

SOUTH DAKOTA  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH  
BIRD



DAKOTA  
NOTES

VOL. 42

MARCH 1990

NO. 1

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Associate Editors: Erika Tallman and David Fuller.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As I write this page, we are having our second touch of winter out here on the prairie. Having had almost two months of spring-like weather, many people are experiencing spring fever.

Spring fever to birders means looking for the first arrival of our favorite bird species. Maybe to some of us that means waterfowl, or the Mountain and Eastern Bluebirds that add so much color to a spring day. So as you await the return of your favorite birds this spring, keep in mind several SDOU activities that fit right in with spring birding.

We have only three years to complete the first Breeding Bird Atlas. Now is a good time to start a bit of early atlasing to help you later on. As you drive around your local area, keep an eye open for used raptor nests, which now are easy to see with the leaves off of the trees. Some of these nests may already be occupied by nesting Great Horned Owls. Check these nests later to see if raptors are using them. The Atlas Committee is interested in the location of all raptor nesting.

Another thing you can do on your early spring hikes is select a block from the atlasing maps and search the area for cavities in trees. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees will be using these holes later in the year. Again, these cavities are easier to find with leaves off of the trees. From my experience in atlasing, I feel we may miss some of these species.

Also, when you receive the newsletter, it will contain a list of blocks that need more coverage. Look this list over and, if possible, spend some time in these blocks so that we get 100% coverage for our atlas.

The second item is our spring meeting in Bison. I am looking forward to this meeting because, in my few years in South Dakota, this area is the only part of the state that I have not birded. These meetings have given me, as an educator, a wonderful experience, in that I have visited almost every corner of the state.

So, mark 18-20 May on your calendar and attend the SDOU spring meeting in Bison. Good birding and atlasing!--Ken Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka 57543.



# BANDING RECOVERIES OF SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS

Part 1: Woodpeckers , Swifts, and Flycatchers.

by Dan Tallman  
Northern State University  
Aberdeen 57401

**INTRODUCTION.** This article is the first of a projected series summarizing bird banding recoveries of South Dakota birds. I have included birds banded and/or recovered outside the state. I have begun this series with woodpeckers because of these data are the first I have received from the Banding Office. In this survey, I have included only birds that have crossed the South Dakota state line.

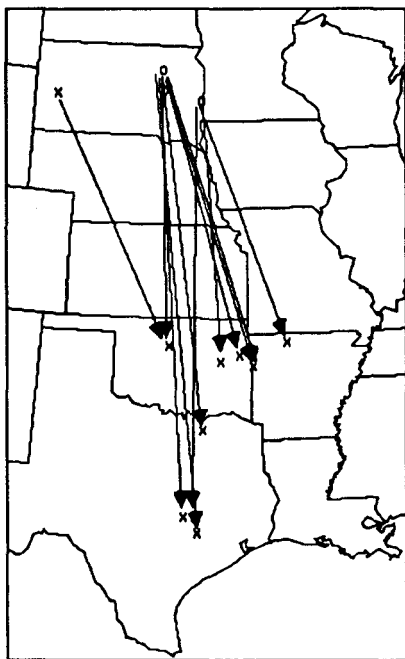
**METHODS AND MATERIALS.** The information upon which these maps are based come from a printout run on 5 January 1990 by the Banding Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The maps were computer generated on MapMaker for the Macintosh by Select Micro Systems, Inc.

**EXPLANATION OF THE MAPS.** On these maps, "O" is the approximate point of banding and "X" is the approximate point of recovery. Because the Banding Office does record exact locality data and because the computer mapping is imprecise, the location points on the maps should only be considered as approximate. When discrete banding or recovery points are close together, they are represented by a single "O" or "X". The arrows also reflect points of origin and recovery. We have no guarantee that birds that were recovered well after the year of banding have not enjoyed wide migratory patterns in the interval between banding and recovery. Identical records are not indicated on the maps. Some records that do not add to the informational content of the map have also been ignored.

**A WORD ON THE TEXT.** The maps tend to be fairly self explanatory. However, to the left of the maps, I have included a short text that identifies the species for which the map is drawn and a mention of some of the more noteworthy records.

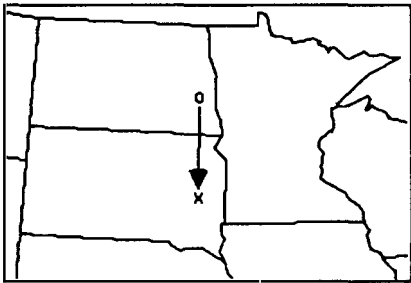
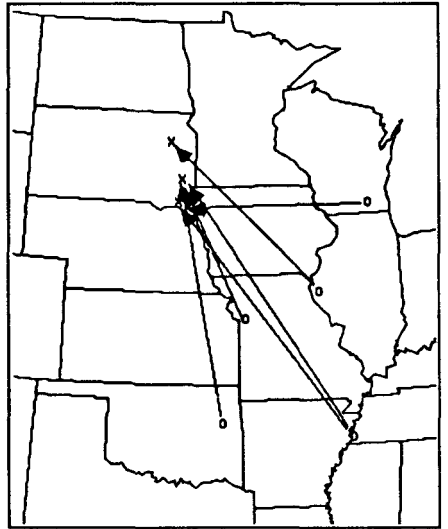
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Map 1. Red-headed Woodpecker. The bird banded in northern Illinois on 20 May 1940 was recovered sometime in June 1940 in South Dakota.



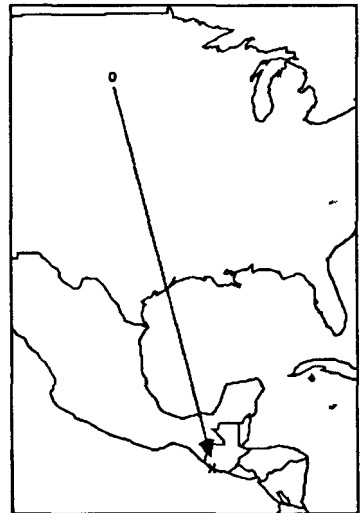
Map 2. Northern Flicker. These data include records of Yellow-shafted, Red-shafted and intermediate forms. Most South Dakota birds are probably hybrids. Notice that the flicker banded in Rapid City migrated parallel to birds from the east. Seven birds were recaptured in the same season as being banded, the shortest interval being one banded in South Dakota on 22 September 1939 and recovered 20 October 1939 in northern Texas.

Map 3. Chimney Swift. No Chimney Swift was recaptured in the same migration during which it was banded. Presumably all spent the interval at least once in South America, where the species winters. The oldest bird was at least six years old, having been banded on 20 September 1958 and recovered sometime in June 1964.



Map 4. Western Kingbird. The Western Kingbird is intriguing because all six other recoveries of both this species and the Eastern Kingbird are local recaptures. Some are even birds recaptured

after quite some time, e.g., a Western Kingbird banded on 26 May 1935 was recaptured in the same area on 30 May 1941. But the map is of a Western Kingbird banded in North Dakota, where it either was born or bred, on 17 July 1938 and recaptured in South Dakota on 10 June 1939, which is during the next breeding season.



Map 5. Least Flycatcher. The map shows a bird banded in South Dakota on 15 August 1970 and found in Guatemala on 24 December 1970.

# SOUTH DAKOTA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 1989 SUMMARY

Richard A. Peterson  
 HC 46, Box 49  
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Seven of the observed species are considered to be of Casual or Accidental status during the breeding season. So, after two years, the project has accounted for the occurrence of 214 of the 219 species that are known to have nested in the state in recent years. Many thanks to the birders who contributed to the SDBBA project in 1989. I am looking forward to 1990 and more outstanding fieldwork.

Abbreviations used in the chart are as follows: O = number of species observed but with no breeding evidence; PO = birds possibly breeding; PR = birds probably breeding; CO = confirmed breeding; Total = number of species for which records were taken. The change in total species compares 1989 and 1988 data.

REGION	TOTAL OBSERVA- TIONS	O	PO&PR	CO	TOTAL	CHANGE IN TOTAL SPECIES
BUTTES (1)	400	7	81	28	116	+47
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Trumpeter Swan (PR), Sage Grouse (PR), many Ferruginous Hawks, and Long-billed Curlew (CO) by Richard and Jaunita Peterson. Merlin (CO) and Common Poorwill (CO) stumbled over by Michael Melius.						
HILLS (2)	570	9	52	99	160	+16
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Western Grebe (CO) by Northern Hills Bird Club and Cooper's Hawk (CO) by Ernie Miller. 3 Northern Mockingbirds (PR), Veery (PO), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (PO), Evening Grosbeak (PO) and House Finch (CO) in Edgemont, all by Richard and Juanita Peterson.						
PLAINS (3)	1	2	37	10	49	+1
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> The only reported observation: Least Flycatcher singing in a wood draw near Mud Butte.						
CHEYENNE (4)	130	5	44	34	83	+18
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Golden Eagle (PO) and Common Snipe (PO). American Avocet (CO) and Great Blue Heron (CO) by Ernie Miller.						
LAKOTA (5)	425	6	67	59	132	+26

<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Merlin (PO), Common Snipe (PO), Common Poorwill (PO), Northern Saw-whet owl (PO), Pinyon Jay (PO), Black-and-White Warbler (PO), Western Tanager (PO), Dark-eyed Junco (CO), all by Richard Peterson.						
<b>DIVIDE (6)</b>	160	2	59	11	72	+48
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Black-billed Cuckoo (PO), White-breasted Nuthatch (PR), Yellow-breasted Chat (PO), Lazuli Bunting (PO).						
<b>GUMBO (7)</b>	225	1	45	32	78	+26
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Northern Harrier (CO) by Bob Summerside. Barn Owl (PO) and Eastern Wood Pewee (PO) by Richard Peterson. Black Tern (PR), Rock Wren (PO) and Clay-colored Sparrow (PO) by Nat Whitney and Rex Riis.						
<b>ROSEBUD (8)</b>	375	7	58	61	126	+55
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Golden Eagle (PO), Common Snipe (PO), Common Poorwill (PO), Eastern Phoebe (PO) by Richard Peterson. Black-and-White Warbler (CO), Eastern Meadowlark (CO), and Swamp Sparrow (PO) all by Paul and Virginia Springer in Todd Co.						
<b>OAHE (9)</b>	400	6	49	49	104	+47
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Eared Grebe (CO), Western Grebe (CO) by Bob Summerside						
<b>POTHOLE (10)</b>	120	2	40	31	73	+13
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Many Ferruginous Hawks (CO), Short-eared Owl (PO) by Michael Melius. Northern Harrier (CO) by Dan Reinking. Burrowing Owl (CO) and many Swainson's Hawks (CO) by J. David Williams.						
<b>PRAIRIE (11)</b>	130	3	36	37	74	+13
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Willow Flycatcher (CO), Eastern Bluebird (CO), and Cedar Waxwing (CO)						
<b>RANDALL (12)</b>	190	7	56	34	94	+29
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Great Egret (CO), Snowy Egret (CO), Cattle Egret (CO), Little Blue Heron (O), Black-crowned Night-Heron (CO), all reported by John Jave, Lake Andes NWR, and American Woodcock (CO) by Mary Clawson (SDGFP).						
<b>DAKOTA (13)</b>	290	5	55	34	94	+67
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Say's Phoebe (PO), Alder Flycatcher (PO), Sedge Wren (PR), and Greater Prairie Chicken (PO) all by Robert Russell.						
<b>JAMES (14)</b>	170	4	47	27	78	+12
<b>HIGHLIGHTS:</b> Great Egret (O) and Northern Cardinal (PR).						
<b>SISETON (15)</b>	290	9	59	49	117	+29



**HIGHLIGHTS:** Ring-necked Duck (PO) and Brewer's Blackbird (PO) by Robert Russell. Common Tern (CO), Ring-billed Gull (CO) and American White Pelican (CO), all by Dennis Skadsen.

<b>LAKES (16)</b>	165	5	48	52	105	+39
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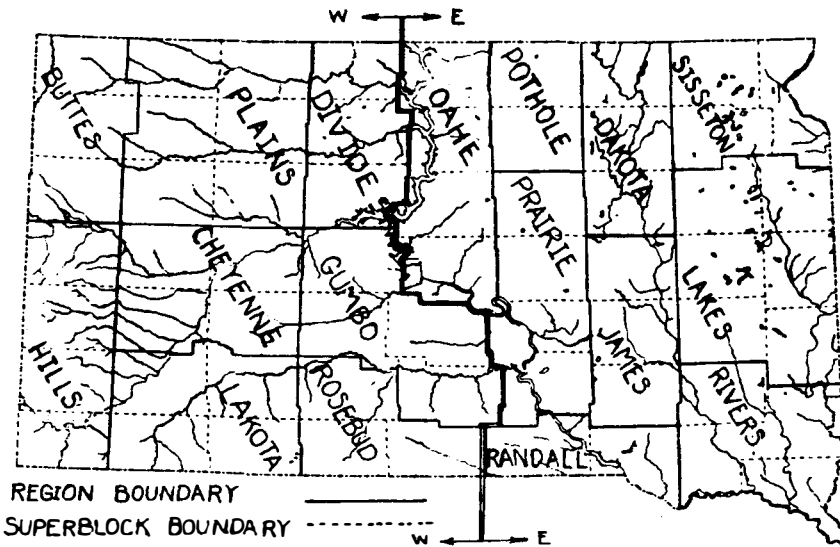
**HIGHLIGHTS:** Eared Grebe (CO), 2200-2500 nests estimated by Robert Russell in 16M8, Clark Co. Hooded Merganser (PO) by Robert Buckman. Common Snipe (CO) by Dick Gilbert and Brian Kietzman. 3 Chimney Swift (CO) and Le Conte's Sparrow (PR) by Dan Reinking and House Finch (CO) in Brookings by Nelda Holden, Bruce Harris, and Paul Springer.

<b>RIVERS (17)</b>	600	8	51	52	111	+42
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**HIGHLIGHTS:** Least Bittern (PR) photographed by Willis Hall. Eastern Phoebe (CO) by Amos Benson. Say's Phoebe (CO), Burrowing Owl (PO) by Robert Buckman. Chestnut-collared Longspur (PR) by Richard Peterson. Pine Siskin (CO) by Charles and Gladyce Rogge.

**STATEWIDE TOTALS**

1989	4641	12	40	169	221	+13
1988	3772	8	60	140	208	



ATLAS GRID & REGIONS

# 1989 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Paul F. Springer  
1610 Panorama Drive  
Arcata, CA 95521

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee met at Pierre on 10 December 1988, 22 April 1989, and 22 July 1989 and at Madison on 8 October 1989. Five members were present at each meeting.

After moving to Florida, Jocelyn Baker resigned from the committee on 27 September 1988, leaving the membership as follows: Nathaniel Whitney (acting chairperson), Paul Springer (secretary), Gilbert Blankespoor, Byron Harrell, Bruce Harris, Nelda Holden, and Dan Tallman. At the SDOU Board of Directors meeting on 20 May 1989, it was decided to decrease the committee's size to five members. As of 8 October 1989, the current members are Whitney, Springer, Blankespoor, Harris, and Tallman.

A description of the committee's purpose and voting procedures is presented in the September 1988 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes* (40:67-70). Observers of rare and unusual birds in South Dakota are urged to report them to the committee secretary or to any member of the new committee. A Documentation of Rare Bird Sightings form is available for this purpose. A list of those species for which descriptions are requested is included as Appendix 1 to this report. Observers are also asked to submit reports on other species that are rare or unusual at a particular season or location within the state. Persons whose records are accepted (Classes 1 and 2) are encouraged to publish them in *Bird Notes*. Citations are given for those records listed in this report that are already published.

Following are the results of the committee's actions since the previous report in the September 1988 issue of *Bird Notes*. The numbers in parentheses within a species' listing indicate the committee's vote. If not stated, the vote was unanimous (5-0). The committee emphasizes that a rating of Class 3 or 4 does not imply any personal criticism of the observer. Rather, these classes simply indicate that the committee did not find the description complete enough to be entirely convincing.

## **CLASS 1** (Accepted - Specimen, photograph, or sound recording).

- Little Blue Heron. 1 May 1988, 1 at Shadehill Reservoir, Perkins Co., photographed by David Griffiths.
- Hudsonian Godwit. 8-9 May 1989, 4 at Volga, Brookings Co., photographed by Dan Reinking.
- Great Gray Owl. 25 January 1984, 1 near Dell Rapids, Minnehaha Co., mounted and photographed, William Bradwisch.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl. 15 February 1988, 1 at Ipswich, Edmunds Co., photographed by J. David Williams.
- Common Raven. 9 November 1987, 1 at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Brown Co., photographed by Sam Waldstein (probably the same bird seen on 3 October 1987 by Everett Montgomery).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 7 May 1988, 1 near Ipswich, Edmunds Co., photographed by J. David Williams.

Great-tailed Grackle. 14-15 May 1988, 1 male at Lake Yankton, Yankton Co., photographed by Steve Van Sickle.

**CLASS 2** (Accepted - Satisfactory written description).

- Mute Swan. 13-14 July 1988, 1 near Madison, Lake Co., Robert Buckman.  
Oldsquaw. 27 April 1988, 1 male at Shadehill Reservoir, Perkins Co.,  
David Griffiths.  
Broad-winged Hawk. 27 April 1988, 1 at Rapid City, Pennington Co.,  
Nathaniel Whitney.  
Gyr Falcon. 4 October 1986, 1 near Newell, Butte Co., Ernest Miller (4 =  
Class 2, 1 = Class 3).  
Whooping Crane. 17 April 1984, 9 near Winner, Tripp Co., Gail Ferris (4 =  
Class 2, 1 = Class 3).  
Whimbrel. 20 May 1989, 1 at Kadoka Lake, Jackson Co., Paul Springer.  
Sabine's Gull. 17 September 1988, 1 at Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte Co.,  
Paul Springer.  
Pomarine Jaeger. 2 October 1987, 1 at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge,  
Brown Co., Dan Tallman (4=class 2, 1= abstain).  
Snowy Owl. 2 July 1988, 1 near Sturgis, Meade Co., Nathaniel Whitney.  
Rufous Hummingbird. 16 July 1988, 1 near Hot Springs, Custer Co., Mar-  
jorie Parker.  
Pileated Woodpecker. 21 October 1986, 1 female at Big Stone City, Grant  
Co., D. George Prisbe, SDBN 39:65.  
Eastern Wood-Pewee. 8 August 1979, 1 at Wind Cave National Park, Custer  
Co., Carlyn Jervis.  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. 5 August 1985, 1 at Kadoka, Jackson Co., Ken  
Graupmann.  
Cassin's Kingbird. 22 May 1981, 1 at Wind Cave National Park, Custer Co.,  
Lynn Hetlet.  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. 26 June 1988, 1 near Parmelee, Todd Co.,  
Robert Brashears.  
Common Raven. 3 October 1987, 1 near Houghton, Brown Co., Everett  
Montgomery (probably same bird photographed on 9 November by  
Sam Waldstein).  
Brown Creeper. 17 June 1987, 1 at Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln Co.,  
Robert Rogers, SDBN 41:13.  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 30 April 1989, 1 female at Kamp Game Production  
Area, Moody Co., Dan Reinking.  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 26 August 1989, 1 at 12 miles south of Brookings,  
Moody Co., Lois and Darrell Wells.  
Varied Thrush. 11 November 1981, 1 male at Custer State Park, Custer Co.,  
Michael Laycock.  
Northern Mockingbird. 4 May 1986, 1 at Frankfort, Spink Co., Gladys  
Cole.  
White-eyed Vireo. 8 May 1987, 1 at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co., Mark  
Skadsen.  
Black-throated Blue Warbler. 26 June - 4 July 1988, 1 male near Custer,  
Custer Co., Richard Peterson.  
Prairie Warbler. 20 August 1977, 1 male at McNenny Fish Hatchery,  
Lawrence Co., Richard Rosche.

- Prothonotary Warbler. 2 May 1988, 1 male near Clear Lake, Deuel Co., Bruce Harris.
- Prothonotary Warbler. 15 May 1989, 1 male near Brookings, Brookings Co., Nelda Holden.
- Prothonotary Warbler. 20 May 1989, 1 male at Oakwood Lakes State Park, Brookings Co., Ross Kindermann.
- Worm-eating Warbler. 7 May 1988, 1 near Prairie City, Perkins Co., David Griffiths.
- Louisiana Waterthrush. 8 May 1987, 1 at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co., Mark Skadsen.
- Mourning Warbler. 2 June 1989, 1 at Harding, Harding Co., Richard Peterson.
- Lazuli Bunting. 16 May 1988, 1 male at Oakwood Lakes State Park, Brookings Co., Catherine Sandell.
- House Finch. 30 May 1988, 1 female at Edgemont, Fall River Co., Richard Peterson.
- Lesser Goldfinch. 5 May 1988, 1 male at Badlands National Park, Jackson Co., Jay Shuler.

**CLASS 3.** (Not accepted - Identification possibly correct but description not completely convincing).

- Red-shouldered Hawk. 27-28 June 1989, 1 at Meckling, Clay Co. (4 = Class 3). Bands on underside of tail were not noted. Size of an individual bird is difficult to judge.
- Piping Plover. 6 May 1984, 1 at Wind Cave National Park, Custer Co. (3 = Class 2, 1 = Class 3, 1 = Class 4). The committee thought that a road edge at an overgrazed prairie dog town was an unusual habitat for this species, and the observer had no previous experience with the species.
- Great Gray Owl. 25 March 1989, 1 near Hecla, Brown Co. (5 = Class 3). The poor light conditions at 15-20 minutes after sunset prevented observation of plumage coloration. Also, the probability of a Snowy Owl, particularly a dusky immature female, was not ruled out. This would have been only the second South Dakota record.
- Common Poorwill. Summer 1985, 1 at Tabor Recreation Area, Bon Homme Co. (2 = Class 2, 3 = Class 3). Observer did not give phonetic description of call and did not eliminate Chuck-will's-widow.
- Common Poorwill. 5 August 1987, 1 near Orient, Faulk Co. (2 = Class 2, 2 = Class 3, 1 = Class 4). The committee felt that the edge of glacial hills was an unusual habitat for the species. The vocal distance was great, the call was not compared to those of other caprimulgids, and the observer did not attempt to record the call, even though a recorder was available.
- Vermilion Flycatcher. 22 May 1981, 1 female near Wind Cave National Park (1 = Class 2, 4 = Class 3). The observer had no previous experience with the species, did not prepare a written description at the time of the sighting (which could cause difficulty in recalling details 7 years later), and did not mention all features (many subtle) distinguishing a female Vermilion Flycatcher from a Say's Phoebe.
- White-eyed Vireo. 2 December 1988, 1 near Letcher, Sanborn Co. (1 = Class 2, 4 = Class 3). Bird was out of range and season, having been recorded only 4 times previously, all in the southeastern part of the state in May

or early June. Observer had no previous experience with the species and did not rule out the similar appearing Pine Warbler, which is a hardy species that frequent pine trees. SDBN 41:42.

Worm-eating Warbler. 2 June 1987, 1 near Rapid City, Pennington Co. (1 = Class 2, 2 = Class 3, 1 = Class 4, 1 = abstain). The committee thought that the possibility of a Red-eyed Vireo had not been completely eliminated. Observer did not describe body movements and foraging behavior of the bird and did not attempt to record the song, even though a recorder was available.

**CLASS 4.** (Not accepted - Identification probably incorrect).

Three-toed Woodpecker. 21 June 1985, 1 male at Beaver Creek Nature Center, Minnehaha Co. (1 = Class 2, 2 = Class 3, 2 = Class 4). Observer did not eliminate a Hairy Woodpecker. Bird was far out of range and season.

Virginia's Warbler. 30-31 May 1977, 1 male at Wind Cave National Park, Custer Co. (2 = Class 3, 2 = Class 4, 1 = abstain). Observer had no previous experience with the species, which would have constituted the first state record. Observer did not provide a description of the song and did not separate the bird from the closely related Nashville Warbler or from a similar plumage and song of the Yellow-rumped Warbler.

**STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.**

Iceland Gull. 11 December 1988, 1 at Gavin's Point Dam, Yankton Co.

Glaucous Gull. 11 December 1988, 10 at Gavin's Point Dam, Yankton Co.

Le Conte's Sparrow. 12 May 1989, several at Pott's Dam, Potter Co. and Stone Lake, Sully Co.

**APPENDIX 1. REVIEW LIST OF RARE AND UNUSUAL BIRDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA.**

The Rare Bird Records Committee requests written documentation, including photographs and sound recordings when possible, of the species on this list. Additionally, documentation is requested of species new to the state that are not on this list as well as species that are out of season or out of range within the state. A Documentation of Rare Bird Sightings form is available for submission of reports.

Red-throated Loon

Pacific Loon

Clark's Grebe

Brown Pelican

Olivaceous Cormorant

Tricolored Heron

White Ibis

Wood Stork

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Mute Swan

Emperor Goose

Brant

Eurasian Wigeon

Common Eider

Black Scoter

Surf Scoter

Barrow's Goldeneye

Black Vulture

American Swallow-tailed Kite

Black-shouldered Kite

Mississippi Kite

Red-shouldered Hawk

Chukar

Blue Grouse

California Quail  
Yellow Rail  
King Rail  
Common Moorhen  
Whooping Crane  
Snowy Plover  
Mountain Plover  
Black-necked Stilt  
Eskimo Curlew  
Whimbrel  
Red Knot  
Ruff  
Red Phalarope  
Pomarine Jaeger  
Parasitic Jaeger  
Long-tailed Jaeger  
Laughing Gull  
Thayer's Gull  
Iceland Gull  
Glaucous Gull  
Black-legged Kittiwake  
Sabine's Gull  
Band-tailed Pigeon  
Groove-billed Ani  
Northern Hawk Owl  
Barred Owl  
Great Gray Owl  
Boreal Owl  
Chuck-will's-widow  
Calliope Hummingbird  
Broad-tailed Hummingbird  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Williamson's Sapsucker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Alder Flycatcher  
Vermilion Flycatcher

Cassin's Kingbird  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Steller's Jay  
Common Raven  
Mountain Chickadee  
Boreal Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Carolina Wren  
Bewick's Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Northern Wheatear  
Varied Thrush  
Curve-billed Thrasher  
White-eyed Vireo  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Black-throated Gray Warbler  
Townsend's Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Cerulean Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Worm-eating Warbler  
Louisiana Waterthrush  
Kentucky Warbler  
Hooded Warbler  
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House Finch  
Lesser Goldfinch

## GENERAL NOTES

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL SIGHTING IN MEADE COUNTY.** Northern Saw-whet Owls are considered rare residents of spruce and pine forests in the Black Hills (Whitney, et al. 1978. *The Birds of South Dakota*. SDOU, Vermillion). However, saw-whet owls have been reported to nest extensively in woodpecker cavities in deciduous riparian woodlands in Colorado and Idaho (Johnsgard, P. A. 1988. *North American Owls - Biology and Natural History*. Smithsonian Institute Press, Washington D. C.). On 8 June 1988, I observed three juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owls (Fig. 1) in the Bureau of Land Management's Fort Meade Recreation Area southeast of Sturgis, Meade County. I was measuring trees in the area when I noticed the owls sitting motionless in a small Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) tree. The habitat was a narrow woodland dominated by Bur Oak in the overstory, with an understory of mainly Missouri Gooseberry (*Ribes missouriense*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), and Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*). The woodland was approximately 100 m from Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) habitat. I was unable to find the nesting cavity, and repeated visits to the area have not revealed any other saw-whet owls. However, the owls were completely silent and motionless, and would be difficult to notice.



Figure 1. Juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owl in Meade County.

Carolyn Hull Steg, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, South Dakota School of Mines Campus, 501 E. St. Joseph Street, Rapid City 57701.

**SWALLOW NIGHT ROOSTS.** By late summer, large mixed flocks of swallows gather around our prairie lakes. The birds are highly visible as they forage over the water and rest on powerlines. But, since they have com-

pleted nesting, where do they spend nights? On 12 September 1989, Peter Meyer and I canoed by moonlight on lake Faulkton. We had rounded the cattail arm of "Scout Island" and were gliding in the lee (SE) side when we heard wings from the cattails. Several calls suggested the noise came from blackbirds. Farther along we steered into the cattails, producing a flurry of wings as dozens of swallows rose and flew around us before settling back into the marsh. Two nights later we repeated the experience, finding blackbirds at the open south end of the island and swallows near the trees at the north end. This location seems to be a secure, if cool and moist, night roost. Do swallows roost in cattails at other lakes, even in nonisland situations? *Michael Meltus, HCR 89 Box 275, Hermosa 57744.*

**MAJOR BREEDING COLONIES OF EARED GREBES AND FORSTER'S TERNS DISCOVERED IN CLARK COUNTY.** Dry Lake Number Two State Shooting Area deserves a better name. This shallow, marsh-rimmed sump, covering approximately 10 square miles in southern Clark Co., is located 3 miles northwest of the town of Willow Lake. Russell "Discovered" this site on a Breeding Bird Atlas trip to investigate Block M8 of Region 15, on 5 June 1989. He found a concentration of breeding Eared Grebes and Forster's Terns that marks this site as the major breeding area in the entire state for these species. Indeed, the number of breeding Eared Grebes may exceed that of any colony, historic or contemporary, ever recorded in the Dakotas! Harris, who visited the site later in June, noted more breeding Forster's Terns than in any other South Dakota wetland he had ever visited. Staggering numbers of American Coots, hundreds of pairs of ducks of at least seven species, and a variety of herons, egrets, gulls, and shorebirds were also present. This biologically diverse and readily accessible area warrants intensive future investigations by birders and researchers.

Dry Lake Number Two is reached by driving west on South Dakota 28, 3 miles from the town of Willow Lake, then north 3 miles on a gravel road to the west side of the reserve (see USGS 1:24,000 Willow Lake and Vienna West quads for map coverage). Continue north another 2 miles, then head east on a gravel road for 3.5 miles. The road eventually becomes diked and crosses the northeastern portion of the lake. The dike is attractive to dozens of nonbreeding Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls, while to the north, a large number of dead trees holds a small Double-crested Cormorant colony. North and northeast of Dry Lake lie numerous ephemeral ponds and alkali flats supporting numbers of shorebirds. These habitats are likely to be excellent in spring migration.

Russell's first view of Dry Lake Number Two was like a prairie scene reminiscent of the avifaunal abundance contained in the writings of early American naturalists. These descriptions occasionally seemed so far-fetched that one wonders whether they were written years later or embellished with a swig of campfire rum. The enormity of the scene dawned slowly on Russell as he realized that the many hundreds of stationary Eared Grebes and coots sitting on the sparse vegetation were all sitting on floating nests.

Russell didn't have a telescope, but he did count nests within distance from the road of a couple of hundred yards, using 10 x 40 binoculars. He felt his grebe estimates were conservative, considering he only counted actual nests with sitting adults, plus an added factor of 25% for missed nests.



The grebes were in several large colonies, with two major ones on the western portion of the lake and a huge one northeast of the diked road on the east side of the area. Russell counted 680 grebe nests on the west side and 1120 on the northeast side, for an approximate total of 1800 nests. Within the bands of emergent vegetation, the nests were strung out in long rows, about a yard apart, and three to four rows deep. Many nests lined up behind other nests were difficult to count and many back row nests were lost from view in clumps of vegetation. Estimating a minimum of 450 nests not actually counted but presumed to be there, Russell arrived at a total estimate of 2250 nests, an astounding figure, for which no parallels exist in the ornithological literature of the Dakotas.

Harris' 30 June visit to the lake revealed a different situation. Emergent vegetation had greatly increased in density, making nest spotting difficult. Additionally, a series of severe wind storms had struck the area in mid-June and may have caused serious nesting failure on the preserve. Russell had roughly estimated between 2000 and 4000 American Coot nests on 5 June, but Harris found no young, indicative of a major early season breeding failure. Harris did note, however, hundreds of renesting coots at this time. Harris also added that he would not contest Russell's estimate, based on Harris' evidence. Western Grebe estimates were also different, perhaps for the same reasons. Russell estimated just over 100 pairs while Harris found 12 pairs with small young.

Forster's Terns were notably common but spatially patterned quite differently on our two visits. Russell estimated 100-200 birds for the Atlas project, while Harris counted 135 actual nests and felt that was a minimum figure. On 5 June, the terns were all concentrated in one area on the west side of the lake, where emergent vegetation met deeper water, far from shore. Harris found the birds distributed in five different colonies on the west, east, and northeast sides. His impression was that the terns were just beginning to renest, probably following the severe storms to which this species is particularly vulnerable. We speculate that the dispersal of the terns from one colony to five colonies located in different areas of the lake may have been an adaptive mechanism to produce at least some young the year by exploiting different physical settings potentially less vulnerable to storms.

Numerous other waterbirds were recorded, some of which are noted in the following list. Both of our visits to Dry Lake Number Two were very brief and inadequate to properly sample the diverse avifauna. Hopefully, future investigations will determine whether such large numbers are an annual occurrence or the result of fortuitous conditions this year. We think it is imperative that no "habitat improvements" be made that might jeopardize the unique characteristics of this waterfowl production site, which the grebes and terns find so attractive.

Population estimates

5 June (Russell)	species	30 June (Harris)
2200 nests minimum	Eared Grebe	375 plus young
100+ pairs	Western Grebe	12 pairs plus young

100 pairs each	Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Redhead, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck	no estimate
2000-4000 on nests	American Coot	"hundreds, no young"
240+	White-rumped Sandpiper	5
	Great Egret	8, no evidence of nesting
	Snowy Egret	13, no evidence of nesting
0	Lesser Yellowlegs	14
0	Greater Yellowlegs	5
75	Franklin's Gulls	75 (not breeding on either visit)
1 pair	Common Tern	not recorded

Robert P. Russell, 1204 S Washington Street #20W, Alexandria, VA and Bruce Harris, Box 605, Clear Lake 57226.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA: The Oscine Passerines** by Robert S. Ridgely and Guy Tudor. 1989. University of Texas Press, Austin. Hardbound. 562 pp. \$65.00.

The word "Awesome" perhaps best describes this work, the first of a projected four-volume set on the birds of South America. Anyone traveling in the region will want this handbook. Others, who enjoy fine artwork or wish to fill out their libraries with regional bird books, will also be interested.

The \$65.00 price is surprisingly low and leads me to suspect that the project has been heavily subsidized. In the book are 31 superb color plates by Guy Tudor, one of today's most renowned bird artists. Each species account includes a clear range map and notes on identification, habitat, behavior (including call), and range.

Perhaps a drawback is that not all species are illustrated. The authors assure the readers that all representative forms are depicted. When one finds a painting that looks similar to a bird in the bush, the text will direct one to the proper identification by clearly defining similar species. This strategy seems dubious, but I should reserve judgement until I actually try field identification in Latin America. The authors recommend bringing along other field guides, such as those to Venezuela or Panama. I do think the casual birder could identify most of what he or she saw, and this accomplishment may be all that should be expected during a first visit to a new zoogeographic realm.

The volumes are supported by the World Wildlife Fund and other conservation organizations. The introduction includes a list of threatened species, the inclusion of which may help in the conservation of these birds. Also included is a list of places harboring endemic birds. Attention to these areas may help protect these extremely threatened locations and the species they support. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen 57401.*

#### REVIEW UPDATES

Four books that have been reviewed in this journal recently have appeared as new editions. I have included the Bird Note citation for the original review for each of the books.

The first is *A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* by Flint, Broehme, Kostin, and Kuznetsov published by Princeton University Press (reviewed SDBN 39(1):17-20; March 1987). This book is now in paperback at \$27.50 compared to the hefty \$68.50 hardbound price.

*The Common Loon: Spirit of Northern Lakes* by Judith W. McIntyre, published by the University of Minnesota Press (reviewed SDBN 41:16-17; March 1989), is the best of the recently published works on loons. According to the publisher, this second printing is only a slightly modified version of the first edition. Indeed, the only change my very cursory inspection uncovered was in McIntyre's biography at the book's end. The mistake on page 17 (the word happen spelled "happpen") remains in both editions. The quality of the color photographs in my copies of the text are slightly better in the second edition, but this difference may be simply the result of a different press run. The book's price has risen from \$25.00 to \$35.00, which is still a good buy.

We also have the second edition of Robert Ridgely's *A Guide to the Birds of Panama*, now coauthored by its illustrator, John A. Gwynne. This edition, still published by Princeton University Press, differs greatly from the first edition (which, to my surprise, we have not previously reviewed in *Bird Notes*, the first edition having been published in 1976). Now included in the text are birds of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras. The price has taken a hefty rise, from \$15.00 to \$49.50. This increase is probably not unreasonable, considering inflation and the massive revision that has taken place between printings.

Finally, we have a revised edition of *A Guide to the Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands* by Herbert A. Raffaele, published by Princeton University Press. Eleven new bird species are added to the list and the bird data of St. Croix have been greatly updated. The plates now refer to the proper pages of the text for the birds portrayed. This edition is similar to the first and is recommended for the traveler to these islands. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen 57401.*

# THE 1989 FALL MIGRATION

compiled by Dennis Skadsen  
RR Box 113, Grenville 57239

For most of the state, weather for the period was marked by above average temperatures and below normal precipitation. Temperatures reached the upper 80's during mid-October. Most of South Dakota was dry during the season, except for the Black Hills, which experienced near normal precipitation. Parts of the hills received 10 to 18 inches of snow during the last week of November.

A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Brown Co. was the latest ever reported by 42 days, and a pair of Grasshopper Sparrows observed in Marshall Co. were also unusually late. A major hawk migration was noted by observers in Marshall and Brown counties on 22 and 23 September. A definite invasion of White-winged Crossbills began in October, with a peak of 100 observed in Brookings Co. Red-breasted Nuthatches were also numerous in eastern South Dakota. Both the nuthatches and crossbills migrated earlier than usual. Rarities for the season included observations of three Oldsquaws (including a specimen collected below a TV tower), three Whooping Cranes in Sully Co., a Varied Thrush in Marshall Co., and four Sharp-tailed Sparrows in McPherson Co.

Correction to the 1988 Fall Migration: Caspian Tern--11 September, Hamlin Co., 3 (BKH).

Abbreviations used in this report include: SLNWR - Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge; PLSRA - Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area; WNWR - Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

Observers Cited in this report are:

Dan J. Brady (DJB)	Ernest E. Miller (EEM)
Mark Brogie (MB)	Robin Nelson (RKN)
Chuck Casanova (CC)	Marjorie J. Parker (MJP)
Andy Cutko (AC)	Richard A. Peterson (RAP)
Todd Frerichs (TF)	D. George Prisbe (DGP)
Dick Gilbert (DG)	Bob Rogers (BR)
Willis Hall (WH)	Mark S. Skadsen (MSS)
Bruce K. Harris (BKH)	Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS)
Jerry Hatling (JH)	Eileen Spevak (ES)
Sally Hatling (SH)	Jerry Stanford (JCS)
Augie Hoeger (AH)	Dan A. Tallman (DAT)
Blanche Johnson (BJ)	Elizabeth Weaver (EW)
Jan Kieckhefer (JKi)	Keith Weaver (KW)
John Koerner (JK)	Nathaniel R. Whitney (NRW)
Lester R. Lauritzen (LRL)	J. David Williams (JDW)
Michael M. Melius (MMM)	John Young (JY)

Common Loon--Observed in Day, Deuel, and Dewey Co..

American White Pelican--18 November, SLNWR, 2, very late (JK et al.).

Double-crested Cormorant--21 November, Yankton Co., 4 (WH).

Great Blue Heron--10 November, Brown Co., late (DGP).

Great Egret--11 September, Minnehaha Co., 60 flying overhead (MSS).

Cattle Egret--2 September, Day Co., 52 (JCS). 16 September, Clark Co., 42 (MMM).  
4 October, Marshall Co., 20 (BKH).

Green-backed Heron--8 October, Kingsbury Co., 2 (DJB).  
 White-faced Ibis--3 September, Day Co., 2 (DGP).  
 Tundra Swan--25 September, SLNWR, 1, very early (JK et al.).  
 Trumpeter Swan--16, November, Fall River Co., 3 (RAP).  
 Greater White-fronted Goose--9 November, SLNWR, 20, late (JCS).  
 Snow Goose--22 September, Day Co., 35 (DRS). 6 November, SLNWR, peak of  
 152,000 (JK et al.). 27 November, Roberts Co., 3 late (BKH).  
 Ross' Goose--7 November, Marshall Co. (BKH).  
 Green-winged Teal--29 November, Yankton Co., 13 (WH).  
 American Black Duck--2 October, Marshall Co. (JY).  
 Northern Shoveler--30 October, Day Co., 125 (BKH).  
 American Wigeon--19 October, Meade Co., Bear Butte Lake, 3000 (EEM).  
**Oldsquaw**--11 November, Marshall Co., specimen recovered below tower (fide  
 BKH). 19-23 November, Yankton Co., 2 (WH).  
**Surf Scoter**--5 November, Yankton Co. (MB).  
**Barrow's Goldeneye**--23 November, Pennington Co., Canyon Lake (NRW).  
 Hooded Merganser--30 October, Deuel Co., 4 (BKH). 7 November, Day Co. (DG et  
 al.). 24 November, Yankton Co. (WH).  
 Osprey--12 September, Edmunds Co. (DGP). 13 September, Haakon Co. (DGP). 14  
 September and 21 October, Meade Co. (EEM). 19 and 21 September, Marshall  
 Co. (BKH). 19 September and 2 October, Faulk Co. (MMM).  
 Bald Eagle--Observed in Brown, Codington, Custer, Day, Marshall, and Yankton  
 Co.  
 Northern Harrier--25 November, Deuel Co. (BKH).  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk--18 October, PLSRA, banded (DRS). 17 and 30 November,  
 Brookings Co. (JKI). 23 November, Brown Co. (DAT).  
 Northern Goshawk--14 September, Marshall Co. (BKH). 17 November, Meade Co.  
 (EEM).  
 Broad-winged Hawk--19 September, Edmunds Co. (JDW).  
 Ferruginous Hawk--3 September, Roberts Co. (DGP).  
 Rough-legged Hawk-- 8 November, Marshall Co., 12 (AC).  
 Merlin--4 September, Marshall Co., 2, **earliest ever** (BKH).  
 Peregrine Falcon--2 September, Marshall Co., **ties earliest ever** (BKH).  
 Prairie Falcon--15 August, Deuel Co., very early (BKH). Also observed in Fall River,  
 Hyde, Jackson, Kingsbury, Marshall, McPherson, Meade, and Shannon Co.  
 Sharp-tailed Grouse--19 September, Brown Co., 8 (BKH). 14 October, Brown Co.,  
 10 (JCS). 18 November, WNWR, 12 (DG et al.).  
 Sandhill Crane--7 October, Custer Co., 6000 (MJP).  
**Whooping Crane**--6 November, Sully Co., Stone Lake, 3 (IF).  
 Black-bellied Plover--30 October, Marshall Co., 7, late (BKH). 6 November, Brown  
 Co., 1, very late (JCS).  
 Lesser Golden-Plover--27 September, Marshall Co., 82 (BKH).  
 American Avocet--29 September, Marshall Co., 14 (BKH).  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper--8 August, Deuel Co., 30 (BKH).  
 Stilt Sandpiper--8 August, Deuel Co., 85 (BKH).  
 Franklin's Gull--10 August, Day Co., 1500+ (DRS).  
 Bonaparte's Gull--30 October, Deuel Co. (BKH).  
 Mourning Dove--27 August, Pennington Co., 200 (NRW).  
 Eastern Screech-Owl--1 November, Meade Co. (EEM).  
 Long-eared Owl--28 September, Turner Co. (LRL).  
 Short-eared Owl--12 August, Roberts Co. (DGP). 6 November, Brown Co. (BKH). 9  
 November, Custer Co. (MMM). 29 November, PLSRA (DRS).  
 Northern Saw-whet Owl--18 October, Brown Co., first of 3 banded (DAT).  
 Common Nighthawk--15 August, Pennington Co., 20 (NRW). 4 October, Minnehaha  
 Co., very late (AH).  
 Whip-poor-will--22 September, PLSRA, banded, rare migrant in NE (DRS).  
 Chimney Swift--30 September, Minnehaha Co., very late (AH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird--26 August, PLSRA, released from mist net (DRS). 31 August, Minnehaha Co., pair (MSS). 7 September, Minnehaha Co., 2 (AH). 25 September, Brookings Co. (JKI). 1 October, Brown Co., late (DGP).

Red-bellied Woodpecker--7 October, Minnehaha Co., Sioux Falls (AH). 21 October, Minnehaha Co., Beaver Creek Recreation Area (MSS). 28 October, Brown Co., 2 (DAT). 27 November, Day Co. (JH, SH fide DRS). 15 - 30 November, Codington Co. (ES).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker--2 September, Roberts Co. (DGP). 25 September. Minnehaha Co. (AH). 26 September, Brown Co. (DAT). 26 September, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 30 September, Beadle Co. (BJ).

Three-toed Woodpecker--28 October, Lawrence Co. (RAP).

Black-backed Woodpecker--6 November, Meade Co. (EEM). 12 November, Pennington Co. (JDW). 6 August, Lawrence Co., 2 (MMM).

Olive-sided Flycatcher--27 August, PLSRA, banded (DRS). 2 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 10 September, Marshall Co. (BKH).

Eastern Wood-Pewee--17 September, Minnehaha Co., adults feeding fledged young, very late nesting attempt (AH).

Eastern Phoebe--27 September, Marshall Co., late (JY).

Western Kingbird--17 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 17 September, Brown Co. (DGP). Late dates.

Bank Swallow--16 September, Marshall Co., late (BKH).

Cliff Swallow--16 September, Marshall Co., late (BKH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch--23 August, Brown Co., very early (DGP). PLSRA, 10 banded during season (DRS). Other East River observations in Brookings, Deuel, Edmunds, Lake, Marshall, Meade and Minnehaha Co..

House Wren--11 October, Minnehaha Co., **latest ever** (AH).

Winter Wren--3 October, Sanborn Co. (BR). 23 October, Hand Co. (BR).

Golden-crowned Kinglet--21 September, Edmunds Co., very early (JDW).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher--24 August, Deuel Co. (BKH). 13 September, Minnehaha Co., 2 (AH).

Mountain Bluebird--10 October, Kingsbury Co., rare migrant east (DJB).

Townsend's Solitaire--13 September, Jackson Co. (DGP). 24 November, Brown Co. (DAT).

Hermit Thrush--27 October, Brown Co. (DAT). 12 November, PLSRA, very late (DRS).

Wood Thrush--12 September, Brown Co., 2 (JCS).

Varied Thrush--28 September, Marshall Co. (JY).

Water Pipit--5 September, Marshall Co., **ties earliest ever** (BKH). 10 October, Marshall Co., 16 (BKH).

Bohemian Waxwing--24 November, Brown Co., 1 (DAT).

Solitary Vireo--9 September, Minnehaha Co. (MSS).

Philadelphia Vireo--12 and 13 September, Minnehaha Co. (MSS).

Red-eyed Vireo--25 October, Brown Co., very late (DGP).

Tennessee Warbler--3 August, PLSRA, 1 banded, **earliest ever** (DRS).

Nashville Warbler--27 August, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 19 September, Brown Co. (DGP). 25 October, Sica Hollow, very late (JY).

**Northern Parula**--12 September, Minnehaha Co. (MSS).

Chestnut-sided Warbler--13 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 12 November, Brown Co., **latest ever** by 42 days, photographed (DGP).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**--16 September, PLSRA. rare (DRS).

Blackburnian Warbler--25 August, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

Bay-breasted Warbler--20 August, Minnehaha Co., very early (AH). 11 and 13 September, Minnehaha Co. (MSS).

Northern Waterthrush--18 August, Brookings Co. (BR).

Canada Warbler--15 August, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

Blue Grosbeak--3 August, Brown Co. (RKN, CC fide DGP).

Rufous-sided Towhee--25 September, Brown Co., spotted form (DAT). 29 September, Marshall Co. (BKH).  
 Lark Bunting--27 August, Pennington Co., **250** (NRW).  
 Savannah Sparrow--24 September, **Custer Co.**, 10 (MJP).  
 Grasshopper Sparrow--24 October, Marshall Co., **2, latest ever** (BKH).  
 Le Conte's Sparrow--11 August, Day Co., 3 (DGP). 28 September, Brown Co., 2 (JY).  
**Sharp-tailed Sparrow**--23 September, McPherson Co., Ordway Prairie, 4 (DAT).  
 Fox Sparrow--13 October, Sanborn Co. (BR). 20 October, Marshall Co. (BKH).  
 Lincoln's Sparrow--27 October, Sanborn Co., very late (BR).  
 White-throated Sparrow--28 October, **Lawrence Co.**, rare in west (RAP).  
 White-crowned Sparrow--3 October, Brookings Co., **25** (JKI). 10 September, Custer Co., 2 (MJP).  
 Harris' Sparrow-- 8 October, Fall River Co., 2 (RAP). 23 October, Pennington Co., 2 (NRW).  
 Smith's Longspur--11 October, Marshall Co., 20 (BKH).  
 Eastern Meadowlark--14 September, Shannon Co. (DGP).  
 Rusty Blackbird--5 November, McPherson Co., **150** (JDW).  
 Orchard Oriole--7 September, Marshall Co., very late (BKH, JY).  
 Pine Grosbeak--26 November, PLSRA, **20** (DRS).  
 Purple Finch--Observed in Brown, Day, Marshall, and Minnehaha Co..  
 Cassin's Finch--28 November, Meade Co. (EEM).  
 House Finch--2 August, Minnehaha Co., 2 (AH). 16 November, Union Co., 3 (KW, EW). 26 November, Yankton Co., 8 (WH).  
 Red Crossbill--Only reports from Brown and Pennington Co..  
 White-winged Crossbill--9 August, Beadle Co., very early (BJ). 21 October, Brown Co., 30 (DAT). 30 October, Marshall Co. (BKH). 28 October, SLNWR, (JK. 12 November, PLSRA, 25 (DRS). 13 November, Brookings Co., **100** (JKI). 30 November, Codington Co., 7 (BKH).  
 Common Redpoll--Reported from Brown, Codington, Deuel, and Marshall Co..  
 Pine Siskin--17 September, PLSRA. 12+, very early (DRS).

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