
SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

Lark Sparrow
Minnehaha County 7/03/2005

Photo: Terry Sohl



SOUTH  DAKOTA
BIRD  NOTES

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. Manuscripts for publication and change of address notices should be sent to the editor, Douglas Chapman, by e-mail: sfbirdclub@sio.midco.net or mailed to 3108 S. Holly Ave., Sioux Falls, SD, 57105. All dues, contributions, and orders for back copies should be sent to the SDOU Treasurer: Rosemary Draeger, 2520 E. Whisper Trail, Sioux Falls, SD, 57108. **SDOU website: www.sdou.org**.

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
Officers 2013 - 2014

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For Term expiring 2014: Jennifer Fowler, Rapid City; Kent Jensen, Brookings; Ron Mabie, Pickstown; Duane Weber, Custer; and Mick Zerr, Sioux Falls.
For Term expiring 2015: Bill Bossman, Pierre; Roger Dietrich, Yankton; Linda Johnson, Sioux Falls; Ricky Olson, Ft. Pierre; and Mark Otnes, Fargo, ND.
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Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr. Memorial Research Grants: Todd M. Jensen (chair), Linda Johnson, Duane Weber.
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Scholarships and Awards: Jocelyn L. Baker (chair), Nelda Holden, Galen Steffen.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

First and foremost I would like to give a big thank you to Nancy Drilling for her willingness to volunteer her time and energy to be SDOU's president these last three years. In my opinion she did a great job.



I am honored to be elected President of SDOU. I hope that I can do the job as well as all my predecessors.

I am a South Dakota native, and except for a couple of military tours, I have lived in South Dakota my entire life. I grew up on a farm/ranch south of Winner, SD. In 1985 I got married and moved to Mission, SD. While there we had two sons. In 1995 we moved to Fort Pierre, SD, where we have lived since.

I have always loved nature. As most farm boys, I grew up hunting, fishing and trapping. But I always had a great passion for birds. The trouble was I never met anybody else in South Dakota that had this passion. Then in 1989 I met Barry Jones, a great birdwatcher from Missouri. We were both working as seasonal biological technicians for the Fort Niobrara/Valentine NWR Complex in Nebraska. He opened my eyes and ears to all the sights and sounds of studying birds.

With new enthusiasm, I then searched for a "bird" organization in South Dakota. I found and joined SDOU for a couple of years but never attended a meeting. But I thoroughly enjoyed reading *SD Bird Notes* and finding out there were other people in South Dakota that were interested in birds.

I then moved to Fort Pierre and met Doug Backlund with whom I enjoyed many outdoor endeavors, one of which was bird watching. Doug and I came upon Kenny Miller on our local birding trips. Suddenly I had two people to share bird sightings with. The fun of finding someone to share my bird sightings with, sparked me to rejoin SDOU and start attending meetings.

The joy of watching birds at my feeders or in the wild is just part of my reason for having a passion for watching birds. I am also interested in the scientific study of birds. I deeply enjoy reading life histories of many bird species. My main thirst for knowledge is to know what bird species are residents or seasonal breeders. Of course, as many of you know, I also enjoy the hunt for rare vagrants.

I hope to see you all in May at the spring SDOU meeting in Milbank, SD.

Ricky Olson

FALL 2013 SDOU MEETING

by Nancy Drilling

The biannual South Dakota Ornithologists' Union Fall Meeting was held 8 – 10 November 2013 at the Governor's Inn in Pierre, SD. Forty-two people attended the conference which included guest speakers, morning field trips, presentations on current bird research in the state, and the SDOU General Membership and Board of Directors meetings. Events started Friday evening with a social hour and tutorial by Dave Swanson on identifying birds by their songs. Saturday evening, photographer Doug Backlund showed photos of the bird highlights of his recent trip to Texas. Saturday and Sunday morning field trips to local birding areas yielded some late-fall and winter species such as Bohemian Waxwing, Purple Finch, Winter Wren, and a Pacific Loon.

As is the tradition at the Fall SDOU meeting, most of Saturday was devoted to presentations on current and recent research and conservation projects in South Dakota. Prof. Kent Jensen of South Dakota State University started the session by summarizing the results of Greater Sage-Grouse research by SDSU graduate students. Next were two students who are researching the effects of different management practices on birds. Jessica Panning talked about the effects of timber thinning on Black Hills breeding birds while Christi Loehler presented her findings on the effects of winter grazing on grassland birds. Raeann Mettler was the lone representative from Black Hills State University; she summarized her research on the grosbeak hybrid zone in southern South Dakota. Two presenters from the University of South Dakota, graduate student Yufeng Zhang, and Prof. Dave Swanson, focused on their metabolism studies in small birds. Ming Liu, a Ph.D. candidate at USD and frequent presenter at SDOU fall meetings, updated listeners on his study of migrant bird stopover habitat quality. In another update from a past presenter, Ester Munes talked about the effects of the 2011 flood on bird populations. Two new studies have started at USD. Ryan Munes explained early results of his analysis of the Dakotas Christmas Bird Count bird data trends and climate change while Gretchen Newberry explained the importance of her new study on Common Nighthawks in southeastern South Dakota. The lone non-university speaker was Cheryl Mandich from the American Bird Conservancy. She spoke on Long-billed Curlew habitat conservation in the northern Great Plains.

At the SDOU General Membership meeting, members voted for five Board Members who began a new three-year term at the Fall meeting. They are Kelly Preheim of Armour, Scott Stoltz of Pierre, Douglas Chapman of Sioux Falls, Marie Curtin of Custer, and Gene Hess of Rapid City. At the Board Meeting, board members elected officers for 2014. Ricky Olson of Pierre is President, Roger Dietrich of Yankton is Vice-president, Rosemary Draeger of Sioux Falls is Treasurer, David Swanson of Vermillion is Secretary, Jeff Palmer of Madison is Librarian, and Douglas Chapman is the *South Dakota Bird Notes* editor.

The spring meeting will be held in Milbank at the Lantern Motel May 23-25, 2014, while the fall 2014 meeting will be held in Vermillion. More details will be distributed in the upcoming months.

AN SDOU MEMBERSHIP THANK YOU

Members—you are the heartbeat of SDOU. Thank you for your ongoing participation, your interest in nesting and migrating birds throughout South Dakota, your role in building the SDOU database, and for making birding such a lively lifetime passion! Your membership supports scholarships and awards for ornithological research as well as publication of our quarterly *South Dakota Bird Notes*.

Special thanks to our Sustaining Members. Your contribution above basic dues boosts SDOU's ability to support our various research, award, and scholarship efforts and expands understanding of the birds of South Dakota and the influences on their ability to thrive in our state.

And to our Life Members, thank you for your commitment. Life members provide substantial support by paying dues once for a lifetime.

Historically, when SDOU was formed in 1949, regular memberships were \$3.00. When the Life membership category was created in 1977 it was \$125. Dues have been slowly increased over the years as costs of printing and mailing *SD Bird Notes* has increased. For example, in the 1990s, regular dues were raised to \$16 and life memberships were raised to \$200. A significant portion of the dues currently pays for the cost of printing and mailing four issues of *SD Bird Notes* a year. In 2013, the cost was \$14 a year per membership or \$3251 for the year.

Currently, the primary categories for membership include regular, \$20; family, \$25, and student, \$10. Members who contribute \$40 are sustaining. Life members pay \$400 for an individual and \$500 for a family. Other categories include libraries and organizations which pay \$30, and a special \$350 membership for SD Game, Fish and Parks (which then receives 25 copies of *SD Bird Notes*). Our South Dakota senators and representative receive a copy of *SD Bird Notes* gratis, and two copies go to the Center for Western Studies for the SDOU archives.

As of 6 November 2013, we had 187 memberships on the rolls. The current breakdown of memberships by category for the year is the following:

- 1 special membership GF&P (equal to 25 memberships)
- 90 regular
- 15 sustaining
- 35 life members (includes 2 charter members)
- 29 family
- 1 student
- 16 libraries & organizations

Membership runs for the calendar year, and dues are due on January 1 each year. We appreciate you!

Your Membership Committee
Linda Johnson, Chair
Bob Bork and Mark Schmidtbauer, Members

UNUSUAL CONCENTRATION OF MIGRATING MCCOWN'S LONGSPURS IN NORTHWESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

by Nancy Drilling

Early on the morning of April 28, 2013 I was travelling gravel roads in southern Harding County when I came across a male McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*) (MCLO) feeding on Dillon Road. This observation, made before 6:30 AM, was the start of an amazing day of migration, observed not only by myself but by Charlie Miller of Buffalo and Doug Backlund of Pierre.

That single bird was six miles east of the Harding Road junction. Continuing on, I found a flock of up to 30 birds about 1.5 miles east of Harding Road and a smaller group of six birds about 0.5 miles east of the junction. At this point, I called Charlie and Doug; when they got to the area around 8:00 AM, the birds were still around. We then went separate ways, driving different roads to look for more longspurs. This is what we found, including the original flocks.

- 1) Dillon Road, Harding Co., 6-8 miles east of Harding Rd. Up to six birds
- 2) Dillon Road, Harding Co., 1.5 miles east of Harding Rd. Up to 30 birds.
- 3) Dillon Road, Harding Co., 0.5 miles east of Harding Rd. Up to 8 birds.
- 4) Clayton Road, Harding Co., 4 miles north of Hwy 20. Flock of ~25.
- 5) Clayton Road, Harding Co., 5.5 miles north of Hwy 20. 1 MCLO with ~12 Chestnut-collared Longspurs.
- 6) Dunn Road, Harding Co., 2 miles east of Harding Rd. 1 bird in a prairie dog town.
- 7) JB Road, Harding Co., ~5.25 miles east of Hwy 85, ~25 birds. Interestingly there were no MCLO at 5:30 AM when I drove by, but this flock had appeared by mid-morning and stayed until at least mid-afternoon.
- 8) Harding Cutoff Road, Butte Co., 2.7 miles north of old Hwy 85 junction. 7 MCLO in mixed flock with Vesper Sparrows and Horned Larks.
- 9) Harding Cutoff Road, Butte Co., 1 mile north of old Hwy 85 junction. 10 MCLO and 2 Horned Larks.

In most cases, except where noted, the flocks were almost entirely made up of MCLO, both male and female, with an occasional Horned Lark or Chestnut-collared Longspur mixed in. This despite the fact that there were large flocks of Horned Larks, Sparrows, American Pipits and Chestnut-collareds everywhere. The longspurs typically were foraging on the road or in the short grass at the side of the road. The birds, when flushed, would go into adjacent pastures, hayfields, and weedy fields and eventually would come back to the road. Notably, we did not find any MCLO in areas dominated by sagebrush. The last observations of MCLO were made around 4:00 PM. The next day, Doug Backlund drove some of these same roads but he did not find a single McCown's Longspur and none were seen the rest of the migration period.

McCown's Longspur is a 'casual migrant' in the state, mostly reported in the western-most counties of Fall River, Butte, and Harding (Tallman et al. 2002). Most observations of the species are of one or two birds at a time (SDOU). An exception is an unusual concentration of 200 birds seen October 1991 in Fall River Co. (Peterson in Springer, 1993). Rosche (1982) reported that MCLO sometimes are grounded by April snowstorms and then are found in large numbers along gravel roads. These two observations confirm that this species can be found in large concentrations during migration and suggest that this occurs because

Continued page 96

NOTABLE SIGHTINGS

RICKY D. OLSON

October – December 2013

In October through December in contrast to last fall, many scoters and Long-tailed Ducks were reported. There were several reports from West River, thought to be a result of more observers looking for waterfowl.

Also in October, a hunter reported a Black-bellied Whistling Duck from Brown County.

An adult Great Black-backed Gull appeared in Pierre for a time. After not being seen in Pierre, presumably the same gull was reported from Big Bend Dam, then Gavin's Point Dam..

In December a Common Raven was observed in the canyon at Hanna, SD, and another was sighted along I-90 near mile marker 272. There seems to be a trend of more raven sightings.

Michael Melius reported a possible Pacific Wren along Rapid Creek in Rapid City SD. An Iceland Gull was sighted at Pierre.

Amazingly, this year South Dakota recorded its second, third and fourth state records of an Anna's Hummingbird, pending approval by the Rare Bird Record Committee.

- The first week of August Randy Podoll discovered an Anna's Hummingbird in his yard in Sturgis. It was last seen on 10/14/13.
- Richard Latuchie found an Anna's Hummingbird in his Rapid City backyard on 8/30/2013 and it stayed until 9/30/13.
- Then Ron Mabie sighted an Anna's Hummingbird at his feeder in Pickstown SD on 10/16/2013 which stayed until 11/03/13.

So far this winter, there have not many reports of northern birds coming down. There have been only a couple reports of Snowy Owls and Gyrfalcons and a few reports of Bohemian Waxwings and Purple Finches.

BURROWING OWL SURVEYS IN SOUTHWEST SOUTH DAKOTA: AN UPDATE

by Michael Melius

In Vol. 59 No. 2 (June 2007) of *South Dakota Bird Notes*, I reported results of Burrowing Owl counts I'd made in my local area of northeast Custer County. The counts were made in 1998 and from 2003 to 2007. (For a discussion of how the counts were conducted, see the original article.) Here are the counts made in the years since:

2008: Aug. 1: 18 in 4 broods
2009: July 17: 19 in 4 broods
2010: Aug. 20: 30
2011: Aug. 6: 26 in 5(?) broods
2012: June 26: 66 in 11 broods
2013: Aug. 30: 31

Some information also needs updating. The area of Prairie Dog town available for the owls is much reduced from what I mapped in 2007. Essentially, all the area south of Spring Creek Road had been eliminated by landowners' poisoning efforts by the end of 2008. This leaves approximately 28 hectares (70 acres) of Prairie Dogs.

In 2007 I started trying to count the number of broods. (That year there were 45 young and adult birds in 9 broods.) Prior to 2008, all the counts were conducted in July. Since then, only one has been in July. It becomes more difficult to accurately assess the number of broods as the young fledge and disperse. Thus, two of the August counts listed here have no brood counts, and one is uncertain.

The 2012 breeding season was phenomenal. The first-of-year date was early, 28 March, when I heard two Burrowing Owls calling at sunset. I saw the first young out of a burrow also at an early date, 9 June, and before June was over I was counting the highest number of owls since I started surveying in 1998. The owls' early nesting is probably attributable to the warm, dry weather that spring, and their success I would credit in part to the abundance of grasshoppers that year, food to be had just by stepping outside their burrows.

By contrast, the 2013 breeding season seemed difficult for the owls. Grasshoppers were rare, having died off in August, 2012, and voles and mice were down in numbers also. I counted 23 adult Burrowing Owls in the area on 10 May. I struggled to get a good count as the young birds emerged from burrows, finally reaching the high of 31 on 30 August. Judging from owl pellets I found during the summer,

crickets appeared to be a major part of the owls' diet.

The prairie dogs in this immediate area are thriving, and show no sign of being infected by sylvatic plague. Control efforts by landowners continue, but not to the point of eliminating this rodent that is vital to Burrowing Owls' nesting.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS MOVE WITH COLD FRONT

On 18 September 2013 I was camping with a friend at the Cheyenne River in northeast Custer County. The area is federal land in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands.

The day had been warm, with a high temp over 32 deg. C (90 F). About an hour before sunset, a cold front approached, bringing a sudden strong north wind. Immediately, Sharp-shinned Hawks appeared, flying from the north. In the course of 20 minutes, we saw 15 Sharp-shinned Hawks. They were usually single birds, although we did see two or three at once sometimes.

The Cheyenne River flows north-northeast here, and there is a forest dominated by cottonwood trees along it. Most of the hawks were flying just above the treetops. On the shore where we were standing the river flows west to east for about 800 meters, so we were in a perfect place to see the hawks as they emerged into open view and crossed the river.

Several buteos and an adult Bald Eagle were also seen flying with the wind. This is one of the earliest fall dates I've seen a Bald Eagle in northeast Custer County.

The cold front had been predicted by the National Weather Service; I'd read the online text version earlier in the day. The accuracy of modern forecasts presents an opportunity for birders to be out in forested habitats on fall days, anticipating hawk movements ahead of cold fronts.



Burrowing Owl and Sharp-shinned Hawk
Photos: Terry Sohl

SOUTH DAKOTA'S FIRST WILSON'S PLOVER RECORD

by Ricky D. Olson

On 20 August 2010 I was looking for shorebirds in a flooded stubble field bordering 304th Ave. approximately one-half mile north of Hwy 14 in Hughes County.. I observed a plover that I at first thought was a Killdeer. My next thought was that maybe it was a Semi-palmated Plover. The more I studied it, the more I noticed things that did not add up: it was too small for a Killdeer, the bird's bill was too thick and long for a Semi-palmated Plover and the body size was too large. The facial pattern did not fit Killdeer or Semi-palmated Plover.

I looked in my field guides and thought, maybe Wilson's Plover. I hurriedly digiscoped many pictures from different angles to document the bird. As this bird was in transition plumage I was not confident in my identification. I sent photos to several people to get their opinion of the identification. Only Jeff Palmer responded and said it looked different enough I should submit a rare bird report and the committee could discuss it. I was still not sure, so not wanting to damage my identification credibility, I shelved it.

This summer I was looking at the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union's website. In the photo section titled "Recently Seen", I discovered that in May, Minnesota had a Wilson's Plover record. Thinking about my old photos, I sent them to four people other than those I had first contacted. All four thought it was a Wilson's Plover. One of these observers was Dan Svingen who asked me if I wanted to ask his brother Peder Svingen in Minnesota to look at them. I said sure that would be great! Peder Svingen replied that the ID marks supported an identification of Wilson's Plover.

Thus, I submitted a rare bird report. In November, 2013, it passed the committee. Technically, until the report has been published in *SD Bird Notes*, the record is not officially accepted as of this date. Our rules state that a Rare Bird becomes accepted only at the time of publication of the report.



Photo Information:
Photo taken by
Shanthanu Bhard-
waj - December
23rd, 2009 - Marco
Island, Florida

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SDOU 2014 SPRING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 23 - 26 May, 2014

by Todd Jensen

The Spring 2014 meeting of SDOU will be held 23-26 May 2014 in Milbank, SD. Yes, we do know this is Memorial Day Weekend but the group wanted a spring meeting in northeast South Dakota and conflicts with Mother's Day, high school graduation, etc. means this is the only possible weekend. The good news is that it will allow for an optional fourth day for those interested in birding the area rather than our usual three day meetings.

This area is busy in the spring so we have reserved a block of twenty (20) rooms at the Lantern Motel. This block of rooms will be held only until February 1, 2014 so get your reservations in early. The group rate will be \$54 for a single and \$64 for a double room and includes a continental breakfast. Be sure to mention SDOU when making your reservation. (Telephone 605-432-4591) The Friday night registration and program and the Saturday banquet and speaker's presentation will be at the Lantern Inn next door to the Lantern Motel. If you look at the motel web site you will see an older looking motel but the rooms have been recently remodeled and look very good.

Accommodations are also available at the Super 8 Motel at a slightly higher rate. (Telephone 605-432-9288). The Super 8 also has a continental motel. Another choice is the city campground, plus campgrounds located on Big Stone Lake.

Field trips are planned to Hartford Beach State Park, Big Stone NWR, Salt Lake, Sica Hollow, Flynn Prairie Nature Trail, and the many lakes and wetlands around Waubay NWR.

The focus will be on migrating warblers plus the many water and grasslands birds in the area. Banquet speaker Al Batt, columnist for *Bird Watcher's Digest* and American Bald Eagle Foundation trustee in Haines, AK, will discuss birds in a humorous, entertaining way.

Registration for the weekend is \$25, the banquet cost is a reasonable \$15. A Saturday sack lunch from a very special place called The Birdfeeder will be \$12 and promises to be extraordinary, with homemade bread for a sandwich, pie, and a cookie for afternoon snacking.

This will be a super opportunity to bird the northeast corner of SD, meet old and new friends, bring a new birder or two along and enjoy the birds of this area.

SEE YOU IN Milbank!

SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION 65TH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

23 - 26 May 2014 • Milbank, SD

Anyone interested in birds is invited to the annual Spring Meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (SDOU). Ornithologists and birders from across the state and neighboring states will gather for field trips to observe migrating and breeding birds in the northeast corner of the state. This promises to be a good time to observe migrating warblers and a variety of birds that breed in the grasslands and wetlands in the area. Field trips are planned to Hartford Beach State Park, Big Stone NWR, Salt Lake, Sica Hollow, Flynn Prairie Nature Trail, and the many lakes and wetlands around Waubay NWR.

For those attending the spring SDOU meeting in Milbank there is a block of twenty (20) rooms reserved at the Lantern Motel, 1010 S. Dakota St. South for the nights of May 23, 24, and 25. The room rate is \$54 plus tax for a single and \$64 plus tax for a double room. The block of rooms will be held until **February 1, 2014**. The phone number for making reservations is (605) 432-4591. Make sure to mention that you are with SDOU when making a reservation. **Note the early release date and reserve early!**

Other local accommodations:

Milbank, SD: Super 8 Motel (605) 432-9288

Ortonville, MN: EconoLodge (320) 839-2414

Camping is available at the Milbank City Park and at Hartford Beach State Park on Big Stone Lake.

For more information contact Todd Jensen at (605) 431-2442; gyrfalcon@midco.net or Roger Dietrich at (605) 660-6247; rogerd@iw.net

Schedule

Friday, 23 May

(All times are Central Daylight Time)

7:00—9:00 PM: Registration – Lantern Inn Banquet Room

7:00—8:00 PM: Social Hour

8:00—9:00 PM: Program by Dennis Skadsen: *The Tall Grass Prairie of northeast South Dakota with information on species of concern such as the Dakota Skipper butterfly*

Saturday, 24 May

7:00 AM – 3:30 PM: Field Trips (meet in the Lantern Motel parking lot)
(Pick up sack lunches for all who ordered them.)

4:30 – 5:30 PM: Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 – 7:30 PM: Banquet – Lantern Inn Banquet Room

7:30 – 8:30 PM: Program by Al Batt: Nationally known for thoughtful, clean and humorous talks that will allow those in the audience to laugh and learn. He is a columnist for Bird Watcher's Digest and is a trustee of the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, Alaska. He speaks at various festivals, conferences and conventions all over the United States and Canada. Al Batt makes his home in rural Hartland, Minnesota.

Sunday, 25 May

7:00 AM – 12:00 M: Early Bird Field Trips (meet in the Lantern Motel parking lot)

12:00 – 1:30 PM: Lunch on your own

1:30 – 5:30 PM: Optional Field Trips (Meet in the Lantern Motel parking lot)

Monday, 26 May

7:00AM - 12:00 PM Optional Field Trips (Meet in the Lantern Motel parking lot)
12:00 PM Optional Final Check-off (Lantern Motel parking lot)

**Advance Registration Form for
2014 SDOU Spring Meeting
23 - 26 May 2014 • Milbank, SD**

Advance registration must be received by May 9, 2014

We have to give a final count for the Banquet and for Sack lunches by this date so if you want food please get your payment in by this date.

Please mail this form with check payable to SDOU, to:

Rosemary Draeger, Treasurer
2520 E Whisper Trail
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

For more information: Todd Jensen at (605) 431-2442; gyrfalcon@midco.net
or Roger Dietrich at (605) 660-6247; rogerd@iw.net

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone and/or e-mail _____

Registration Fee\$25.00 x __ people = \$ _____

Free to children under 12.

Saturday Sack Lunch\$12.00 x __ people = \$ _____

(Check here if vegetarian lunch option is desired____)

Saturday Evening Banquet.....\$15.00 x __ people = \$ _____

Registration \$ _____
Sack Lunch \$ _____
Banquet \$ _____

TOTAL (make check payable to **SDOU**) \$ _____

Join Us in Milbank in 2014

SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2013 Summer Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 June 2013 to 31 July 2013

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 124 species reported as Confirmed Breeding this year. 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 267 species, including 3 rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (2002-2011) average is 259. 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.

Greater White-fronted Goose Only Report: 01 Jul Charles Mix KP

Trumpeter Swan Confirmed Breeding: **08 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 15 Jun Harding (ON) CEM**

Wood Duck Confirmed Breeding: Brown, **Douglas**, Hughes, Minnehaha, Moody, and Pennington counties

Gadwall Confirmed Breeding: **20 Jul Brule (PY) KP; 20 Jul Charles Mix (PY) KP; 27 Jul Potter (PY) ND; 29 Jul Hand (PY) ND**

Mallard Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Charles Mix, Douglas, Faulk, Hand, Harding, Hyde, Lake, Meade, Miner, Moody, and Pennington counties

Blue-winged Teal Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Charles Mix (PY) KP; 13 Jul Corson (PY) ND; **20 Jul Brule (PY) KP; 27 Jul Faulk (PY) ND; 27 Jul Potter (PY) ND**

Northern Shoveler Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Potter (PY) ND; 28 Jul Charles Mix (PY) KP; 29 Jul Hyde (PY) ND

Northern Pintail Confirmed Breeding: **20 Jul Brule (PY) KP; 20 Jul Charles Mix (PY) KP**

Canvasback Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Roberts (PY) ND

Redhead Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Perkins (PY) ND; 27 Jul Faulk (PY) ND

Hooded Merganser Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Charles Mix (PY) KP; 28 Jul Day (PY) ND

Common Merganser Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Pennington (PY) GO; 22 Jul Pennington (PY) CLG

Red-breasted Merganser All Reports: 01 Jun Stanley DB; **05 Jun Stanley DB**

Ring-necked Pheasant Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, **Clay**, Hand, **Hyde**, Kingsbury, and Marshall counties

Ruffed Grouse All Reports: 01 Jun Lawrence SW; 04 Jun Lawrence DS, JSP

Sharp-tailed Grouse Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Harding (PY) CEM; 13 Jul Perkins (PY) ND; **30 Jul Deuel (PY) BJU**

Greater Prairie-Chicken All Reports: 13 Jun Lyman ND; 13 Jun Stanley ND; 15 Jun Tripp RDO; 17 Jun Stanley RDO; 30 Jul Deuel BJU; 30 Jul Stanley ND

Wild Turkey Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Harding (PY) CEM; 23 Jun Harding (PY) CEM; 06 Jul Pennington (PY) JLB; 20 Jul Charles Mix (PY) KP; 30 Jul Grant (PY) BJU; 30 Jul Stanley (PY) ND

Northern Bobwhite All Reports: 15 Jun Tripp RDO; 28 Jun Gregory SS; 08 Jul Gregory RM; 18 Jul Charles Mix KP; 22 Jul Gregory RM

Common Loon reported 01 Jun Pennington LB; 18 Jul Grant BJU; 28 Jul Marshall ND

Pied-billed Grebe Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jul Kingsbury (PY) JSP; 27 Jul Edmunds (ON) ND; 29 Jul Clark (NE) ND

Red-necked Grebe All Reports: 02 Jun Grant BJU; 16 Jun Deuel BJU; 28 Jul Day ND

Eared Grebe Confirmed Breeding: **14 Jun Sanborn (NB) ND; 20 Jul Aurora (ON) KP; 27 Jul Potter (PY) ND; 28 Jul Brown (ON) ND**

Western Grebe Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jul Kingsbury (PY) JSP; 27 Jul Potter (PY) ND; 29 Jul Kingsbury (PY) BJU

Clark's Grebe Only Report: 13 Jun Sully ND

Double-crested Cormorant Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Brule (NY) ND; 14 Jun McCook (ON) ND; **29 Jun Miner (ON) JSP; 28 Jul Brown (NY) ND**

Least Bittern All Reports: 21 Jun Hughes DB; 22 Jun Hughes DB; 23 Jun Charles Mix KP; 30 Jun Douglas KP; 01 Jul Charles Mix KP; 29 Jul Kingsbury BJU

Great Blue Heron Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Dewey (ON) ND; 14 Jun McCook (NY) ND; 24 Jun Perkins (ON) ND; 08 Jul Charles Mix (ON) KP; 14 Jul Pennington (NY) ND; 28 Jul Brown (NY) ND

Great Egret Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun McCook (ON) ND; **29 Jun Miner (ON) JSP; 27 Jul Walworth (ON) ND; 28 Jul Brown (NY) ND**

Snowy Egret Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Brown (NY) ND

Cattle Egret Confirmed Breeding: **27 Jul Walworth (ON) ND; 28 Jul Brown (NY) ND**

Black-crowned Night-Heron Confirmed Breeding: **12 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 27 Jul Walworth (ON) ND; 28 Jul Brown (NY) ND**

White-faced Ibis Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Walworth (ON) ND

Osprey Confirmed Breeding: Custer, Lawrence, and Pennington counties

Bald Eagle Confirmed Breeding: **Aurora**, Charles Mix, Dewey, Hanson, and Pennington counties

Sharp-shinned Hawk Only Report: 05 Jul Harding CEM

Cooper's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Marshall (CF) ND; **30 Jul Sully (FL) ND**

Broad-winged Hawk All Reports: 05 Jun Hughes DB; 07 Jun Hughes DB; 16 Jun Lawrence RSL; 30 Jun Lincoln RDO; 06 Jul Meade ND

Swainson's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 11 Jun Edmunds (CN) GO; 16 Jun Harding (ON) CEM

Red-tailed Hawk Confirmed Breeding: **Brule**, Charles Mix, **Douglas**, and Harding counties

Ferruginous Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 16 Jun Harding (ON) CEM

Golden Eagle Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Harding (NY) ND

American Coot Confirmed Breeding: **15 Jun Moody (ON) JSP; 12 Jul Kingsbury (PY) JSP; 27 Jul Potter (PY) ND; 28 Jul Brown (ON) ND; 29 Jul Hyde (PY) ND; 29 Jul Spink (ON) ND**

Sandhill Crane Only Report: 22 Jun Charles Mix RM

Black-bellied Plover Only Report: 02 Jun Deuel BJU

Semipalmated Plover Early: 12 Jul Deuel BJU; 15 Jul Charles Mix RM; 20 Jul McCook JSP

Killdeer Confirmed Breeding: Brown, **Douglas**, Harding, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Miner, Moody, Pennington, Potter, and Sully counties

Black-necked Stilt All Reports: 15 Jun Beadle RND; 03 Jul Brown MO; 28 Jul Brown ND

Spotted Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding: 31 Jul Pennington (PY) OCW

Solitary Sandpiper Late: 02 Jun Pennington RSL ... Early: **28 Jun Custer KP; 07 Jul Meade RSL; 08 Jul Douglas KP; 14 Jul Hughes RDO**

Greater Yellowlegs Early: 07 Jul Meade RSL; 08 Jul Douglas KP; 11 Jul Hughes RDO; 11 Jul Pennington LB

Lesser Yellowlegs Late: 02 Jun Deuel BJU ... Early: 29 Jun Hughes RDO; 03 Jul Deuel BJU; 07 Jul Meade RSL

Upland Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jul Meade (PY) ND; 30 Jul Stanley (PY) ND

Sanderling All Reports: 01 Jun Pennington LB; 02 Jun Pennington RSL; 29 Jul Kingsbury BJU

Semipalmated Sandpiper Late: 05 Jun Pennington LB; 02 Jun Deuel BJU ... Early: 11 Jul Pennington LB; 12 Jul Deuel BJU; 14 Jul Hughes and Sully RDO

Least Sandpiper Early: 03 Jul Deuel BJU; 04 Jul Brown GO; 07 Jul Meade RSL; 14 Jul Hughes and Sully RDO

White-rumped Sandpiper All Reports: 01 Jun Pennington LB; 02 Jun Deuel and Grant BJU; 05 Jun Pennington LB; 15 Jul Charles Mix RM

Baird's Sandpiper Late: 02 Jun Pennington RSL ... Early: 07 Jul Meade RSL; 08 Jul Douglas KP; 11 Jul Pennington LB; 14 Jul Hughes RDO

Pectoral Sandpiper Late: 02 Jun Deuel BJU ... Early: 07 Jul Meade RSL; 08 Jul Douglas KP; 12 Jul Codington BJU; 12 Jul Deuel BJU; 12 Jul Kingsbury JSP; 14 Jul Hughes RDO

Dunlin Only Report: **08 Jun Charles Mix RM**

Stilt Sandpiper Late: 02 Jun Deuel BJU; 01 Jun Pennington LB ... Early: 03 Jul Deuel BJU; 11 Jul Hughes RDO; 12 Jul Codington BJU; 12 Jul Kingsbury JSP; 14 Jul Pennington JLB

Buff-breasted Sandpiper Only Report: 30 Jul Grant BJU

Short-billed Dowitcher All Reports: 11 Jul Hughes RDO; 12 Jul Deuel BJU; 19 Jul Deuel BJU; 29 Jul Kingsbury and Lake BJU; 30 Jul Grant BJU

Long-billed Dowitcher Early: 14 Jul Meade ND; 20 Jul Brule KP, SS; 21 Jul Sanborn SS

Red-necked Phalarope All Reports: 01 Jun Custer DS, JSP; 01 Jun Pennington LB; 02 Jun Deuel and Grant BJU; **12 Jul Deuel BJU; 19 Jul Deuel BJU**

Franklin's Gull Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Walworth (CF) ND

Ring-billed Gull Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Clark (FY) ND

Herring Gull Only Report: 21 Jul Hughes SS

Least Tern Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KP

Caspian Tern Only Report: 18 Jul Brown GO

Black Tern Confirmed Breeding: **20 Jul Brule (CF) KP**

Common Tern Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Clark (FY) ND ... also reported 01 Jun Stanley DB

Forster's Tern Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Walworth (CF) ND

Eurasian Collared-Dove Confirmed Breeding: **16 Jun Charles Mix (ON) RM**

Mourning Dove Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Faulk (NE) MMM; 02 Jun Faulk (FL) MMM; **02 Jun Ziebach (ON) ND; 24 Jul Pennington (CN) ND**

Barn Owl Only Report: 22 Jun Bon Homme CA

Eastern Screech-Owl All Reports: 18 Jun Minnehaha KP; 19 Jul Codington BJU; 23 Jul Lake JSP; 27 Jul Lake JSP

Burrowing Owl reported **12 Jul Deuel BJU; 26 Jul Deuel BJU; 30 Jul Grant BJU**

Barred Owl Only Report: 29 Jul Lincoln BJU

Short-eared Owl Only Report: 30 Jul Grant BJU

Northern Saw-whet Owl Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 20 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 12 Jul Harding (NY) CEM, ND

Common Poorwill Confirmed Breeding: **15 Jul Lawrence (FL) SW**

White-throated Swift Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Pennington (ON) ND

Rufous Hummingbird Early: 17 Jul Pennington JLB; 21 Jul Custer RDO; 30 Jul Meade RDO

Belted Kingfisher Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Pennington (FL) CLG

Lewis's Woodpecker All Reports: 01 Jun Custer DS, JSP; 21 Jun Custer GO; 25 Jul Custer DB; 29 Jul Custer RDO; 31 Jul Custer DB

Red-headed Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Lincoln (CF) AH; 25 Jul Gregory (CF) KP

Red-naped Sapsucker Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Pennington (ON) ND

Downy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: **20 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 29 Jun Lincoln (CF) AH**

Hairy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Pennington (CF) ND; 27 Jun Pennington (ON) KP; **29 Jun Lincoln (CF) AH**

Northern Flicker Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; **13 Jul Douglas (FL) KP; 25 Jul Gregory (FL) KP; 26 Jul Gregory (FY) KP**

Pileated Woodpecker All Reports: 02 Jun Grant BJU; 03 Jul Marshall and Roberts MO; 18 Jul Grant BJU

American Kestrel Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Brown (CF) ND

Peregrine Falcon Only Report: **15 Jun Charles Mix RM**

Prairie Falcon All Reports: 03 Jun Custer DS, JSP; **25 Jun Lyman CA**; 29 Jul Custer RDO

Olive-sided Flycatcher All Reports: 01 Jun Brown BP; 02 Jun Dewey ND; 03 Jun Stanley DB

Western Wood-Pewee Confirmed Breeding: **30 Jun Pennington (ON) ND**

Eastern Wood-Pewee Confirmed Breeding: **16 Jun Bon Homme (ON) ND**; 22 Jun Gregory (ON) RM; 26 Jul Gregory (FY) KP

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher All Reports: 01 Jun Brown BP; 01 Jun Hughes DB; 02 Jun Hughes DB, EDS; **06 Jun Clay DS**

Alder Flycatcher All Reports: 02 Jun Minnehaha CA; 19 Jun Pennington ND; 30 Jun Pennington JLB

Willow Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Edmunds (FY) ND

Least Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Roberts (FY) ND

Cordilleran Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Custer (ON) KP

Eastern Phoebe Confirmed Breeding: **16 Jun Bon Homme (ON) ND**

Say's Phoebe Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Harding (CF) ND

Great Crested Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Gregory (CN) RM

Western Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Charles Mix, Gregory, Kingsbury, Meade, and Perkins counties

Eastern Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: Beadle, Brule, Charles Mix, Dewey, Douglas, Faulk, Harding, Hughes, Hutchinson, Miner, **Perkins**, and Stanley counties

Loggerhead Shrike Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Fall River (NE) DS, JSP; 10 Jun Custer (NY) MMM

Plumbeous Vireo Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Custer (CN) ND

Blue-headed Vireo Only Report: **02 Jun Brown BP, GO**

Warbling Vireo Confirmed Breeding: **11 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KP**; **20 Jul Charles Mix (FY) KP**

Philadelphia Vireo Only Report: **01 Jun Hughes DB**

Red-eyed Vireo Confirmed Breeding: **16 Jun Bon Homme (ON) ND**; **26 Jul Gregory (FL) KP**

Gray Jay Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Custer (FL) KP; 10 Jun Custer (FL) KP

Blue Jay Confirmed Breeding: **14 Jun Beadle (CF) ND**; 29 Jun Lincoln (CF) AH

Clark's Nutcracker All Reports: 27 Jun Pennington CA; 18 Jul Pennington LB; 29 Jul Custer RDO

Black-billed Magpie reported 13 Jun Stanley ND

Horned Lark Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Perkins (FY) ND

Purple Martin Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Beadle (ON) ND; **15 Jun McCook (ON) ND**

Tree Swallow Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jun Douglas (CN) KP**; **13 Jun Douglas (ON) KP**; **30 Jun Douglas (FL) KP**; 18 Jul Charles Mix (FY) KP; **20 Jul McCook (ON) JSP**

Violet-green Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Pennington (CN) ND; 03 Jul Meade (ON) ND; 17 Jul Pennington (FY) ND

Northern Rough-winged Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Pennington (FL) CLG

Bank Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Corson (ON) ND

Cliff Swallow Confirmed Breeding: Bon Homme, Brown, Charles Mix, Harding, **Jones**, Miner, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, and Ziebach counties

Barn Swallow Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Charles Mix, Douglas, Hand, Hutchinson, **Lincoln**, Minnehaha, and Pennington counties

Black-capped Chickadee Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Minnehaha (CF) KP; 29 Jun Lincoln (CF) AH; 30 Jun Pennington (FY) ND

Red-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Pennington (FY) JLB

White-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jul Gregory (FL) KP

Pygmy Nuthatch Only Reports: 26 Jun Pennington ND; 28 Jun Lawrence LB

Brown Creeper All Reports: 24 Jun Lawrence KP; 28 Jun Lawrence LB; 13 Jul Lawrence LB; 27 Jul Custer RSL; 27 Jul Pennington SS

House Wren Confirmed Breeding: Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Douglas, Lincoln, and Pennington counties

Carolina Wren Only Report: **16 Jun Bon Homme ND**

American Dipper Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Lawrence (ON) ND

Ruby-crowned Kinglet Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Lawrence (FY) CA

Eastern Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Charles Mix (ON) RM

Mountain Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Lawrence (CF) ND; 27 Jun Pennington (FL) KP

Gray-cheeked Thrush Only Report: **01 Jun Hughes DB**

Swainson's Thrush Late: 07 Jun Hughes DB; 05 Jun Stanley DB; 03 Jun Brown GO; 02 Jun Ziebach ND

Wood Thrush All Reports: 02 Jun Minnehaha MS; 16 Jun Yankton ND; 30 Jun Lincoln RDO; 27 Jul Lincoln JSP; 28 Jul Lincoln CA; 29 Jul Lincoln BJU

American Robin Confirmed Breeding: Beadle, Brown, Charles Mix, **Douglas**, Lincoln, McCook, Pennington, Stanley, and **Ziebach** counties

Gray Catbird Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Pennington (CF) ND; 08 Jul Gregory (CF) KP; 28 Jul Marshall (CF) ND

Northern Mockingbird All Reports: 02 Jun Fall River DS, JSP; 19 Jul Lyman SS

Sage Thrasher Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Fall River (NE) RAP, JLP ... also reported 06 Jun Pennington JLB

Brown Thrasher Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Custer, Gregory, Hand, and **Lincoln** counties

European Starling Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, **Douglas**, Harding, **Lincoln**, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, and Perkins counties

Cedar Waxwing Confirmed Breeding: **16 Jun Bon Homme (CN) ND**; 23 Jul Lincoln (CF) AH

Ovenbird Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Harding (NE) CEM

Golden-winged Warbler All Reports: **02 Jun Brown GO; 03 Jun Brown GO; 30 Jun Meade CA**

Blue-winged Warbler Only Report: **28 Jul Lincoln CA**

Black-and-white Warbler All Reports: 05 Jun Meade ND; 16 Jul Pennington LB; 26 Jul Gregory KP

Tennessee Warbler Late: 03 Jun Brown GO; 02 Jun Pennington LB; 02 Jun Hughes DB; 02 Jun Clay GJS

Orange-crowned Warbler Only Report: **08 Jun Yankton RND**

Nashville Warbler All Reports: **01 Jun Pennington RSL; 02 Jun Brown GO**

Virginia's Warbler Only Report: 28 Jun Custer CA

Connecticut Warbler All Reports: 02 Jun Hughes DB; **03 Jun Stanley RDO**

MacGillivray's Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Custer (CF) CA

Mourning Warbler All Reports: 01 Jun Faulk MMM; 01 Jun Hughes DB; 02 Jun Charles Mix KP; 03 Jun Brown BP, GO

Common Yellowthroat Confirmed Breeding: **13 Jul Douglas (CF) KP**

American Redstart Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Meade (CF) ND

Cape May Warbler Only Report: **02 Jun Minnehaha CA**

Magnolia Warbler All Reports: 01 Jun Brown BP; 01 Jun Hughes DB; **02 Jun Brown BP, GO; 03 Jun Brown GO**

Bay-breasted Warbler All Reports: **01 Jun Hughes DB; 02 Jun Brown BP, GO; 02 Jun Hughes DB; 03 Jun Brown GO**

Yellow Warbler Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Charles Mix, Faulk, Gregory, and Pennington counties

Chestnut-sided Warbler All Reports: 01 Jun Douglas KP; 01 Jun Hughes DB; 02 Jun Brown GO; 02 Jun Clay GJS; 02 Jun Faulk MMM; 03 Jun Brown GO

Blackpoll Warbler Late: **06 Jun Hughes EDS; 03 Jun Brown GO**; 02 Jun Pennington LB; 02 Jun Hughes DB; 02 Jun Faulk MMM

Yellow-rumped Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Lawrence (CF) KP; 27 Jun Pennington (CF) ND ... also reported 02 Jun Hughes EDS; 02 Jun Faulk MMM

Canada Warbler All Reports: 02 Jun Brown BP, GO; **03 Jun Stanley DB, RDO**

Wilson's Warbler Only Report: **02 Jun Faulk MMM**

Chipping Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Charles Mix, **Douglas**, Faulk, Gregory, **Lincoln**, **Moody**, and Pennington counties

Clay-colored Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Faulk (NE) MMM; 18 Jun Faulk (NE) MMM; 09 Jul Deuel (NE) DB

Brewer's Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Fall River (NE) DS, JSP; 09 Jun Fall River (NY) JLP, RAP ... also reported 26 Jun Pennington ND; 29 Jun Harding ND

Field Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jul Charles Mix (FL) KP

Vesper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **29 Jul Hand (CF) ND**

Lark Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Pennington (CN) ND; **29 Jul Hand (CF) ND**

Lark Bunting Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Stanley (CN) ND; 13 Jul Perkins (FY) ND

Grasshopper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB; 13 Jul Corson (CF) ND; 13 Jul Perkins (CF) ND

Baird's Sparrow All Reports: 29 Jun Perkins LB; 13 Jul Perkins ND

Henslow's Sparrow All Reports: 12 Jul Deuel BJU; 29 Jul Kingsbury BJU

Le Conte's Sparrow All Reports: 16 Jun Grant BJU; 12 Jul Deuel BJU; 19 Jul Deuel BJU; 30 Jul Grant BJU

Nelson's Sparrow All Reports: 03 Jul Brown MO; 12 Jul Deuel BJU; 24 Jul Marshall GO; 27 Jul Walworth ND; 29 Jul Kingsbury BJU

Song Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **29 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH**; 27 Jul Faulk (CF) ND

White-crowned Sparrow Only Report: **08 Jun Stanley DB**

Dark-eyed Junco Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Pennington (FY) ND ... also reported 03 Jun Charles Mix RM

Northern Cardinal Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Brown (CN) BP

Black-headed Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Pennington (CF) ND; 03 Jul Meade (ON) ND

Blue Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jul McCook (CF) JSP; 24 Jul Pennington (CF) ND

Bobolink Confirmed Breeding: **11 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KP**; 13 Jul Corson (CF) ND

Red-winged Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH; 01 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KP; 14 Jul Douglas (FL) KP; 28 Jul Brown (FY) ND; 28 Jul Pennington (FY) JLB; 29 Jul Clark (CF) ND

Western Meadowlark Confirmed Breeding: Corson, Custer, Douglas, Harding, Jones, and Pennington counties

Yellow-headed Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: **13 Jun Douglas (CF) KP**; 13 Jun Sully (FS) ND; 23 Jun Charles Mix (CF) KP; 29 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH; 11 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KP

Brewer's Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Harding (CF) ND; 13 Jul Corson (CF) ND

Common Grackle Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Charles Mix, Dewey, Douglas, Gregory, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Miner, Pennington, Sully, and **Ziebach** counties

Great-tailed Grackle All Reports: 29 Jun Bon Homme RND; 12 Jul Deuel BJU; 26 Jul Moody BJU; 29 Jul Kingsbury BJU; 29 Jul Lake BJU

Brown-headed Cowbird Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Charles Mix (FL) KP; **11 Jul Douglas (FL) KP**

Orchard Oriole Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Faulk, Gregory, and Lincoln counties

Bullock's Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB

Baltimore Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Minnehaha (ON) KP; 29 Jun Lincoln (CF) AH; **27 Jul Douglas (CF) KP**

Cassin's Finch All Reports: 01 Jun Custer ND; 08 Jun Custer KP; 19 Jun Lawrence GO; 13 Jul Lawrence LB; 17 Jul Pennington LB; 29 Jul Custer RDO

House Finch Confirmed Breeding: **23 Jun Douglas (NY) KP**

Pine Siskin reported 08 Jul Gregory KP; 01 Jul Charles Mix RM; 11 Jun Douglas KP

Lesser Goldfinch reported 02 Jun Fall River DS, JSP

American Goldfinch Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Lincoln (CN) AH

House Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **02 Jun Ziebach (CF) ND**; 11 Jun Pennington (ON) ND; **29 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH**; 16 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KP; 27 Jul Faulk (CF) ND; 30 Jul Jones (CF) ND

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Neotropic Cormorant 12 Jul Codington BJU; 20 Jul Brule KP, SS

Broad-winged Hawk 11 Jul Charles Mix RM

Laughing Gull 08 Jun Hughes DB, RDO

Pacific Wren 24 Jun Lawrence KP

Baird's Sparrow 30 Jul Deuel BJU

Lesser Goldfinch 17 Jul Pennington APB, LB

Contributing Observers

CA	Chris Anderson	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
DB	Doug Backlund	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
APB	Addison & Patricia Ball	SS	Scott Stolz
LB	Lynn Barber	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	DS	David Swanson
ND	Nancy Drilling	CLG	Canyon Lake Group Survey
AH	Alice Hill	OCW	Outdoor Campus West Survey
BK	Brian Kringen	BJU	Bill Unzen
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	SW	Scott Weins
RM	Ron Mabie	MRZ	Mick Zerr
MMM	Michael M. Melius		
CEM	Charlie Miller		
GO	Gary Olson		
RDO	Ricky D. Olson		
MO	Mark Otnes		
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer		
BP	Barry Parkin		
JLP	Juanita L. Peterson		
RAP	Richard A. Peterson		

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of weather events. Possibly we witnessed such a migration fall-out in the middle of the prairie. April 18 started off as a fairly calm sunny day, but north winds quickly picked up and were quite stiff throughout the day. The next day was entirely calm. This suggests that the birds that were migrating north on the morning of April 18 were grounded by the stiff north winds and they continued their migration when the winds died down.

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USING EBIRD TO SIMPLIFY DATA ENTRY AND LEVERAGE YOUR BIRDING RECORDS

by Dick Latuchie

If you've thought about submitting your birding records to SDOU, and prefer birding to data entry, we have developed a small conversion program that will let you enter your observations into eBird, and then, with just a small additional step, convert it so that it can be used by the South Dakota Ornithological Union (SDOU). The purpose of this article is to discuss the uses of your birding data, how you can contribute to "citizen science", and how to minimize the time it takes to accomplish this. A small group of SDOU members have tested this program over the last 6 months, and we are now ready to invite all SDOU members to use it.

It has always seemed to me that birders tend to have amazing memory. Ask most birders where and when they saw their first Great Gray Owl, and chances are they will tell you something like, "February 2012 just north of Duluth, Minnesota". Most of us, over time, start to accumulate fairly detailed records of what we've seen and where we've seen it. For many years, accumulating notebooks, or other types of written records was the norm. With the advent of personal computers, many birders started to utilize their computers to store this information. Some birders utilized simple spreadsheet software like Microsoft Excel, or database software like Access or dBase to keep more and more detailed records. And then some specialized software products were developed for birders. A couple of the more popular programs today are Avisys and Thayer Birding Software. When I started birding, in 2008, I bought Avisys, and have used it to record all my observations. It keeps track of life lists, state and county lists, year lists, and can produce a lot of interesting information. If I see a new life bird in my back-yard, such as the White-winged Crossbill I observed last January, recording it in Avisys instantly updates my Yard, County, State, ABA, and Life lists automatically.

The SDOU has had an on-going interest in providing useful and interesting information to its members on the abundance, distribution and timing of bird species across the State of South Dakota. It quickly realized that all its members could keep their own detailed records, but it didn't really enable the information to be shared in a meaningful way. So the database of the SDOU was created, enabling members to share their sightings. Over time, that Access database has grown steadily as a relatively small group of avid birders took the time to enter all their data into the database. It has become a useful source of information to members, so for example, when I saw my first American Tree Sparrow of the fall today, I could quickly determine whether it was unusually early in Meade County, or anywhere else for that matter. Jeff Palmer uses this database to produce the compelling quarterly reports seen in *SD Bird Notes*.

In 2002, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, along with the National Audubon Society developed eBird, which they describe as “A real-time, online checklist program”. Web-based, eBird’s goal is to “ maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in March 2012, participants reported more than 3.1 million bird observations across North America!”

Over time, eBird has evolved into an international system where birders can record all their observations worldwide. The data are utilized by extensively by researchers, ornithologists, land managers, and others. It is supported by the National Science Foundation, as well as several private foundations. In time these data will become the foundation for a better understanding of bird distribution across the western hemisphere and beyond. One of many uses for these data is to fuel the real-time migration forecasts of BirdCast, another project off the Cornell Lab.

The use of eBird has grown dramatically in the last 5 years, and younger birders are likely to be familiar with—and therefore—use this system. In order to incent birders to contribute their data to eBird, the developers have worked hard to ease the work of data entry, and add value for the average user. Similar to the stand-alone systems, eBird will store all your lists, but it goes further. EBird utilizes Google Maps to visualize the distribution of species. It enables birders to quickly develop target lists for trips to areas they might be unfamiliar with, can generate bar-charts on a state or county-wide basis, and for those who are into the competitive side of things, it generates top 100 lists for all geographic regions, on a yearly, and life basis.

Three common reasons given for not using eBird are:

1. “I don’t know why I would trust this data.”
2. “I have 25 years of records, way too much to enter into eBird.”
3. “What happens if eBird doesn’t last?”

Well... there is a network of several hundred volunteers, worldwide, who help monitor the data, and validate unusual findings, before they are included in the publicly available data. And you can simply start to add your new records to the database if you like, and then you can back-enter your life list, as well as state lists, etc., so that your eBird data will give you instant access to all your lists, on any computer that has web-access. And one of the nice things about eBird, and what enabled us to develop the conversion program, is the fact that at any given time, you can obtain all your data from eBird in a format that can easily be used by spreadsheets or databases.

So by this time, you may be thinking that you are going to need to spend more time

on data entry than on birding. For a number of us, the time spent on entering these data has become a challenge. Most of us would prefer to be out birding, rather than sitting in front of a computer. And indeed, if you are going to manually enter your data into the eBird and SDOU databases, it can be repetitive, and time consuming. Fortunately, this is where our new utility program comes in.

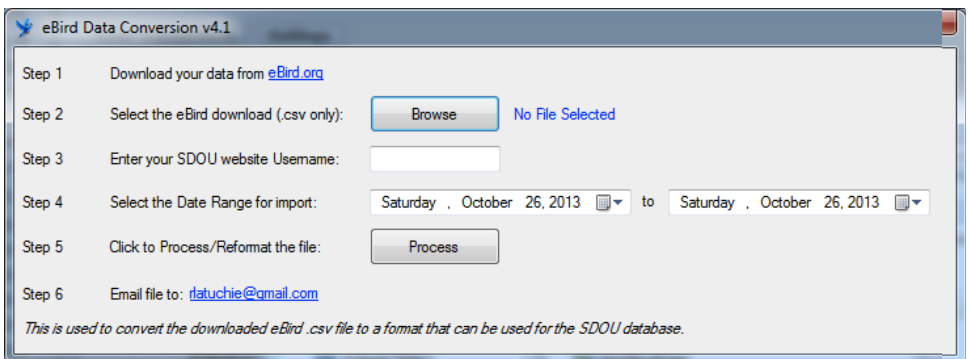
Several times during the year, Jeff Palmer sends out an email to SDOU members, reminding us to submit our seasonal data to the database. What we will do at this point is as follows:

1. Download our dataset from eBird
2. Get the latest version of the conversion program.
3. Run the Program on your dataset.
4. Send the resulting file to Dick Latuchie.

I will compile all the individual files into one large file and forward it to Jeff Palmer who will then upload the file into the SDOU database.

All SDOU members can utilize this program. EBird is has gone through a number of upgrades and data entry is streamlined, considerably easier to load data into than SDOU. If you already use eBird then you will eliminate the need to separately enter data into the SDOU database. This might also be the opportunity for those of you who are entering your data into SDOU, but not into eBird, to take a good look at eBird. And if you currently are not doing either I hope we have given you a few good reasons to seriously consider it.

For those of you who are interested, send an email to me at (rlatuchie@gmail.com). I will send you complete instructions for how to obtain and use the conversion program. I would like to thank Chris Anderson, Lynn Barber, Roger Dietrich, Scott Stolz, and Kelly Preheim for working with me over the last few months and a special thanks to Jeff Palmer for his great work with the SDOU database. His willingness to work with us helped to make this idea a reality.



The Conversion Screen



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