

SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

Gull-billed Tern
Deuel Co., 6/01/16
Photo: Kathy Java



S O U T H



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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Is SDOU a DO NOTHING organization?

I recently received a very thoughtful and thought-provoking letter from an SDOU member. The writer believes that SDOU needs to re-evaluate its mission and work to change from a "quaint, vague small club" to a statewide organization that is capable of dealing with statewide conservation issues.

I do not believe SDOU is a "do nothing" organization but I do believe as a group of intelligent individuals we can do more! We are all interested in birds, bird conservation and the study of birds. So what can we do that we have not been doing to help the birds?



SPEAK TO SERVICE GROUPS - If Yankton service groups are any indication, most of these groups are in need of speakers at their weekly meetings. These presentations are short, usually 20-30 minutes. Offer to speak about any bird topic of your choice, anything you feel comfortable with covering. I bet you will be taken up on your offer. When you speak, your passion for birds will show and, hopefully, some of that passion will transfer to your listeners and get more people interested in birds.

ASSIST YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS - SD State Park - Kid's Bird Walk & Talk, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts,

TEACH ADULT LEARNING CLASSES ON BIRDS - I know several members have done this for years; try it, it's fun and you might get some new birding friends.

GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF BIRD PEOPLE - Volunteer with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs, etc. to teach the kids about birds. Just like with the adult learning classes, you do not have to be an expert you just need to teach the basics. The South Dakota State Parks have a theme this year of Getting the Family Outdoors. I volunteered to do a program we are calling "Kids Bird Walk and Talk "at Lewis & Clark Recreation Area. We will have 10-15 minute picture show on common birds then a thirty minute walk through a bird area of the park. The first sessions are scheduled for June 11 and I will report back on how they go.

HELP WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF A BIRD FESTIVAL, SPEAK AT A BIRD FESTIVAL, LEAD BIRD TOURS, or do anything to help out. Form alliances with other like-minded organizations to achieve a more powerful voice, maybe Audubon groups, maybe even Ducks Unlimited or Pheasants Unlimited as much as that might bother some people.

CREATE A NEW POSITION IN SDOU - Public Relations person for SDOU to get the word out about SDOU and bird conservation issues. There must be someone in SDOU who has experience in public relations or is willing to learn and get some experience. Coordinate with the Membership Committee to help with recruiting new members, send out Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to radio and TV stations on conservation issues, etc.

It seems obvious, but it's worth stating: if we don't save birds we will not have any birds to observe and to study.

Roger Dietrich

There are many reasons why so many bird fanciers are involved in yard-birding. Many are psychological and many are also sociological. Here are four important ones.

EMULATION FACTOR. For thousands of years, we have envied the abilities of birds, in some cases trying to copy them, mostly with little success. Birds are first of all, fliers. Flying is associated with freedom, as well as a means of escaping bad things, whether it be predators or weather. Birds are singers and humans songs and instruments often mimic the songs of the birds, and finally, birds are beautiful. Their colors and shapes mesmerize us. We often name colors after those of birds, and study their shapes to copy for our automobiles, ships, and aircraft. Not only bird shapes, but their speed, hunting abilities, mating habits, visual acuteness, and intelligence become part of, or inspiration for, our logos, including brand names and sports teams.

THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE. It might start as a desire help the weak, or feed the hungry, or just to preserve something precious, but quickly a new birder starts to wonder about bird-related factors, such as migration, food and nesting, and climate/weather, etc. Soon books, computer applications, binoculars, and cameras appear to help satisfy this knowledge quest. This excitement is often passed on to children, inspiring in future adults more knowledge quests. The result is an appreciation for nature and an awareness of the fragilities of the natural environment.

ASSOCIATION. Ancient cultures in most areas of the world developed a form of kinship with nature, and in many cases, with birds. Anthropomorphizing birds almost seems to be a cultural universality. “Spirit Birds” are found in ancient myths: bird gods, totemic birds and today, sports teams named for birds are all forms of association.

When the time comes for birds to return in Spring, or during a fall migration, people with feeders get “**MIGRATION ASSOCIATION ANTICIPATION**”, which results in buying new field guides, feeders, binoculars or cameras. Window watching, poking your head out to look at the sky, putting a hand to an ear hoping for the sounds of migrating friends and buying seed become anticipation behaviors.

Birds in the yard offer us a form of possession association, (my birds, my yard birds, my Cardinal, my yard count, etc.) It can apply to anyone, child or adult, especially in times of isolation during our long South Dakota winters. Many people feed birds just in the winter, since food is hard to come by and bird mortality can be high. It offers a feeling of accomplishment, caring, and rescue. On a cold winter day, an excited child cries out, “Look Mom, out the window, our bird friends are at the feeders!”. This sharing may become a major factor later on in one’s “birding lifetime”, leading to interest in research, writing, or photography for the individual – all the result of sharing.

SELF-ACTUALIZATION AND HAPPINESS. In nursing homes, experiments have shown that a bird feeder/responsibility group had significantly higher perceived control, happiness and activity. Significant improvement was also found in nurses’ ratings of activity, happiness, alertness, sleeping time, complaints and sociability for the responsibility group. (Nursing Homes for the Birds: A Control- Relevant Intervention with Bird Feeders. *The Gerontologist*, 1983, Vol. 29, 527 – 531.) For all of us, the self-satisfaction of being able to name a bird by its color or identify or imitate its song, gives us great satisfaction.

FLEDGLING TRACTS

JASON THIELE

A Beginner's Guide to Birdspeak :Part V– Field Marks

In order to become a good birder, learning field marks is a must. There is some difference in opinion among birders as to just what exactly is considered a field mark, but I would say that a field mark is any characteristic of a bird that allows it to be identified without actually having it in the hand. In the earliest days of ornithology, birds were frequently killed for further study as museum specimens. While birders can be happy that those days are largely behind us, the efforts of those early collectors combined with the intensive in-the-field efforts of later generations of naturalists have made it possible to reliably identify most birds from a distance using field marks. The best way to study field marks is to get one of the various birding field guide books that are available for different parts of the world.



When you open up a field guide, you will generally see pictures and text descriptions of the various field marks that are particular to a species. Field marks can be colors, patterns, shapes of certain body parts, behaviors, and more. Below I will briefly describe a few of the common field marks you will see depicted in field guides and give some examples for further study. This is not a comprehensive list, and it cannot replace hours spent flipping through a field guide and observing live birds in the field.

Bill size/shape: The bill (you will find that birders seldom use the word “beak”) should always be one of the first features that a birder examines when a bird is spotted. The bill is generally one of the most telltale signs of a bird’s lifestyle and diet. For example, it should come as no surprise that raptors, such as the ubiquitous Red-tailed Hawk, use their sharply hooked bills for tearing flesh from prey. A few raptors have even more specialized bills, such as the Snail Kite of the Florida Everglades, which has a very long and thin hook on its bill that allows it to remove the fleshy foot from its snail prey. The various seed-eating birds, such as Purple Finches and Northern Cardinals, have relatively short, thick bills that provide the power necessary to crush seeds. One group of finches – the crossbills – have bills that make them especially efficient at eating seeds of conifer trees. A White-winged Crossbill, for example, can insert its uniquely shaped mandibles in between the scales of a spruce cone to twist them apart and then use its tongue to extract the seeds. Woodpeckers need their chisel-shaped bills to create nest cavities and to bore insects from wood. When you look at the bill on a Pileated Woodpecker, you

have to almost feel sorry for any grub that thinks it's safe inside a dead log. Some birds have bills that are so unique that they could hardly be confused with anything else. Examples of the downright weird bills of the bird world include that of the aptly-named Roseate Spoonbill, the fish-trapping bill of the Black Skimmer, which has a lower mandible that is longer than the upper, and the ridiculously long bill of the Sword-billed Hummingbird, which is longer than its body.

Legs/feet: Like the bill, the feet of a bird are often a key indicator of its lifestyle. A close look at the feet of different species will reveal a wide variety of different specializations. The Osprey has sharply curved talons that allow it to grasp and carry slippery fish. The Ostrich, being a flightless bird, has feet that are reduced to two toes, which function in much the same way as the hooves of running mammals such as deer. Snowy Owls have legs and toes that are covered with feathers to provide additional insulation from arctic winters. Wading birds, such as the Great Egret, have very long legs that allow them to hunt in relatively deep water without submerging themselves. Some of the most unique feet in the bird world are those of birds that swim. The Blue-winged Teal, for example, has webbed feet that provide propulsion in the water. Its feet are positioned forward on its body, which allows it to move well (albeit somewhat awkwardly) on the land as well. The diving ducks, such as the Canvasback, and other diving birds such as the Common Loon, also have webbed feet, but their feet are closer to the rear of the body. This is an advantage in the water but a handicap on land. Perhaps my favorite bird feet are the lobed toes found on some swimming birds like the Pied-billed Grebe and American Coot. Unfortunately, these birds don't leave the water all that often, so their unique toes are seldom seen.

Wing shape: The vast majority of birds can fly, and flight requires wings. It doesn't take long for a person observing birds to realize that birds vary greatly in their flight styles and abilities. Since birds are often seen in the air, learning to recognize wing shapes is extremely important for field identification. Some of the most aerobic birds are those that catch prey on the wing. Many of the aerial foragers have swept-back, pointed wings, which provide great speed without compromising agility too much. The fastest animal in the world, the Peregrine Falcon, has this wing shape, as do some of the graceful aerial insectivores such as the Barn Swallow and the Chimney Swift. Birds that spend much time in the air soaring tend to have relatively long and broad wings, which provide a great deal of lift. This wing shape can be found on birds such as Bald Eagles, Broad-winged Hawks, and American White Pelicans. Under the right conditions, these birds can soar for great distances with very little flapping. I've mentioned several species of raptors already in this paragraph, and wing shape is an especially important field mark for many birds of prey. I've already mentioned the pointed, high-speed wings of falcons and the long, broad, soaring wings of many hawks and eagles, but another common wing

shape among raptors are the short, rounded wings found on many of the smaller, often forest-dwelling hawks such as Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks. Wings like these provide short bursts of great speed and great maneuverability through thick cover. Some birds, such as Turkey Vultures and Swainson's Hawks, soar with their wings held in a "V" shape, or dihedral, which can be a very useful field mark from a distance. Even flightless birds can have very functional wings. The various species of penguins, though flightless, have flipper-shaped wings that effectively allow them to "fly" through the water rather than through the air in a very graceful fashion.

Stripes: Few field marks are as distinctive as a pattern of stripes on a bird. On some birds, stripes serve to break up their outline and make them more difficult to spot. A prime example is the American Bittern, whose brown vertical stripes make it blend in very well with the cattail marshes where it nests. Other striped birds seem to be begging for attention with their bold patterns. One of my favorite spring migrants is the Black-and-White Warbler, whose plumage would make it the perfect candidate to be the referee for an avian sporting event. And on other birds, stripes may not be the most prominent field mark, but they still provide useful identification clues. For example, the striped head of a Whimbrel is a useful field mark for separating it from similar shorebird species.

Spots: Stripes aren't the only color pattern in the avian wardrobe. Many species have spots in their plumage. As with stripes, spots can be subtle or bold, but they are often very good field marks. One of the more difficult groups of birds to identify in North America are the thrushes. Many thrushes have spots, and these spots are often key to separating one species from another. For example, the Wood Thrush has much larger and darker spots than a Hermit Thrush, whose spots are in turn bolder than those of a Swainson's Thrush or Gray-cheeked Thrush. The Veery has fewer and fainter spots on its breast than any of the previously mentioned thrush species. A few other examples of birds with spots are the Brown Thrasher, Solitary Sandpiper, Northern Flicker, and Spotted Towhee.

Wingbars/wing patches: My very first time birding with expert birders, I spotted a bird that no one in the group could identify immediately, mostly because it was moving around in thick brush and not giving us a good look. However, it was from listening to the experienced birders in the crowd talk through the ID that I learned about two of the most common field marks to search for on a bird: wingbars (or wing patches) and eyerings (discussed below). Many birds, especially songbirds, have one, two, or more bars on their wings. For example, the Blackpoll Warbler has two simple white wingbars on each wing, while the Golden-winged Warbler has two thick, bright yellow wingbars that often look like a yellow patch on the males. The Black-throated Blue Warbler has a very small white patch on each wing. As

it turns out, the bird that I had spotted, an Orange-crowned Warbler, did not have wingbars at all, but sometimes the absence of a field mark can also be a useful identification clue. Sometimes wing markings are clearly visible in flight, such as the wing patches on a Common Nighthawk. These can make some birds identifiable even at a great distance.

Eyerings: Another field mark that I learned to look for during my first group birding experience is an eyering. Many birds have feathers or skin around the eye that create a ring. Like other field marks, eyerings come in many varieties. And eyering may be a complete circle, such as the white ring around the eye of a Least Flycatcher or the bold red ring around the eye of a male Wood Duck. It can also be “broken,” such as the crescents above and below the eye of a MacGillivray’s Warbler. Sometimes eyerings even take on the shape of “spectacles,” as seen on a Blue-headed Vireo or a Yellow-breasted Chat.

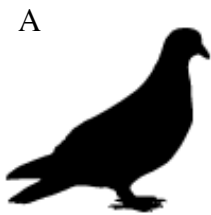
Behavior: Maybe the most overlooked field marks (which some birders might not consider to be field marks) are behaviors. Some birds have specific behaviors that are extremely useful in separating them from similar species, especially under poor viewing conditions. For example, the Eastern Phoebe looks similar to many other birds in the flycatcher family, but it has a habit of nearly constantly wagging its tail back and forth. The Spotted Sandpiper does a distinctive “butt-bob” as it walks. Hermit Thrushes will often raise and lower their tails, unlike other similar thrushes. One of my nemesis birds that I mentioned in the previous issue is the Connecticut Warbler, which looks quite similar to the Mourning Warbler. However, the Connecticut Warbler walks along the ground, while the Mourning Warbler hops. And I often spot one of the best-camouflaged birds in the world, the Brown Creeper, due to its tendency to fly to the base of a tree and work its way up the trunk while searching for insects.

Some species have one field mark that is so unique that once you get even a brief glimpse of it, you can be quite confident of the ID. Other birds have a variety of subtle field marks and require close scrutiny to separate them from similar species. With practice, identifying birds becomes far less intimidating than it can seem at first.

LBJ

If you hear a birder say these three letters, chances are he/she is not referring to the man who succeeded JFK as President of the United States. Instead, these three letters stand for “little brown job,” and the abbreviation refers to a variety of small brown birds, especially sparrows, that all look alike to the casual observer. LBJs are great examples of why studying field marks is so important.

To a person who has never paid attention to birds, three common sparrows of South Dakota – the Song Sparrow, the Field Sparrow, and the Savannah Sparrow – may look like the same species. But a look at some key field marks (or a study of their songs and calls, as mentioned in the first article in this series) will soon reveal that not all LBJs are alike. Just within this group of three example species, there are distinct differences. The Field Sparrow has a small pink bill, an unspotted and unstreaked breast, a white eyering, and a reddish crown. In contrast, the Savannah Sparrow has a streaked breast and a small yellow patch in front of the eye. The Song Sparrow is generally darker in color than the other two species. It has a streaked breast somewhat similar to a Savannah Sparrow but with a distinct spot as well.



Are you able to ID a bird Family by shape? Try these. And perhaps help a child learn with them.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____

SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2015-2016 Winter Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 December 2015 to 29 February 2016

College of Arts & Sciences

Dakota State University

Madison, SD 57042

There were 140 species, including 6 rarities, reported during the season this year. The ten-year (2005-2014) 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 (27) 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, **Barn Owl** and **Great-tailed Grackle** were removed from this list.

Greater White-fronted Goose reported 10 Dec Stanley RDO; 20 Dec Yankton MKZ, KP; 01 Jan Charles Mix RM, KP; 19 Feb Charles Mix RM; 20 Feb Minnehaha MKZ; 26 Feb Brown GO; 26 Feb Lincoln MKZ

Snow Goose reported 03 Dec Pennington CLG; 18 Dec Lincoln MKZ; 20 Dec Yankton MKZ, KP; 02 Jan Lyman RSL; 18 Feb Douglas KP; 19 Feb Clay DS; 20 Feb Charles Mix KP, RM; 20 Feb Gregory RM; 20 Feb Hughes KM

Ross's Goose reported 11 Jan Pennington CLG; 21 Jan Pennington CLG; 14 Feb Sully RDO; 21 Feb McCook JC

Cackling Goose reported 28 Dec Grant BP; 01 Jan Hughes BP; 01 Jan Stanley RDO, BP; 11 Jan Pennington CLG; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP; 21 Jan Pennington CLG; 22 Jan Stanley RDO; 20 Feb Brown BP

Tundra Swan Only Report: **02 Dec Day WS**

Wood Duck reported 01 Jan Brown GO; 04 Jan Yankton JC; 07 Jan Hughes RDO; 23 Jan Hughes RDO; 01 Feb Brown GO; 27 Feb Lawrence ND

Gadwall reported 25 Dec Stanley RDO; 11 Jan Pennington CLG; 11 Jan Yankton GJS; 21 Jan Pennington CLG; 19 Feb Charles Mix RM; 20 Feb Lake JSP

American Wigeon reported 01 Jan Stanley BP; 04 Jan Yankton JC; 11 Jan Pennington CLG; 16 Jan Pennington RSL; 19 Feb Charles Mix RM; 20 Feb Lake JSP

Blue-winged Teal Only Report: **02 Dec Gregory RM**

Northern Shoveler Only Report: 27 Feb Charles Mix KP

Northern Pintail reported 09 Dec Marshall GO; 02 Jan Hughes RDO; 04 Jan Yankton JC; 10 Jan Lyman RDO; 19 Feb Charles Mix RM; 21 Feb Hughes KM; 27 Feb Brown GO; 27 Feb Douglas KP; 27 Feb Lake JSP; 27 Feb Lincoln CA, JC, MKZ; 27 Feb Meade ND; 27 Feb Minnehaha CA, JC

Green-winged Teal reported 20 Dec Pennington JLB; 25 Dec Gregory RM; 04 Jan Yankton JC; 27 Feb Charles Mix KP; 27 Feb Kingsbury JSP; 27 Feb Meade ND

Canvasback reported 07 Dec Pennington CLG; 16 Dec Stanley RDO; 25 Dec Gregory RM; 11 Jan Yankton GJS; 19 Feb Charles Mix RM; 20 Feb Lake JSP; 27 Feb Meade ND

Redhead reported 03 Dec Minnehaha MKZ; 07 Jan Stanley RDO; 11 Jan Yankton GJS; 14 Jan Pennington JLB; 16 Jan Pennington RSL; 29 Jan Charles Mix RM; 19 Feb Gregory RM; 20 Feb Lake JSP

Ring-necked Duck reported 25 Dec Gregory RM; 07 Jan Hughes RDO; 14 Jan Pennington JLB; 16 Jan Pennington RSL; 23 Jan Hughes RDO; 19 Feb Charles Mix RM; 27 Feb Lake JSP

Greater Scaup reported 02 Jan Hughes RDO; 07 Jan Stanley RDO; 14 Jan Pennington JLB; 16 Jan Pennington RSL

Lesser Scaup reported 03 Dec Pennington CLG; 09 Dec Marshall GO; 07 Jan Stanley RDO; 11 Jan Yankton GJS; 13 Jan Charles Mix KP; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP; 20 Feb Lake JSP

Long-tailed Duck reported 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP

Bufflehead reported 24 Dec Gregory RM; 14 Jan Pennington JLB; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP; 16 Jan Pennington RSL; 30 Jan Gregory JSP; 24 Feb Lake JSP

Common Goldeneye reported 03 Dec Minnehaha MKZ; 11 Jan Yankton GJS; 14 Jan Pennington JLB; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP; 16 Jan Lyman BP; 16 Jan Pennington RSL; 20 Feb Lake JSP

Hooded Merganser reported 20 Dec Pennington JLB; 04 Jan Yankton JC; 06 Jan Day WS; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP; 16 Jan Lyman BP; 23 Jan Hughes RDO; 06 Feb Pennington RSL

Common Merganser reported 13 Dec Edmunds BP; 11 Jan Pennington GCL; 11 Jan Yankton GJS; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP; 16 Jan Lyman BP; 16 Jan Pennington RSL; 20 Feb Lake JSP; 20 Feb McCook JC

Red-breasted Merganser reported 01 Jan Stanley RDO, KM; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 15 Jan Hughes KM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP; 30 Jan Hughes KM

Ruddy Duck reported 02 Dec Day WS; **20 Dec Yankton KP, DS; 20 Feb Lake JSP**

Gray Partridge All Reports: 04 Dec Charles Mix RM; 13 Dec Custer MMM; 20 Dec Meade RSL; 27 Dec Pennington RSL; 02 Jan Charles Mix RM

Ruffed Grouse All Reports: 13 Dec Lawrence DGP; 01 Jan Lawrence SW; 21 Jan Lawrence DGP; 15 Feb Lawrence EK; 22 Feb Lawrence SW; 26 Feb Lawrence SW

Common Loon All Reports: 12 Dec Sully RSL; 20 Dec Yankton DS, KP

Pied-billed Grebe reported **20 Dec Pennington JLB; 08 Dec Fall River ND**

Horned Grebe All Reports: **05 Dec Lyman JSP; 08 Dec Fall River ND**

Western Grebe All Reports: 05 Dec Pennington JLB; 07 Dec Pennington CLG; 13 Dec Stanley RDO; 01 Jan Sully RDO; 22 Jan Stanley RDO

Double-crested Cormorant reported 25 Dec Lyman RDO; 22 Dec Charles Mix RM; 18 Dec Gregory RM

Great Blue Heron reported 05 Dec Roberts CV; 04 Jan Pennington CLG; 21 Jan Pennington CLG

Bald Eagle reported 01 Jan Gregory (93) KP

Northern Harrier reported 02 Jan Hughes KM; 09 Jan Butte ND; 15 Jan Pennington ND; 17 Jan Pennington RSL; 31 Jan Lawrence EK; 14 Feb Harding CEM; 15 Feb Sully KM; 27 Feb Brown GO; 27 Feb Kingsbury JSP; 27 Feb Lincoln MKZ

Northern Goshawk reported 02 Jan Brown GO; 09 Jan Edmunds BP; 10 Jan Hughes KM; 30 Jan Brown BP, CV, GO; 31 Jan Hughes KM

Ferruginous Hawk reported 03 Jan Stanley KM; 09 Jan Jones RDO; 13 Jan Harding CEM; 14 Jan Pennington JLB; 16 Jan Lawrence RSL; 16 Jan Lyman BP; 17 Jan Harding CEM; 17 Jan Hughes RDO; 17 Jan Sully BP

Golden Eagle reported 18 Jan Edmunds BP; 01 Feb McPherson GO

American Coot reported 13 Dec Brown BP; 07 Jan Hughes RDO; 11 Jan Yankton GJS; 14 Jan Pennington JLB; 16 Jan Pennington RSL; 23 Jan Hughes RDO; 31 Jan Stanley RDO

Killdeer reported 11 Jan Pennington CLG; 21 Jan Pennington CLG; 27 Feb Kingsbury JSP; 27 Feb Minnehaha CA, JC

Wilson's Snipe All Reports: 02 Dec Meade EEM; 20 Dec Yankton KP; 16 Jan Lawrence RSL

Bonaparte's Gull reported 05 Dec Buffalo JSP; 25 Dec Lyman RDO; 04 Jan Charles Mix RM

Franklin's Gull reported **02 Dec Charles Mix RM; 15 Dec Stanley RDO; 26 Jan Gregory RM; 29 Jan Charles Mix RM**

Ring-billed Gull reported 08 Dec Fall River ND; 26 Dec Stanley RDO; 13 Jan Hughes RDO; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP, RM; 17 Jan Hughes RDO; 04 Feb Gregory RM

California Gull reported 19 Dec Stanley RDO; 13 Jan Hughes RDO; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP et el; 17 Jan Hughes RDO; 29 Feb Stanley RDO

Herring Gull reported 12 Jan Gregory RM; 13 Jan Hughes RDO; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP, RM; 17 Jan Hughes RDO; 01 Feb Gregory RM

Thayer's Gull reported 26 Dec Stanley RDO; 01 Jan Hughes BP; 13 Jan Charles Mix KP; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP, RM; 23 Jan Hughes RDO

Iceland Gull Only Report: 31 Jan Hughes RDO

Lesser Black-backed Gull reported 17 Dec Charles Mix RM; 19 Dec Stanley RDO; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP, RM

Glaucous Gull reported 12 Jan Gregory RM; 13 Jan Hughes RDO; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM

Great Black-backed Gull All Reports: **12 Jan Gregory RM; 15 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Charles Mix BP, KP, RM**

Mourning Dove reported 10 Dec Meade EEM; 02 Jan Lincoln JC, CA; 08 Jan Clay GJS; 15 Jan Roberts CV; 16 Jan Kingsbury JSP; 16 Jan Roberts CV; 31 Jan Pennington RSL; 02 Feb Clay GJS

Eastern Screech-Owl reported 19 Dec Brown BP; 19 Dec Minnehaha CA; 19 Dec Stanley RDO, KM; 20 Dec Pennington ND, JLB; 09 Jan Lincoln JC, CA; 30 Jan Stanley RDO; 05 Feb Turner KP

Snowy Owl reported 10 Jan Stanley RDO; 12 Jan Harding CEM; 13 Jan McPherson and Edmunds GO; 14 Jan Brown GO, CV; 16 Jan Lyman KM, RDO; 17 Jan Hughes BP; 18 Jan Edmunds and Faulk BP; 20 Jan Harding CEM

Barred Owl Only Report: **19 Dec Minnehaha CA**

Long-eared Owl reported 19 Dec Stanley KM; 03 Jan Sully KM; 29 Jan Stanley KM; 31 Jan Lawrence EK; 14 Feb Hughes RDO

Short-eared Owl reported 30 Dec Jackson ND; 15 Jan Harding CEM; 15 Jan Pennington ND; 21 Feb Butte SW; 28 Feb Harding CEM

Northern Saw-whet Owl reported 20 Dec Pennington ND; 08 Jan Stanley KM; **09 Jan Lincoln JC, CA**; 23 Jan Sully KM; 24 Jan Hughes KM; 29 Jan Stanley KM; 27 Feb Harding CEM

Belted Kingfisher reported 29 Dec Minnehaha JC; 02 Jan Hughes RDO; 04 Jan Pennington CLG; 21 Jan Pennington CLG; 27 Feb Lawrence ND

Lewis's Woodpecker All Reports: 24 Dec Lawrence and Meade JLB; 16 Jan Lawrence RSL

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Only Report: 18 Dec Charles Mix RM

American Three-toed Woodpecker reported 19 Jan Lawrence DGP; 12 Feb Lawrence DGP

Black-backed Woodpecker All Reports: 19 Dec Meade ND; 23 Jan Lawrence DGP; 21 Feb Custer RDO; 26 Feb Lawrence SW; 28 Feb Lawrence DGP

Pileated Woodpecker All Reports: 06 Feb Day CV; 11 Feb Day WS

Merlin reported 30 Dec Jackson ND; 10 Jan Lyman RDO; 13 Jan Brown BP; 13 Jan McPherson GO; 16 Jan Kingsbury JSP; 20 Jan Douglas KP; 23 Jan Hughes KM; 13 Feb Pennington ND

Gyr Falcon reported 03 Jan Jones RDO; 03 Jan Stanley KM; 09 Jan Butte ND, JLB; 12 Jan Harding CEM; 22 Jan Harding CEM; 31 Jan Stanley RDO

Pinyon Jay Only Report: 21 Feb Custer RDO

Black-billed Magpie reported 13 Dec Lyman CA, JC; 25 Dec Lyman RDO; 10 Jan Lyman RDO; 17 Jan Walworth BP

Red-breasted Nuthatch reported 12 Dec Stanley KM; 04 Jan Yankton JC; 14 Jan Brown GO, CV; 30 Jan Hughes RDO; 16 Feb Brown GO

Pygmy Nuthatch All Reports: 14 Dec Pennington CLG; 20 Dec Pennington JLB; 22 Dec Pennington JLB; 30 Jan Pennington RSL; 12 Feb Pennington ND; 21 Feb Custer RDO

Winter Wren All Reports: **18 Dec Stanley KM; 26 Dec Stanley KM; 02 Jan Stanley KM; 15 Jan Stanley KM**

Carolina Wren Only Report: **20 Dec Yankton DS, KP**

Eastern Bluebird reported 01 Jan Hughes RDO, KM, BP; 04 Jan Yankton JC; 29 Jan Gregory RM; 18 Feb Charles Mix RM

Mountain Bluebird Only Report: **27 Feb Pennington RSL**

Townsend's Solitaire reported 19 Dec Brown GO; 28 Jan Brown GO; 15 Feb Union DS

Hermit Thrush Only Report: **19 Dec Brown BP**

Bohemian Waxwing reported 13 Jan Brown GO; 30 Jan Brown BP, CV, GO; 27 Feb Lawrence DGP; 27 Feb Lincoln MKZ

Yellow-rumped Warbler All Reports: 02 Jan Lincoln CA, JC; 30 Jan Charles Mix JSP; 15 Feb Union DS

Fox Sparrow Only Report: 03 Dec Brown GO

Song Sparrow All Reports: 19 Dec Brown BP; 19 Dec Lawrence JLB

White-throated Sparrow All Reports: 19 Dec Brown BP; 10 Jan Hughes KM

Harris's Sparrow reported 19 Dec Brown BP; 01 Jan Clay GJS; 02 Jan Lincoln JC, CA; 02 Feb Clay GJS

Northern Cardinal reported 30 Dec Jackson ND; 13 Jan Pennington JLB; 06 Feb Tripp RDO

Red-winged Blackbird reported 19 Dec Brown BP; 04 Jan Clay JC; 06 Jan Stanley RDO; 10 Jan Hughes KM; 16 Jan Aurora BP; 16 Jan Butte RSL; 08 Feb Clay GJS

Western Meadowlark reported 03 Jan Douglas KP; 09 Jan Butte ND, JLB; 10 Jan Stanley and Lyman RDO; 13 Jan Charles Mix RM; 16 Jan Union DS; 27 Jan Codrington BP; 30 Jan Hughes KM, RDO

Yellow-headed Blackbird Only Report: **13 Dec Stanley RDO**

Rusty Blackbird All Reports: 01 Dec Clay DS; 09 Dec Marshall GO

Common Grackle All Reports: 02 Dec Stanley RDO; 27 Dec Turner KP; 31 Dec Day BP; 01 Feb Butte ND; 20 Feb Stanley RDO

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch Only Report: 12 Dec Lawrence ND

Pine Grosbeak reported **14 Jan Brown GO, CV; 14 Jan Douglas KP; 15 Jan Stanley KM; 26 Jan Brown GO; 06 Feb Sully KM; 15 Feb Douglas KP; 19 Feb Harding CEM**

Red Crossbill reported 01 Feb Brown GO

Common Redpoll reported 09 Jan Butte ND, JLB; 14 Jan Charles Mix RM; 15 Jan Roberts CV; 15 Jan Stanley KM; 16 Jan Lawrence EK; 16 Jan Roberts CV; 17 Jan Hughes RDO

Pine Siskin reported 10 Jan Stanley RDO; 11 Jan Pennington ND; 14 Jan Edmunds GO, CV; 14 Jan Lake JSP; 15 Jan Roberts CV; 16 Jan Douglas BP, KP; 16 Jan Kingsbury JSP; 16 Jan Pennington RSL; 16 Jan Roberts CV; 17 Jan Hughes RDO

Evening Grosbeak Only Report: 18 Jan Lawrence DGP

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Brant 28 Feb Sully KM

Turkey Vulture 18 Dec Charles Mix RM

Pacific Wren 31 Dec Pennington RSL

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 14 Dec – 15 Feb Pennington CLG, ND, JLB

Vesper Sparrow 19 Dec Stanley RDO

Chestnut-collared Longspur 28 Feb Roberts (6) CV

Species Expected But Not Reported

Trumpeter Swan, American Black Duck (2), White-winged Scoter (2), Barrow's Goldeneye (2), Northern Bobwhite (3), Red-necked Grebe (2), Eared Grebe (3), American White Pelican, Virginia Rail (2), Sandhill Crane, Black-legged Kittiwake (4), Mew Gull (3), Red-headed Woodpecker (3), Peregrine Falcon (2), Clark's Nutcracker, Marsh Wren (2), Varied Thrush, Brown Thrasher (2), Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow (4), Swamp Sparrow (3), White-crowned Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird (2), Brown-headed Cowbird (2), Cassin's Finch, White-winged Crossbill (3)

Contributing Observers

CA Chris Anderson
JLB Jocelyn L. Baker
JC Joe Coppock
ND Nancy Drilling
CLG Canyon Lake Group
TJ Todd Jensen
EK Elizabeth Krueger
RSL Richard S. Latuchie
RM Ron Mabie
MMM Michael M. Melius
CEM Charlie Miller
EEM Ernest E. Miller
KM Kenny Miller

GO Gary Olson
RDO Ricky D. Olson
JSP Jeffrey S. Palmer
BP Barry Parkin
KP Kelly M. Preheim
DGP D. George Prisbe
GJS Gary & Jan Small
WS Waubay NWR Staff
OCW Outdoor Campus West Survey
DS David Swanson
CV Cheryl Vellenga
SW Scott Weins
MRZ Mick Zerr

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT – 2016

The Alfred Hinds Memorial Award for Ornithology, established in 1983, is presented to a deserving individual, student, or organization/agency that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of ornithology in South Dakota. This year, the award of \$100 will be granted to Kelly Preheim, an SDOU member who as a Kindergarten teacher in Armour teaches her students about birds throughout the school year. She has had phenomenal success doing this. As a group her classes have been able to identify over 400 bird species and know approximately 100 bird songs. They go on outings, have participated in bird banding and have even been the subject of a film being produced by filmmaker Timothy Barksdale. Kelly has created so much interest in birds that she sponsors a bird group called the Chickadee Club for former students in grades one through three. Kelly will put the award to good use by purchasing reading materials and posters for her classroom bird center.

The Mary E. Baylor Memorial Scholarship is presented to a South Dakota sophomore or junior college or university undergraduate student. A biology major with a particular interest in ornithology, ecology, wildlife management, biological education or medicine is a requirement. The recipient of this year's \$1200 scholarship is Nicholas Antonson, a student in his junior year at Augustana University. Nicholas is majoring in biology and secondary education with the goal of teaching science at the high school level. He then hopes to go on to a graduate program in avian behavior and evolution. According to his nominating Professor Dr. Amy R. Lewis (a former Husmann scholarship winner) Nicholas' dream project for graduate school is "to utilize characteristics of behavior to shed light on some of the trickier parts of avian evolution and taxonomy".

First awarded in 1989, the Kenneth H. Husmann Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate student majoring in ornithology, ecology or wildlife management at a South Dakota university. Kassie Hendricks, who is pursuing a Master's Degree at South Dakota State University and Dakota State University, is this year's recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship. She was nominated by Dr. Charles D. Dieter, her Major Advisor of South Dakota State University, with support from Dr. Kristel K. Bakker of Dakota State University, her Thesis Advisor. Dr. Dieter in his nomination letter stated that Kassie has been working on a grassland bird project in which she has been monitoring and evaluating census techniques for bird species of concern in central and western South Dakota. This is an important study as grassland birds are declining due to habitat loss. The information that Kassie gathers will ultimately be important to wildlife managers who monitor grassland bird trends.

The Scholarships and Awards committee and SDOU members congratulate all three of these recipients on their scholastic achievements.

Jocelyn Baker (chairperson), Nelda Holden, Galen Steffen

BOOK REVIEW

DOUGLAS CHAPMAN

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD, Special Volume: Bird Families of the World. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot, J. Sargatal, and D. Christie, Eds. (2013). Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. Cloth, \$97.22. (www.hbw.com.) 602 pp.

When the Spanish publishing house Lynx Edicions of Barcelona announced they would be publishing a grand series of books titled *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, with detailed study and illustrations of all the birds of the world, most of us had not even heard of the internet. A smart phone was one which when it rang, you answered. And no one could have known how this series would impact the study of ornithology and the world of the birder over the following 24 years. Yes, it has been twenty-four years! After eighteen volumes about birds in tremendous detail, never forgetting their special appeal for beauty and mystery, this volume completes this Herculean task.

Dan Tallman has reviewed each and every one of the previous eighteen volumes of this work. I think they should be gleaned from *SD Bird Notes* and packaged as a pamphlet. With Dan's permission I will do so. (Search on sdou.org for HBW or Lynx to read them all.)

The series has been in progress for so long that the avian taxonomic order has changed (by several differing sources and many times). They foresaw this and formed their own taxonomy of the birds of the world and have kept to it. Other taxonomic lists include Clements (followed by SDOU), which lists 237 families; the newer (and more inclined to splitting) International Ornithological Congress lists 242 families and *The Handbook of the Birds of the World* lists 245 families. Recently, a move to make things both less complicated and to allow for more variation in an avian species, instead of speciation, has been proposed. Dr. Vladimir Dinets of the University of Tennessee proposes an avian family list of 64 families (Dinets 2014).

These books are very dense, large format and heavy. The heaviest is 13 lbs. and the lightest is 8.5 lbs. (I just weighed them).

The Volumes cover material as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| I. Ostriches to Ducks | XIV. Bush-shrikes to Old World Sparrows |
| II. New World Vultures to Guineafowl | XV. Weavers to New World Warblers |
| III. Hoatzin to Auks | XVI. Tanagers to New World Blackbirds |
| IV. Sandgrouse to Cuckoos | XVII. New Species and Global Checklist. |
| V. Barn Owls to Hummingbirds | |
| VI. Mousebirds to Hornbills | There are also volumes |
| VII. Jacamars to Woodpeckers | <i>The Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World</i> |
| VIII. Broadbills to Tapaculos | Vols. I & II (pub. date: 12/16) |
| IX. Cotingas to Wagtails | and |
| X. Cuckoo-shrikes to Thrushes | <i>The Bird Families of the World.</i> |
| XI. Old World Flycatchers to Old World Warblers | |
| XII. Picathartes to Tits and Chickadees | |
| XIII. Penduline-tits to Shrikes | |

Dan has asked me to review this final installment and I am very honored. Dan knows, as do most of you, that I really enjoy the study of bird families and the various familial relationships: plumage, behavior and habitat requirement. As more study about bird relationships is made available, we learn that sometimes jarring differences within families is shown. DNA evidence has produced information that several birds thought to be in the same family are not even distantly related (Madagascar Starling, Gill *et al.* 2016), while it has confirmed others (Yellow-breasted Chat *is* indeed a warbler, Earley, 2003).

This volume costs much less than most of the others, but is no less lavish. It is thoughtful and profusely illustrated with charts, maps, photos and paintings. It opens with a quite scientifically important essay: *Exploring the Spectacular Diversity of Birds*. This is followed by meticulous presentation of the families, introduced by the Order in which the family is known. (Hoatzin is both a single family AND a single Order.)

Each family is given a great deal of space for photos, illustrations painted by a team of internationally famous bird artists and detail after detail of relevant information as to what makes the family unique. Each family has a series of sections to make comparisons relatively easy: **RELATED FAMILIES, SIMILAR BIRDS, DESCRIPTION, HABITAT, FOOD, BREEDING, CONSERVATION, RELATIONSHIPS**. A colored range map is included for the entire family as well. Each genus within the family is illustrated with one member and concludes with the number of species found in that genus.

Most of the time classification of avian species is straightforward: Columbidae (doves and pigeons) or Kingfishers are mostly easy to separate in the field. Many other birds are much more difficult and have stumped taxonomers for decades. I will include one example of a “new” family, one that I have seen, the Melampittidae. This small family consists of two species in two genera: Greater Melampitta and Lesser Melampitta. For decades these two small, glossy jet black birds were in the Paradisaeidae, the Birds of Paradise. Endemic to New Guinea, they seemed small versions of the much more colorful and flamboyant “elegant crows” of this family. Presently the Clements taxonomic checklist, which is followed by SDOU, still assigns these birds to Paradisaeidae, making them Birds of Paradise. The IOC taxonomic checklist before 2015 listed these birds as *incertae sedis* (unknown place), but now has placed them in the new family Melampittidae mentioned above. HBW also places them in this new family. The daunting complexity of assigning birds to families may be summed up best by a short quote from the Melampittidae “Relationships” abstract.

Melampittidae is part of the corvoid radiation of oscine passerines. The two species in this family have always been a challenge to classify, having variously been placed in different families, including Timaliidae [old world babblers, 310 species] and Orthonychiidae [logrunners, 3 species] (Schodde & Christidis 2014). Recent studies based on DNA sequence data have started to clarify the position of Melampittidae, with several studies placing it deep within the “crown corvoids” (Barker *et al.* 2004, Reddy & Cracraft 2007, Irestedt *et al.* 2008), sister either to Corcoracidae [Australian mudnesters, 2 species] (Reddy & Cracraft 2007) or to Paradisaeidae [Birds of Paradise, 42 species] (Jönsson *et al.* 2011), or sister to the clade made up of Paradisaeidae and Corcoracidae together (Aggerbeck *et al.* 2014).

This information is nearly all from just the Lesser Melampitta. The nest of the Greater Melampitta has yet to be discovered, so very little is known of its behavior. Who knows what changes may then occur?

Considering all the information—complex or relatively straightforward—it is difficult to not be swept up in this book, especially if one enjoys bird groupings, whereby any number of criteria are observed: plumage, courtship, nesting, habitat, foraging, flight patterns and many more.

Even if you skipped the enormous commitment to all the 18 volumes previous, (at a cost of upwards of \$4000.00!), this \$100 book should be in every bird lover's home library.

Bird families have, over my years of enjoying and observing birds, become more and more important to me. Learning to recognize families is one of the best ways for an experienced birder to identify quickly what bird is in the binoculars.

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SDOU 2016 SPRING MEETING IN OACOMA

by Rosemary Draeger

Red Knot was a life bird for a sizeable number of folks at the SDOU Spring Meeting, held May 13-15, 2016 at Cedar Shore Resort, across the Missouri River from Chamberlain. Activities for more than fifty attendees included field trips both Saturday and Sunday and speakers' presentations on both evenings.

Dan Svingen, District Ranger, Ft. Pierre National Grasslands, spoke Friday after supper on the myriad complexities of managing native grasslands for continued thriving for future generations, and also to provide support for grassland bird species, some of which are endangered or declining in numbers due to loss of adequate habitat.

Our Saturday evening banquet speaker was Jerry Toll, raptor banding leader at Hitchcock Nature Center in Iowa, who spoke about the remarkable raptor migration that occurs every fall, September through December, through the Loess Hills and adjacent Missouri River valley as thousands of raptors head south for the winter. He also introduced us to the Hitchcock Nature Center's various HawkWatch activities available during the migration period and shared some of his raptor banding experiences.

Both of these evening programs were fascinating and informative. Thank you to both Dan Svingen and Jerry Toll for the thoughtful presentations.

Thanks also goes to our field trip leaders for the weekend, Doug Chapman, Ricky Olson, and Scott Stolz. A complete species list follows this report. The grand total for field trips was 178 species.

Highlights in addition to the Red Knot included a pair of Black-necked Stilts, over a dozen Black-bellied Plover and sixty or more American Golden Plover, American Avocets, Ruddy Turnstone, Stilt Sandpipers, a singing Eastern Meadowlark, dozens of Hudsonian and Marbled godwits, seventeen species of warbler, including Magnolia and Chestnut-sided, as well as a very close American Bittern, Veery, and a secluded area that sported a dozen Swainson's Thrushes.

The SDOU board met on Saturday afternoon and conducted normal business, no surprises. Minutes of the meeting and the financial report are posted on the website for SDOU members to view.

Altogether it was a fine weekend of birding, enjoying friends from around the state and extended region, and learning new things about grasslands and raptor migration.

SDOU 2016 SPRING MEETING OACOMA SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose	Ruddy Duck	Great Egret
Wood Duck	Ring-necked Pheasant	Snowy Egret
Gadwall	Sharp-tailed Grouse	Cattle Egret
American Wigeon	Greater Prairie Chicken	Green Heron
Mallard	Wild Turkey	White-faced Ibis
Blue-winged Teal	Common Loon	Turkey Vulture
Northern Shoveler	Pied-billed Grebe	Bald Eagle
Northern Pintail	Horned Grebe	Cooper's Hawk
Green-winged Teal	Eared Grebe	Swainson's Hawk
Canvasback	Western Grebe	Sora
Redhead	American White Pelican	American Coot
Lesser Scaup	Double-crested Cormorant	Black-bellied Plover
Hooded Merganser	American Bittern	American Golden-Plover
Bufflehead	Great Blue Heron	Semipalmated Plover

Killdeer
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Willet
Upland Sandpiper
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Red Knot
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Dunlin
Stilt Sandpiper
Dowitcher species
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Black Tern
Common Tern
Forster's Tern
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
American Kestrel
Peregrine Falcon
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Alder Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
"Traill's" Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Say's Phoebe

Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
Bell's Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
Black-billed Magpie
American Crow
Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged
Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
"Myrtle"
Palm Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush

Mourning Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Spotted Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Harris's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-headed Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow



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Minnehaha County, 12/21/15	
Photo: Gil Blankespoor	