
SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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BIRD



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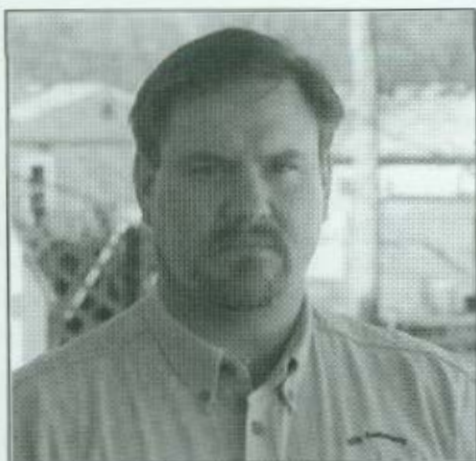
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Last year on the Minnesota listserv, birders discussed whether or not the Black-capped Chickadee should be their state bird. The Common Loon, the current Minnesota state bird, is absent during the winter. To me it is ironic that they are talking about changing their state bird, as it breeds there and is a native species. South Dakota, in its economically inspired wisdom, has the Ring-necked Pheasant, a native of China, as its state bird. If any state should be discussing changing



its state bird, in my opinion, it should be South Dakota. We might as well have a chicken for our state bird, like Delaware and Rhode Island. Our state chose the pheasant because of sport hunting. If we wanted to associate our state bird with hunting, the Greater Prairie-chicken or Sharp-tailed Grouse, as native species, would be preferable. Or we could pick a more profound bird, not associated with hunting, such as the Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon or Long-billed Curlew, to name but a few. In my opinion (and not necessarily that of the SDOU), any native species would be preferable to the Ring-necked Pheasant. Thank you for allowing me to express my view. *Todd Jensen, SDOU President.*

DISTRIBUTION OF GRASSLAND BIRDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

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Introduction

Grassland bird populations are declining faster and more consistently than any other group of North American birds (Semson and Knopf 1996, Herkert 1995). Linked to the declines have been the loss and degradation of grassland habitats. Ecosystems of the northern Great Plains have been transformed from a sea of grassland into fragmented agricultural landscapes characterized by large blocks of cropland interspersed with smaller, more isolated grassland patches. Additionally, much of what remains is overgrazed or invaded by exotic species. Fragmentation of grassland habitat may lead to decreased reproductive success associated with increased predation and parasitism. Proportions of remaining grassland in eastern South Dakota counties range from less than 10% to as much as 80%, while western South Dakota still contains more than 85% of its original grassland habitat. However, western South Dakota is not immune to the fragmentation. Four western counties converted from 500 to over 1,000 acres of native grassland to agriculture in 2001 (K. Forman, pers. com.). Many grassland-dominated counties in eastern South Dakota also converted more than 1,000 acres of grassland into agriculture. In all, 40,054 acres of previously untilled land was converted to agricultural uses in South Dakota in 2001 (K. Forman, pers. com.).

Increasing attention is being given to grassland endemic species because of their declining population trends and the continued loss of grassland habitat. Recent research indicates that grassland patch size and composition of the surrounding landscape (Winter and Faaborg 1999, Bakker et al. 2002) may influence the occupation, abundance, and nest success of some grassland bird species (Johnson & Temple 1990, Herkert 1995, Winter & Faaborg 1999, DeJong 2001, Bakker et al. 2002). Grassland birds classified as area-sensitive species (i.e., their occurrence and/or density is lower in small versus large grassland patches) in all or part of South Dakota include the Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, Upland Sandpiper, Savannah Sparrow and Sedge Wren (Bakker et al. 2002, DeJong 2001, Bakker 2000). In addition, Clay-colored Sparrow and Sedge Wren occurrence was positively related to an increase in grassland habi-

tat in the landscape surrounding a surveyed patch (Bakker et. al 2002, Bakker 2000). Declining population trends and increasing fragmentation prompted us to question if grassland bird occurrences by county have changed between 1988-1993 and 1997-2000. In this paper we will present data on grassland bird distributions by county and compare them to data presented in the Breeding Bird Atlas (Peterson 1995).

Methods and Study Area

We completed two studies to determine habitat, area and landscape requirements of grassland obligate species occurring in eastern (n=380, Bakker 2000) and western (n=125, DeJong 2001) South Dakota during the breeding seasons of 1997-1998 and 1999-2000, respectively. Sample sizes per county ranged from 1 to 28. Grassland patches were surveyed in 41 of 44 counties in eastern South Dakota and 18 of 21 counties in western South Dakota (Fig. 1).

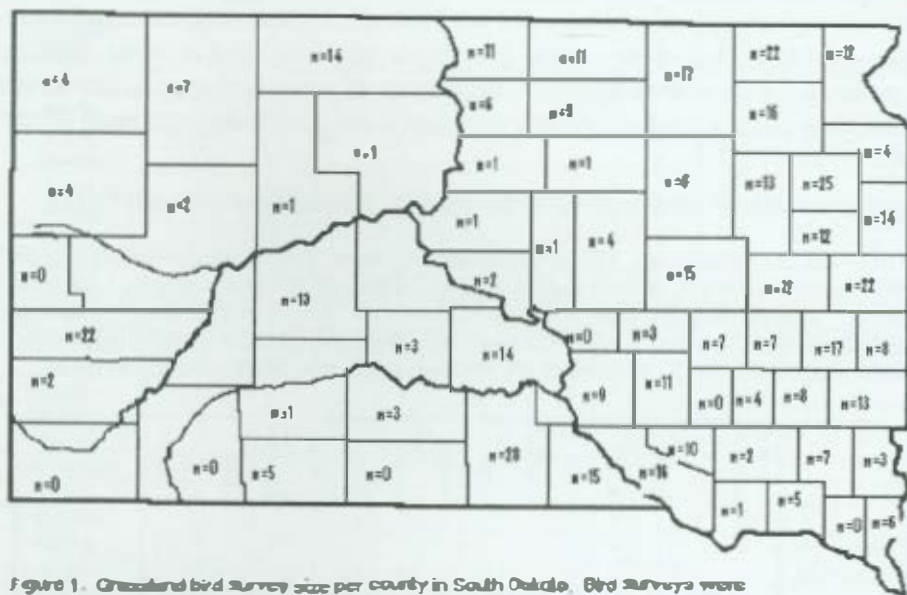


Figure 1. Grassland bird survey size per county in South Dakota. Bird surveys were conducted in eastern South Dakota during 1997-1998 and in western South Dakota during 1999-2000.

Grasslands in eastern South Dakota consisted of those found on Waterfowl and Game Production Areas and were not actively managed during the breeding season, but may have been mowed, burned or grazed prior to the breeding season. Western South Dakota grasslands were surveyed primarily on private lands and were either idle or grazed during the breeding season.

Birds were surveyed using fixed-width belt transects and systematic searches of the entire grassland patch. Presence was confirmed by visual and

audible detections of a species in the surveyed grassland patch. Information on singing males, adults carrying food and detected nests were also recorded. The detection of a species in a single grassland within a county was used as an indication of presence during the breeding season within that county. We do not present data on large-bodied birds (e.g., Long-billed Curlews, Short-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, etc.) because our methods were designed to survey passerine species.

Discussion and Conclusions

These studies provide comprehensive data for the occurrence of grassland birds in nearly every county in South Dakota. The only other data that cover a large portion of the state are found in the *South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas* (Peterson 1995). Even though our studies were designed to assess the effects of local and landscape level attributes on grassland birds, the results can be useful in determining changing bird distributions. Although an equal number of samples was not obtained from every county (Fig. 1), in many cases the counties with the highest survey numbers did not have the highest species richness estimates (Table 1). Fewer than three grasslands were surveyed in some counties; however, we were able to detect the occurrence of some bird species in counties where they had not been previously recorded during the breeding season (Peterson 1995).

Table 1. Grassland bird occurrence/absence (1/0) by county in South Dakota.

WEME=Western Meadowlark, GRSP=Grasshopper Sparrow, BHCO=Brown-headed Cowbird, UPSA=Upland Sandpiper, BOBO=Bobolink, CHLO=Chestnut-collared Longspur, LABU=Lark Bunting, HOLA=Horned Lark, SEOW=Short-eared Owl, BASP=Baird's Sparrow, SASP=Savannah Sparrow, CCSP=Clay-colored Sparrow, LOU=Long-billed Curlew, SEWR=Sedge Wren, DICK=Dickcissel, VESP=Vesper Sparrow, NOHA=Northern Harrier

County (n=57)	Number of Grasslands Surveyed	WEME	BOBO	GRSP	SEWR	UPSA	SASP	DICK	CCSP	HOLA	CHLO	VESP	LABU	BASP	County richness
WEST RIVER															
Bennett	5	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
Butte	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	7
Corson	10	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	9
Custer	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Dewey	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	7
Gregory	15	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	6
Haakon	10	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	7
Harding	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	8
Jackson	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Jones	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Lynman	11	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	7
Meade	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	7
Mellette	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Pennington	17	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	6

	Number of Grasslands Surveyed	WEME	BOBO	GRSP	SEWR	UPS A	SASP	DICK	●CSP	HOLA	●CHL	VESP	LABU	BASP	County richness
Stanley	7	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	6
Tripp	25	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7
Turner	7	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Ziebach	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
EAST RIVER															
Aurora	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Beadle	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	●	●	0	0	0	8
Brookings	22	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	9
Brown	17	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
Brule	9	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Campbell	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	9
Charles Mix	16	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
Clark	13	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
Codington	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
Day	16	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
Douglas	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Duel	14	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Edmunds	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Faulk	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Grant	11	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Hamlin	12	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Hand	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Hanson	4	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Hughes	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Hutchinson	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Hyde	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Jerauld	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Kingsbury	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Lake	17	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
Lincoln	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Marshall	22	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	9
McCook	8	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
McPherson	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	9
Miner	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Minnehaha	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Moody	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
Potter	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Roberts	12	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Sanborn	7	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Spink	8	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Union	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Walworth	6	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Yankton	5	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Totals	505	57	51	46	38	36	27	27	16	16	14	12	10	4	

● Our results were similar to the *South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas* (Peterson 1995) for Western Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, and Grasshopper Sparrows (Figs. 2-4). Peterson (1995) lists the Western Meadowlark as abundant and widespread. In our studies, Western Meadowlarks were detected in every county we

surveyed in both eastern and western South Dakota (Fig. 2). Bobolinks were the most frequently occurring and abundant grassland bird in eastern South Dakota, being detected in every surveyed county (Bakker 2000) (Fig. 3). In western South Dakota, we detected Bobolinks in Harding County, a distribution extension to that in the *South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas*. Grasshopper Sparrows were found throughout the state, as indicated in the atlas (Fig. 4). Grasshopper Sparrows were detected on 99% of all western South Dakota grasslands and in every county surveyed (DeJong 2001), while they were observed in 30% of eastern South Dakota grasslands (Bakker 2000). The relatively unfragmented grasslands of western South Dakota also correspond to the center of their range (Sauer et al. 2001). Upland Sandpipers were found in every county surveyed in western South Dakota and approximately one half of counties surveyed in eastern South Dakota, similar to the results of Peterson (1995) (Fig. 5).

Peterson (1995) characterized Sedge Wrens as uncommon and limited, with no detections reported in western South Dakota. Sedge Wrens were the second most frequently occurring and abundant grassland bird in eastern South Dakota and were detected in all surveyed counties (Bakker 2000). Sedge Wrens were also found in four western South Dakota counties (Fig. 6). Our results indicate that Sedge Wrens are more common and widely distributed than previously documented. This result could be due in part to the relatively wet years in which birds were surveyed during this study. Savannah Sparrows also appear to have an expanded distribution in South Dakota. Savannah Sparrows were detected in 10 additional counties, Charles Mix, Douglas, Aurora, Union, Minnehaha, McCook, Hanson, Miner, Walworth and Corson, in our study as compared to Peterson (1995) (Fig. 7). These additional counties correspond closely to areas in which the Savannah Sparrow is exhibiting positive population trends (Peterson and Sauer 1999).

The Clay-colored Sparrow was detected only in eastern South Dakota in our studies. We found this species in four counties (Brookings, Hamlin, Beadle, and Hand) where it was previously undetected (Fig. 8). Our detected breeding range for the Clay-colored Sparrow was nearly identical to that depicted in *The Birds of South Dakota* (Tallman et al. 2002, SDOU 1991). Baird's Sparrows were detected only in Harding, Butte and Corson counties, corresponding to a more northern distribution and similar to the results of Peterson (1995). Le Conte's Sparrows were detected only in the eastern South Dakota counties of Union and Lake, two counties where they were not previously observed. This finding could be due in part to the wet years experienced in 1997-1998.

Six species were detected in fewer counties than indicated in the *South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas*. These results should be interpreted cautiously as 10 counties had fewer than three grasslands surveyed. We did not detect Horned Larks in five counties surveyed in western South Dakota and they occurred in only three counties in eastern South Dakota (Fig. 9). Peterson (1995) shows that Horned Larks occur in every county in South Dakota. Eastern South Dakota study sites consisted predominantly of medium to tall and dense grassland cover

(Bakker 2000) and Horned Larks prefer very short grass and cropland habitats. Lark Buntings were also not detected in our studies to the extent they were previously (Fig. 10). They were found in only nine counties, all in western South Dakota. In eastern South Dakota, Dickcissels were detected on grasslands in all but six northeastern counties (Fig. 11). Dickcissels were observed in seven counties of western South Dakota (Tripp, Pennington, Gregory, Lyman, Corson, Stanley and Bennett). These counties either border the west side of the Missouri River or have increased agriculture (Bennett and Pennington). Dickcissels often select habitats with tall, dense vegetation, such as that found in hayfields. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were not detected in eastern South Dakota grasslands, likely due to their preference for short vegetation. This species was found in three counties (Gregory, Lyman, and Jones) in western South Dakota where it was not previously recorded by Peterson (1995) (Fig. 12). Brewer's Sparrow, more of a sagebrush species, was located only in Harding County. Our study sites did not encompass sagebrush habitat (DeJong 2001).

Recent surveys of birds over large landscapes in eastern and western South Dakota indicate that nine species were detected in different (increased or decreased) areas than previously reported during the breeding season by Peterson (1995). This finding suggests that some species may be changing their distributional ranges, possibly a result of continental population declines, yearly weather variation, and/or loss of breeding habitat. We recommend that extensive surveys such as ours be completed periodically within a variety of habitats as a measure of species occurrence variability on at least a county-by-county scale.

Acknowledgements

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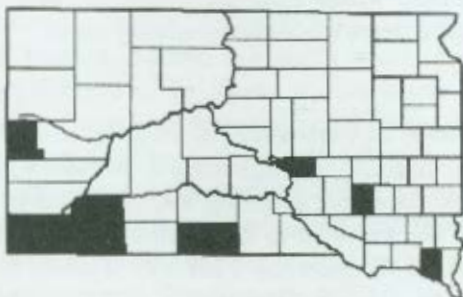


Fig 2. Western Meadowlark occurrence by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

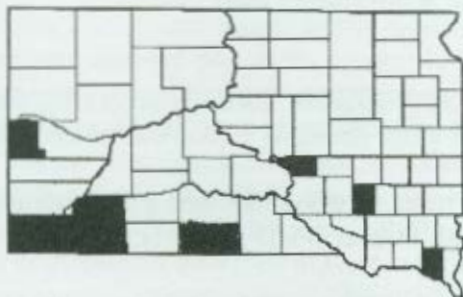


Fig 3. Bobolink occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

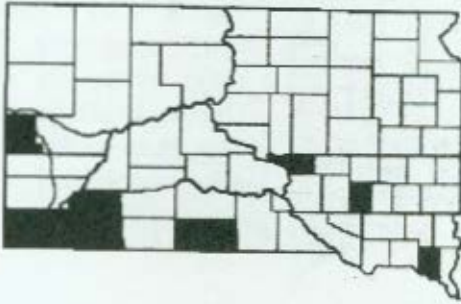


Fig. 4. Grasshopper Sparrow occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

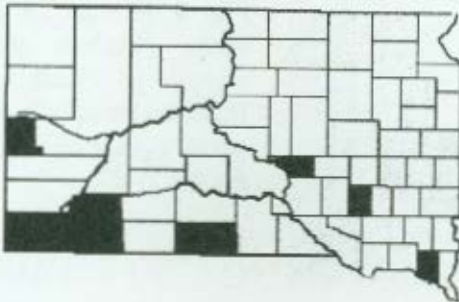


Fig. 5. Upland Sandpiper occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

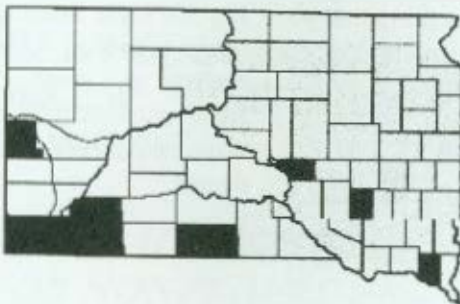


Fig. 6. Sedge Wren occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

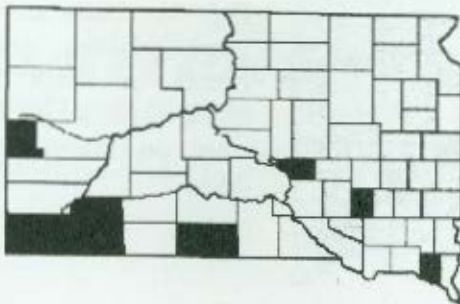


Fig 7. Savannah Sparrow occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

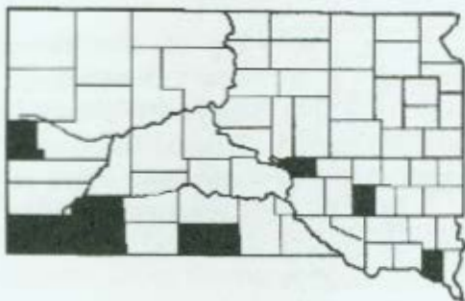


Fig. 8. Clay-colored Sparrow occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

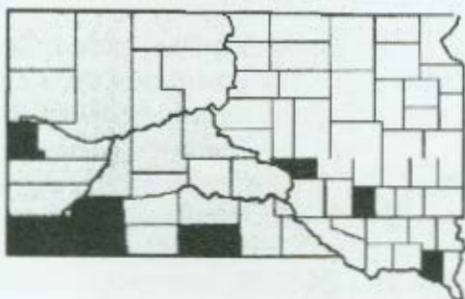


Fig. 9. Horned Lark occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

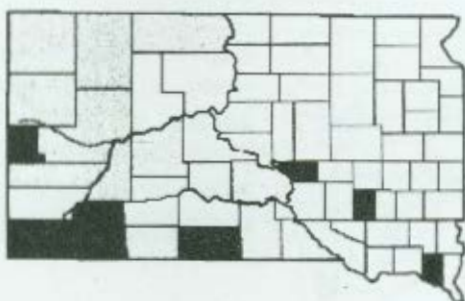


Fig 10. Lark Bunting occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

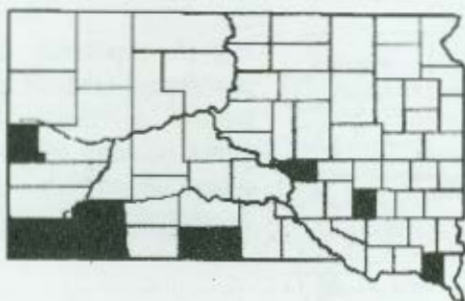


Fig. 11. Dickcissel occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

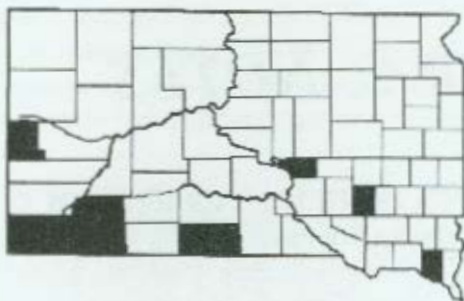


Fig 12. Chestnut-collared Longspur occurrence (shaded gray) by county in South Dakota. Black counties indicate those where no surveys were conducted.

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ABERDEEN, SD 57402



GENERAL NOTES

FIRST WEST RIVER GRAY CATBIRD WINTER RECORD. On 17 December 2001, I was scouting for species that might be recorded on the upcoming Audubon Christmas Bird Count at Wilderness Park (formerly known as City Springs Park) in Rapid City, Pennington County. As I was "spishing," a dark gray bird with a black cap and rusty undertail coverts popped up out of a dense thicket located next to one of the small springs in the park. I immediately recognized the bird to be a Gray Catbird. It disappeared into the thicket after a minute or two and was not seen again that morning. I visited the park several times after 17 December, but did not see it again until 15 January 2002. On that date I was birding with Pat Quyle, also of Rapid City. We both observed the bird briefly in the same thicket as the December sighting. The only other winter records in the state for the Gray Catbird were in the East River area and included sightings on the Pierre and Sioux Falls Christmas Brd Counts. This record is the first for the area west of the Missouri River and the latest winter date for the state. *Jocelyn Lee Baker, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702.*

CAROLINA WREN IN VERMILLION'S CRAWFORD WOODS. Crawford Woods is an undeveloped, 25-acre wooded ravine that extends almost a half-mile into a residential neighborhood of Vermillion, Clay County, from the river valley below town. Between at least October 2002 and mid January 2003, Crawford Woods was home for a Carolina Wren.

Birds of South Dakota (2002) classifies this wren as a casual visitor in the eastern one third of the state, but lists only a few winter, spring and summer sightings. Swanson (1993. SDBN 45:60-64) suggests that most South Dakota records result from the postbreeding dispersal of juveniles from breeding areas to the south. Carolina Wrens nest periodically in Nebraska as far north as the Omaha area, Douglas County (Sharpe et al. 2001. *Birds of Nebraska: Their Status and Distribution*. Univ. Nebraska Press, Lincoln).

I first saw the Carolina Wren on 12 October 2002. The bird was creeping around the trunk of a crab apple tree six feet from my house. I saw it again on 6 December. Five days later in mid afternoon. Dave Swanson, Eric Liknes and Jay Carlisle played a recording of a Carolina Wren song in my backyard. Within less than a minute, it flew up from Crawford Woods behind the house, perched in the top of the crab apple tree, directly below the pleased birders, and sang. It continued to sing occasionally until dusk.

It often sang early in the morning during the rest of December. For three consecutive mornings, 16, 17 and 18 December, the wren sang for several minutes starting at about 7:30 am, at the very beginning of dawn. My last observa-

tion was when it sang at 8:10 am on 12 January 2003.

My closest observations of the wren occurred when it visited a feeder hanging from the eaves of my house. It seemed to be particular about its food, discarding many seeds before choosing one. I never saw it eat the suet offered on the same feeder.

Although this casual birder had never seen such a big wren before, its wrenish ways were unmistakable. It crept along trunks and tree limbs, looking for food. A House Sparrow once was foolish enough to land next to it on a feeder. The wren jumped on the sparrow's back and rode it to the ground. It would sit on a feeder's perch and throw seed after seed after seed on the ground in quick succession, just as I've seen House Wrens obsessively clean twigs out of a nesting box in the spring.

With its beautiful, unseasonable song and plucky behavior, the Carolina Wren was a welcome visitor to Crawford Woods. Wherever it may be now, as I write this in the depths of our winter, I wish it well. *Mark Wetmore, PO Box 96, Vermillion, SD 57069.*

BALD EAGLE NEST IN MINNEHAHA COUNTY. During the summer months of 2002, Terry Sohn reported seeing a pair of Bald Eagles along the Big Sioux River in Minnehaha County. I also was able to find these birds, but was not able to locate a nest, mainly due to the lack of accessibility and the summer foliage. I decided to wait until fall when I might have a chance to locate the nest. I looked in the beginning of November, but was unsuccessful. On 1 December 2002, I found the nest in a large Cottonwood tree. With the help of LeRoy Beningen, who farms the land adjacent to the nest, I was able to get within 100 yards of the nest. LeRoy informed me that he had seen an adult eagle on the nest the previous summer. He also had seen a "dark-headed eagle" on the nest. The nest, approximately five feet in diameter, two feet deep and constructed of tree limbs 0.5" to 1.5" in diameter, was located $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the tree, built in a large fork. It appeared to have a grass lining hanging over the top. This nest represents the first nesting record for a Bald Eagle in Minnehaha County. *Robert F. Schenck, 422 N. Linwood Ct., Sioux Falls 57042.*

ABERDEEN BIRD BANDING: 2001-2002. The following list is a report of my banding activities for 2001-2002 at my backyard banding station in Aberdeen, South Dakota. I have made bold those species or numbers that I think are of interest.

I had three notable recoveries. A Common Grackle (band 1453-71233) that I banded on 26 June 2002 was recovered on 1 March 2003 in Frontenac, southeastern Kansas. I recovered two of my juncos in winters more than one year after they had been banded. A "Slate-colored" Junco was banded on 9 December 2001 and recovered on 28 February 2003. An "Oregon" Junco was banded on 25 December 1999 and recovered on 24 November 2002.

Species	2001	2002		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	Black-throated Blue Warbler	2 1
Cooper's Hawk	1	0	Myrtle Warbler	12 28
Broad-winged Hawk	0	1	Black-thr. Green Warbler	1 0
Mourning Dove	16	4	Palm Warbler	1 0
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	2	Bay-breasted Warbler	2 0
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3	2	Blackpoll Warbler	5 3
Downy Woodpecker	4	7	Black-and-White Warbler	17 17
Hairy Woodpecker	2	1	American Redstart	19 12
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2	6	Ovenbird	39 43
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	15	5	Northern Waterthrush	5 10
Trail's Flycatcher	18	36	Connecticut Warbler	4 0
Least Flycatcher	23	28	Mourning Warbler	15 13
Eastern Phoebe	1	3	MacGillivray's Warbler	2 1
Blue-headed Vireo	6	1	Common Yellowthroat	3 1
Warbling Vireo	3	0	Hooded Warbler	0 1
Red-eyed Vireo	4	13	Wilson's Warbler	8 6
Blue Jay	4	5	Canada Warbler	11 0
Purple Martin	54	56	Yellow-breasted Chat	1 2
Black-capped Chickadee	41	67	Spotted Towhee	1 0
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	15	American Tree Sparrow	0 4
White-breasted Nuthatch	5	8	Chipping Sparrow	20 25
Brown Creeper	10	11	Clay-colored Sparrow	12 6
House Wren	16	24	Song Sparrow	1 1
Winter Wren	0	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	10 23
Marsh Wren	1	0	White-throated Sparrow	81 53
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	9	Harris's Sparrow	1 6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	17	39	White-crowned Sparrow	1 2
Veery	5	1	Slate-colored Junco	236 316
Gray-checked Thrush	11	6	Oregon Junco	5 1
Swainson's Thrush	101	134	Northern Cardinal	1 0
Hermit Thrush	7	14	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 0
American Robin	65	65	Red-winged Blackbird	11 3
Gray Catbird	19	9	Common Grackle	78 137
Brown Thrasher	4	24	Brown-headed Cowbird	1 0
European Starling	1	3	Orchard Oriole	0 4
Cedar Waxwing	1	11	Purple Finch	6 9
Golden-winged Warbler	0	1	House Finch	162 241
Tennessee Warbler	8	19	White-winged Crossbill	0 1
Orange-crowned Warbler	59	45	Common Redpoll	0 3
Nashville Warbler	4	1	Pine Siskin	84 19
Yellow Warbler	2	5	American Goldfinch	84 119
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	0	House Sparrow	4 9
Magnolia Warbler	14	4	Total	1514 1807

Dun Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.



CHRISTMAS COUNTS

2002-2003

Compiled by Dan Tallman

Most of these data are taken from the National Audubon's Web site: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> or from individual compilers for those few sites which are not submitted to the National Audubon Society. In the following account, cw indicates species seen during the count week, but not during the actual count. Readers are cautioned that these data are unreviewed by either the National Audubon Society or by the SDOU. Official count data can be obtained from the Audubon Web site. Birds reported as unidentified species are not included in this report.

Aberdeen: Dec 21, 2002. Number of Participants: 4 (+ 1 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 23 F (-5 C); High Temperature: 27 F (-3 C). AM Weather: light snow. PM Weather: clear. Compiler: Dan Tallman.

Badlands: Dec 23, 2002. Number of Participants: 4 (+ 1 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 10 F (-12 C); High Temperature: 25 F (-4 C). AM Weather: Clear; PM Weather: Partly Cloudy. Compiler: Eddic Childers.

Brookings: Dec 14, 2002. Number of Participants: 10 (+ 3 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 23 F (-5 C); High Temperature: 50 F (10 C). AM Weather: clear, PM Weather: Clear. Compiler: Nelda Holden.

Burke: 21 December 2002. Number of Participants: 3. Low Temperature: 22 F. High Temperature: 40 F. Weather: partly cloudy to cloudy. Compiler: Richard A. Peterson.

Hot Springs: 14 December 2002. Number of Participants: 7. Low Temperature: 24 F. High Temperature: 52 F. Weather: Mostly sunny.

Harro: Dec 17, 2002. Number of Participants: 11 (+ 3 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 32 F (0 C). High Temperature: 38 F (3 C). AM Weather: Foggy; PM Weather: Light rain. Compiler: Karrie Schmidt.

Lake Andes: Dec 31, 2002. Number of Participants: 7 (+ 1 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 35 F (2 C). High Temperature: 55 F (13 C). AM Weather: Partly Cloudy; PM Weather: Partly Cloudy. Compiler: Michael Bryant.

Madison: Dec 17, 2002. Number of Participants: 5. Low Temperature: 30 F (-1 C); High Temperature: 40 F (4 C). AM Weather: Cloudy; PM Weather: light rain. Compiler: Sandra Uecker.

Piedmont: Dec 21, 2002. Number of Participants: 11 (+ 3 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 14 F (-10 C); High Temperature: 35 F (2 C). AM Weather: Partly Cloudy; PM Weather: Partly Cloudy. Compiler: Addison Ball.

Pierre: Dec 23, 2002. Number of Participants: 15 (+ 1 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 17 F (-8 C); High Temperature: 24 F (-4 C). AM Weather: Clear; PM Weather: Light snow. Compiler: Doug Backlund.

Rapid City: Dec 28, 2002. Number of Participants: 15 (+ 2 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 45 F (7 C); High Temperature: 57 F (14 C). AM Weather: Partly Cloudy; PM Weather: Partly Cloudy. Compiler: Michael Melius.

Sand Lake: Dec 20, 2002. Number of Participants: 5. Low Temperature: 22 F (-6 C); High Temperature: 31 F (-1 C). AM Weather: Light snow. PM Weather: Cloudy. Compiler:

William Schultz.

Sioux Falls. Dec 14, 2002. Number of Participants: 17 (+ 3 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 23 F (-5 C). High Temperature: 54 F (12 C). AM Weather: Clear. PM Weather: Clear. Compiler: Robert Schendk.

Spearfish. Dec 29, 2002. Number of Participants: 7. Low Temperature: 50 F (10 C); High Temperature: 61 F (16 C). AM Weather: Partly Cloudy; PM Weather: Clear. Compiler: Daniel Bjerke.

Sturgis. Dec 14, 2002. Number of Participants: 12 (+ 3 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 32 F (0 C); High Temperature: 50 F (10 C). AM Weather: Partly Cloudy. PM Weather: Partly Cloudy. Compiler: Victor Fondy.

Waubay. Dec 17, 2002. Number of Participants: 7. Low Temperature: 24 F (-4 C). High Temperature: 31 F (-1 C). AM Weather: Partly Cloudy; PM Weather: Light rain. Compiler: Laura Ilubers.

Wilmot. 3 January 2003. Number of Participants: 8. Low Temperature: 30 F. High Temperature: 40 F. Weather: Mostly sunny. Compiler: Bruce Harris.

Wind Cave. 15 December 2002. Number of Participants: 13. Low Temperature: 46 F. High Temperature: 57 F. Weather: Mostly sunny. Compilers: Dan Roddy, Barbara Muenchau.

Yankton. Dec 15, 2002. Number of Participants: 14 (+ 3 @ feeders). Low Temperature: 33 F (1 C); High Temperature: 42 F (6 C). Weather: Clear. Compiler: Juli Wilcox.

	ABR	BAD	BRL	BLR	HOT	HUR	LAND	MAD	PIED	PIR	RAP	SND	SU	SPE	STR	WAJ	WIL	WIN	YAN	TOTAL
Pied-billed Grebe					2															2
Double-crested Cormorant														1						1
Great Blue Heron													2							3
Snow Goose							3	900		23			1	4					221	1152
Canada Goose	426		843			1569	600	200	10000	444	870	1982	99		CW	CW			325	17437
Wood Duck										2	47		8	10					CW	45
Godwit										2	47		1	2					65	116
American Wigeon					9					3	83									96
Mallard	129		2587		17	3502	501	121	5000	1054	4740	472	5	9				3	1234	20011
Northern Shoveler						2														2
Blue-winged Teal										1										12
Northern Pintail										1										3
Green-winged Teal													30							3
Canvasback					10					1										11
Ruddy										5										5
King-necked Duck					86						9									97
Greater Scaup																				1
Lesser Scaup	2		41		2				19	21					1					1
Buff-breast					1						33									1
Long-tailed Duck								CW												34
Common Goldeneye					30					53	88	5	1						24	204
Barrow's Goldeneye										2										2
Hooded Merganser										1										2
Common Merganser	2				1	2			112	7			1					1016	1141	1
Red-breasted Merganser										1										1
Bald Eagle		2	CW		2	2	0		6	35	5	2	3	7	9		CW	6	72	169
Northern Harrier			1		2				2											6
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2								2	1		2	1					2	12
Cooper's Hawk					1	1					1		2	CW					1	6
Northern Goshawk	1	2								1							1			3
Swainson's Hawk					1															1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1	4		1	3	3		1	6	5		10	2	1			1	22	61
Ferruginous Hawk										1	2									4
Red-shouldered Hawk																				1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	7			3	2	3		11	3	8	1	5	5	3			2	1	55
Golden Eagle	1		2		1				6	5	2				1	3		6	1	30
American Kestrel						6	1			2	2		6	CW			2		6	27
Merlin					1					3		1	1					1	3	10
Gyr Falcon									CW											0
Prairie Falcon		2				1					4									8
Gray Partridge																				1
Rose-necked Pheasant	92	3	56	18	1	48	1	17	70	1	250	12	1	8	2	48			14	639
Sharp-shinned Grouse	1		20		16				14	1	27	50		11	5	38			15	198
Greater Prairie-Chicken					1															2

	ABR	BAD	BKK	BUR	ROT	HUR	LAND	MAD	PIED	PIR	RAP	RKD	SU	SPE	STR	WAU	WIL	WIN	YAN	TOTAL	
Northern Bobwhite																				0	
Wild Turkey	137		10	35	11				425	21	306		37	59	637				64	40	1762
American Coot				48			8			23	2									2	81
Killdeer															7	2				1	2
Common Sturgeon				1																1	14
Little Gull							1													1	1
Bowyer's Gull							2													2	2
Franklin's Gull									26												26
Ring-billed Gull				1126			50		37											420	1613
Thayer's Gull									1											2	3
Herring Gull							1		30											125	156
Rock Dove	53	24	177	19	372	147	61	21	152	45	409	20	479	37	62	49	18	30	244	244	3419
Ferriss Collared Dove										33	14										47
Mourning Dove								1					1								2
Barn Owl																				1	1
Eastern Screech Owl																				2	4
Great Horned Owl				6	2	3	4			8	1	2	1		3	1	1			4	39
Long-eared Owl										2										2	4
Northern Saw-whet Owl																					0
Barred Owl							1														1
Snowy Owl																					1
Belted Kingfisher				2																	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1			1																	1
Red-headed Woodpecker							1														1
Downy Woodpecker	6	20	4	5	9	6	18	19	17	20	6	35	2	8	7	12	2	46	244		
Hairy Woodpecker	5	7	4	1	3	1	7	2	15	3	12	3	6	3	6	2	10	90			
Northern Flicker	2	3	1	12	1	3	5	2	11	18	4	1	3	4	1	3	9	83			
Pileated Woodpecker																					1
Northern Shrike	1			2	3	1	2	1	2	3	2	1			1					2	21
Gray Jay																					6
Blue Jay	3	49	7	6	4	3	24	59	6	31	11	84	9	92	3	7				33	409
Pinyon Jay																					29
Clark's Nutcracker																					2
Black-billed Magpie	5	6	6	6	6	64	6	14							2	32				5	113
American Crow	12	19	150	192	73	58	24	202	273	3	181	67	278	13	184	23	5	366	814	2870	
Horned Lark	45	12				6	20	21	101		38				412	13					668
Black-capped Chickadee	34	113	22	66	26	12	55	273	65	139	21	160	47	192	65	48	69	120	1547		
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	5	3	3	3	53	2	40						1	65	2				33	208
Pygmy Nuthatch	6	13	5	2	3	3	13	27	13	28	2	32	3	28	6	18	15	33	250		
Brown Creeper																				6	8
Canyon Wren				1	1			6	4	5	4	4	4	2	2					1	2
Winter Wren								5			4				1					2	12
Marsh Wren								1													4

	ABR	BAD	BRK	BUR	HOT	HUR	LAND	MAD	PIED	PIR	RAP	SND	SIL	SPE	STR	WAU	WIL	WIN	YAN	TOTAL		
Golden-crowned Kinglet				4				7	0	4				5					10	38		
American Dipper									1					3						4		
Eastern Bluebird																				1		
Towhees				1	24				31	1	27			5	1					103		
American Robin				4	3	1285		281	1	3	197	29		61	1				4	1871		
Northern Mockingbird								1	1											2		
European Starling	40	1	225	220	2088	920	50	838	675	390	2274	62	428	433	578	239	OW	58	672	10141		
Bohemian Waxwing									6					40						48		
Cedar Waxwing	29		43	30	65		152	80	OW	168	56	3	37	22	327	85	OW		132	1119		
American Tree Sparrow	6	143	20	94	44		37	10	19	116	41	27	57	4	42	1	12	9	247	929		
Chipping Sparrow					15			1												17		
Field Sparrow					25					1										26		
Song Sparrow														1						3		
Hamis's Sparrow	1																			1		
Lincoln's Sparrow										1										11	12	
White-throated Sparrow																				1		
Dark-eyed Junco	11	75	1	84			20	78	270	48	380	10	166	22	239	1	7	473	221	2132		
Lapland Longspur	29	1							233							500	OW			763		
Song Sparrow	21						20					56			478	OW				575		
Northern Cardinal			8							3			7			OW			28	59		
Red-winged Blackbird			30	75	3			80		1		28	1			OW			3	191		
Western Meadowlark												OW		2					5	7		
Yellow-headed Blackbird											4									4		
Rusty Blackbird	1									1										2		
Brewer's Blackbird													1							2		
Common Grackle	7									3		8	5							75		
Brown-headed Cowbird								50				8							1	37	5	
Cassin's Finch					1															1	1	
Purple Finch	7							6						2						1	1	
House Finch	23	14			1		2	35	18	22	41		40	15	65	3	2			22		
Red Crossbill											6									34	322	
Pine Siskin	OW						2	301	14	OW					11					17		
American Goldfinch	3	57	58				8	16	137	300	174	35	9	63	11	70			40	19	284	1200
Evening Grosbeak					22																76	
House Sparrow	228	27	715	55	2	1050	20	1227	83	344	328	174	215	42	324	371	23	14	317	5470		
TOTAL	636	260	2505	784	9182	24356	5945	5270	3197	17426	6384	6423	4797	443	5989	2115	380	1230	6932	80334		
species/forms	26	17	34	27	67	31	45	31	39	72	51	37	46	41	41	27	33	30	68			



SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2002-03 Winter Season
1 December 2002 to 28 February 2003

Compiler: Robert F. Scheuck
422 N. Linwood Ct.
Sioux Falls, SD 57042

The winter of 2002-03 can be described as mild and dry. This report includes 127 species, which compares to the 5-year average of 130. Noticeably absent were finches. Red Crossbills, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were not reported in normal numbers. There were no observations of Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch and White-winged Crossbill. Sparrows and Blackbirds are well represented with all species expected lingering into winter. Mild weather may also be responsible for the number of species being reported that are considered rare, casual and accidental in winter. Gyrfalcons were again relatively easy to find and they are starting to attract the attention of birders from surrounding states. The six sightings closest to midwinter, 15 January, were included in this report. Sightings that would have been included in the new addition of *Birds of South Dakota* are in bold print. Species with many reports and known to occur all period are reported by county. Common species that occur throughout the state all period are not included. Christmas Bird Counts are not part of this report and are reported separately in this issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*.

Common Loon Only Report: 16 Dec Hughes RDO

Western Grebe All Reports: 1 Dec Hughes KM; 14 Dec Lake JSP

Double-crested Cormorant All Reports: 13 Dec Yankton SVS; 14 Dec, Dec 22 Minnehaha (1) MKZ

Great Blue Heron All Reports: 1 Dec Charles Mix RM; 14 Dec Minnehaha RFS; 7 Jan Yankton SVS

Greater White-fronted Goose All Reports: 13 Dec Lake JSP; 18 Jan Lake JSP, RFS
Snow Goose Reported: 5 Dec Lake DAT; 14 Dec Minnehaha (1) MKZ; 28 Dec, 1 Feb Yankton SVS; 18 Jan Hamlin (8) JCS; 18 Jan Lake JSP, RFS; 21 Jan Lawrence JLB; 11 Feb Stanley RDO & KM; 13 Feb Lawrence AKB

Ross's Goose All Reports: 13 Dec Lyman JSP; 3 Jan Hughes RDO

Wood Duck All Reports: all period Pennington JLB; all period Minnehaha RFS; 16 Dec Yankton SVS; 21 Jan Lawrence JLB; 13 Feb Lawrence (5pr) AKB; 17 Feb Stanley RDO

Gadwall All Reports: all period Pennington JLB; all period Minnehaha RFS; 16 Dec Stanley (3) RDO; 11 Jan Charles Mix RD; 14, 20 Jan Yankton SVS; 18 Jan Stanley, 19 Jan Hughes KM

American Wigeon All Reports: all period Minnehaha RFS; all period Pennington JLB; 9 Dec, 11 Feb Stanley RDO; 14, 23 Jan Yankton SVS; 19 Jan Hughes KM

American Black Duck All Reports: 10, 22 Feb Stanley KM; 11 Feb Stanley RDO

- Northern Pintail** All Reports: 18 Dec Hughes RDO; 31 Dec Charles Mix RM; 10, 23 Jan Pennington JLB; 19 Jan Stanley KM; 11 Feb Stanley RDO; 11 Feb Yankton SVS
- Green-winged Teal** All Reports: 1, 23 Jan Yankton SVS; 13 Jan, 5 Feb Meade AKB; 20 Jan Stanley KM; 28 Jan Stanley RDO
- Canvasback** All Reports: 12 Jan Charles Mix RM; 19 Jan Stanley KM; 11 Feb Stanley RDO
- Redhead** All Reports: 12 Dec, 20 Feb Yankton SVS; 22 Dec, 19 Jan Stanley KM; 11 Feb Stanley RDO
- Ring-necked Duck** All Reports: all period Minnehaha RFS; 21 Dec Miner JSP; 23 Dec-26 Feb Pennington JLB
- Greater Scaup** All Reports: 1 Dec Stanley, 1 Feb Hughes RDO; 22 Dec, 11, 23 Feb Stanley RDO
- Lesser Scaup** reported from Charles Mix, Hughes, Miner, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- Long-tailed Duck** All Reports: 7 Dec, 11 Jan Charles Mix (2) JSP, RFS; 29 Dec, 29 Jan Charles Mix RM
- Bufflehead** Reported: all period Charles Mix RM; all period Pennington JLB; 1, 31 Jan Yankton SVS
- Common Goldeneye** reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Edmunds, Gregory, Hughes, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** Only Report: all period Pennington (Canyon Lake) JLB
- Hooded Merganser** All Reports: 2 Dec Stanley, 1 Feb Hughes RDO; 18 Dec, 8 Feb Hughes, 19 Jan Stanley KM; 13 Dec-26 Feb Pennington JLB
- Common Merganser** Reported: all period Pennington JLB; 23 Dec Yankton SVS; 17 Jan Charles Mix RM; 20 Jan Yankton SVS; 18 Jan Hughes KM; 24 Jan Pennington AKB; 1 Feb Hughes RDO; 22 Feb Hughes JSP, RFS
- Red-breasted Merganser** Reported: 9, 25 Jan Yankton SVS; 11 Jan Charles Mix JSP, RFS; 12 Jan (2), 15 Feb Yankton DS; 10 Feb Stanley KM; 12 Feb Hughes RDO
- Bald Eagle** reported from Bennett, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Harding, Hughes/ Stanley (60+, DB), Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Todd and Yankton counties.
- Northern Harrier** Reported: 11 Jan Sully KM; 11 Jan Yankton SVS; 14 Jan Custer TBW; 17 Jan Charles Mix RM; 18 Jan Fall River (2) JLB; 20 Jan Stanley RDO; 23 Jan Custer (1) JLB
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** reported from Brown, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln and Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- Cooper's Hawk** reported from Charles Mix, Gregory, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 14 Dec Harding CEM; 21 Dec, 1 Jan Hughes KM; 21 Dec Brown DAT; 18 Jan Stanley RDO
- Red-tailed Hawk** reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lyman, Meade, Minnehaha and Stanley, Tripp and Yankton counties.
- Ferruginous Hawk** All Reports: 15, 28 Dec Harding CEM; 11, 26 Jan, 9 Feb Stanley KM; 14 Jan Custer (1) Pennington TBW; 20 Jan Stanley RDO; 31 Jan Meade AKB; 27 Feb Custer (1) JLB

- Rough-legged Hawk** reported from Beadle, Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Harding, Hughes, Jones, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lyman, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Tripp and Yankton counties.
- Golden Eagle** reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Codington, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Moody, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully and Tripp counties.
- American Kestrel** reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Fall River, Hughes, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- Merlin** Reported: 12 Jan Yankton DS; 19 Jan Hughes KM; 20 Jan Yankton SVS; 21 Jan Edmunds JDW; 14 Feb Meade EEM; 18 Feb Brown JCS; 21 Feb Stanley RDO
- Gyr Falcon** All Reports: 14 Dec Hughes & Sully DAT; 22 Dec, 11 Jan Stanley, 19 Jan Hughes, 27 Feb Sully KM; 1 Jan Sully (1), 8 Feb Lyman (1), 26 Feb Sully (1) DB; 20 Jan, 16 Feb Lyman RD; 22 Feb Lyman JSP, RFS; 28 Feb 2.7 miles West of Pierre (1-white morph female), 1 mile east of Hase (1-white morph male) Bruce Harris
- Prairie Falcon** reported from Brown, Custer, Harding, Lyman, Meade, Perkins, Spink, Stanley, Sully, Tripp and Yankton counties.
- Gray Partridge** All Reports: all period Meade EEM; 15 Dec, 23 Jan Harding CEM; 15 Dec Yankton SVS; 24 Dec Perkins KM
- Sharp-tailed Grouse** reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Harding, Hughes, Lyman, Meade, Pennington, Perkins and Sully counties.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken** All Reports: 9 Feb Hughes RDO; 22 Feb Lyman RFS; 11, 25 Jan Sully, 9 Feb Stanley KM
- Wild Turkey** reported from Brookings, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- American Coot** All Reports: 1 Dec Yankton SVS; 1 Dec, 1 Feb Stanley RDO; 7 Dec Yankton JSP; 22 Dec, 18 Jan Stanley KM; 23 Dec, 23 Jan Pennington JLB; 12 Jan, 1 Feb Charles Mix (7) RM
- Killdeer** Only Report: 16 Dec Yankton SVS
- Wilson's Snipe** Only Report: 29 Dec Lawrence AKB; 23 Jan Meade EEM; 7 Feb Yankton SVS
- Franklin's Gull** All Reports: 5 Jan Charles Mix SVS; 6 Jan Hughes RDO; 11 Jan Charles Mix JSP, RFS & RD; 18 Jan Hughes KM
- Bonaparte's Gull** All Reports: 7 Dec Charles Mix JSP; 15 Dec Charles Mix RDO; 5 Jan Charles Mix SVS; 11 Jan Charles Mix RM
- Ring-billed Gull** Reported: 1, 19 Jan Hughes KM; 5 Jan Charles Mix SVS; 11 Jan Charles Mix JSP, RFS & RD; 15 Jan, 20 Feb Charles Mix RM; 1 Feb Hughes RDO
- Herring Gull** Reported: 7 Dec Yankton JSP; 31 Dec Charles Mix RM; 1, 18 Jan Hughes KM; 11 Jan Charles Mix JSP, RFS & RD; 1 Feb Hughes RD
- Thayer's Gull** All Reports: 2 Dec (im.), 21 Dec (ad.), 27 Feb (im.) Stanley RDO; 7 Dec Charles Mix, 14 Dec Hughes JSP; 20 Dec, 4 Jan Stanley KM
- Glaucous Gull** All Reports: 11 Dec, 3 Jan Yankton SVS; 18 Dec, 2 Feb Hughes, 25 Feb Stanley RDO; 4 Feb Hughes, 27 Feb Stanley KM
- Eurasian Collared Dove** Reported: 5 Dec, 10, 20 Jan, 1 Feb Hughes KM; 15 Dec, 30 Jan, 8 Feb Yankton SVS; 14 Jan (1), 28 Feb (4) Charles Mix RM
- Mourning Dove** All Reports: 12 Jan Yankton SVS; 8, 16 Feb Lincoln RFS

- Barn Owl** Only Report: 2 Jan Stanley KM; 27 Jan Tripp RDO
- Eastern Screech-Owl** Reported from Brown, Hughes, Lake, Minnehaha, Stanley, Sully and Yankton counties.
- Snowy Owl** reported from Brown, Edmunds, Haakon, Hughes, Lake, Lyman, Pennington and Stanley counties.
- Barred Owl** All Reports: 4 Jan Union (Big Sioux River near Richland) BFH; 8, 16 Feb Lincoln (Newton Hills) RFS
- Long-eared Owl** All Reports: 8 Dec, 27 Jan Tripp RDO; 15 Dec Yankton BFH; 5 Jan Hughes, 25 Jan Sully (3), 8 Feb Sully (6) KM
- Northern Saw-whet Owl** All Reports: 9 Dec (3), 14 Dec (4), 12 Feb (4), 28 Feb (2) Harding (Slim Buttes) CEM; 12 Dec, 12, 31 Jan, 26 Feb Hughes KM; 2 Jan Hughes (1 banded), 4 Jan Stanley (1 banded) DB
- Belted Kingfisher** Reported: all period Meade EEM; 17 Dec Pennington EEM; 10, 23 Jan Pennington JLB; 12, 25 Jan Meade AKB; 12 Jan Yankton (1), Clay (1) DS; 14, 20 Jan Yankton SVS
- Red-bellied Woodpecker** reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Gregory, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Only Report: 7 Dec Lincoln RFS
- Northern Flicker** reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, and Yankton counties.
- Northern Shrike** reported from Brookings, Brown, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Lincoln, Meade, Stanley, Sully and Yankton counties.
- Gray Jay** reported from Custer, Lawrence and Meade counties.
- Pinyon Jay** All Reports: 2, 13 Dec Meade APB; 14, 19 Jan Meade AKB
- Clark's Nutcracker** All reports: 21 Dec Meade AKB; 26 Feb Custer KH
- Black-billed Magpie** reported from Custer, Gregory, Harding, Hughes, Meade, Lawrence, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, and Yankton counties.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported from Brown, Custer, Harding, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington and Yankton counties.
- Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: all period Pennington (7) TBW; 11 Dec Custer (4) RDO
- Brown Creeper** reported from Brown, Brookings, Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Union and Yankton counties.
- Canyon Wren** All Reports: 3 Jan, 9 Feb Meade AKB; 6, 24 Jan Custer KH; 12 Jan Pennington JLB
- Carolina Wren** All Reports: 15 Dec Clay RDO, KM
- Winter Wren** All Reports: 12 Dec, 23 Jan Lawrence (1) DB; 26 Jan Meade AKB
- American Dipper** All Reports: 21 Dec Meade, 29 Jan Lawrence AKB; 23 Jan Lawrence (21) DB
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** Reported: 26 Dec Meade JLB; 3 Jan Meade AKB; 4 Jan Lake JSP; 5 Jan Hughes KM; 14 Jan Yankton SVS; 31 Jan Brown DAT
- Eastern Bluebird** All Reports: 1 Dec Charles Mix RM; 11 Jan Charles Mix (6) JSP, RFS
- Townsend's Solitaire** All Reports: 28 Jan Edmunds JDW; 1 Feb Minnehaha JSP, RFS...also reported from Custer, Fall River, Harding, Meade, Pennington and Stanley counties.

- American Robin** reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, 18 Jan Fall River (~800) JLB, Gregory, Haakon, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Mellette, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- Northern Mockingbird All Reports:** all period Charles Mix (1) RM; 21 Dec Meade (1) EEM; 7 Jan Meade AKB, DGP
- Brown Thrasher All Reports:** 15 Dec Yankton BFH; 10 Feb Moody JCS
- Cedar Waxwing** reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Gregory, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Perkins, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler All Reports:** 28 Dec Lincoln (1) RFS; 5 Jan Yankton SVS; 12 Jan Hughes KM
- Song Sparrow All Reports:** 30 Jan, 9 Feb Hughes KM; 7 Feb Yankton SVS; 9 Feb Lincoln RFS
- White-throated Sparrow All Reports:** 26 Dec Minnehaha RFS; 28 Jan Brown DAT
- Harris's Sparrow All Reports:** 21 Dec Brown DAT; 7 Jan, 9 Feb Yankton SVS
- White-crowned Sparrow All Reports:** 5 Jan-22 Feb Hughes KM; 7 Jan Hughes RDO
- Lapland Longspur** reported from Clay, Custer, Haakon, Lawrence, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Perkins, Stanley, Sully and Turner counties.
- Snow Bunting** reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Kingsbury, Lyman, Stanley, and Yankton counties.
- Northern Cardinal** reported from Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha and Yankton counties.
- Red-winged Blackbird Reported:** all period Clay (1) DS; 11 Jan Yankton SVS; 17 Jan Hughes KM; 18 Jan Fall River (30) JLB; 20 Jan Brown JCS; 25 Jan Lake, 8 Feb Moody JSP; 16 Feb Lincoln RFS
- Western Meadowlark Reported:** 9 Dec Meade (1) EEM; 20 Dec Brown (1) SLS; 13 Jan Meade (5) EEM; 14 Jan Pennington (1) TBW; 8 Feb Lyman (23) DB
- Yellow-headed Blackbird Only Report:** 20 Dec Brown (4) SLS
- Rusty Blackbird All Reports:** 20 Jan Brown JCS; 25 Feb Stanley RDO
- Brewer's Blackbird Only Report:** 20 Dec Brown DAT
- Common Grackle All Reports:** 31 Dec Charles Mix RM; 1 Jan Brown DAT; 3 Feb Hughes RDO
- Brown-headed Cowbird Only Report:** 20 Dec Brown (6) SLS
- Purple Finch** reported from Brown, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln and Yankton counties.
- House Finch** reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Fall River, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Meade, Meade, Minnehaha and Perkins counties.
- Red Crossbill All Reports:** 1 Dec, 28 Feb Custer KH
- Common Redpoll All Reports:** 1 Jan Perkins DCO; 1 Feb Minnehaha JSP, RFS
- Pine Siskin** reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Hughes, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington and Stanley counties.
- Evening Grosbeak All Reports:** 2, 9 Feb Hughes KM; 7 Feb Hughes RDO

Species Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

- Bar-headed Goose** 12, 24 Feb Yankton SVS (first state record)
- California Gull** 15 Dec Stanley AKB, DGP (second winter record)
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** 5 Jan Charles Mix SVS (few state records)
- Hermit Thrush** 1 Feb Minnehaha JSP, RFS (considered accidental in winter)

Gray Catbird 8 Feb Lincoln (1) RFS (no late winter records)
Lincoln Sparrow 21 Dec Hughes KM (considered accidental in winter)
Smith's Longspur 20 Jan Sully (1) DB (first winter record)

Species Expected But Not Reported

Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Trumpeter Swan (3), Tundra Swan, Northern Shoveler, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Peregrine Falcon (2), Ruffed Grouse (2), Northern Bobwhite (3), Black-legged Kittiwake (3), Short-eared Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker (3), Black-backed Woodpecker (4), Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Bluebird, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (2), Pine Grosbeak (2), Cassin's Finch (4), White-winged Crossbill

Note: Number in parentheses indicates number of years not reported.

Corrections to Previous Issues

The record: Lazuli Bunting 19-27 Jul Meade APB; should be added to Vol. 54, No.4

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