system on towers, reducing the threat to migrating species such as Scarlet Tanager and Golden-winged Warbler. However, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which regulates all communication towers, still refuses to adopt the minimum U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines that will make the towers safer for birds.



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