
SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH
BIRD



DAKOTA
NOTES

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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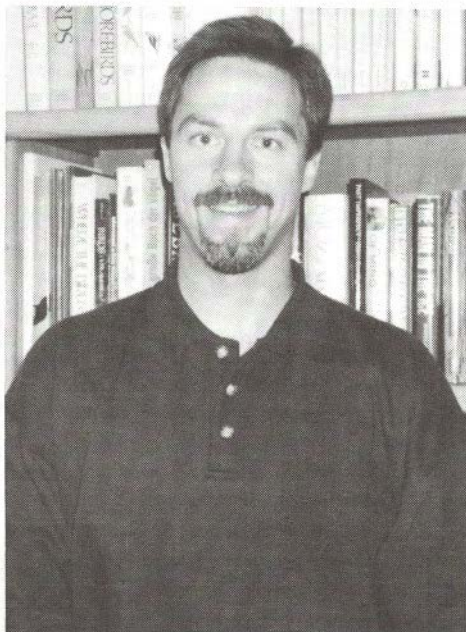
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As members of SDOU, we enjoy the wonderful natural habitats and wildlife that South Dakota has to offer. We should be concerned about declining populations of American wildlife. Many avian species, particularly songbirds, are undergoing widespread population declines over much of North America. Nongame species traditionally have received short shrift regarding funding. The economic impact of these species is less obvious than that for game species. Recent studies, however, have revealed that nongame wildlife does have a major economic impact. Eubanks et al. (1993. *Birding* 25:415-420) review studies indicating that, in the early 1990's, an estimated 30 million people in the United States engaged in travel with the primary purpose of nonconsumptive wildlife recreation. These people spent \$7.5 billion on travel-related expenses. Nevertheless, conservation research, outdoor recreation opportunities, and conservation education programs focused on nongame wildlife species remain under funded. As a direct result, only rudimentary data are available for decisions regarding management and conservation plans for many nongame wildlife species.



To enhance funding for nongame wildlife programs, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, in cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies, are spearheading the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative, commonly known as "Teaming With Wildlife," or TWW. TWW proposes to place an excise tax, not to exceed 5%, on outdoor recreation equipment, such as binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, and cameras. The revenue generated from this tax would be earmarked exclusively for funding for conservation, outdoor recreation, and conservation education programs directed at nongame wildlife species. The TWW plan is patterned after the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts, where hunters and anglers have paid excise taxes on their equipment. Over the past 60 years, this program has generated revenue that has significantly benefited game wildlife species, and indirectly benefited nongame species.

The strategy for implementing the TWW plan is to secure support from a wide variety of sources with an interest in nongame wildlife.

These include businesses marketing outdoor products, conservation organizations, outdoor recreation clubs, and wildlife societies. To date, the coalition of groups and organizations backing the TWW program totals over 1800 nationwide, the largest coalition in conservation history. The SDOU Board of Directors formally endorsed the TWW concept at the fall 1995 meeting, so SDOU is included in this coalition.

TWW is facing a critical challenge this spring—to raise sufficient backing to get legislation implementing the excise tax (not to exceed 5%) on outdoor equipment for nongame wildlife programs introduced and passed in the 1997 U.S. Congress. This provides a unique opportunity for SDOU members to significantly impact the future well-being of nongame wildlife in South Dakota and nationwide. A letter, e-mail, or phone call to our United States congressional delegates is all it takes to let them know that you support TWW. An outpouring of support for TWW is the only way to ensure introduction and passage of TWW legislation, and subsequent future revenues for nongame wildlife. Please consider contacting our legislators to voice your support for TWW during this critical period. If you want a sample letter supporting TWW, please contact Eileen Dowd Stukel (South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501-3182). *David Swanson, Department of Biology, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069.*

GREAT GRAY OWL: A FIRST FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Robert Schenck

422 N Linwood Ct, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

On the afternoon of 29 January 1997, I was traveling south on Cliff Avenue. The day was partly cloudy, windy and cold. At the intersection of 54th Street, I saw a large owl cross Cliff Avenue 100 yards ahead of me. The owl appeared to be larger than a Great Horned Owl, with a proportionately larger head and no ear tufts. I started thinking Great Gray Owl, but knew that a Barred or Great Horned Owl would be more likely. I immediately stopped my vehicle and started looking for the owl. I usually carry binoculars in all the cars I drive, but I was driving a vehicle I don't normally use. The owl landed at the end of a wooded ravine. Great Gray Owls are big and identification with the naked eye is not difficult. I immediately called my wife and asked her to bring our video camera and binoculars. I also called Gil Blankespoor, who was kind enough to come and confirm my identification. Gil concurred with my identification and I made a video that is being sent to the rare bird committee. This is the first sighting of a Great Gray Owl for the state of South Dakota, although there is another record of a dead bird found near Dell Rapids in 1984 by Bradwisch.

For the next five days, we were able to find the Great Gray Owl in a ravine that runs parallel to the west side of Cliff Avenue, from 54th Street to the Big Sioux River. During this time, about 30 birders were able to observe the owl. The bird was tame and many people were able to observe the bird closely. After Sunday, 2 February 1997, we were no

longer able to locate the owl in this area, even though many people searched.

The wooded draw in which we observed the owl extends off the Big Sioux River, and contains a small stream that was partially open. This ravine was in a residential neighborhood, with homes lining the top of the ravine. Many of these homes had feeders that may have inadvertently supported a large rodent population. The sides of the ravine were lined with Bur Oaks, willows, maples and Boxelder trees. Many times we observed the owl within 10 to 15 feet of the stream.

A week later, I was told that James Vogelmann of the Pine Lake Hills area of Sioux Falls, (which is about seven miles from the original sighting) had seen a Great Gray Owl. No further sightings were reported until 18 March 1997, when I received word that a Great Gray Owl was in James Vogelmann's yard. On the next day, after an intensive search, Joe Staab found two Great Gray Owls in this area. There is a possibility that at least two, and maybe three, Great Gray Owls resided in Minnehaha county during the winter of 1996 - 1997.

The Pine Lakes Hills area is a residential area, with houses dispersed among pine trees and a small stream. The area surrounding Pine Lake Hills is agricultural land. Again, a Great Gray Owl was observed within ten to fifteen feet of the stream.

During the winter of 1995 - 1996, Minnesota reported a large Great Gray Owl invasion with 342 owls confirmed across the northern, central and southeastern parts of the state. During the winter of 1996 - 1997, Minnesota's Rare Bird Alert report was full of sightings of the Great Gray Owl. In north-central Iowa, three Great Gray Owls were found in Cerro Gordo county. These owls were observed over several weeks. It appears that this year was another invasion year for the Great Gray Owl. Fortunately, we were able to document the invasion of the Great Gray Owl into South Dakota.

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE: A FIRST FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

MyRon Zimmer
Box 100, Bowdle, SD 57243

On 10 August 1996, I saw an unusual dove feeding on the side of the street in the northwest corner of Bowdle, South Dakota. (A homeowner nearby said she had heard the dove the day before.) As the dove flew into a tree, I noticed its squared, white-tipped tail. Not having binoculars, I thought it might be a White-winged Dove, a species seen here in the summer of 1993. Returning with binoculars, I observed the dove's gray-brown overall color, the white tipped tail, the lack of white wing patches, and the presence of a black crescent on the back of the neck. I thought it might be a Ringed Turtle Dove, even though the field guides showed a lighter colored bird. Dave and Kristeen Williams observed and photographed the dove, as it perched on power lines, dead and live trees, and roof tops. Dave's photos would later show that the black collar was edged

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with white. The dove interacted with Mourning Doves, chasing and making a harsh, cough-like sound, but it showed no interest in the flock of two dozen Rock Doves on the same block.

I saw the dove on the next day and then it disappeared for two weeks. When I discovered it again, it was calling. The loud, rolling "coo-coo-coo" (the second "coo" being accented) was repeated over and over. Checking my field guide, I reviewed the Eurasian Collared Dove's written description. I phoned Dan Tallman and, on 31 August 1996, he and Arlen Hanson came to see the dove. After a long search, we discovered the dove on a TV aerial only after the dove began to call. Dan thought the dove's call might be a rendition of "who cooks, you?"

I saw or heard the dove only sporadically thereafter, but always in the northwest corner of town. The last positive sighting was on 11 September 1996. The record has been submitted to the SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee, who ranked it as a bird of uncertain origin. However, it should be noted that this species has recently expanded its range throughout the southeastern United States, with recent records from Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Colorado.



GENERAL NOTES

CAROLINA WREN IN ABERDEEN. On 24 May 1996, a cold, wet day, I noticed a large wren-like bird huddled in a leafless bush beside my office in downtown Aberdeen. I immediately recognized the bird as a Carolina Wren. The wren appearance, coupled with the bold white eye stripe, rufous back and rich buff-colored undersides cinched the identification. The inclement weather made the bird somewhat reluctant to fly, so I was able to observe the large wren from 20 to 25 feet away. The bird flew from the bush and landed on a small porch roof on a house next to the office and proceeded to give me a full and clear view for several minutes. This sighting was my second of a Carolina Wren in Aberdeen, the other having occurred several springs ago in my backyard. *Jerry Stanford, 108 15th Ave. SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

Nat Whitney died suddenly on 27 April 1997. An obituary will appear in a future issue of *Bird Notes*. His many years of dedication to SDOU have been monumental. The family wishes memorials to SDOU or to the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rapid City.



BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD. VOL 3. HOATZINS TO AUKS—J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, eds. 1996. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 821 pp. Hard bound \$175.00.

Does the best bird book ever seem like excessive praise? Despite the price per volume for this anticipated 10 book set, upon reviewing this third volume, I immediately ordered the previous two volumes. (This will be a long term investment, however, with the publication date of volume 10 being in 2009. Discounts are also available.) These books seem to be in a class by themselves. The series will cover all the birds of the world. The books are not directed solely to the professional ornithologist, but contain much information to be enjoyed by any birder. To a large extent, these books summarize the conservation status of the world's birds.

Volume three is organized into chapters by bird family. Each chapter is divided into two sections. The first section covers interesting aspects of the various species in each family. Topics include systematics (including recent DNA work), habitat, habits, food and feeding, breeding, movements, relationship with man (sic), status and conservation, and a general bibliography. The second section contains a short account of each species of the family with a range map. Three or four species per page are covered. Topics here include names in Latin, French, German, Spanish, and other common names, a list of known races, a short description, what is known about food, feeding, breeding, and migrations, and a bibliography for the species. Population estimates are given for each bird. An interesting section summarizes the status and conservation of the bird. Red print indicates vulnerable, endangered, and extinct species. The book is a bit depressing because of the amount of red ink used. The book's ultimate value is in indicating what needs to be accomplished to conserve the world's birds. The series was apparently launched under the auspices of the International Council for Bird Protection.

The first thing you may notice upon opening this book is the stunning quality of the photographs contained in the first section in the family accounts. The publishers must be using some sort of expensive digital method of reproduction. Most of the photographs are nearly three dimensional in appearance and the colors run nearly true. I can not even pick a favorite photo, so many of the almost 400 of them are stunning.

A large series of color plates by about a dozen artists are also outstanding and contribute greatly to the excellence of this volume. This book is not meant to be a field guide. Generally only adult males are illustrated, although often different races are depicted. The book begins with a Robert Bateman painting of auks on a seaside cliff.

In a short artist's statement, Bateman quotes the following proverb, "In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, we will understand only what we are taught" —a fitting motto for the whole series. Not only is this a stunning looking book, it is full of natural history data and is a treatise on bird conservation. I im-

mediately had students using this volume for ornithology projects (one on Whooping Cranes, the other on Tasmanian Native Hens). I often use this book as bedtime reading material and learn something new or interesting every time I open it. For example, the Cox's Sandpiper, recently described as a new species from Australia, proves through mitochondrial DNA sequencing to have had a Curlew Sandpiper as a mother, and thus, is a hybrid. (Well, this is the sort of thing that I find fascinating; but there is a wealth of behavioral and ecological information contained here too.)

The first two volumes of this series are similar to the third, although there does seem to me to be a general improvement in quality and content with each successive volume. Volume one begins with a lengthy lecture on avian biology. Species accounts seem slightly shorter and there are fewer contributors to the accounts. Finally, there are fewer illustrators (which range from good to excellent). Only volume three has a frontispiece. Do not misunderstand, the early volumes are very good and evolve into an excellence I have not seen elsewhere in bird literature. These books deserve whatever sacrifices you might need to make for their purchase. If they are beyond your budget, you should make every effort to have your local library obtain them. The series has an Internet homepage from which you can see examples: <http://www.hbw.com/index.html>. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF BIRDS—Alan Feduccia. 1996. Yale University Press, New Haven. 420 pp. Hard bound \$55.00.

The audience for whom this book is written is not clear. The text could well be used in, and is at the level of, a graduate course in avian systematics and evolution. Perhaps avid birders, who are ready for a more scholarly treatment of ornithology, will find this book an entry into the science of birds. I would disagree with the dust cover that claims that "Feduccia's monumental book is required reading for anyone even faintly interested in the evolution of birds" and "it is easily readable even by non-specialists." This book would be more accessible to more casual birders if each chapter had some sort of boxed review, in plain English, of the materials covered.

The book is abundantly illustrated with black and white drawings and photographs. Many of the illustrations are presumably published to attract nonspecialist readers; specialists certainly do not require a plate of living alcediniform birds (bee-eaters, trogons, etc.) or other similar plates. The paintings include a series of chapter heading plates by John O'Neill. I assume that the originals were in color. The absence of color detracts from the attractiveness of the book for entry level readers. Many of the figures in the text truly require an educated reader to appreciate them. Many anatomical terms are abbreviated in figures that lack keys for the abbreviations. Curiously, the figures are not numbered either. At least one figure, showing systematic relations among anseriform genera, has been so reduced to fit in half a page that it is barely legible. Many of the photographs of fossils are interesting, although occasionally not very clear. A photograph on page 338 is of a "fossil of the early Eocene primobucconid *Neanis kitsneri* (Feduccia), a primitive perching piciform

bird from the Green River Formation of Wyoming....Note the zygodactyl foot...." Clearly such language is not aimed at the lay reader.

The book's prose will be difficult for the nonsystematic biologist to digest. For example, "The somewhat catchall term archosaur refers to the thecodonts, or basal archosaurs, and their various derivatives; they are Mesozoic reptiles with diapsid skulls (with two temporal openings) and a large opening in front of the eye, the antorbital opening, or antorbital fenestra." Mind you, there would be no problem with this vocabulary if the intended audience were professional zoologists; it is the publisher's assertion that the intended reader could be a nonspecialist that prompts these comments.

Despite what I have written so far regarding the layout and prose of the book, it is a gold mine of information on the origin and evolution of birds. The text is a must buy for anyone interested in the topic. Briefly, the book defines birds, discusses the origins, status, and controversies surrounding the first known bird, *Archaeopteryx*, and moves to a discussion of competing theories on the origins of flight. The final two thirds of the book covers the evolution of the major groups of birds: divers and seabirds; flamingos, ducks and waders; the evolution of flightlessness; birds of prey; and the rise of landbirds. These subjects contain many, if not most, of the hot issues in evolutionary ornithology. Did flight evolve by birds' jumping or gliding? Which birds survived the end of the age of the Dinosaurs? What birds did Flamingos come from, and what are their closest relatives? How are hawks and owls related? And how are the modern land birds related and how rapidly did they evolve? Feduccia is very sure that his theories are correct and that opposing theories are clearly in error. Take for example the statement, "...Bakker (1975, 1986) is fanatical, viewing all dinosaurs as fleet-footed, 'hot-blooded' miracles of the Mesozoic....." One should remember that many of the authors whom Feduccia lambastes are probably equally sure that Feduccia is mistaken.

The book ends rather bizarrely with a statement that birds are "...the miner's canary—the most sensitive indicators of environmental disturbance...a foreboding presage to the environmental future of our world." This conclusion seems completely besides the point and unsupported by the rest of the book, an otherwise scholarly discourse. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

BIRDS OF AN IOWA DOORYARD —Althea R. Sherman. 1996 (Revised edition, originally published in 1952). University of Iowa Press, Iowa City. 270 pp. Soft bound. \$13.95.

This is a book that is interesting, not only for the careful ornithological observations that are reported, but also for the glimpse that it provides of societal attitudes toward nature, birds, and life, and of the direction of ornithological investigations in the early 1900's. This book represents an edited compilation of field notes from Althea R. Sherman (1853 – 1943), who lived and studied birds on about an acre of property in northeastern Iowa. Her notes cover the late 1800s into the 1930s. The book includes several brief introductory chapters by people familiar with Ms. Sherman and her work, including a biographical sketch by Martha Myers Bonta, reprinted from her book *Women in the Field*:

America's Pioneering Women Naturalists, from Texas A&M University Press. These introductory sections very nicely set the stage for the presentation of Ms. Sherman's work. The bulk of the book is comprised of chapters produced from her voluminous field notebooks and her published papers. Several chapters are reprints of articles that she published in *The Auk* or *The Wilson Bulletin*. Most of these chapters deal with the habits and behavior of birds found breeding on her property. The last chapter is a bibliography of her published works. I should probably mention that "dooryard" is a term Ms. Sherman uses to describe the open woodland area, including the house and outbuildings on her property, and is to be distinguished from other types of yards such as "barnyards, chicken yards, stockyards, and gardens."

Ms. Sherman was also an accomplished artist, and several black-and-white reproductions of her paintings grace an inset section in the text. Ms. Sherman gained wide acclaim for her studies on the nest life of several bird species, including the Chimney Swift. In order to study the nesting of swifts, she had a "swift tower" constructed. This was a wooden structure 9 ft. square by 28 ft. tall, originally constructed in 1915. It provide an artificial chimney, complete with doors and peepholes to allow observation of the nest and access to eggs and nestlings for her studies. She was similarly inventive, although not on quite so grand a scale, in studying other cavity-nesting species, including Northern Flickers, Eastern Screech-Owls, and American Kestrels. Ms. Sherman's observations on the habits and details of bird behavior and nesting were always careful and thorough, and the ornithological data in the book are still useful today.

What entertained me more while reading this book, however, was the insight into how people thought about birds and nature in the early part of this century. The idea of letting nature take its course seems to have been secondary to the idea of human intervention, so that nature doesn't bungle things up. An example comes from the chapter on the nesting of American Kestrels. While contemplating whether or not to let kestrels nest on her property, Ms. Sherman states "shall or shall not the Sparrow Hawks be allowed to remain and increase their kind," and further "... it was decided to give the Sparrow Hawks a trial at the same time to watch closely their relations with other birds." As she watched the development of the nest, she removed one of the viable eggs during incubation to "reduce the number of hawks, also as a souvenir." She was also judgmental of bird behaviors, ascribing human morality to the lives of birds. This was probably a common practice among people of that time. Such terms as lazy, adulterous, murderer, and villain appear often in her descriptions of bird behavior. My favorite example of her judgmental nature came from a chapter discussing nesting in Barn Swallows. A pair of swallows had initiated a nest on the corner of Ms. Sherman's porch. The male of the pair was killed before the eggs hatched, so the female was subsequently courted by several other male swallows while she was incubating and brooding. One of these males entered the nest and killed the young, despite the best efforts of Ms. Sherman. This male was tabbed a "satanic swallow," among other equally judgmental monikers.

Ms. Sherman was also well known for her crusade against the common practice at that time of placing House Wren nest boxes in many

available nesting areas. She widely proclaimed the destruction that House Wrens caused to the eggs and nests of other bird species. She justifiably promoted the removal of many of these nest boxes.

This book was interesting and entertaining. The ornithological information is sound, careful, and detailed. The revelations on attitudes about birds and nature in the early 1900's are revealing. This is a book that is well-suited to a general readership interested in the habits of familiar birds of the northern Midwest. *David Swanson, Department of Biology, USD, Vermillion, SD 57069.*



CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Location	Date	# Observers, compiler	(°F); other weather
Aberdeen	28 Dec 1996	5, Dan Tallman	-5 - +12; 24 inch snow cover. Partly cloudy
Brookings	21 Dec 1996	12, Nelda Holden	very cold; deep snow
Burke	21 Dec 1996	3, Richard Peterson	20 - 7; wind 5 - 15 mph; 3-6 inch snow cover; light snow all day.
Huron	27 Dec 1996	14, Karrie Schmidt	5 - 11; wind 20 mph; 19 inch snow cover; partly cloudy.
Hot Springs	28 Dec 1996	10, Duane Weber	1 -22; 6-8 inch snow cover; partly cloudy; Angostura 99% frozen.
Jewel Cave	4 Jan 1997	16, Marie Curtin	26 - 26; wind 5- 10 mph; -6 inch snow cover; light snow all day.
Mobridge	20 Dec 1996	2, Torcuil Grant	10-20; light S breeze, cloudy
Pierre	21 Dec 1996	18, Doug Backlund	4-13 ; snow in PM; wind 10-20 mph.
Rapid City	29 Dec 1996	24, Todd Jensen	-5-2; 6-8 inch snow; wind 10-15 mph; partly cloudy.
Sand Lake	2 Jan 1997	6, William Schultze	18 - 39; 29 inch snow cover, calm, cloudy.
Sioux Falls	4 Jan 1997	27, Robb Schenck	25 - 33; 11 inch snow cover, cloudy; N wind 19 mph.
Sturgis	21 Dec 1996	17, Ernie Miller	5 - 15; 36 inch snow cover, snowing.
Waubay	31 Dec 1996	—Laura Umbright	-
Wilmot	31 Dec 1996	11, Bruce Harris	5 - 18; 15 inch snow cover, winds 30 - 35 mph.
Wind Cave	15 Dec 1996	19, Doug Buttery	13 - 24; wind 10 - 20 mph, partly cloudy.
Yankton	22 Dec 1996	20, Juli Wilcox	0 - 11; 4 - 6 inch snow cover, foggy

	ABR	BRK	BUR	HOT	HUR	JLC	MOB	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIU	STR	WAU	WCV	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
Pied-billed Grebe				1													1
American White Pelican								1									1
Snow Goose											3						3
Canada Goose				338				13935	27		295					49	14644
Wood Duck											5						5
Mallard			2	154				5010	1064	4	287	64	6			1618	8209
Green-winged Teal				1												2	3
Northern Pintail																1	1
Gadwall									4		1					16	21
American Wigeon									40							1	41
Canvasback									1								1
Redhead									3								3
Ring-necked Duck				4					10								14
Greater Scaup																	0
Lesser Scaup				1					3		1						5
Common Goldeneye								203	36	1	8					19	267
Barrow's Goldeneye									1								1
Bufflehead									5							4	9
Hooded Merganser								1									1
Common Merganser								307	9							16	332
Red-breasted Merganser													1				1
Bald Eagle			1			7		27			1	11		5		13	65
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1		1				2	1		4			1		2	13
Cooper's Hawk		2	1	1													4
Goshawk	1	1		1								1		1	1		6
Accipiter sp.																	1
Buteo sp.									1								2
Red-tailed Hawk			4	4				7	1		6			1		8	31
Ferruginous Hawk				1				5	4								10
Rough-legged Hawk			5	2		3		13	7	1		17		1		9	58
Golden Eagle			1	1		6		4	1	1		2		6			22
American Kestrel								5			4	1				1	11
Merlin		1						1									2
Prairie Falcon		1		1							1			2			5
Gray Partridge		3			12		6	4	21		17	39					102
Ring-necked Pheasant	181	212	29	27	557		150	367	3	159	292	1	19		106	142	2245
Greater Prairie-Chicken			2					5									7
Sharp-tailed Grouse			3	29	3	2	17	188	97	38		389	8	21			795

Wild Turkey				210		12		18	283		16	210		23		51	823
Killdeer												1					1
American Coot				44												4	48
Common Snipe				1								6					7
Gullsp.											1						1
Ring-billed Gull								40									40
Herring Gull								3									3
Glaucous Gull								2									2
Rock Dove	702	35		77	132		100	130	412	38	395	63	69	22	110	134	2419
Eastern Screech-Owl																	1
Great Horned Owl	1	5					2	9	2	2	4	1			1		27
Saw-whet Owl									1								1
Belted Kingfisher									1			1				4	6
Lewis' Woodpecker									1			4					5
Red-bellied Woodpecker			2					1			3				1	4	11
Downy Woodpecker	10	33	1	4	6		1	14	16	6	39	18	12	1	12	24	197
Hairy Woodpecker	9	14	4	5	7	2	1	10	10	5	3	7	4	3	8	11	103
Black-backed Woodpecker														1			1
Northern Flicker	2	4	7	12				4	7	3	3	14	1			16	73
Horned Lark	2		227	632	39		2	45	141	1	8	185	5	4	1		1292
Gray Jay				5		4			3					3			15
Blue Jay	11	97	5	27	12			3	63	53	30	219	3		7	38	568
Pinyon Jay				18					80								98
Clark's Nutcracker						2											2
Black-billed Magpie			3	4				7	18			22		5		6	65
American Crow	11	226	41	63	48	54		3	178	12	318	107	4	161	18	242	1486
Black-capped Chickadee	49	149	11	81	32	21	5	133	176	11	144	157	51	115	57	36	1228
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	14	1	2		3	1	1	45		10	8	4	14		1	109
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	21	2	2	1	11	3	6	10	2	23	9	14	11	17	7	142
Brown Creeper	2	1			1			1	4		3			1	1	1	15
Golden-crowned Kinglet														6			6
Canyon Wren									1								1
Eastern Bluebird							1									9	10
Mountain Bluebird														2			2
Townsend's Solitaire		1		31		3	1	1	15				1				53
American Robin	3	1	49	92			1	62	49			1				36	294
Bohemian Waxwing				22				2	653								677
Cedar Waxwing		25	55	44				30			48		40				242
Northern Shrike		1		1	4			3		2	2	4		1			18

	ABR	BRK	BUR	HOT	HUR	JLC	MOB	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIU	STR	WAU	WCV	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
European Starling	54	142	18	244	257		40	48	374	150	568	197	7		70	184	2353
Northern Cardinal		17			3						32					23	75
American Tree Sparrow		9	1	135	117			34	23		47					113	479
Song Sparrow				2												1	3
White-throated Sparrow					1												1
Harris' Sparrow				1				1									2
Dark-eyed Junco		109		113	3				19	4			1	72	30		351
Slate-colored Junco	28				6			51	186		70	175				150	666
Oregon Junco	1		1		2			3	1		1	8				1	18
White-winged Junco						12			223			37					272
Lapland Longspur	3		75	113													191
Snow Bunting		15	152		29			24	2	40		10	91	1	6	12	382
Red-winged Blackbird	1			2	47			134		32						1	217
Rusty Blackbird										9						4	13
Brewer's Blackbird								2		3							5
Common Grackle	1	1			232			1	2	15							252
Brown-headed Cowbird										1							1
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch									111			2					113
Pine Grosbeak	1												1				2
Purple Finch		11															11
House Finch	134	55	13	14	1		10	123	128		81	63			16	79	717
Red Crossbill		1	5			11		8	7			14	26				72
Common Redpoll				3	2				1	8	2						16
Hoary Redpoll					4												4
Pine Siskin	13	17	108	40	1			6	50		2	2	6		19	5	269
American Goldfinch	13	70	10	144	31			66	15	22	52	42	1		29	104	599
Evening Grosbeak									79			288					367
House Sparrow	217	633	113	7	757		200	352	283	536	471	485	470		134	162	4820
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1459	1933	948	2761	2347	153	541	21465	5012	1159	3301	2885	845	484	644	3367	49304
TOTAL FORMS	27	37	30	48	29	15	17	54	60	28	41	40	24	26	20	47	103



SEASONAL REPORTS

The 1996-97 Winter Season

01 December 1996 to 28 February 1997

Compiled By : Jeffrey S. Palmer
College of Natural Sciences
Dakota State University
Madison, SD 57042

The winter of 1996-97 will be talked about for many years to come. The real news was the weather; major cold (November through January was the coldest 3 months on record) and major snow (70-100+ inches in many areas and numerous blizzards) blanketed the state during the period. Despite these "less than ideal" conditions for both birds and birders, there were 118 species reported during the 1996-97 Winter Season (compared with 121 last year and 115 in 1994-95). Without question, the highlight was the Great Gray Owl first located in Sioux Falls on January 29 by Robb Schenck. This very cooperative individual remained until at least February 02 (although this or another individual was apparently relocated in March) and was observed by numerous birders from across the state. Additionally, I have heard rumors of other Great Gray Owl sightings (possibly representing different birds) from other parts of Sioux Falls. The only previous record for this species was of a dead individual found 25 January 1984 near Dell Rapids. Finally, welcome to our new contributors: Tom & Brenda Warren of Rapid City.

- Pied-billed Grebe** All Reports: 01 Dec Charles Mix RM; 07 Dec Charles Mix LAS
Double-crested Cormorant Only Report ... **09 Dec Yankton SVS**
Trumpeter Swan Only Report ... 01 Dec Bennett LCS
Snow Goose All Reports: 04 Jan Minnehaha (3) SFB; 25 Feb Bennett LCS
Ross' Goose Only Report ... **19 Feb Bennett LCS**
Wood Duck All Reports: 04 Jan Minnehaha (5) SFB; 01 Feb Minnehaha RFS; 19 Feb Yankton SVS; 25 Feb Butte (3) BAS
Green-winged Teal All Reports: 22 Dec - 28 Jan Yankton (2) SVS; 26 Jan Minnehaha RFS; 24 Feb Gregory LAS; 26 Feb Bennett LCS
American Black Duck All Reports: 14 Dec Yankton BH; 18 Jan - 24 Feb Yankton (2) SVS
Northern Pintail All Reports: 22 Dec and 19 Feb Yankton SVS; 19 Feb Bennett LCS; 21 Feb Charles Mix LAS; 23 Feb Charles Mix JPS
Northern Shoveler All Reports: 12 Dec Bennett LCS; Jan-Feb Meade (2) EEM
Gadwall All Reports: 02 Dec Pennington TBW; 09 Dec - 28 Feb Yankton SVS; 04 Jan Minnehaha SFB; 29 Jan Pennington NRW; 09 Feb Yankton (5) BH; 23 Feb Yankton JPS
American Wigeon All Reports: all season Pennington NRW; 22 Dec and 19 Feb Yankton SVS; 02 Feb Pennington BAS; 21 Feb Bennett LCS; 23 Feb Yankton JPS
Canvasback Only Report ... 19 Jan Stanley JSP
Redhead All Reports: 03 Jan and 18 Jan Pennington NRW; 19 Feb Yankton SVS; 21 Feb Charles Mix LAS; 23 Feb Yankton JPS; 26 Feb Bennett LCS
Ring-necked Duck All Reports: 18 Jan Pennington NRW; 19 Feb Yankton SVS; 21 Feb Charles Mix LAS

- Lesser Scaup** All Reports: 03 Jan Gregory LAS; 04 Jan Minnehaha SFB; 20 Jan Hughes JSP; 02 Feb Pennington BAS; 08 Feb Minnehaha JPS; 19 Feb Yankton SVS; 21 Feb Bennett LCS; 22 Feb Minnehaha RFS
- Barrow's Goldeneye** Only Report ... all season Canyon Lake, Pennington County NRW
- Bufflehead** All Reports: all season Pennington NRW; 19 Dec Yankton SVS; 08 Jan Charles Mix SVS; 18-19 Jan Stanley JSP; 23 Feb Yankton JPS
- Hooded Merganser** All Reports: 04 Dec Bennett LCS; 19 Jan Hughes JSP; 19 Feb Yankton SVS
- Red-breasted Merganser** All Reports: 08 Jan Fort Randall Dam SVS; 25 Jan and 14 Feb Fort Randall Dam DS; 22 Feb Fort Randall Dam SFB
- Ruddy Duck** Only Report ... 04 Dec Bennett LCS
- Bald Eagle** reported 07 Jan Gregory (148) LAS
- Northern Harrier** All Reports: 02 Jan Bennett LCS; 03 Jan Charles Mix RM; 08 Feb and 25 Feb Lawrence BAS; 20 Feb Custer MMM; 22 Feb Douglas SFB; 24 Feb Charles Mix LAS
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** reported from Brookings, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Edmunds, Gregory, Hughes, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, and Yankton counties
- Cooper's Hawk** Only Report ... 02 Jan Bennett LCS
- Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 11 Dec Yankton DS; 23 Dec Brookings BKH; 30 Dec Roberts BKH; 01 Jan Brown DAT; 02 Jan Bennett LCS; 03 Jan Charles Mix RM; 10 Jan, 26 Jan, and 09 Feb Pennington TBW; 18 Jan Hughes DGP; 21 Jan Brookings KIE
- Red-tailed Hawk** reported from Bennett, Charles Mix, Gregory, Hughes, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Tripp, and Yankton counties
- Ferruginous Hawk** All Reports: all season Meade EEM; 07 Dec Charles Mix RFS; 15 Dec Hughes (3+) DS; 02 Jan Tripp RAP; 02 Jan Bennett LCS; 20 Jan Lyman JSP; 09 Feb Aurora MMM; 16 Feb Lyman RFS; 20 Feb Custer MMM; 23 Feb Charles Mix LAS
- Rough-legged Hawk** reported from Bennett, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Douglas, Gregory, Hughes, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Stanley, Tripp, and Yankton counties
- Golden Eagle** reported from Bennett, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Faulk, Harding, Hughes, Lyman, Meade, Pennington, Stanley, and Tripp counties
- American Kestrel** reported from Bennett, Charles Mix, Edmunds, Hughes, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Tripp, and Yankton counties
- Merlin** All Reports: 11 Dec Brown DAT; 01 Jan Brown DAT; 02 Jan Bennett LCS; 25 Jan and 14 Charles Mix DS; 01 Feb Charles Mix LAS; 09 Feb Tripp RAP; 16 Feb Lyman RFS; 20 Feb Pennington MMM; 22 Feb Hutchinson SFB; 23 Feb Gregory JPS
- Peregrine Falcon** Only Report ... 19 Dec Bennett LCS
- Gyr Falcon** All Reports: 07 Dec Hughes DAT; 21 Jan Stanley DGP; 15 Feb Stanley RFS
- Prairie Falcon** reported from Bennett, Brookings, Charles Mix, Lyman, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, and Tripp counties

Gray Partridge All Reports: all season Meade EEM; 05 Dec Brown (7) JCS; 21 Dec Lawrence (30) BAS; 21 Dec Meade (10) SW; 03 Jan Faulk (10) MMM; 04 Jan Minnehaha JPS, SFB; 05 Jan Minnehaha (6) RFS; 22 Feb Turner (3) SFB

Greater Prairie Chicken All Reports: **21 Dec Lincoln JPS**; 24 Dec Charles Mix LAS; 19 Jan Stanley JSP; 21 Jan Hughes DGP; 16 Feb Stanley RFS

Sharp-tailed Grouse reported from Bennett, Brown, Buffalo, Butte, Day, Faulk, Hughes, Meade, Pennington, Stanley, and Tripp counties

Wild Turkey reported from Bennett, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Davison, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Tripp, and Yankton counties

Northern Bobwhite All Reports: 01 Dec Pennington (8 escaped/introduced) TBW; 08 Dec Charles Mix LAS

American Coot All Reports: 07 Dec and 18 Jan Hughes JSP; 09 Dec - 24 Feb Yankton SVS; 19 Dec Bennett LCS; 09 Feb Yankton (2) BH

Sandhill Crane Only Report: **22 Feb Pennington *vide* DB**

Killdeer Only Report ... Dec - 10 Jan Meade (3) EEM

Common Snipe Only Report: all season Meade (9) EEM

Bonaparte's Gull Only Report: 08 Dec Charles Mix RM

Ring-billed Gull All Reports: 07 Dec Charles Mix RFS; 07 Dec Hughes JSP; 09 Dec Yankton SVS; 15 Dec Charles Mix RM

Herring Gull All Reports: 05 Dec Oahe Tailrace (25+) BKH; 07 Dec Charles Mix RFS; 07 Dec Hughes JSP; 09 Dec Yankton SVS; 15 Dec Charles Mix RM

Glaucous Gull All Reports: 07 Dec Charles Mix RFS; 18-20 Jan Hughes and Stanley JSP

Mourning Dove Only Report: 10 Dec Roberts *vide* BKH

Eastern Screech-Owl All Reports: 02 Jan, 9-11 Jan, and 28 Feb Brookings KIE; 15 Jan - Feb Meade EEM; 15 Jan Edmunds JDW; 02-21 Feb Yankton SVS; 04 Feb Minnehaha JPS; 21 Feb Bennett LCS

Snowy Owl reported from Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Dewey, Edmunds, Hand, Roberts, and Sully, Stanley counties

Short-eared Owl Only Report: 20 Dec Bennett LCS

Northern Saw-whet Owl All Reports: 13 Jan Watertown, Codington County (bird in hand) *vide* BKH; Jan Meade (1 found dead hanging on fence 2 miles N. of Sturgis) EEM

Belted Kingfisher All Reports: 22 Dec Yankton SVS; all season Meade (2) EEM

Lewis' Woodpecker reported from Butte and Meade counties BAS, SW, EEM

Red-bellied Woodpecker reported from Charles Mix, Hughes, Minnehaha, Roberts, and Yankton counties

Northern Flicker reported from Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Turner, and Yankton counties

Gray Jay All Report: Custer and Meade counties CMW, EEM

Black-billed Magpie reported from Butte, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Stanley, Tripp, and Yankton counties

Red-breasted Nuthatch reported from Brookings, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Lake, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Tripp, and Yankton counties

Brown Creeper All Reports: 01 Dec Pennington TBW; 20 Dec Lake JSP; 02 Jan and 10 Feb Meade EEM; 04 Jan Minnehaha (3) SFB; 08 Jan Gregory SVS; 16 Feb Union and Yankton SVS; all season Dec Brown (2) JCS

- Winter Wren** Only Report: 01 Dec Stanley DB
- Eastern Bluebird** Only Report: 22 Dec and 18 Jan Yankton SVS
- Mountain Bluebird** Only Report: 25 Feb Butte *fide* BAS
- Townsend's Solitaire** reported 23 Dec Brookings BKH; 31 Dec Day DRS; 31 Jan Brown DAT; 09 Feb Lincoln RFS; also from Butte, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, and Tripp counties
- American Robin** reported from Bennett, Bon Homme, Butte, Charles Mix, Clay, Gregory, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Tripp, and Yankton counties
- Varied Thrush** Only Report: **20 Dec - 07 Jan Madison, Lake County JSP**
- Bohemian Waxwing** All Reports: 07 Dec Butte (100+) BAS; 09 Dec Pennington (30) NRW; 09 Dec Day DRS; 15 Dec (23), 12 Jan (20, and 21 Feb (4) Butte SW; 07 Feb Meade (36) EEM
- Cedar Waxwing** reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Day, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Tripp, and Yankton counties
- Northern Shrike** reported from Bennett, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Day, Edmunds, Hughes, Meade, Minnehaha, Stanley, Tripp, and Yankton counties
- Northern Cardinal** reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Hughes, Minnehaha, Spink, Turner, and Yankton counties
- Song Sparrow** Only Report: 22 Dec Yankton SVS
- White-throated Sparrow** Only Report: 11 Dec Deuel BKH
- Harris' Sparrow** All Reports: 08 Dec Gregory LAS; 11 Dec - 28 Feb Butte (1-3) SW; 26 Dec Minnehaha RFS; 03 Jan and 19 Jan Yankton SVS; 05 Jan Pennington NRW
- Lapland Longspur** All Reports: 15 Dec Stanley DS; 01 Jan Minnehaha JPS; 02 Jan Bennett LCS; 22 Feb Hutchinson and Turner SFB; 23 Feb Charles Mix LAS; 24 Feb Yankton SVS
- Snow Bunting** reported from Bon Homme, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Day, Faulk, Harding, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Roberts, Stanley, Turner, Union, and Yankton counties
- Red-winged Blackbird** All Reports: 21 Dec Lincoln JPS; 02 Jan Brown DAT; 04 Jan Edmunds (8) JDW; 22 Feb Douglas SFB; 26 Feb Bennett LCS; 28 Feb Minnehaha (3) RFS
- Western Meadowlark** All Reports: 01 Dec Brule LAS; 05 Dec Clark BKH; 29 Dec Lake JPS; 02 Jan Bennett LCS; 04 Feb Charles Mix (2) RM; 11 Feb Pennington EEM
- Rusty Blackbird** Only Report: 02 Jan Brown DAT
- Brewer's Blackbird** Only Report: 07 Dec Lawrence BAS
- Common Grackle** All Reports: 06 Dec Lincoln JPS; 23 Dec Brookings BKH; 02 Jan Bennett LCS; 02 Jan Brown DAT; 03 Jan Charles Mix LAS
- Brown-headed Cowbird** Only Report: 02 Jan Brown DAT
- Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** All Reports: 26 Dec - 12 Feb Butte BAS; 26 Dec Pennington (50) NRW; 21 Jan Custer CMW; also reported from Meade County
- Pine Grosbeak** All Reports: all season Pickere Lake SRA, Day County DRS, BKH; 28 Dec Brown DAT
- Purple Finch** All Reports: 25 Dec and 10-12 Jan Butte SW; 25 Dec and 02 Feb Minnehaha RFS; 02 Jan Bennett LCS; 09 Jan Lake KB; 11 Jan Brown DAT; 10-28 Feb Meade EEM

House Finch reported from Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Deuel, Lake, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Tripp, and Yankton counties
Red Crossbill reported from Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Edmunds, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, and Tripp counties
White-winged Crossbill Only Report: 25 Jan Pickerel Lake SRA, Day County DRS
Common Redpoll All Reports: 01 Dec - 18 Feb Butte BAS; 11-18 Dec Butte SW; 16-18 Jan Brookings KIE; 08 Feb Brown SLS; 27 Feb Lake JSP
Evening Grosbeak reported from Butte, Custer, Lawrence, and Pennington counties

Species Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Osprey 02 Jan Bennett LCS
Broad-winged Hawk 23 Feb Lawrence BAS, SW
Pomarine Jaeger 01 Dec Hughes (same bird reported in the Fall Season) DB
Thayer's Gull 05 Dec Oahe Tailrace BKH; 07 Dec Oahe Tailrace JSP, DAT; 21 Dec Fort Randall Tailrace RM
Black-legged Kittiwake 07 Dec Charles Mix RFS
Great Gray Owl 30 Jan - 02 Feb Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County RFS, JSP, JDW, BH
Boreal Owl 11 Jan Roslyn, Day County *vide* DRS
Loggerhead Shrike 22 Dec Pennington TBW
Field Sparrow 02 Jan Bennett LCS

Species Expected But Not Reported

American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Wood Duck (2), American Black Duck (2), Oldsquaw, Ruffed Grouse, Franklin's Gull, Long-eared Owl (2), Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker (3), Pileated Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker (3), Pygmy Nuthatch (2), Canyon Wren (2), Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cassin's Finch (2)

Contributing Observers

DB	Doug Backlund	BAS	Bud & Alice Shaykett
KB	Kristel Bakker	SFB	Sioux Falls Bird Club
BKH	Bruce K. Harris	DRS	Dennis R. Skadsen
BH	Bill Huser	JPS	Joe P. Staab
KIE	Kieckhefer Family	JCS	Jerry C. Stanford
LCS	Lacreek NWR Staff	DS	David Swanson
LAS	Lake Andes NWR Staff	DAT	Dan A. Tallman
LRL	Lester R. Lauritzen	SVS	Steve VanSickle
RM	Ron Mabie	TBW	Tom & Brenda Warren
MMM	Michael M. Melius	SW	Sheila West
EEM	Ernest E. Miller	NRW	Nathaniel R. Whitney
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer	JDW	J. David Williams
RAP	Richard A. Peterson	CMW	Cheryl M. Wormstadt
DGP	D. George Prisbe		
SLS	Sand Lake NWR Staff		
RFS	Robb F. Schenck		

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