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# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

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*Clark's Grebe*

*Siskiyou Co. CA 6/19/08*

*Photo: Terry Sobl*



*Note orange bill  
and light back*

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S O U T H      D A K O T A  
B I R D   N O T E S

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This year, the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union is 62 years old. An organization doesn't last that long unless it has a timeless mission that is supported by an active, passionate group of members. In some ways it's not surprising – birds, and bird-watching are both incredibly popular. A 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey estimated that 192,000 adults in South Dakota watched birds at least once that year. That's a lot of love of birds! So an organization focused on the study of birds automatically has an attractive message.



The key to our success however, has been the people. Over the years, SDOU has been blessed with a constant flow of people willing to turn their passion for birds into action. In this case, "action" means participation – being SDOU members, contributing to SDOU's scholarship and grant funds, going to meetings, planning SDOU events, and becoming board members and officers. Today, we still have a committed group of people, but we definitely can always use more! So I encourage each of you to turn your passion for birds into action. Here are some ideas on what you can do:

1. Introduce your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and relatives to birds. Take them birding!
2. Buy a gift SDOU membership for at least one person,
3. Keep up on issues that impact birds in South Dakota and elsewhere,
4. Subscribe and contribute to the sd-birds listserve and the SDOU Facebook page,
5. Contribute to SDOU's scholarship and student grant funds (see the SDOU web site at [www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org) for details),
6. Attend an SDOU meeting – the next meeting is in October in Brookings,
7. Sign up to be a citizen scientist in a project such as the Breeding Bird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, Christmas Bird Count, Backyard Bird Count, etc.,
8. Contribute your bird sightings to the SDOU database,
9. Volunteer for the SDOU Board,
10. Organize an event for SDOU,.

South Dakota's birds need us, now more than ever, because of all of the threats facing them both within the state, and on their migration and wintering grounds. And, I think most of us agree that we need the birds.

So, turn your curiosity, energy, and passion for birds into action. See you in Brookings in October!

*Nancy Grilling*

# FLEDGLING TRACTS

TUCKER J. LUTTER

## *Father and Son in the Last Frontier*

Many years of dreaming, planning, and saving money had finally led us to this point. Looking out over the flooded Missouri River valley from the airplane, my dad and I say goodbye to the Midwest as we embarked on our sixteen day journey to the last frontier – Alaska.

Alaska is a place as big as a person's dreams. The birds, the mountains, the glaciers, the wildlife – they all seemed so amazing.

The fantasy started with an incentive. When I was in cub scouts, my dad told me that we would go on a trip to Alaska if I achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. While not the only reason I continued in scouting, it was always nice to fall back on this idea when I felt like giving up. The hard work of getting my Eagle Scout rank came to mind and I felt it paid off as our plane made its final descent into Anchorage. As our plane turned to get in line with the runway, the beautiful mastiff of Mount McKinley stood out above the clouds, a good omen to us that it would be an astounding trip.

Once off the plane, we breathed in the cool and refreshing air, which is second to none. The mountains made a stunning backdrop everywhere we went, and the scenery was so immense and beautiful that it was truly breathtaking. The great State of Alaska, though beautiful, wouldn't be nearly as nice without its kind and welcoming human population.

As my dad and I travelled the state we saw some amazing sights, the most memorable being Mount McKinley, fully visible some 26 miles away from us as we camped at Wonder Lake in Denali National Park. (See photo, page 56.) Also very memorable was the calving of the 300 foot high Ailiak Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park. While these sights were amazing, the wildlife that inhabited these places was almost as impressive as the scenery. Grizzly bear, moose, caribou, Dall's sheep (and a porpoise with the same first name), humpback whale, sea otter, Steller's sea lion, and more all gave us good looks.

For the birder, however, nothing can compare to the interesting birdlife that calls Alaska home. While on the trip, I saw fourteen life birds, half of those being seabirds.

I will never forget looking for my lifer Northern Wheatear on the high slopes above the Eilson Visitor Center in Denali National Park. To find this bird, I had to literally run up and then back down the side of a small mountain. With only 40 minutes to complete this task, I missed the bird the first time I looked for it, and felt terribly exhausted to boot. To keep Denali wild, a bus system runs into the park to eliminate traffic from the park road. Sometimes this can wreak havoc for a birder when he is looking for a bird but needs to catch a bus, as is what happened during the wheatear chase. Catching a bus back to Eilson the next day, I managed to find the bird, given a little extra time. The wheatear flew beautifully as a butterfly across the high, rocky tundra, clearly showing its unique tail pattern.

Another favorite bird was the Parakeet Auklet. They were nesting in the Chiswell Islands off the coast of the Kenai Peninsula. From the tour boat, we saw them sitting on the water and then they proceeded to fly up to their nesting site, which was hidden in a pile of rocks. The auklets were just a few of the thousands of seabirds that we saw, which nest in this chain of islands.

While the scenery, wildlife, and birds were great, nothing could beat the quality time spent with my dad. The great land of Alaska left its indelible mark on us, and also on our relationship, which was strengthened by our amazing adventure together.

*[Tucker has informed me that since he is entering his senior year of high school he cannot also keep up writing Fledgling Tracts for us. We wish him much success and godspeed in his endeavors with sincere thanks for his many contributions to SD Bird Notes the last three years. ~Ed.]*

## 2010 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

David L. Swanson. Department of Biology. University of South Dakota. Vermillion 57069.  
Email: david.swanson@usd.edu.

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) met on 22 May 2010 at Sioux Falls and on 10 October 2010 at Vermillion. The members of the committee were David Swanson (secretary), Ricky Olson, Todd Jensen, J. David Williams, and Jeffrey Palmer. All members either attended each meeting or voted *in absentia*.

Springer (1988. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 40:67-70) outlined the purpose and voting procedures of the RBRC. The RBRC strongly encourages observers of rare or unusual birds in South Dakota to report their observations to the secretary of the RBRC (David Swanson of Vermillion, SD), preferably via email at david.swanson@usd.edu. A *Rare Bird Report Form* is available in electronic format for this purpose from David Swanson, or a form can be downloaded from <http://www.sdou.org/>, by clicking on the *Seasonal Reporting* link and then clicking on the link for the *Rare Bird Report Form*. A summary of the type of information desired by the RBRC in a rare bird report can be found in Swanson (2004. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 56:88-95).

The RBRC requests rare bird reports for species listed as hypothetical or accidental in the state, including species reported from a portion of the state where that species is listed as accidental. A listing of birds belonging to these categories in South Dakota is provided in the latest version of the checklist of South Dakota birds, accessible at <http://www.sdou.org/> by clicking on the *Seasonal Reporting* link and then clicking on the link for the *South Dakota State Checklist*). Information regarding species listed as accidental for only a portion of the state can be found in Tallman et al. (2002. *Birds of South Dakota*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, SDOU, Aberdeen, SD). The RBRC regularly adds or removes species from the review list, based on current data, and these changes to the review list are reported in previous annual reports of the RBRC in *South Dakota Bird Notes*. In addition, reports are requested for observations listed in the "Species Requiring Acceptance by the Rare Bird Records Committee" section in the Seasonal Reports of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Observers whose records are accepted (Classes 1 and 2) are encouraged to publish these records in *South Dakota Bird Notes*, so details of the observation can be communicated to a wider audience.

Following are the results of the committee's action since the last report in the September 2010 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. The numbers included in parentheses along with some reports indicate the committee's vote. If no numbers are listed, the vote was unanimous (5-0) or 4-0 if a committee member submitted the report. The committee wishes to emphasize that a rating of Class 3 or 4 (non-accepted record) does not imply any personal criticism of the observer. Such a rating only means that the information provided in the report, in the opinion of the committee, did not conclusively eliminate other similar species.

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

Mottled Duck. 5 August 2010. One adult male in Marshall Co. Photographed. Bill Unzen, Ron Mabie et al. First state record.

Harlequin Duck. 1-3 January 2010. Oahe tailrace area, Stanley Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller and Ricky Olson. Fourth state record.

Brown Pelican. 13-14 June 2010. One juvenile at Big Bend Dam, Buffalo Co. Photographed. Jeff Palmer, Scott Stolz, Ron Mabie et al. Seventh state record.

Red-throated Loon. 15 November 2009. One in juvenile plumage at Cow Creek Embayment, Lake Oahe, Sully Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund. Casual fall migrant.

Mountain Plover. 14 August 2009. One in basic plumage at Salt Lake, Deuel Co. Photographed. Douglas Pierzina. First recent record for eastern South Dakota.

Long-tailed Jaeger. One juvenile at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co. Photographed. Rex Riis, Ron

- Mabie et al. Third state record.
- Laughing Gull. 19 May 2010. One adult in alternate plumage at Big Bend Dam, Lyman Co. Photographed. Bill Bossman. Casual migrant and summer visitor.
- Laughing Gull. 11-14 June 2010. One adult in alternate plumage at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson, Kenny Miller, Scott Stolz and Ron Mabie. Casual migrant and summer visitor.
- Arctic Tern. 12 May 2010. One adult at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Third state record.
- Arctic Tern. 23 September 2010. One adult in alternate plumage at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund. Fourth state record.
- Barn Owl. 1 May 2009. One bird near Sturgis, Meade Co. Photographed. Vic Fondy. Accidental away from Missouri River and extreme southwestern South Dakota.
- Barred Owl. 22 May 2010. One adult and one fledgling at Newton Hills State Park. Photographed. Ricky Olson et al. First documented nesting in the state since 1912.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. 22 May 2010. One adult in alternate plumage, Minnehaha Co. Photographed. Todd Jensen and many attendees at the SDOU spring meeting. Casual migrant. (SDBN 62:29).
- Glossy Ibis. 14 May 2010. One in alternate plumage at Reliance, Lyman Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Kenny Miller. Casual spring and summer visitor.
- Common Moorhen. 1-7 August 2010. Six adults and nine young near Hecla, Brown Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Scott Stolz. Second nesting record for the state.
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird. 26-27 June 2010. Female on nest in Hell Canyon, Custer Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller, Ricky Olson and Scott Stolz. First recent nesting record for the state.
- Pileated Woodpecker. 5 December 2009. One male at Oakwood Lakes State Park, Brookings Co. Photographed. Bill Huser and Jerry Probst. Accidental away from extreme northeast corner of state.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. 1 July 2010. One adult male in Butte Co. Photographed. Dylan Radin. Casual summer visitor.
- Northern Shrike. 2 October 2010. One adult in basic plumage near Ree Heights, Hand Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund. Ties earliest ever fall record.
- Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush. 10 July-20 August 2010. One adult at confluence of Iron Creek and Spearfish Creek in Spearfish Canyon, Lawrence Co. Photographed and recorded. Eric Ripma. This report represents a first state record and only the third record of this species for North America. Photographs were provided by Eric Ripma, Doug Backlund and Christopher Taylor. The committee discussed the provenance of this bird and noted that the bird appeared territorial and was secretive, and it occupied habitat that was as close to appropriate for this species as is available in South Dakota. Thus, its behavior was consistent with a wild origin. Further, the photographs on which the wing and tail feathers were well illustrated showed that these feathers exhibited none of the wear expected for a caged bird. Also, evidence suggests that this species is rarely kept in captivity. For these reasons the committee decided that a wild origin for this bird was very likely and accepted the record as a first for South Dakota.
- Eastern Meadowlark. 16 June 2010. One adult in Custer Co. Calls and song recorded. Michael Melius. (4 Class 1R, 1 Class 3). Accidental away from south-central breeding areas.

**CLASS 2 (Accepted – Satisfactory written description).**

- Trumpeter Swan. 24 June 2010. One adult at Red Lake Game Production Area, Charles Mix Co. Scott Stolz. Accidental in summer in eastern South Dakota.
- Glaucous-winged Gull. 5-18 January 2009. One in first-winter plumage at Pierre, Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Todd Jensen. The committee solicited outside reviews of the report (and accompanying, rather distant and relatively poor, photos) from Dennis Paulson and Ron Martin, in addition to several other birders experienced with Glaucous-winged Gull identification and all outside reviewers were in agreement that the bird in the photos either was or was very likely a Glaucous-winged Gull. The dissenting committee member noted that the photos were distant and poor and desired that better

documentation be provided for a first state record. The committee rated this report as Class 2, with the photos supportive of the identification, but not completely diagnostic. This record constitutes a first state record for Glaucous-winged Gull.

Barred Owl. 20 June 2009. Fledgling and adult at Appley-Von Hagel Wetland, Union Co. Nancy Drilling. Third nesting record for the state.

Cattle Egret. 25 November 2009. Two in basic plumage in Edmunds Co. Gary Olson. Very late fall record.

Glossy Ibis. 30 May 2010. One in alternate plumage in Tripp Co. Ricky and Robert Olson. Casual spring and summer visitor.

Glossy Ibis. 1 August 2010. Two adults in alternate plumage near Hecla, Brown Co. Ricky Olson and Scott Stolz. Casual spring and summer visitor.

Glossy Ibis. 7 August 2010. One adult in alternate plumage in Marshall Co. Ricky Olson and Kenny Miller. Casual spring and summer visitor.

Common Moorhen. 24 June 2010. One adult at Red Lake Game Production Area, Charles Mix Co. Scott Stolz. Casual summer visitor.

Red-headed Woodpecker. 3 January 2010. One juvenile molting into adult plumage near Spearfish, Lawrence Co. Jocelyn Baker and Eric Davis. Accidental in winter.

Cassin's Kingbird. 27 June 2010. One in Custer Co. Ricky Olson, Kenny Miller and Scott Stolz. Casual summer visitor.

Blue-headed Vireo. 12 November 2009. One adult male at Ipswich, Edmunds Co. J. David Williams. Latest ever fall record.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 12 April 2010. One adult at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Kenny Miller. Early and rare in central South Dakota.

Orange-crowned Warbler. 22 November 2009. One at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Doug Backlund and Charlene Bessken. Latest fall record for the state.

Harris's Sparrow. 16 June 2010. One adult in alternate plumage in Pennington Co. Jocelyn Baker. Accidental in summer.

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

Greater Scaup. 22 November 2009. Three females at Wall Sewage Pond, Pennington Co. (1 Class 2, 4 Class 3). The report mentioned a large amount of white on the face of the birds. While this is suggestive of Greater Scaup, the committee thought that some of the accompanying photos showed a peak toward the back of the head, characteristic of Lesser Scaup. Some committee members also thought that the bill on the bird in the photos may not have been wide enough for Greater Scaup. Thus, the committee thought that Lesser Scaup was not conclusively eliminated.

Whimbrel. 2 May 2010. One bird in Meade Co. (2 Class 2, 3 Class 3). The committee noted that the bill and overall coloration mentioned in the report support the identification of Whimbrel. However, the report lacked a description of the stripes on the head. In addition, the reporter mentioned that the initial thought was that this bird was a Wilson's Snipe, which suggested that the bird may have been too small for a Whimbrel. These concerns resulted in the Class 3 rating.

Glossy Ibis. 5 August 2010. At least three adults in alternate plumage in Marshall Co. The committee noted that the report did not mention the red knees nor the pale blue outline of the facial skin, so that White-faced Ibis was not conclusively eliminated. Thus, the Class 3 rating.

Black-chinned Hummingbird, 6-22 October 2009. (1 Class 1P, 3 Class 3). One first-year female at Bowdle, Edmunds Co. Several excellent photos were submitted along with this report. The committee solicited opinions on the report and photos from several hummingbird experts (Nancy Newfield, Bob Sargent, and Sheri Williamson) and their opinions differed, even with regard to the length of the bill and the bluntness of Primary 10. Thus, the committee felt that Ruby-throated Hummingbird was not conclusively eliminated, and, given that this record would represent a first state record for South Dakota, the committee desired more conclusive evidence of the bird's identity.

Veery. Early October 2009. One found dead at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. (4 Class 3, 1

Class 4). The bird was found dead and frozen; photographs of the dead bird accompanied the report. The plumage on the upper back on the bird in the photos accompanying the report had been disturbed, so it was difficult to judge overall back color. However, the committee felt that the photos showed a bird with a tail that was more reddish than the lower back and wings, which suggests a Hermit Thrush, the more likely species in October. Thus, the Class 3 rating.

Henslow's Sparrow. 11 and 28 June 2010. One north of Fairfax, Gregory Co. (2 Class 2, 3 Class 3). The identification in the report was also based solely on the vocalization of the bird. The dissenting committee members felt that the description of the call was incomplete, as no mention was made of the pitch, inflection or variation between the two notes mentioned in the report. For these reasons, this report was rated Class 3.

Eastern Meadowlark. 14 July 2009. One in Yankton Co. (1 Class 2, 4 Class 3). The dissenting committee members noted that the report did not provide a description of any visual field marks and did not include a description of the diagnostic call note. Thus, they believed that, although there is a high probability that this bird was an Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark could not be conclusively eliminated.

Eastern Meadowlark. 7 July-28 August 2007. One adult about two miles southwest of Ft. Pierre, Stanley Co. Photographed. This report was a re-submitted report, originally acted on by the RBRC at the Fall 2007 meeting. Some additional information regarding habitat and calls was provided by the observers. The committee still felt that the field marks on the photos did not conclusively eliminate Western Meadowlark, and was uncomfortable with a written description of the call (in the absence of a recorded call) as the major identification feature. Thus, although the committee members felt that this bird was likely an Eastern Meadowlark, the committee again rated this record as Class 3.

#### **CLASS 4 (Not accepted – Identification probably or certainly incorrect).**

No reports were rated Class 4.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

In other business, the committee decided to remove Iceland Gull along the Missouri River from the review list, so several reports of Iceland Gull submitted to the committee for this meeting were approved by this action. The committee also established a protocol for voting on records of birds observed by committee members. The following protocol was approved: *If less than a majority of RBRC members observe a rare bird, then those members are excluded from voting on that record; if the majority of RBRC members observe a rare bird, then all committee members may vote.*

#### **SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION**

Barrow's Goldeneye. 27 November 2010. One adult at Big Bend Dam Stilling Basin, Buffalo Co.

Red-shouldered Hawk. 2 November 2010. One in juvenile plumage at Lake Louise State Park, Hand Co.

Red-throated Loon. 6-18 November 2010. One in basic plumage at Wall Lake, Minnehaha Co.

Eared Grebe. 8-13 December 2010. One in basic plumage at La Framboise Island, Hughes Co.

Long-tailed Jaeger. 9-10 September 2009. One light phase juvenile at Mobridge, Walworth Co.

Little Gull. 18 September 2010. One in first-winter plumage at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co.

Little Gull. 26 November 2010. One in first-winter plumage at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co.

Wilson's Phalarope. 14 November 2009. One in basic plumage at Lake Whitewood, Kingsbury Co.

Chuck-Wills-Widow. 18 May 2010. One adult calling at Lewis and Clark State Park, Yankton Co.

Pacific Wren. 20-30 June 2007. Two adult and two fledglings at Ward Draw, Lawrence Co.

Rock Wren. 16 May 2010. One at Great Bear Recreation Area, Minnehaha Co.

Sage Thrasher. 1 July 2010. One adult in eastern Mellette Co.



# SDOU SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT – 2011

Jocelyn L. Baker, Rapid City

The Kenneth H. Husmann Memorial Scholarship, first awarded in 1989, is awarded annually to a student attending a South Dakota college or university. Faculty members nominate a deserving graduate student who is majoring in ornithology, ecology or wildlife management. Jason Thiele, a graduate student at South Dakota State University, is the recipient of the 2011-2012 \$500 scholarship. Jason, nominated by Dr. Charles D. Dieter and Dr. Volker Brozel of SDSU and endorsed by Dr. Kristel K. Bakker of Dakota State University, is studying toward a Master's Degree. His research involves determining habitat and nesting requirements for the Western Burrowing Owl. Jason presented preliminary owl research data at the SDOU 2010 fall meeting. Additionally, he contributed to *South Dakota Bird Notes* (March 2011 issue) with an article entitled "Reaching Out to the Next Generation of Birders".

This marks the first year in which the Mary E. Baylor Memorial Scholarship will be awarded. The scholarship is awarded to a South Dakota university or college undergraduate student who is in his/her junior or senior year. A biology major with a particular interest in ornithology, ecology, wildlife management, biological education or medicine is a requirement. The recipient of the \$1,200 scholarship for 2011-12 is Michael A. Moxnes, a student at University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Michael was nominated by Dr. David L. Swanson and Dr. Kaius Helenurm for the award. Michael is currently in his senior year working on aspects of a stopover habitat project involving woodland migrant birds.

Scholarships and Awards Committee members: Jocelyn Lee Baker (Chair), Nelda Holden and Galen Steffen.



*Les Lutter and Tucker Lutter, with Denali (Mt. McKinley) in the background. See article, page 51.*

# Proposed Changes to the SDOU Constitution

Gene K. Hess, Rapid City

Following discussion at the Fall 2010 meeting and the Spring 2011 meeting involving the membership category of junior member and a proposal of a student member category, the consensus was to eliminate the junior member category and create a student member category. This requires changes to Sections 2 and 4 of Article II. The following changes are proposed for the members' consideration.

The existing Section 2 of Article II is as follows:

“Section 2. Any person at least 10 years old but less than 16 years of age is eligible to become a junior member of this Union.”

The existing Section 4 is as follows:

“Section 4. Honorary membership shall commence in the calendar year following approval by a two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual business meeting and shall continue until the honorary member's death or resignation. Life membership shall commence from the payment of the specified dues and shall continue until death or resignation. All other categories of active membership shall comprise a calendar year upon payment of the specified dues. The categories of active membership shall include honorary members, life members, sustaining members, family members (husband and wife), and regular members.”

The proposal is to replace the existing Section 2 with the following:

**“Section 2. Any person who is a student is eligible to become a student member of this Union.”**

Replace the last sentence in Section 4 with the following:

**“The categories of active membership shall include honorary member, life member, family life members (husband and wife), sustaining member, family members (husband and wife), regular member, and student members who are at least 16 years old.”**

Acceptance of this proposal to changes in Section 2 will eliminate the junior member category and create the student member category. Discussion at the Spring 2011 Board meeting resulted in a consensus that students in all commonly recognized education levels be included.

The modification of the Section 4 recognizes the student member category and provides the definition for which persons in that category shall be considered active members and therefore eligible to vote, hold office, and serve on committees (Section 5). It also adds the family (husband and wife) life member category. Memberships for that category have been sold for a number of years. This brings the Constitution in line with standing practice.

It was another amazing spring and summer for finding interesting birds. One of my spring predictions came true. A female McCown's Longspur was found on the Grand River Grasslands at the SDOU Spring Meeting in Lemmon. Also a male was photographed there in June.

It was another great summer for finding vagrant and breeding birds.

In May, Doug Backlund photographed a Painted Bunting in Harding County. Multiple Glossy Ibis were reported from several counties again this summer.

In June, Bill Unzen photographed a potential first state record Reddish Egret in Codington County, a Fulvous Whistling Duck in Potter County and a Neotropic Cormorant in McPherson County. A Common Raven was observed in Jones County.

July was a busy month. The confirmed nesting record of a Common Loon in Marshall County was, if I am not mistaken, the first confirmed breeding record in South Dakota. Bill Unzen located a Tri-colored Heron in Brown County, a Williamson's Sapsucker in Fall River County and a Bewick's Wren in Todd County.

Also in July, a White-tailed Kite was reported from Harding County, and Henslow's Sparrows were reported by several observers from Spink, Stanley, Hyde, Brown, Roberts and Lake counties. Cassin's Sparrows were observed in Fall River and Pennington Counties, Cassin's Kingbirds were seen in Bennett and Shannon Counties and Sage Thrashers were present in Fall River County. Doug Backlund photographed a Pacific Wren in Lawrence County.

I prediction that this fall several uncommon gulls, perhaps a tern and winter waterfowl species will be seen on the Missouri River Dams because of the high discharge flows. We probably won't top last year, unless an Ivory Gull and a Ross's Gull show up at the same time. Or, perhaps, all three species of jaeger will appear. That would be welcome.

# SEASONAL REPORTS

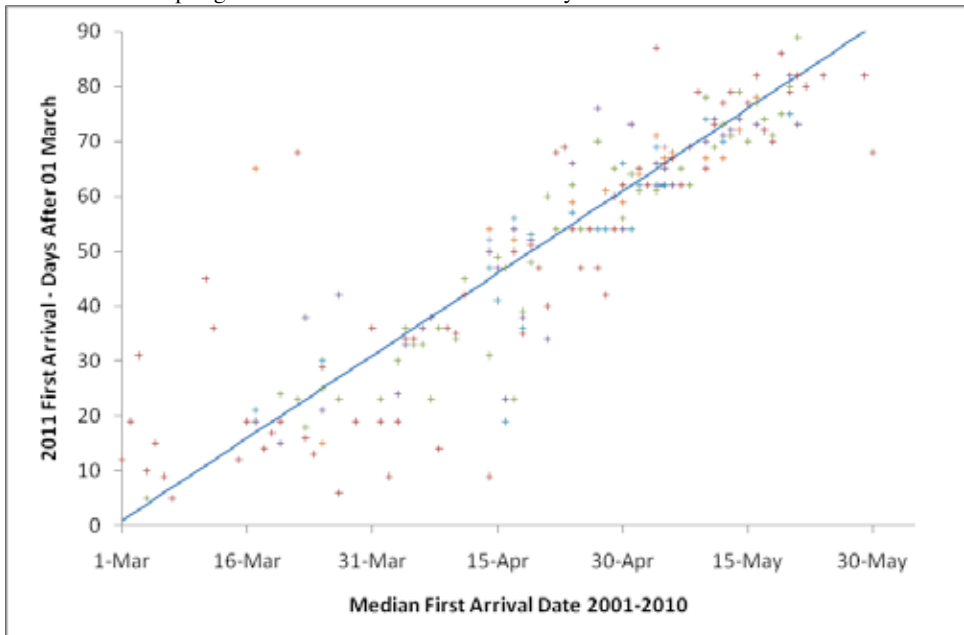
JEFFREY S. PALMER

## The 2011 Spring Season

01 March 2011 to 31 May 2011

There were 318 species, including 17 rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (2001-2010) average is 322. Below, I have tried to **highlight** the more significant sightings (dates that are among the earliest/latest included in the online database and species that are out of range). For early/late migration dates, I have listed the three earliest/latest dates (by county); however, if these did not include a sighting East River, West River, and along the Missouri River, I have given the earliest/latest reported date in the missing region also. Finally, included at the end is a list of species (19) that were not reported this year and might be expected during the Spring Season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during spring in at least 2 of the previous 5 years. Numbers in parentheses indicates the number of consecutive years (up to 4) that the species has appeared on the list during the season.

For species with early dates given in this report, the graph below shows the first arrival date reported during the current season (days after 01 March) versus the median first arrival date over the previous ten years (2001-2010). Data points above the line represent species whose earliest reported first arrival this spring was later than the 10-year median and points below the line correspond to species with first arrival spring dates that were earlier than the 10-year median.



**Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 11 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Clay GJS; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL ... Late: 26 May McPherson BJU; 13 May Brookings KCJ; 01 May Deuel BJU; 09 Apr Harding CEM; 27 Mar Hughes RDO

**Snow Goose** Early: 03 Mar Yankton RPR; 11 Mar Clay GJS; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 14 Apr Meade RSL

**Ross's Goose** Early: 02 Mar Pennington JLB; 05 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP ... Late: 08 Apr Meade JLB; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 31 Mar Brookings KCJ; 27 Mar Hughes RDO

**Cackling Goose** Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 05 Mar Hughes DB; 09 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Lake JSP ... Late: 09 Apr Brown GO; 04 Apr Hand DB; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 01 Apr Brookings KCJ; 27 Mar Hughes RDO

**Trumpeter Swan** Early: **09 Mar Yankton KCJ**; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 14 Apr Charles Mix RM; 14 May Perkins DS, JSP

**Tundra Swan** Early: 13 Mar Yankton KCJ, RND; 15 Mar Charles Mix RM; 16 Mar Grant BJU ...  
Late: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 04 Apr Hand DB; 04 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Wood Duck** Early: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Clay RND; 17 Mar Pennington JLB ... Confirmed  
Breeding: 19 May Beadle (PY) BFW

**Gadwall** Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 03 Mar Yankton RPR; 06 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar  
Lake JSP

**American Wigeon** Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 05 Mar Hughes RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP

**American Black Duck** Early: 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 13 Mar Hughes KM; 16 Mar Grant BJU ...  
Late: 16 May Brookings KCJ

**Blue-winged Teal** Early: 17 Mar Clay RND; 19 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Lake JSP; 02 Apr  
Tripp RDO

**Cinnamon Teal** Early: 31 Mar Meade JLB; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 26 Apr Beadle BFW; 07 May Hughes  
RDO ... Late: 22 May Perkins BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU; 12 May Harding RDO

**Northern Shoveler** Early: 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar  
Butte JLB, RSL

**Northern Pintail** Early: 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 12 Mar  
Fall River RSL

**Green-winged Teal** Early: 01 Mar Meade EEM; 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 11 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11  
Mar Lake JSP

**Canvasback** Early: 08 Mar Charles Mix RM; 13 Mar Yankton RND; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 16 Mar  
Stanley DB; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL

**Redhead** Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 03  
Mar Yankton RPR; 11 Mar Lake JSP

**Ring-necked Duck** Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 09 Mar Hughes DB; 11  
Mar Lake JSP

**Greater Scaup** Early: 05 Mar Stanley RDO; 08 Mar Charles Mix RM; 13 Mar Yankton RND; 16  
Mar Grant BJU; 02 Apr Tripp RDO ... Late: 01 May Deuel BJU; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 17 Apr Meade  
RSL; 09 Apr Clay DS

**Lesser Scaup** Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 03 Mar Yankton RPR; 11 Mar Lake JSP

**Long-tailed Duck** All Reports: 14 Mar Charles Mix RM; 15 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Charles  
Mix RM; 03 Apr Hughes RDO

**Bufflehead** Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 16 Mar  
Grant BJU ... Late: 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU

**Common Goldeneye** Late: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 13 Apr Brookings KCJ; 09 Apr Meade JLB; 09 Apr  
Marshall GO; 28 Mar Yankton RND

**Hooded Merganser** Early: 03 Mar Yankton RPR; 06 Mar Hughes DB; 06 Mar Stanley RDO; 16 Mar  
Grant BJU; 08 Apr Harding CEM ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 20 May Lake JSP; 13 May Deuel  
BJU; 08 May Meade RSL; 23 Apr Charles Mix TJ

**Common Merganser** Late: 30 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Perkins BJU; 02 May Hughes RDO;  
23 Apr Marshall GO; 23 Apr Grant BJU

**Red-breasted Merganser** Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 05 Mar Hughes RDO; 09 Mar Yankton KCJ;  
19 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar Lincoln MRZ; 08 Apr Meade JLB ... Late: 21 May Charles Mix RM;  
01 May Hand DB; 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 09 Apr Meade JLB

**Ruddy Duck** Early: 05 Mar Lake JSP; 14 Mar Yankton GJS, RND; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 16 Mar  
Hughes DB; 16 Apr Meade JLB

**Greater Sage-Grouse** All Reports: 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL; 20 Mar Harding CEM; 02 Apr Harding  
CEM; 12 May Harding RDO; 14 May Harding CEM

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** reported 02 Apr Harding CEM; 14 May Perkins DC; 19 May Perkins BJU

**Common Loon** Early: 06 Mar Hughes DB; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 20 Mar Stanley KM; 26 Apr Fall  
River JLB ... Late: 25 May Lyman JSP; 22 May Perkins BJU; 19 May Clay DS; 23 Apr Marshall  
GO; 23 Apr Day GO

**Pied-billed Grebe** Early: 14 Mar Yankton GJS; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Clay RND; 01 May  
Pennington JLB, RSL

**Horned Grebe** Early: 19 Mar Stanley RDO; 22 Mar Hughes DB; 26 Mar Yankton BFH, RND; 02  
Apr Tripp RDO; 10 Apr Brookings KCJ ... Late: 16 May Perkins BJU; 13 May Grant BJU; 30  
Apr Stanley RDO

**Red-necked Grebe** Early: **11 Apr Grant BJU**; 23 Apr Lake JSP; 23 Apr Marshall GO

**Eared Grebe** Early: **19 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 22 Mar Hughes DB; 26 Mar Yankton BFH; 02 Apr Lake JSP; 16 Apr Meade JLB

**Western Grebe** Early: 04 Apr Hughes RDO; 05 Apr Charles Mix RM; 07 Apr Buffalo JSP; 08 Apr Meade JLB; 09 Apr Hand DB

**Clark's Grebe** Early: 20 Apr Stanley RDO; 07 May Charles Mix RM; 14 May Perkins DC; 26 May Brown BJU

**American White Pelican** Early: 29 Mar Yankton RND; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Meade JLB

**Double-crested Cormorant** Early: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Yankton RND; 21 Mar Brookings KCJ; 07 Apr Meade EEM

**American Bittern** Early: 16 Apr Lake JSP; 18 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Marshall GO; 25 Apr Charles Mix RM; 15 May Bennett KH

**Least Bittern** Only Report: **07 May Hutchinson *vide* BFW**

**Great Blue Heron** Early: 19 Mar Meade JLB, RSL; 19 Mar Stanley KM, RDO; 23 Mar Yankton RND; 24 Mar Brookings KCJ

**Great Egret** Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND**; **26 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 31 Mar Brookings KCJ; 16 May Perkins BJU

**Snowy Egret** Early: **09 Apr Brown GO**; **09 Apr Marshall GO**; 11 Apr Brookings KCJ; 13 Apr Charles Mix RM; 15 May Bennett KH

**Little Blue Heron** Only Report: 25 May Beadle *vide* BFW

**Cattle Egret** Early: 17 Apr Charles Mix RM; 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Hand DB; 23 Apr Lake JSP

**Green Heron** Early: 05 May Brown GO; 05 May Hughes EDS; 09 May Lake JSP

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Early: 04 Apr Hand DB; 16 Apr Brookings KCJ; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 01 May Stanley RDO; 14 May Perkins DC

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** reported 18 May Brown GO

**White-faced Ibis** Early: **08 Apr Hand DB**; **09 Apr Clay DS**; 13 Apr Charles Mix RM; 18 May Perkins BJU

**Turkey Vulture** Early: 25 Mar Clay GJS; 26 Mar Brookings MRO; 31 Mar Lawrence EK

**Osprey** Early: 03 Apr Pennington MME; 09 Apr Buffalo EK, SW; 14 Apr Charles Mix RM; 21 Apr Brookings KCJ

**Northern Harrier** Early: 05 Mar Jones DB; 06 Mar Pennington RSL; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 13 Mar Yankton KCJ

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Late: 26 May Brown GO; 16 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Perkins DC; 08 Apr Lyman EK

**Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 20 Mar Brookings KCJ; 21 Mar Meade EEM; 29 Apr Harding CEM

**Broad-winged Hawk** Early: 19 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 22 Apr Charles Mix RM; 27 Apr Lawrence JLB ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 31 May Dewey BJU; 23 May Union DS; 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU

**Swainson's Hawk** Early: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 09 Apr Hand DB; 12 Apr Brown GO; 16 Apr Haakon RDO; 16 Apr Stanley RDO

**Ferruginous Hawk** Early: 05 Mar Jones DB; 06 Mar Custer RSL; 06 Mar Hughes DB

**Rough-legged Hawk** Late: **03 May Fall River MMM**; 18 Apr Brookings KCJ; 17 Apr Harding CEM; 25 Mar Hughes DB

**Golden Eagle** Late: 04 May Sully *vide* BFW; 07 Apr Buffalo JSP; 20 Mar Stanley KM

**American Kestrel** Confirmed Breeding: 15 May Mellette (ON) KH; 15 May Harding (ON) CEM

**Merlin** Late: 18 May Perkins BJU; 18 May Harding BJU; 23 Apr Hand DB; 26 Mar Yankton BFH

**Gyr Falcon** All Reports: 05 Mar Jones DB; 06 Mar Hughes KM

**Peregrine Falcon** Early: **19 Mar Stanley RDO**; **20 Mar Hughes KM**; 18 Apr Hand DB; 08 May Meade RSL ... Late: 30 May Pennington JLB; 26 May Walworth BJU; 22 May Sully RDO; 13 May Grant BJU

**Prairie Falcon** Late: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 02 Apr Brown GO; 31 Mar Brookings KCJ; 18 Mar Stanley RDO

**Virginia Rail** Early: 07 May Hughes RDO; 13 May Grant BJU; 16 May Faulk DS, JSP; 22 May Perkins BJU

**Sora** Early: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 01 May Deuel BJU; 02 May Hughes RDO; 14 May Perkins JSP

**American Coot** Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 11 Mar Lake JSP

**Sandhill Crane** Early: 19 Mar Beadle *vide* BFW; 19 Mar Charles Mix RM; 20 Mar Custer MMM ... Late: 28 May Harding DB; 04 May Hand DB; 02 May Pennington JLB; 23 Apr Stanley RDO

**Whooping Crane** All Reports: 16-18 Apr Charles Mix RM; 22-23 Apr Charles Mix RM, TJ

**Black-bellied Plover** Early: 03 May Charles Mix RM; 07 May Sully RDO; 14 May Perkins DC; 19 May Brown BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU ... Late: 31 May Walworth BJU; 31 May Corson BJU; 28 May Grant BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU

**American Golden-Plover** Early: 16 Apr Lake JSP; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 05 May Hughes RDO; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 26 May McPherson BJU; 22 May Hughes RDO; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Edmunds (600) BJU; 19 May Brown BJU

**Semipalmated Plover** Early: 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Charles Mix RM; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 18 May Perkins BJU

**Piping Plover** Early: 23 Apr Hand DB; 25 Apr Hughes RDO; 01 May Stanley RDO

**Killdeer** Early: 15 Mar Clay DS, GJS; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Charles Mix RM; 17 Mar Stanley KM; 18 Mar Harding CEM

**Black-necked Stilt** Only Report: 26 May Marshall (4) BJU

**American Avocet** Early: 05 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Brown GO; 11 Apr Hand DB; 16 Apr Meade JLB, MMM

**Spotted Sandpiper** Early: **16 Apr Harding CEM**; 25 Apr Hughes RDO; 30 Apr Charles Mix RM; 01 May Deuel BJU

**Solitary Sandpiper** Early: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 30 Apr Union DS; 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Pennington JLB ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 16 May Perkins BJU

**Greater Yellowlegs** Early: 21 Mar Brookings KCJ; 23 Mar Yankton RND; 24 Mar Meade JLB ... Late: 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 17 May Perkins BJU

**Willet** Early: **07 Apr Meade EEM**; **12 Apr Faulk MMM**; 14 Apr Harding CEM; 23 Apr Charles Mix RM; 23 Apr Clay GJS

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND**; **26 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 03 Apr Hughes RDO; 07 Apr Hand DB; 14 Apr Meade RSL ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Day BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 21 May Tripp RDO; 18 May Perkins BJU

**Upland Sandpiper** Early: 01 May Pennington RSL; 03 May Sully *fide* BFW; 04 May Hand DB

**Whimbrel** Only Report: 24 May Aurora TJ

**Long-billed Curlew** Early: 03 Apr Hughes RDO; 04 Apr Custer MMM; 06 Apr Jones RDO

**Hudsonian Godwit** Early: **10 Apr Yankton RND**; 13 Apr Faulk MMM; 14 Apr Hand DB; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU

**Marbled Godwit** Early: 11 Apr Hand DB; 12 Apr Faulk MMM; 17 Apr Meade JLB, RSL; 18 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Ruddy Turnstone** Early: 16 May Sully RDO; 19 May Grant BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU

**Sanderling** Early: 03 May Hand DB; 14 May Perkins DC; 16 May Sully RDO ... Late: 31 May Dewey BJU; 31 May Corson BJU; 28 May Grant BJU; 18 May Perkins BJU

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Early: 29 Apr Hand DB; 02 May Hughes RDO; 05 May Meade RSL ... Late: 31 May Dewey BJU; 31 May Corson BJU; 28 May Grant BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU

**Least Sandpiper** Early: 23 Apr Hand DB; 02 May Hughes RDO; 05 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Corson BJU; 18 May Perkins BJU

**White-rumped Sandpiper** Early: 04 May Hand DB; 10 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Clay GJS; 14 May Perkins DC

**Baird's Sandpiper** Early: 23 Mar Yankton RND; 02 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 09 Apr Hand DB; 17 Apr Harding CEM ... Late: 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU; 25 May Corson BJU

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND**; 05 Apr Charles Mix RM; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 05 May Meade RSL ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Corson BJU; 18 May Perkins BJU

**Dunlin** Early: 18 Apr Charles Mix RM; 04 May Hand DB; 06 May Clay GJS; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Day BJU; 26 May Brown BJU

**Stilt Sandpiper** Early: 04 May Hand DB; 07 May Hughes RDO; 15 May Potter DS, JSP; 17 May Perkins BJU ... Late: 31 May Walworth BJU; 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU

**Short-billed Dowitcher** Early: 30 Apr Charles Mix RM; 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Clay GJS; 25 May Perkins BJU ... Late: **31 May Walworth BJU; 28 May Grant BJU;** 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND;** 13 Apr Charles Mix RM; 23 Apr Clay GJS; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 28 Apr Meade JLB ... Late: **25 May Perkins BJU;** 23 May Meade RSL; 22 May Hughes RDO; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 19 May Brown BJU

**Wilson's Snipe** Early: 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 07 Apr Beadle *fide* BFW; 17 Apr Clay GJS; 27 Apr Meade JLB

**American Woodcock** Early: 24 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 05 Apr Hand DB; 09 Apr Hughes RDO

**Wilson's Phalarope** Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND;** 22 Apr Charles Mix RM; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Hand DB; 27 Apr Meade RSL

**Red-necked Phalarope** Early: 08 May Meade RSL; 13 May Deuel BJU; 16 May Faulk DS, JSP; 16 May Sully RDO ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU

**Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 30 Mar Stanley RDO; 31 Mar Charles Mix RM; 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO; 22 May Perkins BJU

**Franklin's Gull** Early: 19 Mar Stanley KM, RDO; 22 Mar Charles Mix RM; 22 Mar Hughes RDO; 26 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Apr Pennington JLB

**Mew Gull** Early: 18 Mar Stanley KM, RDO; 23 Mar Hughes DB ... Late: 29 Mar Stanley RDO; 27 Mar Hughes RDO

**Ring-billed Gull** Early: 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL

**California Gull** Early: 05 Mar Hughes RDO; 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL; 11 Apr Grant BJU

**Herring Gull** Early: 05 Mar Hughes RDO; 05 Mar Stanley RDO; 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Apr Meade RSL ... Late: 16 May Perkins BJU; 20 Apr Stanley RDO; 11 Apr Grant BJU

**Thayer's Gull** Late: 07 Apr Stanley RDO; 22 Mar Hughes RDO

**Iceland Gull** Only Report: 05 Mar Hughes RDO

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** All Reports: 21 Mar Stanley RDO; 25 Mar Stanley RDO; 28 Mar Yankton RND

**Glaucous Gull** Late: 03 Apr Stanley RDO; 29 Mar Hughes RDO

**Least Tern** All Reports: 18 May Bon Homme DS; 24 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Hughes JSP; 26 May Corson BJU

**Caspian Tern** Early: 22 Apr Stanley RDO; 25 Apr Pennington JLB; 06 May Brown GO; 06 May Day GO ... Late: 29 May Meade JLB; 28 May Charles Mix RM; 26 May McPherson BJU

**Black Tern** Early: **30 Apr Charles Mix RM;** 01 May Stanley RDO; 08 May Meade RSL; 10 May Hand DB

**Common Tern** Early: 09 May Stanley RDO; 13 May Grant BJU; 16 May Corson BJU; 16 May Perkins BJU

**Forster's Tern** Early: 16 Apr Davison *fide* BFW; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 22 Apr Stanley RDO; 14 May Perkins DC, MS

**Rock Pigeon** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Mar Day (NY) WS

**Mourning Dove** Early: 17 Mar Clay GJS; 21 Mar Charles Mix RM; 24 Mar Lake JSP; 27 Mar Custer MMM

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 21 May Brookings KCJ; 28 May Grant BJU

**Black-billed Cuckoo** Early: 19 May Brown BJU, MO; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ; 21 May Roberts BJU; 25 May Corson BJU

**Barn Owl** Only Report: 07 Apr Stanley RDO

**Eastern Screech-Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 07 May Harding (NY) CEM

**Snowy Owl** All Reports: 05 Apr Deuel BJU; **01 May Day JK**

**Burrowing Owl** Early: 05 Apr Custer MMM; 08 Apr Hughes RDO; 11 Apr Hand DB



**Long-eared Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 30 May Harding (NY) CEM

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Late: 13 Mar Hughes KM; 06 Mar Stanley KM ... Confirmed Breeding: 29 Apr Harding (NY) CEM

**Common Nighthawk** Early: 21 May Roberts BJU; 22 May Lake TJ; 24 May Charles Mix RM; 24 May Day GO; 26 May Pennington JLB

**Common Poorwill** All Reports: 15 May Harding DB; 18 May Harding BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO; 28 May Harding CEM, DB; 29 May Harding CEM

**Whip-poor-will** All Reports: 05 May Charles Mix RM; 15 May Grant BJU

**Chimney Swift** Early: 23 Apr Pennington MMM; 27 Apr Brown GO; 08 May Charles Mix RM

**White-throated Swift** All Reports: 07 May Harding CEM; 16 May Harding DB; 18 May Harding BJU; 22 May Harding CEM; 23 May Harding DB; 28 May Harding DB

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Early: **04 May Charles Mix RM**; 07 May Clay GJS; 08 May Brookings KCJ; 17 May Perkins BJU

**Belted Kingfisher** Early: 03 Mar Pennington RSL; 14 Mar Lawrence SW; 14 Mar Yankton RND; 19 Mar Lake JSP

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Early: 04 May Harding CEM; 10 May Hand DB; 10 May Lake JSP; 11 May Charles Mix RM

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Early: 11 Apr Grant BJU; 22 Apr Lake JSP; 23 Apr Marshall GO; 19 May Walworth BJU

**Northern Flicker** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 05 Mar Stanley RDO; 16 Mar Grant BJU

**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 11 Apr Grant BJU; 13 May Grant BJU; 17 May Roberts GO

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Early: 16 May Hand DS, JSP; 18 May Walworth MO; 19 May Brown BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 22 May Perkins BJU ... Late: 31 May Walworth BJU; 31 May Dewey BJU; 30 May Brown GO; 23 May Perkins BJU

**Western Wood-Pewee** All Reports: 18 May Harding BJU; 22 May Perkins BJU; 24 May Pennington MMM; 30 May Pennington JLB; 31 May Pennington JLB

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Early: 14 May Union GJS; 19 May Brown BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** Early: 19 May Brown BJU, MO; 19 May Grant BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 23 May Clay GJS ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 26 May McPherson BJU

**Alder Flycatcher** Early: 21 May Day BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU ... Late: 30 May Brookings BFH; 28 May Lake JSP; 28 May Grant BJU

**Willow Flycatcher** Early: 12 May Perkins DC; 21 May Day BJU; 24 May Jerauld *fide* BFW; 25 May Corson BJU

**Least Flycatcher** Early: 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 05 May Clay GJS; 07 May Brown GO; 07 May Edmunds GO; 07 May Harding CEM; 07 May Hughes EDS

**Eastern Phoebe** Early: **19 Mar Yankton RND**; 23 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 02 Apr Hand DB; 07 May Pennington RSL

**Say's Phoebe** Early: 03 Apr Hughes RDO; 07 Apr Custer MMM; 14 Apr Brookings KCJ

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Early: 08 May Brown GO; 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Brookings KCJ; 15 May Hughes EDS; 18 May Harding BJU

**Western Kingbird** Early: 04 May Hand DB; 04 May Hyde *fide* BFW; 05 May Charles Mix RM; 05 May Hughes EDS; 07 May Pennington RSL

**Eastern Kingbird** Early: 08 May Hand DB; 09 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 09 May Lake JSP; 10 May Bon Homme RM; 12 May Perkins DC

**Loggerhead Shrike** Early: 02 Apr Stanley RDO; 08 Apr Custer MMM; 08 Apr Meade JLB; 09 Apr Hand DB

**Northern Shrike** Late: 04 Apr Hand DB; 02 Apr Harding CEM; 02 Apr Brown GO; 27 Mar Yankton RND

**Bell's Vireo** All Reports: 16 May Clay GJS; 23 May Stanley RDO; 26 May Corson BJU; 27 May Stanley RDO; 30 May Sully RDO

**Yellow-throated Vireo** Early: 13 May Walworth JSP; 16 May Clay GJS; 17 May Marshall GO; 17 May Union GJS

**Plumbeous Vireo** Only Report: 18 May Harding BJU

**Blue-headed Vireo** Early: **01 May Deuel BJU**; 09 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; 13 May Hughes EDS; 13 May Walworth MO; **14 May Perkins RDO** ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ; 20 May Marshall GO; 20 May Lake JSP; 20 May Brown GO; 19 May Walworth BJU; **17 May Perkins BJU**

**Warbling Vireo** Early: 04 May Clay DS; 06 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Custer KH; 09 May Lake JSP

**Philadelphia Vireo** Early: 12 May Union DS; 19 May Brown BJU, MO; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU; **22 May Perkins BJU** ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 31 May Dewey BJU; **25 May Harding DB**; 24 May Marshall GO

**Red-eyed Vireo** Early: 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Brookings KCJ; 17 May Union GJS; 22 May Perkins BJU

**Pinyon Jay** All Reports: 02 Apr Fall River KH; 01 May Meade AKB

**Black-billed Magpie** Confirmed Breeding: 26 May Corson (ON) BJU

**Purple Martin** Early: 19 Apr Clay GJS; 24 Apr Brown GO; 28 Apr Brookings KCJ; 16 May Perkins BJU

**Tree Swallow** Early: 02 Apr Lincoln TJ; 04 Apr Pennington JLB; 07 Apr Brule JSP

**Violet-green Swallow** Early: 30 Apr Pennington JLB; 09 May Meade RSL; 18 May Harding BJU

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** Early: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 30 Apr Charles Mix RM; 30 Apr Lake JSP; 12 May Perkins DC

**Bank Swallow** Early: 05 May Hand DB; 12 May Day GO; 12 May Marshall GO; 12 May Perkins DC; 13 May Walworth MO

**Cliff Swallow** Early: 26 Apr Stanley RDO; 09 May Meade RSL; 10 May Brookings KCJ

**Barn Swallow** Early: 16 Apr Charles Mix RM; 20 Apr Stanley RDO; 23 Apr Day GO; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Hand DB; 27 Apr Meade JLB

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 28 May Brown GO; 26 May Lake JSP

**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 27 Apr Custer KH; 07 May Pennington RSL

**Brown Creeper** Late: 05 May Hand DB; 30 Apr Lake JSP; 28 Apr Brookings KCJ; 22 Apr Hughes EDS

**Rock Wren** Early: 08 May Meade EEM; 14 May Perkins DS, JSP; 15 May Harding DB

**House Wren** Early: 16 Apr Clay DS; 04 May Charles Mix RM; 04 May Hughes EDS; 05 May Hand DB; 08 May Meade RSL, EEM

**Winter Wren** Early: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 05 Apr Hand DB; 16 Apr Clay DS; 12 May Perkins DC ... Late: 06 May Hand DB; 23 Apr Grant BJU

**Sedge Wren** Early: 06 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 10 May Hand DB; 10 May Minnehaha MS; 19 May Walworth BJU

**Marsh Wren** Early: 14 Mar Lawrence SW; 23 Apr Brookings KCJ; 01 May Grant BJU; 03 May Charles Mix RM

**American Dipper** Only Report: 27 Apr Lawrence JLB

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Late: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 14 Apr Brookings KCJ; 06 Apr Hand DB

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Early: 30 Mar Custer KH; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 08 Apr Clay GJS ... Late: 28 May Harding DB; 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Union DS

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Early: 01 May Hand DB; 13 May Grant BJU; 16 May Lake DS, JSP; 18 May Walworth MO; 22 May Perkins BJU

**Eastern Bluebird** Early: 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 15 Mar Stanley DB; 16 Mar Hughes DB; 19 Mar Hand DB; 19 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 28 Mar Custer MMM; 28 Mar Pennington RSL

**Mountain Bluebird** Early: 12 Mar Custer ND, RSL; 12 Mar Fall River RSL; 12 Mar Meade EK; 15 Mar Stanley DB

**Townsend's Solitaire** Late: 24 Mar Stanley DB; 05 Mar Brown GO

**Veery** Early: 09 May Clay DS; 16 May Stanley RDO; 17 May Perkins BJU; 19 May Brown BJU, MO; 19 May Edmunds BJU ... Late: 29 May Harding CEM; 25 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 24 May Roberts GO

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** Early: 01 May Deuel BJU; 07 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; 09 May Minnehaha TJ; 10 May Stanley RDO; 12 May Perkins DC ... Late: **30 May Walworth DB**; 25 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP

**Swainson's Thrush** Early: **25 Apr Charles Mix RM**; 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Grant BJU; 12 May Perkins DC ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB, BJU; 31 May Dewey BJU; 30 May Sully RDO; 30 May Pennington MMM; 30 May Brookings BFH

**Hermit Thrush** Early: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 05 Apr Hand DB; 15 Apr Brookings KCJ; 16 Apr Clay DS, GJS ... Late: 05 May Brookings KCJ; 03 May Brown GO; 01 May Deuel BJU

**Wood Thrush** All Reports: 17 May Clay GJS; 24 May Jerauld *fide* BFW; 26 May Day BJU

**Northern Mockingbird** All Reports: **03 Apr Hughes DO**; 12 May Charles Mix RM; 13 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 17 May Perkins BJU; 22 May Corson BJU; 25 May Corson BJU

**Brown Thrasher** Early: 14 Apr Clay GJS; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 26 Apr Lake JSP; 07 May Harding CEM  
**American Pipit** Early: **19 Mar Hand DB**; **28 Mar Clay GJS**; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 02 May Meade RSL ... Late: **19 May Day BJU**; **19 May Brown BJU**; 18 May Perkins BJU; 16 May Sully RDO  
**Sprague's Pipit** Early: 12 May Perkins DC; 23 May Corson BJU  
**Bohemian Waxwing** All Reports: 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 06 Mar Pennington RSL; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 20 Mar Brookings KCJ  
**Blue-winged Warbler** All Reports: **09 May Lake JSP**; **21 May Brookings KCJ**  
**Golden-winged Warbler** All Reports: 12 May Union DS; 13 May Grant BJU; 16 May Hand JSP; 18 May Brown GO; 19 May Brown BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO  
**Tennessee Warbler** Early: 07 May Brown GO; 08 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Clay DS; 12 May Perkins DC  
**Orange-crowned Warbler** Early: 25 Apr Charles Mix RM; 27 Apr Brown GO; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 01 May Pennington JLB ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 30 May Sully RDO; 30 May Pennington JLB; 23 May Brown GO  
**Nashville Warbler** Early: 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Grant BJU; 05 May Clay DS; **25 May Harding DB** ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 23 May Brown GO; 19 May Walworth BJU  
**Virginia's Warbler** Only Report: 28 May Custer TJ  
**Northern Parula** Early: 04 May Hand DB; 09 May Lake JSP; 12 May Union DS; **15 May Perkins TJ** ... Late: **26 May Brown BJU**; 21 May Brookings KCJ; 17 May Stanley RDO; **16 May Perkins DC**  
**Yellow Warbler** Early: **23 Apr Pennington CEM**; 29 Apr Charles Mix RM; 04 May Hand DB  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler** Early: 10 May Lake JSP; 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Clay GJS ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Lake JSP; 26 May Day BJU; 26 May Brown GO  
**Magnolia Warbler** Early: 09 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; 09 May Minnehaha TJ; 11 May Hughes EDS; **20 May Tripp RDO** ... Late: **31 May Walworth DB**; 29 May Stanley RDO; 28 May Grant BJU; **25 May Harding DB**  
**Cape May Warbler** Early: **11 May Hand DB**; 12 May Union DS; 13 May Brown GO; 13 May Grant BJU; 13 May Walworth MO ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Brown GO; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Grant BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler** All Reports: 17 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Stanley RDO; 26 May Day BJU  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Early: 19 Mar Yankton RND; 11 Apr Clay DS; 11 Apr Grant BJU; 21 Apr Custer MMM ... Late: 25 May Corson BJU; 23 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP; 21 May Brown GO; 21 May Brookings KCJ  
**Black-throated Green Warbler** Early: **01 May Deuel BJU**; 09 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; **14 May Perkins DS, JSP**; 19 May Union DS; 19 May Walworth BJU ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP; 21 May Brown GO; **15 May Perkins RDO, TJ, DC**  
**Blackburnian Warbler** Early: 11 May Clay GJS; 12 May Union DS; 13 May Grant BJU ... Late: 26 May Edmunds JDW; 26 May Day BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP; 21 May Brown GO; 21 May Brookings KCJ  
**Palm Warbler** Early: **23 Apr Grant BJU**; 29 Apr Brookings KCJ; 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 30 Apr Union DS; 11 May Harding RDO ... Late: 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP; 21 May Charles Mix RM  
**Bay-breasted Warbler** Early: **06 May Minnehaha TJ**; **10 May Lake JSP**; 12 May Union DS; **22 May Perkins BJU** ... Late: 28 May Lake JSP; **25 May Harding DB**; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Brown GO; 19 May Union DS  
**Blackpoll Warbler** Early: 06 May Day GO; 06 May Hand DB; 06 May Lake JSP; 10 May Hughes EDS; 11 May Harding RDO ... Late: 31 May Dewey BJU; 30 May Walworth DB; 30 May Sully RDO; 28 May Lake JSP; 28 May Harding DB  
**Black-and-white Warbler** Early: 29 Apr Hughes DB; 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Grant BJU; 14 May Perkins JSP, MS, RDO ... Late: 25 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 24 May Roberts GO; 24 May Marshall GO; 22 May Perkins BJU  
**American Redstart** Early: 09 May Lake JSP; 09 May Minnehaha TJ; 10 May Brown GO; 11 May Charles Mix RM; 14 May Perkins DC  
**Ovenbird** Early: **01 May Deuel BJU**; 08 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; 14 May Perkins RDO; 18 May Walworth BJU  
**Northern Waterthrush** Early: 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Grant BJU; 06 May Minnehaha TJ; 08 May Stanley RDO; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 22 May Pennington JLB

**Connecticut Warbler** All Reports: 21 May Roberts BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO; 26 May Brown BJU; 26 May Day; 28 May Grant BJU

**Mourning Warbler** Early: 17 May Stanley RDO; 18 May Brown GO; 18 May Walworth MO ... Late: 30 May Walworth DB; 30 May Sully RDO; 30 May Brookings BFH

**Common Yellowthroat** Early: 05 May Hughes EDS; 05 May Stanley RDO; 07 May Brown GO; 07 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Meade RSL

**Wilson's Warbler** Early: 08 May Brown GO; 09 May Clay DS; 10 May Hughes EDS; 15 May Perkins DC ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Day BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Corson BJU; 23 May Perkins BJU

**Canada Warbler** Early: 14 May Brookings KCJ; 18 May Walworth MO; 19 May Brown BJU, GO; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 19 May Stanley RDO; 20 May Tripp RDO ... Late: 30 May Walworth DB; 28 May Lake JSP; 28 May Grant BJU

**Yellow-breasted Chat** Early: 18 May Harding BJU; 18 May Lawrence SW; 21 May Charles Mix RM; 21 May Lake JSP

**Summer Tanager** Early: 10 May Edmunds JDW; 12 May Lake JSP; 15 May Hughes RDO ... Late: 23 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 21 May Brown GO; 19 May Stanley RDO; 19 May Hughes RDO; 19 May Grant BJU

**Scarlet Tanager** Early: 10 May Hand DB; 12 May Mellette KH; 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Union GJS

**Western Tanager** Early: 11 May Meade EEM; 18 May Harding BJU; 20 May Pennington RSL; 31 May Dewey BJU

**Spotted Towhee** Early: 23 Apr Stanley RDO; 24 Apr Charles Mix RM; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 02 May Custer MMM

**Eastern Towhee** All Reports: 21 Apr Clay GJS; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 04 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Union GJS; 31 May Dewey BJU

**American Tree Sparrow** Late: **02 May Stanley RDO**; 24 Apr Brown GO; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Day GO; 27 Mar Pennington RSL; 27 Mar Harding CEM

**Chipping Sparrow** Early: 02 Apr Harding CEM; 02 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 03 Apr Lake JSP; 09 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Clay GJS

**Clay-colored Sparrow** Early: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 01 May Brown GO; 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Pennington RSL; 02 May Stanley RDO

**Brewer's Sparrow** Only Report: 18 May Perkins BJU

**Field Sparrow** Early: 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 26 Apr Charles Mix RM; 03 May Custer MMM

**Vesper Sparrow** Early: 07 Apr Hand DB; 09 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Clay DS; 17 Apr Harding CEM

**Lark Sparrow** Early: 28 Apr Grant BJU; 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 01 May Deuel BJU; 02 May Pennington JLB

**Lark Bunting** Early: 07 May Harding CEM; 08 May Meade RSL; 10 May Hand DB; 17 May Corson BJU

**Savannah Sparrow** Early: 05 Apr Hand DB; 09 Apr Charles Mix RM; 11 Apr Grant BJU; 01 May Pennington RSL

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Early: 28 Apr Grant BJU; 05 May Hand *fide* BFW; 07 May Custer RSL; 16 May Corson BJU

**Baird's Sparrow** Early: 13 May Perkins RDO; 22 May Corson BJU

**Le Conte's Sparrow** All Reports: **23 Apr Grant BJU**; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU

**Nelson's Sparrow** All Reports: **21 May Edmunds BJU**; 26 May Brown BJU

**Fox Sparrow** Early: 23 Mar Lake JSP; 23 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 04 Apr Brown GO; 14 Apr Clay GJS ... Late: 01 May Deuel BJU; 29 Apr Brookings KCJ; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Clay GJS

**Song Sparrow** Early: 16 Mar Pennington MMM; 18 Mar Lawrence SW; 20 Mar Minnehaha MS; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Lincoln's Sparrow** Early: 10 Apr Charles Mix RM; 14 Apr Brookings KCJ; 18 Apr Clay GJS; 03 May Pennington RSL ... Late: **28 May Grant BJU**; 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU

**Swamp Sparrow** Early: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 03 May Charles Mix RM

**White-throated Sparrow** Early: 14 Apr Clay GJS; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Lake JSP; 09 May Harding CEM ... Late: 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Stanley RDO

**Harris's Sparrow** Early: 21 Mar Lake JSP; 25 Mar Clay GJS; 28 Mar Stanley RDO; 14 May Perkins DS, JSP, MS ... Late: 28 May Harding DB; 25 May Corson BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Day BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ

**White-crowned Sparrow** Early: 24 Mar Lake JSP; 27 Mar Lawrence SW; 19 Apr Stanley RDO ... Late: 27 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 23 May Brown GO; 22 May Perkins BJU

**Dark-eyed Junco** Late: 08 May Brookings KCJ; 03 May Hand DB; 03 May Brown GO; 30 Apr Stanley RDO

**Lapland Longspur** Late: 20 Apr Hand DB; 18 Apr Brown GO, DST; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 15 Apr Buffalo MMM; 27 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 27 Mar Meade RSL

**Smith's Longspur** Only Report: **23 Apr Grant BJU**

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Early: **09 Mar Custer MMM**; 27 Mar Pennington JLB; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 12 Apr Potter MMM

**Snow Bunting** Late: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 13 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 11 Mar Harding CEM

**Northern Cardinal** reported 02 Apr Tripp RDO

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Early: 01 May Grant BJU; 04 May Clay GJS; 05 May Charles Mix RM; 13 May Perkins RDO

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Early: 03 May Stanley RDO; 08 May Hughes EDS; 09 May Meade EEM; 10 May Edmunds JDW

**Blue Grosbeak** All Reports: **12 May Charles Mix RM**; 23 May Shannon MMM; 26 May Stanley RDO; 27 May Stanley RDO; 31 May Pennington JLB

**Lazuli Bunting** Early: 13 May Pennington RSL; 14 May Meade EEM; 15 May Charles Mix RM; 29 May Edmunds JDW

**Indigo Bunting** Early: 06 May Gregory RM; 08 May Edmunds JDW; 09 May Clay GJS; 22 May Perkins BJU

**Dickcissel** All Reports: **10 May Clay DS**; 20 May Tripp RDO; 24 May Jerauld *fide* BFW; 25 May Corson BJU; 25 May Hughes JSP

**Bobolink** Early: 07 May Hutchinson *fide* BFW; 08 May Hand DB; 10 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Clay GJS; 15 May Perkins DC, DS, JSP

**Red-winged Blackbird** Early: 07 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Clay GJS; 13 Mar Miner KCJ; 13 Mar Yankton KCJ, RND; 18 Mar Lawrence SW

**Western Meadowlark** Early: 12 Mar Custer MMM; 13 Mar Hughes KM; 13 Mar Yankton RND; 16 Mar Grant BJU

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Early: 15 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL; 19 Mar Charles Mix RM

**Rusty Blackbird** Early: 16 Mar Brookings KCJ; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 25 Mar Clay GJS ... Late: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Brewer's Blackbird** Early: 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 18 Apr Hand DB; 23 Apr Custer JLB, MMM; 22 May Corson BJU

**Common Grackle** Early: 11 Mar Clay GJS; 16 Mar Brookings KCJ; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Meade EEM

**Great-tailed Grackle** Early: 15 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 21 Mar Davison RM; 21 Mar Douglas RM; 16 May Sully RDO

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Early: 12 Mar Clay GJS; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 02 Apr Lake JSP; 02 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 29 Apr Meade JLB

**Orchard Oriole** Early: 08 May Charles Mix RM; 09 May Minnehaha TJ; 10 May Hand DB; 15 May Mellette KH

**Bullock's Oriole** All Reports: **11 May Custer MMM**; 22 May Perkins BJU; 25 May Corson BJU; 25 May Harding CEM; 31 May Dewey BJU

**Baltimore Oriole** Early: 01 May Deuel BJU; 05 May Clay DS; 06 May Charles Mix RM; 13 May Perkins RDO

**Purple Finch** Late: 22 Apr Clay GJS; 15 Apr Lake JSP; 14 Apr Brookings KCJ

**Common Redpoll** All Reports: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 23 Mar Brown GO; 27 Mar Brown GO; 30 Mar Brown GO; 01 Apr Brown GO

**Pine Siskin** Late: 31 May Dewey BJU; 23 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ

**Evening Grosbeak** Only Report: 16 May Meade EEM

**Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee**

**Cackling Goose** 05 May Meade RSL; 01 May Deuel BJU

**Greater Scaup** 29 May McPherson JDW

**Surf Scoter** 19 Mar Yankton RND; 23 Apr Yankton TJ; 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 02 May Hughes RDO

**White-winged Scoter** 30 Apr Minnehaha TJ

**Black Scoter** 23 Apr Yankton TJ  
**Barrow's Goldeneye** 10 Mar Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Meade JLB  
**Greater Sage-Grouse** 03 Apr Pennington RSL  
**Sharp-tailed Grouse** 15 May Perkins (NE) DS, JSP  
**Red-throated Loon** 26 Mar Yankton BFH; 27 Mar Yankton RND  
**Great Egret** 17 Mar Yankton RND  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** 14 May Perkins DC  
**Glossy Ibis** 07 May Hughes RDO; 26 May Brown BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU  
**Swainson's Hawk** 11 Mar Clay GJS  
**Common Moorhen** 11 May Charles Mix RM  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull** 02 Apr Lincoln TJ; 11 Apr Grant BJU  
**Great Black-backed Gull** 16 Mar Grant BJU  
**Common Raven** 16 Mar Grant BJU  
**House Wren** 25 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW  
**Swainson's Thrush** 03 Apr Minnehaha MS  
**Pine Warbler** 23 Apr Grant BJU  
**Worm-eating Warbler** 18 May Walworth MO  
**Kentucky Warbler** 22 May Lake TJ  
**Hooded Warbler** 21 May Lake JSP  
**McCown's Longspur** 12 May Perkins RDO; 14 May Perkins TJ; 15 May Perkins DC  
**Painted Bunting** 26 May Harding DB  
**Eastern Meadowlark** 05 Apr Grant BJU; 29 Apr Union TJ

### Species Expected But Not Reported

Ruffed Grouse, Northern Bobwhite, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Barred Owl, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Canyon Wren, Carolina Wren (4), Sage Thrasher, MacGillivray's Warbler, Cassin's Finch, White-winged Crossbill (2)

### Contributing Observers

DB	Doug Backlund	KM	Kenny Miller
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	DO	Dave Ode
AKB	Anna K. Ball	GO	Gary Olson
DC	Doug Chapman	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	MRO	Mandy Orth
ND	Nancy Drilling	MO	Mark Otnes
MME	Maggie Engler	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
BFW	Bridgette Flanders-Wanner	RPR	Robert P. Russell
KH	Kevin & Kris Hachmeister	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
BFH	Bill Huser	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
KCJ	Kent C. Jensen	WS	Waubay NWR Staff
TJ	Todd Jensen	DST	Daniel Streifel
JK	Joyce Kringen	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	DS	David Swanson
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	BJU	Bill J. Unzen
RM	Ron Mabie	SW	Scott Weins
MMM	Michael M. Melius	JDW	J. David Williams
CEM	Charlie Miller	MRZ	Mick Zerr
EEM	Ernest E. Miller		

The term *fide* is a rarely used term in the science of reporting bird sightings. It is Latin for **faith**. Its use means that someone is reporting a bird seen by another person, but have **FAITH** in that person's birding skills so that the report is accurate and believable. Thus **Snowy Owl, *fide* Chapman**, would mean that someone told me they saw the owl, and I have enough faith in their birding skills to report it officially. To be used sparingly!

## Answer to the Second *SD Bird Notes* Photo ID Quiz

We have a small, brownish bird in a grassland. The bird has a relatively short hindclaw and uniform tail which eliminates the pipits, meadowlarks, and longspurs. Female Bobolinks have buffy bellies and spiky tail feathers, thus “she” is eliminated. This bird must be a sparrow.

Not only that, the bird’s bill is pretty hefty and its tail rather short: we’re dealing with a member of the genus *Ammodramus*. This genus of sparrow contains the following species found in South Dakota:

Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>
Baird’s Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>
Henslow’s Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
Le Conte’s Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>
Nelson’s Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>

(*Ammodramus* is Latin for “Sand Runner”. There are four other species worldwide.)

The bird clearly has fine, dark streaks on a white breast. The tail is also not spiky. That eliminates Nelson’s and Grasshopper sparrows. The bold lateral throat stripe leaves us with only Baird’s and Henslow’s to choose from. This bird completely lacks the dark green and purple tones shown by Henslow’s Sparrows, and there is also a strong black spot at the lower back corner of the auriculars. Baird’s Sparrow is definitely a possibility.

“But wait!” you say, “What about Savannah Sparrow?” A good question. The bird in question has a very pale head that is washed with a warm ochreous coloration. Savannah Sparrows have contrastingly darker auriculars when compared to the malar. Our bird in question also has a pretty big bill and a fairly pale tail as seen from below. The underparts also show an obvious white background coloration. All are characteristics that point away from Savannah Sparrow and toward Baird’s Sparrow as the identity of the quiz bird.

Furthermore, note the pink legs and feet. With the light ticking on the breast which does not extend into the belly, we should have an identification.

Only one bird found in South Dakota in early June could fit this description—**Baird’s Sparrow**! And indeed, a **Baird’s Sparrow** it is. To see the photo in color, consult the front cover of *SD Bird Notes*, vol. 63, no. 2 (June 2011) or go to:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/8110372@N06/5771858053/in/photostream>

Congratulations to Michael Melius of Hermosa who submitted the first correct entry on 17 June 2011. Michael will receive a water bottle carrier freshly hand-carried from Amazonian Ecuador.

There were three correct identifications (listed in order received):

<b>Michael Melius, Hermosa (winning first entry)</b>	<b>June 17</b>
Lowell Anderson, Crawfordsville, IN	June 21
David Lambeth, Grand Forks, ND	June 26

Thanks go out to all who participated.

Douglas Chapman, *SD Bird Notes*, Editor



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