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# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

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*Glossy Ibis*

*Accomack County VA 6/25/2005*

*Photo: Terry Sohl*



*Note Leg Color*

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S O U T H          D A K O T A  
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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Early spring is the time to prepare for the upcoming influx of birds. First, mark your calendar for the SDOU spring meeting which will be held 17-19 May 2013 in Mobridge. See details inside mailing cover and at [www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org). Secondly, 'tis also the season for planning our gardens and summer landscaping. This year, consider enhancing your yard for birds and other wildlife. Landscaping for birds attracts a wide variety of species throughout the year and provides us humans with satisfaction and enjoyment. In addition many bird populations are declining, mostly because of habitat loss, and a well-designed yard can provide important habitat throughout the year.



A bird-friendly yard provides four elements that birds and other wildlife need: food, water, shelter, and places to nest. The more of these that are in your yard, the more birds will come. Many people have feeders and bird baths. You can attract many more kinds of birds by landscaping with the needs of birds and other wildlife in mind. For food, consider planting plants that provide berries, seeds, or cones – natural bird-feeders! These will attract many species that normally don't come to feeding stations. Think about when the berries or seeds will ripen and be available to birds. Try to have different foods available at different times, including berries that stay on the plant well into winter. Very important – keep it native! Birds often carry fruit and seeds a long distance. Please don't be a partner in spreading invasive plants. Check with your local nursery or master gardener about what plants are appropriate in your area. Water is arguably the most important element to provide, especially in winter and during extremely hot dry periods. Bird baths and ponds can range from extremely simple to very complex. No matter what system you have, keep it clean. You wouldn't want to drink dirty bath water, would you? To provide shelter in your yard, plant shrubs and trees with thick foliage. Evergreens are particularly good because they provide shelter during winter. Let plants grow large and thick enough so small birds can hide or escape from predators. Finally, a yard with a lot of shrubs and trees naturally provide nest sites. You can supplement with bird houses – make sure there's no paint on the inside, no perch at the entrance and definitely make sure to clean them out every year.

Some other landscaping tips to make your yard more attractive to birds are to clump plants, shrubs, and trees together to create patches and corridors; have variety – different types of plants, variety of layers, and variety of times when berries and seeds ripen; and leave it be – keep some leaf litter for birds that forage on the ground for insects, let flowers and seeds go to seed, keep a corner of the yard 'wild', and reduce your use of chemicals. You may notice that all of these tips function to make your yard more similar to the natural environment, which practically guarantees a friendlier place for wildlife.

These are some general guidelines; there are many resources at the library and on the internet to help you create a more bird-friendly yard. Be creative - it's not only fun but beneficial for both birds and humans!

*Nancy Drilling*

# FLEDGLING TRACTS

JASON THIELE

## *Bird Ventriloquism for Dummies*

**B**irds captivate us for many reasons, but all in all, I think that most of us are drawn to watching birds because we marvel at their abilities. Sometimes it's enough to make us a little jealous of them. Most obviously, everyone has probably at one time or another looked at a bird and longed to be able to fly. As a guy with a vocal range of about one-and-a-half notes, I envy the Northern Mockingbird for being able to virtually match the songs of many other birds. I don't know if birds have karaoke bars, but if they do, I'm sure mockingbirds get a lot of applause when they get behind the mike. I'm also rhythmically challenged, which has always made me covet the dancing skills of the Sharp-tailed Grouse. Whenever I have to fill my tank with gasoline, I think about the Blackpoll Warblers that make nonstop flights of over 2000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean en route to wintering areas in South America, fueled by bug and fruit power, and I wonder how hard it would be to make my car run with that type of efficiency on a free and abundant fuel. I wish I could climb like a White-breasted Nuthatch. I wish I could see like a Golden Eagle. I wish I could hear like a Barn Owl. The list goes on.



However, many birds possess another remarkable skill that probably causes more frustration than fascination among birders. It is known as ventriloquism—the ability to project the voice to make it seem to be coming from somewhere else.

Probably anyone reading this has been befuddled at one point by a hidden bird that seemed to be calling from one place and then suddenly from another, perhaps eventually appearing in a completely different location from where you expected. This happens to me quite often. I first thought about writing this article about a week ago during such an encounter. I was walking on a snow trail through the woods when I spotted a male Northern Cardinal at the top of a small tree. At the same moment, I heard the distinctive chip note of an aggravated cardinal. Even though I could clearly see the bright red bird 30 feet above me, I was still not completely convinced that there wasn't another cardinal somehow managing to hide itself in the shrubbery at my feet, for the sound seemed to be coming from near ground level. However, I could not catch any flashes of color or movement down low. Looking through my binoculars, I could also see that the cardinal in the tree opened its bill every time I heard a chip. Still, my ears and my eyes never did resolve their argument until the bird flew away and the calls stopped.

I did a brief literature search on the topic and found that ventriloquism was mentioned quite frequently in old ornithological literature. It is a phenomenon that ornithologists have known about for a long time, and many taxa are known to be ventriloquial to varying degrees. However, it seems that almost no one has really closely examined *how* birds are able to project their voices so effectively. Unfortunately, I do not have the means to conduct a good study myself, but I can briefly speculate about this highly developed skill.

I suspect that the complex vocal mechanisms possessed by many birds can at least partly explain why this ability is common among Aves. Birds vocalize with an organ called the syrinx, which is analogous to our larynx, but different in structure and location. The syrinx is located where the trachea (windpipe) divides into two branches that lead to the lungs. This placement gives some birds amazing vocal abilities, like producing two notes at once

while they sing. Perhaps by alternating the side from which the air comes as they call, birds can slightly change the directionality of the sound. They can probably also vary the directional qualities of their calls by moving their bills or turning their heads toward or away from their target. Regardless of how it works, the widespread incidence of ventriloquism among birds implies that it is a very useful adaptation.

Birds may use ventriloquism for a variety of reasons, but it seems to be to be most useful in avoiding predation. In the case of the cardinal that I mentioned earlier, it might have perceived me as a predator and was just projecting its voice at me, as if to say, “I know where you are. You aren’t going to sneak up on me, so you might as well move on.” If I had actually been a threat to the bird, it would certainly have seemed to be in his best interest for him to clearly deliver the message while keeping his distance, as he did.

Some other species are under much greater threat of harm from ground-dwelling predators because they nest on the ground, and in my experience, they sometimes use their ventriloquial abilities a little differently. I distinctly recall the first time that a bird really fooled me with ventriloquism. My first job after getting my undergraduate degree—which also happened to be the job that got me hooked on working with birds—was monitoring Piping Plover colonies in southern Nebraska. If you’ve ever been around Piping Plovers before, you know that they blend in nearly perfectly with the sand substrate that they use for nesting. Spotting a plover that is incubating is a challenge bordering on the impossible. Usually I would detect the presence of plovers by their calls. However, I rarely spotted a plover in the direction that I perceived its calls to be coming from. For the first few days, it was maddening. Eventually, I learned a new search technique. I would listen for a call, and then quickly scan all around me with my binoculars for a flash of bright orange legs as the plover ran along the sand, making it more visible.

Like other plovers, Piping Plovers will typically employ a “broken-wing” display to lure predators from their nests or young. However, I found that I often had to get quite close to an adult plover before it would employ the display. It seemed to me that the plovers sometimes used their voices as the first distraction to divert a potential predator (which is what the plovers perceived me to be) away from offspring. Had I been a raccoon or a cat or some other critter that relishes eggs and baby birds, I might have been confused for a moment, allowing a plover to get some distance away from its nest or its brood before I spotted it and reducing the chance that I might stumble across the young while chasing the “injured” adult plover.

During my research, I also read a few accounts which suggested that in some species of birds, the alarm calls given for avian predators have a greater ventriloquial quality than those used for ground predators. This is not something I have really observed myself, but I will definitely be paying more attention in the field to see if this pattern holds true. It does seem logical. Certainly, the cardinal that I mentioned earlier had virtually nothing to fear from a four-legged predator that it could see, much less a slow, two-legged being like myself. It could simply perch beyond reach or fly away. However, small birds must be more wary when they spot hawks, falcons, or owls, since these predators can pursue them in the air. While some birds will “mob” the raptor until it leaves the area, others might feel more inclined to hide and alert other birds to the danger. However, calls could draw the predator’s attention, so the advantage of ventriloquism is clear—it allows a small bird to sound a warning without giving the predator a good bearing on a meal.

All in all, avian ventriloquism is just another one of those natural phenomena that we know little about, but it is one of those things that make birds so charming, and I’m sure that ornithologists and birders will continue to unravel the mystery.

# BOOK REVIEW

DOUGLAS CHAPMAN

Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of North America: A Photographic Guide. Steve N. G. Howell. 2012. Princeton University Press: Princeton NJ. 520 pp. \$45.00. ISBN: 9780691142111. 7 x 10. 975 photos and figs. 66 maps. eBook: \$45.00. ISBN: 9781400839629

It can be difficult to convey an appreciation for pelagic birding to those, who, shall we say, have less than a driving desire to head out on the waves (notice I did not say WATER) to smell chum and fish oil, and then watch the ship head *towards* the squalls, because "that's where the birds are" – no matter that the ship is tossing like a rubber ducky in a child's bathtub. And, remembering the announcement before departure, that if someone feels ill, we "will not return" for that. (I love Deb Shearwater's sure-fire, always works, "A"-number-one cure for sea sickness– namely: sit under a tree.)

Also, the pelagic birds are not known for their beautiful plumage, being almost without exception various shades of black, and white, and gray, although close to shore, a few brightly plumaged puffins are occasionally seen.

That said, for some of us the brief views (pelagic sightings are overwhelmingly brief) of a Bermuda Petrel, or two Greater Shearwaters diving furiously, or the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel dashing by like a mini kamikaze cannot be beat for the experience and the joy of a completely different world of birding. Vastly different from South Dakota.



*Antarctic Prion  
South Atlantic Ocean, 02/2008  
Photo: Doug Chapman*

With *Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm Petrels of North America (PASNA)*, Steve Howell has amassed a phalanx of incredible photographs from the oceans of North America to depict the tiny variations in plumage that can separate a pelagic species, which is even more challenging than it sounds. All that afore-mentioned white, black and gray needs to be observed in a quick fly-by. Thus only the TRUE pelagic trip lovers will appreciate this book – nothing but black and white in sight.

Having birded on the voyage off Cape Hatteras, NC, with Howell when the photos of the Bermuda Petrel illustrated in the book were taken, I can attest to his encyclopedic knowledge of this topic. When he announced plans for this volume, it was rumored that he was hoping to include *all* of the pelagic species in North American waters. Many thought, "Wow, that's going to take decades to photograph well", as there are dozens and dozens, and the taxonomies alone would require a large volume.

Happily, he confined the volume to the petrels, albatrosses and storm-petrels of North America. The book is excellent. While it uses photos, rather than painted illustrations, it largely overcomes the "one bird at one moment in time" problem by using multiple photos. Photos can be problematic as bird illustrations, since they show an instantaneous view of

a single bird, while we all are aware that a bird can look different depending on its age, molt, season, the lighting conditions, etc. The photos are used to compare the appearance of a particular species under different lighting and to compare different species so the differences can be shown. Thus the size of the book is hefty and is hardly a field guide for "in the field" except in one sense – for those with electronic readers.

The hardcover version is awkward to carry around (not to forget potentially messy) on a boat. After all, at sea is the best (only?) place to observe seabirds, so I was happy to find that an eBook version of the book is available. I already owned the hardcover version of *PASNA* when I bought the iReader version for my iPad, which is, of course, much thinner and lighter than the hardcover version of *PASNA*. An added benefit is that I can store and view other books on the same iPad without it becoming any larger and heavier.

None of this would help if the eBook version of the book were not top-notch. Fortunately, the eBook version works very nicely on the iPad. For information on a particular species, just go to the "Table of Contents", touch "List of Species Covered", then touch the species desired. This will bring up both the photos and range maps, including vocalizations, embedded within the species accounts. The electronic book format really makes this convenient, rather than the arrangement where the species accounts, the illustrations and the range maps are grouped separately.

One quibble perhaps. The resolution of the photos is, while adequate, a bit blurry when magnified more than three times on the eReader. Still, the photos are certainly sharp enough for their intended use.

I highly recommend both versions of this book: clothbound or electronic. The eBook version is by far the best electronic version of a field guide for birds that I have ever used. And lest you are concerned that the text will be dry and boring, check out the section under each species entitled "Names". These bits of trivia are so entertaining that even if one never has the opportunity to take a pelagic trip, the book is worth whatever it costs. (I do not understand though, why the iReader version, without any hard copy publishing costs, is the same price as the clothbound copy. Of course royalties, etc., remain the same, but paper, ink, binding, shipping, etc., do not exist here.)

For any who may enjoy this first taste of pelagic birds, I must recommend strongly the pioneering work of Peter Harrison, who was the first to produce a major guide to pelagic birds.

Harrison's seminal volume, *Seabirds, An Identification Guide* (Houghton Mifflin. 1983; multiple revisions), is a complete pelagic book, covering species world-wide, so it is not nearly as detailed as Howell's, but the scope and grandeur of the volume cannot be made obsolete. He not only worked as a deckhand on board ocean-going trawlers to observe birds at sea (he looks like a deckhand), he even learned how to paint so he could illustrate *Seabirds* himself. It is a true classic of our time.

Pioneer illustrator Roger Tory Peterson's forward is moving as he lauds Harrison for his ground-breaking work on pelagic birds.

## 2012 COLONIAL WATERBIRD SURVEYS

Nancy Drilling  
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

South Dakota hosts 28 species of breeding colonial waterbird species including herons, night-herons, egrets, grebes, gulls, terns, ibis, American White Pelican and Double-crested Cormorant (Tallman et al. 2002). These waterbird species nest almost exclusively in predator-free wetland habitats such as flooded timber, islands, and marsh reed beds. Because these habitats are relatively rare and patchily distributed, these species tend to nest in high densities in relatively few locations. The colonial breeding habits of these species make them especially vulnerable to natural or man-made catastrophic events that could wipe out a large portion of the breeding population, such as severe weather events, disturbance, or pollution. In addition, populations have been reduced because of land-use changes leading to wetland loss, bio-accumulation of toxins, and degradation of wintering habitat. Thus many of these species are the focus of conservation efforts throughout North America (Kushlan et al. 2002).

In South Dakota, the greatest threats are loss and degradation of wetland habitats caused by large-scale changes in land use (Higgins et al. 2002) and natural fluctuations in wetland number, size and depth caused by natural wet-dry climatic cycles (Larson 1995, Johnson et al. 2004). Because of these concerns, South Dakota developed a Long-term Monitoring Plan for Colonial Waterbirds (Drilling 2007). According to the plan, the goal of waterbird monitoring in South Dakota is “to collect information, on a continuous basis and over a long period of time, which managers and landowners can use to manage and conserve colonial waterbirds and to aid in the prevention of future declines of colonial waterbird species that breed in South Dakota.” The plan further states that identifying and monitoring breeding colonies are the primary tools for tracking populations. Therefore during 2005-2007, statewide surveys established a baseline inventory of colony site locations and breeding population size in South Dakota (Drilling 2007). Those surveys identified 26 wetlands as being key sites for breeding waterbirds, defined as having at least 200 waterbird breeding pairs or more than five breeding species.

The long-term plan recommends surveys at least every five years to update colony and population size databases, track populations, and identify potential or actual threats to waterbird colonies and populations in the state. Thus the 2012 survey objectives were to 1) survey recent and key colonial waterbird breeding colonies to document and enumerate breeding species and their current conservation status, 2) survey for new colonies to update the South Dakota colonial waterbird database, 3) document factors that could affect surveyed colony sites including current habitat conditions, current land use, and potential or observed threats, and 4) evaluate the 2007 monitoring plan in light of data collected during 2012.

To accomplish these objectives, 311 colonies that were active at some point since 2005 were surveyed during the 2012 breeding season. Of these, surveyors confirmed breeding



by colonial waterbirds at 183 sites (59%). Twenty-two of these sites were identified as being key sites for breeding waterbirds (Figure 1). Of the 26 key sites identified five years earlier, five (19%) had no breeding colonial waterbirds in 2012. Two of these no longer had suitable breeding habitat while three were abandoned for unknown reasons. Another nine of the 26 key sites still had breeding waterbirds in 2012 but too few to meet the 'key site' criteria. Great Blue Heron key colonies showed a higher rate of turnover than did multi-species colonies. Just three of the twelve 2005-2007 key heron colonies maintained at least 50 breeding pairs and another three had no nesting herons in 2012. Overall, surveyors observed few threats to colonies related to human activities. In almost all cases, colony creation, extinction, and location shifts occurred because of natural fluctuations in water levels caused by floods and droughts.

American White Pelicans (~21,560 pairs) and Double-crested Cormorants (~12,630 pairs) were the most abundant nesting colonial waterbirds in the state in 2012. Great Blue Herons were distributed in the greatest number of colonies (93) of any species and were the most common colonial waterbird throughout West River. Double-crested Cormorants also nested in a large number of colonies (64). There was no evidence that any species' populations decreased in the state since 2007, with the possible exception of Ring-billed Gull. An unexpected result of the 2012 surveys was documentation of breeding by several new and rare colonial waterbird species including Neotropic Cormorant, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Glossy Ibis, Little Blue Heron, Caspian Tern and Herring Gull.

As a result of the 2012 surveys, South Dakota now has an updated database of colony, population, and species conservation status information, as well as a clearer understanding of the dynamics of colony turnover. Recommendations include initiating an annual or bi-annual 'mini-survey' Colony Watch program and conducting research on factors that may negatively impact waterbird colonies in South Dakota.

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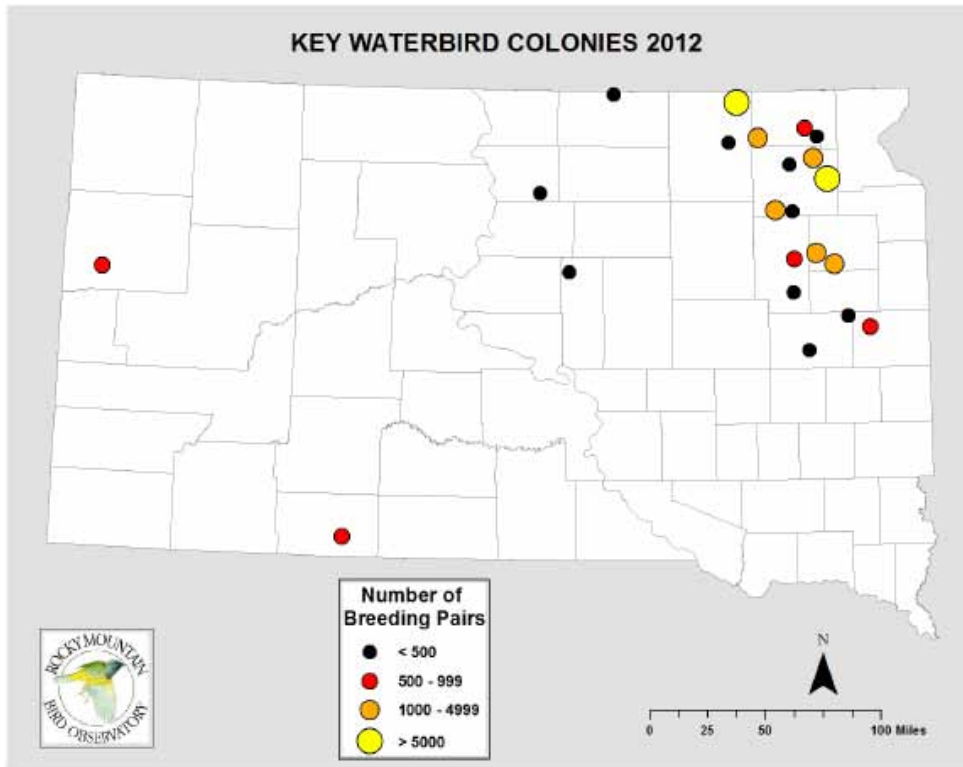
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Figure 1. Location of key waterbird colonies in South Dakota in 2012.



The winter of 2012 - 2013 has had a variety of birds, but not many rarities. However, there was a South Dakota first winter record of a Lesser Goldfinch, (photographed, see page 12, this issue) in Rapid City. There were reports of a Common Raven being seen in Charles Mix and Lawrence Counties. Winter sightings of Barrow's Goldeneye at Ft. Randall Dam continued this winter. Fairly rare winter reports of Tundra and Trumpeter swans in the Missouri River brought birders to the area as well. It was most definitely a Common Redpoll invasion year, with many sightings of Hoary Redpolls mixed in the flocks in several different areas of South Dakota.

Gull reports were about normal with: Herring, Mew, Glaucous, Lesser Black-backed, Ring-billed, California and Iceland being seen along the Missouri River.

It will be interesting to see if migrant birds keep with the recent pattern of arriving earlier than normal.

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## SDOU SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS 2013-2014

Jocelyn L. Baker

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union will be offering undergraduate/graduate students enrolled in South Dakota colleges/universities two opportunities to apply for scholarships this year. The Kenneth H. Husmann Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 is awarded to a graduate student, majoring in ornithology, ecology or wildlife management. The application process is one in which a professor of biology, zoology or wildlife management nominates an outstanding student for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The Mary E. Baylor Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,200.00 is awarded to an undergraduate student in her/his sophomore or junior year. The student must be pursuing a major in biology with a particular interest in ornithology, ecology, wildlife management, biological education or medical practice/research. The scholarship award must be used as tuition in the following academic year (i.e. 1st Semester, 2013-2014). The student should have a high academic grade-point average and demonstrate a strong interest in one of the major areas of study mentioned. Nomination for this award should be made through a department or professor or advisor.

Nominations must be received no later than 15 April 2013. For additional information, contact Jocelyn L. Baker, chair, SDOU Scholarships and Awards Committee, [osprey@midco.net](mailto:osprey@midco.net).

WINTER SIGHTING OF LESSER GOLDFINCH IN PENNINGTON COUNTY  
Dick Latuchie, Rapid City

On Monday morning, 14 January 2013, I had a slightly different schedule than usual in that I had an all day meeting at the Rapid City Civic Center, starting at 9:30. So I was home a little later than usual, and as the sun got higher in the sky, I spent a few minutes, as I usually do, observing birds that show up at our feeders. Our yard has a number of Mountain Ash Trees, along with several young fruit trees.

A few of the usual birds were about: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Dark-eyed Junco, Chickadees, and Collared –Doves. Then suddenly there was a flash of very bright yellow. I thought first of a Yellow-throated Warbler seen in Rapid City two years ago. But as the bird settled into our feeder, full of black-oil sunflower seeds, it was quickly evident that this was a Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*). It had a black/dark green cap and back, and the undersides were bright yellow. There was also a clear white patch at the base of the primaries.

I had only seen one once before in South Dakota, but they are fairly common in northern New Mexico, where I spend a fair amount of time, and I have seen them many times. I knew they were very unusual in Pennington County, although Renee Bryant had seen them during the summer at her home, about a mile from my home. So I quickly grabbed my Canon PowerShot SX20 IS camera, and clicked a few shots. The lighting was good, although the light came at an angle from behind the bird. The bird seemed at home at our feeder and moved between it and the neighboring branches for five minutes before flying off. I immediately called a few friends, who tried over the subsequent few days to re-locate the bird, unsuccessfully.



*Lesser Goldfinch*  
*01/14/13 Pennington County*  
*Photo: Dick Latuchie*

## OPPORTUNISTIC HAWKS

by Charlie Miller

On 25 June 2012, I watched a group of at least 20 hawks, mostly Red-taileds with a few Swainson's Hawks, Northern Harriers and several Ferruginous Hawks as well, taking advantage of the following situation.

It was hard to get an accurate count as they were moving around so much. There was a farmer direct seeding into an old stubble field. The hawks were moving around after him catching small mice from nests that had been disturbed by the grain drill.

I watched for about twenty minutes as they engaged in what could be described as a feeding frenzy. The hunting method of preference seemed to be a short flight to a new area followed by hopping and flapping about catching as many small mice as they could before moving to a new spot.

One large ferruginous I watched, caught and consumed five small mice in just under two minutes using this method.

*Swainson's Hawk in flight  
04/30/2005, Lake Thompson,  
Kingsbury County  
Photo: Terry Sobl*



## A YEAR WITH GRAY PARTRIDGE IN CUSTER COUNTY

Michael M. Melius

For the past 15 years, Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) numbers have been increasing in my area of northeast Custer County. In 1998 and 1999, for example, I recorded only two birds in each year, all in early spring. My only local record for 2000 was 14 partridge on 5 August. Thus began a pattern of finding few to none in the spring and a dozen or more in the fall. For instance, on 4 October 2006, I found six road-killed partridge on a local county road, and speculated they were part of a flock of 12 seen at that site the week before. That same day, I found 13 in my yard, feeding on the still-green alfalfa plants.

On 15 March 2010, I heard Gray Partridge calling from a grassy area on my land. This was the first time I'd heard their scratchy call here. On 15 April I observed actual courtship behavior, and on 31 July I found fledged young. On 15 August there was a flock of 15 in my yard.

While I was eager to find a nest, in 2011 I didn't try very hard, nor did I chance upon any nests. The same year, I recorded a flock of 11-13 partridge in my yard in February and March. A pair was present in mid-March, and fledged young in early August.

In 2012 I started hearing partridge calling around my place in early February, and on 27 February I found eight Gray Partridge actively engaged in courtship in the grass just south of my house. The birds were about the same height as the grass, so they weren't entirely visible, but there was a lot of activity, with the birds running, chasing, jumping up and flying short distances. There did not seem to be a stable courtship location, more like one constantly on the move.

The habitats in this general area consist of native prairie, with some alfalfa hay and some winter wheat. There are several other small farmsteads with trees within a few miles. My place has a couple of acres of vegetable gardens, with some trees and shrubs. While Gray Partridge have become frequent visitors to my place, and practically residents, they never seem tame. They are quick to fly whenever I appear in their vicinity, although they often fly only about a hundred meters before landing.

In May of 2012 I had several encounters with a partridge that let me get quite close before flying just a few meters. This was unusual behavior, and I consulted Bent's *Life Histories of North American Gallinaceous Birds* to learn that a Mr. Jourdain noted: "The male bird takes no part in brooding but remains close at hand for defense if necessary."

Now my impetus for finding the nest was to minimize disturbance, in an area of my fields where I was working almost daily. I searched the area near where I'd been flushing that male, and on 20 May found the nest, well-concealed in the grass at the edge of an asparagus bed. The site had been undisturbed since the previous year, and the Crested and Western Wheatgrass growth there was still rather dense and tall. The nest had 13 eggs.

I returned to the nest on 5 June to find only eggshells. It looked like predation had been the nest's fate. I saw no more partridge until 28 June, when I flushed an adult while mowing alfalfa. Again this was fairly close to my house and main yard area. The bird was on a nest with 11 eggs. As Bent's *Life Histories* states, the female sits quite closely on the nest. In this case, it meant the bird flushed moments before the sickle mower, passed over the nest. I was near the end of the mowing, so the field was all but cut, and the nest was now quite exposed. As with the other nest, it was just a simple grass-lined bowl in the dirt. I covered it with some cut alfalfa, then left the site altogether.

On 5 July I returned to find the adult on the nest, with no shade to be had. The previous week had seen temperatures over 100 degrees F. On 9 July, the adult was gone, and six eggs were left. On 10 July, all the eggs were gone.

It wasn't until 26 July that I found any young birds. Then I found two, at separate sites in my yard fairly close to my house. Both were with adults. They were downy chicks and appeared to be slightly different sizes, so I feel confident they weren't the same bird, and perhaps from two different broods.

In September, a flock of six Gray Partridge was present all month around my place, and it is tempting to assume they were from the two broods, each with a single young. On 24 September there was also a flock of 18 partridge here, which flew up separately from the flock of six.

On 20 October I observed only five partridge here, again assuming it was the same flock. They were observed several times through November. On 12 December, a flock of four was observed.

The weather in 2012 was dry and warmer than normal. By early June, grasshoppers were abundant. These conditions apparently led to good nesting success in

this region, if not around my place. On 21 August I found a flock of 24 Gray Partridge in a wheat stubble field about a half mile from my place, and another flock of 24 birds about ten miles up Lower Spring Creek Road in Pennington County.

This year, 2013, opened with a flock of 15 Gray Partridge walking through my snow-covered yard on 1 January. As this species becomes a permanent resident at my place, the challenge for me is in learning how to carry on my necessary tasks here while allowing their successful nesting to continue.



Gray Partridge, 10/14/08 Lincoln County  
Photo: Doug Chapman

# SEASONAL REPORTS

## **The 2012 Fall Season**

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 August 2012 to 30 November 2012

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

**S**hattering the previous high of 319 in 2010, there were **337** species, including 14 rarities, reported during the 2012 Fall Season. The 10-year average (2002-2011) is 307. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (early/late dates as given in the online database and species that are significantly out of range). For early/late migration dates, I have listed the three earliest/latest dates (by county). However, if these did not include a sighting East River, West River, and along the Missouri River, I have included the earliest/latest reported date from the missing region also. Included at the end of this report is a list of species that were not reported this year but might be expected during the Fall Season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during fall in at least 2 of the previous 5 years. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of consecutive years (up to 4) that the species has appeared on the list during the season. **Calliope Hummingbird** and **Townsend's Warbler** went unreported for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive Fall Season and were therefore removed from the list.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 10 Oct Hand DB; 19 Oct Deuel BJU; 20 Oct Lake JSP; 22 Oct Stanley RDO ... Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 25 Nov Stanley RDO; 24 Nov Walworth, Edmunds, and Brown BJU; 24 Nov Lake JSP

**Snow Goose** Early: 22 Aug Deuel BJU; 21 Sep Brown GO; 20 Oct Lake JSP; 27 Oct Perkins RDO; 04 Nov Charles Mix RM

**Ross's Goose** Early: 30 Oct Day and Marshall BJU; 31 Oct Brown BJU; 11 Nov Stanley SS; 18 Nov Tripp RDO ... Late: 29 Nov Dewey SS; 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 25 Nov Stanley RDO; 24 Nov Edmunds and Brown BJU

**Cackling Goose** Early: **05 Oct Grant BJU**; 19 Oct Deuel BJU; 23 Oct Brookings, Hamlin, and Kingsbury BJU; 04 Nov Charles Mix RM; 18 Nov Meade JLB, RSL; 18 Nov Tripp RDO

**Trumpeter Swan** All Reports: 15 Sep Harding ND; 30 Oct Day and Marshall BJU; 11 Nov Stanley RDO, SS

**Tundra Swan** Early: 28 Sep Brown GO; 23 Oct Kingsbury BJU; 25 Oct Grant BJU; 29 Oct Perkins ND ... Late: 24 Nov Edmunds BJU; 10 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 03 Nov Marshall, Day, and Brown GO

**Wood Duck** Late: 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 26 Nov Hughes DB; 20 Nov Yankton and Charles Mix BJU; 09 Nov Grant BJU

**Gadwall** Late: 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 24 Nov Lake JSP; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU; 22 Nov Stanley and Potter BJU

**American Wigeon** Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU

**American Black Duck** All Reports: 30 Oct Grant BJU; 09 Nov Grant BJU; 21 Nov Hughes DB; 22 Nov Hughes BJU; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU

**Blue-winged Teal** Late: 21 Nov Brule BJU; 03 Nov Aurora KP; 02 Nov Perkins ND

**Northern Shoveler** Late: 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 24 Nov Lake JSP; 24 Nov Edmunds and Brown BJU; 23 Nov Walworth and Corson BJU

**Northern Pintail** Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 26 Nov Hughes DB; 24 Nov Lake JSP; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU

**Green-winged Teal** Late: 24 Nov Hughes DB; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU; 23 Nov Campbell BJU; 05 Nov Meade EEM

**Canvasback** Late: 21 Nov Brule BJU; 20 Nov Yankton and Charles Mix BJU; 18 Nov Tripp RDO; 10 Nov Kingsbury JSP



**Redhead** Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 26 Nov Hughes DB; 24 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU

**Ring-necked Duck** Late: 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU; 22 Nov Potter and Hughes BJU

**Greater Scaup** Early: 21 Oct Potter RDO; 23 Oct Hamlin BJU; 25 Oct Grant BJU ... Late: 23 Nov Corson and Campbell BJU; 16 Nov Stanley RDO; 09 Nov Grant BJU

**Lesser Scaup** Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 26 Nov Hughes DB; 24 Nov Lake JSP; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU

**Surf Scoter** Early: **05 Oct Deuel BJU**; 13 Oct Kingsbury RDO; 23 Oct Hamlin BJU; 26 Oct Yankton DS; 27 Oct Meade JLB, EEM ... Late: 17 Nov Yankton DS; 03 Nov Lake JSP; 30 Oct Marshall and Day BJU; 29 Oct Meade ND

**White-winged Scoter** Early: 23 Oct Hamlin BJU; 29 Oct Gregory RM; 31 Oct Day BJU ... Late: 29 Nov Walworth SS; 24 Nov Corson BJU; 22 Nov Dewey BJU; 03 Nov Lake JSP, RDO

**Black Scoter** Early: **14 Oct Marshall RDO**; 19 Oct Deuel BJU; 25 Oct Grant BJU; 17 Nov Yankton DS ... Late: 03 Nov Lake JSP, RDO; 30 Oct Marshall BJU

**Long-tailed Duck** All Reports: 20 Nov Yankton BJU; 24 Nov Walworth BJU; 29 Nov Walworth SS

**Bufflehead** Early: 24 Sep Meade ND; 05 Oct Deuel BJU; 10 Oct Grant BJU; 21 Oct Potter RDO

**Common Goldeneye** Early: 28 Oct Pennington JLB; 03 Nov Lake JSP; 09 Nov Grant BJU; 10 Nov Stanley RDO

**Hooded Merganser** Early: 01 Aug Deuel BJU; 15 Aug Grant BJU; 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 10 Sep Pennington JLB; 16 Oct Charles Mix KP ... Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 26 Nov Hughes DB; 24 Nov Lake JSP; 24 Nov Edmunds and Brown BJU

**Common Merganser** Early: 13 Aug Pennington JLB; 06 Sep Stanley RDO; 05 Oct Hughes KP; 14 Nov Grant BJU; 14 Nov Hand DB

**Red-breasted Merganser** Early: 30 Oct Day BJU; 02 Nov Gregory RM; 02 Nov Yankton DS ... Late: 30 Nov Stanley DB; 26 Nov Charles Mix RM; 24 Nov Hughes DB; 14 Nov Grant BJU

**Ruddy Duck** Late: 24 Nov Walworth BJU; 24 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 21 Nov Brule BJU; 10 Nov Pennington ND

**Greater Sage-Grouse** reported 09 Sep Harding ND

**Northern Bobwhite** All Reports: 16 Aug Gregory RM; 08 Sep Gregory RM

**Pacific Loon** All Reports: 23 Oct Kingsbury BJU; 27 Oct Perkins RDO; 30 Oct Day BJU; 05 Nov Yankton SS; 12 Nov Sully RDO

**Common Loon** Early: 09 Aug Sully RDO; 16 Sep Stanley RDO; 05 Oct Hughes KP, RM; 10 Oct Grant BJU; 27 Oct Perkins RDO ... Late: 23 Nov Sully DB; 23 Nov Hughes DB; 23 Nov Corson BJU; 03 Nov Lake JSP; 03 Nov Butte ND

**Pied-billed Grebe** Late: 22 Nov Pennington JLB; 22 Nov Hughes BJU; 21 Nov Brule BJU; 10 Nov Lake JSP

**Horned Grebe** Early: 04 Oct Brule RM; 05 Oct Buffalo BFH; 05 Oct Deuel BJU; 27 Oct Perkins RDO ... Late: 25 Nov Charles Mix RM; 20 Nov Yankton, Gregory, and Bon Homme BJU; 20 Nov Sully DB; 03 Nov Lake JSP; 28 Oct Perkins ND

**Red-necked Grebe** Late: 22 Nov Potter BJU; 11 Nov Stanley RDO; 03 Nov Gregory RM; 25 Oct Grant BJU

**Eared Grebe** Late: 26 Nov Charles Mix RM; 20 Nov Yankton BJU; 28 Oct Meade RSL; 13 Oct Lake JSP

**Western Grebe** Late: 26 Nov Stanley and Hughes DB; 24 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 23 Nov Charles Mix KP; 22 Nov Pennington JLB

**Clark's Grebe** Late: 07 Nov Hughes RDO; 20 Oct Yankton BFH; 29 Sep Stanley RDO; 25 Sep Hand DB

**American White Pelican** Late: 26 Nov Hughes DB; 21 Nov Brule BJU; 14 Nov Grant BJU; 03 Nov Butte ND

**Double-crested Cormorant** Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 24 Nov Walworth BJU; 24 Nov Hughes DB; 14 Nov Hand DB; 03 Nov Butte ND

**American Bittern** Late: 29 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 25 Sep Hand DB; 22 Sep Bennett RSL; 12 Sep Charles Mix KP

**Least Bittern** All Reports: 01 Aug Brown GO; 18 Aug Brown GO

**Great Blue Heron** Late: 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 22 Nov Sully JLB; 21 Nov Brule BJU; 07 Nov Hand DB

**Great Egret** Late: 24 Oct Marshall, Day, and Brown GO; 14 Oct Charles Mix KP

**Snowy Egret** Late: 29 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 01 Sep Brown GO; 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 11 Aug Campbell DB

**Cattle Egret** Late: 16 Oct Brown GO; 24 Sep Hand DB; 25 Aug Day GO; 11 Aug Campbell DB

**Green Heron** Late: 08 Sep Charles Mix KP; 05 Sep Brown GO; 01 Sep Lake JSP

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Late: 31 Oct Brown BJU; 20 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 15 Oct Hand DB; 12 Aug Walworth DB; 09 Aug Jones SS

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** All Reports: **22 Sep Bennett RSL; 25 Sep Hand DB**

**White-faced Ibis** Late: 29 Sep Brule KP; 29 Sep Brookings JSP; 25 Sep Hand DB; 22 Sep Bennett RSL

**Turkey Vulture** Late: **30 Oct Clay ND**; 29 Oct Lincoln ND; 09 Oct Charles Mix RM; 01 Oct Pennington JLB

**Osprey** Early: 01 Aug Brown GO; 04 Aug Moody JSP; 07 Aug Stanley RDO; 13 Aug Pennington JLB ... Late: 14 Oct Marshall RDO; 11 Oct Meade JLB, EEM; 10 Oct Grant BJU; 06 Oct Hughes KP

**Bald Eagle** reported 01 Nov Charles Mix (27) KP

**Northern Harrier** Late: 30 Nov Stanley DB; 28 Nov Marshall GO; 27 Nov Brown GO; 25 Nov Pennington RSL

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Early: 31 Aug Hughes DB; 12 Sep Brown GO; 22 Sep Bennett RSL

**Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 06 Sep Jones SS; 16 Nov Edmunds MO; 18 Nov Meade RSL; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU; 29 Nov Edmunds GO

**Broad-winged Hawk** Early: 18 Aug Marshall GO, MO; 22 Aug Charles Mix RM; 22 Aug Deuel BJU ... Late: 02 Oct Charles Mix RM; 30 Sep Sully SS; 29 Sep Stanley SS; 04 Sep Deuel BJU

**Swainson's Hawk** Late: **24 Nov Jerauld and Aurora RM**; 02 Nov Charles Mix RM; 28 Oct Mellette ND

**Ferruginous Hawk** Late: 25 Nov Stanley and Lyman RDO; 24 Nov Walworth BJU; 24 Nov Harding CEM; 31 Oct Day and Brown BJU

**Rough-legged Hawk** Early: 15 Oct Hand DB; 19 Oct Deuel BJU; 19 Oct Harding CEM; 26 Oct Clay DS

**Golden Eagle** Early: 09 Aug Sully RDO; 01 Sep Stanley ND; 14 Oct Brown GO

**Merlin** Early: 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 01 Sep Hughes ND; 01 Sep Lake JSP

**Gyrfalcon** All Reports: 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 21 Nov Sully RDO; 22 Nov Tripp RDO

**Peregrine Falcon** Early: 02 Aug Meade RSL; 12 Aug Walworth DB; 13 Aug Pennington JLB; 22 Aug Deuel BJU ... Late: **29 Nov Custer MMM**; 23 Oct Hamlin BJU; 08 Oct Stanley RDO

**Prairie Falcon** Early: 04 Aug Douglas RDO; 15 Aug Lyman SS; 27 Aug Roberts BJU

**Virginia Rail** Late: 12 Oct Lawrence SW; 22 Sep Bennett RSL; 12 Sep Stanley DB; 01 Sep Miner JSP

**Sora** Late: 07 Oct Stanley KP; 02 Oct Charles Mix RM; 30 Sep Hughes SS; 13 Sep Brown GO; 03 Sep Pennington JLB

**Common Gallinule** All Reports: **18 Aug Brown RDO; 24 Aug Roberts MO; 25 Aug Marshall RDO; 27 Aug Roberts BJU**

**American Coot** Late: 30 Nov Stanley DB; 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 24 Nov Lake JSP; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU

**Sandhill Crane** Early: 08 Oct Meade EEM; 09 Oct Hand DB; 09 Oct Pennington JLB, ND; 13 Oct Hughes JLB, RSL; 13 Oct Stanley RSL ... Late: 24 Nov Walworth BJU; 21 Nov Brule BJU; 16 Nov Hand DB; 25 Oct Pennington JLB

**Whooping Crane** All Reports: 31 Oct Hand (13) DB; 01 Nov Buffalo RDO; 02 Nov (13) Hand DB; 03 Nov Aurora KP; **21 Nov Brule BJU**

**Black-bellied Plover** Early: 18 Aug Brown RDO; 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 08 Sep Potter RDO ... Late: 31 Oct Brown BJU; 25 Oct Grant BJU; 20 Oct Clay DS

**American Golden-Plover** Early: 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 08 Sep Potter RDO ... Late: 31 Oct Brown BJU; 28 Oct Hand DB; 27 Oct Lake JSP; 08 Oct Clay DS

**Semipalmated Plover** Late: 13 Oct Brookings JSP; 29 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 06 Sep Jones SS; 04 Aug Brule RDO

**Killdeer** Late: 22 Nov Hughes BJU; 20 Nov Yankton and Charles Mix BJU; 19 Nov Pennington JLB; 14 Nov Grant BJU

**Black-necked Stilt** All Reports: 18 Aug Brown GO, RDO; 24 Aug Roberts MO; **25 Aug Brown MRZ; 25 Aug Marshall RDO; 27 Aug Roberts BJU**

**American Avocet** Late: 31 Oct Brown (313) BJU; 27 Oct Perkins RDO; 05 Oct Deuel BJU; 29 Sep Brule KP

**Spotted Sandpiper** Late: **28 Oct Perkins ND**; 16 Sep Harding ND; 10 Sep Pennington JLB; 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 27 Aug Charles Mix RM

**Solitary Sandpiper** Late: **29 Sep Kingsbury JSP**; 22 Sep Bennett RSL; 19 Sep Pennington RSL; 12 Sep Hughes DB

**Greater Yellowlegs** Late: 10 Nov Lake JSP; 03 Nov Clay DS; 03 Nov Aurora KP; 27 Oct Perkins RDO; 27 Oct Meade JLB

**Willet** Late: 08 Sep Hughes and Buffalo JLB; 27 Aug Roberts BJU

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late: 23 Oct Hamlin BJU; 20 Oct Clay DS; 19 Oct Grant BJU; 11 Oct Meade EEM

**Upland Sandpiper** Late: **13 Sep Hughes RDO**; 08 Sep Pennington RSL, APB; 15 Aug Lyman SS; 13 Aug Faulk MMM

**Long-billed Curlew** Only Report: 03 Aug Custer MMM

**Hudsonian Godwit** Only Report: **09 Oct Charles Mix RM**

**Marbled Godwit** Late: **02 Oct Charles Mix RM**; 18 Aug Marshall GO; 16 Aug Edmunds GO

**Ruddy Turnstone** All Reports: 01 Aug Deuel BJU; 22 Aug Deuel BJU

**Red Knot** Only Report: **27 Aug Roberts BJU**

**Sanderling** Late: 05 Oct Grant BJU; 08 Sep Potter RDO; 01 Sep Kingsbury JSP

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 01 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 31 Aug Day JLB; 25 Aug Ziebach RSL, JLB; 25 Aug Meade RSL; 12 Aug Walworth DB

**Least Sandpiper** Late: 20 Oct Brookings JSP; 12 Oct Hand DB; 22 Sep Roberts MO; 08 Sep Potter RDO; 06 Sep Jones SS

**White-rumped Sandpiper** All Reports: 01 Aug Brown GO; 23 Aug Meade JLB; 26 Aug Todd ND

**Baird's Sandpiper** Late: 23 Oct Kingsbury and Brookings BJU; 19 Oct Grant BJU; 23 Sep Charles Mix KP; 23 Aug Meade JLB

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Late: 27 Oct Lake JSP; 27 Oct Butte JLB; 23 Oct Kingsbury and Hamlin BJU; 21 Oct Potter RDO

**Dunlin** All Reports: 25 Sep Hand DB; 02 Oct Brown GO; 19 Oct Grant BJU

**Stilt Sandpiper** Late: 20 Oct Clay DS; 20 Oct Brookings JSP; 02 Oct Brown GO; 15 Aug Meade RSL

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Early: 01 Aug Deuel BJU; 03 Aug Sully RDO; 25 Aug Day (31) RDO ... Late: 08 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 03 Sep Turner KP; 27 Aug Roberts BJU

**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 01 Aug Brown GO; 01 Aug Deuel BJU; 04 Aug Clay DS; 07 Aug Hughes RDO; 22 Aug Deuel BJU; 27 Aug Roberts BJU

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Late: 31 Oct Brown BJU; 30 Oct Day BJU; 27 Oct Lake JSP; 21 Oct Potter RDO

**Wilson's Snipe** Late: 22 Nov Potter BJU; 10 Nov Lake JSP; 02 Nov Davison RM; 27 Oct Meade EEM; 16 Oct Charles Mix KP

**American Woodcock** All Reports: 15 Aug Lyman SS; 23 Oct Hamlin BJU

**Wilson's Phalarope** Late: 08 Sep Sully RDO; 01 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 26 Aug Todd ND

**Red-necked Phalarope** Late: 21 Sep Hand DB; 08 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 04 Sep Deuel BJU

**Black-legged Kittiwake** Only Report: 23 Nov Campbell BJU

**Sabine's Gull** All Reports: 22 Sep Yankton DS; 05 Oct Codrington and Grant BJU; 30 Oct Marshall BJU

**Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 27 Aug Grant BJU; 18 Sep Stanley RDO; 27 Sep Charles Mix RM; 27 Oct Perkins RDO ... Late: 27 Nov Charles Mix RM; 24 Nov Walworth and Edmunds BJU; 24 Nov Kingsbury JSP

**Little Gull** All Reports: 19 Oct Charles Mix RM; 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU

**Franklin's Gull** Late: 22 Nov Potter BJU; 20 Nov Yankton and Charles Mix BJU; 14 Nov Grant BJU; 25 Aug Perkins RSL, JLB

**Mew Gull** Early: **25 Sep Stanley RDO**; 16 Nov Hughes RDO; 22 Nov Potter BJU ... Late: 23 Nov Walworth BJU; 22 Nov Stanley BJU

**Ring-billed Gull** Late: 24 Nov Lake JSP; 22 Nov Butte SW; 21 Nov Douglas KP

**California Gull** Late: 24 Nov Walworth BJU; 11 Nov Stanley RDO; 31 Oct Brown BJU; 15 Aug Meade RSL

**Herring Gull** Early: 15 Sep Stanley RDO; 16 Sep Sully DB; 05 Oct Grant BJU; 05 Oct Lyman JSP ... Late: 24 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 19 Nov Pennington JLB; 14 Nov Grant BJU

**Thayer's Gull** All Reports: 17 Nov Yankton DS; 20 Nov Yankton BJU; 24 Nov Walworth BJU

**Iceland Gull** Only Report: **22 Nov Hughes BJU**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** All Reports: 12 Aug Stanley RDO; 15 Aug Stanley SS; 18 Oct Stanley RDO; 30 Oct Marshall BJU; 24 Nov Walworth BJU

**Glaucous Gull** Early: 21 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 23 Nov Campbell BJU; 24 Nov Corson and Walworth BJU

**Least Tern** Late: **03 Sep Clay KP**; 21 Aug Charles Mix RM; 19 Aug Gregory KP

**Caspian Tern** All Reports: 24 Aug Stanley DB; 27 Aug Grant BJU

**Black Tern** Late: 03 Sep Clay KP; 01 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 01 Sep Brown GO; 13 Aug Jackson SS

**Common Tern** All Reports: 27 Aug Grant BJU; 12 Sep Stanley RDO; 14 Sep Stanley RDO

**Forster's Tern** Late: 14 Oct Marshall RDO; 05 Oct Deuel BJU; 14 Sep Stanley RDO

**Mourning Dove** Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 20 Nov Yankton and Bon Homme BJU; 03 Nov Aurora KP; 27 Oct Meade EEM

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Late: 07 Sep Charles Mix RM; 05 Sep Day GO; 02 Sep Hughes DB; 09 Aug Jones SS

**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 24 Aug Marshall MO; 25 Aug Day GO; 03 Sep Minnehaha ND

**Barn Owl** All Reports: 18 Sep Stanley DB; 28 Oct Charles Mix KP; 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU

**Snowy Owl** Early: 18 Nov Brown GO; 18 Nov Tripp RDO; 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU

**Burrowing Owl** Late: 07 Oct Hughes DB; 25 Aug Ziebach RSL, JLB; 11 Aug Pennington RSL, JLB

**Barred Owl** All Reports: 01 Sep Union KP; **02 Sep Lincoln KP**

**Long-eared Owl** All Reports: 13 Nov Walworth MO; 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 21 Nov Jones BJU; 26 Nov Stanley DB; 27 Nov Marshall GO

**Short-eared Owl** All Reports: 05 Aug Mellette SS; 20 Aug Marshall GO; 23 Aug Harding CEM; 21 Nov Jones BJU; 22 Nov Stanley BJU

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Early: 31 Oct Brown BJU; 21 Nov Hughes DB; 30 Nov Stanley DB

**Common Nighthawk** Late: **29 Oct Union and Lincoln ND**; **14 Oct Charles Mix KP**; 03 Sep Pennington JLB

**Common Poorwill** Only Report: 23 Aug Custer ND

**Whip-poor-will** All Reports: 16 Aug, 23 Aug, 31 Aug, and 01 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Chimney Swift** Late: 15 Sep Douglas KP; 11 Sep Lake JSP; 04 Sep Brown GO; 03 Sep Clay ND, GJS; 30 Aug Pennington RSL

**White-throated Swift** All Reports: 01 Aug Custer LB; 13 Aug Pennington JLB; 10 Sep Pennington JLB

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Late: 25 Sep Lake JSP; 17 Sep Charles Mix RM; 16 Sep Clay GJS; 08 Sep Pennington RSL

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** Only Report: 01 Aug Custer LB

**Rufous Hummingbird** Late: 29 Aug Pennington JLB; 14 Aug Custer KH; 12 Aug Meade EEM  
**Belted Kingfisher** Late: 28 Nov Pennington JLB; 22 Nov Hughes BJU; 21 Nov Meade JLB; 21 Nov Lake JSP  
**Red-headed Woodpecker** Late: 21 Nov Brule BJU; 28 Oct Mellette ND; 29 Sep Douglas KP  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker** reported 28 Sep Mellette SS  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Late: 20 Nov Yankton BJU; 18 Nov Minnehaha CA; 29 Oct Union ND  
**Red-naped Sapsucker** Only Report: 05 Sep Lawrence ND  
**American Three-toed Woodpecker** Only Report: 03 Nov Custer RSL  
**Black-backed Woodpecker** Only Report: 30 Aug Lawrence SW  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Early: 12 Aug Stanley RDO; 13 Aug Douglas KP; 15 Aug Grant BJU; 25 Aug Harding CEM ... Late: 07 Sep Lincoln JLB; 03 Sep Union KP; 01 Sep Roberts JLB; 01 Sep Lake JSP; 01 Sep Clay KP; 01 Sep Brown GO  
**Western Wood-Pewee** Late: 23 Aug Pennington RSL; 17 Aug Custer JLB  
**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Late: 17 Sep Charles Mix RM; 16 Sep Yankton RND; 08 Sep Roberts JSP  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** Early: **04 Aug Moody JSP**; 13 Aug Douglas KP; 21 Aug Charles Mix and Gregory RM; 21 Aug Stanley RDO ... Late: 05 Sep Charles Mix RM; 03 Sep Union DS; 01 Sep Hughes ND; 27 Aug Marshall BJU; 27 Aug Day GO  
**Alder Flycatcher** Only Report: **06 Aug Charles Mix RM**  
**Willow Flycatcher** Late: 25 Aug Day GO; 21 Aug Edmunds GO; 19 Aug Hughes DB; 09 Aug Jones SS  
**Least Flycatcher** Late: 13 Sep Brown GO; 12 Sep Stanley and Hughes DB; 12 Sep Charles Mix RM; 01 Sep Pennington RSL  
**Dusky Flycatcher** Only Report: 01 Aug Custer LB  
**Cordilleran Flycatcher** Only Report: 01 Aug Custer LB  
**Eastern Phoebe** Late: **30 Oct Clay ND**; **29 Oct Union ND**; 28 Oct Mellette ND; 23 Oct Brookings BJU  
**Say's Phoebe** Late: 09 Sep Harding ND; 08 Sep Potter RDO; 01 Sep Custer MMM; 27 Aug Day GO  
**Great Crested Flycatcher** Late: 05 Sep Stanley RDO; 03 Sep Union KP; 03 Sep Minnehaha ND; 11 Aug Pennington JLB  
**Western Kingbird** Late: 08 Sep Gregory RM; 08 Sep Charles Mix KP; 06 Sep Jones SS; 27 Aug Roberts  
**Eastern Kingbird** Late: 16 Sep Pennington RSL; 15 Sep Lake JSP; 15 Sep Edmunds GO; 12 Sep Stanley DB  
**Loggerhead Shrike** Late: **28 Sep Charles Mix KP**; 03 Sep Custer MMM; 02 Sep Pennington RSL; 27 Aug Day GO  
**Northern Shrike** Early: **03 Oct Hand DB**; **05 Oct Brule KP**; 07 Oct Stanley KP; 25 Oct Meade JLB  
**Bell's Vireo** Late: **12 Sep Stanley DB**; **11 Sep Mellette SS**; 09 Sep Hughes DB  
**Yellow-throated Vireo** Late: 07 Sep Lincoln JLB; 02 Sep Roberts ND; 02 Sep Minnehaha KP; 01 Sep Union KP  
**Plumbeous Vireo** All Reports: 15 Aug Custer KH; 22 Aug Pennington JLB  
**Blue-headed Vireo** Early: **18 Aug Marshall GO, RDO**; **20 Aug Day GO**; 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 30 Aug Hughes DB; 30 Aug Stanley RDO ... Late: **29 Oct Union and Lincoln ND**; **23 Oct Hamlin BJU**  
**Warbling Vireo** Late: 22 Sep Lincoln JSP; 22 Sep Clay GJS; 15 Sep Edmunds GO; 06 Sep Pennington RSL  
**Philadelphia Vireo** Early: **19 Aug Day RDO**; 24 Aug Marshall MO; 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 28 Aug Buffalo SS ... Late: 18 Sep Stanley RDO; 12 Sep Hughes DB; 04 Sep Deuel BJU  
**Red-eyed Vireo** Late: **30 Oct Clay ND**; 18 Sep Stanley RDO; 15 Sep Lake JSP; 15 Sep Edmunds GO; 09 Sep Harding ND  
**Gray Jay** All Reports: 15 Aug Custer KH; 05 Sep Lawrence ND  
**Pinyon Jay** All Reports: 27 Oct Meade AKB; 07 Nov Meade AKB

**Clark's Nutcracker** All Reports: 17 Aug Custer JLB; 30 Aug Lawrence SW

**Purple Martin** Late: 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 27 Aug Roberts and Grant BJU; 04 Aug Bon Homme RDO

**Tree Swallow** Late: **30 Oct Codington BJU; 28 Oct Hand DB; 23 Oct Hamlin BJU;** 22 Sep Bennett RSL; 14 Aug Charles Mix KP

**Violet-green Swallow** All Reports: 01 Aug Custer LB; 13 Aug Pennington JLB; 17 Aug Custer JLB

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** Late: **29 Sep Kingsbury JSP;** 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 27 Aug Roberts and Grant BJU; 13 Aug Pennington JLB; 12 Aug Walworth DB

**Bank Swallow** Late: 21 Sep Hand DB; 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 01 Sep Kingsbury ND, JSP; 01 Sep Brown GO; 28 Aug Buffalo SS; 13 Aug Jackson SS

**Cliff Swallow** Late: 08 Sep Potter RDO; 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 01 Sep Kingsbury JSP; 30 Aug Pennington RSL

**Barn Swallow** Late: 13 Oct Lake JSP; 10 Oct Grant BJU; 05 Oct Codington BJU; 05 Oct Brule KP; 22 Sep Bennett RSL

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Early: 03 Aug Hughes DB; 06 Aug Brown GO; 19 Aug Edmunds GO; 19 Aug Gregory KP

**Brown Creeper** Early: 23 Sep Brown GO; 06 Oct Stanley KP; 20 Oct Lake JSP

**Rock Wren** All Reports: 19 Aug Pennington APB; 20 Aug Pennington APB; 02 Sep Pennington APB; 30 Sep Sully SS

**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 01 Aug Custer LB; 23 Aug Lawrence JLB; 06 Nov Custer MMM; 21 Nov Meade JLB; 23 Nov Lawrence SW

**Carolina Wren** reported **20 Aug** – 05 Sep **Stanley RDO**, DB, SS; 01-16 Sep Charles Mix RM; 01 Sep Clay KP; 23 Oct Brookings BJU; 20 Nov Yankton BJU

**House Wren** Late: **28 Oct Hughes ND;** 02 Oct Charles Mix RM; 29 Sep Lake JSP; 09 Sep Harding ND

**Winter Wren** All Reports: **05 Oct Grant BJU;** 13 Oct Lake JSP; 15 Oct Hand DB; 22 Oct Lake JSP; 23 Oct Hamlin BJU

**Sedge Wren** Late: 02 Oct Charles Mix RM; 30 Sep Hughes RDO; 29 Sep Lake JSP

**Marsh Wren** Late: 16 Oct Day and Brown GO; 15 Oct Clay SS; 22 Sep Bennett RSL

**American Dipper** All Reports: 12 Aug Lawrence RSL; 23 Aug Lawrence JLB; 23 Nov Lawrence SW

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Early: 23 Sep Harding CEM; 29 Sep Minnehaha MS; 10 Oct Grant BJU; 15 Oct Clay GJS, SS

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Early: 31 Aug Hughes DB; 01 Sep Lake JSP; 03 Sep Union DS, KP ... Late: **20 Nov Gregory BJU;** 08 Nov Charles Mix KP; 30 Oct Day BJU; 05 Sep Lawrence ND

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Late: 03 Sep Union KP; 03 Sep Minnehaha ND; 03 Sep Edmunds GO

**Eastern Bluebird** Late: 23 Nov Charles Mix KP; 22 Nov Hughes BJU; 21 Nov Buffalo and Brule BJU; 02 Nov Hand DB; 29 Sep Custer MMM

**Mountain Bluebird** Late: 24 Nov Hughes DB; 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 13 Nov Pennington JLB

**Townsend's Solitaire** Early: 05 Oct Grant BJU; 06 Oct Stanley KP; 30 Oct Day BJU

**Veery** Early: 26 Aug Stanley SS; 01 Sep Union KP, RDO; 09 Sep Hughes DB ... Late: 12 Sep Charles Mix KP

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** Only Report: **27 Aug Marshall BJU**

**Swainson's Thrush** Early: 26 Aug Stanley SS; 27 Aug Marshall BJU; 28 Aug Hughes DB ... Late: **29 Oct Union ND;** 02 Oct Clay GJS; 01 Oct Brown GO; 23 Sep Harding CEM

**Hermit Thrush** Early: 22 Sep Lincoln JSP; 10 Oct Edmunds GO; 10 Oct Grant BJU; 22 Oct Clay GJS ... Late: 20 Nov Bon Homme BJU; 29 Oct Union ND; 23 Oct Kingsbury, Hamlin, and Brookings BJU

**Wood Thrush** Only Report: **02 Sep Union RDO**

**Varied Thrush** All Reports: 12-15 Nov Moody WWJ; 14-16 Nov Edmunds GO, MO; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU

**Gray Catbird** Late: 14 Nov Charles Mix RM; 30 Oct Gregory RM; 29 Oct Union and Lincoln ND; 01 Oct Lawrence SW

**Northern Mockingbird** All Reports: 21 Aug Charles Mix RM; 14 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Sage Thrasher** Only Report: **11 Sep Mellette SS**

**Brown Thrasher** Late: 30 Oct Clay ND; 08 Oct Charles Mix RM; 30 Sep Sully SS; 30 Sep Stanley RDO; 28 Sep Mellette SS; 27 Sep Lake JSP

**American Pipit** Early: 10 Sep Pennington JLB; 22 Sep Hand DB; 22 Sep Marshall MO; 22 Sep Minnehaha JSP; 29 Sep Brule KP ... Late: 03 Nov Day GO; 02 Nov Hand DB; 31 Oct Grant and Brown BJU; 20 Oct Clay DS; 15 Oct Pennington JLB

**Sprague's Pipit** Only Report: 28 Sep Roberts MO

**Bohemian Waxwing** Early: 30 Oct Day BJU; 13 Nov Walworth MO; 14 Nov Edmunds GO

**Ovenbird** Late: 30 Sep Stanley RDO; 17 Sep Hughes DB; 16 Sep Harding ND; 08 Sep Roberts JSP

**Northern Waterthrush** Early: 19 Aug Hughes DB; 24 Aug Roberts MO; 30 Aug Walworth JLB ... Late: 08 Sep Buffalo JLB; 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 03 Sep Union ND

**Golden-winged Warbler** All Reports: 02 Sep Clay GJS; 03 Sep Union DS, KP; 04 Sep Deuel BJU

**Black-and-white Warbler** Early: 15 Aug Grant BJU; 16 Aug Edmunds GO; 17 Aug Gregory RM; 17 Aug Pennington JLB ... Late: 17 Sep Hughes DB; 16 Sep Lake JSP; 16 Sep Clay GJS; 10 Sep Pennington JLB

**Tennessee Warbler** Early: 15 Aug Grant BJU; 16 Aug Charles Mix RM; 16 Aug Edmunds GO; 04 Sep Fall River ND ... Late: 23 Sep Lawrence ND; 15 Sep Edmunds GO; 13 Sep Douglas KP; 12 Sep Stanley RDO, DB; 12 Sep Hughes DB

**Orange-crowned Warbler** Early: **16 Aug Charles Mix RM**; 25 Aug Day RDO; 25 Aug Douglas KP; 25 Aug Marshall RDO; 29 Aug Pennington JLB ... Late: 30 Oct Clay ND; 29 Oct Union and Lincoln ND; 04 Oct Pennington ND

**Nashville Warbler** Early: 15 Aug Grant BJU; 18 Aug Lake JSP; 18 Aug Marshall GO, MO, RDO; 18 Aug Roberts GO; 23 Aug Hughes DB; 10 Sep Pennington JLB ... Late: 30 Oct Clay ND; 29 Oct Union ND; 30 Sep Sully SS; 30 Sep Lake JSP; 30 Sep Charles Mix KP; 28 Sep Mellette SS

**Connecticut Warbler** Only Report: **21 Aug Minnehaha MRZ**

**MacGillivray's Warbler** All Reports: 01 Aug Custer LB; 15 Aug Custer KH; 23 Aug Lawrence JLB; 03 Sep Fall River SS; 04 Sep Fall River RDO; 12 Sep Stanley DB

**Mourning Warbler** Early: 19 Aug Brown GO; 24 Aug Marshall MO; 25 Aug Day RDO; 28 Aug Buffalo SS ... Late: 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 03 Sep Union ND; 31 Aug Hughes RDO, DB

**Common Yellowthroat** Late: **30 Oct Clay ND**; 16 Oct Pennington JLB; 13 Oct Hughes RSL; 22 Sep Lincoln JSP; 22 Sep Brown GO

**American Redstart** Late: **29 Oct Lincoln ND**; 17 Sep Clay GJS; 12 Sep Stanley RDO, DB; 12 Sep Hughes DB; 07 Sep Pennington RSL

**Cape May Warbler** Only Report: **22 Aug Deuel BJU**

**Northern Parula** Early: **24 Aug Marshall MO**; 30 Aug Pennington RSL; 01 Sep Union KP, RDO ... Late: 10 Sep Pennington JLB; 03 Sep Union KP, DS; 02 Sep Roberts ND

**Magnolia Warbler** Early: **22 Aug Deuel BJU**; 27 Aug Grant and Roberts BJU; 30 Aug Hughes DB; 30 Aug Stanley DB, RDO ... Late: 24 Sep Edmunds GO; 14 Sep Charles Mix RM; 11 Sep Stanley DB

**Bay-breasted Warbler** All Reports: 30 Aug Hughes DB; 31 Aug Hughes DB, RDO; 01 Sep Union RDO; 02 Sep Roberts ND

**Blackburnian Warbler** Early: 18 Aug Marshall MO; 19 Aug Day RDO; 25 Aug Union DS ... Late: 03 Sep Union KP, DS; 01 Sep Hughes ND; 29 Aug Edmunds GO

**Yellow Warbler** Late: 25 Sep Charles Mix RM; 23 Sep Lawrence ND; 16 Sep Yankton RND; 16 Sep Pennington RSL, JLB; 15 Sep Lake JSP

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** Early: 15 Aug Grant BJU; 18 Aug Marshall MO; 20 Aug Lake JSP; 31 Aug Stanley RDO ... Late: 15 Sep Edmunds GO; 12 Sep Hughes DB; 10 Sep Stanley RDO

**Blackpoll Warbler** All Reports: 27 Aug Marshall BJU; 02 Sep Hughes DB; 02 Sep Roberts ND; 12 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** All Reports: 25 Aug Day RDO; 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 04 Sep Hughes DB

**Palm Warbler** All Reports: **11 Sep Stanley DB**; 16 Sep Hughes DB; 05 Oct Grant BJU; 07 Oct

Stanley RM; **21 Oct Potter RDO**

**Pine Warbler** Only Report: 13-**14 Oct Clay GJS**

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Early: 08 Sep Potter RDO; 11 Sep Hughes DB; 12 Sep Stanley DB, RDO; 13 Sep Brown GO; 13 Sep Douglas KP ... Late: 24 Nov Edmunds BJU; 20 Nov Hughes DB; 30 Oct Clay ND; 22 Sep Harding CEM; 22 Sep Bennett RSL

**Black-throated Green Warbler** Early: **19 Aug Day RDO**; 25 Aug Union DS; 31 Aug Hughes DB ... Late: 05 Sep Stanley RDO; 03 Sep Minnehaha ND; 02 Sep Union KP

**Canada Warbler** Early: 15 Aug Grant BJU; 18 Aug Lake JSP; 18 Aug Marshall MO, RDO; 25 Aug Charles Mix RM; 25 Aug Clay GJS; 25 Aug Union DS ... Late: 03 Sep Union KP, DS; 03 Sep Minnehaha ND; 01 Sep Lake JSP; 01 Sep Clay RDO

**Wilson's Warbler** Early: 16 Aug Charles Mix RM; 16 Aug Edmunds GO; 18 Aug Hughes DB; 18 Aug Lake JSP; 18 Aug Marshall GO, MO; 24 Aug Pennington JLB ... Late: 30 Sep Stanley RDO; 28 Sep Mellette SS; 25 Sep Charles Mix RM; 20 Sep Douglas KP

**Yellow-breasted Chat** Late: 12 Sep Stanley RDO, DB; 12 Sep Hughes DB; 08 Sep Charles Mix KP; 04 Sep Fall River RDO, ND

**Scarlet Tanager** Late: **30 Sep Hughes SS**; 16 Sep Clay GJS; 15 Sep Edmunds GO

**Western Tanager** Late: 15 Sep Pennington RSL; 04 Sep Fall River RDO, ND; 28 Aug Hughes DB

**Spotted Towhee** Late: 30 Oct Clay GJS; 29 Oct Union and Lincoln ND; 09 Oct Pennington JLB; 09 Oct Lawrence SW

**Eastern Towhee** Late: **30 Oct Clay ND**; 10 Oct Edmunds GO; 05 Oct Hughes RM; 05 Oct Grant BJU

**American Tree Sparrow** Early: **20 Sep Harding ND**; **24 Sep Meade ND**; 04 Oct Charles Mix RM; 11 Oct Hand DB

**Chipping Sparrow** Late: 28 Oct Hughes ND; 15 Oct Clay SS; 13 Oct Lake JSP; 23 Sep Lawrence ND; 23 Sep Harding CEM

**Clay-colored Sparrow** Late: **28 Oct Hughes ND**; 15 Oct Clay SS, GJS; 12 Oct Lawrence SW; 08 Oct Lake JSP

**Brewer's Sparrow** All Reports: 09 Sep Harding ND; **16 Sep Pennington JLB**; **02 Oct Pennington JLB**

**Field Sparrow** Late: 29 Oct Union and Lincoln ND; 28 Oct Hughes ND; 10 Oct Pennington RSL

**Vesper Sparrow** Late: **14 Nov Hand DB**; 30 Oct Marshall BJU; 25 Oct Grant BJU; 21 Oct Harding CEM; 19 Oct Charles Mix RM

**Lark Sparrow** Late: 05 Oct Gregory BFH; 05 Oct Grant BJU; 22 Sep Bennett RSL

**Lark Bunting** Late: 11 Sep Mellette SS; 08 Sep Stanley DB; 08 Sep Custer MMM

**Savannah Sparrow** Late: 31 Oct Brown BJU; 28 Oct Hughes ND; 27 Oct Lake JSP; 28 Sep Mellette SS

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Late: 22 Sep Bennett RSL; 19 Sep Pennington RSL; 15 Sep Lake JSP; 08 Sep Stanley DB

**Le Conte's Sparrow** Early: 22 Aug Deuel BJU; 29 Sep Hughes SS; 29 Sep Lake JSP ... Late: 28 Oct Hughes ND; 20 Oct Lake JSP; 14 Oct Brown GO

**Nelson's Sparrow** Late: 07 Oct Minnehaha RSL; 06 Oct Hughes KP; 29 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Fox Sparrow** Early: **15 Sep Stanley RDO**; **16 Sep Pennington RSL**; **22 Sep Lincoln JSP**; **22 Sep Minnehaha MS** ... Late: 28 Nov Meade AKB; 25 Nov Clay GJS; 20 Nov Yankton BJU; 17 Nov Brookings JSP

**Song Sparrow** Late: 29 Nov Pennington JLB; 21 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 20 Nov Hughes DB; 20 Nov Gregory BJU; 16 Nov Hand DB

**Lincoln's Sparrow** Early: 30 Aug Stanley DB; 02 Sep Hughes DB; 02 Sep Pennington RSL; 02 Sep Union KP; 13 Sep Brown GO ... Late: 30 Oct Codington BJU; 30 Oct Clay ND; 29 Oct Lincoln ND; 22 Oct Pennington JLB

**Swamp Sparrow** Late: 31 Oct Brown and Codington BJU; 30 Oct Clay ND; 16 Oct Pennington JLB

**White-throated Sparrow** Early: 02 Sep Lincoln KP; 11 Sep Stanley DB; 13 Sep Brown GO; 23 Sep Harding CEM; 23 Sep Pennington RSL ... Late: 20 Nov Gregory BJU; 15 Nov Charles Mix RM; 04 Nov Clay GJS; 03 Nov Lake JSP; 28 Oct Mellette ND



**Harris's Sparrow** Early: 20 Sep Stanley RDO; 22 Sep Clay GJS; 22 Sep Harding CEM; 22 Sep Lincoln JSP; 22 Sep Marshall MO; 22 Sep Minnehaha MS ... Late: 30 Nov Stanley DB; 25 Nov Clay GJS; 23 Nov Hughes JLB; 04 Nov Douglas KP; 11 Oct Custer MMM

**White-crowned Sparrow** Early: 04 Sep Fall River ND; 08 Sep Pennington RSL; 09 Sep Harding ND; 11 Sep Stanley DB; 16 Sep Lincoln AH ... Late: 23 Nov Hughes JLB; 20 Nov Gregory BJU; 10 Nov Stanley ND; 30 Oct Codington BJU; 28 Oct Mellette ND

**Dark-eyed Junco** Early: 12 Sep Stanley DB; 16 Sep Sully DB; 21 Sep Charles Mix RM; 22 Sep Brown GO; 22 Sep Marshall MO

**Lapland Longspur** Early: 19 Oct Deuel BJU; 21 Oct Potter RDO; 23 Oct Brookings, Hamlin, and Kingsbury BJU; 23 Oct Brown and Edmunds GO; 28 Oct Perkins ND

**Smith's Longspur** Early: 14 Oct Roberts RDO; 19 Oct Deuel (190) BJU; 23 Oct Hamlin BJU ... Late: **31 Oct Day and Brown BJU**; 30 Oct Marshall BJU

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** All Reports: 09 Aug Sully RDO; 15 Aug Lyman SS; 19 Aug Harding CEM; 25 Aug Perkins JLB, RSL; 08 Sep Potter RDO

**Snow Bunting** Early: 19 Oct Deuel BJU; 21 Oct Hand DB; 23 Oct Brookings BJU; 13 Nov Walworth MO; 21 Nov Jones BJU

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Late: 30 Oct Clay ND; 08 Sep Roberts JSP; 08 Sep Buffalo JLB

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Late: 23 Sep Lawrence ND; 21 Sep Charles Mix RM; 16 Sep Pennington RSL

**Blue Grosbeak** Late: 28 Aug Buffalo SS; 24 Aug Stanley DB; 23 Aug Pennington RSL; 23 Aug Lake JSP

**Lazuli Bunting** All Reports: 30 Aug Stanley DB; 03 Sep Fall River SS

**Indigo Bunting** Late: 22 Sep Marshall MO; 09 Sep Hughes DB; 09 Sep Clay GJS; 05 Aug Mellette SS

**Dickcissel** Late: 03 Sep Clay KP; 02 Sep Brown ND; 28 Aug Hughes DB; 11 Aug Pennington RSL, JLB

**Bobolink** Late: 08 Sep Potter RDO; 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 25 Aug Miner JSP; 11 Aug Pennington RSL, JLB

**Western Meadowlark** Late: 25 Nov Pennington RSL; 24 Nov Hughes DB; 23 Nov Walworth BJU; 10 Nov Hand DB

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 11 Nov Custer MMM; 27 Oct Lake JSP

**Rusty Blackbird** Early: 08 Oct Clay DS; 10 Oct Grant BJU; 14 Oct Roberts RDO ... Late: 29 Nov Charles Mix RM; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU; 23 Nov Walworth BJU

**Brewer's Blackbird** Late: 22 Nov Douglas KP; 21 Nov Brule BJU; 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 29 Sep Meade JLB

**Common Grackle** Late: 30 Nov Lake JSP; 24 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU; 23 Nov Walworth BJU; 27 Oct Butte JLB

**Great-tailed Grackle** Only Report: 31 Oct Brown BJU

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Late: 21 Nov Brule BJU; 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU; 31 Oct Brown BJU; 29 Aug Pennington JLB

**Orchard Oriole** Late: 26 Aug Stanley SS, DB; 25 Aug Perkins RSL, JLB; 25 Aug Douglas LY

**Bullock's Oriole** All Reports: 01 Aug Custer LB; 02 Aug Meade RSL; 07 Aug Mellette SS; 13 Aug Pennington JLB; **30 Aug Pennington RSL**; **04 Sep Fall River ND**

**Baltimore Oriole** Late: 08 Sep Roberts JSP; 08 Sep Charles Mix RM, KP; 05 Sep Stanley RDO

**Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** Only Report: 15 Nov Meade MO

**Purple Finch** Early: **31 Aug Hughes DB**; 29 Sep Brown GO; 16 Oct Minnehaha DS

**Red Crossbill** Early: 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 01 Sep Brookings ND; 04 Sep Deuel BJU; 13 Nov Walworth MO

**White-winged Crossbill** Early: 30 Oct Day BJU; 16 Nov Charles Mix RM; 22 Nov Hughes BJU, DB, RDO

**Common Redpoll** Early: 30 Oct Day BJU; 02 Nov Perkins ND; 05 Nov Brown and Edmunds GO; 10 Nov Stanley RDO

**Pine Siskin** Early: 18 Aug Marshall MO; 26 Aug Stanley DB; 09 Sep Clay GJS

**Lesser Goldfinch** reported 03 Sep Fall River SS

**Evening Grosbeak** All Reports: 17 Nov Pennington RSL; 24 Nov Walworth BJU

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

**Brant** 23 Nov Stanley SS

**Barrow's Goldeneye** 20 Nov Charles Mix BJU

**Red-throated Loon** 13 Oct Deuel RDO; 19 Oct Deuel BJU; 23 Oct Hamlin BJU; 29 Oct Perkins ND

**Yellow-billed Loon** 12 Nov Sully RDO

**Neotropic Cormorant** 03 Aug Hughes RDO; 04 Aug Brule RDO; 22 Aug Deuel BJU; 25 Aug Miner JSP; 27 Aug Roberts BJU; 29 Sep Kingsbury JSP

**Red-shouldered Hawk** 31 Aug Hughes DB; 08 Sep Walworth RDO; 28 Sep Mellette SS

**Snowy Plover** 04 Aug Bon Homme RDO

**Little Gull** 19 Oct Grant BJU

**Glaucous-winged Gull** 24 Nov Walworth BJU

**Glaucous Gull** 22 Oct Stanley RDO

**Great Black-backed Gull** 27 Oct – 23 Nov Hughes and Stanley RDO, BJU, JLB

**Rufous Hummingbird** 06 Aug Douglas LY

**Loggerhead Shrike** 11 Nov and 02 Nov Lincoln AH

**Common Raven** 30 Oct Marshall BJU; 13 Nov Hughes MO; 22-23 Nov Stanley RDO

**Carolina Wren** 27 Oct Meade AKB

**Townsend's Solitaire** 01-08 Sep Lincoln AH

**Blue-winged Warbler** 10 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Green-tailed Towhee** 03 Sep Fall River JLB, LB

**Lark Sparrow** 28 Oct Hughes ND

**Nelson's Sparrow** 28 Oct Hughes ND

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** 12-13 Oct Minnehaha MRZ, DC, RDO

**Hoary Redpoll** 09 Nov Grant BJU; 14 Nov Stanley RDO; 18 Nov Lyman RDO; 21 Nov Buffalo and Lyman BJU; 23 Nov Walworth BJU; 24 Nov Edmunds BJU

**Lesser Goldfinch** 06 Aug Pennington APB; 09 Sep and 16 Sep Pennington JLB

**Species Expected But Not Reported**

Cinnamon Teal (2), Ruffed Grouse (2), Little Blue Heron (2), Glossy Ibis, Piping Plover, Whimbrel (3), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (2), Pygmy Nuthatch, Virginia's Warbler (3), Baird's Sparrow, Cassin's Finch

**Contributing Observers**

CA	Chris Anderson	CEM	Charles E. Miller
DB	Doug Backlund	EEM	Ernest E. Miller
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	CN	Colleen Nelson
APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	GO	Gary Olson
AKB	Anna K. Ball	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
LB	Lynn Barber	MO	Mark Otnes
DC	Douglas Chapman	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
ND	Nancy Drilling	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
KH	Kevin & Kris Hachmeister	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
AH	Alice Hill	SS	Scott Stolz
BFH	Bill F. Huser	DS	David Swanson
WWJ	Warren W. Jackson	BJU	Bill J. Unzen
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	SW	Scott Weins
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	LY	Lea Ymker
RM	Ron Mabie	MRZ	Mick R. Zerr
MMM	Michael M. Melius		

## FALL 2012 SDOU MEETING IN PIERRE

by Nancy Drilling

The fall 2012 SDOU meeting was held 5-7 October 2012 at the Governor's Inn in Pierre. The meeting began on Friday night with a Social Hour and a presentation by Doug Backlund on his birding trip to Alaska. Local birding experts Ricky Olson and Bill Bossman led short field trips to local birding areas on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. At this time of year, migrating sparrows were the highlight. Of the seventy or so bird species seen, thirteen were sparrow species. Most were found at Arikara Game Production Area east of Pierre (aka "The Sparrow Patch").

As happens at every Fall SDOU meeting, most of Saturday was devoted to paper presentations on various research projects concerning South Dakota birds. Graduate students from Black Hills State University spoke on genetic structure of Virginia's Warbler during range expansion, the shrinking hybrid zone in South Dakota between Black-headed and Rose-breasted grosbeaks, and molecular characteristics of avian gut parasites. USD students presented their research results on migration stopover habitat quality in southeastern South Dakota, and the effects of the 2011 flood on Missouri River forest birds. The final student paper, presented by Mandy Orth of SDSU, summarized landscape associations of prairie grouse in eastern South Dakota. Two presentations were given by non-students. Nancy Drilling of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory presented the results of her efforts to band Northern Saw-whet Owls in western South Dakota. A trio of Rapid City citizen scientists, Jocelyn Baker, Gene Hess and Lynn Barber, spoke on the occurrence of Harlequin Ducks in South Dakota, with details about the individual that spent last winter in Rapid City.

At the SDOU General Membership meeting on Saturday afternoon, five members were elected to three-year terms on the SDOU Board of Directors. They are Roger Dietrich of Yankton, Linda Johnson of Sioux Falls, Ricky Olson of Fort Pierre, Mark Otnes of Fargo, North Dakota, and Bill Bossman of Pierre. Officers elected at the SDOU Board of Directors meeting are Nancy Drilling of Rapid City as President, Ricky Olson of Fort Pierre as Vice President, Dave Swanson of Vermillion as Secretary, Rosemary Draeger of Sioux Falls as Treasurer, Douglas Chapman of Sioux Falls as Editor, and Jeffrey Palmer of Madison as Librarian. The long day ended with a program by Lynn Barber on her North American Big Year.

In all, forty-two members and guests registered to attend the various events. A big thanks to the Northern Hills Bird Club for organizing the meeting, handling logistics, and baking cookies and cakes to sustain attendees throughout the meeting. The next SDOU meeting will be 17-19 May 2013 at Mobridge. Details are found on the inside mailing cover of this issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*, advertised on the SDOU web page, the SDOU Facebook page and announced on the SD-birds listserve.



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