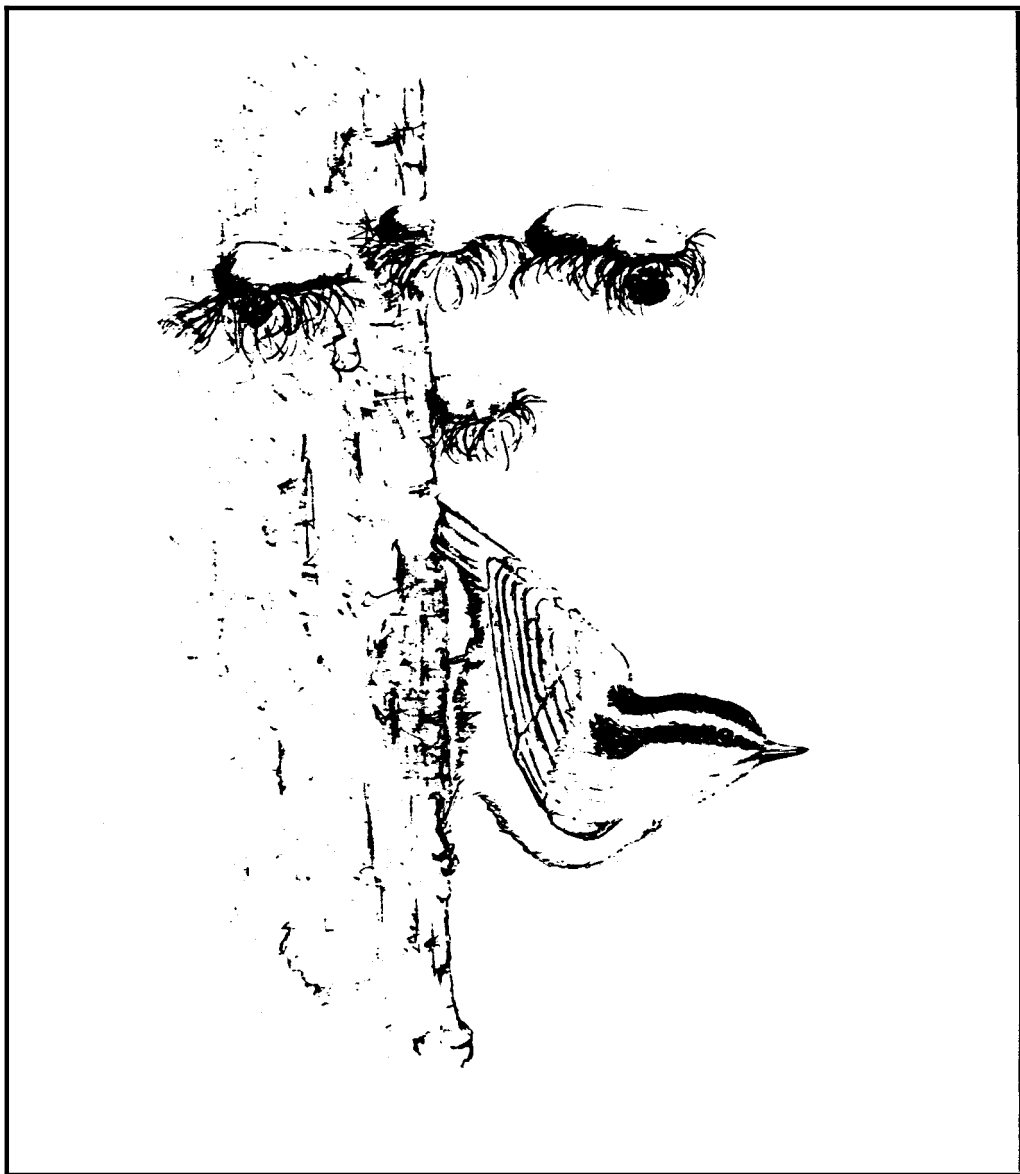


SOUTH DAKOTA  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH  
BIRD



DAKOTA  
NOTES

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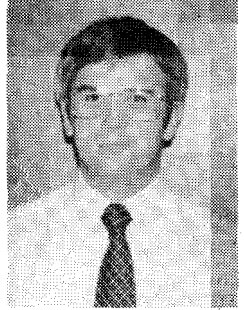
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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Today, 8 January 1989, I had the pleasure of constructing a simple bird feeder with the assistance of my five-year-old daughter, Alayna. For days, she'd been after me to get the feeder done. Now she's happy that we can watch birds together from our window as this long winter carries on. Something this simple, and sunflower seeds, will provide enjoyment for our family and perhaps produce a couple of amateur ornithologists. Our handouts will provide an extra edge in our birds' struggle to survive. Our feeder, with sunflower seed, millet, and suet, gives the birds a consistent, nutritional supplement. We keep the feeding area clean to protect against infectious disease and we try to keep predators away.



Winter is time to plan and review SDOU activities, a welcome time that allows us to gather our thoughts about accomplishments and goals. Upcoming events include the spring meeting in Kadoka on 19-21 May 1989, again focusing on atlasing. Richard Peterson, State Atlas Coordinator, and Ken Graupmann, Plains/Rosebud Regional Coordinator, will assist in atlasing some interesting country. We are in the second year of this five year SDOU project. Those of us who atlased in 1988 did a commendable job. Hopefully atlasing will become contagious for the uninitiated. Good birders are a must to accomplish our objectives.

The Checklist Committee continues progress on the second edition of *The Birds of South Dakota*. We are all looking forward to the completion of this wholly rewritten text.

The next fall meeting, our 40th anniversary, will most likely be scheduled for 6-8 October 1989 in Madison. Forty years is an achievement and we are planning to recognize our founders and celebrate the beauty of South Dakota birdlife. SDOU has about 300 paying members. I wish to express my gratitude to each of you and especially to those who contribute to the running of our organization. Let's keep up the curiosity and enthusiasm of the past and continue meeting the challenges of conservation and enjoyment in the years to come. If you have not already done so, please renew your memberships for 1989. Consider making gift memberships to your friends so that they can join our birding fraternity.

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### IN MEMORIAM SUSAN GAY SIMPSON 1948-1988

Susan Gay Simpson, South Dakota state waterfowl biologist, died 10 November 1988, at age 40, following a year-long bout with cancer. Her colleagues and friends in South Dakota not only mourn the passing of a

friend, but consider her loss to be a major blow to the aggressive management of waterfowl in the state's prairie potholes.

She earned her B.A. in art and philosophy from Wellesley College in 1970. She then spent three years in Norway, where working as a research assistant at the University of Bergen sparked her interest in biology. She returned to the U.S. to earn her B.S. in wildlife biology from Oregon State University at Corvallis in 1976. She received her M.S. in wildlife biology there in 1979.

Working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she began her professional career on Alaska's Arctic Coastal Plain. She collected data for ongoing studies of waterbirds and wetland habitat in the Teshekpuk Lake region. After three summers of field work, Gay advanced to the position of Wildlife Biologist in charge of nesting biology studies of White-fronted Geese on the Colville Delta. As a result of her work, she authored several technical publications and magazine articles.

In 1983, she became the state waterfowl biologist with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. A tireless advocate for intensive waterfowl management, Gay shepherded the state's program for improved waterfowl production on the prairie. With the help of Ducks Unlimited, she showed that duck production could be dramatically increased on existing habitat.

Her passion for ducks extended to hunting the birds. Most often acting as technical expert for trips with her brother John, also of Pierre, she and her golden retriever, Brass Axel, were pretty much inseparable. The time spent in hip boots served her well in her job. She once said, "You can't get up in front of a bunch of goose hunters and fool anybody." To her everlasting credit, she never tried.

Gay served on the Board of Directors of the High Plains Wildlife Association and the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union and was a member of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and several other regional and national wildlife organizations. A Gay Simpson Memorial Trust has been set up through the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Foundation, Anderson Building, Pierre, SD 57501.--Ron Fowler, *South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Pierre 57501.*

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## **SISKIN AND OTHER BANDING AT TWO LOCATIONS IN ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA: 1983-1987**

Dan Tallman  
Northern State College  
Aberdeen 57401

### **Introduction**

This is my first banding report since 1982 (see Tallman 1983). The purposes of this paper are three-fold: to report on my banding activities since 1982, to report some noteworthy data on Pine Siskin banding, and to

comment on differences between two nearby banding locations within Aberdeen, South Dakota.

### Methods and Materials

Birds were banded whenever possible (in previous years, this activity amounted to about 280 days of the year (Holden and Tallman 1982)). In June 1985, I moved from 1506 SE Third Ave to 1709 N Jay Street, a distance of about 1 mile NW. A comparison between the habitats in the two yards, in which all banding was accomplished, is given in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Comparison of Third Avenue and Jay Street banding stations.

	3rd Ave	Jay Street
size	ca. 30 x 30 m	ca. 45 x 50 m
garden	present	absent
trees	> 6	< 20
distance from creek	ca. 0.5 mi.	ca. 2 mi.
surrounding area	residential	adjoins undeveloped estate

### Results

Table 2 shows the birds I banded from 1983 through 1987.

TABLE 2. Birds banded in Aberdeen, 1983-1987. Birds were banded at 1506 SE Third Ave. from 1983 through May 1985 and at 1709 North Jay Street from June 1985 through 1987. Therefore, the 1985 column shows separate data, the first from Third Ave., the second from Jay St. The grand total for 1985 combines these data.

species	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	1	0/3	4	0
Mourning Dove	2	23	0/4	7	5
Black-billed Cuckoo	0	0	0/1	0	0
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	1/0	0	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0	0	0/0	7	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	1	0/0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	13	13	1/12	8	8
Hairy Woodpecker	1	3	0/4	2	2
Northern Flicker	16	9	0/9	6	15
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	0	0/1	0	0
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	0	0/0	1	1
"Traill's" Flycatcher	6	12	0/4	2	15
Least Flycatcher	38	9	4/7	17	17
Western Kingbird	0	2	0/0	0	0
Eastern Kingbird	0	2	0/0	0	0
Cliff Swallow	0	0	0/0	0	0
Barn Swallow	1	0	0/0	0	0
Blue Jay	5	3	0/8	7	2
Black-capped Chickadee	22	20	0/50	37	36
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	0	0/19	5	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	8	0/17	9	8
Brown Creeper	6	7	1/2	13	6
House Wren	18	5	6/23	15	15
Marsh Wren	0	0	0/2	2	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	19	2	0/5	26	5

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	22	36	5/19	28	39
Veery	0	2	0/1	1	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	16	6	4/1	11	8
Swainson's Thrush	60	50	19/41	46	84
Hermit Thrush	5	7	0/1	0	7
American Robin	240	154	31/210	192	189
Gray Catbird	7	17	6/21	8	4
Brown Thrasher	13	3	1/17	16	10
Bohemian Waxwing	1	0	0/0	1	11
Cedar Waxwing	132	29	1/11	57	5
Northern Shrike	1	3	0/0	2	0
European Starling	7	1	3/2	2	4
Solitary Vireo	5	0	0/0	2	2
Warbling Vireo	14	13	0/3	2	6
Philadelphia Vireo	0	0	0/1	1	1
Red-eyed Vireo	2	1	0/13	5	12
Tennessee Warbler	8	5	1/16	0	13
Orange-crowned Warbler	76	45	4/31	74	16
Nashville Warbler	12	9	0/7	3	2
Yellow Warbler	29	10	5/2	6	13
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	1	1/1	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	3	1	0/5	0	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	87	19	2/11	37	18
Palm Warbler	3	0	0/0	2	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	4	0/0	2	1
Blackpoll Warbler	5	2	1/4	1	11
Black-and-white Warbler	38	3	1/16	9	5
American Redstart	3	2	0/4	2	5
Ovenbird	11	12	6/11	8	11
Northern Waterthrush	8	2	2/9	6	0
Connecticut Warbler	0	0	0/1	0	0
Mourning Warbler	7	7	3/18	3	2
MacGillivray's Warbler	2	1	1/0	0	0
Common Yellowthroat	2	0	4/2	9	4
Wilson's Warbler	3	7	1/19	4	7
Canada Warbler	0	0	0/1	0	0
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	2	0/0	1	1
Summer Tanager	0	1	0/0	0	0
Scarlet Tanager	0	0	0/0	0	1
Northern Cardinal	0	0	0/4	0	0
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	1	0/2	1	1
Lazuli Bunting	0	2	0/0	0	0
Indigo Bunting	0	1	0/0	0	0
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	1	0/2	0	1
American Tree Sparrow	19	17	24/4	24	29
Chipping Sparrow	106	112	18/1	30	2
Clay-colored Sparrow	6	15	9/1	19	0
Field Sparrow	3	12	1/1	1	0
Fox Sparrow	4	2	0/3	0	0
Song Sparrow	1	0	0/2	5	4
Lincoln's Sparrow	63	32	20/5	30	8
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0/1	0	0
White-throated Sparrow	46	84	5/48	31	58
White-crowned Sparrow	26	11	6/1	28	0
Harris' Sparrow	162	77	3/40	18	17
Dark-eyed Junco	324	189	51/61	287	382

"Oregon" Junco	5	4	3/0	1	3
Red-winged Blackbird	11	23	9/4	2	10
Common Grackle	49	66	56/79	76	104
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	4	0/4	4	0
Orchard Oriole	3	9	0/1	0	0
Northern Oriole	5	20	2/3	0	1
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0/0	0	1
Purple Finch	79	39	0/34	55	21
House Finch	0	0	0/1	0	0
Red Crossbill	0	0	0/16	16	11
Common Redpoll	0	2	0/1	330	101
Hoary Redpoll	0	0	1/0	2	0
Pine Siskin	134	1824	598/346	440	682
American Goldfinch	491	134	21/10	377	66
Evening Grosbeak	4	0	0/1	1	1
GRAND TOTAL =	2530	3259	2248	2488	2144

### Discussion

Although I have caught a few more open country birds in the more open Third Avenue site (kingbirds, swallows) and a few more forest restricted species on Jay Street (more Accipiters and owls), the birds captured were remarkably similar. These data suggest to me that migrants, which constitute the bulk of birds banded in Aberdeen (see Tallman and Mewaldt 1984), do not greatly partition the available habitat in Aberdeen. Probably instead the city serves as a semiforested oasis for the migrants flying over the plains. Because my best banding days are days with light rain during the migration, I have long suspected that during good weather, many Canadian migrants overfly NE South Dakota on their way between the northern boreal forests and forested areas, such as are found near Omaha, Nebraska. One outstanding banding day was on the drizzly 6 May 1983, when I banded 147 individual birds (see Table 3). This hypothesis deserves further work, perhaps using local radar.

TABLE 3. Birds, arranged by number caught, banded 6 May 1983 at Third Ave.

Myrtle Warbler	38	Palm Warbler	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	35	Northern Waterthrush	2
Black-and-White Warbler	27	Ovenbird	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	10	Red-winged Blackbird	2
Yellow Warbler	8	Swainson's Thrush	1
White-crowned Sparrow	4	Nashville Warbler	1
American Goldfinch	4	White-throated Sparrow	1
Least Flycatcher	3	Harris' Sparrow	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3		
Common Grackle	3		

With 4026 individuals banded, Pine Siskins were the most frequently banded species. I have enjoyed some noteworthy returns on these band-

ings, as indicated in table 3. Perhaps the most interesting of these recoveries is the shortest, one recovered in Aberdeen over a year later, and the farthest, one recovered in Connecticut. I have not recaptured any other of these nomadic birds in a season other than that of original banding; that siskins are nomadic is well demonstrated by the second recovery.

Of 1173 siskins banded from 24 September 1984, 55 were retrapped between 1 January-30 May 1985). During that same time in 1985, 598 new siskins were banded. Applying the Peterson method for estimating population size (Population size = size of marked population/marked individuals recaptured x total captured), I had a rough estimate of 12754 siskins in the population of birds utilizing my banding area (see Kendeigh 1961). The survival rate for these siskins can also be calculated; 66.2%.

Table 3. Noteworthy recoveries (1982-1988) on Pine Siskins banded in Aberdeen.

banded	recovered	miles from Aberdeen
Salina KS 24 Feb 1982	Aberdeen 14 May 1982	450 mi SSE
Aberdeen 21 June 1981	Baldwin City KS 15 April 1982	475 mi SE
Aberdeen 12 June 1982	Aberdeen 5 November 1983	0
Aberdeen 11 December 1983	Regina Saskatchewan 18 May 1984	450 mi NW
Aberdeen 29 April 1984	Shoal Lake, Manitoba 12 June 1984	350 mi NNW
Aberdeen 12 November 1985	Burke, SD 1 April 1986	160 mi SSW
Burke, SD 22 February 1986	Aberdeen 12 March 1986	160 mi SSW
Aberdeen 27 December 1986	Michigan, ND 11 April 1987	170 mi NNE
Aberdeen 10 March 1985	Simsbury, CT 11 March 1988	1250 mi ESE



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 Tallman, Dan A. 1983. A Review of Winter Finch Population Cycles, 1980-1983, and a 1982 Bird Banding Report. SDBN 35:20-24.  
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**SOUTH DAKOTA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 1988  
 SUMMARY**

Richard A. Peterson  
 HC 46, Box 481  
 Oelrichs 57763

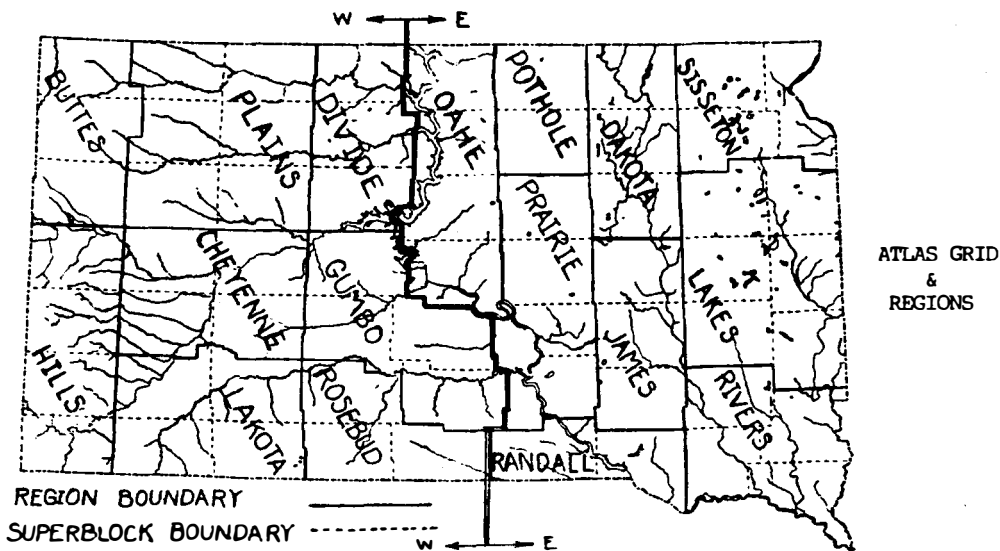
The following table summarizes the Atlas Project observations that were reported to me as of 1 November 1988. A few people have not reported their 1988 work for the Atlas. I am pleased with the first-year's fieldwork; many thanks to all of you who contributed observations. I am looking forward to next year's results because I know many more of you will get out and do some "atlasing" then. The spring issue of the *Lark Bunting* will contain much useful data and some corrections and additions to our project. Don't miss it!

The following abbreviations and symbols are used in the table: \* = Rare Bird Committee Forms submitted; \*\* Includes many redundant observations; O = observed; PO = Possible; PR = Probable; CO = Confirmed.

REGION	# OF OBSER- ERS	BLOCKS AND AREAS COVERED	TOTAL OBSERVA- TIONS	OBS	PO & PR	CO	TOTAL
BUTTE	2	8 of 16	143	7	50	12	69
<i>Highlights:</i> Sage Thrasher (PR), Common Tern (O), Cinnamon Teal (PR)							
HILLS	13	25 of 31	1310	6	53	85	144
<i>Highlights:</i> Active Merlin nest (CO), Ruby-crowned Kinglet feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird nestling (CO), 6 active goshawk nests (CO), House Finch (PO*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (O*), 5 Great Blue Heron colonies (CO), 16 saw-whet owl sites (PO) and 1 (CO), 4 Black-backed Woodpecker sites (PO) and 1 (CO), and 2 active Turkey Vulture nest sites (CO).							
PLAINS	1	4 of 23	85	2	36	10	48
<i>Highlights:</i> Northern Mockingbird (PO).							
CHEYENNE	8	6 of 19	160	2	42	17	61

*Highlights:* 3 Great Blue Heron colonies (CO), Least Tern (CO), Barn Owl (CO), mockingbird (CO), Snowy Owl (O\*).

LAKOTA	7	11 of 23	355	2	55	49	106
<i>Highlights:</i>	5 active Golden Eagle nests (CO), 3 mockingbird (PO), 2 Virginia Rail (PO), 2 Bell's Vireo (PO), 1 Great Blue Heron (CO).						
DIVIDE	3	1 of 16	28	0	17	7	24
<i>Highlights:</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird eggs in a Horned Lark nest (CO), Piping Plover (CO), Least Tern (CO), large Great Blue Heron and Double-crested Cormorant colony (CO)						
GUMBO	5	4 of 18	88	0	38	14	52
<i>Highlights:</i>	Great Blue Heron and Double-crested Cormorant (CO).						
ROSEBUD	4	7 of 15	221	1	35	35	71
<i>Highlights:</i>	Turkey Vulture (CO), Common Nighthawk (CO), several Eastern Bluebirds (PO), Great Blue Heron (CO), Black-and-White Warbler (PO), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (O*).						
OAHE	5	3 of 29	100	3	42	12	57
<i>Highlights:</i>	Many Least Tern (CO) and Piping Plover (CO), Ferruginous Hawk (CO).						
POTHOLE	3	3 of 15	100	1	36	23	60
<i>Highlights:</i>	4 Burrowing Owl (PR), mockingbird (PO), 3 Ferruginous Hawk nests (CO).						
PRAIRIE	3	7 of 31	160	1	36	24	61
<i>Highlights:</i>	Swamp Sparrow (PR), Ferruginous Hawk (4 CO, 5 PR), 3 Burrowing Owl (PR).						
RANDALL	2	4 of 18	117	9	41	15	65
DAKOTA	4	2 of 20	200**	2	14	11	27
<i>Highlights:</i>	Great Blue Heron and Double-crested Cormorant (CO), Black Duck (PO).						
JAMES	1	4 of 29	155	3	55	18	66
<i>Highlights:</i>	Loggerhead Shrike (1 CO, 3 PO), Bell's Vireo (PO), 2 Lark Sparrow (PR).						
SISSETON	4	7 of 30	220	3	47	38	88
<i>Highlights:</i>	2 Ferruginous Hawk (CO), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (CO), Cinnamon Teal (PR), Piping Plover (PO), American Woodcock (CO).						
LAKES	4	8 of 56	160	0	27	39	66
<i>Highlights:</i>	Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, and Western Grebe, all (CO)						
RIVERS	3	8 of 48	170	2	52	15	69
<i>Highlights:</i>	Great-tailed Grackle (O)*, 2 American Woodcock (PR), Sedge Wren (PO), Scarlet Tanager (PO)						
STATEWIDE TOTALS	38	112 of 437	3772	8	60	140	208



## GENERAL NOTES

**ADULT BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE IN SUMMER.** On 6 June 1987, my wife and I were camped at Lake Louise Recreation Area, just north of Miller, SD (about 50 miles east of Pierre and the Missouri River system). At about 8 am, as I was hiking along on a lakeside trail, I saw, about a hundred yards away on the water, a gull trying to swallow a small fish. The bird was about the size of a Ring-billed Gull, with a white head and body and a gray mantle. A closer look through my 8x40 binoculars showed that the bird had an unmarked, pale yellow bill and a black eye (very distinct in its otherwise completely white head). The sun was behind me, so the light was good. Soon the bird lifted from the water, and, as it did, I observed, to my surprise, that its legs were jet black. The wing tips were black, without the usual white one expects from a gull in this area. The gull circled, lit on the water again, then took off. As it flew away, I thought I noted an ever-so-slightly forked tail, but I wasn't sure.

I returned to our campground to get our car (in which I had my scope) and searched for the gull by driving the roads along the lake. I located the bird on the water in the area where I had first seen it, but a fishing boat soon chased it up. As the bird flew, I could clearly see the very slightly forked tail (concave might be a better word). I followed a road leading to the area where I thought the gull might have gone, and I was in luck. I saw the bird again, this time on a thick tree branch that stuck out quite some distance over the water. The gull appeared to be resting, with its belly on the branch before being flushed by another boat. I clearly saw again the

above-mentioned field marks. The Black-legged Kittiwake, actively pursued by two Red-winged Blackbirds, disappeared around a hill. I could not locate it again. *John Van Dyk, 736 East 1st Street, Sioux Center, IA 51250.*

ATLASING BLOCK 4R1. Ernie Miller and I headed out of Sturgis on the morning of 22 June to do some atlasing in 4R1, an atlas block about 20 miles NE of Sturgis. As we travelled across the plain, the Ferruginous Hawk became my anticipated "find" for the day. And, sure enough, a Ferruginous Hawk was observed as we entered the trail to the block.

We continued into the block and were immediately attacked by swarms of mosquitoes and deer flies liberated by recent rain. We walked rapidly to a small creek that had been dammed years ago and was now more full of cattails and willows than water. Ernie saw the bird first--a shrike, maybe a catbird, no--a Northern Mockingbird. Instantly we were alert to the possibility that the mocker might be nesting.

Ernie watched the mockingbird as I continued around the dam. I did scare up three Great Horned Owls, but no mockingbirds. Ernie, however, observed two adult mockingbirds repeatedly carrying food into a willow shrub. We investigated and found two recently fledged mockingbird young apparently unable or unwilling to fly. We approached to within five feet of where they were perched. The probable nest was found in an adjacent willow.

For the atlas, the observation is recorded as a confirmation of breeding: adults feeding young out of the nest, CO-FY. The record is apparently the first confirmation of nesting by the Northern Mockingbird in western South Dakota, and the first in the state in 20 years (*The Birds of South Dakota*, Whitney et al.).

We spent the rest of the morning in 4R1 and recorded 20 species. We confirmed breeding of six other species: Swainson's Hawk, Say's Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Western Meadowlark, and Orchard Oriole. The mockingbird, however, was certainly the highlight of atlasing 4R1. *Richard Peterson, HC 46, Box 49, Oelrichs 57763.*

CANADA GOOSE BREEDING IN SOUTHWESTERN HARDING COUNTY. Stop 34 on the Harding Breeding Bird Survey occurs on a slight hill crest in SW Harding Co., SD. To the NW is a large, well-established water impoundment with emergent vegetation. During the count on 27 June 1987, a family of Canada Geese swam out from the shoreline vegetation. The two adults appeared to be the giant form, and the three goslings were a quarter to a third of the adults' size. The Harding Breeding Bird Survey has continued each year since 1967, and this observation of Canada Geese is the first in the survey's 21 years.

S. S. Visher (1914. A preliminary report on the biology of Harding County northwestern South Dakota. South Dakota Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 6) noted that Grinnell found the Canada Goose breeding abundantly along the Little Missouri and other streams in 1874 and that Catron reported the species was fairly common in Harding Co. until 1890. Baylor and Rosine (1970. Summer birds of Harding County, South Dakota: 1967-1969. SDBN 22:36-48, 57) did not encounter the Canada Goose in Harding Co. during the summers of 1967-69.

From the small captive breeding flock at Shadehill Reservoir, Giant Canada Geese were released in Harding Co. during the years 1972-75, principally in the eastern half of the county (F. B. Lee and others, 1984, Rearing and restoring Giant Canada Geese in the Dakotas. North Dakota Game and Fish Department). Leslie Rice (pers. comm.), while working for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, observed reproduction by Canada Geese in 1978 and 1979 near Ralph in NE Harding Co. At about 9 miles east of the Montana-South Dakota border, the Canada Geese encountered during the 1987 Harding Breeding Bird Survey may represent the most westerly recent breeding record of this species in South Dakota's extreme northwestern county. *L. M. Baylor, 1941 Red Dale Drive, Rapid City 57702.*

**JUNE BROWN CREEPER SIGHTING IN LINCOLN COUNTY.** On the afternoon of 17 June 1987, while walking the bridle trail NW of Sergeant Creek at Newton Hills State Park, I discovered a Brown Creeper foraging on the bark of one of the many trees growing from the somewhat moist, woody draw that I was following. For about 10 minutes, I noticed no evidence of breeding.

Because the present East River breeding status of this species is unknown, I feel that this observation is significant and perhaps worthy of further investigation. *Bob Rogers, Box 25-C, Woonsocket SD 57385.*

**GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKENS IN GRANT COUNTY.** On 13 May 1987, Scott Glup, Scott Mikkelson, and I, all from the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, were searching for waterfowl nests using the standard chain drag technique in conjunction with a livestock grazing study on the O'Farrell Waterfowl production Area (5 mi. S, 2 mi E of Summit), Grant Co., SD. The area is rolling hills of native tallgrass prairie interspersed with fields of small grain. Historically, both Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie-Chickens ranged into this area. However, only sparse numbers of Sharp-tailed Grouse and several unconfirmed sightings of prairie-chickens have been reported in recent years. The last documented prairie-chicken nesting activity in the area was during the 1920's.

During this nest search, one prairie-chicken and four Sharp-tailed Grouse nests were located. All observers clearly saw the key identification characteristics of the prairie-chicken when the bird flushed. The nest, containing 13 smooth, oval, slightly glossy olive to buff-colored eggs, was photographed. We candled the eggs, but saw no embryo development.

The discovery of Sharp-tailed Grouse and prairie-chicken nests on 13 May is unusually early nesting activity. *The Birds of South Dakota* (1978) lists the earliest nesting date as 21 May for both these species.

We revisited the nest and found both it and the hen destroyed. Later, on 26 June, a prairie-chicken and its brood were flushed on the same WPA, indicating the presence of additional birds in the area. Personnel from the Fish and Wildlife Service and Game, Fish and Parks plan to search the area for leks next spring to learn more about the abundance and distribution of these species in Grant Co. *Mike Getman, Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Waubay.*

**PASSENGER PIGEON REMAINS ON THE WAUBAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.** In May and June 1983, Dakota Interactive Services, Inc., of Vermillion, SD, was contracted to test for cultural resources on the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge in areas proposed for construction. At least one archaeological site, occupied 3000 to 1000 years ago by a woodland culture, was discovered. Four bird species (Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, American Avocet, and Passenger Pigeon) were represented in the faunal remains excavated at the site. Marie Brown of the Kansas University Museum, using comparative collections at the Dyche Museum, identified the Passenger Pigeon from a single left carpometacarpus. This specimen is on permanent display at the refuge headquarters. The last known Passenger Pigeon died on 1 September 1914 at the University of Cincinnati. Whitney et al. (*The Birds of South Dakota*) list the Passenger Pigeon as a former fairly common to common transient in woodlands in the eastern part of the state and along the Missouri River and its tributaries. In northeastern SD, McChesney considered the species an occasional visitor near Ft. Sisseton in what is now Marshall Co. This information was published in a report to the US Fish and Wildlife Service by L. E. Bradley and William Ranney (1985, Archaeological Survey and Testing of a Proposed Construction Site at Waubay Wildlife Refuge, Waubay, SD, DIS Inc., Vermillion SD). *Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.*

**COPULATING SCREECH-OWLS IN YANKTON.** On 27 March 1988, my wife Rose and I observed an Eastern Screech-Owl three blocks from our home in Yankton. A second owl flew in, landed on top of the first owl, and appeared to copulate with it. This action occurred near dusk, but in good light (I could still distinguish feather patterns using 7x binoculars). The birds were about 30 feet up in a tree, on an outer branch. Searches over the next couple of weeks failed to relocate the owls. *Steve Van Sickle, 305 East 16th Street, Yankton 57078.*

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**MINNESOTA'S ENDANGERED FLORA AND FAUNA**, Edited by Barbara Coffin and Lee Pfannmuller. University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis. 1988. 473 pp. Cloth \$49.95; paper 16.95.

In 1981 the Minnesota State Legislature directed the Department of Natural Resources to prepare a list of plants and animals whose populations are in danger of extinction in the state. This book is the result of the endangered species program, begun 10 years ago, one of the most comprehensive and respected programs in the nation. Three hundred native plants and animals are listed in 11 floral and fauna groups, which include vascular plants, mosses, lichens, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, fish, butterflies, mollusks, tiger beetles, and jumping spiders. Most of the book is devoted to accounts of each listed plant and animal species. Each account gives the species' official status, basis for status, preferred habitat, aid to identification, recommendations, and selected references. Excellent black and white drawings of 200 of the 300 species

listed will aid the reader in identification of the plant or animal described. State distribution and national range maps are also provided with the text. Each of the eleven chapters was written by different members of the Endangered Species Technical Advisors Committee of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Introductions to each chapter contain brief natural histories, information on past and present studies, and recommendations for further study and protection of species. Chapters end with a comprehensive list of references. Appendices list species' distributions by county. Seven pages of color photographs portray various habitats and species.

This book will be of use to anyone interested in the natural history of Minnesota and to those people concerned with the plight of endangered and threatened species. The book is written for the amateur naturalist as well as for the professional biologist. I highly recommend the book to those involved in similar programs in surrounding states. For example, the ranges of 141 species listed in the book extend into South Dakota. Many of these species have already been listed by our own Natural History Program, making the book a valuable reference source. *Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57023.*

**IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN PASSERINES** by Peter Pyle, Steve G. Howell, Robert P. Yulich, and David F. DeSante. Slate Creek Press, Box 219B, Bolinas CA 94924. 1987. Paper \$19.50 + \$2.50 postage. 278 pp.

This highly technical manual is directed towards bird banders who identify captive birds. The data contained in the text are somewhat difficult to access. I would have preferred a dichotomous key format instead of the paragraph form used in the text. The heavy reliance on abbreviations makes the text difficult to read. The book is profusely illustrated with black and white line drawings, but a quick leafing through the text shows most of these drawings to be of individual feathers or of wing formulas--hardly the contents of your typical field guide. I noted with interest that Veeries, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes can be told apart by wing formulas, the relative lengths of their outer wing feathers are consistently different. My understanding is that the data presented here are not all recognized as official by the Banding Office, and this lack of sanction must certainly be the book's greatest drawback for the bander.

Nevertheless, this text is essential for a bander and important for any birder serious about improving one's field techniques. This fall in Aberdeen, for example, I caught a bird with dark cheek patches that my field guides assured me should be identified as South Dakota's second record of the western Townsend's Warbler. However, the *Identification Guide to Passerines* informed me that the Black-throated Green Warbler has very greenish upperparts, yellow in the vent area (lacking in the Townsend's Warbler), and streaking along the sides. A few days later I saw another Black-throated Green Warbler, this time outside my second floor office window. Again dark cheek patches were present. But I clearly saw yellow on the vent. Searching through my field guides, I finally found, in Pough's Audubon Guide, a Black-throated Green Warbler portrayed with dark enough cheeks. At this point I became convinced that the identification

guide has considerable merit for nonbanders as well as banders. Furthermore, even if some of the identification marks require measuring captive birds or are too obscure for field use, the accounts in this book will allow precise identification of the species, sex, and age of dead birds that we inevitably find. *Dan Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.*

**BIRD BANDING** by Elliott McClure. The Box Wood Press. 1984. Pacific Grove CA. 341 pp. Paper: \$15.00.

Unlike Pyle et al.'s *Identification guide to North American Passerines*, *Bird Banding* probably has limited appeal outside the banding fraternity. The 13 chapters include a short introduction and a brief discussion of the geological causes of migration, which seems a bit out of context. A long chapter on banding various birds contains much miscellaneous data of little practical application for local banders (e.g., a paragraph on banding Kiwis).

The book is valuable for its sections on netting and trapping wild birds. (Be aware that banding requires Federal and State permits.) Banders will find trap designs interesting and may become inspired by other activities described in the book, such as collecting ectoparasites, preparing specimens, or writing better field records. *Dan Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.*

**THE COMMON LOON: SPIRIT OF NORTHERN LAKES** by Judith W. McIntyre. 1988. The University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis. Hardbound, 229 pp. \$25.00.

Although my wife maintains that my favorite bird is the one that I've just seen, my favorite, without a doubt, is the Common Loon. This text, the second recent book on loons, is a comprehensive and finely illustrated book on Common Loon research. The author, Judith McIntyre, is a leading loon investigator. The book is profusely illustrated with figures and charts, with a central section of color photographs. A small record of loon calls appears in the back cover, but, unfortunately, it was too thin to be played on my stereo. I found the book so fascinating that I could hardly put it down and was sad when I came to the end.

Almost everything known about Common Loons is covered in the book, from loons in myths and legends, to loon ethology, ecology, anatomy, systematics, and preservation. The book, generally easy to read, gives the neophyte a rare glimpse into avian biology. For example, by building artificial loon nests surrounded by loose sand, McIntyre established that raccoons cause 71% of all mainland egg losses. I enjoyed the discussion of the evolutionary reason for the timing of loon egg hatching within a clutch--hatching too close results in too much competition between the young, too far gives too much advantage to the older sibling. McIntyre also gives many suggestions for future loon research, such as the unknown winter feeding habits of loons and the not-well-studied incubation time schedules.

The text does, however, suffer from loose editing. The chapter-ending summarizing statements cause the narrative to be unnecessarily repeti-



tious. That male loons arrive first on northern lakes is repeated at least four times in various parts of the text. The book is replete with "its," "there's," and "this's" that leave the reader to discover what is being modified. The following sentence is a good example (I have italicized the offending words): "If *this* does happen [sic], *it* has yet to be witnessed...." The author's meaning is not usually too obscure, but the unclear style does slow the reader down. I suspect the sentence "Before nesting, the pair spends most of its time together in back bays and near nesting islands engaged in feeding and caring for feathers and other body parts, which behaviorists call maintenance activities" has two misplaced modifiers. (Nesting islands don't feed and behaviorists don't call any loon body parts "maintenance activities." Poor organization is sometimes apparent, as in a paragraph about the midwest that includes a reference to Yellowstone National Park. Loons are described as a "unique group," but all groups are unique and I doubt the word "loonling" can be found in a dictionary. Finally, the book's brief index is nearly useless. On the other hand, the book's citations and "Literature Cited" sections are excellent. All too many popular science texts are poor in this respect.

These comments should not keep you from buying this book; I fear I may seem overly critical in this review. This book contains a wealth of information. Did you know that DNA studies place penguins as loons' closest relatives? That loons don't return to their breeding grounds until after their second year and, consequently, South Dakota loon summer records are probably nonbreeding second year birds? That loons are pestered by their own species of blackfly? Even if you are not fascinated by loons in particular, but rather by birds in general, you will greatly enjoy this book. *Dan Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.*

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## THE 1988 FALL MIGRATION

compiled by Dennis Skadsen  
RR Box 113, Grenville 57239

The Weather was generally mild through November, with most areas of the state receiving some snow by 1 December.

The migration tended to be earlier than usual, especially among the passerines. Unusual were the large numbers of migrating Swainson's Hawks observed throughout the state. Sparrow migration was very heavy in Jackson Co., where 707 individuals of 13 species were banded by Ken Graupmann. He observed several species (most notable, a Whip-poor-will) considered to be uncommon, rare, or accidental as migrants in western South Dakota.

Abbreviations used in this report are: PLSRA = Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area, Day Co.; SLNWR = Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Brown Co.

Observers cited in this report:

Les Baylor (LB)	Nelda J. Holden (NJH)	Esther Serr (ES)
Dan Brady (DB)	Jan Kieckhefer (JK)	Dennis Skadsen (DRS)
Gladyce Froiland (GF)	Michael M. Melius	Paul F. Springer (PFS)
Mike H. Getman (MHG)	(MMM)	Dan A. Tallman (DAT)
John Gilman (JG)	Ernest Miller (EM)	Roger Waddel (RW)
Marjorie A. Glass (MAG)	Marjorie Parker (MJP)	N. R. Whitney (NRW)
Ken Graupmann (KG)	Richard Peterson (RAP)	J. David Williams (JDW)
Willis Hall (WH)	D. George Prisbe (DGP)	Steve J. Young (SJY)
Bruce K. Harris (BKH)	Linda Riner (LR)	
David J. Hilley (DJH)	B. J. Rose (BJR)	
Augie Hoeger (AH)	William Schultze (WAS)	

Red-necked Grebe--12 September, Hughes Co. (PFS). 2 September, Deuel Co., Lake Alice (BKH, BJR).

Double-crested Cormorant--30 August, SLNWR, albino (WAS, DJH).

Great Blue Heron--15 November, Deuel Co., 2, late (BKH).

Little Blue Heron--8 November, Day Co., Bitter Lake, **LATEST EVER** (MHG).

White-faced Ibis--12 August, SLNWR, only report this year (WAS).

Trumpeter Swan--13 November, Fall River Co., 5 (RAP).

Snow Goose--13 August, Deuel Co., Salt Lake, 3 (PFS). 30 October, SLNWR, peaked at 220,000 (WAS).

Green-winged Teal--8 September, Day Co., Bitter Lake, 500 (PFS). 28 November, Yankton Co., 2 (WH).

Northern Shoveler--8 September, Day Co., Bitter Lake, 3000 (PFS).

Canvasback--26 November, Yankton Co., 2 (WH).

Oldsquaw--24 November, Pennington Co., Canyon Lake, only second record for Black Hills area (NRW, LB, ES, LR).

White-winged Scoter--11 November, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Barrow's Goldeneye--17 November, Pennington Co., Canyon Lake, (NRW).

Hooded Merganser--28 October, Day Co., pair (DB). 22 November, Yankton Co., 2 (WH).

Red-breasted Merganser--22 November, Yankton Co., 2 (WH).

Osprey--4 September, Brown Co. (DGP). Also observed in Fall River, Hughes, Jackson, Meade and Roberts Co.

Bald Eagle--2 September, Deuel Co., immature, early (BKH, BJR). Also observed in Brookings, Brown, Edmunds, Fall River, Lawrence, McPherson, Pennington, and Yankton Co.

Northern Goshawk--11 November, Deuel Co. (BKH). 21 November, Codington Co. (BKH).

Broad-winged Hawk--15 September, Harding Co., South Slim Buttes (PFS).

Swainson's Hawk--13 September, Faulk Co., 112 on ground (MMM). 18 September, Fall River Co., 300-350 in kettle (RAP). 24 September, Stanley Co., 400-500 on ground (EM).

Rough-legged Hawk--2 September, Jackson Co., very early (KG).

Merlin--22 September, Brown Co. (DAT). 30 October, Brown Co., Richmond Lake (DB). 19 November, PLSRA (DRS).

Prairie Falcon--11 September, Hamlin Co. (BKH). 10, 16 October, Deuel Co. (BKH). 25 September, Brown Co. (DAT).

Greater Prairie-Chicken--4 November, SLNWR (DJH). 23 November, Deuel Co., 2 (BKH).

Sharp-tailed Grouse--28 October, Roberts Co., 4 (DRS).

Sandhill Crane--8 September, SLNWR, 20, **TIES EARLIEST EVER** (SJY). 13 November, Day Co., 25, late (DRS). 22 November, SLNWR, 1, very late (DJH).

Whooping Crane--5 October, Campbell Co., Pocasse NWR, 1 subadult in area for 12 days (SJY, MHG).

Black-bellied Plover--2 September, Deuel Co. (BKH, BJR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper--10 September, Meade Co., 4 (EM)

Stilt Sandpiper--8 September, Day Co., 130 (PFS).

Bonaparte's Gull--14 November, Day Co., 15, late (BKH, JG).

Glaucous Gull--30 November, Yankton Co., 3 (WH).

Black-legged Kittiwake--25, 28, 30 November, Yankton Co., 1-2 (WH).

Sabine's Gull--17 September, Butte Co., Belle Fourche Reservoir, submitted to Rare Bird Committee, **5TH STATE RECORD IF ACCEPTED** (PFS).

Caspian Tern--11 September, Deuel Co., 3 (BKH).

Black Tern--21 September, Brookings Co., late (BKH).

Snowy Owl--15 November, Day Co. (RW).

Barred Owl--3 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

Northern Saw-whet Owl--2 October, Brown Co., 4 banded, total of 7 banded during October (DAT).

Whip-poor-will--25 August, Jackson Co., banded, accidental in W SD (KG).

Rufous Hummingbird--2 August, Pennington Co. (NRW). 26 August, 8 September, Custer Co. (MJP).

Red-bellied Woodpecker--6 September, Roberts Co. (PFS). 5 October, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 29 October - 23 November, Brookings Co. (JK). 18 November, Brookings Co. (NJH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker--4 October, Edmunds Co. (JDW).

Northern Flicker--20 October, Day Co., red-shafted form (DB).

Pileated Woodpecker--9 August, 1 September, 10 November, Roberts Co., Sodak Park (BKH).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher--24 August, Jackson Co., banded, **EARLIEST EVER** (KG). 25 August, Minnehaha Co., (AH).

Brown Creeper--10 August, Brookings Co., breeding? (GF). 16 September, Brown Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (DGP).

Winter Wren--30 September, Brown Co. (DAT).

Golden-crowned Kinglet--21 September, Brown Co., very early (DAT).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet--2 September, Deuel Co., very early (BKH). 5 August, Brown Co. (DAT).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher--30 August, Brookings Co., Oakwood Lakes, **EARLIEST EVER** (BJR).

Eastern Bluebird--15 October, Roberts Co., 15 (DRS).

Hermit Thrush--1 October, Brown Co., very early (DAT).

Northern Mockingbird--8 August, Fall River Co., road kill (RAP).

Sage Thrasher--16 September, Fall River Co., **LATEST FALL RECORD** (RAP).

Water Pipit--5 September, Brown Co., 3, **TIES EARLIEST EVER** (DAT).

Bohemian Waxwing--19 November, PLSRA (DRS).

Northern Shrike--15 October, Jackson Co., banded, **TIES EARLIEST EVER** (KG). 17 October, Brown Co., banded (DAT).

Philadelphia Vireo--30 August, Brookings Co., very early (BJR).

Golden-winged Warbler--16 September, Brown Co. (DAT).

Northern Parula--9 September, Hughes Co., very early (BKH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler--26 August, Jackson Co., banded, very early (KG).

Black-throated Blue Warbler--19 October, Brown Co. (DGP).

Black-throated Green Warbler--23 August, Brown Co., very early (DAT). 3, 10 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

Blackburnian Warbler--2 September, Deuel Co. (BKH, BJR). 10 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

Pine Warbler--8 August, Roberts Co., very early (BKH).

Bay-breasted Warbler--3 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

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- Scarlet Tanager--8 August, Roberts Co., singing male (BKH). 3 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 17 September, Brown Co. (DGP).  
Rufous-sided Towhee-- Jackson Co., 129 banded during season (KG).  
Savannah Sparrow--29 September, Fall River Co., 10+ (RAP).  
Le Conte's Sparrow--8 September, Brown Co. (DGP). 2 October, Deuel Co., 2 (BKH).  
Fox Sparrow--6 October, Brown Co. (DAT).  
White-throated Sparrow--4 September, Brown Co., dead on sidewalk, **EARLIEST EVER** (DAT). 13 October, Fall River Co., rare W SD (RAP).  
White-crowned Sparrow--12 September, Stanley Co., very early (PFS). Jackson Co., 208 banded during season (KG).  
Harris' Sparrow-- Jackson Co., 173 banded during season (KG); (DAT banded only 1 in Brown Co. during season).  
Lapland Longspur--17 September, Butte Co., 3, very early (PFS).  
Smith's Longspur--21, 28 October, Deuel Co., 19 (BKH).  
Rosy Finch--22 October, Meade Co., 6, very early (EM). 28 November, Custer Co., 40 (MJP). 30 November, Pennington Co., 250 (MAG).  
House Finch--17 September, Brown Co. (DGP).