
SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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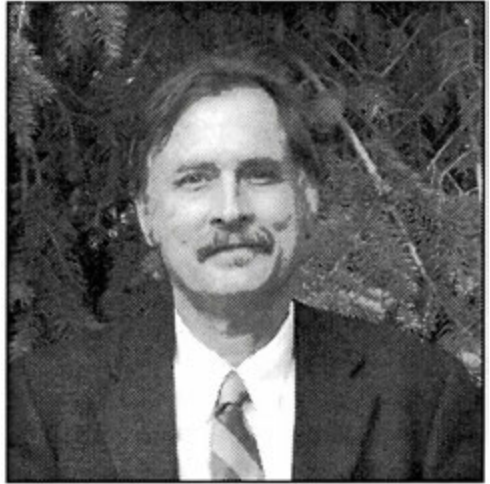
PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Robb Schenck presented me with an interesting idea. "Why don't we have a photographer's page in *Bird Notes*?" he asked. "Especially now that so many SDOU members are taking such excellent digital bird pictures," he continued, "wouldn't it be interesting to have a forum to show these efforts?"

The process of digital photography is resulting in an array of better, nearly professional quality bird pictures taken by amateurs. A number of factors account for this improvement. First, the photographer can immediately look at his or her photos to see if the bird image was captured and/or if it was in focus. Back home, various computer programs can enhance color and, to a degree, even improve sharpness. Finally, digital photography is so satisfying an endeavor, more of us are traveling with our cameras.

My initial reaction to Robb, of course, was "Yeah, sure, and who is going to pay for this color extravaganza?" Robb replied, "The photographers might be willing, since for the donation they would get their photos published." I did some research and discovered that an extra color page in *Bird Notes* will cost us \$300 an issue. So a photographer would have to come up with that amount to publish a picture, which is probably prohibitively expensive. An alternative would be to share photos on a page, with a half-page photo costing \$150, and a quarter page photo being \$75.

There is an interesting third possibility. The photographers' gallery could reside on the back cover of *Bird Notes* at almost no additional cost (since it is a continuation of the front cover, already in color). Erika, our editor, quickly points out that this format leaves no room for addresses and postage. For some years now, however, I have wished that we mailed *Bird Notes* in envelopes, since the journal is often battered in the mail. Envelopes would cost us about \$50 per mailing. Certainly this amount seems reasonable for contributions by those wishing to share their bird photos. Don't you agree? A sample of what a gallery might look like is included in this issue. Policies and procedures for the project can be debated at the fall SDOU meeting. *Dan Tallman, NSU Box 740, Aberdeen SD 57401.*





GENERAL NOTES

BIRD OBSERVATIONS AND POPULATION TRENDS AT LEIF ERICSON CAMP IN SIOUX FALLS. Leif Ericson Camp is a YMCA camp that runs June through early August. The camp is occupied by 300+ campers and 100+ staff from 8AM to 4PM during the weekdays, plus one or two overnight occupations. Nature trails range from difficult to easy, with birders welcome whenever children are not using the camp. A parking lot is available at the front of the camp. For more information contact Mick Zerr at zerrm@sio.midco.net or find a map and photos at www.leifericson.org.

Location and natural setting: Leif Ericson Camp is the area between 26th Street East and Tuthill Park, along the west side of the Big Sioux River in the city limits of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The length is approximately 1.5 miles, and the width varies between 300 and 900 feet. The size is about 70 acres. The area includes a consistent riparian forest along the entire length, pasture land for horse grazing, an open mowed field 600 by 300 feet, a 600 by 900 foot open, un-mowed field bordered by tree plantings and riparian forest and smaller areas of un-mowed fields. The camp is bordered by the Cliff Avenue greenhouse nursery on the west, Interstate 229 on the southwest, Tuthill Park on the south, and a marsh on the southwest corner. The east side is completely bordered by the Big Sioux River.

Shrubs and trees include native and non-native species. Groups of coniferous trees include scattered spruce and cedars, and a dense area of 25 year-old mixed spruce species and cedars that have been introduced. A younger pine group covers an area of about 400 feet by 200 feet and is 15 years old. Fallen trees are left unless they pose a danger or block traffic.

The majority of trees are the following species: Eastern Cottonwood, most over 140 years old, with heights around 75 to 100 feet; Green Ash, including old growth trees over 100 years old; Sandbar Willow; Ashleaf Maple (Boxelder); Sugar Maple; Red Mulberry; White Mulberry; Hackberry; Peachleaf Willow; and Common Buckthorn, which is unfortunately too common. Other flora include typical species found in eastern South Dakota river flood plains and related environments.

Observer staff: The nature staff at the camp consists of two or three adults each year. In the past 20 years, eight of the 10 nature staff possessed degrees in biology or science. One did graduate work in ornithology. The staff is trained to observe bird species, locations and number. Field guides are available in the nature areas at all times. Two feeder areas are active from June through August. Twenty nest boxes are scattered throughout the camp.

Total species observed: Ninety-five species were recorded during the observation period (June through early August) from 1984 to present.

General population trends: Approximate changes in the last five years and comments on select species present during the observation period are listed below:

Canada Goose – steady (nesting related to water level fluctuations in spring).

Wood Duck – steady (excellent rearing success 2004 with at least five broods with over 50% reaching flight age. Considering the camp's high population of fox, raccoon, and mink, this is quite a tribute to watchful adult wood ducks).

Mallard – steady (five broods in 2004).

Ring-necked Pheasant – down 90% (due to a sudden spurt in the fox population).

Great Blue Heron – down 50%.

Green Heron – down 50% (major reduction in Northern Leopard frogs at camp might relate to this decline).

Red-tailed Hawk – steady (a regular for the 20 year period).

American Kestrel – steady (a regular bird has been sighted for the past 10 years, even during winter, on power lines).

Killdeer – down 80% (Killdeer and their fuzzy little chicks had been regulars at camp for years. They have been seen along the mudflats, but not in the grassy breeding areas for at least 5 years).

Rock Pigeon – up 20%.

Mourning Dove – steady.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – down 100% (seen yearly in past, but absent for the last 10 years).

Great Horned Owl – down 50%.

Red-headed Woodpecker – down 90% (one of the regulars until the last five years).

Red-bellied Woodpecker – steady.

Downy Woodpecker – steady.

Hairy Woodpecker – down 50%.

Northern Flicker – down 10%.

Eastern Phoebe – steady (two broods hatched from one nest in 2004).

Eastern Kingbird – down 75% (we have seen these yearly for 20 years in the same location).

Blue Jay – down 75%.

American Crow – down 90% (from 200+ to 25).

Barn Swallow – down 20%.

Black-capped Chickadee – down 50%.

White-breasted Nuthatch – steady (one successful hatch for certain in 2004).

House Wren – down 10%.

American Robin – up 10%.

Gray Catbird – down 25% (a regular breeder for the entire 20 year period).

Brown Thrasher – steady.

European Starling – up 10%.

Chipping Sparrow – down 10%.

Song Sparrow – steady.

Northern Cardinal – down 20%.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – steady.

Common Grackle – up 10%.

Baltimore Oriole – steady (these have been nesting in three locations yearly for the 20 year period).

House Finch – down 25%.

American Goldfinch – down 75% (this might be due to excessive spraying and cutting of thistle.)

House Sparrow – down 10%.

Conclusions: The observations indicate a downward trend in many species from the 1980s to the last five years. Other than natural causes, human factors could be related to this trend. In the 1970s the Leif Ericson area was the east border of the city. The city now extends four miles further to the east. Other human-related changes possibly connected to the trend include river water quality, insecticide spraying by the city, increased use of the camp, and volume of traffic on I-229 and 26th street. With 21 of the species down, only four on the increase, and 13 steady, the trend is not good for biodiversity. The decrease also limits the exposure of many wonderful species of birds to the thousands of children who attend the camp each year. The Leif Ericson Camp will continue to be a bird-friendly location that encourages birders to take advantage of its birding opportunities. *Mick Zerr, Director of Nature Programs, Leif Ericson Camp YMCA, 2201 E. 26th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.*

PRAIRIE FALCON CHASES PIGEON. On Saturday, 19 February 2005 at 3:00 PM in downtown Aberdeen, South Dakota, I watched a Prairie Falcon attempt to kill a pigeon. The falcon knocked the pigeon to the street and was standing on what appeared to be a motionless, dead prey. The falcon tried lifting the bird, but when it dropped the pigeon a short distance to the street, the pigeon suddenly took flight with the falcon in pursuit. The pigeon eluded the falcon as it flew along and between buildings. *Peter Carrels, 224 S Main Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

CORRECTION TO TAULMAN REPORT. Table 1 showing bird and mammal species observed in the note, *A 2004 Breeding Season Bird Survey on Harney Peak* (SDBN 57:11-12) had several errors. Findings different from those in the table are: 8-10 Least Chipmunk, 2 Red Squirrel, 1 Mountain Goat, and 1 Marten were seen on 22 June, not heard on 23 June. There were no Marten seen on 23 June. One American Robin was seen on 23 June, not heard. Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen on 23 June in addition to the 3 others shown in the table as being heard on that day.



BOOK REVIEWS

THE CAROLINA PARAKEET: Glimpses of a Vanished Bird. 2004. Noel F. R. Snyder. Princeton University Press: Princeton. Hardcover. 153 pp. \$29.95.

This well-written and entertaining, but somewhat eccentric and occasionally meandering, book will appeal to birders who enjoy detective novels. The book is subtitled "Glimpses of a Vanished Bird," but might well have been called "Who (or What) Killed the Carolina Parakeet?"

I am not sure I want to give away the author's surprising conclusion. I think that the common verdict is that these birds, which had the habit of flocking back to wounded or dead companions, were over hunted. Snyder suggests that over hunting may not have been the cause. Another hypothesis suggests the species inhabited pristine southern swamps that were logged and drained. In fact, the bird often roosted in barns and loved cockleburrs, an abundant weed in disturbed habitats. But I will stop here, for I am getting close to giving away Snyder's rather intriguing conclusion. In fact, very little is actually known about this bird. This lack of data makes writing a treatise on the species both difficult and speculative.

The book is oddly illustrated with photos of people who saw the parakeets. Apparently no photographs of living birds exist. The book is based on interviews the author made with the last people who saw Carolina Parakeets. The author feels very fond of these people, but I see little reason for the inclusion of their photos. Photos of other species of parrots seem likewise extraneous to me. A photo of an oologist's bucket of eggs is also odd because the bucket does not contain parakeet eggs. More interesting are photos of trees with egg collectors' climbing spikes from the 1920s, still present in the 1970s.

The book ends with a lament over missed opportunities for possibly saving the Carolina Parakeet from extinction, either by land conservation or through captive breeding (I was not aware that a feral flock of Carolina Parakeets survived in Germany in the 1800s). Snyder ends the book by writing, "the negative impacts of our species on natural systems continue to work their destruction...in neglecting to place a high priority on the health and survival of our fellow creatures on the planet...we ultimately threaten ourselves." These are lofty sentiments, but Snyder should also realize that extinction is a natural occurrence. Most extinctions through history have not been caused by humans. Indeed, he gives evidence in this book that this parrot's demise may have been unintentional, unpredictable, and unavoidable. *Dan Tallman. Northern State University, Aberdeen 57401.*

WHOSE BIRD? COMMON BIRD NAMES AND THE PEOPLE THEY COMMEMORATE. Bo Belens and Michael Watkins. 400 pp. Yale University Press: New Haven. Softbound. \$35.00.

This informative, well written, even humorous, book will be enjoyed by anyone interested in the people for whom birds have been named. The book is so well researched that even the Tallmans are mentioned. Not that this inclusion is necessary a good thing, seeing as how the foreword exclaims, "*Whose Bird?* identifies the staggering number of adventurous individuals who have died while naming birds...suffice to say if you can survive malaria, dysentery, shipwreck, 'accidental' shootings, oncoming trains, and hungry cannibals, then be sure to keep an eye out for the elephants." The foreword continues, "In a series of delightful vignettes we are introduced to a cast of intriguing characters: heroic adventurers, library-bound boffins, aristocratic patrons, mysterious lovers, fortunate schoolboys, respectable scientists, and caddish charlatans..." (I am rather hoping the Tallmans fall in the mysterious lovers' category.)

In the introduction the authors write, "In the end, writing this book proved to be both a labour of love and extremely enlightening. We both learnt very much more about ornithology, as well amassing a lot of quite useless, but amusing, historical information; we are now fully qualified to...be phoned as a friend on 'Who Wants of be a Millionaire' (as long as we negotiate a share of the prize money in advance!)." I trust you are beginning to get a feel for this enjoyable and enlightening book.

The text is organized alphabetically by the people for whom birds are named. A list of birds and their describers follows, along with a biographical paragraph for each. Little boxes throughout the text talk about categories of ornithologists—which were hunters, who died of gunshot wounds, which were egg collectors, or who were artists. Speaking of artists, I was at first perplexed by the absence of an entry for John O'Neill, for whom we named *Nepheleornis oneilli*. The reason is that this book covers those people for whom a bird is named in the common name only—the common name of the bird we named is Pardusco. On the other hand, people honored in English names, but whose name does not appear in the scientific names, are included in the book.

The introduction covers nomenclature and problems that occasionally arise in trying to figure out just after whom some birds have been named. Eight birds are named after people lost to history. As far as possible, the authors have also included people for whom races of birds have been named.

The authors also discuss how to get a bird named after you. The best way apparently is to "spend ten years up to your neck in leeches or assailed by malarial mosquitoes." It also helps to be a dead member of a rich and imperial nation. If all else fails, marry into royalty and/or money. They finally conclude that DNA research may be the best modern-day avenue to naming new birds.

So, do you know the history of McCown, for whom the longspur is named? How about Harlan, of Harlan's Hawk? Or Thayer, of gull fame? Those are but

three examples of 1,400 individuals from around the world who are included in this book. Many an entertaining evening awaits the reader. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

BIRDS AT YOUR FEEDER; A GUIDE TO WINTER BIRDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS. 2003. Dana Garner and Nancy Overcott. University of Iowa Press: Iowa City. \$9.95.

Being a casual birder, I found *Birds at Your Feeder* a helpful addition to our house. It is easy to use and store, with its fold-out design (like a gas station highway map) and lamination that both stiffens and protects it from use. With only 50 birds included in this guide, quickly finding what is nibbling at the suet or millet is easy. Each bird has a color painting, its common and scientific name, description of average size, and preferred feeder food. If females or juveniles differ dramatically, they get their own image. Birds more common to urban feeders, like juncos and House Sparrows, are to be expected in a guide like this. Gardner and Overcott also include birds at home in more rural settings, like Wild Turkeys and Ring-necked Pheasants. Handy, durable (it resided at the bottom of my day pack for two weeks of regular use with heavy books, without any visible damage!), attractive and fun, *Birds at Your Feeder* would make a great purchase or gift for young or old, casual or more serious birders. *Ric Dias, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

GULLS OF NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE, AND ASIA. 2004. Klaus Malling Olsen and Hans Larsson. Princeton University Press: Princeton. Hardcover. 608 pp. \$55.00.

People will often ask birders, "What is the most difficult group of birds to identify?" I think the answer is gulls. Gulls are hard to identify because they all look similar, and they also take up to four years to achieve adult plumage. Indeed, some gulls may have up to twelve plumage stages. Thus birds, which appear to be very different, can be the same species. I am impressed with the increasing ability of Pierre birders to pick out Thayer's, Iceland, and Herring gulls. They need to be watching for Great Black-backed and Iceland gulls, since both would be new to South Dakota.

This book is indispensable for our efforts in gull identification for three main reasons. First, the color paintings of gull species are stunning. My only complaint is that, aside from plates of adults and of gull wing tips, similar species are not shown side by side. Instead, the birder must flip from page to page. The second reason to own this book is the inclusion of hundreds of color photographs demonstrating many of the confusing gull plumages. Finally, the book includes color range maps for each species.

The bulk of the book consists of text describing each species. The print is small, and a little bewildering since the paragraphs are not set off by either indentation or by spaces, making it difficult to read efficiently. Nevertheless, a

studious reading of this text will result in your becoming a gull identification expert, with knowledge of plumages, subspecies variation, and behavior.

The book makes a few interesting taxonomic splits. The Lesser Black-backed Gull is split from the Heuglin's Gull. The American Herring Gull is listed as distinct from European birds, which themselves are split into the European Herring Gull and the Vega Gull (breeding in Arctic Asia). If you think this taxonomy sounds confusing, wait until you start trying to figure out how to identify these gulls. And furthermore, if we are able to report Lesser Black-backed Gulls from South Dakota, there is no particular reason why these other species might not also be vagrants to central North America.

So, as birders venture out into the field with this guide in their birding vests, it will be only a matter of time before Rare Bird Committees begin to receive reports of remarkable vagrant gulls. It will not be an easy matter to confirm these sightings, even in these days of digital photography. The science of bird (and criminal) identification is repeat with observers seeing what they really want to be there rather than reality. Often species identification lies in subtle differences in shades of color that can be misrepresented by differences in shadows and light in the field and not accurately recorded by the camera. The responsibility for full and accurate reporting will lie solely with the field observers of the future. This text will be a gigantic aid in the quest for accurate gull identification. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*



SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2004-05 Winter Season

1 December 2004 to 28 February 2005

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

The drought in South Dakota continued through the winter of 2004-05 with mild temperatures and low moisture. A highlight of the season was the continued discovery of many Northern Saw-whet Owl roosts along the Missouri River and in Harding County by Kenny Miller, Doug Backlund and Charley Miller. Also of note was the large number of Pine Grosbeak sightings throughout the state. With the advent of the electronic reporting system, I have taken the liberty of making interpretations regarding the over wintering or migration of various species. If a bird was observed regularly throughout the reporting period, I have

reported that species as over wintering. Likewise if the records indicated that the bird was migrating, I reported it as such. I think this makes the report easier to read. If anyone wishes to know the records that were used to make these assumptions, the data can be found online through the electronic reporting system. As in other winter reports, species that occur all winter throughout the state are not included. Christmas Bird Counts are not included and are reported elsewhere in *South Dakota Bird Notes*.

Greater White-fronted Goose Late fall migrants: 15 Dec Brookings BFH; over wintered in Stanley and Hughes counties RDO, KM; first spring migrants: 21 Feb Charles Mix RM; 26 Feb Clay, Lake, and Minnehaha DS, JSP, RFS

Snow Goose Late fall migrants: Dec 18 Clark (5000+) LH; over wintered in Lake, Hughes, Minnehaha and Stanley counties JSP, KM, RDO, MKZ; first spring migrants: 25 Feb Clay (200) DS; 26 Feb Hyde NS, Lincoln RFS, Miner JSP

Ross's Goose Late fall migrants: 12 Dec Brookings BFH; 17 Dec Lake JSP; 2 Jan Pennington MMM; first spring migrants: 26 Feb Hughes RDO

Cackling Goose Late fall migrants: 12 Dec Brookings (1) BFH; 28 Dec Charles Mix RM; first spring migrants: 17 Feb Stanley RDO; 26 Feb Lake JSP; 27 Feb Bon Homme

Tundra Swan Only Report: 21 Dec Charles Mix RM

Wood Duck Over wintered in Hughes and Pennington counties JLB, AKB and RDO.

Gadwall Over wintered in Pennington and Stanley counties; first spring migrants: 26 Feb Lake JSP; 28 Feb Custer JLB

American Wigeon Over wintered in Hughes, Minnehaha and Pennington counties JLB, AKB, DC, KM and MKZ.

American Black Duck Only reports: **24 & 27 Jan Hughes KM & RDO**

Blue-winged Teal Only report: 16 Dec Day LH

Northern Shoveler Only report: 4 Dec Kingsbury JSP

Northern Pintail Over wintered in Pennington and probably Stanley KM and RDO: first spring migrants: 25 Feb Butte JLB; 26 Feb Charles Mix RM; 26 Feb Lake JSP; 28 Feb Custer JLB

Green-winged Teal Over wintered in Hughes and Stanley counties KM & RDO; first spring migrants: 28 Feb Custer JLB

Canvasback Over wintered in Hughes County KM & RDO; first spring migrants: 26 Feb Lake JSP

Redhead Over wintered in Hughes and Pennington counties DB, JLB, DC and KM; first spring migrants: 26 Feb Lake JSP; 28 Feb Custer JLB

Ring-necked Duck Over wintered in Pennington and Stanley counties; first spring migrants: 26 Feb Lake JSP

Greater Scaup Reported: **13 Dec, 9, 21 & 23 Jan, 21 Feb Stanley, 19 Dec Hughes KM & RDO**

Lesser Scaup Late fall migrants: 16 Dec Day LH; over wintered in Hughes and Stanley counties DB, KM and RDO.

Surf Scoter Only Report: **11 Dec Lyman JSP**

Long-tailed Duck All Reports: 11 Dec Lyman JSP; 12 Dec Lyman KM & RDO

Bufflehead Late fall migrants: 16 Dec Day LH; 18 Dec Hughes; 24 Dec Gregory RM; over wintered in Pennington County.

Barrow's Goldeneye Reported from Canyon Lake in Pennington County.

Hooded Merganser Late fall migrants: 4 Dec Kingsbury, 11 Dec Lyman JSP; over wintered Hughes and Pennington counties; first spring migrants: 26 Feb Clay DS

Common Merganser Over wintered in Charles Mix, Hughes, Pennington and Stanley counties.

Red-breasted Merganser Reported: 12 Dec Buffalo, Lyman KM & RDO; over wintered in

Hughes and Stanley counties DB, KM & RDO ... also reported 19 Feb Yankton (1) DS

Ruddy Duck Only Report: 4 Dec Kingsbury JSP

Gray Partridge Only Report: 31 Dec Minnehaha (4) DC

Sharp-tailed Grouse Reported from Butte, Day, Harding, Meade, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley and Sully counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken Reported from Hughes and Stanley counties.

Common Loon All Reports: 4, 12 Dec Lyman KM & RDO

Pied-billed Grebe All Reports: 1, 11 Dec Hughes KM, RDO, JSP

American White Pelican All Reports: 4 Dec Kingsbury, Lake JSP; 13 Dec Charles Mix RM; 16 Dec Brule DC

Great Blue Heron All Reports: 6 Dec Charles Mix RM; 3 Feb Lawrence DB

Bald Eagle Reported from Butte, Custer, Day, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Hyde, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lyman, Meade, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Sully counties.

Northern Harrier Reported: 17 Jan Roberts KM, RDO; 19 Feb Harding CEM

Sharp-shinned Hawk Reported from Brookings, Hughes, Lake, Minnehaha, Pennington and Stanley counties.

Cooper's Hawk Reported from Charles Mix, Day, Grant, Hughes, Pennington, Potter, and Stanley counties.

Northern Goshawk Reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Gregory, Harding, Hughes, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Roberts, Stanley and Walworth counties.

Red-tailed Hawk Reported from Brookings, Buffalo, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Fall River, Grant, Harding, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Sully and Yankton counties.

Ferruginous Hawk Reported from Buffalo, Butte, Harding, Lawrence, Stanley and Sully counties.

Rough-legged Hawk Reported from Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Jones, Lincoln, Lyman, Meade, Miner, Stanley and Sully counties.

Golden Eagle Reported from Brule, Buffalo, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Stanley and Sully counties.

American Kestrel Reported from Bon Homme, Brookings, Buffalo, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Grant, Harding, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Potter and Stanley counties.

Merlin Reported from Charles Mix, Hughes, Meade, Potter, Roberts, Stanley and Sully counties.

Gyr Falcon Reported from Hughes, Stanley and Sully counties ... also reported 22 Dec Dewey DGP; 24 Dec Potter DGP; 10 Jan Harding TBW

Prairie Falcon Reported from Butte, Day, Harding, Meade, Minnehaha, Potter, Stanley and Sully counties.

Virginia Rail All Reports: 31 Jan (1), 28 Feb (4) Fall River JLB

American Coot Reported: 4 Dec Minnehaha RFS; over wintered in Hughes, Pennington and Stanley counties.

Killdeer Only Report: 11 Dec Buffalo JSP

Wilson's Snipe All Reports: 4 Dec Lake KB; 3 Feb Lawrence DB; 19 Feb Yankton DS

Bonaparte's Gull All Reports: 1, 22 Dec Charles Mix RM; 11 Dec Lyman JSP; 12 Dec Lyman RDO

Ring-billed Gull Latest dates away from Missouri River: 2 Dec Minnehaha DC; 9 Dec Fall River JLB

Herring Gull Latest dates away from Missouri River: 2 Dec Minnehaha (3) DC; 4 Dec Kingsbury JSP

Thayer's Gull Reported from Buffalo, Hughes, Lyman and Stanley counties.

Lesser Black-backed Gull All Reports: 23 Dec Stanley RDO; 27 Dec Hughes RDO

Glaucous Gull Over wintered in Hughes and Stanley counties... also reported 3. 7 Jan

Charles Mix RM

- Black-legged Kittiwake** All Reports: 13, 20 Dec Charles Mix RM; 18 Dec Stanley RDO; 19 Dec Stanley KM
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** Reported from Butte, Hughes, Lake, Miner, Pennington and Stanley counties.
- Morning Dove** All Reports: 6, 15 Dec Charles Mix RM; 11 Dec Sanborn JSP; 23 Jan Clay DS
- Barn Owl** Only Report: **18 Dec Stanley DB**
- Snowy Owl** Reported from Brown, Butte, Day, Edmunds, Harding, Hughes, Lake, Stanley and Sully counties.
- Barred Owl** All Reports: 16 Dec Day LH; 13 Feb Roberts KM, RDO; 26 Feb Lincoln RFS
- Long-eared Owl** Reported from Brookings, Hughes, Lawrence, Stanley and Sully counties.
- Short-eared Owl** Reported from Harding, Hughes, Miner, Stanley and Sully counties.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl** Reported from Harding, Hughes, Stanley and Sully counties DB, CEM, KM, RDO.
- Belted Kingfisher** Late fall migrants: **18 Dec Minnehaha DC**, JSP, RFS; over wintered in Lawrence and Pennington counties DB, JLB, MMM, DGP.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker** Reported from Brookings, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Roberts and Stanley counties.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Only Report: 4 Dec Lake JSP
- American Three-toed Woodpecker** Reported all winter in Lawrence country by DGP.
- Northern Flicker** Reported from Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Hughes, Lake, Lyman, Minnehaha, Meade, Pennington, Roberts and Stanley counties.
- Pileated Woodpecker** Only Report: 12 Feb Roberts KM, RDO
- Northern Shrike** Reported from Charles Mix, Day, Harding, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Meade, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Potter, Roberts, Stanley and Sully counties.
- Gray Jay** Reported from Lawrence and Pennington counties by JLB, DGP.
- Pinyon Jay** Reported all winter from Meade County by AKB, APB.
- Clark's Nutcracker** Only Report: 23 Dec Meade JLB
- Black-billed Magpie** Reported from Harding, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Pennington, Stanley and Sully counties.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported from Brookings, Day, Harding, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Union counties.
- Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 17 Dec (8) JLB, 18 Dec (3) MMM, **28 Jan JLB & DC Pennington**
- Canyon Wren** All Reports: 23 Dec, 4 Feb Meade AKB; 22 Jan thru 20 Feb Lawrence DGP; 28 Feb Fall River JLB
- Marsh Wren** Only Report: 28 Feb Fall River JLB
- American Dipper** All Reports: 1 Jan Lawrence (3) DB; 7 Jan Lawrence DGP; 20 Jan Lawrence (50) DB; 22 Jan Pennington (1) JLB; 27 Jan Lawrence DGP; 3 Feb Lawrence (4) DB; 26 Feb Lawrence DGP
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** Reported from Day, Lake, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley and Sully counties.
- Eastern Bluebird** Reported all period Charles Mix RM ...also reported 19 Feb Yankton (1) DS; 27 Feb Hughes (2) DB
- Mountain Bluebird** Only Report: **26 Feb Harding CEM**
- Townsend's Solitaire** Reported from Brown, Day, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Stanley, Sully and Walworth counties ... also reported 4 Dec, 29 Jan Union (2) JC; **22 Feb Minnehaha (1) DC**
- American Robin** Reported from Brookings, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Sully and Ziebach counties.
- Varied Thrush** Only Report: 15 Jan Brookings BFH
- Barn Swallow** Only Report: 10 Dec Minnehaha MKZ
- Bohemian Waxwing** Reported from Brown, Butte, Day, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Stanley and Sully counties.

Yellow-rumped Warbler All Reports: 4, 5 Dec, 29 Jan Stanley KM
Song Sparrow All Reports: 11 Dec Lawrence JLB; 13 Dec Pennington MMM; 18 Dec Minnehaha DC
White-throated Sparrow All Reports: 17 Dec, 8 Jan, 29 Jan Lake JSP
Harris's Sparrow Only Report: 5 Feb Stanley DB
White-crowned Sparrow All Reports: 7 Jan Hughes KM; 8 Jan Hughes RDO
Lapland Longspur No reports from 9 Feb thru 28 Feb.
Snow Bunting Reported from Brookings, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Day, Grant, Lake, Miner, Roberts and Stanley counties. No reports from 23 Jan thru 28 Feb.
Northern Cardinal Reported from Brookings, Charles Mix, Clay, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln and Minnehaha counties.
Red-winged Blackbird Reported from Clay, Custer, Day, Hyde, Kingsbury, Lake, Miner, Minnehaha and Stanley counties.
Western Meadowlark All Reports: 13 Dec Lawrence JLB; 24 Dec Sully RDO; 26 Dec Jones (2) TBW; 8 Jan Custer (1) MMM; 9 Jan Stanley (2) DB; 13 Feb Lake JSP
Yellow-headed Blackbird All Reports: 1 Dec Stanley RDO; 4 Dec Kingsbury JSP
Rusty Blackbird All Reports: 1 Dec Stanley RDO; 4 Dec Miner JSP; 16 Dec Day LH; 1 Jan Brown (12) DAT; 22 Jan Miner JSP
Brewer's Blackbird All Reports: 1 Dec Stanley RDO; 15 Jan Meade EEM
Common Grackle All Reports: 1 Dec Stanley RDO; 15 Jan Clay DS; 21 Feb Lake JSP; 22 Feb Roberts MO
Brown-headed Cowbird Only Report: 20 Feb Stanley RDO
Pine Grosbeak Reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Harding, Hughes, Stanley and Sully counties.
Purple Finch Reported from Brookings, Charles Mix, Day, Harding, Lake, Lincoln, Roberts and Stanley counties.
Red Crossbill Reported from Day, Hughes, Lake, Meade, Pennington, Stanley and Union counties.
Common Redpoll Reported from Brown, Codington, Day, Dewey, Harding, Hyde, Roberts and Stanley counties.
Pine Siskin Reported from Brookings, Codington, Hughes, Hyde, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley, Union and Walworth counties.
Evening Grosbeak All Reports: 21 Dec Meade APB; 28 Jan Meade (17) DC; 25 Feb Lawrence JLB

Species Requiring Acceptance by The Rare Bird Records Committee

Barrow's Goldeneye 25 Dec Charles Mix RM
Lesser Yellowlegs 16, 20 Dec Day LH
Dunlin 11 Dec Buffalo JSP
American Woodcock 6 Dec Clay JC
Little Gull 11 Dec Lyman JSP
Hermit Thrush 4 Dec-10 Jan Brown DAT
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch 4 Dec Stanley KM
Hoary Redpoll 7 Jan Roberts MO

Species Expected But Not Reported

Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Trumpeter Swan (5), White-winged Scoter (3), Peregrine Falcon (4), Northern Bobwhite (5), Lewis's Woodpecker (2), Black-backed Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Cassin's Finch (6), White-winged Crossbill (3) Note: Number in parentheses indicates number of years not reported.

Contributing Observers

DB	Doug Backlund	KM	Kenny Miller
JLB	Jocelyn Baker	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
KB	Kristel Bakker	MO	Mark Otnes
APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
AKB	Anna Ball	DGP	Douglas G. Prisbe
JC	Jay Carlisle	RFS	Robert F. Schenck
DC	Doug Chapman	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
LH	Laura Hubers	NS	Nancy Showalter
BFH	Bill Huser	ES	Eileen Stukel
RM	Ron Mabie	DS	David L. Swanson
MMM	Michael M. Melius	DAT	Dan A. Tallman
CEM	Charley Miller	TBW	Tom & Brenda Warren
EEM	Ernest E. Miller	MKZ	Mick Zerr



CHRISTMAS COUNTS

2004-2005

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 that were 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. 1 Jan 2005. Number of Participants: 3. Low Temperature: 8 F. High Temperature: 16 F. AM Weather: light snow. PM Weather: light snow. Compiler: Dan Tallman.

Badlands. 5 Jan 2005. Number of Participants: 3. Low Temperature: 10 F. High Temperature: 15 F. AM Weather: heavy snow. PM Weather: heavy snow. Compiler: Eddie Childers.

Bison. 5 Jan 2005. Number of Participants: 4. Low Temperature: -4 F, High Temperature: 10 F. AM Weather: cloudy. PM Weather: cloudy. Compiler: Bryan Dinkins.

Brookings. 18 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 11. Low Temperature: 19 F. High Temperature: 34 F. AM Weather: light rain. PM Weather: clear. Compiler: Nelda Holden.

Hot Springs. 11 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 6. Low Temperature: 42 F. High Temperature: 59 F. AM Weather: mostly sunny. PM Weather: mostly sunny. Compiler: Duane Weber.

Huron. 14 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 18. Low Temperature: 12 F. High Temperature: 43 F. AM Weather: clear. PM Weather: partly cloudy. Compiler: Karrie Schmidt.

Lake Andes. 15 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 8. Low Temperature: 33 F. High Temperature: 55 F. AM Weather: partly cloudy. PM Weather: partly cloudy. Compiler: Edward Rodriguez.

Madison. 17 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 8. Low Temperature: 17 F. High Temperature:

- 37 F. AM Weather: partly cloudy. PM Weather: partly cloudy. Compiler: Kyle Kelsey.
- Piedmont.** 21 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 9. Low Temperature: 13 F. High Temperature: 22 F. AM Weather: light snow. PM Weather: light snow. Compiler: Addison Ball.
- Pierre.** 18 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 18. Low Temperature: 9 F. High Temperature: 41 F. AM Weather: partly clear. PM Weather: light snow. Compiler: Doug Backlund.
- Rapid City.** 19 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 13. Low Temperature: 22 F. High Temperature: 59 F. AM Weather: clear. PM Weather: partly cloudy. Compiler: Michael Melius.
- Sand Lake.** 17 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 7. Low Temperature: 20 F. High Temperature: 49 F. AM Weather: cloudy. PM Weather: clear. Compiler: William Schultze.
- Sioux Falls.** 18 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 23. Low Temperature: 23 F. High Temperature: 34 F. AM Weather: cloudy. PM Weather: clear. Compiler: Robert Schenck.
- Spearfish.** 2 Jan 2005. Number of Participants: 11. Low Temperature: 0 F. High Temperature: 15 F. AM Weather: clear. PM Weather: clear. Compiler: Daniel Bjerke.
- Sturgis.** 18 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 14. Low Temperature: 36 F. High Temperature: 46 F. AM Weather: partly cloudy. PM Weather: partly cloudy. Compiler: Victor Fondy.
- Waubay.** 16 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 8. Low Temperature: 22 F. High Temperature: 32 F. AM Weather: clear. PM Weather: cloudy. Compiler: Laura Hubers.
- Wilmot.** 21 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 12. Low Temperature: -4 F. High Temperature: 10 F. AM Weather: mostly sunny. PM Weather: mostly sunny. Compiler: Nelda Holden.
- Wind Cave.** 12 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 9. Low Temperature: 15 F. High Temperature: 32 F. Compiler: Barb Meunchau
- Yankton.** 19 Dec 2004. Number of Participants: 16. Low Temperature: -2 F. High Temperature: 12 F. AM Weather: clear. PM Weather: clear. Compiler: Juli Wilcox.

	ABR	BAD	BIS	BRK	HOT	HUR	LAD	MAD	PIE	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIO	SPE	STU	WAU	WIL	WIN	YAN	Total	
Prairie Falcon			2			2				2		1	1	1	1	1	2	1		14	
Virginia Rail														1						1	
American Coot					62					25	5									92	
Killdeer																		1		1	
Lesser Yellowlegs																1				1	
Wilson's Snipe					3									5	cw				3	11	
Bonaparte's Gull							15													15	
Ring-billed Gull					936		82			579									1317	2914	
California Gull							20													20	
Herring Gull					1					56									51	108	
Thayer's Gull										1										1	
Glaucous Gull							1			1										2	
Black-legged Kittiwake										1										1	
Rock Pigeon	168	12	15	78	537	563	56	163	45	23		91	2555	152	132	137	30	14	168	4939	
Band-tailed Pigeon																					0
Eurasian Collared-Dove								13		94	3								3	113	
Mourning Dove				cw		1	1					1	25						1	29	
Barn Owl										1										1	
Eastern Screech-Owl				2						3	2		3							10	
Great Horned Owl	1		2	3		8		2	cw	9	2	10	7	1	2	4	2	2	2	57	
Barred Owl																1	1			2	
Snowy Owl								2					2							4	
Long-eared Owl										19			3							22	
Short-eared Owl				2																2	
Northern Saw-whet Owl										2	1							2		5	
Belted Kingfisher										1	5		4	4	1				2	17	
Red-headed Woodpecker													1						1	2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				1			3	3		3			12				7		5	34	
Downy Woodpecker	6			27	4	3	4	21	16	27	11	3	43	9	24	8	15	27	30	278	
Hairy Woodpecker	2		2	11		7	4	5	18	12	9	5	12	5	14	3	3	33	16	161	
Northern Flicker	1			cw	8	3	3	13	3	22	28	3	1	13	6		2	3	14	123	
Pileated Woodpecker																	1			1	
Northern Shrike				1		2	2	2	3	4	1	5	1	2	1	1		2		27	
Gray Jay									3									9		12	
Blue Jay	1			19	19	11	5	54	52	6	45	20	45	35	42	1	19		29	403	
Pinyon Jay									11											11	
Clark's Nutcracker									cw									1		1	
Black-billed Magpie			2		4				28		9			43	51			64	1	202	
American Crow	7			92	38	34	26	68	135		168	1	233	195	141	24	31	185	327	1705	
Horned Lark		336	600	89		62		101		115		96	14			635	28	8		2084	
Black-capped Chickadee	11			61	32	11	10	51	65	44	162	3	132	148	279	32	28	180	35	1284	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4			18	12	5		4	40	6	24		6	22	90	8	1	148	5	393	

	ABR	BAD	BIS	BRK	HOT	HUR	LAD	MAD	PIE	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIO	SPE	STU	WAU	WIL	WIN	YAN	Total
White-breasted Nuthatch	6			16	5	2	8	15	10	19	20	7	42	9	43	11	22	48	7	290
Pygmy Nuthatch											3							3		6
Brown Creeper	cw							1	3	5	7		cw	6	2		1	2	7	34
Canyon Wren					1					2	2				1			1		7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1			3						6	4		2	9	3	2			1	38
Eastern Bluebird							4				4									8
Townsend's Solitaire	2			1	28	2				10	7	41		35	16	1		22		165
Hermit Thrush	1																			1
American Robin	3			1	66		104	4		124	75	2	6	153	cw		cw	1	70	609
Varied Thrush				cw																0
Brown Thrasher						1														1
European Starling	55	39		505	971	1397	1089	964	228		1302	79	1663	417	1486	360	25	100	369	11049
Bohemian Waxwing					330				80		110			451	314			4		1289
Cedar Waxwing				85	12	77	5	152	36	93	9		268	31		100	12			880
Spotted Towhee											1									1
Eastern Towhee				1																1
American Tree Sparrow				12	33	3	11	150	8	63		18	75	26	54	12	5	16	53	539
Fox Sparrow							1													1
Song Sparrow					5						2		4	2	1					15
Harris' s Sparrow																				1
Dark-eyed Junco	22	5		29	92	2	4	54	358	191	243	4	269	101	176		12	483	467	2512
Lapland Longspur										103						20	6			129
Snow Bunting										cw		1	cw			198	cw			199
Northern Cardinal				8		8		2		3			35					1	22	79
Red-winged Blackbird				3	5	51		182		1		817				45				1104
Western Meadowlark										4										4
Rusty Blackbird	12							1								30				43
Common Grackle				51	4					1		1	1							58
Pine Grosbeak										2										2
Purple Finch	5			19				35		17			4			16	2		15	113
House Finch	6		1	92	38		12	45	50	199	45		198	63	114	1	18	4	23	909
Red Crossbill								10			23			24	93	7		634		791
Common Redpoll	1					48						2		75	133					259
Pine Siskin	10			22	2	50	3	132	94	142	6	1	7	15				5	cw	489
American Goldfinch	4		1	65	10	36	198	230	148	267	13	17	162	141	123	14	116	50	55	1650
Evening Grosbeak									28					38						66
House Sparrow	111	10	72	823	85	1234	147	1420	45	441	594	393	718	341	419	566	93	8	211	7731
Total individuals	478	470	1320	3532	6953	3878	22492	6854	3124	19189	5195	3008	10736	3417	5304	3746	607	2164	9087	111554
Total species	26	11	19	42	43	38	45	41	35	68	54	36	42	46	43	42	33	37	55	121

Common Redpoll/Dan Steifel



White-crowned Sparrow/Dan Steifel



Photographers' Gallery

Sage Grouse/Doug Backlund



Eastern Kingbird/Dan Tallman

