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# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

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*Northern Cardinal, "Long-crested" form  
Zipolite, Oaxaca, Mexico 3/9/09*

*Photo: Nick Athanas*



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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

As we anticipate the coming migration, we can look forward to noting the transition from this cold and snowy winter to a bird-full spring and then on to a nice warm breeding season. One can note these changes both through direct individual observation and through the collective documentation of our quarterly seasonal reports, Christmas bird counts and accepted rare bird records. It seems to me that one thing we are seeing is how species' ranges are fluctuating, perhaps due to introduced species, climate change and/or habitat alteration due to human activity.



Invasive species such as Eurasian Collared-Dove, an exotic from Eurasia, first showed up in South Dakota in the 1990s. By 2010 it has not only become established as a permanent resident, but also is quite common in many places. The impact on other species remains unknown. House Sparrows and European Starlings are both long-resident exotic species and very aggressive towards native cavity nesters: they will kill them and destroy their eggs and/or young. Species that have been impacted include Eastern Bluebird, Northern Flicker, Purple Martin and Red-headed Woodpecker.

Climates are changing. Whether one chooses to believe all that the scientific community is reporting is a matter of individual choice. But if true, warmer temperatures at the poles and possibly some areas becoming much drier could affect the Black Hills, resulting in more of a grassland "steppe" habitat, with few of our signature Black Hills Spruce and Yellow Pine. This would certainly alter the birds to be found in the Hills. In other parts of South Dakota, seasonal potholes could become permanently dry or fill with water only after very heavy downpours/snowfalls. This would seriously affect breeding waterfowl populations and migrating shorebirds which use them for stopovers on the way to the breeding grounds in spring and their wintering grounds in fall. While we could lose such species as Le Conte's and Nelson's sparrows, Sprague's Pipit and Red-necked Grebe, we could also see more range expansion of such species as Cassin's Sparrow, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Mississippi Kite.

Habitat alteration due to human intervention has had the greatest impact on bird species in the past, present and will in the future in South Dakota. Biofuels, which South Dakota firmly supports, may result in the conversion of grassland to cropland and to wetlands being tiled to grow biocrops, potentially resulting in the decline of grassland and wetland species. Finally, consider human population growth: in the next thirty to forty years, the human population is expected to increase from 6.8 billion to nearly 10 billion individuals. This is an unprecedented growth, most of which will take place in the third world, but which will impact the entire globe. In order to feed this population, more land will have to be put into food production, resulting in many species seeing serious declines. Those species which we call "generalists" and have the ability to adapt will be least at risk. Whereas those that are specialists and require very specific environmental requirements will have to adapt in a very short time period that the vast majority may not have the ability to do. We will then see vast reductions in numbers, to a point where species are extirpated from our region—or even face extinctions.

There will always be changes in bird species: numbers, distribution and trends. So I am not advocating that we can take any action to address these issues. What we *can* do, though, is to contribute to more and better science, both as an organization and as individuals.

Here's to a bright future, where SDOU is in the forefront of increasing our knowledge in an ever changing world and in assisting in the future management of bird species.

*Todd Jensen*

# FLEDGLING TRACTS

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TUCKER J. LUTTER

## *Hot Birding in the Coldest Season*

Even though South Dakota is blessed with an excellent variety of winter birds, sometimes you just have to take a trip to see new birds. Some people will travel to Florida, others to Texas, and even some to Mexico or some other far flung destination to accomplish this. But birding in the Midwest can be just as exciting during this, the coldest time of the year. With spring just around the corner, many people may not want to think about winter birding much longer. Read on and maybe some of the birds I am going to mention will get you in an inspirational mood to appreciate the birds of winter again.

Northeast Minnesota is among the top winter birding destinations in the United States. It is not too far from South Dakota when compared with other top destinations such as Costa Rica and Peru. When I was younger, my family visited this area often but I soon got tired of it and wanted to see the Rocky Mountains or Alaska or Florida. They often mentioned going back there but I lost interest—until I learned about the birds and the other wildlife that calls the area home. Winter can be one of the best seasons to go birding there although your trip list may struggle to reach thirty species. In the cold north woods and on Lake Superior during this season it is the quality of the boreal birds, not the quantity, that counts.

What is in northeastern Minnesota that is so attractive to birders? Perhaps it is the chance to see Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk-Owl, Spruce Grouse, or Iceland Gull. Or maybe it is the Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker, or Pine Grosbeak. As you can guess from reading the list, this is obviously a birding Mecca that for years has drawn birders from their heated, 70 degree homes and even from solar heated seventy-degree Florida beaches.

Last winter my dad and I made the journey to the Sax-Zim Bog Birding Festival northwest of Duluth, MN, where I saw many of the birds I have already mentioned. I got eight life birds and even got a chance to see the elusive Boreal Owl, one of the most sought after winged-creatures on the continent. The owl was my 300th life bird and there was definitely a moment of celebration when I laid my eyes on it.

Duluth is in the far north—at the edge of the small area of boreal forest that enters the lower 48 states. As temperatures and snow can be a concern, before you start driving around the north woods, it is a good idea to check the weather and be properly prepared with flares, blankets and all the items recommended for winter travel. Also, everyone should be armed with some resources that can aid in finding birds. *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* by Kim R. Eckert is easily one of the best guides to this amazing state and will steer you safely to the birds you want to see.

If you are lucky enough to visit the north woods and stand on the shores of Lake Superior, don't forget to put down your binoculars from time to time to enjoy the scenery and the other wildlife that calls this great place home.

You can check my blog for my trip report to Northern Minnesota in late February 2010; it is accessed by going to <[www.birdingwithtucker.blogspot.com](http://www.birdingwithtucker.blogspot.com)>.

# BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

THE ORNITHOLOGISTS' DICTIONARY. Johannes Erritzoe, Kaj Kampp, Kevin Winkler, Clifford B. Frith (2007). Lynx Edicions, Barcelona \$25.00. (www.hbw.com.) 293 pp.

Lynx Edicions, the Spanish publisher of this English-language dictionary, describes it as:

"...an invaluable reference resource written in succinct language and with a user-friendly layout, *The Ornithologist's Dictionary* is ideal for both amateur and professional ornithologists. The more than 5,000 definitions of words and terms of interest to ornithologists are brief and to the point, at the same time as being comprehensive and clear. A practical, portable and easily manageable volume that every ornithologist will want always to keep close to hand."

I have no fundamental argument with this description. Leafing through the pages, I can find plenty of words with which I am unfamiliar. Most words are adequately, if briefly, defined. The book's small size, despite its relatively hefty price, makes it compatible with almost any bookshelf or desktop. When I was editor of *SD Bird Notes*, I recall readers wondering what *fide* means. This dictionary would come to the rescue: "*fide*. Latin = according to."

Although American usages are explained, this dictionary appears to me to have a definite European slant. Where there are differences, this book spells as the British do (colour for color). Perhaps it is a lack in my education, but, for example, I have never come across the word *leitlinie* ("word adopted from German, meaning leading line: a landscape feature along which bird migration is regularly directed...") Maybe words like *leitlinie* are more often used in Europe than in America.

A few of the definitions, however, are less than clear. A random example: "Lectins. Proteins that specifically bind (and crosslink) to carbohydrates." What do lectins do for birds? This question makes me wonder if traditional dictionaries might be obsolete. Younger birders today, upon finding an unknown word, would immediately Google it. In this case they would stumble upon a wealth of information in Wikipedia, the free on-line dictionary, beginning with "Lectins are sugar-binding proteins which are highly specific for their sugar moieties. They typically play a role in biological recognition phenomena involving cells and proteins. For example, some bacteria use lectins to attach themselves to the cells of the host organism during infection." At least six more examples of lectin action are described in the Wikipedia account.

However, the word *Dromaeognathous* stumps Wikipedia. *Dromaeognathous* is defined in *The Ornithologist's Dictionary* as "Greek *dromaios* = a runner, pertaining to a bony palate characterized by large and imperfectly fused vomers; found in ratites (Struthioniformes) and tinamous (Tinamiformes); this type is one of four palatal structures traditionally recognized in avian systematics." But the free Webster's on-line dictionary gives a more succinct, and perhaps easier to understand, definition "Having the structure of the palate like that of the ostrich and emu."

The dictionary concludes with an appendix listing the bird families of the world. Among the families is "Neomixis, JERY". I was frustrated that neither of these words is defined in the dictionary.

Upon rereading this review, it seems a bit harsh. This small dictionary contains many of the words that ornithologists will encounter when reading scientific literature, including *SD Bird Notes*, and/or periodicals and books meant for more casual birders. Therefore I recommend it to birders of all abilities, but with the caveat that the Internet has revolutionized dictionary research. *Dan Tallman, 2120 Taylor Ct., Northfield, MN 55057.*

# BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

**HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD.** Vol. 14. Bush-shrikes to Old World Sparrows. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot, and David Christie, Eds. (2009). Lynx Edicions, Barcelona \$318.00. (www.hbw.com.) 893 pp.

I have been praising this series of books since my first review appeared in *South Dakota Bird Notes* some twelve years ago. This series seems expensive, but actually gives the reader relatively inexpensive coverage of the world's bird families. Quick math will tell you that, for this volume covering seventeen families, the price works out to be just under \$19 per family. Of course, if you are going to invest \$3553.64 for all 14 volumes, prudence dictates that you check out what you get for your money. This can be done at the publisher's website, www.hbw.com, or better yet, check it out through the state library system. (Since the book is published in Spain, the cost fluctuates with the rise and fall of the U.S. Dollar against the Euro.)

The whole series consists of large format (31x24 cm; 12.2x9.5 in) books. Volume 14 covers crows, starlings, Old World sparrows, plus fourteen additional families from around the world, including the most stunning of all, the birds-of-paradise. Within this volume are 51 color plates illustrating all of the birds covered in the text (often including both sexes of adults), 647 photographs, and 485 range maps. The paintings, despite being drawn by at least six different artists, are uniformly excellent.

The advances in digital photography over the past decade are evident in the high quality of the color photographs. Outstanding photos include an Indian House Crow pursuing a fruit bat, a Hooded Crow pulling on a Herring Gull's primary, a flock of House Sparrows sharing a table with a young girl and, of course, the birds-of-paradise, many of which almost defy written description!

In previous reviews, I have described the organization of the *Handbook*. For this review allow me to emphasize the wealth of information just waiting to be devoured by the curious birder.

The *Handbook* has two photographs of amazing flocks of starlings. In one of these photos, the birds look like billows of smoke in the sky. Most of us have seen huge flocks of blackbirds and wondered how they avoid collisions with one another. Reading the handbook, one learns that flocking birds do not keep track of all the birds within any given radius. Instead they track the positions of about a half dozen nearby birds. The result is a more cohesive flock, less likely to lose flock members.

Another noteworthy photo is a Satin Bowerbird's cache of blue booty, including a baby's pacifier, clothes pins, hair brushes, marbles, and what appears to be a lollipop—all these items carefully laid out in front of the bower, and all bright blue! The bowerbird even sorts his trophies into neat little arrays of similar items. Bowerbirds not only steal each other's cache, they also swipe bower nest material. The bowers can be massive structures. Satin Bowerbirds take up to seven years to attain adult plumage—apparently it takes this long to learn how to build an effective bower, which may contain up to 2000 sticks. By stealing nesting material, competing males distract the victim who, in turn, loses valuable time (and mates) while attempting to regain his belongings. Bowerbird thievery is not necessarily always an intraspecies event; thieves will also attack the bowers of other species.

Closer to home, Common Crows look forward to the emergence of spring garter snakes. In ten days in Manitoba, crows consumed 590 Red-sided Garter Snakes.

The *Handbook of Birds of the World* gives the reader a panoramic overview of avian evolution and taxonomy. Darwin could have saved himself the rigors of the voyage of the Beagle had he been able to peruse the range maps and portraits of the world's avifauna. Darwin would certainly have noticed, for example, that across the Pacific islands, due to common descent, closely related species tend to look similar.

Bird taxonomy has not stood still for the production of the *Handbook*. DNA studies are constantly revising our understanding of avian evolution. As a graduate student forty years ago, I was expected to be able to identify all the world's bird families. So it was with some surprise that I came upon a bird family, Pityriaseidae, containing but one species, the Bristlehead, found in Borneo, with which I am completely unfamiliar. Perhaps I should be forgiven this lapse, since Bristleheads previously have been classified as belonging to at least seven different families. Other birds are in unfamiliar families. Stitchbirds, formerly thought to be honeyeaters, are now in their own New Zealand family, Notiomystidae. A shrike with an odd name, the Tropical Boubou, which I saw in East Africa, is no longer a shrike, but now in its own family with other bush-shrikes, Malaconotidae. Although many starlings feed while perched on ungulates and other animals, oxpeckers are now given a distinct family. On the other hand, although studies have recently confirmed that starlings and mockingbirds are closely related, these families are not adjacent in the *Handbook*. Staying abreast of the changes in avian taxonomy during the present volatile time may be nearly impossible.

The range maps in the *Handbook* are always fascinating and remarkably clear. I did notice, however, that neither European Starlings nor House Sparrows are shown as occurring in the New World! Apparently, then, only the "natural" ranges of these species are depicted. I believe that not indicating human-assisted, but phenomenally successful range extensions, is misleading.

Another instructive aspect of the *Handbook* is its giving the status of the world's birds. Deforestation and other habitat destruction, the introduction of predators and the spread of avian disease (perhaps enhanced by climate change) are clearly endangering much of the world's birdlife. Reviewing the status of the birds of the world tends to be a depressing pursuit.

This volume of the *Handbook* begins with a forward: *Birding Past, Present and Future—a Global View*. This forward is well-written, interesting, and unfortunately, not illustrated. The author, Stephen Moss, traces birding from its scientific beginnings to present day continent-hopping listers with world-wide access to avian databases.

Reading the forward did bring two interesting questions to me. "Birding has joined the mainstream," writes Moss. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, about 46 million Americans (more than one in five of the adult population of the country) watch birds! The economic impact of the growth of the sport of birding is well known. But these statistics make me wonder why the SDOU does not enjoy continual and rapid growth. Certainly these data suggest that the SDOU has great potential for growth with just a bit of effort from its membership. The same survey indicates that birders tend to be relatively older, better off financially, better educated, more often female, married, and Caucasian; a quick look around a SDOU meeting will confirm these statistics. An interesting exception to the "white" look of birding is a large number (22%) of Native Americans who identify themselves as birders (vs. 24% of white North Americans). If the SDOU is interested in growth, these data clearly suggest where our organization can look.

# BIRDING HOTSPOTS IN SD

2008 and WOW! Birds

RICKY D. OLSON

In 2008, three species of birds not before represented on our state checklist were observed: Ivory Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, and Yellow-billed Loon. It was exciting that in 2008 we could still add one—let alone three—new species to our state checklist. This prompted me in January 2009 to put out a post asking fellow list servers to play a little game: pick the top five candidates for which species could be added to our state checklist in the near future.

The following is the list of species I came up with from which to pick: Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Black-headed Gull, Garganey, Glaucous-winged Gull, Green Violetear (a hummingbird), Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Scott's Oriole, Anhinga, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Black Rail, Ross's Gull, Cassin's Vireo, Cave Swallow, Hermit Warbler, Black Rosy Finch, Mottled Duck, King Eider, Slaty-backed Gull, Royal Tern, and Acorn Woodpecker.

Most respondents picked species off my list; some added species not on the list. The following is a compilation of those lists. The top three vote getters are:

1. *Black Rosy Finch*
2. *Fork-tailed Flycatcher*
3. *Ross's Gull*

They were followed closely by Green Violetear, Black-headed Gull, and Scott's Oriole. Other species receiving multiple votes were: Slaty-backed Gull, Royal Tern, Cave Swallow, Reddish Egret, King Eider, Roseate Spoonbill, Curlew Sandpiper, and Mottled Duck.

Species receiving single votes were Acorn Woodpecker, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Anhinga, Glaucous-winged Gull and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Interestingly, two species receiving single votes were observed in South Dakota in 2009: Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Glaucous-winged Gull. The Black-bellied Whistling Duck has been added to our state checklist, and the report of the Glaucous-winged Gull sighting is still being considered by the SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee.

Besides the five new species mentioned above, the following species have also been added to the South Dakota Checklist since the publication of the *Birds of South Dakota, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (2002): Magnificent Frigatebird, Purple Sandpiper, Great Black-backed Gull, Magnificent Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. It is amazing to me that we were able to add eleven species to the state checklist in this short time period.



*Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Tama County, Iowa*  
*Photo: Jay Gilliam*



I am challenging all the South Dakota birders (and out-of-state birding visitors) reading this article to get out there and beat the bushes and find these species and make our predicted species sightings come true. I promise that if I am still alive in ten years I will write another article for *SD Bird Notes* comparing our prediction list with the actual list of species added to our state checklist.



Usually, the number one hotspot for birds in the fall/winter seasons is the area surrounding the dams along the Missouri River, esp. the Oahe Dam. Some of the birds commonly sought in the fall/winter season are the gulls and waterfowl. The dams did not let us down this year. The following birds were seen in 2009: Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Pacific Loon, Long-tailed Duck, Harlequin Duck, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Iceland Gull and several scoters. In the Pierre area, Gyrfalcons showed up late, but did show up eventually.



*Red-necked Grebe*

*Photo: Terry Sohl*

Snowy Owls and Northern Saw-whet Owls are often sought in the winter in the Pierre area, but there were very few reports of these species this fall/winter.

The other fall/winter hotspot to me is the Black Hills, as this seems to be the best time to find some elusive residents and vagrants such as Evening Grosbeak and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. The Evening Grosbeaks showed up at the Fondy's residence in Whitewood as usual this season. This seems to be a good year for the vagrant Gray-crowned Rosy Finches as several reports have surfaced, including a large flock of 120 at Bear Butte State Park.



*Philadelphia Vireo*

*Photo: Terry Sohl*

In previous years, north of the Black Hills in Butte County was also a hotspot for Snowy Owls. However, few were reported this season.

Projected hotspots for the spring season will be Sioux Falls and the southeast part of the state. This area is always a good place to search for uncommon warbler species in the spring. But with the spring SDOU meeting being held there, I think it could be very good. Because of the increase in the number of birdwatchers looking in the Sioux Falls area, I project several good warblers and perhaps a surprise species or two will be found.

## SDOU 2010 Spring Meeting • Sioux Falls • 21-23 May 2010

The 2010 SDOU Spring Meeting will be held in Sioux Falls, SD on 21-23 May. Few states are as blessed as South Dakota is when it comes to variety: mountains and badlands and prairies and pothole lakes; birds of the west and birds of the east.

Field trips will depend on where the birds are being found on scouting trips and will depend on the weather. If it's flooding from all the snow this winter (on top of the saturated soil from last fall), we may well see LOTS of waterfowl and waders and shorebirds. However, most residents of the other areas of South Dakota enjoy coming to the southeast for the eastern and southeastern US specialties: Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, and of course, as Ricky Olson mentioned in his Hotspots column (see page 8)—warbler migration! We can but hope we hit it on the nose, when nearly thirty species of warbler can be seen in one morning in the area. Newton Hills State Park and Elmwood City Park in Sioux Falls are likely trips as are the pothole areas in western Minnehaha County, the marshes near Wall Lake/Dewey Gevik Natural Area and perhaps the extensive marsh south of Worthing, SD. Dewey Gevik is where the Sioux Falls Bird Club's bird blind is located. Other trips are also possible if bird sightings warrant. The last time SDOU met in Sioux Falls a Cinnamon Teal was found!



*Chris Wood is seldom without his binoculars!*

Our featured speaker for the Saturday Banquet will be Christopher Wood. Chris works at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, where he is the project leader for eBird—an online bird checklist project that gathers millions of bird observations to provide real-time information on bird abundance and distribution in an all-inclusive manner: year round and globally. His interest in birds began at the age of five. Chris Wood has written and consulted on a variety of books on North American birds, in both popular and scientific literature. Chris was the past photo quiz editor for *Birding* magazine as well as the editor for the online bird quizzes hosted by the American Birding Association. Chris is also a senior leader for the birdwatching tour company WINGS, where he has led tours throughout the Americas. Chris currently resides in Ithaca, New York.

Our Friday evening presenter will be our very own Dr. Gilbert Blankespoor, retired ornithology professor at Augustana College (Sioux Falls), who will offer us a comparison of birds in the Sioux Falls area in the early Twentieth Century and the early Twenty-first Century.

We hope to see all of you in Sioux Falls in May. Use the inside mailing cover to register today! *Douglas Chapman, Sioux Falls.*

J. S. Findley, in his "President's Page," drew upon J. J. Hickey's *A Guide to Bird Study* to elaborate on the value and satisfaction of bird-watching. In effect, Hickey regarded bird study as a lifetime hobby open to "countless channels of knowledge" awaiting "exploration by enterprising bird students." Findley concluded: "It certainly is satisfying to have a hobby with which one can go as far and as fast as he likes, when he wants."

In "Birds of the Hills," Cecil P. Haight wrote about some of the birds he had observed during his first three years as a resident of Spearfish, SD. Furthermore, he alluded to the experiences of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Bennett who tallied 145 species in Lawrence County during more than thirty years, starting in 1917. Some aesthetic comments by Haight have an interesting appeal. About the Mountain Bluebird, he asserted that "people who have never seen this species have never truly seen blue". [See *back cover-ed.*] Similarly with reference to the Lazuli Bunting, Haight cautioned: "Don't believe your bird books about this gay little fellow. It is brighter and more delicately colored than any illustrations I have seen."

Mrs. D. S. Baughman, in her report "Birds at My Window," told about an exceptional Black-capped Chickadee that came to her feeder in Madison, SD. The bird had a useless, injured leg. It apparently met this challenge of survival by holding a "branch and sunflower seed with one claw" to pry the meat from the shell.

Findley reviewed a book, *Fall of the Sparrow*, by Jay Williams. The author claimed, "106 species of mammals and perhaps birds...disappeared since the beginning of the Christian era." Noted, of course, was the need to preserve the Whooping Crane, California Condor and Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Today we see encouraging success with saving the cranes and condors. Despite the recent excitement about an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas, prospects for that species remain gravely bleak.

Continuing the focus on "Pioneer Prairie Ornithologists," charter member Harold W. Wager shared information about Edwin C. Anderson of Dell Rapids, SD. After recovering from serious illness, Anderson followed his doctor's advice to adopt a hobby that would "take him into the open a great deal." Anderson became an ardent bird-bander, and his contributions to ornithology were praised by W. H. Over and T. C. Stephens. Anderson also became Wager's mentor and sponsored Wager's application for a permit to band birds. It occurs to this writer that Harold Wager merits recognition in *SD Bird Notes* for his contributions, from bird-banding to substantial knowledge about birds in South Dakota. Unfortunately, information necessary to compose such acknowledgement may not be available.

A general note by Kenneth Krumm highlighted a natural peril in avian survival. A violent hailstorm along the South Dakota/Nebraska border, 19 June 1951, devastated nesting birds at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge. After the walnut-sized hail, 363 dead cormorants and 158 dead pelicans were counted. Just twenty-three young pelicans and fourteen young cormorants were known to have survived.

If a reader has ever wondered about the origin of the name Bell's Vireo, Editor Herman Chapman provided the following answer in this issue of *SD Bird Notes*. In South Dakota, during the summer of 1843, J. J. Audubon collected a vireo that he named for John H. Bell, a taxidermist accompanying Audubon on the Missouri River expedition of 1843.

# FALL 2009 HAWK WATCH • DINOSAUR PARK, RAPID CITY

Gene K. Hess, Rapid City, SD

The impetus for this study came from discussion with local birders about hawk migration in the area. The main question is whether or not hawks in migration avoid flying over the Black Hills and instead fly around them. It had been noted in casual observations that hawks were seen in migration along the eastern edge of the Black Hills. This study appears to be the first to attempt to address this question. More years and additional watch sites on the northern and western edges of the Black Hills are needed to fully address the question.

## Site description

I conducted a hawk survey at Dinosaur Park, 940 Skyline Drive, Rapid City, Pennington Co., SD (44° 4' 40.6" N, 103° 4' 38.3" W). The park is located on a north-south running ridge (the hogback) on the east side of the South Dakota Black Hills. To the east is prairie, to the west a valley separating the ridge from the Black Hills. The highest point in the park (approximately 3600 feet, and presumably the best viewing area) is not accessible to me. Because of this I could monitor only the east side of the ridge, the ridge line, and the prairie to the east. The elevation at my viewing area is approximately 3550 feet.

## Conduct of counts

I conducted counts on sixteen days from 14 September to 26 October 2009 for a total of 79.25 hours, averaging five hours per day (Table 1). Five scheduled counts were canceled due to inclement weather and two unscheduled days were added. On six days one or two additional observers were present for from thirty minutes to four hours. I recorded, on an hourly basis, the number and species of hawks and their direction of flight. Observers regularly scanned with binoculars or telescope all visible sky from directly overhead to the visible horizon, including gaps between trees. The daily totals are reported in Table 2.

I also recorded percent cloud cover or overcast (estimated) and wind direction. Weather data were obtained from a private monitoring station located about 1.9 miles northeast of the hawk watch (44° 5' 21"N, 103° 12' 36" E). Those data are available at <http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=IDNS91> (North Rapid City). This station reports observations every twenty minutes from the top of the hour. Comparison of this station's observations with the Rapid City Airport (KRAP) data, about 9.4 miles to the east, showed similar trends in temperature, wind speed, wind direction, and barometric pressure (Table 1).

Initial observations (one day) were made from the picnic area on the east side of the park building. Subsequent observations were made from the north side of the building (twelve days) or from the west side of the building either on the patio or from my vehicle (three days). From the north and east sides of the building the view north is partly obstructed by trees but the view east is not obstructed. The view west is obstructed by the higher part of the ridge.

## Results

A total of eleven species was identified, totaling seventy-four individuals (excluding the Turkey Vulture total). Unidentified birds totaled 108 individuals (Table 2). As expected, most hawks were seen flying in a generally north-to-south or northwest-to-southeast direction. Those few that did not were presumed to be local birds; most were Red-tailed Hawks. There was at least one resident Red-tailed Hawk, typically seen circling at a distance over the hogback. One adult Bald Eagle was seen headed northwest on 22 September.



*The Hogback: Fall 2009 Hawk Watch Site.  
Photo: Gene Hess*

The greatest number of birds (sixty) recorded on a single day, including unidentified individuals, was seen on 30 September. At about 1:50 PM a cold front from the northwest arrived along with increasing wind and a few drops of rain. From about 1:50 PM to about 2:25 PM a

total of fifty-one birds was recorded. Because these birds were flying very high and fast, and the sky was overcast, many could not be identified.

Turkey Vultures were presumed to be local birds and most were seen in the morning or at the end of the day when the birds were leaving or returning to their roosts. On 30 September Michael Melius, reporting from northeastern Custer County, recorded twenty-five Turkey Vultures drifting southeast. The birds appeared to be coming from the direction of Rapid City. I recorded eighty-one vultures on the count that day, the highest single day count. Dick Latuchie reported that on 3 October only one bird was present at a Rapid City roost that had been in use all summer. The first count cancelled due to weather was on 5 October. Only four vultures were seen after 30 September. Apparently the majority moved on between 30 September and 3 October.

## Discussion

Generally the pace of the observed migration was slow, averaging eleven individuals per day or 5.5 individuals per hour over the period of the count. An average of 4.8 species was detected per count day (4.1, excluding Turkey Vulture). Most of the detected birds were flying either along the eastern flank of the hogback or along its ridge. A few were seen crossing the gap between Cowboy Hill and Hangman's Hill (Omaha St.) from the west. The occurrence of these individuals suggests undetected migration along the western flank of the hogback and possibly along the eastern flank of the Hills proper. After Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk was the most frequently detected species (62% of days), followed by Sharp-shinned Hawk (52%) and Cooper's Hawk (37%).

The following examination of the migration in regard to weather conditions looks only at wind direction and cloud cover. Other variables cannot be addressed until many more years of data have been amassed.

Wind direction was taken from the weather station mentioned above for the time periods of each survey. The wind directions presented in Table 1 are the two most common directions per twenty-minute reporting period, listed in order of frequency. For example, if there were sixteen reporting periods during a count, and six of those periods reported the wind from the north and ten from the west, the direction is recorded as westerly and northerly. Thus it is noted that on 44% of the counts the wind was predominately northerly and westerly; on 38% easterly and southerly, the remainder being easterly and northerly or north only.

Looking at the average number of birds seen in each of the two major categories (northerly and westerly vs. easterly and southerly) we find that the first category averaged 8.6 birds per day while the latter averaged 15.5 birds per day. This oddity is explained by noting that on 30 September a cold front arrived in mid-afternoon, bringing with it a large number of hawks. On that day, during the first fifteen of twenty-two wind reporting periods, the wind was southerly and easterly before shifting to northerly for the remainder of the count day. If we remove those birds that arrived with the front and place them in the northerly and westerly category, we find that the results conform to our expectations, i.e. the southerly and easterly category drops to 6.6 birds per day and the northerly and westerly category rises to 15 birds per day.

For purposes of this report, cloud cover was divided into two categories: 0-49% cover and 50-100% cover. There were seven days in the former category, eight in the latter, and one day not noted. In preliminarily discussing Black Hills hawk migration with local birders, they mentioned that there appeared to be greater migration on cloudy days. On light cloud cover days, an average of 6.1 birds per day was recorded; on heavy cloud cover days, the average was 15.6. When the impact of the large 30 September flight (a heavy cloud cover day) is removed, the average goes down to 9.2 birds per day. Given these slight differences, my experience is that it is simply easier to spot a dark bird against a cloud than it is against a blue sky. Another factor is that on a relatively cloudless day the birds may be flying at an altitude where it is very difficult for a human to spot them.

## **Conclusions**

Hawks do use the eastern flank of the Black Hills during their southward migration. Only by establishing and maintaining additional watches along the northern and western edges of the Hills for several years will it be determined if hawks avoid flying over the Hills. Although the number of individuals detected was small, the species diversity was high. Additional observers at this site positioned to see the west side of the hogback and the east flank of the Hills will likely increase the numbers of birds detected, as will additional observation days.

## **Acknowledgements**

I thank site manager Chuck McLane for permission and hospitality at Dinosaur Park. I also thank Michael Melius and Jocelyn Baker for useful discussions and help on the watch. I thank Jean and Gene Adams, Len and Ardys Brunko, and Caroline Stafford for help in staffing the hawk watch.

DATE	TIME	HOURS	TEMPERATURE (start-end, high)	WIND DIRECTION*	WIND SPEED (MPH), AVERAGE, STD. DEV.	BAROMETRIC PRESSURE - NORTH RAPID IDNSS91	BAROMETRIC PRESSURE - AIRPORT KRAP	CLOUD COVER	NOTES
14-Sep-09	9:30-1:00	3.5	70.2 - 87.6, 87.6	southerly & easterly & southerly	4.9, 1.8	falling	falling	10-20%	
16-Sep-09	10:45-2:04	5.25	78.1 - 84.7, 84.7		2.1, 2.5	falling	falling	10%	
18-Sep-09	10:00-2:00	6	no data	no data	no data	no data	falling	0%	
20-Sep-09	12:00-5:00	5	77.5 - 68, 78.8	westerly & northerly	8.1, 3.3	rising	steady, then rising	50%	not scheduled
21-Sep-09	12:00-3:50	4	57.9 - 56.3, 59.7	northerly & northerly & westerly	8.0, 2.5	steady	rising	90%	
22-Sep-09	9:00-12:45	3.75	52.7 - 58.3, 58.5	westerly	6.9, 1.9	steady	rising	99%	not scheduled
23-Sep-09	9:15-2:00	4.75	61.3 - 70.9, 70.9	northerly & westerly	3.3, 2.1	steady in a.m., falling in p.m.	rising in a.m., falling in p.m.	0%	
25-Sep-09	9:30-4:00	6.5	61 - 69.6, 71.1	easterly & southerly	1.7, 1.9	rising in a.m., falling in p.m.	steady in a.m., falling in p.m.	30%-80% in a.m., clear in p.m.	
28-Sep-09	9:45-4:00	6.25	54.9 - 65.1, 65.5	easterly & northerly	2.5, 2.4	steady in a.m., falling in p.m.	falling	0%	
30-Sep-09	9:15-4:00	6.75	59 - 61.2, 72.7	southerly & easterly	4.3, 2.5	falling in a.m., rising in p.m.	falling in a.m., rising in p.m.	80-90%	
02-Oct-09	9:30-1:00	3.5	47.5 - 53.8, 53.8	westerly & northerly	11.2, 4.3	steady	steady	60-80%	cancelled due to weather
05-Oct-09	none								
07-Oct-09	10:00-3:00	5	48.7 - 44.2, 53.1	northerly	5.6, 1.5	steady	steady	?	
09-Oct-09	none								cancelled due to weather
12-Oct-09	none								cancelled due to weather
14-Oct-09	none								cancelled due to weather
16-Oct-09	10:00-3:00	5	49.8 - 57, 59.5	northerly & westerly (equally)	4.9, 1.9	falling	falling	95% clearing to 75-80%	
19-Oct-09	10:30-2:00	3.5	45.3 - 48.9, 49.6	southerly & easterly	3.3, 2.8	falling	falling	98%	cancelled due to weather
21-Oct-09	none								
23-Oct-09	10:00-2:30	4.5	50.7 - 59.2, 59.2	northerly & southerly & southerly	4.6, 1.5	falling	falling	0 - <5%	
26-Oct-09	10:00-4:00	6	40.6 - 60.1, 61.2	easterly	1.9, 2.1	falling	falling	<5 - 75%	

Table 1. Dinosaur Park count dates and conditions. \* see text for explanation.

	14 Sep.	16 Sep.	18 Sep.	20 Sep.	21 Sep.	22 Sep.	23 Sep.	25 Sep.	28 Sep.	30 Sep.	2 Oct.	7 Oct.	16 Oct.	19 Oct.	23 Oct.	26 Oct.
Turkey																
Vulture	1	16	44	9		6	40	50	5	81	2	1		1		
Bald Eagle						1										
Northern Harrier		1														
Sharp-shinned Hawk		3	5	2	2	1		2		2		1	1			
Cooper's Hawk		1	2		2		2			2				1		
Swainson's Hawk							1						1			
Red-tailed Hawk			2			1	1		1	3		3	8	1	3	7
Ferruginous Hawk													1			
Rough-legged Hawk							1								1	
Golden Eagle																1
American Kestrel			2					1		3				1		
unidentified hawk	1	4	1	6	2	12	5	0	2	50	0	10	5	2	1	7
TOTAL	2	25	56	17	6	21	50	53	8	141	2	15	16	6	5	15

Table 2. Species and numbers recorded each day.



# SEASONAL REPORTS

## The 2009 Fall Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 August 2009 to 30 November 2009

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

There were 300 species, including four rarities, reported during the 2009 Fall Season. The ten-year average (1999-2008) is 303. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (early/late dates as given in the online database and species that are significantly 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 included the earliest/latest reported date from the missing region also. Included at the end of this report is a list of species that were not reported this year but might be expected during the Fall Season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during fall in at least two of the previous five years. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of consecutive years (up to four) that the species has appeared on the list during the season.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 25 Oct Sully KM; 31 Oct Beadle *fide* BFW; 01 Nov Clay GJS; 02 Nov Pennington JLB ... Late: 27 Nov Lake JSP; 14 Nov Lyman RDO, KM; 07 Nov McCook JSP  
**Snow Goose** Early: 01 Aug Minnehaha JSP; 05 Aug Deuel BJU; 08 Aug McCook JSP; 25 Oct Sully KM ... Late: 28 Nov Brown GO; 27 Nov Roberts GO; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 27 Nov Day GO; 20 Nov Brule RM  
**Ross's Goose** Only Report: 27 Nov Brown (200) MRZ  
**Cackling Goose** Early: 31 Oct Lyman JSP; 03 Nov Pennington JLB; 06 Nov Marshall GO  
**Trumpeter Swan** Only Report: 06 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW  
**Tundra Swan** Early: 17 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 24 Oct Sully KM; 01 Nov Brown GO ... Late: 28 Nov Brown GO; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 21 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW; 08 Nov Sully KM  
**Wood Duck** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 26 Nov Hughes DB; 10 Nov Minnehaha MRZ  
**Gadwall** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 29 Nov Minnehaha DC; 28 Nov Sully KM  
**American Wigeon** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 14 Nov Grant BJU; 08 Nov Sully KM  
**American Black Duck** All Reports: 18 Sep Marshall DC; 14 Nov Roberts BJU  
**Blue-winged Teal** Late: 09 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW; 07 Nov Minnehaha DC; 21 Oct Meade JLB; 18 Oct Stanley RDO  
**Northern Shoveler** Late: 27 Nov Lake JSP; 22 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW; 18 Nov Stanley RDO; 07 Nov Fall River JLB; 07 Nov Custer JLB  
**Northern Pintail** Late: 27 Nov Brown MRZ; 22 Nov Lyman KM; 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 14 Nov Grant BJU; 07 Nov Custer JLB  
**Green-winged Teal** Late: 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 22 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW; 15 Nov Pennington JLB; 11 Nov Stanley RDO  
**Canvasback** Late: 27 Nov Hughes DB; 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 14 Nov Grant BJU; 02 Nov Pennington JLB  
**Redhead** Late: 29 Nov Minnehaha DC; 27 Nov Pennington JLB; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 27 Nov Brown MRZ; 18 Nov Stanley RDO  
**Ring-necked Duck** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 28 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 18 Nov Stanley RDO  
**Greater Scaup** Early: 18 Oct Stanley RDO; 31 Oct Meade JLB; 01 Nov Brown GO ... Late: 26 Nov Charles Mix RM; 22 Nov Pennington RSL; 18 Nov Stanley RDO; 14 Nov Roberts BJU  
**Lesser Scaup** Late: 30 Nov Meade EEM; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 14 Nov Grant BJU; 11 Nov Stanley RDO  
**Surf Scoter** All Reports: 18 Oct Pennington JLB; 19 Oct Pennington RSL; 08 Nov Grant BJU  
**White-winged Scoter** All Reports: 14 Nov Grant BJU; 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 16 Nov Hughes DB  
**Black Scoter** All Reports: 27 Oct Stanley RDO; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP  
**Long-tailed Duck** All Reports: **21 Oct Meade JLB**; 23 Oct Meade EEM; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP  
**Bufflehead** Early: 23 Aug Meade RSL; 05 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 10 Oct Fall River JSP; 10 Oct Pennington JLB; 11 Oct Charles Mix RM; 11 Oct Lyman KM, RDO  
**Common Goldeneye** Early: 31 Oct Brookings BFH; 01 Nov Brown GO; 03 Nov Pennington JLB; 11 Nov Hughes DB  
**Hooded Merganser** Early: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 09 Aug Brookings BFH; 08 Oct Pennington JLB ... Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 29 Nov Hughes DB; 27 Nov Lake JSP; 27 Nov Fall River KM

**Common Merganser** Early: 09 Aug Stanley DB; 29 Aug Pennington RSL; 11 Oct Charles Mix RM; 08 Nov Grant BJU; 08 Nov Roberts BJU

**Red-breasted Merganser** All Reports: 14 Nov Roberts BJU; 21 Nov Sully BFH; 29 Nov Stanley KM

**Ruddy Duck** Late: 28 Nov Sully KM; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 27 Nov Brown MRZ; 24 Nov Meade EEM

**Ruffed Grouse** Only Report: 27 Aug Custer JLB

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** All Reports: 23 Aug Sully KM; 04 Oct Sully KM; 11 Oct Hughes RDO; 11 Oct Lyman DB; 11 Oct Stanley DB; 31 Oct Stanley DB

**Northern Bobwhite** All Reports: 15 Aug Minnehaha MS; 30 Oct Lawrence VDF

**Pacific Loon** All Reports: **14 Nov Lyman KM, RDO; 17 Nov Meade MO**

**Common Loon** Early: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 09 Aug Stanley DB; 12 Aug Meade JLB; 14 Nov Roberts BJU ... Late: 29 Nov Sully DB; 21 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW; 14 Nov Lyman RDO; 18 Aug Meade JLB

**Pied-billed Grebe** Late: 22 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW; 16 Nov Pennington JLB; 16 Nov Meade JLB; 14 Nov Hughes DB

**Horned Grebe** Early: 11 Oct Lyman DB, RDO; 12 Oct Sully KM; 08 Nov Grant BJU; 08 Nov Roberts BJU ... Late: **27 Nov Sully DB**; 22 Nov Potter KM; 14 Nov Lyman RDO

**Red-necked Grebe** Late: **27 Nov Sully DB**; 14 Nov Lyman RDO, KM

**Eared Grebe** Late: **27 Nov Lake JSP; 27 Nov Fall River KM; 21 Nov Sully RSL**

**Western Grebe** Late: 29 Nov Meade JLB; 29 Nov Hughes DB; 27 Nov Sully DB; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 27 Nov Fall River KM

**Clark's Grebe** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 04 Oct Charles Mix RM; 04 Nov Fall River JLB

**American White Pelican** Late: 29 Nov Minnehaha DC; 28 Nov Sully KM; 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 21 Oct Butte JLB

**Double-crested Cormorant** Late: 28 Nov Brown MRZ; 27 Nov Sully DB; 26 Nov Stanley DB; 26 Nov Hughes DB; 21 Oct Butte JLB

**American Bittern** Only Report: 10 Sep Marshall DC

**Least Bittern** Only Report: **06 Sep Brookings BFH**

**Great Blue Heron** Late: 21 Nov Sully MS, JSP, DC; 19 Nov Faulk MMM; 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 04 Nov Custer MMM

**Great Egret** Late: **14 Nov Lake MRZ**; 26 Oct Beadle *fide* BFW; 25 Oct McCook JLB; 11 Oct Yankton RND; 13 Sep Meade GKH

**Snowy Egret** Late: **01 Nov Marshall GO**; 17 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 17 Oct Beadle *fide* BFW; 16 Sep Brule RSL

**Cattle Egret** Late: 24 Oct Butte VDF, EK, APB; 23 Oct Brown GO; 02 Oct Stanley RDO

**Green Heron** Late: **14 Nov Lake MRZ**; 12 Sep Minnehaha DC; 12 Sep Brookings JSP

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Late: 23 Oct Brown GO; 17 Oct Lake JSP; 17 Oct Beadle *fide* BFW; 29 Aug Stanley DB

**White-faced Ibis** All Reports: 25 Aug Deuel BJU; 26 Aug Beadle *fide* BFW; 10 Sep Marshall DC; 15 Sep Aurora RSL; 19 Sep Brown MRZ

**Turkey Vulture** Late: 10 Oct Hughes KM; 03 Oct Stanley RDO; 03 Oct Pennington RSL; 03 Oct Minnehaha MS; 03 Oct Hughes DB; 03 Oct Brookings JSP

**Osprey** Early: 01 Aug Hughes DB; 08 Aug Pennington JF; 23 Aug Stanley DB, RDO; 31 Aug Brown GO ... Late: 14 Oct Pennington JLB; 12 Oct Davison JSP; 07 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 19 Sep Stanley RDO, JSP

**Northern Harrier** Late: 30 Nov Custer MMM; 27 Nov Fall River KM; 27 Nov Brown MRZ; 22 Nov Potter KM

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Early: 14 Sep Brule RSL; 23 Sep Stanley RDO; 24 Sep Hughes DB; 24 Sep Lake DB

**Northern Goshawk** Only Report: 16 Nov Hughes RDO

**Broad-winged Hawk** All Reports: 30 Aug Hughes DB; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; **03 Oct Brookings JSP; 11 Oct Charles Mix RM**

**Swainson's Hawk** Late: 11 Oct Yankton RND; 30 Sep Custer MMM; 26 Sep Minnehaha MRZ

**Rough-legged Hawk** Early: 08 Oct Charles Mix RM; 10 Oct Lyman RDO; 17 Oct Meade JLB; 01 Nov Brown GO

**Golden Eagle** Early: 29 Aug Hughes KM; 11 Oct Lyman DB; 11 Oct Stanley DB

**Merlin** Early: 05 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 06 Sep Jackson KM; 21 Sep Custer MMM; 11 Oct Yankton RND

**Gyr Falcon** Only Report: 27 Nov Sully DB

**Peregrine Falcon** All Reports: **09 Aug Sully RDO**; 15 Aug Sully RDO; 10 Sep Marshall DC; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 13 Sep Stanley DB

**Prairie Falcon** Early: 19 Sep Jerauld JSP; 23 Sep Charles Mix RM; 11 Oct Stanley DB

**Virginia Rail** All Reports: 29 Aug Kingsbury JSP; 12 Sep Brookings JSP

**Sora** All Reports: 01 Aug Pennington JLB; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 12 Sep Meade GKH

**Sandhill Crane** Early: 27 Sep Custer MMM; 27 Sep Meade EEM; 08 Oct Pennington JLB; 10 Oct Hughes DB; 18 Nov Hand BFW ... Late: 16 Nov Charles Mix RM; 01 Nov Gregory RM; 31 Oct Sully KM; 23 Oct Harding CEM; 23 Oct Meade EEM

**Black-bellied Plover** All Reports: 15 Aug Sully RDO; 22 Aug Kingsbury JSP; 26 Sep Meade JLB

**American Golden-Plover** Only Report: 12 Sep Roberts BJU  
**Semipalmated Plover** Late: 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 10 Sep Marshall DC; 05 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 09 Aug Sully RDO  
**Killdeer** Late: 25 Oct Charles Mix RM; 24 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 18 Oct Stanley DB; 18 Oct Hughes DB; 14 Oct Pennington JLB  
**American Avocet** Late: 25 Oct Sully KM; 24 Oct Miner JSP; 23 Oct Meade EEM; 21 Oct Stanley RDO; 21 Oct Hughes DB  
**Spotted Sandpiper** Late: 11 Oct Yankton RND; 26 Sep Lake JSP; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Minnehaha DC; 12 Sep Meade GKH  
**Solitary Sandpiper** Late: **26 Sep McCook JSP**; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 16 Aug Stanley DB; 15 Aug Fall River JSP  
**Greater Yellowlegs** Late: 31 Oct Meade JLB; 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 24 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 18 Oct Stanley RDO  
**Willet** All Reports: 09 Aug Hyde RDO; 09 Aug Sully RDO; 29 Aug Kingsbury JSP; 12 Sep Stanley RDO  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late: 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 21 Oct Meade JLB; 03 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 22 Aug Sully RDO  
**Upland Sandpiper** Late: **15 Sep Custer MMM**; 18 Aug Tripp DB; 15 Aug Sully RDO  
**Long-billed Curlew** All Reports: 10 Aug Butte JLB; **18 Aug Butte JLB**  
**Marbled Godwit** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 09 Aug Hyde RDO; 15 Aug Charles Mix RM; 15 Aug Sully RDO; 22 Aug Kingsbury JSP  
**Sanderling** All Reports: 09 Aug Sully RDO; 22 Aug Kingsbury JSP; 25 Aug Deuel BJU; 05 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 21 Sep Stanley RDO; 26 Sep Sully KM  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: **03 Oct Kingsbury JSP**; 16 Sep Brule RSL; 13 Sep Meade GKH  
**Least Sandpiper** Late: 17 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 26 Sep Meade JLB; 26 Sep McCook JSP; 15 Sep Brule RSL  
**Baird's Sandpiper** Late: 17 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Minnehaha DC; 22 Aug Sully RDO; 02 Aug Jones RDO  
**Pectoral Sandpiper** Late: 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 11 Oct Charles Mix RM; 27 Sep Meade RSL, JLB  
**Stilt Sandpiper** Late: **28 Oct Roberts BJU**; 17 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 12 Sep Minnehaha DC; 22 Aug Sully RDO  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** All Reports: 25 Aug Deuel BJU; 12 Sep Roberts BJU  
**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 05 Aug Deuel BJU; 09 Aug Sully RDO  
**Long-billed Dowitcher** Late: 31 Oct Stanley JSP; 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 25 Oct Charles Mix RM; 21 Oct Meade JLB  
**Wilson's Snipe** Late: 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 14 Oct Pennington JLB; 10 Oct Fall River JSP; 26 Sep Hughes DB  
**Wilson's Phalarope** Late: 27 Sep Meade RSL; 12 Sep Minnehaha DC; 10 Sep Marshall DC; 22 Aug Sully RDO  
**Red-necked Phalarope** All Reports: 05 Aug Deuel BJU; 25 Aug Deuel BJU; 29 Aug Miner JSP; 01 Sep Deuel BJU; 05 Sep Miner JSP; 12 Sep Roberts BJU  
**Black-legged Kittiwake** All Reports: 08 Nov Stanley RDO; 09 Nov Stanley RDO; 16 Nov Charles Mix RM; 18 Nov Charles Mix RM; 23 Nov Charles Mix RM  
**Sabine's Gull** All Reports: **25 Aug Deuel BJU**; 26 Sep Lyman RDO; 27 Sep Lyman (5) RDO; **15 Oct Stanley RDO**  
**Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 23 Aug Stanley DB; 31 Aug Charles Mix RM; 19 Sep Lyman JSP; 10 Oct Fall River JSP; 24 Oct Kingsbury JSP ... Late: 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 08 Nov Roberts BJU; 08 Nov Grant BJU; 24 Oct Meade VDF  
**Franklin's Gull** Late: 14 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 14 Nov Lake JSP; 31 Oct Lyman JSP; 31 Oct Brookings BFH; 21 Oct Meade JLB  
**Mew Gull** All Reports: 08 Nov Stanley RDO; 09 Nov Stanley RDO; 11 Nov Stanley RDO; 14 Nov Stanley KM, RDO; 19 Nov Stanley RDO  
**Ring-billed Gull** Late: 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 27 Nov Fall River KM; 22 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW  
**California Gull** Late: 27 Nov Stanley DB; 15 Nov Hughes RDO; 21 Oct Butte JLB  
**Herring Gull** Early: 01 Aug Hughes DB; 09 Aug Stanley DB; 22 Aug Kingsbury JSP ... Late: 27 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 08 Nov Roberts BJU; 08 Nov Grant BJU  
**Thayer's Gull** Early: **11 Oct Lyman KM, RDO**; 08 Nov Stanley RDO; 14 Nov Buffalo KM  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull** reported 12 Sep Stanley RDO; 30 Sep Hughes RDO; 22 Nov Sully DC, JSP, MS, RM; 26 Nov Stanley DB  
**Glaucous Gull** All Reports: 20 Nov Lyman BFH; 22 Nov Buffalo KM; 22 Nov Lyman RDO, RSL; 23 Nov Charles Mix RM  
**Least Tern** Only Report: 09 Aug Stanley DB  
**Caspian Tern** All Reports: 01 Aug Hughes DB; 15 Aug Charles Mix RM; 16 Aug Stanley DB; 29 Aug Stanley DB  
**Black Tern** Late: 15 Sep Aurora RSL; 13 Sep Meade RSL; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 23 Aug Stanley RDO, DB

**Common Tern** Late: 26 Sep Lyman RDO; 13 Sep Stanley RDO, DB; 22 Aug Hughes DB; 10 Aug Butte JLB

**Forster's Tern** Late: 17 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 26 Sep Lyman RDO; 13 Sep Stanley RDO; 10 Aug Butte JLB

**Mourning Dove** Late: 15 Nov Sully DB; 10 Nov Meade EEM; 02 Nov Pennington JLB; 02 Nov Lawrence VDF; 17 Oct Lake JSP

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 12 Sep Roberts BJU; **04 Oct Charles Mix RM**

**Snowy Owl** All Reports: 11 Nov Hyde DB; 25 Nov Brown GO

**Burrowing Owl** Late: **15 Oct Custer MMM**; 22 Sep Jackson KM; 19 Sep Buffalo JSP

**Short-eared Owl** All Reports: 08 Nov Roberts BJU; 13 Nov Pennington MMM; 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Only Report: 29 Nov Harding CEM

**Common Nighthawk** Late: 26 Sep Brown GO; 15 Sep Brule RSL; 14 Sep Jackson RSL

**Common Poorwill** All Reports: 01 Aug Meade EEM; 06 Aug Meade APB; 04 Sep Pennington JF

**Chimney Swift** Late: 18 Sep Lake JSP; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 08 Sep Minnehaha DC; 28 Aug Hughes RDO

**White-throated Swift** All Reports: 16 Aug Fall River JSP; 18 Aug Custer JSP; 05 Sep Fall River RSL; **25 Sep Pennington GKH; 10 Oct Fall River JSP**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Late: **05 Oct Clay GJS**; 04 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 29 Sep Charles Mix RM; 30 Aug Pennington JF

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** All Reports: 05 Aug Pennington JF; 07 Aug Pennington JLB; 08 Aug Pennington JF; **28 Aug Pennington JF**

**Belted Kingfisher** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 16 Nov Lawrence VDF; 10 Nov Meade EEM; 31 Oct Beadle *vide* BFW; 25 Oct Hughes DB

**Lewis's Woodpecker** All Reports: 13 Aug Custer JSP; 18 Aug Custer JSP; 16 Sep Meade EEM; 25 Sep Pennington GKH; 24 Oct Butte VDF; 24 Oct Meade APB

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Late: **29 Nov Hughes DB**; 06 Nov Meade EEM; 03 Oct Clay DS; 14 Sep Minnehaha MRZ

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Late: 22 Oct Lake JSP; 11 Oct Lyman RDO, KM; 03 Oct Brookings JSP

**Red-naped Sapsucker** All Reports: 05 Aug Pennington JF; 08 Aug Pennington JF; 09 Aug Pennington RSL; 12 Aug Custer JSP; 25 Aug Custer RDO; 06 Sep Pennington RSL

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** All Reports: 18 Aug Custer JSP; 28 Sep Custer JLB

**Black-backed Woodpecker** All Reports: 12 Sep Custer RSL; 27 Nov Custer KM

**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 05 Sep Roberts GO; 12 Sep Roberts BJU

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Early: 10 Aug Hughes DB; 22 Aug Lake JSP; 29 Aug Union DS ... Late: 15 Sep Stanley RDO, KM; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 07 Sep Clay DS

**Western Wood-Pewee** Late: 19 Aug Custer JSP; 16 Aug Fall River JSP; 08 Aug Pennington JF

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Late: 14 Sep Minnehaha MRZ; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 18 Aug Tripp DB; 15 Aug Charles Mix RM

**Willow Flycatcher** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 08 Aug McCook JSP; 21 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 24 Aug Stanley RDO

**Least Flycatcher** Late: 18 Sep Hughes EDS; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 09 Aug Pennington RSL

**Dusky Flycatcher** Only Report: 13 Aug Custer JSP

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** All Reports: 18 Aug Custer JSP; **06 Sep Pennington RSL**

**Eastern Phoebe** Late: **23 Oct Brown GO**; 20 Oct Lake JSP; 17 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 06 Oct Clay DS; 12 Sep Custer RSL

**Say's Phoebe** Late: **02 Oct Custer MMM**; 22 Sep Jackson KM; 29 Aug Stanley DB

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Late: 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 07 Sep Clay DS; 05 Sep Lake JSP

**Western Kingbird** Late: 15 Sep Brule RSL; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 05 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 04 Sep Custer MMM

**Eastern Kingbird** Late: 19 Sep Pennington RSL; 14 Sep Custer MMM; 12 Sep Minnehaha DC; 08 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Loggerhead Shrike** Late: **12 Sep Roberts BJU**; 07 Sep Meade RSL; 02 Sep Pennington MMM; 16 Aug Stanley DB

**Northern Shrike** Early: 31 Oct Sully KM; 02 Nov Pennington JLB; 03 Nov Hughes EDS; 06 Nov Day GO

**Bell's Vireo** All Reports: 01 Aug Meade RSL; 03 Aug Meade JLB; 24 Aug Stanley RDO; 26 Aug Meade JLB

**Yellow-throated Vireo** All Reports: 01 Aug Minnehaha JSP; 05 Sep Roberts GO; 07 Sep Clay DS; **08 Sep Lincoln DC**

**Plumbeous Vireo** Late: 12 Sep Custer RSL; 06 Sep Pennington RSL; 16 Aug Fall River JSP

**Blue-headed Vireo** Early: 05 Sep Lake JSP; 08 Sep Hughes KM; 08 Sep Lincoln DC ... Late: **26 Sep Clay GJS**; 24 Sep Lake DB; 12 Sep Roberts BJU

**Warbling Vireo** Late: **26 Sep Lake JSP; 26 Sep Clay GJS; 26 Sep Brown GO**; 12 Sep Custer RSL

**Philadelphia Vireo** All Reports: 29 Aug Stanley RDO; 30 Aug Stanley RDO; 03 Oct Hughes DB

**Red-eyed Vireo** Late: **07 Oct Hughes EDS**; 26 Sep Clay GJS; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 30 Aug Pennington RSL

**Clark's Nutcracker** All Reports: 27 Aug Custer JLB; 28 Sep Custer JLB  
**Black-billed Magpie** reported 01 Nov Lyman RDO; 22 Nov Lyman RDO  
**Purple Martin** Late: 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 30 Aug Brown GO; 12 Aug Stanley RDO  
**Tree Swallow** Late: **17 Oct Lake JSP**; 26 Sep McCook JSP; 15 Sep Brule RSL; 30 Aug Pennington RSL  
**Violet-green Swallow** All Reports: 01 Aug Harding CEM; 02 Aug Pennington JLB; 08 Aug Pennington JF; 16 Aug Fall River JSP; 19 Aug Custer JSP  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 02 Aug Minnehaha MS; 02 Aug Pennington RSL; 09 Aug Minnehaha MS; 23 Sep Meade EEM  
**Bank Swallow** All Reports: 15 Aug Minnehaha MS; 22 Aug Kingsbury JSP; 29 Aug Kingsbury JSP; 30 Aug Brown GO; 10 Sep Roberts DC  
**Cliff Swallow** Late: **12 Sep Brookings KCJ**; 23 Aug Meade RSL; 16 Aug Pennington JLB; 16 Aug Fall River JSP; 12 Aug Stanley RDO  
**Barn Swallow** Late: 17 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 17 Oct Lake JSP; 13 Oct Stanley RDO; 02 Oct Custer MMM  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Early: 22 Aug Minnehaha NS; 29 Aug Brown GO; 05 Sep Lake JSP; 23 Sep Stanley RDO  
**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 12 Aug Custer JSP; 13 Aug Custer JSP; 16 Aug Custer JSP; 18 Aug Custer JSP  
**Brown Creeper** Early: 08 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 17 Oct Clay GJS; 24 Oct Brookings JSP  
**Rock Wren** Late: 22 Sep Jackson KM; 12 Sep Meade APB; 12 Sep Custer RSL  
**House Wren** Late: **18 Oct Hughes EDS**; 06 Oct Clay DS; 05 Oct Custer MMM; 04 Oct Lake JSP  
**Winter Wren** All Reports: 23 Sep Stanley RDO; 22 Oct Hughes DB; 22 Oct Stanley RDO; 24 Oct Sully KM; 28 Oct Roberts BJU  
**Sedge Wren** Late: **26 Oct Clay DS**; 25 Oct Charles Mix RM; 17 Oct Minnehaha MRZ  
**Marsh Wren** Late: **14 Nov Hughes DB**; 24 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 17 Oct Lake JSP; 18 Aug Tripp DB  
**American Dipper** Only Report: 18 Nov Lawrence JLB  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Early: 04 Oct Clay GJS; 07 Oct Stanley DB; 10 Oct Hughes DB; 22 Oct Brown GO  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Early: 10 Sep Roberts DC; 12 Sep Minnehaha DC, MS; 17 Sep Hughes EDS ... Late: 08 Nov Sully KM; 07 Nov McCook JSP; 01 Nov Hughes DB; 10 Oct Fall River JSP  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** All Reports: 01 Aug Harding CEM, KM; 01 Aug Minnehaha JSP; 06 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 13 Aug Custer JSP; 06 Sep Union DS  
**Eastern Bluebird** Late: 26 Nov Charles Mix RM; 18 Nov Hughes RDO; 01 Nov Gregory RM; 31 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 22 Aug Meade EEM  
**Mountain Bluebird** Late: 25 Oct Sully KM; 24 Oct Butte APB; 10 Oct Fall River JSP  
**Townsend's Solitaire** Early: 11 Nov Sully KM  
**Veery** All Reports: 28 Aug Hughes KM; 28 Aug Stanley RDO; 08 Sep Stanley RDO  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush** Only Report: **27 Aug Hughes KM**  
**Swainson's Thrush** Early: 29 Aug Hughes KM; 02 Sep Stanley DB, RDO; 05 Sep Lake JSP ... Late: 25 Sep Hughes EDS; 25 Sep Clay GJS; 18 Sep Lake JSP  
**Hermit Thrush** Early: 07 Oct Hughes EDS; 21 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 22 Oct Brown GO ... Late: 14 Nov Hughes DB; 07 Nov McCook JSP; 28 Oct Roberts BJU  
**Varied Thrush** Only Report: **03 Oct Harding CEM**  
**Gray Catbird** Late: **29 Nov Charles Mix RM**; 26 Oct Lawrence VDF; 07 Oct Stanley DB; 26 Sep McCook JSP  
**Brown Thrasher** Late: 22 Oct Hughes KM; 12 Oct Sully KM; 26 Sep McCook JSP; 26 Sep Brown GO; 14 Sep Custer MMM  
**American Pipit** Early: 25 Sep Stanley RDO; 26 Sep Sully KM; 03 Oct Lyman RDO; 28 Oct Roberts BJU ... Late: 07 Nov Minnehaha DC; 07 Nov Lincoln MRZ, MS  
**Sprague's Pipit** All Reports: 26 Aug Lyman SS; 30 Aug Jones DB  
**Bohemian Waxwing** Only Report: 07 Nov Beadle *vide* BFW  
**Tennessee Warbler** Early: 30 Aug Stanley RDO; 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 12 Sep Minnehaha MS; 12 Sep Roberts BJU ... Late: **23 Oct Brown GO**; 24 Sep Clay GJS; 23 Sep Hughes KM  
**Orange-crowned Warbler** Early: **15 Aug Charles Mix RM**; 02 Sep Stanley DB; 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 12 Sep Custer RSL ... Late: **31 Oct Hughes JSP**; 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 24 Oct Brookings JSP  
**Nashville Warbler** Early: 29 Aug Hughes EDS; 29 Aug Union DS; 08 Sep Lincoln DC ... Late: 26 Sep McCook JSP; 26 Sep Brown GO; 25 Sep Stanley RDO; 25 Sep Clay GJS  
**Virginia's Warbler** Only Report: 13 Aug Custer JSP  
**Northern Parula** All Reports: 02 Sep Stanley RDO; 08 Sep Lincoln DC  
**Yellow Warbler** Late: 23 Sep Stanley RDO; 22 Sep Charles Mix RM; 18 Sep Hughes EDS; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 07 Sep Meade RSL  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler** All Reports: 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 10 Sep Minnehaha MRZ; 10 Sep Roberts DC; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 12 Sep Roberts BJU  
**Magnolia Warbler** All Reports: 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 10 Sep Marshall DC; 10 Sep Roberts DC; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 17 Sep Hughes EDS; 26 Sep Lake JSP  
**Cape May Warbler** All Reports: **08 Sep Lincoln DC**; **12 Sep Roberts BJU**

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** Early: 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 07 Sep Clay DS; 10 Sep Roberts DC ...  
Late: 15 Oct Hughes EDS; 25 Sep Clay GJS; 19 Sep Minnehaha TJ

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Early: 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 23 Sep Hughes KM; 23 Sep Stanley RDO ... Late: 20 Nov  
Hughes RM; 01 Nov Charles Mix RM; 31 Oct Stanley JSP; 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 14 Oct Pennington JLB

**Black-throated Green Warbler** All Reports: 06 Sep Union DS; 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 12 Sep Roberts BJU

**Blackburnian Warbler** All Reports: 29 Aug Brookings JSP; 29 Aug Union DS; 30 Aug Stanley  
KM, RDO; 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 12 Sep Roberts BJU

**Palm Warbler** All Reports: **08 Sep Lincoln DC; 12 Sep Roberts BJU**; 03 Oct Kingsbury JSP

**Blackpoll Warbler** All Reports: 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 12 Sep Roberts BJU

**Black-and-white Warbler** Early: 10 Aug Butte JLB; 20 Aug Hughes DB; 22 Aug Lake JSP ... Late:  
26 Sep Lake JSP; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Minnehaha MS; 12 Sep Clay GJS

**American Redstart** Late: 25 Sep Hughes EDS; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Minnehaha MS, DC;  
12 Sep Custer RSL; 12 Sep Clay GJS

**Ovenbird** Late: 23 Sep Stanley RDO; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 09 Sep Hughes EDS; 25 Aug Pennington JLB

**Northern Waterthrush** All Reports: 21 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 10 Sep Roberts  
DC; 12 Sep Brookings JSP; 12 Sep Minnehaha DC; 12 Sep Roberts BJU

**Mourning Warbler** All Reports: 22 Aug Sully KM; 30 Aug Stanley RDO; 08 Sep Lincoln DC; 12  
Sep Roberts BJU; **03 Oct Minnehaha MRZ**

**MacGillivray's Warbler** All Reports: 13 Aug Custer JSP; 18 Aug Custer JSP

**Common Yellowthroat** Late: **16 Oct Hughes EDS**; 10 Oct Fall River JSP; 26 Sep Pennington RSL;  
26 Sep Lake JSP

**Wilson's Warbler** Early: 13 Aug Custer JSP; 27 Aug Lake JSP; 29 Aug Brookings JSP; 30 Aug  
Hughes EDS ... Late: 04 Oct Charles Mix RM; 27 Sep Stanley RDO; 25 Sep Hughes EDS; 20  
Sep Pennington RSL; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Minnehaha MS, DC; 12 Sep Brookings JSP

**Canada Warbler** All Reports: 29 Aug Union DS; 30 Aug Stanley KM, RDO; 07 Sep Clay DS; 10  
Sep Roberts DC; **12 Sep Roberts BJU**

**Yellow-breasted Chat** All Reports: 01 Aug Harding CEM; 15 Aug Fall River JSP; 05 Sep Fall River  
RSL; 05 Sep Hughes EDS; 09 Sep Hughes EDS; 23 Sep Hughes KM

**Scarlet Tanager** Late: **26 Sep Clay GJS**; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Minnehaha MS

**Western Tanager** Late: **25 Sep Pennington GKH**; 21 Sep Meade EEM; 12 Sep Custer RSL

**Spotted Towhee** Late: 11 Nov Hughes DB; 17 Oct Stanley RDO; 17 Oct Lake JSP; 04 Oct Pennington  
RSL; 04 Oct Meade EEM

**Eastern Towhee** All Reports: 06 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 12 Sep Minnehaha MS; 25 Sep Hughes KM

**American Tree Sparrow** Early: 11 Oct Yankton RND; 12 Oct Pennington JLB; 17 Oct Meade JLB;  
17 Oct Stanley RDO; 24 Oct Brookings JSP

**Chipping Sparrow** Late: 04 Nov Lawrence VDF; 31 Oct Charles Mix RM; 24 Oct Kingsbury JSP

**Clay-colored Sparrow** Late: **25 Oct Hughes DB**; 11 Oct Lyman RDO; 04 Oct Meade RSL; 12 Sep Roberts BJU

**Brewer's Sparrow** Only Report: 15 Aug Fall River JSP

**Field Sparrow** Late: 17 Oct Lake JSP; 12 Oct Pennington JLB; 11 Oct Lyman RDO, KM

**Vesper Sparrow** Late: 17 Oct Meade JLB; 17 Oct Lake JSP; 14 Oct Minnehaha DC; 14 Oct Custer  
MMM; 12 Oct Gregory RM

**Lark Sparrow** Late: 15 Sep Custer MMM; 07 Sep Meade RSL; 23 Aug Harding CEM; 15 Aug  
Charles Mix RM

**Lark Bunting** Late: **19 Sep Custer RSL**; 10 Sep Charles Mix RM; 07 Sep Meade RSL

**Savannah Sparrow** Late: 25 Oct Charles Mix RM; 17 Oct Lake JSP; 14 Oct Minnehaha DC; 11 Oct  
Pennington RSL

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Late: 07 Sep Meade RSL; 30 Aug Sully KM; 30 Aug Jones DB

**Le Conte's Sparrow** Early: 23 Sep Hughes KM; 25 Sep Clay DS; 11 Oct Minnehaha MRZ ... Late:  
26 Oct Clay DS; 17 Oct Lincoln DC; 14 Oct Minnehaha DC

**Nelson's Sparrow** All Reports: 23 Sep Hughes KM; 26 Sep Hughes DB; 04 Oct Hughes KM; **17  
Oct Lincoln DC**

**Fox Sparrow** Early: 27 Sep Harding CEM; 03 Oct Clay GJS; 17 Oct Kingsbury JSP ... Late: 28 Oct  
Roberts BJU; 25 Oct Hughes DB; 24 Oct Brookings JSP

**Song Sparrow** Late: 07 Nov Minnehaha DC; 27 Oct Hughes KM; 25 Oct Charles Mix RM; 14 Oct  
Pennington JLB

**Lincoln's Sparrow** Early: 30 Aug Pennington RSL; 05 Sep Fall River RSL; 13 Sep Meade RSL; 16  
Sep Brule RSL; 24 Sep Lake DB ... Late: 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 22 Oct Hughes EDS; 17 Oct Lake  
JSP; 15 Oct Custer MMM

**Swamp Sparrow** Late: 17 Oct Lake JSP; 14 Oct Minnehaha DC; 04 Oct Hughes KM

**White-throated Sparrow** Early: 23 Sep Hughes KM; 25 Sep Stanley RDO; 26 Sep Brown GO; 26  
Sep Lake JSP; 29 Sep Pennington GKH ... Late: 15 Nov Lake JSP; 08 Nov Clay GJS; 30 Oct  
Sully KM; 10 Oct Fall River JSP

**Harris's Sparrow** Early: 23 Sep Stanley RDO; 27 Sep Harding CEM; 02 Oct Hughes KM; 03 Oct Kingsbury JSP ... Late: 30 Nov Lawrence VDF; 14 Nov Lake MRZ; 10 Nov Clay GJS

**White-crowned Sparrow** Early: 23 Sep Hughes KM; 26 Sep Custer RSL; 26 Sep Pennington RSL; 01 Oct Minnehaha MRZ ... Late: 26 Nov Hughes DB; 07 Nov Charles Mix RM; 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 17 Oct Meade RSL, JLB

**Dark-eyed Junco** Early: 25 Sep Hughes KM; 26 Sep Lake JSP; 26 Sep Stanley RDO

**Lapland Longspur** Early: 24 Oct Meade VDF; 31 Oct Brookings BFH; 31 Oct Stanley DB

**Smith's Longspur** Only Report: **28 Oct Roberts BJU**

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** All Reports: 01 Aug Pennington RSL; 08 Aug Pennington JLB; 09 Aug Hyde RDO; 10 Aug Butte JLB; 16 Aug Stanley DB

**Snow Bunting** Early: 25 Oct Minnehaha DC; 28 Oct Roberts BJU; 01 Nov Marshall GO; 14 Nov Buffalo KM; 14 Nov Lyman RDO

**Northern Cardinal** reported 18 Aug Tripp DB

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Late: 31 Oct Beadle *fide* BFW; 26 Sep Clay GJS; 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Brookings KCJ

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Late: 13 Sep Pennington RSL; 05 Sep Fall River RSL; 27 Aug Meade EEM; 24 Aug Stanley RDO

**Blue Grosbeak** Late: 17 Sep Charles Mix RM; 16 Sep Minnehaha MRZ; 27 Aug Hughes KM; 16 Aug Pennington JLB; 16 Aug Jackson JLB

**Lazuli Bunting** All Reports: 01 Aug Harding CEM; 16 Aug Fall River JSP; 01 Sep Stanley RDO

**Indigo Bunting** Late: 02 Sep Stanley DB; 18 Aug Tripp DB; 10 Aug Butte JLB; 08 Aug McCook JSP

**Dickeissel** Late: 15 Sep Brule RSL; 07 Sep Meade RSL; 15 Aug Charles Mix RM; 10 Aug Brown GO

**Bobolink** All Reports: 05 Aug Grant BJU; 08 Aug McCook JSP; 08 Aug Pennington JLB; 26 Aug Meade JLB; **04 Oct Clay DS; 07 Oct Meade JLB**

**Western Meadowlark** Late: 17 Nov Faulk MMM; 11 Nov Hughes DB; 08 Nov Custer MMM

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Late: 14 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 25 Oct Sully KM; 26 Sep Hughes DB; 20 Sep Meade RSL

**Rusty Blackbird** Early: **10 Sep Marshall DC**; 11 Oct Pennington RSL; 19 Oct Stanley RDO ... Late: 17 Nov Faulk MMM; 14 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 11 Nov Stanley RDO

**Brewer's Blackbird** Late: 26 Nov Pennington JLB; 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 18 Oct Stanley DB

**Common Grackle** Late: 22 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW; 19 Nov Faulk MMM; 07 Nov Lake JSP; 01 Nov Hughes DB; 13 Oct Meade EEM

**Great-tailed Grackle** All Reports: 05 Aug Grant BJU; 11 Oct Yankton RND; 17 Oct Kingsbury JSP; **25 Oct Lincoln (150) DC; 27 Oct Lincoln (80) MRZ**

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Late: 11 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW; 16 Oct Pennington RSL; 11 Oct Yankton RND

**Orchard Oriole** Late: **08 Sep Lincoln DC**; 31 Aug Pennington RSL; 30 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 16 Aug Stanley DB

**Bullock's Oriole** All Reports: 01 Aug Pennington RSL; 02 Aug Pennington RSL

**Baltimore Oriole** Late: 12 Sep Roberts BJU; 12 Sep Charles Mix RM; 01 Sep Brookings KCJ

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** Only Report: 17 Nov Meade MO

**Purple Finch** Early: 23 Oct Brown GO; 25 Oct Hughes DB; 27 Oct Lake JSP

**Cassin's Finch** Only Report: 19 Nov Custer MO

**Pine Siskin** Early: 26 Sep Hughes EDS; 27 Sep Lake JSP; 24 Oct Stanley DB

**Lesser Goldfinch** All Reports: 14 Aug Fall River JSP; 16 Aug Fall River JSP; **05 Sep Fall River RSL**

**Evening Grosbeak** Only Report: 30 Nov Lawrence VDF

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

**Red-throated Loon** 15-22 Nov Sully DB, KM, RDO, DC, RSL

**Cattle Egret** 25 Nov Edmunds GO; 22 Nov Beadle *fide* BFW

**Swainson's Hawk** 30 Nov Meade EEM

**Least Sandpiper** 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP

**Wilson's Phalarope** 14 Nov Kingsbury JSP

**Thayer's Gull** 22 Sep Hughes RDO; 08 Nov Grant BJU

**Iceland Gull** 30 Nov Lyman SS

**Long-tailed Jaeger** 09 Sep Walworth *fide* DC; 10 Sep Walworth SS

**Blue-headed Vireo** 12 Nov Edmunds JDW

**Philadelphia Vireo** 03 Aug Stanley RDO

**Carolina Wren** 16 Aug Fall River JSP; 17 Sep Hughes EDS; 23 Oct Hughes EDS

**Bohemian Waxwing** 04 Oct Meade EEM

**Orange-crowned Warbler** 22 Nov Hughes DB

**Orchard Oriole** 25 Sep Clay GJS

### Species Expected But Not Reported

Cinnamon Teal (2), Barrow's Goldeneye, Greater Sage-Grouse (3), Little Blue Heron, Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, Ruddy Turnstone (2), White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin (2), American Woodcock (2), Black-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Whip-poor-will, Calliope Hummingbird (2), Rufous Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2), Northern Mockingbird, Golden-winged Warbler (2), Townsend's Warbler (2), Bay-breasted Warbler (2), Connecticut Warbler (2), Baird's Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak (3), White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll.

### Corrections/Additions to Past Reports

**Smith's Longspur** Delete: 13 Oct 2008 Sully; 14 Oct 2008 Stanley

### Contributing Observers

DB	Doug Backlund	EEM	Ernest E. Miller
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	KM	Kenny Miller
APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	GO	Gary Olson
DC	Douglas Chapman	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	MO	Mark Otnes
BFW	Bridgette Flanders-Wanner	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
VDF	Vic & Donna Fondy	NS	Nancy A. Schaefer
JF	Jennifer Fowler	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
GKH	Gene K. Hess	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
BFH	Bill F. Huser	WS	Waubay NWR Staff
KCJ	Kent C. Jensen	SS	Scott Stolz
TJ	Todd Jensen	EDS	Eileen D. Stukel
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	DS	David Swanson
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	BJU	Bill J. Unzen
RM	Ron Mabie	JDW	J. David Williams
MMM	Michael M. Melius	MRZ	Mick R. Zerr
CEM	Charles E. Miller		

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## ALFRED HINDS MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ORNITHOLOGY ANNOUNCEMENT

The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union will be awarding a memorial award in the amount of \$100.00 to a deserving individual or organization in 2010. The Alfred Hinds Memorial Award for Ornithology, established in 1983, will be presented to an individual, a high school or college (undergraduate or graduate) student, or an organization/agency that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of ornithology in South Dakota. It may also be awarded to a special SDOU project which needs financial support.

Nominations should include: Name/address/e-mail address and phone number of the nominee, accomplishment(s) of nominee and any supporting information (i.e. newspaper articles, remarks from co-nominators, etc.).

Nomination period will close April 15, 2010. The \$100.00 award will be announced in mid-May 2010. Send name(s) of nominees to: *Jocelyn Lee Baker, Chair, SDOU Scholarships and Awards Committee, 3220 Kirkwood Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702 or osprey@hills.net.*



## ARE SUBSPECIES STILL OF INTEREST TO ORNITHOLOGY TODAY?

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*In the December 2009 issue of SD Bird Notes (61: 93), L. M. Baylor posed the following question: “Do current readers find the concept of subspecies useful?”.*

*The following is a present-day ornithologist’s take on the current importance of subspecies. SDOU member Dr. Garth Spellman is an Assistant Professor of Vertebrate Zoology at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD. He is also the Master of Science in Integrative Genomics Program Director.*

**A**s a systematist and avian evolutionary biologist, I use subspecies nomenclature on a regular basis in discussions of geographic variation below the species level. However, the naming and recognition of subspecies has fallen out of favor in modern ornithology for two main reasons:

- 1) history of the subspecies concept and
- 2) history of the taxonomic treatment of subspecies.

First, the concept of subspecies arose as a by-product of the Modern Synthesis (the merging of Darwinian Evolution and Mendelian Genetics). During the Modern Synthesis, Ernst Mayr formalized the Biological Species Concept (BSC) that defined species as “actually or potentially reproductively isolated entities”, and this species concept quickly became the model for species recognition in ornithology. Consequently, advocates of the BSC in ornithology demoted nearly half of the recognized species at that time to “subspecies” status because of evidence that they hybridized with a congener or closely related species. The result of these demotions was that



“Myrtle” Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Photo: Doug Backlund

the taxonomic category of subspecies was a grab bag of entities at various stages of the evolutionary process of speciation (for a good discussion of this see Zink, Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B (2004) 271, 561–564). Some subspecies when analyzed in greater detail define well differentiated (both genetically and morphologically) and evolutionarily distinct taxa that certainly deserve to be elevated to species status (again); while other subspecies are defined by a single arbitrarily chosen character that defines a local population but has little to no biological and thus evolutionary significance.

Second, the history of the taxonomic treatment of subspecies has also contributed to the decline in use of the species trinomial. The best example of this is epitomized in the recent history of the American Ornithologists' Union *Checklist of North American Birds* prepared by the AOU Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. Immediately following the Modern Synthesis and the rise of the BSC, the *Checklist* (1957) included subspecies in its linear taxonomy of North American birds. This prompted a fury of research into the taxonomic status of species and subspecies alike; however, all subsequent AOU checklists have excluded subspecies and interest in the concept has waned with each new publication of the *Checklist*. Thus, the waning interest in subspecies in ornithology could be a direct consequence of the lack of reporting by the governing body of avian taxonomy in North America. Interestingly, the new AOU *Checklist* due out this or next year is supposed to list subspecies, so if interest in subspecies taxonomy spikes, then my theory may have some merit.



*"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler*  
Photo: Doug Backlund

## Answer to the SD Bird Notes Photo ID Quiz

What do we notice when first looking at this photo of a flying bird taken in eastern SD (Minnehaha County) on 12 July 2009? At first glance, from the size and shape, this bird certainly looks suspiciously sparrow-like. And the grayish, brown and whitish flight feathers only add to this impression.

We also notice at once a bright spot of rufous. It looks, perhaps, to be the crown of the bird's head. If so, Chipping Sparrow might immediately come to mind. But, is that indeed the head of the bird? Look closely, and you will notice that it cannot be the head. The bird has just taken off from its perch and its wings are raised to gain lift. So the rufous patch must be part of the bird's wing. We can easily see the bird's secondaries, and we can easily see the greater secondary coverts that lie directly on top of them. The next layer up is where we find the rufous: it's the median and lesser secondary coverts, more commonly known as the bird's "shoulder". So, we have a bird with a bright, rusty-red shoulder patch. Recalling our initial thought of a sparrow species, we might think, "Yes, indeed, there are sparrows that have such a patch". However, how many of these species are to be found in South Dakota? There is the Vesper Sparrow, which shows a small, often hidden, dark reddish brown shoulder



*Dickcissel upon take-off. Minnehaha County. 7/12/09*  
Photo: Douglas Chapman

patch, but our bird's patch is large and bright. Referencing any of our North American field guides, we see that the only other North American sparrow which can at times display such a patch is the Rufous-winged Sparrow; however, its range is confined to the extreme southwestern United States and adjacent Mexico. That exhausts our efforts to identify this bird as a sparrow (remember, I promised that all birds in quiz photos were to be found in South Dakota). So we must conclude that the bird in this photo cannot be a sparrow.

Eliminating all sparrow species makes the search a bit easier, actually. What else can we see in this photo which, admittedly, lacks views of the bird's head or breast? Well, next one notices the distinct, light gray rump and lower back. Chipping Sparrows do have a gray rump (and lower back), but we know from our process of elimination that it cannot be that species. What other species in mid-July in eastern South Dakota could have a light gray rump and lower back as well as a bright rufous shoulder patch? There is one bird, which in fresh fall plumage shows a brownish rump and lower back, but which then fades to gray as the winter and spring progress until, by mid-summer, its back is as pale and gray as our bird's back is.

With the known location and season (Minnehaha County, SD, 12 July), the gray rump and lower back and the rufous shoulder, we should now know what species this bird is. But let's see if there is anything else about the bird which might provide us a clue.

Looking very closely, we notice that the lower belly is washed yellow. That should clinch this identification. To recap, this bird exhibits the following:

- 1) a large, bright, rusty shoulder patch,
- 2) two-toned grayish and brown flight feathers with whitish leading edges,
- 3) a light gray rump and lower back, and
- 4) a yellowish belly.

Only one bird found in South Dakota in mid-July could fit this description—**Dickcissel!** And indeed, a **Dickcissel** it is. To see the photo in color, consult the back cover of *SD Bird Notes*, vol. 61, no. 4 (December 2009) or go to: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/8110372@N06/4107070066/>.

There were nine correct identifications (listed in order received):

Congratulations to Linda Johnson of Sioux Falls who submitted the first correct entry on 10 December 2009 and will receive a book related to birding.

**Linda Johnson, Sioux Falls (winning first entry)**

John Harris, Oakdale, CA  
Gary Small, Vermillion  
Michael Melius, Hermosa  
David Swanson, Vermillion  
Ricky D. Olson, Ft. Pierre  
Jennifer Fowler, Rapid City  
James Jessen, Scotland (SD)  
Rosemary Draeger, Sioux Falls

Congratulations!

Thanks go out to all who participated.

Douglas Chapman, *SD Bird Notes* Editor



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