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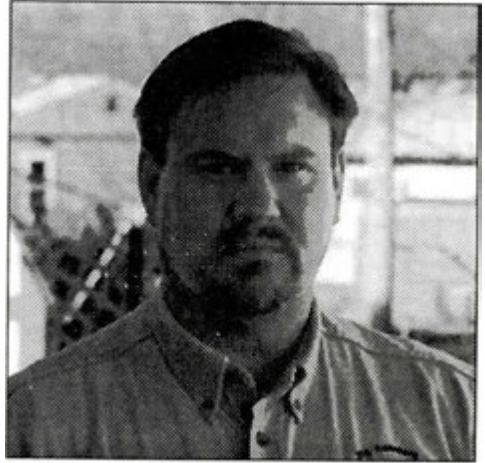
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The SDOU spring meeting will have taken place by the time you have received this copy of *Bird Notes*. On the way up to the meeting you enjoyed all the grasslands and associated birds. Grassland birds are declining at a faster rate than Neotropical species. Factors contributing to this decline include habitat loss, competition from exotic species, and predator pressure. Climatic change may also play a role, sometimes in cyclic patterns, other times not. Greenhouse effects may



have a greater impact than normal weather cycles. We now have more birders contributing sightings to seasonal reports and submitting rare bird forms. We are now focusing more research on South Dakota birds. As we continue to gather more scientific data, we need to take a more proactive stance on conservation. There are actions that both we, as individuals and SDOU, as an organization, can take. Individuals, for example, can keep their pets in the house or on a leash when outside. House cats kill millions of birds each year, not for food, but out of predatory instinct. They are not native to North America and are very stealthy. Native birds do not have defense mechanism to help protect themselves from house cats. As an organization, we can use scientific data to recommend and support habitat preservation. Protecting species is good, but without suitable habitat, species won't survive. We should support good management practices, such as controlled grazing or removal of exotic species. An example is salt cedar, an invasive species that displaces native plants and consumes a lot of water. We can also protect habitat through conservation easements or designating some existing federal lands as wilderness. Wilderness designation does not prohibit grazing. One does not have to be extreme about conservation, but one does need to pay attention to sound science and support what it teaches us.

Now, switching subjects, I proposed in the last *Bird Notes* that we try South Dakota bird weekends in the off-season when the SDOU does not meet. I have two proposals. Since the spring meeting is out west and the fall meeting is in Pierre, we should have a summer field trip in the northeast corner of the state. We can hit such areas as Hartford Beach and Sica Hollow state parks. Then in the winter, we could bird along the Missouri River from Ft. Randall to the Oahe Dam, including the grasslands. As always, of course, I am open to suggestions. Thank you for your time and consideration for allowing me the op-

portunity to express my views. *Todd Jensen, President.*

**BREEDING BIRD INVENTORY OF SPIRIT MOUND HISTORIC PRAIRIE
IN CLAY COUNTY –
AN AREA BEING RESTORED TO TALLGRASS PRAIRIE**

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Introduction

Southeastern South Dakota was historically dominated by tallgrass prairie, an ecological community that has suffered severe losses both in the extent and quality of existing habitat (Vickery et al. 1999). Nationwide, less than 1% of the original area of tallgrass prairie remains today, due largely to agricultural conversions and other human uses (Samson and Knopf 1994, Bakker et al. 2003). In eastern South Dakota, up to 90% of native grasslands in many counties have been converted to cropland (Peterson 1995). Consequently, populations of grassland birds have declined precipitously (Herkert 1995, Peterjohn and Sauer 1999, Johnsgard 2001). South Dakota retains a higher percentage of native grass cover than some nearby states (Jackson et al. 1996, Peterson 1995) and remaining habitat areas may be especially valuable to populations of grassland nesting birds. In addition, restoration of cultivated areas back to their historic tallgrass prairie condition might also be important to certain grassland nesting birds. Conservation reserve program (CRP) fields contain certain plant species and habitat qualities in common with native prairie and are readily used by many grassland birds in North Dakota (Johnson and Igl 1995, Koford 1999). Thus, even if a restored grassland area only approximates its historic condition, it is likely to provide habitat for grassland nesting birds.

Spirit Mound Historic Prairie is a 320-acre site in Clay County that was recently purchased by the state of South Dakota. The site is a frequent attraction for both Lewis and Clark and nature enthusiasts and is managed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks in partnership with the National Park Service and the Spirit Mound Trust. A major prairie restoration effort at Spirit Mound was initiated by the state of South Dakota in the fall of 2001 (Breyfogle 2002). The goal of the restoration project at Spirit Mound is to re-establish the tallgrass prairie that covered the area when Lewis and Clark visited the site nearly 200 years ago. This site provides a unique opportunity to educate the thousands of expected visitors about ecological restoration, prairies, and the resident fauna and flora. Also, due to continuing losses in grassland cover throughout the Great Plains, the restoration effort at Spirit Mound is a significant contribution toward increasing the acreage and appreciation of tallgrass prairies.

Vegetation and bird monitoring can provide a reference for similar restoration efforts throughout the tallgrass prairie region. Vegetation and soil moni-

toring are underway in order to ensure that restoration efforts are successful (K. Olmstead, pers. comm.). As Spirit Mound is restored to tallgrass prairie, it will also be important to understand the response of the breeding bird community to the restoration. The goal of this study is to provide a point of reference on the abundance and breeding status of birds at Spirit Mound. Ideally, this study could be repeated in future years as a measure of the success of the restoration project.

Objectives

1. Inventory the breeding birds of Spirit Mound.
2. Collect bird density and relative abundance information.
3. Assess the breeding status of birds of Spirit Mound.

Study Area and Methods

Spirit Mound Historic Prairie is a 1-mile by ½-mile site (320 acres) located six miles north of Vermillion in Clay County. The mound itself is located in the center of the site. In the far southeast corner of the property is a visitor parking area and a small (less than one acre) woodlot. Gravel and/or paved roads border the site on all sides and the surrounding land is a mix of residential, woodlot, and cultivated habitats. Historic uses of the Spirit Mound site included agricultural cultivation, a cattle feedlot, farmstead development, and pasture. Less than 10% of the site is prairie remnant. Exotic grasses and forbs dominated the remaining area at the beginning of restoration efforts in 2001. Active restoration efforts were well underway in 2003, including burning, mowing, seeding with native plant species, and herbicide use to combat exotic plants (Breyfogle 2002).

Bird surveys were conducted between mid-May and mid-July 2003. We used two, one-km line transects ('belt transects') to estimate grassland bird density and relative abundance (Fig. 1). Transects were separated by 350 m and were on either side of Spirit Mound to avoid overlap between counts. All detections within 75 m were used to calculate density in birds per km². For relative abundance estimates, we included all detections (including more distant birds and birds flying over transects but not actually in the habitat) to calculate the number of birds detected per transect. These relative abundance estimates might be more applicable for certain larger species, such as Mallards and Ring-necked Pheasants, which may be better counted by other methods. Transect surveys were conducted during the first three hours after sunrise and the order that transects were monitored was reversed between surveys. We counted birds along transects in early June, late June, and early July. We also conducted transect surveys in late May, but these data included migrants that did not remain to breed (e.g., Savannah Sparrows) and some breeders had yet to arrive (e.g., female Dickcissels). Also, due to weather restrictions, only transect #1 was surveyed in late June (Fig. 1). Because density and relative abundance estimates for transect #1 were similar when two and three surveys were analyzed, we only include data for early June and early July surveys for consistency between tran-

sects.

Two to three breeding bird atlas-type surveys were conducted each week (2-4 hours each) in which one or more observers documented bird breeding status. Breeding activity was assessed by differentiating between observed, possible, probable, and confirmed breeding behavior (Peterson 1995). We also attempted to determine habitat associations and included the woodlot and edge habitats in these surveys. Due to differences in land use history, we observed qualitative differences in habitat structure throughout the study area in May (before the 2003 growing season had begun). For instance, previously cultivated areas (most of which had previously been planted with "Round-up ready" soybeans and treated with herbicides to eliminate exotic vegetation) had less vegetative cover and more bare ground compared to the prairie remnants along Spirit Mound Creek and on the mound itself. While these differences became much less obvious over the course of the summer (and will likely disappear as the restoration process continues), these early-season conditions were likely important to birds selecting breeding territories. Likewise, as restoration proceeds and bare ground decreases while litter increases, there may be resultant changes in the bird community. In Table 1, we define habitat categories and assign birds to categories based on our observations.

Results and Discussion

From our observations, we constructed a preliminary list of breeding species of Spirit Mound Historic Prairie (Table 1). The list for Spirit Mound includes many expected species from Great Plains prairie habitats (Johnsgard 2001). In addition, density and abundance estimates (Table 2) for most species in this study were similar to or higher than estimates from other tallgrass prairie studies (Wiens 1973, Blankespoor 1980, Patterson and Best 1996, Koford 1999, Bakker 2000, Renfrew and Ribic 2002). Interestingly, the highest densities for most species in this comparison came from South Dakota (Table 2, Blankespoor 1980, Bakker 2000 and pers. comm.). Observer bias, geographic location of the study relative to centers of bird ranges, and inter-annual variability in bird populations can be issues complicating comparisons of bird densities and abundances among studies. However, the fact that densities in this study are generally greater than those reported elsewhere suggests that population densities of most species at Spirit Mound are at least as high as those at other sites.

It is important to note, however, that high density cannot necessarily be equated with high nesting success (Winter and Faaborg 1999). We did not attempt to assess productivity in this study, and we speculate that nesting success during the restoration effort may be low due to frequent human disturbances, such as mowing and spraying. Assessing breeding productivity, however, may be an important future aspect of monitoring the success of the restoration.

The two most commonly detected species in this study, Dickcissel and Grasshopper Sparrow, were more abundant at Spirit Mound than in any other study, except for another eastern South Dakota study (Blankespoor 1980). This

was especially the case for the Dickcissel, whose density at Spirit Mound was at least twice that reported in other states (Table 2). The only species less abundant at Spirit Mound than elsewhere were Bobolink and Red-winged Blackbird (Table 2). Bobolink densities in Iowa and Minnesota CRP fields were about double that of the Spirit Mound population (Koford 1999, Patterson and Best 1996). Red-winged Blackbird density in Iowa was slightly higher than at Spirit Mound, whereas density in Minnesota was less than that at Spirit Mound (Koford 1999, Patterson and Best 1996). The fact that breeding Bobolinks in this study were only found in the wetter grasslands bordering Spirit Mound Creek suggests that moisture levels and resulting grassland structure may limit Bobolinks at our study site.

The occurrence of two particular species at Spirit Mound was of interest. A male Lark Bunting was present and singing on the western side of the property from early June through at least mid-July. Lark Buntings are rarely observed in southeastern South Dakota (Tallman et al. 2002, Bakker et al. 2003) and therefore are not likely to become a common part of the breeding bird community at Spirit Mound. A lone Sedge Wren male was detected singing on surveys in May, but not again during the summer. However, by early July, a small number of male (and possibly female) Sedge Wrens were suddenly present in the wet meadow habitat along Spirit Mound Creek. It is likely that these birds had already attempted breeding elsewhere and were relocating during mid-summer (e.g., Kroodsma et al. 1999).

We caution that, while bird populations in this study were encouraging, populations of all birds present at Spirit Mound in 2003 may not respond positively to restoration efforts. Blankespoor (1980) studied bird community changes over three breeding seasons after sowing of native grasses in previously cultivated corn and soybean fields in eastern South Dakota. While inter-annual variability characterized the results, several species declined during the study, and these declines were likely attributed to changes in the vegetation structure as well as drought (Blankespoor 1980). For example, Red-winged Blackbirds declined in both treatment types, whereas Grasshopper Sparrows and Common Yellowthroats showed generally decreasing trends that differed among treatment types (Blankespoor 1980). At Spirit Mound, we expect species that require bare ground components or structural attributes associated with agriculture to become less numerous while other species preferring continuous grasslands are likely to increase. Also, area sensitivity of some grassland species may limit future populations in this relatively small grassland tract (Herkert 1994, Winter and Faaborg 1999).

In summary, we document high numbers of many grassland species and provide an important point of reference for future studies in this region. Breeding bird populations at Spirit Mound Historic Prairie in 2003 were fairly high relative to other tallgrass prairie studies and this appears to be a good foundation upon which the bird community can build as the prairie restoration process continues.

Acknowledgments

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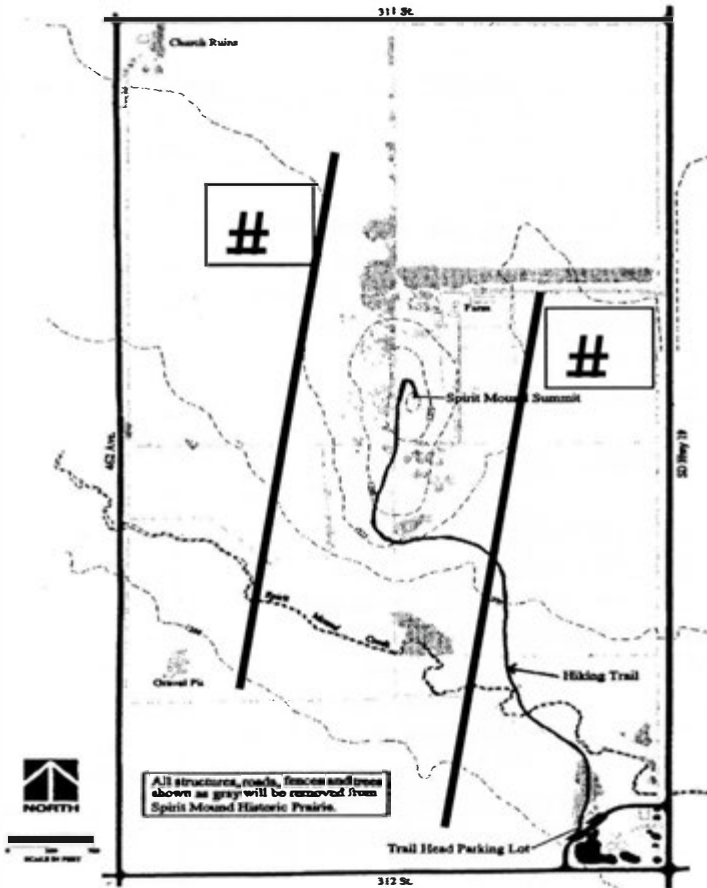


Figure 1. Map of Spirit Mound Historic Prairie with the two 1-km survey transects plotted. Reprinted with permission of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks.

Table 1. Breeding birds of Spirit Mound listed by habitat associations, qualitative abundance categories, and breeding status.

Species	Habitat	Abundance	Breeding
Great Blue Heron	Stream	U	R
Wood Duck	Stream	U	R
Mallard	Stream	U	R
Blue-winged Teal	Stream	U	R
Red-tailed Hawk	All/Woodlot/Edge	U	R
American Kestrel	All/Woodlot/Edge	U	C
Ring-necked Pheasant	All	C	S
Gray Partridge	All	U	C
Sora	Stream	R	M
Killdeer	Cultivated/Edge	U	S
Upland Sandpiper	Cultivated	C	C
Semipalmated Sandpiper	--	R	M
Solitary Sandpiper	Stream	R	M
Mourning Dove	All/Woodlot/Mound	C	S
Rock Dove	Edge	U	R
Red-headed Woodpecker	Woodlot	U	S
Northern Flicker	Mature GL/Woodlot	U	S
Eastern Kingbird	All/Woodlot	U	C
Western Kingbird	--	R	R
Eastern Phoebe	Stream/Bridge	R	S
Loggerhead Shrike	Edge	R	R
Horned Lark	Cultivated	U	S
Tree Swallow	--	U	M
Bank Swallow	--	U	M
Cliff Swallow	--	U	M
Barn Swallow	All	C	C
Sedge Wren	Mature GL/Wet Meadows	R	S
Brown Thrasher	Woodlot	U	S
American Robin	All/Woodlot	U	C
Blue Jay	Woodlot	U	R
American Crow	--	U	R
European Starling	Mature GL/Woodlot	U	S
Common Yellowthroat	Stream/Wet Meadows/Mound	U	Ch
Chipping Sparrow	Woodlot	U	R
Clay-colored Sparrow	Woodlot	U	M
Field Sparrow	Edge	R	S
Vesper Sparrow	Cultivated	R	S
Lark Sparrow	Cultivated/Edge	R	S
Lark Bunting	Cultivated	R	S
Savannah Sparrow	All	C	M
Grasshopper Sparrow	All	A	C
Song Sparrow	Stream/Wet Meadows	U	C
Blue Grosbeak	Mound/Stream	U	S
Dickcissel	All	A	C

Bobolink	Wet Meadows	C	C
Red-winged Blackbird	All	A	C
Western Meadowlark	All	C	C
Common Grackle	Woodlot	C	C
Brown-headed Cowbird	All	C	C
Baltimore Oriole	Woodlot	U	C
Orchard Oriole	Woodlot	U	C
American Goldfinch	All	U	S

Habitat: GL—Grassland; All—all grassland habitats; Cultivated—areas where agricultural cultivation has taken place, generally much less developed grassy cover in spring; Mature GL—previously cultivated but mature grassy cover in spring, mostly in southwest corner of property; Edge—includes roadside habitats as well as nearby agricultural fields and farmsteads; Wet Meadows—moister grasslands in low areas along Spirit Mound Creek, not previously cultivated; Stream—Spirit Mound Creek; Woodlot—small woodlot in southeastern corner of property; Mound—prairie remnant with patchy shrubby areas.

Abundance: A—Abundant C—Common U—Uncommon R—Rare

Breeding Status:

C—Confirmed breeding

S—Breeding suspected based on behavior, but not confirmed

R—Birds breed in region but not confirmed or suspected at Spirit Mound

M—Migrant only

Table 2. Relative *abundance* (birds per survey) and density (birds per km²) of birds at Spirit Mound. For comparison with other tallgrass prairies, density data from Wiens (1973), Blankespoor (1980), Patterson and Best (1996), Koford (1999), and Bakker (2000; pers. comm.) are presented for the ten most common species at Spirit Mound.

Species	Abundance	Density	Iowa ^a	Minn. ^b	Okla. ^c	SD ^d
Great Blue Heron	0.50	1.67				
Wood Duck	0.50	1.67				
Mallard	0.50	0				
Ring-necked Pheasant	0.50	1.67				
Killdeer	0.25	0				
Upland Sandpiper	2.25	13.33	1.0	--	9.5	5 - 15
Solitary Sandpiper	0.25	1.67				
Mourning Dove	4.75	15.00	0.6	--	--	9 - 26
Rock Dove	4.00	0				
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.25	0				
Northern Flicker	0.25	0				
Eastern Kingbird	1.00	1.67				
Western Kingbird	0.25	0				
Loggerhead Shrike	0.25	0				
Horned Lark	1.00	5.00				
Barn Swallow	2.75	11.67	5.5	--	--	--
Sedge Wren	0.75	0				

Brown Thrasher	0.25	0					
American Robin	1.00	5.00					
American Crow	0.25	0					
European Starling	3.25	1.67					
Common Yellowthroat	2.50	11.67	10.8	--	--	5 - 188	
Vesper Sparrow	0.50	3.33					
Lark Bunting	0.50	0					
Grasshopper Sparrow	17.25	98.33	48.5	42.0	71.4	0 - 421	
Song Sparrow	0.50	3.33					
Blue Grosbeak	1.00	1.67					
Dickcissel	38.00	181.67	58.4	--	80.9	12.9 - 214	
Bobolink	4.75	18.33	37.7	45.0	--	0 - 140	
Red-winged Blackbird	23.50	91.67	109.0	59.0	--	5 - 222.1	
Western Meadowlark	9.75	38.33	5.6	--	--	7 - 60	
Common Grackle	1.50	1.67					
Brown-headed Cowbird	5.75	18.33	10.1	--	--	9 - 111	
American Goldfinch	1.50	1.67	0 - 10				

^adata from Patterson and Best 1996: CRP fields in Iowa

^bdata from Koford 1999: CRP fields in Minnesota

^cdata from Wiens 1973: grazed prairie in Oklahoma

^ddata from Blankespoor 1980, Bakker 2000, and Bakker pers. comm.: range of densities from restored croplands, brome-dominated grasslands, and native prairie

-- = data not available; birds not present or not encountered enough for density estimation



GENERAL NOTES

BANDING RESULTS ON FARM ISLAND 2003. Bird banding on Farm Island during 2003 continued our long-term banding effort, which has now spanned a decade. The results of our previous banding are found in the December 2002 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Table 1 lists the total number of birds banded and recaptured for the year. Table 2 lists numbers of birds and species banded by season. Some highlights of our 2003 season are summarized as follows:

- First captures of Sharp-shinned Hawks (two in fall banding season), Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Savannah Sparrow and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.
- Second captures for Le Conte's Sparrow, Northern Parula, and Golden-winged Warbler.
- A Swainson's Thrush banded on Farm Island 5/8/2001 was found dead in Calgary, Alberta, Canada 5/20/2003.
- We recaptured a male Common Yellowthroat on 5/22/2003, originally banded by us on 9/17/1997; and another male Common Yellowthroat origi-

nally banded by us on 9/17/1999 was recaptured on 5/17/2003 (this male has been recaptured 11 times since 1999).

More information on our banding project can be found at this URL:

<http://www.state.sd.us/gfp/DivisionWildlife/Diversity/birdbanding/index.htm>

Table 1. Banding results for 2003 and numbers of recaptures.

Species	Banded	Recaptures of our banded birds	Total
Orange-crowned Warbler	77	1	78
Yellow Warbler	60	0	60
Common Yellowthroat	52	18	70
Least Flycatcher	49	0	49
Swainson's Thrush	32	1	33
Wilson's Warbler	26	0	26
Myrtle Warbler	25	0	25
American Redstart	18	1	19
Traill's Flycatcher	17	1	18
Gray Catbird	14	0	14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14	0	14
Blackpoll Warbler	13	0	13
Spotted Towhee	10	0	10
Song Sparrow	9	3	12
White-throated Sparrow	6	0	6
Ovenbird	6	0	6
House Wren	6	3	9
Lincoln's Sparrow	5	1	6
Warbling Vireo	5	0	5
Brown Thrasher	5	0	5
Black-headed Grosbeak	4	1	5
Tennessee Warbler	4	0	4
Northern Waterthrush	4	0	4
Baltimore Oriole	3	0	3
Clay-colored Sparrow	3	0	3
Slate-colored Junco	3	0	3
Red-eyed Vireo	3	0	3
Black-and-White Warbler	3	0	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	2	0	2
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2	0	2
Eastern Kingbird	2	0	2
Harris's Sparrow	2	0	2
White-crowned Sparrow	2	0	2
Swamp Sparrow	2	0	2

Cedar Waxwing	2	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	2	5	7
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	0	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	0	1
American Goldfinch	1	0	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	1
Le Conte's Sparrow	1	0	1
Northern Cardinal	1	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1	0	1
Golden-winged Warbler	1	0	1
Northern Parula	1	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	1
Palm Warbler	1	0	1
Mourning Warbler	1	0	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	0	1
Total	509	35	544

Table 2. 2003 Banding results by season. Species listed by Banding Laboratory Alpha Codes.

Species	SPRING	FALL			Fall Total
	May (= spring totals)	Species	Sept	Oct	
YWAR	56	OCWA	41	9	50
LEFL	47	WIWA	22	0	22
COYE	33	COYE	18	1	19
OCWA	27	SWTH	19	0	19
BLPW	13	MYWA	9	6	15
AMRE	13	GRCA	8	0	8
SWTH	13	SPTO	5	1	6
TRFL	12	TRFL	5	0	5
MYWA	10	LISP	4	1	5
RCKI	10	AMRE	5	0	5
SOSP	8	WTSP	1	3	4
GRCA	6	YWAR	4	0	4
WAVI	5	OVEN	4	0	4
HOWR	5	BRTH	4	0	4
SPTO	4	RCKI	0	4	4
BHGR	4	SCJU	1	2	3
TEWA	4	REVI	3	0	3
WIWA	4	SSHA	2	0	2
BAOR	3	YSFL	1	1	2
CCSP	3	LEFL	2	0	2

BAWW	3	HASP	0	2	2
NOWA	3	SWSP	2	0	2
EAKI	2	DOWO	1	0	1
WTSP	2	YBFL	1	0	1
CEDW	2	AMGO	0	1	1
OVEN	2	SAVS	0	1	1
DOWO	1	LCSP	1	0	1
WCSP	1	WCSP	1	0	1
NOCA	1	SOSP	1	0	1
NRWS	1	RBGR	1	0	1
NOPA	1	GWWA	1	0	1
MAWA	1	WPWA	0	1	1
MOWA	1	NOWA	1	0	1
YBCH	1	HOWR	1	0	1
BRTH	1	BCCH	0	1	1
BCCH	1	GCTH	1	0	1
GCTH	1	Species	30	14	36
Species	37	Total	170	34	204
Total	305				

Doug Backlund, Alyssa Kiesow, Jeff Shearer, and Eileen Dowd Stukel, South Dakota Dept. of Game Fish and Parks, Pierre, S.D and Ricky D. Olson, Fort Pierre, SD 57501.

BARN OWLS NESTING IN NORTHERN STANLEY COUNTY. The Barn Owl is considered a rare summer resident in south-central South Dakota and casual to accidental in the rest of the state (Tallman, et al., 2002). Nesting records of Barn Owls in South Dakota are very limited. I have seen Barn Owls during the nesting season as far north as the Slim Buttes in Harding County, but could not confirm nesting. Confirmed nesting records are limited to the southern tier of counties, with most nesting documented along the southern Missouri River and west to Fall River County (Tallman et al. 2002, Peterson 1995). Barn Owls nest in the Pierre-Fort Pierre area, but are always rare and difficult to find.

On 12 June 2003, I received a call about a Barn Owl nest in an abandoned building in northern Stanley County. I also learned that the opening to the building had been plugged because the owls “were making a mess.” That afternoon I drove to the site to check this report. In the building, located at the Foster Bay Lake Access on the Cheyenne River arm of Lake Oahe, I found a nest with seven eggs, a dead Barn Owl (dried and obviously long dead), and many Barn Owl pellets. The nest was a depression in a pile of old insulation and fragmented owl pellets. The presence of the old pellets and the long dead owl indicated that nesting had occurred in the previous summer as well. The wall behind the nest was coated with dried liquid. I suspect this liquid was body flu-

ids from prey spattered about from the feeding activities of young owls the previous summer. I collected 95 pellets from the building and unplugged the opening, even though I had little hope that the owls would return.

This nest appears to be the most northerly documented in South Dakota. Very little has been reported about Barn Owl diet in South Dakota. Martin (1971) provides the only information of which I am aware. On 14 October 2003, I took the Barn Owl pellets to a classroom program on owls and owl pellets that I annually present to the fifth grade students at Washington School in Pierre. Here, Mrs. Coppess' fifth grade class enthusiastically dissected all 95 Barn Owl pellets and collected the skulls and mandibles. Mice in the genus *Peromyscus* and *Reithrodontomys* are not identifiable to species from skulls alone, so these mice were only identified to genera. However, it likely that all the *Peromyscus* were Deer Mice, *Peromyscus maniculatus*, since there is no good habitat for White-footed Mice near the nest site. We identified the following small mammal prey:

Deer Mice/White-footed mice	<i>Peromyscus</i> spp.	59
Prairie Voles	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	29
Meadow Voles	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	17
Harvest mice	<i>Reithrodontomys</i> spp.	10
Least Shrew	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>	3
Hispid Pocket Mouse	<i>Chaetodipus hispidus</i>	1
Northern Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	1

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Martin, R. A. 1971. Small Mammals from Barn Owl Pellets. South Dakota Bird Notes 23:4-10.

Peterson, R. A. 1995. The South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas. South Dakota Ornithologist's Union. Northern State University, Aberdeen, S. D.

Tallman, D., D. L. Swanson, and J. S. Palmer. 2002. The Birds of South Dakota. 3rd ed. South Dakota Ornithologist's Union. Northern State University, Aberdeen, S.D.



Doug Backlund, 114 S. Poplar, Pierre, South Dakota 57501.



BOOK REVIEWS

THAYER BIRDING SOFTWARE BIRDER'S DIARY VERSION 3. System Requirements: Windows 98, Me, 2000 Pro or XP; Pentium 300 or equivalent; 128 MB RAM; 32x CD-ROM drive; 30 MB on hard drive. \$124.95. [Http://www.birding.com](http://www.birding.com).

At the Texas Panhandle Bird Club website, there is a page devoted to birding excess. It's called "You Know You're a Birding Fanatic If..." and is a list of very amusing excesses (or are they?) contributed by birders from around the world. Yours truly even admitted to "watching golf on TV just to identify the birds heard singing." One of my favorites is from Aileen Lotz, a birder who admits to having so many lists going, she needs to carry a "List of Lists" around with her. Aileen can safely throw her List of Lists away with the purchase of Thayer Software's *Birder's Diary Volume 3* released in October 2003. This program is invaluable for the serious birder who has many sightings and locations to track. It is well worth the time to set up and learn. For occasional and/or backyard birders, it is probably a bit of overkill.

Birder's Diary Volume 3 is my first foray into the world of cyberbirding. I know nothing of other birding software programs: *AviSys*, *Lanius*, *BirdBase*, etc., so this review cannot be a comparison even with earlier versions of *Birder's Diary*. For those of us who did not grow up with computers, learning new programs can be daunting, especially if the program requires learning a new operating system. Because my experience in the computer world is Macintosh oriented, I have pondered spending the \$100 to buy "Birdbrain," the only software-listing program that I know of written for Mac OS. But the name put me off and frankly, so did the idea of spending more time at a computer than I already do.

As far as my personal view of list keeping, I should admit that I am a late-comer. I have viewed lists as something done by Ko-Ko in *The Mikado*. "I've got a little list. I've got a little list. And they'll none of them be missed. They'll none of them be missed." There are several reasons, but suffice it to say that my birding mentor, Willis Hall, did not personally list. He did submit detailed reports of sightings to SDOU, but I never saw him spend one minute writing down numbers or compilations. His beloved wife (my college German teacher) did all the writing and compiling. Big Days, Big Years, etc., were not in their vocabularies. He spent time on the birds. I remember his quiet voice as if it were yesterday: "Some ignore robins...(pause)...I like robins." And he did.

So, though I had been keeping a loose Life List, I am new to serious listing. Entering the world of *Birder's Diary* is thus a bit like baptism by fire. This is

mega-serious listing on a giga-serious level. There are so many lists available—both built in and user-designed—that one could easily spend days just designing personal state parks lists. While getting started can seem daunting, I recommend going through at least most of the tutorial videos. Skipping some important ones, such as “Sightings,” would require far more time at trial and error. The 3 to 9 minute segments are specific, basic and actually quite humorous on occasion. For instance, one of the “Observers” listed as an example is John James Audubon. Listed as some of the “Goals” for sightings are “Eat” and “Shoot” a nod to our past, when bird identifications were possible only with a sharpshooter at hand, and then the bird became lunch. Huzzah for binoculars and field guides.

After South Dakota, ABA area and county lists are mastered, perhaps that's all a birder wants. But if comparative listing is wanted, one can start with state parks of, say, Minnesota, sortable by county, then by individual trip, then habitat, then date. Listing is available for all US states, Canadian provinces, Mexican districts, European countries, and Pacific islands—indeed, the whole world—which can all be broken down into increasingly smaller units at will. There are also lists on “Things” from butterflies to whales of the world. All can be cross-referenced and sorted in dozens of different ways. It's seemingly endless. One can track which birds were seen within two days of seeing one's first Mexican Bluewing butterfly in Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Texas cross-referenced to birds seen in any park in Sinaloa, Mexico. Or maybe which birds were seen at Federal Wildlife Management Areas in North Dakota that have not been recorded in any of South Dakota's federal lands. Unseen birds—wish lists—are also easily recordable.

There is a feature that lets one enter sightings by voice. Long-time SDOU member Robb Schenck, who has used *Birder's Diary* for eight years, tells me voice listing works quite well—usually. “Just don't crinkle your paper notes or it will record Dickcissel.” And this feature only works for daily recording. The setting that allows for dateless list entry is useful for old records now kept in shoeboxes. If you have non-birding family/friends who accompany you on birding trips, plan on spending more time formulating “Courtesy Lists.” (I have one for my sister and my mother and my friend Chris.) Once data entry is finished, keeping your records current is a snap.

Though I have created about 25 personal lists so far, I spend most of my time on South Dakota, ABA Area and World lists. Each user may select three lists to post on the Status Bar, though thousands are possible and are easily accessible. I even created a list of extinct birds I have seen. Thankfully, Dusky Seaside Sparrow is so far the only one on the list.

The process is kept from being dry as dust by “Petey,” a parrot that can thankfully be turned off when his antics get old, and by the tips of the day which run from, “Do you know the scientific name for the first ten birds you saw today? Why not?” to “Running with scissors is dangerous.”

It seems that electronic documents generated with *Birder's Diary* are not currently compatible with the on-line software on the SDOU site. As for tech

support, I have called the help line and received effective service, though I had to call back. Pete Thayer himself answered twice.

I will take my leave with an admonition for Aileen Lotz and her "Lists of Lists," myself and my gentle readers: Turn off the computer and go out into the cold and snow or mosquito-packed humidity and tromp through much thorny underbrush and get your cheeks roseyed or dripping with sweat and...find the birds! As Petey the Parrot says at sign off, "I wish you lots of luck and lifers!"
Doug Chapman, 3108 S. Holly Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD. Vol. 8. Broadbills to Tapaculos. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot, and David Christie, Eds. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona \$165.00. (www.hbw.com.)

What an exciting time to be a birder! September 2003 witnessed the publication of Volume 8 of Lynx Edicions' *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. This series began in 1992 and its excellence and uniqueness have been extolled since the beginning. The present volume is bigger and better than ever, and includes 845 pages, 81 color plates, 477 photographs, 681 distribution maps, and nearly 4000 bibliographical references.

This volume covers nine families of birds, none of which is found in the United States (Broadbills, Asities, Pittas, Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers, Typical Antbirds, Ground-Antbirds, Gnateaters, and Tapaculos). If these names are unfamiliar to you, I offer you my condolences—these birds are some of the most stunningly beautiful in the world—and all the more reason to purchase this book to broaden your ornithological awareness. Perhaps \$185 seems a bit expensive for birds you are unlikely to encounter. Really it is only \$20 per bird family, quite reasonable for the stunning photographs and illustrations, not to mention the wealth of information, included between the covers.

With this book, you can continue your ornithological education. The forward is an essay, "A Brief History of Classifying Birds." Unlike prefaces of previous volumes, this one is unillustrated. Pictures of famous systematists or intriguing birds would have spruced this section up a bit. The essay concludes with a sampling of recent findings, including, for example, the conclusion that the New Zealand Wrens are an ancient, relict group from which have sprung the rest of the passerine songbirds.

This volume includes more previously unpublished material than any of the previous volumes. The authors explain that this is due to the infancy of ornithological work in Latin America, where many of the birds in the volume are found. New avenues for taxonomic research, such as DNA hybridization, have resulted in new conclusions concerning the evolution and interrelatedness of birds. Consider the once sacrosanct order of birds in the American Ornithologists' Union checklist—ducks and grouse now lead the parade! Imagine the tumult in bird families less known than ours. For example, the antbirds of tropical America have barely been studied using modern phylogenetic analytical techniques. Such studies will certainly redefine species and their interrelatedness.

With such upheaval, adequate literature citation is essential and, unfortunately, this area is the only aspect where the handbook falls short. None of the essays on bird families contains literature citations aside from a "General Bibliography" at the end of the essay. Take, for a personal example, the essay on Ground-Antbirds. This 20-page section contains only 22 citations in its "General Bibliography." Yet the essay contains the statement "A study in Amazonia found that certain species of trematode parasitized members of only one or the other of the two families," with no reference to the authors of the study (Erika and I). Our paper, not listed in the "General Bibliography" at the end of the essay, is listed in the "General List of References" at the end of the book. Because of this, there is no way to link our paper to the statement in the essay unless, of course, you already knew who did the original study. The references, therefore, are nearly unusable. The lack of precise citations remains this series' most serious flaw.

Aside from this flaw, this volume is a bird book lover's dream come true. Each family is covered by a general essay lavishly illustrated by gorgeous color photographs and introduced by a relatively long discussion of systematics. Indeed, Van Remsen's coverage of Ovenbird systematics is 30 pages long. Systematics are followed by sections on morphology, habitat, habits, voice, food and feeding, breeding, movements, relationships with humans, and status and conservation. Scattered throughout are photographs, each with long explanations and bold common names for the birds involved. Amassing this varied collection of photographs is quite an accomplishment. They are stunning, although this volume contains a few exceptions where the subjects are either distant and/or indistinct. This volume is the first where I have noticed hand-held birds.

Color illustrations follow the general essay for each of the bird families. Each account includes a range map and the same subjects as were covered in the general essay (taxonomy, distribution, habitat, etc.). Birds that are endangered or threatened are indicated by red print in a section on status and conservation. The illustrations are of uniformly excellent quality, despite being contributed by eight artists. Without hesitation, I went right to the drawing of the White-chinned Woodcreeper. This is one of the few birds with baby-blue eyes that I have ever seen. Would the illustrator, Ian Lewington, get the eye color correct? Yes! Reading the species account further taught me that eye color in this species varies across its Amazonian range, with some populations in Venezuela and Brazil having individuals with either brown or blue eyes. This variation suggests that more than one species may be involved.

The general layout of the book is a bit unconventional. Illustrations that lie to the left of the opened book, are usually not printed on the back side, resulting in blank pages occurring within the book. Sometimes, however, this illustration back side is printed upon, which makes more sense. This is by no means a big problem and is only noteworthy because of the flawless layout in the preceding volumes. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*



SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2003-04 Winter Season

1 December 2003 to 29 February 2004

Compiled By: Robert F. Schenck
422 N. Linwood Ct.
Sioux Falls SD 57103

X Mas
Bird Count
56: 62-64

The winter of 2003-04 was once again mild and dry. The 132 species included in this report, compares to the five-year average of 129. As last year, noticeably absent were finches. Red Crossbills, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were not reported in normal numbers, with no observations of Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Cassin's Finch and White-winged Crossbill. One Pine Grosbeak was reported. Sparrows and Blackbirds are well represented, with most species expected lingering into winter. Of interest this winter were the new roost sights discovered for Northern Saw-whet Owl at Big Bend Dam and Harding County found by Doug Backland, Charley Miller and Kenny Miller. One has to wonder how many places these owls winter that are unknown to us. The work of our reporters also has me wandering about the winter status of the Virginia Rail. Could it be these birds winter in suitable habitat within the state? The six sightings closest to midwinter, 15 January, were included in this report. Sightings that would have been included in the third addition of *Birds of South Dakota* are bolded. Species with many reports, which are known to occur all period, are reported by county. Common species that occur throughout the state all reporting period are not included. I should also note that Christmas Bird Counts are not part of this report and will be reported separately in the September issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*.

- / Greater White-fronted Goose Reported: 12-Dec Stanley KM; 12-Jan Hughes RDO; 4-Jan Stanley KM; 23-Jan Hughes RDO; 2-Feb Hughes RDO
- / Snow Goose Reported: 3, 4-Jan Stanley RDO & KM; 10-Jan Hughes DC; 17-Jan Lake JSP; 21- Jan Lawrence AKB, JLB; 19-Jan Charles Mix RM; 7-Feb Lawrence JLB
- Ross' Goose All Reports: 3-Dec Hughes RDO; 29-Dec Hughes KM; 25-Jan Hughes RDO; 13-Feb Stanley RDO; 27 Feb Hughes KM
- / Wood Duck All Reports: all period Fall River, Pennington JLB; 21-Dec Pennington MMM; 24-Dec Hughes KM; 26-Dec Minnehaha JSP, RFS; 15-Jan Pennington JLB; Jan-21 Lawrence AKB, JLB; 10-Feb Stanley KM
- / Gadwall All Reports: 4-Dec Fall River (2) KCJ; 25-Dec Pennington CEM; 26-Dec Minnehaha JSP, RFS; 15-Jan Pennington JLB;
- / American Wigeon Reported: 26-Dec Minnehaha JSP, RFS; 13-Jan Stanley RDO; 15-Jan Pennington JLB; 19-Jan Hughes KM; 20-Feb Stanley RDO; 14- Feb Meade AKB
- / Blue-winged Teal Only Report: 27-Feb Charles Mix RM
- / Northern Shoveler Only Report: 27-Feb Charles Mix RM
- / Northern Pintail Reported: 10-Dec Minnehaha DC; 22-Dec Hughes RDO; 15-Jan Pennington JLB; 2-Feb Stanley RDO; 8-Feb Miner JSP; 27-Feb Charles Mix RM

- ✓ **Green-winged Teal** All Reports: all period Meade EEM; 12-Jan Hughes RDO; 16-Jan Hughes RDO; Jan-21 Lawrence AKB, JLB; 27-Feb Charles Mix RM; 28-Feb Hughes RDO
- ✓ **Canvasback** All Reports: 1, 24-Jan Hughes KM; **15-Jan Pennington JLB**
- ✓ **Redhead** Reported: 6-Dec Hughes REM; 16-Dec Brown BLF; 20-Dec Hughes JSP; 3-Jan Stanley RDO; 8-Jan Hughes KM; 15-Jan Pennington JLB; 25-Jan Hughes KM
- ✓ **Ring-necked Duck** Reported: 20-Dec Minnehaha MKZ; 26-Dec Minnehaha (1) JSP, RFS; 2, 19-Jan Hughes KM; **12-Jan Fall River (150) JLB**; 20-Jan Stanley RDO; 21-Jan Pennington JLB
- ✓ **Greater Scaup** All Reports: **3-Dec Stanley RDO**; **6-Dec Yankton (2) JC**; **20-Dec Stanley KM**; 1-Jan Stanley RDO; **28-Jan Stanley KM**; 22, 29-Feb Stanley RDO
- ✓ **Lesser Scaup** All Reports: 6-Dec Hughes (2) REM; 15-Dec Pennington JLB; 15-Dec Hughes RDO; 2-Jan Hughes KM; 29-Feb Hughes RDO & KM; 27-Feb Charles Mix RM
- ✓ **Bufflehead** All Reports: 17-Dec, 31-Jan, 19-Feb Hughes KM; 13, 24-Jan Charles Mix RM; 15-Jan Pennington JLB; 24-Jan Charles Mix JSP
- ✓ **Common Goldeneye** Reported from Brown, Grant, Hughes, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Union counties.
- ✓ **Barrow's Goldeneye** Reported from Canyon Lake, all period, Pennington (PR) JLB, RFS, KM
- ✓ **Hooded Merganser** Reported: 6-Dec Hughes (3) REM; 20-Dec Hughes JSP; 1-Jan Stanley RDO; 10-Jan Hughes JSP, RFS; 15-Jan Pennington JLB; 13, 19-Jan Hughes KM; 20-Jan Stanley RDO; 24-Jan Bon Homme JSP, RFS
- ✓ **Common Merganser** Reported from Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Gregory, Hughes, Lake, Pennington, Stanley and Union counties.
- ✓ **Red-breasted Merganser** All Reports: 6-Dec Yankton JC; 17-Dec Hughes RDO
- ✓ **Gray Partridge** Reported from Day, Harding, Lincoln and Miner counties.
- ✓ **Ruffed Grouse** Only Report: 6-Dec Lawrence RDO & KM
- ✓ **Sharp-tailed Grouse** Reported from Charles Mix, Day, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette and Sully counties.
- ✓ **Greater Prairie-Chicken** Reported from Hughes, Lyman, Stanley and Sully counties.
- ✓ **Wild Turkey** Reported from Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington and Stanley counties.
- ✓ **Pied-billed Grebe** All Reports: 6-Dec Hughes (1) REM; 20-Dec Hughes JSP; **1-Jan Hughes KM**; **12, 16, 27-Jan Hughes RDO**
- ✓ **Horned Grebe** Only Report: **20-Dec Hughes KM**
- ✓ **Western Grebe** Only Report: 19-Dec Charles Mix RM
- ✓ **Double Crested Cormorant** Only Report: 9, 27-Dec Minnehaha DC
- ✓ **Great Blue Heron** All Reports: 14-Dec Yankton BFH; 20-Dec Hughes JSP
- ✓ **Bald Eagle** Reported from Bon Homme, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Fall River, Grant, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Spink, Stanley and Union counties.
- ✓ **Northern Harrier** Reported from Bon Homme, Brown, Custer, Day, Hughes, Lyman, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Sully counties.

- ✓ **Sharp-shinned Hawk** Reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Mellette, Stanley and Union counties.
- ✓ **Cooper's Hawk** All Reports: 7-Dec Hughes, 14-Dec Stanley KM; 14-Dec Yankton (1) BFH; 28-Dec Minnehaha DC; 18-Feb Minnehaha (1) RD
- ✓ **Northern Goshawk** Reported from Brown, Charles Mix, Harding, Hughes, Lincoln, Meade and Minnehaha counties.
- ✓ **Red-tailed Hawk** Reported from Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Edmunds, Gregory, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Mellette, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts and Stanley counties.
- ✓ **Ferruginous Hawk** Reported: 10-Jan Hughes JSP, RFS & DC; 10-Jan Sully, 1-Feb Hughes KM; 10-Jan Hughes, RDO; 15-Jan Pennington, 2-Feb Lawrence JLB
- ✓ **Rough-legged Hawk** Reported from Bennett, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Edmunds, Fall River, Gregory, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Sully counties.
- ✓ **Golden Eagle** Reported from Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Miner, Minnehaha, Stanley and Sully counties.
- ✓ **American Kestrel** Reported from Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lincoln, Meade, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Sully and Yankton counties.
- ✓ **Merlin** Reported from Bennett, Brown, Day, Hughes, Jackson, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Sully and Yankton counties.
- ✓ **Gyr Falcon** All Reports: 1-Dec Sully DB; 7-Dec Stanley DB; 14-Dec Sully DB; 25-Dec Stanley DB; 10-Jan Hughes RDO, KM & DC; 11, 19-Jan Sully KM; 18-Jan Sully RDO; 2-Feb Stanley RDO; 22-Feb Haakon AKB, DGP
- ✓ **Prairie Falcon** Reported from Butte, Harding, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Miner, Minnehaha, Roberts, Stanley and Sully counties.
- ✓ **Virginia Rail** Only Report: **14-Feb Lawrence APB**
- ✓ **American Coot** All Reports: 6-Dec Hughes (3) REM; 16-Dec Brown (2) BLF; 20-Dec Hughes JSP; 15-Jan Hughes RDO; 16-Jan Fall River (30) JLB; 10-Feb Pennington (1) JLB
- ✓ **Killdeer** Only Report: 15-Jan, **2-Feb Pennington JLB**
- ✓ **Wilson's Snipe** All reports: 14-Dec Yankton (1) BFH; 7-Feb Lawrence (3) JLB
- ✓ **Bonaparte's Gull** Reported: 1-Dec Charles Mix RM; 6-Dec Hughes (12) REM; 7-Dec Stanley RDO; 20-Dec Hughes JSP; 28-Dec Hughes KM; 10-Jan Hughes DC
- ✓ **Ring-billed Gull** Reported all period in the Pierre area ... also 4-Dec Minnehaha DC; 14-Jan, 24-Feb Charles Mix RM
- ✓ **Herring Gull** Reported all period from the Pierre area ... also 6-Dec Hughes (55) REM
- ✓ **Thayer's Gull** All Reports: 5-Dec Hughes RDO; 10-Jan Hughes DC, JSP, RFS; 10-Jan Stanley RDO; 14-Jan Hughes KM; 17-Jan Stanley RDO; 20-Jan, 19-Feb Hughes KM; 27-Feb Stanley RDO
- ✓ **Glaucous Gull** All Reports: 6-Dec Yankton (2) JC; 14-Dec Hughes RDO; 20-Dec Lyman, JSP; 10-Jan Hughes JSP; 10-Jan Hughes DC, RDO, DB; 19-Jan Stanley RDO; 23-Jan Hughes KM; 27-Feb Stanley RDO
- ✓ **Eurasian Collared Dove** Reported all period from the Pierre area ... also 22-Jan Pennington JLB & Mike Michael; 28-Feb Brookings NH (Arlington heard by

Bruce Harris)

- ✓ **Mourning Dove** Reported: 20-Dec Minnehaha (15) DC; 31-Jan, Feb 1 Minnehaha, (1) RFS; 13-Feb Minnehaha (1) MKZ
- ✓ **Eastern Screech-Owl** Reported: 1-Dec Stanley RDO; 19-Dec Lake JSP; 20-Dec Stanley RDO; 13-Jan Hughes KM; 22-Feb Stanley RDO
- ✓ **Snowy Owl** Reported: 3-Dec Brown (1) BLF; 24-Jan Bon Homme, JSP; 24-Jan Bon Homme (1) RFS; 16-Feb Sully (1) Jeff Shearer
- ✓ **Long-eared Owl** Reported from Harding, Hughes, Jackson and Stanley counties.
- ✓ **Short-eared Owl** Reported from Day, Harding, Hughes, Pennington and Stanley counties.
- ✓ **Northern Saw-whet Owl** Reported: 19-Dec Stanley RDO; 10-Jan Hughes DC, RDO; 14-Jan Hughes RD; 13, 21-Feb Harding CEM
- ✓ **Belted Kingfisher** Reported: all period Meade EM; 7-Dec Charles Mix RM; 20-Dec Minnehaha DC; 10-Jan Hughes DC, RDO & KM; 15-Jan Pennington JLB; 17-Feb Meade AKB; 21-Feb Custer KH
- ✓ **Lewis' Woodpecker** All Reports: 6-Dec Meade RDO & KM; 14-Dec Meade AKB
- ✓ **Red-headed Woodpecker** Only Report: 21-Feb Lincoln (1) RFS
- ✓ **Red-bellied Woodpecker** Reported from Day, Gregory, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley and Union counties.
- ✓ **Three-toed Woodpecker** All Reports: 6-Dec Lawrence KM; 20 Dec Meade AKB
- ✓ **Black-backed Woodpecker** Only Report: 6-Dec Lawrence RDO
- ✓ **Northern Flicker** Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Day, Edmunds, Gregory, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Meade, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- ✓ **Northern Shrike** Reported from Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Sully counties.
- ✓ **Gray Jay** Reported: all period TWB; 6-Dec Lawrence RDO & KM; 27-Dec Lawrence JCS
- ✓ **Pinyon Jay** Reported throughout period Meade APB and AKB
- ✓ **Clark's Nutcracker** Only Report: 14-Dec Meade AKB
- ✓ **Black-billed Magpie** Reported from Harding, Hughes, Meade, Pennington and Shannon counties.
- ✓ **Red-breasted Nuthatch** Reported from Brookings, Custer, Harding, Hughes, Lake Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington and Union counties.
- ✓ **Pygmy Nuthatch** Only Report: all period TBW
- ✓ **Canyon Wren** All Reports: 20-Dec Pennington (1) JLB; 12-Jan Fall River (1) JLB; 13-Jan Custer KH; 1-Dec, 16-Jan, 27-Feb Meade AKB
- ✓ **Winter Wren** All Reports: 14-Dec Yankton (1) BFH; 20-Dec Meade (3) AKB; 21-Jan Lawrence DB
- ✓ **American Dipper** Reported: 17-Jan Lawrence (Hana Campground) KM, CEM; 21-Jan Lawrence (Whitewood Creek & Spearfish Creek) Lawrence DB; 14-Feb Lawrence RFS
- ✓ **Golden-crowned Kinglet** Reported: 6-Jan Minnehaha DC; 16- Jan Brown, DAT; 17-Jan Lincoln, RFS; 27-Jan Minnehaha DC; 15 Feb Harding KM, CEM; 20-Feb Meade AKB
- ✓ **Eastern Bluebird** Reported: 8, 19-Dec Stanley RDO; 24-Dec Stanley KM; 24-Jan Charles Mix RM; 21-Feb Union JSP; 28-Feb Union (2) DS
- ✓ **Mountain Bluebird** All Reports: 6-Dec Lawrence RDO; 8-Feb Hughes DB

- ✓ **Townsend's Solitaire** Reported from Brown, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington and Stanley counties ... also 15-Dec Lake JSP; 17-Jan Lincoln (1) RFS; 28-Feb Brookings NH (Oakwood Lakes observed by Bruce Harris); 28-Feb Miner JSP
- ✓ **American Robin** Reported from Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Mellette, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, Union and Yankton (120,000 JC) counties.
- ✓ **Varied Thrush** Reported: 7-Feb Lake JSP, RFS; 22-Feb Lake DS
- ✓ **Northern Mockingbird** Only Report: **6-Dec Lawrence RDO & KM**
- ✓ **Bohemian Waxwing** Reported from Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Stanley, Sully and Union counties.
- ✓ **Cedar Waxwing** Reported from Brookings, Brown, Day, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Union counties.
- ✓ **Yellow-rumped Warbler** All Reports: 20 Dec Hughes KM; 21-Dec Stanley DB; 23-Dec Stanley RDO; 1-Jan Stanley KM; 17-Jan Stanley RDO
- ✓ **Spotted Towhee** Only Report **20-Dec Hughes KM**
- ✓ **Song Sparrow** All Reports: 10-Dec Pennington JLB; 13-Dec, 7-Jan Hughes KM; 12-Jan Fall River (1) JLB
- ✓ **Harris' Sparrow** All Reports: 2-Dec Harding CEM; 28-Dec Lake JSP; 3-Jan Lake JSP; 7-Jan Hughes KM; 3-Jan, 8-Feb Harding CEM
- ✓ **White-crowned Sparrow** Reported: **14-Dec Yankton BFH; 16-Dec Brown BLF; 4-Jan Hughes KM**
- ✓ **Lapland Longspur** Reported from Day, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Lyman, Miner, Minnehaha, Stanley, Sully and Union counties.
- ✓ **Snow Bunting** Reported from Clay, Day, Jones, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lyman, Minnehaha, Stanley and Yankton counties.
- ✓ **Northern Cardinal** Reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha and Union counties.
- ✓ **Red-winged Blackbird** Reported: 3-Jan Day (8) SLS; 3-Jan Day SLS; 4-Jan Sully KM; 10-Jan Hughes DC; 13-Jan Stanley RDO; 17-Jan Sully RDO; 31-Jan Miner JSP; 3-Feb Clay (3) DS
- ✓ **Western Meadowlark** Reported: 2-Jan Stanley KM; 10-Jan Hughes (1) RFS; 10-Jan Stanley JSP, RFS; 31-Jan Lyman DB; 31-Jan Miner JSP; 2-Feb Sully RDO; 8-Feb Stanley RDO; 22-Feb Stanley AKB
- ✓ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** Only Report: 16-Dec Brown (3) BLF
- ✓ **Rusty Blackbird** Reported: 3-Jan Day SLS; 3-Jan Day (1) SLS; 4-Jan Stanley KM; 13-Jan Stanley RDO; 17-Jan Sully RDO; 21-Feb Sully RDO
- ✓ **Common Grackle** Reported: 18-Dec Day SLS; 18-Dec Stanley RDO; 23-Dec Lake JSP; 2-Jan Lake JSP; 3-Jan Hughes RDO; 8-Feb Minnehaha (1) RFS
- ✓ **Pine Grosbeak** Only Report: 1-Feb Harding CEM
- ✓ **Purple Finch** Reported from Brookings, Brown, Clay, Day, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley and Union counties.
- ✓ **House Finch** Reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Harding, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Meade, Mellette, Minnehaha, Pennington and Stanley counties.
- ✓ **Red Crossbill** Reported: 2-Dec Lake JSP; 8-Dec Minnehaha (3) DC; 26-Dec Minnehaha JSP, RFS; 3-Jan Pennington (1) TBW; 10-Jan, 7-Feb Harding CEM
- ✓ **Common Redpoll** Reported from Brookings, Brown, Clay, Day, Jones, Kingsbury,

Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Union counties.

✓ **Pine Siskin** Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Harding, Lake, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Meade, Pennington and Stanley counties.

✓ **Evening Grosbeak** Only Report: 15-Feb Lawrence (6) DB

Species Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Red-necked Grebe 25-Dec Hughes DB (If excepted, represents the second winter record.)

Harlequin Duck 1-Dec Stanley RDO; 2-Dec Hughes KM 6-Dec Hughes (1) REM; 20-Dec Hughes JSP; 25-Dec Stanley DB; 10-Jan Hughes JSP; 14-Jan Hughes RD; 15-Jan Hughes RDO; 17-Jan Stanley RDO; 28-Feb Stanley RDO; 29-Feb Hughes KM (If excepted, represents the second state record.)

Mew Gull 3-Dec Hughes RDO; 14-Dec Hughes RDO & KM; 18-Jan Stanley RDO; 31-Jan Hughes KM; 4- Feb Stanley KM; 6-Feb Stanley RDO (few records)

California Gull 29-Feb Hughes RDO (If excepted, represents the first winter record.)

Mountain Chickadee 24 Dec Custer (3) JCS (If excepted, represents the fifth state record. Exact location not reported.)

Steller's Jay 24 Dec Custer (2) JCS (If excepted, represents the third state record. Exact location not reported.)

Hermit Thrush Reported: 6-Dec Hughes (1) REM; 3, 4-Jan Lincoln (1) RFS (few winter records)

Chipping Sparrow 28-Dec Mellette KH; 28-Feb Charles Mix RM (considered accidental in winter)

Species Expected But Not Reported

Common Loon, American White Pelican (2), Trumpeter Swan (4), Tundra Swan (2), American Black Duck, Surf Scoter (2), White-winged Scoter (2), Long-tailed Duck, Ruddy Duck (2), Peregrine Falcon (3), Northern Bobwhite (4), Black-legged Kittiwake (4), Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker (2), White-throated Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (3), Cassin's Finch (5), White-winged Crossbill (2) — excluded from index.

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

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