

# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union



*Black-billed  
Cuckoo  
Charles Mix County  
06/29/2016*

*Photo: Kelly Preheim*

SOUTH DAKOTA  
BIRD NOTES



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Meade County

7/27/16

Photo: Roger Dietrich



# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## DIVERSITY IS GOOD

Some people have complained about seeing fewer bird sightings on the SDOU subscription list serve. eBird might be partly to blame for this but it does not have to be that way. It is very easy to copy the data you enter into eBird and paste into a posting on the website. I plead guilty myself for not posting often enough and will try to do better.



I recently saw this letter on the Iowa list serve and thought that it made a number of good points about technology in birding and appealing to a wider audience. I am quoting it here with the writer's permission.

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*Birders,*

*In regards to the discussion about all the different formats in which birds are being reported and the avenues in which birding information, questions, etc., are being discussed, I think what we are seeing is due to a new diversity in birding.*

*Birding, that is, looking at birds beyond a casual interest level, now includes people of various generations, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds more than it ever has. It's hard to argue that technology hasn't played somewhat of a role in this very beneficial expansion. From there, it's hard to argue that younger generations aren't the ones most being reached by the technological opportunities in the world of birding. With a greater diversity in birders, new avenues of information sharing are bound to arise and take off. As much as we'd like to have a one-size fits all way to report, share, and discuss, it's probably not going to happen. For one entity to appeal to the masses, it would be required to be extraordinarily dynamic. That would require that entity to have a dynamic and hungry core, full of a wide variety of individuals wanting to work hard at full inclusion and growth, with everyone on the same page. That sounds attractive, but it may not be feasible. This is by no means any commentary on the IOU, IA-Birds, any Audubon group or bird club in our state or anywhere else.*

*Diversity is a strength, and with it comes many other variables. If we connect with one another and become a cohesive ball of good for birds and their habitat, we will be a success.*

*As long as one of the top goals is to promote birding and bird habitat, we will succeed. If personal goals, pride, and egos are higher on and in the birding food chain, fragmentation will prevail. I, for one, think there is already plenty of fragmentation of the landscape in this state where we live. I hope to see Iowa birders "gel" to help one another; old helping young, young helping old, middle helping middle, etc., etc. If you haven't noticed, we have an enormous challenge for preserving and restoring habitat in our state, but it can happen. What is going to be our conservation success story, not yet written?*

*Bird on...*

*Matthew T. Wetrich  
Nikon Birding ProStaff & Iowa Naturalist*

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Technology, especially eBird, appeals to young folks as do other new technologies. Most of the younger generation carry a smart phone with them at all times, so they have instant access to eBird for keeping their bird records, as well as being able to look up what birds others have seen in an area they are going to visit.

I have always been a tech person so I have used eBird for several years and appreciate not hand writing records anymore and knowing my data is always available on the Cornell database for my use and for researchers to use. Aside from eBird, I also like online bird field guides. For those of us who appreciate the natural world, guides to butterfly, dragonfly, reptile, and wild flower books, are now available on my phone.

Some people find shortcomings in eBird because they or someone they know has read a sighting that they do not think can be correct. We are very lucky to have three great eBird reviewers in South Dakota: Chris Anderson, Scott Stolz, and Richard Latuchie so I think erroneous sightings in SD are minimal.

Connecting via eBird is also a great way to stay in touch with other birders. A young man I coached in soccer twenty years ago returned to Yankton to visit his parents and I reconnected with him through eBird. Brian Adam found me on eBird by searching for Yankton area birders and we birded together. He joined SDOU, and participated in the SDOU 2015 Oacoma Spring Meeting.

Richard Latuchie has arranged for an eBird representative to speak at the Fall SDOU meeting in Vermillion (14-16 October 2016) to update us on the latest from eBird. Look for the registration form and be sure to attend to learn more about eBird, hear the other presentations, and bird with your friends.

*Roger Dietrich*

## 2015 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

David L. Swanson. Department of Biology. University of South Dakota. Vermillion 57069. Email: david.swanson@usd.edu.

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) met on 14 November 2015 at Brookings. There was no spring meeting as discussion and rating of reports for the Spring of 2015 took place electronically. The members of the committee were Todd Jensen, Ricky Olson, Jeffrey Palmer, David Swanson (secretary) and J. David Williams. All members attended both meetings or voted *in absentia*.

Springer (1988. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 40:67-70) outlined the purpose and voting procedures of the RBRC. The RBRC strongly encourages observers of rare or unusual birds in South Dakota to report their observations to the secretary of the RBRC (David Swanson of Vermillion, SD), preferably via email at david.swanson@usd.edu. A *Rare Bird Report Form* is available in electronic format for this purpose from David Swanson, or a form can be downloaded from <http://www.sdou.org/>, by clicking on the *Seasonal Reporting* link and then clicking on the link for the *Rare Bird Report Form*. A summary of the type of information desired by the RBRC in a rare bird report can be found in Swanson (2015. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 67:64-71). The directions and forms are also available on the SDOU.org website. Select RARE BIRDS under the BIRDS category.

The RBRC requests rare bird reports for species listed as hypothetical or accidental in the state, including species reported from a portion of the state or time of year where that species is listed as accidental. A listing of birds belonging to these categories in South Dakota is provided in the latest version of the checklist of South Dakota birds, accessible at <http://www.sdou.org/> by clicking on the *Seasonal Reporting* link and then clicking on the link for the *South Dakota State Checklist*). Information regarding species listed as accidental for only a portion of the state can be found in Tallman et al. (2002. *Birds of South Dakota*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, SDOU, Aberdeen, SD). The RBRC regularly adds or removes species from the review list, based on current data, and these changes to the review list are reported in the annual reports of the RBRC in *South Dakota Bird Notes*. In addition, reports are requested for observations listed in the “Species Requiring Acceptance by the Rare Bird Records Committee” section in the Seasonal Reports of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Observers whose records are accepted (Classes 1 and 2) are encouraged to publish these records

in *South Dakota Bird Notes*, so details of the observation can be communicated to a wider audience.

Following are the results of the committee's action since the last report in the June 2014 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes* (Swanson, 2015. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 67:60-62). The numbers included in parentheses along with some reports indicate the committee's vote. If no numbers are listed, the vote was unanimous (5-0) or 4-0 if a committee member submitted the report. The committee wishes to emphasize that a rating of Class 3 or 4 (non-accepted record) does not imply any personal criticism of the observer. Such a rating only means that the information provided in the report, in the opinion of the committee, did not conclusively eliminate other similar species.

CLASS 1 (Accepted - Specimen, photograph, or recording).

Neotropic Cormorant. 22-26 November 2014. One juvenile at Ft. Randall Dam, Charles Mix Co. Photographed. Ron Mabie & Kelly Preheim. Casual visitor. (4 Class 1P, 1 Class 2).

Neotropic Cormorant. 13 July 2015. One adult in alternate plumage at Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund. Casual visitor.

Yellow-billed Loon. 28-29 November 2014. One in basic plumage at Lake Henry, Bon Homme Co. Photographed. Nancy Drilling et al. 2<sup>nd</sup> state record.

Sabine's Gull. 4 October 2015. One adult in alternate plumage at Lake Andes NWR, Charles Mix Co. Kelly Preheim. Rare fall migrant.

American Golden-Plover. 20 March 2015. One adult in basic plumage at Weisensee WPA, Minnehaha Co. Photographed. Kelly Preheim. Earliest spring record for the state.

Whooping Crane. 6 September 2015. One adult in Jackson Co. Photographed. Will Inselman and Josh Leonard. Earliest fall record for the state.

White-winged Dove. 25 May 2015. One adult at Pickstown, Charles Mix Co. Photographed. Ron & Marietta Mabie. Rare migrant.

Cassin's Vireo. 23 August 2015. One in basic plumage near Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund & Scott Stolz. 1<sup>st</sup> state record.

Steller's Jay. 9 September 2014. One adult at Custer State Park, Custer Co. Photographed. Paul Roisen. 2<sup>nd</sup> state record.

Clark's Nutcracker. 25-28 November 2014. One at Yankton Co. Photographed. Don Marker. Accidental East River.

Common Raven. 24 November 2014. One in Sully Co. Photographed and video recording. Nathan Baker. Rare visitor.

Common Raven. 2 February 2015. One along Highway 34, Haakon Co. Photographed. Michael Melius. Rare visitor.

Tufted Titmouse. 15-16 October 2015. One in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Photographed. Gilbert Blankespoor. Accidental visitor.

Yellow-throated Warbler. 30 September 2015. One adult male at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Photographed and banded. Eileen Dowd-Stukel. Accidental migrant.

Townsend's Warbler. 19 May 2015. One adult female at Aberdeen, Brown Co. Photographed. Dan Streifel, Gary Olson, Kelly Preheim. 5<sup>th</sup> spring record.

Chipping Sparrow. 3 January 2015. One in basic plumage at Canton, Lincoln Co. Photographed. Joseph Coppock. Second January record for the state.

Northern Cardinal. 5 August 2014. Nest with two eggs and one dead nestling – eventually abandoned – at Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed. Jocie Baker and Karen Pettigrew. Accidental nesting West River.

Eastern Meadowlark. 23-26 April 2015. One in Roberts Co. Video and audio recordings. Cheryl Vellenga. Casual visitor away from Lacreek NWR.

CLASS 2 (Accepted – Satisfactory written description).



Long-tailed Duck. 13 December 2014. One immature/female in basic plumage, Angostura Reservoir, Fall River Co. Photographed. Jocelyn Baker. Accidental West River.

Sabine's Gull. 2 October 2014. Two in first-year plumage at Oglalla Dam, Oglalla Lakota Co. Peter Hill. Accidental West River.

Common Raven. 10 March 2015. One at Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. Ricky Olson. Rare visitor.

Black-billed Magpie. 25 October 2014. One at Sica Hollow State Park, Roberts Co. Mark Otnes. Casual Far East.

Black-billed Magpie. 6 March 2015. One at Roberts Co. Mark Otnes. Casual Far East.

Black-throated Gray Warbler. 1 May 2014. One adult male at White Clay Dam, Oglalla Lakota Co. Peter Hill. 7<sup>th</sup> state record.

Indigo Bunting. 8 April 2014. One adult male at Randall Valley, Gregory Co. Ron Mabie. Earliest spring record for the state.

Peregrine Falcon. 17 December 2013. One immature at Shadehill Reservoir, Perkins Co. Dan Svingen and Nancy Drilling. Accidental winter visitor.

McCown's Longspur. 12 April 2015. One male in alternate plumage, Dunn Road, Harding Co. Nancy Drilling and Charlie Miller. Rare migrant Far West.

CLASS 3 (Not accepted – Identification possibly correct but description not completely convincing).

No reports were rated as Class 3.

CLASS 4 (Not accepted – Identification probably or certainly incorrect).

No reports were rated as Class 4.

## *Citizen Science in the Yard, Part I*

**T**hrough ever-continuing advances in electronic information gathering and broadcasting, birders have become a vital part of research, incorporating record keeping, quick reporting, and general sharing of avian behaviors and habits. This new knowledge is available now at once due to the Internet and lightning fast eMail service.

When birders see electronic accounts of avian migrations to which they contributed, there may be a sense of accomplishment as well as enjoyment. This citizen science is not restricted to field work. It can be a productive part of yard birding.

There are thousands of yard birders in South Dakota, many very good at



*Baltimore Orioles Are Always a Welcome Yard Ornament*  
*Photo: Mick Zerr*

species identification, avian behaviors, and timing of migration. If they take part in citizen science programs, they become an integral part of bird science. In this segment of Yardstuff, we will look at some of these programs. Most are free, and are national or even involve international programs.

Perhaps the oldest birding citizen science in the United States is *the Audubon Christmas Bird Count* (CBC). ([www.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count](http://www.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count))

Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the recently formed Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition to replace the annual Christmas hunts that were common. This “Christmas Bird Census” would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them. In that first year, there were 27 counts and 90 species counted. In

the 2015 CBC, there were 2406 counts completed and 2106 species world-wide counted.

The data collected by observers over the past century allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the health and status of bird populations across North America. The long term movements and populations of a given species due to factors such as human encroachment, environmental and climatological changes and chemical use can often be correlated with information from citizen science programs (Sullivan, et al 2014; Hurlbert and Liang 2012).



*Napping Common Redpoll During the Ir-  
ruption of 2013* Photo: Mick Zerr



An important part of Christmas Bird Counts is the feeder watchers program. In the great redpoll irruption of 2012-13, thousands



of Common and several Hoary redpolls were reported in South Dakota, most of these sightings at feeders. This irruption started around the time of the CBC. At my neighborhood feeder complex in Sioux Falls, there were days with a hundred redpolls feeding at the same time. This irruption was not limited to redpolls, as there were as many Pine Siskins present. If citizen science were not available, this valuable information might have been lost to ornithological researchers.

The South Dakota *Seasonal Reporting* citizen science program allows reporting sightings to the state data base. Here, besides reporting your sight

**eBird**

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Hello Mick ZERR (zerrmick) | Preferences | Sign Out Language

### My Yard Lists [View Patch Lists](#)

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Updated ~10 hr(s) ago.

**NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat Site #180212** US-50 - LATEST CHECKLIST: APR 26, 2016 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

	Species		Complete Checklists		CHECKLIST	SPECIES
	TOTAL	RANK	TOTAL	RANK		
LIFE:	65	3935	73	3192	Apr 16, 2016	Field Sparrow
YEAR:	36	1806	16	1474	Apr 26, 2016	Orange-crowned Warbler, Harris...
MONTH:	31	1184	8	740	Apr 26, 2016	Orange-crowned Warbler, North...

**Sioux Falls NWF Backyard Habitat #20922** US-GD - LATEST CHECKLIST: MAY 8, 2014 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

	Species		Complete Checklists		CHECKLIST	SPECIES
	TOTAL	RANK	TOTAL	RANK		
LIFE:	83	2551	83	2922	Mar 10, 2014	Snow Geese
YEAR:	0		0	0		
MONTH:	0		0	0		

*eBird Yard Listing*

ings, you can access information about what has been seen in the past, by whom, by county, by species and by date. To access this program, go to the *Seasonal Reporting* page on the SDOU website (sdou.org).

Another citizen science program yard birders can take part in is administered by the National Wildlife Federation. (nwf.org) In this program, called the *Certified Wildlife Habitat Program*, yard folks are taught how to create a positive habitat for birds.

The most popular and in-depth citizen science program for yard birders is *eBird* (ebird.org). With this program, yard owners can record the birds they see, keep track of bird lists, explore dynamic maps and graphs, share sightings and join the eBird community to contribute to field ornithology science and conservation efforts.

eBird's main goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast number 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 May 2015, participants reported more than 9.5 million bird observations across the world!

A yard birder simply enters when, where, and how they observed birds, then fills out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the time period. Providing various options for data gathering is another goal, as eBird includes point counts, transects, and area searches, as well as yard observations. Automated data quality filters developed by regional bird experts review all submissions before they enter the database. Local experts review unusual records that are flagged by the filters.

Other yard birding programs include *Project Feeder Watch* and the *Great Backyard Bird Count*. The GBBC is a joint program with Cornell University and Audubon. PFW is a joint program with Cornell and Bird Studies Canada. PFW covers much more time and requires a minimal cost to the observer. These programs can be utilized through the websites of the Cornell Lab or Audubon Society.

#### **NEXT ISSUE: *YARD BIRD CITIZEN SCIENCE PART 2***

#### **LITERATURE CITED**

- Sullivan, B. L., J. L. Aycrigg, J. H. Barry, R. E. Bonney, N. Bruns, C. B. Cooper, ... & S. Kelling. 2014. The eBird enterprise: An integrated approach to development and application of citizen science. *Biological Conservation*. 169: 31-40. doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2013.11.003
- Hurlbert, A. H. and Z. Liang. 2012. Spatiotemporal variation in avian migration phenology: Citizen science reveals effects of climate change. *PLOS ONE* 7(2): e31662.

# A CHANGING HABITAT

KELLY PREHEIM

## *Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge*

The Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR) is located in Charles Mix County, providing a valuable habitat for birds and other wildlife. This refuge is special to me because it is where I first became interested in birding while attending the first *South Dakota Birding Festival at Ft. Randall* six years ago. LANWR continues to be a favorite area for me to continue my study of birds. I have found that having a bird “patch” to frequent is a great way to learn about birds in my area.

During the Snowy Owl irruption of 2012 this area was inundated with Snowys and there were days when you could view over twenty of these beautiful white owls from the north in a few hours. Johnson’s Bay was also a popular area with many shorebirds, waterfowl and other marsh birds, but since the drought these past two years it has dried up and has been taken over by small trees and tall weeds.

The north unit of the refuge had a fish kill in the winter of 2013-2014 which resulted in thousands of dead fish frozen on the surface of the ice. This frozen banquet attracted upwards of 400-500 Bald Eagles to the area to eat the “fishcicles”. It was quite an amazing sight to see the surface of the ice dotted with Bald Eagles feeding on the fish kill. The trees and shoreline were also lined with Bald Eagles and later hundreds of gulls also stopped in to enjoy the feast.

LANWR has a nice variety of birds that either migrate through or are resident in the area. Highlights include Whooping Crane, Sandhill Crane, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Northern Bobwhite, Tundra Swan, Golden Eagle, Piping Plover and many more. At times there are huge flocks of Western Meadowlark, Bobolink and different species of sparrows. Recently I photographed a Sage Thrasher there (rare for that area). This year I have seen quite a few Lark Buntings. Waterfowl migration at the refuge is generally remarkable for the number of different species present. The lake and surrounding areas inundated with ducks and geese is really quite a spectacle.



*Ibis Feeding at LANWR August 29, 2016*

*Photo: Kelly Preheim*

A large portion of the north unit of the LANWR dried up in 2015, but the spring of 2016 brought rain, filling up the north dike area and surprising me with a dramatic change. A great diversity of birds occupied this area and bird numbers for spring 2016 were greater than I’d ever seen there before. A rookery was formed in the reeds with multiple Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Egrets, and White-faced Ibis nesting. Cattle Egrets would fly back and forth over the cattails. I had previously seen rookeries only in dead trees, but this is the first time I’d seen a rookery in the cattails. I noticed that nearby Red Lake also had a rookery in the cattails.

During the last week of August I counted over 120 White-faced Ibis feeding in a marshy



*Western Grebe with young ready to be weaned.  
(It looks as if junior is protesting that thought.)*

*Photo: Kelly Preheim*

area and nearly 40 Cattle Egrets in one tree all within the same square mile as the rookery. American White Pelicans were also coming through with a count of 200 that week. Great numbers of Eared Grebes and Western Grebes, many carrying young on their backs, were present. Hundreds of Ruddy Ducks and other duck species were there all summer. There were also very large flocks of Franklin's Gulls and a nice variety of shorebirds in the area. One day I observed a Caspian Tern fly by. Black Terns and Forster's Terns were present as well.

LANWR biologist Mick Hanan explained, "When the water recedes, the nutrients that are in the lake recycle into the soil and the sediment has a chance to consolidate again. When water is added back to the lake bed, submerged aquatic vegetation is able to grow because sunlight is able to penetrate through the water due to an increase in clarity. The presence of emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation recycles nutrients to maintain clarity in the water. It is kind of like hitting the reset switch on a wetland because it wipes the slate clean, including the absence of carp and other fish that stir up sediments and destroy the vegetation. This allows the wetland [or lake in this case] to go back through the stages of a wetland cycle. Lake Andes is really a big pond that is no different than many of the other ponds in the Prairie Pothole Region; it needs to go dry every now and then to go through all the proper cycles. The birds respond greatly to this new colonization of vegetation because with it brings a new colonization of insects, frogs and snakes that provide a great food source. Not to mention that the vegetation itself provides shelter for nesting and roosting."

My days of birding at the Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge have provided me impressive information about birds and their behaviors. I recommend that all people serious about birds find a good birding area nearby and visit it — often. It is really quite interesting to watch a habitat changing in a matter of years and how that affects birds. It is also interesting to notice which birds visit an area and at what times of the year certain birds show up. Comparing these seasonal statistics to previous years gives some insight on the trends and habits of birds. Find a birding patch near you and see what you discover!



*Common Mergansers at Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge*

*Photo: Kelly Preheim*

# BIRDING THE PARKS OF SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

by Todd Jensen

**S** ioux Falls is the largest city within the state of South Dakota and boasts an extensive park system, which includes the greenway along parts of Skunk Creek and the Big Sioux River. With the numerous parks within and along the edge of the city, the habitat is varied and provides opportunities to see many species of birds, especially in migration. Habitats include grasslands, riparian forests, upland forest, urban, waterways and wetlands. This all lies within a short distance, giving birders in the Sioux Falls area one of the better areas within South Dakota to bird without having to travel. Spring migrations at times has produced warbler fallouts with birders getting over twenty species in a day without ever having to travel outside the city limits. Not many places within South Dakota can claim that many species without having to travel some distance.

A select number of parks within Sioux Falls will be discussed here, including their location, habitat to a degree, trails and bird species. For a complete list of all the city parks, go to the city of Sioux Falls website. Parks being discussed here include Arrowhead Park/ Perry Nature Reserve/Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, Elmwood Park, Great Bear Recreation Area, The Outdoor Campus (Sertoma Park), Sherman Park, and the Greenway along the Big Sioux River and Skunk Creek.

**Arrowhead Park**, just east of Sioux Falls, lies alongside the Arrowhead Expressway across from the Perry Nature Area, the Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum and historic East Sioux Falls. The park has maps of the trails available. The area consists of restored grasslands, some woodland and old quarries that have filled with water. Trails go along the quarried ponds as well as the grasslands and forest area on the east side



*Perry Nature Reserve Photo: Mick Zerr*

of the park. The farther one away from the parking lot is better for water-



fowl. In winter time they can be productive with more than just Canada Goose and Mallard. Check the flocks for Cackling, Ross's and Snow goose. Other waterfowl observed have included Pintail, scaup, Green-winged Teal, and Common Goldeneye. Grassland and weedy area species include American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Field Sparrow, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Cedar Waxwing, Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch have also been observed. Looking towards the Big Sioux River to the east you also might see raptors such as Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk soaring.

The **Wegner Arboretum** area is new and being developed. Follow the road to the left (west of the arboretum buildings). Bird the woodlands along here, but note do not trespass on the private property nearby. Species observed here have included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Red-bellied, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers. In migration, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, Magnolia, Blackburnian warblers, American Redstart and Ovenbirds, vireos, empidonax flycatchers, White-throated Sparrow, Spotted Towhee and several species of thrushes have been seen here.



*Yellow-throated Vireo*

*Photo: Terry Sohl*

**Great Bear Recreational Park**, another park alongside the east-

ern edge of the city, is another very good park to bird. It is 220 acres and has four miles of trails. However, in the winter time it is a winter recreational park so birding is easier in spring, summer and fall. Note there is an archery area on the northeast side which is off limits for the summer. The habitat is, in large part, Burr Oak forest with upland prairie on top of the hills, giving it a mosaic of eastern deciduous forest meeting grassland steppe.

Upon entering, drive to the parking lot by the chalet. At the chalet, Eastern Bluebird are often around the buildings, as well as Barn Swallow and of course, the ubiquitous House Sparrow. A paved trail starts at the chalet and goes along the left side of the pond and splits into a “Y”. There are signs with maps on them posted along the hiking trails. The paved trail is level and handicapped accessible.

Migration and summer birding in this park is different compared to the Greenway, in numbers and species at times, but is still rewarding and has produced rarities not reported as occurring on the Greenway. Along the trail by the pond and creek flowing into it, one might see Wood Duck, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher and in migration Northern Waterthrush. During migration, along the trails can be seen Broad-winged Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, flycatchers (Least, Willow, Alder, Yellow-bellied), Blue-headed, Warbling, Red-eyed, Philadelphia, Yellow-throated and occasionally Bell’s vireos, plus several thrushes (Wood, Gray-cheeked, Hermit’s, Swainson’s and Veery). Numerous warblers such as Ovenbird, Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Mourning, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue and Wilson’s are often observed. Sparrows seen in good numbers include Lincoln’s, White-throated, Harris’s, White-crowned, American Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Junco observed. Meanwhile summertime breeders such as Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Scarlet Tanager, Great-crested Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Yellow Warbler have been seen here. While birding along trails keep a lookout for Pileated Woodpecker, one of the rarities occasionally seen in the park.



*Purple Finch*

*Photo: Terry Sohl*

The final birding area discussed here consists of a series of greenway parks running along the Big Sioux River, which nearly encircles the city. These parks consist of riparian forest, manicured lawns and shrub areas. **Elmwood Park** is in northwest Sioux Falls at the southwest corner of Kiwanis Avenue and Russell Street. The northwestern area of the park is good habitat for birds. Dikes on the Big Sioux River border the park on the west side and remnants of a former oxbow lie within with what little riparian forest is there. Birding here in spring and fall, and occasionally summer, is most productive. Note that there are fallen branches, trees, woody vegetation and of course trash in the woodlot, so one needs to be alert. Walk over the bridge to where there are open areas that make it fairly easy to bird. Elmwood is noted for the possibility of being a little migrant trap, especially if there is a fallout in spring.

Species seen include thrushes, flycatchers and vireos. But what resident birders look for most at Elmwood is a warbler fallout. If conditions are right, trees can almost be dripping with warblers and vireos. Species numbers have been close to twenty within the park itself, including Yellow, Orange-crowned, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Mourning, Connecticut, Black-and-white, and Blackpoll warblers with Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat and American Redstart also present. Going west from the trees area, walk the dike. The top of the dike is paved which is part of the bike path and Greenway that circles the city. Look down on the channelized Big Sioux. Most of the water now gets diverted down the diversion channel. Waterfowl, herons, coots, shorebirds and even Belted Kingfisher can be seen. The diversion canal has an outflow from a quarry that runs open all winter, offering habitat for waterfowl.

**Sherman Park** contains an oxbow lake on the right (as you drive West Indian Mound Drive) and a hillside with woods on the left. Also note to the west side of the oxbow is the Great Plains Zoo. Best birding is near the parking area. Spring and fall migration is fairly good here and Broad-winged Hawks have been seen as well as thrushes, vireos, flycatchers, warblers (Bay-breasted has been regular), orioles and sparrows. The oxbow has breeding mallards and wood ducks. Occasionally Great Blue and Green herons show up. Summer has resident Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Wood Thrush. In 2012, a White-eyed Vireo stayed late spring into early summer. **Sertoma Park/Outdoor Campus (East)** is in the Southwest part of the

city. Sertoma Park includes within its boundaries the Outdoor Campus East, the Sertoma Butterfly house and Marine Cove. The park features riparian forests and some restored grasslands, mostly Big Bluestem behind the visitor center as well as east of the oxbow and forest. In addition there is the Oxbow itself with some wetland vegetation and a fishing pond, giving the park much more diversity. Over two hundred species have been seen here, including some rarities. The east boundary of the park is along the Big Sioux River dike with a bicycle trail on top.

All seasons provide decent birding in the park. There are feeders which can provide views from inside of the visitor center or from the trail. Birds to watch for include most species of woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, both nuthatches, Northern Cardinal, at least six species of sparrow, American Goldfinch, House and Purple finches, Pine Siskin, and the occasional Ring-necked Pheasant.

The time to walk the entire trail system is very worthwhile. But, with just a short amount of time, walk the inside loop and bird from the bridge over the oxbow. At the fishing pond watch for Spotted Sandpiper and Tree, Barn and Northern Rough-winged swallows during migration. Also look for Pied-billed and Horned grebes. Species that can be seen in the oxbow include Blue-winged Teal, Wood Ducks, Canada Goose, Lesser and Greater yellowlegs, Solitary and Spotted sandpipers, Killdeer, Great Blue and Green herons. Check for Common Yellowthroat and Belted Kingfisher as well. In migration, Marsh Wrens and Swamp Sparrows on occasion show up. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found here during the 2010 SDOU Spring Meeting.

Grassland and woodland species that may be seen, depending on the season, include Red-bellied and Red-headed woodpeckers, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets and American Tree, Fox (rare), Lark and Savannah sparrows. Thrushes seen include Gray-cheeked, Hermit, Swainson's and Veery. Blue-headed, Red-eyed, Warbling and Philadelphia vireos are found in the woodland areas. Flycatchers observed include Least, Willow, Alder, Olive-sided, and Great-crested. Eastern Phoebe, orioles, and buntings are also to be found. Well over twenty species of warblers have been seen here including Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Magnolia, Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Northern Waterthrush, Blackburnian, Black-and-white and Blackpoll. Raptors seen here include Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks.

The final birding areas are a series of **Greenways Parks** that run along the Big Sioux River, most with manicured lawns and some riparian forest. There is a bicycle path which goes through these parks, encircling the city. One can bird on it and connect with other parks and greenways. The river may also be kayaked or canoed when water levels are adequate. In season, expect to find similar birds as in other woodland parks such as the vireos, flycatchers, warblers, shorebirds, waders and waterfowl.

If a birder spent an entire weekend at the parks mentioned, Sioux Falls would still have more parks in which to bird and explore. Whether a birder has just a few hours or the entire day, Sioux Falls Parks are always both birdy and near any services needed: food, gas, or a place to stay or a brief respite to clear up your thoughts. Best of all, it doesn't cost anything, There are no entrance fees.

For driving directions to these parks, and access to maps, go to <[www.siouxfalls.org/contactus/parks/public-parks](http://www.siouxfalls.org/contactus/parks/public-parks)>



*Great Bear Recreation Area*  
*Photo: Mick Zerr*

# SEASONAL REPORTS

JEFFREY S. PALMER

## The 2016 Spring Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 March 2016 to 31 May 2016

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

There were 315 species, including 8 rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (2006-2015) average is 323. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (dates that are among the earliest/latest included in the online database and species that are out of range). For early/late migration dates, I have listed the three earliest/latest dates (by county); however, if these did not include a sighting East River, West River, and along the Missouri River, I have given the earliest/latest reported date in the missing region also. Finally, included at the end is a list of species (26) that were not reported this year and might be expected during the Spring Season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during spring in at least 2 of the previous 5 years. Numbers in parentheses indicates the number of consecutive years (up to 4) that the species has appeared on the list during the season. Not reported during the Spring Season for the last 5 years, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was removed from this list.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 01 Mar Brown GO; 01 Mar Edmunds BP; 01 Mar Lake JSP; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Stanley RDO; 04 Mar Bennett SS ... Late: 30 Apr Brown BP; 16 Apr Minnehaha JC, CA; 13 Apr Day BP; 09 Apr Charles Mix KP

**Snow Goose** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP, RM; 01 Mar Clay GJS; 01 Mar Douglas KP; 01 Mar Edmunds BP; 01 Mar Gregory RM; 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 04 Mar Bennett SS

**Ross's Goose** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 01 Mar Gregory RM; 04 Mar Clay DS; 04 Mar Douglas KP ... Late: **21 May Miner JSP**; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 15 Apr Day BP; 20 Mar Walworth and Potter RDO

**Cackling Goose** Late: 17 Apr Bennett RSL; 08 Apr Stanley RDO; 27 Mar Faulk SS, BP

**Trumpeter Swan** reported 25 Mar McCook SS; 28 Mar Yankton GJS; 05 Apr Potter SS

**Tundra Swan** Early: 14 Mar Marshall GO; 20 Mar Potter RDO; 22 Mar Brown GO ... Late: **21 Apr Roberts CV**; 11 Apr Brown GO; 27 Mar Faulk SS, BP

**Wood Duck** Early: 01 Mar Brown GO; 12 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 19 Mar Lake JSP; 27 Mar Charles Mix ND; 02 Apr Bennett CA, JC, ND

**Gadwall** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 02 Mar Brown BP; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 07 Mar Oglala Lakota SS

**American Wigeon** Early: 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Jackson SS; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 05 Mar Lake JSP

**Blue-winged Teal** Early: 03 Mar Charles Mix and Gregory RM; 17 Mar Clay DS; 25 Mar Davison ND; 25 Mar McCook SS; 02 Apr Bennett CA, JC, ND; 02 Apr Meade JLB; 02 Apr Oglala Lakota CA, JC

**Cinnamon Teal** All Reports: **22 Mar Hanson BP**; 31 Mar Charles Mix RM; 02 Mar Oglala Lakota ND; 07 Apr Hand BP; 20 Apr Codington BP

**Northern Shoveler** Early: 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 06 Mar Bon Homme RND; 06 Mar Brown BP; 20 Mar Meade JLB

**Northern Pintail** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 04 Mar Bennett and Jackson SS; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 05 Mar Faulk BP; 05 Mar Lake JSP; 05 Mar Minnehaha CA

**Green-winged Teal** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 03 Mar Gregory RM; 04 Mar Bennett and Jackson SS; 06 Mar Brown BP

**Canvasback** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 04 Mar Jackson SS; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 05 Mar Lake JSP

**Redhead** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 01 Mar Lake JSP; 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 04 Mar Jackson SS

**Ring-necked Duck** Early: 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Jackson SS; 04 Mar Lyman JC; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 05 Mar Lake JSP

**Greater Scaup** Early: 12 Mar Brown BP; 20 Mar Walworth RDO; 22 Mar Hanson BP; 22 Mar Moody SS ... Late: 26 Apr Minnehaha JC; 08 Apr Turner CA; 05 Apr Spink BP; 02 Apr Clay DS

**Lesser Scaup** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 05 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Mar Oglala Lakota SS

**Long-tailed Duck** Only Report: 03 Mar Charles Mix RM

**Bufflehead** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 01 Mar Lake JSP; 03 Mar Gregory RM; 07 Mar Oglala Lakota SS ... Late: 13 May Hughes DB; 09 May Brown BP; 02 May Walworth BP; 30 Apr Pennington JLB

**Common Goldeneye** Late: 13 Apr Day GO; 09 Apr Marshall CV; 06 Apr Roberts BP; 02 Apr Meade JLB; 02 Apr Charles Mix KP; 02 Apr Bennett JC, CA

**Hooded Merganser** Early: 01 Mar Lake JSP; 04 Mar Hughes RDO; 07 Mar Brown GO; 16 Mar Custer MMM ... Late: 31 May Charles Mix KP; 01 May Pennington JLB; 30 Apr Lake JSP

**Common Merganser** Late: 30 May Pennington CLG; 12 May Buffalo SS, RDO; 07 May Yankton RND; 29 Apr Roberts CV

**Red-breasted Merganser** Early: 04 Mar Hughes RDO; 07 Mar Lake JSP; 12 Mar Kingsbury JSP ... Late: 28 May Brown BP; 14 May Stanley DB; 13 May Hughes DB

**Ruddy Duck** Early: 01 Mar Lake JSP; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Yankton RND; 02 Apr Bennett CA, JC

**Ruffed Grouse** All Reports: 03 Mar Lawrence DGP; 21 Mar Lawrence DGP; 12 Apr Meade SW; 13 Apr Lawrence DGP; 21 Apr Lawrence ND; 23 Apr Lawrence JLB

**Greater Sage-Grouse** All Reports: 06 Mar Harding CEM; 12 Mar Harding JLB, RDO; 09 Apr Butte JLB, RSL; 08 May Harding KM

**Northern Bobwhite** All Reports: 22 Apr Charles Mix KP; 24 May Charles Mix KP

**Common Loon** Early: 19 Mar Gregory RM; 26 Mar Lake JSP; 29 Mar Hughes KM ... Late: 25 May Gregory RM; 14 May Stanley DB; 14 May Lyman RSL, KP; 21 Apr Day BP

**Pied-billed Grebe** Early: 07 Mar Lake JSP; 23 Mar Brown BP; 24 Mar Stanley ND; 02 Apr Meade JLB

**Horned Grebe** Early: 20 Mar Charles Mix KP; 26 Mar Lake JSP; 01 Apr Brown GO; 02 Apr Bennett CA, JC ... Late: 17 May Charles Mix KP; 08 May Douglas KP; 01 May Yankton GJS; 01 May Walworth RDO; 30 Apr Pennington JLB

**Red-necked Grebe** Only Report: 17 Apr Marshall GO

**Eared Grebe** Early: 06 Apr Spink BP; 09 Apr Butte EK, RSL; 14 Apr Faulk SS; 16 Apr Sully KM

**Western Grebe** Early: 13 Apr Day BP; 14 Apr Sully SS; 15 Apr Stanley KM; 24 Apr Pennington JLB

**Clark's Grebe** All Reports: 27 Apr Hughes RDO; 29 Apr Hughes DB; 10 May Pennington JLB; 13 May Brule RND; 28 May Brown BP

**American White Pelican** Early: **03 Mar Meade EEM**; 12 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 13 Mar Charles Mix KP; 24 Mar Aurora ND; 02 Apr Bennett CA, JC, ND

**Double-crested Cormorant** Early: 23 Mar Day BP; 24 Mar Haakon ND; 24 Mar Lake SS; 26 Mar Buffalo SS

**American Bittern** Early: 23 Apr Bennett RDO; 08 May Lincoln CA; 11 May Walworth RDO

**Great Blue Heron** Early: 07 Mar Pennington CLG; 22 Mar Stanley RDO; 24 Mar Custer JLB; 25 Mar Davison ND; 25 Mar Marshall MO; 25 Mar McCook SS; 25 Mar Minnehaha SS

**Great Egret** Early: 05 Apr Day GO; 11 Apr Brown GO; 16 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 18 Apr Corson ND

**Snowy Egret** Early: 26 Apr Edmunds BP; 30 Apr Brookings CV; 30 Apr Charles Mix KP, RM; 30 Apr Gregory CA, JC, KP; 30 Apr Miner JSP

**Cattle Egret** Early: 26 Apr Edmunds BP; 26 Apr Minnehaha JC; 28 Apr Clay DS

**Green Heron** Early: 13 May Clay DS; 17 May Minnehaha CA; 18 May Lake JSP

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Early: 23 Apr Butte EK; 28 Apr Yankton RND; 02 May Brown, Edmunds, and Walworth BP

**Glossy Ibis** All Reports: 11 May Potter RDO; 12 May Brown and Marshall GO; 13 May Brown MO

**White-faced Ibis** Early: **08 Apr Day BP**; 21 Apr Brown GO; 23 Apr Bennett RDO; 29 Apr Clay DS

**Turkey Vulture** Early: 22 Mar Clay DS; 24 Mar Moody SS; 25 Mar Charles Mix RM; 28 Mar Custer MMM

**Osprey** Early: **27 Mar Pennington RSL**; 01 Apr Lawrence DGP; 03 Apr Custer ND; 13 Apr Marshall GO; 25 Apr Hughes DB

**Northern Harrier** Early: 01 Mar Brown and McPherson BP; 03 Mar Campbell SS; 04 Mar Bennett SS

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Late: 25 May Pennington OCW; 17 May Lawrence RDO; 11 May Union DS; 30 Apr Brown BP

**Cooper's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Apr Brown (NB) GO

**Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 01 Mar Edmunds BP; 01 Apr Charles Mix RM; 04 Apr Marshall BP

**Broad-winged Hawk** Early: **03 Apr Union GJS**; 16 Apr Brookings CV; 16 Apr Brown BP; 29 Apr Lawrence DGP ... Late: 28 May Marshall GO, BP; 24 May Roberts MO; 22 May Lawrence RSL; 19 May Stanley KM

**Swainson's Hawk** Early: 13 Apr Day BP; 13 Apr Pennington OCW; 14 Apr Hyde SS

**Rough-legged Hawk** Late: **08 May Pennington JLB**; 18 Apr Meade ND; 17 Apr Bennett RSL; 03 Apr Charles Mix KP; 01 Apr Brown GO

**Ferruginous Hawk** Early: 08 Mar Custer MMM; 09 Mar Harding ND; 12 Mar Butte JLB, ND; 06 Apr Hyde BP

**Golden Eagle** Late: 28 May Hughes KM; 06 Mar Stanley JC

**Virginia Rail** Early: 01 May Hutchinson CA, JC; 07 May Harding KM; 08 May Lincoln CA; 16 May Stanley RDO

**Sora** Early: Early: 30 Apr Pennington JLB; 01 May Clay GJS; 03 May Charles Mix RM; 12 May Brown GO; 12 May Hutchinson KP; 12 May Minnehaha CA

**American Coot** Early: 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 06 Mar Charles Mix KP; 06 Mar Yankton RND; 07 Mar Brown GO; 07 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Mar Pennington CLG

**Sandhill Crane** Early: 07 Mar Douglas KP; 20 Mar Beadle SS; 21 Mar Charles Mix KP, RM; 21 Mar Gregory RM; 21 Mar McPherson GO; 28 Mar Custer MMM ... Late: 01 May Walworth RDO, KM; 20 Apr Brown BP; 10 Apr Douglas KP; 09 Apr Meade JLB; 09 Apr Butte JLB

**Black-bellied Plover** Early: 01 May Potter KM, RDO; 14 May Aurora RND; 14 May Hughes KP, RSL, SS ... Late: 18 May Potter and Hughes RDO; 15 May Hyde SS, RND, RDO; 15 May Aurora RDO, KP, CV

**American Golden-Plover** Early: 25 Apr Yankton RND; 26 Apr Brown GO; 27 Apr Marshall GO ... Late: 28 May Brown BP; 24 May Marshall GO; 21 May Miner JSP; 18 May Hughes RDO

**Semipalmated Plover** Early: 16 Apr Aurora RDO; 17 Apr Brown BP; 26 Apr Faulk BP; 01 May Potter KM, RDO ... Late: 27 May Codrington BP; 21 May Miner JSP; 21 May Douglas SS, KP; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**Piping Plover** Early: **13 Apr Hughes DB**; 17 Apr Brown BP; 20 Apr Stanley SS

**Killdeer** Early: 06 Mar Bon Homme and Yankton RND; 06 Mar Charles Mix KP; 06 Mar Clay DS; 06 Mar Custer MMM; 07 Mar Douglas KP; 07 Mar Lake JSP

**Black-necked Stilt** Early: **16 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC**; 21 Apr Day BP; 09 May Brown BP; 14 May Hyde CV et al ... Late: 28 May Brown BP; 20 May Aurora SS; 15 May Hyde RDO

**American Avocet** Early: 05 Apr Hughes RDO; 09 Apr Charles Mix KP; 10 Apr Brule RDO; 13 Apr Day BP; 13 Apr Marshall GO; 23 Apr Bennett RDO

**Spotted Sandpiper** Early: 16 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 24 Apr Stanley KM; 25 Apr Yankton RND; 05 May Pennington ND

**Solitary Sandpiper** Early: 27 Apr Marshall GO; 30 Apr Aurora CA, JC, KP; 30 Apr Brown BP; 30 Apr Douglas CA, JC, KP; 30 Apr Kingsbury CV; 01 May Sully KM, RDO; 02 May Pennington CLG ... Late: 30 May Charles Mix RM; 28 May Pennington RSL; 21 May Miner JSP

**Greater Yellowlegs** Early: **12 Mar Brown BP; 12 Mar Clay DS; 12 Mar Minnehaha JC**; 02 Apr Bennett CA, JC, ND ... Late: 17 May Roberts CV; 17 May Charles Mix KP; 16 May Lincoln CA; 07 May Tripp RDO

**Willet** Early: 23 Apr Bennett RDO; 25 Apr Charles Mix KP; 25 Apr Hughes DB; 25 Apr Yankton RND; 26 Apr Edmunds and Faulk BP

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Early: 25 Mar Brown MO; 27 Mar Charles Mix RM; 05 Apr Marshall GO; 07 May Tripp RDO ... Late: 31 May Charles Mix KP; 18 May Potter and Hughes RDO; 17 May Roberts CV



**Upland Sandpiper** Early: 23 Apr Butte EK; 23 Apr Fall River RDO; 25 Apr Charles Mix RM; 25 Apr Yankton RND; 30 Apr Aurora CA, JC, KP

**Long-billed Curlew** Early: 02 Apr Oglala Lakota CA, JC, ND; 05 Apr Custer MMM; 15 Apr Meade ND

**Hudsonian Godwit** Early: **09 Apr Charles Mix KP**; 13 Apr Brown BP; 16 Apr Aurora RDO ... Late: 21 May Miner JSP; 21 May Lincoln CA; 21 May Charles Mix RM, KP

**Marbled Godwit** Early: 08 Apr Stanley KM; 09 Apr Brown BP; 14 Apr Faulk and Hyde SS; 23 Apr Bennett and Fall River RDO

**Ruddy Turnstone** Early: **30 Apr Brown BP**; 07 May Gregory RM; 14 May Aurora RND ... Late: 31 May Kingsbury JSP; 27 May Codington BP; 24 May Marshall GO; 18 May Potter RDO

**Red Knot** Early: **13 May Hughes DB, RDO** ... Late: 16 May Hughes RDO

**Stilt Sandpiper** Early: 01 May Potter KM, RDO; 03 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Pennington JLB; 09 May Brown BP ... Late: 30 May Brown GO; 28 May Marshall GO; 27 May Codington BP; 22 May Tripp SS; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**Sanderling** Early: 28 Apr Stanley SS; 01 May Clay GJS; 01 May Sully RDO; 12 May Brown GO ... Late: 31 May Kingsbury JSP; 21 May Miner JSP; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**Dunlin** Early: 15 Apr Brown BP; 15 Apr Charles Mix KP; 16 Apr Brule RDO ... Late: 30 May Brown GO; 28 May Marshall GO; 27 May Codington BP; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**Baird's Sandpiper** Early: **12 Mar Brown BP, CV; 12 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 15 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 15 Mar Edmunds GO ... Late: 23 May Hutchinson KP; 20 May Aurora SS; 18 May Potter RDO; 18 May Douglas KP

**Least Sandpiper** Early: 15 Apr Charles Mix RM; 24 Apr Brown GO; 27 Apr Marshall GO; 08 May Pennington JLB ... Late: 24 May Marshall GO; 21 May Miner JSP; 21 May Lincoln CA; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**White-rumped Sandpiper** Early: 06 May Roberts CV; 08 May Clay DS, GJS; 09 May Brown BP; 22 May Tripp SS

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Early: 15 Apr Brown BP; 16 Apr Clay DS; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 22 May Tripp SS ... Late: 27 May Codington BP; 23 May Hutchinson KP; 23 May Brown BP; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Early: 09 Apr Charles Mix KP; 13 Apr Marshall GO; 15 Apr Brown BP; 15 May Pennington RSL ... Late: 27 May Codington BP; 24 May Marshall and Brown GO; 22 May Tripp SS; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 06 May Brown BP; 14 May Hyde CV et el; 15 May Hyde SS

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Early: **17 Mar Charles Mix KP**; 11 Apr Brown GO; 16 Apr Aurora RDO; 23 Apr Fall River RDO ... Late: 22 May Tripp SS; 21 May Douglas SS, KP; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**Wilson's Snipe** Early: 21 Mar Charles Mix KP; 26 Mar Lincoln CA; 26 Mar Minnehaha DC; 08 Apr Meade EEM

**American Woodcock** Early: 14 Mar Brown BP; 22 Mar Lincoln CA; 25 Mar Roberts MO; 19 May Walworth KM

**Wilson's Phalarope** Early: 03 Apr Union GJS; 15 Apr Charles Mix KP, RM; 16 Apr Sully KM; 23 Apr Kingsbury KP; 24 Apr Pennington JLB

**Red-necked Phalarope** Early: 11 May Potter and Sully RDO; 12 May Brule and Stanley SS; 13 May Brown MO; 15 May Pennington RSL ... Late: 27 May Codington BP; 22 May Pennington JLB; 18 May Potter RDO

**Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 19 Mar Charles Mix RM; 26 Mar Buffalo SS; 26 Mar Hughes KM; 02 Apr Miner JSP ... Late: 15 May Aurora CV; 05 May Stanley RDO; 29 Apr Roberts CV

**Franklin's Gull** Early: 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 07 Mar Clay DS; 30 Mar Hughes RDO; 01 Apr Turner CA, JC; 17 Apr Bennett RSL

**Ring-billed Gull** Early: 01 Mar Hughes RDO; 02 Mar Pennington ND; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Stanley RDO; 05 Mar Lake JSP; 05 Mar McCook CA

**California Gull** Early: 01 Mar Hughes RDO; 08 Mar Stanley RDO; 13 Mar Pennington JLB; 27 Mar Edmunds BP, SS

**Herring Gull** Early: 01 Mar Hughes and Stanley RDO; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 07 Mar Lake JSP; 10 Apr Fall River ND ... Late: 01 May Stanley RDO; 29 Apr Gregory JC, CA; 28 Apr Hughes DB; 08 Apr Minnehaha CA

**Thayer's Gull** Only Report: 01 Mar Hughes RDO  
**Iceland Gull** Only Report: 01 Mar Hughes RDO  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull** reported 05 Mar Hughes KM; 20 Mar Walworth RDO; 26 Mar Minnehaha CA, DC; 27 Mar Minnehaha DC; 21 May Stanley DB  
**Glaucous Gull** Only Report: 08 Mar Stanley RDO  
**Great Black-backed Gull** reported 06 Apr Stanley RDO; **21 Apr Hughes RDO**  
**Least Tern** All Reports: 30 May Charles Mix and Gregory RM  
**Caspian Tern** Early: **08 Apr Stanley RDO**; 26 Apr Charles Mix RM; 26 Apr Hughes RDO ... Late: 14 May Stanley DB; 29 Apr Charles Mix RM; 28 Apr Yankton RND; 28 Apr Hughes SS, DB; 28 Apr Charles Mix RM  
**Black Tern** Early: 30 Apr Miner JSP; 30 Apr Pennington JLB; 11 May Roberts CV; 12 May Charles Mix RM  
**Common Tern** Only Report: 15 May Aurora KP, RDO  
**Forster's Tern** Early: 16 Apr Brookings CV; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 16 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 16 Apr Sully KM; 08 May Pennington JLB  
**Mourning Dove** Early: 01 Mar Clay GJS; 07 Mar Brown GO; 12 Mar Lake JSP; 12 Mar Roberts CV; 20 Mar Pennington RSL  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Early: 21 May Union MO; 24 May Charles Mix KP; 26 May Yankton RND; 29 May Lincoln JC  
**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 23 May Lake JSP; 24 May Roberts MO; 28 May Hughes KM; 28 May Roberts BP, GO; 29 May Minnehaha CA  
**Barn Owl** All Reports: **20 Mar Sully KM**; 27 Mar Hughes KM; 29 Apr Charles Mix CA, JC; 16 May Sully RDO; 29 May Stanley RDO  
**Eastern Screech-Owl** All Reports: 12 Mar Meade ND; 13 Mar Stanley RDO; 29 Apr Gregory CA, JC; 08 May Pennington JLB; 09 May Hughes KM  
**Snowy Owl** Late: 04 Apr Hyde MMM; 27 Mar Edmunds SS, BP; 22 Mar Brown GO; 06 Mar Harding CEM  
**Burrowing Owl** Early: 02 Apr Pennington ND; 06 Apr Custer MMM; 10 Apr Fall River ND; 21 Apr Hughes RDO  
**Barred Owl** Only Report: 21 May Lincoln CA  
**Long-eared Owl** All Reports: 11 Mar Stanley KM; 24 Mar Hughes ND; 26 Mar Lawrence SW  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl** All Reports: 12 Mar Meade ND; 25 Mar Roberts MO; 07 May Harding KM; 21 May Harding ND  
**Common Nighthawk** Early: 11 May Clay DS; 21 May Brown GO; 22 May Gregory KP, SS; 27 May Harding KM  
**Common Poorwill** All Reports: 03 May Pennington JLB; 27 May Harding KM  
**Eastern Whip-poor-will** Early: 29 Apr Charles Mix CA, JC  
**Chimney Swift** Early: 24 Apr Douglas KP; 01 May Clay DS; 01 May Walworth RDO; 19 May Pennington JLB, RSL  
**White-throated Swift** Early: **09 Apr Pennington KM**; 23 Apr Fall River RDO; 06 May Harding KM  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Early: 07 May Charles Mix RM; 07 May Clay GJS; 20 May Lincoln JSP; 20 May Roberts CV; 29 May Harding RSL  
**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** Only Report: 30 May Custer RSL  
**Belted Kingfisher** Early: 01 Mar Hughes RDO; 02 Mar Lawrence DGP; 07 Mar Douglas KP  
**Red-headed Woodpecker** Early: 25 Apr Clay GJS; 30 Apr Gregory CA, JC, KP; 04 May Charles Mix RND, RM; 08 May Douglas KP; 08 May Lincoln CA; 28 May Pennington RSL  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Early: 17 Apr Hughes KM; 18 Apr Brown GO; 22 Apr Roberts CV  
**Red-naped Sapsucker** Early: 13 Apr Meade SW; 21 Apr Lawrence ND; 24 Apr Custer RDO  
**Black-backed Woodpecker** All Reports: 12 Mar Lawrence RSL; 02 Apr Lawrence DGP; 15 Apr Lawrence SW; 01 May Lawrence DGP  
**Northern Flicker** Early: 01 Mar Brown GO; 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 04 Mar Bennett SS; 04 Mar Yankton RND  
**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 28 Mar Roberts CV; 11 Apr Roberts CV; 21 May Marshall CV; 24 May Marshall MO; 28 May Marshall BP, GO

**Merlin** Late: 08 May Harding KM; 25 Apr Fall River ND; 22 Apr Roberts CV; 18 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Peregrine Falcon** Early: **14 Mar Minnehaha CA**; 27 Apr Stanley DB; 30 Apr Aurora CA, JC, KP; 30 Apr Pennington JLB ... Late: 20 May Aurora SS; 17 May Roberts CV; 16 May Lyman RDO

**Prairie Falcon** All Reports: 22 Mar Brown GO; 26 Mar Custer MMM; 09 Apr Butte ND; 07 May Harding KM; 29 May Harding EK; 30 May Custer RSL

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Early: 14 May Lyman RDO; 14 May Stanley DB; 16 May Brown GO ... Late: 31 May Charles Mix KP; 23 May Stanley KM; 21 May Miner JSP

**Western Wood-Pewee** All Reports: 19 May Fall River RDO; 28 May Harding KM; 29 May Harding EK, RSL; 30 May Custer RSL

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Early: 11 May Union DS; 20 May Lincoln JSP, MO; 21 May Charles Mix RM

**Alder Flycatcher** Early: 19 May Lincoln MO; 23 May Lake JSP; 24 May Minnehaha CA; 31 May Charles Mix KP ... Late: 31 May Lincoln JC, CA; 31 May Hutchinson KP; 26 May Minnehaha CA

**Willow Flycatcher** Early: 07 May Clay DS; 12 May Minnehaha CA; 13 May Lyman SS; 22 May Meade RSL

**Least Flycatcher** Early: 05 May Hughes EDS; 06 May Stanley RDO; 07 May Clay DS, GJS; 07 May Harding KM; 07 May Minnehaha CA; 07 May Pennington RSL

**Dusky Flycatcher** All Reports: 18 May Pennington OCW; 30 May Custer RSL

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** All Reports: 17 May Lawrence RDO; 22 May Meade RSL; 28 May Pennington JLB; 29 May Harding RSL

**Eastern Phoebe** Early: 25 Mar Brookings ND; 30 Mar Charles Mix RM; 31 Mar Clay DS; 02 Apr Oglala Lakota ND

**Say's Phoebe** Early: 09 Apr Jackson KM; 10 Apr Brule RDO; 10 Apr Custer MMM

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Early: 12 May Lincoln CA; 12 May Union DS, JSP; 13 May Charles Mix RM

**Western Kingbird** Early: 06 May Brown BP; 07 May Charles Mix and Gregory RM; 07 May Harding KM; 07 May Hughes and Stanley DB; 07 May Yankton RND

**Eastern Kingbird** Early: 04 May Charles Mix RND, RM; 08 May Clay GJS; 08 May Douglas KP; 08 May Pennington JLB

**Loggerhead Shrike** Early: 27 Mar Jones ND; 01 Apr Charles Mix KP; 02 Apr Jackson ND; 11 Apr Brown GO

**Northern Shrike** All Reports: 05 Mar Clay DS; 22 Mar Brown GO; 24 Mar Lake SS; 27 Mar Charles Mix RM; 02 Apr Faulk MMM

**Bell's Vireo** Early: 14 May Lyman CV, RDO; 15 May Hyde SS; 17 May Charles Mix KP; 20 May Lincoln JSP; 29 May Pennington JLB

**Yellow-throated Vireo** Early: **04 May Clay DS**; 17 May Roberts CV; 19 May Lincoln MO

**Plumbeous Vireo** Only Report: 28 May Pennington RSL

**Blue-headed Vireo** Early: 05 May Day BP; 08 May Union GJS; 12 May Brule SS ... Late: 21 May Union MO; 20 May Brown GO; 19 May Walworth KM

**Warbling Vireo** Early: 07 May Gregory RM; 08 May Clay GJS; 08 May Douglas KP; 22 May Lawrence RSL

**Philadelphia Vireo** Only Report: 18 May Lake JSP

**Red-eyed Vireo** Early: 11 May Union DS; 14 May Buffalo KP, RSL, SS; 16 May Lake JSP; 22 May Lawrence and Meade RSL

**Clark's Nutcracker** All Reports: 17 Mar Pennington ND; 04 May Custer ND

**Black-billed Magpie** reported 03 Mar Campbell SS

**Purple Martin** Early: 16 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 16 Apr Stanley SS; 23 Apr Douglas KP

**Tree Swallow** Early: 29 Mar Custer MMM; 03 Apr Charles Mix KP; 04 Apr Hughes KM; 12 Apr Douglas KP

**Violet-green Swallow** Early: **18 Apr Pennington CLG**; 08 May Harding KM; 17 May Lawrence RDO

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** Early: 16 Apr Hughes SS; 19 Apr Charles Mix RM; 24 Apr Douglas KP; 24 Apr Pennington JLB

**Bank Swallow** Early: **16 Apr Hughes SS**; 19 Apr Charles Mix RM; 26 Apr Edmunds BP; 26 Apr Gregory RM; 29 May Harding RSL

**Cliff Swallow** Early: **18 Apr Pennington CLG**; 23 Apr Bennett RDO; 25 Apr Charles Mix KP; 26 Apr Edmunds BP

**Barn Swallow** Early: 20 Apr Stanley RDO; 21 Apr Clay DS; 23 Apr Bennett and Fall River RDO; 24 Apr Brown GO; 24 Apr Douglas KP

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Late: 14 May Buffalo SS, RSL; KP; 11 May Roberts CV; 01 May Hughes KM

**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 12 Mar Lawrence and Pennington RSL; 13 Mar Pennington RDO; 02 Apr Custer CA, JC; 10 May Pennington JLB

**Brown Creeper** Late: 16 Apr Lake JSP; 13 Apr Minnehaha JC; 06 Apr Brown GO; 29 Mar Clay GJS

**Rock Wren** All Reports: 23 Apr Fall River RDO; 07 May Harding KM; 20 May Meade SW; 28 May Harding KM

**House Wren** Early: 19 Apr Lincoln JC; 20 Apr Pennington OCW; 24 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Winter Wren** All Reports: **22 Mar Lawrence DGP**; 13 Apr Marshall GO

**Sedge Wren** Early: 05 May Lincoln CA; 15 May Aurora CV, KP; 16 May Lyman RDO

**Marsh Wren** Early: 19 Mar Lawrence EK; 03 Apr Hughes KM; 13 Apr Marshall GO

**American Dipper** Confirmed Breeding: **21 May Pennington (CF) JLB**; **28 May Pennington (FY) JLB**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Late: 03 May Douglas KP; 30 Apr Brookings CV; 29 Apr Minnehaha JC; 03 Apr Union GJS

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Early: 03 Apr Pennington CA, JC; 04 Apr Brown GO; 08 Apr Hughes KM ... Late: 26 May Lincoln CA; 21 May Brown GO; 17 May Minnehaha CA; 17 May Clay GJS

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Early: **16 Apr Union DS**; 24 Apr Douglas KP; 25 Apr Charles Mix KP

**Eastern Bluebird** Early: 04 Mar Yankton RND; 06 Mar Custer MMM; 07 Mar Charles Mix RM; 10 Mar Edmunds GO

**Mountain Bluebird** Early: 03 Mar Meade EEM; 05 Mar Oglala Lakota SS; 07 Mar Custer MMM

**Townsend's Solitaire** Late: **16 Apr Union DS**; 25 Mar McCook SS; 19 Mar Stanley KM

**Veery** Early: 08 May Union GJS; 13 May Brule SS; 21 May Lincoln MO; 22 May Roberts CV

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** Early: 07 May Clay DS; 13 May Aurora and Brule SS; 13 May Brown GO; 13 May Hughes DB, EDS ... Late: 21 May Marshall CV; 20 May Walworth KM; 18 May Hughes EDS

**Swainson's Thrush** Early: 28 Apr Hughes DB; 30 Apr Brookings CV; 03 May Clay GJS; 03 May Stanley KM, RDO; 07 May Harding KM

**Hermit Thrush** All Reports: 17 Apr Hughes KM; 30 Apr Lake JSP; 07 May Minnehaha CA; 09 May Minnehaha CA

**Wood Thrush** Early: 19 May Lincoln MO; 22 May Gregory RND, RM; 24 May Charles Mix RM

**Gray Catbird** Early: 02 May Charles Mix RM; 07 May Yankton RND; 08 May Hughes DB; 08 May Union GJS; 10 May Minnehaha CA; 13 May Lawrence SW

**Brown Thrasher** Early: 15 Apr Charles Mix RM; 15 Apr Clay GJS; 17 Apr Lincoln CA; 23 Apr Fall River RDO

**Sage Thrasher** Only Report: 14 May Meade SW

**Northern Mockingbird** Only Report: 28 May Harding KM

**European Starling** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Apr Pennington (CN) ND

**American Pipit** Early: 26 Mar Lake JSP; 01 Apr Brown GO; 14 Apr Faulk SS ... Late: 01 May Hutchinson JC, CA; 26 Apr Minnehaha JC; 17 Apr Brown BP

**Bohemian Waxwing** Late: 28 Mar Lawrence DGP

**Ovenbird** Early: 08 May Stanley RDO; 08 May Union GJS; 10 May Hughes EDS, RDO; 12 May Brown GO; 12 May Lincoln CA; 13 May Lawrence SW

**Worm-eating Warbler** Only Report: **24 May Marshall and Roberts MO**

**Northern Waterthrush** Early: 29 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 05 May Douglas KP; 08 May Clay GJS ... Late: 29 May Hughes KM; 17 May Stanley KM; 15 May Lyman KP; 14 May Brown GO

**Golden-winged Warbler** All Reports: 08 May Clay GJS; 16 May Clay DS; 18 May Lake JSP; 19 May Brown GO; 19 May Lincoln MO; 24 May Charles Mix KP

**Blue-winged Warbler** Early: **07 May Clay DS**; 15 May Union JC; 19 May Lincoln MO ... Late: 31 May Lincoln JC, CA

**Black-and-white Warbler** Early: 25 Apr Charles Mix RM; 01 May Union GJS; 03 May Lake JSP ... Late: 23 May Roberts CV; 21 May Marshall CV; 19 May Walworth KM; 19 May Union MO; 19 May Brown GO

**Tennessee Warbler** Early: **26 Apr Gregory RM; 03 May Douglas KP**; 07 May Brown GO

**Orange-crowned Warbler** Early: 16 Apr Brookings CV; 16 Apr Union DS; 17 Apr Hughes SS; 20 Apr Pennington OCW ... Late: 19 May Walworth KM; 18 May Union RND; 17 May Brown GO; 14 May Meade SW

**Nashville Warbler** Early: 11 May Union DS; 12 May Brule SS; 13 May Lyman SS; 18 May Brown GO ... Late: 17 May Clay GJS; 15 May Union and Lincoln JC

**Connecticut Warbler** Only Report: 21 May Lincoln MO

**MacGillivray's Warbler** Only Report: 30 May Custer RSL

**Mourning Warbler** Early: 13 May Brule SS; 19 May Lincoln MO; 22 May Brown GO ... Late: 26 May Minnehaha CA; 23 May Lake JSP; 21 May Lincoln MO

**Common Yellowthroat** Early: 04 May Charles Mix RND, RM; 05 May Pennington ND; 07 May Butte EK; 07 May Clay DS; 07 May Douglas KP

**Hooded Warbler** Only Report: 10 May Hughes DB, RDO, SS

**American Redstart** Early: 07 May Gregory RM; 10 May Hughes DB et el; 10 May Stanley KM; 12 May Minnehaha CA; 22 May Meade RSL

**Cape May Warbler** Only Report: 18 May Walworth RDO

**Magnolia Warbler** Early: 09 May Clay DS; 13 May Aurora, Brule, and Lyman SS ... Late: 26 May Hughes EDS; 23 May Brown GO; 21 May Lincoln MO

**Bay-breasted Warbler** All Reports: 15 May Union JC; 18 May Brown BP, GO

**Blackburnian Warbler** Early: 10 May Lake JSP; 13 May Clay DS; 18 May Brown BP ... Late: 24 May Charles Mix KP; 23 May Lake JSP; 20 May Lincoln MO

**Yellow Warbler** Early: 02 May Pennington CLG; 03 May Minnehaha CA; 04 May Charles Mix RM; 04 May Codington CV

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** Early: **30 Apr Hughes EDS**; 09 May Clay GJS; 20 May Lincoln MO ... Late: 25 May Charles Mix RM; 25 May Brown GO; 24 May Gregory RM

**Blackpoll Warbler** Early: 07 May Clay DS; 07 May Hughes DB; 08 May Douglas KP; 08 May Lincoln JC; 08 May Union GJS; 18 May Pennington OCW ... Late: 25 May Brown GO; 24 May Marshall GO; 23 May Minnehaha CA; 21 May Union MO

**Palm Warbler** Early: 01 May Yankton GJS; 03 May Douglas KP; 03 May Lake JSP ... Late: 18 May Hughes EDS, DB; 15 May Aurora CV; 14 May Lyman RDO, CV

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Early: 31 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Apr Pennington CLG; 10 Apr Hughes EDS; 10 Apr Stanley KM; 13 Apr Day BP; 13 Apr Marshall GO ... Late: 29 May Hughes KM; 24 May Charles Mix KP; 23 May Brown GO

**Black-throated Green Warbler** Only Report: 11 May Union DS

**Canada Warbler** All Reports: 20 May Lincoln MO; 21 May Lincoln MO; 22 May Roberts CV; 23 May Lake JSP

**Wilson's Warbler** Early: 24 Apr Charles Mix RM; 25 Apr Hughes DB; 12 May Minnehaha CA ... Late: 23 May Minnehaha CA; 21 May Union MO; 20 May Brown GO

**Yellow-breasted Chat** Early: 18 May Stanley KM; 19 May Fall River RDO; 20 May Hughes DB

**Scarlet Tanager** Early: 11 May Union DS; 12 May Lincoln CA; 22 May Gregory KP

**Western Tanager** Early: 07 May Harding KM; 17 May Meade RDO; 22 May Lawrence RSL

**Spotted Towhee** Early: 17 Apr Hughes KM; 18 Apr Charles Mix RM; 20 Apr Pennington OCW; 25 Apr Brown GO

**Eastern Towhee** Early: 19 Apr Charles Mix RM; 21 Apr Lincoln CA; 24 Apr Brown BP

**American Tree Sparrow** Late: 13 Apr Roberts GO; 13 Apr Day BP; 11 Apr Brown GO; 10 Apr Stanley KM; 10 Apr Brule RDO; 09 Apr Douglas KP

**Chipping Sparrow** Early: 15 Mar Charles Mix RM; 05 Apr Douglas KP; 12 Apr Clay GJS; 22 Apr Pennington ND

**Clay-colored Sparrow** Early: 24 Apr Douglas KP; 24 Apr Stanley KM; 29 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 06 May Pennington ND, RSL

**Brewer's Sparrow** All Reports: 10 May Pennington JLB; 29 May Harding RSL

**Field Sparrow** Early: 13 Apr Charles Mix RM; 14 Apr Douglas KP; 15 Apr Clay GJS; 15 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 18 May Pennington OCW

**Vesper Sparrow** Early: 27 Mar Charles Mix ND; 10 Apr Clay GJS; 14 Apr Hyde SS; 14 Apr Roberts CV; 15 Apr Pennington MMM

**Lark Sparrow** Early: 15 Apr Charles Mix KP; 24 Apr Douglas KP; 25 Apr Gregory KP; 07 May Harding KM

**Lark Bunting** Early: 21 Apr Haakon EDS; 07 May Butte EK, ND; 07 May Harding KM; 13 May Hughes DB; 13 May Lyman SS

**Savannah Sparrow** Early: 01 Apr Charles Mix RM; 10 Apr Clay GJS; 13 Apr Brown BP; 18 Apr Meade ND

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Early: 07 May Butte EK; 07 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Harding KM; 15 May Brown BP

**Baird's Sparrow** All Reports: 08 May Butte EK; 08 May Harding KM

**Fox Sparrow** Early: 08 Mar Day BP; 15 Mar Brown BP; 20 Mar Hughes KM ... Late: 04 May Charles Mix RM, RND; 19 Apr Brown GO, BP; 16 Apr Brookings CV

**Song Sparrow** Early: 11 Mar Stanley KM; 12 Mar Minnehaha JC; 13 Mar Charles Mix KP; 21 Mar Pennington CLG

**Lincoln's Sparrow** Early: 13 Apr Pennington OCW; 14 Apr Custer MMM; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 16 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 18 Apr Clay DS ... Late: 18 May Charles Mix KP; 18 May Brown GO; 17 May Stanley KM; 17 May Roberts CV; 13 May Lawrence SW

**Swamp Sparrow** Early: 19 Apr Brown BP; 03 May Lake JSP; 04 May Charles Mix RND, RM

**White-throated Sparrow** Early: 28 Mar Roberts CV; 15 Apr Clay GJS; 16 Apr Brookings CV; 16 Apr Hughes KM; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 16 Apr Minnehaha CA, JC; 16 Apr Yankton RND; 02 May Pennington CLG ... Late: 18 May Minnehaha JC; 17 May Stanley KM; 15 May Union JC; 15 May Lyman KP; 15 May Hyde SS; 15 May Clay GJS; 15 May Brown BP; 04 May Custer ND

**Harris's Sparrow** Early: 01 Mar Clay GJS; 14 Mar Douglas KP; 18 Mar Charles Mix RM ... Late: 22 May Roberts CV; 18 May Hughes EDS; 18 May Brown GO

**White-crowned Sparrow** Early: 13 Mar Charles Mix KP; 08 Apr Custer MMM; 17 Apr Bennett and Pennington RSL; 17 Apr Lawrence SW; 24 Apr Douglas KP ... Late: 17 May Roberts CV; 17 May Hughes EDS; 16 May Clay GJS; 16 May Brown GO, BP; 14 May Meade SW

**Dark-eyed Junco** Late: 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 29 Apr Roberts CV; 25 Apr Hughes DB

**Lapland Longspur** Late: 13 Apr Day BP; 06 Apr Faulk BP; 27 Mar Edmunds SS, BP

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Early: 25 Mar McCook SS; 04 Apr Hyde MMM; 06 Apr Harding ND

**Snow Bunting** All Reports: 08 Mar Day BP; 08 Mar Grant and Roberts CV; 31 Mar Grant BP

**Northern Cardinal** reported 20 Mar Pennington JLB; 06 May Pennington JLB

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Early: 07 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Clay GJS; 08 May Douglas KP; 08 May Lincoln JC; 08 May Roberts CV; 12 May Meade EEM

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Early: 06 May Hughes EDS; 07 My Charles Mix RM; 08 May Stanley RDO, SS; 09 May Pennington JLB

**Blue Grosbeak** Early: 19 May Clay GJS; 20 May Lincoln MO; 21 May Charles Mix RND

**Lazuli Bunting** Early: 09 May Clay DS; 14 May Lyman CV, RDO; 15 May Brule RSL, SS; 15 May Lyman KP

**Indigo Bunting** Early: 11 May Clay DS; 11 May Hughes DB; 13 May Charles Mix RM; 16 May Douglas KP

**Dickcissel** Early: 14 May Lyman CV, RDO; 15 May Bon Homme RND; 20 May Gregory RM; 23 May Davison KP

**Bobolink** Early: 04 May Clay DS; 11 May Potter and Sully RDO; 12 May Brown GO; 12 May Hutchinson KP; 12 May Lincoln CA; 12 May Marshall GO; 14 May Meade SW

**Red-winged Blackbird** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix KP; 01 Mar Clay GJS; 01 Mar McPherson BP; 04 Mar Bennett SS

**Eastern Meadowlark** All Reports: 17 Apr Bennett RSL; 23 Apr Bennett RDO

**Western Meadowlark** Early: 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Bennett SS; 04 Mar Hughes RDO; 04 Mar Lyman JC; 05 Mar Brown BP

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Early: 24 Mar Clay GJS; 31 Mar Grant BP; 01 Apr Aurora CA, JC; 17 Apr Bennett RSL

**Rusty Blackbird** Early: 01 Mar Clay GJS; 12 Mar Roberts MO; 14 Mar Marshall GO ... Late: 20 Apr Codington CV; 08 Apr Turner and Lincoln CA

**Brewer's Blackbird** Early: 12 Mar Brown BP, GO; 05 Apr Marshall GO; 09 Apr Charles Mix KP; 24 Apr Pennington JLB  
**Common Grackle** Early: 09 Mar Clay GJS; 10 Mar Douglas KP; 11 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Day BP; 11 Mar Yankton RND; 02 Apr Bennett CA, JC, ND  
**Great-tailed Grackle** Only Report: 24 Apr Brown GO  
**Brown-headed Cowbird** Early: 01 Mar Clay GJS; 06 Mar Bon Homme RND; 12 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 12 Mar Minnehaha JC; 23 Apr Bennett and Fall River RDO  
**Orchard Oriole** Early: **22 Apr Charles Mix RM**; 09 May Clay GJS; 12 May Brule SS; 16 May Douglas KP; 16 May Roberts CV; 18 May Meade EEM  
**Bullock's Oriole** All Reports: 15 May Lawrence SW; 19 May Fall River RDO; 20 May Meade EEM  
**Baltimore Oriole** Early: **21 Apr Charles Mix RM**; 02 May Gregory RM; 04 May Clay DS; 05 May Roberts CV; 13 May Butte EK  
**Pine Grosbeak** All Reports: 01 Mar Stanley RDO; 03 Mar Stanley RDO  
**Purple Finch** Late: 11 May Roberts CV; 15 Apr Clay GJS; 09 Apr Day GO, CV  
**Red Crossbill** Late: 02 Apr Hughes RDO ... Confirmed Breeding: 10 Mar Pennington *vide* ND  
**Common Redpoll** Late: 17 Apr Roberts CV; 09 Mar Lake JSP; 06 Mar Harding CEM  
**Pine Siskin** Late: 31 May Charles Mix RM; 23 May Roberts CV; 23 May Brown GO  
**Evening Grosbeak** All Reports: 05 Mar Lawrence RDO; 20 Mar Lawrence ND

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

**American Black Duck** 23 Apr Fall River RDO  
**Neotropic Cormorant** 27 May Codington BP  
**Mississippi Kite** 11 May Union DS  
**Swainson's Hawk** 10 Mar Meade EEM  
**Snowy Plover** 29 Apr Gregory CA, JC  
**White-winged Dove** 24 Apr Brown BP  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 01 May Charles Mix RM  
**White-eyed Vireo** 26 May Minnehaha CA  
**Pacific Wren** 06 May Lawrence DGP; 17 May Lawrence RDO  
**Kentucky Warbler** 22-24 May Roberts MO  
**McCown's Longspur** 06 Apr Harding ND  
**Eastern Meadowlark** 15 May Aurora KP

**Species Expected But Not Reported**

Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter (3), Barrow's Goldeneye (3), Least Bittern (3), Little Blue Heron, Common Gallinule, Whooping Crane, Whimbrel (2), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (2), Mew Gull (2), Gyrfalcon (4), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Varied Thrush (4), Sprague's Pipit (2), Prothonotary Warbler (3), Virginia's Warbler, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler (3), Pine Warbler (3), Summer Tanager (2), Le Conte's Sparrow (2), Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (4), White-winged Crossbill (3), Lesser Goldfinch (4)

**Contributing Observers**

CA	Chris Anderson	GO	Gary Olson
DB	Doug Backlund	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	MO	Mark Otnes
DC	Doug Chapman	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
JC	Joe Coppock	BP	Barry Parkin
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
ND	Nancy Drilling	DGP	D. George Prisbe
CLG	Canyon Lake Group	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	WS	Waubay NWR Staff
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	SS	Scott A. Stolz
RM	Ron Mabie	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
MMM	Michael M. Melius	OCW	Outdoor Campus West Survey
CEM	Charlie Miller	DS	David Swanson
EEM	Ernest E. Miller	CV	Cheryl Vellenga
KM	Kenny Miller	SW	Scott Weins

# FLEDGLING TRACTS

JASON THIELE

Guest Column: *A Birder Begins* by Peter Binstock

People often ask me how I started birding.  
It's simple: I received a bird guide!



*Cooper's Hawk, McKennan Park, Sioux Falls*  
Photo: Peter Binstock

I have always been interested in animals. As a younger kid I refused to wear a shirt without an animal on it. As I got older, I started to identify some animals and a few plants. I knew lots of the basic birds: Red-tailed Hawk, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, and so on. Then, for my eleventh birthday, I got that bird guide of the Dakotas. It was a good starter guide, but I started to see birds that were not in my book and I was very confused (spring migration was really hard for me.) When I discovered Cornell Lab of Ornithology, I was amazed at how many more birds there were out there. And...I could listen to sounds now! This took my birding skills to a new level.

(Later on I discovered the National Audubon Society and eBird.)

One day I read about the Detroit Lakes Bird Festival in Minnesota. I really wanted to go; I begged and begged and finally my dad signed us up. The car ride there felt like forever. We finally got there. My first field trip was to the Felton Prairie, where I met another young birder. He's a couple of years older than me but it was still cool. My other two field trips were to Tamarack National Wildlife Refuge (my favorite) and Itasca State Park. I got 44 Lifers! That's almost a quarter of my Life List. I highly recommend going to the Detroit Lakes Birding Festival.



*Pygmy Nuthatch, Near Custer, SD*  
Photo: Peter Binstock

At the end of June, I finally joined the Sioux Falls Bird Club. I was psyched for my first field trip, which was July 16, 2016. I met many amazing birders, including another young birder my age. So far, I have learned a lot from all of them. Now I LIKE the Sioux Falls Bird Club on Facebook and have an addiction to constantly looking at the schedule on their website.

*[I want to warmly welcome Peter to our circle of field ornithologists in South Dakota. Peter is 12. ~Ed.]*