
SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

Ross's Gull
Cedar County, NE 11/28/10
Also seen in Yankton Co., SD
Photo: Doug Backlund



S O U T H  D A K O T A
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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

People who have never been to South Dakota often have the impression that there is nothing much here – just a lot of grass and crop fields. Out-of-state birders who have this impression bypass the state as a birding destination, assuming that there aren't many interesting birds here. Bird bloggers last summer, abuzz with the news of the Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush (OBNT) in the Black Hills, were incredulous that such a fantastic bird would be in South Dakota of all places (see page 90 of this issue)! But in reality, South Dakota has a very diverse bird fauna. The tally of 426 species that have been documented in South Dakota compares favorably with that of similarly-sized states with more birders such as Nebraska (438 species), Minnesota (427 species), and Pennsylvania (431 species). In addition, South Dakota's species list is increasing! Is it because more species are coming to South Dakota or is it because more observers are birding in more areas of the state? Most likely it is a little of both. Some resident species such as Eurasian Collared-Dove and accidentals such as Ivory Gull, Black Rail, and OBNT, are new to the state. But many recent records have come from projects that put observers in less birded areas of the state such as the Breeding Bird Atlas, wind farm siting surveys, and monitoring the birds of the Black Hills. Interestingly, discoveries of new state records and new breeding records seem to come in bunches, most recently in the past two to three years.



The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union plays a vital role in documenting, publicizing and maintaining state lists. As pointed out on its web site, SDOU is "South Dakota's primary statewide organization to promote the study of wild birds, to encourage ornithological research, and to preserve the state's avian records." The Rare Bird Records Committee evaluates bird sightings for inclusion to the state's avian database, the SD-Birds listserve provides a forum for people to share their sightings, and the bird database, accessed through the SDOU website's online data entry page, collects bird sighting records for later analyses.

Documenting what bird species occur in the state is just the beginning of the world of bird study in South Dakota. Just a few of the questions amenable to study would be: 1) where does each species occur in the state, 2) when are they here, 3) what are their habitat preferences, 4) what are they eating, 5) what are the details of their breeding or wintering ecology, 6) what are their conservation and management needs. We are still discovering new species in the state, so imagine how little we know about these more involved questions. There are so many fascinating and interesting topics that remain a mystery and everyone has a role to help increase our knowledge and understanding of South Dakota's birds.

The key to bird diversity is habitat diversity. South Dakota is so much more than grass and crop fields! Personally, one of the rewards I have gotten from participating in the Breeding Bird Atlas II is discovering hidden patches of 'birdy' habitat all across the state. Marshes, prairie dog towns, mature shelterbelts, CRP fields, cottonwood stands, and many more habitat types provide homes and food for the state's birds. To maintain our bird populations, it is vital to understand where these important bird habitats occur and what resources they provide for birds. In sum, studying birds is fun, interesting, and ultimately will help us conserve the birds for future generations.

Nancy Drilling

BOOK REVIEW

LINDA JOHNSON

Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Western North America, 4th Ed. Roger Tory Peterson (2010). Houghton Mifflin: New York. \$19.95. 512 pp. *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America*. Roger Tory Peterson (2008). Houghton Mifflin: New York. \$26. 527 pp. *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America*, 6th Ed. Roger Tory Peterson (2010). Houghton Mifflin: New York. \$19.95. 464 pp.

The latest books in the Peterson Guide Series are a fitting sequel to Roger Tory Peterson's single-volume classic guide of 1934. Re-issued to commemorate the centennial of his birth, these volumes (the single-volume large format 9"x6" and smaller 4.5"x7" two-volume guides) feature an updated taxonomy, new range maps, new paintings for birds which didn't previously occur in North America and new information for certain species. They also contain digitally enhanced updates of Peterson's original paintings, completed by a team of bird experts and artists. The Introduction is well-written with beginning birders in mind, explaining how bird size, shape, bill, behavior, etc., aid in identification. The shore, field, and flight silhouettes included in the end covers are a helpful reference. And in a nod to technology, access to video podcasts via the internet is included in the purchase price.

New in a field guide is a section for those who employ electronic technology. The publishers have created a few hours of video podcasts available by going to their website. There are four main podcasts: 1) **Biography** of Roger Tory Peterson, 2) **Tutorials** for ID "how to," songs and sounds, using range maps, and topography, 3) **Species Profiles** for a dozen "favorites" such as Wood Duck, Common Loon, Peregrine Falcon, and Greater Roadrunner. Clicking on a photo opens pages with visual and aural notes about the bird, 4) **Taxonomic Family Overviews** with excellent tips for helping beginning and intermediate birders to understand family characteristics, raptor silhouettes or differences in shorebirds. For example, the narrator describes Piping Plover's big eyes and short bill as suited for spotting prey and jabbing it while the Stilt Sandpiper with its long bill probes the mud.

The shorebird section provides the sounds of the two dowitcher species and the Upland Sandpiper. The podcasts are rather like listening to a favorite professor explain certain features of the text. The reader can check these out on the website: <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/peterson/podcast-family.shtml>

In addition to being authoritative and clean-lined, the species plates remind us what a skilled artist and birder Peterson was. Says his son, Lee Allen Peterson, "Somehow he was able to convey a bird not at a specific moment in time, awkwardly posed with feathers in disarray, but rather, as the mind saw it, ... idealized, with feathers neatly patterned and plump". The plates also depict color morphs, display postures, breeding, and non-breeding plumage. These paintings are easiest to see and appreciate in the single volume large format guide.

In the new guides, range maps are located in the back of the book (eight per page) with thumbnail-sized maps beside each species plate in the text. The thumbnails have the advantage of showing ranges next to the species accounts (as in the *Sibley Guide to Birds*, the *National Geographic Guide to the Birds of North America* and other guides), while the maps at the back show larger, easier to read versions.

In general, however, the maps are a disappointment. Peterson shows no migration distribution, which is a reference most birders have come to expect for determining whether a particular bird is likely to occur. The editors comment briefly on the dramatic changes in species ranges over the last fifty years (for example, the expansion of Eurasian Collared-Dove or the decline of Lesser Prairie Chicken and Loggerhead Shrike). The maps for species with limited range in South Dakota such as Black-and white Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, and Swainson's Thrush are accurate as of November 2010.

If there is a downside to the guides, it would be that the species plates do not depict as many plumage variations as do the *Sibley*. Peterson's flight patterns "from below" do show helpful distinguishing marks, for example the accipiters and falcons; nine species are compared on one page. But Peterson devotes only one page for perched accipiters and Northern Harrier, while David Sibley devotes four pages and several illustrations. Regarding illustrations of swans, Sibley clearly illustrates distinguishing features on the bills with close-ups of each swan species' head, while Peterson shows only one picture of the swans, with fewer markings to distinguish the bills. So, for more advanced birders, *Sibley* and *National Geographic* may be superior. But the Peterson guides are still helpful guides for beginning birders because of their ID system of arrows, incorporating for features which help to identify the bird.

Membership Call

Dues May be paid anytime between November and 1 January 2011.

As I sat during our fall SDOU meeting, I thought about those benefits of membership in SDOU which are not readily apparent to most of us. SDOU supports student researchers in the form of scholarships and grant awards. The awards make a statement about supporting research on birds in South Dakota. Non-student members also share their research and expertise. Nancy Drilling, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, and coordinator of our five-year SD Breeding Bird Atlas updated us on the project and invited participation.

In addition to the benefits of hearing about ongoing ornithological research in South Dakota, membership affords us the chance to interact with like-minded enthusiasts who share our love of birds. At both the fall and spring meetings, the field trips often produce some unusual birds. This fall, we were treated to flocks of Le Conte's Sparrows showing off their beautiful orange eyebrow in perfect morning light on our walk through Spirit Mound. The spring meeting, in Lemmon, South Dakota, in May 2011 promises more interesting birds, perhaps to include some nesting grassland species such as Sprague's Pipits and Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

Membership in SDOU also makes a statement about supporting something we believe in—promoting the study of wild birds, encouraging research in ornithology, and preserving state records. And members receive *South Dakota Bird Notes*, our quarterly journal, which includes seasonal bird reports interesting articles on birding in the state.

When you renew your membership, please consider the broader benefits of your dues. If you know of fellow birders who are not yet members, please ask them to join. Membership runs from January to January. Check your mailing label for your membership status or e-mail Membership Chair Linda Johnson at: jhnsnln@aol.com. Dues may be sent to Treasurer Rosemary Draeger at 528 East Lotta St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105. ~ Linda Johnson, Membership Chair

BOOK REVIEW

ERIKA TALLMAN

Bird Coloration. Geoffrey E. Hill. 2010. National Geographic Books: Washington DC. \$27.50 (Hardcover).

What's to know? Bird coloration seems pretty simple, some birds are red, some are blue, lots are yellow and way too many are brownish. According to Geoffrey Hill, who has written a 255-page book on the topic, there is a great deal more to know on the subject.

For beginning birders, not yet attuned to bill sizes and shapes, bird posture or behavior, coloration is the most important feature for identifying birds. Color is certainly one of the most aesthetically pleasing reasons for watching birds. Who hasn't been awed by the brilliant iridescence of a hummingbird's throat, the striking crimson of a Scarlet Tanager, or the piercing yellow of a male goldfinch in the sun? Hill's book, however, is concerned with the deeper questions related to bird colors. What causes a bird's color? Why are birds colored as they are? What causes an individual bird to look different from one season to another? Do birds perceive color the same way humans do? How do birds use their colors? And, what importance does bird coloration have for the birds? These and many more intriguing questions are explored by Hill's well organized and clearly written book.

What causes one bird to be blue and another to be red is not a simple issue. To fully understand the phenomenon, Hill explains the structural anatomy of bird feathers, the nature of light, the qualities of color and, in some cases, what the bird had for lunch. Some bird colors are actually optical illusions caused by feather micro-structure that bends light. The rich blue of Blue Jays and Ringed Kingfishers are the result of feather structure, not pigment. Iridescent color of hummingbirds and the glossy heads of scap, which appear to change color depending on the angle from which they are viewed, are also examples of structural coloration. However, as Hill explains, these two types of structural color are due to different microscopic feather characteristics. Pulverize any of these structurally colored feathers, and you destroy their color. The colors of other birds are due to actual pigments in the feathers that are dictated by the birds' genes and hormone levels. Destroying the structure of feathers containing pigments does not change their color. In some cases, colorful food results in colorful birds. Examples of this amazing phenomenon include white flamingoes that turn pink when they eat crustaceans, Great Tits that have some yellow feathers because they eat caterpillars rich in carotenoid lutein, and Egyptian Vultures with lovely bright yellow facial skin, but only if they eat gut contents of dead sheep.

If the amazing facts don't entice you to pick up Geoffrey Hill's book to learn more, consider the fact that birds don't even see colors the way we do. They have four types of cones in their retina (we have only three, one for each of the primary colors of the visual spectrum we perceive), and are also able to perceive ultra-violet light, which our corneas filter out. So, the spectacularly colorful world of birds we perceive is not at all like the world the birds themselves perceive.

The fifteen chapters of *Bird Coloration* and its excellent index provide examples of bird species from across the planet. Nearly every page has colorful photos or drawings illustrating principles explained in the text. The subject is explored as it relates to avian behavior, sexual selection, evolution, aging, environmental influences and seasonal variation. *Bird Coloration* is a highly entertaining and educational book that should appeal to bird watching hobbyists and professional ornithologists alike.

IN MEMORIAM

Byron E. Harrell (1924 - 2010)

Members attending the SDOU fall meeting, 8-10 October 2010 at Vermillion, were informed that SDOU past president Byron E. Harrell had died on 23 January 2010, on San Juan Island, Washington.

Prior to military service in World War II, Dr. Harrell attended the University of Minnesota. After military service he earned a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, where he met and married his future wife, Joyce. He joined the faculty of the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, on 1 September 1957, and remained active in shaping future ornithologists until his retirement on 16 May 1991. In addition to ornithology, Byron taught evolution, mammalogy and biogeography. His research took him to Mexico, Central America, Brazil and many places in Europe. As the banquet speaker for SDOU's spring meeting 2-4 June 1972 in Mobridge, Byron discussed "the flora and fauna of the cloud forest in Mexico".

Apart from his substantial involvement with SDOU, Dr. Harrell contributed significantly to the founding of The Nature Conservancy in South Dakota and to the Raptor Research Foundation.

While in Vermillion, the Harrells designed and built their unique house, presently owned by SDOU member Mark Wetmore. The perimeter of its floor plan resembles the fully spread wings of a hawk in flight. From this home, the Harrells operated their business: Buteo Books. Among the prestigious names in the Buteo Books ornithological catalogue are Theodore Parker III and Van Rensen. The Harrells sold Buteo Books in 1991 to Allen Hale who now runs it out of Shipman, Virginia; it is presently also serving as the American Birding Association's sales arm – ABA Sales.

Dr. Harrell became a director of SDOU in 1967 and served as president from 1971 - 1973. He served on the Checklist Committee and also contributed to the expanding knowledge of birds in South Dakota as the editor of the first edition of *The Birds of South Dakota* (1978).

Condolences are extended to Dr. Byron Harrell's family from the SDOU membership.

L. M. Baylor, Rapid City

BOOK REVIEW

DOUGLAS CHAPMAN

Parrots of the World. Joseph M. Forshaw and Frank Knight (illustrator). 2010. Princeton Press: Princeton, NJ. \$29.95. (Softcover).

When Roger Tory Peterson produced what is universally thought of as the first “field guide” in 1934, the purpose was straightforward. It was a small book meant to be useful in the field for birdwatchers (no “birders” then) to improve identification skills without collecting the birds they observed. Straightforward enough. Oh, and it was for a specific region of the globe, namely the Eastern United States. Also straightforward enough: one could look up any bird found in that particular locality with few exceptions. By 2010, it seems that “field guide” has come to mean any book that a publisher calls a field guide, regardless of its scope and size. Perhaps the enormous utility of the (free!) internet has influenced how publishers must produce books.

Even so, this volume is still very puzzling to me. How could any birder ever need a “field guide” to a bird family? Bird family books are wonderful things, usually large reference volumes with very complete information, intended for use on a desk or in a reference library. This is possible because portability is not an issue. They are not meant to be taken into the field. Maybe carried in a car, but certainly not to be hauled on a global tour for exotic birds. They’re great for studying at home, but not for taking into the field.

Certainly, if you travel to Costa Rica, a Costa Rican field guide will be great, but a guide book that includes just the parrots of Costa Rica? No mannikins, trogons, quetzals, hummingbirds, etc.? And meanwhile you are also hauling around with you the parrots of New Guinea, Vietnam, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, Kenya, South Africa,.... You get the idea.

I was suspicious as soon as I opened this book; it *felt* like a miniaturized version of some larger volume. With just a few inquiries I found that, yes, though not in the Princeton catalogue any longer, this same author and illustrator had a book, also titled *Parrots of the World* (2006), and still available through re-sellers. It is over twice the size of the volume titled “field guide”. In the small volume, taxonomic order has been discarded for the convenience of grouping Psittaciformes by continent. Thus taxonomic relationships are nearly totally lost, unless, of course, one happens to be aware of them already. They could not be ascertained from this book.

I bought one of the large volumes (\$65.00 plus shipping) and yes, indeed, here is the REAL *Parrots of the World*. In taxonomic order and with illustrations, maps, and text in a scale that is a pleasure to read. The photo on the left shows the size comparison, but the thickness is about double as well.

On the plus side, the field guide:

- A) plates are generously illustrated with upper and lower wing patterns shown well, if smallish in reduction from the original, though the book is shy on juvenile plumages,
- B) has a category at the end of each species’ text on where best to find the bird,
- C) uses the term cage-bird term “conure” for the three genera of new world parakeets: *Pyrrhura*, *Aritinga* and *Enicognathus*. While at first a little disconcerting, it is actually more descriptive than the generic “parakeet”.

But if you really want a nearly complete record of all the fabulous birds of Psittaciformes, it is worth the effort to search for the larger volume.



On the Water – Not Just Young Birders Like New Places to Bird

If you thought keeping your eye on a fidgety bird on land is hard, just imagine trying to look at a bird while you are constantly being rocked up and down and the bird just so happens to be flying at an incredible rate of speed. Welcome to the world of pelagic birding (oceanic birding, from a boat), some of the hardest birding there is. Not only does it take someone with good identification skills to go out birding on the water, but one needs a strong stomach (or some Dramamine) and good sea legs—at least these things help make it a more enjoyable trip.

Being from Iowa and hardly ever having been out on a boat, and never in choppy waters, birding on the Pacific Ocean this fall was a whole new experience for me.

Getting up early in Olympia, WA, long before the sun rose, my dad and I began the 1.5 hour journey to Westport, WA, driving through the misty September air. As soon as we pulled up to the dock at 6 A.M., we were greeted by the smell of rotting fish, which made me about as queasy as the tossing and turning of the boat. We easily found the Monte Carlo, the pelagic birding boat that is operated by Westport Seabirds (the outfit that leads the tours). Before long we pushed off and were on our way to the open ocean, and away from the smell. The plan for the day was to go over 30 miles out to a place called Gray's Canyon, a deep submarine canyon, where lots of interesting birds congregate.

As we moved farther away from land, the birds became more and more interesting, with Common Murre showing up in small flocks, a few loons, jaegers, and soon our first shearwaters. It didn't take long for the land to disappear from sight and for more open ocean birds to show up. Many Black-footed Albatross soared over the water, reminding me of the long gone pterosaurs. Other birds observed included Sooty, Flesh-footed, Buller's, and Pink-footed shearwaters; Northern Fulmar, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, Tufted Puffin, and more. Also present were marine mammals, including orcas, humpback whales, harbor porpoise, and two species of sea lions. As we came close to shore we spotted a Wandering Tattler and Black-legged Kittiwake near a jetty making for a nice finale to the day.

The experience was rather overwhelming. I saw not only a number of new individual species, but I also saw many new families of birds. Not being able to see land was astounding and so was having the spray off the ocean pour down upon me, often making the binoculars hard to see through. All of these were new experiences. One thing in particular that will always stick with me was the amazing ability of birds to detect the odor of the chum we threw out for them. Consisting mostly of lard and some other "treats", chum has the ability to draw birds in from miles around. If you want to experience a lot of new things, a pelagic trip is for you, especially if, like myself, you haven't even been to the ocean.

With so many awesome birds out on the open water, and with so many large bodies of water in South Dakota, it would be fun to bird the lakes in search of some migrants, especially in the fall. Perhaps rare jaegers, loons, gulls, and more could be lurking just out of sight at places like Lake Oahe. Maybe a "pe-lake-gic" like North Dakota runs on Devil's Lake could be organized. I guess you just can't know what birds you may find for sure until you've tried.

Tucker J. Lutter

ORANGE-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH, SPEARFISH CANYON, SD

by Jennifer Fowler

Between 10 July 2010 and 19 August 2010 a single male Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus aurantiirostris*) (hereinafter OBNT), was observed along Iron Creek in Spearfish Canyon, Lawrence County, South Dakota. This is the third known OBNT found in the United States but was the first that birders could visit and add to their ABA Area life lists. The first record of an OBNT in the U.S. was on 8 April 1996 at Laguna Atascosa NWR, Texas when captured in a mist net, banded, released, and never relocated (Lasley et al. 1996). The second record was of a window-killed OBNT in Edinburg, TX on 28 May 2004 (Lockwood et al. 2005).

The following two paragraphs are Eric Ripma's account of his extraordinary discovery.

"After driving by Iron Creek in early July, I made a mental note to come back and check out the creek the next time I was close by. I thought that it looked like a great place to find some breeding birds. All I was hoping for were some of the regularly breeding birds of Spearfish Canyon, and I could see them without having all the people around. After arriving at Iron Creek and marveling at the beautiful canyon walls on the 10th of July, a bird that I just couldn't place started to sing. It had me interested but after ten minutes of searching the bird stopped singing so I hiked up canyon. While hiking back down, the bird was at it again and this time I was able to see the bird, but only a split second look. After a few minutes, the only conclusion that I could come to was: Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush.

"I knew that if it really was a Nightingale-Thrush, I would have to get more than a split second look to report it and really put in some effort to get photos. Since I was working for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, I wouldn't be able to put in much effort in the mornings. So instead, I went back every day in the afternoon with practically no results. The bird would constantly sing and I would constantly search the trees without luck. As we later learned, the bird was much easier to see in the early morning. After hiking back and forth on the trail, more times than I can remember, I finally got a good enough look to confirm it to myself. The next morning I was finally able to get a photograph of the bird, and with some help, got the word out about its presence. The next morning, birders started arriving and many people got to see and hear the bird."

The 'next morning' that Eric refers to was 17 July 2010. Jocie Baker and I were the first to meet Eric at the Iron Creek parking lot and were treated with immediate views of the OBNT. Within a few hours, there were ten South Dakota birders moving up and down the trail eager for a glimpse. The bird was singing regularly and offered views primarily from the tops of the trees and at times birders were able to view it through their spotting scope for several minutes. We sent an update to SD-Birds online listserve before noon, confirming that we were certainly watching and listening to an OBNT. That message started the flurry of birders heading to the Black Hills, so Eric stayed a few extra days to guide people to his amazing find. I had some free time to return daily, in the process accumulating over eighty hours of monitoring the OBNT's habits and assisting birders in finding the bird. Daily updates were sent to the SD-Birds listserve. As the point person for this megararity, the media was always interviewing me as well as birders from around the nation and beyond.

The OBNT was found at the Iron Creek Trail head 1.7 miles north of Savoy in Spearfish Canyon. The bird primarily stayed within the first 0.25 miles of the Iron Creek Canyon which is characterized by steep rock walls with ponderosa pine and Black Hills spruce as the conifers present. The riparian area following the creek contained balsam poplar, paper birch, and boxelder trees with a dense deciduous understory. Birders were able to follow this canyon by trail to conveniently observe the OBNT. Two visiting birders that guide trips in the OBNT's normal range of Mexico, Central America and northern South America reported that habitat

present there is similar to that found in Spearfish Canyon.

The OBNT sang over five variations of songs that were louder and emphatic than the other birds in the canyon and could be picked out from a good distance away. Each of the bird's songs contained the flute-like qualities of other *Catharus* thrushes, but they were of varying lengths, and easily discerned from the much softer sounds of the local breeding Swainson's Thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*). As the bird flew, the characteristic whitish underparts of its body were evident as were the orange-brown back, tail, and wings, the very bright orange bill, eye-rings, and legs. When searching for the perched singing bird, its white belly was often all that could be seen. At other times, the darker posterior of the bird, with slightly drooping wings, also gave away its location. Rarely did an observer see all the bird's features at once, which caused many birders to make return visits. While watching the bird, it was evident that the OBNT was in good health and presumed wild, as it was observed singing, preening, fly-catching, picking raspberries, defecating, and showed no sign of feather wear.

The following timeline is based on my field notes and personal communications with visiting birders:

10 July – 21 July: During this time, the OBNT mainly stayed within the first 0.25 mile of trail and preferred to sing often from the tops of pine and spruce trees.

22 July: Gaps between the OBNT's afternoon singing times increased to 45 minutes and it remained unseen for hours.

24 July: 5 A.M. – 8 A.M. was determined the best time to hear and see the bird. It had been singing nearly continuously since its discovery on 10 July. It was estimated that by this date, over 200 birders representing twenty-five states had come to hear and get a glimpse of this megararity.

26 July: By now, the bird's behavior was different from the first two weeks of observations. Starting on this date he remained low in somewhat the same location and would sing again, not causing us to move up and down the trail. Seeing the bird now required increased patience and more eyes looking. A birder noted it was easier for her to find the OBNT in Iron Creek Canyon than when she was in Mexico, within its normal range.

29 July: By now the bird was singing less frequently and views were hard to come by because it was staying below eye level deep within the vegetation with little movement and vocalizing. The visibility rate was decreasing with each passing day, though before 8 A.M. continued to be the best observing time. It was estimated that by this time, well over 300 birders had made the journey to Spearfish canyon.

13 August: The OBNT was nearly quiet after the early morning hours.

18 August: Birders reported the OBNT was heard and offered fleeting views.

19 August: The last reported sighting of the OBNT in Iron Creek Canyon was in the early morning near the parking lot.

During 41 days of observing the Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, it is estimated that more than 400 people, from throughout the U.S. and Canada, ventured out to hear the bird and hoped for a glimpse of this rarity. At the fall 2010 SDOU meeting, the South Dakota Rare Bird Records Committee accepted the first South Dakota sighting of a wild Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush.

A full-color photograph of the Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush found in Spearfish Canyon may be seen on the cover of *SD Bird Notes*, September 2010. Three black and white photos are on the following page.

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Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush

Lawrence County, 7/18/10

Bird Photos: Doug Backlund

This bird is the third US record, found by Eric Ripma in Spearfish Canyon, Lawrence County, SD, at the Iron Creek Road Trail.

This trail was very well-travelled in July/August of 2010!

Photo: Eric Ripma



SEASONAL REPORTS

The 2010 Summer Season

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01 June 2010 to 31 July 2010

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The primary goal of the Summer Season compilation is to report Confirmed Breeding records observed during the season. There were 143 species reported as Confirmed Breeding this year. However, this does not include numerous records reported to the current South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas Project. These will eventually be reported elsewhere and the data will hopefully make its way into the online database as well. The secondary objectives of the Summer Season summary include sightings of rare (or at least infrequently reported) species, late spring and early fall migration dates, and species that are reported from unusual locations. There were 260 species - the ten-year (2000-2009) average is 255 - including eleven rarities, reported during the season. A full listing of all reported sightings can be obtained from the online database. This report contains those sightings and species which seemed to be consistent with the objectives of the Summer Season as described above.

Trumpeter Swan Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Tripp (PY) ND ... also reported 16 Jun Corson ND; 20 Jun Perkins ND; 20 Jun Tripp RDO; 24 Jun Charles Mix SS

Wood Duck Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Kingsbury (PY) JSP; 09 Jun Brown (PY) BJU; 23 Jun Potter (PY) BJU; **14 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; 25 Jul Hughes (PY) EDS; 27 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU

Gadwall Confirmed Breeding: Brown, **Campbell, Dewey, Edmunds, Faulk, Marshall, McPherson, Perkins, Potter, and Sully** counties

American Wigeon Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jun Campbell (PY) BJU**; 22 Jun Campbell (PY) BJU; 24 Jun Campbell (PY) BJU; **06 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; **27 Jul Jones (PY) SS**

American Black Duck Only Report: 09 Jun Brown BJU

Cinnamon Teal All Reports: 06 Jun Tripp RDO; 14 Jun Spink BJU; 19 Jun Stanley RDO; 06 Jul McPherson BJU

Green-winged Teal Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jun Walworth (PY) BJU**; **01 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; **04 Jul Brown (PY) BJU**; 06 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; **15 Jul Edmunds (PY) BJU**

Canvasback Confirmed Breeding: Edmunds, **Harding, Jones, Marshall, McPherson, and Sully** counties

Redhead Confirmed Breeding: Bennett, Brown, **Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, Marshall, and McPherson** counties

Ring-necked Duck Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Campbell (PY) BJU; 06 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; **14 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**

Lesser Scaup Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jun Campbell (PY) BJU**; 01 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; 05 Jul Edmunds (PY) BJU; 06 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; **29 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**

Bufflehead All Reports: 06 Jun Sully BJU; 09 Jun Brown BJU; 23 Jun Walworth BJU; 06 Jul McPherson BJU; 14 Jul McPherson BJU

Hooded Merganser All Reports: 01 Jun Deuel BJU; 01 Jun Jerauld ND; 01 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 14 Jun Lyman KM, SS; 29 Jun Brookings JSP

Ruddy Duck Confirmed Breeding: **06 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; 09 Jul Meade (PY) JLB

Gray Partridge Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Brown (PY) BJU; **25 Jun Grant (PY) BJU**; **05 Jul Edmunds (PY) BJU**; **18 Jul Faulk (PY) BJU**; 26 Jul Deuel (PY) BJU; **31 Jul Custer (PY) MMM**

Ruffed Grouse All Reports: 29 Jul Lawrence BJU; 30 Jul Pennington BJU

Greater Sage-Grouse Only Report: 05 Jun Harding CEM

Sharp-tailed Grouse Confirmed Breeding: **Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, McPherson, and Potter** counties

Greater Prairie-Chicken Confirmed Breeding: **07 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; **17 Jul Faulk (PY) BJU** ... also reported 04 Jun Hyde KM; 06 Jun Hand BJU; 23 Jun Mellette SS; 27 Jul Jones SS

Wild Turkey Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Custer, **Grant, Harding, McPherson, Potter, Todd, and Tripp** counties

Northern Bobwhite All Reports: 13 Jun Charles Mix RM; 20 Jun Tripp RDO; 25 Jun Charles Mix RM; 03 Jul Charles Mix RM

Common Loon reported 10 Jul Pennington RDO

Horned Grebe Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul McPherson (ON) BJU; **14 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**

Red-necked Grebe Confirmed Breeding: **Brown**, Marshall, and McPherson counties

Eared Grebe Confirmed Breeding: Campbell, Corson, Edmunds, Fall River, Marshall, McPherson, Meade, Potter, Sully, Walworth, and **Ziebach** counties

Western Grebe Confirmed Breeding: Brown, **Campbell**, Day, **Edmunds**, **Faulk**, Lake, Marshall, McPherson, **Potter**, and **Walworth** counties

Clark's Grebe Confirmed Breeding: **15 Jun Faulk (NE) BJU**; **06 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**

American White Pelican Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Day (NE) BJU

Double-crested Cormorant Confirmed Breeding: Brown, **Campbell**, Clark, Day, Hand, Hyde, Jerauld, Marshall, McPherson, **Sully**, and Walworth counties

Great Blue Heron Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Edmunds, Haakon, Hand, Harding, **Hyde**, McPherson, Pennington, Stanley, and Sully counties

Great Egret Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Brown (NY) BJU

Little Blue Heron Only Report: 30 Jul Brown DS

Green Heron All Reports: 01 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 02 Jun Brown GO; 03 Jun Spink BJU; 04 Jul Brown GO; 07 Jul Day BJU; 12 Jul Brown GO

Black-crowned Night-Heron Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jun Hand (ON) BJU**; 09 Jun Brown (CN) BJU; **24 Jun Campbell (CN) BJU**; 04 Jul Brown (ON) BJU; **14 Jul McPherson (NY) BJU**

White-faced Ibis Confirmed Breeding: **09 Jun Brown (CN) BJU**; **14 Jun Lyman (CN) SS**; **04 Jul McPherson (NY) JDW**; **05 Jul Walworth (NY) BJU**; 14 Jul McPherson (NY) BJU; **28 Jul Marshall (CN) BJU**

Osprey Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Pennington (ON) JLB; 21 Jul Lawrence (NY) JLB ... also reported 19 Jun Buffalo RDO; 23 Jul Hughes EDS; 24 Jul Marshall GO

Bald Eagle Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Brown (NY) BJU; 09 Jun Pennington (NY) JLB; 19 Jun Minnehaha (FL) MRZ

Northern Harrier Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Faulk (CF) MMM

Sharp-shinned Hawk All Reports: 30 Jul Custer BJU; 30 Jul Pennington BJU

Broad-winged Hawk All Reports: 09 Jun Brown BJU; 10 Jul Lawrence ND

Swainson's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Sully (ON) BJU; 21 Jun Edmunds (ON) BJU; 22 Jun Campbell (ON) BJU; 02 Jul Custer (ON) MMM; 07 Jul McPherson (NY) BJU; 13 Jul Edmunds (NY) BJU

Red-tailed Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 09 Jun Haakon (NY) ND; 04 Jul Harding (NY) CEM; 04 Jul Harding (ON) KM

Golden Eagle Confirmed Breeding: **07 Jul Perkins (ON) ND**

American Kestrel Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jun Hand (NY) BJU**; 26 Jun Harding (NY) CEM

Merlin All Reports: 29 Jul Haakon BJU; 29 Jul Meade BJU; 30 Jul Custer BJU; 30 Jul Fall River BJU

Prairie Falcon Confirmed Breeding: **02 Jul Harding (NY) CEM**; **02 Jul Harding (FY) KM** ... also reported 03 Jul Custer RSL; 09 Jul Meade ND; 11 Jul Butte RSL

Virginia Rail Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Brown (PY) BJU; **05 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; **07 Jul Day (PY) BJU**; **13 Jul Edmunds (PY) BJU**; **27 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU**

Sora Confirmed Breeding: **05 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; 14 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; **27 Jul Marshall (PY) BJU**

Black-bellied Plover All Reports: 02 Jun Day BJU; **07 Jul Clay DS**

American Golden-Plover Only Report: **03 Jun Spink BJU**

Semipalmated Plover Late: **06 Jun Hyde BJU**; 02 Jun Day BJU ... Early: **04 Jul Edmunds BJU**; **04 Jul McPherson BJU**; 13 Jul Sully RDO

Piping Plover Confirmed Breeding: **14 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU** ... also reported 01 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 06 Jun Sully BJU; 22 Jun Campbell BJU; 24 Jun Walworth BJU; 03 Jul Edmunds BJU

Killdeer Confirmed Breeding: Bennett, Campbell, **Dewey**, Haakon, Hand, Kingsbury, Marshall, **McPherson**, Miner, and Spink counties

Black-necked Stilt All Reports: 15 Jun Beadle BFW; 28 Jul Marshall BJU; 29 Jul McPherson BJU

American Avocet Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Campbell, **Corson**, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, **Jones**, Marshall, McPherson, Spink, and Sully counties

Spotted Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding: **06 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; **17 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**

Solitary Sandpiper Early: **02 Jul Miner JSP**; **05 Jul Ziebach ND**; 11 Jul Pennington JLB; 17 Jul Campbell BJU

Greater Yellowlegs Early: **20 Jun Edmunds BJU**; 24 Jun Campbell BJU; 25 Jun Walworth BJU; 14 Jul Meade RSL

Willet Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Day (PY) BJU; 01 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; 14 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; **18 Jul Faulk (PY) BJU**

Lesser Yellowlegs Early: 20 Jun Edmunds BJU; 24 Jun Campbell BJU; 25 Jun Walworth BJU; 02 Jul Bennett ND

Upland Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jun Campbell (PY) BJU**; 29 Jun Haakon (PY) EDS; **06 Jul Moody (PY) JSP**; 13 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU

Long-billed Curlew Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Custer (PY) JLB

Marbled Godwit Confirmed Breeding: **24 Jun Campbell (PY) BJU**; **30 Jun Day (PY) BJU**; 01 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; **14 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**

Ruddy Turnstone All Reports: 01 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 03 Jun Spink BJU

Sanderling All Reports: 01 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 03 Jun Spink BJU; **13 Jul Sully RDO**

Semipalmated Sandpiper Late: 06 Jun Hyde BJU; 03 Jun Spink BJU; 02 Jun Day GO, BJU ... Early: 24 Jun Campbell BJU; 25 Jun Walworth BJU; 04 Jul Brown BJU; 04 Jul Edmunds BJU; 30 Jul Fall River BJU

Least Sandpiper Late: 02 Jun Day GO ... Early: **24 Jun Campbell BJU**; 25 Jun Walworth BJU; 04 Jul Brown BJU; 04 Jul Edmunds BJU; 30 Jul Fall River BJU

White-rumped Sandpiper Late: 10 Jun Marshall BJU; 09 Jun Brown BJU; 06 Jun Sully BJU

Baird's Sandpiper Early: **24 Jun Campbell BJU**; 25 Jun Walworth BJU; 03 Jul Charles Mix RM; 04 Jul Brown BJU; 04 Jul Edmunds BJU; 27 Jul Jones SS

Pectoral Sandpiper Early: 24 Jun Campbell BJU; 25 Jun Walworth BJU; 04 Jul Brown BJU; 04 Jul Edmunds BJU; 30 Jul Fall River BJU

Dunlin All Reports: 02 Jun Brown GO; 02 Jun Day BJU, GO; **06 Jun Hyde BJU**

Stilt Sandpiper Late: **06 Jun Hyde BJU**; 03 Jun Spink BJU; 02 Jun Day BJU ... Early: 24 Jun Campbell BJU; 25 Jun Walworth BJU; 04 Jul Brown BJU; 04 Jul Edmunds BJU

Buff-breasted Sandpiper reported **20 Jul Brown BJU**

Short-billed Dowitcher Early: **24 Jun Campbell BJU**; 25 Jun Walworth BJU; 04 Jul Brown BJU; 04 Jul Edmunds BJU

Long-billed Dowitcher All Reports: 12 Jul Sully SS; 13 Jul Sully RDO; 20 Jul Potter SS; 20 Jul Sully RDO; 24 Jul Potter RDO

American Woodcock All Reports: 09 Jun Brown BJU; **02 Jul Beadle *fade* BFW**

Wilson's Phalarope Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU; **13 Jul Edmunds (PY) BJU**

Red-necked Phalarope Only Report: 29 Jul McPherson BJU

Bonaparte's Gull Only Report: 28 Jul Marshall BJU

Franklin's Gull Confirmed Breeding: **09 Jun Brown (CN) BJU**; **23 Jun Potter (CN) BJU**; **05 Jul Walworth (NE) BJU**

Ring-billed Gull Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Clark (PY) BJU; **14 Jul McPherson (PY) BJU**; **15 Jul Ziebach (ON) ND**

Herring Gull All Reports: 02 Jun Day BJU; 14 Jun Hughes BJU; 16 Jun Hughes RSL; 22 Jun Campbell BJU

Least Tern All Reports: 10 Jun Hughes KM; 10 Jun Stanley RDO; 12 Jun Hughes KM; 14 Jun Hughes BJU; 14 Jun Stanley BJU; 16 Jul Campbell BJU

Caspian Tern reported 05 Jun Meade RSL; 30 Jun Day BJU

Black Tern Confirmed Breeding: Brown, **Campbell**, Edmunds, **Hand**, Marshall, **Potter**, and **Walworth** counties

Common Tern Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Clark (NY) BJU; 07 Jul Day (FY) BJU

Forster's Tern Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Day, **Marshall**, **Potter**, and **Walworth** counties

Mourning Dove Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Hand (NY) BJU; 15 Jun Potter (NY) EDS; 18 Jun Brule (ON) EDS; 20 Jun Faulk (NY) BJU; 19 Jul Spink (CN) BJU; 31 Jul Hughes (FL) EDS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jul Brown (CF) BJU**

Barn Owl All Reports: 06 Jun Tripp RDO; 07 Jun Haakon ND; 16 Jun Haakon RSL; 26 Jun Haakon KM, SS; 29 Jul Haakon BJU

Eastern Screech-Owl All Reports: 01 Jun Lake JSP; 02 Jun Day BJU; 20 Jul Hughes SS

Great Horned Owl Confirmed Breeding: **25 Jul Walworth (FL) ND**

Burrowing Owl Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jun Spink (ON) BJU**; **24 Jun Campbell (ON) BJU**; 27 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 17 Jul Campbell (ON) BJU; 23 Jul Custer (FY) RM; 30 Jul Harding (FL) CEM

Short-eared Owl Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jul Brown (FL) BJU** ... also reported 06 Jun Hand BJU; 20 Jun Edmunds BJU; 07 Jul Brown BJU; 28 Jul Brown BJU

Northern Saw-whet Owl Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Harding (NE) CEM; 20 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 30 Jun Harding (NY) CEM

Common Nighthawk Confirmed Breeding: **06 Jun Hyde (ON) BJU; 23 Jun Minnehaha (ON) MRZ**

Common Poorwill Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jul Custer (NE) JSP** ... also reported 03 Jul Harding CEM, KM; 04 Jul Dewey ND; 31 Jul Custer BJU

Whip-poor-will All Reports: 01 Jun Charles Mix RM; 15 Jun Charles Mix RM; 29 Jun Yankton SS; 24 Jul Charles Mix RM

White-throated Swift Confirmed Breeding: **02 Jul Harding (ON) CEM, KM**

Ruby-throated Hummingbird All Reports: 01 Jun Charles Mix RM; 24 Jun Campbell BJU; 26 Jun Brookings JF; 03 Jul Charles Mix RM; 26 Jul Clay DS

Calliope Hummingbird All Reports: **19 Jul Custer DS, JSP**; 23 Jul Custer RM

Rufous Hummingbird All Reports: 12 Jul Pennington JF; 13 Jul Pennington JLB; 19 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 23 Jul Custer RM; 30 Jul Custer DB; 31 Jul Custer BJU

Lewis's Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: **31 Jul Custer (FY) BJU** ... also reported 26 Jun Custer KM, SS; 03 Jul Custer RSL; 28 Jul Custer DB; 30 Jul Custer DB

Red-headed Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; **21 Jun Campbell (NY) BJU**; 23 Jun Potter (ON) BJU

Red-bellied Woodpecker All Reports: 04 Jun Hand BJU; 05 Jun Charles Mix RM; 20 Jun Minnehaha MS; 21 Jun Campbell BJU; 13 Jul Stanley RDO

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Brookings (NY) JSP ... also reported 10 Jun Roberts BJU; 20 Jun Minnehaha MS

Downy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Hairy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ; 10 Jul Harding (FL) CEM

American Three-toed Woodpecker Only Report: 10 Jul Lawrence RDO

Black-backed Woodpecker All Reports: 19 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 23 Jul Custer RM; 31 Jul Custer BJU

Northern Flicker Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Harding (FY) CEM

Western Wood-Pewee Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Harding (NY) CEM; 04 Jul Harding (ON) KM; 10 Jul Harding (NY) CEM

Eastern Wood-Pewee reported 30 Jun Tripp ND; 03 Jul Todd ND

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Only Report: **05 Jun Lyman RDO**

Willow Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: **20 Jun Faulk (NE) BJU; 22 Jun Campbell (CF) BJU**; 01 Jul McPherson (CF) BJU

Least Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jun Walworth (CF) BJU; 04 Jul Brown (CF) BJU**

Dusky Flycatcher Confirmed Breeding: **31 Jul Custer (NY) DB**

Eastern Phoebe Confirmed Breeding: **29 Jun Yankton (ON) SS; 28 Jul Marshall (FL) BJU**

Say's Phoebe reported 03 Jul Edmunds BJU; 20 Jul Brown BJU; **26 Jul Deuel BJU**

Western Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: Beadle, Brule, Faulk, **Hand**, Marshall, McPherson, and Potter counties

Eastern Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: **06 Jun Dewey (ON) ND**; 15 Jun Potter (ON) EDS; 21 Jun Campbell (NE) BJU; 03 Jul Hughes (FL) EDS; 08 Jul Hughes (FL) EDS; 16 Jul Brule (CF) EDS

Loggerhead Shrike Confirmed Breeding: **Campbell, Grant**, Haakon, **Hyde**, McPherson, and Potter counties

Bell's Vireo Confirmed Breeding: **06 Jun Sully (ON) BJU; 16 Jul Campbell (CF) BJU**

Yellow-throated Vireo Only Report: 10 Jun Roberts BJU

Plumbeous Vireo Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jul Harding (CF) CEM**

Gray Jay All Reports: 06 Jun Custer JF; 17 Jul Lawrence DS, JSP; 29 Jul Lawrence BJU

Blue Jay Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Faulk (NY) BJU; 03 Jul Hughes (FY) EDS

Pinyon Jay Only Report: 31 Jul Custer BJU

Clark's Nutcracker All Reports: 06 Jun Custer JF; 19 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 25 Jul Pennington RSL; 28 Jul Custer DB; 30 Jul Custer DB; 31 Jul Custer BJU

Black-billed Magpie reported 23 Jun Campbell BJU

Horned Lark Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Campbell (FL) BJU; 28 Jun Stanley (CF) EDS

Purple Martin Confirmed Breeding: **01 Jun Hand (ON) ND; 09 Jun Brown (ON) BJU; 14 Jun Spink (ON) BJU**; 06 Jul McPherson (ON) BJU; **26 Jul Deuel (NY) BJU**

Tree Swallow Confirmed Breeding: Brookings, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Jones, **Miner, and Perkins** counties

Violet-green Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Harding (ON) CEM

Northern Rough-winged Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Hand (ON) BJU; 22 Jun Campbell (ON) BJU; 07 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB; **13 Jul Brown (ON) BJU**

Bank Swallow Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Day, Deuel, McPherson, **Potter, Todd, and Walworth** counties

Cliff Swallow Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Campbell, Corson, Day, Deuel, Dewey, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Haakon, Harding, McCook, Spink, Tripp, Walworth

Barn Swallow Confirmed Breeding: Brookings, Day, Edmunds, Haakon, Hughes, Miner, and Pennington counties

Black-capped Chickadee Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Minnehaha (FY) MRZ

Red-breasted Nuthatch reported 01 Jun Brown GO; **11 Jul Minnehaha MRZ**

White-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Brookings (FL) JSP

Pygmy Nuthatch All Reports: 19 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 28 Jul Custer DB; 30 Jul Custer DB

Brown Creeper Only Report: 06 Jun Custer JF

Rock Wren Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Custer (ON) KM; 03 Jul Harding (CF) CEM; 03 Jul Harding (ON) KM

House Wren Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jun Hand (ON) BJU**; 27 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 30 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 04 Jul Harding (ON) KM; 10 Jul Hughes (FL) EDS

Sedge Wren Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jul Brown (FY) BJU**

Marsh Wren Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Walworth (NY) BJU

Golden-crowned Kinglet All Reports: 20 Jun Lawrence JSP; 10 Jul Lawrence RDO; 17 Jul Lawrence DS, JSP; 29 Jul Lawrence BJU; 30 Jul Pennington BJU

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 27 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; **04 Jul Harding (ON) CEM, KM**

Eastern Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, **Deuel, Harding, McCook, and Spink** counties

Mountain Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Harding (FY) CEM

Veery All Reports: 10 Jun Roberts BJU; 10 Jul Meade ND

Swainson's Thrush Confirmed Breeding: **30 Jul Lawrence (FL) CEM** ... also reported 03 Jun Hand BJU

American Robin Confirmed Breeding: Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, Moody, Pennington, and Tripp counties

Gray Catbird Confirmed Breeding: **22 Jun Campbell (CF) BJU**; 25 Jun Brown (FS) BJU; **27 Jul Jones (CF) SS**

Northern Mockingbird reported from Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Hand, Harding, and Lyman counties

Brown Thrasher Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Potter (CF) EDS; 18 Jun Custer (NY) MMM; 20 Jun Perkins (CF) ND; **04 Jul Harding (FY) CEM**

European Starling Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Faulk (NY) BJU; 20 Jun Perkins (CF) ND; **13 Jul Edmunds (NY) BJU**

Sprague's Pipit Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jun Campbell (FL) BJU**

Cedar Waxwing Confirmed Breeding: Brookings, **Deuel, Hand, Harding, and McPherson** counties

Tennessee Warbler All Reports: 29 Jun Marshall WS; **14 Jul Perkins ND**

Virginia's Warbler All Reports: 26 Jun Custer KM, SS; 18 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 30 Jul Custer BJU

Yellow Warbler Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jun Spink (CN) BJU**; **15 Jun Potter (NE) EDS**; 16 Jun Pennington (CF) JLB; 20 Jun Faulk (CF) BJU; 04 Jul Harding (CF) CEM

Yellow-rumped Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Harding (NY) CEM; 04 Jul Harding (ON) KM

Black-and-white Warbler All Reports: 03 Jul Todd ND; 10 Jul Lawrence ND; 10 Jul Meade ND

American Redstart Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jul Lawrence (NY) RM**

Ovenbird Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Harding (CF) CEM

Common Yellowthroat Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Faulk (CF) MMM

Yellow-breasted Chat Confirmed Breeding: **27 Jun Harding (NB) CEM**; **30 Jun Tripp (CF) ND**

Scarlet Tanager Only Report: 10 Jun Roberts BJU

Spotted Towhee Confirmed Breeding: **30 Jul Custer (FY) BJU**
Eastern Towhee Only Report: 11 Jul Charles Mix RM
Chipping Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Faulk (CF) MMM; 26 Jun Harding (CF) CEM; 26 Jul Deuel (FY) BJU; 27 Jul Marshall (FY) BJU; 30 Jul Custer (FY) BJU
Clay-colored Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **21 Jun Campbell (NY) BJU**; 23 Jun Walworth (CF) BJU; **28 Jun Faulk (FL) MMM**; **26 Jul Deuel (FY) BJU**
Brewer's Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **30 Jul Fall River (FS) BJU** ... also reported 27 Jun Fall River KM, SS; 11 Jul Harding ND
Field Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **26 Jul Deuel (FY) BJU**
Vesper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **27 Jul Marshall (FY) BJU**
Lark Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **Brown, Brule, Custer, Deuel, Edmunds, Haakon, Harding, Hughes, Potter,** and Sully counties
Lark Bunting Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Potter (CF) ND; 21 Jun Harding (CF) ND; 21 Jun Meade (CF) MMM; 28 Jun Stanley (CF) EDS; **26 Jul Deuel (CF) BJU**; **30 Jul Pennington (CF) ND**
Grasshopper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **Campbell, Corson, Deuel, Edmunds, Hyde, McPherson, Perkins, Potter,** and Sully counties
Baird's Sparrow reported from Butte, Campbell, Custer, Hyde, and McPherson counties
Le Conte's Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **15 Jun Faulk (CF) BJU**; **21 Jun Campbell (CF) BJU**; **15 Jul Campbell (FY) BJU** ... also reported from Brookings, Brown, Edmunds, Marshall, McPherson, Spink, and Walworth counties
Nelson's Sparrow reported from Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Marshall, McPherson, Potter, Spink, Sully, and Walworth counties
Song Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: **28 Jul Marshall (FL) BJU**
Chestnut-collared Longspur Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Harding (CF) ND; **30 Jun Clark (FL) BJU**; **30 Jun Day (CF) BJU**; 18 Jul Faulk (FY) BJU; **29 Jul McPherson (FY) BJU**
Northern Cardinal Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Hughes (FL) EDS ... also reported 03 Jul Todd ND; 11 Jul Pennington JLB
Black-headed Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Haakon (ON) ND; 10 Jul Lawrence (ON) ND; 30 Jul Fall River (NY) BJU
Lazuli Bunting Confirmed Breeding: **27 Jun Harding (NB) CEM**
Dickcissel Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jun Brule (CF) EDS**
Bobolink Confirmed Breeding: **10 Jul Miner (CF) JSP**
Red-winged Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Potter (NY) EDS; 20 Jun Perkins (CF) ND; 29 Jun Brookings (CF) JSP; 03 Jul Hughes (FY) EDS; **04 Jul Dewey (CN) ND**; 16 Jul Brule (FL) EDS
Eastern Meadowlark reported 19 Jun Bennett JSP; 31 Jul Bennett BJU
Yellow-headed Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Faulk (CF) BJU; 21 Jun Edmunds (FS) BJU; 04 Jul Brown (FS) BJU; 19 Jul Spink (FL) BJU; **28 Jul Marshall (FL) BJU**
Brewer's Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: **23 Jun Potter (CF) BJU**; **30 Jun Day (CF) BJU**; **01 Jul McPherson (FS) BJU**; **16 Jul Brule (CF) EDS**
Common Grackle Confirmed Breeding: Brookings, Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Harding, Hughes, McPherson, Pennington, Perkins, and Potter counties
Great-tailed Grackle All Reports: 05 Jun Charles Mix RM; 06 Jun Hand BJU; 26 Jul Deuel BJU; 28 Jul Marshall BJU
Brown-headed Cowbird Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jul Campbell (FL) BJU; 18 Jul Custer (FL) DS, JSP; 18 Jul Faulk (FL) BJU; **31 Jul Custer (FL) BJU**
Orchard Oriole Confirmed Breeding: **Brookings, Brule, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hand, Marshall, McPherson, and Potter** counties
Bullock's Oriole Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jul Harding (ON) KM**
Baltimore Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Brown (ON) BJU; **02 Jul Miner (ON) JSP**; **05 Jul Edmunds (CF) BJU**; 05 Jul Minnehaha (FY) MRZ
Cassin's Finch All Reports: 18 Jun Pennington *vide* JLB; 26 Jun Custer SS; 09 Jul Custer RDO; 19 Jul Custer DS, JSP; 28 Jul Custer DB; 30 Jul Custer DB
House Finch Confirmed Breeding: **05 Jun Harding (NY) CEM**; **05 Jun Potter (NY) ND**; **22 Jul Hughes (FY) EDS**

Red Crossbill Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Harding (FL) CEM; **30 Jul Custer (FY) BJU** ... also reported 03 Jul Todd ND
Pine Siskin reported 14 Jun Hughes KM
Lesser Goldfinch All Reports: 26 Jun Fall River KM, SS; 19 Jul Fall River DS, JSP; 22 Jul Fall River RM; 30 Jul Fall River BJU
American Goldfinch Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Edmunds (CN) BJU
House Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Edmunds, **Hand**, Hughes, Lake, McPherson, and Potter counties

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Brown Pelican 13-14 Jun Lyman JSP, RM, BJU, KM, SS
Glossy Ibis 09 Jun Brown (6) BJU; 12 Jul Sully SS; 13 Jul Sully RDO; 20 Jul Sully RDO; 24 Jul Sully RDO; 28 Jul Marshall BJU; 29 Jul Potter BJU; 30 Jul Marshall DS
Black Rail 17 Jul Potter (PY) BJU
Common Moorhen 24 Jun Charles Mix SS; 20 Jul Brown (PY) BJU
Long-billed Curlew 21 Jun Edmunds BJU
Buff-breasted Sandpiper 13 Jul Edmunds BJU
Laughing Gull 11-14 Jun Hughes and Stanley JSP, KM, BJU, RM
Long-tailed Jaeger 09-15 Jun Hughes and Stanley KM, RDO, BJU, RM
Chuck-will's-widow 29 Jun Yankton SS
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 05 Jul Minnehaha (CF) MRZ
Broad-tailed Hummingbird 26 Jun Custer (ON) KM, SS
Eastern Wood-Pewee 26 Jun Fall River KM
Cassin's Kingbird 26 Jun Custer SS; 31 Jul Custer BJU
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 14 Jul McPherson BJU
Henslow's Sparrow 04 Jun Brookings JSP; 22-24 Jun Campbell BJU
Harris's Sparrow 16 Jun Pennington JLB
Eastern Meadowlark 02-12 Jun Custer MMM, JLB; 15 Jul McCook JSP

Contributing Observers

DB	Doug Backlund	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
ND	Nancy Drilling	RAP	Richard A. Peterson
BFW	Bridgette Flanders-Wanner	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
JF	Jennifer Fowler	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
TJ	Todd Jensen	WS	Waubay NWR Staff
BK	Brian Kringen	SS	Scott Stolz
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
RM	Ron Mabie	DS	David Swanson
MMM	Michael M. Melius	BJU	Bill Unzen
CEM	Charlie Miller	JDW	J. David Williams
KM	Kenny Miller	MRZ	Mick Zerr
GO	Gary Olson		



*Worm-eating Warbler;
 North Cave Hills,
 Harding Co., SD
 Class 6: Accidental in SD
 05/24/09*

Photo: Doug Backlund

HOTSPOTS IN SD

RICKY D. OLSON

After an amazing summer season we had a delightful fall birding season in South Dakota. As of writing this article, my prediction of a jaeger has not manifested. But my forecast of a species-diverse fall gull and tern season was correct.

In the Pierre area, thousands of gulls were present including sightings of **Little Gulls** (see cover, this issue), **Black-legged Kittiwakes** and **Sabine's Gulls** being the highlights. An **Arctic Tern** also graced us with its presence.

A **Great Black-backed Gull** was found at the Gavin's Point dam marina. Also at Gavin's Point dam a beautiful adult **Ross's Gull** was located on the Nebraska/South Dakota border near Yankton, SD, barely in time to change the cover of this issue.

A **Pacific Loon** and **Red-necked Grebes** were also observed in the Pierre area. Three loons, two **Pacific** and one **Red-throated**, were seen west of Sioux Falls on Wall Lake.

Many groups of **Whooping Cranes** stopped over in South Dakota this fall, the largest number that I am aware of. There were groups of three, two and ten reported in the Pierre area. A group of four cranes was photographed in the Aberdeen area.

There have been only a few scoter reports, mainly in the Northeast. I hope more scoters pass through along with Long-tailed Ducks and maybe a Harlequin Duck. On 11 November 2010 a male **Surf Scoter** in full breeding plumage was found on Wall Lake, Minnehaha Co., but was a one-day wonder, not seen again the following day or thereafter.

The large group of **Le Conte's Sparrows** at Spirit Mound Historic Prairie during the fall South Dakota Ornithologists' Union meeting was greatly enjoyed by many birders. There were also several dozen **Lincoln's Sparrows** in this historic spot.

A photographed **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a welcome surprise at Lake Louise State Recreation Area in Hand County.

Already there are reports of several winter migrants: **Gyrfalcon**, **Northern Shrike**, **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, **Purple Finches** and **Snow Buntings**. A flock of 1000 **Lapland Longspurs** was seen near Sioux Falls in early November.

This winter should bring many more gulls along the Missouri River with Glaucous and Iceland Gulls anticipated. Maybe even a long overdue Slaty-backed Gull will be seen.

I will predict a few Snowy Owls and with this crazy year, maybe a rare arctic passerine will show up: perhaps a Brambling or even a Siberian Accentor?

BOOK REVIEW

DAN TALLMAN

TWO NEW BOOKS FROM PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS
Birds of the West Indies. Norman Arlott. 2010. Princeton University Press:
Princeton, NJ. \$24.95 (Hardcover).

This guide is one of a series of *Princeton Illustrated Checklists*. These pocket-sized books are accurately described by the publisher as providing “succinct text, illustrations of all species to be encountered in a specific region... and can be used in conjunction with a more traditional field guide”

Birds of the West Indies covers 550 bird species, which are illustrated in 80 color plates. A quick calculation works out to almost 7 species per plate. The result is relatively small portraits compared to more traditional field guides. The portraits, however, are well executed and probably serviceable for field identification.

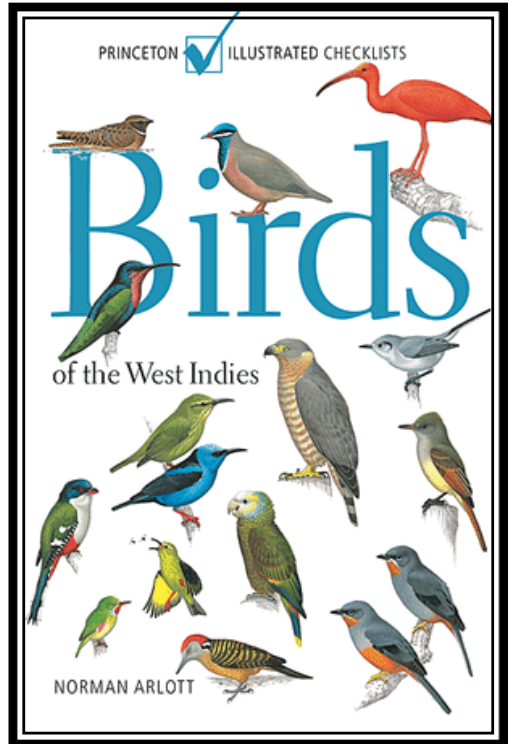
The four-page introduction is brief and does not cover West Indian ecology. The main text is very succinct. Each species is given a short description, followed by mention of voice and habitat. Finally, a brief description of range is given. Each account is about a half-dozen lines long.

The final quarter of the book consists of color range maps and a page of suggested further reading.

This book is a very basic tool to identify the birds of the West Indies. As such, it is ideal for the birder traveling to the region. It would probably not be very useful for birders wanting to learn more about West Indian ecology or, except in the most general way, as a bird-finding guide for the archipelago.

Nightjars, Potoos, Frogmouths, Oilbird and Owlet-nightjars of the World.
Nigel Cleere. 2010. Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ. \$45.00
(Hardcover).

Most of us are familiar with nighthawks, since these birds are the few daytime members of these families. Others of us have marveled at the Chuck-will’s-widow that bred a few times near the Oahe Dam.



Even when you knew the general location of the nest, the bird could be located only when you flushed it. Most of these birds are exceedingly cryptic and nocturnal. The early naturalists were so unfamiliar with nightjars that they called them goatsuckers, thinking these birds suckled livestock.

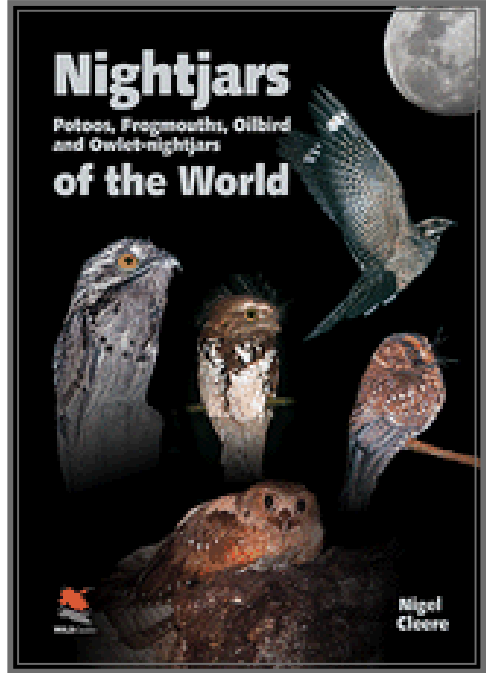
Of the species in this volume, only the nightjars are found in the United States. Potoos are Central and South American birds that sit upright on branches during the day. Frogmouths occur in Southeast Asia and Australia and are somewhat similar to Potoos. Frogmouths have huge gapes and consume lizards and small mammals. The monotypic family of Oilbird lives in South American caves and are one of the few bird species that use echolocation. Finally, Owlet-Nightjars, which live in New Guinea, Australia and Borneo, look like small, mottled owls with large cat-like whiskers.

This book covers all 135 species contained in these five families. A cursory glance suggests all look similar—mottled brown or gray, sometimes with a patch of white here or there. A closer look uncovers a few oddities—species with greatly elongated and expanded wing or tail feathers. We North Americans are only familiar with the nightjars. It is fascinating to be introduced to the other families in this book. My wife, Erika, says that the photograph of the Long-tailed Potoo, in which you cannot decipher the end of the branch and the beginning of the bird, is worth the price of the book.

The bulk of the book consists of photographs, mostly of living birds, but occasionally of museum specimens. Taking photographs of cryptic nocturnal birds is hard. A few species are known from only one or two specimens and have not been seen since their discovery. Accompanying the photos are color range maps and a short text.

Topics covered for each species include identification, vocalizations, habitat, breeding season, range and status. I am disappointed that these topics are not more fully covered. For example, we learn that Oilbird numbers are declining, but we are not told why.

The first 60 pages or so contain an introduction, worth reading for anyone interested in learning more general information about the families. Be warned, however, that reading this book will make you prone to become a “nightjarhead”—people who become completely immersed in searching for and studying these elusive birds.



...IN *SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES*

Vol. 4 No. 2 June 1952

With the publication of this issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*, Kenneth Krumm appeared as the new president of SDOU. Harry Behrens succeeded Krumm as vice president. Other officers remained the same. Additionally, J. S. Findley appeared as associate editor with Herman Chapman as editor-librarian.

Krumm, in his first "President's Page," reviewed the remarkable diversity of habitats for birds throughout South Dakota—the farmlands, lakes, woodlands, tree-lined streams and shelter belts in the eastern area and the rolling prairies and short-grass plains west of the Missouri River; the mountains and forests of the Black Hills; the sand hills, marshy lakes, wooded ravines, conifer-fringed pine ridges in the arid northwestern counties and, of course, the South Dakota Badlands. As such habitats provide various opportunities to study birds, SDOU members, individually and collectively through the organization, have exceptional opportunities to affect the welfare and conservation of birds. Influencing public opinion about protecting birds and their habitats is an exceptional opportunity for all members.

SDOU held its annual meeting at Chamberlain, SD, on 30-31 May 1952. In addition to the usual transactions of the business meeting the first day, the informational program included motion pictures of wildlife near Webster, SD, several reels of motion pictures provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, slide projections of birds in the Black Hills, an exhibit of bird skins collected near Jefferson, SD, and photographs of shorebirds and their nests. For the evening program, J. S. Findley reported on his attending the Wilson Ornithological Society's annual meeting at Gatlinburg, TN. (*Author's note: Repeatedly in SD Bird Notes, Findley's identification is solely by his initials. For those of us who knew him, the use of his initials seems so unnatural. We referred to him and spoke to him as "Scott."*)

The field trip the next day was the valley of the White River near that river's confluence with the Missouri River. Lunch for the occasion "was served at big cottonwood stumps near a tree where American Magpies [sic] were nesting."

The section on "Pioneer Prairie Ornithologists" featured Edmund Harris Sweet. In 1885, his parents brought him, then just a year-old baby, to their homestead farm in the James River valley between Scotland and Menno. From his father, the growing boy learned to collect and preserve specimens of wildlife. Before leaving South Dakota to teach in North Dakota, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, Sweet donated about 75 species of bird specimens to the Over Museum in Vermillion.

Editor Herman Chapman included a note to the effect that Ruth Habeger started a project that spring to have grade school children plant sunflower seeds which she provided. The harvested crop was to be used to feed birds the following winter. It was hoped the endeavor would make the children more interested in birds and their conservation.

It would be interesting to learn what any individual SDOU members are doing today to cultivate young people's interest in birds.



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