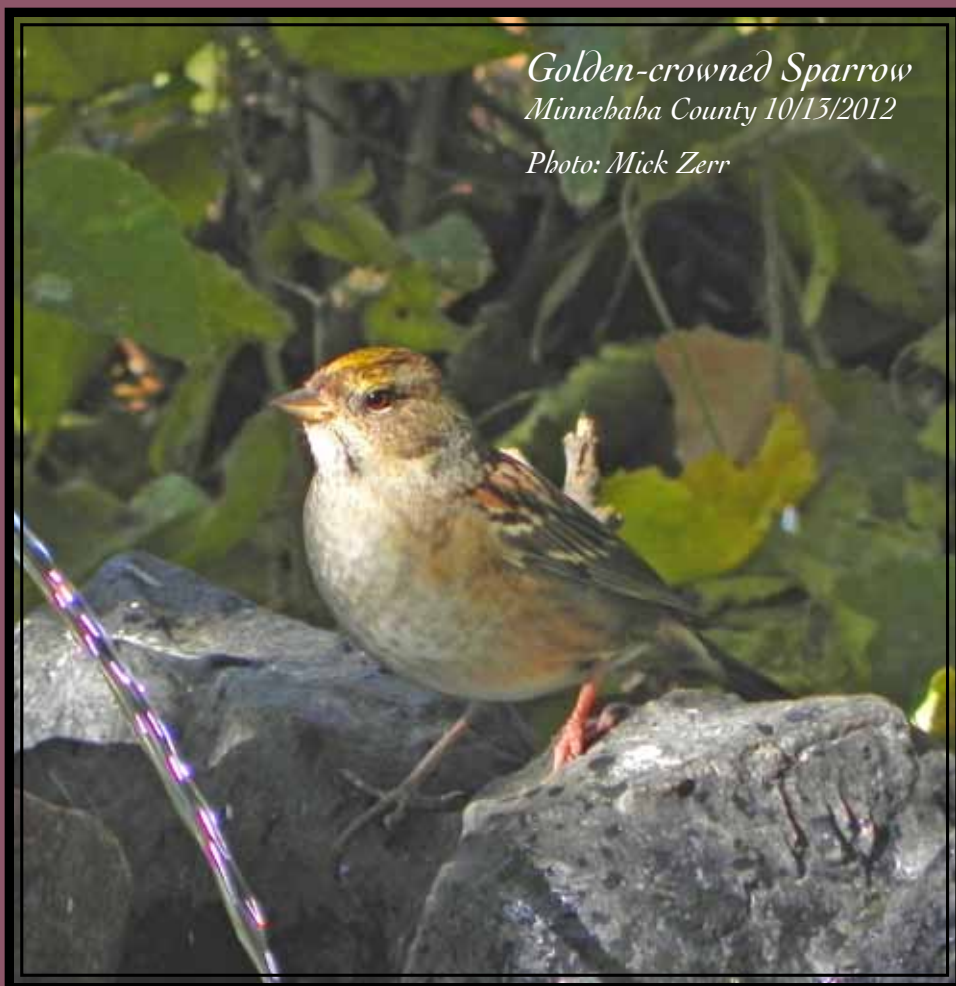


SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union



Golden-crowned Sparrow
Minnehaha County 10/13/2012

Photo: Mick Zerr

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

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES, the official publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Life membership: \$400; Family Life membership (one subscription to *Bird Notes*): \$500; Sustaining membership: \$40; Regular membership: \$20; Family membership (one household; one subscription to *SD Bird Notes*): \$25; Junior/Student membership: \$10; Library Subscription: \$30. Single and back copies: Members, \$5; non-members, \$6. All dues, contributions, and orders for back copies should be sent to the SDOU Treasurer, Rosemary Draeger, 528 E. Lotta St., Sioux Falls, SD, 57105. Manuscripts for publication and change of address notices should be sent to Douglas Chapman (3108 S. Holly Ave., Sioux Falls, SD, 57105) or preferably, e-mailed to: sfbirdclub@sio.midco.net. **SDOU website: www.sdou.org**.

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As we look forward to the new year, consider making a New Year's pledge to become a citizen scientist. A citizen scientist is a volunteer who collects data to answer real world questions. In South Dakota, we have so few people and even fewer professional bird researchers, that any contribution you make will help increase our knowledge of South Dakota's birds. It's interesting, it's fun, and it's rewarding. Here are some ideas where your participation can make a huge difference.



1. Collect data for an organized effort – Christmas Bird Counts (see sdou.org for dates of CBC near you), Project Feederwatch (runs through April), Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb. 15 -18, 2013), eBird, the SDOU online database, and Breeding Bird Surveys (summertime) are all projects where thousands of small contributions from volunteers helps answer big questions. You just write down what you see and turn the information in.
2. Help a local researcher – there are many surveys and research projects being conducted in the state and some could use your help. Contact your local federal or state agency, university, or bird club to volunteer.
3. Rare bird sightings – if you see a rare bird, take notes! Research the history of that species in the state. If it stays around, keep taking notes. See this issue's article on the Harlequin Duck in Rapid City for an example of how much we can learn.
4. Turn your bird notes into inquiries – have you been noting first and last sightings of species in your yard or making trip lists? Your notes have a wealth of great data. For example, have first or last dates changed over the years? Have some species declined or disappeared over the years while others have appeared or increased?
5. Analyze someone else's data – much data is online and just waiting for someone to use it to answer some of these questions. You can download data for your area from the SDOU online database, eBird, the Christmas Bird Count, and Breeding Bird Survey, to name a few.
6. Make in-depth observations of birds in your area – for example study the nesting ecology and behavior of a species nesting near you, note feeding behavior at the bird-feeder, or competition between species at the bird bath.
7. Start a small research project of your own - visit a natural area or good bird area and document all of the species there in a particular season, start a nestbox program, start a hawkwatch, or monitor a threatened species or waterbird colony.

The next step is to let the rest of the world know the results of your inquiries. SDOU provides two channels for this – oral presentations at the Fall meeting and publication in South Dakota Bird Notes. Other clubs in the state, such as bird and garden clubs and Audubon chapters, would love to have you come and talk about your findings too.

Anyone who watches birds, from backyards to remote corners of the state, can help researchers better understand birds and their habits. Participate, sponsor, and support efforts in the state to better understand our birds!

Nancy Drilling

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*HISTRIONICUS HISTRIONICUS*)

AT RAPID CITY, WINTER 2011-2012

Jocelyn L. Baker, Lynn E. Barber, and Gene K. Hess

Canyon Lake, located on the extreme western edge of Rapid City, is a twenty-seven acre body of water. Though small in size, when compared to other lakes, it provides waterfowl with open or partially open water throughout the winter regardless of temperatures. This is due to two factors. Rapid Creek flows into the lake's northwest corner, creating turbulence. Also, Cleghorn Springs Fish Hatchery, located a short distance upstream, provides a steady stream of warmer water into Rapid Creek. Thus, waterfowl that would ordinarily migrate to southern wintering grounds remain at the lake throughout the winter. For many years, until 2009, one to three Barrow's Goldeneyes (*Bucephala islandica*) wintered at the lake (Baker and Hess 2012). Over the years twenty-four waterfowl species have frequented the lake from November through March.

On 15 December 2011, a small dark duck with a small bill and white facial markings was observed by Baker in the northwest corner of the lake. The duck's behavior caught her attention immediately as it was feeding by swimming and diving upstream in the creek and then floating downstream into the lake, repeating that behavior often. This behavior was reminiscent of sea ducks. The duck was observed until 4:15 p.m. when it could no longer be seen very well due to approaching darkness. In checking a field guide Baker immediately noted that it was either an immature or a female Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*).

The next morning, Barber, Hess and several other Rapid City birders, joined Baker at the lake at 7 a.m. and under better light conditions identified the duck as a female Harlequin Duck. Baker, Hess, and Barber conduct a bird survey weekly at Canyon Lake and thus observed it multiple times during the succeeding weeks. In addition to those sightings, Baker observed it almost daily as she checked to see if it still was present at the lake. The last date of observation was 7 April 2012. Observers were able to note gradual plumage changes.

BEHAVIOR AND PLUMAGE OBSERVATIONS

When the Harlequin Duck was observed early on the morning of 16 December, the day after it was first found, it had a classic female Harlequin Duck plumage (Figure 1). Slightly larger than a Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), the dark blackish-brown Harlequin Duck had a round white spot behind the eye, a small area of buffy white on each side of the bill extending to a smaller buffy area above the bill (Figures 2 – 3), and spotted grayish-tan underparts. It was diving underwater in the shallow flowing water at the entrance of Rapid Creek into Canyon Lake, then flying upstream twenty to forty feet, and drifting back down, periodically diving underwater in the same manner as the nearby Buffleheads. A few times the Harlequin Duck stood on a small stone in the creek, preened and then resumed swimming and diving. By mid-morning the Harlequin Duck had flown upstream several hundred feet and was floating among Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), only sporadically diving.

Nearly every early morning after that, as dawn arrived, the Harlequin Duck could be found at the creek entrance diving among the Buffleheads as before. Later in the day, it could

be found upstream, or if not there, then usually at the opposite (southern) side of Canyon Lake, often out in the middle away from the shore with other ducks. This was particularly the case on weekends or mild weather days when there were many people in the park and the disturbed ducks left the shore for the safety of the lake center.

For the first two months after its arrival at Canyon Lake, the plumage and behavior of the Harlequin Duck were basically unchanged and it was still being recorded on the observation sheets as a female duck. But in mid-February, its plumage was showing increased white facial areas and a somewhat darker overall face color around the white markings. Careful review of numerous field guides in comparison to observations and photographs of the Canyon Lake Harlequin Duck led to the conclusion that the winter visitor to Canyon Lake was a male Harlequin Duck, a first year bird, apparently molting from its juvenile plumage.

As the weeks progressed, so did the gradual increase in the Harlequin Duck's facial markings, with the areas on the side of the bill becoming snow-white, a white line growing upward on each side of its crown, a new white slash appearing on each side of the nape and another on each side in the scapular area (Figures 4 – 7).

The bird's behavior did not change as its appearance changed. As the days grew warmer and some of the wintering ducks departed, including many of the Buffleheads with which it had usually appeared, the Harlequin Duck was often found near the stream edges, diving near Mallards and Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*). When the Mallards flew upstream in mid-morning and the lower stream emptied of ducks, the Harlequin Duck often followed, joining the Mallards where they landed. One morning, when there were no ducks or geese around other than the Harlequin Duck, a honking Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) landed some 100 feet from the creek. The Harlequin Duck rapidly swam out into the lake to join the goose. When a few Mallards came near the creek, the Harlequin Duck left the side of the goose and joined the ducks. Rarely was the Harlequin Duck seen by itself.

Just before the Harlequin Duck disappeared in early April, its facial markings were distinct and white on an overall darker gray-black face, with a dark area appearing on each flank with slight rusty tinges toward the rear (Figure 8).

RECORDS AND DISTRIBUTION

There are five South Dakota records prior to the Canyon Lake record and all have occurred in the eastern or central parts of the state (Table 1). All six occurrences have been in the fall and winter. Only the 2003-2004 bird was present as long as the Canyon Lake bird (119 and 116 days respectively).

Harlequin Ducks breed from western Alaska, the Pacific Northwest to central Idaho, western Wyoming and in the east "from southern Baffin Island south to central western and eastern Quebec and eastern Labrador, possibly also Newfoundland..." (AOU 1998). They winter along the North American Pacific coast from the "Pribilof and Aleutian islands south to central (rarely southern) California" and on the Atlantic coast "from southern Lab-

rador, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia south to New York (Long Island) less commonly to the Great Lakes, casually farther inland to Nevada, Montana, northern New Mexico, Nebraska, Missouri, Tennessee, and West Virginia, on the Atlantic coast to Florida, and on the Gulf coast from western Florida to southeastern Texas...” (AOU 1998). It is a “...rare but regular species...” in Minnesota and “...North Dakota has at least 14 verified records...” (Tallman et al. 2002). The occurrence of Harlequin Ducks in South Dakota fits this pattern of vagrancy.

The nearest breeding area is west of South Dakota in northwest Wyoming and southwest Montana. Thus the shortest distance the Canyon Lake bird may have come from is the southern and eastern part of its breeding range, and it flew east instead of west. The second most likely scenario is that the bird again flew east instead of west but from a more northwesterly part of the Harlequin Duck breeding grounds. Lastly, and perhaps least likely, it may have come from the Atlantic population and it flew southwest instead of south.

What factors might have contributed to this individual spending the winter at Canyon Lake? Young Harlequin Ducks typically accompany their mothers to the coastal wintering grounds, so this bird was somehow separated from its mother. Harlequin Ducks breed along fast flowing mountain streams, often in forested areas and winter primarily along rocky coasts in rough or turbulent waters. Rapid Creek, before entering Canyon Lake, flows through a wooded corridor, and contains patches of rocky areas that create some turbulence particularly where the creek enters the lake. Perhaps this sufficiently resembled appropriate habitat to satisfy an inexperienced bird.

Harlequin Ducks dive to feed mostly on aquatic invertebrates, roe, and to a lesser extent small fish found in riverine and marine habitats (Rosenberg and Rothe 2007). Judging from the large number of mayflies seen at the lake throughout the 2012 summer there must have been plenty of food available through the winter. Also small fish possibly escape from or are released from the Cleghorn Springs Fish Hatchery located 200 – 300 meters upstream from Canyon Lake. Such escapees would offer another source of food.

CONCLUSION

Canyon Lake is one of the few, perhaps only, lakes in the region to remain at least partially open throughout the winter. During the period November through March for the winters of 2008 – 2011 the maximum ice cover recorded during weekly surveys was 90 percent. Most weeks the ice cover was substantially less than that. This open water provides scarce safe nighttime roosting areas for waterfowl. The presence of a ready food supply is also a contributing factor to birds remaining in the area. Given the relative lack of other safe nighttime roosting areas and the presence of other waterfowl in the area it should not be surprising that wandering waterfowl having found Canyon Lake choose to remain for the winter. This and a passing similarity to Harlequin Duck wintering habitat may explain the bird's presence at Canyon Lake.

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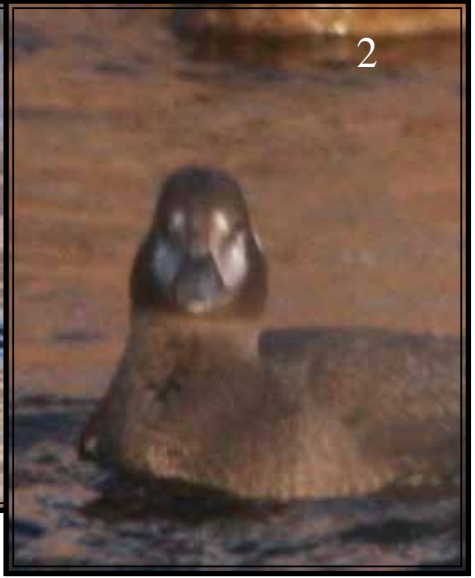
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Table 1. South Dakota Harlequin Duck occurrences, from SDOU database.

16 September – 4 October 1995	Kingsbury Co.	
8 November 2003 – 29 March 2004	Hughes/Stanley Cos., Oahe Dam area	Immature male
14 October 2005	Brown Co., Sand Lake	
20 April 2009	Hughes Co., Oahe tailrace	Male
1 – 7 January 2010	Hughes/Stanley Cos., Oahe Dam area	Immature
15 December 2011 – 7 April 2012	Pennington Co., Rapid City, Canyon Lake	First year male



*Harlequin Duck female.
Canyon Lake, Rapid City,
Pennington County.*

All photos: Lynn E. Barber

- 1. Swimming
12/26/11*
- 2. Front head view
12/16/11*
- 3. Front head view
4/02/12*
- 4. Side head view
12/16/11*



*All Photos: Lynn E. Barber
Pennington County*



*5. Side head view
4/02/12*

*6. Swimming
3/12/12*

*7. Perched on Rock
2/19/12*

*8. Swimming
4/12/12*



FLEDGLING TRACTS

JASON THIELE

Birding Resolutions for the New Year

The Old Year, 2012, is drawing to a close. For me, it was a very good birding year. I had the good fortune to spend significant amounts of time birding in three different states this year—South Dakota, North Dakota, and, currently, Wisconsin. My travels have given me the chance to bird in a lot of different habitats and see a nice variety of species without having to work particularly hard to find them. Although 2012 ranks as perhaps the best birding year I've had in five years of serious birding and many more years of casual bird observation, I see no reason why 2013 can't be even better. And since this is the time of the year when many people are making "New Year's Resolutions," I think it is appropriate to make some birding resolutions for 2013.

1. Find more species this year than I did the year before.

I don't mean this one in a sense of accumulating a larger list of species than I did in 2012. As I said before, I did a lot of moving around in the past year, which made it relatively easy to see a lot of birds. I don't expect to move in 2013, so I will be much more restricted in the area that I will be able to cover.

What I do want to improve on is the number of species that I identify on any given trip. Every birder misses a bird occasionally, no matter what his/her skill level, but I feel that I can reduce the number of birds that go unidentified. I've always had a fairly attentive eye, and I'm continually improving in my ability to recognize songs, but I have a lot to learn about identifying birds by "chip notes" and flight calls. Occasionally I see a post on a birding listserv during spring or fall migration by a person who picked up a variety of species flying overhead at night by listening for flight calls. I'm a long way from being able to do that, but it would be great to reduce the number of "blackbird sp." that I record because I can pick out the call of a Brewer's or Rusty flying overhead in bad light, or to recognize an uncommon warbler species calling from deep within some shrubbery while the more abundant species distract me. (That's not to say that I mind being distracted by a mixed flock of common warblers; it would just be nice to not walk past my nemesis Connecticut Warbler, as I've probably done before because I didn't recognize its call note and stop to look for it.) Winter will be a good time to study bird recordings.

2. Continue to learn about bird behavior.

In the fall issue of *SD Bird Notes* I wrote that actually watching birds is my favorite part of birding. I spend a lot of time reading about birds and their behaviors, but I always learn more by watching them. 2013 will be no exception. I want to learn all I can, and I'd like some more good material for future columns!

3. Spend more time birding with others.

I did a lot better at this one in 2012, but I still spent at least 90% of my birding excursions flying solo. Still, I know that I will become a better birder if I do spend

a little more time in the field with some fellow birders. I learn so much from other birders, both directly and indirectly, and it's always fun to be around other people who appreciate nature. I'm in a good place to find some companions, as Wisconsin has a fairly extensive birding community, and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology offers a lot of field trips each year. I'm looking forward to that. Naturally, a trip back to South Dakota for at least one of the SDOU meetings is probably in order for 2013.

4. Buy a spotting scope.

This is probably the first time I've ever made a New Year's resolution to spend more money, but I think it will be worth it. Anyone who spends even half the time that I do looking for birds probably has a scope already. And shorebirds are among my favorite birds, which makes it even more of a mystery why I don't own a scope yet. It will be nice to leave fewer birds unidentified due to distance.

5. Learn the gulls.

I am clueless when it comes to many of the gulls. The plumage differences seem so subtle among some species, and the various age classes add to the difficulty. I love a challenge, but I have to admit to just not being that interested in gulls, which has held me back from really studying them. However, the fact that I am now able to make a day trip to two of the Great Lakes and have good chances to see a variety of gull species definitely gives me an incentive to do some gull-watching, especially this winter. If I follow through on my #3 and #4 resolutions, learning the gulls should be much easier.

6. Bird more by bike.

In 2008 and 2009, I used pedal power to reach a lot of my birding destinations. It certainly helped that I lived in places with good systems of biking trails, but I could have relied on my car a lot less than I have in the last couple of years as well. In 2013, I plan to reduce my carbon footprint in my birding travels, and I'm positioned quite well to do so here along the Mississippi River in southwestern Wisconsin. I've read that several Wisconsin birders did a BIGBY (Big Green Birding Year) in 2012, counting the number of species that they could see within walking, biking, or canoeing/kayaking distance of their home in one year. 2013 sounds like a good scouting year for me.

7. Get someone else hooked on birding.

As always, I'm looking to introduce others to this fascinating hobby. Southwestern Wisconsin is a well-known hotspot for Bald Eagles during the winter months, and I'm guessing the eagles attract many people who have a casual interest in birds, but aren't really birders. I hope I can encounter some of these eagle watchers and get them interested in the other winged critters.

8. I'd like to hear about your Birding Resolutions for 2013.

Wishing you many life birds in 2013!

SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2012 Summer Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer
01 June 2012 to 31 July 2012

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

The primary goal of the Summer Season compilation is to report Confirmed Breeding records observed during the season. There were 182 species reported as Confirmed Breeding 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. There were 276 species, including 6 rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (2002-2011) average is 258. 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.

Trumpeter Swan Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Meade (PY) ND ... also reported 10 Jun Tripp RDO; 11 Jun Fall River BJU; 13 Jun Fall River BJU; 01 Jul Fall River BJU; 12 Jul Tripp ND

American Wigeon Confirmed Breeding: **10 Jun Fall River (PY) BJU; 01 Jul Fall River (PY) BJU; 07 Jul Walworth (PY) BJU; 17 Jul Dewey (PY) BJU**

American Black Duck All Reports: 05 Jun Clark BJU; 07 Jun Edmunds GO

Cinnamon Teal reported 03 Jun Fall River DS, JSP; 06 Jun Hughes RDO; 11 Jun Fall River BJU; 17 Jun Brown BJU

Green-winged Teal Confirmed Breeding: **01 Jul Fall River (PY) BJU; 07 Jul Walworth (PY) BJU; 19 Jul Corson (PY) BJU**

Canvasback Confirmed Breeding: **12 Jul Shannon (PY) ND**

Redhead Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Codington (PY) BJU; **25 Jun Beadle (PY) BJU; 25 Jun Clark (PY) BJU; 01 Jul Fall River (PY) BJU; 19 Jul Dewey (PY) BJU; 23 Jul Charles Mix (PY) BJU**

Lesser Scaup Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun McPherson (PY) BJU; 22 Jun Day (NE) BJU; **23 Jul Charles Mix (PY) BJU**

Bufflehead All Reports: 15 Jun Perkins BJU; 16 Jun Perkins BJU

Common Goldeneye Only Report: **17 Jun Brown BJU**

Hooded Merganser Confirmed Breeding: **06 Jun Kingsbury (PY) JSP**

Common Merganser Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Pennington (PY) JLB; 18 Jun Pennington (FY) JLB; 25 Jun Pennington (FL) JLB; 02 Jul Pennington (FL) JLB; 09 Jul Pennington (FY) JLB

Ruddy Duck Confirmed Breeding: **Beadle, Charles Mix, Fall River, Potter, Sully, and Walworth** counties

Gray Partridge Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Custer (NE) MMM; 13 Jul Custer (PY) MMM; 17 Jul Sully (PY) ND

Ruffed Grouse Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jul Pennington (FL) MMM ... also reported 26 Jul Lawrence LB

Greater Sage-Grouse All Reports: 01 Jun Harding ND; 11 Jun Fall River BJU; 21 Jun Harding ND; 23 Jun Harding CEM, LB; 05 Jul Harding CEM

Sharp-tailed Grouse Confirmed Breeding: Campbell, Corson, Dewey, **Fall River, Harding, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Potter, and Ziebach** counties

Greater Prairie-Chicken Confirmed Breeding: **22 Jul Todd (PY) BJU**

Wild Turkey Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Meade (PY) EEM; 20 Jun Pennington (FL) JLB; 26 Jun Todd (PY) BJU; 30 Jun Shannon (PY) BJU; **19 Jul Corson (PY) BJU; 21 Jul Bennett (PY) BJU; 23 Jul Charles Mix (PY) BJU**

Northern Bobwhite All Reports: 01 Jun Tripp KMP; 23 Jun Tripp RDO; 24 Jun Tripp RDO; 26 Jun Tripp BJU; 17 Jul Gregory LB; 22 Jul Gregory BJU

Common Loon All Reports: 03 Jun Sully ND; 27 Jul Kingsbury ND

Horned Grebe Only Report: 17 Jun McPherson BJU

Red-necked Grebe Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Brown (PY) BJU; 27 Jun Brown (FL) GO; 29 Jul Marshall (PY) ND

Clark's Grebe Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Day, **Dewey, Kingsbury, Marshall, and Sully** counties

American White Pelican Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jun Brown (NE) BJU**; 27 Jun Bennett (PY) BJU

Double-crested Cormorant Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Codington, Day, Hyde, Kingsbury, Marshall, and Roberts counties

Least Bittern Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jun Marshall (CN) BJU**

Great Blue Heron Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Codington, Day, Hyde, Lyman, Marshall, Meade, and Pennington counties

Great Egret Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Kingsbury (NY) BJU; 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; 21 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 21 Jun Day (NY) BJU; 02 Jul Brown (ON) GO

Snowy Egret Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Kingsbury (ON) BJU; 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; **18 Jun Marshall (NY) BJU**; 21 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 21 Jun Day (NY) BJU

Little Blue Heron Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Brown (ON) BJU; 21 Jun Codington (NY) BJU ... also reported 28 Jul Brown ND; 28 Jul Charles Mix RM

Tricolored Heron All Reports: 02 Jun Brown GO; 22 Jun Brown DB; 28 Jul Brown ND

Cattle Egret Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Kingsbury (ON) BJU; 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; 18 Jun Marshall (NY) BJU; 21 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 21 Jun Day (NY) BJU

Green Heron Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jul Douglas (FY) KMP**

Black-crowned Night-Heron Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Kingsbury (ON) BJU; 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; 18 Jun Marshall (NY) BJU; 21 Jun Codington (NY) BJU; 21 Jun Day (NY) BJU

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reported 29-31 Jul Douglas KMP, RDO; 29-31 Jul Hand RDO, ND

White-faced Ibis Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; 18 Jun Marshall (NY) BJU

Osprey Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Pennington (NY) JLB ... also reported 25 Jun Pennington JLB; 03 Jul Pennington JLB; 09 Jul Pennington JLB; 10 Jul Pennington JLB

Bald Eagle Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Meade (NY) EEM; 22 Jun Hanson (PY) KMP; 25 Jun Yankton (FL) RND

Northern Harrier Confirmed Breeding: **12 Jul Bennett (CF) ND**

Sharp-shinned Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Harding (ON) CEM ... also reported 01 Jul Custer BJU; 03 Jul Custer BJU

Cooper's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: **22 Jul Todd (FL) BJU**

Northern Goshawk Only Report: 03 Jul Custer BJU

Broad-winged Hawk All Reports: 27 Jun Roberts GO; 14 Jul Lawrence LB; 29 Jul Roberts ND

Swainson's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Fall River (NY) BJU; 16 Jun Corson (NY) BJU; 17 Jun Corson (NY) BJU; 24 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 27 Jun Meade (ON) EEM; 28 Jun Perkins (ON) ND; 05 Jul Pennington (NY) BJU

Red-tailed Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 12 Jun Custer (NY) BJU; 13 Jun Custer (NY) BJU; 22 Jun Harding (NY) ND

Ferruginous Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Harding (NY) ND; 03 Jul Fall River (NY) BJU

Golden Eagle Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Meade (CF) EEM; 22 Jun Harding (NY) ND; 27 Jun Meade (FL) EEM; 08 Jul Harding (NY) CEM

American Kestrel Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 12 Jun Custer (ON) BJU; 13 Jun Custer (ON) BJU

Merlin All Reports: 27 Jun Bennett BJU; 01 Jul Custer BJU; 03 Jul Custer BJU; 04 Jul Custer BJU; 20 Jul Shannon BJU

Peregrine Falcon All Reports: 24 Jun Tripp RDO; 30 Jun Sully RDO; 28 Jul Brown ND

Prairie Falcon Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 22 Jun Harding (NY) ND; 24 Jun Harding (ON) CEM ... also reported 12 Jul Sully JLB; 16 Jul Dewey BJU; 19 Jul Corson BJU; 26 Jul Sully RDO; 29 Jul Brule KMP, RDO; 30 Jul Stanley SS

Virginia Rail Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Marshall (PY) BJU; 07 Jul Walworth (PY) BJU; 27 Jul Marshall (PY) ND

Common Gallinule All Reports: 18 Jun Brown BJU; 30 Jun Brown RDO; 03 Jul Brown LB; 26 Jul Grant BJU

Black-bellied Plover Only Report: 06 Jun Pennington BJU

Semipalmated Plover Late: 01 Jun Deuel BJU ... Early: 07 Jul Walworth BJU; 15 Jul Brown BJU; 15 Jul Edmunds BJU; 15 Jul McPherson BJU; 15 Jul Potter BJU; 19 Jul Ziebach BJU

Piping Plover Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun McPherson (PY) BJU ... also reported 14 Jul Charles Mix KMP; 16 Jul Charles Mix KMP, LB; 23 Jul Charles Mix BJU

Black-necked Stilt All Reports: 18 Jun Marshall BJU; 25 Jun Beadle BJU; 29 Jun Beadle KMP; 26 Jul Beadle ND

Spotted Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Butte (NE) BJU; 17 Jun McPherson (PY) BJU; 22 Jun Day (PY) BJU; **01 Jul Fall River (PY) BJU; 22 Jul Todd (PY) BJU; 27 Jul Kingsbury (PY) ND**

Solitary Sandpiper Early: **30 Jun Meade RSL**; 03 Jul Douglas KMP; 07 Jul Lake JSP; 07 Jul Walworth BJU

Greater Yellowlegs Early: **18 Jun Marshall BJU**; 22 Jun Hand JT; 27 Jun Bennett BJU; 28 Jun Charles Mix KMP

Willet Confirmed Breeding: **17 Jun Corson (PY) BJU**; 17 Jun McPherson (PY) BJU; 21 Jun Day (NE) BJU; 26 Jun Bennett (PY) BJU; **16 Jul Dewey (PY) BJU**; 20 Jul Shannon (PY) BJU

Lesser Yellowlegs Late: **05 Jun Charles Mix KMP**; 03 Jun Meade RSL; 01 Jun Deuel BJU ... Early: **18 Jun Marshall BJU**; 25 Jun Beadle BJU; 25 Jun Deuel BJU; 26 Jun Lyman BJU; 27 Jun Bennett BJU

Upland Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding: Butte, Campbell, Custer, **Day**, Dewey, **Fall River**, Haakon, Jackson, Meade, Todd, Walworth, and **Ziebach** counties

Long-billed Curlew Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Pennington (PY) BJU; 10 Jun Custer (PY) MMM; **11 Jun Fall River (PY) BJU**; 13 Jun Fall River (PY) BJU; 20 Jun Butte (PY) ND; **05 Jul Haakon (PY) BJU**

Marbled Godwit Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Meade (PY) EEM; 17 Jun Corson (PY) BJU; 17 Jun McPherson (PY) BJU; **26 Jun Lyman (PY) BJU**; 07 Jul Sully (PY) BJU; 16 Jul Dewey (PY) BJU

Ruddy Turnstone All Reports: **23 Jul Charles Mix BJU**; **28 Jul Brown ND**

Sanderling All Reports: 06 Jun Pennington BJU; 09 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 11 Jun Fall River BJU; **22 Jun Day BJU**

Semipalmated Sandpiper Late: 15 Jun Meade RSL; 11 Jun Fall River BJU; 09 Jun Kingsbury JSP ... Early: 05 Jul Haakon BJU; 07 Jul Potter BJU; 07 Jul Walworth BJU; 09 Jul Deuel BJU; 09 Jul Faulk BJU

Least Sandpiper Late: 01 Jun Deuel BJU ... Early: 30 Jun Hyde JT; 05 Jul Haakon BJU; 07 Jul Potter BJU; 07 Jul Sully BJU; 07 Jul Walworth BJU; 09 Jul Deuel BJU; 09 Jul Faulk BJU; 09 Jul Grant BJU

White-rumped Sandpiper Late: 10 Jun Fall River BJU; 09 Jun Meade BJU; 09 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 08 Jun Clay DS

Baird's Sandpiper Late: 05 Jun Charles Mix KMP; 03 Jun Meade RSL ... Early: **25 Jun Yankton RND**; 05 Jul Haakon BJU; 07 Jul Walworth BJU; 09 Jul Deuel BJU

Pectoral Sandpiper Late: 13 Jun Hand JT; 09 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 03 Jun Meade RSL ... Early: 30 Jun Meade RSL; 30 Jun Shannon BJU; 01 Jul Hyde JT; 09 Jul Deuel BJU; 09 Jul Faulk BJU; 09 Jul Grant BJU

Dunlin All Reports: 01 Jun Deuel BJU; **28 Jul Brown ND**

Stilt Sandpiper Late: **12 Jun Meade RSL**; 02 Jun Brown GO; 01 Jun Deuel BJU ... Early: 02 Jul Hyde JT; 05 Jul Haakon BJU; 07 Jul Walworth BJU; 09 Jul Deuel BJU; 09 Jul Faulk BJU

Buff-breasted Sandpiper All Reports: **23 Jul Bon Homme BJU**; 26 Jul Sully RDO; 30 Jul Brule LB, ND; 30 Jul Douglas LB

Short-billed Dowitcher Early: 05 Jul Haakon BJU; 07 Jul Walworth BJU; 09 Jul Deuel BJU; 09 Jul Faulk BJU

Long-billed Dowitcher Early: **07 Jul Charles Mix RM**; 12 Jul Hughes RDO; 12 Jul Jackson JLB; 12 Jul Sully JLB, LB, RDO; 19 Jul McPherson JT

Wilson's Snipe Confirmed Breeding: **26 Jun Lyman (PY) BJU**

American Woodcock Only Report: 11 Jul Charles Mix KMP

Wilson's Phalarope Confirmed Breeding: Corson, Day, Dewey, Fall River, **Lyman**, McPherson, **Shannon**, and **Todd** counties

Red-necked Phalarope All Reports: 01 Jun Deuel BJU; 06 Jun Pennington BJU; **09 Jun Meade BJU**; **12 Jul Hughes RDO**; **12 Jul Sully LB**; 22 Jul Todd BJU

Franklin's Gull Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; 18 Jun Marshall (NY) BJU

Ring-billed Gull Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Butte (NY) BJU; 15 Jun Butte (NY) BJU; 22 Jun Day (NY) BJU

California Gull Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Butte (NY) BJU; 22 Jun Day (NY) BJU

Herring Gull reported 14 Jun Butte BJU; 21 Jun Day BJU

Lesser Black-backed Gull Only Report: 19 Jul Brown JT

Least Tern Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul Pennington (NE) BJU

Caspian Tern Confirmed Breeding: **15 Jun Butte (NY) BJU** ... also reported 14 Jun Butte BJU; 06 Jul Stanley BJU; 09 Jul Dewey BJU; 27 Jul Day BJU

Black Tern Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Day (NE) BJU; 22 Jun Day (NE) BJU; 02 Jul Brown (FL) GO; 07 Jul Walworth (FY) BJU

Common Tern Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Butte (NE) BJU; 21 Jun Day (NE) BJU; 22 Jun Day (NY) BJU

Forster's Tern Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; 18 Jun Marshall (NY) BJU; 21 Jun Day (NE) BJU; 22 Jun Day (NE) BJU; 07 Jul Potter (FY) BJU; 07 Jul Walworth (FY) BJU

Rock Pigeon Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jun Harding (ON) ND**

Eurasian Collared-Dove Confirmed Breeding: **26 Jun Buffalo (NY) BJU**; **24 Jul Lincoln (NY) BJU**

Mourning Dove Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Lincoln (ON) JSP; 25 Jun Charles Mix (ON) KMP; 27 Jun Meade (NE) EEM; 27 Jun Bennett (FL) BJU; 08 Jul Walworth (FL) BJU; 17 Jul Dewey (NY) BJU; 30 Jul Charles Mix (NY) ND

Black-billed Cuckoo Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Buffalo (CF) BJU

Eastern Screech-Owl Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Douglas (FL) KMP ... also reported 14 Jun Custer JLB; 03 Jul Custer BJU; 20 Jul Shannon BJU; 22 Jul Gregory BJU; 23 Jul Yankton BJU

Great Horned Owl Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Harding (FL) CEM; **11 Jul Tripp (FL) ND**

Burrowing Owl Confirmed Breeding: Bennett, Custer, Dewey, Fall River, **Hyde**, **Lyman**, Meade, Pennington, Shannon, Todd, and Ziebach counties

Barred Owl Only Report: 24 Jul Lincoln BJU

Long-eared Owl Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jul Dewey (FL) BJU**; **19 Jul Shannon (FL) BJU** ... also reported 13 Jun Shannon BJU; 28 Jun Jackson BJU; 04 Jul Custer BJU; 20 Jul Shannon BJU

Short-eared Owl All Reports: 08 Jun Stanley ND; 15 Jun Pennington MMM; 15 Jun Stanley DB; 25 Jun Hughes BJU; 16 Jul Dewey BJU

Northern Saw-whet Owl Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 10 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 17 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 23 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 08 Jul Harding (NY) CEM; 25 Jul Harding (NY) ND

Common Nighthawk Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Lawrence (NE) SW

Chuck-will's-widow Only Report: 23 Jul Yankton BJU

White-throated Swift Confirmed Breeding: **19 Jul Shannon (NY) BJU**

Ruby-throated Hummingbird All Reports: 07 Jun Douglas KMP; 14 Jun Lincoln JSP; 27 Jun Marshall GO; 24 Jul Lincoln BJU; 28 Jul Stanley RDO; 29 Jul Stanley RDO

Calliope Hummingbird All Reports: **21 Jul Pennington RDO**; **22 Jul Custer RDO**; 26 Jul Custer KH

Broad-tailed Hummingbird Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Custer (ON) RSL

Rufous Hummingbird Early: 11 Jul Custer DB; 20 Jul Shannon BJU; 21 Jul Pennington RDO

Belted Kingfisher Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Pennington (CF) ND; 06 Jun Pennington (NY) BJU

Lewis's Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Custer (FY) BJU; 02 Jul Custer (FY) BJU; 04 Jul Custer (FY) BJU

Red-headed Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: Bennett, Campbell, Charles Mix, Gregory, Pennington, Shannon, Tripp, and **Ziebach** counties

Red-bellied Woodpecker reported 22 Jul Todd BJU; 22 Jul Tripp BJU

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Lincoln (FY) BJU ... also reported 14 Jun Lincoln JSP; 29 Jun Minnehaha KMP; 24 Jul Minnehaha BJU

Red-naped Sapsucker Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (NY) BJU; 03 Jul Pennington (NY) JLB; 07 Jul Lawrence (NY) JLB

Downy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ; 13 Jun Brown (FY) GO; 25 Jun Charles Mix (ON) KMP; 21 Jul Minnehaha (FL) MRZ

Hairy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Harding (CF) CEM; 02 Jul Pennington (FL) JLB

Black-backed Woodpecker All Reports: 03 Jun Custer JLB, RSL; 27 Jul Custer LB

Northern Flicker Confirmed Breeding: **13 Jun Shannon (NY) BJU**; 20 Jun Pennington (ON) JLB; 23 Jun Harding (FL) CEM; 26 Jun Tripp (NY) BJU; 27 Jun Meade (ON) EEM; 06 Jul Meade (NY) BJU; **17 Jul Hamlin (PE) CN**

Olive-sided Flycatcher Only Report: 06 Jun Kingsbury JSP

Western Wood-Pewee Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Fall River (CF) ND; 04 Jul Custer (CF) BJU; 20 Jul Shannon (CF) BJU; 23 Jul Custer (CF) ND

Eastern Wood-Pewee Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Day (CF) BJU ... also reported 22 Jul Todd BJU; 22 Jul Tripp BJU

Alder Flycatcher reported 05 Jun Charles Mix KMP

Willow Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Charles Mix (CN) KMP; **03 Jul Douglas (FY) KMP**; 21 Jul Bennett (FY) BJU

Cordilleran Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lawrence (ON) ND; 02 Jul Meade (ON) SW; 16 Jul Pennington (CF) ND

Say's Phoebe Confirmed Breeding: Butte, Campbell, Dewey, Harding, Meade, Shannon, and Stanley counties

Great Crested Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Pennington (CN) BJU; **09 Jul Deuel (CF) BJU**; 20 Jul Shannon (FY) BJU

Cassin's Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Shannon (CF) ND ... also reported 09 Jun Fall River BJU; 10 Jun Shannon RDO; 30 Jun Shannon BJU

Western Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, **Custer**, Dewey, Douglas, Fall River, **Hamlin**, Shannon, and **Tripp** counties

Eastern Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Custer, Dewey, **Douglas**, **Hamlin**, Shannon, and Walworth counties

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher All Reports: 10 Jul Pennington LB; 19 Jul Pennington BJU

Loggerhead Shrike Confirmed Breeding: Bennett, Campbell, Custer, **Dewey**, Fall River, **Lyman**, and **Ziebach** counties

Bell's Vireo Confirmed Breeding: **13 Jun Custer (ON) BJU**; **26 Jun Buffalo (ON) BJU**; 21 Jul Bennett (FY) BJU; 22 Jul Tripp (CF) BJU; 23 Jul Gregory (CF) BJU

Yellow-throated Vireo Confirmed Breeding: **09 Jun Brookings (ON) JSP**; **20 Jun Marshall (FY) DB**; 24 Jul Lincoln (FY) BJU

Plumbeous Vireo Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Custer (FY) BJU

Red-eyed Vireo Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Lincoln (FY) BJU

Gray Jay All Reports: 12 Jun Meade EEM; 23 Jun Custer KH

Blue Jay Confirmed Breeding: **14 Jun Lawrence (CF) BJU**; 18 Jun Day (FY) BJU; 13 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM; 21 Jul Minnehaha (FL) MRZ

Pinyon Jay All Reports: 09 Jun Shannon ND; 10 Jun Shannon RDO; 30 Jun Shannon BJU; 04 Jul Custer BJU; 20 Jul Shannon BJU

Clark's Nutcracker All Reports: 02 Jun Custer DS,JSP; 12 Jun Pennington JLB; 19 Jul Pennington JLB

Black-billed Magpie Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jun Jackson (FL) KMP**; 06 Jul Meade (FL) BJU

American Crow Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Pennington (FY) JLB; 30 Jun Shannon (NY) BJU

Horned Lark Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Fall River (FY) BJU; 26 Jun Lyman (FL) BJU; 30 Jun Shannon (FL) BJU; 03 Jul Fall River (FL) BJU; 05 Jul Pennington (FL) BJU

Purple Martin Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Douglas (FY) KMP; 27 Jul Day (ON) ND

Tree Swallow Confirmed Breeding: Beadle, Brookings, Charles Mix, **Fall River, Kingsbury, Meade, Perkins, and Tripp** counties

Violet-green Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Fall River (CF) ND; **05 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND**; 14 Jul Pennington (NY) JLB; **19 Jul Shannon (NY) BJU**; 21 Jul Meade (NY) ND; 22 Jul Custer (NY) ND

Northern Rough-winged Swallow Confirmed Breeding: **Butte, Fall River, Haakon, Meade, Pennington, Shannon, and Ziebach** counties

Bank Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Sully (ON) ND; 18 Jun Harding (ON) ND; **06 Jul Ziebach (ON) BJU; 27 Jul Kingsbury (ON) ND**

Black-capped Chickadee Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ; 14 Jun Custer (CF) JLB; **13 Jul Douglas (FY) KMP**; 21 Jul Minnehaha (FL) MRZ

Red-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Custer (FL) BJU ... also reported 18 Jun Day GO; 09 Jul Brown GO

White-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM; **21 Jul Bennett (FL) BJU**

Pygmy Nuthatch All Reports: 01 Jun Fall River JLB; 01 Jul Custer BJU; 04 Jul Custer BJU; 16 Jul Pennington JLB

Brown Creeper All Reports: 29 Jun Lawrence RDO; 03 Jul Custer BJU; 04 Jul Custer BJU; 15 Jul Custer DB; 17 Jul Custer DB

Rock Wren Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Fall River (NY) BJU; 13 Jun Shannon (FY) BJU; 30 Jun Shannon (NY) BJU

House Wren Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Custer, Gregory, **Hamlin, Harding, Lincoln, Roberts, and Turner** counties

Sedge Wren Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Walworth (CF) BJU

Marsh Wren Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; 18 Jun Marshall (FS) BJU; 26 Jun Bennett (FY) BJU; **09 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KMP**

American Dipper Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND; 04 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND; 05 Jul Lawrence (FY) ND ... also reported 28 Jun Lawrence JSP

Golden-crowned Kinglet All Reports: 28 Jun Lawrence JSP; 29 Jun Lawrence RDO

Ruby-crowned Kinglet Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Custer (CF) ND

Eastern Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Custer, Gregory, **Haakon, Meade, Shannon, and Tripp** counties

Mountain Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Fall River (FY) BJU; 11 Jun Fall River (FY) BJU; **28 Jun Jackson (FY) BJU; 30 Jun Shannon (FL) BJU**

Townsend's Solitaire Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Meade (NY) SW

Swainson's Thrush Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND

Wood Thrush All Reports: 14 Jun Lincoln JSP; 29 Jun Lincoln KMP; 29 Jun Minnehaha KMP; 24 Jul Lincoln BJU

American Robin Confirmed Breeding: Brookings, Corson, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Shannon, and Tripp counties

Gray Catbird Confirmed Breeding: **Bennett, Charles Mix, Custer, Day, Deuel, Lincoln, and Pennington** counties

Sage Thrasher Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Fall River (NY) REM, DS, JSP; 30 Jun Butte (CF) ND

Brown Thrasher Confirmed Breeding: Campbell, Charles Mix, Dewey, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Jackson, and Lyman counties

European Starling Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Pennington (CF) BJU; 12 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ; 15 Jun Perkins (FS) BJU; 28 Jun Perkins (CF) ND; 02 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB

Sprague's Pipit All Reports: 02 Jun Perkins RDO; 22 Jun Perkins LB; 07 Jul Campbell BJU; 07 Jul Walworth BJU; 08 Jul Dewey BJU; 17 Jul Ziebach BJU

Cedar Waxwing Confirmed Breeding: **Buffalo, Charles Mix, Day, Dewey, Pennington, and Tripp** counties

Ovenbird Confirmed Breeding: **24 Jul Lincoln (FL) BJU**

Northern Waterthrush Only Report: **04 Jun Brown GO**

Golden-winged Warbler All Reports: 06 Jul Lawrence LB; 07 Jul Lawrence JLB
Blue-winged Warbler All Reports: 14 Jun Lincoln JSP; 24 Jul Lincoln BJU
Virginia's Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (CF) BJU ... also reported 01 Jun Custer RM; 03 Jun Custer JLB, RSL
MacGillivray's Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND
Common Yellowthroat Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jul Walworth (CF) ND**
American Redstart Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jul Bennett (FY) BJU; 22 Jul Todd (FY) BJU**
Northern Parula Only Report: 23 Jul Pennington LB
Bay-breasted Warbler Only Report: **02 Jun Hughes DB**
Blackburnian Warbler Only Report: 01 Jun Tripp KMP
Yellow Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Custer (ON) BJU; **11 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KMP**
Yellow-rumped Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Fall River (CN) BJU; 02 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND; 04 Jun Pennington (CF) JLB
Wilson's Warbler Only Report: **04 Jun Brown GO**
Scarlet Tanager Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Lincoln (FY) BJU
Western Tanager Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jul Custer (CF) ND
Spotted Towhee Confirmed Breeding: **Charles Mix, Corson, Custer, Gregory, Lawrence, and Minnehaha** counties
Eastern Towhee Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Lincoln (FL) BJU ... also reported 14 Jun Lincoln JSP; 22 Jul Gregory BJU; 23 Jul Gregory BJU; 23 Jul Yankton BJU; 26 Jul Charles Mix KMP
Chipping Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Corson, Custer, **Jackson, and Tripp** counties
Clay-colored Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **11 Jul Hamlin (CF) JSP**
Brewer's Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Butte (ON) ND
Field Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Corson, Dewey, Gregory, Lincoln, and Shannon counties
Vesper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Pennington (CF) JLB; **30 Jun Shannon (FY) BJU**
Lark Bunting Confirmed Breeding: Dewey, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Perkins, and **Ziebach** counties
Savannah Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **17 Jun Corson (CF) BJU; 01 Jul Faulk (NE) MMM; 09 Jul Deuel (FL) BJU; 21 Jul Douglas (FL) KMP**
Grasshopper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: Corson, Custer, Dewey, **Fall River, Hamlin, Lyman, McPherson, Pennington, Shannon, Sully, Todd, and Walworth** counties
Baird's Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **15 Jun Perkins (CF) BJU; 17 Jun Corson (CF) BJU**
Henslow's Sparrow All Reports: 03 Jun Lyman KMP; 06 Jun Lyman DB; 06 Jun Lyman ND; 11 Jun Hyde JT; 25 Jun Hyde BJU; 26 Jun Lyman BJU
Le Conte's Sparrow All Reports: 05 Jun Beadle BJU; 07 Jul Campbell BJU; 12 Jul Moody KCJ
Song Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Lawrence (CN) BJU; 29 Jul Roberts (CN) ND
Swamp Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jun Brown (CF) BJU; 09 Jul Deuel (FL) BJU**
Dark-eyed Junco Confirmed Breeding: **10 Jun Harding (FL) CEM**
Chestnut-collared Longspur Confirmed Breeding: Butte, **Campbell, Fall River, Perkins, Shannon, and Ziebach** counties
Northern Cardinal Confirmed Breeding: **Brown, Charles Mix, Douglas, Gregory, Lincoln, and Minnehaha** counties ... also reported Meade, Pennington, Todd, and Tripp counties
Rose-breasted Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jul Douglas (FY) KMP; 15 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM; 24 Jul Lincoln (FL) BJU**
Black-headed Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Pennington (CN) JLB; 04 Jul Custer (CF) BJU; **16 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM**
Blue Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Pennington (CF) BJU; **20 Jul Shannon (FS) BJU**
Indigo Bunting Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jul Gregory (CF) BJU
Dickcissel Confirmed Breeding: **Bennett, Codington, Custer, Deuel, Faulk, Hamlin, Lawrence, Potter, Walworth, and Ziebach** counties
Bobolink Confirmed Breeding: **17 Jun Corson (CF) BJU; 21 Jun Codington (CF) BJU; 16 Jul Hamlin (FL) CN**

Eastern Meadowlark Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Bennett (CF) JSP; 22 Jul Todd (CF) BJU ... also reported 26 Jun Bennett BJU; 27 Jun Bennett BJU; 20 Jul Shannon BJU; 21 Jul Bennett BJU

Yellow-headed Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: Beadle, Brown, Corson, Dewey, Fall River, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lyman, Potter, Sully, and Walworth counties

Brewer's Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: **12 Jun Butte (CF) ND**; 15 Jun Harding (FS) ND; 23 Jun Pennington (CF) JLB; 04 Jul Custer (CF) BJU; 19 Jul Corson (FS) BJU

Great-tailed Grackle Confirmed Breeding: **26 Jun Bennett (CF) BJU; 26 Jun Lyman (FY) BJU; 01 Jul Fall River (FY) BJU; 15 Jul Edmunds (CF) BJU**

Brown-headed Cowbird Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Butte (FY) BJU; 25 Jun Charles Mix (CF) KMP; 03 Jul Kingsbury (FL) JSP; 19 Jul Jackson (FY) BJU; **24 Jul Lincoln (FY) BJU**

Orchard Oriole Confirmed Breeding: Bennett, Charles Mix, **Dewey**, Fall River, Harding, **Kingsbury**, Meade, and **Lyman** counties

Bullock's Oriole Confirmed Breeding: **09 Jun Fall River (ON) BJU**; 14 Jun Lawrence (ON) BJU; 27 Jun Meade (CF) EEM; **30 Jun Shannon (ON) BJU**; 04 Jul Custer (FY) BJU; **20 Jul Shannon (FY) BJU**

Baltimore Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Charles Mix (CF) KMP; **09 Jul Deuel (ON) BJU**; 17 Jul Dewey (FL) BJU; 21 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM; 21 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Cassin's Finch Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Custer (CN) ND ... also reported 01 Jun Custer RM; 02 Jun Custer DS, JSP; 04 Jun Custer ND; 28 Jun Custer RDO; 04 Jul Custer BJU

House Finch Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ; 13 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM; 21 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Red Crossbill reported 16 Jul Dewey BJU; 22 Jul Gregory BJU

American Goldfinch Confirmed Breeding: **14 Jun Lawrence (CN) BJU; 26 Jun Lyman (CN) BJU**; 22 Jul Custer (ON) ND

House Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Meade (NE) EEM; 11 Jun Fall River (CN) BJU; 12 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ; 17 Jun Corson (NY) BJU; 27 Jun Bennett (CF) BJU; 21 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM; 21 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Cinnamon Teal 09 Jun Meade (PY) BJU

Neotropic Cormorant 18 Jun Brown BJU; 26-28 Jul Hughes RDO, JSP; 29-31 Jul Brule RDO, KMP

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 18 Jun Brown (CN) BJU

Glossy Ibis 18 Jun Brown (NY) BJU

Sharp-shinned Hawk 29 Jul Roberts ND

Snowy Plover 14 Jun Butte BJU

Hudsonian Godwit 05 Jul Charles Mix RM

Western Sandpiper 10 Jun Fall River BJU

Baird's Sandpiper 12 Jun Meade RSL; 15 Jun Meade RSL

Herring Gull 15 Jun Butte (NY) BJU; 22 Jun Day (NY) BJU

Western Wood-Pewee 22 Jul Todd (FY) BJU

Alder Flycatcher 15 Jun – 22 Jul Charles Mix KMP; 21 Jun Bon Homme KMP, RND; 28 Jun Pennington LB; 02 Jul Lawrence ND

Kentucky Warbler 05 Jun Pennington MMM; 06 Jun Pennington BJU

Cassin's Sparrow 10 Jun Fall River BJU; 13 Jun Shannon BJU

Brewer's Sparrow 07 Jul Walworth BJU

Nelson's Sparrow 07 Jul Walworth (CF) BJU

Lesser Goldfinch 17 Jul Pennington JLB

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GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW IN SIOUX FALLS 12 – 17 OCTOBER

Mick Zerr, Sioux Falls

Those who have a bird-friendly yard are always hopeful for a rare or unique bird to show up at their feeders. In the past 15 years the National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat # 20922 on Crestwood Road in Eastern Sioux Falls has had more than a few uncommon guests (including a Wood Thrush and a Northern Shrike), but both were one-day wonders. So it was exciting to share a Carolina Wren which appeared on 30 September 2007 and stayed until January 2008, as many birders got a chance to see him. Little did we know that our latest unique guest would top our Carolina friend substantially.

On the morning of Friday, 12 October 2012, I was observing some recent migrant arrivals (a Pink-sided Junco, Lincoln's, Clay-colored and Song sparrows) as they feasted on the ground among the 25+ resident House Sparrows. Over time, I have learned to watch for any sparrow that is scratching with its feet, and not its bill, as this is an indication that the bird is not a House Sparrow. I noticed three scratchers, two of which turned into beautiful White-throated Sparrows but a third bird kept its back to me. It did not look like a White-throated from that angle. It more resembled a female House Sparrow, but it kept scratching and was aggressive to the House Sparrows that came close. Finally it turned around, and I noticed a bi-colored bill and a possible black line on the side of its head. Suddenly the sun got high enough to shine on the birds, and the top of the mystery bird's head sparkled in gold. My mind said it must be the White-crowned Sparrow that was here last week with a weird sun reflection. I grabbed the camera, took a few shots and continued to eye him with binoculars. The gold coloration was no fluke and was rimmed by black all around; the eyes had a white ring on the lower lid only, and the breast was brownish with some light streaking. Could it possibly be a Golden-crowned Sparrow? A quick look into National Geographic's new sixth edition field guide showed my bird was a young adult male GCSP. No way was I going to post this until I got some verification, so I sent a photo to Doug Chapman, and called him before he looked at it. I could read his mind saying, "No way!" but when he saw the photo, there was no doubt. He confirmed it straight away.

Thus began six days of sharing "Goldie" with eager birders from near and far. His routine was to feed on the ground (millet), get a drink at the bird bath, and twice, to take a long bath in the shallow part of the goldfish pond. The bath was the highlight of his show, and at least

three birders got to observe it from a distance of fifteen feet. In the evening, he would eat around 6:00 pm, get a drink, and retire to the bushes. As Saturday was a scheduled outing for the Sioux Falls Bird Club, the participants came over to see it – only to miss it. A few birders came back after the field trip and the bird quickly appeared. E-mails and phone calls from birders as far as Rapid City, Minneapolis and Des Moines asked for directions to see the bird. In all, 24 people that I know of, from three different states, came to see the bird. Of those, six did not see it. Most sad was Jocelyn Baker and Nancy Drilling from Rapid City who arrived ten minutes after the bird made his final appearance on Wednesday, 17 October. The ladies waited most of the day and again Thursday morning, but it was the beginning of 50 mph winds, and the bird must have taken advantage of the wind to move along.

Many photographers took photos. My photos and a video posted on <Flickr.com> have been viewed by over 436. We wish "Goldie" luck in joining his fellow Golden-crowned in their normal wintering territory on the West Coast. It is interesting to speculate how he wound up in South Dakota. It was indeed a treat to have such a beautiful visitor, but more of a treat to be able to share this rarity with other birders.

This bird was South Dakota's third record of Golden-crowned Sparrow. The previous two records are: 5/10/95, Lake Co. and 11/5/99, Meade Co.

Golden-crowned Sparrow records from surrounding states are as follows.

North Dakota: 6/14/34 Wilton Co.; 10/10/92 Sawyer; 5/16/95 CSNWR; 11/9/96 thru 03/97 CSNWR; 05/14-15/01 Bismarck; 05/04-07/04 NewTown; 5/1-2/08 (1) Ward Co. (Corey Ellingson, pers. comm.)

Minnesota: 29 April 1987, Chippewa Co.; 11/11/89 - 2/18 Feb/90, St. Louis Co.; 12/2701 - 5/1/02, Cook Co.; 4/28 - 5/6/08, Cook Co.; 10/16-18/08, Cass Co.; 12/20/08 - 4/02/09, St. Louis Co.; 3/25-30/09, Dakota Co.; 4/19/12, St. Louis Co.; 4/20/12, Sherburne Co. (Anthony Hertzell, pers. comm.)

Iowa: 3-7 May 1977, Guthrie Co.; Early May 1995, Hamilton Co.; 25 Jan-15 Feb 2005, Winneshiek Co., (Ann Johnson, pers. comm.)

Montana: "Fewer than 20 records" (Larry Weeks, pers. comm.)

Wyoming: Buffalo area, Latilong 5; Dubois area, Latilong 9; Split Rock, Latilong 18; Goshen Co., Latilong 21. (Jean Adams, pers. comm.)

Nebraska: 5/1-4/08, Knox Co.; 5/4/07, Sioux Co.; 4 additional reports in the period 3/17-5/14 none documented, but all likely correct; 11/25-26/84, Alliance; 12/3/99 near Brownlee; 12/18/98 immature, Harlan Co.; McPherson Co., 1966. (Ross Silcock, pers. comm.)

Colorado: There are 6 records from the northeastern Colorado plains (Andrews and Righter 1992; Andrews et al 2002). (Nathan Pieplow, pers. comm.)

HOTSPOTS

RICKY D. OLSON

The best bird of the fall season had to be the **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Mick Zerr's residence in Sioux Falls, 12-17 October [see article p. 96]. I would like to thank Mick for allowing people to view this great yard bird.

All three scoter species have been reported this fall, unlike last year when they were very scarce. There are also several reports of Red-throated and Pacific loons, culminating in the sighting of a Yellow-billed Loon at Oahe tailrace on 12 November.

A Great Black-backed Gull has been observed at Pierre late October through mid-November. A Little Gull was reported from Fort Randall Dam 10-19. Sabine's Gulls were seen at Gavin's Point Dam. As always the Missouri River dams are the Hotspots for waterfowl and gulls in the fall season.

A Common Raven was observed briefly flying upriver near Pierre 13 November.

It appears the upcoming winter season will be good birding for many seasonal migrants. Red Crossbills, Common Redpolls, Snow Buntings and Bohemian Waxwings have already been reported in numbers.

BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

Bird Watcher's Bible: A Complete Treasury. Jonathan Alderfer, Ed. (2012) National Geographic: Washington DC. 400 pp. Hardcover \$40.00

This fascinating book is aimed at beginning to intermediate birders. It would make a great holiday gift for a young person just beginning to show interest in birds. While not quite the “complete treasury” of “science, know-how, beauty, and lore” as hubristically noted on the cover, the book does present a competent, well-written, and entertaining introduction to birding.

The color photographs in this book will inspire would-be birders to take to the field. Two especially caught my eye. A Black Skimmer, in silhouette only, leaving a trail of splashing water behind its elongated lower mandible, is exquisite. Another stunner is a close-up of a Peregrine Falcon carrying a still-alive Willet.

The book is edited by Jonathan Alderfer and contains seven chapters written by several authors. The paragraphs that follow give an extremely brief and non-comprehensive review of some of what is covered in these chapters.

Chapter 1, “The Anatomy of a Bird,” by Kimball Garrett, gives a superficial discussion of avian anatomy and physiology. For example, two bird skeletons are illustrated but none of the bones are labeled. The book is full of odd lists. The list in this chapter is the completely subjective “Top 12 birds with the Best Plumage.” How can you limit the world’s most beautiful birds to 12?

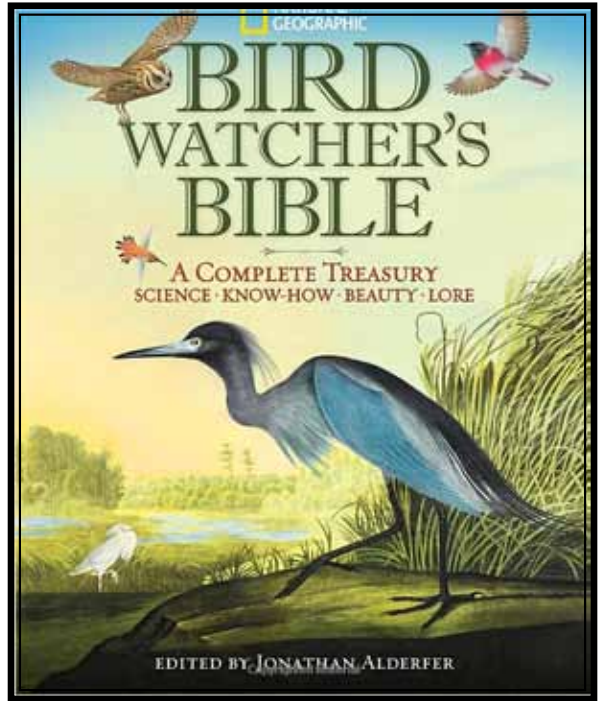
Chapter 2, “Birds through the Ages,” is by Catherine Herbert Howell. She takes us from ancient Egypt and aboriginal America to the mid-1900s. Along the way we meet such subjects as a pet starling that mimicked Mozart’s music and a pigeon that won a medal in World War II.

Chapter 3, “The Life of A Bird,” is by Kimball Garrett and discusses avian development and ecology. Included in this chapter are descriptions of the “top 10 amazing bird nests.” Courtship and eggs are also discussed, as are birds that have adapted to the human landscape.

Chapter 4, “Science Discovers the Bird,” also by Catherine Howell, talks about paleontology, banding and tracking, and human commercial use of birds. Another of those lists names the top 10 most common bird blogs. My blog is not listed (sniff). Art as science is an odd discussion that takes the reader through Peterson but omits any living bird artist. This book includes an abundance of antique bird

illustrations. A few of these golden-oldies are fine, but such numbers supplant space that could have been used to showcase more modern artists. Finally a few current avian studies are recounted in “Breaking News.”

Chapter 5 is called “To be a Birder”. Curiously the author is not cited. Two pages are devoted to National Geographic’s *Birds of North America*. Had this really been a birder’s Bible, other current field guides would have also been highlighted. Optics and birding hotspots are described. A sort of out of place chart of bird body parts is also included here.



Chapter 6, by Scott Weidensaul, briefly discusses the mechanics of flight and migration. You can read about flyways, weather and fallouts, as well as banding and telemetry. As you might guess, there is a list of the “top 10 long-distance migration champs.”

Chapter 7, again without author citation is about attracting birds. Beginning birders will learn about “food and feeder basics,” bird houses (complete with a martin house design), attracting hummingbirds and bluebirds, and even a list of the “top 10 birds that live in bird houses.” Water features are mentioned, followed by pages on landscaping in the Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, Southwest, but not in the Midwest. The chapter includes a discussion of Citizen Science.

Finally comes Scott Weidensaul’s “**Birdographies**.” This chapter consists of a relatively poorly illustrated list, but does include a paragraph about each of Scott’s favorite birds. The book ends with a short list of further reading. I’ll end this review by asking my readers to guess the 10 top-grossing films about birds. Hint: *The Big Year* is not among them. The answer is in yet another list in this book.—*Dan Tallman, Northfield MN 55057*



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