

SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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NOTES

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VOL. 46 SEPTEMBER 1994 NO. 3

IN THIS ISSUE

BLACK-NECKED STILT AT ABERDEEN by J. David WilliamsCover
 PRESIDENT'S PAGE47
 IN MEMORIAM — ROSAMOND BURGI HALL48
 GENERAL NOTES — White-Winged Dove—A New South Dakota Record; Artificial Great Horned Owl Nest; Tennessee Warbler Banding Recovery; Raptors in Custer County; Mute Swan near Arlington, South Dakota; Correction to 1993 Report of The Rare Birds Records Committee49
 BOOK REVIEWS.....52
 SEASONAL REPORTS.....56

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I shall not make a habit of writing about the meetings of the SDOU in the President's Page, but since this was the first meeting in which I was privileged to preside, I wish to do so now.

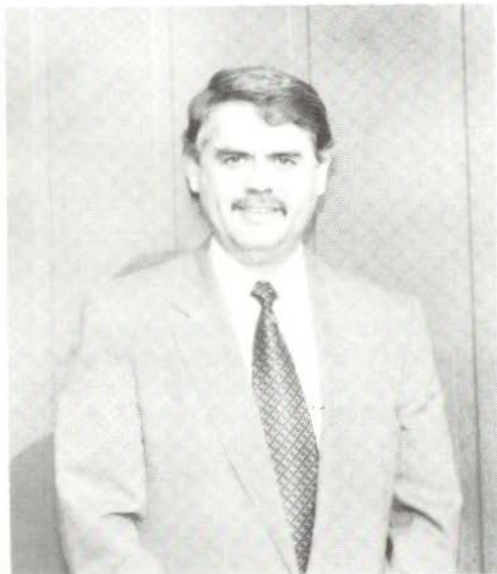
The members of the SDOU were graciously hosted by the Missouri Breaks Audubon group for the spring meeting in Pierre. Special thanks go to Dave Ode for all the planning he did and for simply taking care of all the details involving the programs, field trips, banquet, and picnic. Much of this responsibility fell to Dave at the last minute, and he and his group did a wonderful job in preparation for the meeting.

Much of South Dakota experienced extremely strong southerly winds during the five days before the meeting, but, as if the weather was also planned by Dave, Saturday and Sunday were beautiful. Although many migrants had possibly flown over the area with the strong winds, around 150 species were observed on the field trips. The exact number escapes me, but will be published in the next edition of *The Lark Bunting*.

The programs on Friday and Saturday evenings were both very informative to anyone interested in birds. Tom Chapman, of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, was our speaker for the first evening. He presented information on the effect of a mining operation on the environment in the Black Hills. Members of the audience asked many questions of Mr. Chapman, and there seemed to be a great deal of concern about what could be done to minimize the detrimental effects these mines have on bird populations. The problems arise at these mines due to the extremely toxic substances used in the mining process.

Saturday evening, Gon Sanchez of Presho, South Dakota, showed slides and gave a very entertaining talk on his work with the Gyrfalcon in this state. Mr. Sanchez has become quite adept at finding this bird during the winter months and has made this work his masters project. He captures, attaches transmitters, and tracks this elusive falcon, while most of us just wish we could see one.

The status of the Breeding Bird Atlas is an issue that should be of interest to most of our members and to all people that are interested in South Dakota birds. Six years of field work data are being organized by Richard Peterson and his assistants, and hopefully there will be a publi-



cation date sometime in 1995. Any birds found nesting during 1994, which were not confirmed during the six years, should be reported to Richard so that they can still be included in the atlas. I know that at least five more species have been found this summer that were not found during the previous six years of field work, including three new breeding species for South Dakota. This should serve notice to all of us that the field work in ornithology is not finished in this state. More breeding species will be confirmed in the future, and all atlas project workers and all birders are encouraged to continue to get out in the field and search for the next new South Dakota bird.

IN MEMORIUM

ROSAMOND BURGI HALL
25 April 1901—1 August 1992

Sometimes, if chance or serendipity allows during life's events, one will meet another human being whose presence is so great as to change one's own life's path; someone whose humble nature leaves no indelible mark, but whose intelligence, ability and knowledge are such as to influence a deeper appreciation and respect for the humanities and science; someone who never stops giving, teaching, or learning. If one is very lucky, this person will also have a sense of humor and a certain perspective from which, if one observes carefully, can be seen all the truth and nonsense of the world—or so it seemed in knowing Rosamond Burgi Hall.

Together with our spouses, we traveled thousands of miles photographing, discussing, observing, and recording plants, animals, and, especially, birds. Rosamond was a true pioneer prairie ornithologist, who took meticulous notes that were subsequently filed in recycled vegetable bags to be retrieved when needed. She could access about 75 years of information—whether birds of South Dakota or the papers of her Ph.D. dissertation, or long-departed French students.

Rosamond could hold forth on almost any topic. She especially enjoyed keeping current on her beloved Yankton College, in which she took her first class at the age of five and later taught foreign languages. Her linguistic skill was renowned. A favorite memory was in Rosamond's 90th year—she completed a review of Dutch grammar and knew it was time to learn Lakota. She began a vigorous study.

Rosamond once said that she preferred to be struck from a mountain top rather than linger endlessly—wordlessly. Complications from a stroke fulfilled this preference; she passed with ever-present grace, dignity, and courage, having influenced the lives of countless students and those of us lucky enough to have traveled with her. *Juli Wilcox, 919 West Riverside Drive, Yankton, SD 57078.*



GENERAL NOTES

WHITE-WINGED DOVE—A NEW SOUTH DAKOTA RECORD. On 6 June 1993, MyRon Zimmer observed a bird that he believed to be a White-winged Dove in a grove northeast of Bowdle. Zimmer called me to come to verify his find and photograph the bird. My wife Kristeen and I immediately drove to Bowdle. We searched for the bird with Zimmer for about an hour, but we were unable to locate the dove. Disappointed, but not unbelieving, we returned home.

Zimmer called again the next day, having found the bird in the same grove. I went to Bowdle after work. After about 20 minutes of searching, we saw a dove fly from the grove to a powerline along a county road that runs next to the grove. With binoculars, we could clearly see the bird's white, crescent-shaped line on the leading edge of the wing. We moved closer to the bird and observed white wing patches as the bird flew and circled back to land on the road shoulder. We were both confident of the identification and photographed the bird on several occasions—on the ground, perched in a tree, and in flight.

Some of the slides were submitted to SDOU's Rare Bird Records Committee for review. The record was accepted by the committee and categorized as a Class 1 submission (documentation with recognizable photograph). Thus, MyRon Zimmer is credited with the first South Dakota record of a White-winged Dove. MyRon, who shuns crowds and notoriety, has had other significant sightings in the Bowdle area. Among those records are the Summer Tanager, Rufous Hummingbird, and Common Poorwill. All of those birds were verified by one or more SDOU members. *J. David Williams, Box 277, Ipswich SD 57451.*

ARTIFICIAL GREAT HORNED OWL NEST. Over the years, a nesting pair of Great Horned Owls has lived in a deciduous tree grove north of Bowdle, South Dakota. The nest has been in a mature cottonwood tree. During the summer of 1993, the nesting limb was destroyed in a storm. As no obvious alternate nesting sites (hollows, hawk nests) existed, I decided to create nests.

The foundation for the nests was a bowl-shaped frame, roughly two feet deep and three feet across the top, formed from old fence wire. I inserted twigs and wove them throughout the frame, filling the interior nearly to the top. I added three inches of loose bark pieces, bringing the top nearly level. The result was a bulky "owl" nest.

I hoisted the nests with ropes into the cottonwood and ash trees and wired them into place from 25 to 35 feet above ground level. On 12 February 1994, the owls began using the nest nearest to their previous nest site, and in April, downy young were observed. *MyRon Zimmer, Box 100, Bowdle, SD 57428.*

TENNESSEE WARBLER BANDING RECOVERY. On 1 June 1992 a dead, banded Tennessee Warbler was found in Langford, South Dakota, by Margaret Erickson. The cause of death is unknown. The bird was banded as a juvenile near Plainwell, Michigan on 26 August 1991 (see Figure 1).

This is the first record of a Tennessee Warbler recovery from out of state (SDOU 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed., NSU Press, Aberdeen, South Dakota). Tennessee Warbler spring migration dates for the state are from 27 April to 16 June, with peak migration occurring in the last 3 weeks of May (SDOU 1991).

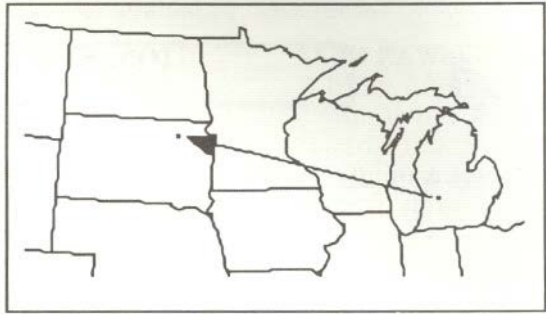


Figure 1. Tennessee Warbler recovery.

Tennessee Warblers are common to abundant in Eastern South Dakota during migration (SDOU 1991). We can speculate that 26 August is a date indicating fall migration in Michigan, while the recapture date of 1 June is during spring migration in South Dakota. This suggests a possible shift in migratory routes between spring and fall, with fall migratory routes lying further east. This would agree with observations in Southeastern South Dakota where Tennessee Warblers are much more common in spring than in fall (Kurt Dean unpublished data; personal observation). *Eric Liknes Dept. of Biology, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069.*

RAPTORS IN CUSTER COUNTY. I have reported previously about raptors hunting Prairie Dogs near my home in NE Custer Co. (SDBN 39:42; 87). In the past two years, two Golden Eagles that I have presumed to be mates have become year-round residents in the area. They perch on the towers of a 235 Kv powerline overlooking the dog town. From the eagles' regular flight patterns, I assume that they are nesting in the trees along Spring Creek, about 2.4 km south of my place.

Around noon on 4 May 1994, I heard alarm calls from the prairie dogs, and I looked up to see an eagle carrying off some prey. The bird circled for several minutes, rising higher, and I wondered why it didn't land to eat, or head for the nest. But a line of storms was between the eagle and the creek, and rain was just beginning to fall. The eagle eventually began to glide east, then south around the leading edge of the storms. When it passed overhead, I could see the prey was a young prairie dog. The eagle flew a kilometer out of its normal flight path, gliding most of the way. I set up my 24x scope in time to see the hazy image of the bird approaching low and rising to the nest in a cottonwood tree along Spring Creek.

In April, a pair of Northern Harriers established a territory in a weedy, abandoned field just west of the powerline. They do not tolerate the Golden Eagles very well. In the evening of 2 May, I watched the pair harass an eagle perched on top of a powerline tower. They swooped on it for over ten minutes. A third harrier came to add his efforts, but was chased off by the resident pair.

Apparently that eagle quickly adjusted to the harriers. On 8 May, I saw an eagle perched lower on the tower, amid the girders and out of reach of the swooping harriers. It has been instructive to watch encounters between the two species, as the harriers seem to flap their wings with

twice the frequency of the eagles, yet are unable to overtake the eagles in open-air pursuits. *Michael Melius, HCR 89 Box 275, Hermosa SD 57744.*

MUTE SWAN NEAR ARLINGTON, SOUTH DAKOTA. 17 October 1992 was a beautiful fall day in East River, with only high clouds, little wind, and much warm sunshine. I was riding with pheasant-hunting friends. We were about three miles south of Arlington, on a section line road, when I noticed a single swan swimming in a lake opposite from the field being hunted. My friends were interested in hunting and were not birders, so, after they finished walking the field, I returned with my wife, Donna.

The swan was swimming from left to right, with intermittent feeding, and was about 600-700 feet from us. The sun was directly behind us. The swan was an all white adult and not a juvenile. We have many Trumpeter and Tundra swans in Alaska, and looked at the bill to identify the bird. It was then that we noted the knob and coloring on the bill and realized we were looking at a Mute Swan. We viewed the swan with our 17 x 60 scope and took a video with the camcorder. The bird was silent the entire time, but did not have the neck arches, as is typically shown in field guides. There was no mistaking the bill coloration or the knob. The Mute Swan was there when we had to leave but was gone the next morning.

The Rare Bird Records committee accepted the sighting but rated it as hypothetical because of uncertainty whether it was a wild bird or an escape from captivity. We checked the same lake in October 1993, but the bird was not here. Hopefully some of you will sight it again in the area. *Vic and Donna Fondy, 4109 Tazlina Ave., Anchorage AK 99517.*

CORRECTION TO 1993 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRDS RECORDS COMMITTEE. In the Rare Birds Records Committee's last report (SDBN 46:30-34) in the record for the Eurasian Wigeon at Lake Yankton, Rose Van Sickle is stated to be the photographer and Bob Chabane the observer. Actually Rose was the observer and Bob took the photograph.



BOOK REVIEWS

GUIDE TO BIRD SOUNDS. Two CD set. National Geographic Society, Washington DC. \$20.95, product number 80865, order direct (800) 368-2728.

Technology has a way of advancing, whether or not you notice. Many of you have discovered the joys of compact discs, with their digital quality sound. However, I did not realize how compact CD disc players have become. To write this review, I bought a compact disc player that is only the size of two decks of playing cards. Also purchased was an external speaker, the size of one deck of cards. Total cost of this equipment ranges from \$100-500. Assuming that one gets the quality that one pays for, I opted for a midrange player.

This experiment in technology was initiated by my reading a review in Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's magazine, *The Living Bird*. I knew that the Peterson field guide series has an accompanying set of records and CD's, but I was not aware of National Geographic's offerings. (The National Geographic's sales staff may also require your patience, as they seem unaware of the CD format of these recordings, which are also available on tape.)

The advantage of a CD over a tape is digital quality and accessibility. One can go directly to the desired species without stopping and fumbling through a tape. There are at least two uses for CD's in the field. One is simple identification. You hear a bird that you think may be a Western Wood Pewee. You place the appropriate disc in the machine and immediately advance to track number 9. (The species are listed phylogenetically and alphabetically in the accompanying introductory sheet.) A woman's voice says "Western Wood Pewee" and an appropriate length pewee call follows. I have gone through my National Geographic Guide and written in the track numbers under the range maps.

A quirky choice of bird calls is included in the National Geographic set. In the introduction included with the printed index, we are told, "These recordings include the sounds of 180 species—not always the most beautiful sounds, nor those most often heard, but the sounds that are most helpful in finding an elusive or confusing species." Yet Canada Goose is the only duck included. The rails are well represented but the coot is absent. Temminck's Stint and Common Ringed Plovers are certainly elusive—they are mostly to be looked for on outer Aleutian Islands. For whom are these calls included? Most beginning to intermediate birders would prefer loons or Winter Wrens. Only six warbler songs are included, excluding all the genus *Dendroica*, which includes Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers. The sparrow selection lacks Savanna and Vesper, but includes Baird's Sparrows. I could go on; obviously if one has only 180 species from which to choose, many must be left out. The solution is obvious—three discs, not just two should be offered. Many recordings of music include three discs.

CD's are indispensable in the field. The National Geographic discs are superior to the Peterson series discs because, unlike its competitor, where groups of species occur on each track, each species is relegated to its own

band on the disc. This means that a simple push of the "replay" button repeats a call over and over. Gone are the days of single-species circular tapes or clumsy rewinding of tapes. This also means that different species can be programmed to play after each other—for example, robin, Scarlet Tanager, and Red-eyed Vireo. Above all, one species per band means instant access through the search mode.

The discs warn: "the playback of audio recordings in the field should be carried out in a responsible manner...whenever a bird shows signs of becoming stressed, playback should be ceased. Playback should not be done in the vicinity of nesting birds." At first I was dubious about this warning. I have played a screech-owl band in my backyard and had an owl immediately start whinnying back, and continue to call while approaching closer and closer, well after the playback stopped. This spring I was quickly surrounded by Sora and Virginia Rails. Another time, the screech-owl recording brought in a Golden-winged Warbler along with Chestnut-sided and Wilson's Warblers on a windy day at Hartford Beach. I have no doubt that, while this is a potent tool, it can, indeed, be misused. Yet none of my companions, upon birding with these disks, wish to be without them. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

MIGRATION TALK. 1990., **THE CRY OF THE SANDHILL CRANE.** 1992., **SONGBIRD SYMPHONY.** 1993. NorthSound. NorthWord Press, Inc. Minocqua, Wisconsin. 60 minutes. \$15.95 Compact Disc; \$9.95 Cassette.

These three compact discs offer the birder and outdoor enthusiast two very different ways of enjoying the sounds of nature.

Migration Talk and *The Cry of the Sandhill Crane* are both non-narrated audios of uninterrupted bird songs and calls. During the first half of *Migration Talk*, you will hear Tundra Swans and Canada Geese, along with other wetland species such as Red-winged Blackbirds. The second half of the disc records the courtship calls of the Great Blue Heron and Common Loon. *The Cry of the Sandhill Crane* was recorded along the Platte River of Nebraska and contains the calls of Sandhill Cranes and Canada Geese during the early evening hours as they return to roost at Big Bend. *Songbird Symphony* combines the songs of birds with classical favorites, including selections by Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Chopin, and Mozart.

Migration Talk and *The Cry of the Sandhill Crane* work on several levels, as background noise for relaxation or a possible stress reducing tool, and as an educational resource. The birder may sharpen his skills at identifying bird song and call by using these discs. However, most species heard are not identified in the disc's liner notes. In the classroom these discs could be played to upper elementary and middle school grade levels and combined with creative writing assignments or visual arts such as drawing and painting.

Songbird Symphony attempts to blend songbird calls and songs with favorite classical pieces. I would have enjoyed the music more without the songbirds. The combination works on the first selection, Grieg's "Morning Mood" from The Peer Gynt Suite. However, by the second selection, the combination became obtrusive. This may have been due to the producer using a Blue Jay's call, which even in the wild can be harsh and annoying! I would have enjoyed this disc more had the bird songs been included as 45 to 60 second interludes between these classical selections,

fading out as the music began. Also missing from this disc were some of the masters of bird song, such as the thrushes and warblers.

I can recommend *Migration Talk* and *The Cry of the Sandhill Crane*. You will enjoy these selections on those cold January days when the only sound outdoors is the howl of a South Dakota winter wind. You might enjoy *Songbird Symphony*. The music is good, and the songbird combination may work for you! Dennis Skadsen, RR 1 Box 113 ,Grenville, SD 57239.

THE ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS OF MICHIGAN.—Richard Brewer, Gail A. McPeck, and Raymond J. Adams, Jr. 1991. East Lansing, Michigan: Michigan State University Press. 594 pp. Cloth \$39.95

The *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Michigan* is an impressive volume that provides a worthy replacement to the last book, published in 1951, to treat the entire state's avifauna. The goal of this project, as with most atlases, was to map the current distribution of every species of bird breeding in Michigan. Atlas field work required six years, from 1983 to 1988, and was completed by over 1,300 participants, all of who are listed by name in the book's acknowledgments.

The atlas used townships (6x6 miles square) as grids for establishing the 7,080 atlas blocks. Atlas blocks consisted of a 3x3 mile square or one-quarter of a township. Due to the large number of atlas blocks, a system of priority blocks was established, so at least one block in each of the 1,896 townships was surveyed. The density of priority blocks was different for each of the three large geographical regions of Michigan. All atlas blocks were given priority status in the Southern Lower Peninsula where land uses are rapidly changing and habitats are more fragmented. This area, being the most populated, had a higher concentration of observers. In the Upper Peninsula, only 1 of the 4 blocks per township was selected at random. A total of 4,301 priority blocks was established using this method. Observations of at least 50 to 75 of the potential breeding species and 10 to 20 hours of effort per block were established as the minimum objectives for each block.

By the project's conclusion, atlasers had provided more than 500,000 records and breeding evidence for 233 species, with 215 listed as confirmed. Three new breeding species were confirmed during the atlas survey. One of the most interesting observations recorded was the successful nesting of a female Western Kingbird mated to a male Eastern Kingbird.

One page species accounts give data on the birds' habitat, seasonal occurrence, and status. Black and white ink drawings accompany the text. The atlas maps show blocks where the bird was observed as a possible, probable, or confirmed breeder. Introductory chapters give detailed information on atlas methods, results and highlights, climate, vegetation, original avifauna, biogeography, ecology, and conservation issues and concerns. Dennis Skadsen, RR 1 Box 113 ,Grenville, SD 57239.

ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS IN PENNSYLVANIA.—Daniel W. Brauning, Ed. 1992. Pittsburgh PA: University of Pittsburgh Press. 484 pp. Cloth \$34.95

This volume is the result of a seven year atlas project that began in 1983 and ended in 1989. Over 2000 volunteers contributed 318,660 records on which this volume is based. As with many atlas projects, this

book provides a much needed comprehensive and updated picture of Pennsylvania's avifauna.

Atlas blocks were based on USGS topographical or quadrangle maps. These quadrangles, representing 7.5 degrees of latitude and longitude, were then divided into six blocks. Each block covered 3.75 degrees of longitude and 2.5 degrees of latitude. Using this method, 4,928 atlas blocks, approximately 3 miles by 3 miles, were formed. The southeast block of each quadrangle was then assigned priority status to ensure an adequate survey of the entire state. By the project's end, all 4,928 blocks had been surveyed. Observing at least 70% of the possible breeding species and 20 hours of coverage were needed to consider a block adequately surveyed.

A total of 210 species was observed during the atlas period, with 180 of these confirmed as breeding. Newly confirmed as breeding species were the Black-necked Stilt and a pair of Eurasian Jackdaws. The observation of nesting jackdaws provided the first breeding record for the species in the Western Hemisphere.

Species accounts give brief data on the birds' natural history and habitat. A table summarizing the species occurrence by region and by status (possible, probable, or confirmed) follows the text. Atlas maps for each species plot the same data. A set of seven overlays for use with these maps provides information on geographical, physiological and climatic features of Pennsylvania. Each account is accompanied by a pen and ink drawing of the species. Several accounts contain a small graph portraying population trends from Breeding Bird Surveys during the mid-sixties to late 1980's.

The book's introductory chapters provide information on atlas methods, results, the state's geography and ornithological history. Appendices following the species accounts include descriptions of former nesting species, plant names used in the text, and tables summarizing egg dates, incubation periods and other breeding data. An extensive literature cited section is also included. *Dennis Skadsen, RR Box 113, Grenville, SD 57239.*

A SUPPLEMENT TO DISTRIBUTION AND TAXONOMY OF BIRDS OF THE WORLD. —Charles G. Sibley and Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Yale University Press, New Haven. 108 pp. \$25.00.

This extremely expensive paperback book contains corrections and additions to Sibley and Monroe's monumental, DNA-based taxonomy of birds of the world. Libraries containing the original book will probably wish to consider purchasing this companion volume. However, I would suggest ordinary readers to check it out of those libraries and make corrections they think important in their own copies. The high price is mysterious, as there are no illustrations. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*



SEASONAL REPORTS

The 1994 Spring Migration

compiled by
Dennis Skadsen
RR 1 Box 113 Grenville, SD 57239

Observers cited:

DB - Dan Brady
KD - Kurt Dean
BKH - Bruce K. Harris
TH - Travis Hills
AH - Augie Hoeger
JAK - Jan A. Kieckhefer
JFK - Joel F. Kieckhefer
RWK - Robert W. Kieckhefer
CK - Cory Kiner
EL - Eve Larson
ELk - Eric Liknes
JL - Jon Little
MMM - Michael M. Melius
EM - Ernie Miller
JSP - Jeffrey S. Palmer
JP - Juanita Peterson

RAP - Richard A. Peterson
NP - Nathan Pieplow
MP - Marti Porter
DGP - D. George Prisbe
DRS - Dennis R. Skadsen
JCS - Jerry C. Stanford
MS - Melissa Stoltz
SS - Stewart Surma
DS - Dave Swanson
DAT - Dan A. Tallman
SVS - Steve Van Sickle
DW - Duane Weinacht
NRW - Nathaniel R. Whitney
JDW - J. David Williams
MZ - MyRon Zimmer

Abbreviations used: HBSP - Hartford Beach State Park, Roberts Co.; LNWR - La Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Bennett Co.; NHSP - Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln Co.; SFBC - Sioux Falls Bird Club; SLNWR - Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Brown Co.; UCSP - Union County State Park, Union Co.; WNWR - Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day Co.

Common Loon - Reported from Brookings (JSP), Day (WNWR), Davison (DGP), Deuel (BKH), Charles Mix (DGP), Minnehaha (DB), Roberts (MP), and Yankton (DGP) counties.

Red-necked Grebe - 7,30 May, Roberts Co., Bullhead Lake, pair; and 14 May, Deuel Co., Fox Lake (BKH).

Western Grebe - 2 April, Kingsbury Co., very early (JSP).

Clark's Grebe - 23 April, Brookings Co., early (DGP). 30 April, Kingsbury Co. and 20 May, Campbell Co. (JSP). 16 May, SLNWR (DGP, DAT). 20 May, Clark Co. (BKH).

Least Bittern - 27 May, Kingsbury Co. (JSP).

Great Egret - 7 April, Lincoln Co., very early (JL).

Snowy Egret - Reported from Aurora (DGP), Brown (DAT), Day (JCS), Kingsbury (JSP), and Tripp (RAP) counties.

Little Blue Heron - 1 May, Minnehaha Co. (JL). 20 May, Clark Co., 2 (WNWR).

Cattle Egret - Reported from Beadle (BKH), Brookings (JSP), Brown (DAT), Clark and Deuel (BKH), Day (JCS), Hanson (DGP), Minnehaha (JL), and Roberts (BKH) counties.

White-faced Ibis - 16 April, Clark Co., very early (JSP). 19 April, Day Co., 25+ (JCS). 24 April, Day Co., 20 (WNWR). 16 May, SLNWR (DGP, DAT). 20 May, Clark Co., 5 (BKH).

- Trumpeter Swan - 25 May, Fall River Co. (JSP).
- Ross' Goose - 19 March, Minnehaha Co., 2 (JL). 30 March, Brown Co. (DAT). 30 March, Hamlin Co., 4 (BKH). 17 April, Edmunds Co., 7 (JDW).
- Wood Duck - 4 March, Minnehaha Co. (NP, CK, MS).
- Cinnamon Teal - 23 March, McCook Co., earliest ever; 3 April, Hanson Co.: 12 April, Douglas Co. (DGP). 9 April, Meade Co., 3 (EM). 6 May, Marshall Co., 2 (WNWR). 16 May, SLNWR (DGP, DAT). 25 May, Bennett Co. (JSP).
- Greater Scaup - 18 March, Hanson Co., 8 (DGP). 7 April, Deuel Co., 3 pair (BKH).
- OLDSQUAW - 19 April, Yankton Co., 2 females (DGP).
- Red-breasted Merganser - 13 March, Yankton Co., 2 (BKH). 19 March and 16 April, Kingsbury Co. (JSP). 23 March, McCook Co. (DGP). 28 April, WNWR, 15 (WNWR).
- Turkey Vulture - Reported from Edmunds (JDW), Lincoln (SFBC), and Minnehaha (AH) (NP) counties.
- Osprey - Reported from Brown (DAT), Brule (DGP), Custer (MMM), Day (DRS), Deuel (BKH), Dewey (SS), Edmunds (JDW), Hutchinson (DGP), Lake (JSP), Meade (EM), Minnehaha (NP, CK), Pennington Co. (NRW) (EM), Roberts (BKH), and Yankton (DGP) counties.
- Bald Eagle - Reported from Brookings (JFK, RWK) (BKH), Brown (JCS), Day (WNWR), Kingsbury and Lake (JSP), Minnehaha (JL), and Roberts (BKH) counties.
- Ferruginous Hawk - 5 April, Meade Co., 22 (EM).
- Golden Eagle - 5 March, Lake Co.; and 10 April, Brown Co. (JCS). 27 March, Day Co. (DRS).
- Merlin - 29 March, Pennington Co. (MMM). 30 April, Turner Co. (JL).
- Peregrine Falcon - 25 April, Minnehaha Co. (NP). 26 April, Roberts Co., and 10, 14 May, Deuel Co. (BKH). 30 April, Edmunds Co., photographed (JDW). 4 May, Shannon Co. (RAP).
- Prairie Falcon - 30 April, Minnehaha Co., pair (JL).
- Sandhill Crane - 27 May, WNWR, late (WNWR).
- Black-bellied Plover - 25 May, Bennett Co. (JSP).
- Lesser-Golden Plover - 15 May, Spink Co., 104 (DGP).
- Long-billed Curlew - 11 April, Meade Co., early (EM).
- Hudsonian Godwit - 16 April, Kingsbury Co., early (JSP).
- Sanderling - 16 May, Day Co., 25 +- (DGP, DAT). 20 May, Clark Co., 4 (BKH). 27 May, Kingsbury Co. (JSP).
- Western Sandpiper - 9 April, Hanson Co., very early (DGP).
- White-rumped Sandpiper - 30 April, Minnehaha Co., very early (JL).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper - 19 May, Kingsbury Co. (JSP).
- American Woodcock - 23 March, Minnehaha Co., early (NP).
- Callifornia Gull - 21 March, Stanley Co., earliest ever (RAP, JP). 24 March, Davison Co. (DGP). 2 April, Kingsbury Co., and 26 May, Hughes Co. (JSP).
- Least Tern - 31 May, Pennington Co., Cheyenne River (MMM).
- Snowy Owl - 5 March, Kingsbury Co. (JCS). 19 March, Kingsbury Co. (JSP). 1 April, Fall River Co. (RAP).
- Long-eared Owl - 15 March, Edmunds Co. (JDW).
- Short-eared Owl - 31 March, Edmunds Co., 10 (JDW). Also reported from Custer Co. (MMM).
- Whip-poor-will - 24 April, Clay Co., very early (KD).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 24 May, Minnehaha Co. (NP, CK). 24 May, Clay Co. (DS).
- Red-headed Woodpecker - 12 March, Meade Co., pair, earliest ever (EM).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher - 14 May, NHSP (SFBC). 25 May, Minnehaha Co. (NP).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - 25 May, Union Co. (DS, KD, EL).
- Dusky Flycatcher - 22 May, Lawrence Co. (JSP).
- Say's Phoebe - 3 April and 7 May, Hanson Co. (DGP).

Tree Swallow - 9 April, Lake Co., very early (JSP).
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow - 17 April, Lincoln Co., very early (JL).
 Rock Wren - 14 May, Edmunds Co., photographed (JDW). 21 May, Stanley Co. (NRW).
 Winter Wren - 3 April, Hanson Co. (DGP). 10, 17 April, Lincoln Co. (JL).
 Marsh Wren - 19 March, WNWR, earliest ever (WNWR).
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 14 May, NHSP (SFBC). 30 May, NHSP, pair (DS, EL).
 Mountain Bluebird - 13 March, Edmunds Co. (MZ). 3 April, Brown Co., pair (EL).
 Veery - 21 May, Minnehaha Co. (NP).
 Hermit Thrush - 16 April, Minnehaha Co. (NP). 30 April, Edmunds Co. (MZ).
 Wood Thrush - 26 April, Brookings Co., early (JAK). 4 May, Clay Co. (KD). 14 May, NHSP (SFBC). 14 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 15 May, Edmunds Co. (MZ). 21 May, Minnehaha Co. (NP). 27 May, Brown Co. (JCS). 28, 31 May, Lincoln Co., Wilson Savannah (JL).
 Northern Mockingbird - 15 May, Custer Co. (MMM). 19 May, Brown Co. (JCS). 21 May, Stanley Co. (JSP). 22 May, Roberts Co. (DAT).
 Sprague's Pipit - 24 April, Minnehaha Co. (NP, CK).
 Solitary Vireo - Reported from Clay (KD), Custer (JSP), Edmunds (MZ), Hanson (DGP) and Hughes (NRW) counties.
 Yellow-throated Vireo - 26 April, Minnehaha Co., earliest ever (NP). 4 May, Clay Co. (KD, DS, EL). 14 May, NHSP (SFBC).
 Golden-winged Warbler - 16 May, HBSP (DGP, DAT). 22 May, Lawrence Co., male singing, rare in western SD (JSP).
 Tennessee Warbler - 27 April, Clay Co., ties earliest ever (KD).
 Nashville Warbler - Reported from Lake (JSP), Minnehaha (NP), Roberts (DAT, DGP), and Union (KD) counties.
 Northern Parula - 25 April, Lake Co., very early (JSP). 3 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Chestnut-sided Warbler - Reported from Lake (JSP), Minnehaha (DGP), Roberts (DGP, DAT), and Union (DS, KD, EL, SVS) counties.
 Magnolia Warbler - Reported from Brown (DAT), Hanson (DGP), Lake (JSP), Minnehaha (AH), and Union (KD) counties.
 Cape May Warbler - 14 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 16 May, Union Co. (KD, DS).
 Black-throated Green Warbler - 7 May, Union Co., ties earliest ever (KD). 10 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Palm Warbler - 6 May, Tripp Co. (RAP).
 Blackpoll Warbler - 4 May, Edmunds Co., very early (MZ).
 Cerulean Warbler - 14 May, NHSP (SFBC). 30 May, NHSP, 2 singing males (DS, EL).
 Northern Waterthrush - 6 May, Tripp Co. (RAP).
 Mourning Warbler - Reported from Brown (DAT) (JCS), Day (WNWR), Minnehaha (JL), (NP, CK), and Union (KD) counties.
 MacGillivray's Warbler - 23 May, Custer Co. (JSP).
 Wilson's Warbler - 6 May, Pennington Co. (MMM).
 Canada Warbler - Reported from Brown (DAT), Lake (JSP), and Union (KD, DS, EL) counties.
 Yellow-breasted Chat - 14 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 25 May, Union Co. (KD, DS, EL).
 Scarlet Tanager - 10 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 16 May, Union Co. (DS, KD, EL, SVS). 26 May, Clay Co. (DW). 30 May, NHSP (JL).
 Black-headed Grosbeak - 14, 15 May, Brown Co., 2 (JCS).
 Clay-colored Sparrow - 22 April, Edmunds Co., very early (MZ).
 Lark Sparrow - 17 May, Davison Co. (DGP). 30 May, NHSP (JL).
 Lark Bunting - 5 May, Brown Co., 2 (JCS).
 Savannah Sparrow - 18 April, Custer Co. (MMM).
 Fox Sparrow - 10, 17 April, Lincoln Co., flock (JL).

- Lincoln's Sparrow - 26 March, Minnehaha Co., earliest ever (SFBC).
 Swamp Sparrow - 1 April, Clay Co., earliest ever (DS,EL).
 White-throated Sparrow - 27 May, Lake Co., latest ever spring (JSP).
 Harris' Sparrow - 26 May, Minnehaha Co., late (NP,CK).
 Dark-eyed Junco - 26 May, Clay Co., late w/injured leg (DW,DS,KD,EL).
 Rusty Blackbird - 26 March, Minnehaha Co. (SFBC).
 Brewer's Blackbird - 21 April, Yankton Co. (DGP). 30 April, Minnehaha Co. (JL).
 Orchard Oriole - 26 April, Meade Co., earliest ever, survived late winter storm in a barn (EM).
 White-winged Crossbill - 28 March, Deuel Co., single, last date observed (BKH).

REPORTS REQUIRING ACCEPTANCE BY THE RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:

- Ross' Goose - 16 March, Brown Co., 60 (JCS).
 Merlin - 13 March, Brown Co., 10 (JCS).
 Black-necked Stilt - 16 May, Brown Co., 2 (DAT,DGP).
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 17 May, Custer Co. (MMM).
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 2 May, Fall River Co. (RAP).
 Western Wood-pewee - 30 May, NHSP, singing (DS,EL).
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - 9 May, Brown Co. (JCS).
 Alder Flycatcher - 21 May, Minnehaha Co., singing (NP). 23 May, Union Co. (DS,EL). 29 May, Kingsbury Co. (DS).
 Carolina Wren - 12, 15 May, Minnehaha Co. (JL).
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 7 May, Lake Co. (JSP).
 White-eyed Vireo - 25 April, UCSP (DS). 3 May, UCSP (EL,KD,TH).
 Blue-winged Warbler - 16 May, Union Co. (KD).
 Palm Warbler - 30 April, Pennington Co. (MMM).
 Prothonotary Warbler - 12, 14 May, Brown Co. (JCS). 14 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Worm-eating Warbler - 13 May, Brown Co. (JCS).
 Kentucky Warbler - 30 May, NHSP, male singing (JL).
 LeConte's Sparrow - 30 April, Minnehaha Co. (JL).
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow - 17 May, LNWR (DS,EL).

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