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South Dakota

Bird  Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

*Photo credit: Roger Dietrich*

Snow Bunting, Gavins Point Dam.

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# SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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## President's Page Scott Stolz

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I would like to thank everyone that has participated in one or more Christmas bird counts. They are a great way to get out and enjoy birds, good friends and possibly explore new areas all in one experience. Some years are a challenge due to our wonderful variable weather, but they provide an invaluable long term set.

There is another annual birding event that I would like to bring attention to that everyone can participate in as well. The Great Backyard Bird Count is less formal but is another opportunity to get outside, enjoy birds and contribute to science. This year the count is going to be held February 16-19. The great thing about this event is that it isn't restricted to your backyard or even a count circle. Anywhere you want to go birding is perfect. I was a little disappointed that when I was checking last year's summary that SD was second to last in number of species (82) recorded during the count. North Dakota was the only state behind us. I know we have a small number of birders compared to some other states, but we have a wonderfully diverse habitat that many places don't. I would love to see us step up and see if we could get that number up over 100 this year and show people just how great the birding is in South Dakota.



One other thing I would like to mention is that this the 70th anniversary for SDOU. I'm proud to be a member of this organization and would love to see it going strong 70 years from now. Thanks to everyone that has made SDOU what it is today. I'm sure there will be more info about our anniversary as we go forward throughout the year.

Scott Stolz

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Upcoming SDOU meetings.** The Spring 2019 SDOU meeting will be held May 17-19 in the Sioux Falls/Brandon area. The Fall 2019 SDOU meeting will be in Pierre. Details will be posted on the web site and in future issues of South Dakota Bird Notes as they become available.

# 2017 Report of the Rare Bird Records Committee

David L. Swanson

Department of Biology, University of South Dakota

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) met on 21 May 2017 at Aberdeen and 22 October 2017 at Spearfish to act on reports for which there was not unanimous agreement after electronic discussion. The members of the committee were David Swanson (secretary), Ricky Olson, Todd Jensen, J. David Williams, and Jeffrey Palmer. All members participated in the meetings or voted *in absentia*.

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

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

Following are the results of the committee's action since the last report in the Fall 2017 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes* (Swanson, 2017. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 69:46-48). The parenthetical numbers accompanying 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).**

Purple Finch. 20 March 2016. One adult male at Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed. Ingrid Arlton and Larry Putnam. Uncertain status in Black Hills.

American Dipper. 9 May – 11 June 2016. Nest record for Thunderhead Falls, Rapid Creek, Pennington Co. Photographed. Jocelyn Baker and Ingrid Arlton. First recent nest record for Rapid Creek.

Costa's Hummingbird. 17-26 October 2016. One immature male at Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed. Jocelyn Baker and Ingrid Arlton. 2<sup>nd</sup> state record.

Tundra Swan. 8 December 2016. One in immature plumage at Canyon Lake, Rapid City, Pennington Co.

Photographed. Jocelyn Baker and Ingrid Arlton. Accidental western South Dakota.

Mute Swan. 9 December 2016 – 6 February 2017. One adult at Pierre, Hughes Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller and Ricky Olson. 1<sup>st</sup> state record. Previous records for this species in South Dakota were rated hypothetical because of unknown origin. Because this bird was free-flying and not banded or tagged, and records of Mute Swans have been increasing in surrounding states, the committee accepted this report as the first official record for Mute Swan for South Dakota.

Neotropic Cormorant. 2 October 2016. One adult in basic plumage at Lake Andes NWR, Charles Mix Co. Photographed. Kelly Preheim. Casual migrant and summer resident.

Eastern Meadowlark. 8-9 April 2017. Three singing adults at the Adams Homestead Nature Preserve, Union Co. Video and sound recordings. David Swanson. Casual in eastern South Dakota. (3 Class 1P, 1 Class 3).

Prairie Warbler. 8 May 2017. One adult male near Long Lake, McPherson Co. Photographed. Dan Streifel and Randy Meidinger. Accidental migrant and summer visitor.

Green-tailed Towhee. 15-16 May 2017. One adult at Oahe Stilling Basin, Stanley Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Doug Backlund. Casual migrant; accidental away from far western South Dakota.

White-winged Dove. 20 May 2017. One adult at Vermillion, Clay Co. Photographed. Donna Reynolds. Casual migrant and summer visitor.

Sandhill Crane. 6 August 2017. Nesting record of two adults with two colts near Gary, Deuel Co. Photographed. Heath Stone. Accidental breeder in South Dakota.

Ruff. 30 April 2017. One female in basic plumage at Hyde WPA, Hughes Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller, Ricky Olson and Doug Backlund. Accidental migrant.

Western Sandpiper. 26 April 2017. One adult at Sorum Dam, Perkins Co. Photographed. Kenny and Charlie Miller. Accidental migrant.

Red-shouldered Hawk. 3-4 August 2017. One adult male at Douglas County Recreation Area, Douglas Co. Photographed. Kelly Preheim. Casual migrant and winter visitor.

## **CLASS 2 (Accepted – Satisfactory written description).**

Violet-green Swallow. 6 August 2016. One male in alternate plumage in Walworth Co. Mark Otnes and Ricky Olson. 1<sup>st</sup> record for eastern South Dakota.

Red-throated Loon. 11 November 2016. One in basic plumage at Lewis & Clark Reservoir, Yankton Co. David Swanson and Roger Dietrich. Casual fall migrant.

Curlew Sandpiper. 19 May 2016. One adult in Marshall Co. Mark Otnes and David Swanson. 1<sup>st</sup> state record. (3 Class 2, 1 Class 2H).

Curlew Sandpiper. 20 May 2016. One adult in Marshall Co. Donald Weidemann. Same bird as 19 May 2016 record. (4 Class 2, 1 Class 3).

Cape May Warbler. 17 May 2017. One adult male at Whitewood, Lawrence Co. Vic and Donna Fondy. Accidental migrant in western South Dakota.

Hammond's Flycatcher. 3 September 2017. Ardmore, Fall River Co. David Swanson and Jeffrey Palmer. 4<sup>th</sup> state record.

Cassin's Vireo. 30 June 2017. One adult at Crow Peak, Lawrence Co. Kenny and Charlie Miller. 3<sup>rd</sup> state record.

Cassin's Vireo. 8 September 2017. One adult at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Kenny Miller and Ricky Olson. 4<sup>th</sup> state record.

Yellow Rail. 3 October 2017. One bird near Farm Island, Hughes Co. Kenny Miller. Accidental migrant and summer visitor.

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

No records were rated as Class 3.

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

Fish Crow. 22 November 2016-1 January 2017. One below Fort Randall Dam, Charles Mix Co. The bird in the sound recording gave a Fish Crow-like cadence, but the voice was more like American Crow. The committee sent the recording to Dr. Kevin McGowan, a crow expert, for his opinion, which was that it was an American Crow giving a double-noted call. (3 Class 4, 2 Class 3).

# Fledgling Tracts: A Final Note

## Jason Thiele

It is with mixed emotions that I write this article, which will be my last – at least on a regular basis – for *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Since I was first invited to take over the “Fledgling Tracts” feature by previous *Bird Notes* editor Doug Chapman, I have sincerely enjoyed sharing my scattered thoughts about all things avian. Hopefully at least a few of my columns have been worth a read. Writing for *Bird Notes* has been a way for me to give back in a small way to the South Dakota Ornithologists’ Union, an organization that has contributed to my development as a birder and wildlife professional. I am still tremendously grateful to SDOU for supporting my graduate studies through the Husmann Memorial scholarship, for being willing listeners when I presented my master’s project findings at SDOU meetings, and for providing wonderful opportunities to see great birds during field trips. In the six years since I’ve graduated from SDSU, I’ve lived in several states and have attempted to contribute to the ornithological knowledge of each one, whether on the job or off. It’s hard for me to let go of things to which I’ve committed myself, and this sometimes leads to me being a little over-committed. Fortunately for me (and even more so for my wife), some of my projects are coming to an end. But some things still need to go, and I’ve made the difficult decision to end my stint as a *Bird Notes* contributor.

This parting note is likely to be most poorly organized article to grace this column since I started in 2011. I can assure you, however, that this will be the article that is closest to my heart. As a few of you know, my life was changed in a very big way recently, right around the time I would normally be walking through the woods at every opportunity looking for southbound neotropical migrants. On September 14, 2017, my wife, Sara, and I welcomed Damian Thiele into the world. He is the number one reason I’m easing up a little bit on my extra activities for the time being, in particular the things that require me to spend any additional time at a computer when I should be spending it with my family.

I think computers and other modern technologies have done some good things for birds and birding. In fact, my very first article for *Bird Notes* discussed how Facebook could be used as a way to help young people get into birding. However, I also believe that technology has made raising children much more complicated. My wife and I make a concerted effort to keep our son from being exposed to too much technology. We don’t have cable or satellite TV, we only watch movies in our bedroom after Damian goes to bed, and we don’t turn on cartoons to keep him entertained. And I’ve always thought that I was a bit of a technophobe myself – I still use a “flip” phone, I can tolerate about five minutes of social media time per day, and I still don’t really understand what a hashtag is. But in just the last month or so, I’ve had to face the fact that technology still has some control over me, and it’s already having an effect on my son. Why, I wonder, does he run across the room and try to grab my laptop and start “typing” when I sit down on the couch to check my e-mail? Could it be because he sees Dad doing this routine almost every single evening? Should I be surprised that as he and I are playing on the floor with his toy trucks and farm animals he will suddenly drop whatever he’s holding and start reaching for my phone, which has worked its way out of my pocket? Why wouldn’t he? Dad, unfortunately, has fallen into the trap of using text messaging as one of his primary forms of communication, and he sees my phone in my hand often.

So some changes do need to be made on my part. Yes, I have resigned to the reality that Damian is certainly going to have to get at least somewhat familiar with various technologies to have a successful career someday and to engage with the world we live in, but that time is not now. This is the time for laying a foundation for the type of person I want my son to become – the type of person I believe this world really needs.

I want my child to grow up with an inquiring mind. At this stage, that starts with developing an imagination. It’s why I will always choose books over movies to entertain him. It’s why I’ll keep a Zebco fishing pole in his hands rather than an Xbox controller. It’s why he and I will spend most of our time looking at birds in the field rather than on a television screen (despite my soft spot for well-done wildlife documenta-

ries). I am wholly convinced that one of the downsides of modern technology is that it makes things seem too attainable, and it numbs us to the reality that not everything is easy to find or acquire. Information has never been easier to find, but few people appreciate how difficult it was to learn what we know about the world. For example, in a matter of seconds, I can download a sound recording of an Eastern Whip-poor-will on the internet. If I'm a little more adventurous and actually want to hear one in its natural habitat, I need only pull up eBird sometime during the spring or summer, find a location where someone reported one recently, and go to that location in the evening and listen. Odds are pretty good I'll hear one too. But despite the joy of that experience, it can still leave me blind to the fact that for each location where I could listen to Whip-poor-wills this year, there might be several others where they were commonly found years ago but sing no more. We can only know these things through years of close observation by a number of people. Many people don't notice changes unless they somehow inconvenience their lives. If people's internet speed decreased over time, most would notice that a lot more quickly than they'd notice a declining bird population. I want Damian to be observant – to notice when things change, whether for the better or the worse, and to ask “Why did this happen?”

I also hope that I can raise a child who isn't a slave to a consumerist culture. Part of my strategy to avoid him developing an “I want it, I want it!” attitude as a youngster or a “Gotta keep up with the Joneses!” mindset as an adult is to get him to spend time in nature. I think people tend to buy stuff because they're bored, and people get bored because they don't know how to occupy their minds when they aren't being constantly stimulated by the latest gadget, podcast, TV show, video game, song, meme, etc. It's very difficult for the modern human to sit for even a few minutes “in the middle of nowhere” and just take in the unfamiliar sights, sounds, smells, and textures that are all around. Spending time away from our “toys” has a way of making us discover how little we actually need them to have to enjoy ourselves.

Finally, it is of the utmost importance to me that my child respects other people, and hand-in-hand with that goes a respect for all living things. Unfortunately, modern technology has made our society increasingly utilitarian. As I stated above, it has become so easy to acquire things that people forget that everything comes at a cost to someone else and to our planet. When someone clicks “Add to cart” to purchase some widget from the comfort of his living room, he doesn't have to pay any attention at all to how mining the raw materials to build it might destroy habitat for a rare species or how the manufacturing process might pollute the water or how shipping it from overseas uses vast quantities of fuel. And if he sees in the news that some legislator has proposed new regulations aimed at protecting natural resources, which may cause the price of his widget to go up by a few bucks when he wants to upgrade it next year, it's really easy for him to log into some online comment box and post a rant without ever actually having to look at the data to see whose argument has more merit or to interact with a person who might be willing to have a civil dialogue about the matter and make a compromise. We live in a society that values the self above all others. Fortunately, spending time in nature, especially with others, having genuine person-to-person conversations and interactions, is one antidote to self-centeredness. Getting outside to see the grass, birds, stars, and other components of nature has a way of making a person realize that he/she is not the center of the universe.

Damian and any other children that Sara and I may be blessed with will hopefully be our greatest legacy for birds and the rest of the natural world. To be sure, I will continue to work as hard as I can as a wildlife biologist to use good science for making appropriate management decisions for our flora and fauna, and I will continue to volunteer time for the monitoring of bird populations and for the conservation of their habitats. Both professionally and personally, I'll continue to educate the public about the many critters that intrigue me so much. But all of this will be meaningless if I can't get this message across to those I have the most responsibility for. Yes, my most important job is a husband and father, and that's where I will be putting in my most effort. Maybe along the way I'll raise a future *Birds Notes* columnist too!



# Migratory Nongame Bird Banding at Farm Island and Oahe Downstream State Recreation Areas, South Dakota: A Summary From 1992-2016

**Eileen Dowd Stukel, Casey Heimerl, Silka Kempema, and Doug Backlund**  
**South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Farm Island and Oahe Downstream State Recreation State Recreation Areas (SRA) are located along the Missouri River in central South Dakota. Four mainstem dams along the upper Missouri River in South Dakota have converted a riverine environment to a series of reservoirs. Oahe Dam, closed in 1958 and operational by 1963, was built north of Pierre. The reservoir above Oahe Dam is named Lake Oahe. The reservoir below Oahe Dam is Lake Sharpe, created by the closure of Big Bend Dam at Chamberlain in 1963. These impoundments created drastically altered habitats and disrupted ecological processes. In addition to direct flooding and loss of riparian habitats, remaining cottonwood forests are experiencing succession to Russian olive, eastern red cedar, or cattails. Riparian forests are also declining due to lack of cottonwood regeneration because of loss of natural spring flooding in this intensively-managed system of reservoirs.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) started this migrant bird banding project in 1992 to document bird use of a representative site (Farm Island Nature Area) containing remnant riparian cottonwood forest habitats along the Missouri River in central South Dakota during spring and fall migrations. These habitats have continued to decline in the 55 years since Lake Sharpe was created.

Secondary objectives of this banding effort are to raise awareness about the use of bird banding as a safe, humane monitoring tool; document bird species longevity and site fidelity through recaptures; document rare species using these sites; evaluate banding data for long-term trends; assist other researchers by providing data or samples; and determine the importance of these sites as migratory and breeding areas through recaptures.

## **BIRD BANDING CONSIDERATIONS**

Bird banding is a valuable tool to monitor bird populations, document the importance of particular sites or habitats to birds, and conduct scientific studies. Although any capture of a wild animal presents a risk of injury or death, properly conducted bird banding is a very safe practice. Bird banders in the U.S. must comply with permits issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Office and the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Lab (USGS-BBL). The USGS-BBL also provides information to banders and members of the public who report banded or marked birds. Our banding activities are permitted under USGS-BBL Federal Bird Banding Permit #21966.

## **METHODS**

Bird banding typically is done during mild weather without extreme temperatures or excessive wind or rain. We have banded each spring and fall at the Farm Island SRA (N44.336914; W100.268999) since 1992. In the spring of 2004 we opened a second banding station at Fisherman's Point in Oahe Downstream SRA (N44.427092; W100.387182).

Our banding period ranges from late April to early June in the spring and from late August to mid-October in the fall. A typical banding day is from approximately 8 am to 12 noon, using up to ten 30-mm mesh, 12x2.6 m, 4-shelf mist nets. Nets are attended continuously and birds removed as quickly as possible. All

materials are removed at the end of the day's banding and set up again for the next banding session. Our banding operation is passive, without the use of lures or baits.

Banders record estimated time each net is operated and beginning and ending weather conditions. Minimum data collected for newly-banded birds are species (species identification required prior to banding), sex if able to be determined and how sex was determined, and age and how age was determined. If time allows, we collect additional, optional information. For a recaptured bird, we record band number, species, sex and how determined, age and how determined, weight, and fat score. We use software provided by the USGS-BBL to enter and submit data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Newly-captured birds

We banded 21,226 birds of 126 species or hybrids at both sites combined from 1992-2016. Breakdown by site was 14,574 birds banded at Farm Island from 1992-2016 and 6,652 at Fisherman's Point from 2004-2016.

The ten most commonly-banded species by season for both sites combined from 1992-2016 are listed in Table 1. Five species are listed for both spring and fall; Yellow Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, Myrtle Warbler, and Orange-crowned Warbler. With seasons combined, the twenty most commonly-banded species by site are listed in Table 2. Ten of these species, plus the Willow Flycatcher, nest in central South Dakota, although all banded birds of these species were not necessarily local nesters or their progeny.

**Table 1.** Ten most commonly-banded species by season for Farm Island and Fisherman's Point banding sites, South Dakota, combined, from 1992-2016.\*"Traill's" Flycatcher may be Willow or Alder Flycatcher.

SPRING			FALL		
Species	Total	% of all birds banded	Species	Total	% of all birds banded
Yellow Warbler	1,515	14.24	Orange-crowned Warbler	3,336	31.50
Swainson's Thrush	1,115	10.48	Myrtle Warbler	934	8.82
Least Flycatcher	1,045	9.83	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	709	6.69
Common Yellowthroat	805	7.57	Swainson's Thrush	509	4.81
Traill's Flycatcher*	672	6.32	Common Yellowthroat	461	4.35
Myrtle Warbler	657	6.18	Wilson's Warbler	420	3.97
Orange-crowned Warbler	610	5.74	Gray Catbird	385	3.64
House Wren	335	3.15	White-throated Sparrow	367	3.47
Tennessee Warbler	322	3.03	Lincoln's Sparrow	335	3.16
Blackpoll Warbler	265	2.49	Yellow Warbler	280	2.64

**Table 2.** Twenty most commonly-banded species for Farm Island and Fisherman’s Point banding sites, South Dakota, from 1992-2016.

Species	Nests in central SD	Neotropical Migrant	NUMBER BANDED		
			Farm Island	Fisherman’s Point	Total
Orange-crowned Warbler		X (Mexico)	2,450	1,496	3,946
Yellow Warbler	X	X	1,199	596	1,795
Swainson’s Thrush		X	1,085	539	1,624
Myrtle Warbler		X	997	594	1,591
Common Yellowthroat	X	X	1,088	178	1,266
Least Flycatcher	X	X	837	251	1,088
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		X (Mexico)	414	389	803
Trill’s Flycatcher	X (Willow)	X (Willow)	572	191	763
Gray Catbird	X	X	402	217	619
House Wren	X	X (Mexico)	263	206	469
Wilson’s Warbler		X	262	200	462
White-throated Sparrow			357	104	461
Lincoln’s Sparrow		X (Mexico)	369	81	450
Spotted Towhee	X	X (Mexico)	272	104	376
Tennessee Warbler		X	159	185	344
Clay-colored Sparrow	X	X (Mexico)	233	104	337
American Redstart	X	X	287	44	331
Blackpoll Warbler		X	201	70	271
Warbling Vireo	X	X	174	88	262
Song Sparrow	X		240	21	261
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>11,861</b>	<b>5,658</b>	<b>17,519</b>

**Recaptured birds**

Table 3 lists species recaptured at least 20 times at either banding site during the reporting period. Long-term banding at a consistent location provides the opportunity to recapture individuals at various time intervals since banding, which has important habitat management implications. For species that migrate through our area without nesting, recaptures during the same season the bird was banded indicate that migrants are using our sites for resting and refueling during their spring and/or fall migration. Such evidence justifies protection of existing habitats that have demonstrated benefits to migratory birds. Recaptures during subsequent years prove site fidelity, whether for nesting or year-round residence. Such recaptures also strongly justify protection of habitats that are providing nesting and wintering habitats for such species.

**Table 3.** Species recaptured at least 20 times at Farm Island or Fisherman’s Point banding sites, South Dakota, combined, from 1992-2016.\*Status: B (potential breeder); M (migrant or winter resident); Y (year-round resident)

Species	Status in central SD*	Recaptures
Common Yellowthroat	B	172
Black-capped Chickadee	Y	160
Yellow Warbler	B	119
House Wren	B	106
Orange-crowned Warbler	M	85
Spotted Towhee	B	53
Song Sparrow	B	43
Swainson's Thrush	M	41
White-throated Sparrow	M	34
Brown Thrasher	B	28
White-breasted Nuthatch	Y	27
Lincoln's Sparrow	M	26
Black-headed Grosbeak	B	21
Gray Catbird	B	20
Warbling Vireo	B	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>955</b>

Table 4 lists the longest durations between banding and recapture dates. None of these records is a longevity record for these species, based on information maintained by the USGS-BBL. However, these findings clearly demonstrate strong site fidelity of permanent residents, such as the Black-capped Chickadee and of species returning to these sites to breed annually, including the Black-headed Grosbeak, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, and Yellow Warbler.

**Table 4.** Longest durations between banding and recapture dates by species at Farm Island or Fisherman's Point banding sites, South Dakota, from 1992-2016.

Species and sex <sup>1</sup>	Location	Date and age when banded	Last recaptured	Minimum age <sup>2,3</sup>	Interim recaptures
Black-capped Chickadee (U)	Fisherman's Pt.	9/18/2009 AHY	9/29/2014	6 years 4 mos.	spring 2010 spring 2011 fall 2013
Black-headed Grosbeak (F)	Fisherman's Pt.	5/26/2004 AHY	5/23/2011	7 years	
Brown Thrasher (U)	Fisherman's Pt.	5/10/2007 AHY	9/10/2012	6 years 4 mos.	spring 2008 fall 2008
Common Yellowthroat (M)	Farm Island	9/12/2006 AHY	5/14/2014	9 years	spring 2013
Song Sparrow (U)	Farm Island	5/9/2003 AHY	5/12/2009	7 years	
Yellow Warbler (M)	Farm Island	5/21/2008 AHY	5/28/2014	7 years	spring 2009

<sup>1</sup>F = female; M = male; U = unknown sex

<sup>2</sup>Longevity records for North American species, as reported to the USGS-BBL, can be viewed at this site:  
[https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/longevity/longevity\\_main.cfm](https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/longevity/longevity_main.cfm)

<sup>3</sup>Minimum age is estimated by assuming a hatch date of June for all species, making June of a bird's first year month 00 for this calculation.

## CONCLUSIONS

SDGFP Wildlife Diversity staff, other agency staff, and supervised volunteers have banded birds at Farm Island and Oahe Downstream state recreation areas since 1992 and 2004, respectively. During the reporting period of 1992 – 2016, we banded 21,226 birds of 126 species or hybrids at both sites combined.

We have had nearly 1,200 unique recaptures at our banding sites. These results demonstrate the importance of the banding sites in meeting full-cycle conservation needs of migratory, breeding and permanent resident birds. If these two sites are an indication, available and suitable habitats throughout the state are meeting critical habitat needs for birds, and loss of such habitats has major impacts to birds and other wildlife.

We have observed a shift in bird species composition, particularly at Farm Island, from forest-associated species to those considered generalists in habitat needs. This trend is consistent with the change in habitat conditions following the conversion of the Missouri River to a series of managed reservoirs. In addition to submersion of forests following dam closures, remaining riparian forests dominated by eastern cottonwoods no longer experience the dynamic flooding and substrate movement and deposition needed to sustain and replace them.

Our banding is conducted at public sites, presenting an opportunity for the public to view wildlife biology, monitoring, and science in action. There are fewer long-term monitoring wildlife efforts today than in the past, meaning less opportunity to gain the scientific, monitoring, and interpretive values of projects like the Farm Island and Fisherman's Point banding operations.

More detailed information and analyses are available in the complete version of this report (Stukel et al. 2018).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

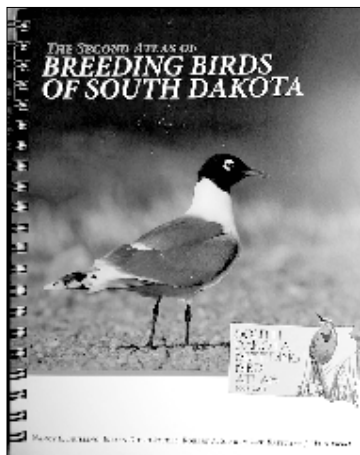
Many people have visited our banding stations over the years. In particular, Carol Aron, Nathan Baker, Charlene (Charlie) Bessken, Pat Buscher, Alyssa Kiesow, Ricky Olson, Jeff Shearer, Scott Stolz, and the late Ardis Townsend have provided significant help in this effort. Funding for this activity is provided by SDGFP, Wildlife Division. In recent years, these funds have been used as a match for federal Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) funds (Project No. W-95-R-51, Study No. 9509-IV).

## LITERATURE CITED

Stukel, E. D., C. Heimerl, S. Kempema, and D. Backlund. 2018. A summary of migratory nongame bird banding at Farm Island and Oahe Downstream state recreation areas, South Dakota, from 1992-2016. Wildlife Division Report 2018-07, South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre. 96 pp. [https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/bird\\_banding\\_summary\\_report\\_final\\_Oct\\_2018.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/bird_banding_summary_report_final_Oct_2018.pdf)

# Book Review: The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of South Dakota

Dan Tallman



*The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of South Dakota.* Nancy E. Drilling, Eileen Dowd Stukel, Robert A. Sparks, and Brittany J. Woiderski. 2018. South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division Report 2017-02. South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Pierre. 562 pp. \$35.00+shipping

This second breeding bird atlas is essential for anyone interested in South Dakota's breeding birds. It is a spiral-bound book with heavy-duty glossy paper. The book is lavishly illustrated with color photographs—mostly by Doug Backlund.

The book begins with a 23-page introduction to the methods employed by this massive survey. Dozens of birders contributed observations to this project. County and ecological maps are also included here.

The bulk of the book consists of well-organized species accounts. These include an introductory statement, a description of distribution and status, habitat, and a short account of the bird's breeding biology. Trends and changes from data collected during the state's first breeding bird atlas are discussed.

Included in most accounts are photographs, a table of the number of records collected, distribution of birds by county, a map of probability of occupancy, and a map showing the exact locations of observations. The county maps indicate if birds were recorded in the first, second, or both atlas efforts. Most unique are the probability of occupancy maps. These maps show where birds were recorded, but also, where they might be expected to be seen. The overall result is a slick snapshot of the status the 252 breeding bird species of South Dakota.

The text ends with a comprehensive 19-page bibliography. Appendices list census blocks, summarize species observations, and discuss statistics that were used to create the predictive occupancy maps. County summaries and plant lists are also presented. Finally, there is a list of ranges for species breeding dates and an index to species accounts.

In this book, you can learn a wealth of information about birds, both overall and specifically as pertaining to South Dakota's breeding birds. I could give you hundreds of examples, but allow me to end with the plight of the Common Nighthawk. I remember nighthawks as being common across the state. They bred in my former home county, notably on roofs at Northern State University. This species was noted in Brown County during the first atlas, but not during the second. Today Common Nighthawks are mostly expected in western South Dakota. It is precisely data like these that make this book indispensable. All South Dakota birders should own a copy.

*NOTE: This book can be purchased from SDGFP by calling 605-223-7662. Leave a message if the individual is not available. In addition, SDGFP has an interactive online version of the book on their website (under 'Related Maps' on the Bird-watching page, <https://apps.sd.gov/gf107breedingbirdatlas/species.aspx>) in which you can view and download individual species accounts.*

# The 2018 Summer Seasonal Report

01 June 2018 to 31 July 2018

*Compiled By: Chris Anderson*

The primary goal of the Summer Season compilation is to report Confirmed Breeding records observed during the season. There were 107 species reported as Confirmed Breeding this year. The ten-year (2008-2017) average of Confirmed Breeding species is 135, with a high of 198 in 2012. 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. Records in bold are either new county breeding records or new latest spring/earliest fall observations of non-breeding species. There were 249 total species, including 11 rarities reported during the season. The ten-year (2008-2017) 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 seem to be consistent with the objectives of the Summer Season as described above.

**Snow Goose** All Reports: 09 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 17 Jun Hutchinson ND; 21 Jun Lyman KP; 30 Jun Hutchinson CA; 12 Jul Faulk KM; 18 Jul Hutchinson KP; 24 Jul Marshall KP

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Only Report: 16 Jun Union ND

**Canada Goose** Confirmed Breeding: Bon Homme, Custer, Harding, Lake, and Pennington counties

**Trumpeter Swan** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Bennett RND

**Wood Duck** Confirmed Breeding: Douglas, Hughes, Lake, and Pennington counties

**Blue-winged Teal** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Charles Mix (PY) KP; 28 Jul Meade (PY) ND

**Cinnamon Teal** Only Report: 05 Jun Butte RDO

**Northern Shoveler** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Harding (PY) ND; 14 Jul Lake (PY) JSP

**Gadwall** Confirmed Breeding: **24 Jun Custer (PY) MMM**; 21 Jul Fall River (PY) ND

**American Wigeon** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Harding (PY) ND

**Mallard** Confirmed Breeding: Harding, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, and Pennington counties

**Northern Pintail** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Dewey (PY) ND; 28 Jul Miner (PY) JSP

**Canvasback** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Harding (PY) ND

**Redhead** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Meade (PY) ND

**Common Merganser** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 02 Jul Pennington (PY) CLG; 23 Jul Pennington (PY) CLG

**Ruddy Duck** Confirmed Breeding: **28 Jul Miner (PY) JSP**

**Northern Bobwhite** All Reports 01 Jun Charles Mix CA, MRZ; 24 Jun Gregory KP; 03 Jul Charles Mix RM; 05 Jul Gregory KP; 15 Jul Gregory KP

**Ring-necked Pheasant** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jul Lake (PY) JSP; 21 Jul Miner (PY) CA

**Gray Partridge** All Reports: 08 Jun Harding ND; 10 Jun Perkins ND; 17 Jun Hutchinson ND; 12 Jul Custer MMM; 18 Jul Turner KP

**Ruffed Grouse** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Lawrence (PY) JSP

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Pennington (PY) MMM

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** Only Report: 12 Jun Potter MMM

**Wild Turkey** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jul Roberts (PY) CV

**Pied-billed Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Pennington (PY) MMM; 26 Jun Douglas (PY) KP; 30 Jun Lake (PY) JSP; 05 Jul Meade (ON) RSL; 09 Jul Charles Mix (PY) KP

**Eared Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jul Fall River (ON) ND

**Western Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Walworth (PY) ND; 23 Jun Charles Mix (PY) KP; 01 Jul Charles Mix (PY) KP; 09 Jul Charles Mix (FY, PY) RM, KP; 20 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM

**Clark's Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jul Charles Mix (PY) RM

**Mourning Dove** Confirmed Breeding: Custer, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hutchinson, Lake, Pennington, and Perkins counties

**Common Poorwill** All Reports: 23 Jun Custer JSP; 25 Jun Meade ND; 26 Jun Pennington MMM

**American Coot** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Douglas, Fall River, Lake, and Miner counties

**Black-necked Stilt** All Reports: 02 Jun Oglala Lakota RSL, KM, RDO, MO; 03 Jun Oglala Lakota GJS; 21 Jun Brown GO; 12 Jul Faulk KM

**American Avocet** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Oglala Lakota (ON) ND; 08 Jun Dewey (ON) ND

**Black-bellied Plover** All Reports: 02 Jun Bennett GJS; 03 Jun Bennett CA, RND, RSL, KM, MRZ

**Semipalmated Plover** All Reports: 12 Jul Hughes KM; 15 Jul Hughes RDO; 22 Jul Hughes KM; 23 Jul Hughes KM; 26 Jul Lincoln CA; 27 Jul Lincoln MRZ

**Piping Plover** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jul Sully (PY) RDO

**Killdeer** Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Dewey, Douglas, Faulk, Lake, and Turner counties

**Marbled Godwit** Confirmed Breeding: **23 Jun Roberts (DD) CV**

**Stilt Sandpiper** Late: 03 Jun Bennett RND; 03 Jun Oglala Lakota GJS; 02 Jun Oglala Lakota CA, RND, RSL, KM, RDO, MO, GJS, MRZ; 02 Jun Bennett GJS; 01 Jun Oglala Lakota RDO ... Early: 09 Jul Sully KM; 12 Jul Faulk KM; 12 Jul Stanley RDO; 14 Jul Hughes KM; 19 Jul Hutchinson KP

**Sanderling** Only Report: 22 Jul Hughes RDO

**Baird's Sandpiper** Late: 02 Jun Oglala Lakota RND ... Early: 08 Jul Perkins ND; 08 Jul Harding ND; 12 Jul Faulk KM; 12 Jul Hughes KM; 12 Jul Stanley RDO; 19 Jul Hutchinson KP; 19 Jul Turner KP

**Least Sandpiper** Early: 09 Jul Sully KM; 12 Jul Faulk KM; 12 Jul Stanley RDO; 12 Jul Kingsbury CV

**White-rumped Sandpiper** Late: 10 Jun Butte ND; 10 Jun Turner CA, 08 Jun Dewey ND; 05 Jun Sully RDO ... Early: 08 Jul Perkins ND

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** All Reports: Early – 22 Jul Hughes DB, KM, RDO; 23 Jul Hughes KM; 28 Jul Hughes DB; 28 Jul Clay DS

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Late: 05 Jun Charles Mix RM; 02 Jun Oglala Lakota RND, RSL ... Early: 09 Jul Sully KM; 10 Jul Sully RDO; 12 Jul Faulk KM; 12 Jul Hughes KM; 13 Jul Kingsbury CV

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: 10 Jun Butte ND; 03 Jun Bennett CA, RND, ND, RSL, RDO, MO, MRZ; 02 Jun Bennett GJS; 02 Jun Oglala Lakota CA, RND, RDO, MO, MRZ ... Early: 06 Jul Stanley RDO; 08 Jul Perkins ND; 08 Jul Harding ND; 12 Jul Faulk KM; 12 Jul Hughes KM; 19 Jul Hutchinson KP

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Early: 12 Jul Faulk KM; 14 Jul Hughes KM; 15 Jul Hughes DB, KM, RDO; 21 Jul Miner CA

**Red-necked Phalarope** All Reports: 02 Jun Oglala Lakota RSL, RDO, MO; 15 Jul Hughes DB, KM; 16 Jul Hughes DB

**Spotted Sandpiper** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Lawrence (PY) ND; 10 Jul Sully (PY) RDO

**Solitary Sandpiper** Early: 09 Jul Charles Mix RM; 12 Jul Lincoln CA; 12 Jul Faulk KM; 14 Jul Hughes KM; 22 Jul Meade RSL

**Greater Yellowlegs** Late: 21 Jun Brown GO ... Early: 08 Jul Perkins ND; 09 Jul Sully KM; 09 Jul Charles Mix RM; 12 Jul Faulk KM; 13 Jul Kingsbury CV

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late: 03 Jun Oglala Lakota GJS; 21 Jun Brown GO ... Early: 08 Jul Perkins ND; 09 Jul Douglas KP; 09 Jul Sully KM; 09 Jul Charles Mix RM; 10 Jul Sully RDO

**Franklin's Gull** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Walworth (CN) ND

**Ring-billed Gull** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

**California Gull** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Sully (FL) RDO

**Herring Gull** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Late: 20 Jun Hughes KM, RDO ... Early: 01 Jul Stanley RDO; 10 Jul Stanley KM; 11 Jul Stanley KM

**Caspian Tern** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

**Common Tern** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

**Common Loon** Late: 27 Jun Hughes KM; 20 Jun Hughes KM, RDO; 17 Jun Hughes KM ... Early: 01 Jul Stanley RDO; 03 Jul Gregory RM; 15 Jul Charles Mix KP

**Double-crested Cormorant** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Bennett (ON) ND; 17 Jun Hutchinson (ON) ND; 23 Jun Charles Mix (CN) KP; 29 Jun Hutchinson (NY) KP; 30 Jun Hutchinson (ON) CA; 25 Jul Marshall (ON) KP

**Least Bittern** All Reports: 05 Jun Charles Mix RM; 23 Jun Charles Mix KP; 09 Jul Charles Mix RM

**Great Blue Heron** Confirmed Breeding: Bennett, Charles Mix, **Hutchinson (CA, ND, KP)**, Marshall, and Miner counties



**Great Egret** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Bennett (ON); 17 Hutchinson (ON) KP; 29 Jun Hutchinson (ON) KP; 30 Jun Hutchinson (ON) CA; 21 Jul Miner (ON) CA

**Cattle Egret** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jul Hutchinson (ON) KP

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Hutchinson (ON) ND

**White-faced Ibis** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Walworth (CN) ND

**Turkey Vulture** Confirmed Breeding: **09 Jun Walworth (ON) ND**

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

**Golden Eagle** All Reports: 06 Jun Custer KP; 14 Jun Fall River ND; 20 Jun Butte ND; 30 Jun Lawrence ND; 14 Jul Meade ND; 21 Jul Fall River ND

**Northern Harrier** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Faulk (CN) MMM

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** All Reports: 09 Jul Meade RSL; 24 Jul Lawrence ND

**Cooper's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Douglas (ON) KP; 04 Jun Douglas (ON) KP; 14 Jun Douglas (ON) KP; 22 Jun Douglas (ON) KP; 14 Jul Douglas (NY) KP; 22 Jul Douglas (NY) KP

**Bald Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Dewey (NY) ND; 14 Jun Fall River (NY) ND; 23 Jun Pennington (NY) ND

**Broad-winged Hawk** All Reports: 06 Jun Custer MO; 05 Jul Lawrence ND

**Swainson's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Harding (ON) ND; 19 Jun Meade (ON) ND; 26 Jun Perkins (ON) ND

**Red-tailed Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Bennett (NY) RND; 20 Jun Roberts (ON) CV; 30 Jul Hamlin (FL) CV

**Ferruginous Hawk** All Reports: 10 Jun Butte ND; 08 Jul Butte ND

**Barn Owl** Only Report: 10 Jul Sully KM

**Eastern Screech-Owl** Only Report: 03 Jun Brown GO

**Burrowing Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Pennington (FL) MMM; 11 Jul Custer (FL) MMM; 21 Jul Pennington (FL) JLB

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Harding (ON) ND; 16 Jun Harding (NY) ND

**Belted Kingfisher** Confirmed Breeding: **24 Jun Lake (CF) KM**; 21 Jul Fall River (CF) ND

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Minnehaha (ON) CA; 09 Jun Minnehaha (ON) CA, MRZ; 22 Jun Minnehaha (NY) CA; 11 Jul Roberts (FL) CV

**Red-naped Sapsucker** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jul Lawrence (FY) KM

**Lewis's Woodpecker** All Reports: 02 Jun Custer DB; 10 Jun Custer DB; 23 Jun Lawrence CA

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Douglas, Gregory, and Hanson counties

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Clay (FY) GJS; 07 Jul Roberts (CF) CV; 11 Jul Roberts (FY) CV

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Lawrence (CF) ND; 25 Jun Lawrence (NY) ND

**Black-backed Woodpecker** All Reports: 06 Jun Lawrence ND; 23 Jun Custer RDO; 06 Jul Custer RDO; 21 Jul Pennington KM

**Downy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: Brown, Lake, and Roberts counties

**Hairy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Lawrence, and Roberts counties

**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 08 Jun Roberts MO; 19 Jun Roberts CV; 21 Jun Roberts CV; 24 Jun Roberts CV

**Northern Flicker** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Gregory, Hughes, Lincoln, and **Lyman (KM)** counties

**American Kestrel** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Jackson (CF) MMM

**Merlin** Only Report: 05 Jul Lawrence ND

**Peregrine Falcon** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND; 14 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Only Report: 08 Jun Roberts MO

**Willow Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jun Oglala Lakota (ON) ND; 08 Jun Walworth (CF) ND**

**Dusky Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jul Meade (NY) JSP

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND; 14 Jul Meade (FY) ND

**Eastern Phoebe** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Minnehaha (CF) CV; 10 Jul Charles Mix (CF) RM

**Say's Phoebe** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Custer (FL) JSP; 20 Jul Custer (CF) MMM

**Cassin's Kingbird** All Reports: 01 Jun Oglala Lakota RDO; 02 Jun Oglala Lakota CA, RND, RSL, KM, RDO, MO, MRZ; 02 Jun Oglala Lakota MO, GJS

**Western Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Custer (CN) MMM; 09 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM; 12 Jul Gregory (FL) KP; 15 Jul Charles Mix (FL) KP; 20 Jul Gregory (CF) KP

**Eastern Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Oglala Lakota (CF) ND; 25 Jun Pennington (FL) CLG; 26 Jun Perkins (ON) ND; 09 Jul Charles Mix (NY) KP; 21 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM; 25 Jul Marshall (FY) KP

**Loggerhead Shrike** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Harding (CF) ND; 12 Jun Sully (ON) MMM; 27 Jul Custer (FL) MMM

**Philadelphia Vireo** Only Report: 01 Jun Hughes ES

**Warbling Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jul Gregory (FY) KP

**Red-eyed Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Roberts (ON) CV; 01 Jul Roberts (ON) CV

**Blue Jay** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Lake (FL) KM; 02 Jul Pennington (NY) CLG; 06 Jul Roberts (CF) CV; 11 Jul Roberts (FY) CV; 27 Jul Roberts (FL) CV

**Clark's Nutcracker** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Custer (FY) DB

**Horned Lark** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Bennett (CF) KM; 21 Jul Fall River (FL) ND

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Charles Mix (FY) KP

**Purple Martin** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Douglas (FY) KP

**Tree Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Custer, Douglas, Gregory, Marshall, and Pennington counties

**Violet-green Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Lawrence (ON) ND

**Bank Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Clay (FY) GLS

**Barn Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Douglas, Lawrence, and Pennington counties

**Cliff Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: Bon Homme, Davison, Gregory, **Lake (JSP)**, Pennington, Perkins, and Roberts counties

**Black-capped Chickadee** Confirmed Breeding: **Bennett (ND)**, Lawrence, **Oglala Lakota (ND)**, Pennington, and Roberts counties

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Roberts (CF) CV; 03 Jul Roberts (CF) CV; 05 Jul Roberts (CF) CV; 28 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND

**White-breasted Nuthatch** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Roberts (FY) CV

**Brown Creeper** All Reports: 06 Jun Custer DB; 09 Jun Custer DB; 23 Jun Pennington ND; 01 Jul Lawrence ND

**Rock Wren** All Reports: 01 Jun Jackson RDO; 12 Jun Custer ND; 14 Jun Fall River ND

**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 05 Jun Lawrence RDO; 09 Jun Lawrence KP; 14 Jun Fall River ND; 29 Jun Lawrence ND; 20 Jul Lawrence KM; 28 Jul Lawrence ND

**House Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Charles Mix (CF) KP; 23 Jun Lake (CF) KM; 24 Jun Lake (NY) KM; 27 Jun Hughes (FY) KM; 08 Jul Charles Mix (FL) RM

**American Dipper** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** All Reports: 09 Jun Lawrence KP; 10 Jun Lawrence RSL

**Eastern Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Gregory (CF) RM; 24 Jun Charles Mix (FL) KP; 04 Jul Charles Mix (NB) RM; 10 Jul Charles Mix (NE) RM

**Mountain Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Custer (FY) ND

**Townsend's Solitaire** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Lawrence (NY) ND; 26 Jun Custer (NY) JSP; 26 Jul Meade (ON) ND

**Veery** All Reports: 08 Jun Roberts MO; 18 Jun Lawrence ND; 28 Jul Lawrence ND

**Swainson's Thrush** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jul Meade (NY) ND

**Wood Thrush** All Reports: 14 Jun Clay CV; 16 Jun Union ND; 17 Jun Lincoln ND

**American Robin** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Douglas, Fall River, Gregory, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lyman, Marshall, Mellette, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Spink, and Sully counties

**Gray Catbird** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 28 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 01 Jul Roberts (CF) CV

**Brown Thrasher** Confirmed Breeding: Custer, **Davison (KP)**, **Douglas (KP)**, Hanson, Lyman, Perkins, Sully, and Walworth counties

**Northern Mockingbird** All Reports: 06 Jun Custer MMM; 11 Jun Sully MMM

**European Starling** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Douglas, Harding, Hughes, Hutchinson, and Perkins counties

**Cedar Waxwing** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Lawrence (NB) ND; 09 Jun Lawrence (NY) KP; 10 Jun Lawrence (FY) KP; 15 Jul Charles Mix (FY) KP

**Evening Grosbeak** Only Report: 22 Jun Lawrence RDO

**House Finch** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Gregory, Pennington, and Roberts counties

**Red Crossbill** reported West River ... Late East River: 21 Jun Brown GO

**Pine Siskin** reported West River ... Late East/Missouri River: 10 Jun Hughes KM; 09 Jun Hughes KM; 01 Jun Brown GO

**Lesser Goldfinch** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Custer (CN) JSP

**American Goldfinch** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jul Pennington (NB) CLG; 16 Jul Pennington (ON) CLG; 30 Jul Gregory (CN) KP; 30 Jul Pennington (NY) CLG

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Confirmed Breeding: **11 Jun Sully (DD) MMM**; 16 Jun Potter (NY) MMM

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Butte (NE) EK; 14 Jun Fall River (CF) ND; 15 Jun Faulk (CF) MMM; 15 Jun Gregory (CF) RM; 21 Jul Fall River (FL) ND

**Chipping Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Gregory, Lake, Lawrence, and Roberts counties

**Clay-colored Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Faulk (NY) MMM

**Brewer's Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Fall River (CF) ND

**Lark Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Lawrence (CF) KP; 14 Jun Fall River (CF) ND; 24 Jun Gregory (CF) KP

**Dark-eyed Junco** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Lawrence (NE) JSP; 14 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND

**LeConte's Sparrow** All Reports: 10 Jul Roberts CV; 30 Jul Hamlin CV

**Baird's Sparrow** All Reports: 10 Jun Perkins ND; 20 Jun Perkins ND

**Song Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Lawrence (FY) ND; 25 Jun Lawrence (NB) ND; 29 Jun Lawrence (NE) ND; 07 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND; 23 Jul Meade (NE) ND

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Kingsbury (FL) JSP; 17 Jun Turner (FY) ND

**Bobolink** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jul Minnehaha (FL) MRZ

**Western Meadowlark** Confirmed Breeding: Bon Homme, Butte, Custer, Lawrence, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, and Sully counties

**Eastern Meadowlark** All Reports (not requiring rare bird report): 01 Jun Bennett RND, KM, GJS; 02 Jun Bennett MP, GJS; 03 Jun Bennett CA, RND, RSL, RDO, MO, MRZ

**Orchard Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Bennett (CN) ND; 02 Jun Bennett (CN) ND; 20 Jun Perkins (CN) ND; 05 Jul Custer (FL) MMM; 22 Jul Charles Mix (FY) RM

**Bullock's Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Oglala Lakota (CN) ND; 28 Jun Custer (CF) MMM

**Baltimore Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: Charles Mix, Gregory, Lincoln, Lyman, Minnehaha, and Roberts counties

**Red-winged Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 19 Jun Custer (FY) KP; 22 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 15 Jul Gregory (CF) KP; 20 Jul Charles Mix (CF) RM; 21 Jul Douglas (CF) KP

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Potter (NY) MMM

**Brewer's Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Harding (CF) ND; 27 Jun Pennington (CF) JSP

**Common Grackle** Confirmed Breeding: Brookings, Charles Mix, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lyman, Oglala Lakota, and Pennington counties

**Great-tailed Grackle** All Reports: 02 Jun Oglala Lakota CA, RND, RSL, KM, RDO, MO, MRZ; 03 Jun Oglala Lakota GJS; 16 Jun Hughes KM; 06 Jul Meade RDO; 09 Jul Charles Mix KP

**Virginia's Warbler** All Reports: 04 Jun Custer DB; 07 Jun Custer DB; 10 Jun Custer DB; 12 Jun Custer ND; 22 Jun Custer RDO; 23 Jun Custer JSP

**MacGillivray's Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND

**American Redstart** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Clay (FY) GJS; 19 Jul Lawrence (FY) ND; 28 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND

**Northern Parula** Only Report: 16 Jun Lawrence EK

**Yellow Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Bennett (ON) ND; 24 Jun Charles Mix (CF) KP; 15 Jul Charles Mix (FL) KP; 26 Jul Marshall (FL) KP

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Lawrence (FS) ND; 21 Jun Lawrence (CF) ND; 31 Jul Harding (CF) KM  
**Northern Cardinal** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Hughes (FL) KM; 24 Jun Charles Mix (FY) RM; 29 Jun Charles Mix (FY) RM)  
**Black-headed Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Lawrence (ON) ND  
**Blue Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jul Custer (NE) MMM  
**Lazuli Bunting** All Reports: 07 Jun Lyman MO; 14 Jun Charles Mix RM; 14 Jun Fall River ND; 23 Jun Meade CA; 24 Jun Custer JSP  
**Indigo Bunting** Confirmed Breeding: **14 Jun Bon Homme (CF) KP**  
**Dickcissel** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KP  
**House Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: Bon Homme, Clay, Douglas, Fall River, Lake, Lyman, Roberts, Turner, and Walworth counties

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

**Horned Grebe:** 20 Jul Charles Mix RM  
**White-winged Dove:** 21 Jul Fall River ND  
**Sandhill Crane:** 10 Jul Sully RDO  
**Hudsonian Godwit** 09 Jul Charles Mix RM  
**Crested Caracara:** 07 Jul Meade RDO; 08 Jul Meade ND  
**Pacific Wren:** 07 Jul Lawrence ND; 11 Jul Lawrence JSP  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** 12 Jun Union DS  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** 14 Jul Yankton RND  
**Cassin's Sparrow:** 04 Jun Fall River RDO, MO; 14 Jun Fall River ND; 03 Jul Fall River RSL; 21 Jul Fall River ND  
**Summer Tanager:** 11 Jun Gregory RM  
**Western Tanager:** 03-09 Jun Minnehaha CA, MRZ

**Contributing Observers**

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ND	Nancy Drilling
EK	Elizabeth Krueger
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie
RM	Ron Mabie
MMM	Michael M. Melius
KM	Kenny Miller
GO	Gary Olson
RDO	Ricky D. Olson
MO	Mark Otnes
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
KP	Kelly M. Preheim
GJS	Gary & Jan Small
CLG	Canyon Lake Group Survey
DS	David Swanson
EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
CV	Cheryl Vellenga
MRZ	Mick Zerr

# Fall 2018 SDOU Meeting in Madison

## Nancy Drilling

The Fall 2018 meeting of SDOU was held 2 – 4 November 2018 at Dakota State University in Madison. The meeting began on Friday night with a Social Hour and a presentation by Ryan English of DSU. Dr. English, who specializes in creating 3-D computer animation of animals, explained the difficulties and solutions for creating realistic-looking bird feathers and movements for animated films. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, participants went on field trips to Lake Herman State Park and the Lake Thompson area. The weather was cold, wet and windy which decreased the total species count but provided some special cold-weather birds. Highlights included much activity at the Lake Herman bird feeders, all three Scoter species and Snow Buntings at Lake Thompson, and a Great-tailed Grackle at a feedlot.

As happens at every Fall SDOU meeting, most of Saturday was devoted to paper presentations on current ornithology in South Dakota. Students from SDSU, DSU, and USD as well as professional ornithologists presented the results of their research. Presentations were given in the C. Ruth Habeger Science building on the DSU campus. Thus, Dr. Dale Droege began the paper session with a talk about C. Ruth Habeger, a much-admired botanist and former department head who also was a pioneer in the establishment of SDOU. Topics of other presentations included West Nile Virus in Greater Sage-grouse, stopover ecology of grassland birds, breeding birds on revegetated Missouri River sandbars, models of Virginia Warbler breeding habitat, American Dippers in the Black Hills, and Blue Grosbeak arrival times. After the Saturday evening banquet, Dr. Kristel Bakker of DSU gave the keynote presentation on what we have learned from 20 years of grassland bird research. She noted that grassland conversion and fragmentation, tree encroachment, non-native plant invasions, and roads are all negatively impacting our grassland birds. Abstracts of these talks will be published in the next issue of Bird Notes.

At the SDOU General Membership meeting on Saturday afternoon, five members were elected to three-year terms on the SDOU Board of Directors. They are Chris Anderson of Sioux Falls, Bill Bossman of Pierre, Linda Johnson of Sioux Falls, Kenny Miller of Pierre, and Barry Parkin of Aberdeen. Officers elected at the SDOU Board of Directors meeting are Scott Stolz of Sturgis as President, Kelly Preheim of Armour as Vice President, Dave Swanson of Vermillion as Secretary, Rosemary Draeger of Sioux Falls as Treasurer, Nancy Drilling of Rapid City as Editor, and Mick Zerr of Sioux Falls as Librarian.

Many thanks to organizer Jeff Palmer for good food, good presentations, and a well-organized and informative meeting. If only he could have arranged for dry warm weather! The next SDOU meeting will be May 17-19, 2019 in the Sioux Falls/Brandon area, hosted by the Sioux Falls Bird Club. Details will be posted on the SDOU web site and in the next issue of South Dakota Bird Notes.







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*Photo credit: Ingrid Arlton  
Canada Geese, Canyon Lake.*