
SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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NOTES

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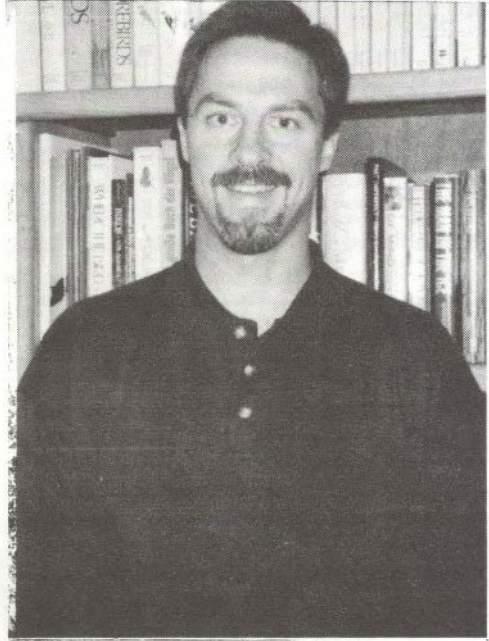
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As I write this column, spring is exerting its influence in the Vermillion area. The trees and shrubs are starting to leaf out, the grass is growing so fast you can almost watch it grow (and as usual my lawnmower is in the shop), and, of course, migrating songbirds are beginning to appear. Naturally, my thoughts turn to the spring SDOU. This year's version is slated for Aberdeen on May 15-17. One of the missions of the SDOU is to bring together students of ornithology in South Dakota, and our biannual meetings were designed for just that purpose. As always, the spring rendezvous centers around field trips. Included among the scheduled trips are forays to Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, where a number of waders, waterfowl, and shorebirds should be present, Samuel H. Ordway Memorial Prairie, where



Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit are possible, riparian woodlands along the James River, where warblers and other Neotropical migrant songbirds should be in abundance, and Brown County wetlands for shorebirds, with the potential for Black-necked Stilts that have nested in the area for the past several years.

We also have the distinct pleasure of entertaining Brian Harrington of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (formerly Manomet Bird Observatory) as our banquet speaker. He is the author of *The Flight of the Red Knot*, and is an internationally recognized expert on shorebirds and shorebird migration. Mr. Harrington will also be present at Sand Lake NWR for the week prior to our meeting, as he will be running a workshop on migratory shorebirds at Northern State University.

This promises to be a very exciting meeting. By the time that this issue of *Bird Notes* goes to press, the meeting may already be over. If that is the case, I hope that many of you were able to attend. If this reaches you before the meeting, I would encourage you to attend. These meetings are an ideal place to renew or begin friendships with other birders in South Dakota, and they are excellent for gaining exposure to the birds of South Dakota. Most importantly, they are a great deal of fun. *David Swanson, Department of Biology, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069.*

GULL AND TERN COLONIES ON THE MISSOURI RIVER: FIRST NESTING OF CASPIAN TERN IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Bruce Harris and Barry Betts
Box 605, Clear Lake SD 57226

Biological Services, 106 N. Main, Chamberlain, SD 57325

One of the most interesting birding experiences I have had in South Dakota began in September 1994. I was discussing plans for intensive bird surveys on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation (CRSR) with Barry Betts, who has contracted wildlife surveys with various South Dakota tribes through his company, Biological Services, for several years. During our conversation I asked Barry if he had observed any species of terns or gulls, other than Least Terns, during breeding seasons. He replied that he had seen other species regularly and added that just that summer, while running a plover-tern survey for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, he had located a large colony of gulls. I stated that SDOU has never recorded a colony of Ring-billed Gulls or Common Terns along the Missouri River and that the nearest known colony was 140 miles east in Day County. Barry said that he had taken photos of the colony showing adults with nests and young, and that he also had photos of a pair of terns with nest and eggs. I asked him to send me the photos. I assumed, of course, that the birds would be Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns. When the photos arrived I was elated to see that the gull colony included both California and Ring-billed gulls. The terns with eggs were Common Terns, as expected. I was really eager to get on the job in Dewey County and see those breeding birds.

In 1995, my field work for Barry's company did not begin until the first of May, due to budget constraints. In May of that year, I reminded Barry Betts to look for the gull colony when making his annual CRSR antelope production survey by airplane (he had located the gull colony in 1994 while making that aerial survey). It was a real disappointment when he reported that the colony site was completely inundated by continual flooding of the Missouri River—but not unexpected because waters on the Missouri (and Cheyenne River) had been rising steadily for two years, almost completely wiping out colonies of Least Terns and Piping plovers on all of the reservoirs. From an all-time low in 1993, the reservoir filled by the summer of 1995. Thanks to the tenacity of the gulls to reproduce, Barry found the colony several miles from the 1994 site on a later survey flight. The location was roughly opposite the Sutton Bay fishing access, on the Cheyenne River Reservation side of the river. Barry took photos of adult gulls with young and eggs, finding both Ring-billed and California gulls at the site. The survey crew also observed Caspian Terns several times, and recorded a pair of Common Terns being harassed by several Least Terns at the Walworth County line (CRST-EPD 1995).

In 1996, Betts located the breeding colony three miles SW of the 1995 site—apparently the birds had been flooded out again. I was caught up on my survey work enough to take part in the plover-tern survey on 16 July 1996. But on the 15th, Dugan Smith, Tribal Project Manager, had field work to do in the area where the colony was located and I was eager to see the birds from a shore position, so he offered to take me to the site. The colony was on a small (2 acre) island, obviously a peninsula before flooding cut it off from the mainland. We were able to drive to a point of land not more than 300 yards from the mixed colony of California and Ring-billed gulls. The

weather was clear and our location above the colony made for perfect viewing. I was able to use a 20-power scope, giving me excellent observations of the birds on the island and surrounding waters. I estimated the colony was possibly three weeks past peak hatching period, as the few chicks that were still on or around the colony were at least half-grown. It was very difficult to estimate numbers. We were not able to see more than 50 percent of the island—that is, the side facing our shore. But I estimated 50 adult California Gulls on the colony, and about the same number of Ring-billed Gulls. Most young observed were swimming in the water near adults.

After scanning the colony and swimming birds for some time, I focused on the near shore area of the colony, where several adult California gulls were loafing near a steep bank, possibly five feet high. There was a conspicuous mound of soil between the bank and the shore. The shore area was a typical mix of sand, small rocks and debris, littered with droppings and patches of feathers. A large bird was huddled up against the mound of dirt. It lunged forward and screamed loudly at the gulls that came near it. I was surprised to see an adult Caspian Tern. Watching it for some time in the scope as it resented the approach of other birds, I noted a whitish glob under its breast. When the tern stood up to attack a passing gull, a large chick appeared from the glob of white feathers. This was the reason for the adult's reaction to the gulls wandering into its territory. The chick appeared to be about one-third grown. No other adult Caspian Tern was seen around the island, and I understood the tern's anxiety with the large California Gulls nearby. One wonders whether the adult Caspian had more than a single chick hatched from its nest, or if other eggs or young were eaten by marauding gulls, a normal occurrence in such colonies.

This was the first confirmed breeding for Caspian Terns in South Dakota. Richard Rosche observed courtship behavior of Caspian Terns at Angostura Reservoir on 25 June 1989, and I found a fledged chick begging from an adult at Lake Poinsett on 11 September 1988 (Peterson 1995). The young bird at Lake Poinsett might have been fledged hundreds of miles from that lake, as Caspian Terns have a very long period of feeding young after fledging. However, I had observed an adult Caspian Tern at that site on 26 July. And the bird being fed on 11 September was conspicuously barred on the back, typical of young Caspian's. I had never before observed a bird in that plumage in South Dakota.

The 1996 survey was conducted on 16 July, with four men in Betts' personal boat. Winds picked up steadily during the day, eventually reaching 20-30 mph, with long, rolling waves 4-5 feet high. This gave us some trouble in observing birds, but visibility was good and we put in a full day running the shores of Lake Oahe. Fortunately, we found the gull colony in a somewhat protected area, where wave action was not a problem. We saw the Caspian Tern with its chick in the same area as the previous day. Barry Betts took a number of photos of the tern and the two species of gulls nesting on the island. His photos were very good, giving conclusive proof of Caspian Tern nesting in South Dakota (see cover photograph).

Continuing with the survey, we found four adult Caspian Terns in a group, about three miles from the gull colony. Two Least Terns were found in the Rousseau Park area, where the survey terminated for the day. Other birds recorded on this survey were more than 150 Franklin gulls in five areas, most in breeding plumage, suggesting they may have been flooded off a colony somewhere in the area (CRST-EPD 1996).

On the 17th, Betts, Dugan Smith and Dave Nelson, CRSR Environmental Protection Director, continued the survey west up the Cheyenne River to the Highway 61 bridge. They also found a group of four adult Caspian Terns during the survey, with two Least Terns (CRST-EPD 1996). It is not known whether these birds were the same Caspians observed on the 16th. Such strong fliers easily move 10-15 miles in a day. But its tempting to speculate that there may have been three pair of Caspian Terns at the gull colony (or five pair) and predation by the California gulls eliminated all but a single surviving chick.

We probably should not have been too surprised at finding Caspian Terns nesting along the Missouri River, because the species has been noted during the breeding season in various places around the state, primarily in the northeast. Although Caspian Terns are colonial nesters, often in large concentrations (Bent 1918), they are also known to breed in small groups (1-5 pairs) in widely scattered areas in the interior of the United States. A number of June sightings have been recorded, but migration is often extended into mid-June, so only dates after the middle of the month should be considered breeding birds. On 11 July 1986, Harris, D. Skadsen and J. Gilman observed a single bird at Goose Lake, Codington County. On 28 June 1993, Harris observed a single Caspian near Yankton, and on the following day a single Caspian Tern was recorded below Oahe Dam on the Missouri. On 31 July 1993, I saw a Caspian at Bullhead Lake, Roberts County and in July 1995, Barry Betts, while making the Plover-Tern survey for CRSR, reported three birds on the Missouri. I observed five Caspian Terns moving north up Big Stone Lake on 17 July 1996, and on the 26th a group of eight (possibly nine) again moving north up Big Stone -- all these from the vicinity of Sodak Park, midway on the 30 mile lake. There are three rocky islands on the south end of Big Stone Lake that might serve as breeding grounds for Caspian Terns, but the traffic from fishermen and recreation boaters make it unlikely that the birds observed near Sodak Park during 1996 would have nested there. It's more reasonable to expect them to breed on similar islands on Lake Traverse (only 20 air miles for Sodak Park), where traffic from the public is much less than on Big Stone Lake. It should be noted that there is a rocky island on Dry Lake (adjacent to Lake Poinsett) is only one mile north of the location of the adult with begging young found by Harris on 11 September 1988. Alfred Peterson reported 20 nests of Common terns at Lake Poinsett 29 June 1930 (SDOU. *The Birds of South Dakota*, p. 159). Several other summer sightings are in the literature (SDOU. *The Birds of South Dakota*, p. 158).

Caspian Terns have been found breeding in Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming and Minnesota; but in North Dakota and Minnesota there have been only single nestings reported. Common Terns have been found nesting in three northeastern counties (Roberts, Day and Marshall) since 1969, when Harris et al. located 36 nests at North Drywood Lake, Roberts County. So it was a very significant record when Barry Betts located Common Terns nesting in 1994 on the Missouri River, Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation shore. Prior to this, on 3 July 1993 Harris observed three pair of Common Terns fishing below the Oahe Dam. When four of the birds flew over the dam to the north with food in their beaks, it strongly suggested breeding, particularly considering the time of the year. But checks by Doug Backlund did not locate a breeding site.

Acknowledgments.

We appreciate very much the help we received in the field from the following staff of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe-- Environmental Protection Department:

Dugan Smith, Dave Nelson, Carlyle Ducheneaux and Kelly Ward. They provided us with transportation and competent help in locating birds and nests.

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GENERAL NOTES

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLES IN CHARLES MIX COUNTY. A wonderful thing about birds is that they are free to fly wherever they please. People look at range maps in bird books but birds do not. My encounter with such a bird occurred on 9 May 1997. I had accompanied my wife on a trip to a local store in Charles Mix County. I noticed several Common Grackles on the well-maintained lawn across the street. As we were about to enter the store, I heard sounds that took me back to my younger days in Texas. I stopped in my tracks, looked at my wife and asked if she had heard the call. She looked at me in her usual way whenever I ask that question. I then told her to go on inside and that I would wait for her by the vehicle. I stayed outside and listened for the call. I spent about five minutes looking and listening but never heard the call again.

My wife soon emerged from the store and found me standing by the corner gazing across the road. I told her that I wanted to drive the road along the shelterbelt with the windows rolled down in hopes of hearing or seeing the birds I believed to be in the area. We slowly drove down the road but never saw or heard the bird. I then stopped the vehicle and walked along the trees. Again I had no luck. I returned slightly depressed and told my wife that there were many nesting Mourning Doves and Common Grackles in the trees but these were not the birds I was after. We decided to go home, as we were not having any luck in locating the birds. As we were approaching the corner, I glanced out the window and there on the lawn were the birds I had spent the last half-hour trying to locate. Two male Great-tailed Grackles were feeding along with several Common Grackles.

I rushed home and called my birding friends, Ron and Marietta Mabie. I asked if they had ever seen Great-tailed Grackles in the area. When they responded no, we quickly devised a plan to drive back to see if the grackles were still in the area. When we arrived, we found a male Great-tailed Grackle perched in a pine tree. He flew

over us and landed across the street. We drove across the street and observed it for about thirty seconds. He flew back across the street. We then noticed a female fly by with nesting material in her bill. We were very excited, as we realized that birds that were rarely seen in South Dakota were attempting to nest at this location.

I checked the shelterbelt three more times during the summer and saw the Great-tailed Grackle each time but was never able to locate the nest they were using. Although I never located the nesting grackles, I enjoyed the experience of seeing birds that are not even supposed to be found in the state. The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee has classified this sighting as a Class 2 report. *Rick Cantu, Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Box 88, Annada MO 63330,*

TALLMAN 1997 BANDING REPORT. At 2133 birds, the 1997 banding year was slightly below the average of 2332 for the banding station at 1709 North Jay Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota. The year was "rescued" by a late influx of siskins. An immature Horned Lark was added to the birdlist for this residential backyard. The year will be remembered for its Broad-winged Hawks. Six were banded during the spring migration; the previous high for any given year was two. Least Flycatchers, at 49, broke the previous high by one; interestingly Traill's Flycatchers were well below average. Other Neotropical migrants equaling or breaking previous highs by one bird include Veery, Orange-crowned Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll, and Black-and-White Warbler. I banded a record number of Ovenbirds (52, the previous high being 38), surprising since the winter range of this species is being destroyed at alarming rates. Also breaking previous highs were Swainson's Thrush, Spotted Towhee, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. On the other hand, after years of increases, House Finch numbers were drastically down, presumably victim of the harsh 1997 winter coupled with a highly contagious eye disease. No White-breasted Nuthatches were banded, whereas six are usually caught per year.

Table 1. Banding at Aberdeen, South Dakota, 1997. Minimum, maximum, and average data are from the previous 12 years, 1985 - 1996 and do not include 1997 data. Noteworthy records are italicized and bold.

	min	max	average	1997
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	7	2.83	1
Cooper's Hawk	0	1	0.17	0
<i>Broad-winged Hawk</i>	0	2	0.17	6
Merlin	0	1	0.08	0
Mourning Dove	1	25	6.67	6
Black-billed Cuckoo	0	1	0.25	0
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	2	0.75	1
Saw-whet Owl	0	8	3.08	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	2	0.50	0
Downy Woodpecker	0	17	7.67	9
Hairy Woodpecker	0	4	1.00	2
Northern Flicker	1	15	6.58	2
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	1	0.17	0
Eastern Wood-Pewee	0	1	0.08	0
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	4	1.42	3
<i>Least Flycatcher</i>	3	48	16.75	49
Traill's Flycatcher	0	29	10.17	4
Cordilleran Flycatcher	0	1	0.08	0

Eastern Phoebe	0	2	0.25	0
Great Crested Flycatcher	0	1	0.08	0
<i>Horned Lark</i>	0	0	0	1
Barn Swallow	0	1	0.08	0
Blue Jay	1	22	6.33	7
Black-capped Chickadee	17	56	40.58	32
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	60	13.17	27
<i>White-breasted Nuthatch</i>	1	17	6.50	0
Brown Creeper	2	17	8.00	5
House Wren	1	31	17.17	25
Winter Wren	0	1	0.17	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	31	13.83	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	17	57	33.83	23
<i>Veery</i>	0	3	1.17	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	13	6.58	11
<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>	31	104	64.17	118
Hermit Thrush	0	15	4.67	5
American Robin	61	241	121.08	99
Gray Catbird	1	30	10.67	11
Brown Thrasher	3	18	9.17	7
Bohemian Waxwing	0	11	1.25	0
Cedar Waxwing	2	57	11.33	3
Northern Shrike	0	9	1.33	0
European Starling	0	5	2.42	0
Solitary Vireo	0	3	1.00	1
Warbling Vireo	1	12	4.25	6
Philadelphia Vireo	0	2	0.58	0
Red-eyed Vireo	2	13	7.33	3
Golden-winged Warbler	0	1	0.25	0
Tennessee Warbler	0	17	5.75	15
<i>Orange-crowned Warbler</i>	0	80	41.42	81
Nashville Warbler	0	9	3.42	2
Yellow Warbler	1	26	7.75	11
<i>Chestnut-sided Warbler</i>	0	3	0.83	4
Magnolia Warbler	0	12	2.17	7
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	3	0.67	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	43	20.75	12
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	1	0.08	0
Townsend's Warbler	0	1	0.08	0
Palm Warbler	0	2	0.42	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	2	0.58	0
Blackpoll Warbler	0	11	2.67	6
Black-and-white Warbler	3	21	8.25	21
American Redstart	2	17	7.25	17
Worm-eating Warbler	0	1	0.08	0
● <i>venbird</i>	5	36	13.33	52
Northern Waterthrush	0	16	4.67	6
Connecticut Warbler	0	2	0.50	2
Mourning Warbler	2	28	10.25	17
MacGillivray's Warbler	0	3	0.50	1
Common Yellowthroat	1	10	5.08	11
Wilson's Warbler	4	20	10.92	4
Canada Warbler	0	7	1.42	4
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	1	0.25	1

Scarlet Tanager	0	1	0.08	0
Northern Cardinal	0	1	0.17	0
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	5	1.58	0
Black-headed Grosbeak	0	1	0.08	0
Lazuli Bunting	0	2	0.25	0
<i>Spotted Towhee</i>	0	4	1.17	8
Tree Sparrow	1	255	34.17	23
Chipping Sparrow	2	30	10.75	17
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	22	5.08	8
Field Sparrow	0	3	0.58	0
Fox Sparrow	0	14	2.00	3
<i>Song Sparrow</i>	0	6	2.67	7
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	30	14.58	16
Swamp Sparrow	0	2	0.58	0
White-throated Sparrow	21	116	50.50	56
White-crowned Sparrow	0	28	4.75	3
Harris' Sparrow	2	40	10.92	4
Dark-eyed Junco	112	816	437.83	420
Oregon Junco	0	6	2.25	2
Red-winged Blackbird	0	13	2.92	0
<i>Yellow-headed Blackbird</i>	0	3	0.50	6
Rusty Blackbird	0	1	0.08	0
Common Grackle	24	169	69.08	24
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	3	0.75	1
Orchard Oriole	0	5	0.58	0
Baltimore Oriole	0	5	0.92	0
Pine Grosbeak	0	1	0.08	0
Purple Finch	4	55	24.42	4
<i>House Finch</i>	0	542	146.25	110
Red Crossbill	0	16	3.75	1
White-winged Crossbill	0	7	0.92	1
Common Redpoll	1	1236	335.50	10
Hoary Redpoll	0	6	1.25	0
Pine Siskin	118	2179	624.33	596
American Goldfinch	26	377	120.00	57
House Sparrow	0	14	1.92	5
Evening Grosbeak	0	1	0.25	0
number of individuals				2133
grand total (including 1997)	30117			
average yearly total	2332			

Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.



BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD, VOL. 4. SANDGROUSE TO CUCKOOS—H. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot, and J. Sargatal, Eds. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 1997. Hardbound. 664 pp. \$185.00.

When I reviewed Volume 3 of this series last year (SDBN 49:39-40), I described it at "the best bird book ever." This description still applies.

As in the previous volumes, the layout consists of a long section describing each bird family covered. Topics include systematics, morphology, habitat, behavior, voice, breeding, movements, and relationships with people, including status and conservation. Following this come a series of species accounts, with notes on taxonomy, distribution (with a map), description, habitat, food, breeding, migration, status and conservation, and a bibliography.

The family description is lavishly illustrated with stunning color photographs. These photos must be the result of digital technology, as they are uniformly excellent, at times approaching three-dimensional. Outstanding in this volume is a photo of a Greater Roadrunner grasping in its beak a large rattlesnake. Another photograph is of a nearly surrealistic mob of green, blue and yellow lorries, so closely packed together that there is no space between the individuals. In front of each species account section lie a series of paintings showing each of the species covered (usually males, but occasionally other plumages). The editors apologize in the introduction that the number of artists has increased from about a dozen to 18. The editors are concerned about style variations. To me, the paintings look uniformly excellent, and those of cockatoos by Lewington approach photographic quality. In total, there are 70 color plates and 236 photographs in the volume.

Again, the book's layout and design are stunning and represent a subtle improvement from the first volume. I also notice that, beginning with the cuckoos, voice is included with the species descriptions, whereas for previous families this aspect was only covered for the family in general. This addition will be very helpful with the upcoming passerine volumes.

Volume 4 comes with two added features. The first is a print of a perky Ostrich head taken from the cover of the first volume. This gift is nice (and worthy of framing); I would have preferred a reduction to the books' cost, however small that might have been. The second is more valuable, an introductory lecture on the nature of our understanding of the species concept as it applies to birds. Ornithologists tend to think of bird species as real, rather than subjective, entities. It turns out that there are three schools of thought, those that hold to the typographical concept, the biological concept, or the phylogenetic concept. Depending on which concept you hold dear, the result in numbers of bird species recognized ranges from about 8,500 to 20,000! The author, Jurgen Haffer, argues for the biological species concept with resultant conservative totals. This forward is not easy reading and could probably have benefited by doubling its dozen pages for the benefit of the lay reader. However, the foreword, along with the introduction to avian biology in the first volume, result in a sophisticated ornithology course for any reader. So not only do you get a wonderful reference book, you get an ornithology course too.

You can glean a powerful amount of data by just skimming these volumes. I have decided to read the family accounts cover to cover. Even if I retain only a fraction of the information contained within, I will vastly increase my ornithological knowledge. (For example, did you know that pigeons and doves are almost the only birds to suck water when they drink? Or that sandgrouse young drink from water soaked into their father's feathers and thereby transported to the nest—and to accomplish this male sandgrouse feathers have structural modifications that make them three to four times more absorbent than synthetic sponges?)

As I said in my initial review, these books deserve whatever sacrifices you might need to make for their purchase. The quality of the series makes the price well worth the sacrifice. If the volumes are beyond your budget, you should make every effort to have your regional library obtain them. Information on pricing and even ordering forms, along with examples from each volume, can be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.hbw.com/>. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

POCKET GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. Kightley, C., S. Madge, and D. Nurney, 1998. Yale University Press. 299 pp. Soft-bound \$20.00.

The time is ripe for a new field guide to the northwestern European birds and this book will not disappoint. The authors manage to incorporate a vast amount of information into the 299 pages and, with its handy size (6 x 4 inches), waterproof cover and fold-out cover flaps to protect the pages, the book is actually designed for use in the field — a practical intent seldom fulfilled! One or two species are depicted in the individual color plates; Dave Nurney's excellent illustrations show juveniles and adults in contrasting attitudes, emphasizing ground and flight behavior, and singing and feeding habits. Unlike so many texts where aspects of birds, perched or in flight, are standardized, Nurney's illustrations select the most typical habits and capture the "character" of each species, conveying behavioral details that complement the text very effectively. Both the text and illustrations also do an excellent job of focusing on the most valuable field marks for identification. Songs and calls are described with admirable precision, again emphasizing behaviors such as song flights, song frequency and duration, and alarm calls likely to be of value in the field. As with the rest of the text, this material reveals the authors' extensive field experience and attention to detail; how many texts mention the (frequent) tendency of the Lesser Whitethroat to precede its characteristic repeated-note song with a soft, low warble? Many of Kightley and Madge's novel song descriptions are also more accurate (if sometimes less memorable) than the oft-quoted witty epithets that have been passed down to us over the years!

Status information in a highlighted corner panel accompanies the text for each bird. This includes detailed distribution maps, giving breeding and wintering ranges and breeding and/or wintering population estimates based on current census data from the British Trust for Ornithology. A useful introduction, explaining bird classification and the text format precede the individual species descriptions. This section also includes a glossary, a "topography" of anatomical terms, and hints on effective and responsible birding. The more familiar reader seeking information on bird biology may regret the omission of detailed breeding, nesting and feeding information, but this would come at the expense of compactness. My only real criticism — and it is a small one — is the lack of information on breeding, wintering and passage seasons

that could be given using a simple month letter code. It would also be very useful for the book to list the months over which birds are typically encountered singing, since these vary dramatically in breadth among the breeding passerines in Britain. However, considering its intent, this is a superb book that clearly leads the field among comparable field guides and is strongly recommended for experienced and novice birders alike. *Jonathan Wright, Biology Department, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

A FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF THE GAMBIA AND SENEGAL. Barlow, Clive and Tim Wacher. 1997. Yale University Press. 400 pp. Hardbound.

Here is a part of the World about which I know almost nothing; thus it was with considerable interest that I reviewed this guide to the birds of the region. Gambia is an oddly shaped, narrow country completely surrounded by Senegal. Gambia is a tourist destination for Europe and the country supports luxury hotels. Six hundred and sixty species are known to occur in these two countries, located in West Africa between the Sahara and the tropics. I was surprised to calculate that fully a tenth of these species are raptors. The remaining species are a curious mix of European, East African and South African species. No species is endemic to the area. Gambia, however, is one of the best places in the world to see the Egyptian Plover, a bird renowned in myth for picking the teeth of basking crocodiles.

This book is a straightforward field guide to the birds, with color plates, plate legends, and accompanying short species accounts. The illustrations are excellent. The introduction contains a short review of habitats and three short paragraphs describing the countries' protected areas. A birder heading out to Gambia or Senegal would do well to also arm him or her self with a copy of Wheatley's *Where to Watch Birds in Africa*. The present book is strictly a field guide rather than a bird-finding aid. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

A FIELD GUIDE TO WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA. Dunn, Jon and Kimball Garrett. 1997. Houghton Mifflin. 656 pp. Softbound \$20.00.

This guide has a different look to it than the others in the Peterson series. It begins with a text on the natural history of warblers, continues with chapters on how to use the book, and then proceeds with 32 color plates of the warblers of North America. The remaining two-thirds of the book presents species accounts, complete with maps and numerous color photographs.

My initial reaction to the book was that it might well have had its overall dimensions doubled, even keeping the page numbers the same. The illustrations and photographs seem a bit small. But this is about my only criticism. No other text should be used for warbler identification. The foremost reason for this is the number of illustrations of each species. This book has eight portraits of the Black-and-White Warbler and 17 of the Yellow-rumped Warbler complex. The Peterson Eastern guide has only two pictures of the former and six of the Yellow-rumped. Another example is with the Common Yellowthroat. This new guide has 12 portraits on the same page, depicting five races of the species. The eastern guide has but two, a male and a female. Other popular field guides also similarly suffer by comparison.

The profusion of illustrations allow uncommon plumages to be depicted, such as many first fall female plumages. Black-throated Blue and Cape May warblers may be

otherwise practically impossible to identify without this guide. The color photographs in the species accounts also serve to illustrate many difficult plumages. Thus the birder has the best of both worlds, since other guides tend to have either illustrations or photographs, but not both.

The species accounts include descriptions and comparisons with other species, voice, behavior, habitat, distribution, status and conservation, subspecies, taxonomic relationships, plumages and molts, and literature references. As those of you who read my reviews know, I believe the addition of subspecies data is long overdue in field guides. Each account also has an easy to read range map. However, because South Dakota is peripheral to many warbler ranges, maps do not always show the correct ranges for our state. For example, summer records of Tennessee, Pine, and Yellow-throated Warblers and not indicated for our state. Despite this shortcoming, this relatively inexpensive book is essential for state birders. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*

Kristel K. Bakker, a graduate student in wildlife biology and ecology at South Dakota State University, has won the SDOU's Kenneth H. Husmann memorial Scholarship for 1998-99. The award will apply toward her study for the Doctor or Philosophy degree at SDSU. Bakker's research involves the ecology of nongame birds in grassland and woodlands of eastern South Dakota.

The scholarship honors the late Kenneth H. Husmann, Brookings, who devoted many years to wildlife conservation and environmental concern in South Dakota.



CHRISTMAS COUNTS

1997-1998

Location	Date	# Observers, compiler	(°F); other weather
Aberdeen	20 Dec 1997	6, Dan Tallman	11 - 34; 0 - 1 inch snow cover; Sunny; wind S 10 - 15 mph
Brookings	20 Dec 1997	12, Neida Holden	16 - 33; wind 0 - 10 mph; 0-4 inch snow cover.
Burke	20 Dec 1997	3, Richard Peterson	20 - 32; wind 5 - 10 mph; 0 snow cover; Sunny.
Hot Springs	21 Dec 1997	5, Cheryl Wormstadt	10-36; 1 inch snow cover; mostly sunny; Angostura 98% open.
Madison	19 Dec 1997	Sandy Uecher	-
Pierre	20 Dec 1997	19, Doug Backlund	12-43 ; no snow cover; light wind.
Rapid City	27 Dec 1997	21, Todd Jensen	27-44; 0-1 inch snow; wind 5-40 mph; partly cloudy.
Sand Lake	23 Dec 1997	10, William Schultze	13 - 38; no snow cover, calm, clear.
Shadehill	20 Dec 1997	3, Dave Griffiths	18 - 38; no snow cover, calm, clear
Sioux Falls	20 Dec 1997	22, Robb Schenck	25 - 33; 0-2 inch snow cover, partly cloudy; wind 5 - 10 mph.
Spearfish	3 Jan 1998	5, Tom Hays	4 - 14; 0-2 inch snow cover, partly cloudy; wind 0 - 10 mph.
Waubay	23 Dec 1997	-- Laura Umbright	-
Wilmot	30 Dec 1997	3, Bruce Harris	10 - 25; winds 5 - 20 mph.
Wind Cave	14 Dec 1997	15, Dan Roddy	54 max; wind 20 - 25 mph, clear.
Yankton	21 Dec 1997	22, Juli Wilcox	33 - 32; 0 inch snow cover, clear

	ABR	BRK	BUR	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	SHA	SIL	SPR	WAL	WCV	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
Common Loon											1					1
Pied-billed Grebe				2												2
Great Blue Heron		1		1								1			1	4
Greater White-fronted Goose									1							1
Snow Goose						83		1		5						89
Canada Goose				1098	15	50385	75	127	2802	888	91			12	72	55565
Wood Duck							4			1						5
Mallard	73			1274	11	5090	994	421	250	534	162	10	2	2	1879	10702
American Black Duck										1						1
Green-winged Teal							7			1	3					11
Northern Pintail								1							1	2
Gadwall						5	23			4	6				50	88
American Wigeon				1		8	88									97
Canvasback				4												4
Redhead						1	1									2
Ring-necked Duck				37				3								40
Lesser Scaup						1		2							1	4
Common Goldeneye						26	90		8	1	5				5	135
Barrow's Goldeneye							2									2
Bufflehead							9	1	1							11
Hooded Merganser						5				1					1	7
Common Merganser						31	17									48
Bald Eagle		3		4		14	6	1			21		2		29	80
Northern Harrier															1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1		1						5					2	9
Cooper's Hawk		1	1							1	1		1		1	6
Goshawk	1						1									2
Accipiter sp.															2	2
hawksp.															1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1		8	2		4	2			9	1		1	22		50
Ferruginous Hawk				1		1					1					3
Rough-legged Hawk				2		3	5		1		19				2	32
Golden Eagle			5	4		3	2	3	5				12			34
American Kestrel	2	2	2	1	5	4	1			9					10	36
Merlin			1			2	1									4
Prairie Falcon						3			1							4
Gray Partridge		2			10										10	22
Ring-necked Pheasant	41	27	3	3	2	84		69	18	29	1	1		3	22	303
Sharp-shinned Grouse				4		11	1	20	16		10	3	79			144
Wild Turkey			25	170	1	10	399			78			55		23	761

	ABR	BRK	BLR	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	SHA	SIL	SPR	WAL	WCV	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
Northern Bobwhite															1	1
Killdeer							1									1
American Coot				30		63	3			3					96	195
Common Snipe											12		1		1	14
Franklin's Gull							2									2
Bonaparte's Gull							18									18
Ring-billed Gull				196		205									1	402
Herring Gull							12									12
Glaucous Gull							2									2
Rock Dove	213	106	8	31	19	206	272	40	4	285	51	106		103	116	1739
Mourning Dove		1			17	7	1	1								27
Eastern Screech-Owl		1								2						3
Great Horned Owl	1	8	2		8	14	2	8	2	5	3	3	3	2	2	63
Snowy Owl												7				7
Short-eared Owl															1	1
Saw-whet Owl							1						1			2
Belted Kingfisher				1		1	3			1	6				1	13
Lewis' Woodpecker											3					3
Red-bellied Woodpecker		2				3				4		1		8	16	34
Downy Woodpecker	9	46	4	2	27	18	13	12	2	50	6	10	6	22	40	267
Hairy Woodpecker	5	10	1	2	2	13	15	11		6	2	4	10	14	10	105
Northern Flicker	2	6	3	10	2	9	8	12		2	15	1	1	1	10	82
Horned Lark		7	4		44	6	1	15	1				24	1		103
Gray Jay				2			1							2		5
Blue Jay	5	45	2	14	34	1	31	41		25	63	1		12	43	317
Pinyon Jay				23												23
Clark's Nutcracker				1									4			5
Black-billed Magpie			1			10	29		5		9		10		4	68
American Crow	18	211	26	34	162	8	511	12		179	153	34	26	43	395	1812
Black-capped Chickadee	34	139	23	71	63	51	129	21	12	221	90	54	188	60	65	1221
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	21	17	10	16	9	40		4	28	4	11	36	2	4	212
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	27	10	5	3	12	13	3	2	35	1	13	17	24	14	183
Brown Creeper	2	2		1	15	3	1			3	1	2	1		12	43
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1				3	2				2			1			9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1											1	2
Canyon Wren							4									4
Eastern Bluebird	1															1
Townsend's Solitaire				24		3	10		5		6		9			57
American Robin	4	9	3	329		350	7	1	13	6	378		9		3587	4696
Brown Towhee							1									1
Bohemian Waxwing											49					49
Cedar Waxwing	240	117	65	20	89	1250		3		46	88	58		12	75	2063

	ABR	BRK	BUR	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	SHA	SUI	SPR	WALU	WCV	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
Northern Shrike	1	3	2	1	2	3	3	3	1	1					4	28
European Starling	235	270		54	519	103	717	149	45	455	440	46	2		1585	4620
Northern Cardinal		6			2					14					19	41
American Tree Sparrow		26	46	346	24	182	48	225	1	95	102		6		92	1193
Song Sparrow		1			1	33	1						1		2	39
Lincoln's Sparrow													1			1
Harris' Sparrow				3	1		1				3					8
Dark-eyed Junco		68		126	46	143		6	5	157		1	486		113	1151
Slate-colored Junco	11		8		2	90	69				26			44		250
Oregon Junco						1	8				9					18
White-winged Junco							382				65					447
Lapland Longspur					4				8							12
Snow Bunting												846				846
Red-winged Blackbird		1		3		16		299		55					408	782
Western Meadowlark			1		1											2
Yellow-headed Blackbird								27								27
Rusty Blackbird															20	20
Brewer's Blackbird						1		1								2
Common Grackle				1	1	1		6				1			10	20
Brown-headed Cowbird																0
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch																0
Pine Grosbeak																0
Purple Finch	4	57			10	61	4			1		12		9	6	164
Cassin's Finch				1												1
House Finch	38	37	12	5	2	51	13	2	6	66		12		6	39	289
Red Crossbill				18			14					1	55			88
White-winged Crossbill		20								9						29
Common Redpoll		40					5	17	15	3		35		3		118
Hoary Redpoll																0
Pine Siskin	12	11	6	1	18	166	135	35	2	42	13		2		22	465
American Goldfinch		40	28	96	50	43	34	25		106	90		18	2	108	640
Evening Grosbeak										11						11
House Sparrow	282	845	35	12	1733	499	389	394	551	364	81	282	4	25	131	5627
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1250	2219	352	4080	3143	59445	4648	2018	3786	3838	2102	1554	1079	411	9188	99113
TOTAL FORMS	27	37	29	48	37	62	58	37	28	46	42	25	35	23	55	111



SEASONAL REPORTS

The 1997-98 Winter Season

Compiled By : Robert F. Schenck

P.O. Box 84021

Sioux Falls, SD 57118

As bitter as the winter of 1996-97 was, the winter of 1997-98 was mild! For the three-month reporting period, the average temperature for this winter was 15 degrees warmer than the same three months last year. Most of the state had below normal precipitation, resulting in low snow cover. This winter's mild weather can be seen in the 126 species reported. The winter of 1996-97 reported 118 species with the winter of 1995-96 recording 121 species. Most observers indicated that they believe that the number of individual birds was lower this year than in most years. This may have been a consequence of last year's severe weather - in other words "winter kill." It may also have been caused by the high availability of food this winter, spreading the birds out, and making it harder for them to be observed. The highlight of the season was the Common Loon first observed by Ernest E. Miller. The Common Loon spent December at the Spearfish Hatchery. Also, the large number of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, and crossbills were a treat. Noticeably absent for a mild winter were Song Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird. Although most would agree that the birding this winter was "slow" on a state level, the mild winter did bring in a large number of species we could all enjoy.

Common Loon All Reports: Dec Lawrence (1) EEM; 01 Jan Lawrence (1) RAS; 03 Jan Lawrence (1) TJ

Pied-billed Grebe Only Report: 21 Feb Fall River (3) JSP

Horned Grebe Only Report: 05 Dec Yankton (1) SVS

American White Pelican Only Report: 09 Dec Bennett LCS

Great Blue Heron All Reports: 12 Dec Roberts (1) BKH; 20 Dec Fall River (1) MMM; 23 Dec Day (1) LH; 18 Jan Brown (1) SLS

Tundra Swan Only Report: 03 Dec Brown JCS

Trumpeter Swan Only Report: 01 Dec Bennett LCS

Greater White-fronted Goose 05 Dec Bennett LCS; 20 Dec Perkins (1) DCG; 14 Feb Yankton SVS; 16 Feb Brown (50) JCS; 22 Feb Deuel (14) DK; 24 Feb Brown (50) SLS and Minnehaha RFS

Snow Goose 08 Dec Day (12) JCS; 19 Dec Charles Mix RM; 20 Dec Minnehaha JPS; 10 Feb Brown (200) JCS; 21 Feb Day (12) LH and Charles Mix RM

Wood Duck All Reports: Dec Lawrence (1) EEM; 04 Dec - 29 Jan Yankton SVS; all period Minnehaha (1) RFS and Pennington TJ; 04 Jan Lawrence (1) RAS

Green-winged Teal All Reports: all period Minnehaha (1) RFS; 02 Feb Bennett LCS

American Black Duck All Reports: 01 Dec - 24 Jan Minnehaha (1) RFS; 06 Dec Minnehaha JSP

Northern Pintail All Reports: 12 Dec - 17 Feb Yankton SVS; 24 Dec Bennett LCS; 01 Jan Pennington (1) TJ; 15 Feb Fall River JSP; 21 Feb Stanley RFS; 24 Feb Day (12) SLS; 25 Feb Brown DAT

Northern Shoveler All Reports: 03 Jan Bon Homme (1) JSP, RFS; 05 Jan Yankton SVS; 26 Feb Bennett LCS; 28 Feb Minnehaha RFS

Gadwall All Reports: all period Pennington TJ; 04 Dec - 15 Feb Yankton SVS; 20 Dec - 15 Feb Minnehaha RFS; 31 Jan Stanley JSP, RFS; 08 Dec Meade REP; 31 Jan Stanley JSP, RFS

American Wigeon All Reports: all period Pennington TJ; 14 Dec Pennington REP; 15 Dec Pennington RAS; 15 Feb Fall River JSP; 22 Feb Clay (10+) DS; 28 Feb Minnehaha RFS

Canvasback All Reports: 09 Dec Bennett LCS; 24 Feb Minnehaha RFS

Redhead 15 Dec Pennington RAS; 16 Dec Yankton SVS; 24 Dec Pennington (3) TJ; 06 Feb Yankton SVS; 15 Feb Fall River JSP and Minnehaha RFS; 21 Feb Charles Mix RM

Ring-necked Duck All Reports: 26 Dec Pennington (6) REP; 15 Feb Yankton SVS; 22 Feb Clay (12) DS; 24 Feb Brown DAT and Minnehaha RFS

Lesser Scaup All Reports: 06 Jan Gregory RM; 03 Feb - 28 Feb Minnehaha (8) RFS; 06 Feb Yankton SVS; 22 Feb Charles Mix RM and Clay (10) DS; 26 Feb Minnehaha MKZ; 27 Feb Brown (25) SLS

Barrow's Goldeneye All Reports: 20 Dec - 28 Feb Pennington (Canyon Lake) TJ; 15 Dec Pennington RAS; 14 Feb Pennington JSP

Bufflehead All Reports: all period Pennington TJ; 16 Dec - 02 Jan Yankton SVS; 14 Dec Pennington (8) REP; 15 Dec Pennington RAS; 19 Dec Charles Mix RM; 20 Dec Perkins (1) DCG; 03 Jan Charles Mix JSP RFS; 06 Jan Gregory RM; 18 Jan Stanley JPS; 19 Feb Gregory RM; 28 Feb Minnehaha RFS

Hooded Merganser All Reports: all period Minnehaha RFS; 02 Dec Hughes (20) JCS; 13 Feb Bennett LCS; 26 Feb Day (2) DRS

Bald Eagle reported from Bennett, Bon Homme, Buffalo, Butte, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Deuel, Gregory, Hughes, Hyde, Jackson, Marshall, Meade, Minnehaha, Lawrence, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, Stanley, Tripp and Yankton counties

Northern Harrier All Reports: 03 Dec Custer MMM; 13 Dec Lawrence (1) RAS; 22 Dec Bennett LCS; 08 Feb Lincoln RFS; 14 Feb Lyman JSP; 23 Feb Tripp (1) RAP; 26 Feb Day (1) LH

Sharp-shinned Hawk reported from Brookings, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Minnehaha, Pennington, Tripp and Yankton counties

Cooper's Hawk All Reports: all period Brookings KIE; 18 Dec Pennington (1) TBW; 20 Dec Minnehaha JPS

Northern Goshawk All Reports: all period Brookings KIE; 09 Dec Pennington (1) TBW; 04 Jan Brown DAT

Red-tailed Hawk reported from Bennett, Butte, Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Tripp and Yankton counties

Ferruginous Hawk All Reports: all period Custer MMM; 22 Dec Bennett LCS; 17 Jan Charles Mix (2) SFB

Rough-legged Hawk reported from Bennett, Bon Homme, Buffalo, Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Hyde, Jackson, Meade, Minnehaha, Lawrence, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, Stanley, Tripp and Yankton counties

Golden Eagle reported from Bennett, Buffalo, Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Hughes, Jackson, Meade, Lawrence, Lyman, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley and Tripp counties

American Kestrel reported from Bennett, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Fall River, Jackson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Tripp and Yankton counties

Merlin All Reports: 27 Dec Corson JPS and Minnehaha RFS; 14 Jan Brown DAT; 28 Jan Hughes (2) JCS; 26 Feb Bennett LCS

Gyr Falcon All Reports: 09 Jan Stanley (1) MMM; 15 Jan Roberts (1) BKH

Prairie Falcon All Reports: all period Perkins (1) DCG; 14 Dec Tripp RAP; 22 Dec Bennett LCS; 07 Jan Fall River MMM; 09 Jan Meade (1) RAS; 22 Feb Meade (1) RBA

Gray Partridge All Reports Meade (25+) EEM; all period Perkins DCG; 01 Jan Lawrence (50) RAS; 03 Jan Brown JCS; 13 Feb Day (2) DRS; 14 Feb Grant (2) LH

Ruffed Grouse Only Report: 21 Dec Meade (1) EEM

Greater Prairie Chicken All Reports: Tripp RAP; 07 Jan Fall River (3) MMM; 18 Jan Stanley JPS

Sharp-tailed Grouse reported from Bennett, Butte, Custer, Day, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins and Tripp counties

Wild Turkey reported from Bennett, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Gregory, Meade, Minnehaha, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pennington, and Yankton counties

American Coot All Reports: all period Minnehaha (3) RFS and Pennington TJ; 05 Dec - 17 Jan Yankton SVS; 14 Dec Pennington (3) REP; 15 Dec Pennington RAS; 17 Dec Charles Mix RM; 10 Jan Minnehaha MKZ; 28 Jan Hughes (2) JCS; 15 Feb Fall River JSP

Sandhill Crane All Reports: 02 Dec Bennett LCS; 14 Feb Butte (300+) RAS

Common Snipe All reports: 01 Dec - 15 Feb Meade (6) EEM; 08 Dec Meade (6) REP; 23 Jan Fall River (1) MMM

Franklin's Gull Only Report: 21 Feb Stanley (1) RFS

Bonaparte's Gull All Reports: 04 Jan Stanley (40) REP; 06 Jan Charles Mix RM

Ring-billed Gull All Reports: all period Butte RAS; 20 Dec Yankton SVS; 06 Jan Charles Mix RM; 18 Jan Stanley JPS; 31 Jan Hughes JSP RFS; 22 Feb Charles Mix RM; 24 Feb Minnehaha RFS; 26 Feb Bennett LCS

Herring Gull All Reports: 16 Dec Yankton SVS; 04 Jan Stanley REP; 31 Jan Stanley JSP, RFS; 21 Feb Stanley RFS

Thayer's Gull Only Report: 31 Jan Stanley (1) JSP RFS

Glaucaous Gull Only Report: 31 Jan Stanley JSP RFS

Mourning Dove All Reports: 22 Dec Bennett LCS; 15 Jan Roberts (1) BKH; 19 Jan Deuel (3) BKH

Eastern Screech-Owl All Reports: 27 Dec - 31 Jan Yankton SVS; 11 Dec - 28 Feb Brookings (1) KIE; 13 Dec Charles Mix RM; 20 Dec Perkins (1) DCG; 07 Jan Faulk (1) MMM; 10 Feb Lake JSP

Snowy Owl reported from Beadle, Bennett, Bon Homme, Brown, Day, Grant, Hughes, Hyde, Jackson, Kingsbury, Minnehaha and Roberts counties

Long-eared Owl All Reports: 25 Jan Faulk (1) MMM; 15 Feb Fall River (1-2) JSP; 23 Feb Tripp (calling) RAP

Short-eared Owl All Reports: 22 Dec Bennett LCS; 21 Jan Faulk (3) MMM

Northern Saw-whet Owl Only Report: 05 Feb Custer (1) MMM

Belted Kingfisher reported from Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Gregory, Meade, Pennington, Roberts and Yankton

Lewis' Woodpecker reported from Lawrence, Meade and Pennington counties EEM, RAS, REP, TJ

Red-headed Woodpecker Only Report: 14 Dec Lawrence (1) RAS

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

Three-toed Woodpecker Only Report: 22 Feb Lawrence (1) RBA

Black-backed Woodpecker Only Report: 15 Feb Custer (1) JSP

Northern Flicker reported from Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Day, Gregory, Hughes, Meade, Minnehaha, Lake, Lincoln, Pennington, Union, Roberts, Tripp and Yankton counties

Pileated Woodpecker Only Report: 17 Jan Roberts JSP

Gray Jay reported from Custer, Meade and Pennington counties EEM, MMM, KH, CMW and TBW

Clark's Nutcracker All Reports: 05 Dec Fall River (1) MMM; 02 Jan Custer (4) TBW; 20 Jan Custer (3) CMW

Black-billed Magpie reported from Hughes, Jackson, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Tripp and Yankton

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

Pygmy Nuthatch Only Report: 15 Feb Custer (1) JSP

Brown Creeper reported from Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Day, Gregory, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Pennington and Yankton

Canyon Wren All Reports: 18 Dec Pennington (1) MMM; 22 Jan Custer (1) KH

Winter Wren Only Report: 08 Dec Minnehaha (1) Nancy Schaefer

Marsh Wren Only Report: 15 Feb Fall River (1) JSP

American Dipper All Reports: 06 Feb Pennington (1) MMM; 07 Feb Lawrence (3) TJ; 22 Feb Lawrence RBA

Golden-crowned Kinglet All Reports: all period Brown (several) DAT; 08 Dec Pennington (3) TBW; 17 Dec Custer (2) TJ; 19 Dec Lake JSP; 31 Jan Hughes JSP RFS; 07 Feb Lawrence (2) TJ; 22 Feb Minnehaha JPS

Eastern Bluebird All Reports: 05 Dec Yankton SVS; 19 Dec Charles Mix RM; 01 Jan Lincoln (1) RFS; 04 Jan Faulk (4) MMM

Mountain Bluebird All Reports: 02 Dec Fall River (1) MMM; 20 Feb Pennington (1) TBW

Townsend's Solitaire reported from Butte, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley and Tripp counties

American Robin reported from Butte, Brookings, Charles Mix, Day, Deuel, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Jackson, Meade, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pennington, Tripp and Yankton counties

Brown Thrasher Only Report: 27 Dec Pennington (1) *fide* MMM

Bohemian Waxwing all reports 03 Jan Lawrence (18) TJ; 15 Jan Stanley TJ

Cedar Waxwing reported from Butte, Brown, Charles Mix, Day, Faulk, Gregory, Hughes, Meade, Minnehaha, Lawrence, Lincoln, Tripp and Yankton counties

Northern Shrike 18 Jan Pennington (1 Blackhills) TBW; reported from Bennett, Buffalo, Butte, Brown, Faulk, Hughes, Jackson, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha and Pennington counties

Northern Cardinal reported from Brookings, Charles Mix, Gregory, Minnehaha and Yankton counties

Fox Sparrow Only Report: 14 Dec Custer and 07 Feb Lawrence TJ

White-throated Sparrow All Reports: 05 and 29 Jan Perkins (1) DCG

White-crowned Sparrow Only Report: 22 Dec Bennett LCS

Harris's Sparrow All Reports: 27 Dec Pennington (1) MMM; 08 and 09 Jan Brookings (1) KIE

Lapland Longspur All Reports: all period Perkins (~200) DCG; Day DRS; 04 Jan Faulk (30) MMM; 10 Jan Kingsbury JSP; 15 Jan Hughes (300) TJ; 17 Jan Stanley JSP; 31 Jan Hughes JSP RFS; 18 Feb Brown DAT; 28 Feb Minnehaha (~1000) RFS

Snow Bunting All Reports: all period Day and Roberts DRS; 05 Dec Deuel (100+) BKH; 20 Dec Charles Mix RM; 23 Dec Day (843+) LH; 28 Dec Roberts JPS; 24 Jan Lake (100) NB RB; 08 Feb Brown DAT

Red-winged Blackbird All Reports: 27 Dec - 31 Jan Yankton SVS; Brown DAT; Bennett LCS; 19 Dec Charles Mix RM; 22 Dec Deuel (8) BKH; 03 Jan Charles Mix JSP, RFS; 08 Feb Brown (50) JCS; 12 Feb Clay (1) DS; 22 Feb Charles Mix RM

Western Meadowlark All Reports: 22 Dec Meade (1) RAS; 22 Dec Bennett LCS; 06 Jan Charles Mix RM; 25 Jan Faulk (1) MMM; 31 Jan Hughes JSP RFS; 12 Feb Charles Mix RM; 14 Feb Meade (1) EEM; 15 Feb Beadle (1) JCS; 21 Feb Custer (1) MMM; 22 Feb Meade (11) RBA

Yellow-headed Blackbird Only Report: 03 Dec Bennett LCS

Brewer's Blackbird Only Report: 21 Dec Meade (2) EEM

Common Grackle All Reports: 05 and 07 Dec, 01 and 29 Jan Deuel (1) BKH; 23 Dec Day (1) LH; 27 Dec Yankton SVS; 20 Jan Perkins (1) DCG; 23 Feb Charles Mix RM

Brown-headed Cowbird Only Report: 03 Jan Charles Mix JSP RFS

Purple Finch All Reports: all period Day DRS and Brown DAT; Jan and Feb Lincoln (+) RFS; 06 Dec Lake (+) JSP; 20 Dec Brookings (22) BKH; 22 Dec Charles Mix RM, Bennett LCS; 23 Day (12) LH; 18 Jan Gregory SFB. Most observers indicated numbers of individuals were up.

House Finch reported from Bennett, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Day, Gregory, Hughes, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Tripp and Yankton counties. Most observers indicated numbers of individual were down.

Red Crossbill All Reports: all period Pennington TJ; 14 Dec Minnehaha RFS; 22 Dec Bennett LCS; 11 Feb Pennington (3) TBW; 15 Feb Custer JSP

White-winged Crossbill All reports: 06 Dec - 18 Jan Minnehaha RFS; 14 Dec Minnehaha (35) RFS; 20 Dec Lake JSP; 02 Jan Brown (20) DAT; 27 Jan Deuel BKH; 22 Feb Minnehaha (2) JPS

Common Redpoll Reported all period in Butte RAS, Brown DAT and Day DRS. Also reported in Bennett, Brookings, Kingsbury, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, Perkins and Spink counties.

Hoary Redpoll Only Report: 28 Jan Deuel (1) BKH

Evening Grosbeak All Reports: 21 Dec Meade (10) REP; 22 Dec Lawrence (15) RAS; 10 Jan Meade TJ; 24 Jan - 02 Feb Custer (8-10) KH

Species Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Little Gull 09 Dec Charles Mix (1-adult) DS
Eurasian Collared Dove 31 Jan Yankton SVS
Northern Mockingbird 10 Dec - 09 Feb Brookings KIE
Loggerhead Shrike 08 Jan Gregory RM
Chipping Sparrow 22 Feb Custer State Park KH

Species Expected But Not Reported

Double-crested Cormorant, Ross' Goose, Oldsquaw (2), Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Pinyon Jay (2), Varied Thrush, Song Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Pine Grosbeak and Cassin's Finch (3)

Contributing Observers

NB	Nancy Buckman	RAP	Richard A. Peterson
RB	Robert Buckman	SLS	Sand Lake NWR Staff
DCG	Dave & Carolyn Griffiths	RBA	Rare Bird Alert
KH	Kevin Hachmeister	RFS	Robert F. Schenck
BKH	Bruce K. Harris	RAS	Ralph & Alice Shaykett
LH	Laura Hubers	SFB	Sioux Falls Bird Club
TJ	Todd Jensen	DRS	Dennis R. Skadsen
KIE	Kieckhefer Family	JPS	Joe P. Stabb
DK	Doug Kreger	JCS	Jerry C. Stanford
LRL	Lester R. Lauritzen	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
LCS	Lacreek NWR Staff	DS	David Swanson
LAS	Lake Andes NWR Staff	DAT	Dan A. Tallman
RM	Ron Mabie	SVS	Steve Van Sickle
MMM	Michael M. Melius	TBW	Tom & Brenda Warren
EEM	Ernest E. Miller	SW	Sheila West
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer	CMW	Cheryl Wormstadt
REP	Randy E. Podoll	MKZ	Mick Zerr

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