
SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

Clark's Grebe

Siskiyou Co. CA 6/19/08

Photo: Terry Sobl



*Note orange bill
and light back*

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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NO. 3

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Scholarships and Awards: Jocelyn L. Baker (chair), Nelda Holden, Galen Steffen.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This year, the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union is 62 years old. An organization doesn't last that long unless it has a timeless mission that is supported by an active, passionate group of members. In some ways it's not surprising – birds, and bird-watching are both incredibly popular. A 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey estimated that 192,000 adults in South Dakota watched birds at least once that year. That's a lot of love of birds! So an organization focused on the study of birds automatically has an attractive message.



The key to our success however, has been the people. Over the years, SDOU has been blessed with a constant flow of people willing to turn their passion for birds into action. In this case, "action" means participation – being SDOU members, contributing to SDOU's scholarship and grant funds, going to meetings, planning SDOU events, and becoming board members and officers. Today, we still have a committed group of people, but we definitely can always use more! So I encourage each of you to turn your passion for birds into action. Here are some ideas on what you can do:

1. Introduce your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and relatives to birds. Take them birding!
2. Buy a gift SDOU membership for at least one person,
3. Keep up on issues that impact birds in South Dakota and elsewhere,
4. Subscribe and contribute to the sd-birds listserve and the SDOU Facebook page,
5. Contribute to SDOU's scholarship and student grant funds (see the SDOU web site at www.sdou.org for details),
6. Attend an SDOU meeting – the next meeting is in October in Brookings,
7. Sign up to be a citizen scientist in a project such as the Breeding Bird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, Christmas Bird Count, Backyard Bird Count, etc.,
8. Contribute your bird sightings to the SDOU database,
9. Volunteer for the SDOU Board,
10. Organize an event for SDOU,.

South Dakota's birds need us, now more than ever, because of all of the threats facing them both within the state, and on their migration and wintering grounds. And, I think most of us agree that we need the birds.

So, turn your curiosity, energy, and passion for birds into action. See you in Brookings in October!

Nancy Grilling

FLEDGLING TRACTS

TUCKER J. LUTTER

Father and Son in the Last Frontier

Many years of dreaming, planning, and saving money had finally led us to this point. Looking out over the flooded Missouri River valley from the airplane, my dad and I say goodbye to the Midwest as we embarked on our sixteen day journey to the last frontier – Alaska.

Alaska is a place as big as a person's dreams. The birds, the mountains, the glaciers, the wildlife – they all seemed so amazing.

The fantasy started with an incentive. When I was in cub scouts, my dad told me that we would go on a trip to Alaska if I achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. While not the only reason I continued in scouting, it was always nice to fall back on this idea when I felt like giving up. The hard work of getting my Eagle Scout rank came to mind and I felt it paid off as our plane made its final descent into Anchorage. As our plane turned to get in line with the runway, the beautiful mastiff of Mount McKinley stood out above the clouds, a good omen to us that it would be an astounding trip.

Once off the plane, we breathed in the cool and refreshing air, which is second to none. The mountains made a stunning backdrop everywhere we went, and the scenery was so immense and beautiful that it was truly breathtaking. The great State of Alaska, though beautiful, wouldn't be nearly as nice without its kind and welcoming human population.

As my dad and I travelled the state we saw some amazing sights, the most memorable being Mount McKinley, fully visible some 26 miles away from us as we camped at Wonder Lake in Denali National Park. (See photo, page 56.) Also very memorable was the calving of the 300 foot high Ailiak Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park. While these sights were amazing, the wildlife that inhabited these places was almost as impressive as the scenery. Grizzly bear, moose, caribou, Dall's sheep (and a porpoise with the same first name), humpback whale, sea otter, Steller's sea lion, and more all gave us good looks.

For the birder, however, nothing can compare to the interesting birdlife that calls Alaska home. While on the trip, I saw fourteen life birds, half of those being seabirds.

I will never forget looking for my lifer Northern Wheatear on the high slopes above the Eilson Visitor Center in Denali National Park. To find this bird, I had to literally run up and then back down the side of a small mountain. With only 40 minutes to complete this task, I missed the bird the first time I looked for it, and felt terribly exhausted to boot. To keep Denali wild, a bus system runs into the park to eliminate traffic from the park road. Sometimes this can wreak havoc for a birder when he is looking for a bird but needs to catch a bus, as is what happened during the wheatear chase. Catching a bus back to Eilson the next day, I managed to find the bird, given a little extra time. The wheatear flew beautifully as a butterfly across the high, rocky tundra, clearly showing its unique tail pattern.

Another favorite bird was the Parakeet Auklet. They were nesting in the Chiswell Islands off the coast of the Kenai Peninsula. From the tour boat, we saw them sitting on the water and then they proceeded to fly up to their nesting site, which was hidden in a pile of rocks. The auklets were just a few of the thousands of seabirds that we saw, which nest in this chain of islands.

While the scenery, wildlife, and birds were great, nothing could beat the quality time spent with my dad. The great land of Alaska left its indelible mark on us, and also on our relationship, which was strengthened by our amazing adventure together.

[Tucker has informed me that since he is entering his senior year of high school he cannot also keep up writing Fledgling Tracts for us. We wish him much success and godspeed in his endeavors with sincere thanks for his many contributions to SD Bird Notes the last three years. ~Ed.]

2010 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

David L. Swanson. Department of Biology. University of South Dakota. Vermillion 57069.
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The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) met on 22 May 2010 at Sioux Falls and on 10 October 2010 at Vermillion. The members of the committee were David Swanson (secretary), Ricky Olson, Todd Jensen, J. David Williams, and Jeffrey Palmer. All members either attended each meeting 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 (2004. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 56:88-95).

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 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*, 3rd 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 previous 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 September 2010 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. 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).

Mottled Duck. 5 August 2010. One adult male in Marshall Co. Photographed. Bill Unzen, Ron Mabie et al. First state record.

Harlequin Duck. 1-3 January 2010. Oahe tailrace area, Stanley Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller and Ricky Olson. Fourth state record.

Brown Pelican. 13-14 June 2010. One juvenile at Big Bend Dam, Buffalo Co. Photographed. Jeff Palmer, Scott Stolz, Ron Mabie et al. Seventh state record.

Red-throated Loon. 15 November 2009. One in juvenile plumage at Cow Creek Embayment, Lake Oahe, Sully Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund. Casual fall migrant.

Mountain Plover. 14 August 2009. One in basic plumage at Salt Lake, Deuel Co. Photographed. Douglas Pierzina. First recent record for eastern South Dakota.

Long-tailed Jaeger. One juvenile at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co. Photographed. Rex Riis, Ron

Mabie et al. Third state record.

Laughing Gull. 19 May 2010. One adult in alternate plumage at Big Bend Dam, Lyman Co. Photographed. Bill Bossman. Casual migrant and summer visitor.

Laughing Gull. 11-14 June 2010. One adult in alternate plumage at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson, Kenny Miller, Scott Stolz and Ron Mabie. Casual migrant and summer visitor.

Arctic Tern. 12 May 2010. One adult at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Third state record.

Arctic Tern. 23 September 2010. One adult in alternate plumage at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund. Fourth state record.

Barn Owl. 1 May 2009. One bird near Sturgis, Meade Co. Photographed. Vic Fondy. Accidental away from Missouri River and extreme southwestern South Dakota.

Barred Owl. 22 May 2010. One adult and one fledgling at Newton Hills State Park. Photographed. Ricky Olson et al. First documented nesting in the state since 1912.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. 22 May 2010. One adult in alternate plumage, Minnehaha Co. Photographed. Todd Jensen and many attendees at the SDOU spring meeting. Casual migrant. (SDBN 62:29).

Glossy Ibis. 14 May 2010. One in alternate plumage at Reliance, Lyman Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Kenny Miller. Casual spring and summer visitor.

Common Moorhen. 1-7 August 2010. Six adults and nine young near Hecla, Brown Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Scott Stolz. Second nesting record for the state.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird. 26-27 June 2010. Female on nest in Hell Canyon, Custer Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller, Ricky Olson and Scott Stolz. First recent nesting record for the state.

Pileated Woodpecker. 5 December 2009. One male at Oakwood Lakes State Park, Brookings Co. Photographed. Bill Huser and Jerry Probst. Accidental away from extreme northeast corner of state.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. 1 July 2010. One adult male in Butte Co. Photographed. Dylan Radin. Casual summer visitor.

Northern Shrike. 2 October 2010. One adult in basic plumage near Ree Heights, Hand Co. Photographed. Doug Backlund. Ties earliest ever fall record.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush. 10 July-20 August 2010. One adult at confluence of Iron Creek and Spearfish Creek in Spearfish Canyon, Lawrence Co. Photographed and recorded. Eric Ripma. This report represents a first state record and only the third record of this species for North America. Photographs were provided by Eric Ripma, Doug Backlund and Christopher Taylor. The committee discussed the provenance of this bird and noted that the bird appeared territorial and was secretive, and it occupied habitat that was as close to appropriate for this species as is available in South Dakota. Thus, its behavior was consistent with a wild origin. Further, the photographs on which the wing and tail feathers were well illustrated showed that these feathers exhibited none of the wear expected for a caged bird. Also, evidence suggests that this species is rarely kept in captivity. For these reasons the committee decided that a wild origin for this bird was very likely and accepted the record as a first for South Dakota.

Eastern Meadowlark. 16 June 2010. One adult in Custer Co. Calls and song recorded. Michael Melius. (4 Class 1R, 1 Class 3). Accidental away from south-central breeding areas.

CLASS 2 (Accepted – Satisfactory written description).

Trumpeter Swan. 24 June 2010. One adult at Red Lake Game Production Area, Charles Mix Co. Scott Stolz. Accidental in summer in eastern South Dakota.

Glaucous-winged Gull. 5-18 January 2009. One in first-winter plumage at Pierre, Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Todd Jensen. The committee solicited outside reviews of the report (and accompanying, rather distant and relatively poor, photos) from Dennis Paulson and Ron Martin, in addition to several other birders experienced with Glaucous-winged Gull identification and all outside reviewers were in agreement that the bird in the photos either was or was very likely a Glaucous-winged Gull. The dissenting committee member noted that the photos were distant and poor and desired that better

documentation be provided for a first state record. The committee rated this report as Class 2, with the photos supportive of the identification, but not completely diagnostic. This record constitutes a first state record for Glaucous-winged Gull.

Barred Owl. 20 June 2009. Fledgling and adult at Appley-Von Hagel Wetland, Union Co. Nancy Drilling. Third nesting record for the state.

Cattle Egret. 25 November 2009. Two in basic plumage in Edmunds Co. Gary Olson. Very late fall record.

Glossy Ibis. 30 May 2010. One in alternate plumage in Tripp Co. Ricky and Robert Olson. Casual spring and summer visitor.

Glossy Ibis. 1 August 2010. Two adults in alternate plumage near Hecla, Brown Co. Ricky Olson and Scott Stolz. Casual spring and summer visitor.

Glossy Ibis. 7 August 2010. One adult in alternate plumage in Marshall Co. Ricky Olson and Kenny Miller. Casual spring and summer visitor.

Common Moorhen. 24 June 2010. One adult at Red Lake Game Production Area, Charles Mix Co. Scott Stolz. Casual summer visitor.

Red-headed Woodpecker. 3 January 2010. One juvenile molting into adult plumage near Spearfish, Lawrence Co. Jocelyn Baker and Eric Davis. Accidental in winter.

Cassin's Kingbird. 27 June 2010. One in Custer Co. Ricky Olson, Kenny Miller and Scott Stolz. Casual summer visitor.

Blue-headed Vireo. 12 November 2009. One adult male at Ipswich, Edmunds Co. J. David Williams. Latest ever fall record.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 12 April 2010. One adult at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Kenny Miller. Early and rare in central South Dakota.

Orange-crowned Warbler. 22 November 2009. One at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Doug Backlund and Charlene Bessken. Latest fall record for the state.

Harris's Sparrow. 16 June 2010. One adult in alternate plumage in Pennington Co. Jocelyn Baker. Accidental in summer.

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

Greater Scaup. 22 November 2009. Three females at Wall Sewage Pond, Pennington Co. (1 Class 2, 4 Class 3). The report mentioned a large amount of white on the face of the birds. While this is suggestive of Greater Scaup, the committee thought that some of the accompanying photos showed a peak toward the back of the head, characteristic of Lesser Scaup. Some committee members also thought that the bill on the bird in the photos may not have been wide enough for Greater Scaup. Thus, the committee thought that Lesser Scaup was not conclusively eliminated.

Whimbrel. 2 May 2010. One bird in Meade Co. (2 Class 2, 3 Class 3). The committee noted that the bill and overall coloration mentioned in the report support the identification of Whimbrel. However, the report lacked a description of the stripes on the head. In addition, the reporter mentioned that the initial thought was that this bird was a Wilson's Snipe, which suggested that the bird may have been too small for a Whimbrel. These concerns resulted in the Class 3 rating.

Glossy Ibis. 5 August 2010. At least three adults in alternate plumage in Marshall Co. The committee noted that the report did not mention the red knees nor the pale blue outline of the facial skin, so that White-faced Ibis was not conclusively eliminated. Thus, the Class 3 rating.

Black-chinned Hummingbird, 6-22 October 2009. (1 Class 1P, 3 Class 3). One first-year female at Bowdle, Edmunds Co. Several excellent photos were submitted along with this report. The committee solicited opinions on the report and photos from several hummingbird experts (Nancy Newfield, Bob Sargent, and Sheri Williamson) and their opinions differed, even with regard to the length of the bill and the bluntness of Primary 10. Thus, the committee felt that Ruby-throated Hummingbird was not conclusively eliminated, and, given that this record would represent a first state record for South Dakota, the committee desired more conclusive evidence of the bird's identity.

Veery. Early October 2009. One found dead at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. (4 Class 3, 1

Class 4). The bird was found dead and frozen; photographs of the dead bird accompanied the report. The plumage on the upper back on the bird in the photos accompanying the report had been disturbed, so it was difficult to judge overall back color. However, the committee felt that the photos showed a bird with a tail that was more reddish than the lower back and wings, which suggests a Hermit Thrush, the more likely species in October. Thus, the Class 3 rating.

Henslow's Sparrow. 11 and 28 June 2010. One north of Fairfax, Gregory Co. (2 Class 2, 3 Class 3). The identification in the report was also based solely on the vocalization of the bird. The dissenting committee members felt that the description of the call was incomplete, as no mention was made of the pitch, inflection or variation between the two notes mentioned in the report. For these reasons, this report was rated Class 3.

Eastern Meadowlark. 14 July 2009. One in Yankton Co. (1 Class 2, 4 Class 3). The dissenting committee members noted that the report did not provide a description of any visual field marks and did not include a description of the diagnostic call note. Thus, they believed that, although there is a high probability that this bird was an Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark could not be conclusively eliminated.

Eastern Meadowlark. 7 July-28 August 2007. One adult about two miles southwest of Ft. Pierre, Stanley Co. Photographed. This report was a re-submitted report, originally acted on by the RBRC at the Fall 2007 meeting. Some additional information regarding habitat and calls was provided by the observers. The committee still felt that the field marks on the photos did not conclusively eliminate Western Meadowlark, and was uncomfortable with a written description of the call (in the absence of a recorded call) as the major identification feature. Thus, although the committee members felt that this bird was likely an Eastern Meadowlark, the committee again rated this record as Class 3.

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

No reports were rated Class 4.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the committee decided to remove Iceland Gull along the Missouri River from the review list, so several reports of Iceland Gull submitted to the committee for this meeting were approved by this action. The committee also established a protocol for voting on records of birds observed by committee members. The following protocol was approved: *If less than a majority of RBRC members observe a rare bird, then those members are excluded from voting on that record; if the majority of RBRC members observe a rare bird, then all committee members may vote.*

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Barrow's Goldeneye. 27 November 2010. One adult at Big Bend Dam Stilling Basin, Buffalo Co.

Red-shouldered Hawk. 2 November 2010. One in juvenile plumage at Lake Louise State Park, Hand Co.

Red-throated Loon. 6-18 November 2010. One in basic plumage at Wall Lake, Minnehaha Co.

Eared Grebe. 8-13 December 2010. One in basic plumage at La Framboise Island, Hughes Co.

Long-tailed Jaeger. 9-10 September 2009. One light phase juvenile at Mobridge, Walworth Co.

Little Gull. 18 September 2010. One in first-winter plumage at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co.

Little Gull. 26 November 2010. One in first-winter plumage at Oahe Dam, Hughes Co.

Wilson's Phalarope. 14 November 2009. One in basic plumage at Lake Whitewood, Kingsbury Co.

Chuck-Wills-Widow. 18 May 2010. One adult calling at Lewis and Clark State Park, Yankton Co.

Pacific Wren. 20-30 June 2007. Two adult and two fledglings at Ward Draw, Lawrence Co.

Rock Wren. 16 May 2010. One at Great Bear Recreation Area, Minnehaha Co.

Sage Thrasher. 1 July 2010. One adult in eastern Mellette Co.

SDOU SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT – 2011

Jocelyn L. Baker, Rapid City

The Kenneth H. Husmann Memorial Scholarship, first awarded in 1989, is awarded annually to a student attending a South Dakota college or university. Faculty members nominate a deserving graduate student who is majoring in ornithology, ecology or wildlife management. Jason Thiele, a graduate student at South Dakota State University, is the recipient of the 2011-2012 \$500 scholarship. Jason, nominated by Dr. Charles D. Dieter and Dr. Volker Brozel of SDSU and endorsed by Dr. Kristel K. Bakker of Dakota State University, is studying toward a Master's Degree. His research involves determining habitat and nesting requirements for the Western Burrowing Owl. Jason presented preliminary owl research data at the SDOU 2010 fall meeting. Additionally, he contributed to *South Dakota Bird Notes* (March 2011 issue) with an article entitled "Reaching Out to the Next Generation of Birders".

This marks the first year in which the Mary E. Baylor Memorial Scholarship will be awarded. The scholarship is awarded to a South Dakota university or college undergraduate student who is in his/her junior or senior year. A biology major with a particular interest in ornithology, ecology, wildlife management, biological education or medicine is a requirement. The recipient of the \$1,200 scholarship for 2011-12 is Michael A. Moxnes, a student at University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Michael was nominated by Dr. David L. Swanson and Dr. Kaius Helenurm for the award. Michael is currently in his senior year working on aspects of a stopover habitat project involving woodland migrant birds.

Scholarships and Awards Committee members: Jocelyn Lee Baker (Chair), Nelda Holden and Galen Steffen.



Les Lutter and Tucker Lutter, with Denali (Mt. McKinley) in the background. See article, page 51.

Proposed Changes to the SDOU Constitution

Gene K. Hess, Rapid City

Following discussion at the Fall 2010 meeting and the Spring 2011 meeting involving the membership category of junior member and a proposal of a student member category, the consensus was to eliminate the junior member category and create a student member category. This requires changes to Sections 2 and 4 of Article II. The following changes are proposed for the members' consideration.

The existing Section 2 of Article II is as follows:

“Section 2. Any person at least 10 years old but less than 16 years of age is eligible to become a junior member of this Union.”

The existing Section 4 is as follows:

“Section 4. Honorary membership shall commence in the calendar year following approval by a two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual business meeting and shall continue until the honorary member's death or resignation. Life membership shall commence from the payment of the specified dues and shall continue until death or resignation. All other categories of active membership shall comprise a calendar year upon payment of the specified dues. The categories of active membership shall include honorary members, life members, sustaining members, family members (husband and wife), and regular members.”

The proposal is to replace the existing Section 2 with the following:

“Section 2. Any person who is a student is eligible to become a student member of this Union.”

Replace the last sentence in Section 4 with the following:

“The categories of active membership shall include honorary member, life member, family life members (husband and wife), sustaining member, family members (husband and wife), regular member, and student members who are at least 16 years old.”

Acceptance of this proposal to changes in Section 2 will eliminate the junior member category and create the student member category. Discussion at the Spring 2011 Board meeting resulted in a consensus that students in all commonly recognized education levels be included.

The modification of the Section 4 recognizes the student member category and provides the definition for which persons in that category shall be considered active members and therefore eligible to vote, hold office, and serve on committees (Section 5). It also adds the family (husband and wife) life member category. Memberships for that category have been sold for a number of years. This brings the Constitution in line with standing practice.

It was another amazing spring and summer for finding interesting birds. One of my spring predictions came true. A female McCown's Longspur was found on the Grand River Grasslands at the SDOU Spring Meeting in Lemmon. Also a male was photographed there in June.

It was another great summer for finding vagrant and breeding birds.

In May, Doug Backlund photographed a Painted Bunting in Harding County. Multiple Glossy Ibis were reported from several counties again this summer.

In June, Bill Unzen photographed a potential first state record Reddish Egret in Codington County, a Fulvous Whistling Duck in Potter County and a Neotropic Cormorant in McPherson County. A Common Raven was observed in Jones County.

July was a busy month. The confirmed nesting record of a Common Loon in Marshall County was, if I am not mistaken, the first confirmed breeding record in South Dakota. Bill Unzen located a Tri-colored Heron in Brown County, a Williamson's Sapsucker in Fall River County and a Bewick's Wren in Todd County.

Also in July, a White-tailed Kite was reported from Harding County, and Henslow's Sparrows were reported by several observers from Spink, Stanley, Hyde, Brown, Roberts and Lake counties. Cassin's Sparrows were observed in Fall River and Pennington Counties, Cassin's Kingbirds were seen in Bennett and Shannon Counties and Sage Thrashers were present in Fall River County. Doug Backlund photographed a Pacific Wren in Lawrence County.

I prediction that this fall several uncommon gulls, perhaps a tern and winter waterfowl species will be seen on the Missouri River Dams because of the high discharge flows. We probably won't top last year, unless an Ivory Gull and a Ross's Gull show up at the same time. Or, perhaps, all three species of jaeger will appear. That would be welcome.

SEASONAL REPORTS

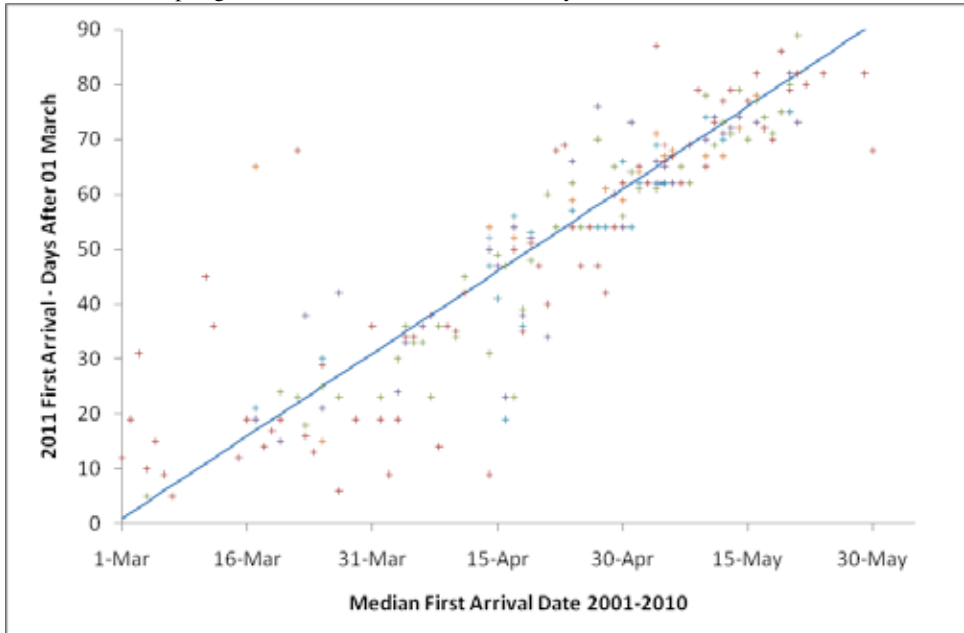
JEFFREY S. PALMER

The 2011 Spring Season

01 March 2011 to 31 May 2011

There were 318 species, including 17 rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (2001-2010) average is 322. 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 (19) 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.

For species with early dates given in this report, the graph below shows the first arrival date reported during the current season (days after 01 March) versus the median first arrival date over the previous ten years (2001-2010). Data points above the line represent species whose earliest reported first arrival this spring was later than the 10-year median and points below the line correspond to species with first arrival spring dates that were earlier than the 10-year median.



Greater White-fronted Goose Early: 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 11 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Clay GJS; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL ... Late: 26 May McPherson BJU; 13 May Brookings KCJ; 01 May Deuel BJU; 09 Apr Harding CEM; 27 Mar Hughes RDO

Snow Goose Early: 03 Mar Yankton RPR; 11 Mar Clay GJS; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 14 Apr Meade RSL
Ross's Goose Early: 02 Mar Pennington JLB; 05 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP ... Late: 08 Apr Meade JLB; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 31 Mar Brookings KCJ; 27 Mar Hughes RDO

Cackling Goose Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 05 Mar Hughes DB; 09 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Lake JSP ... Late: 09 Apr Brown GO; 04 Apr Hand DB; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 01 Apr Brookings KCJ; 27 Mar Hughes RDO

Trumpeter Swan Early: **09 Mar Yankton KCJ**; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 14 Apr Charles Mix RM; 14 May Perkins DS, JSP

Tundra Swan Early: 13 Mar Yankton KCJ, RND; 15 Mar Charles Mix RM; 16 Mar Grant BJU ...
Late: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 04 Apr Hand DB; 04 Apr Charles Mix RM

Wood Duck Early: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Clay RND; 17 Mar Pennington JLB ... Confirmed
Breeding: 19 May Beadle (PY) BFW

Gadwall Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 03 Mar Yankton RPR; 06 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar
Lake JSP

American Wigeon Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 05 Mar Hughes RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP

American Black Duck Early: 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 13 Mar Hughes KM; 16 Mar Grant BJU ...
Late: 16 May Brookings KCJ

Blue-winged Teal Early: 17 Mar Clay RND; 19 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Lake JSP; 02 Apr
Tripp RDO

Cinnamon Teal Early: 31 Mar Meade JLB; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 26 Apr Beadle BFW; 07 May Hughes
RDO ... Late: 22 May Perkins BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU; 12 May Harding RDO

Northern Shoveler Early: 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar
Butte JLB, RSL

Northern Pintail Early: 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 12 Mar
Fall River RSL

Green-winged Teal Early: 01 Mar Meade EEM; 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 11 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11
Mar Lake JSP

Canvasback Early: 08 Mar Charles Mix RM; 13 Mar Yankton RND; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 16 Mar
Stanley DB; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL

Redhead Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 03
Mar Yankton RPR; 11 Mar Lake JSP

Ring-necked Duck Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 09 Mar Hughes DB; 11
Mar Lake JSP

Greater Scaup Early: 05 Mar Stanley RDO; 08 Mar Charles Mix RM; 13 Mar Yankton RND; 16
Mar Grant BJU; 02 Apr Tripp RDO ... Late: 01 May Deuel BJU; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 17 Apr Meade
RSL; 09 Apr Clay DS

Lesser Scaup Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 03 Mar Yankton RPR; 11 Mar Lake JSP

Long-tailed Duck All Reports: 14 Mar Charles Mix RM; 15 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Charles
Mix RM; 03 Apr Hughes RDO

Bufflehead Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 03 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 16 Mar
Grant BJU ... Late: 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU

Common Goldeneye Late: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 13 Apr Brookings KCJ; 09 Apr Meade JLB; 09 Apr
Marshall GO; 28 Mar Yankton RND

Hooded Merganser Early: 03 Mar Yankton RPR; 06 Mar Hughes DB; 06 Mar Stanley RDO; 16 Mar
Grant BJU; 08 Apr Harding CEM ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 20 May Lake JSP; 13 May Deuel
BJU; 08 May Meade RSL; 23 Apr Charles Mix TJ

Common Merganser Late: 30 May Pennington JLB; 16 May Perkins BJU; 02 May Hughes RDO;
23 Apr Marshall GO; 23 Apr Grant BJU

Red-breasted Merganser Early: 01 Mar Stanley DB; 05 Mar Hughes RDO; 09 Mar Yankton KCJ;
19 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar Lincoln MRZ; 08 Apr Meade JLB ... Late: 21 May Charles Mix RM;
01 May Hand DB; 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 09 Apr Meade JLB

Ruddy Duck Early: 05 Mar Lake JSP; 14 Mar Yankton GJS, RND; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 16 Mar
Hughes DB; 16 Apr Meade JLB

Greater Sage-Grouse All Reports: 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL; 20 Mar Harding CEM; 02 Apr Harding
CEM; 12 May Harding RDO; 14 May Harding CEM

Greater Prairie-Chicken reported 02 Apr Harding CEM; 14 May Perkins DC; 19 May Perkins BJU

Common Loon Early: 06 Mar Hughes DB; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 20 Mar Stanley KM; 26 Apr Fall
River JLB ... Late: 25 May Lyman JSP; 22 May Perkins BJU; 19 May Clay DS; 23 Apr Marshall
GO; 23 Apr Day GO

Pied-billed Grebe Early: 14 Mar Yankton GJS; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Clay RND; 01 May
Pennington JLB, RSL

Horned Grebe Early: 19 Mar Stanley RDO; 22 Mar Hughes DB; 26 Mar Yankton BFH, RND; 02
Apr Tripp RDO; 10 Apr Brookings KCJ ... Late: 16 May Perkins BJU; 13 May Grant BJU; 30
Apr Stanley RDO

Red-necked Grebe Early: **11 Apr Grant BJU**; 23 Apr Lake JSP; 23 Apr Marshall GO

Eared Grebe Early: **19 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 22 Mar Hughes DB; 26 Mar Yankton BFH; 02 Apr Lake JSP; 16 Apr Meade JLB

Western Grebe Early: 04 Apr Hughes RDO; 05 Apr Charles Mix RM; 07 Apr Buffalo JSP; 08 Apr Meade JLB; 09 Apr Hand DB

Clark's Grebe Early: 20 Apr Stanley RDO; 07 May Charles Mix RM; 14 May Perkins DC; 26 May Brown BJU

American White Pelican Early: 29 Mar Yankton RND; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Meade JLB

Double-crested Cormorant Early: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Yankton RND; 21 Mar Brookings KCJ; 07 Apr Meade EEM

American Bittern Early: 16 Apr Lake JSP; 18 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Marshall GO; 25 Apr Charles Mix RM; 15 May Bennett KH

Least Bittern Only Report: **07 May Hutchinson *vide* BFW**

Great Blue Heron Early: 19 Mar Meade JLB, RSL; 19 Mar Stanley KM, RDO; 23 Mar Yankton RND; 24 Mar Brookings KCJ

Great Egret Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND; 26 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 31 Mar Brookings KCJ; 16 May Perkins BJU

Snowy Egret Early: **09 Apr Brown GO; 09 Apr Marshall GO**; 11 Apr Brookings KCJ; 13 Apr Charles Mix RM; 15 May Bennett KH

Little Blue Heron Only Report: 25 May Beadle *vide* BFW

Cattle Egret Early: 17 Apr Charles Mix RM; 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Hand DB; 23 Apr Lake JSP

Green Heron Early: 05 May Brown GO; 05 May Hughes EDS; 09 May Lake JSP

Black-crowned Night-Heron Early: 04 Apr Hand DB; 16 Apr Brookings KCJ; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 01 May Stanley RDO; 14 May Perkins DC

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reported 18 May Brown GO

White-faced Ibis Early: **08 Apr Hand DB; 09 Apr Clay DS**; 13 Apr Charles Mix RM; 18 May Perkins BJU

Turkey Vulture Early: 25 Mar Clay GJS; 26 Mar Brookings MRO; 31 Mar Lawrence EK

Osprey Early: 03 Apr Pennington MME; 09 Apr Buffalo EK, SW; 14 Apr Charles Mix RM; 21 Apr Brookings KCJ

Northern Harrier Early: 05 Mar Jones DB; 06 Mar Pennington RSL; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 13 Mar Yankton KCJ

Sharp-shinned Hawk Late: 26 May Brown GO; 16 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Perkins DC; 08 Apr Lyman EK

Northern Goshawk All Reports: 20 Mar Brookings KCJ; 21 Mar Meade EEM; 29 Apr Harding CEM

Broad-winged Hawk Early: 19 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 22 Apr Charles Mix RM; 27 Apr Lawrence JLB ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 31 May Dewey BJU; 23 May Union DS; 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU

Swainson's Hawk Early: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 09 Apr Hand DB; 12 Apr Brown GO; 16 Apr Haakon RDO; 16 Apr Stanley RDO

Ferruginous Hawk Early: 05 Mar Jones DB; 06 Mar Custer RSL; 06 Mar Hughes DB

Rough-legged Hawk Late: **03 May Fall River MMM**; 18 Apr Brookings KCJ; 17 Apr Harding CEM; 25 Mar Hughes DB

Golden Eagle Late: 04 May Sully *vide* BFW; 07 Apr Buffalo JSP; 20 Mar Stanley KM

American Kestrel Confirmed Breeding: 15 May Mellette (ON) KH; 15 May Harding (ON) CEM

Merlin Late: 18 May Perkins BJU; 18 May Harding BJU; 23 Apr Hand DB; 26 Mar Yankton BFH

Gyr Falcon All Reports: 05 Mar Jones DB; 06 Mar Hughes KM

Peregrine Falcon Early: **19 Mar Stanley RDO; 20 Mar Hughes KM**; 18 Apr Hand DB; 08 May Meade RSL ... Late: 30 May Pennington JLB; 26 May Walworth BJU; 22 May Sully RDO; 13 May Grant BJU

Prairie Falcon Late: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 02 Apr Brown GO; 31 Mar Brookings KCJ; 18 Mar Stanley RDO

Virginia Rail Early: 07 May Hughes RDO; 13 May Grant BJU; 16 May Faulk DS, JSP; 22 May Perkins BJU

Sora Early: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 01 May Deuel BJU; 02 May Hughes RDO; 14 May Perkins JSP

American Coot Early: 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 09 Mar Yankton KCJ; 11 Mar Lake JSP

Sandhill Crane Early: 19 Mar Beadle *vide* BFW; 19 Mar Charles Mix RM; 20 Mar Custer MMM ... Late: 28 May Harding DB; 04 May Hand DB; 02 May Pennington JLB; 23 Apr Stanley RDO

Whooping Crane All Reports: 16-18 Apr Charles Mix RM; 22-23 Apr Charles Mix RM, TJ

Black-bellied Plover Early: 03 May Charles Mix RM; 07 May Sully RDO; 14 May Perkins DC; 19 May Brown BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU ... Late: 31 May Walworth BJU; 31 May Corson BJU; 28 May Grant BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU

American Golden-Plover Early: 16 Apr Lake JSP; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 05 May Hughes RDO; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 26 May McPherson BJU; 22 May Hughes RDO; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Edmunds (600) BJU; 19 May Brown BJU

Semipalmated Plover Early: 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Charles Mix RM; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 18 May Perkins BJU

Piping Plover Early: 23 Apr Hand DB; 25 Apr Hughes RDO; 01 May Stanley RDO

Killdeer Early: 15 Mar Clay DS, GJS; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Charles Mix RM; 17 Mar Stanley KM; 18 Mar Harding CEM

Black-necked Stilt Only Report: 26 May Marshall (4) BJU

American Avocet Early: 05 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Brown GO; 11 Apr Hand DB; 16 Apr Meade JLB, MMM

Spotted Sandpiper Early: **16 Apr Harding CEM**; 25 Apr Hughes RDO; 30 Apr Charles Mix RM; 01 May Deuel BJU

Solitary Sandpiper Early: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 30 Apr Union DS; 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Pennington JLB ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 16 May Perkins BJU

Greater Yellowlegs Early: 21 Mar Brookings KCJ; 23 Mar Yankton RND; 24 Mar Meade JLB ... Late: 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 17 May Perkins BJU

Willet Early: **07 Apr Meade EEM**; **12 Apr Faulk MMM**; 14 Apr Harding CEM; 23 Apr Charles Mix RM; 23 Apr Clay GJS

Lesser Yellowlegs Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND**; **26 Mar Charles Mix RM**; 03 Apr Hughes RDO; 07 Apr Hand DB; 14 Apr Meade RSL ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Day BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 21 May Tripp RDO; 18 May Perkins BJU

Upland Sandpiper Early: 01 May Pennington RSL; 03 May Sully *fide* BFW; 04 May Hand DB

Whimbrel Only Report: 24 May Aurora TJ

Long-billed Curlew Early: 03 Apr Hughes RDO; 04 Apr Custer MMM; 06 Apr Jones RDO

Hudsonian Godwit Early: **10 Apr Yankton RND**; 13 Apr Faulk MMM; 14 Apr Hand DB; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU

Marbled Godwit Early: 11 Apr Hand DB; 12 Apr Faulk MMM; 17 Apr Meade JLB, RSL; 18 Apr Charles Mix RM

Ruddy Turnstone Early: 16 May Sully RDO; 19 May Grant BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU

Sanderling Early: 03 May Hand DB; 14 May Perkins DC; 16 May Sully RDO ... Late: 31 May Dewey BJU; 31 May Corson BJU; 28 May Grant BJU; 18 May Perkins BJU

Semipalmated Sandpiper Early: 29 Apr Hand DB; 02 May Hughes RDO; 05 May Meade RSL ... Late: 31 May Dewey BJU; 31 May Corson BJU; 28 May Grant BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU

Least Sandpiper Early: 23 Apr Hand DB; 02 May Hughes RDO; 05 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Corson BJU; 18 May Perkins BJU

White-rumped Sandpiper Early: 04 May Hand DB; 10 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Clay GJS; 14 May Perkins DC

Baird's Sandpiper Early: 23 Mar Yankton RND; 02 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 09 Apr Hand DB; 17 Apr Harding CEM ... Late: 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU; 25 May Corson BJU

Pectoral Sandpiper Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND**; 05 Apr Charles Mix RM; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 05 May Meade RSL ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Corson BJU; 18 May Perkins BJU

Dunlin Early: 18 Apr Charles Mix RM; 04 May Hand DB; 06 May Clay GJS; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Day BJU; 26 May Brown BJU

Stilt Sandpiper Early: 04 May Hand DB; 07 May Hughes RDO; 15 May Potter DS, JSP; 17 May Perkins BJU ... Late: 31 May Walworth BJU; 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU

Short-billed Dowitcher Early: 30 Apr Charles Mix RM; 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Clay GJS; 25 May Perkins BJU ... Late: **31 May Walworth BJU; 28 May Grant BJU**; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU

Long-billed Dowitcher Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND**; 13 Apr Charles Mix RM; 23 Apr Clay GJS; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 28 Apr Meade JLB ... Late: **25 May Perkins BJU**; 23 May Meade RSL; 22 May Hughes RDO; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 19 May Brown BJU

Wilson's Snipe Early: 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 07 Apr Beadle *fide* BFW; 17 Apr Clay GJS; 27 Apr Meade JLB

American Woodcock Early: 24 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 05 Apr Hand DB; 09 Apr Hughes RDO

Wilson's Phalarope Early: **23 Mar Yankton RND**; 22 Apr Charles Mix RM; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Hand DB; 27 Apr Meade RSL

Red-necked Phalarope Early: 08 May Meade RSL; 13 May Deuel BJU; 16 May Faulk DS, JSP; 16 May Sully RDO ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May Walworth BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Perkins BJU

Bonaparte's Gull Early: 30 Mar Stanley RDO; 31 Mar Charles Mix RM; 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO; 22 May Perkins BJU

Franklin's Gull Early: 19 Mar Stanley KM, RDO; 22 Mar Charles Mix RM; 22 Mar Hughes RDO; 26 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Apr Pennington JLB

Mew Gull Early: 18 Mar Stanley KM, RDO; 23 Mar Hughes DB ... Late: 29 Mar Stanley RDO; 27 Mar Hughes RDO

Ring-billed Gull Early: 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL

California Gull Early: 05 Mar Hughes RDO; 10 Mar Stanley RDO; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL; 11 Apr Grant BJU

Herring Gull Early: 05 Mar Hughes RDO; 05 Mar Stanley RDO; 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Apr Meade RSL ... Late: 16 May Perkins BJU; 20 Apr Stanley RDO; 11 Apr Grant BJU

Thayer's Gull Late: 07 Apr Stanley RDO; 22 Mar Hughes RDO

Iceland Gull Only Report: 05 Mar Hughes RDO

Lesser Black-backed Gull All Reports: 21 Mar Stanley RDO; 25 Mar Stanley RDO; 28 Mar Yankton RND

Glaucous Gull Late: 03 Apr Stanley RDO; 29 Mar Hughes RDO

Least Tern All Reports: 18 May Bon Homme DS; 24 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Hughes JSP; 26 May Corson BJU

Caspian Tern Early: 22 Apr Stanley RDO; 25 Apr Pennington JLB; 06 May Brown GO; 06 May Day GO ... Late: 29 May Meade JLB; 28 May Charles Mix RM; 26 May McPherson BJU

Black Tern Early: **30 Apr Charles Mix RM**; 01 May Stanley RDO; 08 May Meade RSL; 10 May Hand DB

Common Tern Early: 09 May Stanley RDO; 13 May Grant BJU; 16 May Corson BJU; 16 May Perkins BJU

Forster's Tern Early: 16 Apr Davison *fide* BFW; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 22 Apr Stanley RDO; 14 May Perkins DC, MS

Rock Pigeon Confirmed Breeding: 10 Mar Day (NY) WS

Mourning Dove Early: 17 Mar Clay GJS; 21 Mar Charles Mix RM; 24 Mar Lake JSP; 27 Mar Custer MMM

Yellow-billed Cuckoo All Reports: 21 May Brookings KCJ; 28 May Grant BJU

Black-billed Cuckoo Early: 19 May Brown BJU, MO; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ; 21 May Roberts BJU; 25 May Corson BJU

Barn Owl Only Report: 07 Apr Stanley RDO

Eastern Screech-Owl Confirmed Breeding: 07 May Harding (NY) CEM

Snowy Owl All Reports: 05 Apr Deuel BJU; **01 May Day JK**

Burrowing Owl Early: 05 Apr Custer MMM; 08 Apr Hughes RDO; 11 Apr Hand DB

Long-eared Owl Confirmed Breeding: 30 May Harding (NY) CEM

Northern Saw-whet Owl Late: 13 Mar Hughes KM; 06 Mar Stanley KM ... Confirmed Breeding: 29 Apr Harding (NY) CEM

Common Nighthawk Early: 21 May Roberts BJU; 22 May Lake TJ; 24 May Charles Mix RM; 24 May Day GO; 26 May Pennington JLB

Common Poorwill All Reports: 15 May Harding DB; 18 May Harding BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO; 28 May Harding CEM, DB; 29 May Harding CEM

Whip-poor-will All Reports: 05 May Charles Mix RM; 15 May Grant BJU

Chimney Swift Early: 23 Apr Pennington MMM; 27 Apr Brown GO; 08 May Charles Mix RM

White-throated Swift All Reports: 07 May Harding CEM; 16 May Harding DB; 18 May Harding BJU; 22 May Harding CEM; 23 May Harding DB; 28 May Harding DB

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Early: **04 May Charles Mix RM**; 07 May Clay GJS; 08 May Brookings KCJ; 17 May Perkins BJU

Belted Kingfisher Early: 03 Mar Pennington RSL; 14 Mar Lawrence SW; 14 Mar Yankton RND; 19 Mar Lake JSP

Red-headed Woodpecker Early: 04 May Harding CEM; 10 May Hand DB; 10 May Lake JSP; 11 May Charles Mix RM

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Early: 11 Apr Grant BJU; 22 Apr Lake JSP; 23 Apr Marshall GO; 19 May Walworth BJU

Northern Flicker Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 05 Mar Stanley RDO; 16 Mar Grant BJU

Pileated Woodpecker All Reports: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 11 Apr Grant BJU; 13 May Grant BJU; 17 May Roberts GO

Olive-sided Flycatcher Early: 16 May Hand DS, JSP; 18 May Walworth MO; 19 May Brown BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 22 May Perkins BJU ... Late: 31 May Walworth BJU; 31 May Dewey BJU; 30 May Brown GO; 23 May Perkins BJU

Western Wood-Pewee All Reports: 18 May Harding BJU; 22 May Perkins BJU; 24 May Pennington MMM; 30 May Pennington JLB; 31 May Pennington JLB

Eastern Wood-Pewee Early: 14 May Union GJS; 19 May Brown BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Early: 19 May Brown BJU, MO; 19 May Grant BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 23 May Clay GJS ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 26 May McPherson BJU

Alder Flycatcher Early: 21 May Day BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU ... Late: 30 May Brookings BFH; 28 May Lake JSP; 28 May Grant BJU

Willow Flycatcher Early: 12 May Perkins DC; 21 May Day BJU; 24 May Jerauld *vide* BFW; 25 May Corson BJU

Least Flycatcher Early: 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 05 May Clay GJS; 07 May Brown GO; 07 May Edmunds GO; 07 May Harding CEM; 07 May Hughes EDS

Eastern Phoebe Early: **19 Mar Yankton RND**; 23 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 02 Apr Hand DB; 07 May Pennington RSL

Say's Phoebe Early: 03 Apr Hughes RDO; 07 Apr Custer MMM; 14 Apr Brookings KCJ

Great Crested Flycatcher Early: 08 May Brown GO; 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Brookings KCJ; 15 May Hughes EDS; 18 May Harding BJU

Western Kingbird Early: 04 May Hand DB; 04 May Hyde *vide* BFW; 05 May Charles Mix RM; 05 May Hughes EDS; 07 May Pennington RSL

Eastern Kingbird Early: 08 May Hand DB; 09 May Beadle *vide* BFW; 09 May Lake JSP; 10 May Bon Homme RM; 12 May Perkins DC

Loggerhead Shrike Early: 02 Apr Stanley RDO; 08 Apr Custer MMM; 08 Apr Meade JLB; 09 Apr Hand DB

Northern Shrike Late: 04 Apr Hand DB; 02 Apr Harding CEM; 02 Apr Brown GO; 27 Mar Yankton RND

Bell's Vireo All Reports: 16 May Clay GJS; 23 May Stanley RDO; 26 May Corson BJU; 27 May Stanley RDO; 30 May Sully RDO

Yellow-throated Vireo Early: 13 May Walworth JSP; 16 May Clay GJS; 17 May Marshall GO; 17 May Union GJS

Plumbeous Vireo Only Report: 18 May Harding BJU

Blue-headed Vireo Early: **01 May Deuel BJU**; 09 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; 13 May Hughes EDS; 13 May Walworth MO; **14 May Perkins RDO** ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ; 20 May Marshall GO; 20 May Lake JSP; 20 May Brown GO; 19 May Walworth BJU; **17 May Perkins BJU**

Warbling Vireo Early: 04 May Clay DS; 06 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Custer KH; 09 May Lake JSP

Philadelphia Vireo Early: 12 May Union DS; 19 May Brown BJU, MO; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU; **22 May Perkins BJU** ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 31 May Dewey BJU; **25 May Harding DB**; 24 May Marshall GO

Red-eyed Vireo Early: 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Brookings KCJ; 17 May Union GJS; 22 May Perkins BJU

Pinyon Jay All Reports: 02 Apr Fall River KH; 01 May Meade AKB

Black-billed Magpie Confirmed Breeding: 26 May Corson (ON) BJU

Purple Martin Early: 19 Apr Clay GJS; 24 Apr Brown GO; 28 Apr Brookings KCJ; 16 May Perkins BJU

Tree Swallow Early: 02 Apr Lincoln TJ; 04 Apr Pennington JLB; 07 Apr Brule JSP

Violet-green Swallow Early: 30 Apr Pennington JLB; 09 May Meade RSL; 18 May Harding BJU

Northern Rough-winged Swallow Early: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 30 Apr Charles Mix RM; 30 Apr Lake JSP; 12 May Perkins DC

Bank Swallow Early: 05 May Hand DB; 12 May Day GO; 12 May Marshall GO; 12 May Perkins DC; 13 May Walworth MO

Cliff Swallow Early: 26 Apr Stanley RDO; 09 May Meade RSL; 10 May Brookings KCJ

Barn Swallow Early: 16 Apr Charles Mix RM; 20 Apr Stanley RDO; 23 Apr Day GO; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Hand DB; 27 Apr Meade JLB

Red-breasted Nuthatch Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 28 May Brown GO; 26 May Lake JSP

Pygmy Nuthatch All Reports: 27 Apr Custer KH; 07 May Pennington RSL

Brown Creeper Late: 05 May Hand DB; 30 Apr Lake JSP; 28 Apr Brookings KCJ; 22 Apr Hughes EDS

Rock Wren Early: 08 May Meade EEM; 14 May Perkins DS, JSP; 15 May Harding DB

House Wren Early: 16 Apr Clay DS; 04 May Charles Mix RM; 04 May Hughes EDS; 05 May Hand DB; 08 May Meade RSL, EEM

Winter Wren Early: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 05 Apr Hand DB; 16 Apr Clay DS; 12 May Perkins DC ... Late: 06 May Hand DB; 23 Apr Grant BJU

Sedge Wren Early: 06 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 10 May Hand DB; 10 May Minnehaha MS; 19 May Walworth BJU

Marsh Wren Early: 14 Mar Lawrence SW; 23 Apr Brookings KCJ; 01 May Grant BJU; 03 May Charles Mix RM

American Dipper Only Report: 27 Apr Lawrence JLB

Golden-crowned Kinglet Late: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 14 Apr Brookings KCJ; 06 Apr Hand DB

Ruby-crowned Kinglet Early: 30 Mar Custer KH; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 08 Apr Clay GJS ... Late: 28 May Harding DB; 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Union DS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Early: 01 May Hand DB; 13 May Grant BJU; 16 May Lake DS, JSP; 18 May Walworth MO; 22 May Perkins BJU

Eastern Bluebird Early: 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 15 Mar Stanley DB; 16 Mar Hughes DB; 19 Mar Hand DB; 19 Mar Lake JSP; 19 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 28 Mar Custer MMM; 28 Mar Pennington RSL

Mountain Bluebird Early: 12 Mar Custer ND, RSL; 12 Mar Fall River RSL; 12 Mar Meade EK; 15 Mar Stanley DB

Townsend's Solitaire Late: 24 Mar Stanley DB; 05 Mar Brown GO

Veery Early: 09 May Clay DS; 16 May Stanley RDO; 17 May Perkins BJU; 19 May Brown BJU, MO; 19 May Edmunds BJU ... Late: 29 May Harding CEM; 25 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 24 May Roberts GO

Gray-cheeked Thrush Early: 01 May Deuel BJU; 07 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; 09 May Minnehaha TJ; 10 May Stanley RDO; 12 May Perkins DC ... Late: **30 May Walworth DB**; 25 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP

Swainson's Thrush Early: **25 Apr Charles Mix RM**; 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Grant BJU; 12 May Perkins DC ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB, BJU; 31 May Dewey BJU; 30 May Sully RDO; 30 May Pennington MMM; 30 May Brookings BFH

Hermit Thrush Early: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 05 Apr Hand DB; 15 Apr Brookings KCJ; 16 Apr Clay DS, GJS ... Late: 05 May Brookings KCJ; 03 May Brown GO; 01 May Deuel BJU

Wood Thrush All Reports: 17 May Clay GJS; 24 May Jerauld *fide* BFW; 26 May Day BJU

Northern Mockingbird All Reports: **03 Apr Hughes DO**; 12 May Charles Mix RM; 13 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 17 May Perkins BJU; 22 May Corson BJU; 25 May Corson BJU

Brown Thrasher Early: 14 Apr Clay GJS; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 26 Apr Lake JSP; 07 May Harding CEM
American Pipit Early: **19 Mar Hand DB**; **28 Mar Clay GJS**; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 02 May Meade RSL ... Late: **19 May Day BJU**; **19 May Brown BJU**; 18 May Perkins BJU; 16 May Sully RDO
Sprague's Pipit Early: 12 May Perkins DC; 23 May Corson BJU
Bohemian Waxwing All Reports: 03 Mar Pennington JLB; 06 Mar Pennington RSL; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 20 Mar Brookings KCJ
Blue-winged Warbler All Reports: **09 May Lake JSP**; **21 May Brookings KCJ**
Golden-winged Warbler All Reports: 12 May Union DS; 13 May Grant BJU; 16 May Hand JSP; 18 May Brown GO; 19 May Brown BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO
Tennessee Warbler Early: 07 May Brown GO; 08 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Clay DS; 12 May Perkins DC
Orange-crowned Warbler Early: 25 Apr Charles Mix RM; 27 Apr Brown GO; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 01 May Pennington JLB ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 30 May Sully RDO; 30 May Pennington JLB; 23 May Brown GO
Nashville Warbler Early: 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Grant BJU; 05 May Clay DS; **25 May Harding DB** ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 23 May Brown GO; 19 May Walworth BJU
Virginia's Warbler Only Report: 28 May Custer TJ
Northern Parula Early: 04 May Hand DB; 09 May Lake JSP; 12 May Union DS; **15 May Perkins TJ** ... Late: **26 May Brown BJU**; 21 May Brookings KCJ; 17 May Stanley RDO; **16 May Perkins DC**
Yellow Warbler Early: **23 Apr Pennington CEM**; 29 Apr Charles Mix RM; 04 May Hand DB
Chestnut-sided Warbler Early: 10 May Lake JSP; 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Clay GJS ... Late: 31 May Walworth DB; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Lake JSP; 26 May Day BJU; 26 May Brown GO
Magnolia Warbler Early: 09 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; 09 May Minnehaha TJ; 11 May Hughes EDS; **20 May Tripp RDO** ... Late: **31 May Walworth DB**; 29 May Stanley RDO; 28 May Grant BJU; **25 May Harding DB**
Cape May Warbler Early: **11 May Hand DB**; 12 May Union DS; 13 May Brown GO; 13 May Grant BJU; 13 May Walworth MO ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Brown GO; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Grant BJU; 19 May Edmunds BJU
Black-throated Blue Warbler All Reports: 17 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Stanley RDO; 26 May Day BJU
Yellow-rumped Warbler Early: 19 Mar Yankton RND; 11 Apr Clay DS; 11 Apr Grant BJU; 21 Apr Custer MMM ... Late: 25 May Corson BJU; 23 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP; 21 May Brown GO; 21 May Brookings KCJ
Black-throated Green Warbler Early: **01 May Deuel BJU**; 09 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; **14 May Perkins DS, JSP**; 19 May Union DS; 19 May Walworth BJU ... Late: 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP; 21 May Brown GO; **15 May Perkins RDO, TJ, DC**
Blackburnian Warbler Early: 11 May Clay GJS; 12 May Union DS; 13 May Grant BJU ... Late: 26 May Edmunds JDW; 26 May Day BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP; 21 May Brown GO; 21 May Brookings KCJ
Palm Warbler Early: **23 Apr Grant BJU**; 29 Apr Brookings KCJ; 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 30 Apr Union DS; 11 May Harding RDO ... Late: 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Lake JSP; 21 May Charles Mix RM
Bay-breasted Warbler Early: **06 May Minnehaha TJ**; **10 May Lake JSP**; 12 May Union DS; **22 May Perkins BJU** ... Late: 28 May Lake JSP; **25 May Harding DB**; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Brown GO; 19 May Union DS
Blackpoll Warbler Early: 06 May Day GO; 06 May Hand DB; 06 May Lake JSP; 10 May Hughes EDS; 11 May Harding RDO ... Late: 31 May Dewey BJU; 30 May Walworth DB; 30 May Sully RDO; 28 May Lake JSP; 28 May Harding DB
Black-and-white Warbler Early: 29 Apr Hughes DB; 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Grant BJU; 14 May Perkins JSP, MS, RDO ... Late: 25 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 24 May Roberts GO; 24 May Marshall GO; 22 May Perkins BJU
American Redstart Early: 09 May Lake JSP; 09 May Minnehaha TJ; 10 May Brown GO; 11 May Charles Mix RM; 14 May Perkins DC
Ovenbird Early: **01 May Deuel BJU**; 08 May Brown GO; 09 May Lake JSP; 14 May Perkins RDO; 18 May Walworth BJU
Northern Waterthrush Early: 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Grant BJU; 06 May Minnehaha TJ; 08 May Stanley RDO; 14 May Perkins DC ... Late: 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 22 May Pennington JLB

Connecticut Warbler All Reports: 21 May Roberts BJU; 25 May Stanley RDO; 26 May Brown BJU; 26 May Day; 28 May Grant BJU

Mourning Warbler Early: 17 May Stanley RDO; 18 May Brown GO; 18 May Walworth MO ... Late: 30 May Walworth DB; 30 May Sully RDO; 30 May Brookings BFH

Common Yellowthroat Early: 05 May Hughes EDS; 05 May Stanley RDO; 07 May Brown GO; 07 May Charles Mix RM; 08 May Meade RSL

Wilson's Warbler Early: 08 May Brown GO; 09 May Clay DS; 10 May Hughes EDS; 15 May Perkins DC ... Late: 28 May Grant BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU; 26 May Day BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 25 May Corson BJU; 23 May Perkins BJU

Canada Warbler Early: 14 May Brookings KCJ; 18 May Walworth MO; 19 May Brown BJU, GO; 19 May Edmunds BJU; 19 May Stanley RDO; 20 May Tripp RDO ... Late: 30 May Walworth DB; 28 May Lake JSP; 28 May Grant BJU

Yellow-breasted Chat Early: 18 May Harding BJU; 18 May Lawrence SW; 21 May Charles Mix RM; 21 May Lake JSP

Summer Tanager Early: 10 May Edmunds JDW; 12 May Lake JSP; 15 May Hughes RDO ... Late: 23 May Beadle *fide* BFW; 21 May Brown GO; 19 May Stanley RDO; 19 May Hughes RDO; 19 May Grant BJU

Scarlet Tanager Early: 10 May Hand DB; 12 May Mellette KH; 13 May Grant BJU; 14 May Union GJS

Western Tanager Early: 11 May Meade EEM; 18 May Harding BJU; 20 May Pennington RSL; 31 May Dewey BJU

Spotted Towhee Early: 23 Apr Stanley RDO; 24 Apr Charles Mix RM; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 02 May Custer MMM

Eastern Towhee All Reports: 21 Apr Clay GJS; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 04 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Union GJS; 31 May Dewey BJU

American Tree Sparrow Late: **02 May Stanley RDO**; 24 Apr Brown GO; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Day GO; 27 Mar Pennington RSL; 27 Mar Harding CEM

Chipping Sparrow Early: 02 Apr Harding CEM; 02 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 03 Apr Lake JSP; 09 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Clay GJS

Clay-colored Sparrow Early: 23 Apr Grant BJU; 01 May Brown GO; 01 May Deuel BJU; 01 May Pennington RSL; 02 May Stanley RDO

Brewer's Sparrow Only Report: 18 May Perkins BJU

Field Sparrow Early: 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 26 Apr Charles Mix RM; 03 May Custer MMM

Vesper Sparrow Early: 07 Apr Hand DB; 09 Apr Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Clay DS; 17 Apr Harding CEM

Lark Sparrow Early: 28 Apr Grant BJU; 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 01 May Deuel BJU; 02 May Pennington JLB

Lark Bunting Early: 07 May Harding CEM; 08 May Meade RSL; 10 May Hand DB; 17 May Corson BJU

Savannah Sparrow Early: 05 Apr Hand DB; 09 Apr Charles Mix RM; 11 Apr Grant BJU; 01 May Pennington RSL

Grasshopper Sparrow Early: 28 Apr Grant BJU; 05 May Hand *fide* BFW; 07 May Custer RSL; 16 May Corson BJU

Baird's Sparrow Early: 13 May Perkins RDO; 22 May Corson BJU

Le Conte's Sparrow All Reports: **23 Apr Grant BJU**; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 26 May Brown BJU; 26 May McPherson BJU

Nelson's Sparrow All Reports: **21 May Edmunds BJU**; 26 May Brown BJU

Fox Sparrow Early: 23 Mar Lake JSP; 23 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 04 Apr Brown GO; 14 Apr Clay GJS ... Late: 01 May Deuel BJU; 29 Apr Brookings KCJ; 28 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Clay GJS

Song Sparrow Early: 16 Mar Pennington MMM; 18 Mar Lawrence SW; 20 Mar Minnehaha MS; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM

Lincoln's Sparrow Early: 10 Apr Charles Mix RM; 14 Apr Brookings KCJ; 18 Apr Clay GJS; 03 May Pennington RSL ... Late: **28 May Grant BJU**; 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 19 May Walworth BJU

Swamp Sparrow Early: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 21 Apr Brookings KCJ; 03 May Charles Mix RM

White-throated Sparrow Early: 14 Apr Clay GJS; 23 Apr Grant BJU; 23 Apr Lake JSP; 09 May Harding CEM ... Late: 22 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ; 19 May Walworth BJU; 19 May Stanley RDO

Harris's Sparrow Early: 21 Mar Lake JSP; 25 Mar Clay GJS; 28 Mar Stanley RDO; 14 May Perkins DS, JSP, MS ... Late: 28 May Harding DB; 25 May Corson BJU; 21 May Roberts BJU; 21 May Day BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ

White-crowned Sparrow Early: 24 Mar Lake JSP; 27 Mar Lawrence SW; 19 Apr Stanley RDO ... Late: 27 May Stanley RDO; 25 May Corson BJU; 23 May Brown GO; 22 May Perkins BJU

Dark-eyed Junco Late: 08 May Brookings KCJ; 03 May Hand DB; 03 May Brown GO; 30 Apr Stanley RDO

Lapland Longspur Late: 20 Apr Hand DB; 18 Apr Brown GO, DST; 16 Apr Lake JSP; 15 Apr Buffalo MMM; 27 Mar Pennington JLB, RSL; 27 Mar Meade RSL

Smith's Longspur Only Report: **23 Apr Grant BJU**

Chestnut-collared Longspur Early: **09 Mar Custer MMM**; 27 Mar Pennington JLB; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 12 Apr Potter MMM

Snow Bunting Late: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 13 Mar Stanley RDO; 11 Mar Lake JSP; 11 Mar Harding CEM

Northern Cardinal reported 02 Apr Tripp RDO

Rose-breasted Grosbeak Early: 01 May Grant BJU; 04 May Clay GJS; 05 May Charles Mix RM; 13 May Perkins RDO

Black-headed Grosbeak Early: 03 May Stanley RDO; 08 May Hughes EDS; 09 May Meade EEM; 10 May Edmunds JDW

Blue Grosbeak All Reports: **12 May Charles Mix RM**; 23 May Shannon MMM; 26 May Stanley RDO; 27 May Stanley RDO; 31 May Pennington JLB

Lazuli Bunting Early: 13 May Pennington RSL; 14 May Meade EEM; 15 May Charles Mix RM; 29 May Edmunds JDW

Indigo Bunting Early: 06 May Gregory RM; 08 May Edmunds JDW; 09 May Clay GJS; 22 May Perkins BJU

Dickcissel All Reports: **10 May Clay DS**; 20 May Tripp RDO; 24 May Jerauld *fide* BFW; 25 May Corson BJU; 25 May Hughes JSP

Bobolink Early: 07 May Hutchinson *fide* BFW; 08 May Hand DB; 10 May Brookings KCJ; 14 May Clay GJS; 15 May Perkins DC, DS, JSP

Red-winged Blackbird Early: 07 Mar Charles Mix RM; 11 Mar Clay GJS; 13 Mar Miner KCJ; 13 Mar Yankton KCJ, RND; 18 Mar Lawrence SW

Western Meadowlark Early: 12 Mar Custer MMM; 13 Mar Hughes KM; 13 Mar Yankton RND; 16 Mar Grant BJU

Yellow-headed Blackbird Early: 15 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 19 Mar Butte JLB, RSL; 19 Mar Charles Mix RM

Rusty Blackbird Early: 16 Mar Brookings KCJ; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 25 Mar Clay GJS ... Late: 05 Apr Grant BJU; 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 02 Apr Charles Mix RM

Brewer's Blackbird Early: 05 Apr Deuel BJU; 05 Apr Grant BJU; 18 Apr Hand DB; 23 Apr Custer JLB, MMM; 22 May Corson BJU

Common Grackle Early: 11 Mar Clay GJS; 16 Mar Brookings KCJ; 16 Mar Grant BJU; 17 Mar Meade EEM

Great-tailed Grackle Early: 15 Mar Minnehaha MRZ; 21 Mar Davison RM; 21 Mar Douglas RM; 16 May Sully RDO

Brown-headed Cowbird Early: 12 Mar Clay GJS; 01 Apr Grant BJU; 02 Apr Lake JSP; 02 Apr Minnehaha TJ; 29 Apr Meade JLB

Orchard Oriole Early: 08 May Charles Mix RM; 09 May Minnehaha TJ; 10 May Hand DB; 15 May Mellette KH

Bullock's Oriole All Reports: **11 May Custer MMM**; 22 May Perkins BJU; 25 May Corson BJU; 25 May Harding CEM; 31 May Dewey BJU

Baltimore Oriole Early: 01 May Deuel BJU; 05 May Clay DS; 06 May Charles Mix RM; 13 May Perkins RDO

Purple Finch Late: 22 Apr Clay GJS; 15 Apr Lake JSP; 14 Apr Brookings KCJ

Common Redpoll All Reports: 16 Mar Grant BJU; 23 Mar Brown GO; 27 Mar Brown GO; 30 Mar Brown GO; 01 Apr Brown GO

Pine Siskin Late: 31 May Dewey BJU; 23 May Perkins BJU; 21 May Brookings KCJ

Evening Grosbeak Only Report: 16 May Meade EEM

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Cackling Goose 05 May Meade RSL; 01 May Deuel BJU

Greater Scaup 29 May McPherson JDW

Surf Scoter 19 Mar Yankton RND; 23 Apr Yankton TJ; 30 Apr Stanley RDO; 02 May Hughes RDO

White-winged Scoter 30 Apr Minnehaha TJ

Black Scoter 23 Apr Yankton TJ
Barrow's Goldeneye 10 Mar Charles Mix RM; 09 Apr Meade JLB
Greater Sage-Grouse 03 Apr Pennington RSL
Sharp-tailed Grouse 15 May Perkins (NE) DS, JSP
Red-throated Loon 26 Mar Yankton BFH; 27 Mar Yankton RND
Great Egret 17 Mar Yankton RND
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 14 May Perkins DC
Glossy Ibis 07 May Hughes RDO; 26 May Brown BJU; 26 May Marshall BJU
Swainson's Hawk 11 Mar Clay GJS
Common Moorhen 11 May Charles Mix RM
Lesser Black-backed Gull 02 Apr Lincoln TJ; 11 Apr Grant BJU
Great Black-backed Gull 16 Mar Grant BJU
Common Raven 16 Mar Grant BJU
House Wren 25 Mar Beadle *fide* BFW
Swainson's Thrush 03 Apr Minnehaha MS
Pine Warbler 23 Apr Grant BJU
Worm-eating Warbler 18 May Walworth MO
Kentucky Warbler 22 May Lake TJ
Hooded Warbler 21 May Lake JSP
McCown's Longspur 12 May Perkins RDO; 14 May Perkins TJ; 15 May Perkins DC
Painted Bunting 26 May Harding DB
Eastern Meadowlark 05 Apr Grant BJU; 29 Apr Union TJ

Species Expected But Not Reported

Ruffed Grouse, Northern Bobwhite, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Barred Owl, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Canyon Wren, Carolina Wren (4), Sage Thrasher, MacGillivray's Warbler, Cassin's Finch, White-winged Crossbill (2)

Contributing Observers

DB	Doug Backlund	KM	Kenny Miller
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	DO	Dave Ode
AKB	Anna K. Ball	GO	Gary Olson
DC	Doug Chapman	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	MRO	Mandy Orth
ND	Nancy Drilling	MO	Mark Otnes
MME	Maggie Engler	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
BFW	Bridgette Flanders-Wanner	RPR	Robert P. Russell
KH	Kevin & Kris Hachmeister	MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
BFH	Bill Huser	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
KCJ	Kent C. Jensen	WS	Waubay NWR Staff
TJ	Todd Jensen	DST	Daniel Streifel
JK	Joyce Kringen	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	DS	David Swanson
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	BJU	Bill J. Unzen
RM	Ron Mabie	SW	Scott Weins
MMM	Michael M. Melius	JDW	J. David Williams
CEM	Charlie Miller	MRZ	Mick Zerr
EEM	Ernest E. Miller		

The term *fide* is a rarely used term in the science of reporting bird sightings. It is Latin for **faith**. Its use means that someone is reporting a bird seen by another person, but have **FAITH** in that person's birding skills so that the report is accurate and believable. Thus **Snowy Owl, *fide* Chapman**, would mean that someone told me they saw the owl, and I have enough faith in their birding skills to report it officially. To be used sparingly!

Answer to the Second *SD Bird Notes* Photo ID Quiz

We have a small, brownish bird in a grassland. The bird has a relatively short hindclaw and uniform tail which eliminates the pipits, meadowlarks, and longspurs. Female Bobolinks have buffy bellies and spiky tail feathers, thus “she” is eliminated. This bird must be a sparrow.

Not only that, the bird’s bill is pretty hefty and its tail rather short: we’re dealing with a member of the genus *Ammodramus*. This genus of sparrow contains the following species found in South Dakota:

Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>
Baird’s Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>
Henslow’s Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
Le Conte’s Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>
Nelson’s Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>

(*Ammodramus* is Latin for “Sand Runner”. There are four other species worldwide.)

The bird clearly has fine, dark streaks on a white breast. The tail is also not spiky. That eliminates Nelson’s and Grasshopper sparrows. The bold lateral throat stripe leaves us with only Baird’s and Henslow’s to choose from. This bird completely lacks the dark green and purple tones shown by Henslow’s Sparrows, and there is also a strong black spot at the lower back corner of the auriculars. Baird’s Sparrow is definitely a possibility.

“But wait!” you say, “What about Savannah Sparrow?” A good question. The bird in question has a very pale head that is washed with a warm ochreous coloration. Savannah Sparrows have contrastingly darker auriculars when compared to the malar. Our bird in question also has a pretty big bill and a fairly pale tail as seen from below. The underparts also show an obvious white background coloration. All are characteristics that point away from Savannah Sparrow and toward Baird’s Sparrow as the identity of the quiz bird.

Furthermore, note the pink legs and feet. With the light ticking on the breast which does not extend into the belly, we should have an identification.

Only one bird found in South Dakota in early June could fit this description—**Baird’s Sparrow**! And indeed, a **Baird’s Sparrow** it is. To see the photo in color, consult the front cover of *SD Bird Notes*, vol. 63, no. 2 (June 2011) or go to:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/8110372@N06/5771858053/in/photostream>

Congratulations to Michael Melius of Hermosa who submitted the first correct entry on 17 June 2011. Michael will receive a water bottle carrier freshly hand-carried from Amazonian Ecuador.

There were three correct identifications (listed in order received):

Michael Melius, Hermosa (winning first entry)	June 17
Lowell Anderson, Crawfordsville, IN	June 21
David Lambeth, Grand Forks, ND	June 26

Thanks go out to all who participated.

Douglas Chapman, *SD Bird Notes*, Editor

*Note greenish-yellow bill
and dark back*



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