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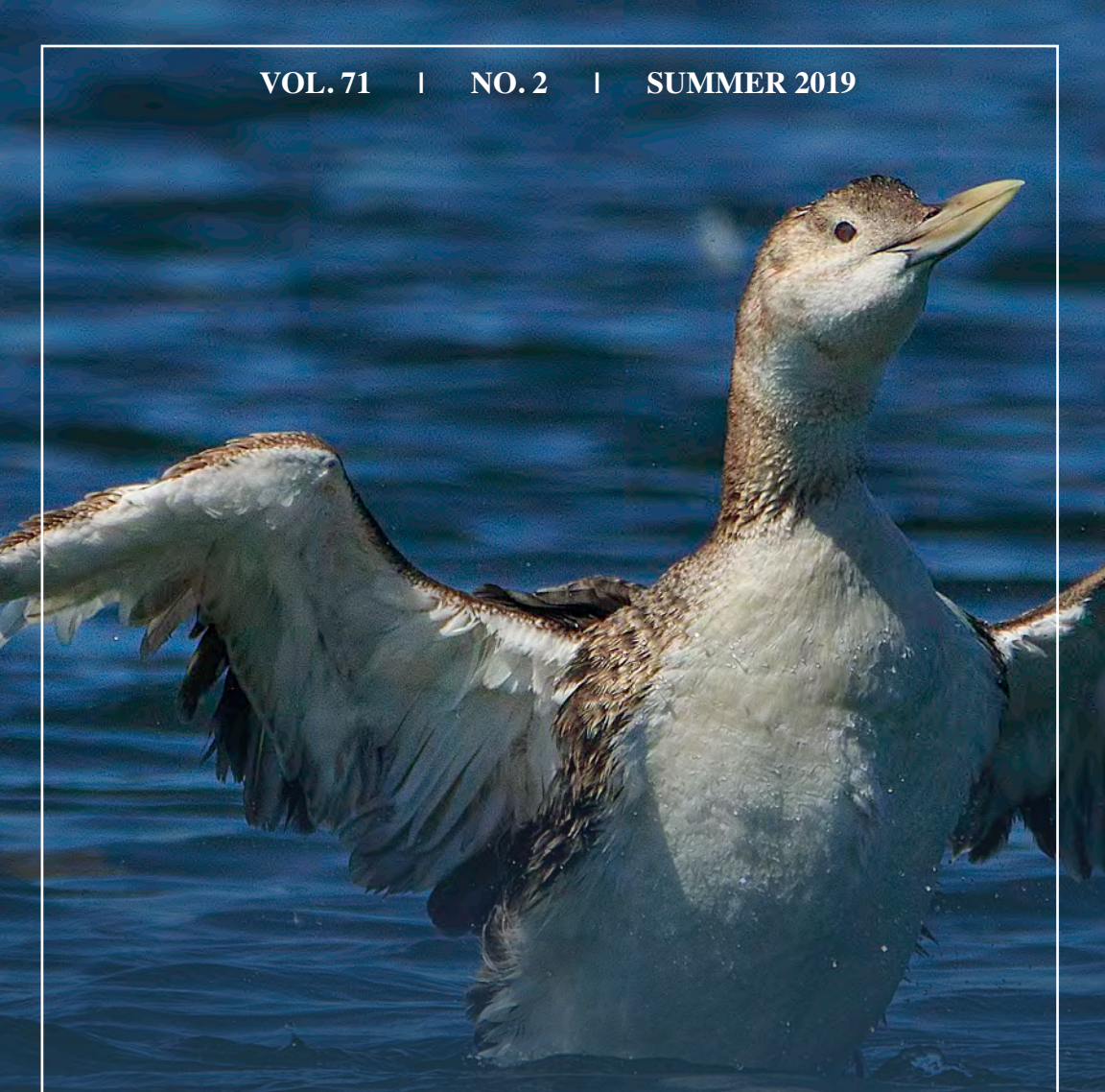

South Dakota Bird Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

Photo Credit: Doug Backlund

Yellow-Billed Loon, Stanley Co., 7/3/2019

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VOL. 71 SUMMER 2019 No.2

SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

President's Page

Scott Stolz

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who helped make the spring meeting in Sioux Falls a smashing success. Both speakers were very informative on their respective topics. The weather cooperated and an amazing variety of birds allowed us to enjoy their beauty and songs. I think most of the group got to enjoy at least one state life bird, which is always a treat. South Dakota is truly a wonderfully diverse state and I am always amazed by the interesting habitats on our eastern boundary. I will also remind everyone to get ready to visit Pierre in early October for the fall meeting. We should be able to find some interesting birds and hear about bird research going on within South Dakota.

Late summer is a time of plenty on the prairies, especially in a wet year like we are currently experiencing. I would encourage everyone to get out and visit the various habitats we have throughout the state. Everybody enjoys going to the Black Hills for a change of pace, but there is way more to the state than the I-90 corridor. If you can't figure out a place to go, check out Dave Swanson's new book, 'A Birder's Guide to South Dakota'. I'm sure there will be a place in there you haven't visited yet. Another way to find interesting locations is to check out the hotspot map on eBird. It's a great time to observe the diversity of life, not just birds, and enjoy the scenery and open skies we sometimes take for granted. While exploring the state, I would remind everyone to please enter their data into Ebird and the SDOU database to expand our knowledge of bird distributions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next annual fall meeting and paper session of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union will be held October 4th through 6th, 2019. We will be headquartered out of the Ramkota Hotel at Pierre, SD, with field trip outings to Oahe Downstream, the sparrow patch and Ft Pierre Grasslands on Sunday. Registration is $20/person; you do not need to be an SDOU member to attend. For details and registration, see the inside mailing cover of this issue or visit SDOU.org/SDOU/meetings.

The 2020 spring SDOU meeting will be held in Belle Fourche, SD. Details to follow.

SDOU Spring Meeting, May 17-19, 2019

Chris Anderson

On May 17th, approximately 70 SDOU members gathered for the spring meeting in the Sioux Falls area. During the afternoon and early evening, birders trickled in to the visitor center at Good Earth at Blood Run State Park just southeast of Sioux Falls to enjoy some birding prior to the evening's presentation. The conditions were dreary, but the patio at the visitor center offered sheltered views of the busy feeder complex. Some more intrepid members ventured out on the trails and found a nice assortment of woodland migrants, a preview of what was to come during the weekend.

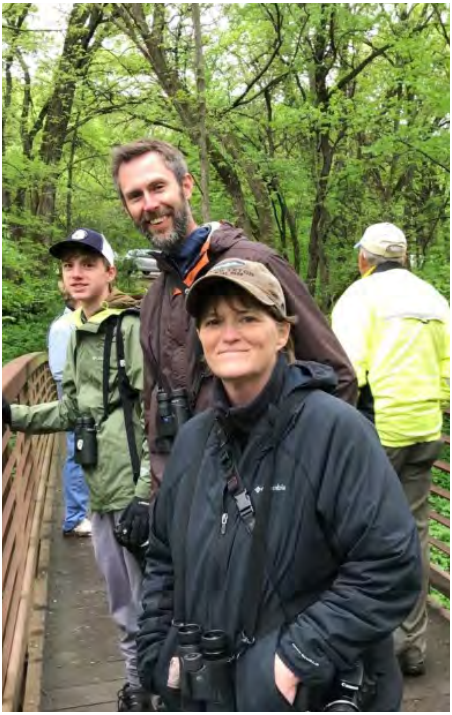
Our Friday evening speaker was park manager Jim Henning, who gave us an overview of the park (established in 2013) including history of the significant Native American settlements in the area as well as details on some birds of the park. In a few short years, Good Earth has already become a birding hotspot in the state, with over 185 species recorded.

Saturday morning, we dispersed for the day's field trips. A large group of birders went to Newton Hills State Park, while other groups visited Perry Nature Area and Great Bear Recreation Park close to Sioux Falls, as well as Union Grove State Park, Dewey Gevik Conservation Area, Wall Lake, and other wetlands west and south of town. Heavy storms on Friday night produced the perfect scenario for Saturday morning – fallout! Vireos, flycatchers, sparrows, and warblers were seemingly everywhere. SDOU member Mark Schmidtbauer led a small group around his property in the Beaver Creek bottoms south of Brandon, and there were lots of birds there as well. Overall, there were 15 species of waterfowl observed, 17 shorebird species, six different vireo species, 10 species of flycatcher, 14 sparrow species, and an astounding 29 warbler species.

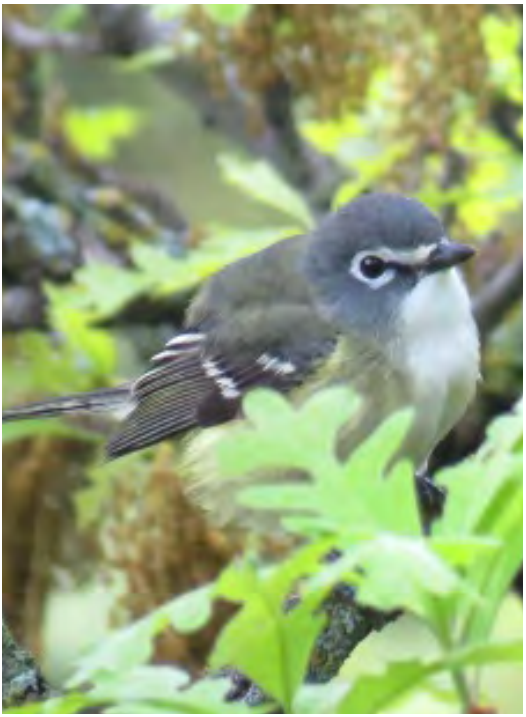
Finally pulling ourselves away from the birds, we gathered at the Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum to enjoy a banquet and our featured presenter, illustrator Doug Pratt. He gave us a fascinating talk about his travels and work on field guides and other publications, particularly in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Sunday morning saw groups visit Union Grove, Newton Hills, and Good Earth once again, and migrant songbirds were still very abundant. Overall, we tallied 188 total species. Some of the more uncommon species observed included a continuing White-eyed Vireo, Northern Mockingbird, Laughing Gull, Summer Tanager, Henslow's Sparrow, and on the warbler front – Black-throated Blue, Pine, numerous Golden-winged, several Connecticut and Hooded, and one Yellow-throated Warbler. This was just the 13th recorded sighting of a Yellow-throated in South Dakota.

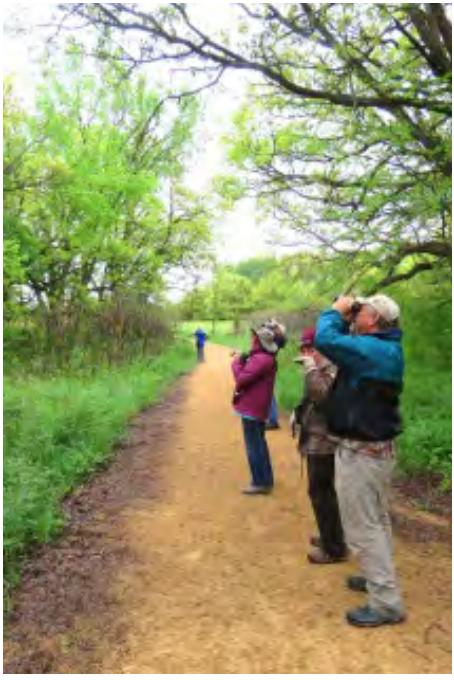
Thanks to Rosemary Draeger, Mick Zerr, Bob Bork, Doug Chapman, Todd Jensen, Pat Dunn, Linda Johnson, and Peter Binstock for organizing the meeting and leading field trips. Additional thanks to Pat and Mick for the construction and ongoing maintenance of the feeders at Good Earth, which were enjoyed by all who attended.



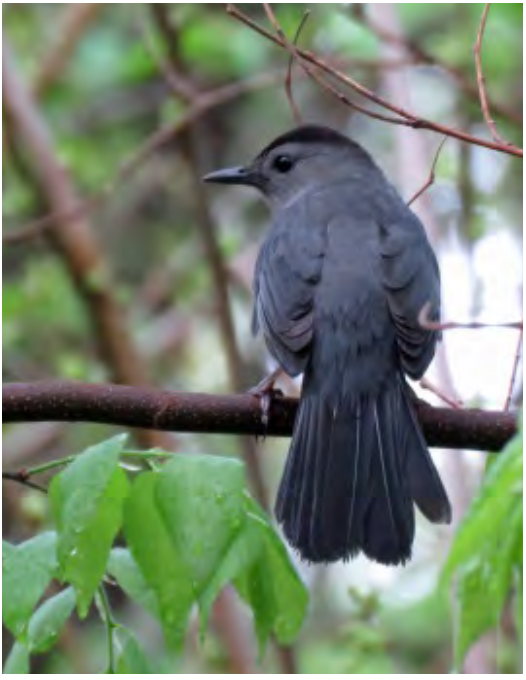
Participants, including SDOU president-elect Kelly Preheim. Photo credit: Kelly Preheim



Blue-headed Vireo. Photo credit: Mick Zerr



Birding in Good Earth State Park. Photo credit: Mick Zerr



Gray Catbird. Photo credit: Mick Zerr

Summary of Research Presentations at the Fall 2017 SDOU meeting

The following are the titles and abstracts of presentations given at the Fall 2018 SDOU meeting in Madison. The presenter is indicated by an asterisk.

C. RUTH HABEGER: A PIONEER OF SDOU – Dale Droge*, Dakota State University, Madison
No abstract available.

GRASSLAND BIRD USE OF HIGH AND LOW DIVERSITY NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTINGS – Jackie K. Krakow*[1] , Kristel K. Bakker[2], Kyle W. Kelsey[3], K.C. Jensen[1], and Robert C. Lonsinger[1]
[1]South Dakota State University, Brookings; [2]Dakota State University, Madison; [3]Madison Wetland Management District, Madison

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Wetland Management District has historically planted low diversity grasslands comprised of 5-8 species of warm- and cool-season native grasses. Within the last 10 years they transitioned to planting high diversity grasslands with a mix of 45-50 species of native forbs and grasses. We compared vegetation structure, grassland bird richness and individual species' densities between paired (n=29), low and high diversity native plantings on waterfowl production areas (WPAs) in the tallgrass prairie region of eastern South Dakota, 2017-18. We used analysis of covariance to determine if vegetation measurements, grassland bird species richness and individual species' density and occurrence differed between high and low diversity plantings. Since patch area is known to influence occurrence and density of grassland birds, we used the size of the planting as a covariate. Paired sites were located on the same WPA so landscape, which also influences grassland bird habitat use, was held constant. Effective leaf height, percent cover of forbs and percent cover of native plants were significantly greater in high diversity plantings while percent cover of grasses and introduced grasses were significantly greater in low diversity plantings. Grassland obligate species richness, Sedge Wren, Bobolink, Dickcissel. Clay-colored Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow occurrence and Bobolink, Dickcissel, Clay-colored Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow density were significantly greater in high diversity plantings. We recommend incorporating a high diversity of native grasses and forbs into grassland plantings to simultaneously provide habitat for multiple grassland bird species.

PREVALENCE OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN SYMPATRIC POPULATIONS OF GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND *CULEX* TARSALIS ON THE FRINGE OF THEIR RANGE - Lindsey A. Bischoff*[1], Travis Runia[2], Andrew Gregory[3], Jonathan A. Jenks[3]
[1]South Dakota State University, Brookings; [2]South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Huron; [3]Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

The Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a species of conservation concern and is highly susceptible to mortality from West Nile virus (WNv). *Culex tarsalis* is the suspected primary vector for transmitting WNv to sage-grouse. To determine the WNv prevalence in sage-grouse in South Dakota, we collected blood from 158 individuals in 2016 and 2017 that were either captured or hunter harvested. We used a plaque reduction neutralization assay to test serum for WNv antibody titers. We captured and

fitted female sage-grouse with VHF radio-transmitters and monitored their survival daily during peak WNv season (June 15 September 15). Deceased birds were sent to the laboratory and tested for WNv. We trapped mosquitoes with CO^2-light traps four nights per week (542 trap nights) to detect the presence of WNv on the landscape. One male and two female sage-grouse contained antibodies (2.6% of females, 1.2% of males, 1.9% total). One of the 20 sage-grouse (5%) that died during the breeding seasons of 2016 and 2017 season tested positive for active WNv. We captured 12,595 mosquitoes of which 3,676 (29%) were *Culex tarsalis*. Estimated WNv prevalence in *Culex tarsalis* was 0.2%-7.6%. These results suggest that WNv was not a significant source of sage-grouse mortality in South Dakota during 2016 and 2017. Although not a significant source of mortality for sage-grouse during this study, the potential impact of WNv could be devastating to this particular fringe population of sage-grouse. The baseline WNv levels documented during this study may help to guide management in the future.

AMERICAN DIPPERS IN THE BLACK HILLS – Nancy Drilling*, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Rapid City
See study summary in this issue of Bird Notes.

EFFECTS OF INVASIVE TREE SPECIES ON NESTING SUCCESS FOR BIRDS IN MISSOURI RIVER RIPARIAN FORESTS - Amanda Hegg*, Mark Dixon, and David Swanson; University of South Dakota, Vermillion

Missouri River riparian forests support a high abundance and diversity of birds. However, decades of land use and river management practices have had a major impact on native floodplain forests and have changed the processes that sustain these ecosystems. More specifically, these changes have hindered the geomorphic dynamism needed for colonization of pioneer species such as plains cottonwood *(Populus deltoides)* and willow *(Salix spp)* and facilitated the invasion of plant species such as eastern red cedar *(Juniperus virginiana)*, a native upland species, and non-native species such as Russian olive *(Elaeagnus angustifolia)*. The introduction of invasive species into an ecosystem can create novel species interactions, and may cause cues that birds normally use to select quality habitat to become unreliable when invasive species are chosen as nesting sites. While there is some evidence that shrub-nesting birds use both native and non-native tree species along the Missouri River, there are few data assessing breeding success in riparian woodlands with invasive elements, and bird abundance alone is not a sufficient indicator of habitat quality. To assess whether birds nesting in habitats with prominent invasive tree elements show differential nest success compared to those in areas with low abundance of invasive trees, we monitored nests in habitats with variable invasive tree elements at sites along the Missouri River in southeastern South Dakota from 2016-2018. Following each nesting attempt we conducted vegetation surveys to assess habitat differences at the nest and patch scales. We calculated daily survival rate (DSR) for each nest using program MARK. Preliminary results suggest that, as a whole, birds used invasive Russian olive for nesting more than any other nest substrate type, and nesting success was generally lower in Russian olive than in native plants. Nesting success also differed among bird species, and while some species showed increased or decreased nesting success in Russian olive, others experienced no difference. There was no support for the influence of patch-scale dynamics, such as prevalence of Russian olive, on nest success. The model that best explained daily survival rate was percent vegetation cover, and at the nest scale, nesting success declined as percent cover increased. These preliminary findings demonstrate the complexity of the relationship between birds and their breeding habitat, and offer some support for the idea that invasive

tree species can have a negative influence on nesting success for at least some riparian forest bird species. Future analyses are necessary to confirm this relationship and to explore the interactions among different factors influencing invasive tree effects on riparian bird nesting success.

STOPOVER BIOLOGY OF GRASSLAND BIRDS AT A RESTORED TALLGRASS PRAIRIE - Amy West* and David Swanson, University of South Dakota, Vermillion

Migration is an energetically expensive but critical part of the life of migrant birds. Most birds cannot store sufficient fat to make the journey without stopping along the way, so migrants rebuild fat stores at stopover sites. In the Midwestern United States, grassland habitats have been reduced and fragmented, leaving grassland birds with limited options for migration stopover, which may contribute to declining population trends for grassland birds. In addition, while birds may be using grassland fragments as stopover habitat, this does not mean the habitat is providing the resources necessary for birds to rebuild fat stores. Numerous grassland bird species occur at Spirit Mound Historical Prairie during migration. Plasma metabolite profiling is routinely used to measure fattening success and habitat quality at stopover sites. For two field seasons, I have been capturing birds via mist-netting at Spirit Mound Historic Prairie. Upon capture, blood samples are collected from birds to determine triglyceride levels, an indicator of fat deposition, and beta-hydroxybutyrate levels, an indicator of fat depletion. Through capture of birds and measurement of plasma metabolites, we can determine what birds are using this prairie restoration site for stopover and whether the site can provide the resources to replenish fat stores necessary for successful migration stopover for grassland migrant birds. Preliminary results suggest that birds are using prairies for stopovers more frequently in the fall than in the spring, and that grassland, woodland/shrub, and habitat generalist species are all present on prairies during the migration seasons. Studies of stopover biology for grassland birds are needed to determine which features of grassland habitats facilitate successful stopover and migration. The data from this study will help inform recommendations to improve and create restored prairie habitats throughout grassland bird migratory pathways.

EVALUATION OF IMPACTS OF REVEGETATING SAND BARS ON THE MISSOURI RIVER ON BREEDING BIRDS – Stephanie Nefas*, and David Swanson, University of South Dakota, Vermillion

In the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR), along the Missouri River, riverine sandbars created by periodic floods are initially used by two federally listed bird species the Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*) and the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). These sandbars then provide opportunities for recruitment and establishment of early successional cottonwood-willow forest, which supply habitat for a wide array of birds, as they become vegetated and unsuitable for Terns and Plovers to nest on. While nesting habitat for listed species can be maintained by vegetation removal, the biodiversity associated with an establishing riparian forest is relinquished. I will assess current conditions and dynamics of riparian vegetation and land bird diversity in successional riparian forest. An understanding of the current status, trajectories, and biological tradeoffs is necessary for a balanced ecosystem-based approach to sandbar management. My objective is to determine the degree that set-aside or non-managed sandbars support diverse native plants, land birds, and cottonwood forest establishment. As set-aside sandbars need to be actively contributing to the MNRR "Outstandingly Remarkable Values" (i.e. cultural, ecological, fish and wildlife, geological, recreational, scenic) as part of the Wild and Scenic rivers Act allowing special protections. In our first year of data collection we have begun to establish what species successfully

nest, occupy, and use this habitat during migration.

ENSEMBLE MODELING TO PREDICT VIRGINIA'S WARBLER BREEDING DISTRIBUTION AT THE NORTHEASTERN PERIPHERY OF ITS RANGE - Reza Goljani Amirkhiz Sr*[1], Mark D. Dixon[1], Jeffery S. Palmer[2], and David Swanson[1]
[1]University of South Dakota, Vermillion; [2]Dakota State University, Madison

Recognizing the spatial distribution of populations is a primary step in conservation since it provides basic information necessary for designing further studies. However, the lack of sufficient occurrence records for rare populations is a major obstacle in precisely defining their distributions. The southern Black Hills (BH) of South Dakota are the northeastern limit of the breeding range of Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae,* VW) and are separated by over 200 km from the nearest breeding population in Wyoming. Although VW is a species of conservation concern in South Dakota, few studies have focused on precisely identifying its distribution and none have examined landscape-level habitat associations for this population. Hence, the primary goal of this study was to identify the potential spatial distribution of VW at the northeastern extent of its breeding range. We applied a suite of standard species distribution modeling techniques to recent survey data for VW in the southern BH to examine landscape-level habitat characteristics that might predict VW occurrence. We averaged predictions of the distribution models to create an ensemble model weighted by AUC values to predict VW distribution in the southern BH and surrounding region and compared individual distribution models with the ensemble model.

The ensemble model performed better than any single modeling technique for predicting VW occurrence. The abundance of shrub (mountain mahogany and skunkbush sumac) land cover, terrain ruggedness index, NDVI and land cover type were the most important variables associated with VW occurrence in most of the models. These results are consistent with previous studies at the local habitat scale, which documented that high shrub cover, steep slopes and scattered pine trees were habitat elements favored by this population. The ensemble prediction map revealed that additional scattered locations in the central, northern and northeastern BH, northwestern Nebraska and southeastern Wyoming might serve as potentially suitable breeding habitats for VW. These results can guide future surveys with the aim of more precisely defining the distribution and preferred habitats of VW populations at the northeastern extent of their breeding range. In addition, this study highlights landscape-level habitat associations for VW in the southern BH, which could help clarify conservation priorities, facilitate studies of source-sink population dynamics, and answer other important conservation questions for this disjunct population.

DUAL BREEDING RANGES FOR BLUE GROSBEAKS? - David Swanson*,University of South Dakota, Vermillion

Dual breeding in birds is defined as the same individual birds breeding in two separate locations within the same breeding season. This strategy is rare among birds. In North America, dual breeding has been documented for six species, with the pattern of the first brood occurring in the northern part of the breeding range and the second brood occurring in the southern part of the breeding range. The opposite pattern, with the first brood occurring in the southern part of the range and the second brood occurring in the northern part of the range, has been documented only for two Old World bird species. Blue Grosbeaks (*Passerina caerulea*) show an interesting occurrence pattern in eastern South Dakota, which is at the northern extent

of their breeding range, with occurrence (largely of singing males) peaking in late June to mid-July. The temporal periods for nest initiation, incubation, and fledging in Blue Grosbeaks, along with temporal occurrence patterns of singing males in eastern South Dakota, are consistent with a hypothesis of dual breeding, with a first brood in the southern part of the breeding range and a second brood in the northern part of the breeding range. If confirmed, this would represent the first documentation of such a pattern for the New World. Further studies to document the extent and consistency of temporal occurrence patterns for singing male Blue Grosbeaks and temporal patterns of nest initiation in the northern portion of the breeding range, along with tracking studies to document temporal patterns of occurrence for individual birds throughout the entire breeding range, are needed to confirm dual breeding in this species. To conclude, I described a potential citizen-science project to survey occurrence patterns of singing male Blue Grosbeaks throughout South Dakota was described and solicited volunteers to help conduct this survey for the summer of 2019.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GRASSLAND BIRD RESEARCH 1998-2018: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED – Kristel Bakker*, Dakota State University, Madison

Grassland bird populations have shown significant, steep, and consistent continent-wide declines since 1966. Research in South Dakota during the last 20 years has revealed some of the causes for population declines. Habitat loss and fragmentation has resulted in species exhibiting decreased occurrence, density and/or nest survival in small versus large grassland patches. However, we also found that some species will use small grasslands if they are located in landscapes with high (>50-90%) amounts of grassland habitat, termed landscape sensitive. Further, we found that some species are area-sensitive in highly fragmented areas but landscape sensitive in relatively unfragmented areas of South Dakota. Remaining grasslands are further degraded by the inclusion of woody vegetation, invasion by exotic plant species and man-made barriers. Several species of grassland birds avoid habitats as cover of exotic plant species increase and/or percent woody perimeter increases. Grassland bird avoidance of grasslands was also documented as woodland habitat increased within buffers as large as 1200m from the patch. We documented decreased bird densities near gravel roads even in landscapes with >70% grassland habitat. Management of grassland birds in South Dakota should include conservation and restoration of grassland habitat and controlling further degradation by exotic species, trees and barriers, such as roads. There is an urgency to preserve large, intact grasslands of central and western South Dakota to avoid the population declines that would likely accompany the habitat loss resulting in species shifting from landscape sensitivity to patch area sensitivity.

Did You Hear That?

Barry Parkin

The four worst words to hear in birding are "Did you see that?" especially when you didn't. The second four worst words are "Did you hear that?". Well, "Is that a rattlesnake?" is probably actually second but you know what I mean. I had been hearing "Did you hear that?" way too frequently these past few years, especially once I started birding with birders who can actually HEAR birds. I put aside some money last year and went to the audiologist. It was bad. Noises that most people hear at 20 dbz had to be amplified to 60 dbz before I even started to hear them. Most of my hearing loss was in the medium-high to high frequencies where everything but pheasants, crows and ducks dwell. The good news was that my hearing could be revived with hearing aids.

I had a good idea what the price was gonna be, but as I am an optimist, I was holding out hope that I could get by cheap. That didn't happen. I will be blunt: they cost $5,000!!! And they weren't even the most expensive model. It makes you realize why I was even offered interest free financing. Thankfully, I have a loving wife. She supported the purchase wholeheartedly. I must be a special husband. Or possibly she was tired of listening to the TV on full blast or having to yell at me to be heard when I was in the next room. I am pretty sure it is the former. The first time I had the aids on at home, I asked her to please turn the TV down and told her she was talking really loud and it was hurting my ears. It earned me "the look". It was definitely an "a-ha" moment.

The first time I wore my new "ears" in the field, there was a Song Sparrow belting out his love song nearby. He was really LOUD!! I also realized that there were parts of the song I had never heard before. Another " a-ha" moment. So now I have a new life list to work on (like my SD bird list wasn't enough). I call them lifer songs. I have probably already added close to 100 bird songs to my lifer list. However, that brings me to the one bad side of being able to hear bird songs: I am back in birding Kindergarten. One of the first times I did some birding this past May, I realized how few songs I knew. I was hearing four different species singing I couldn't ID. It was as frustrating as trying to ID warblers 60 feet up after the trees leaf out. And why does everything sound like a variation of a robin or a goldfinch??!! This hearing thing does have some drawbacks. I have also realized that the recordings we use to help us identify birds can sometimes be NOTHING like what you hear in the field. Well, maybe not that bad. But when you are expecting a certain tone and cadence, and you SEE a bird singing differently than what you are expecting, it can be a little frustrating. The first Field Sparrow I heard this spring did that to me. I am guessing it was a first year male. Maybe he was going through puberty or something.

I have had some discussions with other birders who are contemplating getting hearing aids. I can't recommend them strongly enough. Mine go behind the ear, so most people don't even know I have them on. Batteries cost about $2 a week, but my batteries are free for the first two years. At least they are if I remember to go by the audiologists on occasion and stock up. Otherwise, the batteries cost about a buck each and last 6 days or so. They even last a little longer if you forget to put them on in the morning and then go to work. They last a lot less if you wear them in the shower. Especially if you do it twice. My hearing aids aren't waterproof. Not sure if any are. I was told mine can tolerate getting wet a little, like a light rain, but immersing them would not turn out well. Guess I got lucky. Twice. I did find out that our insurance company even paid for part of the cost. I am told Medicare does not. I can actually turn the volume up or down through my phone which is awesome when you are out birding. The one feature I like the most (apart from being able to hear) about my aids is that I can wire my cell phone through them. My hearing aids replace the speaker in the phone. It makes it really easy to take calls in noisy situations like riding in a car. The other feature I like is that recently I was able to ask, "Did you hear that?". Another "a-ha" moment. There is one serious drawback to having behind the ear aids and that is that you don't want strong wind blowing directly on the microphones. It sounds like someone is crumpling up paper inside your ear. I haven't found a hat to protect them from wind yet, but I am looking.

If you suspect you have hearing loss, or as in my case, if your birding friends say, "Barry, you need hearing aids!!", I strongly recommend you go see an audiologist. Yes, hearing aids are expensive. In my opinion, they are worth every penny. You wouldn't bird without your glasses, so why would you bird without hearing aids? Go find your own "a-ha" moments. Your birding life, and even possibly your home life, will be much happier.

Fox Squirrel Attacks Wild Turkey

Gene K. Hess | Rapid City, SD

On the morning of 11 April 2019, the day after a blizzard, I was watching my bird feeders when I observed a fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) attack a Wild Turkey (*Melagris gallopavo*). A female turkey was feeding under hanging feeders when a fox squirrel descended from a nearby tree, ran at the turkey and jumped on the side of the turkey's shoulder near the neck. The squirrel then appeared to bite at her and then jumped or fell off. The turkey lost a few feathers but otherwise appeared unharmed. She walked slowly away from the feeder. Snow was belly deep on the bird and there were only a few seeds on the ground.

Fox squirrels have been observed preying on birds *i.e.* predation of a juvenile Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata,* Shaffer and Baker 1991). The majority of fox squirrel diet is of vegetable matter (Koprowski 1994). A small amount of animal matter in the form of invertebrates, birds, bird eggs, dead fish and cannibalism have been reported (Koprowski 1994). Reports of the related and similar size gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) attacking birds have involved attacking Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) in a mist net (Parks 1961, Prescott 1967), killing and eating a Blue jay fledgling (Montague and Montague 1985), and killing and eating an adult Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*, Brackbill 1967).

All of these reports of predation involved birds smaller than the squirrel. Thus, I think the fox squirrel was defending a food source rather than attempting predation. On many occasions I have seen fox squirrels and turkeys feeding below and around the feeding station simultaneously without this kind of interaction. In most instances the squirrels gave way to the turkeys.

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A Tale of a Hermit Thrush Revealed with Old and New Technology

Eileen Dowd Stukel, SD Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, SD and Randy Hoeck, Sioux Falls, SD

For many of us, our experience with bird bands may involve reporting a band number from a harvested duck or goose. Bird banding has a host of conservation and scientific values, including information on dispersal, migration, life spans, survival and productivity estimates, toxicology and disease research, and analyses to determine changes in game bird populations. John James Audubon is considered America's first bird bander, although metal bird bands date to at least the 16th century (Wood 1945).

During mid-April of 2019, Eileen was contacted by Randy Hoeck, who had photographed a banded Hermit Thrush at the Big Sioux Recreation Area in southeastern South Dakota (Figure 1). Randy shared a photo of the visible portion of the band that he had enlarged on his camera (Figure 2). I knew it was not likely that we had banded this bird in central South Dakota, because we have banded only nine Hermit Thrushes in our more than 25 years of banding, and we almost always band birds on the right leg.

I contacted Kent (KC) Jensen at South Dakota State University, David Swanson at the University of South Dakota, and nongame/wildlife diversity staff with our neighboring states of Nebraska and Iowa to determine if they knew who may have banded this bird. Keep in mind that Hermit Thrushes nest across northern and western North America and may winter throughout a large swath of the southern states into Central America. The bird could have been banded at any number of banding sites.

None of the individuals I contacted had banded this individual, but Dr. Jensen explored information on the USGS-Bird Banding Lab (BBL) website and determined that the full band number must be either 2741-67754 or 2741-67755. I contacted BBL Biologist Danny Bystrak, who confirmed KC's speculation. These two bands corresponded to a male and a female Hermit Thrush banded in Anzac, Alberta on June 13, 2017. Anzac is approximately 419 km (260 miles) northeast of Edmonton. Danny also shared that this is the first Alberta-banded Hermit Thrush seen or found anywhere outside of Alberta.

This experience proves the importance of wildlife habitat available throughout the full-year life cycle of migratory birds. It also demonstrates the power of curiosity and how the combination of old and new tools can help unravel a mystery.

If you recover a bird band or observe an auxiliary marker on a bird that can be read, please report these observations to the USGS-Bird Banding Laboratory at https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/

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Figure 1. *Banded Hermit Thrush photographed at Big Sioux Recreation Area in April 2019.* ***Photo credit:*** *Randy Hoeck.*

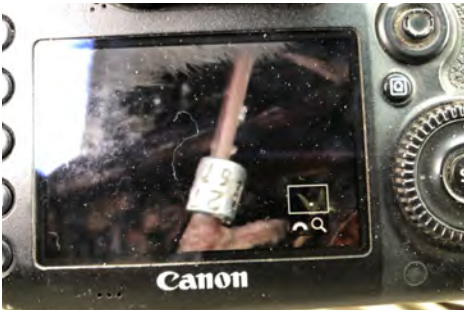

Figure 2. *Visible portion of band enlarged.* ***Photo credit:*** *Randy Hoeck.*

Summary of 2017-2018 American Dipper Study in the Black Hills

Nancy Drilling, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

The American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) is an aquatic songbird that lives along fast-moving clear cold streams throughout western North America. South Dakota's Black Hills has a small (<100 adults), isolated (>200 km from nearest site) population with relatively low reproductive success (Palmer and Javed 2014). As a result, the dipper is listed as a South Dakota state Threatened Species (SDGFP 2014). In order to be removed from the state list, Black Hills dippers must have a stable or increasing breeding population in at least three watersheds (SDGFP 2017). The aim of this study was to determine the current distribution and breeding success of American Dippers in the Black Hills. Specific objectives were to 1) conduct surveys of potential breeding habitat in watersheds in the northern and eastern Black Hills, 2) monitor nest site occupancy and reproductive success during the 2017 and 2018 breeding seasons, and 3) band dippers for insights into mate fidelity, and movements.

We surveyed over 99 miles of creek in eight watersheds: Spearfish--Little Spearfish--East Spearfish--Iron--Cleopatra creeks, upper and lower Rapid Creek, Whitewood Creek, Elk Creek, Bear Butte Creek, Box Elder Creek, French Creek, and Pine Creek. The distribution of American Dippers in the Black Hills has not changed since previous surveys conducted in the late 1990s and early 2000s (Draeger and Johnson 2001, Backlund 2009). We found 44 active and 15 inactive nest sites in the Spearfish and Whitewood creek systems and one unsuccessful nest site on Rapid Creek. Most of these sites have been occupied for at least a decade. Unoccupied creeks had potential nest sites but poor stream quality, with low or no water flow and high levels of sedimentation.

During this study, we documented 35 (2017) to 36 (2018) active nest sites, with a Black Hills breeding population of at least 70 adults. Compared to 57–66 adults counted in 2004–2009 (Lovett 2010), the number of breeding adults appears to be stable. During 2017–2018, the probability that a nest fledged at least one young was 0.62, a lower rate than is found in most other dipper populations (Willson and Kingery 2011). Probability of nest success was lower in 2017 (0.57) compared to 2018 (0.65), lower on small creeks such as Iron or Cleopatra creeks (0.52) than on Spearfish (0.64) and Whitewood (0.61) creeks, and lower in nest box nests (0.48) than in bridge ledge nests (0.79) or natural substrate nests (0.72). In almost 90% of cases, we could not determine the cause of nest failure. Known or suspected causes included cold wet weather, nests falling into the water, and destruction by other dippers. We documented an average of 4.8 eggs (range 4 – 6) in six nests observed during incubation, and counted an average of 1.8 fledglings (range 1-4 fledglings) from 41 successful nests.

We captured and color-banded 37 individuals: 27 adults, 7 fledglings, and 3 juveniles. In 2018, we resighted 79% of individuals banded as adults in 2017, one of the banded fledglings, and two of the juveniles. Almost all banded adults nested on the same territory and with the same mate in both 2017 and 2018. All banded birds that switched sites stayed on the same creek with a maximum distance between nest sites of ~3 miles.

This study shows that the current distribution and population size of breeding American Dippers in the Black Hills is essentially unchanged from those in the mid-2000s. Both Spearfish and Whitewood creeks

still have breeding populations and appear to meet the first Recovery Goal as outlined by the state. We did not find evidence of a breeding population in a third watershed and thus this population does not yet meet the second Recovery Goal. Given these results, the American Dipper does not meet criteria for removal from the state's Threatened Species list. As next steps, we recommend studies to understand how threats such as climate change or land-use changes may impact Black Hills dippers, why apparently suitable creeks, such as lower Rapid Creek are not occupied, and causes of low reproductive success and mortality. Despite relatively low nest success in nest boxes, we recommend that efforts to erect, maintain, and replace boxes continue, to provide ample nest sites for the Black Hills population.

The full report of the results of this study can be downloaded from: https://birdconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/BlackHills-AmDippers_finalRpt_2019.pdf

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Winter 2018-2019 Seasonal Report

01 December 2018 to 28 February 2019

Compiled By Chris Anderson

There were 128 species, including 3 rarities (Horned Grebe, Yellow-billed Loon, and Cape May Warbler), reported during the 2018-2019 winter season. The ten-year (2008-2017) average is 143. In the following report, I have not included all reported species but have tried to highlight the more significant sightings. These include species that have been reported in 6 or fewer of the last 10 winter seasons, unusual early/late dates, species that are out of range, or new county records. For more common species, I list the 3 latest reports between 01 Dec and 15 Jan and the 3 earliest reports between 16 Jan and 28 Feb, or at least one report from each county. At the end is a list of 37 species that were not reported this year but might be expected during the Winter Season. A species is on the not-reported list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during winter in at least 2 of the previous 5 years. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of consecutive years that the species has appeared on the list during the previous 5 winters.

Snow Goose reported 01 Dec Brown GO; 03 Dec Pennington CLG; 05 Dec Buffalo RDO; 05 Dec Gregory RM; 05 Dec Yankton RDO; 18 Dec Perkins ND; 30 Dec Oglala Lakota ND; 05 Jan Lake JSP; 11 Feb Charles Mix RM; 28 Feb Brule ND

Ross's Goose reported 08 Dec Lake JSP; 16 Dec Yankton KP, DS; 19 Dec Hughes KM; 28 Feb Brule ND

Greater White-fronted Goose All Reports: 07 Dec Hughes RDO; 11 Dec Yankton RND; 16 Dec Yankton KP; 17 Dec Brown GO; 09 Jan Stanley RDO; 28 Feb Brule ND

Cackling Goose reported 05 Dec Yankton RND; 10 Dec Charles Mix RM; 11 Dec Minnehaha CA; 15 Dec Lake JSP; 16 Dec Brown GO; 18 Dec Perkins ND; 31 Jan Hughes KM; 31 Jan Stanley KM; 08 Feb Pennington CLG

Wood Duck All Reports: 11 Dec Yankton RND; 16 Dec Yankton RND; 16 Dec Pennington RSL; 05 Jan Hughes RDO; 13 Jan Lawrence ND; 15 Jan Lawrence RSL; 20 Jan Hughes KM

Northern Shoveler All Reports: 10 Dec Hughes RDO; 30 Dec Yankton RND; 01 Feb Yankton RND

Gadwall reported 15 Dec Minnehaha CA; 23 Dec Fall River ND; 07 Jan Pennington CLG; 14 Jan Hughes KM; 28 Jan Yankton RND

American Wigeon reported 11 Dec Stanley RDO; 18 Dec Perkins ND; 23 Dec Fall River ND; 12 Jan Charles Mix RM; 25 Feb Pennington CLG

Northern Pintail All Reports: 15 Dec Brown GO; 15 Dec Stanley RDO; 07 Jan Brown GO; 09 Jan Hughes KM; 11 Jan Hughes KM; 12 Jan Hughes KM; 16 Feb Yankton RND

Green-winged Teal reported 10 Dec Pennington CLG; 20 Dec Brown GO; 29 Dec Stanley RDO; 16 Feb Minnehaha CA, MRZ; 25 Feb Yankton RND

Redhead reported 03 Dec Pennington CLG; 16 Dec Yankton KP; 27 Jan Hughes RDO; 16 Feb Minnehaha CA, MRZ; 21 Feb Stanley RDO

Ring-necked Duck reported 25 Dec Charles Mix KP; 13 Jan Pennington JLB; 13 Jan Stanley KM; 27 Jan Hughes RDO

Greater Scaup reported 07 Dec Charles Mix RM; 16 Dec Yankton DS; 07 Jan Pennington JLB; 17 Jan Stanley RDO; 25 Feb Pennington CLG

Lesser Scaup reported 22 Dec Charles Mix RM; 23 Jan Hughes KM; 12 Feb Stanley KM; 26 Feb Yankton DS

Black Scoter reported 05 Dec Yankton DS; 16 Dec – 18 Jan Hughes/Stanley ND, RSL, KM, RDO

Long-tailed Duck reported 05 Dec Yankton RND, DS; 08 Dec Butte ND; 23 Dec Charles Mix RM

Bufflehead reported 25 Dec Fall River ND; 3 Jan Hughes RDO; 17 Jan Stanley RDO; 25 Feb Charles Mix RM; 25 Feb Pennington CLG; 26 Feb Yankton DS; 28 Feb Brule ND

Common Goldeneye reported in Brule (ND), Buffalo (RDO), Butte (ND), Charles Mix (RM, KPP, Fall River (ND), Gregory (RM), Hughes (ND, RSL, KM, RDO), Lake (JSP), Lyman (RDO), Minnehaha (CA, MA), Pennington (JLB, CLG, RSL, KM), Perkins (ND), Stanley (KM, RDO), Sully (KM, RDO), and Yankton (RND, KP) counties

Barrow's Goldeneye All Reports: 09 Dec Charles Mix KP; 29 Dec Charles Mix RM

Hooded Merganser reported 05 Dec Buffalo RDO; 05 Dec Yankton RND; 20 Dec Brown GO; 23 Dec Fall River ND; 30 Dec Oglala Lakota ND; 01 Jan Minnehaha CA; 02 Jan Charles Mix RM; 12 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 27 Jan Stanley RDO; 08 Feb Pennington CLG

Common Merganser reported 05 Dec Buffalo RDO; 05 Dec Yankton RND; 08 Dec Butte ND; 12 Dec Stanley RDO; 24 Dec Hughes KM; 24 Dec Pennington CLG; 02 Jan Charles Mix RM; 03 Jan Lyman RDO; 21 Feb Stanley RDO; 28 Feb Brule ND

Red-breasted Merganser reported 07 Jan Charles Mix RM; 31 Jan Stanley KM

Ruddy Duck Only Report: 08 Dec Lake JSP

Gray Partridge Only Report: 19 Jan Pennington RSL

Pied-billed Grebe Only Report: 23 Dec Fall River ND

Western Grebe All Reports: 13-23 Dec Charles Mix RM

Mourning Dove reported 01 Dec – 22 Jan Roberts CV; 30 Dec Sully RDO; 01 Jan Sully RDO; 19 Jan Stanley RDO; 02 Feb Lake JSP

American Coot reported 12 Dec Stanley RDO; 23 Dec Fall River ND; 12 Jan Hughes KM; 25 Feb Pennington CLG; 25 Feb Yankton RND

Wilson's Snipe All Reports: 02 Dec Stanley KM; 03 Stanley RDO; 15 Dec Stanley KM; 29, Dec Stanley KM; 13 Jan Lawrence ND

Black-legged Kittiwake reported 09 Dec – 05 Jan Hughes/Stanley ND, RSL, KM, RDO; 21 Dec – 24 Dec Charles Mix RM, KP

Bonaparte's Gull reported 01 Dec – 30 Dec Stanley RSL, KM, RDO; 04 Dec – 27 Dec Charles Mix RM, KP

Mew Gull All Reports: 29 Dec Stanley KM, RDO; 30 Dec Stanley KM

Ring-billed Gull reported 07 Dec Yankton RND; 23 Dec Fall River ND; 23 Dec Sully KM; 13 Jan Stanley KM; 16 Jan Charles Mix RM; 04 Feb Hughes RDO

California Gull reported 22 Dec Sully KM; 25 Dec Fall River ND; 18 Jan Charles Mix RM; 27 Jan Hughes RDO; 28 Feb Stanley RDO

Herring Gull reported 05 Dec Buffalo RDO; 16 Dec Yankton KP; 22 Dec Sully KM; 03 Jan Lyman RDO; 12 Jan Hughes RDO; 16 Jan Charles Mix RM; 17 Jan Stanley KM

Iceland Gull reported 05 Dec Yankton DS; 12 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 16 Jan Charles Mix RM; 28 Feb Stanley RDO

Lesser Black-backed Gull reported 01 Dec Stanley RDO; 03 Jan Stanley KM, RDO; 24 Jan Stanley RDO; 04 Feb Hughes KM

Glaucous Gull reported 03 Dec Stanley RDO; 30 Dec Charles Mix KP; 12 Jan Hughes RDO; 21 Jan Gregory RM

Double-crested Cormorant reported 04 Dec Charles Mix RM; 13 Jan Stanley KM; 16 Jan Hughes RDO

American White Pelican All Reports: 07 Dec Yankton RND; 13 Dec Yankton RND; 19 Dec Yankton RND

Great Blue Heron reported 03 Dec – 25 Feb Pennington CLG, RSL; 13 Dec – 19 Dec Yankton RND

Northern Harrier reported 12 Jan Charles Mix KP; 13 Jan Douglas KP; 13 Jan Meade ND; 15 Jan Bon Homme RM; 19 Jan Butte ND; 19 Jan Pennington RSL; 20 Jan Fall River ND; 25 Jan Charles Mix RM

Sharp-shinned Hawk reported: 16 Dec Yankton GJS; 25 Dec Brown GO; 28 Dec Hughes KM; 01 Jan Douglas KP; 19 Jan Stanley KM; 22 Jan Hughes KM; 24 Jan Pennington ND; 13 Feb Minnehaha; 15 Feb lake KP; 16 Feb Clay GJS; 18 Feb Charles Mix RM; 26 Feb Roberts CV

Cooper's Hawk reported 08 Dec Beadle RDO; 08 Dec Lincoln MRZ; 30 Dec Oglala Lakota ND; 03 Jan Buffalo RDO; 10 Jan Brown CV; 14 Jan Charles Mix RM; 19 Jan Stanley KM; 09 Feb Pennington RSL; 16 Feb McCook JSP; 18 Feb Hughes KM

Northern Goshawk reported 11 Dec Lake JSP; 14 Dec Stanley KM; 15 Dec Lawrence ND; 10 Jan Brown GO; 11 Jan Hughes KM; 13 Jan Sully KM; 02 Feb Pennington ND

Ferruginous Hawk reported 05 Dec Lyman RDO; 08 Dec Meade ND; 18 Dec Ziebach ND; 21 Dec Sully KM; 25 Dec Custer ND; 06 Jan Douglas ND; 08 Jan Jones KM; 12 Jan Stanley KM; 20 Jan Fall River ND; 18 Feb Pennington RSL; 20 Feb Haakon RDO; 20 Feb Jackson RDO

Golden Eagle reported from Buffalo (KM, RDO), Butte (ND, RSL), Charles Mix (RM, KP),Custer (ND), Dewey (ND), Douglas (ND), Fall River (ND), Haakon (ND), Hand (RDO), Harding (ND), Hughes (KM, RDO), Jones (RSL, KM, RDO), Lawrence (ND), Lyman (KM, RDO), Meade (ND), Mellette (ND), Pennington (RSL, RDO), Perkins (ND), Potter (ND), Stanley (ND, KM, RSL, RDO), Sully (KM), Tripp (ND), and Ziebach (ND) counties

Barn Owl Only Report 15 Dec Stanley KM

Eastern Screech-Owl reported 15 Dec Gregory RM; 15 Dec Minnehaha CA; 16 Dec Turner CA; 16 Dec Yankton CA; 29 Dec Jackson ND; 01 Jan Stanley RDO; 11 Feb Lake JSP; 20 Feb Brown GO

Snowy Owl reported 25 Dec Charles Mix KP; 03 Jan Lyman KM; 07 Jan Jones RDO; 26 Jan Kingsbury JSP; 02 Feb Lake JSP

Barred Owl All Reports: 15 Dec Minnehaha CA; 27 Feb Lincoln CA

Long-eared Owl reported 25 Dec Minnehaha CA; **16 Dec Turner CA**; 16 Dec Yankton CA; 22 Dec Sully; 05 Jan Jones ND; 06 Jan Stanley KM; 11 Jan Hughes KM; 12 Jan Hanson CA

Short-eared Owl All Reports: 24 Dec Butte ND; 05 Jan Lake JSP; 12 Jan McCook CA; 13 Jan Meade ND; 19 Jan Butte ND; 26 Jan Kingsbury JSP; 26 Jan Stanley RDO; 23 Feb Butte EK

Northern Saw-whet Owl 02 Dec – 16 Feb Stanley KM, RDO; 15 Dec Minnehaha CA; **16 Dec Turner CA;** 16 Dec Yankton CA; 30 Dec Lincoln CA

Belted Kingfisher reported 15 Dec Minnehaha CA; 16 Dec Yankton GJS; 01 Jan Stanley RDO; 05 Jan Lake JSP; 13 Jan Hughes KM; 25 Feb Pennington CLG

Lewis's Woodpecker All Reports: 15 Dec Meade ND; 10 Jan Meade RDO; 13 Jan Meade ND; 18 Feb Meade ND; 19 Feb Meade RDO

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Only Report 26 Feb Charles Mix RM

Merlin reported in Butte (EK), Charles Mix (RM), Douglas (KP), Fall River ND), Gregory (RM), Hughes (KM, RDO), Jones (KM), Lake (JSP), Lawrence (RSL), Lyman (ND), Marshall (CV), Oglala Lakota (ND), Pennington (JLB, ND, RSL), Stanley (RDO, KM), and Yankton (GJS) counties

Gyrfalcon All Reports 05 Dec Jones RSL; 14 Dec Haakon RDO; 03 Jan Stanley RDO; 07 Jan Jones RDO; 09 Jan Stanley RDO

Prairie Falcon reported in Buffalo (RDO, KM), Butte (ND), Charles Mix (RM, KP), Custer (ND, RSL), Gregory (RM), Hyde (KM, RDO), Jackson (ND), Jones (KM, ND), Lawrence (RSL), Lyman (KM, ND, RDO), Meade (ND), Pennington (JLB, ND, RSL), Perkins (ND), Stanley (ND, KM, RDO), and Sully (RDO, KM) counties

Northern Shrike reported in Bon Homme (RM), Buffalo (RDO), Charles Mix (KP), Fall River (ND), Hand (RDO, KM), Hughes (KM, RDO), Jackson (ND), Jones (ND, KM, RDO), Lake (JSP), Lincoln (CA), Lyman (ND, KM, RDO), McCook (JSP), Meade (RDO, ND), Moody (JSP), Oglala Lakota (ND), Stanley KM, RDO), and Yankton (RND) counties

Canada Jay All Reports: 07 Jan Pennington ND; 10 Jan Lawrence RDO

Pinyon Jay Only Report: 27 Jan Custer ND

Black-billed Magpie reported 16 Dec Pennington ND; 23 Dec Fall River ND; 30 Dec Oglala Lakota ND; 10 Jan Meade RDO; 15 Jan Lawrence RSL; 19 Jan Butte ND; 27 Jan Custer ND; 19 Feb Lawrence RDO

Red-breasted Nuthatch reported away from the Black Hills in Brown (GO, CV), Charles Mix (RM), Douglas (KP), Edmunds (GO, CV), Gregory (RDO), Hughes (RSL, KM, RDO), Lake (JSP), Lincoln (CA, MRZ), Minnehaha (MRZ, CA), Perkins (ND), Roberts (CV), Stanley (KM), Sully (RDO), Turner (KP), Union (DS), and Yankton (RND) counties

Pygmy Nuthatch All Reports: 16 Dec Pennington JLB; 18 Dec Pennington RSL; 04 Jan Pennington RSL

Winter Wren All Reports: 07 Dec Hughes KM; 17 Dec Hughes KM, RDO; 18 Dec Hughes KM; 19 Dec Hughes KM; 19 Dec Yankton RND; 11 Jan Hughes KM

Marsh Wren All Reports: 14 Jan Hughes KM; 15 Jan Stanley KM

American Dipper All Reports: 11 Jan Lawrence RDO; 13 Jan Lawrence ND

Eastern Bluebird reported 04 Dec Charles Mix RM; 16 Dec Yankton KP; 20 Dec Gregory RM; 12 Jan Hughes RDO

Mountain Bluebird Only Report: 29 Dec Jackson ND

Townsend's Solitaire reported 02 Dec Stanley KM; 15 Dec Brown GO; 19 Dec Hughes KM; 05 Jan Union DS; 13 Feb Sully KM

Golden-crowned Kinglet reported 03 Dec Pennington CLG; 13 Dec Stanley KM; 15 Dec Brown GO; 15 Dec Hughes KM; 17 Dec Douglas KP; 18 Dec Yankton RND; 22 Dec Union DS; 21 Jan Charles Mix RM; 26 Jan Minnehaha MRZ

Common Redpoll All Reports: 10 Jan Edmunds CV; 25 Feb Brown GO

Red Crossbill All Reports: 12 Jan Pennington RSL; 02 Feb Custer ND; 02 Feb Pennington ND

Pine Siskin reported in Brown (GO), Charles Mix (RM), Clay (GJS), Douglas (KP, ND), Edmunds (GO, CV), Fall River (ND), Gregory (RM), Hughes (KM, RDO, RSL, ND), Lake (JSP), Lawrence (RDO), Meade (RSO), Minnehaha (MRZ, CA), Pennington (RSL, ND), Roberts (CV), Stanley (RDO, KM), Sully (ND, KM)y, and Yankton (RND) counties

Lapland Longspur reported in Charles Mix (RM, KP), Douglas (KP), Fall River (ND), Hand (RDO), Hyde (KM, RDO), Jackson (ND), Jones (KM, RDO, RSL), Kingsbury (JSP), Lake (JSP), Lincoln (MRZ), McCook (JSP), Meade (ND), Moody (JSP), Pennington (RSL), Stanley (KM, RDO), and Sully (RDO) counties

Snow Bunting reported from Charles Mix (RM, ND), Day (CV), Jones (RDO), Kingsbury (JSP), Lake (JSP), Lyman (RDO, KM), McCook (JSP), Minnehaha (CA), Stanley (KM, RDO), and Yankton (RND) counties

Fox Sparrow All Reports: 08 Dec Lake JSP; 15 Dec Brown GO; 16 Dec Yankton DS; **06 Jan Tripp ND**; 11 Jan Hughes KM; 22 Jan Hughes KM

Song Sparrow All Reports: 10 Dec Stanley KM; 12 Dec Stanley KM; 15 Dec Hughes KM; 20 Dec Brown GO; 11 Jan Hughes KM; 14 Jan Hughes KM; 19 Jan Stanley KM

White-throated Sparrow reported 02 Dec – 28 Feb Clay GJS; 16 Dec Yankton DS; 18 Dec Pennington JSS; 30 Dec Brown GO; 02 Feb Hughes KM

Harris's Sparrow All Reports: 04 Dec Stanley KM; 20 Dec Brown GO; 21 Dec Minnehaha CA; 06 Jan Tripp ND

Spotted Towhee All Reports: 11 Dec Hughes KM; 19 Dec Hughes KM

Yellow-rumped Warbler All Reports: 16 Dec Yankton DS, KP; 22 Dec Union DS; 24 Dec Union DS; 25 Dec Charles Mix RM; 05 Jan Union DS; 23 Jan Hughes KM; 02 Feb Hughes KM; 18 Feb Hughes KM

Red-winged Blackbird reported in Brown (GO), Buffalo (RDO), Butte (ND), Charles Mix (KP), Clay (GJS, DS), Hughes (KM, RDO), Jones (KM, RDO, ND), Lake (JSP), Lincoln (CA), Lyman (RDO), Meade (ND), Minnehaha (CA), Pennington (RSL), and Stanley (KM) counties

Western Meadowlark reported in Brown (GO), Charles Mix (RM, KP), Douglas (KP), Hughes (RDO), Jackson (ND), Lake (JSP), Lyman (RDO), Pennington (RSL), Stanley (RDO), Tripp (ND), and Yankton (GJS, RND) counties

Rusty Blackbird All Reports: 01 Dec Clay DS; 15 Dec Lincoln MRZ; 20 Dec Brown GO; 12 Jan Moody JSP

Brewer's Blackbird All Reports: 17 Jan Sully RDO; 19 Feb Meade RDO

Common Grackle All Reports: 13 Dec Clay GLS; 15 Dec Hughes RDO; 06 Jan Tripp ND; 12 Jan Meade ND; 24 Feb Clay GJS

Brown-headed Cowbird Only Report: 06 Jan Jones RDO

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Horned Grebe Only Report: 13 Dec Charles Mix RM

Yellow-billed Loon All Reports: 23 Dec – 25 Dec Hughes KM, RDO

Cape May Warbler All Reports: 03 Dec – 28 Dec Charles Mix RM

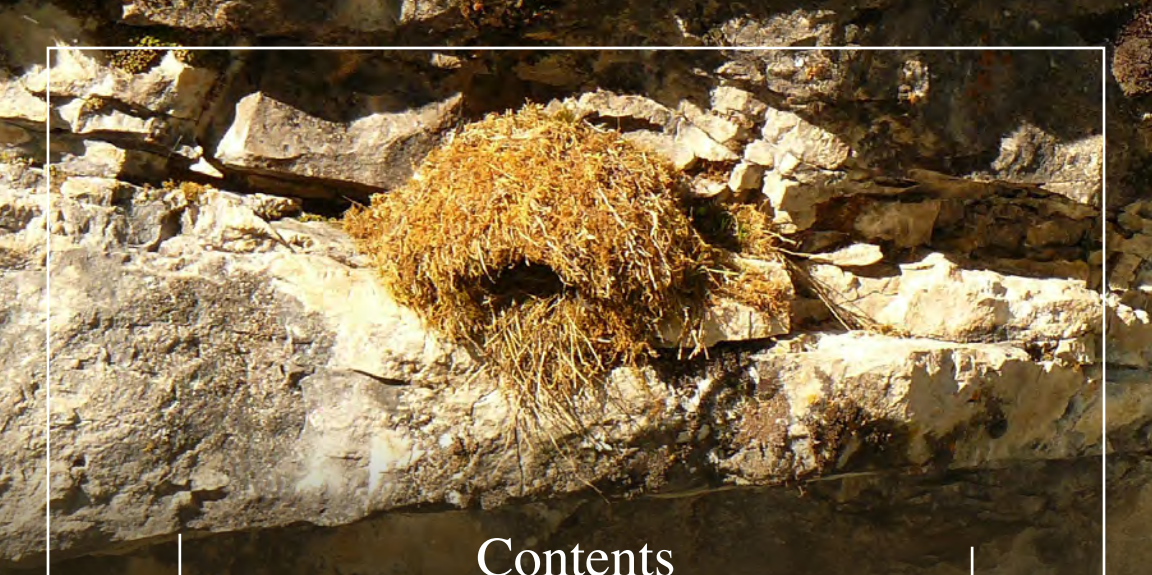
Species Expected But Not Reported

Trumpeter Swan (3), Tundra Swan, Blue-winged Teal (2), American Black Duck, Canvasback (4), Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Ruffed Grouse (2), Red-necked Grebe, Virginia Rail (4), Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Franklin's Gull, Mew Gull, Great Black-backed Gull (2), Common Loon, American Three-toed Woodpecker (2), Black-backed Woodpecker (2), Pileated Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Canyon Wren, Carolina Wren (2), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher (4), Northern Mockingbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (2), Cassin's Finch, White-winged Crossbill,

White-crowned Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird

Contributing Observers

CA	Chris Anderson
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker
RND	Roger N. Dietrich
ND	Nancy Drilling
CLG	Canyon Lake Group
EK	Elizabeth Krueger
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie
RM	Ron Mabie
KM	Kenny Miller
GO	Gary Olson
RDO	Ricky D. Olson
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
KP	Kelly M. Preheim
GJS	Gary & Jan Small
JSS	Jackie Stucky-Strom
DS	David Swanson
CV	Cheryl Vellenga
MRZ	Mick Zerr



Contents

Photo credit: Nancy Drilling
American Dipper Nest, Spearfish Canyon