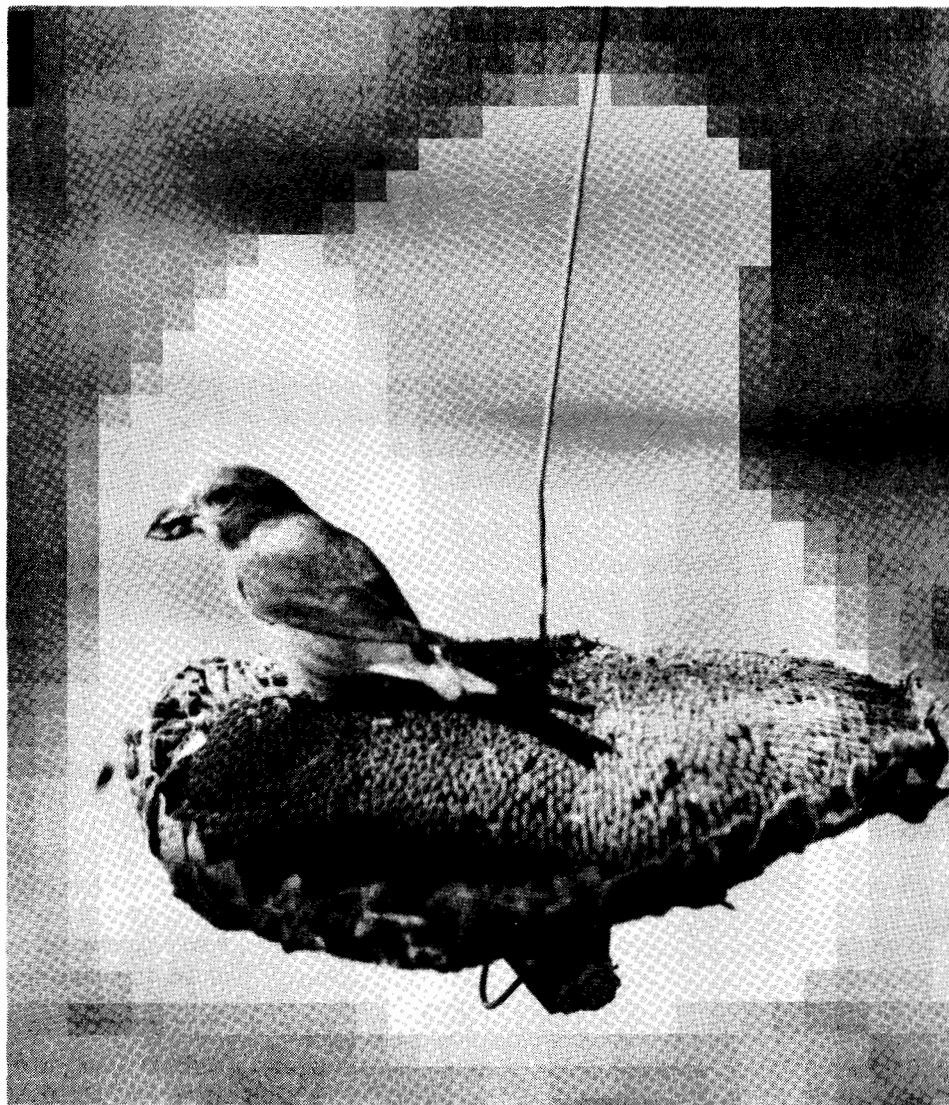


SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH
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DAKOTA
NOTES

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It doesn't seem like two years have already gone by since I became president of SDOU. It has been a real pleasure to serve such a great organization. I would like to thank all of you who aided my term in office. Your help was greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Pierre on 4-6 October for our fall meeting. If you have a paper to present, just give Rex Riis a call.

I would also like to inform you that the spring meeting will be in Sturgis the weekend before Memorial day weekend. We will be hosted by the Sturgis Bird Club.

By now most of you have had a chance to see the second edition of *The Birds of South Dakota*. The committee spent a lot of time and effort putting together this excellent book. If you haven't acquired your copy yet, you only need to contact Dan Tallman at NSU to get one. We offer the book at the reduced rate of \$24.00 plus tax for SDOU members (\$29.95 for nonmembers). We also can use help selling copies. Contact your local library, campgrounds, and book stores, show them a copy, and give them Dan's name to order copies. I wish to personally thank all of the committee members and anyone else who helped with the book and commend you for a job extremely well done.

I would also like to take this one last page to ask for your help in completing our breeding bird atlas. It will probably take another two years to finish all of the field work. So, any one who can help collect data from the blocks, would be greatly appreciated. I thank the members of the atlas committee for all the work that they have put into the project. If you want to help, just contact Dick Peterson. He can supply you with all the necessary materials.

Now a bit of unfinished business. I failed to include a bird, Northern Waterthrush, in the spring count at Bison last year. Also, at Brookings this year, another species was added after the call-off, the Red Crossbill. Now I won't tell you that the initials of the person who saw these birds was Paul Springer. But I will tell you that he had the help of Bob Rogers. So everyone can add these species to the lists that you keep of our spring meetings. Next year I am going to stay with Paul just in case he sees an Eskimo Curlew.

Again, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as president of a great organization. I wish you all the best of birding. Ken Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka, South Dakota 57543.



THE WAUBAY BLUEBIRD TRAIL: 1990 BREEDING SEASON

By Dennis Skadsen
RR Box 113 Grenville, SD 57239

Nesting—Nest construction began earlier than usual due to the unseasonably warm weather of late March and early April. Two nests were completed on 7 April and the first eggs were laid on 20 April. The early start at nesting however was interrupted by an ice storm on 28 April, followed by heavy snowfall on 29 April. Eight nests were abandoned during these storms. Cold weather persisted through May and early June, with snow on the ground once more on 3 June! The first young to hatch and survive did so on 27 May. These young fledged around the third week of June. Nesting lasted well into August with young remaining in one nest as late as 19 August.

Nest Failure —As previously mentioned weather played a key role in nest failure during late spring (see Table I). Nests containing full clutches were rarely abandoned during inclement weather, but those nests containing only 2-3 eggs were. Evidently, females have a stronger tie to the nest once incubation has started.

The weather was extremely hard on Tree Swallows. After the 29 April snowstorm, 29 adult Tree Swallows were found dead in nest boxes. Apparently the birds succumbed to hypothermia. Many may have starved to death. The usual large nesting population of this species never returned to the refuge.

Predation by mammals, mainly raccoons, was the second highest cause of nest failure during the year. New box designs will be tried during the 1991 season in hopes of eliminating mammalian predation. The post mounted pole guards no longer seem to prevent raccoons from reaching nest boxes. I received several inquiries from other bluebird watchers in the area about preventing mammal predation. This problem appears to be widespread. Profes-

TABLE I. BLUEBIRD NESTING AND BANDING DATA 1990

Nest boxes used:	32
Nesting attempts:	39
Successful:	7
Failed:	32
Number of eggs laid:	166
Avg. number of eggs per clutch:	4.2
Number of eggs hatched:	58
Number of young fledged:	29
Reason for failure	
Weather:	10
Predation by mammals:	9
Predation by House wren:	8
Unknown:	5
Number of young banded	
Female:	19
Male:	9
Unknown:	1
Number of adults banded	
Female:	5
Male:	4
Number of banded adults recaptured:	3
Originally banded in 1989	
Male: (banded as nestlings)	2
Female:	1

sional game managers give low fur prices and increased habitat due to the conservation reserve program as reasons for the raccoons' increased population. Table II gives data on the number of nests lost to mammalian predation from 1986 to present.

Wren predation also increased, but this may be attributed to the later renesting by blue-

birds due to the inclement spring weather. This renesting coincided with the wrens' peak nesting period of June. Many nest boxes were relocated in March 1990 in hopes of reducing predation by this species.

Banding—Twenty-nine young and 9 adult bluebirds were banded during the 1990 breeding season. For the first time since banding began in 1987, bluebirds banded as nestlings were recaptured as adults nesting on the trail. Both of these males were banded during the 1989 nesting season. A female bluebird banded as an adult in 1989 was also recaptured. All previous recaptures prior to 1990 have been male bluebirds banded as adults.

Only 17 Tree Swallows were banded during 1990, and only two recaptures of previously banded birds occurred. One of the two recaptures was an adult female originally banded in 1987.

GENERAL NOTES

Breeding Birds in Upland and Lowland Deciduous Forests/Woodlands. The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union Breeding Bird Atlas Project has complete its third year of data collection. Part of this collection involves habitat description. The four major habitat codes are listed in Table 1. More specific habitats are also categorized, two of which are 1) Upland forest/woodland and 4) lowland forest/woodland. These categories are further subdivided as A) deciduous, B) coniferous, C) mixed.

Table 1. The four general habitat codes.

N	mostly native plants, little or no disturbance
NM	some noticeable disturbance, such as pasture with mostly exotic species (brome or bluegrass), a small stock dam, a recently logged area of the Black Hills
MN	mostly disturbed: ditches, uncultivated fields and other weed patches, rural shelter belts, Missouri River reservoirs
M	man-made environments: shade trees in urban and suburban areas, nest boxes, bridges, buildings, cultivated fields of wheat, corn, alfalfa, etc.

Table 2. Mammalian Predation 1986-1990

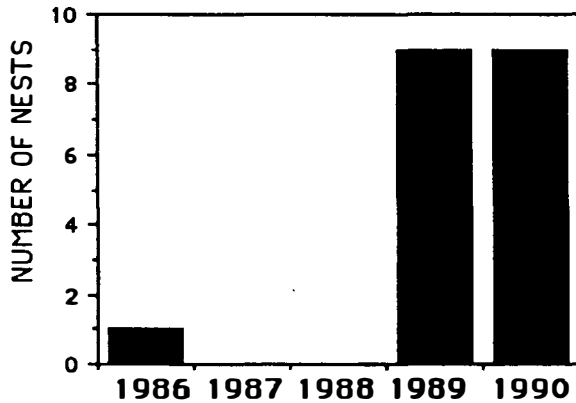


Table 2 includes data from the habitats of 1A and 4A from 91 random blocks. I have deleted all species with fewer than five records (45 total).

Table 2 contains 1092 records of 54 bird species (the total data base for the atlas project now contains 10,230 records).

Table 2. Breeding Birds of Deciduous Upland/Lowland Forests/Woodlands

SPECIES	N		NM		MN		M		TOTALS
	01A	04A	01A	04A	01A	04A	01A	04A	
AMERICAN CROW	0	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	8
AM. GOLDFINCH	0	4	0	8	22	3	2	0	39
AMERICAN KESTREL	0	4	1	4	11	1	0	0	21
AMERICAN ROBIN	0	1	2	9	27	3	9	0	51
BARN SWALLOW	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	1	7
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	0	2	0	3	4	0	0	0	9
BL.-CAPPED CHICKADEE	1	2	1	5	9	3	0	0	21
BL.-HEADED GROSBEAK	0	5	0	4	2	0	0	0	11
BLUE GROSBEAK	0	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	7
BLUE JAY	1	4	3	5	21	3	1	0	38
BROWN THRASHER	0	8	0	7	27	4	1	0	47
BROWN-HEAD COWBIRD	0	4	1	3	7	1	0	1	17
CHIPPING SPARROW	0	0	1	1	3	1	2	0	8
COMMON GRACKLE	0	5	3	9	29	10	7	0	63
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	7
C. YELLOWTHROAT	0	1	0	3	8	3	0	0	15
DOWNY WOODPECKER	1	1	1	8	14	2	0	0	27
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	0	2	0	3	7	1	0	0	13
EASTERN KINGBIRD	0	8	2	6	32	5	0	0	53
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	5
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	9
EUROPEAN STARLING	0	3	2	2	19	1	1	0	28
GRAY CATBIRD	0	2	1	2	4	2	0	0	11
GR. CR. FLYCATCHER	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	7
GREAT HORNED OWL	0	2	0	5	6	2	0	0	15
HAIRY WOODPECKER	1	1	2	6	6	2	0	0	18
HOUSE SPARROW	0	1	0	0	8	1	3	0	13
HOUSE WREN	4	6	1	6	28	3	2	0	50
INDIGO BUNTING	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	6
LARK SPARROW	0	3	0	2	4	3	0	0	12
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	0	2	0	3	5	0	1	0	11
MOURNING DOVE	1	5	3	6	37	3	4	0	59
NORTHERN FLICKER	1	6	1	10	21	5	0	0	44
NORTHERN ORIOLE	0	6	5	5	18	3	1	0	38
ROUGH-WING SWALLOW	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	5
ORCHARD ORIOLE	1	12	1	8	34	2	1	0	59
RED-EYED VIREO	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
REDHEAD WOODPECKER	1	3	1	4	14	3	0	0	26
RED-TAILED HAWK	1	2	1	4	6	1	0	0	15
RED-WING BLACKBIRD	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	0	7
RING-NECK PHEASANT	0	2	0	1	5	0	0	0	8
ROSE-BR. GROSBEAK	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	5

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	0	4	0	1	2	0	1	0	8
SONG SPARROW	0	0	0	2	6	2	0	0	10
SWAINSON'S HAWK	0	0	2	4	11	1	0	0	18
TREE SWALLOW	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	7
WARBLING VIREO	1	1	1	6	9	4	1	0	23
WESTERN KINGBIRD	0	5	0	7	27	4	1	0	44
WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE	0	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	6
WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	5
WILD TURKEY	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	7
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	6
YELLOW WARBLER	0	11	0	10	11	2	1	0	35
YELLOW-BILL CUCKOO	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	5
TOTALS	15	153	39	204	545	92	42	2	1092

Very little native upland deciduous forest (N01A or NM04A) exists in South Dakota. Most of the upland deciduous forest is the result of tree plantings in rural shelterbelts (MN01A) and urban residential areas (M01A). Most of the native deciduous forest/woodlands in the state are found along creeks and rivers as riparian vegetation (N04A or NM04A). Therefore, note the importance of habitat type MN01A, which contains 545 of the 1092 records, indicating the importance of rural shelterbelts to many bird species. Also note the combined total of the 04A category, N04A + NM04A + MN04A + M04a = 451. Note further that 357 of the 451 (79%) are in the N or NM categories, or the more undisturbed habitats. This fact too indicates the importance of undisturbed lowland forest/woodland habitat to many birds.

Some cautions about the data. There may be differences in how the 24 observers categorized the habitats. Also, the relative amounts of all habitat types in the random blocks are unknown. *Robert Buckman, Dakota State University, Madison SD 57042.*

Rock Wren at Union County State Park. On the afternoon of 10 May 1991, at approximately 2:30 pm, we observed a Rock Wren on a large root ball on the east bank of Brule Creek, near the large open picnic area in the NE portion of Union County State Park. In this area, the banks of the Brule Creek are steep, with many exposed rock outcroppings. We saw the bird in good light at a distance of about 30 meters for about 2 minutes. The wren moved in and out of view in the root ball several times, but afforded us several very good views. The bird was large for a wren, noticeably larger than a House Wren, which was also present in the root ball at the time. The body was plump, giving the bird a rather stocky appearance. The plumage was light gray-brown on the back and wings, whitish on the throat, breast, and belly, and reddish-brown on the rump and tail. The throat and breast showed no apparent streaking. The bill was relatively long and thin. The tail was sometimes cocked and sometimes relaxed. Stephens et al. (1955. *The Birds of Union Co., South Dakota. Occ. Pap. Nebr. Ornithl. Union, No. 1*) do not list the Rock Wren for Union Co. and the second edition of *The Birds of South Dakota* (SDOU. 1991. NSU Press, Aberdeen) lists the Rock Wren as rare or unreported outside of its breeding range in Western South Dakota. *David Swanson and Kurt Dean, Department of Biology, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069.*

BOOK REVIEWS

AMERICAN WARBLERS by Douglas H. Morse. 1989. Harvard University Press. Cambridge. 406 pp. Cloth \$30.00.

This remarkable text covers what is known (and not known) about Wood Warblers. Lay readers and ornithology or upper level ecology students will all find something of value in this book. The scientific data are well explained in an evolutionary context, giving the reader a relatively easy opportunity to appreciate the workings of theoretical ecology. An example concerns the time of arrival for migrating warblers. Obviously early arriving males will be at the mercy of late spring storms. Late arriving males will find territories filled. Therefore, birds will arrive at some environmentally mediated optimum date. But what about females? They arrive after the males, but an optimum arrival date is selected for them too. Early arrivals will not find receptive males and will possibly also be killed by storms. Late arrivals will find territories filled (and last year's males will not wait for their old mates).

Also of interest are sections on tropical deforestation. The consequences of this destruction for American warblers are not clear. As many as half our bird populations winter in the West Indies, Mexico and northern Central America. While wintering, they live in much denser concentrations than while breeding. As Central American forests continue to be cleared, will our warblers shift their ranges to Northern South America? If they can shift south, can they survive an even longer migration? In the near future we should expect population decreases. The situation is further confused by apparent increases of some populations due to bans of some pesticides in our country. Nevertheless, if, as predicted, all nonreserve forests in Central America will be gone by the year 2000, warbler populations will certainly suffer.

The book is sparingly illustrated with adequate and utilitarian black and white drawings and charts. No color graces the text, which seems unfortunate for this group of birds, renowned for their splendiferous hues (but, of course, color would have added to the book's cost).

I read this book as though it were a novel. I enjoyed it so much, I didn't want the end to come (although my enjoyment may have been, in large part, due to my scientific training). Some sections held my attention more than others, depending on my interest on the subject. The sixteen chapters include passages on distribution, breeding seasonality, foraging, territories, predators and parasites, display, plumage, migration, rare species, ecology, hybrids, tropical species, and opportunities for further research. A long list of references is also offered. In short, I highly recommend this text to those interested in warblers and in avian ecology in general. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*

THE 1991 SPRING MIGRATION

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

To most birders, this springs' migration looked fairly lackluster with many birds, especially warblers, apparently overflying the state. Cool wet weather prevailed during the end of April and beginning of May. This report shows this season was one of the most interesting migrations in years. Note the reports of rare or accidental species, including Surf Scoter, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Golden-winged and Yellow-throated Warblers. Still unconfirmed is a report of a Brown Pelican sighted along the Missouri River in southeastern SD. March and April migrants were early due to the mild spring weather during that period. Earliest ever records were broken for 17 species, 3 species tied earliest ever records, and six records for latest ever observations were broken. A record number of Snow Geese, 1.2 million, descended on Sand Lake NWR. Add this total to other observations of 26, 27 March and close to 2 million Snow Geese were counted in the state. A record number of Ross' Geese were observed, with 133 birds counted, 112 in Lake County alone. Unusual numbers of Greater Scaup, Peregrine Falcons, and Piping Plovers were also reported. Out-of-range observations included a Pileated Woodpecker in Lake Co. and Rock Wren in Union County. Whip-poor-wills have become established in northeastern SD at Hartford Beach State Park. The park manager complained that these birds keep him up at night! Special thanks to Steve J. Dinsmore for reporting his SD observations

Weather for the period began dry with above normal temperatures for most of the state during February, March, and the first half of April. However May brought above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures to the entire region. A cold, wet period during the last week of April and first week of May delayed migration and caused high mortality among Tree Swallows using the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge bluebird trail.

Observers cited:

Barbara Bernstein (BB)
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Gillian Boswer (GB)
Dan J. Brady (DJB)
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J. David Williams (JDW)
Eileen Williamson (EW)
Joe Zarki (JZ)

Abbreviations used: BLNP — Badlands National Park; LNWR — LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge; NHSP — Newton Hills State Park; PLSRA — Pickerel Lake State Rec. Area; SLNWR — Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge; WNWR — Waubay National Wildlife Refuge; GLOS — Glacial Lakes Outdoor School.

- Common Loon — 29 May, Yankton Co. (SVS). 30 May, Deuel Co., Lake Cochrane, breeding plumage (PFS).
- Pied-billed Grebe — 21 March, Yankton Co., early (SVS). 5 May, Custer Co. (DCW).
- Horned Grebe — 14 April, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 27 April, Faulk Co., 4 (JDW).
- Red-necked Grebe — 15 May, WNWR, building nest (WNWR). 28 May, WNWR, 12 (WNWR). 30 May, Deuel Co., Lake Cochrane (PFS).
- Eared Grebe — 5 May, Custer Co., 26 (DCW). 7 May, Kingsbury Co., Lake Thompson, 600 (SJD). 28 May, WNWR, 63 (WNWR).
- Western Grebe — 25 May, Brookings Co., Oakwood Lake, 6 nests with eggs (JDW).
- Clark's Grebe — 5 May, Lake Co., Lake Herman (SJD). 7 May, Lake Co. (BKH).
- Least Bittern — 8 May, SLNWR (SLNWR).
- Great Blue Heron — 11 May, Lawrence Co., 17 nests (EEM).
- Great Egret — 18 April, LNWR (JP). 23 April, Yankton Co., 23 (SVS). 24 April, (13 and 2 May, (11), Yankton Co. (WH). 29 April, SLNWR (SLNWR). 26 May, Brookings Co. (NRW).
- Snowy Egret — 29 April (1) and 7 May (11), Kingsbury Co., and 7 May, Lake Co. (SJD). 2 May, Day Co., 3 (BKH). 11 May, WNWR (DRS). 20 May, LNWR (DS,JP). 20 May, SLNWR (SLNWR). 28 May, WNWR, 4 (WNWR).
- Little Blue Heron — 9 April, Deuel Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (BKH). 15 May, Kingsbury Co., Lake Thompson, 3 (SJD).
- Cattle Egret — 28 April, Lake Co. and 12 May, Kingsbury Co., 16 (SJD). 29 April, SLNWR (SLNWR). 9 May, Codington Co., 4 (BKH, RGR). 18 May, Day Co. (BKH, DRS).
- White-faced Ibis — 17 April, LNWR, very early (BJ). 18-23 April, Lake Co., 2 (SJD). 20 April, Day Co. (WNWR).
- Tundra Swan — 16 March, Lake Co., 5, very early (RB). 28 March, Roberts Co., 1480, several with black neck collars (KRE, RPR).
- Greater White-fronted Goose — 7 March, Yankton Co., very early (SVS). 9 March, SLNWR, 6, very early for NE (JCS). 28 March, SLNWR, 5000 (BKH). 4 May, Minnehaha Co., 5, late (MSS).
- Snow Goose — 21 February, Turner Co. (BS fide LRL). 26 March, Clark Co., Willow Lake, 75,000, and Brookings Co., Oakwood Lake, 100,000; 27 March, Faulk Co., Scatterwood Lake, 200,000 (BKH, KRE, RPR). 26 March, SLNWR, 1.2 million birds (SLNWR). 25 May, Jackson Co., 75+, very late (BJ, JZ).
- Ross' Goose — 16 March, Minnehaha Co., very early (MSS). 26 March, Brookings Co., 11; 27 March, Faulk Co., 2; 28 March, SLNWR, 8; (BKH, KRE, RPR). 28 March, Roberts Co. (KRE, RPR). 14 April, Lake Co., 112; 7 May, Lake Co., **LATEST EVER SPRING** (SJD). 6 May, Clark Co. (BKH, SJD).
- Canada Goose — 18 May, Day Co., pair with brood of 10 (BKH, DRS).
- Green-winged Teal — 5 February, Yankton Co. (SVS). 11 March, Deuel Co., 3, very early for NE SD (BKH).
- American Black Duck — 23 March, Brown Co. (DAT).
- Northern Pintail — 24 March, Meade Co., 400+ (NRW).
- Blue-winged Teal — 11 March, Brookings Co., 3, very early (BKH).
- Cinnamon Teal — 7 April - 20 May, Lake Co., 2, males (SJD). 15 April, SLNWR (SLNWR). 1, 5 May, Jackson Co. (BJ, JZ). 5 May, Brookings Co., pair (JRK). 7

- May, Lake Co. (BKH). 9 May, Sevee Lake, (EEM). 20 May, Brookings Co., male (JRK, JK).
- Northern Shoveler — 11 March, Brookings Co., very early (BKH).
- Gadwall — 5 February, Yankton Co. (SVS). 11 March, Brookings Co., 7; 5 April, Moody Co., 1200; 18 April, Deuel Co., 1500 (BKH). 10 April, WNWR, 299 (WNWR).
- American Wigeon — 4 March, Yankton Co. (SVS). 11 March, Brookings Co. (BKH). 10 April, WNWR, 299 (WNWR).
- Canvasback — 4 March, Yankton Co. (SVS). 11 March, Brookings Co. (BKH). 16 March, Minnehaha Co., 300 (MSS).
- Redhead — 18 February, Yankton Co. (SVS). 7 March, Yankton Co., 700 (WH). 9 March, Jackson Co., 25 (KG). 11 March, Hamlin Co., 200 (BKH). 10 April, WNWR, 364 (WNWR).
- Greater Scaup — 5 February, Yankton Co. (SVS). 21 March, Brown Co. (DAT). 28 March, SLNWR (BKH,KRE,RPR). 1 April, Yankton Co., 3 (WH). 1 April, Roberts Co., Big Stone Lake, 21 (BKH). 14 April, Lake Co., pair; 7 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD).
- SURF SCOTER** — 13 May, Yankton Co., female in breeding plumage, **LATEST EVER**, accidental spring migrant (SVS).
- Hooded Merganser — 4 March, Yankton Co., very early (SVS). 11 March, Brookings Co. (BKH). 15 March, Clay Co., 6 (MSS). 16 March, Lake Co., 8 (RB). 18 March, Yankton Co., 14 (WH). 22 March, SLNWR (SLNWR). 28 March, Day Co., pair (DRS). 31 March and 8 April, Tripp Co. (RAP). 2 May, Yankton Co. (SVS).
- Common Merganser — 29 May, Yankton Co., **LATEST EVER** (SVS).
- Red-breasted Merganser — 18 March, Yankton Co., very early (SVS). 24 March, Minnehaha Co., early (MSS). 1 April, (9) and 27 April, (12), Yankton Co. (WH). 13 May, Lake Co.; 15 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD).
- Turkey Vulture — 23 March, Deuel Co., very early (BKH). 5 April, Union Co. and 8 April, Clay Co., 4 (MSS). 10 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 19 April, Brookings Co. (JK, RWK). 20 April, Yankton Co. (SVS). 21 April, Deuel Co., 2 (JRK, JK). 10 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 15 May, NHSP, 31 (JL). 17 May, Deuel Co. (HW). 18 May, Hartford Beach State Park (DRS, BKH). 30 May, PLSRA (DRS).
- Osprey — 17 April, Pennington Co. (NRW). 22 April, Roberts Co. (BKH). 26 April, Kingsbury Co., 2 (SJD). 4-6 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 4 May, NHSP (DSw). 5 May, Custer Co. (DCW). 5 May, Clay Co., pair (DJB). 7 May, Pennington Co. (JZ). 16 May, Brown Co. (SLNWR). 18 May, Pennington Co. (MSS).
- Bald Eagle — 28 March, SLNWR, 165 (BKH,KRE,RPR). 23 May, Deuel Co., imm., late (BKH). Also observed in BLNP, Clay, Day, Deuel, Gregory, Hamlin, Lake, Marshall, and Union counties.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk — 7, 15 March, Brookings Co. (JK). 20 April, Minnehaha Co. (MSS, GWB).
- Cooper's Hawk — 5 February, Yankton Co. (SVS). 7 April, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 7 April, Jackson Co. (BKH, KG). 5 May, BLNP (BJ,JZ). 7 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD). 27 May, Roberts Co. (JDW).
- Northern Goshawk — 16 May, LNWR (DS).
- Broad-winged Hawk — 9 March, Lawrence Co., 5, **EARLIEST EVER** (EEM). 2 May, Custer Co., 200 kettling (MJP). 4 May, NHSP (DSw). 4 May, Brookings Co. (JRK, RWK). 5 May, PLSRA, 5, one banded (DRS). 7 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD). 17 May, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 18 May, Marshall Co., Sica Hollow (BKH, DRS).
- Red-tailed Hawk — 28 March, Deuel Co., adult building nest, **EARLIEST EVER NEST RECORD** (BKH).
- Ferruginous Hawk — 27 March, Faulk Co., adult on nest (BKH,KRE,RPR). 2 May, Roberts Co., adult on nest (BKH).
- Rough-legged Hawk — 22, 29 May, Fall River Co., **LATEST EVER** (RAP). Also observed in BLNP, Custer, Deuel, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, and Yankton counties.
- Golden Eagle — 6 March, Roberts Co. (DRS). 28 March, WNWR (WNWR). 25 April, Miner Co. (SJD).

- Merlin — 5 February, PLSRA (DRS). 21 February, Fall River Co. (RAP). 3 March and 18 April, Deuel Co. (BKH). 24 March, Minnehaha Co. (JL). 28 April, Lake Co. (SJD).
- Peregrine Falcon — 8 April, Clay Co. (MSS). 21 April, Fall River Co. (DCW). 5 May, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 6 May, LNWR, 3 (DS, BJ, JP). 25 April, Miner Co.: 27 April and 7 May, Kingsbury Co.; 28 April and 14 May, Lake Co. (SJD). 6 May, Clark Co. (SJD, BKH). 7 May, Pennington Co. (JZ). 7, 25 May, Lake Co. (BKH). 18 May, Marshall Co. (BKH, DRS). Many observed chasing shorebirds.
- Prairie Falcon — 7 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD). 28 May, Meade Co., pair at nest with young (MMM).
- Sage Grouse — 2 April, Fall River Co., 10 on lek (RAP).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse — 23 April, WNWR (WNWR).
- Northern Bobwhite — 23 April, Yankton Co., 2 (WH).
- Sora — 3 May, PLSRA, early (DRS).
- American Coot — 17 April, WNWR, 8427 (WNWR). 18 May, Edmunds Co., 4 nests (JDW).
- Whooping Crane — 1 April, WNWR, flying overhead with Sandhill Cranes (WNWR). 14 April, Brown Co., possibly 6 (JCS).
- Black-bellied Plover — 7 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD). 17, 23 May, Grant Co. (BKH).
- Lesser Golden-Plover — 13 May, Jackson Co., 1, **FIRST SPRING WEST RIVER RECORD** (KG). 16 April, Kingsbury Co.; 3, 5 May, Miner Co., 50 (SJD). 17, 23 May, Grant Co. (BKH).
- Semipalmated Plover — 15 April, Lake Co., 3, very early; 5 May, Lake Co., Milwaukee Lake, 227; 7 May, Kingsbury Co., Lake Thompson, 256 (SJD).
- Piping Plover — 16–18 April and 5 May, Miner Co., Twin Lakes and Lake Thompson; 28 April and 9 May, Lake Co., Milwaukee Lake; 20 May, Kingsbury Co., 22 May, Lake Thompson, bird observed on nest (SJD). 2 May, Clay Co. (MSS). 3 May, Meade Co., Bear Butte Lake, 5 (EEM). 6 May, Day Co., South Waubay Lake, 2 (BKH, SJD). 21 May, Yankton Co. (SVS).
- American Avocet — 1 April, Yankton Co., very early (SVS). 17 April, SLNWR, 52 (SJD). 6 May, Day Co., Bitter Lake, 58 (SJD, BKH). 23 April, Faulk Co., 23 (MMM). 25 May, BLNP (JZ). 29 May, Lake Co., nest (RB). Nesting also reported for Kingsbury and Miner counties (SJD).
- Lesser Yellowlegs — 26 March, Beadle Co., very early (BKH, RPR, KRE).
- Willet — 10 April, Spink Co., very early; May, Jackson Co. (KG). 26 April, Deuel Co., 16 (BKH). 5 May, Custer Co., 4 (DCW). Observed in Jackson and Pennington counties (JZ).
- Spotted Sandpiper — 2 April, Yankton Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (SVS).
- Whimbrel — 28 May, Lake Co., Milwaukee Lake, rare spring migrant (SJD).
- Long-billed Curlew — 2 April, Custer Co., early (MMM). 6 April, Jackson Co. (BKH). 7 April, Meade Co., 3 (NRW). 9 April, Meade Co., 2 (EEM). All early dates.
- Hudsonian Godwit — 13 April, Kingsbury Co., 24, very early; 27 April, Kingsbury Co., 346 in one flock (SJD). 18 May, Day Co., 73 (BKH, DRS).
- Marbled Godwit — 6 April, Clay Co., 3, very early (DSw, BH). 10 April, Spink Co., 9, early (KG).
- Ruddy Turnstone — 25 May, Kingsbury Co. (BKH). 28 May, Kingsbury Co., 88 (SJD).
- RED KNOT** — 28 May, Lake Co., Milwaukee Lake, photographed and rare bird report submitted (SJD).
- Sanderling — 16 April, Kingsbury Co., **TIES EARLIEST EVER**; 29 May, Lake Co., 2, late (SJD). 4 May, Minnehaha Co., 2 (MSS). 15 May, Yankton Co. (SVS).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper — 6 April, Clay Co., several, very early (DSw, BH). 29 April, Lake Co., 300 (BKH). 2 May, Jackson Co., 15–20 (KG). 5 May, BLNP (BJ, JZ).
- Western Sandpiper — 14 April, Kingsbury Co., 4, very early (SJD).
- Least Sandpiper — 2 May, Yankton Co. (SVS). 4 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 31 May, Deuel Co., 6 (PFS).
- White-rumped Sandpiper — 27 April, Clay Co., 2 (DSw, BH). 15 May, Lake Co., 3800 (SJD).

- Baird's Sandpiper — 16 March, Yankton Co., 2, **EARLIEST EVER** (DSw, BH). 28 April, Lake Co., 2200 (SJD).
- Pectoral Sandpiper — 6 April, Clay Co., very early (DSw, BH).
- Dunlin — 15 April, Lake Co., **EARLIEST EVER**; 15 May, Lake Co., 754 (SJD).
- Stilt Sandpiper — 27 April, Kingsbury Co., very early; 15 May, Lake Co., 343 (SJD).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper — 14 May, Lake Co., rare migrant (SJD).
- Short-billed Dowitcher — 20 April, Clay Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (DSw KD). 9 May, Kingsbury Co., 4 (SJD). 16 May, Yankton Co. (SVS). 25 May, Lake Co. (NRW).
- Long-billed Dowitcher — 24 March, Minnehaha Co., 3, **EARLIEST EVER** (MSS). 26 March, Clark Co., very early (BKH,KRE,RPR). 4 May, Kingsbury Co., 1800; 8 May, Lake Co., 3300 (SJD). 6 May, Clark Co., 800+ (BKH, SJD).
- American Woodcock — 25 March, PLSRA, male singing; 15 May, WNWR, 4 males singing (DRS). 1 April, Hartford Beach State Park (BKH). 24 May, Yankton Co., adult with 3 fledglings (SVS).
- Wilson's Phalarope — 5 May, Lake Co., 1500; 7 May, Kingsbury Co., 3100 (SJD). 7 May, Moody Co., 500+ (BKH).
- Bonaparte's Gull — 6 April, Yankton Co., very early (SVS). 6 April, Buffalo Co.; 8 April, Stanley Co., 36, very early (BKH). 9 April, Clay Co., (MSS). 15 April, Day Co. (DRS). 21 April, LNWR (BJ). 26 April, Kingsbury Co., 140 (SJD).
- Ring-billed Gull — 4 March, Yankton Co., very early (SVS). 11 March, Brookings Co., 3 (BKH).
- California Gull — 6 May, Day Co., (12) and Lake Co. (SJD, BKH). 18 May, Day Co., adults on 2 nests (BKH, DRS).
- Herring Gull — 7 March, Yankton Co. (SVS). 28 May, Kingsbury Co., very late, second year bird (SJD).
- Caspian Tern — 21, 24 May, Yankton Co. (SVS). 22 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD). 25 May, Brookings Co., 3, Lake Campbell (NRW).
- Common Tern — 30 March, Turner Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (JL).
- Least Tern — 29 May, Yankton Co. (SVS).
- Black Tern — 19 May, BLNP and Pennington Co. (GB,ML,JZ).
- Mourning Dove — 12 April, Clay Co., nest with 2 eggs, very early nesting (MSS). 21 April, Minnehaha Co., nest with eggs (JL).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo — 13 May, Roberts Co. (BKH). 18 May, Jackson Co., 2 (KG). 20 May, Yankton Co. (SVS). 24 May, BLNP (ML,JZ).
- Common Barn-Owl — 7 April, Jackson Co., 2 (KG, BKH).
- Eastern Screech-Owl — 27 March, Brown Co., red phase banded (DAT).
- Snowy Owl — 11 March, Hamlin Co. (BKH). 26 March, SLNWR (SLNWR). 26 March, Beadle Co. (BKH,KRE,RPR). 2-16 April, Edmunds Co. (JDW).
- Burrowing Owl — 21 April, Brown Co. and 18, 28 May, Edmunds Co. (JDW).
- Long-eared Owl — 3 March - 5 May, BLNP (JZ). 30 March, Tripp Co., several responded to taped call (RAP).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl — 28 March, Brown Co., banded (DAT).
- Whip-poor-will — 29, 30 May, Roberts Co., Sodak Park and Hartford Beach State Park, male singing (BKH).
- Chimney Swift — 27 April, Yankton Co., early (SVS). 29 April, Clay Co., early (MSS). 13 May, Turner Co., going into chimney (LRL).
- White-throated Swift — 5 April, Fall River Co., **TIES EARLIEST EVER** (RAP).
- Red-bellied Woodpecker — 13 March, Roberts Co. (BKH). 8 April, Clay Co. (MSS). 1 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 11 May, Edmunds Co. (JDW).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — 13-26 April, Edmunds Co., pair (JDW). 17 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 30 May, Deuel Co., pair at nest (PFS).
- Pileated Woodpecker — 18 April, Lake Co. (TT fide SJD). 18 May, Hartford Beach State Park, calling (BKH, DRS). 29 May, Hartford Beach State Park (BKH).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher — 19 May, Minnehaha Co. (SJD). 21 May, Minnehaha Co., 3 (AH). 23 May, Minnehaha Co. (JL). 25 May, Kingsbury Co. (BKH,KG). 27 May, Brookings Co. (PFS).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee — 20 April, Clay Co., very early (DJB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — 15 May, Brown Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (JCS). 20 May, Kingsbury Co., singing (SJD). 24 May, Deuel Co. (BKH). 29 May, Brown Co. (DAT).

Alder Flycatcher — 15 May, Kingsbury Co., **EARLIEST EVER**, singing (SJD). 24 May, Deuel Co. and 28 May, Roberts Co., males singing (BKH).

Willow Flycatcher — 5 May, Minnehaha Co., 3, **TIES EARLIEST EVER** (AH).

Least Flycatcher — 2 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 2 May, Clay Co. (MSS). Very early dates.

Eastern Phoebe — 26 March, Union Co., 2, **EARLIEST EVER** (MSS). 28 March, WNWR, very early (DRS). 9 May, Pennington Co. (NRW).

Great Crested Flycatcher — 11 May, Jackson Co. (KG). 25 May, BLNP (BJ,JZ).

Tree Swallow — 4 April, WNWR (DRS). 5 April, Lake Co. (BKH). 9 April, SLNWR (SLNWR). Very early dates.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow — 21 April, Minnehaha Co., 4, early (JL).

Cliff Swallow — 12-13 April, Lake Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (SJD).

Blue Jay — 10 May, Deuel Co., building nest (BKH).

Clark's Nutcracker — 23 May, Custer Co. 2 (RAP).

Black-billed Magpie — 8, 16 April and 1 May, Clay Co. (MSS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch — 1 March - 30 April, Deuel Co. (BKH). 7 March, Brown Co., 2 (JCS).

Rock Wren — 10 May, Union County State Park, accidental in E SD (DSw, KD).

Sedge Wren — 8 May, Lake Co. (SJD). 26 May, Brookings Co. (NRW).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 20 May, Minnehaha Co., very late (MSS).

Eastern Bluebird — 4 March, Yankton Co., very early (SVS). 9 March, WNWR (DRS). 24 March, 20 April, BLNP (JZ). 26 March, Union Co. (MSS). 1 May, Clay Co. (DJB). 4 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 5 May, Brown Co., 8 (JCS).

Mountain Bluebird — 5 March, Custer Co. (MJP). 12 May, Meade Co., nesting (EEM).

Veery — 8 May, Brookings Co., very early (BKH). 12 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 14, 19 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 18 May, Roberts Co. (BKH, DRS).

Hermit Thrush — 12 April, Brown Co. (JCS). 13 April, PLSRA, 4 (DRS). 13 April, Union Co. (DSw). 13 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 14 April, Turner Co. (LRL). 14, 19 April, Brookings Co. (JK). 21 April, BLNP (ML,JZ). 9 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS).

Wood Thrush — 12 April, Brown Co., **EARLIEST EVER**; 2 May, Brown Co., 20, unusual numbers (JCS). 3 May, Clay Co. and 11 May, Minnehaha Co., males singing (MSS).

American Robin — 14 April, Brown Co., nest building, **EARLIEST EVER NESTING** (DAT).

Gray Catbird — 24 March, Minnehaha Co., **EARLIEST EVER** by a month (JL).

Northern Mockingbird — 2 May, Day Co. (JCS).

Sage Thrasher — 25 March, Fall River Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (RAP).

American Pipit — 16 April, Kingsbury Co., 6 (SJD). 4 May, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 5 May, BLNP (BJ,JZ).

Sprague's Pipit — 25 May, BLNP (BLNP).

Bohemian Waxwing — 9 March, Brown Co. (DAT). 30 April, BLNP, **LATEST EVER** (JZ).

Cedar Waxwing — 27 May, Day Co., several hundred at Hedtke's Pass (JDW).

Northern Shrike — 1 March, Fall River Co., observed catching House Sparrow (RAP).

Loggerhead Shrike — 7 April, Jackson Co. (KG). 20 April, Yankton Co. (SVS). 27 April, Brown Co. (JCS). 28 April, Potter Co. (MMM). 1 May, Clay Co. (DJB). 4 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 6 May, Clark, Codington, and Day counties (BKH, SJD). 8 May, Miner Co., Twin Lakes, pair at nest (SJD). 9 May, Pennington Co. (NRW). 18 May, Roberts Co. (BKH, DRS). 22 May, Custer Co., 2 (MJP).

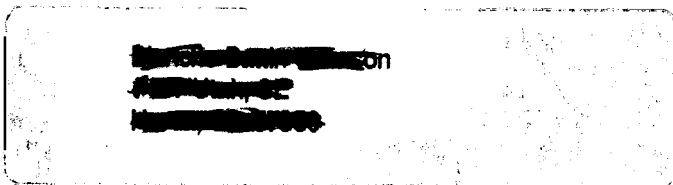
Solitary Vireo — 3 May, Clay Co. and 19 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 4 May, NHSP, 2 (DSw). 5 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 7 May, PLSRA (DRS). 8 May, Brookings Co. (BKH). Several early dates.

Yellow-throated Vireo — 9, 10 May, Minnehaha Co., 2 (AH). 11 May, Clay Co. (DSw).
 12 May, Roberts Co. (BKH). 27 May, Hartford Beach State Park, adult on nest,
EARLIEST NEST RECORD (JDW).
 Warbling Vireo — 9 May, Deuel Co., early (BKH, RGR).
 Philadelphia Vireo — 19 May, Minnehaha Co., 4 (MSS).
 Golden-winged Warbler — 10 May, Minnehaha Co., rare migrant (AH).
 Tennessee Warbler — 18 May, Pennington Co., 3+ (MSS).
 Orange-crowned Warbler — 21 April, Brown Co., early (DAT).
 Nashville Warbler — 3 May, Clay Co. and 19 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 4 May,
 Minnehaha Co. (AH). 4 May, NHSP (DSw). 8 May, Yankton Co. (SVS). 8 May,
 Brookings Co. (BKH).
 Northern Parula — 8 May, Brookings Co. (BKH).
 Chestnut-sided Warbler — 10 May, Minnehaha Co., early (MSS). 15 May, Min-
 nehaha Co. (AH). 16 May, LNWR (BJ). 21 May, Roberts Co. (BKH).
 Magnolia Warbler — 8, 15, 20 May, Minnehaha Co., first date very early (AH). 8
 May, Brookings Co., 4, very early (BKH). 16, 19 May, Brown Co. (JCS). 20 May,
 Kingsbury Co. (SJD). 29 May, Brookings Co. (PFS).
 Cape May Warbler — 8 May, Minnehaha Co., very early (MSS). 9 May, Grant Co.,
 (BKH, RGR). 20 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD).
 Yellow-rumped Warbler — 14 May, Brookings Co., 75 (JK).
 Black-throated Blue Warbler — 19, 20 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 20 May, Min-
 nehaha Co. (AH). Rare migrant.
 Black-throated Green Warbler — 8, 11 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 30 May, Brown
 Co., banded, **LATEST EVER** (DAT).
 Blackburnian Warbler — 4 May, Brookings Co., very early (JK). 17 May, Brown Co.
 (JCS). 20 May, Kingsbury Co. (SJD).
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER — 19 May, Brookings Co., accidental, record
 to be submitted to Rare Bird Record Committee (JK, RWK).
 Palm Warbler — 13 May, LNWR, rare in western SD (BJ).
 Bay-breasted Warbler — 18 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Blackpoll Warbler — 2 May, Edmunds Co., very early (JDW). 8 May, Miner Co.,
 early (SJD). 8 May, Turner Co., early (LRL). 18 May, Pennington Co., 3 (MSS). 25
 May, Minnehaha Co., 25 (AH).
 American Redstart — 20 May, Minnehaha Co., 21 (AH).
 Northern Waterthrush — 6 May, Minnehaha Co., 13 (AH).
 Mourning Warbler — 10 May, Brown Co., early (JCS).
 Canada Warbler — 10 May, Union Co. (DSw, KD). 18 May, Hartford Beach State
 Park, (BKH, DRS). 29 May, Brookings Co. (PFS).
 Yellow-breasted Chat — 4 May, Jackson Co., 2+, very early (KG).
 Scarlet Tanager — 8 May, WNWR, early (GLOS). 9 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 15
 May, Yankton Co. (SVS). 16 May, LNWR, rare migrant in western SD (DS). 18
 May, Hartford Beach State Park (BKH, DRS). 27 May, Roberts Co. (JDW).
 Western Tanager — 4 May, Meade Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (EEM). 4 May, Brookings
 Co., male, (KK fide JK, RWK). 8 May, Custer Co., 4 (MJP).
 Northern Cardinal — 9 March, Brown Co. (JCS). 17 May, Deuel Co., male singing
 (RL).
 Lazuli Bunting — 13 May, Brown Co. (JCS). 17 May, Edmunds Co. (JDW). Rare visi-
 tor eastern SD.
 Rufous-sided Towhee — 2 May, SLNWR (SLNWR).
 Chipping Sparrow — 21 March, Yankton Co., male singing, **EARLIEST EVER**
 (SVS).
 Clay-colored Sparrow — 27 April, Miner Co., early (SJD).
 Lark Sparrow — 7 May, Yankton Co. rare in eastern SD (SVS).
 Lark Bunting — 13 May, Clay Co. (DJB). 13 May, Lake Co. (SJD).
 Savannah Sparrow — 10 April, Clay Co., very early (DJB). 5 May, BLNP, Jackson
 Co. (BJ, JZ). 9 May, Pennington Co. (NRW).
 Fox Sparrow — 12 March, Day Co. (EW). 25 March, Brookings Co., 2 singing (BKH).
 10 April, Brown Co. (KG). 13 April, Faulk Co. (MMM). 14–19 April, Brookings
 Co., 3 and 4 birds (JK).

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- Swamp Sparrow — 20 April, Yankton Co. (SVS). 20 April, Union Co. (DSw, BH, KD).
2 May, Clay Co.; 4, 8 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 27 May, PLSRA, male singing
(DRS).
- Harris' Sparrow — 5,6 May, BLNP (JZ). 6 May, Meade Co., 6 (EEM).
- White-throated Sparrow — 4 May, Jackson Co. (KG). 5 May, Pennington Co.
(NRW). 5 May, BLNP (BJ,JZ). 15 May, Fall River Co. (RAP). Considered rare in
western SD.
- White-crowned Sparrow — 5 May, Pennington Co., 50+ (NRW).
- Lapland Longspur — 28 March, Brown Co., 15,000+ in field (RPR, KRE).
- Chestnut-collared Longspur — 21 April, Spink Co. (JCS).
- Bobolink — 19 March, Brookings Co., **EARLIEST EVER** by a month (JRK).
- Rusty Blackbird — 11 March, Brookings Co., 20+ (BKH).
- Brewer's Blackbird — 11 March, Yankton Co., very early (SVS). 18 May, Roberts
Co. (DRS, BKH).
- Northern Oriole — 13 May, Fall River Co., Baltimore race (RAP).
- Rosy Finch — 1 March, BLNP (BJ).
- Cassin's Finch — 7 April, Custer Co. (MJP).
- House Finch — 21 March, Minnehaha Co, pair; 14 April, Minnehaha Co., pair bldg.
nest (JL). 23 March, Deuel Co., 2 (BKH). 8 April, Brown Co., pair; and 16 April,
Brown Co., pair copulating (DAT). 13 April, BLNP (BJ). 2 May, Minnehaha Co.,
2 (AH). 3 May, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 14 May, Yankton Co., 3 young fledged from
nest (WH). 29 May, Yankton Co., nest with 5 eggs, second brood (SVS). Also
reported for Roberts Co. (BB).
- Red Crossbill — 16 March, Yankton Co. (SVS).
- Common Redpoll — 31 March, Yankton Co. (WH).
- Pine Siskin — 22 February, Yankton Co. (SVS). 12, 13 March, BLNP (ML,JZ). 3, 22
April, Roberts Co. (BKH). 5, 21 April, Yankton Co. (WH). 13 May, LNWR (BJ). 31
May, Brown Co., 2 (JCS).
- American Goldfinch — 29 March, Yankton Co., 90 (WH).
- Evening Grosbeak — 8 March, Brown Co. (DAT).