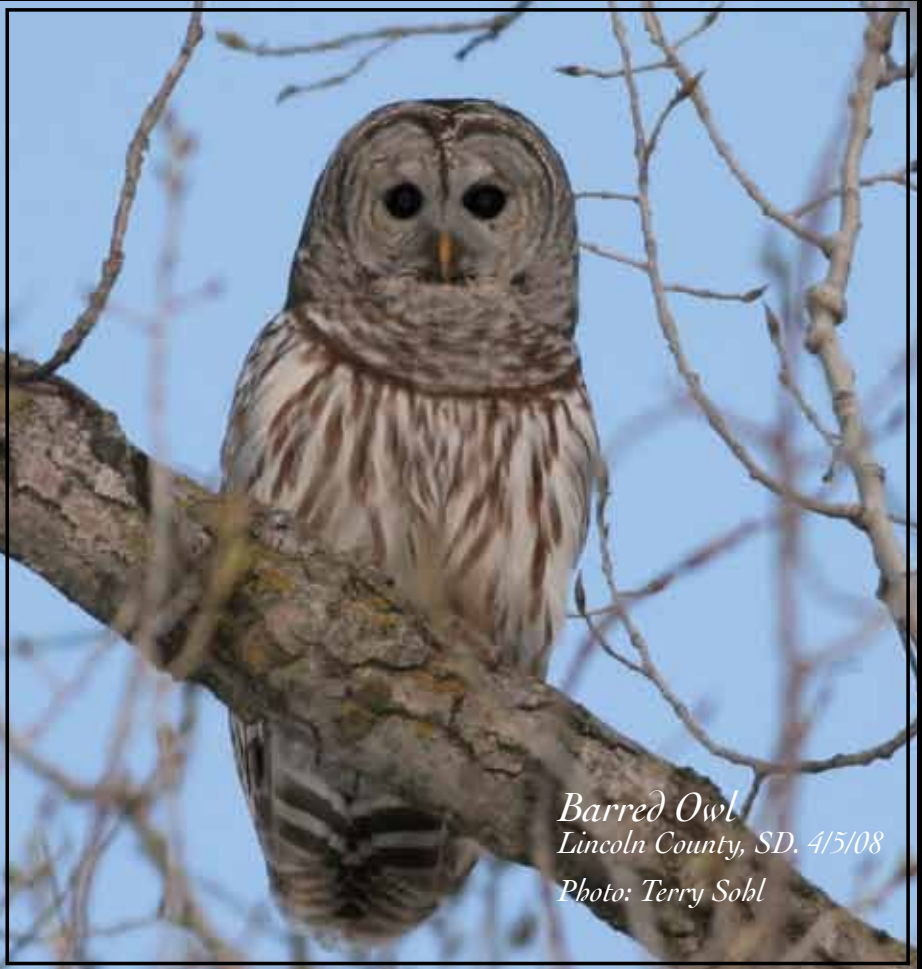

SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union



Barred Owl
Lincoln County, SD. 4/5/08
Photo: Terry Sohl

SOUTH  DAKOTA
BIRD NOTES

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES, the official publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (organized 1949), is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Life members: \$320; Family life members (one subscription to *Bird Notes*): \$480; sustaining members: \$30; regular membership: \$16; Family membership (one household with one subscription to *Bird Notes*): \$20; Junior membership (10-16): \$8; Library Subscription: \$20; Single and back copies: Members, \$4; Non-members, \$5. All dues, payments, change of address notices and orders for back copies should be sent to the SDOU Treasurer, Nelda Holden, 1620 Elmwood Drive, Brookings, SD 57006. Manuscripts for publication should be sent to Douglas Chapman, 3108 S. Holly Ave., Sioux Falls, SD, 57105 or e-mailed to SFbirdclub@sio.midco.net. **SDOU website: www.sdou.org**.

Vol. 60

June 2008

NO. 2

SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Spring Meeting 2008 in Pickstown was a fine event. I would like to add my thanks to Ron and Marietta Mabie, who handled all the details of a comfortable meeting space (with spring flower centerpieces adding a touch of style), good catered meals, informative speakers, and interesting field trips. Dave Swanson's report of the meeting is found on Page 30. Our first silent auction, conceived, planned, and executed by *Bird Notes* Editor Doug Chapman, was a great success on three counts: some of us parted with bird-specific stuff we no longer needed, some of us picked up astounding bargains, and SDOU was the beneficiary of the fun and the profit. Thank you, Doug. I hope this will become a tradition. I am certainly enjoying my faux-alabaster, late twentieth-century carved Owls Table, which graces my garden, holds bird seed sprinkled over the table top by my granddaughter, and is visited regularly by chickadees, cardinals, and a few Pine Siskins who are not fooled by the owls. I would also like to thank our field trip leaders, Mike Bryant and Dave Swanson. Field trips are a key to successful SDOU meetings and could not happen without willing leaders who know the area.



Under the heading of organizational development, I would like to thank Linda Johnson for taking on the new job of Membership Committee Chairperson. This committee, in close coordination with the Treasurer and *Bird Notes* Editor, will manage our growing membership list and develop ideas for attracting new members.

A question that comes up among birders in the field these days is under what circumstances it is ethical, if ever, to use bird song recordings or "playbacks" of a bird's song to try to call it into sight. It is generally supposed that most birds respond to their own unique bird call as a territorial invasion and swiftly move in on the "invader". One camp in this discussion says a judicious use of audio playbacks does not hurt birds at all. Another camp says artificially calling a bird out of its cover disrupts it and stresses it. The playing of taped calls is banned from a growing number of top birding areas because deliberately putting stress on birds is indeed unethical. In my humble opinion, before pulling out our recording device in the field, we should: A). Always let nearby birders know if we are about to start a playback, B). Skip it when a bird is on a nest or we are confident a pair is establishing a nest site, C). Also skip it in instances where one individual of an unusual or hard-to-see species has been found and we are trying to relocate it, because many others are likely to be searching for it as well (we can probably all agree that multiple playbacks over a short period of time would definitely be disruptive to a bird) and, D). Never use playbacks of a rare or endangered species, as it is a violation of the law under the Endangered Species Act. In hunting ethics, most animal playbacks are not allowed to call prey in toward the hunter. Hunters refer to this and other ethical hunting practices as "fair chase." When considering the use of an audio recording, we birders should consider our target bird, consider our surroundings and other birders who may be nearby, and ask ourselves, because we alone will be making the decision much of the time, "Is using a playback right now fair chase?"

Finally, I trust you have all enjoyed the migration of songbirds this season. Judging by many reports from around South Dakota and the record numbers of species and individual birds in my own back yard, it has been a stunning spring for songbirds in general and warblers especially. On 13 May, for instance, twelve Swainson's Thrushes were together in my yard before breakfast. At 7 PM, at least twenty Harris's Sparrows suddenly appeared, and my record-setting count of species for the day was twenty-six. The warbler migration through eastern South Dakota has

cont. on pg. 47

FROM OUR PAST...

...IN SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

L. M. BAYLOR

Vol. 2 No. 2

June 1950

Writing during the spring of 1950, President Spawn, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Zoology at the state university in Brookings (now South Dakota State University), focused on migration. With a bit of artistic flare he wrote: "Spring came late this year to South Dakota prairies, but the wedges of geese and flocks of ducks calling as they flew over at night assured us that spring was on its way. Waves of warblers and sparrows brought fields, woodlots, parks and lawns to life with their activity and their dashes of color."

From Spawn's discussion, we may have a useful reminder about three categories of migration. Gametic migration involves responses to instincts and physiological conditions that cause birds to seek suitable nesting circumstances, hence the typical spring migration to breeding grounds. Alimential migration involves failure of food resources so as to cause birds to seek plentiful food. Hence, northern hawks and Snowy Owls may come to South Dakota for the winter. Occasionally, severe weather conditions may cause a normally non-migratory species to move temporarily to more tolerable conditions—climactic migration.

Under the title "Backyard Bird Biology," Editor Herman Chapman reprinted excerpts from O. S. Pettingill's "President's Page" in the September 1949 and March 1950 issues of *The Wilson Bulletin*. In recognition that non-professional observers can contribute significantly to knowledge of avian biology, Pettingill suggested specific areas meriting attention. While considerable information has evolved in the ensuing fifty plus years, the following categories may remain suitable for a contemporary observer's efforts.

Size of Clutch—number of eggs, time of nesting within the breeding season and weather conditions during the egg-laying period. Where diurnal birds spend the night (identify roosting sites). Water requirements—which species both drink and bathe or do only one or the other. Predation upon birds—preferably observation of predators in the act. Mating display—especially of small birds. Parental defense—acts of injury feigning, threat displays, direct attacks and warning sounds. Multiple broodiness—rearing of two or more broods during a season.

From a "filler" item for this issue, we learn that Tom Lincoln, while on a trip to Labrador with Audubon, 27 June 1833, collected a sparrow that Audubon classified as a new species and named it Lincoln's Sparrow, *Melospiza lincolni lincolni*.

In a brief article, F. L. Bennett described a winter setting at Spearfish where robins fed on bittersweet berries. The vine had been trained to climb a plum tree. That the robins fed on the berries seems less remarkable than the occurrence of the vine; for in my experience wild bittersweet has been difficult to find in the Black Hills.

Douglas Ericson, a journalism student at State College, reported on the SDOU Spring meeting, 20-21 May 1950 at State College in Brookings. One of the interesting items he reported was a presentation by Mr. Clair Rollings, manager of the Sand Lake Federal Refuge, who spoke of the spring flight of Snow and Blue Geese, reporting estimates of 250,000 as a high for one single day total and 500,000 for the season at that refuge.

NIGHT BIRDING AT NEWTON HILLS STATE PARK

Mick Zerr
2101 S. Crestwood Rd.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Much interest this year in the reliable American Woodcock area at Newton Hills State Park in Lincoln County, SD, was accented by a report from Doug Chapman of the Sioux Falls Bird Club, that a Barred Owl had called once at Newton Hills while he, Caity Reiland-Smith, and her friend Nevada Sorenson were waiting for the woodcocks to appear.

Not wanting to miss the American Woodcocks this year, nor the rare chance of hearing a Barred Owl, Chris Anderson and I accompanied Doug to the famous woodcock spot on 4 April 2008. The weather was picture perfect, with no wind and a crisp, clear sky. The stars came out even before darkness set in, and we were debating if a bright planet was Venus or Jupiter, when Chris asked what the Barred Owl's vocalizations sounded like. Doug played an iPod call (at very low volume) so we could identify the "Who cooks for you?" call in case we would be lucky enough to hear it. The recording was most interesting to us, and Doug said when they call it is often very loud, and can't be mistaken. It was now 7:45 and was getting darker, but not yet dark enough for the woodcocks to share their aerial dance with us. A fly-over Peregrine Falcon provided a welcome sight which heightened the anticipation.

Doug was pointing out where the woodcocks had shown up the last week, when we were pleasantly surprised by the haunting cry of "*WHO COOKS FOR YOUUUU? WHO COOKS FOR YOUUUUUU AAALLL?*" The Barred Owls were calling! And not just once or twice, but a grand serenading for nearly an hour by a probably mated pair. [The nest cavity was discovered a few days later.] And yes, indeed, it is very loud.

As if they had minds of their own, our binoculars jumped into our hands and we scanned the trees to the east in the dimming light. The duetting owls continued, each owl calling in turn more excitedly than the other it seemed. Suddenly we saw them, chasing each other from distant treetop to treetop over Sargeant Creek, yet close enough for us to see their facial disks and dark staring eyes. We even got a dark video and a photo to share our sighting. Life birds for Chris and me!

While the owl calls continued, as if to answer them, the woodcocks appeared, peenting merrily, clicking and dancing, whistling and swooping while diving. We witnessed this age old display with the calls of the Barred Owls as a backdrop. Magic!

The stars were now filling the sky behind the aerial dancers. If you have ever been to Newton Hills on a clear night, the stars alone are worth your time, especially for us city folks. So here we had it: a black sky filled with the brightest stars, often eclipsed by chubby little feathered wonders buzzing away, while Barred Owls played the haunting background music, all in the company of fine birding folks. An hour later, the owls had stopped their evening serenade, and we glimpsed our last woodcock dancing on the trail. As we left Newton Hills, the old line from the commercials came to mind. "It doesn't get any better than this."

Many birders from the area went down to see the Newton Hills Barred Owl pair (and of course the woodcocks). While very common in the Eastern United States, including our neighbor states of Minnesota and Iowa, in South Dakota Barred Owl has few sightings and very few confirmed nestings (1912, 1987, [both Clay Co.]; Poss. 2004 [Lincoln Co.] Lehman).

SDOU SPRING MEETING 2008

The Spring 2008 meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union was held from Friday through Sunday, 16-18 May 2008 at Pickstown, South Dakota. The Rainbow Room in Pickstown served as meeting headquarters. The Pickstown location provided easy access to both Lake Andes and Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuges, as well as to the area surrounding Fort Randall Dam, which provided a wealth of interesting birding opportunities.

On Friday evening, SDOU members gathered at the Rainbow Room for registration and a social hour. Friday evening was also the first glimpse that SDOU members received of items donated for the first annual SDOU Silent Auction. The social hour was followed by the Friday evening program, which was presented by Michael Bryant, Director of the Lake Andes NWR complex. Bryant discussed many of the ongoing projects at Lake Andes and Karl Mundt refuges, which included the possibility of opening up the Mundt refuge for public access, including birding. On both Friday and Saturday evenings after the programs, Ron Mabie led Whip-poor-will walks down to riparian areas along the river where members were treated to calling Whip-poor-wills.

On Saturday morning, SDOU members met at the Rainbow Room for the field trips. Two field trips were offered, one led by refuge staff, which explored the Mundt refuge, and one that visited Lake Andes NWR and the area around Fort Randall dam. The weather on Saturday was partly cloudy with seasonal temperatures, but was quite breezy, but that didn't prevent SDOU members from seeing a variety of birds, although the warbler migration was a little on the slow side.

SDOU Board Members gathered back at the Rainbow Room at 4 PM for the spring Board of Directors meeting, presided over by President Rosemary Draeger. The BOD meeting was followed at 6 PM by the Saturday banquet and program. Casey Kruse, a biologist with the Corps of Engineers (and former student of Lois Haertel's), was the banquet speaker for the Saturday evening program. The title of his talk was "Missouri River Recovery and Benefits for Neotropical Migrants—New Opportunity or Bureaucratic Babble?" Mr. Kruse detailed current efforts at collaboration among Missouri River stakeholders that holds promise for some exciting conservation work in the future. Following the program, Doug Chapman announced that the total proceeds from the Silent Auction, including the complete set of *The Birds of North America—Life Histories for the 21st Century*, was \$678—a fine showing for the first Silent Auction, and a big boon to the SDOU coffers. Thanks to Doug Chapman for organizing the Silent Auction. In addition, SDOU members officially thanked Ron Mabie for arranging and organizing the Pickstown meeting.

On Sunday, members again met at the Rainbow Room at 7 AM for field trips, with the sole field trip on Sunday exploring Lake Andes NWR. Sunday weather was almost perfect, with sunshine, warmer temperatures, and very little wind. At noon, following the morning field trip, the official check-off was held at Tom Brokaw Park in Pickstown. The total species list for the Pickstown meeting was 159 (go to www.sdou.org for the complete list). No species requiring documentation by rare bird reports were observed over the weekend, but the total of 159 exceeded the species list of 146 from the spring SDOU meeting at Lake Andes in 1979, so SDOU members were treated to a nice diversity of bird species, as well as some beautiful South Dakota scenery. —David Swanson, Secretary, South Dakota Ornithologists' Union.

FLEDGLING TRACTS

CAITY REILAND-SMITH

SPRING FEVER 2008

It is remarkable to me how different spring migration can be each year. In the five previous years, spring migration arrived when I was still in school, studying for finals. The unusually cold weather this April and May and erratic late snowstorms delayed migration just enough to produce the rush of birds we have been observing in late May 2008.

In early March the skies were filled with a host of waterfowl and shorebirds. Gobs of grackles, robins and mourning doves soon followed and soon the city's neighborhoods were filled with chorusing resident birds reclaiming old territories and forming pairs. Spring sparrows flooded fields and fence lines in late March and April. May warblers falling from the sky and dripping from the trees were all greeted by raised binoculars. Among the many species gleaning insects from the treetops were all the colorful little birds that make the drab winter wait seem worthwhile. One doesn't even mind warbler-neck!

However amazing all of these migrants are, it is worrisome to think of how late they are arriving here in South Dakota and thus will be arriving late on their breeding grounds. Perhaps long-distance migrants will have trouble raising a second brood of youngsters in time for the fall migration; thus a decrease in the number of individuals may be seen.

While some birds seem to be plentiful this year, others seem to be scarce or even missing altogether. Plentiful birds include Ruddy Duck, Wilson's Phalarope, Traill's Flycatcher (and identifiable Willow and Alder), Least Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo (scores), Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo (found feeding on the ground!), Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Redstart, Wilson's Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole and Orchard Oriole. One of the more noticeable birds "Missing In Action" seems to be the Great Blue Heron. So far this season, I have seen fewer than ten individuals.

This spring migration I have been fortunate enough to see thirteen life birds. Most exciting for me was a Golden-winged Warbler seen at Elmwood Park in Sioux Falls and the Prothonotary Warbler seen at Cherry Rock Park in Sioux Falls. Others were Pine Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Bay-breasted Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler and Cape May Warbler. Seeing three Mourning Warblers feeding on the pavement at Sherman Park was also a thrill and I will never forget the many Canada Warblers seen so close at Elmwood Park and the Outdoor Campus.

Seeing all of these birds this year, when in previous years school consumed my life, makes the thrill of migration as remarkable to me as if seeing it for the very first time.

THE SECOND SOUTH DAKOTA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS (2008-2012)

by Nancy Drilling, Atlas Project Coordinator

Exactly twenty years after the start of fieldwork on the first Breeding Bird Atlas (1988-1992), field work for South Dakota's second atlas has begun. The goal of the second atlas is to document the current distribution of every bird species that nests in South Dakota and to compare these distributions to those of the first South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas. These data, primarily collected by volunteers, will support efforts by conservation decision-makers, land-use planners, researchers, educators, students, and bird enthusiasts to maintain healthy bird populations and conserve avian diversity within the state. Specifically the second atlas aims to:



The South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas (2008-2012) Logo. Artwork: Michael Retter

1. Document current distribution of all breeding bird species, including under-surveyed species such as owls and secretive marsh birds.
2. Assess changes in distributions of breeding birds since the first SD BBA.
3. Identify habitat associations and requirements for all breeding species.
4. Provide data for applications in public policy, planning, education, recreation, and research.
5. Increase public awareness and participation in birding and citizen science programs.
6. Encourage young people to participate in birding and citizen science projects.

HOW DOES THE SOUTH DAKOTA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 2008 (SDBBA2) WORK?

Collecting data for SDBBA2 involves visiting pre-selected 3-mile x 3-mile areas ('blocks') and surveying all habitats within each block for bird presence and evidence of breeding for all bird species. The entire block does not need to be surveyed; rather, efforts are focused on surveying each habitat type within a block. Bird observations are categorized as Possible Breeding, Probable Breeding, or Confirmed Breeding, based on a series of standardized criteria within that species' breeding season, as defined by "safe dates". To document timing of breeding, emphasis is on recording ALL observations, not just the "highest" breeding category observed for each species. In addition, the habitat within which each bird is observed is recorded.

SDBBA2 will attempt to completely survey 300 random blocks (Figure 1). Of these blocks, 124 are the same 124 random blocks covered during the first atlas. The remaining 176 blocks are newly selected. It takes at least twenty hours and at least three visits during the five year atlas period to adequately survey a block. If the initial 300 blocks are covered well during the earlier part of the Atlas, we will survey

another 125 blocks, for a total of 425 blocks (5% of the state's land area). Outside of designated blocks, the atlas encourages everyone to submit observations of confirmed breeding by any species anywhere within the state. Special forms are available for recording these observations.

SDBBA2 is administered by two committees - a Steering Committee and a Technical Committee, and two to four regional coordinators. Nancy Drilling and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory are coordinating the effort and providing technical support (GIS, database development and management).

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Report ANY and ALL confirmed breeding anywhere in the state.
2. Volunteer to survey atlas blocks.
3. Be a regional coordinator.
4. Be part of the Steering Committee.
5. Donate!

For more information, contact the project coordinator or visit the atlas web page by clicking on the 'South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas 2' link at www.rmbo.org.

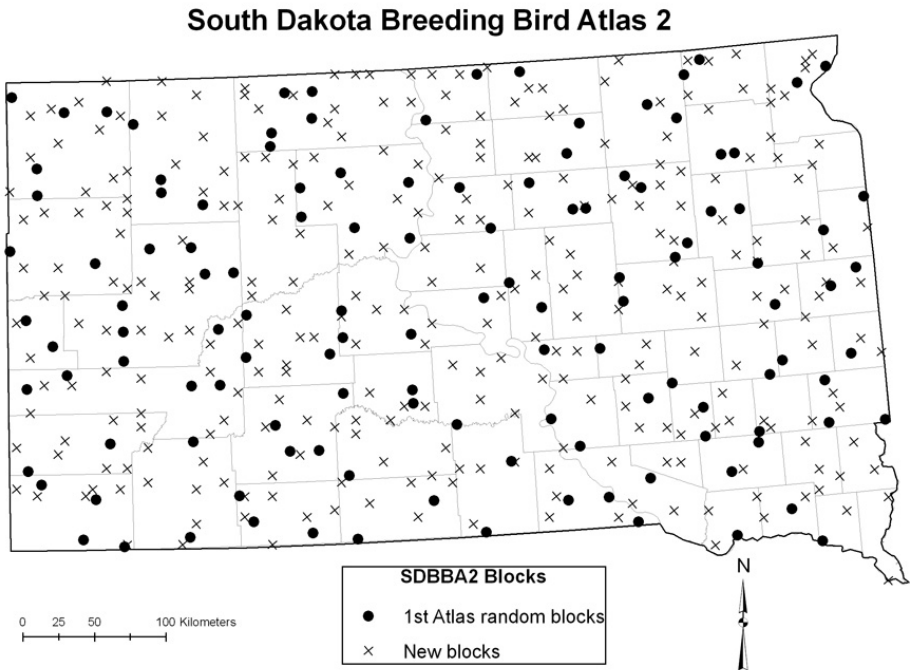


FIGURE 1. Locations of 425 random blocks to be surveyed for bird presence and evidence of breeding.

BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD. Vol. 12. Picathartes to Tits and Chickadees. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot, and David Christie, Eds. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona \$245.00. (www.hbw.com.) 815 pp.

My neck hairs stand up in excitement as I open each new volume of the massive (both in size—310 x 240 mm—and breath of coverage) *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. I can't say that about any other book, even about birds! I know to expect stunning photographs and superb color illustrations. The volumes are packed with just about everything one might want to learn about birds—their ecology, behavior, conservation, field marks, and evolution.

Fifteen families are covered in this volume (see Table 1). At first glance, this book appears to be very expensive. The cost per family, however, is only about \$16—a good deal for the wealth of visual and written information contained within the accounts. Each family account begins with an overview of the family—systematics, habitats, behavior, distribution, and conservation. Family sections are illustrated with stunning color photographs. There follows accounts of each species in the family, complete with range maps. There are bibliographical notations for both the family and species accounts. Spread through the book are 56 uniformly excellent color plates depicting the species of birds of the world.

Table 1. Bird families covered in *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Vol. 12.*

Family	Common Names	Comments
Picathartidae	Rockfowl	See comments in this review
Timaliidae	Babblers	Hidden in this huge (309 species) Old World family is the Wrenit of North America. (It is remarkable how many variations on brown and gray exist.)
Paradoxornithidae	Parrotbills	DNA research indicates these large-billed, titmouse-like birds are Babblers.
Pomatostomidae	Australasian Babblers	Five species of wren-like (although not closely related to wrens) birds from Australia and New Guinea.
Orthonychidae	Logrunners	Three species of Australia and New Guinea birds split from the thrushes by DNA research.
Eupetidae	Jewel-Babblers	18 species of southeast Asian birds that are vaguely thrush or pipit-like—the family is “largely a convenient ‘catch-all’ category.”
Pachycephalidae	Whistlers	Another southeast Asian and Australian family that previously had been classified with thrushes, Old World flycatchers, and even shrikes.
Petroicidae	Australasian Robins	These 46 species of primitive songbirds live in Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand and bear a superficial similarity to European Robins.
Maluridae	Fairy-Wrens	Found in Australia and New Guinea, some Fairy-Wrens sport the brightest, iridescent blue found in birds.
Dasyornithidae	Bristlebirds	Three drab Australian species with a complex taxonomic history.

Acanthizidae	Thornbills	Found in Australia and southeast Asia, these 63 species are, with few exceptions, drably plumaged insectivores.
Epthianuridae	Australian Chats	Often brightly colored and endemic to Australia, these five species constitute a family of insectivorous terrestrial birds.
Neosittidae	Sittellas	The two <i>Sittella</i> species are small, nuthatch-like birds of Australia and New Guinea
Climacteridae	Australasian Treecreepers	Australian Treecreepers were recently thought to be allied with our creepers, but DNA research proves them to be among the most primitive of songbirds.
Paridae	Tits and Chickadees	The 56 species of this family are found worldwide, except South America and Australia. Because of their wide distribution, they are among the world's most studied birds.

Table 1. Bird families covered in *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Vol. 12*.

What I first look for when opening a new volume of the handbook are birds I know little or nothing about. In volume 12, I didn't have to go beyond the first family, Picathartes (also known as Rockfowl). These inhabitants of West African rainforests are large passerines with unfeathered, bright blue, red, and/or yellow heads. The family contains only two species, which are becoming less common as rainforest disappears.

Next I look for familiar species, and was glad to find the chickadees and tits, since all the other families covered in this volume inhabit the Old World. But even a majority of the tits and chickadees are found in the Old World, and it is fun to browse the illustrations of strange-plumaged species of this otherwise familiar family. One of my favorite photos is of a Great Tit poking its head out of the letter slot of a British post box in which the bird was breeding. A sign on the box warns, "Birds Nesting Please Use Nearest Box" and the text says this did "cause a slight disruption of the local postal service." One of the strangest of the tits is the Sultan Tit, from southeast Asia. This bird is about twice the size of our species and is black with a yellow belly and wild yellow crest.

My final action upon receiving a volume of the Handbook is to look at the foreword. Each volume's foreword covers an aspect of ornithology, and reading each presents a rather complete course in avian biology. The foreword in volume 12 is a superior essay on fossil birds, complete with black-and-white illustrations and a glossary. Nobody wishing an overview of fossil birds and avian evolution should miss this essay!

I could write for pages and pages, recounting to you the wonderful birds that inhabit these volumes, and by then you probably would not have to buy them for yourself! If my enthusiasm for this series of books does not convince you of its unique and essential attributes, then you owe it to yourself to look at any of the volumes first hand. Try to find a library copy—Northern State University and South Dakota State University have complete sets and USD has a partial set in their holdings. Otherwise I urge you to check out the handbook's webpage www.hbw.com. The danger of seeing these books for yourself is, of course, that you will be compelled to purchase them. Before taking out second mortgages, however, check the webpage for special offers and pricing. *Dan Tallman, 2120 Taylor Ct., Northfield MN 55057.*

The center pages of this issue are printed in color. It is my gift to SDOU to help launch the new *South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas* with a bang. If anyone else would like to sponsor, or help to sponsor, a colored center page in a future issue, please contact me. At the present time it costs \$150.00. I hope all enjoy. *Douglas Chapman, Sioux Falls.*

South Dakota's Most B

A "personal best" quiz for members, neighbors, relatives or friends of any age.



How MANY DID YOU GET CORRECT?

0-1. No one reading this will be in this category.

2-3. Need practice and maybe a new field guide!

4-6. Keep studying.

7-10. You're getting the hang of this.

11-12. You are good!

13. Ready for the big time.

Answers are on page 47.



Beautiful Breeding Birds

Dan Streifel



3

Doug Backlund



4

Michael Retter



7

The SDBBA2 project has arrived. Pictured here are a few of the reasons to volunteer for the project. Please help SDOU and the agencies producing the new SDBBA2 in making it a great success. Participate!

8

Douglas Chapman



Doug Backlund

12



13

Dan Streifel



FIRST STATE RECORD OF IVORY GULL

Ricky D. Olson
PO BOX 622
Ft. Pierre SD 57532

An Ivory Gull visited lower Lake Oahe from 16-27 February 2008. I was fortunate enough to be the one who discovered it.

This will not be a bird life history or identification article; this will be more of a day-by-day story of the gull's visit from my perspective. I am writing this article in this format because several people commented in previous articles that they enjoyed reading the blow-by-blow commentary. I also want to convey to the readers how rare it is to see the Ivory Gull in the lower forty-eight states, especially as their population declines in their Arctic home range. Ivory Gull is a highly sought out bird that many birders really want to see, because it rarely stays long enough to be viewed by many birders.

I also want to convey what it is like to host a really rare bird. I logged over fifteen hours on my cell phone and an hour or two on my home phone. I spent several hours answering a ton of e-mails. I spent all my free time trying to track this gull over a two-week period, while also working, helping review the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), and managing a home life. It was very exhilarating for the most part. The bad part was the fact that many people traveled so very far and tried so hard, but still did not see the gull. So my advice is if you find a very rare bird, pack a lunch, as you will be very busy until the bird disappears.

16 February 2008

DAY 1

I was planning to spend the day birding with two great ladies from Sioux Falls, SD, Lynne Williams and Nancy Schaefer, whom I had enjoyed birding with in the past. They were coming to see the owls Doug Backlund had found and to search for a Gyrfalcon. I had just left Billy Goat Jump where Doug had shown me a Saw-whet Owl, and I was on my way to meet the ladies at the tailrace at 9:30 AM. I decided to stop at the Oahe Dam intakes as I always do to look for gulls or rare waterfowl. When I first spotted this white gull on the ice, Iceland Gull popped into my head. Then I noticed this bird was whiter and smaller than the Iceland I had been seeing. I put my scope on it and in an instant, the black legs, black face patch and yellow bill screamed IVORY GULL!! I was attuned to the ID features of an immature Ivory Gull, because Todd Jensen and I had contemplated running to Duluth, MN, to chase an earlier sighting and because of another reason I will explain at the end of my article.

I immediately called Doug Backlund and said, "Quick, get over here, there's an Ivory Gull". I then made several calls to South Dakota and North Dakota bird chasers and asked several of them to spread the word. Todd Jensen was able to contact Mick Zerr of Sioux Falls who graciously posted the sighting for me on the SD listserv, which was soon picked up and re-posted by many states' birding listservs. Doug arrived and snapped some long-range photos of the gull, which he soon posted. And thus the odyssey began.

I met the ladies and showed them the gull. A group of people who were in the area to see Doug's owls had arrived and were able to observe the gull. The group consisted of Roger Dietrich and son (Yankton), Chris Anderson (Sioux Falls), Doug's parents, Chuck and Myrtle Backlund (Pierre) and sister Susan Leach, from Texas.

The gull stayed at the intakes until around noon. Many birders from SD and ND arrived in the afternoon, some just missing the gull by twenty minutes. I birded with the ladies until about 3:00 PM when the ladies very nicely said, "You are getting so many cell phone calls that you

need to go search for the gull." They had mentioned it earlier, but I kept saying, "No, I am enjoying birding with you too much." But by that time we had observed most of the target species and I agreed to go help the search for the Ivory Gull. I helped search for the gull, but it was not seen again that afternoon.

That evening, since I was the South Dakota co-reviewer for the GBBC, I e-mailed the GBBC coordinator and said that we need to add Ivory Gull to the SD Checklist so it can be entered. Subsequently he added it. It then came out on the GBBC Blog with a link to Doug's photos, helping spread the sighting across the nation.

17 February 2008

DAY 2

When I arrived at the intakes Sunday morning Dave Swanson (Vermillion), Ron Martin and Corey Ellingson (both ND) and who had stayed over from Saturday were there. Also present was a group of five birders from Colorado including Nathan Pieplow and Andrew Spencer.

After watching the intakes for a while I told Ron Martin that I was going to go look at an open water hole in the ice upriver that Dave Swanson, Todd Jensen and I had found the afternoon before. He decided to drive up too. While observing the hole Ron noticed a white gull on the ice near the hole. While discussing the gull ID, a gull flew a short distance, ending the discussion. It was the Ivory Gull. I then called Dave Swanson who soon arrived with the Colorado group. It was a cold, very windy day with intermediate snow squalls. Several members of the group (Dave, Corey, Ron, and three CO birders) quickly decided to brave the elements and hike over land and ice the mile or better to the hole. They got closer and received a better look, but lost the gull in the snow as it flew up river. Later Jeff Palmer (Madison) and Paul Roisen (IA) arrived at the intakes. Paul Roisen left to look in Corps Bay. He soon called me and said he saw it flying up river. Jeff, Dave and I soon met Paul and decided to go up river, hike down from the public access point and look for the gull. After we searched for about an hour, we had pretty much given up looking and were hiking back. We were pretty cold and the wind was making my eyes water so much I could hardly see. But as I took one last look before climbing the bluff, I told Jeff I think I see it. Jeff quickly set up his scope (only about three feet high because of the wind). I looked and elatedly found the bird in the scope. Jeff, Paul and Dave were able to observe it. As we tried to get closer the bird disappeared again on the snow. Later all five Colorado birders relocated the bird at the hole. Andrew Spencer photographed the bird and later posted the photos to the Surfbirds "rarities" photo section, thus giving the sighting more exposure across the United States. Doug had climbed up and down the steep bluff three times, and froze in the cold for about four hours that day in order to get another photo, without success.

18 February 2008

DAY 3

In the morning I met up with Todd Jensen (Sioux Falls), Dave Lambeth (ND) and Tim Driscoll (ND). We decided to go up river and search for the gull. Todd, Tim and I sat at the hole, while Dave searched down river. After freezing in the breezy zero temperatures for 3-4 hours, just as Dave returned, Tim spotted the gull fly in. We all enjoyed a great look at the gull for our effort. I called Doug and he soon arrived and took the now famous fish catching photos. I called Jim McLaird (Mitchell) who was close by; he soon arrived and observed the gull.

19 February 2008

DAY 4

One of the highlights of this saga occurred this day. Tina Jones (CO) who has MS and could not scale the bluff was finally able to look through my scope and get an identifiable look at the gull after she had spent a couple days sitting at the intakes. Also arriving and observing the gull at the hole were Dean Reimers (ND), Keith Corliss (ND), Jocie Baker (Rapid City), George Prisbe (Hanna), and renowned video photographer John W. Vanderpoel (CO). John so kindly offered and delivered a copy of his [Small Gull](#) DVD as a present for sharing my sighting with him. I love this DVD and soon will purchase his [Large Gull](#) and [Hummingbird](#) DVDs. Clark Tarkington (ND) was able to view the gull from the bluff in the afternoon.

20 February 2008**DAY 5**

Tim Barksdale (MT) arrived. Tim is a renowned video photographer and former member of Cornell's Ivory-billed Woodpecker search team. I showed Tim the public access point. As we returned to the intakes about 12:30,—lo and behold—there was the gull! I called Justin Rink (NE), who had been looking up river; he soon arrived at the intakes. I had to leave for work—darn it. Tim brought some suet and chickens and placed them on an old goose carcass on the ice to lure the gull in close and it worked splendidly. Tim and Justin both obtained video of the Ivory Gull. Justin later put a video clip of the gull on YouTube. This was one of the days the gull stayed at the intakes for several hours.

21 February 2008**DAY 6**

Mark Otnes (ND) arrived and searched the intakes and up river. He called me at work and said it made a short appearance at the intakes at 2:00 PM. Tony Dean stopped by Doug Backlund's office and interviewed him about the gull for his Outdoor Show. The local radio station KCCR interviewed him as well.

22 February 2008**DAY 7**

This was probably my favorite day of the experience as my good friend Kenny Miller was finally able to obtain a great look at the Ivory Gull. He had recently had back surgery and was recuperating in Rapid City and then was home-bound for the first six days of the gull sightings. I know that it was just killing him to not be able to get up and about to see it. This was also a day that the gull stayed at the intakes almost all day and everybody that showed up was able to observe it.

Later in the day, Ron and Marietta Mabie (Pickstown) and groups from Colorado and North Dakota arrived and were able to see the gull. A reporter from the Capital Journal, our local newspaper, arrived and viewed the gull and interviewed me.

Soon after Rosemary Draeger and Linda Johnson of Sioux Falls arrived full of excitement, bailing out of the car as it stopped abruptly in a cloud of dust, after taking the last corner on two wheels. Linda was at the wheel, of course.

Tim's suet was about gone, so I bought about a fifteen-pound chunk of suet and placed it out there. It worked like a charm. After I left I do not know everyone who was able to see the gull. I do know Clem Klaphake (NE), another Colorado group, Minnesota birders, and Jean & Gene Adams (WY) saw it.

23 February 2008**DAY 8**

This Saturday morning I approached the intakes with feelings of anticipation and dread. I knew because of many phone calls and e-mails a large group from across the nation would be there. I knew I would feel elated if the gull was seen, but dreaded the thought that it had left. I do not know how many people were present, but I can tell you groups of birders from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Wyoming, North Dakota, Illinois, Nebraska, and of course South Dakota were present.

The hours passed slowly without any sightings and many hopes running low. Then at 2:00 PM a call from up river from Jay Gilliam (IA) came. He said he thought he had the gull. Whoosh! About every car but mine disappeared from the parking areas. They all ran up river and almost all the people were able to see the gull. What a relief; the pressure was off. I then received a call that it left and was headed my way. A couple of groups who were not present at the time of the earlier call missed the gull. They soon arrived at the intakes and waited until dark without success. Later I learned that Doug Chapman observed the gull up river at 5:30 PM, but did not think to call anyone as he had just returned to SD from Mexico, and the posts to the listserv of the prior couple of days made it appear easy to see. So he thought his sighting was no big deal.

During the day several local people stopped to see the gull as word spread via the radio and local KCCR daily news handouts. They all asked where Doug Backlund

was, “as he is the expert, you know”. So from then on whenever he stopped by we razzed Doug by asking “...where is the gull?... as you are the expert, you know!”.

24 February 2008

DAY 9

I arrived at the intakes at 7:50 AM and to my surprise I was all alone. I knew that most of the groups that missed the gull had stayed overnight, but where were they? I looked out on the ice and there was the Ivory Gull. At that time Jay Gilliam (IA), who spotted the gull the previous day showed up and saw the gull again. I frantically called the person from ND who had missed the gull the day before. He said he was on his way. Just as he arrived the gull flew away without him seeing it. About two minutes later the other groups arrived. They had gone up river in an attempt to outsmart the gull, but because of fog they could not see anything. They returned only to hear they had just missed it. Later several South Dakotans and another Colorado group arrived. But the gull was not seen again that day.

25 February 2008

DAY 10

I arrived at the intakes this morning to find a group from afar who had stayed overnight: Thomas Hendrich (CO) and Sandy Kloonce (CA). I think Sandy had the distinction of having traveled the most miles to see this gull. The gull was never seen on this day. I thought the gull had left.

26 February 2008

DAY 11

Sandy Kloonce (CA) called and informed us that the gull was at the intakes. Sandy and I were the only people there in the morning. I called Doug and he arrived and was able to take probably his best photos of the gull, because the lighting was superb. I have to commend Doug as he had several opportunities to photograph the gull when he didn't because he didn't want to interfere with anybody's chance of seeing it by risking scaring it away. Later in the day several local birders were able to see it for the first time. The gull stayed all day at the intakes. At sundown Doug Backlund and Charlie Bessen watched it fly west towards Billy Goat Jump. The gull was never seen again.

I thought it was appropriate when Doug Backlund later told me, “You were the first one to see it, but we were the last ones to see it.” Through his photos and his help searching for the gull, he played a major part in sharing this bird with so many people.

27, 28, 29 February 2008

DAYS 12, 13, 14

Several South Dakotans and I, as well as out-of-state birders, searched for the gull without success. These included Nick Block (IL), Chris West (WI), Michael Retter (IN), *SDOU Bird Notes* Youth Editor Caity Reiland-Smith (Sioux Falls) and other group members also searched fruitlessly.

STORY FINALE

And now the rest of the story as I promised. On the morning of 26 January 2008, on a chunk of ice floating past Fisherman's Point, among a flock of gulls, I spotted an almost all white, Ring-billed Gull-sized gull with a yellowish bill and black spots along folded wing. Ivory Gull flashed into my mind, I only got a several-second look through my scope and immediately grabbed for my camera in hopes of digiscoping the gull. Before I could a Bald Eagle flushed the gulls. I looked diligently for this gull several days below the dam without success. I never reported this as it was only a “several-second look”, and it would be a first state record, so I could not prove the sighting and I didn't think most people would believe me. I did tell Doug and Kenny to make them aware that an Ivory Gull might be in the area. But I was looking in the wrong place; the gull was feeding on ice in Lake Oahe, not in the open water on Lake Sharpe. So in my mind we will never really know how long the Ivory Gull visited the area.

I could not possibly include everybody who chased the gull in this article and probably spelled a couple of names wrong for which I apologize.

LONG-TERM PLAN FOR MONITORING SOUTH DAKOTA'S BREEDING COLONIAL WATERBIRDS

by Nancy Drilling, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 230 Cherry St., Fort Collins, CO

Note: The following is part two of the Executive Summary of the South Dakota Colonial Waterbird Project's final report (Drilling 2007). The first half, summarizing the inventory results, was published in the previous issue of SD Bird Notes (SDBN 60(1):23).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, Part 2

The second objective of the South Dakota Colonial Waterbird Project was to develop a long-term statewide monitoring plan. Monitoring populations will guide waterbird conservation planning, help establish management and research priorities, and serve as a basis for evaluating management actions. Issues that complicate monitoring of breeding colonial waterbirds in South Dakota include the relative rarity of colonies compared to available habitat, the ephemeral nature of breeding habitat and thus of some colonies, the enormous number of wetlands in South Dakota, and wet-dry climatic cycles which cause dramatic changes in the composition and number of wetlands across the landscape. As a result of these factors, most recommended sampling and statistical designs for monitoring breeding colonies are not practical for South Dakota's statewide monitoring program.

The goal of monitoring South Dakota's breeding colonial waterbirds is to collect information, on a continuous basis and over a long period of time, which managers and landowners can use to manage and conserve colonial waterbirds and to aid in the prevention of future declines of colonial waterbird species that breed in South Dakota.

Specific objectives include:

1. Improve information on conservation status of breeding colonial waterbirds in South Dakota
2. Identify and track factors that could result in a decline of colonial waterbird species that breed in South Dakota
3. Determine what and how management actions impact breeding populations
4. Provide information to aid management of waterbird-fisheries conflicts
5. Ensure compatibility with regional and national monitoring efforts.

Monitoring will have two components: monitoring known colonies and searching for new colonies. The state is divided into eight regions, based on each area's wetland resources and demonstrated importance for breeding waterbirds; regions of higher importance will be monitored more intensely

than regions of lower importance. New colonies will be identified by soliciting information from biologists and the public, and conducting aerial surveys along transects across the region(s) of interest. Ground visits to colonies will collect data on species presence and abundance, habitat, threats, and other variables that address the objectives.

This monitoring plan will be implemented and coordinated under the lead of the Wildlife Diversity Program, Division of Wildlife, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. A pilot project in 2007 showed that it would be feasible to establish a citizen-scientist volunteer colony monitoring program in the state. However, there are not enough volunteers and they are not distributed widely enough to monitor all colonies. Many federal, tribal, and state agencies, organizations, and individuals could potentially play a role in colony monitoring. Coordination among these groups will achieve greater coverage and, ultimately, conservation success.

This monitoring plan should be reevaluated in five years, and then every five to ten years thereafter, to reassess goals and objectives, to update the plan with new developments and information in statistics, modeling, and research, and to evaluate the ability of each aspect of the plan to meet objectives and contribute to the conservation of colonial waterbirds in South Dakota.

LITERATURE CITED

Drilling, N. E. 2007. South Dakota Statewide Colonial and Semi-colonial Waterbird Inventory with a Plan for Long-term Monitoring: Final Report. Tech. Rep. M-ColonySD-04. Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Brighton, CO. 80 pp.



Photo: Sunny Walter

SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2007-2008 Winter Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 December 2007 to 29 February 2008

College of Arts & Sciences
Dakota State University
Madison, SD 57042

There were 138 species, including seven rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (1997-2006) average is 132. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (dates that are earlier/later than listed in *South Dakota Birds* by Tallman, Swanson, and Palmer and species that are out of range). Included at the end is a list of species (21) that were not reported this year and might be expected during the Winter Season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during winter in at least two of the previous five years. Numbers in parentheses indicates the number of consecutive years (up to four) that the species has appeared on the list during the season.

Greater White-fronted Goose All Reports: 08 Dec Charles Mix RM; 12 Dec Stanley RDO; 15 Dec Gregory JSP; 23 Dec Stanley RDO; 12 Jan Charles Mix RM

Snow Goose reported 18 Dec Charles Mix RM; 06 Jan Stanley KM; 03 Feb Minnehaha MRZ; 08 Feb Davison RM; 23 Feb Hughes JSP

Ross's Goose All Reports: 04 Dec Stanley RDO; 12 Dec Stanley RDO; 22 Feb Hughes RM; 29 Feb Hughes RDO

Cackling Goose reported 06 Jan Hughes RDO; 06 Jan Stanley KM; 12 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix RM; 01 Feb Stanley DB; 09 Feb Hughes DB

Trumpeter Swan All Reports: **07 Jan Bon Homme RM; 12 Jan Yankton RD; 27 Jan Yankton RM**

Wood Duck reported 18 Dec Grant BU; 05 Jan Hughes DB; 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 02 Feb Pennington JLB; 09 Feb Hughes DB

Gadwall reported 18 Dec Grant BU; 23 Dec Stanley RDO; 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 08 Jan Yankton RM; 27 Jan Yankton RM; 02 Feb Pennington JLB

American Wigeon reported 23 Dec Stanley RDO; 23 Dec Sully RDO; 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 11 Jan Hughes KM; 27 Jan Pennington JLB; 01 Feb Charles Mix RM

American Black Duck All Reports: 18 Dec Grant BU; 23 Dec Sully RDO; 29 Feb Hughes RDO

Northern Shoveler Only Report: 08 Dec Pennington JLB

Northern Pintail All Reports: 04 Dec Stanley RDO; 08 Dec Pennington JLB; 09 Dec Meade EEM; 28 Dec Pennington JLB; 29 Feb Hughes RDO

Green-winged Teal All Reports: 02 Dec Stanley KM; 09 Dec Meade EEM; 27 Jan Pennington JLB

Canvasback All Reports: 02 Dec Stanley KM; 08 Dec Hughes DB; 22 Dec Hughes RDO; 26 Jan Hughes KM

Redhead reported 12 Dec Pennington JLB; 22 Dec Hughes RDO; 23 Dec Stanley RDO; 08 Jan Yankton RM; 27 Jan Pennington JLB; 27 Jan Yankton RM; 28 Feb Charles Mix RM

Ring-necked Duck reported 23 Dec Hughes DB; 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 27 Jan Pennington JLB

Greater Scaup reported **22 Dec Hughes RDO; 06 Jan Stanley RDO; 19 Jan Yankton DS; 27 Jan Pennington JLB**

Lesser Scaup reported 12 Dec Pennington JLB; 15 Dec Minnehaha MS; 06 Jan Stanley RDO; 27 Jan Pennington JLB

Bufflehead reported 05 Jan Hughes DB; 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 17 Jan Charles Mix RM; 24 Jan Pennington RDO

Barrow's Goldeneye reported 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 24 Jan Pennington RDO

Hooded Merganser reported 18 Dec Grant BU; 06 Jan Hughes RDO; 06 Jan Stanley RDO; 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 12 Jan Yankton RD; 19 Jan Charles Mix JSP; 19 Jan Yankton DS; 24 Jan Pennington JLB

Red-breasted Merganser All Reports: 03 Dec Charles Mix RM; 04 Dec Stanley RDO; 08 Dec Charles Mix RM; 13 Feb Hughes RDO; 29 Feb Charles Mix JSP

Ruddy Duck Only Report: 18 Dec Charles Mix RM

Gray Partridge All Reports: 01 Dec Meade RDO; 03 Dec Butte JLB; 06 Dec Custer MMM; 10 Dec Butte JLB; 11 Dec Harding CEM; 23 Dec Meade EEM; 16 Feb Codington JSP

Ruffed Grouse Only Report: 01 Feb Lawrence DGP

Greater Sage-Grouse Only Report: **24 Dec Harding (75) CEM, KM**

Common Loon All Reports: **26 Jan Hughes KM; 26 Jan Stanley RDO**

Horned Grebe Only Report: **04 Dec Stanley RDO**

Western Grebe All Reports: 08 Dec Hughes DB; **20 Jan Sully RDO**

Double-crested Cormorant All Reports: 04 Dec Stanley RDO; 24 Dec Stanley RDO

Northern Harrier reported 20 Dec Lake JSP; 05 Jan Harding CEM; 05 Jan Hughes DB, KM, RDO; 05 Jan Jones DB; 12 Jan Lawrence JLB; 12 Jan Stanley RDO; 18 Jan Charles Mix RM; 19 Jan Hughes RDO; 19 Jan Jones DB; 08 Feb Miner JSP

Cooper's Hawk Only Report: 25 Dec Lawrence DGP

Northern Goshawk All Reports: 13 Jan Hughes RDO; 22 Jan Edmunds JDW; 19 Feb Hughes RDO

Ferruginous Hawk reported 13 Jan Sully DB; 13 Jan Pennington MMM; 13 Jan Jones DB; 13 Jan Hughes RDO; 19 Jan Jones DB; 19 Jan Stanley DB; 29 Feb Custer MMM; 29 Feb Harding CEM

Golden Eagle reported 30 Dec Beadle BFW; 02 Feb Edmunds DST; 22 Feb Day MO; 22 Feb Spink MO

Merlin reported 04 Jan Hughes KM; 05 Jan Jones DB; 13 Jan Sully DB; 19 Jan Hughes RDO; 02 Feb Stanley DB; 03 Feb Charles Mix RM; 08 Feb Miner JSP

Gyrfalcon reported 05 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 13 Jan Sully DB; 13 Jan Jones DB; 26 Jan Stanley DB; 26 Jan Stanley RDO

Prairie Falcon reported 15 Dec Hutchinson JSP; 26 Jan Moody JSP

American Coot reported 06 Jan Stanley RDO; 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 08 Jan Yankton RM; 27 Jan Pennington JLB; 27 Jan Yankton RM

Killdeer All Reports: 03 Dec Pennington JLB; 06 Dec Hughes RDO; 06 Dec Pennington JLB; 12 Dec Pennington JLB; 18 Dec Pennington JLB; **05 Jan Yankton RD**

Dunlin Only Report: **16 Dec Buffalo KM, RDO**

Wilson's Snipe All Reports: 01 Dec Pennington MMM; 24 Dec Lawrence DGP; 10 Jan Lawrence DGP; 11 Jan Lawrence DGP; 04 Feb Lawrence DGP

Franklin's Gull All Reports: 11 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 13 Jan Hughes RDO; 19 Jan Charles Mix JSP

Bonaparte's Gull All Reports: 01 Dec Stanley KM; 02 Dec Stanley KM; 03 Dec Charles Mix RM; 15 Dec Charles Mix JSP; 24 Dec Charles Mix RM

Thayer's Gull reported 16 Dec Buffalo RDO; 01 Jan Stanley RDO; 19 Jan Charles Mix JSP; 25 Jan Hughes KM; 26 Jan Stanley RDO

Glaucous Gull reported 01 Jan Stanley RDO; 06 Jan Hughes RDO; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 18 Jan Charles Mix RM; 01 Feb Hughes RDO; 26 Feb Stanley RDO

Black-legged Kitiwake All Reports: 03 Dec Charles Mix RM; 10 Dec Charles Mix RM

Mourning Dove All Reports: 09 Dec Clay DS; 15 Dec Minnehaha MS; 16 Dec Brown DST; 18 Dec Charles Mix RM; 18 Feb Charles Mix RM

Snowy Owl reported 29 Dec Dewey DGP; 30 Dec Harding CEM; 30 Dec Beadle BFW; 12 Jan Butte JLB; 08 Feb Kingsbury JSP; 21 Feb Hand MO; 29 Feb Sully RDO

Long-eared Owl reported 28 Dec Lawrence SW; 05 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 12 Jan Beadle BFW; 02 Feb Brown DST; 02 Feb Lawrence DGP; 02 Feb Stanley DB

Short-eared Owl reported 15 Dec Hutchinson JSP; 05 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 12 Jan Stanley RDO; 12 Jan Lawrence JLB; 19 Jan Jones DB; 19 Jan Stanley DB; 23 Jan Walworth JDW; 08 Feb Miner JSP

Northern Saw-whet Owl reported 29 Dec Sully KM; 05 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 01 Feb Stanley DB; 29 Feb Harding CEM

Belted Kingfisher reported 05 Jan Minnehaha MS; 12 Jan Lawrence JLB; 12 Jan Yankton RD; 24 Jan Lawrence DGP; 29 Feb Pennington JLB

Lewis's Woodpecker All Reports: 01 Dec Meade RDO; 24 Jan Lawrence JLB; 26 Jan Lawrence DGP; 02 Feb Lawrence JLB

Red-headed Woodpecker Only Report: **24 Jan Lawrence JLB**

Red-bellied Woodpecker reported 28 Dec Meade JLB

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker All Reports: **22 Jan Charles Mix RM; 24 Feb Charles Mix RM**

Black-backed Woodpecker Only Report: 27 Dec Meade AKB

Pileated Woodpecker Only Report: 16 Feb Roberts JSP

Pinyon Jay reported from Meade County APB, AKB

Black-billed Magpie reported 18 Dec Charles Mix RM; 05 Jan Hughes KM, RDO

Pygmy Nuthatch reported 03 Dec Custer RDO; 16 Dec Pennington APB; 07 Jan Meade APB; 24 Jan Custer RDO; 25 Jan Meade APB; 02 Feb Butte JLB

Carolina Wren All Reports: **02 Dec Minnehaha MRZ; 09 Dec Minnehaha MRZ; 01 Jan Minnehaha MRZ; 13 Jan Minnehaha MRZ**

Golden-crowned Kinglet All Reports: 01 Dec Hughes KM; 14 Dec Lawrence DGP; 01 Jan Hughes KM; 04 Jan Lawrence DGP; 10 Jan Lawrence DGP; 15 Jan Lawrence DGP

Eastern Bluebird reported 11 Jan Charles Mix RM; 14 Jan Clay DS; 17 Jan Charles Mix RM; 10 Feb Hughes EDS

Townsend's Solitaire reported 07 Dec Beadle BFW; 15 Dec Brown GO; 20 Dec Lake JSP; 21 Dec Day MO; 21 Dec Roberts MO; 26 Jan Union DS

Hermit Thrush All Reports: **21 Dec Hughes KM; 29 Dec Clay DS**

Gray Catbird All Reports: **15 Dec Hughes KM; 30 Dec Hughes KM**

Bohemian Waxwing reported 15 Dec Meade EEM; 18 Dec Grant BU; 21 Dec Day MO; 25 Dec Hughes RDO; 26 Jan Lawrence DGP; 02 Feb Meade JLB; 09 Feb Harding CEM; 21 Feb Pennington MMM

Yellow-rumped Warbler Only Report: **27 Feb Lawrence JLB**

Spotted Towhee All Reports: **06 Jan Stanley KM; 23 Dec Hughes DB; 09 Feb Hughes DB**

Fox Sparrow reported **01 Jan Minnehaha TS; 26 Jan Minnehaha MRZ**

Song Sparrow reported 01 Dec Pennington MMM; 09 Dec Meade EEM; 15 Dec Stanley DB; 29 Dec Clay DS; 01 Jan Hughes KM; 26 Jan Moody JSP

Swamp Sparrow All Reports: **20 Dec Lake JSP; 02 Feb Yankton DS**

White-throated Sparrow Only Report: 09 Feb Edmunds JDW

Harris's Sparrow reported 24 Dec Lawrence DGP; 01 Jan Minnehaha TD; 02 Jan Clay GJS; 06 Jan Stanley KM; 12 Jan Yankton RD; 18 Jan Clay GJS; 26 Jan Minnehaha MRZ

White-crowned Sparrow Only Report: 14 Dec Beadle BFW

Northern Cardinal reported **16 Dec Pennington APB; 26 Feb Pennington JLB**

Western Meadowlark reported 05 Jan Yankton RD; 12 Jan Beadle BFW; 13 Jan Custer MMM; 19 Jan Clay DS; 19 Jan Hughes RDO; 19 Jan Jones DB; 02 Feb Minnehaha JSP

Rusty Blackbird All Reports: 11 Dec Deuel BU; 15 Dec Hughes KM

Brewer's Blackbird Only Report: 24 Jan Butte JLB

Common Grackle All Reports: 16 Dec Brookings JSP; 18 Dec Charles Mix RM

Common Redpoll All Reports: 11 Dec Deuel BU; 20 Jan Lake JSP

Evening Grosbeak Only Report: 02 Dec Meade RDO

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Eared Grebe 08 Dec Pennington JLB

California Gull 01 Feb Hughes RDO; 17 Feb Hughes JSP; 24 Feb Hughes RDO
Iceland Gull 26 Jan – 24 Feb Hughes and Stanley KM, RDO, RM
Ivory Gull 16-26 Feb Hughes and Stanley RDO, JSP, EDS, RM, KM
Pileated Woodpecker 04 Jan Minnehaha DC
Common Raven 01 Dec Pennington BE; 02 Dec Lawrence RDO; 09 Dec Pennington BE
Mountain Bluebird 12 Jan McCook JSP
Vesper Sparrow 01 Dec Stanley KM
Purple Finch 05 Dec Meade EEM; 24 Dec Harding CEM

Species Expected But Not Reported

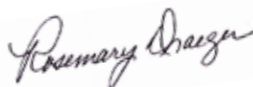
Tundra Swan (3), Surf Scoter (2), White-winged Scoter (2), Long-tailed Duck, Pied-billed Grebe (2), American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Virginia Rail, Mew Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Barn Owl (3), Barred Owl (2), Clark’s Nutcracker, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Varied Thrush (3), Brown Thrasher, Yellow-headed Blackbird (2), Brown-headed Cowbird, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Pine Grosbeak

Contributing Observers

DB	Doug Backlund	MO	Mark Otnes
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	DGP	D. George Prisbe
AKB	Anna K. Ball	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
EB	Ellie Bernier	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
DC	Doug Chapman	TS	Terry Sohl
RD	Roger Dietrich	WS	Waubay NWR Staff
BK	Brian Kringen	DST	Daniel Streifel
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
RM	Ron Mabie	DS	David Swanson
MMM	Michael M. Melius	BU	Bill Unzen
CEM	Charlie Miller	BFW	Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
EEM	Ernest E. Miller	SW	Scott Weins
KM	Kenny Miller	JDW	J. David Williams
GO	Gary Olson	MRZ	Mick Zerr
RDO	Ricky D. Olson		

President’s Page—cont. from pg. 27

been delightfully bountiful. On more than one occasion in the last two weeks of May I counted twenty species of warblers in a single day’s birding. Wooded areas around Sioux Falls seemed in constant motion with warblers. There are many places across the country where interesting birds may be found, but I doubt there is any place in the country with greater diversity plus sheer numbers of birds passing through in spring migration than we experience during a year like this year in South Dakota.



See good birds.

Identification of species on pages 36-37

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Indigo Bunting | 7. Western Tanager | 13. Chestnut-collared Longspur |
| 2. Scarlet Tanager | 8. Mountain Bluebird | |
| 3. Ring-necked Pheasant | 9. Bobolink | |
| 4. Northern Cardinal | 10. Baltimore Oriole | |
| 5. Wood Duck | 11. American Goldfinch | |
| 6. American Avocet | 12. Yellow-rumped Warbler | |

(Extra credit if you knew it was “Audubon’s”)



Contents

President's Page.....	27
by Rosemary Draeger	
From Our Past...in SD Bird Notes	28
by L. M. Baylor	
Night Birding at Newton Hills State Park	29
by Mick Zerr	
SDOU Spring Meeting 2008 in Pickstown.....	30
by David Swanson	
Fledgling Tracts.....	31
by Caity Reiland-Smith	
Second South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas.....	32
by Nancy Drilling	
Book Review: <i>HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD, VOL. 12:</i> <i>PICATHARTES TO TITS AND CHICKADEES</i>	34
by Dan A. Tallman	
First Record of Ivory Gull in South Dakota	38
by Ricky D. Olson	
Long Term Plan for Monitoring South Dakota's Breeding Colonial Waterbirds: Executive Summary: Part 2	42
by Nancy Drilling	
2007-2008 Winter Seasonal Reports.....	44
by Jeffrey S. Palmer	
Canvasback Taking Off, Brown Co. 04/08/05	Back Cover
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