

# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

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*Great Kiskadee*  
*Brookings County*  
*11/23/2015*

*Photo: KC Jensen*

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## SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES



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**SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
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- Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr. Memorial Research Grants:** Gene K. Hess (chair), Linda Johnson, Duane Weber.
- Rare Bird Records:** Todd M. Jensen, Ricky D. Olson, Jeffrey S. Palmer, David Swanson (chair), J. David Williams.
- Scholarships and Awards:** Jocelyn L. Baker (chair), Nelda Holden, Galen Steffen.

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I didn't join SDOU because I wanted to study bird science. I joined because I heard there was a group that was interested in birds and since their next meeting, in Vermillion, was close to Yankton where I live, I attended. I was overwhelmed at first by how knowledgeable the members were on birds and birding. Some members were very welcoming to a newbie and I appreciated that also. I enjoyed learning about the great places to find interesting birds in South Dakota and then gradually over a few years the science part of birding became more interesting.



The attendance at the SDOU Fall meeting in Brookings was very disappointing to me. Thirty people participated in some or all of the meeting. This is out of 205 "members", of course some of those are libraries and other organization that are non-persons. I am not sure what the exact count of individuals is, but even if it is only 150, 30 out of 150 seems to me to be poor attendance. I have to ask, "What are we doing wrong to generate such low attendance?" I also have to ask, "Why doesn't our membership grow more? "

Ricky Olson stated very eloquently in his September, 2015, President's Page the things that SDOU does and has done well for years. I am wondering if there are not some other things we can do that may attract more members and improve attendance at our two meetings per year. I will mention three efforts of the Iowa Ornithology Union,

1. They sponsor a very active youth group program with regularly scheduled outings with sponsors. Perhaps that would bring in more young members and maybe their parents or grandparents to SDOU.
2. IOU also invests in conservation projects such as their successful Chimney Swift structures program that might be of interest to and attract some people.
3. Borrowing again from IOU, I like this statement on their web site, "WHO is an ornithologist? YOU are an ornithologist! If you enjoy the wild birds of Iowa, then you are one of us! No degrees, no training, no experience required."

I bird by myself a lot, just because there is no one else in Yankton who is a serious birder. It is not because I don't want to bird with others. When I go birding with other people I do more serious birding, see more birds, and have more fun. I apologize to Ricky for stealing the saying he puts at the end of all his emails, but I can't help myself, "*Half the fun of birding is sharing.*" This saying applies to sharing online as well as when people are out birding together. I have always felt that socializing is a big part of birding. Who goes out and never says a word to their birding partners other than, "Look there's a bird."

If I have mentioned birding too often for some people I am sorry, but in a small state such as South Dakota we should be more inclusive and not exclusive. Anyone interested in birds is a potential member as far as I am concerned. Ornithologist, birder, and bird watcher: we should welcome and embrace all of the above.

What can we do to get more people to join and actively participate in SDOU? Please share any ideas you might have. I want to have more discussion about building SDOU into a stronger organization by appealing to more people.

*Roger Dietrich*

# SDOU 2015 FALL MEETING BROOKINGS NOVEMBER 13-15

by Linda Johnson

**A** Great Kiskadee—seen by at least twenty SDOU members—was being reported on eBird near Volga, SD, during the Membership Meeting, Saturday afternoon. A few birders drove the ten miles to the site after the Board of Directors meeting on the evening of November 14 and spoke with the gracious homeowner who had initially reported the bird, but arrived at dusk—no birds. Lorna Jost enthusiastically welcomed us back for a try on Sunday morning. Back to the site bright and early, after two hours of waiting and combing the area, Ricky Olson called everyone to the farmhouse to the north. When the group hurriedly arrived a stunning large bird appeared, showing its brilliant yellow, black, white and rusty plumage. To everyone's delight it called its namesake "kis-ka-dee". This is a first state record for Great Kiskadee. The landowners later confirmed that there are at least two Great Kiskadee and perhaps three at the location! It was a weekend for out of range species. Several members also saw the Anna's Hummingbird reported in Watertown.

Birds of note seen on the field trips were Common Redpoll and Purple Finch at Oakwood Lakes State Park and a male Surf Scoter at Lake Thompson. Birders were also treated to great looks at several Tundra Swans amongst the Cackling, Snow, White-fronted, and Canada geese and several duck species at Lake Preston. A few members observed a Common Redpoll as it flew over the Great Kiskadee site. Maybe a first for bird observation involving those two species! Seeing a non-migratory bird, especially one usually confined to extreme southern Texas was undoubtedly the highlight of the meeting.

The SDOU Fall Meeting, however, is primarily focused on presentations of research related to birds, habitat, and conservation. Particular thanks go to professors K.C. Jensen (SDSU), Kristel Bakker (DSU) and Dave Swanson (USD) and their students for sharing their research. The following presentations give a sense of how SDOU encourages research. **Bold** indicates the presenter.

Shubham Datta, Robert W. Klaver, **KC Jensen**, Jonathan A. Jenks, Will Inselman, Christopher Swanson and Troy W. Grovenburg – *Ferruginous Hawk ecology in the northern Great Plains: A grassland obligate raptor in modified grasslands.*

This study discussed nesting Ferruginous Hawks in McPherson County, SD, and Dickey, Logan and McIntosh counties in ND. This species has shown a 50% decline in its breeding range since the mid-1970s. Some may be moving into trees when grassland is not available. West Nile virus also affects some of the birds.

**Mandy Orth**, Wyatt Mack, Travis Runia and KC Jensen– *Evaluating the Influence of Habitat Structure on the Movement Rates of Gallinaceous Chicks.*

Mandy described her research on understory and cover in grassland and its impact on pheasant chicks and their survival rates. Chick mobility through ground cover was found to be of great importance.

**Gretchen Newberry** and David Swanson – *Nest success of rooftop-nesting Common Nighthawks*

A 51% decline in Common Nighthawk populations since the mid-1960s makes this a species of concern. The study describes nest success, nest microclimates and use of gravel rooftops as nest sites in agricultural landscapes. Gretchen is the

2015 recipient of the Ken Husmann Memorial Scholarship from SDOU.

**Linda Johnson** and Rosemary Draeger – *2015 breeding bird survey of Good Earth State Park*

The survey reported on breeding species at South Dakota's newest state park, Good Earth at Blood Run, a deciduous forest fragment in southeastern South Dakota near Sioux Falls. One hundred and eight species were observed, and 34 were confirmed as breeding status, 14 were designated as probable breeding status, and 23 were assigned possible breeding status.

**October Greenfield** and KC Jensen – *An assessment of roadside ditches along state highways as habitat for grassland nesting birds.*

As habitat for grassland species continues to decline, roadside ditches and fence-rows may offer some hope. Since South Dakota has 280,000 acres of roadside ditches, this study analyzing some potential solutions will be of great future importance.

**Albara M. Binothman**, Shubham Datta, Will M. Inselman, Jonathan A. Jenks, Mohammed Y. Shobrak, KC Jensen, and Troy W. Grovenburg - *Current Status of Falcon Populations in Saudi Arabia.*

In a shift from SD to the Middle East, Binothman presented results of his falcon study. Falcons and falconry are extremely important in Saudi culture and part of almost a \$3 million industry. Capture of falcons and taking fledglings is causing serious declines.

**Jeffrey S. Palmer** and David L. Swanson – *A reassessment of Virginia's Warbler distribution in the Black Hills of South Dakota*

Jeff gave the history of the Virginia's Warbler population in the southeastern Black Hills. He originally located the species in Redbird Canyon in August 1996 and in Roby Canyon in 1997. Their first study examining status and distribution of Virginia's Warbler in South Dakota was in 1998, but documented only a limited range within the state. Recent surveys indicate that the population extends for about 30 km in pine-juniper-mountain mahogany habitat along the entire southwestern front of the Black Hills in Custer County.

**David L. Swanson** – *A brief history of ornithology in South Dakota, with special reference to works published in the Proceedings of the South Dakota Academy of Science*

This historical look at ornithology in the state dates back to Pierre Tabeau in 1803, and includes summaries of the bird discoveries of Lewis and Clark's 1804-1806 expedition, and later explorations, including Custer's expedition to the Black Hills in 1874. Later documentation of bird species include W.H. Over in 1922 and Pettingill and Whitney in 1965. Historical and recent publication trends in ornithology were also discussed.

**Kassy Hendricks**, Kristel Bakker and Charles Dieter – *Grassland birds and roads: does abundance differ with distance from roadsides?*

This study compared the presence near roads versus away from roads of several declining grassland bird species including Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared

Longspur, Baird's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark.

**Will M. Inselman**, Shubham Datta, Jonathan Jenks, Robert Klaver, KC Jensen and Troy Grovenburg – *Diet composition and provisioning rates of Swainson's Hawk nestlings in the northern Great Plains.*

These researchers analyzed the diet of Swainson's Hawks using new technology—specialized cameras which photographed the birds every 5 seconds. They found that the hawks consume 60 percent mammals, 26 percent reptiles/amphibians, and 6.4 percent avian prey.

Speaking on Friday evening, Shubham Datta, researcher with Dr. K.C. Jensen, impressed us with his research on Bengal Tigers in India.

Dr. Kenneth Higgins, retired from the USGS, SD Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, spoke at the Banquet on Saturday evening. He entertained and informed us with a presentation about declines of birds, butterflies, dung beetles and jackrabbits as “canaries in the coal mine” of grassland health.

Additional thanks go to Dr. K.C. Jensen, SDSU professor in the Department of Natural Resource Management, for coordinating and hosting the meeting.

Other events during the meeting were the election of officers, discussion of the new SDOU website, and setting the dates and place for the spring meeting 2016.

The following members were elected as officers:

Roger Dietrich: President  
K. C. Jensen: Vice-President  
Dave Swanson: Secretary  
Rosemary Draeger: Treasurer  
Editor: Doug Chapman  
Librarian: Mick Zerr

Members elected to the Board of Directors for terms ending in 2018 are Chris Anderson, Sioux Falls; Bill Bossman, Pierre; Roger Dietrich, Yankton; Linda Johnson, Sioux Falls; and Mark Otnes, Fargo, ND.

For a term to finish a vacated position on the Board, Dick Latuchie, Rapid City, was elected to the Board of Directors for a term to expire in 2016.

The SDOU Spring Meeting will be held in Oacoma/Chamberlain May 13-15, 2016.

The new SDOU website created by Ann Johnson has a number of features which will make it easy for members to access and update their membership status, join, renew, and/or contribute extra donations. Members have online access to all past issues of *SD Bird Notes* and searchable database, dating back to 1949, while non-members have access to those issues more than two years old.

The link is <[sdou.org/SDOU/Membership.aspx](http://sdou.org/SDOU/Membership.aspx)>. Members may contact Linda Johnson, Membership Chair <[jhnsnln@aol.com](mailto:jhnsnln@aol.com)> or Rosemary Draeger, Treasurer <[sdoutreas@sio.midco.net](mailto:sdoutreas@sio.midco.net)> with questions on how to set up accounts.

# FLEDGLING TRACTS

JASON THIELE

## *A Beginner's Guide to Birderspeak: Part III*

### **Big Year**

If a birder ever tells you that he/she is doing a “Big Year,” you can be certain that you are speaking with someone who has a serious birding obsession. A Big Year takes listing to the *n*th degree—it is an attempt to see as many bird species as possible in a calendar year. The American Birding Association (ABA) has established a set of rules for an “official” North American Big Year. Among the criteria for a Big Year to be recognized by the ABA is that all birds must be recorded within a specific geographical boundary. According to the organization’s website (aba.org), “It (The ABA area) includes the 49 continental United States, Canada, the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon and adjacent waters to a distance of 200 miles from land or half the distance to a neighboring country, whichever is less. Hawaii, Bermuda, and Greenland are not included.” However, a Big Year can be done at whatever scale a birder desires. Obviously, a North American Big Year can be a very expensive pursuit, so some birders will do a Big Year at the state or county level.

Some good books have been written on this subject. *Kingbird Highway* by Ken Kaufmann is a classic that tells the story of the author’s Big Year in 1973. The remarkable part of Kaufmann’s story is that his travels around the North American continent in search of birds were accomplished by hitchhiking—at the age of sixteen! *The Big Year* tells the stories of three different birders who did a Big Year in 1998. This book was my introduction to the world of “competitive birding” when I discovered it on a library shelf several years ago. *The Big Year* was also made into a movie.

In the same vein as a Big Year is a “Big Day,” which involves trying to find as many species as possible within a single calendar day, usually within a defined area such as a state or a county.

### **Chase**

For someone who is starting out in birding, it can be a bit of a shock to hear a veteran birder say something like, “I’m going to go chase that Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush in Spearfish Canyon.” Why on Earth would a person who likes birds want to chase one? Shouldn’t the poor bird just be left alone?

Rest assured, birders aren’t out there playing tag with the birds. To birders, a chase simply means a (frequently) spur-of-the-moment trip with the primary goal of seeing a (in most cases) rare bird. Die-hard listers tend to engage in chases most often to keep building their lists, sometimes in competition with other birders (or just to challenge themselves). Birders are becoming more and more connected through various media such as rare bird phone hotlines, rare bird listservs on the Internet, text messaging alerts, eBird alerts, Facebook, and more, and chases are probably getting more common as rare bird sightings are widely shared—often instantaneously. See page 84 for a report of a classic chase in SD for the Great Kiskadee.

“Twitch” is another term synonymous with chase that is more frequently used by British birders but is also heard from time to time in the states. another term synonymous with chase that is more...

## Dip

Not every chase a birder embarks on ends in success, and birders have come up with a term for an unsuccessful chase (or any unsuccessful search for a particular species), because “failure” is apparently too harsh a word. If you ever hear a birder say something like, “I dipped on that Ivory Gull,” they mean that they went to look for a reported Ivory Gull but failed to locate it. Dipping on a bird is not at all uncommon. Since the vast majority of birds are able to fly, birds are by nature very mobile. A migrating bird could be blown off course by an intense storm and end up in a state where it is rarely seen, and an observant birder might spot it in the morning and report it to a rare bird hotline. By the time other birders arrive in the afternoon, that same bird could be miles away. Even more maddening is a situation where a birder goes to look for a particular species in a location where others have found it consistently, only to find no sign of that bird on the day that he/she visits, and then hear a report that someone else found it hours later. There’s virtually no such thing as a guarantee when it comes to birding.

## Pishing/Spishing

I’ve been interested in birds since I was a kid, but it was not until college that I really pursued birding as a primary recreational activity; prior to that I just sort of noticed birds when I was doing other outdoor activities. Once I started doing a little birding, it was still a couple of years before I spent any time with other birders. One of the first bizarre behaviors that I noticed among the experienced birders on a bird-walk that I joined was that they kept making weird noises at cattails, shrubs, grass, and other patches of dense cover. From a distance, it kind of sounded like they were whispering. I moved closer to make sure they weren’t commenting to one another about the incompetent greenhorn among them. As it turned out, there were no words being whispered, and to my amazement, birds that I would have never guessed were there emerged from the cover and showed themselves.

What I had witnessed for the first time that day was what birders call pishing. Pishing is an onomatopoeic word—it simply describes the sound made by the person: “pish, pish, pish” (some birders prefer “spish, sphish, spish,” and therefore refer to the practice as spishing). Other repetitive noises may be used as well. It is not completely clear why birds respond to pishing, but a compelling theory is that pishing mimics the sounds that various small songbirds make when mobbing predators such as hawks or owls. The sound may incite birds to come out of hiding and chase the perceived threat from the area.

There is much debate as to the effect that pishing has on birds. Not all birds respond to pishing—the effect varies greatly among species, seasons, time of day, etc. However, for some birds, it is clear that pishing really triggers a defensive reaction. For example, I’ve seen Black-capped Chickadees raise a tremendous fuss at the sound, making their scolding calls and moving in very close, looking as if they’re ready for a brawl. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to think that pishing may increase the stress of some birds above what they would otherwise experience. To be fair to the other side of the debate, it does seem that most birds do go back to their previous business pretty quickly once pishing ceases. But as a general rule, it is probably best to err on the side of caution and use pishing only sparingly, and to avoid it altogether in areas that receive a lot of birding pressure. Birders should never forget that their mere presence can be a disturbance to birds, but like many other human activities, negative effects can be mitigated or even virtually eliminated with some forethought and common sense.

*In upcoming installments of this series, I will focus less on birders themselves and more on the terms they use to describe the birds they pursue.*



# SEASONAL REPORTS

## The 2015 Summer Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer

01 June 2015 to 31 July 2015

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

The primary goal of the Summer Season compilation is to report Confirmed Breeding records observed during the season. There were 88 species reported as Confirmed Breeding this year. 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 243 species, including 4 rarities, reported during the season. The ten-year (2005-2014) average is 261. 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.

**Canada Goose** Confirmed Breeding: Lake, Meade, and Pennington counties

**Trumpeter Swan** Only Report: 28 Jun Tripp RDO

**Wood Duck** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 13 Jul Pennington (PY) CLG; 20 Jul Pennington (PY) CLG

**American Wigeon** Confirmed Breeding: **27 Jun Perkins (PY) ND; 09 Jul Butte (PY) ND**

**Mallard** Confirmed Breeding: Butte, Custer, Pennington, Perkins, and **Shannon** counties

**Blue-winged Teal** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jul Perkins (PY) ND

**Cinnamon Teal** Only Report: 13 Jun Butte CV et al

**Northern Shoveler** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Corson (PY) ND; 28 Jun Harding (PY) ND; 28 Jun Meade (PY) JLB

**Northern Pintail** Confirmed Breeding: **11 Jul Shannon (PY) ND**

**Canvasback** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Harding (PY) CEM ... also reported 14 Jun Potter GO; 27 Jun McPherson GO; 12 Jul Potter SS; 18 Jul Pennington RSL

**Ring-necked Duck** Only Report: 09 Jul Yankton JC

**Lesser Scaup** All Reports: 14 Jun Edmunds and Potter GO; 27 Jun McPherson GO; 27 Jun Stanley RDO; 16 Jul Jerauld SS

**Bufflehead** Only Report: 27 Jun McPherson GO

**Common Merganser** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 08 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 15 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 23 Jun Pennington (PY) *fide* EDS

**Red-breasted Merganser** All Reports: 30 Jun Yankton JC, RND; 02 Jul Yankton JC; 07 Jul Yankton JC, RND

**Gray Partridge** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Custer (DD) MMM; 30 Jun Custer (PY) MMM; 02 Jul Custer (PY) MMM ... also reported 13 Jun Butte GO, RDO, RSL

**Ring-necked Pheasant** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Faulk (PY) MMM; 18 Jul Perkins (PY) ND; 19 Jul Perkins (PY) ND

**Ruffed Grouse** All Reports: 05 Jul Lawrence DGP; 20 Jul Lawrence DGP

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Pennington (PY) MMM

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** All Reports: 12 Jun Pennington CA, JC; 27 Jun Stanley RDO; 28 Jun Hyde SS; 28 Jun Tripp RDO; 16 Jul Buffalo SS

**Wild Turkey** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Harding (PY) CEM; 27 Jun Custer (PY) MMM

**Northern Bobwhite** Only Report: 28 Jun Tripp RDO

**Pied-billed Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: **27 Jun Perkins (PY) ND; 11 Jul Bennett (ON) ND**

**Red-necked Grebe** Only Report: 27 Jun McPherson GO

**Eared Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: **15 Jun Perkins (NB) ND; 09 Jul Butte (PY) ND**; 11 Jul Bennett (ON) ND

**Clark's Grebe** Only Report: 16 Jul Aurora SS

**American White Pelican** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Bennett (FY) ND

**Double-crested Cormorant** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Bennett (NY) ND

**American Bittern** All Reports: 01 Jun Roberts WV; 14 Jun Edmunds GO; 30 Jul Brown GO

**Least Bittern** Only Report: 08 Jun Hughes DB, KM

**Great Blue Heron** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Charles Mix (ON) RM; 08 Jul Custer (NY) JLB; 11 Jul Bennett (NY) ND

**Snowy Egret** All Reports: 02 Jun Brown GO; 14 Jun Edmunds GO; 05 Jul Brown GO

**Cattle Egret** All Reports: 10 Jun Edmunds and Potter GO; 24 Jun Charles Mix RM; 05 Jul Brown GO; 12 Jul Potter RDO

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Bennett (NY) ND

**Turkey Vulture** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Custer (NY) JLB; 12 Jul Custer (NY) JF

**Osprey** Confirmed Breeding: Custer and Pennington counties

**Bald Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Fall River (NY) ND; 21 Jun Meade (NY) ND

**Broad-winged Hawk** All Reports: 08 Jun Hughes DB; 17 Jun Yankton RND; 08 Jul Bon Homme JC

**Swainson's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 20 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 05 Jul Harding (ON) CEM

**Red-tailed Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Charles Mix (NY) RM; 20 Jun Harding (NY) CEM; 11 Jul Pennington (CF) ND

**Ferruginous Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Butte (NY) ND

**Golden Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Butte (NY) ND

**Virginia Rail** All Reports: 04 Jun Charles Mix RM; 13 Jun Butte RDO; 17 Jul Hanson KP, SS

**American Coot** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; **27 Jun Perkins (PY) ND**; 28 Jun Meade (PY) JLB; 11 Jul Bennett (ON) ND

**Semipalmated Plover** Early: 07 Jul Charles Mix KP; 18 Jul Hanson CA; 29 Jul Minnehaha MKZ

**Killdeer** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 15 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG

**Spotted Sandpiper** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul Pennington (PY) CLG; 15 Jul Pennington (PY) OCW

**Solitary Sandpiper** Early: 05 Jul Butte RSL; 12 Jul Hughes DB; 12 Jul Minnehaha JC

**Greater Yellowlegs** Early: 05 Jul Butte RSL; 11 Jul Roberts GO; 11 Jul Shannon ND; 12 Jul Potter RDO, SS; 12 Jul Sully and Walworth RDO

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Early: 27 Jun Corson ND; 28 Jun Hyde SS; 01 Jul Brown GO; 11 Jul Bennett and Shannon ND

**Long-billed Curlew** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Custer (PY) MMM

**Hudsonian Godwit** All Reports: 01 Jun Yankton RND; 12 Jun Brule RM

**Stilt Sandpiper** Early: 06 Jul Charles Mix RM; 08 Jul Douglas KP; 12 Jul Hughes DB; 12 Jul Sully and Walworth RDO

**Dunlin** Only Report: 23 Jul Charles Mix RND; RM

**Baird's Sandpiper** Early: 09 Jul Charles Mix KP; 11 Jul Bennett ND; 12 Jul Sully RDO; 16 Jul Hutchinson KP; 16 Jul Jerauld SS

**Least Sandpiper** Late: 06 Jun Hughes DB; 01 Jun Yankton RND ... Early: 05 Jul Butte RSL; 12 Jul Lake CA; 12 Jul Sully RDO

**White-rumped Sandpiper** All Reports: 01 Jun Charles Mix RM; 01 Jun Yankton RND

**Pectoral Sandpiper** reported 12 Jun Brule RM; 28 Jun Hyde SS; 09 Jul Charles Mix KP; 12 Jul Potter RDO, SS; 12 Jul Sully RDO; 16 Jul Hutchinson KP; 16 Jul Jerauld SS

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: 12 Jun Brule RM; 01 Jun Yankton RND ... Early: 09 Jul Charles Mix KP; 11 Jul Bennett ND; 12 Jul Hughes DB; 12 Jul Potter RDO, SS; 12 Jul Sully RDO; 16 Jul Aurora and Jerauld SS; 16 Jul Hutchinson KP

**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 16 Jul Jerauld SS; 17 Jul Sanborn KP, SS

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Early: 12 Jul Potter RDO, SS; 12 Jul Sully RDO; 17 Jul Hanson, Kingsbury and Miner KP, SS; 28 Jul Meade RSL

**Wilson's Phalarope** Confirmed Breeding: **27 Jun Corson (PY) ND**

**Bonaparte's Gull** All Reports: 06 Jun Hughes DB; 07 Jun Hughes DG

**Herring Gull** All Reports: 03 Jun Stanley RDO; 30 Jun Yankton JC; 25 Jul Stanley RDO

**Common Tern** Only Report: 13 Jun Butte RDO

**Mourning Dove** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Custer (FL) MMM

**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 03 Jul Pennington RSL; 07 Jul Charles Mix KP; 14 Jul Hughes DB; 16 Jul Jerauld SS; 25 Jul Pennington RSL

**Eastern Screech-Owl** All Reports: 04 Jul Hutchinson KP; 25 Jul Charles Mix CA

**Great Horned Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Custer (FL) MMM

**Burrowing Owl** Confirmed Breeding: **27 Jun McPherson (FL) GO**; 28 Jun Custer (FL) MMM; 09 Jul Harding (NY) ND; **18 Jul Perkins (NY) ND**; **20 Jul Perkins (NY) ND**

**Short-eared Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Custer (CF) MMM; 07 Jun Custer (FL) MMM; 28 Jun Harding (CF) ND

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Harding (ON) CEM; 20 Jun Harding (NE) CEM; 28 Jun Harding (NE) CEM; 05 Jul Harding (NY) CEM; 12 Jul Harding (NY) CEM; 27 Jul Harding (NY) CEM

**Common Poorwill** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (NY) DS, JSP ... also reported 12 Jun Lawrence CA, JC; 23 Jun Lawrence DGP; 27 Jun Meade CA; 23 Jul Pennington RSL

**Rufous Hummingbird** All Reports: 22 Jul Custer DB; 31 Jul Custer RDO

**Lewis's Woodpecker** All Reports: 11 Jun Custer GO; 03 Jul Custer DS, JSP

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Gregory (ON) RM; 21 Jun Custer (CF) MMM; 05 Jul Custer (CF) JF

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Lincoln (CF) AH; 13 Jun Charles Mix (NY) RM; 30 Jun Charles Mix (FL) RM

**Red-naped Sapsucker** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND; 11 Jul Meade (FY) JLB

**Downy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH; 26 Jun Brown (FY) GO; 02 Jul Brown (FY) GO

**Hairy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH

**Northern Flicker** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Charles Mix (FY) RM; 23 Jun Charles Mix (FL) RM

**Prairie Falcon** Only Report: 12 Jun Jackson CA, JC

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Only Report: 03 Jun Hughes DB

**Western Wood-Pewee** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jul Custer (ON) JF

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Custer (ON) JF; 05 Jul Custer (ON) JF

**Western Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jul Perkins (CF) ND

**Eastern Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Faulk, Lincoln, Meade, Pennington, and Perkins counties

**Loggerhead Shrike** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Custer (CF) MMM; 28 Jun Harding (NY) ND

**Plumbeous Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Custer (NY) DS, JSP

**Philadelphia Vireo** Only Report: **01 Jun Charles Mix RM**

**Blue Jay** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Charles Mix (FL) RM

**Pinyon Jay** All Reports: 12 Jun Pennington GO; 13 Jun Butte CV et al

**Clark's Nutcracker** Confirmed Breeding: **08 Jul Pennington (FL) JLB**

**Horned Lark** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Custer (FL) MMM

**Tree Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: Custer, Meade, and Pennington counties

**Violet-green Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Meade (FY) JLB

**Bank Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: **11 Jul Shannon (NY) ND**

**Cliff Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: Meade and Pennington counties

**Barn Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: Custer, Gregory, and Pennington counties

**Black-capped Chickadee** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Charles Mix (FL) RM; 13 Jul Pennington (FL) CLG

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported 15 Jun Brown GO; 29 Jun Brown GO; 07 Jul Yankton JC, RND  
**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 11 Jun Custer GO; 21 Jun Custer ND  
**House Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Lincoln (CN) AH; 06 Jul Charles Mix (NY) RM  
**Carolina Wren** Only Report: 01 Jul Yankton JC  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet** All Reports: 11 Jun Custer GO; 12 Jun Lawrence RDO; 14 Jun Lawrence CA, JC, MKZ  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND  
**Mountain Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jul Meade (NY) EEM  
**Veery** reported 04 Jun Charles Mix RM  
**Swainson's Thrush** reported 01 Jun Hughes EDS  
**American Robin** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Harding, Lake, Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington counties  
**Gray Catbird** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH  
**Brown Thrasher** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Perkins (CF) ND; 16 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH; 21 Jun Custer (FS) MMM; 28 Jun Harding (CF) ND; 03 Jul Charles Mix (FL) RM; 03 Jul Custer (FL) MMM  
**Sprague's Pipit** All Reports: 05 Jul Harding CEM, RSL; 16 Jul Faulk MMM; 19 Jul Perkins ND  
**Cedar Waxwing** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Lincoln (CN) AH  
**Black-and-white Warbler** All Reports: 05 Jul Marshall and Roberts GO; 12 Jul Custer JF  
**Tennessee Warbler** All Reports: 12 Jun Minnehaha JC  
**Virginia's Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Custer (CF) DS, JSP; 05 Jul Custer (CF) DS, JSP ... also reported 21 Jun Custer RSL; 28 Jun Custer CA  
**Northern Parula** reported 13 Jun – 01 Jul Lawrence CA et al  
**Yellow Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Pennington (ON) OCW; 20 Jul Pennington (FY) CLG  
**Chipping Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Charles Mix (ON) RM; 13 Jun Lake (CF) JSP; 22 Jun Pennington (CF) CLG  
**Brewer's Sparrow** Only Report: 28 Jun Harding ND  
**Field Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Harding (NY) CEM  
**Lark Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Shannon (CF) ND  
**Lark Bunting** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jul Corson (CF) ND  
**Grasshopper Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Custer (NE) MMM; **28 Jun Harding (CF) ND**; 19 Jul Corson (CF) and Perkins (CF) ND  
**Song Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Lake (CF) JSP; 10 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND  
**Swamp Sparrow** All Reports: 13 Jun Lake JSP; 01 Jul Turner KP; 12 Jul Deuel CA; 26 Jul Roberts CV  
**Northern Cardinal** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH; 10 Jul Charles Mix (FL) RM  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Charles Mix (FL) RM  
**Black-headed Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Charles Mix (FL) RM; 01 Jul Meade (FY) EEM  
**Blue Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jun Custer (NE) MMM; 01 Jul Custer (NY) MMM**  
**Red-winged Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Pennington (CF) JLB; 21 Jun Meade (CF) ND; 27 Jun Meade (CF) JLB; 18 Jul Perkins (CF) ND; 29 Jul Charles Mix (CF) RM  
**Eastern Meadowlark** Only Report: 11 Jul Bennett ND  
**Western Meadowlark** Confirmed Breeding: Corson, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Jackson, Lake, Lincoln, Pennington, and Perkins counties  
**Brewer's Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Meade (CF) ND; 20 Jun Custer (FY) ND  
**Common Grackle** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Perkins (CF) ND; 21 Jun Pennington (CF) JLB; 27 Jun Meade (FY) JLB; 01 Jul Pennington (FY) JLB  
**Great-tailed Grackle** All Reports: 10 Jun Edmunds GO; 11 Jul Shannon ND; 17 Jul Hanson KP, SS  
**Orchard Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH; 02 Jul Charles Mix (FL) RM; 11 Jul Pennington (NB) ND

**Baltimore Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH; 04 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM  
**House Finch** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Pennington (FY) ND; 27 Jun Lincoln (FY) AH  
**Pine Siskin** reported 02 Jun Roberts CV  
**Lesser Goldfinch** Only Report: 02 Jul Fall River DS, JSP  
**American Goldfinch** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Lincoln (CN) AH  
**Evening Grosbeak** Only Report: 12 Jun Lawrence DGP  
**House Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Pennington (ON) CLG

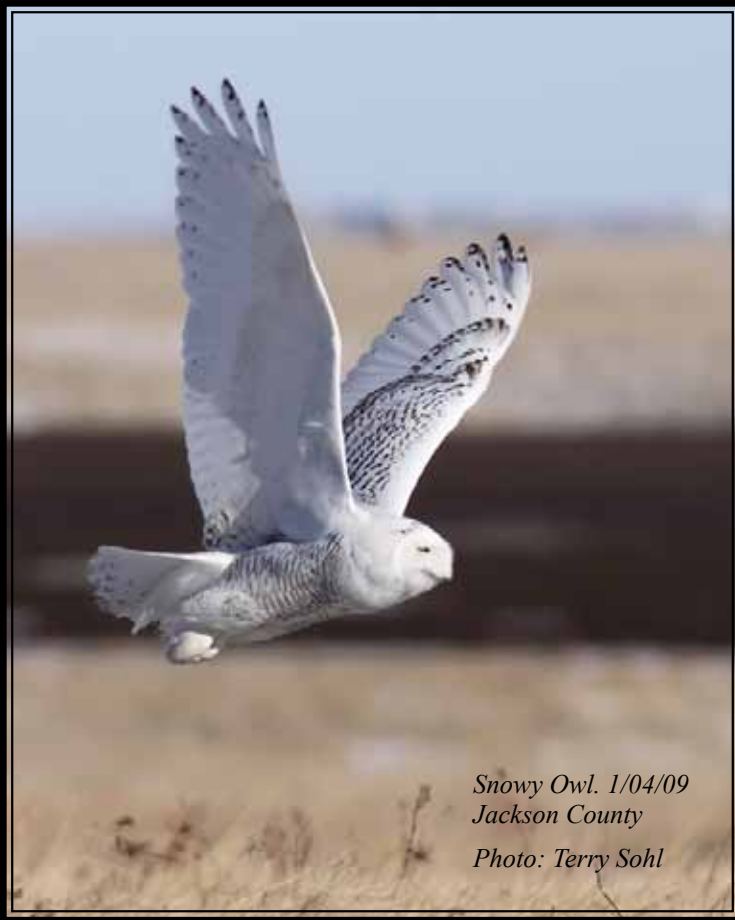
**Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee**

**Hooded Merganser** 16 Jun Custer (PY) MMM  
**Neotropical Cormorant** 13-19 Jul Hughes and Stanley DB, RDO, SS  
**Cattle Egret** 11 Jul Bennett (NY) ND  
**Rough-legged Hawk** 05 Jul Harding CEM, RSL  
**Hudsonian Godwit** 24 Jun Charles Mix RM  
**Baird's Sandpiper** 12 Jun Brule RM  
**Bonaparte's Gull** 30 Jun Hughes RDO  
**Pileated Woodpecker** 24 Jun Minnehaha JC; 05 Jul Minnehaha JC  
**White-eyed Vireo** 26 Jun – 04 Jul Lawrence DGP  
**Brown Creeper** 22 Jul Charles Mix RM  
**Pacific Wren** 05 Jun Lawrence DGP; 17 Jun Lawrence DGP; 01 Jul Lawrence DGP; 21 Jul Lawrence DGP  
**Northern Parula** 04 Jul Minnehaha CA

**Contributing Observers**

CA	Chris Anderson	GO	Gary Olson
DB	Doug Backlund	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
JC	Joe Coppock	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	DGP	D. George Prisbe
ND	Nancy Drilling	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
JF	Jennifer Fowler	SS	Scott Stolz
AH	Alice Hill	EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	CLG	Canyon Lake Group Survey
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	OCW	Outdoor Campus West Survey
RM	Ron Mabie	DS	David Swanson
MMM	Michael M. Melius	CV	Cheryl Vellenga
CEM	Charlie Miller	WV	William Vellenga
EEM	Ernest E. Miller	MRZ	Mick Zerr
KM	Kenny Miller		

**Birds  
That  
Look  
Good in  
Black &  
White.**



*Snowy Owl. 1/04/09  
Jackson County  
Photo: Terry Sohl*



*Common Loon. 7/18/04  
Minnehaha County  
Photo: Terry Sohl*

*Black-capped Chickadee. 3/21/10 Minnehaha County*

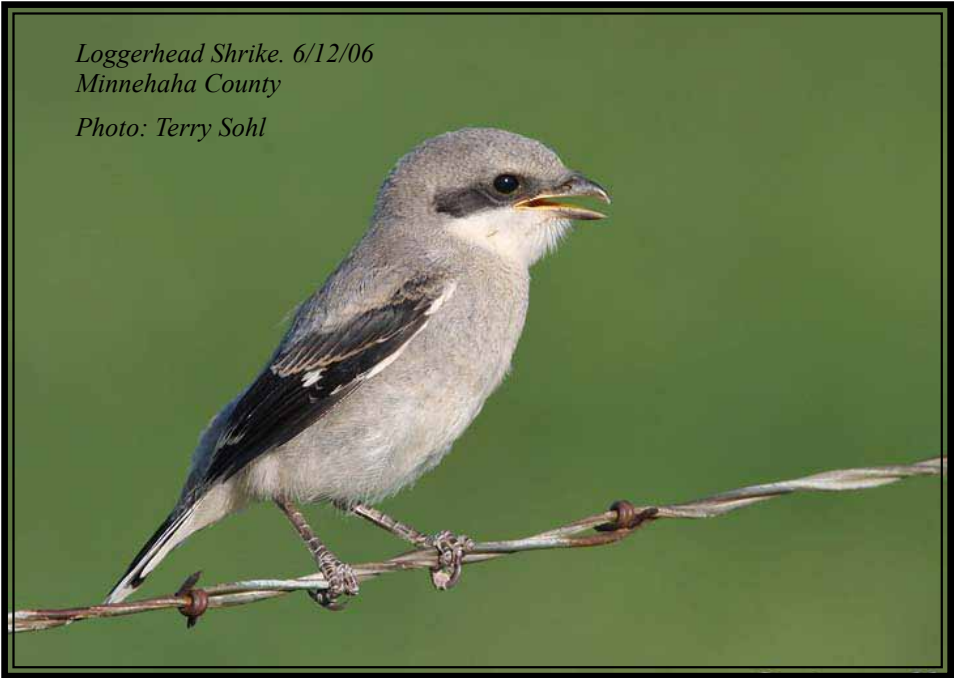
*Photo: Terry Sohl*



*White-breasted Nuthatch. 10/11/10 Minnehaha County*

*Photo: Terry Sohl*









*Bonaparte's Gull. 11/06/05*

*Lake County*

*Photo: Terry Sohl*



*California Gull. 07/18/04*  
*Hughes County*

*Photo: Terry Sohl*



# *SD BIRD NOTES ID QUIZ*

DOUGLAS CHAPMAN

## Identification Quiz #4

For both a little enjoyment and to help hone a few identification skills at the same time, on the back cover you will find the fourth *South Dakota Bird Notes* bird identification quiz photo. The rules are simple. Any species used in a photo for the *SD Bird Notes* Quiz will –

- 1) be a bird found in South Dakota, though the photo may have been taken elsewhere,
- 2) include the date that the photo was taken, as well as the location,
- 3) have at least one definitive, identifiable field mark present, though you may have to look closely.

The photo is also available to view on my flickr account:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/8110372@N06/22655561444/in/datetaken-public/>

And available to view on the SDOU website (as well as past quizzes with solutions, but try your skills first): <http://sdoubirds.org/Birds/Quiz.aspx>

The first person to correctly identify the species will receive a small gift. All correct identifications will be credited in the following issue of *SD Bird Notes* in the order they were received.

**This photo was taken on 18 June 2015 in Butte County, SD.**

Please send your identifications to Douglas Chapman, SDOU *SD Bird Notes* Editor (address on page 82); or, preferably, by e-mail to: [sfbirdclub@sio.mid-co.net](mailto:sfbirdclub@sio.mid-co.net).

While the bird featured in the photograph may be difficult to identify, the photo will show at least one identifiable field mark on the bird. If a reader has a bird photograph suitable for the quiz (using the guidelines noted above), please submit it for a future quiz.

Thank you, good luck and let the detective work begin.



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6/18/15	
Photo: Michael Retter	