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# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

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## *Pacific Wren*

*Discovery Park, Seattle, WA 4/15/2007*

*Photo: Tom Talbott, Jr.*

[www.flickr.com/photos/tomtaltbott](http://www.flickr.com/photos/tomtaltbott)



## *Winter Wren*

*Caddo Lake, Texas 2010*

*Photo: Tom Walker  
[www.caddobirds.com/  
bird\\_banding.htm](http://www.caddobirds.com/bird_banding.htm)*



## *Winter Wren*

*Cowley Co., Kansas 2004  
Photo: Norman N. Smith  
[www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org)*



S O U T H



D A K O T A

B I R D

N O T E S

**SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES**, the official publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Life membership: \$400; Family Life membership (one subscription to *Bird Notes*): \$500; Sustaining membership: \$40; Regular membership: \$20; Family membership (one household; one subscription to *Bird Notes*): \$25; Junior/Student membership: \$10; Library Subscription: \$30. Single and back copies: Members, \$5; non-members, \$6. All dues, contributions, and orders for back copies should be sent to the SDOU Treasurer, Rosemary Draeger, 528 E. Lotta St., Sioux Falls, SD, 57105. Manuscripts for publication and change of address notices should be sent to Douglas Chapman, 3108 S. Holly Ave., Sioux Falls, SD, 57105 or, preferably, e-mailed to [SFbirdclub@sio.midco.net](mailto:SFbirdclub@sio.midco.net). **SDOU website: [www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org)**.

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Nancy Drilling

As the winter weather drags on and on, many cooped-up bird enthusiasts start flipping ahead on their calendars, planning a burst of birding activity when the weather improves. Finding the first nesting Great Horned Owl, first singing meadowlark, and first migrant warbler are all steps along the seasonal progression towards summer. This year as you plan your next few months, mark the dates for the SDOU spring meeting in Lemmon, 13-15 May 2011, as a MUST-ATTEND birding event. Why? It will be a great opportunity to bird-watch in a portion of the state that most of us rarely, if ever, visit. Hopefully we will find the grassland bird community in full song, including specialty species such as Sprague's Pipit and Baird's Sparrow. It will be an opportunity to pick up birding and grassland bird identification tips from our fellow birders. It's always great camaraderie - spend the entire weekend with people that share your passion! And, even though the spring meeting is mostly about bird-watching, we also will learn. Our guest speaker, biologist Dan Svingen, will educate us on grassland birds, the most threatened group of birds in North America.



Spring and fall meetings are one way that the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (SDOU) fulfills its main mission - to encourage and promote the study of wild birds in South Dakota. All of the meetings feature fun, birding, and camaraderie, as well as learning, listening, and discussion. What better way to spend a weekend?

Since the incorporation of SDOU as the state's ornithological society in 1949, the journal that you hold in your hands, *South Dakota Bird Notes (SDBN)*, has been the primary means by which those who study South Dakota birds can tell the world about their findings. The beauty of *SDBN* is its egalitarian leanings. Over the years, the journal has published contributions from amateurs, managers, professional ornithologists and everything in between! *SDBN* has thrived for 62 years, even while some states in the region don't even have a state bird journal, because of the dedication of hundreds of volunteers who have edited, designed, and contributed to a journal that the state can be proud of.

As technology has developed, so have the methods to promote and support birding activities. The SDOU online database, found on the SDOU web site, houses thousands of bird sighting and breeding records. These records come from you and me. The database is only as good and complete as we make it. So when you see an interesting bird, take notes during a birding trip, or see evidence of breeding, make your observations count and enter them into the database! These data are there for anyone to use and learn from - a great tool for bird study, developed in and for South Dakota. Related to this is the popular SD-birds e-mail listserv. Bird observation posts on the listserv communicate information in "real" time, promoting the great world of South Dakota birding to a world-wide audience.

Bird study in South Dakota can be conducted by anyone. To encourage projects by those with less access to funding or at the beginning of their bird study careers, SDOU has several endowed research and scholarship funds that support amateurs, undergraduates, and graduate students. Your generous donations to these funds allow SDOU to support studies that increase our knowledge of South Dakota birds.

All of SDOU's efforts to encourage and support birds and bird study in the state are carried out by volunteers - no one is paid to do this! If you have ideas or comments about how SDOU can become even better, please let us know. Better yet, join us! See you in Lemmon in May.

# FLEDGLING TRACTS

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JASON THIELE

*Guest Column: Reaching Out to the Next Generation of Birders*

## FACEBOOK – THE EARLY YEARS

In 2004, when I was a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, several friends kept urging me to join a website called Facebook. After several weeks of their persistence, I caved in and signed up. Little did I know I was actually one of the first few thousand people to become a member of a website that would eventually become a global phenomenon. When I first joined Facebook, it was a very exclusive site – only students from a handful of colleges and universities could create an account. Facebook had a very simple design back then. It allowed users to post some general information about themselves in a profile for their friends (or strangers) to view. It also featured a way for users to leave messages for each other, which was basically just a big text box that anyone could type in, known simply as “the wall.” Essentially, the website was an electronic yearbook – a picture of each of your friends and a space to write silly messages to them.



*Jason Thiele, probably looking for Burrowing Owls*

For anyone who knows anything at all about Facebook, you know that a lot has changed since then. Facebook is no longer restricted to college students—virtually anyone can join now. People can now post news articles, pictures, videos, and more onto their own walls or their friends’ walls. Users can quickly upload entire photo albums to the site for their friends to see. Even businesses, organizations, musicians, and more can create “pages” that allow them to constantly update their “fans.” Log onto Facebook nowadays, and you are immediately presented with a blitzkrieg of information. However, lots of young people seem to like that, and the site continues to grow at an astounding rate.

If you’ve made it this far into this column, you’re probably assuming that I must have some reason for writing about a social networking website in an ornithology publication. Well, it’s because I think that Facebook may be a part of the solution to the severe lack of young birders in our midst.

You are probably thinking, “*It’s Facebook that’s the problem!*” I partially agree with you. There is no doubt that young people today are far too distracted by things like the Internet, TV, cell phones, and video games. I won’t argue that for a second. We’ve all heard the “Last Child in the Woods” story; it is imperative that we get children outside at an early age by taking them birding, hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, and so on. Lately there has been a push to do so by a lot of groups that are concerned about the fates of both nature and children. Much more needs to be done, certainly, but these efforts are encouraging.

## MAKE USE OF WHAT YOUTH KNOW

However, I believe Facebook can be a valuable tool for reaching out to the youth that are a bit older. I’m talking about the high school and college kids who might be a bit beyond the point where you can get them interested in the outdoors just by dragging them along on your expeditions. These teenagers and twenty-somethings want to “do

their own thing,” and they need to be enticed into birding and other outdoor activities in a different way. And we do need to pull them in, because if we can't get more of them interested in birds, we are going to lose an entire generation of potential ornithologists. Members of SDOU and related groups around the country can attest to the fact that the population of people who are fighting for conservation of birds and other wildlife is getting...well...old, for lack of a better word. We must get new recruits in the ranks.

As a graduate teaching assistant at South Dakota State University in Brookings, I know that there are still plenty of college students out there who would make great birders if they would just get outside and do it. For example, SDSU has a fairly high enrollment of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences students. I know for a fact that most of these folks spend more time enjoying the outdoors than the average college student. Considering their career choice, they are obvious candidates to introduce to birding. It's rather unfortunate that no one has taught many of them to take a closer look at all of the critters that they just take for granted. Right now, the percentage of students entering the major who can't identify a bird as common as a House Wren or a Song Sparrow is quite staggering. Nevertheless, I'm convinced that the current crop of high school and college students (regardless of field of study) is not a lost cause to birding's future. The potential is definitely there, but we need to find a way to get a birding hobby started.

Perhaps Facebook is a way. People of my generation seem to have a great love for sharing everything about themselves and knowing what others are up to as well. These characteristics make Facebook a promising tool for recruiting new birders. It's an instantaneous way to spread news about birds that has a few advantages over e-mail. While I don't think that electronic mailing lists like SDOU's will go extinct anytime soon, Facebook is appealing because it really encourages interaction among participants. People can make comments on each other's posts, and all responses can be viewed at once without clicking through an e-mail inbox. Even those who don't feel like typing anything can give feedback by clicking a thumbs-up icon to indicate that they "like" what someone said. I've seen some pretty spirited Facebook discussions about a lot of different topics, and none of those subjects were as interesting as birds! Getting conversations started online might be the first step to luring people outside to find new birds to talk about.

## LURE IN THE NEW GENERATION WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY THEY USE DAILY

Could someone like me use Facebook to get other students hooked on birding? I believe it's possible. Because I do think that I might actually be onto something here, I have begun an experiment for the spring semester of 2011. In January, I created a Facebook "page" devoted to birds and birding. I invited all students in Dr. K.C. Jensen's ornithology class to become "fans," which essentially means that they will be updated whenever I change the content of the page. I also encouraged the students to suggest the page to any friends of theirs who might be interested in birds. My hope is that I can also pull in students from a variety of other majors who have a fascination with birds.

I'll elaborate on the details of the Facebook experiment in a future issue. Is it going to work out? It's far too early to tell, but who knows? Maybe by the end of the semester some of these students will change the "Favorite Music" section of their Facebook profiles from Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, and Eminem (admittedly, I had to ask my more trendy friends the names of some popular contemporary musicians) to Wood Thrush, Lark Bunting, and Brown Thrasher. Regardless of the outcome of this trial, I remain convinced that some new recruiting approaches might be needed if SDOU and similar organizations are serious about increasing membership, particularly among students. I look forward to helping out with this effort in any way that I can, and I will keep you updated about my experiences with SDSU students.

# BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

**HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD. Vol. 15. Weavers to New World Warblers.** J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot, and David Christie, Eds. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona \$274.00 (approximate price). ([www.hbw.com](http://www.hbw.com).) 879 pp.

This volume, the penultimate of the highly praised handbook of all the world's birds, continues in the lavish format of previous ones in the series. This large book contains reviews of the biology of bird families illustrated with handsome photographs, paintings of almost all the birds in the book (often males and females), and short reviews of each species. The reviews cover the taxonomy and distribution of the species. Subspecies are listed, and short summaries of the ecology, occurrence, status, and conservation of the birds are included. Volume 15 includes the Weavers, Whydahs, Waxbills, Vireos, Finches, Hawaiian Honeycreepers, and New World Warblers.

This series is often a place to learn about current advances in molecular taxonomy. Bird taxonomy has been in extreme flux since the first volume of this series was published in 1992. For this reason, the handbook's editors promised a conservative taxonomy within the text. Vireos, for example, still occur near warblers. Most recent taxonomies now place them much earlier in the parade of bird families. Without loose-leaf binding, certainly the handbook can be forgiven for now odd placement of some families.

In previous reviews I have made the point that these books are not extremely expensive if viewed on a price per family basis—about \$34.25 in this case (although the Olive Warbler is placed in its own single-species family in this volume). There are 61 color plates, 495 photographs, 614 color distribution maps and more than 6000 bibliographical references.

I found previous volumes in this series to be almost without fault. I do have two small criticisms of volume 15. The color plates are executed by five artists and seem to me to be a bit more variable in quality than those of previous volumes. None of the artwork is bad, but some portraits (weavers) seem flat and somewhat sketchy and others (vireos) seem a bit dull and slightly inaccurate. Other plates, however, remain superior, including Doug Pratt's Hawaiian Honeycreepers – you may recall that Doug is a renowned honeycreeper expert. I am also somewhat disappointed in the warbler photographs. In my copy, a few seem somewhat greenish and do not always accurately demonstrate the bright colors of these “butterflies of the bird world”. The editors have obviously looked for depictions of bird behavior, sometimes sacrificing quality of photographs. Species variety suffers in the warbler photos—by my count only about 55% of North American species are included. I am not sure why this number includes nine different views of Yellow Warblers at the expense of such beautiful species as Blackburnian or Black-throated Green warblers (to name but two that I think might have been included). A more serious warbler problem is a bird photographed in Montana and identified as a Louisiana Waterthrush. This photograph caught my attention since this species is not expected to occur in Montana. Furthermore, the photograph seems to me to be that of a Northern Waterthrush.

Each volume of this series begins with a forward about some aspect of ornithology. Volume 15 included a 55-page essay on the state of world bird conservation as of 2010. The list of perils to birds is long and depressing and includes topics ranging from climate change to green energy like wind farms (not necessarily green birds). This is a multi-authored essay that ends with constructive suggestions for improving bird conservation, including things that each of us, as individuals, might be able to do. Many SDOU members, in fact, already try to live lives of ecological harmony. All birders will find the essay of extreme interest. *Dan Tallman, 2120 Taylor Ct., Northfield MN 55057.*

# BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

**The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs. Gregory S. Paul. 2010.  
Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ. 320 pp. \$35.00  
(Hardcover).**

**D**inosaur enthusiasts will adore this book! Many such enthusiasts are precocious children, but this book is not aimed at that audience. The text is dry and technical. Nevertheless, I am certain that all ages of dinosaur fans will love this book.

This book is lavishly illustrated and is in the style of a field guide. Diagrams of bones over black silhouettes represent many of the 735 species. Color sketches of the intact beast are occasionally included. Skulls are illustrated for other species. Large color portraits represent a few dinosaurs. Of course the colors of dinosaurs are fanciful – who has actually ever seen a dinosaur? The illustrations are not sufficient to identify a bone in the field. Rather they demonstrate the variety of dinosaur forms.

One of the aspects of particular interest to birders is the Avepods. Perusing these species, one cannot but doubt the close relationship of dinosaurs to birds. Many of these skeletons are indistinguishable from those of birds. Dinosaur fossils suggest birds were first bipedal climbers that secondarily evolved the ability to fly. Many dinosaurs have feathers. Some, however, sport sharp incisors!

This book is not aimed for children. The introduction gives a scholarly review of dinosaur biology, history, ecology and recent discoveries. The book is a must purchase for anyone teaching vertebrate zoology. I suppose that precocious children – exactly the sorts who often become dinosaur experts – might find the book to be fascinating, in which case *The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs* would be a wonderful introduction to the world of scientific literature. *Dan Tallman, 2120 Taylor Ct., Northfield, MN 55057.*

**Birds of the Middle East. Richard Porter and Simon Aspinall. 2010.  
Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ. 385 pp. \$39.50 (Softcover).**

**B***irds of the Middle East* is another in the Princeton University Illustrated Checklists. You may recall that I recently reviewed another in the series, *Birds of the West Indies*. *Birds of the Middle East*, covering birds found from Turkey and Israel to the west and Iran and Yemen to the east is better than the West Indies book.

The illustrations in *Birds of the Middle East* are superior. Not only are they better executed, they tend to be larger and less crowded on each page. As a consequence, the birder probably does not need a secondary bird book, as is suggested for the West Indian book. Despite the fact that more species are covered in the Middle East book, over 800, compared to 550, more habitat and identification tips are provided. *Birds of the Middle East* has more pages 385 vs. 240 and is slightly larger in all dimensions. Range maps are found opposite the bird portraits, unlike in the West Indian tome, where they are at the end of the book. Both volumes contain very short introductions. Again, *Birds of the Middle East* has more information, including web pages of regional ornithological organizations and tips for the culturally naïve. “Always accept a cup of tea ..., even if you don’t take sugar.” *Dan Tallman, 2120 Taylor Ct., Northfield, MN 55057.*

# **SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDING SITE ACCOUNT**

## **Shadehill Reservoir/Grand River National Grassland, Perkins County**

David Swanson, Department of Biology, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069

**S**hadehill Reservoir is located about 12 miles south of Lemmon, South Dakota. Large bodies of water are scarce in northwestern South Dakota, but Shadehill Reservoir is a relatively large reservoir formed by a dam on the Grand River. The lake formed by the dam covers more than 5,000 surface acres, so it provides some unique habitat in this portion of the state. The lake also provides good fishing for walleye, smallmouth bass, and crappie. This area is most productive for birding during summer and migration seasons. However, the tailrace below the dam provides one of the very few areas of open water in this region in winter. Thus, Bald Eagles, waterfowl and gulls can be found at this site during migration and winter. Bordering the reservoir at several locations and following the Grand River below the dam are groves of deciduous woodlands that harbor numerous migrating and nesting woodland birds. Extensive areas of mixed-grass prairies alternate with agricultural lands to form a mosaic that covers the upland areas through which the Grand River flows. A good variety of grassland species occupy these upland habitats.

The Shadehill area also boasts an interesting history. Custer's 1874 expedition to the Black Hills, where they found the gold that initiated the chain of events leading to the Battle of the Little Bighorn, passed through this area. In fact, some troopers with the expedition left markings on a hillside in this area which are still visible today. Even more interesting, the reservoir covers the junction of the North and South forks of the Grand River, the location where the itinerant trapper Hugh Glass was mauled by a grizzly bear in 1823. Glass was left to die by his companions, but regained consciousness and crawled over 200 miles to Fort Kiowa, near present-day Chamberlain, South Dakota. This trek was wonderfully committed to posterity by the famous novel *Lord Grizzly* by Frederick Manfred.

The Grand River National Grassland covers an extensive area of northern Perkins County. Some of the most productive areas for birding can be found about 5 miles northeast of Shadehill. This area provides a great example of native mixed-grass prairie and contains all of the breeding bird species associated with this habitat, including those specialties of the northern Great Plains, Sprague's Pipit and Baird's Sparrow.

### **Ecology**

The Grand River drains much of the northern portion of northwestern South Dakota. Both open water and deciduous woodland habitats are rare in the northwestern part of the state, but the Shadehill area offers plenty of both. Thus, many waterbirds and woodland birds find oases in this area. Agricultural lands are interspersed within a substrate of mixed-grass prairie that covers most of northwestern South Dakota. The deciduous groves here are composed mainly of cottonwood, green ash, elm, and box elder. The agricultural habitats attract species such as Gray Partridge and Ring-necked Pheasants, while the grasslands harbor native grassland birds. The Grand River National Grassland preserves a large expanse of essentially native northern mixed-grass prairie, which supports an interesting avifauna associated with this habitat type. Grazing is allowed on the National Grasslands, so don't expect pristine wilderness, but the presence of cattle doesn't seem to bother the birds. This area consists of rolling prairie hills bisected by numerous intermittent streams. Stock dams on some of these streams provide some small expanses of open water that are often rimmed by mudflats. These areas may be attractive to both shorebirds and waterbirds.

### **Birds of Note**

Grassland birds are one of the primary attractions here, with Sprague's Pipit and Baird's Sparrow at the top of the list. Baird's Sparrows are common in certain locations here and Sprague's Pipits are fairly common in the same areas. Other breeding grassland species that are regular in this area include Northern Harrier, Ferruginous and Swainson's hawks,



Sharp-tailed Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Horned Lark, Lark Bunting, Lark, Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. There are also scattered prairie dog towns in the grasslands which have their resident Burrowing Owls.

Deciduous groves within the area support nesting Eastern Screech-Owl, Least and Willow flycatchers, Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Blue Jay, Eastern Bluebird (rare), Yellow Warbler, Black-headed and Rose-breasted grosbeaks (watch out for hybrids), and Orchard and Baltimore orioles. In more open areas, Eastern and Western kingbirds, Loggerhead Shrikes, and Black-billed Magpies can be found. In migration, these deciduous groves act as oases and attract a wide variety of migrating woodland birds. Breeding birds of open water habitats in this area include Eared and Western grebes, Canada Goose, Mallard, Franklin's and Ring-billed gulls, Forster's Terns, Belted Kingfisher, and Bank Swallow. In migration, California, Thayer's and Glaucous gulls are sometimes observed, and a few gulls may overwinter. Bald Eagles also overwinter near open water in the area. In marshes or mudflats along the edges of open water Great Blue Heron, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds occur as nesting species.

The Shadehill area receives little birding pressure, but, nevertheless, there have been a fairly wide variety of rare species reported here, thanks largely to the efforts of Dave and Carolyn Griffiths of Hettinger, North Dakota. Vagrants in grassland or aquatic habitats within the general area observed mostly during migration include Little Blue Heron, Red-throated Loon, Long-tailed Duck, Gyrfalcon (winter) and Peregrine Falcon, Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, and Least Tern. The deciduous groves often attract wandering passerines during migration. Some of the most exotic among those species seen in this general region include Worm-eating and Townsend's warblers.

### **How to Get There**

The small collection of houses known as Shadehill is 12 miles south of Lemmon on State Highway 73. Shadehill is located in between the roads leading to the north and south units of Shadehill State Recreation Area. Access to a particularly good area of the Grand River National Grassland is available on a gravel/dirt road leaving Highway 73 to the east at 9.5 miles south of Lemmon (2.5 miles north of Shadehill). This road enters the National Grasslands after 2 miles and also provides access, after 9 miles, to East Lemmon Lake Public Access Area.

### **Recommended Stops**

I will describe the birding locations by starting at the south end of the area and moving northward. About ½-mile south of Shadehill there is a dirt road leading west to the south unit of the Shadehill Recreation Area. This road leads to the Hugh Glass Memorial overlooking the reservoir and then to the Hugh Glass Picnic Area and Campground. For the first mile or so, this road leads through some agricultural lands that attract Ring-necked Pheasants and Gray Partridge. About ¼-mile from the highway, on the south side of the road is a prairie dog town that is a good place to look for Burrowing Owls. After the first mile, the road winds through grasslands with some scattered sagebrush. Common birds along this stretch include Eastern and Western kingbirds, Horned Lark, Black-billed Magpie, Lark Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark. This is also a good area to look for hawks and perhaps a Short-eared Owl. This road can become rough and muddy after rains, but it is generally passable in most vehicles. The Hugh Glass Memorial is 3 miles from the highway junction and is a nice spot for a panoramic view of the reservoir and surrounding lands and to think back on the trials that the grizzled old trapper passed through. Beyond the memorial about ¾-mile is the picnic area and campground, within a large deciduous grove. Most of the bird species characteristic of deciduous groves in the area can be observed at this location.

From the picnic area and campground, follow the road back to Highway 73. Just shy of one mile north of Shadehill are Flat Creek Lake and Llewellyn Johns State Recreation Area. Flat Creek Lake is a modest-sized reservoir ringed with cattails. It is a particularly good

location for Western Grebe, and the cattails hold nesting Sora, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area is on the south side of the lake and there is a small area of deciduous woodlands ringing the campground area with cottonwood, elm, green ash, box elder, and some juniper. Common breeding species here include Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, and American Goldfinch. This area can also be good for migrant passerines.

From Llewellyn Johns, take Perkins County Road 2 to the west. Follow this road for ½-mile, then turn south (left) at the sign for Merriman's Grove Picnic Area. This road passes through some open cottonwood woodlands in which many of the characteristic deciduous grove species can be found. This area seems particularly attractive to Eastern and Western kingbirds, Warbling Vireo, and Baltimore Oriole and the grassy understory is good for Lark Sparrows. Take the left fork at one mile from the county road. The entrance to the picnic area is on the east (left) another 0.3 miles beyond this fork. This picnic area is surrounded by a nice grove of mainly ash and elm trees. Again, the typical deciduous birds can be found here, but it seems a particularly productive spot for Least and Willow flycatchers, Brown Thrasher, and Cedar Waxwing. Continuing straight on the entrance road, rather than turning into the picnic area, leads to the dam tailrace after about ¼-mile. This tailrace is about the only open water in the entire area in winter, so it provides about the best birding in the region at that season. Mallards, Canada Geese, and Bald Eagles all overwinter and many waterfowl and gulls visit during migration. In summer, regular denizens include Great Blue Heron, Willow Flycatcher, Cliff and Tree swallows, and Common Yellowthroat.

Next, retrace the route back to Perkins County Road 2 and turn west (left). Follow this road for 1.3 miles to the sign for Ketterling's Point Campground. Turn south (left) and proceed for one mile to the park entrance. Shortly thereafter, turn right and follow this road for 2 miles to the large campground. As you loop around just before entering the campground, there is a large plum thicket on the inside of the loop that is worth trying for Yellow-breasted Chat. The campground is wooded with planted pine, ash and elm and contains the usual litany of deciduous grove suspects. Common Nighthawk and Northern Flicker are particularly common here. There is also plenty of access to the reservoir here and Eared Grebe, Canada Goose, Belted Kingfisher, and Bank Swallow can be found along the shores.

To get to a productive area of the Grand River National Grassland from here, travel back to the junction with Highway 73 and turn left (north). At about 1.5 miles (2.5 miles north of Shadecreek), turn east (right) off the highway toward Lemmon Lake Public Access Area. This is a decent gravel/dirt road, but it may become muddy and slick after rains. Two miles on this road will bring you to the National Grasslands, which here preserve an excellent expanse of mixed-grass prairie. At a number of locations along this road, stock dams block the intermittent streams draining the grasslands. The small ponds created by these dams can attract a variety of shorebirds and waterbirds. At 2 miles after entering the National Grasslands (4 miles from the highway), another road branches off to the south. The area around this junction teems with grassland species and is a fabulous spot for both Sprague's Pipit and Baird's Sparrow. To observe the birds of this spot, park on the side of the road at the intersection and walk along the road to the south. The Baird's Sparrows are common, vocal and easy to find. The Sprague's Pipits are less common, but are also very vocal while performing their distinctive high-altitude, flutelike, flight song. They are difficult to see because they deliver the songs from such high altitudes (hundreds of feet), but if you scan the sky in the direction of the songs you can usually locate the songster. Other common nesting birds in this area include Northern Harrier, Ferruginous and Swainson's hawks, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Horned Lark, Lark Bunting, Lark, Savannah, and Grasshopper sparrows, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. Continuing on this road for another 2 miles, turning south for 2 miles, then east for 1.3 miles brings you to East Lemmon Lake. This can be a fairly productive spot for waterbirds and shorebirds, particularly during migration.

## Accommodations

Lemmon, South Dakota has several motels, as well as stores for supplies. There are three campgrounds in the Shadehill area. Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area has 10 campsites, three with electricity, vault toilets, and a playground. Ketterling's Point Campground has 32 sites, all with electricity, as well as bathrooms and a playground. The Hugh Glass campground is more primitive and offers 16 non-electrical sites and vault toilets.

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# BIRDING HOTSPOTS IN SD

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WINTER OF 2010-2011 Birds

RICKY D. OLSON

Some of my predictions in the December 2010 issue of *Bird Notes* for the species the Spast winter might bring us came true. **Glaucous, Iceland and Great Black-backed gulls** were seen along the Missouri River. However, very few **Snowy Owls** were reported in South Dakota this winter and still, no first state record of **Slaty-backed Gull** – again! One winter, I am sure one will be found.

Rapid City was the best HOTSPOT with **Winter Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler** (possible eighth state record) and (probable) **Pacific Wren** observed near the Cleghorn Fish Hatchery. **Pacific Wren** was recently elevated to full species status by the AOU, separate and distinct from the Winter Wren. (See pgs. 12-13 of this issue.)

The Missouri River dams had many gull species present into December. Here is a list of the rare and uncommon species not already mentioned: **Ross's, Sabine's, Little, Mew, Lesser Black-backed**, (probable) **Glaucous-winged gulls** and **Black-legged Kittiwake**.

In addition to several second-hand reports of **Common Raven** observed out on the plains this winter, I observed one on 10 February 2011 along US Highway 83. This sighting has been submitted to the Rare Bird Records Committee, as it is a rare bird in South Dakota in modern times. Winter storms most certainly could bring ravens into our state, so do look at any large black bird twice.

With all the megararities showing up the last several years, it's hard to predict what will be seen this spring. Because of the spring meeting location, many birders will be traveling to the northwest part of the state. In Lemmon, SD, this 13 - 15 May, I predict a **McCown's Longspur** will be seen and maybe even a cooperative **Green-tailed Towhee**.

Please go to <[www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org)> for more details regarding bird records, or <[www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/SODK.html](http://www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/SODK.html)> for access to the SD listserv posts if you are not a member.



*McCown's Longspur is a beautiful bird of pristine grasslands. The male's spring flight display and song constitute one of birding's greatest experiences. Found fairly easily in the three states that border South Dakota's West River (Nebraska, Wyoming and North Dakota), one assumes they MUST be found in South Dakota as well. Hopefully we will see them near Lemmon, SD, 13-15 May 2011.*

*Photo: Michael Retter, Crook County, WY 6/16/09*

## IDENTIFYING WINTER WREN AND PACIFIC WREN IN THE FIELD

Alan Knue, Seattle, WA

The answer to the question, “*Can these birds be told apart?*” is an emphatic yes. There are consistent differences in calls and songs to allow identification of the two species, Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) and Pacific Wren (*T. pacificus*), and there are plumage differences that can also be used to help support ID decisions. But we’re getting ahead of ourselves.

In North America there are three diagnosable groups of “Winter” Wrens:

- Western (*pacificus* group) breeds from southern Alaska through the northern Rockies to western Montana and northern Idaho, south through the Cascades, northern Sierra Nevadas, and the Pacific slope to Central California; mostly non-migratory, although casual south and east of the breeding range in winter.
- Eastern (*hiemalis* group) breeds from east-central British Columbia east across Canada, south through the Appalachians; winters widely in the eastern United States, mostly east of the Great Plains.
- Aleutian (*alascensis* group) resident on Aleutian and other Bering Sea Islands.

This article will not address the *alascensis* group, which, although quite different from either of the other two in its large size and paler coloration, differs little genetically from other western populations. However, there is an 8.8% difference in mitochondrial DNA between the eastern and western groups, which is very significant given the genetic divergence between most closely related species pairs is nearer 3% (Drovetski et al. 2004). Furthermore, Toews and Irwin (2008) report that the two forms occur together in the northern Canadian Rockies, where they were able to confirm that song type and DNA correspond to one or the other group. The researchers detected no interbreeding. Thus, the two forms are reproductively isolated and qualify as “good species”; the American Ornithologists’ Union concurred, and split the two forms in the summer of 2010.

While at first glance quite similar, there are differences that may be seen in plumage between *T. pacificus* and *T. hiemalis*. Both are very small, dark, stub-tailed skulkers by nature, which, at times, makes seeing them clearly difficult at best. Winter Wren is a grayer brown overall, with a much paler throat (grayish-buff often approaching whitish), and a distinct, long, pale, grayish-buff to whitish supercilium. In addition, Winter Wren usually has strong barring on the flanks that extends well forward onto the sides of the breast and white flecking on the back, scapulars, and wing coverts. Pacific Wren is a richer redder brown overall, with a distinctive dark belly usually lacking any of the grayish and whitish tones exhibited by Winter Wren. The overall dark plumage mutes many of the same features found in Winter Wren. The throat is darker and more ruddy by comparison, and the supercilium shorter and less distinctive. The flank barring again is more muted and less obvious and there are usually fewer, if any, white flecking on the upper parts. As stated above, these features can be hard to see given the bird’s habit of staying out of sight, and some of the features overlap due to age and/or molt. Thus, the most reliable way to distinguish between these two species is by voice.

The call notes are very distinctive and easy to learn. Both wrens give a common short call note and an agitated series of 5-10 staccato notes. Winter Wren’s calls are lower, softer and cleaner sounding. The common call note is reminiscent of the call of Song Sparrow and can

be transcribed as “*kilp*.” In contrast, the Pacific Wren’s calls are higher pitched, and sharper or harsher in quality. Its calls are often compared to that of Wilson’s Warbler and can be described as “*jip*.” This call is most often paired in Pacific Wren, although Winter Wren will give the short call in pairs as well. Calls are heard year round, and oftentimes wrens can be encouraged to call with pishing or brief playback of call notes.

Winter and Pacific Wrens can be distinguished by song, but it takes some practice as the differences are subtle. Both have fabulous, long and complex songs, with bubbling bursts of warbling and high tinkling trills. Winter Wrens sing a far more musical sounding song, with a less buzzy quality and little pitch or frequency change between the notes sung. As a result the song of the Winter Wren is more mellow sounding. Overall, the Pacific Wren’s song sounds less musical with fast changes in pitch and with a greater number of drier and buzzy sounding trills, thus sounding livelier and perhaps more exuberant.

The repertoire of the two species also differs greatly. Winter Wren males sing only two or three song types and often repeat the same song beginning to end over and over again before changing to one of the other songs in his repertoire. By contrast, Pacific Wren males have a much more complex repertoire of thirty or more song types. Pacific males often start their songs in one of eight to ten ways but end their songs in seemingly endless variety and often reconstruct and recombine various song units. Winter Wren songs are much more stable and are less likely to change song units. This is somewhat reminiscent of the eastern and western forms of the Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*, the western form having a wider repertoire and more complex song behavior.

To listen to Winter Wren and Pacific Wren vocalizations, visit Xeno-Canto:

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/browse.php?query=winter+troglodytes>  
(Search for recordings made in Vancouver, BC, and King Co., WA, for Pacific Wren and South Carolina, North Carolina, Minnesota, Quebec and Maine for Winter Wren. Be aware that most recordings on the site are of the Eurasian Wren, *T. troglodytes*, still listed as Winter Wren, with ssp. indicated.)

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# SECOND SOUTH DAKOTA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: THREE YEARS DOWN, TWO MORE TO GO!

By Nancy Drilling, SDBBA2 Coordinator

**D**uring the first three years of the second South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas (SDBBA2), volunteers and paid staff have visited 353 atlas blocks at least once (81% of all blocks), with a total of 1,326 visits. Observers have spent 4,510 hours on blocks and submitted 19,168 individual bird records. On 135 'finished' blocks observers found an average of 59 species (range 28-88 species). Blocks in the prairie pothole region of the state have the highest number of species while West River grassland blocks have the lowest.

Thus far, 242 breeding species have been documented, 86% of which have been confirmed breeding within the state. Nine additional species either are non-breeding summer residents or are currently awaiting verification from the state Rare Bird Records Committee. Western Meadowlark is the most frequently reported species (362 records), Brown-headed Cowbird has been reported within the highest percentage of blocks (94%), and seven species have been reported from all 66 counties. SDBBA2 atlasers have documented fourteen species that were not reported during the first South Dakota Atlas and have confirmed breeding by eight of these: Sandhill Crane, Herring Gull, Snowy Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Black Rail, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Prothonotary Warbler, and Cassin's Sparrow.

Breeding bird highlights of 2010 were located in and around wetlands, as most of the state is recovering from the recent drought and is two to three years into a wet cycle. This has turned much of the northeast quarter of the state into a large marsh, resulting in the first state record (and breeding record) for Black Rail, several Common Moorhen broods (second state breeding record), return of breeding Horned Grebe (last breeding record was in 1994), and the westward expansion of breeding Red-necked Grebes, White-faced Ibis, three egret species, Piping Plover and Black-necked Stilts. Grassland birds, such as Le Conte's, Nelson's, Baird's, and Henslow's sparrows, and Sprague's Pipits, also responded to better grassland habitat produced by the wet conditions.

We still need more information on particular species. Evening Grosbeak was confirmed breeding during the first atlas but has not yet been documented during the current atlas. We need to confirm breeding of thirty-three species which were confirmed in SDBBA1 (Table 1). For many of these species, we only have one or two records so any information would be appreciated. In addition, we need more information on the following "urban" species: Purple Martin, House Finch, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Chimney Swift.

There are still plenty of opportunities for you to be involved. Submit observations of any confirmed breeding you observe or any observation of rare species. You can still sign up for atlas blocks. Forms are available on the atlas website ([www.rmbo.org/sdbba2](http://www.rmbo.org/sdbba2)) or contact the atlas coordinator ([sdatlascoordinator@rmbo.org](mailto:sdatlascoordinator@rmbo.org)) for more information.

Table 1. There are thirty-three species whose status needs to be upgraded to Confirmed

	NUMBER OF RECORDS	CURRENT BREEDING STATUS
American Woodcock	7	probable
Baird's Sparrow	17	probable
Broad-winged Hawk	10	probable
Brown Creeper	10	probable
Bufflehead	3	probable
Cassin's Finch	5	probable
Cassin's Kingbird	1	possible
Chuck-will's Widow	1	probable
Cinnamon Teal	3	possible
Evening Grosbeak	0	---
Eastern Meadowlark	5	probable
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	probable
Great-tailed Grackle	10	probable
Henslow's Sparrow	2	probable
Hermit Thrush	1	possible
Hooded Merganser	6	probable
Least Bittern	22	probable
Lesser Goldfinch	1	probable
Little Blue Heron	1	possible
Nelson's Sparrow	35	probable
Northern Bobwhite	11	probable
Northern Mockingbird	16	probable
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	possible
Pinyon Jay	1	probable
Pygmy Nuthatch	3	probable
Sage Thrasher	1	observed
Scarlet Tanager	4	probable
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	possible
Veery	4	probable
Virginia's Warbler	2	probable
Whip-poor-will	5	probable
White-winged Crossbill	1	possible
Winter Wren	1	probable
Wood Thrush	3	probable

# TWO WEST RIVER BIRD ENCOUNTERS

Michael Melius, Hermosa

## Flickers Forage on Rock Walls

The Hot Springs Christmas Bird Count was conducted on 18 December 2010. One of the areas I surveyed was Hot Brook Canyon north of town. The canyon has a flowing creek, vertical rock walls, and mixed riparian vegetation. At one stop a Northern Flicker flew into view and alighted on a high sandstone cliff. I had never seen this behavior before, so spent some time watching. The bird clung to the rock and moved about much as it would on a tree. It appeared to be foraging, turning its head to examine the wall and picking at the surface.

My next stop was Chautauqua Park, which has a similar rock wall towering over the creek. There, two flickers were observed on the cliff. The birds flew up and down and side to side on the cliff. For a short time, one of the flickers disappeared into a hole in the rock that happened to be round in outline, much like a tree cavity, and just big enough to allow entrance to the bird. Perhaps this will be a nest site next spring?

At a stop farther up the creek, yet another Northern Flicker was present on a cliff. As all these rock walls are south-facing, it might be possible that the flickers find good foraging here because the sites are warmed by insolation. However, at the time of my observations, from 9 to 11 am MST, the sky was cloudy after a night of dense fog, and air temperature was around 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Gyr Falcon Dines on Grouse

On 17 January 2011, I was traveling a road in rural Pennington County when I came around a curve and saw a large bird on the road in front of me. I stopped over 100 meters from the bird, which promptly flew sideways to a fence post, facing me. With 8x40 binoculars I was able to see heavy brown streaks on the breast, and a pale chin. The bird soon flew to the west, but circled back and landed on a fence post again, actually coming nearer to me in the process.

As the bird flew, I observed that it was the size of a buteo, with an overall brown color, streaked below and solid dark above. It had a long tail, brown above, that was too long to be any buteo. There were no strong markings on the face. The wings were long and somewhat pointed, but fairly broad. One prominent feature was the crop, which appeared as a bulge in the throat, clearly visible in profile.

With the falcon again perched on a fence post and facing me, I watched through a 20x scope. The head was generally dark, but there was no bold marking on the face, including the malar stripe, which was visible but hardly prominent. The bird soon flew again – and again, the crop was obvious – and I was able to see the wing pattern. The coverts were clearly darker than the flight feathers. From these observations of size, shape and plumage I determined that the bird was a Gyr Falcon.

When the bird left the area, I rolled ahead to the spot on the road where it was originally seen. There I found the carcass of a Sharp-tailed Grouse on the edge of the gravel road. The head was separated from the body, and the entrails were in the ditch. The body was breast-up, and almost completely stripped of muscles and organs. That explained the full crop I'd observed, as well as another, puzzling coloration: a streak of reddish-brown across the Gyr Falcon's upper breast, which must have been a blood stain.



# SEASONAL REPORTS

JEFFREY S. PALMER

## **The 2010 Fall Season**

Compiled by Jeffrey S. Palmer

Madison, SD

01 August 2010 to 30 November 2010

**B**reaking the previous record of 314 species reported during the 2002 Fall Season, there were 319 species, including 14 rarities, reported during the 2010 Fall Season. The ten-year average (2000-2009) is 305. 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 2 of the previous 5 years. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of consecutive years (up to 4) that the species has appeared on the list during the season. Check [www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org) for key to abbreviations.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 01 Aug McPherson SS; 12 Oct Kingsbury KCJ; 24 Oct Hughes KM, RDO ... Late: 29 Nov Gregory BJU; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 23 Nov Hughes DB; 16 Oct Kingsbury JSP

**Snow Goose** Early: 01 Aug McPherson SS; 07 Aug Marshall RDO; 14 Aug Brown GO; 24 Oct Hughes KM, RDO; 17 Nov Custer MMM ... Late: 29 Nov Yankton MRZ; 29 Nov Gregory BJU; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 21 Nov Codington TJ; 21 Nov Brown GO

**Ross's Goose** All Reports: 01 Nov Brown BJU; 14 Nov Sully KM; 27 Nov Yankton KCJ; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 29 Nov Gregory BJU

**Cackling Goose** Early: **18 Sep Day GO; 01 Oct Hand BJU**; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 28 Oct Meade JLB; 06 Nov Stanley RDO

**Trumpeter Swan** All Reports: 08 Sep Pennington JLB; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 30 Oct Tripp RAP

**Tundra Swan** Early: 12 Oct Kingsbury KCJ; 21 Oct Hand DB; 25 Oct Grant BJU ... Late: 20 Nov Marshall GO; 01 Nov Day BJU; 01 Nov Brown BJU

**Wood Duck** Late: 26 Nov Pennington JLB; 23 Nov Hughes DB; 01 Nov Day BJU; 01 Nov Brown BJU

**Gadwall** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 28 Nov Yankton SS, RND; 21 Nov Stanley RDO, KM; 18 Nov Turner BJU

**American Wigeon** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 29 Nov Yankton MRZ; 18 Nov Stanley RDO; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Hand DB

**American Black Duck** Only Report: **19 Aug Marshall DS, JSP**

**Blue-winged Teal** Late: 06 Nov Brookings JSP; 28 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 26 Oct Meade RSL; 12 Oct Stanley KCJ

**Cinnamon Teal** Only Report: **03 Aug Campbell SS**

**Northern Shoveler** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 28 Nov Yankton SS, RND; 21 Nov Stanley RDO, KM; 18 Nov Turner BJU

**Northern Pintail** Late: 29 Nov Yankton MRZ; 28 Nov Stanley KM; 26 Nov Pennington JLB; 18 Nov Turner BJU

**Green-winged Teal** Late: 28 Nov Yankton MRZ, SS, RND; 26 Nov Hughes DB; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Stanley RDO; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Meade JLB; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU; 18 Nov Hand DB

**Canvasback** Late: 28 Nov Yankton SS, RND; 21 Nov Stanley RDO, KM; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Meade JLB; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU

**Redhead** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 28 Nov Yankton SS, RND; 28 Nov Stanley KM; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU

**Ring-necked Duck** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 29 Nov Yankton BJU; 23 Nov Hughes DB; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU; 18 Nov Hand DB

**Greater Scaup** Early: 23 Oct Brookings JSP; 25 Oct Grant BJU; 01 Nov Day BJU; 02 Nov Stanley RDO ... Late: 28 Nov Yankton SS; 18 Nov Stanley RDO; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU

**Lesser Scaup** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 29 Nov Yankton BJU; 28 Nov Stanley KM; 20 Nov Marshall GO

**Surf Scoter** All Reports: 23 Oct Brookings JSP; 25 Oct Grant BJU; 01 Nov Day BJU; 11 Nov Minnehaha TJ

**White-winged Scoter** Only Report: 01 Nov Day BJU

**Black Scoter** All Reports: 06 Nov Brookings JSP; 27 Nov Buffalo RDO; 28 Nov Brule TJ; 30 Nov Buffalo BJU

**Long-tailed Duck** All Reports: 27 Nov Buffalo RDO; 27 Nov Gregory RDO; 27 Nov Yankton KCJ; 28 Nov Yankton RND; 29 Nov Yankton BJU; 30 Nov Buffalo BJU

**Bufflehead** Early: 11 Oct Pennington JLB; 12 Oct Meade RSL; 14 Oct Stanley RDO; 16 Oct Kingsbury JSP

**Common Goldeneye** Early: 01 Nov Day BJU; 13 Nov Pennington JLB, RSL; 14 Nov Hughes KM

**Hooded Merganser** Early: 03 Aug Deuel BJU; 06 Aug Pennington JLB; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 30 Oct Buffalo JSP ... Late: 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 29 Nov Gregory BJU; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 26 Nov Pennington JLB; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU

**Common Merganser** Early: 06 Aug Pennington JLB; 08 Sep Stanley KM; 11 Sep Buffalo JSP; 01 Nov Day BJU

**Red-breasted Merganser** Early: 12 Nov Minnehaha KCJ; 24 Nov Stanley DB; 27 Nov Yankton KCJ, DS, JSP ... Late: 30 Nov Stanley RDO; 29 Nov Gregory BJU; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU

**Ruddy Duck** Late: 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 30 Nov Buffalo BJU; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Meade JLB; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU

**Ruffed Grouse** Only Report: 14 Oct Lawrence KCJ

**Greater Sage-Grouse** Only Report: 13 Oct Harding KCJ

**Northern Bobwhite** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 10 Aug Charles Mix RM; 20 Aug Charles Mix RM; 20 Aug Clay DS; 01 Sep Charles Mix RM; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU

**Pacific Loon** All Reports: **03 Oct Stanley RDO**; 06 Nov Minnehaha DC; 07 Nov Minnehaha DC; 11 Nov Minnehaha RND; 12 Nov Minnehaha KCJ; **18 Nov Minnehaha BJU**

**Common Loon** Early: 08 Aug Hughes DB; 07 Sep Stanley RDO; 11 Oct Sully KM; 31 Oct Meade JLB; 01 Nov Brown BJU; 01 Nov Day BJU ... Late: 28 Nov Stanley RDO, KM; 23 Nov Hughes DB; 13 Nov Sully DB; 11 Nov Turner RND

**Pied-billed Grebe** Late: 28 Nov Yankton SS, RND; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Meade JLB; 18 Nov Hand DB

**Horned Grebe** Early: 18 Sep Stanley KM; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 16 Oct Pennington JLB ... Late: 18 Nov Meade JLB; 14 Nov Sully KM; 12 Nov Hughes KM; 01 Nov Day BJU; 01 Nov Brown BJU

**Red-necked Grebe** Late: 14 Nov Hughes KM; 13 Nov Sully DB; 05 Nov Day MO

**Eared Grebe** Late: 20 Nov Buffalo JSP; 14 Nov Sully KM; 04 Nov Meade RSL; 17 Oct Brookings KCJ

**Western Grebe** Late: 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 28 Nov Stanley KM; 25 Nov Hughes DB; 21 Nov Butte JLB; 08 Nov Hand DB

**Clark's Grebe** Late: 06 Nov Hughes RDO; 05 Nov Sully KM; 23 Oct Lyman RDO; 28 Aug Marshall GO

**American White Pelican** Late: 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 08 Nov Hand DB; 06 Nov Brookings JSP; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Double-crested Cormorant** Late: 30 Nov Stanley RDO, BJU; 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 30 Nov Buffalo BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Meade JLB; 18 Nov Hand DB

**American Bittern** Late: 17 Oct Sanborn RND; 09 Oct Clay JSP, KCJ; 01 Oct Hand DB; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Least Bittern** Late: **16 Sep Charles Mix RM; 11 Sep Bennett RSL**; 04 Sep Brookings JSP

**Great Blue Heron** Late: 20 Nov Codington TJ; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 06 Nov Faulk GO; 06 Nov Edmunds GO; 06 Nov Brookings JSP; 30 Oct Lyman JSP; 30 Oct Buffalo TJ; 26 Sep Pennington JLB

**Great Egret** Late: 28 Oct Brookings KCJ; 21 Oct Hand DB; 18 Oct Hanson RSL; 16 Oct Sully KM

**Snowy Egret** Late: 07 Oct Marshall GO; 07 Oct Day GO; 07 Oct Brown GO; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 03 Aug Walworth SS

**Little Blue Heron** All Reports: 06 Aug Brown MO; 07 Aug Brown KM, RDO

**Cattle Egret** Late: **13 Nov Stanley RDO, KM, DB**; 07 Nov Brown GO; 30 Oct Hughes RDO; 15 Oct Jones KCJ

**Green Heron** Late: 25 Sep Charles Mix RM; 20 Sep Hand DB; 09 Sep Lake JSP

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Late: 10 Oct Hand DB; 02 Oct Lake JSP; 18 Sep McCook JSP; 18 Sep Marshall GO; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 26 Aug Stanley RDO

**White-faced Ibis** Late: **13 Nov Brookings JSP; 11 Nov Minnehaha RND**; 01 Nov Brown BJU; 11 Sep Buffalo JSP; 26 Aug Meade RSL

**Turkey Vulture** Late: **04 Nov Meade APB**; 15 Oct Jones KCJ; 14 Oct Lawrence KCJ; 10 Oct Union JSP; 06 Oct Minnehaha TJ; 06 Oct Brookings KCJ

**Osprey** Early: 06 Aug Pennington JLB; 09 Aug Hughes DB; 18 Aug Stanley RDO; 18 Sep McCook JSP ... Late: 25 Oct Yankton RND; 07 Oct Day GO; 29 Sep Stanley KM; 20 Sep Pennington JLB

**Northern Harrier** Late: 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 30 Nov Buffalo BJU; 29 Nov Yankton BJU; 29 Nov Gregory BJU; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 27 Nov Brown GO; 21 Nov Meade RSL; 21 Nov Lawrence JLB; 21 Nov Meade EEM

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Early: 23 Aug Stanley KM; 16 Sep Hand DB; 17 Sep Sully KM

**Northern Goshawk** Only Report: 14 Oct Hand DB

**Broad-winged Hawk** Early: 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 12 Sep Hand DB; 16 Sep Brown GO; 24 Sep Clay DS ... Late: **14 Oct Lawrence KCJ; 05 Oct Charles Mix RM**; 26 Sep Hand DB

**Swainson's Hawk** Late: 05 Oct Gregory RM; 30 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 30 Sep Charles Mix RM; 23 Sep Custer MMM

**Rough-legged Hawk** Early: 13 Oct Harding KCJ; 15 Oct Jones KCJ; 17 Oct Minnehaha TJ; 23 Oct Sully KM

**Golden Eagle** Early: 08 Aug Sully RDO; 12 Oct Stanley KCJ; 18 Oct Hand DB

**Merlin** Early: 14 Aug Hughes RDO; 16 Sep Hand DB; 18 Sep Lincoln GJS; 18 Sep McCook JSP

**Gyrfalcon** All Reports: 07 Nov Harding CEM; 30 Nov Stanley BJU

**Peregrine Falcon** Early: **01 Aug Marshall RDO, SS**; 28 Aug Pennington RSL; 29 Aug Sully KM, RDO ... Late: 17 Oct Stanley RDO; 08 Oct Brown GO; 07 Oct Marshall GO

**Prairie Falcon** Early: 29 Aug Hughes KM; 29 Aug Sully RDO; 19 Sep Hand DB

**Virginia Rail** All Reports: 19 Aug Marshall DS, JSP; 21 Aug Brookings JSP; 18 Sep McCook JSP; 23 Sep Hughes KM; 30 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Sora** Late: 30 Sep Hughes KM; 25 Sep Hand DB; 04 Sep Brookings JSP; 01 Aug Pennington JLB

**American Coot** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 29 Nov Yankton BJU; 28 Nov Stanley KM; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU; 18 Nov Hand DB

**Sandhill Crane** Early: 10 Oct Hand DB; 13 Oct Custer MMM; 13 Oct Hughes KM ... Late: 28 Nov Meade EEM; 17 Nov Hand DB; 12 Nov Sully KM

**Whooping Crane** All Reports: 24 Oct Hughes KM, RDO; 25 Oct Hughes RDO; 28 Oct Hand DB; 31 Oct Brown GO; 01 Nov Brown BJU

**Black-bellied Plover** Early: 08 Aug Sully RDO; 14 Aug Brown JSP; 19 Sep Hand DB ... Late: 01 Nov Day BJU; 23 Oct Brookings JSP; 16 Oct Pennington JLB; 02 Sep Sully RDO

**American Golden-Plover** Early: 03 Sep Charles Mix RM; 12 Sep Hand DB; 01 Oct Spink BJU ... Late: **13 Nov Brookings JSP**; 03 Oct Hand DB; 02 Oct Moody JSP

**Semipalmated Plover** Late: 04 Sep Pennington JLB; 03 Sep Charles Mix RM; 30 Aug Deuel BJU  
**Killdeer** Late: 30 Nov Pennington JLB; 18 Nov Meade MMM; 13 Nov Brookings JSP; 09 Nov Stanley RDO  
**Black-necked Stilt** Late: **28 Aug Marshall (10) GO**  
**American Avocet** Late: 30 Oct Buffalo JSP; 30 Oct Brown GO; 23 Oct Sully KM; 03 Sep Meade RSL, JLB  
**Spotted Sandpiper** Late: 19 Sep Charles Mix RM; 09 Sep Lake JSP; 03 Sep Meade RSL  
**Solitary Sandpiper** Late: 12 Sep Hand DB; 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 06 Sep Brown GO; 29 Aug Sully RDO; 29 Aug Hughes KM  
**Greater Yellowlegs** Late: **13 Nov Brookings JSP; 11 Nov Minnehaha RND**; 04 Nov Yankton RND; 08 Oct Meade MMM  
**Willet** All Reports: 02 Aug Marshall KCJ; 04 Aug Brown GO; 04 Aug Marshall GO; 07 Aug Marshall RDO; 21 Aug Brookings JSP; 21 Aug Sully RDO  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late: **13 Nov Brookings JSP**; 06 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 16 Oct Sully KM; 11 Sep Bennett RSL  
**Upland Sandpiper** Late: **12 Sep Harding CEM**; 29 Aug Sully RDO, KM; 29 Aug Custer MMM; 07 Aug Marshall RDO  
**Long-billed Curlew** All Reports: 03 Aug Custer MMM; **23 Aug Custer MMM; 26 Aug Custer MMM**  
**Hudsonian Godwit** Only Report: 18 Aug Marshall DS, JSP  
**Marbled Godwit** Late: 29 Aug Sully RDO, KM; 28 Aug Marshall GO; 28 Aug Brown GO  
**Sanderling** All Reports: 29 Aug Sully KM; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 03 Sep Meade JLB; 19 Sep Hand DB  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: 19 Sep Lincoln TJ, DC; 10 Sep Brookings KCJ; 04 Sep Pennington JLB; 03 Sep Charles Mix RM  
**Least Sandpiper** Late: 23 Oct Brookings JSP; 01 Oct Pennington JLB; 01 Oct Hand DB; 02 Sep Sully RDO  
**White-rumped Sandpiper** Early: 06 Aug Marshall MO, CE; 15 Aug Brown GO; 21 Aug Charles Mix RM ... Late: 06 Oct Brookings KCJ; 25 Aug Charles Mix RM  
**Baird's Sandpiper** Late: 14 Oct Charles Mix RM; 06 Oct Brookings KCJ; 02 Oct Lincoln TJ; 26 Sep Pennington JLB  
**Pectoral Sandpiper** Late: **13 Nov Brookings JSP**; 02 Oct Moody JSP; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 26 Sep Pennington JLB; 19 Sep Charles Mix RM  
**Dunlin** All Reports: 28 Aug Marshall GO; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 23 Oct Brookings JSP; **13 Nov Brookings JSP**  
**Stilt Sandpiper** Late: 23 Oct Brookings JSP; 07 Oct Marshall GO; 26 Sep Pennington JLB; 25 Sep Charles Mix RM  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** All Reports: 21 Aug Sully RDO; 24 Aug Hughes RDO; 12 Sep Hand DB; 14 Sep Hand DB  
**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 03 Aug Deuel BJU; 21 Aug Charles Mix RM; 25 Aug Charles Mix RM; 30 Aug Hughes RDO  
**Long-billed Dowitcher** Late: **13 Nov Brookings JSP**; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 01 Oct Pennington JLB; 01 Oct Hand DB, BJU; 25 Sep Stanley RDO  
**Wilson's Snipe** Late: 13 Nov Brookings JSP; 11 Nov Turner RND; 11 Nov Minnehaha RND; 06 Oct Pennington JLB; 30 Sep Charles Mix RM  
**American Woodcock** Only Report: 17 Oct Beadle RND  
**Wilson's Phalarope** Late: 19 Sep Lincoln TJ, DC; 13 Sep Meade RSL; 02 Sep Sully RDO  
**Red-necked Phalarope** All Reports: 03 Aug Deuel BJU; 26 Aug Stanley RDO; 28 Aug Brookings JSP; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 30 Aug Hughes RDO; 12 Sep Clay DS  
**Black-legged Kittiwake** Early: 30 Oct Stanley TJ; 20 Nov Lyman JSP; 23 Nov Hughes DB ... Late: 30 Nov Stanley RDO; 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU ... also reported **21 Nov Stanley (7) KM, RDO**

**Sabine's Gull** Early: **09 Sep Hughes DB**; 09 Sep Stanley KM; 01 Oct Spink BJU ... Late: 07 Oct Brookings KCJ; 03 Oct Stanley RDO

**Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 28 Aug Stanley RDO; 22 Sep Hughes RDO; 25 Sep Charles Mix RM; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU ... Late: 30 Nov Stanley RDO; 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 30 Nov Buffalo BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU

**Franklin's Gull** Late: 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 13 Nov Stanley RDO, DB; 06 Nov Brookings JSP; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Mew Gull** Early: **12 Oct Stanley KCJ**; **13 Oct Hughes RDO**; 27 Nov Yankton RDO ... Late: 29 Nov Yankton BJU; 28 Nov Stanley RDO, KM; 28 Nov Hughes TJ

**Ring-billed Gull** Late: 21 Nov Butte JLB; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Meade JLB; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU

**California Gull** Late: 29 Nov Stanley RDO; 29 Nov Gregory BJU; 29 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 01 Nov Roberts BJU; 31 Oct Meade JLB

**Herring Gull** Early: 23 Aug Stanley KM, RDO; 06 Sep Sully KM; 16 Sep Hughes RDO; 06 Oct Brookings KCJ ... Late: 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 13 Nov Lake JSP; 17 Oct Brookings KCJ

**Thayer's Gull** Early: 16 Oct Stanley RDO; 19 Oct Hughes RDO; 20 Nov Buffalo JSP

**Iceland Gull** Only Report: **27 Nov Buffalo RDO**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** reported 05 Sep Sully KM; 06 Sep Stanley RDO; 02 Oct Hughes TJ; 26 Oct Hughes RDO; 29 Nov Stanley RDO

**Glaucous Gull** Early: 24 Nov Stanley DB; 25 Nov Hughes RDO; 30 Nov Lyman BJU

**Least Tern** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 21 Aug Charles Mix RM; 22 Aug Sully KM; **01 Sep Stanley KM**

**Caspian Tern** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 19 Sep Stanley RDO; 20 Sep Stanley RDO; **06 Oct Hughes RDO**

**Black Tern** Late: 09 Sep Meade RSL; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 29 Aug Sully KM

**Common Tern** Late: 01 Oct Spink BJU; 26 Sep Stanley RDO; 23 Sep Hughes RDO

**Forster's Tern** Late: **30 Oct Stanley TJ**; 23 Oct Lyman RDO; 06 Oct Hughes RDO; 19 Sep Hand DB

**Mourning Dove** Late: 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 01 Nov Brown GO; 30 Oct Sully KM; 24 Oct Pennington RSL

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 01 Aug Lincoln BJU; **17 Aug Hughes (NE) DB**; 18 Aug Hughes RDO; 21 Aug Pennington JLB, RSL

**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 01 Aug Hughes DB; 01 Aug Lincoln BJU; **30 Aug Deuel BJU**; **08 Sep Stanley RDO**

**Barn Owl** Only Report: **19 Aug Haakon (NY) ND**

**Burrowing Owl** Late: **13 Oct Custer MMM**; 25 Sep Hughes RDO, JSP; 19 Aug Haakon ND; 07 Aug Faulk MMM

**Barred Owl** Only Report: **01 Aug Lincoln BJU**

**Long-eared Owl** All Reports: 10 Oct Hand DB; 29 Oct Hand DB; 02 Nov Faulk MMM; 04 Nov Hand DB; 08 Nov Hand DB

**Short-eared Owl** All Reports: 30 Oct Brule TJ; 30 Oct Sanborn JSP; 01 Nov Day BJU

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Early: 02 Nov Faulk MMM; 05 Nov Sully KM; 17 Nov Hughes DB

**Common Nighthawk** Late: 08 Oct Clay JSP; 01 Oct Lawrence EK; 15 Sep Custer MMM; 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ

**Common Poorwill** All Reports: 31 Aug Pennington JF; 04 Sep Pennington MMM

**Whip-poor-will** Only Report: 01 Aug Lincoln BJU

**Chimney Swift** Late: 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 05 Sep Brown GO; 28 Aug Marshall GO; 26 Aug Charles Mix RM

**White-throated Swift** Only Report: 04 Sep Jackson KM

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Late: **06 Oct Brookings KCJ**; 28 Sep Minnehaha MRZ; 28 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** All Reports: 05 Aug Pennington JLB; 09 Aug Pennington JLB; 19 Aug Pennington JLB; **04 Sep Pennington JLB**

**Rufous Hummingbird** All Reports: 28 Aug Hughes KM, RDO; 29 Aug Hughes KM

**Belted Kingfisher** Late: 27 Nov Yankton DS, JSP; 26 Nov Pennington JLB; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Late: 14 Nov Hughes KM; 26 Sep Pennington MMM; 25 Sep Hand DB

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Late: 02 Oct Hughes KM; 17 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 30 Aug Deuel BJU

**Red-naped Sapsucker** All Reports: 19 Aug Pennington JLB; 24 Aug Pennington JF; 30 Aug Lawrence KM; 19 Sep Custer JF; **14 Oct Custer KCJ; 14 Oct Lawrence KCJ**

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** Only Report: 06 Oct Custer MO

**Black-backed Woodpecker** All Reports: 04 Oct Custer MO; 14 Oct Custer KCJ

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** All Reports: 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 30 Aug Stanley KM; 31 Aug Clay DS

**Western Wood-Pewee** All Reports: 14 Aug Meade JLB; 29 Aug Harding CEM

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Late: 13 Sep Charles Mix RM; 11 Sep Minnehaha MS; 30 Aug Gregory RM

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** Only Report: **10 Sep Hughes EDS**

**Willow Flycatcher** Late: **28 Aug Brown GO**; 24 Aug Sully RDO; 21 Aug Charles Mix RM

**Least Flycatcher** Late: **25 Sep Hand DB**; 17 Sep Clay DS; 07 Sep Hughes DB

**Eastern Phoebe** Late: 02 Oct Moody JSP; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 28 Sep Clay DS

**Say's Phoebe** Late: 25 Sep Hughes RDO; 25 Sep Hand DB; 24 Sep Meade KM

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Late: 08 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 05 Sep Stanley RDO; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 21 Aug Pennington RSL, JLB

**Western Kingbird** Late: 16 Sep Hand DB; 12 Sep Hughes KM; 03 Sep Charles Mix RM; 21 Aug Pennington RSL, JLB

**Eastern Kingbird** Late: 12 Sep Hand DB; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 09 Sep Lake JSP; 03 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Loggerhead Shrike** Late: **16 Sep Custer MMM**; 28 Aug Pennington RSL; 21 Aug Sully RDO; 07 Aug Marshall RDO

**Northern Shrike** Early: 12 Oct Hand DB; 16 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 18 Oct Pennington RSL; 30 Oct Buffalo TJ

**Bell's Vireo** Late: 05 Sep Stanley RDO; 24 Aug Sully RDO; 21 Aug Pennington RSL, JLB

**Yellow-throated Vireo** All Reports: 01 Aug Lincoln BJU; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 01 Sep Clay GJS; **22 Sep Brown GO**

**Plumbeous Vireo** All Reports: 24 Aug Pennington JF; 30 Aug Lawrence KM

**Blue-headed Vireo** Early: 29 Aug Stanley RDO; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ ... Late: **01 Oct Spink BJU; 01 Oct Hand BJU**; 25 Sep Marshall GO; 17 Sep Clay DS

**Warbling Vireo** Late: 26 Sep Custer RSL; 25 Sep Marshall GO; 18 Sep Stanley RDO

**Philadelphia Vireo** Early: 28 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 28 Aug Stanley RDO; 04 Sep Brookings JSP ... Late: 19 Sep Hughes KM; 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 05 Sep Stanley RDO

**Red-eyed Vireo** Late: **10 Oct Brown GO**; 28 Sep Clay DS; 27 Sep Stanley RDO; 29 Aug Harding CEM

**Gray Jay** All Reports: 19 Sep Custer JF; 25 Sep Lawrence JLB; 30 Sep Lawrence JLB; 14 Oct Custer KCJ; 14 Oct Lawrence KCJ

**Pinyon Jay** Only Report: 14 Oct Custer KCJ

**Clark's Nutcracker** All Reports: 19 Aug Pennington JLB; 19 Sep Custer JF; 06 Oct Pennington MO

**Black-billed Magpie** reported 15 Oct Stanley KCJ; 20 Nov Lyman JSP

**Purple Martin** Late: **19 Sep Lincoln TJ, DC**; 09 Sep Lake JSP; 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ

**Tree Swallow** Late: **17 Oct Brookings KCJ**; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 28 Aug Pennington RSL; 27 Aug Charles Mix RM

**Violet-green Swallow** All Reports: 05 Aug Pennington JLB; 19 Aug Pennington JLB

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** Late: **18 Sep Meade RSL**; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 05 Aug Pennington JLB; 01 Aug Charles Mix RM

**Bank Swallow** Late: 18 Sep Marshall GO; 02 Sep Sully RDO; 30 Aug Deuel BJU

**Cliff Swallow** Late: 18 Sep Meade RSL; 06 Sep Pennington RSL; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 01 Aug Charles Mix RM

**Barn Swallow** Late: 18 Oct Brule RSL; 07 Oct Marshall GO; 07 Oct Brown GO; 19 Sep Pennington RSL

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Early: 19 Aug Brown GO; 06 Sep Lake JSP; 09 Sep Brookings KCJ; 19 Sep Clay GJS

**Brown Creeper** Early: 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 02 Oct Brookings JSP; 10 Oct Charles Mix RM; 10 Oct Clay GJS; 10 Oct Union JSP

**Rock Wren** All Reports: 04 Sep Jackson KM; 19 Sep Jackson RSL; 24 Sep Meade KM; 08 Oct Pennington MMM

**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 19 Aug Pennington JLB; 19 Sep Custer JF; 26 Sep Custer RSL

**Carolina Wren** Only Report: 11 Sep Clay DS

**House Wren** Late: 02 Oct Moody JSP; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 30 Sep Charles Mix RM; 12 Sep Harding CEM

**Winter Wren** All Reports: 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 04 Oct Hughes KM

**Sedge Wren** Late: 13 Oct Minnehaha MS; 30 Sep Hughes KM; 25 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Marsh Wren** Late: 11 Nov Minnehaha RND; 08 Oct Hughes EDS; 07 Oct Brown GO; 13 Sep Meade RSL

**American Dipper** All Reports: 25 Sep Lawrence KM; 14 Oct Lawrence KCJ

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Early: 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 02 Oct Minnehaha TJ; 02 Oct Moody JSP; 04 Oct Hughes KM

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Early: 03 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 04 Sep Brookings JSP; 05 Sep Brown GO; 07 Sep Hughes EDS ... Late: 04 Nov Faulk MMM; 24 Oct Clay GJS; 23 Oct Sully KM; 23 Oct Lake JSP; 23 Oct Hand DB; 11 Oct Tripp RAP

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Late: 17 Sep Clay DS; 07 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 08 Aug Harding CEM

**Eastern Bluebird** Late: 28 Nov Yankton RND; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 10 Nov Hand DB; 06 Nov Custer MMM

**Mountain Bluebird** Late: 23 Oct Pennington JLB; 14 Oct Custer KCJ; 12 Oct Harding KCJ

**Townsend's Solitaire** Early: 18 Sep Sully KM; 25 Sep Hand DB; 15 Oct Hughes EDS

**Veery** Only Report: 30 Aug Stanley KM

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** Only Report: 13 Sep Hughes EDS

**Swainson's Thrush** Early: 29 Aug Stanley RDO; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 01 Sep Hughes EDS ... Late: 14 Oct Clay GJS; 03 Oct Hughes KM; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 30 Aug Lawrence KM

**Hermit Thrush** All Reports: 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 06 Oct Hughes EDS; 10 Oct Union JSP; 23 Oct Lake JSP; 01 Nov Brown BJU

**Wood Thrush** Only Report: 01 Aug Lincoln BJU

**Gray Catbird** Late: 04 Oct Hughes EDS; 27 Sep Charles Mix RM; 25 Sep Stanley JSP; 20 Sep Harding CEM; 19 Sep Lincoln TJ, DC

**Northern Mockingbird** Only Report: 07 Oct Custer MO

**Brown Thrasher** Late: 12 Nov Hughes DB; 29 Sep Stanley KM; 21 Sep Charles Mix RM; 20 Sep Custer MMM; 19 Sep Hand DB

**American Pipit** Early: 12 Sep Hand DB; 25 Sep Brown GO; 25 Sep Marshall GO; 11 Oct Sully KM; 14 Oct Meade JLB ... Late: 13 Nov Brookings JSP; 01 Nov Brown BJU; 25 Oct Grant BJU; 24 Oct Pennington RSL

**Sprague's Pipit** All Reports: 11 Sep Sully KM; 17 Sep Stanley MO; 15 Oct Stanley KCJ

**Blue-winged Warbler** Only Report: 01 Aug Lincoln BJU

**Golden-winged Warbler** All Reports: 29 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 30 Aug Deuel BJU

**Tennessee Warbler** Early: 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 02 Sep Stanley RDO; 05 Sep Minnehaha TJ ... Late: 28 Sep Hughes EDS; 19 Sep Lincoln TJ, DC; 18 Sep Stanley RDO

**Orange-crowned Warbler** Early: 06 Sep Hughes KM; 08 Sep Stanley KM; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 11 Sep Lyman JSP; 12 Sep Hand DB ... Late: 23 Oct Lake JSP; 23 Oct Hand DB; 16 Oct Sully KM; 16 Oct Brookings JSP; 11 Oct Tripp RAP; 11 Oct Pennington JLB

**Nashville Warbler** Early: 25 Aug Clay GJS; 28 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 01 Sep Lawrence RSL ... Late: 24 Oct Hughes KM; 14 Oct Stanley RDO; 10 Oct Brown GO

**Northern Parula** All Reports: 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 07 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 20 Sep Minnehaha TJ; **21 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 05 Oct Stanley RDO**

**Yellow Warbler** Late: 25 Sep Stanley JSP; 21 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 20 Sep Hughes KM; 04 Sep Meade RSL

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** Only Report: 30 Aug Deuel BJU

**Magnolia Warbler** All Reports: 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 01 Sep Clay GJS; 14 Sep Hughes EDS; 17 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 05 Oct Stanley RDO

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** All Reports: 29 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 03 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 28 Sep Clay DS

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Early: 06 Sep Stanley RDO; 09 Sep Lake JSP; 17 Sep Sully KM ... Late: 21 Nov Stanley KM; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 13 Nov Hughes KM; 11 Oct Tripp RAP

**Black-throated Green Warbler** All Reports: 08 Sep Stanley KM; 17 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 21 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 23 Sep Hughes KM

**Blackburnian Warbler** All Reports: 21 Aug Charles Mix RM; 23 Aug Stanley RDO; 24 Aug Lake JSP; 29 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 30 Aug Deuel BJU

**Palm Warbler** All Reports: **05 Sep Minnehaha TJ**; 19 Sep Hand DB; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 06 Oct Minnehaha TJ

**Blackpoll Warbler** Only Report: 10 Sep Hughes EDS

**Black-and-white Warbler** Early: 24 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 29 Aug Hughes EDS; 29 Aug Stanley RDO ... Late: **01 Oct Hand BJU**; 29 Sep Minnehaha MRZ; 14 Sep Hughes EDS

**American Redstart** Late: 01 Oct Spink BJU; 22 Sep Stanley RDO; 20 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 01 Sep Lawrence RSL

**Ovenbird** Late: 10 Sep Stanley KM; 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 03 Sep Hughes EDS; 28 Aug Pennington RSL

**Northern Waterthrush** Early: 19 Aug Minnehaha TJ; 30 Aug Deuel BJU ... Late: 08 Sep Minnehaha TJ

**Mourning Warbler** All Reports: 29 Aug Stanley RDO; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 06 Sep Hughes KM

**Common Yellowthroat** Late: 06 Oct Hughes EDS; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 20 Sep Meade RSL

**Wilson's Warbler** Early: 23 Aug Stanley KM, RDO; 24 Aug Lake JSP; 24 Aug Sully RDO; 04 Sep Jackson KM ... Late: 04 Oct Stanley RDO; 30 Sep Hughes EDS; 22 Sep Pennington JLB; 21 Sep Minnehaha TJ

**Canada Warbler** All Reports: 22 Aug Lake JSP; 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 30 Aug Stanley RDO; 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ

**Yellow-breasted Chat** All Reports: 01 Aug Stanley RDO; 08 Aug Harding CEM; 30 Aug Stanley KM, RDO; 10 Sep Hughes EDS

**Summer Tanager** All Reports: **06 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 06 Nov Minnehaha DC, TJ; 07 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 08 Nov Minnehaha MRZ**

**Scarlet Tanager** Late: **10 Oct Union JSP, TJ**; 19 Sep Lincoln TJ, DC; 06 Sep Minnehaha TJ

**Western Tanager** All Reports: 30 Aug Lawrence KM; 12 Sep Pennington RSL

**Spotted Towhee** Late: 17 Oct Stanley KM; 15 Oct Hughes KM; 10 Oct Minnehaha MRZ; 04 Oct Pennington JLB

**Eastern Towhee** Late: **10 Oct Clay RDO**; 05 Oct Minnehaha TJ; 05 Oct Hughes KM

**American Tree Sparrow** Early: 10 Oct Hand DB; 16 Oct Hughes EDS; 16 Oct Sully KM; 18 Oct Pennington JLB

**Chipping Sparrow** Late: 01 Nov Lake JSP; 28 Oct Clay GJS; 24 Oct Pennington RSL, JLB



**Clay-colored Sparrow** Late: **24 Oct Pennington RSL; 20 Oct Brookings KCJ**; 12 Oct Charles Mix RM

**Field Sparrow** Late: 11 Oct Sully KM; 10 Oct Union JSP; 10 Oct Clay RDO; 08 Oct Minnehaha JLB; 01 Oct Pennington JLB

**Vesper Sparrow** Late: 24 Oct Pennington RSL; 17 Oct Brookings KCJ; 16 Oct Lake JSP; 10 Oct Union JSP

**Lark Sparrow** Late: **14 Oct Custer KCJ; 12 Oct Stanley KCJ; 12 Oct Kingsbury KCJ; 12 Oct Harding KCJ**

**Lark Bunting** Late: **02 Oct Meade RSL**; 14 Sep Custer MMM; 04 Sep Jackson KM; 26 Aug Stanley RDO

**Savannah Sparrow** Late: 06 Nov Minnehaha DC; 24 Oct Pennington JLB; 23 Oct Sully KM

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Late: **15 Oct Stanley KCJ**; 26 Sep Hand DB; 20 Sep Meade RSL

**Le Conte's Sparrow** Early: 30 Sep Hughes KM; 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU ... Late: **29 Oct Clay DS**; 17 Oct Brookings KCJ; 12 Oct Kingsbury KCJ ... also reported **09 Oct Clay (100+) RDO, JSP, KCJ, RM**

**Nelson's Sparrow** Late: 30 Sep Hughes KM; 16 Sep Hand DB; 14 Aug Brown GO

**Fox Sparrow** Early: 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 02 Oct Hughes KM; 02 Oct Moody JSP ... Late: 23 Nov Charles Mix RM; 10 Nov Brookings KCJ; 01 Nov Day BJU; 01 Nov Brown BJU

**Song Sparrow** Late: 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 07 Nov Fall River JLB; 01 Nov Day BJU; 01 Nov Brown BJU; 17 Oct Clay GJS

**Lincoln's Sparrow** Early: 02 Sep Sully RDO; 03 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 11 Sep Lyman JSP ... Late: 14 Oct Charles Mix RM; 10 Oct Hand DB; 10 Oct Clay RDO; 26 Sep Pennington JLB

**Swamp Sparrow** Late: 06 Nov Minnehaha TJ; 01 Nov Brown BJU; 09 Oct Clay RDO, JSP, KCJ

**White-throated Sparrow** Early: 14 Sep Hughes EDS; 15 Sep Stanley RDO; 18 Sep McCook JSP; 20 Sep Harding CEM ... Late: 11 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 10 Nov Lake JSP; 10 Nov Hand DB; 10 Nov Brookings KCJ; 28 Oct Clay GJS

**Harris's Sparrow** Early: 21 Sep Stanley RDO; 28 Sep Hughes EDS; 01 Oct Hand BJU, DB; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 12 Oct Harding KCJ ... Late: 20 Nov Marshall GO; 13 Nov Lake JSP; 12 Nov Hughes DB; 24 Oct Pennington JLB

**White-crowned Sparrow** Early: 16 Sep Stanley RDO; 18 Sep Sully KM; 19 Sep Hughes KM; 20 Sep Harding CEM; 01 Oct Hand BJU, DB; 01 Oct Spink BJU ... Late: 28 Oct Custer MMM; 28 Oct Brookings KCJ; 24 Oct Pennington JLB; 17 Oct Stanley KM

**Dark-eyed Junco** Early: 21 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 25 Sep Hand DB; 25 Sep Yankton DS

**Lapland Longspur** Early: 24 Oct Hughes RDO; 25 Oct Grant BJU; 27 Oct Hand DB

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Late: **15 Oct Stanley KCJ; 15 Oct Jones KCJ**; 25 Sep Hand DB

**Snow Bunting** Early: 25 Oct Grant BJU; 29 Oct Hand DB; 01 Nov Brown BJU, MMM; 01 Nov Day BJU; 01 Nov Roberts BJU; 04 Nov Charles Mix RM; 27 Nov Harding CEM

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Late: 11 Oct Stanley RDO; 21 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 06 Sep Brown GO

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Late: 20 Sep Meade EEM; 10 Sep Stanley KM; 28 Aug Pennington RSL

**Blue Grosbeak** Late: 12 Sep Sully KM; 11 Sep Lyman JSP; 04 Sep Pennington JLB; 01 Aug Lincoln BJU

**Lazuli Bunting** All Reports: **10 Sep Stanley RDO; 12 Sep Harding CEM**

**Indigo Bunting** All Reports: 01 Aug Lincoln BJU; 16 Aug Hughes KM; 30 Aug Deuel BJU

**Dickcissel** Late: 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 21 Aug Charles Mix RM; 08 Aug Faulk MMM

**Bobolink** Late: 30 Aug Deuel BJU; 21 Aug Sully RDO; 21 Aug Pennington RSL, JLB

**Eastern Meadowlark** Only Report: **11 Sep Bennett RSL**

**Western Meadowlark** Late: 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 27 Nov Stanley KM; 18 Nov Yankton RND; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Hand DB; 24 Oct Pennington RSL, JLB

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Late: 07 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 31 Oct Sully KM; 31 Oct Faulk MMM; 20 Sep Meade RSL

**Rusty Blackbird** Early: 08 Oct Day WS; 12 Oct Kingsbury KCJ; 21 Oct Meade JLB; 30 Oct Potter RDO ... Late: 20 Nov Codington TJ; 19 Nov Minnehaha MRZ; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU

**Brewer's Blackbird** Late: 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 14 Nov Sully KM; 07 Nov Brown GO; 16 Oct Pennington JLB

**Common Grackle** Late: 30 Nov Lyman BJU; 25 Nov Clay GJS; 22 Nov Charles Mix RM; 18 Nov Turner BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 18 Nov Lincoln BJU; 14 Nov Pennington RSL

**Great-tailed Grackle** Late: 06 Nov Minnehaha TJ, DC; 16 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 07 Aug Marshall RDO, KM, GO

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Late: 18 Nov Minnehaha BJU; 23 Oct Brookings JSP; 18 Oct Brule RSL; 13 Oct Harding KCJ

**Orchard Oriole** Late: 04 Sep Pennington JLB; 28 Aug Custer MMM; 22 Aug Stanley RDO; 07 Aug Marshall GO

**Baltimore Oriole** Late: 08 Sep Stanley RDO; 05 Sep Minnehaha TJ; 30 Aug Gregory RM; 30 Aug Deuel BJU

**Purple Finch** Early: 01 Oct Hand BJU; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 04 Oct Hughes KM

**Common Redpoll** Only Report: 30 Nov Lyman BJU

**Pine Siskin** Early: 16 Sep Hand DB; 01 Oct Spink BJU; 09 Oct Clay KCJ, JSP, RDO

**Evening Grosbeak** Only Report: **02 Oct Lincoln TJ**

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

**Mottled Duck** 01 Aug Marshall RDO; 05 Aug Marshall RM; 08 Aug Marshall RDO; 14 Aug Marshall JSP

**Barrow's Goldeneye** 27 Nov Buffalo RDO; 28 Nov Brule (2) TJ

**Red-throated Loon** 06-18 Nov Wall Lake, Minnehaha County TJ, RND, DC, MRZ, BJU, JSP

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** 03 Aug Walworth SS

**Glossy Ibis** 01 Aug Brown RDO, SS; 02 Aug Marshall KCJ; 04 Aug Marshall GO; 07 Aug Marshall KM, RDO

**Red-shouldered Hawk** 02 Nov Hand DB

**Common Moorhen** 01-14 Aug Brown RDO, SS, KM, GO, JSP

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 23 Oct Brookings JSP

**Sabine's Gull** 20-30 Nov Lyman JSP, RDO, TJ, BJU

**Little Gull** 18 Sep Stanley MO, RDO; 22-23 Sep Hughes and Stanley KM, RDO, DB; 13 Nov Lake JSP; 26-30 Nov Hughes and Stanley DB, RDO, KM, TJ

**Ross's Gull** 26-30 Nov Yankton TJ, JSP, RDO, JLB

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** 11-2 Nov Minnehaha TJ, KCJ; 19 Nov Minnehaha MRZ

**Glaucous-winged Gull** 27-30 Nov Stanley and Hughes KM, RDO

**Great Black-backed Gull** 29 Nov Yankton BJU

**Arctic Tern** 23-27 Sep Hughes and Stanley DB, JSP, RDO, KM

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** 09 Sep Pennington *fide* JLB; 25 Sep Pennington JLB

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 12 Oct Harding KCJ

**Northern Shrike** 02 Oct Hand DB

**Bell's Vireo** 30 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Common Raven** 21 Oct Harding CEM

**Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush** 17 Aug Lawrence DC

**Bohemian Waxwing** 26 Sep Hand DB; 04 Oct Hughes KM

#### **Species Expected But Not Reported**

Piping Plover (2), Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone (3), Snowy Owl, Calliope Hummingbird (3), Lewis's Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Pygmy Nuthatch, Varied Thrush, Virginia's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler (3), Bay-breasted Warbler (3), Connecticut

Warbler (3), MacGillivray's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow (2), Smith's Longspur, Bullock's Oriole, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Pine Grosbeak (4), Cassin's Finch, White-winged Crossbill (2)

**Contributing Observers**

LLA	Lowell L. Anderson	EEM	Ernest E. Miller
DB	Doug Backlund	KM	Kenny Miller
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	GO	Gary Olson
APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
DC	Douglas Chapman	MO	Mark Otnes
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
ND	Nancy Drilling	RAP	Richard A. Peterson
CE	Corey Ellingson	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
JF	Jennifer Fowler	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
KCJ	Kent C. Jensen	WS	Waubay NWR Staff
TJ	Todd Jensen	SS	Scott Stolz
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	EDS	Eileen D. Stukel
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	DS	David Swanson
RM	Ron Mabie	BJU	Bill J. Unzen
MMM	Michael M. Melius	SW	Scott Weins
CEM	Charles E. Miller	MIRZ	Mick R. Zerr

**HONK IF YOU LIKE BIRDS!**

Michael Melius, Hermosa

In 1956, Robert W. Randall of Bismarck, ND wrote of finding hundreds of dead birds along roads in Brown and Walworth counties (*SDBN* 8:4). The observations were made on 26 January 1954. The ground was snow-covered while the roadways were bare. Large flocks of Lapland Longspurs, along with Snow Buntings and Horned Larks were feeding on the roads. Randall and two other observers counted as many as thirty-four dead birds per mile, all longspurs. Randall reported that honking was effective in flushing the birds far enough ahead to reduce the chance of hitting them.

In the fall of 2010, a friend came to visit at my home in northeast Custer County. He reported that he'd hit several birds along Lower Spring Creek Road on the drive. The fall migration was in progress, when flocks of Vesper and Clay-colored sparrows are numerous along the road, along with local breeding birds such as Mourning Doves. I asked my friend if he'd used his horn, and he said no, it hadn't occurred to him to do so.

Birds are attracted to roads and adjacent ditches for various reasons at different seasons. A high-speed vehicle is upon a bird before it can react and flee, a reality that's probably not appreciated by many drivers. It has been my experience that honking is effective in warning birds and other animals away from the roadway. In the interest of bird conservation, it would be beneficial if honking would be practiced by more drivers. (It is also in the driver's interest, by preventing vehicle damage through collision with larger animals.) Birdwatchers would do well to spread this message, as would public and private conservation agencies, road departments and driver safety/education programs.



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