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# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

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*Quiz Bird Number 3*  
*Crawfordsville, IN 6/28/10*  
*Photo: J.D. Phillips*



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SOUTH DAKOTA  
BIRD NOTES



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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It's almost the end of another year of birding and time to think about those tasks that need to be done by January 1. First of all, be sure to renew your SDOU membership. While you are at it, get a gift membership for a friend, neighbor, or relative! It's the perfect gift for that outdoors person who has everything.

Next, consider supporting the study of birds in South Dakota by making a tax-deductible contribution to one of SDOU's endowment funds. College study and bird research costs money. SDOU, through the generosity of forward-thinking donors has established several grants,

scholarships, and award endowment funds to support our mission of promoting the study of birds in South Dakota. Contributions to any of the following funds will allow us to provide meaningful grants and awards for studying South Dakota birds.

The **Nathaniel R. Whitney Jr. Memorial Research Grant Program** provides small grants for bird study in South Dakota. Grants may be awarded to qualified graduate and upper division undergraduate students majoring in ornithology, avian ecology, avian wildlife management, or a related scientific discipline at a South Dakota college or university. **Whitney Research Grants** also may be awarded to other ornithologically or scientifically qualified individuals, including amateur ornithologists.

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SDOU also gives out two awards. The **Alfred Hinds Memorial Award for Ornithology**, established in 1983, is given to an individual, student (high school, undergraduate, or graduate), or an organization/agency that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of ornithology in South Dakota. Finally, to encourage publication of scientific results in *South Dakota Bird Notes*, the **Mary E. Baylor Endowment Fund** rewards the author of the best *SDBN* article in a calendar year.

Please consider donating to one or more of these funds to help us advance the study of birds in South Dakota. See the SDOU web page ([www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org)) for more details about each fund. Send your tax-deductible contributions to the SDOU treasurer, Rosemary Draeger. The address is listed on the inside front cover of this issue and in the membership renewal form.



*Nancy Drilling*



## UNCONVENTIONAL WAYS TO HONE YOUR BIRDING SKILLS

One of the great things about birding is that it is an activity which can be enjoyed in any season. However, I find that I never get out nearly as much as I'd like to during the winter months. Winter is a busy time for a graduate student. Assignments are due, papers need to be graded, and data needs to be analyzed. Too often there just isn't enough daylight left for birding once I've finished being responsible for the day. When I do find the time to get outside, then I need to worry about my little Honda being able to plow its way through the snow drifts. Last winter was especially difficult for traveling anywhere off the beaten path. During those times when I'm stuck looking out my window at the blowing snow, I have to find other ways to get my birding fix and stay sharp for the upcoming spring migration.

As a teaching assistant at South Dakota State University, I have had the opportunity to teach several courses that require students to learn how to identify various species of plants and animals. I always advise them that the best way to learn the characteristics of a particular species is to look at as many specimens as possible so that they will learn the variability within the species and pick up on the most reliable field marks. As a fellow who tries to practice what I preach, I have recently become quite addicted to a website called "WhatBird" ([www.whatbird.com](http://www.whatbird.com)), which has a decent online field guide and a lot of other information on birds and birding, but the feature that I utilize most is the bird ID forum. On this online forum, people from all over the country post pictures of birds that they want some help identifying. The users of the forum range all the way from completely clueless folks who are excited to have a new bird in their yard (which more often than not turns out to be a European Starling) to very serious birders who are looking for confirmations of life birds or rarities that they have observed. The quality of photography is as variable as the skill levels of the birders, from out-of-focus shots taken with point-and-shoot cameras at distances far beyond the practical range of such devices to professional-quality photos taken with cameras and lenses that cost more than my first car. To me, browsing through the pictures for a few minutes every morning is valuable for honing my skills as a birder. The poor-quality photos really help with learning to ID birds by their overall size, shape, and posture, while the better photos give me the opportunity to really study the details of birds that I may not get to see all that often. [As an aside, I think that SDOU could possibly utilize its Facebook page in a similar way. If we can promote the page to beginning birders and non-birders and get them to submit pictures of unknown birds, we have an opportunity to help them learn more about bird identification and perhaps get them hooked on birding. We always need to be thinking about ways that we can promote interest in birds and, ultimately, recruit new members.]

Another way that I cope with the times that I can't be out in the field is to practice birding by ear as I watch TV or a movie. I'm not a big TV or movie buff, but sometimes there aren't a lot of alternatives for things to do, especially if I'm with a group of other people and the weather is preventing other activities. I try to take make the best of such situations. I've been able to endure some pretty bad movies by ignoring what the actors are saying and trying to pick out which birds are singing in the background. It is sometimes quite interesting to determine if the bird species on the soundtrack actually "belong" there. While bird songs sometimes get picked up in the background when a movie or TV show is being filmed, they are often intentionally added to make a scene seem more "natural," but the results can be amusingly wrong.

I imagine that a lot of readers of this article can relate if they stop to think about it. How many times have you let out a groan as you were watching a scene in a movie of a soaring

Bald Eagle or Turkey Vulture and then heard the cry of a Red-tailed Hawk come through the speakers? That's not the only dreadfully erroneous ornithological movie cliché. It seems like any movie with a jungle setting has to include a token Kookaburra call regardless of its location, which is rarely the Australian forests where the Kookaburra naturally occurs. Common Loon calls also tend to get mixed in with a lot of wilderness scenes without any consideration of where the story is supposed to be taking place. And what's a spooky night scene without an Eastern Screech Owl call? But sometimes you can pick up subtle, unintentional errors, such as hearing North American passerine species singing in the background of a scene that is supposed to be set in Europe.

Given the enormous amounts of money that are required to produce many of today's movies (just imagine what we could do to help conserve birds with the budget of even a single Hollywood blockbuster), it's amazing to me that the creators don't think to hire a consultant to ensure that the birds and other wildlife featured in the movie are correct for the setting. Perhaps I've found my calling in life—does anybody know someone in the film industry?

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## HOTSPOTS IN SD

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RICKY D. OLSON

Unlike the autumn of 2010, this fall was pretty quiet for migrants and rarities (including South Dakota's first Ross's Gull *SDBN* 62: 81). But there were a few highlights in 2011.

In September, 2011, an adult Little Gull and several Sabine's Gulls were reported at Oahe Dam.

October brought an immature Black-legged Kittiwake, two Mew Gulls and several Lesser Black-backed Gulls to the Pierre area. Nelson's and Le Conte's sparrows were seen in good numbers at the fall SDOU meeting in Brookings.

In November, there were several reports of Gyrfalcon in the Northern Black Hills. An immature Great Black-backed Gull was observed in Pierre. I have seen no reports of scoters this fall in South Dakota. They must be migrating further east as many have been reported in the neighboring states of Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska.

The 2011-2012 winter finch forecast from the Ontario Field Ornithologists, predicting few boreal influxes, seems to be aimed more for the states further east of South Dakota and therefore may not apply to the 2011-2012 South Dakota winter season. We have already had several reports of Purple Finches, Bohemian Waxwings and Red Crossbills this fall. A Pine Grosbeak was observed at Pierre. Snow Buntings have been reported in SD and there have been several sightings of Snowy Owls and Redpolls in SD, ND & MN already.

My winter predications include many sightings of boreal birds wandering south into South Dakota.



Two of South Dakota's  
"winter birds"

Lapland Longspur (L)  
and  
Snow Bunting (R)



# BOOK REVIEW

MICHAEL RETTER

**Birds of Australia: Eighth Edition.** Ken Simpson and Nicolas Day. (2011). Princeton University Press. \$39.50. Softbound 392 pp. 6x8<sup>1/2</sup>. 132 color plates. 900 line illus.

I have to admit, my first reaction at seeing this book was, “Why does a *field guide* have a dust jacket?” Then again, why does *any* book have a dust jacket? They just get torn up and/or lost. But I digress. This is the eighth edition of Simpson and Day. The first was in 1984. Just as the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (*National Geographic*) updates with new editions quite often, this title also updates with revised taxonomy and range maps. What this volume isn’t constantly updating are the illustrations. The accompanying press release states that there are three new plates since the 7th edition, but I couldn’t find a difference among the 150 or so plates from my 5th edition copy. That’s not necessarily a bad thing, though. In my opinion, a field guide should not have glaringly different styles within, let alone on the same page, and this field guide is certainly consistent regarding the “feel” of its artwork. Another departure from most North American field guides is the marking on maps of subspecific ranges, a very helpful feature. Equally helpful is the presence of black dots denoting the country’s major cities. The use of shades of green, and no other color, for the maps is an unfortunate and potentially user-unfriendly choice. Still, the maps are overall a great feature, if a tad small. Immediately following the main plates (with the familiar, facing-page format) is a 21-page section called “*Vagrant bird bulletin*”. It includes up-to-date information on accidental vagrants to Australia, much as the included back material in newer editions of the *National Geographic*.

In a land as ecologically foreign to North Americans as Australia, getting a handle on the wildly different habitats is not easy. What is **dry sclerophyll** forest, anyway? Thankfully, there is extensive information describing habitats in a seven-page section called “*Where the birds live*”. A section on “*Breeding information*” is an informative list of bar graphs that chart the breeding cycles of all regularly-breeding Australian species, grouped taxonomically. General notes on the nesting and breeding behavior is also given on the family level. Finally, in the very back are checklists that cover Australia’s island territories.

How do you fit all of this information on 780 species into a book of less than 400 pages? Unfortunately, something has to give, and in this case, that something is detailed information on identification and, especially, voice. Of the hundreds of species of birds I’ve heard in Australia, the Fernwren sticks in my head as having a particularly memorable and easy-to-describe song. It sings a loud, monotonous series of quickly-repeated motives, each consisting of three low-pitched whistles on the same pitch, the first two clipped and the last one much longer with a crescendo. The book describes this as “strong whistling”. The same can be said of the Eastern Meadowlark and the American Robin—two birds that sound nothing alike and nothing remotely like a Fernwren. More details would be quite helpful.

The book is a little dated (think the Gold guide or the old *National Geographic* plates), but overall, this is a very nice field guide to Australia and I highly recommend it. Just don’t expect cutting edge illustrations of difficult groups such as gulls and shorebirds. The habitat information, something that’s lacking in other Aussie guides, is worth the purchase by itself.

**Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West.** Dennis Paulson. (2009). Princeton University Press. \$29.95. Softbound 535 pp.

For me, 2011 has been The Year of the Odonata. Everyone sees dragonflies and damselflies, but only since fall 2010 have I tried my hand at identification. I have been fortunate to have a patient and willing expert to take me by the hand. Recently I discovered Dennis Paulson's *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West*, published in 2009. This guide will aide anyone interested in pursuing these fascinating, gorgeous, and often overlooked creatures.

What is it about these insects that has so caught my imagination? Unlike summer birds, dragon- and damselflies come in a parade, some emerging from their ponds early, others late, still others in between. They come in a myriad of patterns and colors. Their reproductive cycles are intriguing. To date, I have photographed over 40 species, and each has been a thrill to discover. Chasing Odonata has been like birdwatching on a new continent. What a thrill to discover different species, even if they prove to be common! Moreover, much less is known about ondonate distribution than is known in ornithology. One of my first damselflies, a Great Spreadwing, was a new record for Minnesota. Perhaps less possible for us neophytes is the remote possibility of discovering undescribed species!

This book, described as “verging on definitive” by my dragonfly expert, covers all 348 species found in western North America, including those in South Dakota. All of North America sports 453 dragon and damselflies--only about a quarter of this number are not covered in this guide. This volume is lavishly illustrated with color photographs and includes “information on size, distribution, flight season, similar species, habitat, and natural history...”. The “introduction provides an essential primer on the biology, natural history, and conservation of [dragonflies]...along with helpful tips on how to observe and photograph them.” (The quotes are from an Amazon.com review.)

The price is exceptionally reasonable.

All books can be criticized. The photographs are a tad small and lack the handy arrows present in Peterson field guides for birds. Paulson's book does not help the reader begin the identification process by keying out the various groups of dragonflies – a key to genera and families would be most useful. Finally, dragonflies and damselflies are very difficult to identify. Paulson cautions, “anyone who needs positive identification should strongly consider capturing the individuals in question.” Dragonflies are variable and often require structural study. Despite these caveats, I can't wait for next season's Odonata and for future road-trips across the country!

# OWLS IN FAULK COUNTY

Michael Melius, Hermosa

In recent years, I have been finding Long-eared Owls regularly in the Faulkton area, outside of the breeding season. The first of these modern records came on 5 March 2008, when my father, Marvin Melius, told me about a dead owl he'd found at our farm about 10 km northeast of Faulkton. He had found the owl by some spruce trees and had put it in an outbuilding. I examined the bird and identified it as a Long-eared Owl.

On 7 March 2008 I found two Long-eared Owls at Lake Faulkton, located three kilometers west of Faulkton in a dense stand of trees that had been planted soon after the lake was formed by the damming of Snake Creek in the 1930s. The tree stand includes cottonwood, green ash, juniper and pine, among other species. I suspect the owls may have nested there in 2008, but I did not want to disturb the birds so did not investigate further. I had previously found a Long-eared Owl at this site on 25 January 1998.

In mid-summer 2009 I found whitewash on the branches of, and owl pellets beneath, a juniper tree on our farm. I checked that tree again in the winter, and found a Long-eared Owl perched there on 6 December. It was positioned essentially above the whitewash I'd found in the summer. I found a Long-eared again there on 2 November 2010. Another Long-eared was observed at Lake Faulkton on 29 December 2010 in junipers just across the creek from the site described above. The juniper tree where a Long-eared Owl has made a roost for at least two winters at our farm in Faulk County is small, just five meters high, and the shelterbelt around it is meager, only a hectare in size. The trees are all but surrounded by cropland.

I also have two recent records for Northern Saw-whet Owl from Lake Faulkton: heard on the night of 5 March 2008 and seen on 2 November 2010.

The arboreal habitat for both of these owls is apparently increasing in the Faulkton area. An aerial photograph of Lake Faulkton, published in the *History of Faulk County*, shows the lake as it was in 1953. Only a few trees are visible around the lake, mostly in a few plantings such as I described above. Today those planted trees are mature to the point of decadence, while many more have volunteered or been planted around the lake. This situation is probably evident over much of the state, with some tree cover increasing due to plantings, natural expansion and fire suppression. For example, in 2010 the Natural Resource Conservation Service, a division of the US Dept. of Agriculture, reported planting over 2400 acres of trees in SD. More than 932,000 trees were planted, about a 5:4 ratio of deciduous to conifers, mostly in field and farm windbreaks. These numbers are representative of the Service's tree plantings in recent years. While many more acres have been planted in previous decades, assessing the net change in tree acres would require taking into account land clearing for agriculture and natural flooding, among other causes of tree mortality.

Long-eared Owls' nesting, roosting, and foraging in South Dakota has been discussed previously (SDBN 28:50-51; 47:62-63; 51:54-60; 61:30-31).

These observations illuminate the potential for increased roosting and nesting sites for Long-eared Owls in SD, due to growth and maturation of planted and natural tree stands. Offsetting this development may be the loss of grasslands for the owls' foraging. The 1953 aerial photo of Lake Faulkton cited here shows a nearly treeless lake shore mostly surrounded by prairie; almost all of that land is now cropland. In recent years, no-till and minimum-till methods have become dominant in the local agriculture. By allowing year-round vegetative cover and using minimum land disturbance, these methods have the potential for increasing Long-eared Owls' prey base of small rodents. I was recently discussing the apparent increase in badgers in the Faulkton area with a local farmer who said, "No till means more rodents." To quote one of the articles cited above (SDBN 51:58), "Annual monitoring of cedar and pine thickets statewide would provide more information on the status of this species."



# FALL 2010 HAWK WATCH • DINOSAUR PARK, RAPID CITY

Gene K. Hess, Rapid City

In 2009 I began a study of the fall hawk migration on the central eastern slope of the Black Hills. I continued that study in 2010 as part of an effort to address the question of whether migrating hawks fly around rather than over the Black Hills. More years and additional watch sites on the northern and western edges of the Black Hills are needed to fully address the question (Hess 2009).

## Site description

I conducted the watch at the same location in Dinosaur Park, 940 Skyline Drive, Rapid City, Pennington Co., SD (44° 4' 40.6" N, 103° 4' 38.3" W) as last year. The park is located on a north-south running ridge (called the Dakota Hogback) on the east side of South Dakota's Black Hills. To the east is prairie, to the west a valley separating the ridge from the Black Hills. The highest point in the park (approximately 3600 feet, and presumably the best viewing area) is not accessible to me. Because of this I could monitor only the east side of the ridge, the ridge line, and the prairie to the east. The elevation at my viewing area is approximately 3550 feet.

## Conduct of counts

I conducted counts on eighteen days from 15 September to 22 October 2010 for a total of 79.5 hours, averaging 4.4 hours per day (Table 1). One scheduled count was canceled due to inclement weather and one unscheduled day was added. On four days one additional observer was present for one to three hours. I recorded, on an hourly basis, the number and species of hawks and their direction of flight. Observers regularly scanned with binoculars or telescope all visible sky from directly overhead to the visible horizon, including gaps between trees. The daily totals are reported in Table 2.

I also recorded percent cloud cover or overcast (estimated) and wind direction. Weather data were obtained from Ellsworth Air Force Base (44.1° N, 103.10° W, 3278 feet elevation) approximately 8.75 miles northeast of the hawk watch (Table 1). Those data are available at <http://www.underground.com/history/airport/KRCA>. Initially (15 September) this station reported several times an hour, then beginning 17 September, with few exceptions, it reported at only fifty-five minutes past the hour. Comparison of this station's observations with the Rapid City Airport (KRAP, about 9.4 miles to the east, official weather data for the region) data recorded at fifty-minutes past the hour, showed similar trends in temperature, wind speed, wind direction, and barometric pressure (Table 1). The change in weather station from last year is because that station is no longer reporting. Although the Ellsworth AFB station is farther away from the hawk watch than the weather station used last year it is closer than the Rapid City Airport station and is visible from the hawk watch station.

All observations were made from the north side of the visitor building. The view north is partly obstructed by trees but the view east is not obstructed. The view west is obstructed by the higher part of the ridge.

## Results

Twelve species were identified, one more than in 2009, totaling 127 individuals (excluding the Turkey Vulture total). Osprey on 15 September (2) and on 22 September (1) and one Prairie Falcon recorded on 22 September were new species for the hawk watch, bringing the cumulative species list to thirteen. Bald Eagle recorded in 2009 was not recorded in 2010. Unidentified birds

totalled forty-four individuals (Table 2). As expected, most hawks were seen flying in a generally north-to-south or northwest-to-southeast direction. Those few that did not were presumed to be local birds; most were Red-tailed Hawks. There was at least one resident Red-tailed Hawk, typically seen circling at a distance over The Hogback. One of four Swainson's Hawks seen on 22 September and the only one recorded on 27 September was flying south to north and thus may have been local birds.

The greatest number of birds (seventy-two) recorded on a single day, including unidentified individuals, were seen on 24 September. When vultures are excluded the greatest number of birds (forty-seven) recorded on a single day, including unidentified individuals, were seen on 22 September. Thirty-eight of these birds moved past the watch station following a cold front from about 2 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Among the unidentified buteos seen that afternoon were two or three birds that had the tail pattern of Broad-winged Hawk and were smaller than nearby buteos that were either Red-tailed or Swainson's hawks. I alerted Michael Melius, near Hermosa, Custer County, of the flight. On checking back with him about a half hour later he reported that he observed twenty-eight buteos flying high. He thought some looked small and could be Broad-winged Hawks. It was also during this flight that the only Prairie Falcon for the count was recorded.

Turkey Vultures were presumed to be local birds and most were seen in the morning or at the end of the day when the birds were leaving or returning to their roosts. Their total numbers were down 65% compared to 2009. This is most likely due to the birds having moved their roost to a site where their flight lines were not visible from the hawk watch. As occurred in 2009 there was only one vulture observation in early October.

No Osprey were recorded in 2009 compared to two records in 2010. Bald Eagle was recorded in 2009 but not in 2010. A single Rough-legged Hawk was recorded in 2010 compared to single birds on two dates in 2009, and one Golden Eagle was observed each year.

## Discussion

Generally the pace of the observed migration was slow, averaging sixteen individuals per day or 3.7 individuals per hour over the period of the count, compared to eleven individuals and 5.5 individuals per hour in 2009. An average of 3.3 species was detected per count day (2.9, excluding Turkey Vulture) compared to the 2009 results of 4.8 per count day (4.1, excluding vultures). These results are lower than 2009 despite the similar number of count days (16 vs.18) and observation hours (79.25 vs. 79.5) in 2009 and 2010, respectively. However, this could be due to annual variation, sample bias (i.e. days and times selected for coverage) or some other reason so no conclusions should be made.

Most of the detected birds were flying either along the eastern flank of the Hogback or along its ridge. A few were seen coming from the west crossing the gap between Cowboy Hill and Hangman's Hill (Omaha St.). The occurrence of these individuals suggests undetected migration along the western flank of the Hogback and possibly along the eastern flank of the Hills proper. An observer stationed at the top of Hangman's Hill could address the question of undetected migrants.

Turkey Vulture numbers declined sharply in 2010 thus making Red-tailed Hawk the most frequently detected species (72% of days), followed by Sharp-shinned Hawk (44% of days). Table 2 gives a comparison of the percent of days each species was recorded in 2009 and 2010.

The following examination of the migration in regard to weather conditions looks only at wind direction and sky conditions. Other variables cannot be addressed until many more years of data have been amassed.

The wind directions presented in Table 1 are the two most common directions per hourly reporting

period, listed in order of frequency. For example, if there were eight reporting periods during a count, and five of those periods reported the wind from the north and three from the west, the direction is recorded as northerly and westerly. Thus it is noted that on 61% of the counts the wind was predominately northerly and westerly; on 33% easterly and southerly, with the remainder being other directions.

Looking at the average number of birds seen in each of the two major categories (northerly and westerly vs. easterly and southerly) we find that the first category averaged 14.7 birds per day while the latter averaged 20.5 birds per day. This anomaly is explained by removing Turkey Vulture from the totals. Doing so reveals the expected pattern of greater numbers of migrants on days with predominately northerly and westerly winds (8 birds per day) and fewer migrants on days with predominately easterly and southerly winds (5.2 birds per day).

Sky conditions were divided into three categories: 0-49% cover, 50-100% cover and variable. Turkey Vulture is excluded in the following analysis. There were thirteen days in the first category, three in the second, and two in the last. There were eight days of northerly or westerly winds in the 0-49% cloud cover category during which 25 migrants were counted. On the five days in the 50-100% category 18 migrants were counted. This difference is small but suggests that perhaps overcast days may make it easier to detect migrant hawks; however, there are other factors that should be considered. These include additional weather factors, the small size of the data set, and observer effort, among others. There are too few points in the remaining category to attempt to analyze them.

## Conclusions

The 2010 results support the 2009 observation that migrant hawks do, to some extent, use the eastern flank of the Black Hills during their southward migration. Establishing and maintaining additional watches along the northern and western edges of the Hills for several years is still needed to determine if migrant hawks avoid flying over the Hills. Although the number of individuals detected was small, the species diversity was high with two additional species added to the cumulative species list. Additional observers at this site positioned to see the west side of the Hogback and the east flank of the Hills will likely increase the numbers of birds detected, as will additional observation days.

## Acknowledgements

I thank site manager Chuck McLane for permission and hospitality at Dinosaur Park. I also thank Michael Melius and Jocelyn Baker for useful discussions and help on the watch.

## Literature Cited

Hess, G.K. 2009. Fall Hawk Watch, Dinosaur Park, Rapid City. South Dakota Bird Notes 62:12-16.



*The Hogback: Fall 2010 Hawk Watch Site  
Photo: Doug Backlund*

DATE	TIME	HOURS	TEMPERATURE (start - end, high)	WIND DIRECTION*	WIND SPEED (MPH), AVERAGE, STD. DEV.	BAROMETRIC PRESSURE - NORTH RAPID IDNS91	BAROMETRIC PRESSURE - AIRPORT KRAP	CLOUD COVER	NOTES
14-Sep-09	9:30-1:00	3.5	70.2 - 87.6, 87.6	southerly & easterly	4.9, 1.8	falling	falling	10-20%	
16-Sep-09	10:45-2:04	5.25	78.1 - 84.7, 84.7	easterly & southerly	2.1, 2.5	falling	falling	10%	
18-Sep-09	10:00-2:00	6	no data	no data	no data	no data	falling	0%	
20-Sep-09	12:00-5:00	5	77.5 - 68, 78.8	westerly & northerly	8.1, 3.3	rising	falling steady, then rising	50%	not scheduled
21-Sep-09	3:50	4	57.9 - 56.3, 59.7	westerly & northerly	8.0, 2.5	steady	rising	90%	
22-Sep-09	9:00-12:45	3.75	52.7 - 58.3, 58.5	northerly & westerly	6.9, 1.9	steady	rising	99%	not scheduled
23-Sep-09	9:15-2:00	4.75	61.3 - 70.9, 70.9	northerly & westerly	3.3, 2.1	falling in a.m., falling in p.m.	rising in a.m., falling in p.m.	0%	
25-Sep-09	9:30-4:00	6.5	61 - 69.6, 71.1	easterly & southerly	1.7, 1.9	rising in a.m., falling in p.m.	steady in a.m., falling in p.m.	30%-80% in a.m., clear in p.m.	
28-Sep-09	9:45-4:00	6.25	54.9 - 65.1, 65.5	easterly & northerly	2.5, 2.4	falling in a.m., falling in .p.m.	falling	0%	
30-Sep-09	9:15-4:00	6.75	59 - 61.2, 72.7	southerly & easterly	4.3, 2.5	falling in a.m., rising in p.m.	falling in a.m., rising in p.m.	80-90%	
02-Oct-09	9:30-1:00	3.5	47.5 - 53.8, 53.8	westerly & northerly	11.2, 4.3	steady	steady	60-80%	cancelled due to weather
05-Oct-09	none								
07-Oct-09	10:00-3:00	5	45.7 - 44.2, 53.1	northerly	5.6, 1.5	steady	steady	7	
09-Oct-09	none								cancelled due to weather
12-Oct-09	none								cancelled due to weather
14-Oct-09	none								cancelled due to weather
16-Oct-09	10:00-3:00	5	49.8 - 57, 59.5	northerly & westerly (equally)	4.9, 1.9	falling	falling	95% clearing to 75-80%	
19-Oct-09	10:30-2:00	3.5	45.3 - 48.9, 49.6	southerly & easterly	3.3, 2.8	falling	falling	98%	
21-Oct-09	none								cancelled due to weather
23-Oct-09	10:00-2:30	4.5	50.7 - 59.2, 59.2	northerly & westerly (equally)	4.6, 1.5	falling	falling	0 - <5%	
26-Oct-09	10:00-4:00	6	40.6 - 60.1, 61.2	southerly & easterly	1.9, 2.1	falling	falling	<5 - 75%	

Table 1. Dinosaur Park count dates and conditions. \* see text for explanation.

	14 Sep.	16 Sep.	18 Sep.	20 Sep.	21 Sep.	22 Sep.	23 Sep.	25 Sep.	28 Sep.	30 Sep.	2 Oct.	7 Oct.	16 Oct.	19 Oct.	23 Oct.	26 Oct.
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	1	16	44	9		6	40	50	5	81	2	1				
<b>Bald Eagle</b>						1										
<b>Northern Harrier</b>		1														
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>																
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>		3	5	2	2	1		2		2		1	1			
<b>Swainson's Hawk</b>		1	2		2		2			2				1		
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>							1						1			
<b>Ferruginous Hawk</b>			2			1	1		1	3		3	8	1	3	7
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>													1			
<b>Golden Eagle</b>							1							1		
<b>American Kestrel</b>			2					1		3						
<b>unidentified hawk</b>	1	4	1	6	2	12	5	0	2	50	0	10	5	2	1	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	2	25	56	17	6	21	50	53	8	141	2	15	16	6	5	15

Table 2. Species and numbers recorded each day.

# BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

RECENT BOOKS FROM PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

Dan Tallman, 2120 Taylor Ct., Northfield, MN 55057.

**The Birds of New Jersey.** William J. Boyle, Jr. (2011). Princeton University Press. \$24.95. Softbound 308 pp.

**B**irders visiting New Jersey will find this book indispensable. The book gives accounts of the 450 species of birds found in the state. Included in the entries are 200 color photographs of both common and rare species. In the margin adjacent to each account is a color range map for each species. The accounts are preceded by a very short, 13-page introduction that includes, among other items, a description of New Jersey's ecological regions and a definition of terms used within the book. Missing from the introduction is a discussion of birding hotspots around the state. The species accounts are short, usually not over a half-page each. The accounts include information on status, habitat, and distribution of the birds and locations and dates for records of rare species. Exact early and late dates for migrants are usually not included.

Overall, this book is well-designed and useful for birders of any ability. Because not all species are illustrated, it is not a field guide. With only a few exceptions, discussions on identification techniques are omitted. An inclusion of a bar graph showing relative abundance and seasons of occurrence would have been a helpful feature, but is not included. South Dakota birders interested in the birds of the United States will enjoy the book, and those interested in an eventual new edition of *Birds of South Dakota* will find it inspirational.

**Antarctic Wildlife: A Visitor's Guide.** James Lowen. (2011). Princeton University Press. \$22.95. Softbound 240 pp.

**I**f you are lucky enough to be going to Antarctica, clearly you should rush out and buy this book, which covers the Antarctic Peninsula, Drake Passage, and Beagle Channel. Buy it, in fact, before you plan your trip, as the book includes advice on what sort of tour companies, cruise ships, and itineraries you should consider. Also included is advice on photographing Antarctic creatures, and what weather you are likely to encounter. Others of you, armchair voyageurs and bird book collectors, will also enjoy the book.

This book is a field guide to Antarctica's birds and marine mammals (and even includes photos of some of the region's plants). The plates consist of stunningly edited digital color photographs. For example, one plate depicts of lineup of eight penguin species, superbly illustrating height and plumage patterns. Species accounts go beyond simple identification by including a wealth of interesting information about each animal. Conservation agencies are highlighted in the text and the book is dedicated to saving albatrosses through BirdLife International, a global conservation agency with which many of you are familiar.

**Avian Architecture.** Peter Goodfellow. (2011). Princeton University Press. \$27.95. Hardbound 160 pp.

This book, intended for beginning birders, summarizes the diversity of bird nests. Any reader of this book will be amazed by the diversity of bird nests. The text is well illustrated with color photographs and drawings. The text lacks literature citations and includes only two pages of suggested resources on bird nests. The author is not an ornithologist, and the book is definitely written for the lay audience.

Most of the world's nest types, using about 100 birds as examples, from simple scrapes to intricate weaver's weavings are covered in these pages. The book features 300 full-color images and more than thirty-five case studies that profile key species of birds around the world. Each chapter covers a different type of nest, from tunnel nests and mound nests to floating nests, hanging nests, woven nests, and even multiple-nest avian cities. Other kinds of avian construction – such as bowers and harvest wells – are also featured.

**The Atlas of Birds: Diversity, Behavior, and Conservation.** Mike Unwin. (2011). Princeton University Press. \$22.95. Softbound 144 pp.

I am not sure for whom this book is written. Intermediate and advanced birders will be familiar with most of the topics covered. After reading this book, beginning birders may well be inspired to further their studies. I think the book's title is a bit misleading. I am not sure this is really an atlas. Yes, it contains many maps, but the maps are not the point of the text, and usually convey relatively little data. The book superficially addresses the diversity, behavior and conservation of birds and contains photos and diagrams covering bird evolution, classification, ecology and behavior. The book explores the impact of human activities on species survival and illustrates where and why birds are most under threat--and how to protect them.

A map of **Important Bird Areas** (areas critical for birds and listed by the BirdLife International Organization) identifies only a few of over 11,000 locations (and few of these are actually mapped). The reader will learn that Important Bird Areas exist, but little else. Throughout the book, the text lacks cited sources, inhibiting further research. Three pages of listed sources at the end of the book, many from the Internet, make for a pitifully small sample of the vast literature on avian diversity, behavior and conservation.

Part three reviews the orders of birds of the world. Only eight photographs illustrate the largest order, Passeriformes. The accompanying map, hardly worth including, indicates the order is found nearly worldwide.

Much of the book covers environmental issues concerning birds. Subjects such as global warming, hunting, and conflicts with agriculture are familiar to most birders, who will learn little from these passages. In summary, this non-academic tome serves as a general introduction to some aspects of ornithology and conservation and will be of interest to those readers casually interested in learning more about birds of the world.

# IN MEMORIAM: RONALD R. NELSON

Nov. 11, 1941 – May 9, 2011

## ~Douglas Chapman remembers

*The world birding community lost a very dedicated friend when longtime member and Sioux Falls native Ron Nelson died while visiting relatives in California. At the time Ron was on a cross country trip from Florida to Alaska, birding and visiting friends and relatives while attempting to get most of the remaining North American birds that he needed for his life list. Ron was posted in The Netherlands for the last several years, working for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague. Though he would bird in Europe often, he missed his times in South Dakota as he very much enjoyed all of the SDOU meetings and field trips that he attended over the years. He came on a trip to Duluth, MN, with a group from around the USA I led in the year of the "Great Owl Eruption" in 2005. We saw well over one-hundred Great Gray Owls and nearly twenty Northern Hawk-Owls. Ron was thrilled, even more so when a roosting Boreal Owl was found in the conifers at the lighthouse. He sighted nine life birds that trip, including the owls, Pine Grosbeak, Hoary Redpoll, Yellow-billed Loon and Boreal Chickadee, plus two more I don't recall. Ron had a quiet way of displaying joy that was infectious. Birding with Ron was always a pleasure!*

## ~Mark Schmidbauer remembers

*One of Ron's favorite stories of his friend and fellow SD birder Herb Krause, occurred in 1972 when he and Herb drove the entire way from Sioux Falls to the SDOU meeting that year in Mobridge on gravel roads sighting many good birds along the way. Birding to and from meetings is a common practice that we birders still adhere to today and it can be just as memorable as the official field trips. A good memory that I have of Ron relates to this very topic. On the way back from a very rainy fall October meeting in Pierre a few years back, Ron, my wife Jennifer and I decided to take a little side trip to Red Lake just southeast of Chamberlain to find some birds. As we birded on the main road around the lake with our rental car, an inviting, overgrown little side road with direct lake access presented itself. Ignoring the advice from Ron and Jennifer that the trail was too muddy, I proceeded to get stuck about fifty meters in. It was an awful moment of embarrassment and regret. Jennifer and I pushed and pulled the car forever while Ron gunned the gas to try to make our escape; to no avail. Although we had cell phones and could call for a tow truck, the time involved in rescuing us would have taken too long for Ron to get back to Sioux Falls to catch his international flight later that day. Exhausted and giving up on pushing the car, I then saw Ron in the nearby bushes. I thought to myself, "Why on earth is he birding at a time like this?" He then started picking up little sticks and as he gathered them in his arms I was absolutely sure that Ron had gone completely batty. Ron started sliding this armful of sticks under the wheels of our rental car and then confidently told Jennifer and me that he had a plane to catch. Amazingly, as he backed up he got just enough traction with those little sticks under the wheels to get us unstuck and out to the main road. Ron was a hero that day and certainly a hero to me in life. I and many other people who got to know Ron over the years will greatly miss his kind and gentle demeanor, his quick dry wit, his bird knowledge and most of all his friendship.*

Recently Ron had completed editing *Birding in the Northern Plains*, the book of ornithological writings by South Dakota author and birder Herb Krause.

## from Ron's obituary...

*"Whether he was cooking, collecting art, or birding, Ron pursued his interests and hobbies with the same degree of perfection and enthusiasm that he did his career. Ron was migratory like the birds he so loved put planned to finally return to his place of origin."*

For Ron's complete obituary go to:

[http://www.millerfh.com/index.php?option=com\\_obituary&task=details&oid=4529](http://www.millerfh.com/index.php?option=com_obituary&task=details&oid=4529)



# SEASONAL REPORTS

JEFFREY L. PALMER

## The 2011 Summer Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer  
01 June 2011 to 31 July 2011

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

The primary goal of the Summer Season compilation is to report Confirmed Breeding (CB) records observed during the season. There were 155 species reported as CB this year. However, this does not include numerous records reported to the current South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas Project. These will eventually be reported elsewhere and the data will hopefully make its way into the online database as well. The secondary objectives of the Summer Season summary include sightings of rare (or at least infrequently reported) species, late spring and early fall migration dates, and species that are reported from unusual locations. A record 277 species, including 16 rarities, were reported during the season. The previous record (2002) was 270 species. The ten-year (2001-2010) average is 257 species. A full listing of all reported sightings can be obtained from the online database. This report contains those sightings and species which seemed to be consistent with the objectives of the Summer Season as described above. Particularly significant sightings are highlighted in **bold**. Breeding Codes may be found at [www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Only Report: 14 Jun Spink BJU

**Trumpeter Swan** CB: **03 Jun Perkins (NB) BJU**; **30 Jun Perkins (NB) BJU**

**Wood Duck** CB: Bennett, Butte, **Dewey, Fall River**, Lake, Pennington, and Roberts counties

**American Wigeon** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU**; **15 Jul Roberts (PY) BJU**

**American Black Duck** CB: **21 Jul Brookings (FY) KCJ** ... also reported 04 Jul Brown GO; 16 Jul Brown BJU; 16 Jul Marshall BJU

**Cinnamon Teal** All Reports: 08 Jun Brown BJU; 03 Jul Perkins BJU

**Northern Pintail** CB: Bennett, Butte, **Corson**, Edmunds, Marshall, **Miner, Perkins**, Potter, **Roberts**, Spink, Sully, and **Walworth** counties

**Green-winged Teal** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU**; **04 Jul Corson (PY) BJU**; **15 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU**; **23 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU**

**Canvasback** CB: **15 Jun Custer (PY) JLB**; **03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU**

**Redhead** CB: Bennett, Brown, **Butte, Codington**, Marshall, **Perkins, and Roberts** counties

**Ring-necked Duck** CB: 23 Jun Grant (PY) BJU; **11 Jul Roberts (PY) BJU**; 15 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU

**Lesser Scaup** CB: **19 Jun Codington (PY) BJU**; **03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU**

**Bufflehead** CB: **11 Jul Roberts (PY) BJU** ... also reported 05 Jun Corson BJU; 07 Jun Campbell BJU; 16 Jun Potter RDO; 19 Jun Sully BJU

**Common Goldeneye** Only Report: **11 Jun McPherson RDO**

**Hooded Merganser** CB: **02 Jul Butte (PY) BJU**; **06 Jul Grant (PY) BJU**; **10 Jul Deuel (PY) BJU**; 11 Jul Roberts (PY) BJU

**Common Merganser** CB: 10 Jun Pennington (PY) JLB; 20 Jun Pennington (PY) JLB, GH; 27 Jun Pennington (PY) JLB, GH; 11 Jul Pennington (PY) JLB, GH; 25 Jul Pennington (PY) JLB, GH

**Ruddy Duck** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU**; **11 Jul Roberts (PY) BJU**

**Gray Partridge** CB: 01 Jul Harding (PY) BJU; **04 Jul Corson (PY) BJU**

**Ring-necked Pheasant** CB: Bennett, Brown, Corson, Edmunds, Marshall, Miner, **Roberts, Spink**, and Walworth counties

**Ruffed Grouse** CB: 28 Jul Pennington (PY) BJU

**Greater Sage-Grouse** Only Report: 02 Jul Butte BJU

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** CB: **Bennett, Brown, Butte, Corson**, Dewey, **Perkins, Roberts**, and **Walworth** counties

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** CB: **05 Jul Walworth (PY) BJU**

**Wild Turkey** CB: Butte, **Dewey**, Grant, Lawrence, **Marshall**, Pennington, **Perkins, Roberts**, and **Walworth** counties

**Horned Grebe** Only Report: 07 Jun McPherson BJU

**Red-necked Grebe** CB: 06 Jul Day (PY) BJU; 12 Jul Roberts (PY) BJU; 16 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU

**Eared Grebe** CB: Bennett, Brown, **Butte**, Corson, **Dewey**, Marshall, Meade, **Perkins**, Potter, and Sully counties

**Western Grebe** CB: **Bennett, Brown, Butte**, Charles Mix, Clark, Codington, **Corson**, Day, Marshall, **Perkins**, Sully, and Walworth counties

**Clark's Grebe** CB: 19 Jun Codington (ON) BJU  
**American White Pelican** CB: 22 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU  
**Double-crested Cormorant** CB: Bennett, Brown, Codington, Day, Marshall, Perkins, Spink, Walworth  
**Great Blue Heron** CB: Bennett, Brown, Codington, Marshall, Pennington, and Spink counties  
**Great Egret** CB: 08 Jun Brown (ON) BJU; 19 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 15 Jul Marshall (NY) BJU; 16 Jul Brown (NY) BJU  
**Snowy Egret** CB: 19 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 16 Jul Brown (NY) BJU; **22 Jul Bennett (NY) BJU**  
**Little Blue Heron** All Reports: 08 Jun Brown BJU; 16 Jul Brown BJU; 16 Jul Marshall BJU; 21 Jul Clark BJU; 22 Jul Brown MO  
**Cattle Egret** CB: 19 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 16 Jul Brown (NY) BJU; 16 Jul Marshall (NY) BJU; **22 Jul Bennett (NY) BJU**  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron** CB: 19 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 05 Jul Walworth (NY) BJU; 16 Jul Brown (NY) BJU; 16 Jul Marshall (NY) BJU; 22 Jul Bennett (NY) BJU  
**White-faced Ibis** CB: 05 Jul Walworth (NY) BJU; 16 Jul Brown (CN) BJU; 16 Jul Marshall (NY) BJU  
**Osprey** reported 03 Jun Perkins BJU; 05 Jul Walworth BJU; 15 Jul Marshall BJU; 23 Jul Fall River JLB, JF; 24 Jul Lyman RDO  
**Bald Eagle** CB: 30 Jun Perkins (NY) BJU; 06 Jul Grant (NY) BJU  
**Cooper's Hawk** CB: 08 Jun Brown (ON) BJU; **23 Jul Lawrence (FL) SW**  
**Broad-winged Hawk** CB: 23 Jul Lawrence (FL) SW  
**Swainson's Hawk** CB: 12 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 02 Jul Harding (ON) CEM  
**Red-tailed Hawk** CB: 11 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 28 Jun Faulk (NY) MMM; 06 Jul Spink (NY) BJU  
**Ferruginous Hawk** CB: 11 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 11 Jul Harding (FL) CEM  
**Golden Eagle** CB: 04 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 05 Jun Harding (ON) CEM  
**American Kestrel** CB: **01 Jul Butte (NY) BJU; 07 Jul Miner (FL) JSP; 12 Jul Roberts (NY) BJU**  
**Merlin** All Reports: 30 Jun Harding BJU; 02 Jul Lawrence BJU; 03 Jul Perkins BJU; 24 Jul Shannon BJU  
**Peregrine Falcon** All Reports: 11 Jun Sully RDO; 24 Jul Lyman RDO  
**Prairie Falcon** CB: 19 Jun Harding (FL) CEM  
**Virginia Rail** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU; 05 Jul Walworth (PY) BJU**; 16 Jul Brown (PY) BJU; 16 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU; 22 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU  
**Sora** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU; 22 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU; 28 Jul Miner (PY) JSP**  
**Sandhill Crane** Only Report: **23 Jul Clay DS**  
**Black-bellied Plover** All Reports: 01 Jun Perkins BJU; 04 Jun Perkins BJU; 17 Jul Edmunds BJU  
**American Golden-Plover** All Reports: 01 Jun Perkins BJU; **23 Jun Spink (63) BJU**  
**Semipalmated Plover** Early: **03 Jul Perkins BJU**; 05 Jul Faulk BJU; 06 Jul Spink BJU; 25 Jul Brule RM  
**Piping Plover** All Reports: 07 Jun McPherson BJU; 19 Jun Faulk BJU; 22 Jul Bennett BJU; 23 Jul Bennett BJU  
**Killdeer** CB: Bennett, Butte, **Corson**, Dewey, Harding, Marshall, Miner, **Perkins**, Roberts, and Spink counties  
**Black-necked Stilt** CB: **15 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU; 16 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU**  
**American Avocet** CB: Bennett, Brown, Edmunds, **Harding**, Marshall, **Perkins**, Spink, Sully, and **Walworth** counties  
**Spotted Sandpiper** CB: **30 Jun Perkins (PY) BJU; 02 Jul Butte (PY) BJU**; 03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU; 22 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU; 23 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU; 25 Jul Pennington (PY) JLB, GH  
**Solitary Sandpiper** Late: **06 Jun Corson BJU** ... Early: 02 Jul Butte BJU; 02 Jul Harding BJU; 03 Jul Perkins BJU; 04 Jul Corson BJU; 05 Jul Faulk BJU  
**Greater Yellowlegs** Early: **19 Jun Sully BJU**; 27 Jun Pennington BJU; 02 Jul Butte BJU; 02 Jul Harding BJU; 05 Jul Faulk BJU  
**Willet** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU; 05 Jul Walworth (PY) BJU; 22 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU; 23 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU**  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late: 03 Jun Lake JSP; 01 Jun Perkins BJU ... Early: 23 Jun Spink BJU; 27 Jun Pennington BJU; 02 Jul Harding BJU; 04 Jul Corson BJU  
**Upland Sandpiper** CB: **16 Jun Dewey (PY) BJU; 18 Jun Charles Mix (DD) RM**; 02 Jul Butte (PY) BJU; 03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU; **04 Jul Corson (PY) BJU**  
**Whimbrel** Late: **01 Jun Dewey BJU**  
**Long-billed Curlew** CB: **16 Jun Dewey (PY) BJU; 17 Jun Dewey (PY) BJU**; 25 Jun Pennington (PY) BJU  
**Hudsonian Godwit** Late: **01 Jun Perkins BJU**  
**Marbled Godwit** CB: **16 Jun Dewey (PY) BJU; 02 Jul Butte (PY) BJU; 03 Jul Perkins (PY) BJU; 04 Jul Corson (PY) BJU; 05 Jul Walworth (PY) BJU**  
**Ruddy Turnstone** Late: 01 Jun Perkins BJU

**Sanderling** Late: **09 Jun Day BJU** ... Early: 22 Jul Bennett BJU; 28 Jul Stanley DB

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: 08 Jun Brown BJU; 07 Jun McPherson BJU; 07 Jun Campbell BJU; 04 Jun Perkins BJU ... Early: 02 Jul Butte BJU; 03 Jul Perkins BJU; 04 Jul Corson BJU; 05 Jul Faulk BJU

**Least Sandpiper** Late: 01 Jun Perkins BJU ... Early: 27 Jun Pennington BJU; 02 Jul Butte BJU; 02 Jul Harding BJU; 04 Jul Corson BJU; 05 Jul Faulk BJU

**White-rumped Sandpiper** Late: 14 Jun Spink BJU; 14 Jun Campbell BJU; 09 Jun Day BJU; 04 Jun Perkins BJU ... Early: 22 Jul Brown MO; 25 Jul Brule RM; 26 Jul Pennington JLB

**Baird's Sandpiper** Early: **02 Jul Butte BJU; 03 Jul Perkins BJU**; 04 Jul Corson BJU; 05 Jul Faulk BJU

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Late: 01 Jun Perkins BJU ... Early: 23 Jun Spink BJU; 27 Jun Pennington BJU; 02 Jul Butte BJU; 02 Jul Harding BJU; 04 Jul Corson BJU

**Dunlin** Late: 01 Jun Perkins BJU

**Stilt Sandpiper** Late: **08 Jun Brown BJU**; 07 Jun McPherson BJU; 04 Jun Perkins BJU ... Early: 03 Jul Perkins BJU; 04 Jul Corson BJU; 05 Jul Faulk BJU; 05 Jul Potter BJU; 05 Jul Walworth BJU

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Early: **22 Jul Bennett BJU**

**Short-billed Dowitcher** Late: **01 Jun Perkins BJU** ... Early: **03 Jul Perkins BJU; 04 Jul Corson BJU**; 05 Jul Faulk BJU; 05 Jul Potter BJU; 05 Jul Walworth BJU

**Wilson's Snipe** CB: 16 Jun Dewey (PY) BJU; 05 Jul Walworth (PY) BJU; 11 Jul Roberts (PY) BJU

**American Woodcock** Only Report: **22 Jul Todd BJU**

**Wilson's Phalarope** CB: **Bennett, Brown, Corson, Edmunds, Harding, Marshall, Perkins, Roberts, and Walworth counties**

**Red-necked Phalarope** Late: **09 Jun Day BJU; 07 Jun Campbell BJU; 06 Jun Corson BJU; 04 Jun Perkins BJU**

**Franklin's Gull** CB: 05 Jul Walworth (NY) BJU; 16 Jul Brown (NY) BJU; **16 Jul Marshall (NY) BJU**

**Ring-billed Gull** CB: 19 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 02 Jul Butte (PY) BJU

**California Gull** CB: 02 Jul Butte (PY) BJU

**Herring Gull** All Reports: 02 Jun Hughes RDO; 09 Jun Day BJU; 26 Jun Stanley RDO; 28 Jul Stanley DB

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** All Reports: 08 Jun Stanley RDO; 17 Jun Stanley RDO; 26 Jun Stanley RDO; 10 Jul Stanley RDO

**Least Tern** All Reports: 16 Jun Dewey BJU; 27 Jun Meade BJU; 05 Jul Walworth BJU; 27 Jul Hughes DB

**Caspian Tern** reported 12 Jun McPherson GO; 30 Jun Codington JSP; 30 Jul McPherson GO

**Black Tern** CB: 08 Jun Brown (NB) BJU; **06 Jul Day (FY) BJU**; 11 Jul Roberts (FY) BJU; 12 Jul Roberts (FY) BJU; 15 Jul Marshall (FY) BJU; 22 Jul Bennett (FY) BJU

**Common Tern** All Reports: 04 Jun Hughes RDO; 16 Jun Dewey BJU; 29 Jun Hughes DB; 04 Jul Stanley RDO; 11 Jul Roberts BJU; 21 Jul Clark BJU

**Forster's Tern** CB: 05 Jul Walworth (FL) BJU; 16 Jul Marshall (FL) BJU

**Mourning Dove** CB: 07 Jun Campbell (NE) BJU; 18 Jun Pennington (NY) BJU; 24 Jun Pennington (ON) BJU; 16 Jul Marshall (FL) BJU

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** CB: **16 Jun Dewey (CN) BJU; 06 Jul Grant (CN) BJU; 15 Jul Marshall (CF) BJU**

**Barn Owl** All Reports: 17 Jun Haakon BJU; 23 Jul Bennett BJU

**Great Horned Owl** CB: **07 Jun Campbell (NY) BJU; 07 Jun McPherson (NY) BJU**; 27 Jun Harding (FL) BJU; **03 Jul Perkins (FL) BJU; 15 Jul Marshall (FL) BJU**

**Burrowing Owl** CB: Bennett, Corson, Dewey, Harding, and Pennington counties

**Barred Owl** reported **11 Jul Roberts BJU; 15 Jul Roberts BJU**

**Long-eared Owl** All Reports: 03 Jun Perkins BJU; 04 Jun Perkins BJU; 07 Jun Campbell BJU; 25 Jun Pennington BJU; 01 Jul Harding BJU; 24 Jul Shannon BJU

**Short-eared Owl** CB: **23 Jun Harding (FL) CEM**

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** CB: Harding County

**White-throated Swift** CB: 05 Jul Fall River (ON) DS, JSP

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** All Reports: 01 Jun Marshall GO; 12 Jul Grant BJU; 12 Jul Roberts BJU; 15 Jul Marshall BJU; 15 Jul Roberts BJU; 21 Jul Kingsbury JSP

**Calliope Hummingbird** Only Report: 28 Jul Custer BJU

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** All Reports: 26 Jun Custer JLB, RSL; 03 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 20 Jul Custer DB; 25 Jul Fall River BJU; 28 Jul Custer BJU

**Rufous Hummingbird** Early: 14 Jul Custer KH; 19 Jul Pennington *vide* JLB; 25 Jul Fall River BJU

**Belted Kingfisher** CB: **30 Jun Perkins (ON) BJU; 15 Jul Marshall (ON) BJU**

**Red-headed Woodpecker** CB: Bennett, Corson, Custer, Grant, Pennington, Perkins, Shannon, Spink, and Sully counties

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** All Reports: 06 Jul Grant BJU; 12 Jul Grant BJU; 12 Jul Roberts BJU; 15 Jul Marshall BJU; 15 Jul Roberts BJU

**Red-naped Sapsucker** CB: 03 Jul Custer (NY) DS, JSP

**Downy Woodpecker** CB: **23 Jul Bennett (NY) BJU**

**Hairy Woodpecker** CB: **27 Jun Perkins (ON) BJU; 11 Jul Roberts (NY) BJU**

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** All Reports: 19 Jun Lawrence JSP; 28 Jul Pennington BJU

**Black-backed Woodpecker** All Reports: 20 Jul Custer DB; **25 Jul Fall River BJU**; 28 Jul Pennington BJU

**Northern Flicker** CB: 01 Jul Custer (FY) DS, JSP; **23 Jul Bennett (NY) BJU**

**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 11 Jul Roberts BJU; 12 Jul Grant BJU; 12 Jul Roberts BJU; 15 Jul Roberts BJU

**Western Wood-Pewee** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (ON) BJU**

**Alder Flycatcher** All Reports: 04 Jun Clay DS; 08 Jun Brown BJU

**Willow Flycatcher** CB: 07 Jun Campbell (NB) BJU

**Least Flycatcher** CB: 08 Jun Brown (NB) BJU; 16 Jun Dewey (CF) BJU; **03 Jul Perkins (CF) BJU**

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** CB: 12 Jul Lawrence (NY) DB

**Eastern Phoebe** CB: **18 Jun Mellette (FL) KH; 11 Jul Mellette (ON) KH; 24 Jul Fall River (FL) BJU**

**Say's Phoebe** CB: **02 Jul Butte (NY) BJU**; 03 Jul Perkins (NY) BJU; **04 Jul Corson (NY) BJU**

**Great Crested Flycatcher** CB: **11 Jul Roberts (NY) BJU; 15 Jul Roberts (ON) BJU**

**Cassin's Kingbird** All Reports: **18 Jun Haakon BJU**; 23 Jul Bennett BJU; 24 Jul Shannon BJU; 28 Jul Custer BJU

**Western Kingbird** CB: Bennett, Campbell, Charles Mix, Corson, Day, Pennington, and Spink counties

**Eastern Kingbird** CB: 07 Jun Campbell (ON) BJU; 16 Jun Dewey (CF) BJU; 06 Jul Spink (CF) BJU; 26 Jul Miner (FY) JSP

**Loggerhead Shrike** CB: Bennett, Butte, Fall River, Jones, Marshall, and Perkins counties

**Bell's Vireo** CB: **15 Jun Corson (NB) BJU; 16 Jun Dewey (NB) BJU; 04 Jul Corson (CF) BJU**; 23 Jul Bennett (FL) BJU

**Yellow-throated Vireo** CB: 11 Jun Clay (ON) DS

**Philadelphia Vireo** Only Report: **01 Jun Dewey BJU**

**Gray Jay** All Reports: 19 Jun Lawrence JSP; 03 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 20 Jul Custer DB; 28 Jul Custer BJU; 28 Jul Pennington BJU

**Pinyon Jay** All Reports: 04 Jul Fall River (45+) DS, JSP; 24 Jul Fall River BJU

**Clark's Nutcracker** Only Report: 20 Jul Custer DB

**Black-billed Magpie** CB: **01 Jun Dewey (ON) BJU; 04 Jun Perkins (ON) BJU**; 18 Jun Pennington (NY) BJU

**American Crow** CB: **08 Jun Brown (NY) BJU**

**Horned Lark** CB: 03 Jun Perkins (FL) BJU; 06 Jun Corson (FL) BJU; 01 Jul Butte (FY) BJU

**Purple Martin** CB: 11 Jul Grant (NY) BJU; 15 Jul Marshall (NY) BJU; 17 Jul Edmunds (NY) BJU

**Tree Swallow** CB: 08 Jun Brown (ON) BJU; **16 Jun Dewey (NY) BJU**; 28 Jun Miner (ON) JSP; 05 Jul Faulk (ON) BJU; 06 Jul Spink (ON) BJU

**Violet-green Swallow** CB: **05 Jul Fall River (ON) DS, JSP; 25 Jul Fall River (NY) BJU**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** CB: **03 Jun Corson (ON) BJU; 05 Jun Corson (ON) BJU; 17 Jun Charles Mix (ON) RM; 04 Jul Corson (ON) BJU**; 06 Jul Day (FY) BJU; **12 Jul Roberts (ON) BJU**

**Bank Swallow** CB: **03 Jun Corson (ON) BJU; 05 Jun Corson (ON) BJU; 04 Jul Corson (ON) BJU**; 12 Jul Roberts (ON) BJU

**Barn Swallow** CB: Butte, Dewey, Harding, Kingsbury, Marshall, Miner, Pennington, Perkins, and Roberts counties

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** CB: 27 Jun Harding (FL) BJU; 28 Jun Harding (FL) BJU ... also reported 01 Jun Brown GO; 10 Jul Brown GO; 14 Jul Brown GO

**White-breasted Nuthatch** CB: **23 Jun Charles Mix (FY) RM; 11 Jul Roberts (ON) BJU**

**Pygmy Nuthatch** CB: **23 Jul Bennett (FL) BJU** ... also reported 23 Jul Fall River JLB, JF; 25 Jul Fall River BJU

**Brown Creeper** Only Report: 20 Jul Custer DB

**Rock Wren** CB: 02 Jul Custer (CF) DS, JSP; 03 Jul Perkins (FL) BJU; 25 Jul Fall River (FL) BJU

**House Wren** CB: **05 Jun Corson (ON) BJU**; 16 Jun Dewey (CF) BJU; 23 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 05 Jul Fall River (CF) DS, JSP; **11 Jul Roberts (NY) BJU**

**Marsh Wren** CB: **16 Jul Marshall (FS) BJU**

**American Dipper** All Reports: 19 Jun Lawrence JSP; 25 Jun Lawrence RSL; 29 Jun Lawrence BJU; 10 Jul Lawrence DB

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** All Reports: 12 Jun Lawrence RSL; 19 Jun Lawrence JSP; 03 Jul Custer DS, JSP

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** All Reports: 04 Jun Pennington JLB; 12 Jun Lawrence RSL; 19 Jun Lawrence JSP; 29 Jun Custer KH; 03 Jul Custer DS, JSP

**Eastern Bluebird** CB: Bennett, Charles Mix, Corson, Grant, Lawrence, and Perkins counties

**Mountain Bluebird** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (ON) BJU; 23 Jul Bennett (FL) BJU**

**Townsend's Solitaire** CB: **25 Jul Fall River (FL) BJU**

**Veery** All Reports: 01 Jun Marshall GO; **06 Jul Grant BJU**; 11 Jul Roberts BJU; 15 Jul Marshall BJU; 15 Jul Roberts BJU

**Swainson's Thrush** All Reports: 01 Jun Dewey BJU; 01 Jun Perkins BJU; 19 Jun Lawrence JSP; 03 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 20 Jul Custer DB

**Wood Thrush** Only Report: **15 Jul Roberts BJU**

**American Robin** CB: Brown, Butte, Corson, Day, Dewey, **Faulk**, Lake, Miner, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, and Spink counties

**Gray Catbird** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (FS) BJU**; **26 Jul Kingsbury (FL) JSP**

**Northern Mockingbird** All Reports: 16 Jun Dewey BJU; 16 Jul Marshall BJU; 23 Jul Bennett BJU

**Sage Thrasher** All Reports: 02 Jul Butte BJU; 04 Jul Fall River DS, JSP; 24 Jul Fall River BJU

**Brown Thrasher** CB: **Bennett**, Campbell, Custer, **Jones**, Perkins, Shannon, and Spink counties

**European Starling** CB: Brown, **Corson, Day**, Edmunds, Faulk, Miner, Pennington, and Spink counties

**Cedar Waxwing** CB: 01 Jul Harding (FY) BJU; **15 Jul Roberts (FY) BJU**

**Tennessee Warbler** Only Report: 01 Jun Lake JSP

**Virginia's Warbler** CB: 03 Jul Custer (CF) DS, JSP ... also reported 26 Jun Custer JLB, RSL; 02 Jul Custer DS, JSP; **25 Jul Fall River BJU**

**Northern Parula** Only Report: **03 Jun Perkins BJU**

**Yellow Warbler** CB: **Bennett, Corson**, Fall River, **Perkins**, and **Roberts** counties

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** CB: 27 Jun Harding (CF) BJU; 28 Jun Harding (CF) BJU; 30 Jun Harding (CF) BJU; 01 Jul Harding (CF) BJU; **23 Jul Bennett (FY) BJU**; **25 Jul Fall River (CF) BJU**

**Black-and-white Warbler** All Reports: 01 Jun Marshall GO; 05 Jul Fall River DS, JSP; 22 Jul Todd BJU; 23 Jul Bennett BJU; 24 Jul Shannon BJU

**Ovenbird** CB: 27 Jun Harding (FY) BJU; **12 Jul Roberts (CF) BJU**; **15 Jul Roberts (CF) BJU**

**MacGillivray's Warbler** CB: 03 Jul Custer (CF) DS, JSP

**Yellow-breasted Chat** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (CF) BJU**; **04 Jul Corson (CF) BJU**; **23 Jul Bennett (FY) BJU**

**Scarlet Tanager** CB: 15 Jul Marshall (FS) BJU; **22 Jul Todd (FY) BJU** ... also reported 03 Jul Minnehaha MS; 11 Jul Roberts BJU; 15 Jul Roberts BJU

**Western Tanager** CB: 23 Jul Bennett (CF) BJU

**Spotted Towhee** CB: **16 Jun Dewey (CF) BJU**; 27 Jun Harding (FY) BJU; 01 Jul Custer (CF) DS, JSP; **03 Jul Perkins (FY) BJU**; **04 Jul Corson (CF) BJU**; **23 Jul Bennett (FL) BJU**

**Eastern Towhee** All Reports: 01 Jun Dewey BJU; 03 Jul Minnehaha MS; 15 Jul Roberts BJU

**Chipping Sparrow** CB: **Bennett**, Butte, **Corson**, Custer, Day, **Dewey**, Faulk, Harding, Pennington, and **Roberts** counties

**Clay-colored Sparrow** CB: **04 Jun Perkins (NB) BJU**; 07 Jun Campbell (NB) BJU; 03 Jul Perkins (FS) BJU; 15 Jul Roberts (NY) BJU; 22 Jul Faulk (NY) MMM

**Brewer's Sparrow** CB: 23 Jul Fall River (CF) JLB, JF

**Field Sparrow** CB: **16 Jun Dewey (FY) BJU**; 27 Jun Pennington (FY) BJU; **03 Jul Perkins (CF) BJU**; **04 Jul Corson (CF) BJU**; **15 Jul Roberts (CF) BJU**

**Vesper Sparrow** CB: **02 Jul Butte (FY) BJU**; **03 Jul Perkins (FY) BJU**

**Lark Sparrow** CB: Bennett, Butte, Corson, Custer, **Dewey, Grant**, Harding, Hughes, Pennington, **Perkins, Roberts**, and Todd counties

**Lark Bunting** CB: Butte, Corson, Fall River, Pennington, Perkins, and **Walworth** counties

**Savannah Sparrow** CB: **30 Jun Perkins (CF) BJU**

**Grasshopper Sparrow** CB: **Bennett**, Butte, Corson, **Dewey**, Miner, Pennington, Perkins, and Walworth counties

**Song Sparrow** CB: **05 Jun Corson (ON) BJU**; **07 Jun Campbell (NE) BJU**; **15 Jul Roberts (FY) BJU**

**Swamp Sparrow** CB: **11 Jul Roberts (FY) BJU**

**Dark-eyed Junco** All Reports: 04 Jun Pennington JLB; 19 Jun Custer RSL; 19 Jun Lawrence JSP; 03 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 20 Jul Custer DB; 28 Jul Pennington BJU

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** CB: Butte, Clark, **Codington, Corson, Roberts**, and **Walworth** counties

**Northern Cardinal** CB: **12 Jul Roberts (FL) BJU**

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** CB: **11 Jul Roberts (CF) BJU**; **15 Jul Roberts (CF) BJU**

**Black-headed Grosbeak** CB: 16 Jun Dewey (CF) BJU; 03 Jul Perkins (CF) BJU

**Blue Grosbeak** CB: **15 Jun Corson (CN) BJU**; **27 Jun Meade (CF) BJU**; **27 Jun Perkins (CF) BJU**; **02 Jul Butte (CF) BJU**; **06 Jul Grant (CF) BJU**; **23 Jul Bennett (CF) BJU**

**Lazuli Bunting** CB: **03 Jul Perkins (CF) BJU**

**Dickcissel** CB: **04 Jun Perkins (CN) BJU; 03 Jul Perkins (FY) BJU; 05 Jul Walworth (CF) BJU; 06 Jul Day (FL) BJU; 17 Jul Edmunds (CF) BJU**  
**Bobolink** CB: **30 Jun Perkins (CF) BJU; 02 Jul Butte (CF) BJU**  
**Eastern Meadowlark** CB: 22 Jul Bennett (FS) BJU ... also reported 23 Jul Bennett BJU; 24 Jul Shannon BJU  
**Brewer's Blackbird** CB: **24 Jul Shannon (FS) BJU**  
**Brown-headed Cowbird** CB: **02 Jul Harding (FY) BJU; 25 Jul Fall River (FY) BJU**  
**Orchard Oriole** CB: Bennett, Campbell, **Corson**, Custer, Fall River, **Perkins**, and **Roberts** counties  
**Baltimore Oriole** CB: 08 Jun Brown (NB) BJU; **16 Jun Dewey (ON) BJU; 27 Jun Perkins (FS) BJU; 11 Jul Roberts (NY) BJU; 15 Jul Roberts (FS) BJU**  
**Cassin's Finch** All Reports: 15 Jun Fall River JLB; 25 Jul Fall River BJU; 31 Jul Fall River RDO  
**Red Crossbill** CB: 27 Jun Harding (FY) BJU; 28 Jun Harding (FY) BJU; 01 Jul Harding (FY) BJU  
**Pine Siskin** CB: **01 Jul Harding (FY) BJU**  
**Lesser Goldfinch** All Reports: 03 Jul Fall River DS, JSP; 05 Jul Fall River DS; JSP; 28 Jul Fall River BJU; 31 Jul Fall River RDO  
**American Goldfinch** CB: 25 Jun Pennington (CN) BJU  
**House Sparrow** CB: Corson, Faulk, Harding, Pennington, **Perkins**, Roberts, and Spink counties

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

**Fulvous Whistling Duck** 14 Jun Potter BJU; 16 Jun Potter RDO  
**Common Loon** 15 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU  
**Neotropic Cormorant** 07 Jun McPherson BJU; 11 Jun McPherson RDO  
**Tricolored Heron** 15 Jul Brown BJU  
**Reddish Egret** 19 Jun Codington BJU  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** 05 Jun Pennington RSL  
**Glossy Ibis** 08 Jun Brown BJU; 05 Jul Walworth BJU; 16 Jul Brown BJU  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 22 Jun Brown GO  
**Common Moorhen** 15 Jul Marshall BJU  
**Solitary Sandpiper** 16 Jun Potter RDO  
**Barred Owl** 23 Jul Bennett BJU  
**Williamson's Sapsucker** 25 Jul Fall River BJU  
**Western Wood-Pewee** 01 Jun Dewey BJU  
**Bewick's Wren** 22 Jul Todd BJU  
**Pacific Wren** 10 Jul Lawrence DB  
**Blue-winged Warbler** 15 Jul Roberts BJU  
**Cassin's Sparrow** 09 Jun Shannon MMM; 25 Jun Pennington BJU; 04 Jul Fall River DS, JSP  
**Henslow's Sparrow** 23 Jun Spink BJU; 12 Jul Lake JSP; 14 Jul Lake JSP; 15 Jul Roberts BJU  
**Harris's Sparrow** 12 Jun Charles Mix RM  
**McCown's Longspur** 03 Jun Perkins BJU; 02 Jul Butte BJU

**Contributing Observers**

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APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
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JF	Jennifer Fowler	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
KH	Kevin Hachmeister	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
GH	Gene Hess	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
KCJ	Kent C. Jensen	DS	David Swanson
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	BJU	Bill Unzen
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MMM	Michael M. Melius		

## *South Dakota Bird Notes* Identification Quiz

For both a little enjoyment and to help hone a few identification skills at the same time, on the front cover you will find the third *South Dakota Bird Notes* bird identification quiz photo. The rules are simple. Any species used in a photo for the *SD Bird Notes* Quiz will:

- 1) Be a bird found in South Dakota, though the photo may have been taken elsewhere,
- 2) Include the date that the photo was taken, as well as the location,
- 3) Have at least one definitive, identifiable field mark visible, though you may have to look closely.

The first person to correctly identify the species will receive a small gift. All correct identifications will be credited in the following issue of *SD Bird Notes* in the order they were received.

**This photo (see front cover) was taken on 28 June 2010 in central Indiana.**

Please send your identifications to Douglas Chapman, *SD Bird Notes* Editor (address on page 74); or, preferably, by e-mail to: [sfbirdclub@sio.midco.net](mailto:sfbirdclub@sio.midco.net).

While the bird featured in the photograph may be difficult to identify, the photo will show at least one identifiable field mark on the bird. If a reader has a bird photograph suitable for the quiz (using the guidelines noted above), please submit it for a future quiz.

Thank you, good luck and let the detective work begin.



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