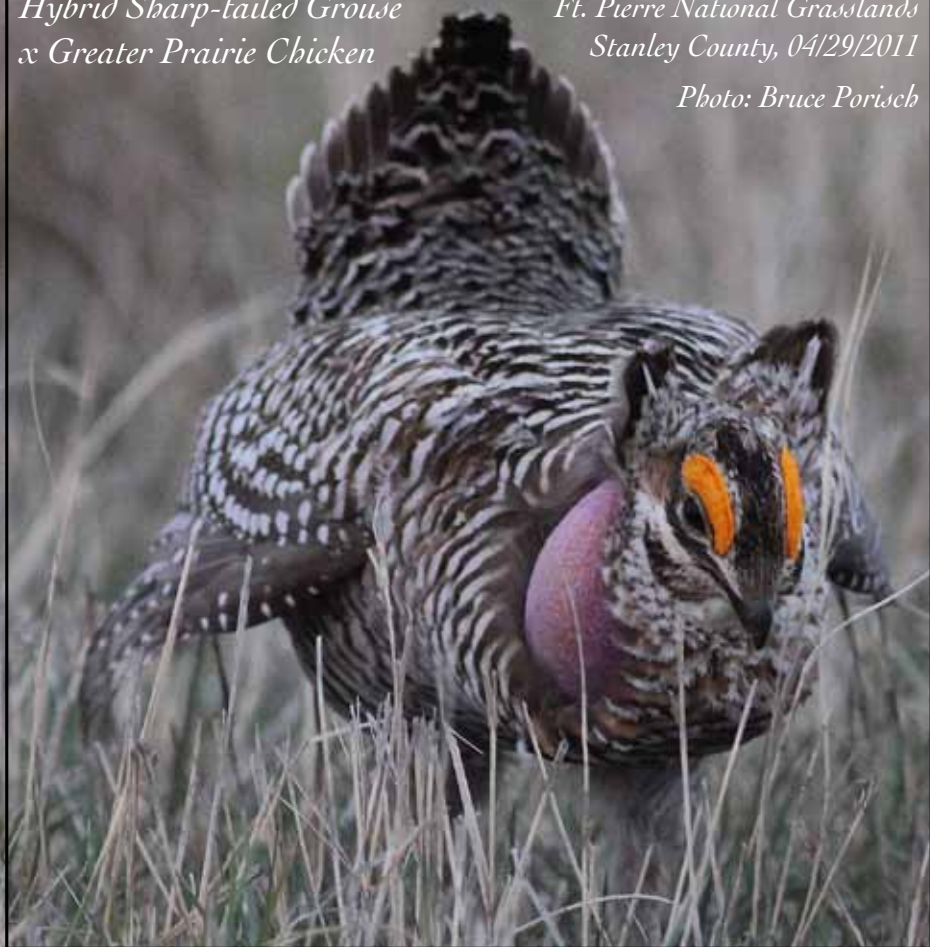


# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

*Hybrid Sharp-tailed Grouse  
x Greater Prairie Chicken*

*Ft. Pierre National Grasslands  
Stanley County, 04/29/2011*

*Photo: Bruce Porisch*



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



Vol. 67

June 2015

No. 2

**SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES**, the official publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, is published quarterly in March, June, August and December. One copy is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Life membership: \$400; Family Life membership (one subscription to *SD 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](mailto: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](http://www.sdou.org).

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Vol. 67

JUNE 2015

NO. 2

**SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
**Officers 2014 - 2015**

President .....Ricky D. Olson..... PO BOX 622, Fort Pierre, SD 57532  
 Vice President .....Roger Dietrich..... 506 Applewood Drive, Yankton, SD 57078  
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 Librarian.....Jeffrey S. Palmer ..... DSU, Madison, SD 57042

Elected Directors

For Term expiring 2015: Bill Bossman, Pierre; Roger Dietrich, Yankton; Linda Johnson, Sioux Falls; Ricky Olson, Ft. Pierre; and Mark Otnes, Fargo, ND.  
 For Term expiring 2016: Douglas Chapman, Sioux Falls; Marie Curtin, Custer; Gene K. Hess, Rapid City; Kelly Preheim, Armour; and Scott Stolz, Pierre.  
 For Term expiring 2017: Kent Jensen, Brookings; Gary Olson, Aberdeen; Ron Mabie, Pickstown; Duane Weber, Custer; and Mick Zerr, Sioux Falls.

Past President Directors

Jocelyn L. Baker, Addison Ball, L.M. Baylor, Gilbert Blankespoor, Rosemary Draeger, Nancy Drilling, Bruce Harris, Nelda Holden, Todd M. Jensen, Jeffrey S. Palmer, Rex Riis, Robb Schenck, Dennis Skadsen, David Swanson, Dan A. Tallman, J. David Williams.

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF SDOU:**

- Membership Committee:** Bob Bork, Linda Johnson (chair), Mark Schmidtbauer.
- Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr. Memorial Research Grants:** Todd M. Jensen (chair), Linda Johnson, Duane Weber.
- Rare Bird Records:** Todd M. Jensen, Ricky D. Olson, Jeffrey S. Palmer, David Swanson (chair), J. David Williams.
- Scholarships and Awards:** Jocelyn L. Baker (chair), Nelda Holden, Galen Steffen.

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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**I**ncourage anybody who is a member of SDOU, one who has the energy and willingness, to ask to be on the SDOU Board of Directors. Here are some things to think about before pursuing a position. As is the case with most organizations, the number of people wanting to be on the board seems to ebb and flow. I have been on the nominating committee when I have had to ask friends to volunteer for one term, because there were no members willing to volunteer. At other times there have been several people wanting to be a director and some have been dismayed because only one seat was vacant.



For those members that do not know this process, I have inserted parts of the SDOU Constitution and By-laws. It can also be found at the SDOU website ([www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org)) under "About SDOU". But I know some members still do not have internet access, so even with some redundancy I am including the exact section and wording here.

## **The duties of a director are:**

### ARTICLE III. Officers-directors

Section 8. The duties of the Directors shall be to establish general policies of the Union, determine the place and date of the annual business meeting, provide for periodic audits of the Treasurer's records, fulfill other duties given to them by the Constitution and Bylaws, and perform such other duties as may be necessary for the furtherance of the Union's objectives. The Directors may act by correspondence upon any matters that properly come to their attention.

## **The yearly process starts with this bylaw. The president appoints a nominating committee.**

### BYLAWS

Section 6. The President shall appoint the Nominating Committee approximately six months in advance of the annual meeting at which the Nominating Committee shall submit its slate of nominees for Directors. An incumbent elected Director who has not attended at least three director's meetings during his or her previous three-year term of office shall not be eligible for reelection as a Director unless a majority of the Board of Directors identifies acceptable extenuating circumstances for the nonattendance.

## **Then at the annual fall general membership business meeting the following nomination and election process begins.**

### ARTICLE V. Elections

Section 4. Nominations for elected Directors shall be made by a Nominating Committee of three members appointed by the President. Nominations for a Director may be made from the floor at the annual business meeting after the Nominating Committee has presented its slate of nominees. If there are more than five nominees for Directors, the voting shall be by secret ballot.

#### ARTICLE V. Elections

Section 1. Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Union by a majority vote of the active members present.

Section 2. The term of office for elected Directors shall be three years and shall commence at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. Five directors shall be elected annually for a term of three years. In addition to the 15 elected Directors, there shall be a category of directors composed of the past presidents of this Union. The term of office for the Past President Directors shall commence upon completion of their terms as President and upon expiration of their three-year terms as elected directors. The term of office for a Past-President Director shall continue until death, resignation from the position, or resignation from the Union by nonpayment of dues. The Past-President Directors shall have full voting privileges on the Board of Directors and may be elected to offices of this Union.

**Then at the Board of Directors meeting the nominating committee announces the slate of candidates for the officers. Then same nominating and election process for offices by board members ensues.**

Section 3. Immediately following each annual meeting and election of Directors, the Directors shall meet and select the officers of the Union for the ensuing year from among the Directors as provided in Article III, Section 1.

One thing I should emphasize is that if you volunteer and are elected to the board of directors, please be willing to hold an office. The reason being is that we have such a limited pool to draw from to elect a President and Vice President, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian. We only have fifteen elected directors. One is the current President leaving fourteen. The Editor of *Bird Notes* can't be President because yone can't hold two officer positions at once, so that leaves thirteen. You see my point! We have been fortunate that past presidents have held many officer positions ( Secretary,Treasuer, and Librarian) leaving more board members to fill vacant positions.

When you have a little extra time and are willing to help keep SDOU stromng and vital, I invite you to become a board member. If you need to know who is on the Nominating Committee, please contact me.

I hope see all of you in the Hills!



# FLEDGLING TRACTS

JASON THIELE

## *A Beginner's Guide to Birdspeak*

*Author's Note: This is the first article in a series that introduces beginning birders to the lingo used by people in the birding community. This series may seem out of place in a publication whose readership consists largely of experienced birders, but there is a reason I decided to put together this guide for beginners. I have written before about recruiting new birders, and we should do whatever we can to make beginning birders feel comfortable as they delve into our hobby. These articles are meant to be shared with those that you might be trying to get into birding. Perhaps they will help them to understand our obsession. And I do hope that the articles will be worthwhile reading for my fellow birders as well.*



**B**irders are strange. They will willingly wake up hours before most people, travel to places that most people would want to leave, and face weather that would keep most people indoors. All this just to see a bird that most people have never even heard of.

Yet somehow you find yourself wanting to understand them. Perhaps you want to figure out why your coworker got so excited talking about his weekend trip out west to Middle-of-Nowhere, South Dakota to find a Sprague's Pipit (a rather homely-looking bird, you deduce, after a few minutes of searching through Google Images). Maybe you're even feeling attracted to the hobby of birding yourself. Perhaps you have started feeding birds in your backyard, and you want to learn to identify all the birds that come to visit. Whatever the reason, you are interested in learning more about this hobby (or obsession, in the case of some of us).

Like many hobbies, birding has its own unique jargon, and being among a group of people who know the jargon when you're a newbie can be pretty intimidating. For that reason, I have written the following guide to help you interpret the language of birders. Whether you are thinking about taking up birding, you are a beginning birder, or you just want to make sense of your conversations with binocular-toting people in the park, I think this guide will be useful to you.

### **Ear Birding**

Perhaps the most frustrating situation a beginning birder can encounter is standing in the woods on a spring morning, trying desperately to train a binocular on just one of the dozens of birds moving about in the vegetation while a veteran birder stands there without even raising her optics and calls out, "Black-and-White Warbler. Blue-headed Vireo... Swainson's Thrush... Nashville Warbler... Yellow-bellied Sapsucker... Another Black-and-White Warbler... Ovenbird." And on and on and on... There was a time when I would wonder if some of the people I was birding with were simply calling out species names from memory to impress me. But as I stuck with birding and spent more time really focusing on the sounds that birds were making, I realized that these people were "ear birding," or identifying birds by the songs and calls they make.

The ability to bird by ear is probably the main skill that separates beginning birders from experienced birders and mediocre birders like myself from great birders. Ear birding is

difficult—although not nearly so difficult as many (myself included) imagine it to be when they first begin. And it is a skill that can be continually honed, since there are always new songs and calls to learn when planning a trip to a region with different bird species than the those you are used to finding. Learning sounds is much more challenging than studying a field guide to get a sense of the visual appearances of birds you might encounter. Visual identification has become even easier in recent years as improvements in digital photography technology have made taking high-quality photos of birds easier and cheaper than ever before. You can snap a picture of an unknown bird and spend all the time you need to identify it later, using field guides, online photos and such; this is not nearly so easily done with sounds. Even familiar birds will sometimes sing unfamiliar song variants that will leave seasoned birders scratching their heads.

Many resources are available to help learn the songs and calls of birds. Various CDs can be purchased that highlight birds of different regions. I often keep such CDs in my car and listen to them during the late-winter months when I'm getting antsy for spring in order to keep my ear tuned up for the singing birds that will soon arrive. Many websites also have recordings of bird vocalizations that can be downloaded for listening; one of the best is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library, which has a huge database of recordings available for free.

For me, the best way to learn a particular species' song is to watch it sing. So if I hear an unfamiliar song or call while I'm birding, I key in on that sound and try to block out the others. Then I move into position for a look at the mystery songster or stay still and wait for it to show itself. If I can see the bird as it vocalizes, the song or call tends to go into a part of my memory where I'm actually able to recall it later. Interestingly, I ran into a birder this spring who took this approach even further. She was trying to get better at identifying songs of warblers and other spring migrants. Her method for learning was to listen for a singing bird, then locate it so that she could take a video with her camera of the bird singing. Then she could watch it at home over and over until the song stuck.

Probably the best advice I've ever received concerning learning bird songs and calls is to really focus on the most common birds first. Get the songs of those American Robins, Chipping Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, etc. locked in until you no longer have to think about what you're hearing and you can focus on learning the other species. I remember when I first started birding that a bunch of birds singing at the same time just sounded like the din in a college town bar on Friday night. I had a really hard time picking out individual species. But once I got familiar with the common birds (which generally made the most noise), I found it easier to block those songs out and hear the less common species. Many of these familiar birds offer good baseline comparisons for other species as well. For example, the ubiquitous American Robin's song makes a good starting point for learning the songs of the Scarlet Tanager (often described as "like a robin with a sore throat"), the Rose-breasted Grosbeak ("like a robin that took voice lessons"), and several different vireo species.

Like any skill, ear birding requires a lot of practice in order to stay sharp. But the work is well worth the rewards, as the ability to identify birds by sound greatly enhances the overall birding experience.

*Ed Note: For those who will be attending the SDOU Spring Meeting in Spearfish, our Banquet Speaker is South Dakota native Nathan Pieplow. Nathan has a famous blog about "EarBirding" and has just signed a contract to write the Peterson Guide to Bird Sounds. What an informative introduction Jason has given us.*

# SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

## 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

### 12-14 June 2015

**Holiday Inn Convention Center, Spearfish, SD • 605-642-4683**

**O**ur meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 305 N 127<sup>th</sup> Street, Spearfish, SD. This is just north of **Interstate Highway 90, Exit 114 - 127<sup>th</sup> Street**. The hotel is saving a block of 25 rooms at a hotel convention rate of \$104.95 per room (4 to a room maximum). The hotel provides coffee, hair dryers and a safe in the rooms and has a full breakfast restaurant. **Please call the hotel direct line to be sure you will receive the convention rate. The Holiday Inn Reservation 800 number will not know of it!**

Other local Lodging Options:

All American Inn	605-642-2350	(Also I-90, Exit 14)
Days Inn	605-642-7101	(Also I-90, Exit 14)
Fairfield Inn by Marriott	605-642-3500	(Also I-90, Exit 14)
Quality Inn	605-642-2337	(Also I-90, Exit 14)
Howard Johnson Express Inn	605-642-8105	(Also I-90, Exit 14)

### Schedule:

(All Events at the Holiday Inn Convention Center)

(Prices listed include all taxes and tip.)

#### **Friday, 12 June**

6:00–8:00 PM	Social Hour with Baked Flaky Bundles of Chicken & Pepper Jack Cheese, Cheese Cubes with Crackers and Trays of Cookies.
6:30–7:30 PM	Musical Entertainment by Bella Voce, with SDOU Member Ingrid Arlton and friends. Featuring: Rockin' Robin!
6:00–9:00 PM	Registration
8:00–9:00 PM	Program, with Question and Answer: " <i>How To Maximize the Usefulness of Nonprofit Websites</i> "; Ann Johnson, Norwalk, Iowa. Ann runs the websites for the Iowa, Denver and Colorado Ornithologists' organizations. Her knowledge of bird organization websites is second to none.

#### **Saturday, 13 June**

7:00 AM–4:00 PM	Field Trips (Pick up boxed lunches (pre-ordered) in lobby at 6:30 AM)
4:30–5:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting, Canyon Room
6:30–8:00 PM	Banquet - <b>Saturday Evening Banquet:</b> Beef with Mushroom sauce and Smoked Chicken Tortellini with Tomato Vodka Sauce; Green Beans Amandiné and Buttered Corn O'Brian; Italian Pasta Salad, Caesar Salad and Garden Salad; Assorted Desserts; Coffee and Ice Water. Other drinks are available for purchase.
8:00–9:30 PM	Program: " <i>The Amazing Sounds of Birds</i> "; Nathan Pieplow, Boulder, Colorado. "Which bird uses its voice to echolocate inside dark caves? Which bird sings a duet with itself? Which bird sings over a thousand different songs? In this presentation, Pieplow, author of the forthcoming <i>Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds</i> , will share some of his most remarkable audio from over a decade of recording birds in the field. You will see the sounds as well as hear them, and learn the stories of the birds that made them, and what some of those birds are actually saying." Nathan is proud to say he first started birding in Sioux Falls. We are very happy to have him share with us.

#### **Sunday, 14 June**

7:00–12:00 N	Field Trips
12:00 PM	Species Countdown in the Swarm Room
1:00 PM	Rare Bird Records Committee meets in the Swarm Room

**Registration Form for 2015 SDOU Spring Meeting  
12-14 June 2015 Holiday Inn Convention Center, Spearfish, SD**

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

**Rosemary Draeger, SDOU Treasurer**  
2520 E Whisper Trail  
Sioux Falls SD 57108-4913

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and/or e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee . . . . \$35.00 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ people = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(children under 12 are free)

Saturday Sack Lunch .....\$15.25 each (includes taxes)

Saturday Evening Banquet ..... \$25.50 each (children 12 and under at 50%)

Indicate number of persons in your party: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children under 12 \_\_\_\_\_

We need to have a head count by Tuesday 6/9/15. There is a 25% surcharge per meal for meals above the guarantee number.

Registration @ \$35.00 per person ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sack lunch @ \$15.25 per person (incl. taxes) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate Roast Beef, Turkey  
or Ham

Banquet @ \$25.50 per person (incl. taxes)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** (make check payable to SDOU) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note: We need a head count for the banquet by Monday 9 June 2015. Please mail your registration to the SDOU Treasurer in time to arrive by then, or call/e-mail Douglas Chapman. Thank you!**

For more information: Douglas Chapman at (605) 940-7435 or [sfbirdclub@sio.midco.net](mailto:sfbirdclub@sio.midco.net)

*Head for the Hills!*

**SEE YOU IN SPEARFISH • 12-14 JUNE 2015**





Bridal Veil Falls in Spearfish Canyon is always a special place—and at Roughlock Falls the American Dippers think it's special, too.

Photo: Doug Chapman

Western Tanager is a beautiful species usually seen easily in the Black Hills.

Photo: Terry Sohl



The Rocky Mountain Parnassian inhabits high meadows near Savoy. This is the farthest East that any parnassian's range extends.

Photo: Michael Retter

# SEASONAL REPORTS

## **The 2014-2015 Winter Season**

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 December 2014 to 28 February 2015

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

**T**here were 140 species, including 4 rarities, reported during the season this year. The ten-year (2004-2013) average is 141. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (species that have been reported in 6 or fewer of the last 10 winter seasons, early/late dates, and species that are out of range). Finally, at the end is a list of species (25) that were not reported this year and might be expected during the Winter Season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during winter 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. Not reported during the Winter Season during the last 5 years, **Gray Catbird** was removed from this list.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** reported 14 Dec Yankton KP; 11 Feb Charles Mix KP  
**Snow Goose** reported 14 Dec Yankton RND, KP; 01 Jan Brown GO; 10 Jan Charles Mix KP; 24 Jan Charles Mix KP; 15 Feb Hughes JC

**Ross's Goose** All Reports: 03 Dec Gregory RM; 05 Dec Yankton RND; 14 Dec Yankton RND

**Cackling Goose** reported 06 Dec Minnehaha MKZ; 11 Jan Stanley and Hughes RDO; 15 Jan Pennington CLG; 24 Jan Charles Mix KP; 24 Jan Minnehaha JC; 24 Jan Yankton DS; 26 Jan Pennington CLG

**Trumpeter Swan** Only Report: **12 Dec Yankton RM**

**Wood Duck** reported 01 Jan Brown GO, BP; 03 Jan Hughes RDO; 11 Jan Pennington ND; 21 Jan Pennington JLB; 09 Feb Hughes MMM

**Gadwall** reported 17 Dec Yankton RND; 08 Jan Pennington CLG; 29 Jan Pennington OCW; 13 Feb Yankton KP

**American Wigeon** reported 06 Dec Meade JLB; 11 Jan Pennington ND; 19 Jan Pennington JLB; 14 Feb Hughes JC

**Blue-winged Teal** Only Report: **21 Feb Meade EEM**

**Northern Shoveler** reported 10 Dec Yankton RND; 11 Dec Pennington OCW; 16 Jan Pennington JLB; 17 Feb Yankton RND

**Northern Pintail** reported 14 Dec Stanley RDO; 03 Jan Hughes RDO; 14 Feb Hughes JC; 16 Feb Charles Mix KP

**Green-winged Teal** reported 20 Dec Stanley RDO; 23 Dec Pennington JLB; 30 Dec Yankton RND; 24 Jan Yankton DS; 01 Feb Pennington JLB

**Canvasback** Only Report: 19 Feb Pennington CLG

**Redhead** reported 20 Dec Stanley RDO; 01 Jan Charles Mix RM; 08 Jan Pennington JLB; 16 Jan Pennington JLB; 01 Feb Stanley RDO; 13 Feb Yankton KP

**Ring-necked Duck** reported 01 Jan Pennington JLB; 10 Jan Charles Mix RM, KP; 11 Jan Hughes RDO; 18 Jan Pennington JLB; 24 Jan Yankton DS; 16 Feb Stanley RDO

**Greater Scaup** reported 20 Dec Stanley RDO; 06 Jan Charles Mix RM; 10 Jan Gregory RM; 24 Jan Yankton DS; 16 Feb Stanley RDO; 17 Feb Gregory RM

**Lesser Scaup** reported 20 Dec Stanley RDO; 29 Dec Brown BP; 02 Jan Charles Mix KP; 18 Jan Brown BP; 24 Jan Yankton DS; 07 Feb Charles Mix KP

**Long-tailed Duck** reported 13 Dec Fall River JLB; 13 Jan Charles Mix RM; 18 Jan Charles Mix KP, RM

**Bufflehead** reported 10 Jan Charles Mix KP; 10 Jan Gregory RM; 15 Jan Pennington CLG; 16 Jan Gregory RM; 17 Jan Pennington JLB; 24 Jan Charles Mix KP

**Common Goldeneye** reported 14 Jan Minnehaha MKZ; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 15 Jan Pennington CLG; 16 Jan Pennington JLB; 18 Jan Charles Mix and Gregory KP; 18 Jan Minnehaha JC

**Hooded Merganser** reported 21 Dec Hughes JC; 31 Dec Pennington RSL; 01 Jan Stanley KM; 24 Jan Yankton DS; 25 Jan Hughes JLB; 28 Feb Minnehaha MKZ

**Common Merganser** reported 11 Jan Pennington RSL; 11 Jan Stanley and Hughes RDO; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 18 Jan Charles Mix KP; 18 Jan Minnehaha JC; 24 Jan Gregory KP; 08 Feb Pennington ND

**Red-breasted Merganser** reported 14 Jan Charles Mix RM; 18 Jan Charles Mix KP, RM; 17 Feb Yankton RND

**Ruddy Duck** All Reports: 07 Dec Yankton JC; 12 Dec Yankton RND

**Gray Partridge** All Reports: 20 Dec Meade JLB; 01 Jan Custer MMM; 07 Feb Custer MMM

**Ruffed Grouse** Only Report: 09 Dec Lawrence DGP

**Greater Sage-Grouse** Only Report: **11 Jan Butte EK**

**Common Loon** Only Report: 07 Dec Sully RDO

**Pied-billed Grebe** reported **02 Jan Hughes KM; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 15 Jan Pennington JLB; 16 Jan Charles Mix RM; 17 Jan Pennington JLB**

**Horned Grebe** All Reports: **07 Dec Hughes and Sully RDO**

**Western Grebe** All Reports: 07 Dec Hughes and Sully RDO; 10 Dec Fall River ND

**American White Pelican** reported 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 18 Jan Charles Mix KP; 04 Feb Charles Mix RM

**Double-crested Cormorant** All Reports: 01 Dec Charles Mix RM; 05 Dec Charles Mix RM; 06 Dec Charles Mix RM; 10 Dec Yankton RND; 12 Dec Yankton RND

**Great Blue Heron** reported 28 Dec Charles Mix RM; 04 Jan Stanley KM; 01 Feb Pennington JLB

**Northern Harrier** reported 01 Jan Lincoln AH; 02 Jan Charles Mix KP; 11 Jan Hughes RDO; 11 Jan Pennington MMM; 17 Jan Meade RSL; 31 Jan Fall River ND; 10 Feb Custer MMM; 11 Feb Douglas KP; 13 Feb Charles Mix RM

**Cooper's Hawk** reported 03 Jan Lincoln MKZ, AH; 04 Jan Pennington RSL; 14 Jan Stanley RDO; 24 Jan Charles Mix KP; 25 Jan Faulk MMM; 25 Jan Lyman JLB

**Northern Goshawk** reported 31 Dec Jackson ND; 10 Jan Brown BP; 11 Jan Hughes RDO; 22 Jan Faulk MMM; 24 Jan Brown GO; 24 Jan Charles Mix KP; 24 Jan Lincoln JC

**Ferruginous Hawk** reported 22 Dec Lyman JC; 24 Dec Pennington JLB; 01 Jan Jackson; 24 Jan Sully RDO; 25 Jan Hyde ND; 05 Feb Meade RDO

**American Coot** reported 09 Jan Hughes RDO; 13 Jan Charles Mix RM; 15 Jan Pennington CLG; 17 Jan Pennington JLB; 24 Jan Charles Mix KP; 24 Jan Yankton DS

**Sandhill Crane** Only Report: **19 Feb Pennington *vide* JLB**

**Killdeer** All Reports: 03 Dec Stanley DB; 17 Dec Stanley RDO; 20 Dec Stanley RDO; 21 Dec Stanley KM

**Wilson's Snipe** Only Report: 07 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Bonaparte's Gull** reported 10 Dec Charles Mix RM; 03 Dec Stanley RDO, DB; 02 Dec Hughes DB

**Ring-billed Gull** reported 13 Dec Fall River JLB; 02 Jan Charles Mix KP; 11 Jan Hughes RDO; 13 Jan Stanley RDO; 18 Jan Gregory KP; 24 Jan Stanley RDO; 25 Jan Hughes JLB

**California Gull** reported 05 Dec Yankton RND; 11 Jan Hughes RDO; 23 Jan Charles Mix RM; 24 Jan Stanley RDO; 25 Jan Hughes JLB

**Thayer's Gull** reported 05 Dec Yankton RND; 11 Jan Hughes RDO; 13 Jan Stanley RDO; 18 Jan Stanley RDO; 25 Jan Hughes JLB, ND

**Iceland Gull** reported 02 Dec Hughes DB; 21 Feb Hughes RDO

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Only Report: 25 Dec Hughes RDO

**Glaucous Gull** reported 11 Jan Hughes RDO; 13 Jan Charles Mix RM; 13 Jan Stanley RDO; 18 Jan Stanley RDO; 24 Jan Charles Mix and Gregory KP

**Mourning Dove** reported 20 Dec Stanley RDO; 28 Dec Pennington RSL; 05 Jan Brown BP; 10 Jan Lake JSP; 11 Jan Moody MKZ; 18 Jan Brown BP; 21 Jan Lincoln MKZ; 24 Jan Minnehaha JC; 07 Feb Clay DS

**Eastern Screech-Owl** reported 31 Dec Pennington ND; 10 Jan Stanley RDO; 11 Jan Lincoln JC; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 18 Jan Custer MMM; 22 Jan Charles Mix RM; 24 Jan Lincoln JC

**Snowy Owl** reported 04 Jan Sully RDO, KM; 10 Jan Edmunds and Day BP; 12 Jan Roberts BP; 18 Jan Douglas KP; 18 Jan Edmunds BP; 18 Jan Faulk ND; 18 Jan McPherson BP, ND; 19 Jan Walworth ND; 23 Jan Pennington ND

**Barred Owl** All Reports: **03 Jan Lincoln JC; 24 Jan Lincoln JC**

**Long-eared Owl** reported 20 Dec Fall River ND; 01 Jan Stanley RDO; 11 Jan Lincoln JC; 24 Jan Lincoln JC; 08 Feb Meade SW

**Short-eared Owl** reported 10 Dec Custer MMM; 03 Jan Pennington ND; 11 Jan Butte EK; 04 Feb Custer MMM; 06 Feb Pennington ND; 15 Feb Harding ND

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** reported 21 Dec Pennington ND; 10 Jan Stanley RDO; **15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 24 Jan Lincoln JC; 27 Jan Pennington ND; 30 Jan Gregory RM**

**Belted Kingfisher** reported 13 Dec Minnehaha JC; 04 Jan Stanley KM; 07 Jan Lawrence DGP; 15 Jan Pennington CLG; 19 Jan Pennington JLB; 22 Jan Lawrence DGP; 06 Feb Custer RDO

**Lewis's Woodpecker** reported 10 Jan Lawrence JLB; 01 Feb Lawrence RSL; 05 Feb Meade RDO

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** All Reports: 01 Dec Charles Mix RM; 02 Dec Charles Mix RM; 05 Dec Yankton RND; 07 Dec Yankton JC

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** reported 10 Jan Lawrence DGP; 17 Jan Lawrence DGP

**Black-backed Woodpecker** Only Report: 18 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Merlin** reported 26 Dec Pennington RSL; 03 Jan Lincoln JC; 10 Jan Charles Mix KP; 14 Jan Douglas KP; 16 Jan Douglas KP; 17 Jan Brown BP; 17 Jan Charles Mix RM; 14 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Gyr Falcon** All Reports: 06 Dec Stanley KM, RDO; 18 Dec Stanley RDO; 21 Dec Hughes RDO; 19 Jan Stanley RDO; 21 Feb Sully RDO

**Prairie Falcon** reported 05 Dec Brown GO; 10 Jan Brown BP; 17 Jan Brown GO

**Gray Jay** reported 14 Jan Lawrence DGP; 18 Jan Lawrence DGP; 27 Jan Pennington ND

**Pinyon Jay** Only Report: **14 Dec Shannon ND**

**Clark's Nutcracker** reported **19 Dec Lawrence DGP; 02 Jan Pennington ND; 16 Jan Lawrence DGP; 05 Feb Pennington RDO; 06 Feb Custer RDO**

**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 18 Dec Pennington JLB; 21 Dec Pennington JLB; 05 Feb Pennington RDO

**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 21 Dec Pennington JLB; 16 Jan Lawrence DGP; 22 Jan Lawrence DGP; 23 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Carolina Wren** Only Report: **14 Dec Yankton KP**

**American Dipper** All Reports: 09 Dec Lawrence DGP; 08 Feb Pennington ND; 12 Feb Lawrence DGP; 20 Feb Lawrence DGP; 28 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Eastern Bluebird** reported 14 Dec Yankton RND; 14 Jan Gregory RM; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 07 Feb Brookings JC; 08 Feb Charles Mix RM

**Townsend's Solitaire** reported 02 Dec Brown GO

**Varied Thrush** Only Report: **14 Feb Lincoln JC**

**Bohemian Waxwing** All Reports: 09 Dec Stanley RDO; 24 Jan Walworth RDO; 14 Feb Lawrence DGP; 24 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** reported 01 Jan Hughes KM; 03 Jan Charles Mix RM; 11 Jan Stanley RDO; 18 Jan Charles Mix KP, RM; 30 Jan Stanley RDO

**Spotted Towhee** Only Report: 14 Dec Gregory RM

**Fox Sparrow** All Reports: 20 Dec Hughes KM; 01 Jan Hughes KM; 10 Jan Charles Mix KP; 24 Jan Minnehaha JC

**Song Sparrow** reported 14 Dec Yankton RND; 20 Dec Fall River ND; 31 Dec Pennington RSL; 09 Feb Pennington OCW; 28 Feb Fall River ND

**White-throated Sparrow** All Reports: 07 Dec Clay GJS; 27 Dec Clay GJS; 01 Jan Clay GJS; 01 Jan Hughes KM; 07 Feb Brookings JC; 14 Feb Clay GJS

**Harris's Sparrow** reported 06 Dec Custer MMM; 04 Jan Stanley KM; 06 Jan Charles Mix RM; 15 Jan Roberts CV; 16 Jan Roberts CV; 24 Jan Minnehaha JC; 09 Feb Pennington OCW; 14 Feb Clay GJS

**White-crowned Sparrow** reported 04 Dec Custer MMM; 12 Jan Brown BP; 24 Jan Brown BP

**Red-winged Blackbird** reported 01 Jan Jones RSL; 02 Jan Charles Mix KP; 03 Jan Clay GJS; 03 Jan Lincoln AH; 18 Jan Hughes RDO; 18 Jan Potter ND; 19 Jan Campbell ND; 31 Jan Shannon PH; 06 Feb Roberts MO

**Western Meadowlark** reported 10 Jan Charles Mix KP; 11 Jan Meade ND; 14 Jan Gregory RM; 17 Jan Charles Mix KP; 19 Jan Miner JSP; 14 Feb Lyman JC; 28 Feb Fall River ND

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Only Report: **07 Dec Sully BK**

**Rusty Blackbird** All Reports: 06 Dec Charles Mix RND, RM; 21 Feb Sully RDO

**Common Grackle** All Reports: 02-05 Dec Roberts CV; 04 Dec Clay GJS; 18 Jan Dewey ND

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** All Reports: 07 Dec Lawrence DGP; 10 Dec Meade DGP; 10 Jan Lawrence JLB

**Pine Grosbeak** reported **21 Dec Pennington JLB; 31 Dec Day GO; 01 Jan Stanley RDO; 04 Jan Edmunds BP; 25 Jan Edmunds GO**

**Purple Finch** reported 18 Dec Perkins ND

**Cassin's Finch** All Reports: **20 Dec Lawrence JLB; 05 Feb Lawrence DGP; 06 Feb Custer RDO**

**Red Crossbill** reported 31 Dec Day GO; 17 Jan Brookings JSP; 17 Jan Minnehaha MKZ; 06 Feb Roberts MO

**Common Redpoll** reported 01 Jan Hughes KM; 05 Jan Brown BP; 06 Jan Lawrence DGP; 16 Jan Roberts CV; 17 Jan Brookings JSP; 24 Jan Sully RDO; 04 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Pine Siskin** reported 11 Jan Pennington RSL; 11 Jan Stanley RDO; 16 Jan Roberts CV; 17 Jan Roberts CV; 24 Jan Lake JC; 25 Jan Edmunds GO; 25 Jan Hughes JLB; 06 Feb Custer RDO

**Evening Grosbeak** All Reports: 10 Jan Lawrence JLB; 06 Feb Custer RDO

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

**Swainson's Hawk** 06 Dec Minnehaha MKZ

**Common Raven** 09 Jan Lawrence DGP; 02 Feb Haakon MMM

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 09 Jan Hughes KM

**Chipping Sparrow** 03 Jan Lincoln JC

**Species Expected But Not Reported**

Tundra Swan (2), American Black Duck, White-winged Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye, Northern Bobwhite (2), Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe (2), Virginia Rail, Black-legged Kittiwake (3), Franklin's Gull (2), Mew Gull (2), Barn Owl (4), Red-headed Woodpecker (2), Pileated Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Winter Wren (2), Marsh Wren, Mountain Bluebird (2), Brown Thrasher, Vesper Sparrow (3), Swamp Sparrow (2), Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle (4), Brown-headed Cowbird, White-winged Crossbill (2)

**Contributing Observers**

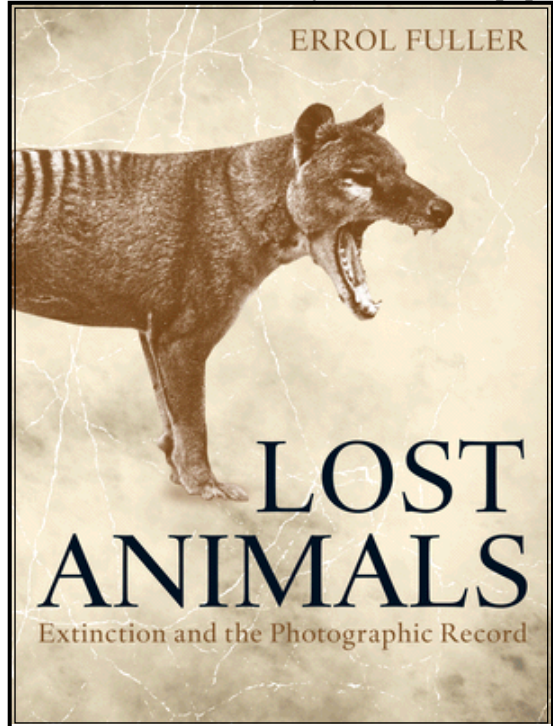
DB	Doug Backlund	BP	Barry Parkin
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
JC	Joe Coppock	DGP	D. George Prisbe
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
ND	Nancy Drilling	OCW	Outdoor Campus West Survey
CLG	Canyon Lake Group	DS	David Swanson
AH	Alice Hill	CV	Cheryl Vellenga
PH	Peter Hill	WV	William Vellenga
BK	Brian Kringen	SW	Scott Weins
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	MRZ	Mick Zerr
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie		
RM	Ron Mabie		
MMM	Michael M. Melius		
EEM	Ernest E. Miller		
KM	Kenny Miller		
GO	Gary Olson		
RDO	Ricky D. Olson		
MO	Mark Otnes		
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer		

**Lost Animals: Extinction and the Photographic Record.** Errol Fuller. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. \$29.95 Hardbound. 240 pp.

**L**ost *Animals* is a unique photographic record of extinction, presented by a world authority on vanished animals. From a mother thylacine and her pups to birds such as the Heath Hen and the Carolina Parakeet, Errol Fuller tells the story of each animal, explains why it became extinct, and discusses the circumstances surrounding the photography. A photograph of an extinct animal evokes a greater feeling of loss than any painting ever could. Many of the images in this book were taken mainly in zoos or wildlife parks. Often only in black and white or in half-tones, they represent both preservation and loss; in some cases, the photos depict the last known individual of the species.

Fuller is a British writer and conservationist. His lifelong interest has been about extinctions – what we know, what is surmised and what may be made up – either codified or not. Fuller is the author of the compendium book *Extinct Birds*, which is a comprehensive portrayal of all known extinct birds and those that are severely endangered to the point of extinction. He also wrote the definitive volume on the Great

Auk, thoroughly documented and researched. His book documenting Mauritius's famous Dodo is not nearly as large as his other books, perhaps because it includes "only what we know, not what has been surmised." Much has been surmised.



*The cover of Lost Animals depicts a photo of a thylacine, last known from Tasmania and "affectionately" called the Tasmanian Tiger. It in fact was a marsupial and not feline at all.*

*A 1921 photo by Henry Burrell of a thylacine with a chicken was widely distributed and may have helped secure the animal's reputation as a poultry thief. And thus hasten its being hunted to extinction.*

*In fact, the image has been proven to be cropped to hide the fenced run and housing, and analysis by one researcher has concluded that the thylacine pictured is a mounted specimen, posed with the chicken solely for the camera.*



*An amazing photograph of a Passenger Pigeon chick.*

Fuller's tight, readable prose has consistently shown both his love of birds (and here mammals) and his approach to extinction. He is neither maudlin, nor is he Pollyanna. His thoughtful – and thought-provoking – style leaves no doubt as to our losses, but he gets a glimpse of the life of the bird or animal across to the reader in an almost miraculous way.

This new volume is about twenty-one extinct birds and seven extinct mammals, that have left us. These animals have all been documented by the photographer's lens. While the arguments over whether paintings or photographs are the superior records of birds, it seems to me that at least with these animals,

the immediacy of a photograph trumps what any painting could ever achieve. Fuller provides a good sense of closure by providing full color paintings to supplement the mostly black and white photos.

Fuller's result is a book that is neither dry as dust nor filled with gloom. It is, rather, poignant and compelling. *Lost Animals* includes familiar examples such as the last Passenger Pigeon and rare birds and mammals such as the Wake Island Rail (extinct in WWII) and the thylacine. Photos range from the last Quaggas at the London Zoo in the 1860s, to the year the Hawai'ian Po'ouli went extinct, 2004.

He is not afraid to meet a topic head-on either. Accompanying James Tanner's 1938 photos of the young Ivory-billed Woodpecker that we all have seen, he regales the 2004 "sighting". Concerning the "conclusive film" he states, "For all that any ordinary person could tell, the pictures might have shown a garden gnome riding on the back of the Loch Ness Monster." But Fuller is also sensitive to the hopefulness that comes from "possible" sightings. He is not as quick to dismiss and is himself hopeful.

Fuller approaches his subject matter with a respect that is at once enthralling and riveting, but manages to exude no trace of eternal reminiscing for the past. Instead he makes us remember and carry on. He also, with the diplomacy of a successful



ambassador, does mention the touchy topic of "recent sightings" for many species. Fuller also explains his ideas on extinct subspecies and his decision to include two well-known subspecies in this volume devoted to extinct species. Those two are the Heath Hen and the Quagga.

Fuller also wisely cautions us to remember the extremes that many of these photos were taken in. Heavy, ungainly, over-sensitive equipment, horrible weather, miserable primitive travel, long hikes up muddy mountains, etc. This is especially true for the Mamo photo from 1892. It's a photo of probably the last Mamo and is a great survival story in its own right. The short film of one of the last Imperial Woodpeckers is also a testament to the determination of these dogged men. Fuller includes several stills from that film. And, of course, they did not know they were documenting a forthcoming extinction. They just wanted to document what they could with the newest technologies of their time and place.

Two examples of Fuller's writing:

"It seems that a photograph of something lost or gone has a power all of its own, even though it may be tantalizingly inadequate."

"Even though some of the pictures reproduced in this book are particularly poor in quality, no attempt has been made to tamper or enhance them with the various modern techniques now available... Anyone who is inclined to disappointment must bear in mind all of these factors when looking at the images. Hopefully the viewer will accept them for what they are, and what they represent."

This is one of the finest books on animals, birds, nature, human interactive behavior and the cycles of life on Planet Earth that I have ever read.

No eReader version is available at press time.

Very highly recommended.



*Image of a Paradise Parrot taken by C.H.H. Jerrard in 1922 at the Burnett River in Queensland, Australia. It was on a termite mound at its nest hole. The last Paradise Parrot seen alive was confirmed on 14 September 1927. Several attempts have been mounted in the decades since, and no trace has been found, though stories of sightings continue. This parrot was said to be the most beautiful bird in Australia.*

## HOW BIRDERS SPEND THEIR TIME

by Lucas Bobay and Sam Jolly

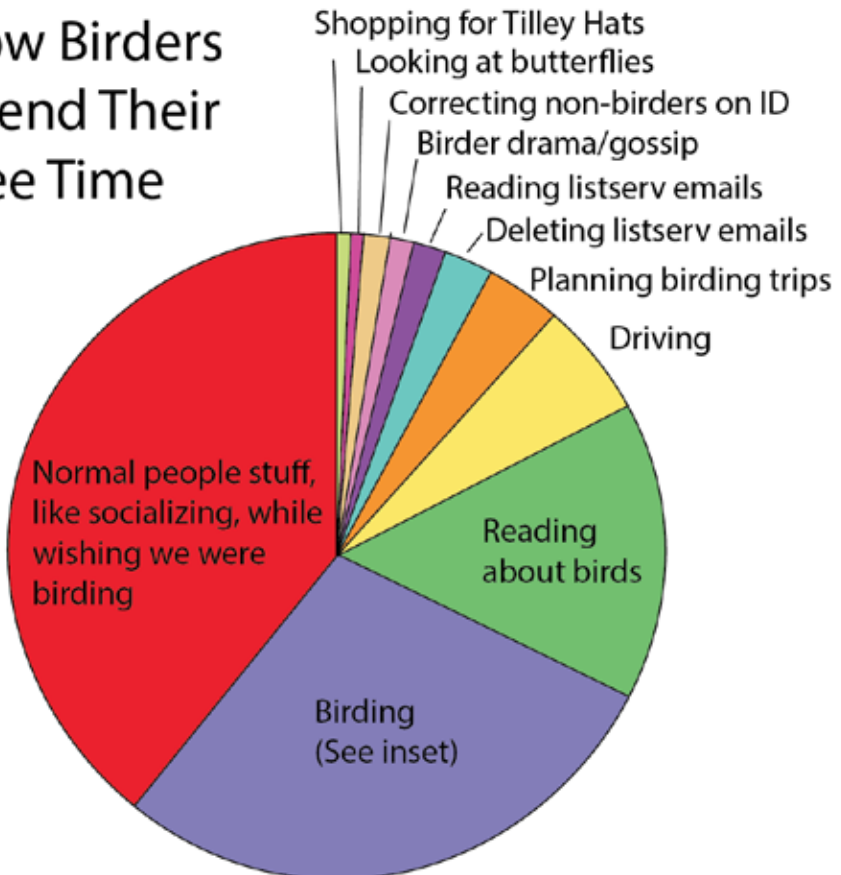
*Posted on The Birders Conundrum, their entertaining and informative blog. Reprinted with permission. Lucas and Sam are budding ornithologists from North Carolina.*

**H**ow do we birders spend our time? It is, of course, pretty much different for everyone. But if we can speculate, and admit we are generalizing, the pie chart that follows should be a good indication of the breakdown of a birder's free time. Birding makes up a decent chunk of this time, but not all of it, as you will see below. We even manage a decent amount of normal human interaction – that's good news! Your results may vary.

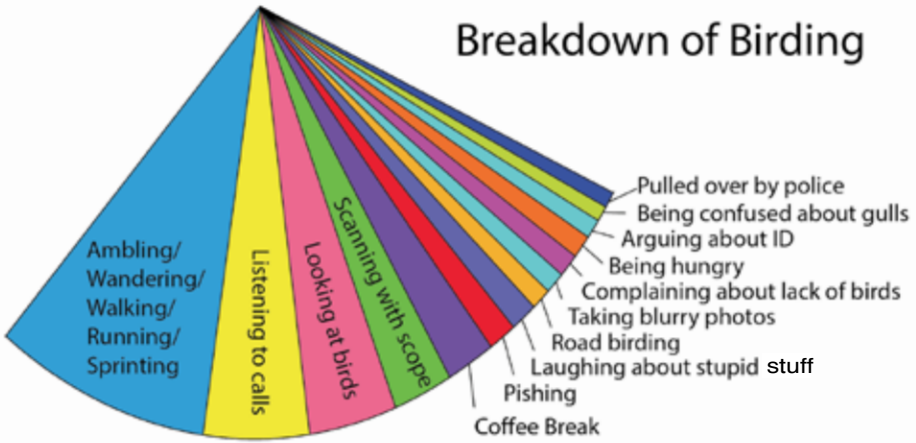


*Lucas (right) and Sam spending time birding.*

### How Birders Spend Their Free Time



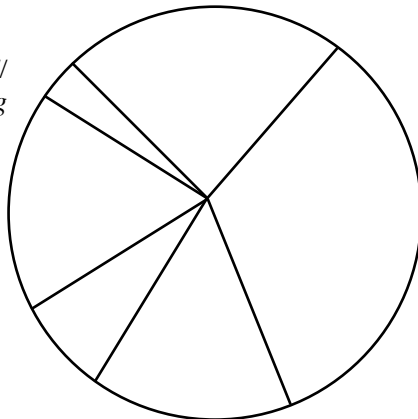
We also took the liberty to further dissect the "birding" slice, seen below:



After some thinking, we realized just how little time is spent actually looking at birds - we spend much more time looking *for* them rather than *at* them. Of course, everyone is different. Coffee drinkers, for instance, will sacrifice birding time in order to satisfy their debilitating caffeine addiction. People that drive the speed limit or avoid sketchy game lands in the wee hours of the morning will probably not be pulled over by the police for "excessive speeding" or "looking suspicious" (speaking from experience here). People who generally bird alone probably won't laugh much, unless they are crazy. This is meant to be a generalization, after all.

Is there anything we left off? What makes up the bulk of your Free Time Pie Chart?

*...from the Editor:  
To begin, mine would/  
could look something  
like this:*



*PS: I'm not going to tell  
you what each repre-  
sents!*



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Lincoln Co., 05/14/15	
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