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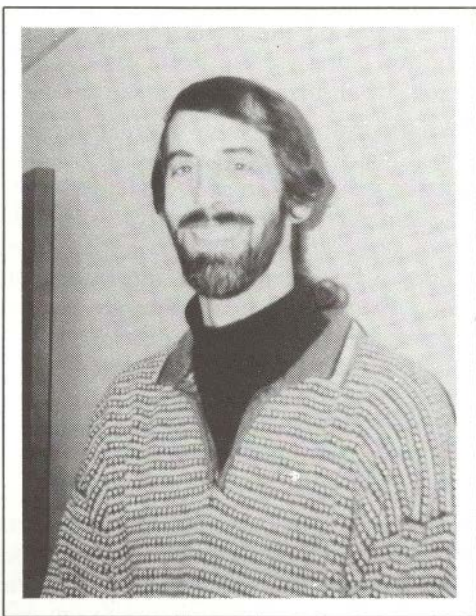
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Thanks to President Jeff Palmer's willingness to share his space, this president's page is a guest editorial by your editor, Dan Tallman. With this opportunity, I want to focus on some areas in which I believe the SDOU should put more effort. Our lack of environmental advocacy concerns me. Because environmental issues involve politics and economics, the SDOU has tended to shy away from them in favor of birding pursuits. But even if we are reluctant to become environmentally active, we should at least make an effort to be environmentally educated. I, for one, have much to learn about environmental problems that impact our state. Therefore, I asked a few South Dakotans with significant knowledge of local environmental issues to share what they consider to be our greatest environmental challenges as we face the new millennium. John Koerner wrote such an interesting reply that I decided to present it, in a slightly edited form, in its entirety (and leave some of the other people's input for later issues of *Bird Notes*). Eileen Dowd Stukel suggested a remedy for this concern, so I have included her comments at the end of John's note.



John wrote:

The North American prairie, including almost all of South Dakota, once formed the largest grassland area in the world, covering nearly one quarter of the lower 48 states, and extending from Canada into Mexico. The glaciated portion of this area (northern part), known as the prairie pothole region was once covered with millions of small, shallow, wetlands. Over the entire prairie pothole region, the average wetland density reached an astounding 83 potholes per square mile.

Collectively, these prairie grasslands and wetlands have been described as one of the most productive areas on earth, productive for wildlife and for agricultural commodities. As a result, during the past 100 years, much of the prairie landscape has been altered; wetlands have been tilled, filled, or drained, and much of the prairie grasslands have been converted to cropland. Of course, no one would argue that none of the prairie should have been farmed, and that all of the millions of potholes should have been preserved. After all, as the country grew and expanded, the land was needed to feed a growing nation and to develop towns, cities, and a transportation network.

But let's look at the degree to which natural prairie habitats have been altered in the relatively recent past. South Dakota has lost 35% of the wetlands that were present when the glaciers left, and the statistics are even more staggering in bordering states; Iowa, for instance, has lost 98% of its original wetlands habitat. A recent decision by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in South Dakota, the agency that administers the national Farm Bills, may result in additional wetland drainage, particularly if temporary wetlands are excluded from protection as a result of these recently proposed policy changes. Wetlands classified as "temporary" represent an astounding 56% of all that remains in eastern South Dakota!

South Dakotans have converted an estimated 80% of the original prairie grasslands. Again, looking at the bordering states, the situation looks even more grim. Minnesota has lost 99% of its original native vegetation, and Iowa sports a conversion statistic of 99.9%. In South Dakota, only 9% of the original Tallgrass Prairie remains, and much of it is severely degraded by poor land management and by the infiltration of invasive species like Canada Thistle and Leafy Spurge. Native prairie is still being plowed today. In some areas, it is being destroyed by specialty crops such as potatoes, broccoli, carrots, and onions. Land that has never been farmed is being converted, and once the prairie is plowed and farmed with chemicals, it is lost forever. In the future, we may be able to restore the native grasses and forbs, but one can never restore the prairie and all the intricate functions and interactions that occur in that ecosystem.

This is the most serious environmental problem facing South Dakotans into the next millennium: the continuous conversion and destruction of native prairie habitats, including natural prairie potholes, and native prairie grasslands. What's at risk? Of the over 800 bird species in North America, more than 300 rely on the prairie pothole region—177 species for breeding and nesting habitat, and another 130 for feeding and resting during the spring and fall migrations. This region produces up to 70% of the continent's waterfowl annually. It is the most productive breeding habitat in North America for waterfowl and many other bird species. Birds breeding in the prairie pothole region include 49 species of Neotropical migrants, 47 species of songbirds, 36 waterbirds, 20 waterfowl, 17 raptors, and 8 upland game birds.

Many of these bird species are already threatened or endangered, or are candidates for listing. Many species of prairie plants are also at risk as a result of the continuous conversion of native prairie habitats. It is not unusual to find over 150 species of plants on a quarter section of native prairie, and as many as 1850 species of insects, on average, have been found in just one square meter of prairie. Maintaining the biological diversity found in native prairie and wetlands would provide the potential for future pharmaceutical discovery, development of agricultural chemicals/biological controls, ground/atmospheric nitrogen and carbon monoxide reduction, and many others. No doubt, many of these native prairie species possess opportunities that have yet to be discovered.

The only effective method of resolving this issue is to offer sufficient financial incentives to landowners to preserve the little that's remaining of the native prairie habitats. There's lots of work to be done, and precious little time to act!

Eileen adds,

As we enter a new century, we can look back with pride at some successes with wildlife restoration, often the result of intensive and expensive management. But along with these success stories come sobering statistics about rapidly accelerating extinction rates, due in large part to habitat conversion for human benefits. Ironically, this environmental threat is much the same as 100 years ago, when native prairie was converted to farmland and other native habitats were destroyed to make way for towns and cities. It is unrealistic to expect individuals to conserve habitats because it's a good idea. We must determine a fair method of placing a value on fish and wildlife habitat, so that people interested in habitat preservation can make better choices as to whether they can afford to leave native habitat. Short-term habitat preservation in small, scattered areas will not assure the future of fish and wildlife. We must forfeit some of our idealism in favor of a realistic assessment of the value of habitat and determine how much each of us is willing to pay toward that value.

John Koerner, Eileen Dowd Stukel, and Dan Tallman

PARASITIC JAEGER—FIRST SOUTH DAKOTA RECORD

Bruce Harris
Box 605, Clear Lake SD

One of most exciting days of birding in South Dakota began in Rapid City on 12 October 1997. I had driven to the fall SDOU meeting with Nelda Holden. The day was overcast, windy and cold, with a threat of rain, so most members were packing up and heading home early. Nelda and I decided to give the Oahe Dam area a quick look on our way back to Brookings. As we approached Pierre, the weather worsened, with stronger winds and misting rain.

When we got to the dam area, we found a large concentration of gulls milling about the stilling basin, as had been reported for several weeks. We encountered several birders braving the elements at the west-side parking area. A Sabine's Gull had been reported and all observers concentrated on finding that rare bird—tough going, with cold winds and intermittent rain showers limiting visibility. We alternated between periods of intensive searching the thousands of gulls milling over the water, and warm-up periods in the vehicle. B.J. Rose and his son Doug were among the group, and Dave Williams arrived shortly after we began the search. Hundreds of Bonaparte's, Ring-billed and a few Herring gulls made it interesting and frustrating.

Time was running short for Nelda, who wanted to get home by late afternoon, so we drove over to the main dam area, parking at the fishing dock on the south side of the dam. There were comparatively few birds below the dam, and we checked them over within a few minutes. I was focused on the birds below the dam, when Nelda asked about the dark bird that was on the water about 150 yards out from us. I had noted the bird when we first parked, but dismissed it as an immature gull. Despite a brief view before it flew up from the water, I noted a rather slim bill and neck. I recognized it as a jaeger at once, noting the flash of white on the outer surface of the dark brown wings. The bird was dark brown with long, slender wings and a short projection of the central tail feathers. It was

about the same brown color as the Pomarine Jaeger observed at this location during late November 1997, but a much slimmer bird with a more buoyant flight. The jaeger was about the same size as a Ring-billed Gull that it chased briefly as it flew back towards the dam. It was an exciting moment, needless to say; fortunately the jaeger flew only about 300 yards downstream, and we drove after it, getting a better view of the bird on the water.

I asked Nelda to rush back to the stilling basin to get B. J. and Doug to verify the sighting; she had just turned around, when B.J. came down the hill toward us, with flashing lights. I knew that he had found the Sabine's Gull and was coming to get us. It was a pleasure, of course, for me to tell him about the jaeger. He and Doug spotted the bird with no problem, and they proceeded to take photos, which came out well enough, despite unfavorable conditions, to verify the bird as an immature dark phase Parasitic Jaeger. In fact, B. J. identified the bird as that species after first viewing it, and noting the extent of wing flash, which eliminated Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers.

After about five minutes the jaeger rose high over the dam and moved out of sight. We all drove back to the stilling basin, and after a long search, B.J. again located the Sabine's Gull for all to view. Nelda and I headed for Brookings while B.J. and Doug went back to the main dam, hoping for better views of the jaeger. Dave Williams remained at the stilling basin, in case the jaeger turned up there. There was plenty of excitement after Nelda and I left; Dave's decision was a lucky one, as he *did* see a jaeger—but it was an adult Long-tailed Jaeger that flew right up the river along the opposite bank, giving him an excellent view of that rare species. Unfortunately, no other birders shared that view with Dave. The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee agreed with his sighting (a Long-tailed Jaeger has been seen in South Dakota at Lacreek NWR in 1975). B.J. Rose and Doug did see another jaeger after we left the area. They thought it was an immature Long-tailed, but their photos could not confirm their sighting.

The Rare Bird Records Committee accepted my Parasitic Jaeger record (class 1P). The photographs were reviewed by Terry Wahl, a pelagic bird expert, as the committee did not feel confident about identification of immature jaegers. Wahl said he believed the photos to be a Parasitic Jaeger, although he did remark that on one photo the body appeared deepest at the breast, which "could suggest Long-tailed." Terry gave the photos to Bill Twiet, who also identified the bird as a Parasitic Jaeger, independently from Terry. On the basis of the photos and the outside experts, the committee accepted the record.

PREY SPECIES OF LONG-EARED OWLS AND REMARKS ON THE STATUS OF LONG-EARED OWLS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

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and

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This article is intended to summarize our observations of Long-eared Owls over the past six years, to report prey species data that we have gathered, to summarize other literature on the Long-eared Owl, and to suggest changes of the status and habitat reported for this species in *The Birds of South Dakota*.

During January, February and March 1999, we located four winter communal roosts of Long-eared Owls in the Pierre area. Maximum numbers of owls counted at the four roosts were 8, 5, 3, and 2. Two of these roosts had been

checked several times during the fall and early winter of 1998, but no Long-eared Owls and no pellets were present then. In April we located what obviously had been another winter communal roost near Oahe Dam. Large numbers of pellets were found and at least one Long-eared Owl was still present.

We collected a sample of pellets from two areas for prey analysis. One collection site was Medicine Knoll Creek, Hughes County, near the point where this creek enters Lake Sharpe. This roost site, which held three owls, is approximately four miles east of the nest site near Antelope Creek, where we previously studied Long-eared Owl pellets (Backlund and Backlund 1995). The second collection site was the Oahe Dam area, where we collected a sample of pellets from two communal roosts. Maximum numbers of owls seen at these roosts was eight and five.

From the pellets collected, we selected 21 intact pellets for measurement and determination of the number and species of prey in each pellet. Pellet length was measured as the greatest length of the pellet. Pellet width was measured as the greatest width taken at the middle of the pellet. Length of the pellets ranged from 1.05 to 2.40 inches (mean 1.69 in). Width ranged from 0.65 to 0.91 inches (mean 0.74 in). Eight pellets had one prey item, nine had two prey items, two had three prey items and one had four. The remaining pellet contained larger bones but no skull or mandibles. We are fairly certain that this prey item was a Northern Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys talpoides*). The pellet containing four prey items, including two specimens of a small species of *Sorex*, probably Hayden's Shrew (*Sorex haydeni*); one specimen of *Peromyscus* sp.; and one Northern Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*).

Using diagnostic keys (Hall and Kelson 1959; Jones et al. 1983; and Martin, 1971) and a reference collection of small mammal skulls and mandibles (Backlund's personal collection), we identified prey species from the pellets. We did not feel comfortable separating species in the genera *Reithrodontomys* or *Peromyscus*. These specimens were not identified below the genus level. Results are presented in Table 1. Relative abundance of prey items from winter roosts and the Antelope Creek nest collection are presented in Table 2.

TABLE 1. Prey Species Recovered From Winter Roost Sites.

<u>Medicine Knoll Creek Site</u>		<u>Species Total in all Pellets</u>	
Deer Mouse/White-footed Mouse (<i>Peromyscus</i> sp.)	59		
Meadow Vole (<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>)	50		
Prairie Vole (<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>)	39		
Harvest Mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys</i> sp.)	18		
Northern Short-tailed Shrew (<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>)	16		
Northern Grasshopper Mouse (<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>)	7		
Unidentified <i>Sorex</i> sp. (probably Hayden's Shrew)	2		
*Northern Pocket Gopher (<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>)	1		
*identified from bones other than skull or mandible			

<u>Oahe Dam Site</u>		<u>Species Total in all Pellets</u>	
Prairie Vole (<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>)	72		
Meadow Vole (<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>)	46		
Deer Mice/White-footed Mouse (<i>Peromyscus</i> sp.)	20		
Harvest Mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys</i> sp.)	29		
Northern Short-tailed Shrew (<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>)	7		

Least Shrew (*Cryptotis parva*)6
 Hispid Pocket Mouse (*Chaetodipus hispidus*)1
 Unidentified *Sorex* sp. (probably *Sorex haydeni*)1
 Unidentified *Microtus* sp. 2

TABLE 2. Relative Abundance of Prey in Long-eared Owl Pellets in the Pierre Area

Prey Species	Antelope Creek nest 1993*	Medicine Knoll Creek winter roost 1999	Oahe Dam winter roosts 1999	Mean Relative Abundance
Prairie Vole	65%	20%	39%	41%
<i>Peromyscus</i> sp.	18%	31%	11%	20%
Meadow Vole	4%	26%	25%	18%
<i>Reithrodontomys</i> sp.	9%	9%	16%	11%
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	0	8%	4%	4%
Least Shrew	<1%	0	3%	1%
<i>Microtus</i> sp.	2%	0	1%	1%
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	0	4%	0	1%
Northern Pocket Gopher	0	<1%	0	<1%
Bushy-tailed Woodrat	<1%	0	0	<1%
<i>Sorex</i> sp.	0	1%	<1%	<1%
Hispid Pocket Mouse	<1%	0	<1%	<1%

*(Backlund and Backlund 1995)

From Table 2, it is clear that voles (*Microtus*) are very important prey for Long-eared Owls. Mean relative abundance of Prairie Vole, Meadow Vole and unidentified *Microtus* from our three collection sites is 60%. This relative abundance exceeds the total relative abundance of all other prey species combined. Various species of *Microtus* are often reported as the most abundant prey in most of the Long-eared Owl's range (Marks, et al. 1994). Marti (1976) reviewed the available literature and summarized diet studies in North America and Europe. Of the 42 sources Marti reviewed, 31 reported *Microtus* species as the most abundant prey.

We have examined Long-eared Owl pellets from other areas of western South Dakota. Voles are always an important prey. At a Long-eared Owl nest discovered in Dewey County in 1996, Backlund found that Prairie Vole and Hispid Pocket Mouse each made up 30.4% of the total prey, with *Peromyscus* species at 25% relative abundance, followed by Bushy-tailed Woodrat, Meadow Vole, Olive-backed Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus fasciatus*), and Northern Pocket Gopher at less than 4% each. Again, *Microtus* species were the most numerous prey. Combined relative abundance of Prairie Voles and Meadow Voles in pellets was 34.1% of the total prey (n=79 prey items).

Prairie Voles made up 66% of prey items in Long-eared Owl pellets collected by Backlund in Badlands National Park in 1993 (n=60 prey items). Relative abundance of the remaining prey items in this pellet collection was *Peromyscus* sp. 10%, *Reithrodontomys* sp. 8%, Hispid Pocket Mouse 3%, Olive-backed Pocket Mouse 3%, Bushy-tailed Woodrat 1.6%, Northern Pocket Gopher 1.6%, Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) 1.6%, and 2 unidentified bird skulls.

On 18 April 1999 Olson collected Long-eared Owl pellets in the Dog Ear Lake area of Tripp County. Out of 74 prey species, 60 (81%) were Meadow Voles. Another 3% of the prey were Prairie Voles. The remainder of the prey items consisted of unidentified *Sorex* sp. (8%), *Reithrodontomys* sp. (4%), *Peromyscus* sp. (3%), and Northern Short-tailed Shrew (1%). Interestingly, a collection of Great Horned Owl pellets from the same area contained only a few *Microtus* species, consisting mostly of *Peromyscus* sp. and *Reithrodontomys* sp.

The two *Microtus* species found most commonly in South Dakota are the Prairie Vole and the Meadow Vole. Both species are widespread in the state. Prairie Voles generally inhabit grasslands while Meadow Voles prefer areas with more vegetative cover, but there is considerable overlap. Both species are cyclic. Populations tend to increase to high levels, then crash (Jones 1983). Geographically, it is difficult to determine how these cycles are distributed. Vole populations probably increase locally while decreasing in other areas. Fritcher (1998) documented a decline during two years of sampling in the Fort Pierre National Grassland. Fritcher captured 89 Prairie Voles in 1996 but only a few in 1997. Equal trapping effort in both years generated a total of 11,840 trap nights. Fritcher reported that capture rates for all small mammals were 86% lower in 1997 than in 1996 (1996 n=233; 1997 n=32).

Based on our observations of Long-eared Owls in the Pierre area, we believe that there is a tendency for these owls to concentrate in areas with high vole populations. Long-eared Owls are quite easy to locate, then seem to disappear, only to reappear months or years later. We are able to locate Long-eared Owls, when present, in thick cedars or pine. Searching isolated cedar or pine stands makes it a simple matter to check for presence of the owls, because they are easy to locate in these smaller, isolated roosting and nesting habitats. In April 1996, Backlund located three Long-eared Owl nests in the Pierre area with minimal effort (SDBN 48:80), but a thorough search of the same areas in 1997 and 1998 turned up no nests and no Long-eared Owls. This corresponds very well with Fritcher's documentation of a Prairie Vole population crash in this area.

On 4 April 1999, Backlund located three pairs of nesting Long-eared Owls within a one square mile area near Oahe Dam. One pair was nesting in an old crow's nest that was used by Long-eared Owls in 1996. Two pairs were using nest platforms placed in pine trees by Backlund in 1996. A total of 13 Long-eared Owls were found in cedar thickets in the Pierre area on the same day. These were probably the same owls that were found in the communal winter roosts earlier in the year. The pellets collected from the winter roosts prior to nesting indicate that the owls were preying heavily on *Microtus* species (see Table 2).

Further evidence for sporadic high density nesting comes from the Badlands National Park. Researchers from the USDA Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station conducted monthly, four-day bird censuses of Rocky Mountain Juniper stands in Badlands National Park from 1981 to 1984 (Paulson and Hull Sieg 1984). In 1983, Paulson and Hull Sieg reported a high density of nesting Long-eared Owls. Seven nests were found, five of which were within an

area of less than one square mile. During sampling in the previous two years, these researchers reported one adult with one half-grown young in 1981 and one, possibly two, active nests in 1982. Long-eared Owls were found during the winter of 1982-83 in woody draws in the area. Although some of the differences in observed abundance may be attributed to increased awareness of Long-eared Owls in that habitat type in 1983, the researchers also noted a decrease in Long-eared Owl abundance in 1984 (Carolyn Hull Sieg, pers. Comm.).

Nomadism of Long-eared Owls is documented in Europe. Village (1981) and Korpimäki (1992) demonstrated that Long-eared Owls were breeding at higher densities in areas with high vole populations and tended to leave when vole densities were low. Nomadism has been suggested by several North American researchers (Marti 1974; Craig and Trost 1979). Long-eared Owls in the Northern Great Plains may be responding to local irruptions and crashes of vole populations and possibly population fluctuations in other small mammal species as well.

The current status of the Long-eared Owl in South Dakota is described as "rare to uncommon permanent resident. May migrate, since more winter records exist." (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union 1991). Perhaps this description should be modified to reflect variable local populations, similar to the congeneric Short-eared Owl, which is known to seek grasslands with high vole densities (Holt and Leasure 1993). Like the Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owls are active search hunters, coursing low over grasslands in search of prey (Marks and Holt 1994). The Long-eared Owl is a much more secretive bird, strictly nocturnal and is not as easy to observe as the more crepuscular Short-eared Owl. Higher abundances of Short-eared Owls may indicate that the more secretive Long-eared Owl is also present in higher numbers if suitable nesting/roost sites are nearby. Although we have not followed this possible correlation closely, we observed higher than expected numbers of Short-eared Owls in the Pierre area during the spring of 1999. Were both species responding to a local high population of voles?

We do not agree that dense pine forests of the Black Hills are good habitat for Long-eared Owls, as stated in *The Birds of South Dakota*. Although this species requires dense thickets for nesting and roosting, preferring conifers, hunting is almost entirely in grasslands. Dense pine woodland near extensive grassland is good habitat, but large expanses of dense pine forest are not.

Over and Thoms (1946) reported that the Long-eared Owl was common statewide. In more recent years, Long-eared Owls were reported less frequently than expected during the South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas (Peterson 1995). Long-eared Owls were reported almost exclusively west of the Missouri River with only one possible breeding record reported east of the river during the six-year atlas project. George Rinker, retired USD professor, spent many years in the Vermillion area. Rinker reports that Long-eared Owls were common in shelterbelts in the 1960's and early 1970's, but by the 1980's they had virtually disappeared from the area (George Rinker, pers. Comm.). Bruce Harris (pers. Comm.) also reports that Long-eared Owls were once more common in eastern South Dakota. Long-eared Owls may be declining in South Dakota, especially eastern South Dakota, possibly due to the loss and degradation of grasslands that Long-eared Owls rely on for hunting. Monitoring the abundance and range of the species can be difficult due to the secretive and irruptive nature of the species. Annual monitoring of cedar and pine thickets statewide would provide more information on the status of this species.

Summary

1. *Microtus* species (voles) are the major prey of Long-eared Owls in this region and throughout most of the Long-eared Owl's range.
2. The preference for a cyclic prey species and observations of Long-eared Owls in the Pierre area and the Badlands National Park indicate that Long-eared Owls are somewhat nomadic, searching for areas with high vole populations or possibly high populations of other prey species. Presence of communal winter roosts and high density nesting following periods of low abundance of Long-eared Owls is reported. Nomadism has been well documented in Europe and suggested by some North American researchers.
3. Dense pine forests of the Black Hills are not good Long-eared Owl habitat. Pine woodlands, cedar or juniper woodlands, or other dense tree cover near extensive grasslands are the preferred habitat.
4. Long-eared Owls may be on a long-term decline in South Dakota, especially in eastern South Dakota.

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1998 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

David L. Swanson

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The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) met on 17 May 1998 at Aberdeen and on 14 October 1998 at Pierre. The members of the committee were David Swanson (secretary), Paul Springer, Bruce Harris, J. David Williams, and Jeffrey Palmer. All members either attended each meeting or voted *in absentia*.

The purpose and voting procedure of the committee are outlined by Springer (1988. SDBN 40:67-70). Observers of rare or unusual birds in South Dakota are encouraged to report their observations to any of the following: the secretary of the RBRC (currently David Swanson of Vermillion, SD) or other Records Committee members, compiler of the quarterly Seasonal Reports in *South Dakota Bird Notes* (currently Jeffrey Palmer of Madison, SD), or the editor of *Bird Notes* (currently Dan Tallman of Aberdeen, SD). A Rare Bird Observation Form is available for this purpose from any of the people to whom these reports should be sent. Reports should be as detailed as possible and should describe the entire bird, as well as vocalizations or behaviors exhibited by the bird at the time of observation. Notes on the observation for rare bird reports should be prepared during the observation or as soon afterward as possible, preferably prior to consulting a field guide. Complete descriptions are necessary to provide the committee with the greatest amount of information on which to judge their acceptance or rejection. A summary of the type of information desired by the RBRC in a rare bird report can be found in Swanson (1994. SDBN 46:64-71).

A listing of those species for which rare bird reports are requested is given on the latest version of the *South Dakota Birdlist* (available from Dan Tallman). Observers are asked to submit reports of any species that is rare or unusual at a particular time or at a particular location within the state. Observers whose records are accepted (Classes 1 and 2) are encouraged to publish these records in *South Dakota Bird Notes*, so details of the observation can be communicated to a wider audience. Citations are provided in this report for records that have been published.

Following are the results of the committee's action since the last report in the September 1997 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. The numbers included in parentheses along with some reports indicate the committee's vote. If no num-

bers are listed, the vote was unanimous (5-0) or 4-0 if a committee member submitted the report. The committee wishes to emphasize that a rating of Class 3 or 4 (non-accepted record) does not imply any personal criticism of the observer. Such a rating only means that the information provided in the report, in the opinion of the committee, did not conclusively eliminate other similar species. The committee created a new rating category in 1995 (Class 2H - Accepted Hypothetical) for well-described single observer sight records without corroborating evidence (e.g., photo, video, sound recording) that would constitute first state records, or for well-described reports where the origin of the reported bird (wild or escaped captive) is uncertain.

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

Pomarine Jaeger. 24 November 1996. 1 juvenile below Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. Doug Backlund, Patsy Kringel, and Bruce Harris. Second State Record.
Parasitic Jaeger. 12 October 1997. 1 in immature plumage below Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. Bruce Harris. First State Record.
Sabine's Gull. 16 September 1997. 1 immature at Angostura Reservoir, Fall River Co. Matt Fraker.

CLASS 1P-H (Hypothetical - Origin of bird uncertain).

Mute Swan. 3 March 1998. 1 in Aberdeen, Brown Co. Third State Record. For all Mute Swan records in the state, the committee was unsure of whether the birds represented escaped captives, thus the hypothetical rating.

CLASS 2 (Accepted - Satisfactory written description).

Red-shouldered Hawk. 26 May 1998. 1 adult at Sica Hollow State Park, Roberts Co. Travis Hills, Joe Staab, and Bob Evans.
Black-bellied Plover. 11 April 1998. Approximately 30 individuals in winter plumage in Miner Co. Rich Kostecke. Very early.
Black-necked Stilt. 30 April 1998. 1 at Sand Lake NWR, Brown Co. William A. Schultze.
Ruff. 6-10 May 1997. 1 male in winter plumage at Baltic, Minnehaha Co. Robb Schenck, Bruce Harris, and Jeffrey Palmer. Second State Record.
Long-tailed Jaeger. 12 October 1997. 1 adult in breeding plumage at stilling basin below Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. J. David Williams. Second State Record.
Little Gull. 27 September 1997. 1 adult in winter plumage at stilling basin below Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. Second State Record. Robb Schenck and Jeffrey Palmer.
Black-legged Kittiwake. 7 December 1996. 1 juvenile below Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. Robb Schenck.
Eurasian Collared Dove. 20 July 1997. 1 at Bowdle, Edmunds Co. MyRon Zimmer. Second State Record.
Eurasian Collared Dove. 24 August-14 September 1997. 1 at Yankton, Yankton Co. Steve Van Sickle. Third State Record.
Great Gray Owl. 18 March 1997. 2 at Sioux Falls (Pine Lake Hills area), Minnehaha Co. Robb Schenck. Third state record. This site is well removed (approximately 7 miles) from the sighting of the Great Gray Owl in Sioux Falls earlier in this same winter and consisted of two birds, rather than the one previously documented, so the committee accepted this report as a separate record. SDBN 49:36-37.

- Rufous Hummingbird. 7-11 July 1997. 1 adult male at Custer, Custer Co. Kevin Hachmeister and Fred and Dorothy Foreman.
- Swainson's Thrush. 5 April 1998. 1 at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Joe Staab. Earliest ever record for the state.
- Yellow-throated Vireo. 22 May 1997. 1 adult at Fort Meade, Meade Co. Randy Podoll (4 Class 2, 1 Class 3). Fourth record west of the Missouri River.
- Blue-winged Warbler. 21 August 1997. 1 adult male at Lewis and Clark State Park, Yankton Co. Steve Van Sickle.
- Blue-winged Warbler. 17 May 1998. 1 adult male at Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln Co. Joe Staab.
- Pine Warbler. 14 November 1997. 1 at Aberdeen, Brown Co. Dan Tallman. Latest ever record for the state.
- Blackpoll Warbler. 15 April 1998. 1 at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Joe Staab. Very early.
- American Redstart. 14 April 1998. 1 at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Joe Staab. Very early.
- Prothonotary Warbler. 23 May 1997. 1 adult male at Big Stone Lake, Roberts Co. Bruce Harris.
- Prothonotary Warbler. 15 May 1998. 1 adult male at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Joe Staab.
- Kentucky Warbler. 27-29 May 1997. 1 at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Robb Schenck, Jeffrey Palmer, and David Swanson.
- Scarlet Tanager. 29-31 May 1998. 1 adult male in Meade Co. Randy Podoll and Ernie Miller. Very rare in extreme western South Dakota.
- Great-tailed Grackle. 19 April 1997. 1 adult male in Minnehaha Co. Robb Schenck.

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

- Gyr Falcon. 28 May 1998. 1 in Turner Co. The description was incomplete and did not eliminate Prairie Falcon or Merlin, both of which would be much more common at this late date.
- Common Raven. 22 October 1997. 1 near Wilmot, Roberts Co. (2 Class 2, 2 Class 3). The dissenting committee members felt that the view was not ideal and that the description of the non-vocalizing bird did not conclusively eliminate American Crow.
- Loggerhead Shrike. March 1998 in Butte, Lawrence, and Meade Counties (4 Class 3, 1 Class 2). The report had poor details and no description of the bird, so Northern Shrike was not eliminated and is more likely in early March.
- Virginia's Warbler. 19 August 1996. 1 in Redbird Canyon, Custer Co. (2 Class 2, 2 Class 3). The dissenting committee members felt that this record did not include sufficient details to constitute a first state record. The view was brief and did not conclusively eliminate Nashville Warbler. In addition, the report was not submitted until after Virginia's Warblers had been confirmed in this area because the observer was uncertain of the identification at the time of observation.
- Black-and-White Warbler. 28 March 1998. 5 in two small groups at Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln Co. The details were rather sketchy and did not eliminate White-breasted Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker, among other

species. Also, the flocking behavior and the early date are not consistent with this species.

Black-headed Grosbeak. 26 July 1998. 1 female or immature in Turner Co. The description was incomplete and does not rule out the more likely Rose-breasted Grosbeak or a hybrid.

Eastern Towhee. 2 May 1998. 1 in Lawrence Co. Description was very brief and did not eliminate the more common Spotted Towhee.

CLASS 4 (Not accepted - Identification probably or certainly incorrect).

Black-chinned Hummingbird. August - 2 November 1996. 1 adult male in Meade Co. (2 Class 3, 2 Class 4). The videotape submitted with the report showed an immature hummingbird with only a partial gorget. In at least two instances on the tape, the sunlight caught the gorget so that the iridescent color was readily apparent and the gorget color was red. This is inconsistent with Black-chinned Hummingbird.

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Pacific Loon. 7 November 1998. 1 in winter plumage at Angostura Reservoir, Fall River Co.

Pacific Loon. 23 November 1998. 1 in winter plumage below Oahe Dam, Stanley Co.

Common Ground-Dove. 31 October 1998. 1 in Jones Co. Potential first state record.

Northern Shrike. 25 April 1998. 1 at Lacreek NWR, Bennett Co. Very late.

Varied Thrush. 8 October 1998. 1 at Aberdeen, Brown Co.

Black-and-White Warbler. 9 April 1998. 1 at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Very early date.

Hooded Warbler. 25 June-13 July 1998. Pair on nest at Fort Meade Recreation Area, Meade Co. Potential first nesting record for the state.

In other business, the committee decided to add Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Western Sandpiper to the review list and to remove Black-necked Stilt, Black-legged Kittiwake, Blue-winged Warbler, and Great-tailed Grackle from the review list. Also, the committee voted to delete Chukar, Blue Grouse, California Quail, and Lesser Nighthawk from the official state checklist because of failed introductions, in the case of the Galliform birds, or because of the absence of an accepted record for the nighthawk.

Bruce Harris resigned from the committee following the fall meeting in Pierre. The committee wishes to thank Bruce for his many years of faithful and productive service to the committee. Bruce was replaced on the committee by Todd Jensen, who will begin his service with the Spring 1999 meeting.



GENERAL NOTES

SDOU SPRING MEETING — 1999. The joint SDOU and Nature Conservancy dedication of the Nathaniel and Mary Whitney preserve at Cascade Creek made SDOU's 51st spring meeting, 4-6 June 1999, at Hot Springs, unique. In addition to our honoring the Whitneys, a survey of attendees revealed that a significantly large number of SDOU members at the banquet also belong to The Nature Conservancy.

Dedication of the Whitney Preserve occurred at 3 p.m., Saturday, 5 June, after a variety of field trips at the preserve. SDOU's banquet program that evening included a talk on "The Whitneys Remembered," by L. M. Baylor, and a presentation on "The Nature Conservancy in the Black Hills" by TNC representative Bob Paulson.

Following the informal gathering Friday evening, 4 June, SDOU members and guests were enlightened by Robert Hodorff's discussion of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

SDOU's regular field trips enabled many of the 60 registered participants to observe exceptional species--Virginia's Warbler, Lesser Goldfinch, Sage Thrasher, and Brewer's Sparrow--all species with limited occurrence in restricted habitats of western South Dakota. Observers recorded a total of 118 species, including such western favorites as White-throated Swift, Red-naped Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Pinyon Jay, Canyon Wren, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Western Tanager. (See accompanying complete species list.)

At the SDOU Board meeting, the directors established a committee to administer the Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr., Memorial Research Grants. The Board also welcomed Treasurer Nelda Holden's report that SDOU had received \$810.36 from the discontinued Black Hills Audubon Society. The directors added this amount to the endowment for the Whitney Memorial Research Grants, an especially appropriate decision, as Nat and Mary Whitney were among the founders of the Black Hills Audubon Society in the mid-1950's.

All participants at the Hot Springs meeting expressed particular gratitude to Jocelyn Baker for her successful efforts in overseeing preparations for the meeting.

SPECIES LIST FALL RIVER COUNTY FIELD TRIPS, 5-6 June 1999

118 species + 1 hybrid	Cooper's Hawk	Rock Dove
Eared Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk	Mourning Dove
Western Grebe	Ferruginous Hawk	Black-billed Cuckoo
Clark's Grebe	Golden Eagle	Burrowing Owl
Double-crested Cormorant	American Kestrel	Common Nighthawk
Turkey Vulture	Ring-necked Pheasant	White-throated Swift
Canada Goose	Wild Turkey	Belted Kingfisher
Wood Duck	American Coot	Red-headed Woodpecker
Mallard	Killdeer	Red-naped Sapsucker
Blue-winged Teal	Spotted Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker
Redhead	Upland Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker
Common Merganser	Long-billed Curlew	Northern Flicker
Ruddy Duck	Marbled Godwit	Western Wood-Pewee
Northern Harrier	Franklin's Gull	Dusky Flycatcher
	Ring-billed Gull	Cordilleran Flycatcher

Eastern Phoebe
 Say's Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Western Kingbird
 Eastern Kingbird
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Plumbeous Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Gray Jay
 Blue Jay
 Pinyon Jay
 Clark's Nutcracker
 Black-billed Magpie
 American Crow
 Homed Lark
 Violet-green Swallow
 Rough-winged Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Rock Wren
 Canyon Wren
 House Wren

Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 Mountain Bluebird
 Townsend's Solitaire
 Swainson's Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Sage Thrasher
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxing
 Virginia's Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 American Redstart
 Ovenbird
 MacGillivray's Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Western Tanager
 Spotted Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Brewer's Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow

Lark Sparrow
 Lark Bunting
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Chestnut-collared
 Longspur
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Lazuli Bunting
 hybrid Indigo/Lazuli
 Bunting
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Orchard Oriole
 Bullock's Oriole
 House Finch
 Red Crossbill
 Pine Siskin
 Lesser Goldfinch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

L. M. Baylor, N. Addison Ball, Todd Jensen



BOOK REVIEWS

The Complete Illustrated Check List of the Birds of The World. Tim Westoll. 1998. Glinger Publications: Carlisle, Great Britain. Hardbound, 784 pp.

This book is a list of birds of the world (common and scientific names with a brief overview of distribution) accompanied by a thumbnail color sketch of each species. Also listed is the number of subspecies known and the length in centimeters of each species. The result is about 10,300 sketches, including some female and immature examples.

How do you give a bad review to someone who has labored nearly 30 years on his lifework? The dust jacket proclaims, "the most comprehensive visual guide to every known species of the birds of the world... examples are illustrated to make identification—wherever you are—significantly easier... this book is an indispensable volume to be carried on every expedition." This must be some sort of joke. The illustrations are abysmal. Westoll seems to have graduated from the cookie-cutter school of bird cartoons. There is a circle for the head, a circle for the body, with bills, feet and tails stuck on. Can you imagine 48 screech owls on one plate—each species about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch tall—with no indication in text or plate as to how one tells each apart? Or, how about almost 80 hummingbirds on a plate, the smallest being smaller than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch? It is absurd. Because of their style, the

drawings do not indicate subtle (or even gross) differences between genera. The White-breasted Nuthatch looks like a sparrow. The Harris's Sparrow, basically the same size and shape as all the other 39 sparrows on the plate, would be impossible to identify from its picture.

The book's binding appears to be weak. It would certainly not withstand even moderate use in the field. I could go on... Birders interested in a list of birds of the world would do better by buying guides to individual regions to be visited or by subscribing to the multivolume *Handbook of Birds of the World* reviewed in SDBN 49:39 and 50:39. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.

Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Third Edition. National Geographic Society. 1999. The National Geographic Society: Washington. DC. Softbound, 480 pp. \$21.95.

The second edition of this guide became an essential component of birders' field packs. Birders should run out and purchase the third edition. The last decade has witnessed a revolution in avian taxonomy and many of the consequent changes are reflected in this new edition.

The cover boasts that the book is "Completely revised and updated." Eighty new species are covered (birds seen at least two or three times or species that are the result of recent taxonomic splits), and many plates from the previous edition have been edited and occasionally redone. The taxonomic order of the species is now more or less correct, with vireos, for example, following shrikes (although vultures have not been moved from the raptors to the storks).

Many other plates are rearranged and contain additions. The changes are too many to list. A few notable examples of these follow. The Pacific and Arctic loons are now split into two species, with the plates redrawn by David Quinn (Jon Janosic had painted the loons in the second edition). Loons are now covered in two full plates rather than one and a quarter. Two plates of interest to South Dakota birders include those covering the Plumbeous, Blue-headed, and Cassin's vireos. (The Plumbeous and Cassin's appear to simply be reversed from the second edition; the Blue-headed seems to be redone.) One of the new plates contains a large collection of rather flat-looking Eastern and Spotted towhees. (Despite their lack of dimension, the plate is certainly usable.) On the other hand, I was disappointed that the sparrow plates by Diane Pierce were not replaced. In their current form, unchanged from the second edition, the species seem small, with distracting habitat-laden backgrounds.

The range maps also have been revised, as evidenced by a new color scheme and South Dakota's inclusion in the Virginia Warbler's range (the species was only discovered in the last few years). Dave Swanson pointed out to me, however, that the dot representing the species' sighting in South Dakota is too far south.

Overall, this guide continues to be the book of choice for South Dakota birders. In my ornithology classes, I have Peterson's *Field Guide to the Eastern Birds*, which I believed better-suited beginning birders. But I carry the National Geographic guide with me when I bird. Because of the book's up-to-date taxonomy and excellent plates, next year my students will be using the third edition of the National Geographic guide. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

National Geographic Guide to Birdwatching Sites: Eastern US. Mel White. 1999. National Geographic Society: Washington DC. Softbound, 320 pp. \$21.00

National Geographic Guide to Birdwatching Sites: Western US. Mel White. 1999. National Geographic Society: Washington DC. Softbound, 240 pp. \$21.00

Birder's Journal: Life List. 1999. National Geographic Society: Washington DC. Softbound, 480 pp. \$14.95

These three books are ancillary volumes accompanying the third edition of the National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, reviewed above.

The guides to bird watching are glossy productions, with maps and photographs for which the National Geographic is famous. However, the guides will probably be of limited interest for all but beginning birders. Two problems arise with these books. First, they are very superficial. Take the South Dakota coverage. Only ten sites are covered: Sica Hollow, Hartford Beach, Waubay NWR, Sand Lake NWR, Oahe Dam, Fort Pierre National Grasslands, the Black Hills, the Badlands, Lacreek NWR, and Newton Hills State Park. There is nothing particularly wrong with this list and it represents the places we go to bird. But, an outsider visiting our state would miss the Ordway Memorial Prairie, Fort Thompson Dam, and Union County State Park. Perhaps the coverage is adequate for someone rushing across the state, but certainly anyone with more time would appreciate a more thorough coverage.

The photographs are very pretty. However, the South Dakota section has only three photographs: single photos of the Black Hills and the Badlands, and a portrait of a Golden Eagle. Coverage for other states appears to be similar. Overall, then, more serious birders would do much better to consult bird finding guides to individual states. These National Geographic Guides would probably be an excellent introduction to cross county birding for beginners.

One final point needs stating. These two guidebooks conspicuously lack acknowledgments. If the author did all the research for these guides without help, then perhaps he should have consulted local birders. I suspect this is not the case, however, but then it becomes odd that none of them are thanked.

The Birder's Journal is of more interest to intermediate and advanced birders. It contains the plates of the National Geographic field guide in black and white on the right hand pages while the left hand pages contain spaces to fill in a few dates and locations for sightings. I find this way of keeping track of lifelists more satisfying than computer generated lists. With the computer, list keeping tends to be more or less a solitary occupation. With a book, you can take it along with you on your travels or you can easily share it with friends.

I have but a couple of criticisms of the journal. Plates such as flying hawks, which repeat species from earlier pages, do not have spaces for record entry, and thus serve little function for the list-keeper. With a little editing, range maps from the field guide could have been included, an addition that would have made a comparison with actual encounter sites fun. Despite these minor points, most birders will enjoy record keeping with this journal. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

Modern Wildlife Painting. 1998. Nicholas Hammond. Yale University Press: New Haven Hardbound 240 pp. \$50.00

Anyone who appreciates bird art will enjoy this lavish, yet relatively inexpensive, coffee table book. At the heart of the book are the paintings by over 90 "modern" wildlife artists. The vast majority are bird paintings, which show a wide range of styles, ranging from Charles Hopper's geometric abstract representations to Sutton's photograph-like portraits. An ancillary essay accompanies the plates.

I am unable to determine the criteria by which the artists were chosen. In the preface, the author writes, "each chapter deals with a separate theme, although these are unavoidably linked with each other. However, a disadvantage of this approach is that the work of some artists does not fit conveniently into a particular theme. For this reason some artists are not featured and no doubt some readers will be disappointed that I have not included their favourites...." I guess the answer is that the author got to pick the artists and he did so by relatively esoteric criteria. Thus John O'Neill is included but his colleague, Doug Pratt, a major contributor to the *National Geographic Field Guide to North American Birds*, is not (despite a chapter entitled "Illustration for Identification"). For a while I thought that perhaps plates were chosen by a criterion that the paintings had to be "Art" rather than simply an example of draftsmanship. But this hypothesis quickly was dispelled by a beautiful, and somewhat surrealistic, painting of "Dowitchers Feeding" by Don Eckelberry which faces Gorge Sutton's "Sutton's Warblers," two beautifully drafted birds perched on a background-less twig.

Nor could I figure out the meaning of the word "modern" as it applies to the paintings. Archidald Thorburn died in 1935, but his painting "White Storks" was done in 1893. Examples of plates are taken from several of Peterson's field guides, including diving ducks from 1934 and 1990. The former example is clearly historical, as opposed to modern. Finally, two rather aboriginal-looking paintings by Greg Poole, from England, quickly point to the omission in this text of any modern aboriginal (Australian or from anywhere else) artists. There are, for example, many fantastic, modern, Inuits painting today.

I am being altogether too critical here. This book is fun to browse and wildlife artists of all abilities will find inspiration within its covers. Many of the world's best wildlife painters are included and almost all of the paintings are simply stunning. Even non-artists will enjoy this book immensely. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*



SEASONAL REPORTS

The 1999 Spring Season

1 March 1999 to 31 May 1999

Compiled by: Jeffrey S. Palmer
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Normal temperatures prevailed throughout the reporting period. April precipitation was above average. For the season, there were **318** species reported; the four-year (1995-98) average is 304. Migration was early. As shown in the Migration Calendar at the end of this report, 11 of the 14 tracked species were reported to be early. None of the 6 reporting regions showed a late migration trend. Is this reflective of the season or of better reporting? Looking at shorebirds, 6 species were reported in excess of 1 week earlier than average and 5 species were more than a week late. Earliest Ever arrival dates were reported for American Golden-Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher. Of the vireos and warblers, 10 species were more than 1 week early and Earliest Ever dates were reported for 9 species. Highlights of the season include potential First State Records for Arctic Tern, Purple Gallinule, and Elegant Tern. Also of note are a Pacific Loon, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, more Eurasian Collared Doves, a Tufted Titmouse, 3 reports of White-eyed Vireo, and a Second State Record for Brambling.

Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (dates that are earlier/later than listed in *The Birds of South Dakota* and species that are out of range). For early/late migration dates, I have listed the three earliest/latest dates (by county); however, if these did not include a sighting East River, West River, and along the Missouri River, I have given the earliest/latest date in the missing region also. For shorebirds, vireos, and warblers I have included [in square brackets] the Earliest Ever and Average First Arrival (1995-98) dates. Included at the end is a list of species that were not reported this year and might be expected during the Spring Season; a number in parentheses indicates the number of consecutive years the species has appeared on the list.

Common Loon Early: **08 Mar Yankton SVS**; 31 Mar Gregory RM; 08 Apr Day WS ... Late: 22 May Brookings RFS, JSP; 14 May Oahe Tailrace VDF; 13 May Day DRS, WS

Pied-billed Grebe Early: **14 Mar Hughes RDO**; 27 Mar Brown DAT; 27 Mar Charles Mix RM; 27 Mar Union RFS, JSP; 12 Apr Meade REP

Horned Grebe Early: 02 Apr Gregory RM; 06 Apr Yankton SVS; **10 Apr Kingsbury JSP**; 10 Apr Minnehaha RFS ... Late: 16 May Charles Mix SVS; 23 Apr Brown DAT; 20 Apr Minnehaha RFS

Red-necked Grebe All Reports: 11 May Enemy Swim Lake, Day County DRS; 13 May Keintz WPA, Marshall County (3) WS; 29 May Marshall (1) RFS, JSP

Eared Grebe Early: 06 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 07 Apr Meade JLB; 08 Apr Brown SLS

Western Grebe Early: **23 Mar Stanley RDO**; 09 Apr Brown DAT, AI; 12 Apr Day DRS, WS; 27 Apr Meade RAS; 27 Apr Butte VDF

Clark's Grebe Only Report: 24 Apr Charles Mix RBA

American White Pelican Early: **27 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 28 Mar Hughes RBA; 28 Mar Mellette RDO; 31 Mar Brown SLS

Double-crested Cormorant Early: 27 Mar Charles Mix RM; 31 Mar Meade JLB; 01 Apr Brown SLS

American Bittern Early: 19 Apr Brown SLS; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS; 08 May Minnehaha SFB; 15 May Stanley RFS, JSP

Least Bittern Only Report: 22 May Kingsbury RFS, JSP

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- Great Blue Heron** Early: 19 Mar Custer MMM; 21 Mar Lawrence RAS; 22 Mar Charles Mix LAS; 26 Mar Day WS
- Great Egret** Early: 27 Mar Brown DAT; 06 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 07 Apr Day DRS; 14 May Meade REP
- Snowy Egret** Early: 23 Apr Brown DAT, AH, SLS; 08 May Oahe Tailrace RBA; 10 May Day (12) DRS
- Cattle Egret** Early: 08 Apr Douglas RM; 12 Apr Brown SLS; 20 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 14 May Meade VDF
- Green Heron** Early: 01 May Brookings JSP; 03 May Minnehaha RFS; 11 May Lake JCS; 15 May Charles Mix LAS
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** Early: 06 Apr Yankton SVS; 11 Apr Brown DAT; 20 Apr Buffalo RBA; 20 Apr Charles Mix LAS
- White-faced Ibis** Early: 30 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 07 May Brown SLS; 08 May Butte RAS ... also reported 12 May Butte (8-9) REP; 13 May Butte (6) RAS, VDF
- Tundra Swan** All Reports: 07 Mar Lake JSP; 17 Mar Roberts JK; 05 Apr Brown SLS; 07 Apr Brown AH; 08 Apr Brown DAT
- Trumpeter Swan** All Reports: 23 May Mellette KH; 24 May Jackson RDO
- Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 01 Mar Brown JCS, SLS; 01 Mar Hutchinson SVS; 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Bennett TJ ... Late: 14 May Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 09 May Lawrence VDF; 17 Apr Minnehaha SFB; 11 Apr Hughes RDO
- Snow Goose** Early: 01 Mar Brown JCS; 01 Mar Yankton SVS; 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 23 Apr Meade JLB ... Late: 29 May Clark RFS, JSP; 25 May Day (15) DRS; 09 May Lawrence VDF; 09 May Butte REP; 08 May Yankton SVS
- Ross' Goose** All Reports: 01 Mar Brown JCS; 06 Mar Lake JSP; 13 Mar Minnehaha RFS; 14 Mar Hughes RBA; 15 Mar Hughes RDO; 18 Mar Brown DAT, AH; 25 Mar Day DRS; 17 Apr Meade TJ
- Wood Duck** Early: 18 Mar Butte JLB; 23 Mar Brown DAT; 27 Mar Union RFS, JSP
- Green-winged Teal** Early: 01 Mar Yankton SVS; 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 09 Mar Stanley RDO; 21 Mar Pennington JLB
- Northern Pintail** Early: 02 Mar Brown JCS; 04 Mar Meade REP; 06 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Mar Charles Mix RM
- Blue-winged Teal** Early: 07 Mar Charles Mix RM; 26 Mar Clay DS; 27 Mar Brown SLS; 01 Apr Tripp DBR
- Cinnamon Teal** Early: 17 Mar Brown SLS; 15 Apr Hughes RBA; 17 Apr Meade TJ ... Late: 29 May Roberts RFS, JSP; 25 May Butte RAS; 16 May Brown DAT
- Northern Shoveler** Early: 08 Mar Yankton SVS; 13 Mar Lake JSP; 17 Mar Brown SLS; 26 Mar Pennington JLB
- Gadwall** Early: 02 Mar Brown JCS; 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 06 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Mar Charles Mix RM, LAS; 18 Mar Pennington JLB
- American Wigeon** Early: 01 Mar Brown JCS; 04 Mar Meade REP; 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 08 Mar Stanley RDO
- Canvasback** Early: 02 Mar Charles Mix RM; 13 Mar Lake JSP; 13 Mar Minnehaha RFS; 19 Mar Meade JLB, EEM
- Redhead** Early: 01 Mar Brown JCS; 04 Mar Butte RAS; 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 07 Mar Charles Mix RM
- Ring-necked Duck** Early: 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 06 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Mar Charles Mix RM; 13 Mar Butte RAS
- Greater Scaup** All Reports: 11 Mar Yankton SVS; 16 Mar Brown DAT, AH; 28 Mar Yankton DS; 03 Apr Charles Mix RM; 11 Apr Meade APB
- Lesser Scaup** Early: 01 Mar Hutchinson SVS; 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 06 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Meade JLB
- White-winged Scoter** Only Report: 13 Mar Hughes RBA
- Common Goldeneye** Late: 11 Apr Yankton SVS; 07 Apr Meade JLB; 03 Apr McCook JSP
- Bufflehead** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 06 Mar Miner JSP; 19 Mar Meade EEM, JLB ... Late: 31 May Butte RAS; 14 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 13 May Stanley JLB; 14 Apr Codington JCS
- Hooded Merganser** Early: 04 Mar Minnehaha NP; 06 Mar Lake JSP; 16 Mar Brown DAT, SLS; 22 Mar Charles Mix LAS; 25 Mar Meade RAS ... Late: 16 May Charles Mix SVS; 08 May Custer CMW; 26 Apr Meade REP; 09 Apr Day JCS
- **Common Merganser** Late: 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 15 May Pennington JLB; 11 May Edmunds MKZ

Red-breasted Merganser Early: 08 Mar Hughes RDO; 08 Mar Yankton SVS; 27 Mar Lincoln RFS, JSP ... Late: 16 May Brown DAT; 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 14 May Stanley VDF

Ruddy Duck Early: 06 Mar Lake JSP; 08 Mar Yankton SVS; 13 Mar Minnehaha RFS; 16 Apr Meade JLB

Turkey Vulture Early: 03 Mar Charles Mix LAS; 27 Mar Union RFS, JSP; 28 Mar Custer KH; 06 Apr Minnehaha NP

Osprey Early: 07 Apr Pennington TBW; 11 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 17 Apr Stanley RDO ... Late: 24 May Day WS; 23 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Brown DAT; 19 Apr Charles Mix LAS

Bald Eagle Confirmed Breeding: 20 May Roberts (2 nests with young) WS ... also reported 16 Mar Brown (113) DAT, SLS

Northern Harrier Early: 01 Mar Brown AH, JCS; 05 Mar Charles Mix RM; 15 Mar Hughes RDO; 15 Mar Hutchinson SVS; 18 Mar Haakon DBR

Sharp-shinned Hawk Late: 15 May Brookings KIE; 14 May Lake RFS; 06 May Yankton SVS

Cooper's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 12 May Edmunds (on nest) JDW

Northern Goshawk Only Report: 17 Mar Brookings KIE

Broad-winged Hawk Early: 23 Apr Brown DAT; 24 Apr Lake RFS, JSP; 25 Apr Meade REP ... Late: 30 May Hughes RDO; 29 May Roberts RFS; 28 May Minnehaha NP; 08 May Lawrence RAS, VDF

Swainson's Hawk Early: 30 Mar Meade APB; 06 Apr Lawrence RAS; 15 Apr Brown DAT; 24 Apr Sully RDO

Rough-legged Hawk Late: 08 May Meade REP; 03 Apr McCook JSP; 31 Mar Custer TBW; 01 Mar Stanley RDO

Golden Eagle Late: 23 Mar Brown RBA; 15 Mar Beadle JCS; 15 Mar Hughes RDO

Merlin Late: 17 Apr Hughes RDO; 06 Mar Lake JSP; 03 Mar Brown JCS

Peregrine Falcon Early: 21 Mar Meade MMM; 18 Apr Clay RBA; 08 May Brown DAT ... Late: 16 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Brown DAT; 14 May Beadle RFS, JSP

Gyr Falcon Only Report: 09 Mar Bear Butte Reservoir, Meade County REP

Ruffed Grouse All Reports: 09 Apr and 28 Apr Pennington JLB; 03 May Meade REP

Sage Grouse All Reports: 07 Apr Butte (4) JLB; 17 Apr Fall River (17) TJ; 22 May Fall River TJ

Greater Prairie Chicken All Reports: 13 Apr Brown DAT; 24-25 Apr Stanley JLB; 02 May Lyman NP; 08 May Tripp (16) RAP, GS, DGS

Northern Bobwhite All Reports: 16 May Clay and Union SVS; 22 May Charles Mix RM

Virginia Rail Early: 08 May Brown DAT, AH; 08 May Kingsbury JSP; 08 May Minnehaha SFB, NP

Sora Early: 30 Apr Day WS; 30 Apr Lincoln RFS; 01 May Brookings JSP; 08 May Meade REP; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS; 08 May Yankton SVS

Sandhill Crane Early: 21 Mar Brown SLS; 21 Mar Charles Mix LAS; 30 Mar Pennington MMM ... Late: 09 May Pennington *fide* MMM; 21 Apr Meade EEM; 12 Apr Beadle JCS; 01 Apr Bon Homme SVS

Whooping Crane All Reports: 07 Apr (1) and 16 Apr (1) Edmunds MZ; 14 Apr Potter (1) SLS; 11 May Pennington (5) TBW

Black-bellied Plover Only Report [11-Apr-98, 04 May]: 14 May Hyde RFS, JSP

American Golden-Plover Early [10-Apr-86, 25 Apr]: 17 Apr Union DS; 30 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 01 May Brookings JSP ... Late: 17 May Brown JCS; 14 May Hyde RFS, JSP; 08 May Minnehaha SFB ... also reported 03 May Union (1000+) DS

Semipalmated Plover Early [06-Apr-86, 19 Apr]: 25 Apr Minnehaha NP; 25 Apr Lincoln RFS; 29 Apr Brown DAT, AH; 04 May Hughes RDO; 09 May Butte JLB ... Late: 18 May Day DRS; 08 May Clay DS

Piping Plover All Reports [11-Apr-89, 26 Apr]: 22 Apr Hughes RDO; 26 Apr Meade (3) APB

Killdeer Early [12 Mar]: 09 Mar Brown SLS; 14 Mar Clay DS; 18 Mar Yankton SVS; 19 Mar Meade EEM; 19 Mar Pennington DBR

American Avocet Early [21-Mar-86, 10 Apr]: 09 Apr Brown DAT; 17 Apr Sully RDO; 21 Apr Spink JCS; 23 Apr Meade JLB, MMM

Greater Yellowlegs Early [16-Mar-95, 24 Mar]: 27 Mar Brown DAT; 03 Apr Meade APB; 03 Apr McCook JSP; 03 Apr Lincoln RFS; 06 Apr Hughes RDO ... Late: 14 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS; 08 May Pennington JLB; 01 May Brookings JSP

Lesser Yellowlegs Early [08-Mar-53, 31 Mar]: 27 Mar Meade MMM; 27 Mar Minnehaha NP; 02 Apr Brown JCS; 03 Apr Charles Mix RM ... Late: 14 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 08 May Minnehaha SFB; 08 May Yankton SVS; 08 Mar Tripp RAP, GS, DGS

Solitary Sandpiper Early [15-Apr-71, 27 Apr]: 23 Apr Meade JLB; 27 Apr Butte RAS, VDF; 30 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 03 May Walworth SLS ... Late: 16 May Charles Mix RM; 15 May Brown AH; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS; 08 May Meade REP

- Willet** Early [07-Apr-78, 19 Apr]: 14 Apr Hughes RDO; 23 Apr Meade MMM; 24 Apr Kingsbury RFS, JSP
- Spotted Sandpiper** Early [02-Apr-91, 28 Apr]: 23 Apr Charles Mix RM; 29 Apr Brown DAT, AH; 30 Apr Lincoln RFS; 02 May Pennington JLB
- Upland Sandpiper** Early [27-Mar-93, 28 Apr]: 30 Apr Custer JLB; 01 May Pennington MMM; 01 May Lake JSP; 01 May Lyman NP
- Long-billed Curlew** Early [16-Mar-96, 29 Mar]: 05 Apr Meade EEM; 06 Apr Custer MMM; 22 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 24 Apr Sully RDO
- Hudsonian Godwit** All Reports [10-Apr-89, 15 Apr]: 17 Apr Hughes RDO; 28 Apr Brown DAT; 16 May Lincoln RBA; 16 May Hand RFS, JSP; 17 May Brown JCS; 18 May Minnehaha NP
- Marbled Godwit** Early [05-Apr-78, 12 Apr]: 13 Apr Brown DAT; 17 Apr Sully RDO; 22 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 23 Apr Meade JLB
- Ruddy Turnstone** All Reports [17-Apr-92, 10 May]: 02 May Hughes RBA; 22 May Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 23 May Brown SLS; 28 May Day (25+) DRS
- **Sanderling** Early [16-Apr-91, 05 May]: 23 Apr Brown AH; 06 May Minnehaha NP; 08 May Meade TJ ... Late: 22 May Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 08 May Minnehaha SFB; 08 May Brown DAT
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** Early [02-Apr-86, 24 Apr]: 24 Apr Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 25 Apr Minnehaha NP; 25 Apr Brown DAT; 04 May Hughes RDO; 09 May Meade REP; 09 May Butte RAS, VDF ... Late: 22 May Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 16 May Tripp SVS
- Least Sandpiper** Early [08-Apr-95, 23 Apr]: 24 Apr Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 25 Apr Minnehaha NP; 05 May Brown DAT; 08 May Pennington JLB ... Late: 29 May Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 18 May Day DRS; 09 May Meade REP; 09 May Butte RAS, VDF
- White-rumped Sandpiper** Early [17-Apr-66, 04 May]: 04 May Hughes RDO; 05 May Brown DAT; 08 May Clay DS ... Late: 29 May Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 29 May Bon Homme SVS; 09 May Brown AH
- Baird's Sandpiper** Early [16-Mar-91, 27 Mar]: 07 Apr Minnehaha NP; 10 Apr Lake JSP; 15 Apr Hughes RDO ... Late: 16 May Charles Mix RM; 16 May Bennett DS, SVS; 08 May Minnehaha SFB; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS
- Pectoral Sandpiper** Early [29-Mar-96, 12 Apr]: 31 Mar Brown DAT; 03 Apr McCook JSP; 17 Apr Union DS; 24 Apr Lake RFS, JSP ... Late: 22 May Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 18 May Minnehaha NP; 08 May Brown AH; 04 May Hughes RDO
- Dunlin** Early [15-Apr-91, 21 Apr]: 24 Apr Kingsbury RFS, JSP; 28 Apr Brown DAT; 06 May Minnehaha NP; 14 May Clay DS ... Late: 18 May Day DRS; 17 May Brown JCS; 14 May Beadle RFS, JSP
- Stilt Sandpiper** Early [18-Apr-55, 05 May]: 06 May Brown DAT, AH; 09 May Butte RAS, VDF; 14 May Beadle RFS, JSP ... Late: 16 May Bennett and Charles Mix SVS; 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Only Report [10-May-55, 17 May]: 03 May Union (25+) DS
- Short-billed Dowitcher** Early [20-Apr-91, 28 Apr]: 03 May Harding VDF; 07 May Minnehaha NP; 08 May Brown DAT, AH; 08 May Minnehaha SFB
- Long-billed Dowitcher** Early [24-Mar-91, 22 Apr]: 02 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 17 Apr Hughes RDO; 25 Apr Minnehaha NP; 25 Apr Lincoln RFS; 07 May Meade JLB ... Late: 20 May Butte RAS; 18 May Minnehaha NP; 17 May Brown JCS; 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP
- Common Snipe** Early [22 Mar]: 31 Mar Brown DAT; 02 Apr Lincoln NP; 05 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 13 Apr Meade REP
- American Woodcock** All Reports [12-Mar-97, 26 Mar]: 27 Mar Edmunds MZ; 25 Apr Lincoln RFS; 08 May Yankton SVS
- Wilson's Phalarope** Early [06-Mar-70, 16 Apr]: 23 Apr Meade JLB; 25 Apr Brown DAT; 27 Apr Hughes RDO
- Franklin's Gull** Early: 02 Mar Yankton SVS; 20 Mar Minnehaha SFB; 27 Mar Brown DAT; 14 Apr Pennington JLB
- Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 28 Mar Yankton DS; 29 Mar Stanley RDO; 30 Mar Charles Mix RM; 02 Apr Brown JCS ... Late: 16 May Charles Mix SVS; 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 25 Apr Minnehaha NP
- Ring-billed Gull** Early: 01 Mar Butte RAS; 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 01 Mar Hutchinson SVS
- California Gull** All Reports: 11 Apr Minnehaha NP; 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 16 May Charles Mix DS, SVS
- Herring Gull** Early: 01 Mar Hughes RDO; 13 Mar Minnehaha RFS; 14 Mar Charles Mix RM; 23 Mar Meade REP ... Late: 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 06 May Minnehaha NP; 01 May Brown JCS
- Thayer's Gull** All Reports: 21 Mar Oahe Tailrace REM; 24 Mar Stanley RDO
- Black-legged Kittiwake** Only Report: 16 Apr Stanley RDO; 01 May Oahe Tailrace RBA

Caspian Tern All Reports: 05-06 May Yankton SVS; 08 May Kingsbury JSP; 08 May and 17 May Oahe Tailrace TJ; 13 May Day DRS, WS
Common Tern Early: 12 Apr Codington JCS; 22 Apr Charles Mix RM; 27 Apr Brown SLS; 09 May Butte REP
Forster's Tern Early: 11 Apr Minnehaha NP; 14 Apr Stanley RDO; 18 Apr Brown DAT; 09 May Butte JLB, VDF
Least Tern Only Report: 31 May Union DS
Black Tern Early: 03 May Day JCS; 08 May Kingsbury JSP; 08 May Oahe Tailrace TJ; 09 May Tripp RDO
Mourning Dove Early: 19 Mar Lake JSP; 20 Mar Minnehaha MKZ; 21 Mar Brown DAT; 28 Mar Meade EEM; 29 Mar Stanley RDO
Black-billed Cuckoo All Reports: 21 May Day WS; 31 May Day DRS
Yellow-billed Cuckoo All Reports: 19 May Minnehaha NP; 29 May Roberts RFS; 31 May Stanley MMM
Barn Owl Only Report: 14 May Stanley RFS, JSP
Eastern Screech-Owl Confirmed Breeding: 20 May Brookings (NY) ... also reported 28 Mar Stanley RDO; 08 May Meade REP; 08 May Tripp (3) RAP, GS, DGS
Burrowing Owl Early: 21 Mar Hughes REM; 28 Mar Meade EEM; 07 Apr Custer MMM; 11 Apr Butte RAS
Long-eared Owl All Reports: 20 Mar Stanley RDO; 01 May Bennett TJ; 15 May Stanley RFS, JSP
Short-eared Owl All Reports: 06 Mar Minnehaha NP; 08 Mar Brown JCS; 27 Mar Stanley RDO; 07 Apr Stanley DBR; 20 Apr Pennington and 23 Apr Meade (3) MMM; 24 Apr Jackson JLB
Northern Saw-Whet Owl Only Report: 04 Mar Lawrence RBA
Common Nighthawk Early: 10 May Brown DAT; 15 May Yankton SVS; 16 May Clay DS; 23 May Custer RDO; 23 May Mellette KH
Common Poorwill All Reports: 24 Apr Gregory RBA; 13 May Meade MMM; 20 May Meade APB; 21 May Hughes RDO; 30 May Pennington JLB
Whip-poor-will All Reports: 01 May Day DRS; 06 May Day WS; 08 May Yankton SVS; 14 May Lincoln RFS, JSP; 15 May Charles Mix LAS
Chimney Swift Early: 29 Apr Lake JSP; 02 May Hutchinson RM; 03 May Brown DAT, AH; 07 May Yankton SVS; 09 May Butte REP
White-throated Swift All Reports: 29 Apr Lawrence and 18 May Custer JLB; 01 May Lawrence REP; 16 May Fall River SVS; 23 May Lawrence RAS
Ruby-throated Hummingbird Early: 09 May Minnehaha MKZ; 11 May Lake JCS; 14 May Lincoln RFS, JSP; 16 May Charles Mix RM
Belted Kingfisher Early: 13 Mar Lake JSP; 14 Mar Yankton SVS; 15 Mar Custer CMW
Lewis' Woodpecker reported from Butte, Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington counties
Red-headed Woodpecker Early: 20 Mar Clay DS; 21 Mar Lincoln RFS; 08 Apr Brown SLS; 23 Apr Meade REP
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Early: 05 Apr Brown DAT; 14 Apr Minnehaha and 17 Apr Lincoln RFS
Red-naped Sapsucker All Reports: 27 Apr Meade REP; 28 Apr Lawrence DBR; 29 Apr Pennington JLB; 07 May Lawrence VDF
Three-toed Woodpecker All Reports: 24 Mar and 28 Apr Custer JLB
Pileated Woodpecker Only Report: 22 May Roberts REM
Olive-sided Flycatcher All Reports: 09 May Lincoln NP; 10 May Minnehaha RFS; 19 May Minnehaha NP; 22 May Brookings RFS, JSP; 23 May Custer TJ
Western Wood-Pewee All Reports: 23 May Meade REP; 23 May Custer TJ
Eastern Wood-Pewee All Reports: 05 May Minnehaha RFS; 16 May Clay DS, SVS; 29 May Roberts RFS, JSP; Day County DRS
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Only Report: 23 May Minnehaha REM
Alder Flycatcher All Reports: 20 May Minnehaha NP; 31 May Union DS
Willow Flycatcher Only Report: 29 May Marshall RFS, JSP
Least Flycatcher Early: 30 Apr Hughes FIB; 01 May Brown DAT; 04 May Pennington JLB
Dusky Flycatcher All Reports: 14 May Custer RAP, GS, DGS; 15 May and 18 May Custer JLB; 17 May Custer SVS; 23 May Custer TJ
Cordilleran Flycatcher All Reports: 21 May Meade REP; 23 May Custer and Fall River TJ
Eastern Phoebe Early: 05 Apr Brown DAT; 06 Apr Minnehaha NP; 09 Apr Clay SVS; 08 May Pennington JLB; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS
Say's Phoebe Early: 13 Apr Meade REP; 14 Apr Pennington JLB; 20 Apr Lyman RDO; 23 May Edmunds (2) JDW

Great Crested Flycatcher Early: 06 May Yankton SVS; 11 May Union DS; 12 May Minnehaha NP; 29 May Meade MMM, APB
Western Kingbird Early: 07 May Custer CMW; 07 May Minnehaha NP; 08 May Brown DAT, AH; 08 May Kingsbury JSP; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS; 10 May Charles Mix RM
Eastern Kingbird Early: 17 Apr Brown AH; 01 May Clay RBA; 02 May Douglas RM; 07 May Custer CMW
Purple Martin Early: 13 Apr Lake JSP; 13 Apr Charles Mix RM; 17 Apr Brown AH; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS
Tree Swallow Early: 31 Mar Minnehaha NP; 07 Apr Day DRS; 09 Apr Charles Mix SVS; 12 Apr Pennington TBW
Violet-green Swallow Early: 03 May Custer CMW; 08 May Pennington TJ; 13 May Butte VDF; 13 May Meade RAS, JLB
Northern Rough-winged Swallow Early: 20 Apr Yankton SVS; 26 Apr Meade REP; 27 Apr Charles Mix RM; 30 Apr Lincoln RFS
Bank Swallow Early: 25 Apr Minnehaha NP; 28 Apr Faulk SLS; 30 Apr Stanley RDO
Cliff Swallow Early: 18 Apr Charles Mix RM; 29 Apr Walworth SLS; 30 Apr Brown JCS; 05 May Pennington MMM
Barn Swallow Early: 11 Apr Yankton SVS; 23 Apr Meade JLB; 24 Apr Lawrence RAS, VDF; 24 Apr Lake RFS, JSP
Pinyon Jay All Reports: 08 Mar Meade MMM; Meade County APB
Clark's Nutcracker All Reports: 04 Mar Custer KH; 12 Mar Custer DS; 26 Mar Custer CMW; 21 May Pennington DBR
Red-breasted Nuthatch Late: 15 May Hughes EDS; 14 May Lake RFS, JSP; 28 Apr Brown AH
Brown Creeper Late: 10 May Lake JSP; 03 May Hyde RBA; 28 Apr Hughes FIB
Rock Wren Early: 28 Apr Pennington JLB; 08 May Custer MMM; 09 May Meade REP
Canyon Wren All Reports: 01 Mar Custer KH; 12 Apr Meade MMM; 29 Apr Lawrence JLB
House Wren Early: 20 Apr Charles Mix RM; 22 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 01 May Brown JCS; 04 May Meade REP; 04 May Pennington JLB
Winter Wren All Reports: 06 Apr and 07 Apr Minnehaha NP; 15 May Custer CMW
Sedge Wren Early: 02 May Charles Mix RM; 06 May Lake JSP; 06 May Minnehaha NP; 08 May Tripp RAP
Marsh Wren Early: 05 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 28 Apr Brown JCS; 01 May Bennett TJ
Golden-crowned Kinglet Late: 25 Apr Lincoln RFS; 24 Apr Lake JSP; 12 Apr Beadle JCS; 12 Apr Hughes RDO
Ruby-crowned Kinglet Early: 02 Apr Brown JCS; 05 Apr Day DRS; 06 Apr Minnehaha NP; 09 Apr Clay SVS; 10 Apr Meade MMM ... Late: 16 May Clay SVS; 15 May Hughes RFS; 14 May Brookings JSP
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher All Reports: 01 May Lincoln DS; 12 May Hughes RDO; 12 May Minnehaha NP ... Confirmed Breeding: 19 May Tuthill Park, Minnehaha County (NB) RBA
Eastern Bluebird Early: 06 Mar Charles Mix RM; 15 Mar Yankton SVS; 16 Mar Meade REP; 23 Mar Day WS
Mountain Bluebird Early: 01 Mar Custer TBW; 03 Mar Meade EEM; 03 Mar Fall River RBA
Townsend's Solitaire reported 01 Mar Stanley RDO
Veery Early: 12 May Codington JCS; 16 May Brown AH; 20 May Hughes RDO, FIB
Gray-cheeked Thrush Early: 01 May Brown JCS; 05 May Minnehaha RFS ... Late: 26 May Roberts and 17 May Brown JCS; 10 May Minnehaha RFS
Swainson's Thrush Early: 01 May Brown DAT; 01 May Pennington JLB; 01 May Hughes RDO; 01 May Brookings JSP; 01 May Minnehaha RFS, NP; 01 May Lincoln RBA
Hermit Thrush Early: 06 Apr Minnehaha NP; 10 Apr Brown DAT; 11 Apr Yankton SVS ... Late: 18 May Brown JCS; 05 May Minnehaha RFS; 01 May Brookings JSP
Wood Thrush All Reports: 03 May Minnehaha NP; 13 May Brown JCS; 14 May Lincoln RFS, JSP
Gray Catbird Early: 01 May Brookings JSP; 03 May Lincoln RDO; 04 May Minnehaha NP; 05 May Clay DS; 10 May Pennington JLB
Northern Mockingbird All Reports: 08 May Tripp GS; 15 May Butte REP; 16 May Hyde RBA
Sage Thrasher Only Report: 29 May Fall River (3) TJ
Brown Thrasher Early: 23 Apr Minnehaha NP; 30 Apr Lincoln RFS; 30 Apr Charles Mix RM; 08 May Meade REP; 08 May Pennington JLB; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS
American Pipit Only Report: 02 May Custer MMM
Sprague's Pipit Only Report: 26 Apr Meade REP
Bohemian Waxwing All Reports: 03 Mar Lawrence REP; 02 Mar Edmunds JDW; 07 Mar Lawrence RBA

Northern Shrike All Reports: 19 Mar Charles Mix LAS; 15 Mar Brown JCS; 13 Mar Brookings JSP

Loggerhead Shrike Early: 22 Mar Brown JCS; 27 Mar Union JSP; 03 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Meade MMM

Bell's Vireo All Reports [08-May-98, 11 May]: 20 May Hughes RDO, FIB; 29 May Yankton SVS; 31 May Pennington MMM

Blue-headed Vireo Early [25-Apr-86, 05 May]: 01 May Minnehaha NP; 01 May Lincoln DS; 03 May Lake JSP ... Late: 16 May Clay SVS; 14 May Minnehaha RFS, JSP

Plumbeous Vireo All Reports [29-Apr-78, 15 May]: 17 May Meade REP; 23 May Custer and Fall River TJ; 25 May Custer JLB

Yellow-throated Vireo Early [26-Apr-94, 13 May]: 09 May Lincoln NP; 11 May Brookings RBA; 11 May Minnehaha RFS; 16 May Clay DS, SVS

Warbling Vireo Early [29-Apr-86, 09 May]: 05 May Minnehaha RFS; 05 May Clay DS; 06 May Yankton SVS; 15 May Pennington JLB

Philadelphia Vireo All Reports [08-May-79, 18 May]: 10 May Brown DAT; 10 May Minnehaha RFS; 15 May Brown AH; 16 May Union TJ; 16 May Clay DS, SVS; 20 May Hughes RDO, FIB; 22 May Brookings RFS

Red-eyed Vireo Early [01-May-79, 12 May]: 02 May Minnehaha RFS; 16 May Brown DAT; 16 May Meade REP; 16 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Clay and Union SVS

Blue-winged Warbler All Reports [07 May-69, 18 May]: 10 May Minnehaha RFS; 09 May Lincoln RFS; 10-11 May Hughes RDO, FIB

Golden-winged Warbler All Reports [08-May-66, 15 May]: 10 May Brown DAT, AH; 10 May Minnehaha NP; 11 May Minnehaha RFS; 14 May Minnehaha RFS, JSP

Tennessee Warbler Early [27-Apr-94, 07 May]: 30 Apr Brown JCS; 02 May Minnehaha RFS; 05 May Clay DS; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS

Orange-crowned Warbler Early [14-Apr-92, 21 Apr]: 24 Apr Lake RFS, JSP; 25 Apr Brown DAT; 26 Apr Meade REP; 30 Apr Hughes RDO, FIB ... Late: 25 May Hughes RDO; 17 May Brookings JK; 17 May Pennington JLB

Nashville Warbler Early [23-Apr-90, 07 May]: 01 May Minnehaha RFS; 05 May Lake JSP; 08 May Yankton SVS ... Late: 16 May Brown DAT; 14 May Minnehaha RFS, JSP; 11 May Brookings RBA; 11 May Day DRS; 11 May Roberts WS

Northern Parula Early [02-Apr-65, 12 May]: 02 May Minnehaha RFS; 03 May Meade REP; 05 May Lake JSP; 11 May Union DS ... Late: 14 May Minnehaha RFS, JSP; 13 May Hughes RDO

Yellow Warbler Early [21-Apr-98, 01 May]: 01 May Hughes RDO; 02 May Minnehaha RFS; 04 May Lake JSP; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS

Chestnut-sided Warbler Early [04-May-93, 17 May]: 10 May Minnehaha NP; 11 May Clay DS ... Late: 21 May Minnehaha NP; 20 May Hughes FIB; 18 May Brookings JCS

Magnolia Warbler Early [02-May-57, 12 May]: 03 May Lake JSP; 10 May Brown DAT, AH; 10 May Hughes RDO, FIB; 10 May Minnehaha MKZ, NP, RFS ... Late: 14 May Minnehaha RFS, JSP; 12 May Lake JCS; 11 May Hughes RBA; 11 May Clay and Union DS; 11 May Brookings RBA

Cape May Warbler Only Report [05-May-93, 22 May]: 16 May Union DS, SVS

Yellow-rumped Warbler Early [23-Mar-80, 30 Mar]: 05 Apr Day DRS; 08 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 14 Apr Hughes EDS; 18 Apr Tripp RDO ... Late: 17 May Brookings JK; 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 12 May Minnehaha NP

Black-throated Green Warbler Early [26-Apr-81, 12 May]: 01 May Brookings JSP; 08 May Custer CMW; 10 May Brown DAT; 10 May Day DRS ... Late: 17 May Hughes RDO; 17 May Minnehaha TJ; 16 May Brown DAT

Blackburnian Warbler Early [01-May-52, 16 May]: 10 May Day DRS; 10 May Minnehaha NP; 11 May Brookings RBA; 12 May Hughes RDO ... Late: 26 May Roberts JCS; 21 May Minnehaha RFS; 17 May Brookings JK

Pine Warbler Only Report [02-May-51, 09 May]: 15 May Brown AH

Palm Warbler Early [16-Apr-??, 29 Apr]: 29 Apr Brown JCS; 30 Apr Lincoln RFS; 01 May Bennett TJ; 01 May Brookings JSP; 01 May Minnehaha NP ... Late: 18 May Charles Mix LAS; 16 May Clay DS; 14 May Stanley RFS, JSP; 08 May Brown DAT, AH; 08 May Custer MMM

Bay-breasted Warbler All Reports [03-May-81, 17 May]: 10 May and 16 May Brown DAT, AH

Blackpoll Warbler Early [15-Apr-98, 07 May]: 01 May Stanley RDO; 01 May Brookings JSP; 03 May Brown DAT, AH; 08 May Pennington TJ; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS ... Late: 22 May Brookings RFS, JSP; 20 May Minnehaha NP; 13 May Meade VDF; 11 May Charles Mix RM

Cerulean Warbler Only Report [10-May-97, 17 May]: 14 May Lincoln RFS, JSP

Black-and-white Warbler Early [09-Apr-98, 29 Apr]: 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 30 Apr Lincoln RFS; 01 May Bennett TJ; 01 May Brookings KIE; 01 May Lincoln DS; 01 May Minnehaha NP ... Late: 17 May Brookings JK; 15 May Hughes RFS, JSP; 11 May Minnehaha MKZ; 11 May Brown JCS; 11 May Roberts WS; 11 May Pennington JLB

American Redstart Early [14-Apr-98, 11 May]: 03 May Lincoln RDO; 04 May Minnehaha NP; 10 May Pennington JLB; 10 May Brown DAT, AH; 10 May Lake JSP; 13 May Charles Mix RM

Ovenbird Early [26-Apr-74, 04 May]: 30 Apr Hughes RDO, FIB; 05 May Lake JSP; 05 May Minnehaha RFS, NP; 08 May Meade REP

Northern Waterthrush Early [24-Apr-42, 01 May]: 30 Apr Hughes RDO, FIB; 30 Apr Lincoln RFS; 01 May Brookings JSP; 01 May Minnehaha NP; 03 May Pennington JLB ... Late: 22 May Brookings RFS, JSP; 11 May Day DRS; 09 May Brown JCS

Connecticut Warbler Only Report [12-May-98, 18 May]: 22 May Brookings RFS, JSP

Mourning Warbler Early [03-May-81, 18 May]: 30 May Brown DAT; 11 May Brookings JCS; 13 May Hughes FIB ... Late: 22 May Brookings RFS, JSP; 20 May Minnehaha NP; 20 May Brown JCS; 16 May Union TJ; 16 May Clay SVS

MacGillivray's Warbler All Reports [09-May-87, 20 May]: 11 May Pennington JLB; 11 May Brown (banded) DAT

Common Yellowthroat Early [25-Apr-98, 01 May]: 30 Apr Hughes FIB; 01 May Pennington JLB; 03 May Minnehaha RFS

Wilson's Warbler Early [18-Apr-71, 08 May]: 03 May Pennington JLB; 05 May Brown DAT; 05 May Lake JSP; 08 May Yankton SVS ... Late: 19 May Minnehaha NP; 18 May Day WS; 15 May Pennington JLB

Canada Warbler All Reports [06-May-83, 23 May]: 16 May Stanley RDO; 16 May Clay DS; 18 May Lake JSP

Yellow-breasted Chat All Reports [02-May-68, 11 May]: 12 May Meade REP; 16 May Fall River SVS; 20 May Hughes RDO, FIB; 20 May Pennington JLB; 29 May Lawrence RAS

Scarlet Tanager All Reports: 10 May Minnehaha NP; 14 May Lincoln RFS, JSP; 27 May Roberts WS

Western Tanager Early: 06 May Elmwood Park, Minnehaha County NP, RFS, JSP; 11 May Meade REP; 17 May Fall River SVS

Northern Cardinal reported 22 May Jones (1 female) TBW

Rose-breasted Grosbeak Early: 01 May Minnehaha RFS; 03 May Lincoln RDO; 05 May Clay DS; 12 May Meade REP

Black-headed Grosbeak Early: 02 May Hughes EDS; 08 May Custer CMW; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS

Blue Grosbeak All Reports: 19 May Charles Mix RM; 21 May Butte RAS; 26 May Custer and 31 May Stanley MMM; 30 May Pennington JLB

Lazuli Bunting Early: 08 May Lawrence RAS, VDF; 09 May Pennington MMM; 10 May Meade REP; 14 May Hughes EDS

Indigo Bunting Early: 04 May Day WS; 09 May Lincoln RFS; 10 May Lake JSP; 16 May Union TJ; 16 May Clay SVS; 19 May Lawrence REP

Dickcissel All Reports: 16 May Clay SVS; 22 May Kingsbury JSP; 22 May Charles Mix RM; 31 May Stanley MMM

Eastern Towhee Early: 07 May Minnehaha NP; 08 May Brown DAT, AH; 09 May Lincoln RFS

Spotted Towhee Early: 24 Apr Union NP; 26 Apr Hughes RDO; 27 Apr Meade REP; 03 May Brown DAT, AH

American Tree Sparrow Late: 26 Apr Custer MMM; 10 Apr Kingsbury JSP; 07 Apr Butte JLB; 07 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 25 Mar Yankton SVS

Chipping Sparrow Early: 24 Mar Charles Mix LAS; 12 Apr Brown DAT; 15 Apr Lake JSP; 26 Apr Meade APB

Clay-colored Sparrow Early: 01 May Hughes RDO; 02 May Custer MMM; 02 May Minnehaha RFS

Brewer's Sparrow All Reports: 22 May Fall River TJ; 23 May Butte REP

Field Sparrow Early: 07 Apr Charles Mix LAS; 18 Apr Lincoln RFS; 20 Apr Yankton SVS; 24 Apr Pennington JLB

Vesper Sparrow Early: 31 Mar Yankton SVS; 03 Apr Lincoln RFS; 10 Apr Kingsbury JSP; 23 Apr Meade REP, JLB

Lark Sparrow Early: 02 May Edmunds JDW; 03 May Hughes JCS; 04 May Meade REP

Lark Bunting Early: 09 May Butte RAS; 09 May Lawrence REP; 09 May Custer MMM; 14 May Hughes RFS, JSP

Savannah Sparrow Early: 27 Mar Brown DAT; 03 Apr Lincoln RFS; 19 Apr Hughes RDO; 18 Apr Meade JLB

Baird's Sparrow Only Report: 21 May and 26 May Meade REP

Grasshopper Sparrow Early: 04 May Minnehaha NP; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS; 09 May Custer MMM; 14 May Stanley RFS, JSP

Le Conte's Sparrow Only Report: 11 May Minnehaha NP

Fox Sparrow Early: 27 Mar Union RFS, JSP; 02 Apr Brown DAT; 06 Apr Day WS; 06 Apr Minnehaha NP; 07 Apr Lawrence RDO ... Late: 06 May Day WS; 17 Apr Lake JSP; 14 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 09 Apr Clay SVS

Song Sparrow Early: 26 Mar Pennington JLB; 27 Mar Union RFS, JSP; 29 Mar Lawrence REP; 30 Mar Day DRS

Lincoln's Sparrow Early: 07 Apr Brown AH; 22 Apr Meade MMM; 25 Apr Lake JSP; 04 May Hughes RDO, FIB ... Late: 21 May Minnehaha RFS; 19 May Lawrence REP; 14 May Lake JSP; 09 May Yankton SVS

Swamp Sparrow Early: 05 Apr Brown DAT; 18 Apr Clay RBA; 22 Apr Minnehaha RFS

White-throated Sparrow Early: 03 Apr Minnehaha NP; 25 Apr Brookings KIE; 25 Apr Lake JSP; 25 Apr Lincoln RFS; 29 Apr Hughes EDS; 01 May Bennett TJ ... Late: 22 May Brookings RFS, JSP; 11 May Meade REP; 08 May Minnehaha SFB; 06 May Yankton SVS

White-crowned Sparrow Early: 10 Apr Minnehaha MKZ; 24 Apr Hughes EDS; 27 Apr Meade VDF; 27 Apr Custer MMM ... Late: 26 May Roberts JCS; 23 May Meade APB; 16 May Clay SVS

Harris' Sparrow Early: 14 Mar Charles Mix RM; 27 Mar Union JSP; 02 Apr Lincoln NP; 01 May Bennett TJ ... Late: 22 May Brookings RFS, JSP; 19 May Yankton SVS; 18 May Day WS; 11 May Pennington TBW

Dark-eyed Junco Late: 24 Apr Lake RFS, JSP; 24 Apr Minnehaha MKZ; 21 Apr Clay DS

Chestnut-collared Longspur Early: 14 Apr Pennington JLB; 17 Apr Sully RDO; 18 Apr Custer MMM; 24 Apr Kingsbury RFS, JSP ... Confirmed Breeding: 23 May Custer (NE) MMM

Lapland Longspur All Reports: 21 Mar Brown REM; 08 Mar Clay RBA

Bobolink Early: 02 May Charles Mix RM; 04 May Minnehaha NP; 05 May Codington WS; 08 May Tripp GS

Eastern Meadowlark Only Report: 01 May Bennett TJ; 16 May Bennett SVS

Yellow-headed Blackbird Early: 09 Apr Brown DAT, SLS; 10 Apr Lake JSP; 13 Apr Day DRS; 16 Apr Hughes RDO; 18 Apr Butte JLB

Rusty Blackbird All Reports: 30 Mar Minnehaha NP; 07 Apr Minnehaha RFS; 18 Apr Clay RBA; 24 Apr Campbell RDO

Brewer's Blackbird Early: 09 Mar Stanley RDO; 17 Apr Brown AH; 18 Apr Butte JLB

Great-tailed Grackle Early: 20 Mar Clay DS; 21 Apr Lincoln DS; 24 Apr Kingsbury RFS, JSP ... Confirmed Breeding: 24 Apr Clay (NB) DS

Common Grackle Early: 15 Mar Yankton SVS; 16 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar Charles Mix RM; 29 Mar Butte RAS

Brown-headed Cowbird Early: 13 Mar Minnehaha RFS; 16 Mar Brown AH; 20 Mar Clay DS; 18 Apr Tripp RDO

Orchard Oriole Early: 01 May Brown JCS; 13 May Butte VDF; 14 May Brookings KIE; 14 May Lincoln RFS; 16 May Charles Mix RM; 16 May Clay and Union SVS

Baltimore Oriole Early: 03 May Lake JSP; 03 May Minnehaha RFS; 03 May Lincoln RDO; 05 May Clay DS; 08 May Tripp RAP, GS, DGS

Bullock's Oriole All Reports: 10 May Hughes RDO; 13 May Meade REP; 15 May Butte RAS; 18 May Pennington TJ

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch All Reports: 01 Mar – 14 Apr Custer KH; 10 Mar Custer CMW

Pine Grosbeak Only Report: 16 Mar Pennington JCS

Purple Finch Late: 23 Apr Brown DAT; 06 Apr Yankton SVS; 20 Mar Day JSP

Cassin's Finch Only Report: 02 Apr Custer CMW, KH

Red Crossbill reported 16 May Hughes EDS; 09 May Day DRS; 25 Mar Minnehaha RFS; 20 Mar Brown DAT

White-winged Crossbill Only Report: 13 Mar Lake RBA

Lesser Goldfinch All Reports: 29 May Fall River TJ; 30 May Fall River RBA

Evening Grosbeak All Reports: 26 Apr Meade REP; 26 Mar Pennington JLB; 18 Mar Custer CMW

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Pacific Loon 20-27 Apr Oahe Tailrace RDO

Tricolored Heron 22 May Clark RFS, JSP

Yellow-crowned Night Heron 05 May Brown (had been present for prior two weeks, very tame adult) DAT
Ross' Goose 20 Apr Day (45) JCS
Purple Gallinule Potential First State Record: 22 May Clark RFS, JSP
American Golden-Plover Earliest Ever: 09 Apr Brown DAT
Western Sandpiper 09 May Butte RAS, VDF; 18 May Day DRS
Short-billed Dowitcher Earliest Ever: 19 Apr Hughes RDO
Elegant Tern Potential First State Record: 15 May Oahe Tailrace, Hughes County RFS, JSP, and Odean Selchert
Arctic Tern Potential First/Second State Record: 16 May Oahe Tailrace, Hughes County RFS, JSP, and Odean Selchert ... subsequently observed 17 May TJ
Eurasian Collared Dove 14 Mar Pierre, Hughes County RDO; 01 May Clay (2) DS
Olive-sided Flycatcher 22 Apr Brown JCS
Least Flycatcher 20 Apr Brookings JCS
Tree Swallow 02 Mar Butte RAS
Tufted Titmouse 15 May Union RBA
Gray Catbird 22 Mar Minnehaha MKZ
American Pipit 26 May Roberts JCS
Northern Shrike 09 May Pennington TBW; 01 May Mellette KH
White-eyed Vireo 06 May Minnehaha RFS, NP, JSP; 11 May Brown (banded) and 16 May Brown (heard) DAT
Blue-winged Warbler Earliest Ever: 04 May Minnehaha NP; 05 May Minnehaha RFS; 07 May Union RBA
Orange-crowned Warbler Earliest Ever: 05 Apr Day DRS
Virginia's Warbler Earliest Ever: 23 May Custer TJ
Chestnut-sided Warbler Earliest Ever: 04 May Lake JSP
Cerulean Warbler Earliest Ever: 09 May Lincoln RFS, NP ... also reported 15 May Brown AH
Prothonotary Warbler 10-11 May Tomar Park, Minnehaha County NP, RFS
Worm-eating Warbler 17 Apr Lake Herman State Park, Lake County JSP; 10 May Sioux Park, Rapid City, Pennington County JLB
Ovenbird Earliest Ever: 12 Apr Custer CMW; 25 Apr Brown DAT
Louisiana Waterthrush 29 Apr Clay (banded) DS
Connecticut Warbler Earliest Ever: 11 May Ft. Meade Recreation Area, Meade County REP
MacGillivray's Warbler Earliest Ever: 09 May Meade REP
Hooded Warbler 17 Apr Lake Herman State Park, Lake County JSP; 04-11 May Farm Island, Hughes County RDO, FIB; 06-10 May Elmwood Park, Minnehaha County RFS, NP, SFR
Canada Warbler Earliest Ever: 01 May Brookings JSP
Western Tanager 16 Apr Custer CMW
American Tree Sparrow all season Meade EEM; 25 May Pennington KLH; 04 May Butte RAS
Chipping Sparrow 14 Mar Custer KH
Brambling Potential Second State Record: 04 Apr Sturgis, Meade County EEM
Purple Finch 28 Mar Pennington KLH

Species Expected But Not Reported

Little Blue Heron, American Black Duck (2), Oldsquaw, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-necked Phalarope, Glaucous Gull, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl (5), Black-backed Woodpecker (2), Pygmy Nuthatch (2), Black-throated Blue Warbler (2), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, McCown's Longspur (3), Smith's Longspur, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll

Warbler Hotspots

Do you have a favorite birding spot that you watch for warblers during the spring and/or fall migration? I do and if you would provide me the information below I'd like to include your Warbler Hotspot in these seasonal reports as well.

Lake Herman State Park Jeffrey S. Palmer observed 18 species during 10 visits (19 observation hours) 03-20 May ... Peaks: 18 May (13 species), 11 May (12 species), and 05 May (12 species) ... Highlights: Palm Warbler 05 May, Black-throated Green Warbler 05 May, Canada Warbler 18 May

Migration Calender

This table lists, for selected species, the earliest reported date (during the season) in each of six regions (southeast, northeast, lower river, upper river, southwest, and northwest) across the state as well as the species (row) and regional (column) averages for the current year. Trend indicates the number of days earlier (-) or later (+) than the average of the previous 4 years.

Species	SE	NE	LR	UR	SW	NW	Avg.	Trend
Northern Pintail	3/06	3/02	3/07	3/11	4/01	3/04	10 Mar	-6
Killdeer	3/20	3/09	3/14	3/19	3/19	3/19	16 Mar	-6
Blue-winged Teal	4/03	3/27	3/07	3/29	4/01	4/02	27 Mar	-3
Sandhill Crane	4/12	3/21	3/21	4/06	3/30	4/03	31 Mar	-2
American White Pelican	4/06	3/31	3/27	3/28	3/28	4/07	31 Mar	-7
Common Loon	4/18	4/08	3/08	4/09			03 Apr	-10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/06	4/02	4/09	4/17		4/10	08 Apr	-8
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4/08	4/05	4/24	4/14	4/18	4/20	14 Apr	-6
Barn Swallow	4/24	4/29	4/11	5/01	5/02	4/23	25 Apr	0
Brown Thrasher	4/23	5/01	4/30	5/02	5/08	5/08	02 May	-1
Upland Sandpiper	5/01	5/05	5/01		4/30	5/03	02 May	-2
Western Kingbird	5/07	5/08	5/10	5/12	5/07	5/09	08 May	+1
Bobolink	5/04	5/05	5/02		5/08	5/12	06 May	-3
Common Nighthawk	5/20	5/10	5/15		5/23	5/27	19 May	+1
Avg.	4/15	4/11	4/08	4/10	4/19	4/18		
Trend	0	-7	-4	-12	0	-5		

Corrections/Additions from Past Reports

Varied Thrush reported 10 Sep 1998 Hughes should be deleted
Swamp Sparrow reported 19 Sep 1998 Tripp should be 03 Oct Stanley

Contributing Observers

RBA	Rare Bird Alert	REP	Randy E. Podoll
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VDF	Vic & Donna Fondy	DGS	Daniel G. Sneath
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AH	Arlen Hanson	SLS	Sand Lake NWR Staff
KLH	Karen Lee Hegre	WS	Waubay NWR Staff
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