

SOUTH DAKOTA  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



*Includes Index for  
Volumes 46-50*

SOUTH  
BIRD



DAKOTA  
NOTES

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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We all enjoy birding for a variety of reasons. Keeping an annual list is one exciting and even challenging way to participate in the sport. Having observed 291 species in the state during 1995, I decided in 1997 to make a serious attempt at a 300 species annual list for South Dakota.

January is the month of beginnings. Every species is new and hence can be relished again as if for the first time. My year got off to a good start with sightings of a Northern Hawk Owl, Pine Grosbeak, and Common Raven ... in northern Minnesota! Upon my return to South Dakota, however, I was pleased to find that the **Varied Thrush** (the only one I would find all year), first located on the Madison CBC in December, was still present at a feeder in town. A three-day trip to Pierre in the middle of the month yielded the first Snowy Owl, Glaucous Gull, and Greater Prairie-Chicken of the year. These species I would see again. A serious annual list is rarely an individual effort and over the course of the year I had a lot of help from many people. In particular, Robb Schenck and I spent considerable time birding together during the year. Robb was directly responsible for many of the "good" birds that I would see. So it began with a phone call on the evening of 29 January. The next morning I was in Sioux Falls bright and early birding with Robb; a little after 8 AM we found the **Great Gray Owl** that he had found the day before. This, the first confirmed sighting of a live bird in the state made a very nice birthday present for me. Through January my Annual List totaled 48 species.

The winter of 1996-97 was one for the record books. Most of South Dakota looked like the arctic tundra. In February, I managed a little local birding and a visit Hartford Beach State Park but had little success. Red Crossbill and Common Redpoll brought my annual list to 50 species.

With March comes spring and hope for the frozen birder trapped on the South Dakota tundra for the previous four months. Early in the month, I headed west to the Black Hills for the first time during the year. A stop at Badlands National Park to search among the junipers for a Long-eared Owl was unsuccessful, but I observed a small flock of **Bohemian Waxwings** foraging in the vicinity of Cedar Pass. At Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge I picked up my only **Trumpeter Swan** of the year. The following day, I found a **Pygmy Nuthatch** visiting a local feeder in Custer, a **Black-backed Woodpecker** tapping away near Mount Coolidge and a Three-toed Woodpecker at Sylvan Lake. Day three of the trip produced the resident **Barrow's Goldeneye** on Canyon Lake and the following morning a single **Sage Grouse** was seen dancing on the snow covered grasslands in northern Butte County. Local birding and the usual assortment of early spring migrants brought my annual list to 87 species by the end of March.

April is a transition between Spring and May. As the ice breaks from the many ponds and lakes in the region, large flocks of gulls gather to feast upon the winterkill. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** stood out among the crowd gathered on Lake Herman early in the month. Toward the end of the month, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge held a **Ross' Goose** and several **Red-necked Grebes** were found at Waubay. By the end of the month my Annual List had grown to 136 species.

Ultimately I knew that the success or failure of my quest for 300 depended on the month of May. A late **Winter Wren** at Lake Herman State Park, a **Merlin**

in Kingsbury County, and a **Ruff** in Baltic (another phone call from Robb) was a good enough start early in the month but ... where were the warblers? Union County State Park produced a Blackburnian, Magnolia, and Chestnut-sided on Sunday of the Spring SDOU Meeting bringing my total to a dismal 14 for the spring. And then (just like the blizzards of the previous winter) it hit ... beginning with our Big Day on 19 May, the best two weeks of birding I have ever experienced in South Dakota! I will continue this account in the next issue of *Bird Notes*. Jeffrey S. Palmer, College of Natural Sciences, Dakota State University, Madison, SD, 57042.

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# FIRST SOUTH DAKOTA RECORD OF VIRGINIA'S WARBLER

Jeffrey S. Palmer  
Dakota State University, Madison, SD 57042

A few years ago, I learned from Richard Peterson, author of *A Birdwatchers Guide to the Black Hills and Adjacent Plains*, that the Redbird Canyon area contained some of the best remaining Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) in South Dakota. In Washington, this habitat harbored Green-tailed Towhees and I was interested in looking for one in South Dakota. Redbird Canyon is located in extreme western Custer County. Follow Highway 34 west until you cross the state line and enter Wyoming. Take the first road to the right (north) and after a short distance you will return to South Dakota. One mile farther there is a fork in the road; right takes you up Redbird Canyon (FR 376) and left follows Boles Canyon (FR 117). If you continue up Boles Canyon, watch for the first gravel/dirt road to the left and you can enter Roby Canyon (FR264).

My first visit to Redbird occurred on 19 May 1996 during the SDOU Spring Meeting in Custer; no Green-tailed Towhee. My next visit to the area came on 19 August 1996. Approximately one mile up Redbird Canyon, I observed a "drab grayish warbler, no wing bars, bright yellow undertail coverts, distinct white eye ring, bobbed tail repeatedly, no yellow observed on throat/breast ... Virginia's Warbler?" I knew Virginia's Warbler could be found 130 miles southeast in Casper, Wyoming. I was also aware that it could represent a First Record for South Dakota (a prior Virginia's Warbler was reported 30-31 May 1977 from Wind Cave National Park (SDBN 42:10-14)). However, since I could not entirely rule out a Nashville Warbler (also considered accidental in the Black Hills), the bird was not added to my list that day. I did however report my suspicions to the other Rare Bird Records Committee members at our fall meeting.

On 1 July 1997 I returned to Redbird, still looking for that Green-tailed Towhee. I was not thinking about Virginia's Warbler. Approximately 0.15 miles up Redbird Canyon, I investigated a patch of Juniper and Ponderosa Pine on the cliff to the left of the road. This looked like a good spot, but no luck. However, I did observe a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (my only previous sighting in the Black Hills was of a single individual along the Wildlife Loop Road approximately 0.5 miles south of French Creek in Custer State Park on 29 July 1991). Approximately 0.25 mile farther up the road, I stopped at a small box canyon to the left; as I was "spishing," I flew a beautiful male Virginia's Warbler. I observed the bird for 15 to 30 seconds as it flitted in and out of the surrounding brush approximately 15 to 20 feet away and noted the following: generally gray warbler, distinct and bold white eye ring, lemon yellow undertail coverts, and distinct yellow patch on upper breast only. I did not observe the reddish cap (described in field guides as hard to see) or the yellowish green rump, or the tail bobbing. After my brief observation, the bird disappeared, although I could still hear it singing farther up the box canyon. I'm not good at describing bird songs, but to me this bird sounded like a rapid and perhaps accelerating *chu-chu-chu-chu-chu*. I added Virginia's Warbler to my list and continued the search for that elusive Green-tailed Towhee.

I found Virginia's Warblers at two additional locations in Redbird Canyon that day. No additional field marks were seen at this time. Two days later, while birding in Hot Brook Canyon, Fall River County (another extremely interesting and not often enough visited birding spot in South Dakota) I visited with Richard

and Juanita Peterson and told them of my finds. Even though Richard was admittedly skeptical, I was not the least surprised to find them early the next morning when I visited Redbird Canyon again. On my way in I had stopped to observe the gnatcatchers again and saw one in the same location it had been a few days before. When Juanita, Richard, and I returned to this spot they were not to be heard or seen for about 5 to 10 minutes. We finally found one in the next habitat "patch" to the west. Farther up Redbird Canyon, it didn't take long to find the Virginia's Warbler. After climbing the hillside toward a singing bird, we played a tape to which the bird responded nicely. All three of us were able to observe the field marks noted earlier as well as the reddish cap. Later that morning, I headed up Roby Canyon and was able to observe and/or hear at least six more Virginia's Warblers at four different locations, including one very agitated pair. I strongly suspected that they were nesting in the area. The birds in Roby Canyon were more accessible from the road than the birds in Redbird Canyon and I was able to get much longer and more detailed looks at them including the yellowish rump and tail-wagging behavior. Altogether, in Redbird and Roby Canyon I saw or heard at least nine Virginia's Warblers in at least six different locations.

How long have they been present? A Breeding Bird Survey Route runs through Roby Canyon and the area was included in the South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas. However, it would be easy to overlook a bird that you do not expect to find. Unexplored country in southwestern South Dakota includes Redbird Canyon, Roby Canyon, Hot Brook Canyon, and many other locations. Just what might be found with more frequent visits to such spots? In Redbird and Roby Canyon, to which I will return whenever I visit the Black Hills, I'll be keeping an eye and ear open for such things as Black-throated Gray Warbler, Bewick's Wren, Black-throated Sparrow, Plain Titmouse, and that elusive Green-tailed Towhee.



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## GENERAL NOTES

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### PINE SISKIN AND "OREGON" JUNCO BANDING RECOVERIES.

Andrew Zickur in Melby, Minnesota, recovered a Pine Siskin that I banded in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Because the bird was banded on 24 November 1993 and recovered sometime during July 1998, the bird was at least slightly over 4.5 years old. Figure 1 is somewhat misleading, since the bird's exact path from Aberdeen to Melby (Melby is about 25 miles SE of Fergus Falls, MN) is unknown and more than likely involved much larger north or south migrations. Seven-year-old siskins are known from the wild and a captive Pine Siskin lived to be 11 years (Torres, *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds* 1980. Alfred A. Knopf: New York).



Figure 1. Siskin recovery.

"Oregon" Juncos, which are Dark-eyed Juncos with dark hoods, pink sides, and brown backs, are relatively uncommon in the Aberdeen area. I band only a few each winter. This type of junco breeds in Alaska and southwestern Canada south through the Pacific coast states to Baja California. On 17 October 1998, I was surprised to recapture an Oregon Junco that I had first banded on 21 January 1998. This recovery demonstrates a remarkable wintering site fidelity for a race of junco one might expect to be more of a vagrant to eastern South Dakota. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

**WOOD DUCKS BREEDING AT RAPID CITY.** During the 1998 breeding season, two female Wood Ducks produced ducklings at Canyon Lake Park in Rapid City. A front-page picture in the *Rapid City Journal*, 9 June 1998, featured one of the females with 10 ducklings in the park's northeast pond. Subsequently, I never managed to see more than 9 young Wood Ducks with this female.

On 26 June 1998 another female with 11 ducklings appeared at the same pond. On 16 July, only 8 eight young Wood Ducks remained with the first female and only 9 with the other female. By 19 July, the mother ducks no longer guarded their offspring and by early August some of the juveniles had moved from the small pond's security to Canyon Lake. On 30 August, only 3 of the surviving 17 young Wood Ducks remained at the small pond in the park while the others were at the lake. Then in late September or early October all of the Wood Ducks apparently migrated, for none were located on 20 October

During my 36 years of monitoring ducks at Canyon Lake and the park, the 1998 breeding season is the first in my awareness that Wood Ducks have bred in this vicinity. *L. M. Baylor, Rapid City, 57701.*



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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**BIRDS OF SOMALIA.** J. S. Ash and J. E. Marshall. Yale University Press, New Haven. Hardbound. 336 pp. \$65.00.

**BIRDS OF LIBERIA.** Wulf Gatter. Yale University Press, New Haven. Hardbound. 320 pp. \$65.00.

These two texts are more like state bird books than country field guides. Basically they contain a series of range maps, with notes on habit, ecology and annual cycles for each species. Both books include short series of color plates, which, while well done, are not inclusive enough for either book to be considered a field guide. The Liberia book also contains a series of color photographs. Both guides have introductions to the ecology (both avian and physical) of the respective regions and ornithological histories of each nation. Both books list banding recoveries and include gazetteers to regional locations. The main focus of both books is the distribution of birds. Birders visiting either country will want one of these books and a field guide.

I visited Somalia over 30 years ago. At the time, the country was a birder's paradise. On every outing, I added ten to twenty birds to my ever-expanding lifelist. Often we encountered birds, such as the Fischer's Whyda, that were unmistakable but not supposed to be found in Somalia, according to Praed and Grant's *African Handbook of Birds*. *The Birds of Somalia* confirms the species to be common, especially in the south-central part of the country. Thus, because of their focus, both the Nigeria and Somali guides are essential for any birder visiting either nation.

Because I have never been to Nigeria, I looked the country up in Wheatley's *Where to Watch Birds in Africa*. Wheatley reports "Although Nigeria has one of the most diverse avifaunas in Africa and plenty of mammals, including gorillas, no one in their right mind would recommend birders to take a trip to this country, until violence and corruption are stamped out, and the infrastructure is greatly improved." The recent history of Somalia is painfully known to most Americans and Wheatley's assessment of political conditions there is similar to those for Nigeria. Thus, for the foreseeable future, ecotourists are unlikely visit either country; both books, however, would make interesting additions to public library or personal bird book collections. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*

**WHERE TO WATCH BIRDS IN AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA.** Nigel Wheatley. 1998. Princeton University Press, Princeton. Hardbound. 448 pp. \$35.00.

This book is the third of a series by Wheatley on finding birds around the world. The previous volumes covered South America (reviewed SDBN 47:66-67) and Africa (SDBN 48:42). My first reaction to the book was to wonder how one volume could possibly do justice to so much territory. Certainly Australia (and perhaps New Zealand) warrants a book to itself. However, if the purpose of the book is not to be exhaustive, but simply an introduction to the region, the text becomes indispensable to the world traveler.

If for no other reason, the warnings on political situations are worth the book's purchase. You might note that I quoted the African guide in the previous review of the two African books. In the present book, we are warned of Papua



New Guinea, which is "a very dangerous country to travel in...parts of Port Morsby, where violent crime is common place, look like war zones..." In Polynesia we are warned, "falling coconuts (don't camp under coconut trees) and eating poisonous fish are minor concerns compared with the potential effects of long-term nuclear testing..."

The book contains chapters on the various countries of the region. The chapters are broken into sections, including introduction, getting around, accommodations and food, health and safety, climate and timing, habitats, conservation, bird species, and endemics. The author provides an estimate of how many species are likely to be seen in each country. Individual islands and territories are then treated, with accounts of birds seen nowhere else and other rarities, including maps showing good birding areas. Local addresses for bird organizations and books and papers on each region are particularly valuable. Each chapter concludes with a list of expected species for the country.

In summary, this text deserves essential suitcase space for any birder traveling to the Pacific Islands, New Zealand, or Australia. It will get you started in your quest for birds. Once in an exotic land, I have learned from experience that your best strategy is to call a local bird club (and this book will help you locate one) and hope that a resident birder will show you around (most will be delighted). My best birding day in Australia was when I bumped into a local birder and he proceeded to show me a myriad of species I would have otherwise missed in a city park. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 56401.*



**The 1998 Summer Season**  
01 June 1998 to 31 July 1998

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## SEASONAL REPORTS

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Compiled by: Jeffrey S. Palmer  
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June was cool and wet. Average temperature statewide was about 5 degrees below normal and precipitation was approximately 40% above the average. State-wide temperature and precipitation for July were normal. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings: species which are out of range, dates which are earlier/later than listed in *The Birds of South Dakota*, and confirmed breeding records in counties other than those listed in *The South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas* or previous (1995-97) Summer Season reports. Breeding confirmation was reported for 118 species (up considerably from the 1995-97 average of 91) including Tennessee Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, and Hooded Warbler (all of which would represent first confirmed breeding records for the state). Reports were received for 242 species (1995-97 average is 239) including **22 species of warblers!** Vagrant Blue-winged, Prothonotary, and Kentucky warblers were found at Newton Hills State Park in Lincoln County. In the Black Hills, a Blackburnian Warbler was found in Roby Canyon, Custer County and a Northern Parula was singing in Hot Brook Canyon, Fall River County. Additionally, there were numerous reports of late migrants including Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

**Common Loon** All Reports: 16 Jun Meade and 19 Jun Butte LS; 23 Jun Sully RBA; 24 Jun Day DRS  
**Pied-billed Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Clay (PY) BH; Day (PY) DRS  
**Horned Grebe** Only Report: 13 Jun Brown JCS  
**Red-necked Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Waubay NWR, Day County (PY) LH ... also reported 16 Jun McPherson JDW; 24 Jun Enemy Swim Lake, Day County (P) DRS  
**Eared Grebe** All Reports: 19 Jun Butte LS; 22 Jun Day DRS; 28 Jun Harding RAS; 10 Jul Brown JCS; 29 Jul Meade VDF  
**Western Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Day (PY) JCS; 28 Jul Day (PY) LH ... also reported 12 Jun Meade EEM  
**Clark's Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Rush Lake, Day County (PY) DRS ... also reported 10 Jun Brown REP  
**American White Pelican** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Day (NY) LH ... also reported 05 Jul Marshall JPS, TH; 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP  
**Double-crested Cormorant** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Day (NY) LH ... also reported 13 Jun Custer CMW; 05 Jul Kingsbury BH; 05 Jul Marshall JPS, TH; 25 Jul Miner JSP  
**American Bittern** All Reports: 06 Jun Faulk MMM; 16 Jun Meade LS; 02 Jul Day JCS; 06 Jul Minnehaha JPS  
**Least Bittern** Only Report: 25 Jul Day LH  
**Great Blue Heron** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Marshall (ON) LH; Custer (NY) CMW  
**Great Egret** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Ft. Sisseton (NY) LH  
**Snowy Egret** Only Report: 01 Jul Brown JCS  
**Little Blue Heron** Only Report: 12 Jun Brown SLS  
**Cattle Egret** Confirmed Breeding: Brown (ON 1000+) SLS ... also reported 10 Jun Hughes (3) JCS; 14 Jun Lincoln RFS  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Confirmed Breeding: Brown (ON 750+) SLS  
**White-faced Ibis** Confirmed Breeding: Brown (ON 100+) SLS  
**Snow Goose** All Reports: 10 Jun Brown JCS; 17 Jun Day LH; 05 Jul Kingsbury BH; 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP  
**Canada Goose** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Minnehaha (PY) MKZ; 14 Jul Day (PY) LH; Day (PY) DRS; Meade (PY) EEM; Perkins (PY) DCG  
**Wood Duck** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Minnehaha (PY) MKZ; 28 Jun Harding (PY) RAS; 01 Jul Day (PY) LH; 15 Jul Lawrence (PY) VDF; 29 Jul Meade (PY) RAS  
**Green-winged Teal** Only Report: 25 Jul Miner JSP  
**Mallard** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jul Lawrence (PY) VDF; 28 Jul Day (PY) LH; Day (PY) DRS  
**Northern Pintail** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Meade (PY) VDF ... also reported 29 Jul Lawrence RAS; Day DRS  
**Blue-winged Teal** Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jul Miner (PY) JSP; 28 Jul Day (PY) LH; Day and Roberts (PY) DRS; Perkins (PY) DCG  
**Cinnamon Teal** All Reports: 25 Jun Butte (2) RAS; 06 Jul Day (1 female) DRS  
**Northern Shoveler** Confirmed Breeding: Day (PY) DRS ... also reported 29 Jul Meade RAS  
**Gadwall** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Day (PY) LH; 29 Jul Meade (PY) VDF  
**American Wigeon** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Meade (PY) RAS ... also reported 11 Jun Hand JCS; 14 Jun Meade JSP; 29 Jul Meade VDF  
**Canvasback** Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Day (PY) LH ... also reported 06 Jun McPherson JDW; 04 Jul Hughes RBA; Day DRS  
**Redhead** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Hughes (PY) RBA ... also reported 05 Jul Marshall JPS, TH; 29 Jul Meade RAS, VDF; Day LH, DRS  
**Ring-necked Duck** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Brown (PY 3) JCS ... also reported 05 Jul Marshall JPS, TH  
**Lesser Scaup** All Reports: 03 Jun Codington LH; Day DRS  
**Bufflehead** Only Report: 22 Jun Roberts (1 female) DRS  
**Hooded Merganser** All Reports: 22 Jun Bitter Lake, Day County DRS; 01 Jul Waubay NWR, Day County LH

**Common Merganser** All Reports: **05 Jun Day DRS**; 20 Jul Pennington MMM; 31 Jul Lawrence VDF

**Ruddy Duck** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Brown (PY 6) DAT

**Osprey** Confirmed Breeding: Pennington (NY) TBW

**Bald Eagle** All Reports: 24 Jun Minnehaha MKZ; 18 Jul Bon Homme JSP, RFS

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** All Reports: 13 Jun Lawrence JSP; 26 Jul Lawrence VDF; Pennington TBW

**Cooper's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: **02 Jul Shannon (NY 2) DB**

**Northern Goshawk** Only Report: 13 Jun Pennington JSP

**Broad-winged Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jul Lawrence (FL 4) REP, VDF ... also reported 21 Jun – 18 Jul Lincoln (2) RFS; 28 Jun Lincoln (2) BH; 09 Jul Pennington JSP, RFS

**Swainson's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Meade (NY) EEM; Day (ON) DRS

**Red-tailed Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Meade (NY 2-3) REP; Day (ON) DRS

**Ferruginous Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Faulk (ON) MMM; Perkins (ON) DCG

**Golden Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Meade (FL) EEM; Perkins (ON) DCG ... also reported 10 Jun Hughes JCS; 23 Jun Shannon DB

**American Kestrel** Confirmed Breeding: **07 Jul Day (FL) LH**

**Merlin** All Reports: 11 Jul Meade VDF, RAS; 22 Jul Meade REP

**Gray Partridge** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Meade (PY) EEM; Perkins (PY) DCG ... also reported Custer and Moody JSP

**Ring-necked Pheasant** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Brown (PY) JCS

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Meade (PY) VDF ... also reported 07 Jul Marshall LH; 29 Jul Meade RAS; Meade EEM; Perkins DCG

**Wild Turkey** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Custer (PY 3) JSP; 13 Jul Meade (PY) APB; Meade (PY) EEM

**Virginia Rail** Confirmed Breeding: **Perkins (PY) DCG** ... also reported 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP

**Sora** All Reports: 05 Jul Roberts JPS, TH; 08 Jul Custer RFS; 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP; Custer and Pennington MMM; Day LH

**American Coot** Confirmed Breeding: **25 Jul Miner (PY) JSP**; 28 Jul Day (PY) LH; 29 Jul Meade (FL) VDF; Day (FL) DRS

**Semipalmated Plover** All Reports: 25 Jul Miner JSP; 30 Jul Brown DAT

**Killdeer** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jul Minnehaha (FL) MKZ; 22 Jul Day (PY) LH; 25 Jul Custer (FL) MMM

**American Avocet** All Reports: 28 Jun Meade EEM; 28 Jun Harding RAS; 06 Jul Brown DAT

**Greater Yellowlegs** All Reports: 06 Jul Brown DAT; 29 Jul Meade RAS

**Lesser Yellowlegs** All Reports: 05 Jul Kingsbury BH; 06 Jul Brown DAT; 18 Jul Turner RFS; 28 Jul Day LH; 29 Jul Meade RAS

**Solitary Sandpiper** All Reports: 15 Jul Butte RAS, VDF; 16 Jul Clay DS; 18 Jul Turner RFS; 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP; 28 Jul Brown DAT

**Willet** All Reports: 07 Jul Jackson RAP; Day and Roberts DRS

**Spotted Sandpiper** Confirmed Breeding: **20 Jun Lincoln (PY 2) BH**

**Upland Sandpiper** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jul Butte (PY) RAS; Day and Roberts (ON) DRS

**Hudsonian Godwit** Only Report: **30 Jul Brown (3) DAT**

**Marbled Godwit** All Reports: 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP; 30 Jul Brown DAT; Day and Roberts DRS

**Ruddy Turnstone** Late: **08 Jun Day DRS**

**Sanderling** Only Report: 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: 05 June Brown DAT ... also reported **06 Jul Brown DAT**; 16 Jul Clay DS; 18 Jul Turner RFS; 25 Jul Miner JSP; 29 Jul Meade VDF

**Least Sandpiper** Late: 05 Jun Brown DAT ... also reported **05 Jul Kingsbury BH**; 16 Jul Clay DS; 18 Jul Bon Homme and Turner RFS; 28 Jul Brown DAT

**White-rumped Sandpiper** Late: 05 Jun Brown DAT ... also reported **10 Jul Brown JCS**

**Baird's Sandpiper** All Reports: 18 Jul Bon Homme and Turner RFS; 25 Jul Miner JSP; 28 Jul Brown DAT

**Pectoral Sandpiper** All Reports: 05 Jul Kingsbury BH; 18 Jul Bon Homme and Turner RFS; 25 Jul Miner JSP; 28 Jul Day LH; 30 Jul Brown DAT

**Stilt Sandpiper** All Reports: 16 Jul Clay DS; 18 Jul Bon Homme and Turner RFS; 25 Jul Miner JSP; 30 Jul Brown DAT

**Long-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 29 Jul Meade RAS, VDF; 30 Jul Brown DAT

**Franklin's Gull** All Reports: 05 Jul Marshall JPS, TH; 25 Jul Miner JSP; 29 Jul Meade VDF, RFS; Day DRS, LH

**Ring-billed Gull** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Day (NY) LH; Day (ON) DRS

**California Gull** All Reports: 16 Jun Meade LS; Day DRS

**Common Tern** All Reports: 31 Jul Day JCS; Day DRS, LH

**Forster's Tern** Confirmed Breeding: Day (ON) DRS ... also reported 02 Jun Hand MMM; 05 Jul Day JPS, TH; 25 Jul Miner JSP

**Least Tern** Only Report: 18 Jul Bon Homme RFS, JSP

**Black Tern** Confirmed Breeding: Day (ON) DRS

**Mourning Dove** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Custer (NY 2) *fide* DS; 30 Jun Minnehaha (NB) MKZ; Day (ON) DRS

**Black-billed Cuckoo** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Oahe Dam (CF) JCS; 25 Jul Pennington (CF) MMM ... also reported 28 Jun Lincoln RFS; Day DRS, LH; Perkins DCG

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Oahe Dam (CF) JCS ... also reported 18 Jun Stanley TBW; 17 Jul Day LH; Lincoln RFS

**Eastern Screech-Owl** Only Report: 31 Jul Brown JCS

**Burrowing Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Custer (FL) MMM; Meade (FL) EEM; Pennington (NY) RAP; Perkins (FL) DCG

**Long-eared Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Wind Cave NP (NY 2) RAP

**Short-eared Owl** All Reports: 06 Jul Pennington MMM; Pennington RAP; Perkins DCG

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Only Report: 10 Jun Custer JSP

**Common Nighthawk** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Day (ON) DRS

**Common Poorwill** All Reports: 28 Jun Meade REP; 11 Jul Custer RFS

**Whip-poor-will** Only Report: 28 Jun Lincoln RFS

**Chimney Swift** reported Perkins DCG

**Belted Kingfisher** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Meade (ON) VDF

**Lewis' Woodpecker** Only Report: 15 Jul Butte RAS, VDF

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Oahe Dam (FY) JCS

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** All Reports: 21 Jun Roberts JDW; Lincoln RFS

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** All Reports: 13 Jun Minnehaha JPS; 28 Jun Lincoln BH; Lincoln and Minnehaha RFS

**Downy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jul Brookings (FL) KIE; Butte (FL) RAS

**Three-toed Woodpecker** All Reports: 09 Jul Lawrence RFS, JSP; 27 Jul Lawrence EEM

**Northern Flicker** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Lawrence (ON) JSP; 02 Jul Day (FL) LH; 05 Jul Meade (FY) APB

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Late: 11 Jun Hughes JC

**Western Wood-Pewee** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Meade (NB) REP ... also reported 11 Jul Meade VDF; 29 Jul Meade RAS; Custer and Fall River RFS, JSP

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** All Reports: 05 Jul Kingsbury BH; 05 Jul Marshall JPS, TH; 08 Jul Marshall JCS; Day and Roberts DRS; Lincoln RFS

**Willow Flycatcher** All Reports: Day and Roberts DRS; Perkins DCG

**Least Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Day (PE) LH

**Dusky Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Custer (NE 4) JSP ... also reported 26 Jul Lawrence VDF, REP; Meade EEM

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Meade (NY 4) REP; 07 Jul Custer (NY) JSP; 17 Jul Lawrence (NY 4) VDF

**Eastern Phoebe** All Reports: 10 Jul Fall River RFS, JSP; Day DRS; Lincoln RFS

**Say's Phoebe** All Reports: 23 Jun Shannon DB; 08 Jul Custer RFS, JSP; 13 Jul Ft. Pierre National Grasslands *fide* DB; 29 Jul Meade VDF, RAS; Perkins DCG

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jul Meade (CF) REP

**Western Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Oahe Dam (CF) JCS  
**Horned Lark** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Pennington (NE 3) RAP; 15 Jul Butte (FL) VDF  
**Purple Martin** Confirmed Breeding: Day (ON) DRS ... also reported 28 Jun Minnehaha JPS; 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP; 29 Jul Minnehaha RFS  
**Tree Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Day (NY) LH; Day (ON) DRS  
**Violet-green Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Pennington (CN) TBW; **21 Jun Meade (FY) REP**  
**Bank Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: **Custer (NY) CMW**  
**Cliff Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jul Lawrence (ON) VDF; Roberts (ON) DRS  
**Barn Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Minnehaha (NB) MKZ; 28 Jul Day (NY) LH; Day (ON) DRS  
**Gray Jay** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Lawrence (FL) MMM  
**Blue Jay** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Meade (FL) EEM; 25 Jun Minnehaha (FL) MKZ; 05 Jul Meade (FY) APB; Meade (ON) RAS  
**Pinyon Jay** All Reports: 10 Jul Fall River RFS, JSP; Meade APB  
**Black-billed Magpie** Confirmed Breeding: **17 Jun Meade (FY) REP**  
**American Crow** Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MKZ; Day (ON) DRS  
**Black-capped Chickadee** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Custer (NY 5) JSP; 19 Jun Pennington (NY 8) TBW  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Confirmed Breeding: **31 Jul Lawrence (FL) VDF** ... also reported 23 Jun Day DRS; Brookings KIE  
**Brown Creeper** All Reports: **15 Jun Brookings KIE**; 21 Jun Meade REP; 03 Jul Custer JSP  
**Rock Wren** All Reports: 28 Jun Harding RAS; 12 Jul Meade MMM; 28 Jul Harding EEM; Custer and Fall River RFS, JSP; Perkins DCG  
**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 04 Jul Custer JSP; 10 Jul Fall River RFS  
**House Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Day (PE) LH; 20 Jul Meade (FY) EEM; Day (ON) DRS  
**Winter Wren** Only Report: **13 Jun - 09 Jul Lawrence JSP**  
**Sedge Wren** All Reports: 05 Jun Marshall LH; 27 Jun Minnehaha JPS, TH; 25 Jul Miner JSP; Roberts DRS  
**Marsh Wren** All Reports: 28 Jun Minnehaha JPS; 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP; Day and Roberts DRS; Day LH  
**American Dipper** All Reports: 13 Jun Lawrence JSP; 26 Jul Lawrence VDF  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet** All Reports: 20 Jun Custer LS; 21 Jun Lawrence MMM; 09 Jul Pennington RFS  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** All Reports: 20-21 Jun Lawrence and Pennington MMM; 03 Jul Custer JSP; 09 Jul Lawrence RFS  
**Eastern Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Meade (NY 5) REP; Day (ON) DRS; Meade (FL) APB  
**Mountain Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Meade (FY 6) REP; Custer (NY) CMW  
**Townsend's Solitaire** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Custer (NE 4) *fide* DS ... also reported Lawrence JSP  
**Veery** Confirmed Breeding: **26 Jul Lawrence (NE 2 plus 1 Brown-headed Cowbird) REP** ... also reported 05 Jun Brown JCS; 09 Jun Pennington TBW; 14 Jun Lawrence LS; 16 Jun Meade REP; 05 Jul Marshall JPS, TH  
**Gray-checked Thrush** Late: **05 Jun Brown DAT**  
**Swainson's Thrush** Late: 03 Jun and 05 Jun Brown DAT  
**Wood Thrush** All Reports: 06 Jul Minnehaha JPS; Lincoln RFS  
**American Robin** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun (NY) Lawrence JSP; 20 Jun Day (NY) LH; 21 Jun Meade (FY) REP; 25 Jun Minnehaha (NY) MKZ; 30 Jun Brookings (NY) KIE; Custer (FL) CMW; Day (ON) DRS  
**Gray Catbird** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Brown (CF) JCS; 29 Jun Day (PE) LH  
**Northern Mockingbird** All Reports: 22 Jun Harding (pair) DCG; 28 Jun Harding EEM  
**Brown Thrasher** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Oahe Dam (CF) JCS; 12 Jun Pennington (CF) MMM; **28 Jun Harding (FY) RAS**; 30 Jun Day (PE) LH

**Sprague's Pipit** All Reports: 24 Jun – 15 Jul Shannon DB; 27 Jul Meade REP  
**Cedar Waxwing** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Day (PE) LH; Day (PE) DRS  
**Loggerhead Shrike** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun McPherson (NE 5) JDW; 10 Jun Oahe Dam (FY) JCS  
**European Starling** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MKZ  
**Bell's Vireo** All Reports: 24 Jun Shannon DB; 26 Jun Lincoln RFS; 25 Jul Pennington MMM  
**Plumbeous Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Meade (CN) REP; 18 Jun Custer (ON) *fide* DS; 26 Jul Custer (NY) RAP ... also reported 12 Jul Meade MMM; Fall River RFS, JSP  
**Yellow-throated Vireo** All Reports: 21 Jun Roberts JDW; 13 Jul Stanley RBA; Lincoln RFS  
**Warbling Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Custer (NY 3) JSP  
**Red-eyed Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Meade (NY 4) REP; 29 Jun Day (PE) LH  
**Blue-winged Warbler** Only Report: 13-14 Jun Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln County RFS  
**Northern Parula** Only Report: 10 Jul Fall River RFS, JSP  
**Yellow Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Custer (NE 5) *fide* DS; 30 Jun Day (FL) LH  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler** Late: 08 Jun Minnehaha RBA  
**Magnolia Warbler** Late: 09 Jun Minnehaha RBA; 09 Jun Edmunds JDW  
**Blackburnian Warbler** All Reports: 11 Jun Custer JSP; 02 Jun Brown JCS  
**Cerulean Warbler** All Reports: 20 Jun Lincoln BH; Lincoln RFS  
**Black-and-white Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Meade (FY) REP ... also reported 10 Jun Minnehaha MKZ; 16 Jun Meade REP; 21 Jun Meade MMM; 04 Jul Custer JSP; 15 Jul Butte RAS, VDF  
**American Redstart** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jul Lawrence (FY) REP  
**Prothonotary Warbler** Only Report: 14 Jun Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln County RFS  
**Ovenbird** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Custer (NY 4) *fide* DS; 28 Jun Lincoln (CF) BH  
**Mourning Warbler** Late: 12 Jun Brown JCS; 05 Jun and 08 Jun Brown DAT; 05 Jun Minnehaha RBA  
**MacGillivray's Warbler** All Reports: 19 Jun Pennington MMM; 26 Jun Lawrence REP; Custer and Lawrence JSP  
**Wilson's Warbler** Late: 06 Jun Clay RBA; 04 Jun Brown JCS  
**Canada Warbler** Late: 07 Jun Brown DAT; 06 Jun Minnehaha RBA; 03 Jun Codington JCS  
**Scarlet Tanager** All Reports: 01-21 Jun Meade REP; Lincoln RFS  
**Western Tanager** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Meade (NY) REP; 23 Jun Custer (NB) *fide* DS  
**Northern Cardinal** Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Minnehaha (NY) MKZ; Brookings (NE) KIE  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** All Reports: 01 Jul Minnehaha MKZ; 06 Jul Minnehaha JPS; Day DRS; Lincoln RFS  
**Black-headed Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Meade (FL 3) EEM; 20 Jun Fall River (NY 2) RAP; Pennington (FL 4) TBW  
**Blue Grosbeak** All Reports: 10 Jun – 14 Jul Custer MMM; 14 Jul Butte REP; 15 Jul Butte VDF, RAS; 18 Jul Lincoln RFS, JSP  
**Lazuli Bunting** All Reports: 10 Jul Fall River RFS; 11 Jul Meade VDF, RAS; Harding DCG  
**Indigo Bunting** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Lincoln (CF) BH  
**Eastern Towhee** All Reports: 28 Jun Lincoln BH; Lincoln RFS  
**Spotted Towhee** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Custer (NE 5) *fide* DS  
**Chipping Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Custer (NE 4) *fide* DS; 29 Jun Day (PE) LH  
**Clay-colored Sparrow** All Reports: 03 Jun Faulk MMM; 05 Jul Roberts JPS, TH; 22 Jul Roberts LH; Day and Roberts DRS

**Brewer's Sparrow** Only Report: 10 Jul Fall River RFS, JSP  
**Field Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: **28 Jun Meade (NE 4) REP**  
**Lark Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Shannon (NE) DB; 15 Jul Lawrence (FL) VDF  
**Lark Bunting** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Custer (CF) MMM; 15 Jul Butte (FL) VDF  
**Baird's Sparrow** All Reports: Brown RBA; Perkins DCG  
**Grasshopper Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Custer (NY) MMM; **29 Jul Meade (FL) VDF**  
**Song Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: Day (PE) DRS  
**Swamp Sparrow** All Reports: **24 Jun Shannon DB**; 04 Jul Brookings BH; 25 Jul Kingsbury JSP; Day and Roberts DRS  
**Dark-eyed Junco** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Meade (FY) REP  
**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Confirmed Breeding: **07 Jul Roberts (NE) DRS** ... also reported 14 Jun Butte JSP; 23 Jun Turner JPS, TH; 28 Jun Harding RAS; 26 Jul Meade REP; Perkins DCG  
**Red-winged Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Meade (FL) VDF  
**Western Meadowlark** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Pennington (NE 5) RAP; 29 Jul Meade (FL) VDF  
**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Meade (FL) VDF  
**Great-tailed Grackle** All Reports: 04 Jun - 20 Jul Clay (2 males and 1 female) DS; 20 Jun Clay BH  
**Common Grackle** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Day (ON) LH; 01 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MKZ; Day (ON) DRS  
**Brown-headed Cowbird** Confirmed Breeding: **11 Jun Brookings (NY) KIE**; **29 Jul Meade (FL) VDF**  
**Orchard Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Meade (NE 5) REP; 30 Jun Day (PE) LH  
**Baltimore Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MKZ  
**Bullock's Oriole** All Reports: 28 Jun Harding RAS; 10 Jul Fall River RFS; 15 Jul Butte VDF; 15 Jul Shannon DB  
**Cassin's Finch** All Reports: 08 Jul Custer RFS; Custer CMW  
**House Finch** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Brookings (FL) KIE; 10 Jul Minnehaha (FL) MKZ; **31 Jul Day (ON) DRS**  
**Red Crossbill** Confirmed Breeding: **31 Jul Lawrence (FL) VDF**  
**Pine Siskin** Confirmed Breeding: **13 Jul Meade (FY) APB**  
**American Goldfinch** Confirmed Breeding: **30 Jun Custer (NB) *fide* DS**; Day (PE) DRS  
**Lesser Goldfinch** All Reports: **10 Jul Hot Brook Canyon and Cascade Falls, Fall River County RFS, JSP**; **17 Jul one mile W. of Hot Springs, Fall River County RBA**; 29 Jul Hot Brook Canyon, Fall River County RAP  
**Evening Grosbeak** All Reports: 16 Jun Meade LS; 24 Jun Fall River RAP; Meade EEM; Pennington TBW  
**House Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Minnehaha (NY) MKZ  
**Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee**  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 30 Jun Minnehaha MKZ  
**Peregrine Falcon** 24 Jun Minnehaha (2) MKZ  
**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** 13 Jul Ft. Pierre National Grasslands *fide* DB  
**American Pipit** 15 Jul Butte VDF  
**Tennessee Warbler** 24 Jul Day (female with begging young) DRS  
**Virginia's Warbler** 03-09 Jul Custer (NY 4) *fide* DS; 13 Jun Boles Canyon and Roby Canyon, Custer County (3 singing males) LS  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 23 Jun Minnehaha MKZ  
**Kentucky Warbler** 20 Jun Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln County RFS  
**Hooded Warbler** Jul (NY) Meade REP  
**Eastern Towhee** 10 Jun Hughes JCS

**Species Expected But Not Reported**

Trumpeter Swan, Prairie Falcon, Ruffed Grouse (3), Sage Grouse (4), Greater Prairie Chicken (2), Piping Plover (3), Dunlin (4), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (2), Short-billed Dowitcher (2), Red-necked Phalarope (2), Barn Owl (2), Black-backed Woodpecker,

Pileated Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird (3), Clark's Nutcracker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Sage Thrasher, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, McCown's Longspur (4), Eastern Meadowlark

### Contributing Observers

RBA	Rare Bird Alert	SLS	Sand Lake NWR Staff
DB	Doug Backlund	RFS	Robb F. Schenck
APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	LS	Lee A. Schoenewe
VDF	Vic & Donna Fondy	RAS	Ralph & Alice Shaykett
DCG	Dave & Carolyn Griffiths	DRS	Dennis R. Skadsen
LH	Laura Hubers	JPS	Joe P. Staab
BH	Bill Huser	JCS	Jerry C. Stanford
KIE	Kieckhefer Family	DS	David Swanson
MMM	Michael M. Melius	DAT	Dan A. Tallman
EEM	Ernest E. Miller	TBW	Tom & Brenda Warren
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer	JDW	J. David Williams
RAP	Richard A. Peterson	CMW	Cheryl M. Wormstadt
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