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South Dakota

Bird  Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

Photo Credit: Kelly Preheim

Pied-billed Grebe on nest, Summer 2020, Douglas Co.



President's Page

Scott Stolz

Earlier today as I was trying to come up with a topic to write about for this issue of Bird Notes, I was struck by the amount of traffic on the interstate near Sturgis. The Rally is officially on and there are plenty of people from all over the country here on vacation. It is good to see that not everyone is letting fear of a virus rule their lives. We have made the decision to cancel the fall meeting, but that is due more to the demographics of our group than anything else. However, we can't let this situation dictate how we live. Taking the proper precautions is always prudent, but that doesn't mean we need to stay holed up in our own little bubble forever either. I strongly encourage every single one of us to get out and enjoy the beauty of nature whenever possible even if it is just for a few minutes at a time. It really is soothing to the soul and can remind us how the simple things in life are some of the best.



I'm glad to see that we are getting quite a few eBird checklists from out-of-state visitors. These entries can present some challenges with incorrect identification or not following checklist protocols but at least they are contributing to our knowledge of birds in South Dakota. They also present an opportunity to spread the word about the fabulous birding opportunities in our state and help them advance in their birding skills. I know it may not be the right time to ask this, but please take the time to introduce yourselves to visitors that are enjoying our birding opportunities and help them out if possible. We have all had people help us get started in this hobby, and I believe that it is our responsibility to pass that along. The more people that we can get passionate about birds and the habitats they live in, the more opportunities we have for a stronger voice for conservation and preservation of our valuable natural places.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 SDOU MEETINGS postponed. Both of the The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union's 2020 meetings, scheduled for Belle Fourche and Hot Springs, have been postponed one year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. 2021 meeting details will be announced on the SDOU web site and social media accounts as they become available.

The Northern Hills Bird Club

Vic Fondy

The Northern Hills Bird Club (NHBC) was started by Vic and Donna Fondy with an organizational meeting in Sturgis on April 2, 1987 at the Methodist Church Annex. There were 34 interested birders from Belle Fourche, Ft. Meade, Lead, Newell, St. Onge, Spearfish, and Sturgis in attendance. The first field trips were held on April 11 and 25, 1987. Elections were held May 7th, 1987 with Vic Fondy as President, Ernie Miller as Vice-President, and Lucinda Schuft as Secretary/Treasurer. Les Baylor, secretary of the South Dakota Ornithologist Union, was guest speaker. The group's purpose is "to promote the enjoyment of bird watching thru cooperative programs adopted by the membership." Meetings have been held monthly at the Sturgis library with summer meetings potluck events held at member homes. Field trips are generally conducted on the 2nd Saturdays of each month with some variation for holidays or the Sturgis Rally. In addition to local field trips, the group has had an annual visit in March to Nebraska to view Sandhill Cranes along the North Platte River. Field trips and monthly meetings are canceled during the Covid-19 pandemic but communications and sharing of bird news continue online.

The club added the Sturgis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in December 1987 and the Piedmont CBC in 2000. The NHBC participated in the North American Migration Count from 1995-2001, then continued this effort as the West River Migration Count (WRMC) from 2002 forward. Each year the WRMC takes a census of migrating birds during the 2nd week of May for the western counties of South Dakota from the Wyoming to Nebraska borders. This information is stored in an eBird account.

Communication of birding reports started with a telephone tree for members to pass along sightings. In February 1997, a West River Hotline was started as a community service by the NHBC and Wharf Resources of Lead, SD. The hotline presented sightings, field trip information, and club meetings and was updated weekly. As the internet developed, the hotline was discontinued and sightings, field trips, and meeting information are passed along through the NHBC list serve (nhbc@groups.io). In addition, the club maintains a Facebook site (Northern Hills Bird Club). Visiting birders will always be welcome to attend meetings and field trips when they resume after the pandemic. Membership dues are \$3 per year and there is no charge for field trips.



Avian Surveys at Canyon Lake, Rapid City, SD: Waterfowl Species Accounts

Gene K. Hess

INTRODUCTION

Previously I introduced the avian surveys project at Canyon Lake (Hess 2019a) and summarized the results for 27 waterfowl species recorded on weekly surveys conducted from October 2010 through February 2019 (Hess 2019b). This paper presents individual species accounts for the waterfowl. The results for the remaining species will be presented in future publications.

METHODS

The field survey methods are described in Hess (2019a).

For the Species Accounts, seasonal bar graphs were constructed for the period October 2010 through September 2018. The graphs were constructed by sending each week's results into the bar graph program,

which was originally developed by Maurice Barnhill for the book *Birds of Delaware* (Hess, West, Barnhill & Fleming, 2000, Univ. of Pittsburgh Press). The program then smoothed the data. The results were then inspected and manual smoothing was done where needed. Months are divided into quarters as follows: January, March, May, July, August, October, December 1–7, 8–15, 16–23, 24–31; February, April, June, September, November 1–7, 8–14, 15–22, 23–30. The bar heights from short to tall represent the following abundance categories: 1–3, 4–10, 11–100, 101–1,000. Isolated records are shown as a dot. A bar of narrow width indicates irregular occurrence, usually at the beginning or end of migration (Fig. 1).

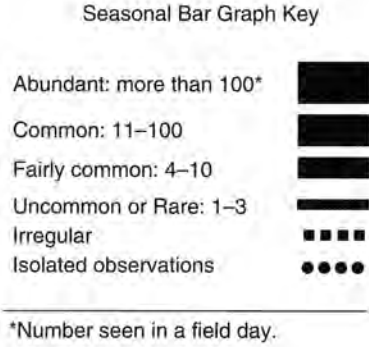


Fig. 1. Seasonal Bar Graph key.

Species Accounts

Snow Goose – Considered rare in winter in South Dakota (Tallman *et al.* 2002), single individuals of this rare visitor to Canyon Lake were found in three winters (13 occurrences). Two were present on 7 November 2011. A blue form bird was present in 2015, the others were the white form.



Fig. 2. Snow Goose seasonal occurrence.

Ross’s Goose – Another rare visitor to Canyon Lake; one or two birds occurred on 12 surveys. The 20 January 2016 survey had one each white phase and blue phase birds.

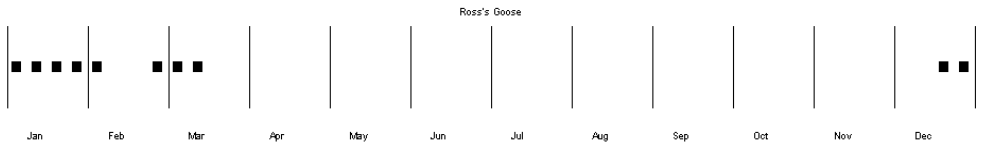


Fig. 3. Ross’s Goose seasonal occurrence.

Greater White-fronted Goose – The only occurrence was one bird found on 12 November 2018.

Cackling Goose – This species was split from Canada Goose in 2004. It was found on about half of the winter surveys. Because it occurred in low numbers, fewer than 1% of the dark geese in winter, it took significant time to find individuals among the much more numerous Canada Geese. Peak numbers occurred in 2015 and 2016 (Fig. 5). Three birds on 16 October 2017 were about two weeks earlier than the usual early November arrival date (Fig. 4). Most birds departed by early April.



Fig. 4. Cackling Goose seasonal occurrence.

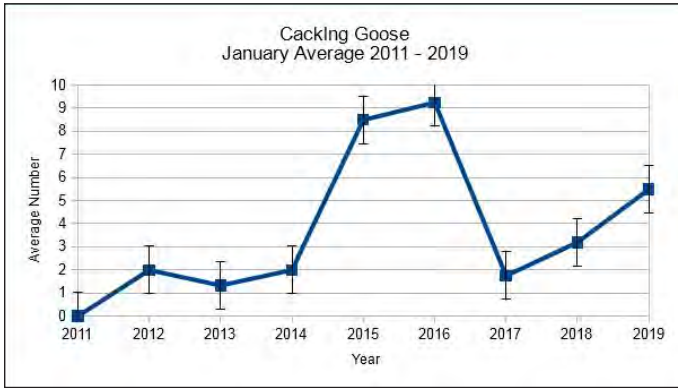


Fig. 5. Cackling Goose 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Canada Goose – Found on all but two surveys, this was the most numerous species found. Canada Geese were abundant from November through mid-February and common during spring and fall migration (Fig. 6). The lower abundance in April and May reflects birds on nests away from the lake. The June and July increase reflects the presence of adults with young. The August drop probably reflects birds being secretive during their post-breeding molt. Mid-winter numbers showed a small decline during 2011– 2013, rose sharply in 2014 and remained at about that the same level through 2017. There was a jump in 2018 and in 2019 a return to previous levels (Fig. 7). Breeding was confirmed by observing adults attending young in all years of the survey. Multiple broods were present throughout each breeding season and were the most abundant species. The earliest brood found was on 25 April 2016; the latest on 25 July 2011 (Hess 2019b). Young were observed past June in only three years.

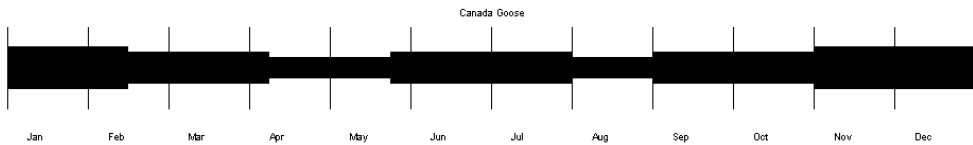


Fig. 6. Canada Goose seasonal occurrence.

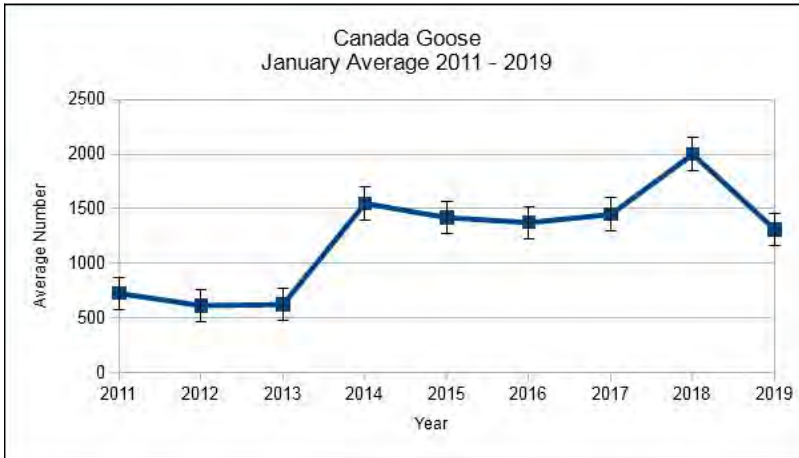


Fig. 7. Canada Goose 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Tundra Swan – This species occurs rarely in western South Dakota in any season (Tallman *et al.* 2002) so to have one bird present during the winter of 2016 – 2017 was an unexpected pleasure.

Wood Duck – Wood Ducks were uncommon from mid-October through late March when they become fairly common (Fig. 8) One to three individuals wintered at Canyon Lake from January 2011 through the winter of 2013 – 2014 then Wood Ducks ceased wintering at the lake. Wood Ducks are a scarce breeder in western South Dakota (Drilling *et al.* 2018). Multiple broods were present at Canyon Lake throughout each breeding season. The earliest brood found was on 23 May 2011 and 23 May 2016. In all years last broods were seen into late July or early August but a brood of 5 on 10 September 2018 was the latest (Hess 2019b).

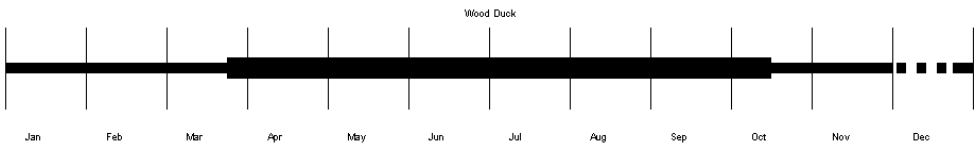


Fig. 8. Wood Duck seasonal occurrence.

Blue-winged Teal – Although this teal breeds throughout South Dakota (Drilling *et al.* 2018), at Canyon Lake we saw it only as a migrant, regularly in spring and fall. In spring it is an uncommon migrant and is fairly common to common in fall migration (Fig. 9).

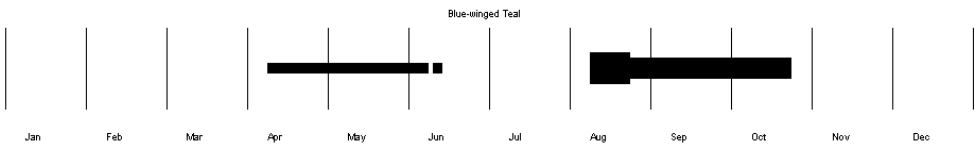


Fig. 9. Blue-winged Teal seasonal occurrence.

Cinnamon Teal – Single individuals of this species were recorded twice – 29 April 2013 and 6 May 2013.

Northern Shoveler – This species usually avoided Canyon Lake mid-winter to early spring. It was an uncommon to fairly common spring and fall migrant and early winter visitor (Fig. 10). The two February records occurred in 2012. No evidence of breeding was found despite occasional summer occurrences. Northern Shoveler breeds not far north of Rapid City in Meade and Butte counties (Drilling *et al.* 2018, Tallman *et al.* 2002) and in eastern Pennington County (Drilling *et al.* 2018) so its occasional appearance in summer is not surprising and probably represent late migrants or non-breeders.

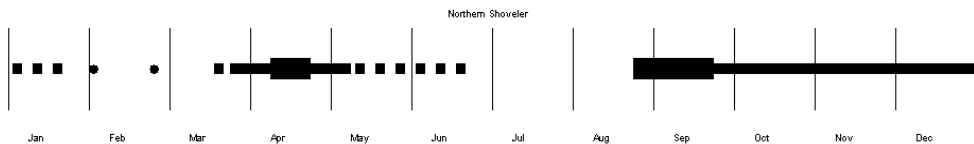


Fig. 10. Northern Shoveler seasonal occurrence.

Gadwall – This species was fairly common from fall through spring, becoming uncommon to absent during the summer (Fig. 11). Its absence in summer may reflect birds being secretive during the post-breeding molt. Evidence of breeding by this widespread prairie nesting duck was found once at Canyon Lake when one brood of six young was found on 28 May 2012. Gadwall breeds not far north of Rapid City in Meade and Butte counties (Drilling *et al.* 2018, Tallman *et al.* 2002) and in eastern Pennington County (Drilling *et al.* 2018) so its occasional appearance in summer is not surprising. Mid-winter numbers were variable with a peaks in 2013 and 2018 (Fig. 12).

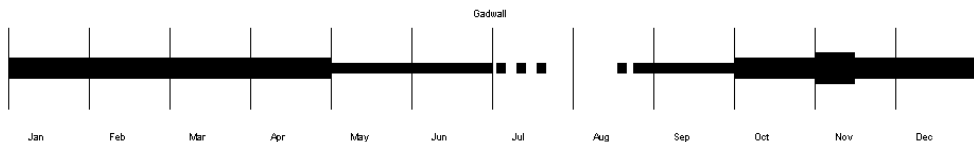


Fig. 11. Gadwall seasonal occurrence.

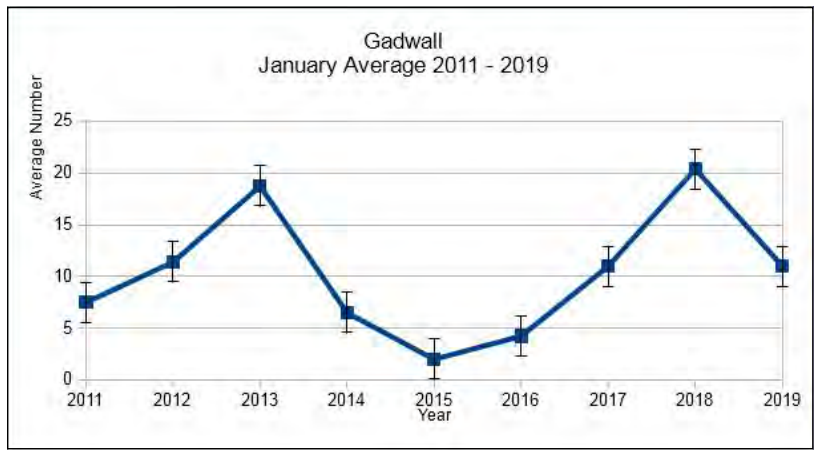


Fig. 12. Gadwall 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

American Wigeon – Fairly common to common from fall to spring this species was rarely found during the breeding season and summer (Fig. 13). Although common in winter its mid-winter numbers have been declining since a 2014 peak (Fig. 14). Most American Wigeon in South Dakota nest north of Canyon Lake in the northern two-thirds of the state (Drilling *et al.* 2018). The few summer records likely represent non-breeders or post-breeding dispersal.



Fig. 13. American Wigeon seasonal occurrence.

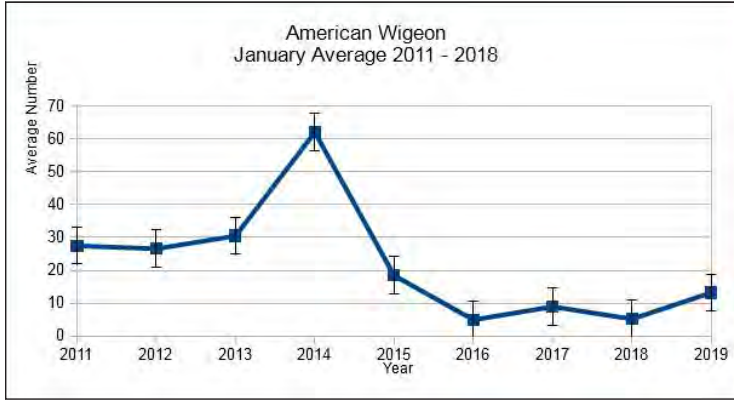


Fig. 14. American Wigeon 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Mallard – This fairly common to common species (Fig.15) was found on all surveys. Mid-winter numbers have declined steadily since 2011, reaching their lowest in 2016. (Fig. 16). This widespread breeder (Drilling *et al.* 2018) was a common nesting bird at Canyon Lake. The earliest date broods were seen was 5 May 2014; the latest was 1 October 2018 (Hess 2019b). The only year no young were present in the July – August period was 2016.

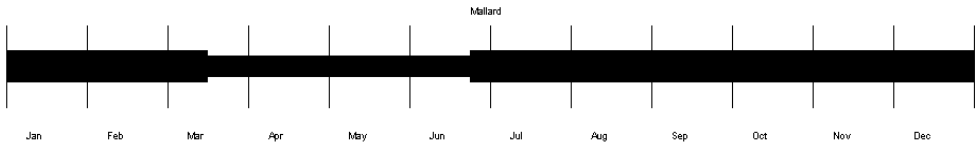


Fig. 15. Mallard seasonal occurrence.

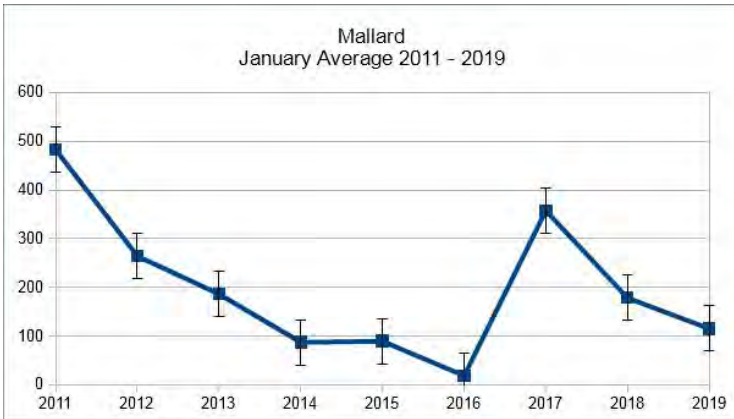


Fig. 16. Mallard 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Northern Pintail – Seldom seen in migration, this duck is a rare winter visitor occurring on 13.5% of the winter surveys: (Fig. 17). The single June record is of one bird in 2016. This is a scarce breeding species in western South Dakota (Drilling *et al.* 2018). This coupled with a lack of appropriate nearby nesting habitat makes the lack of breeding evidence at Canyon Lake not surprising.

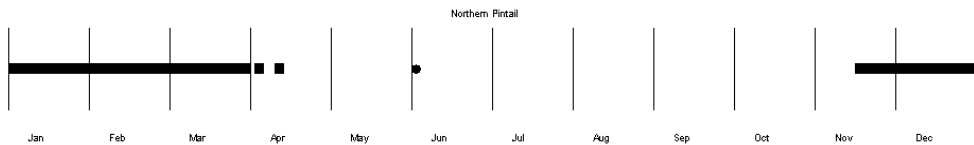


Fig. 17. Northern Pintail seasonal occurrence.

Green-winged Teal – This teal is an uncommon migrant and an occasional visitor in low numbers (Fig. 18) at Canyon Lake. The February, June, and August records are of three or fewer birds and probably represent wandering birds. There was no evidence of breeding at Canyon Lake by this scarce western South Dakota breeder (Drilling *et al.* 2018).

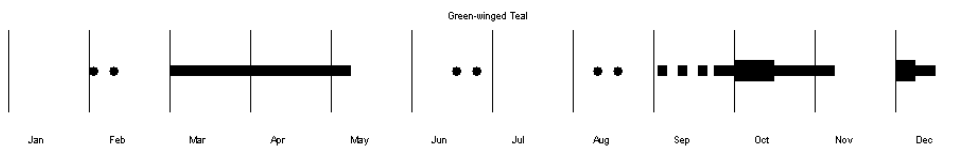


Fig. 18. Green-winged Teal seasonal occurrence.

Canvasback – This diver was an occasional winter visitor in low numbers (Fig. 19). There was no evidence of breeding at Canyon Lake by this scarce western South Dakota (Drilling *et al.* 2018) breeder.



Fig. 19. Canvasback seasonal occurrence.

Redhead – Considered rare in winter in South Dakota (Tallman *et al.* 2002), Redheads were a fairly common diver from fall through spring (Fig. 20). The plunge in numbers in 2015 (Fig. 21) was due to the lake being drained leaving little water suitable for the species. Redhead numbers have slowly increased following the refilling of the lake.

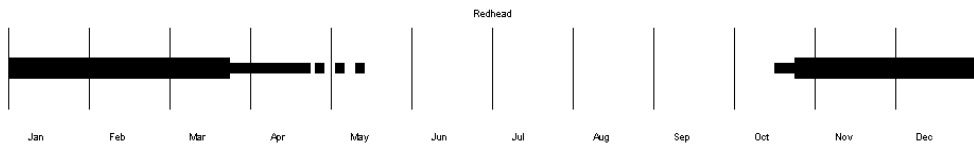


Fig. 20. Redhead seasonal occurrence.

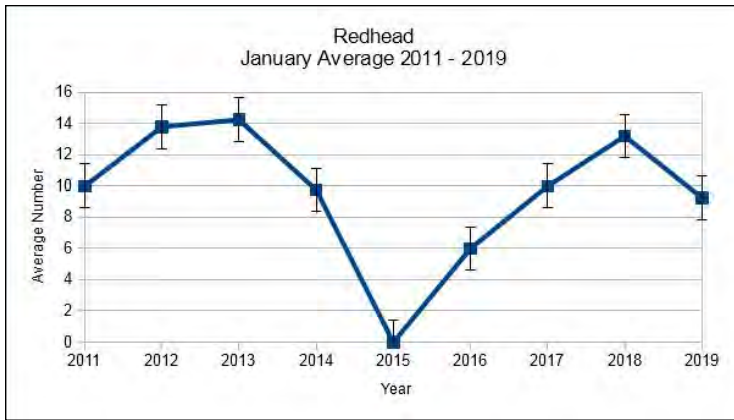


Fig. 21. Redhead 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Ring-necked Duck – Considered rare in winter in South Dakota (Tallman *et al.* 2002), this was a fairly common to common winter resident at Canyon Lake (Fig. 22). The May record is of a female in 2013. The low 2015 mid-winter count (Fig. 23) reflects the draining of the lake and subsequent loss of habitat. Since then numbers have steadily increased, surpassing former high counts. Another rare West River breeder (Drilling *et al.* 2018) it also showed no evidence of breeding at Canyon Lake.



Fig. 22. Ring-necked Duck seasonal occurrence.

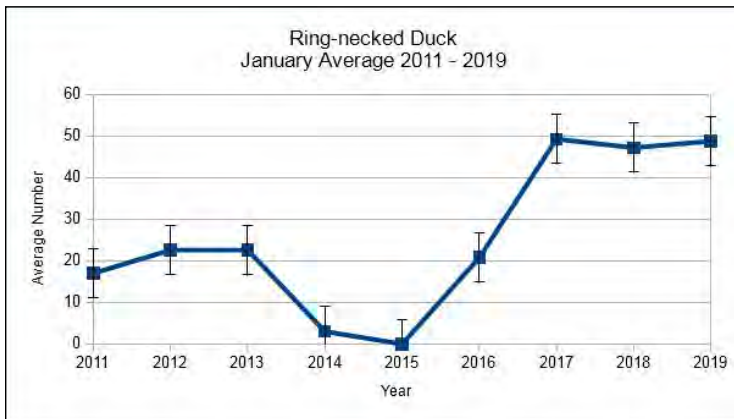


Fig. 23. Ring-necked Duck 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Greater Scaup – Accidental in winter (Tallman *et al.* 2002), this rare winter visitor occurred in three winters with a single bird each time staying for two to four weeks.

Lesser Scaup – Lesser Scaup was an uncommon winter visitor (Fig. 24). The October record is of one bird in 2013, probably a migrant. Another rare West River breeder (Drilling *et al.* 2018), it showed no evidence of breeding at Canyon Lake.



Fig. 24. Lesser Scaup seasonal occurrence.

Harlequin Duck – A single individual of this unexpected visitor spent the winter of 2011–2012 at Canyon Lake. The five previous records, all from eastern and central South Dakota, and details of this record have been previously reported (Baker *et al.* 2012).

Bufflehead – This species was fairly common throughout the winter. Birds began to depart in late March and early April and a few occasionally remained long after that (Fig. 25). Mid-winter numbers have remained fairly stable (Fig. 26). There was a modest decline during the period the lake was drained.



Fig. 25. Bufflehead seasonal occurrence.

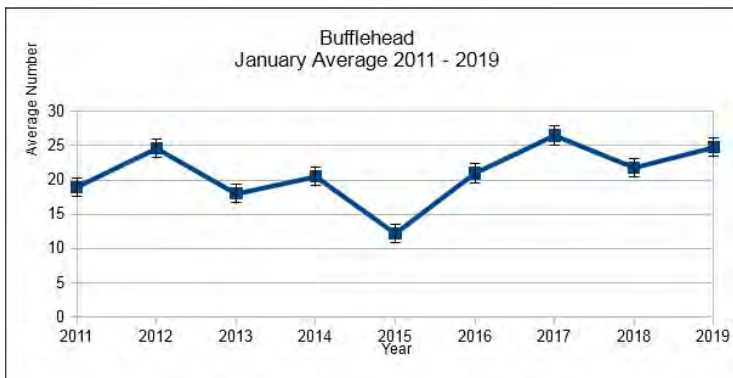


Fig. 26. Bufflehead 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Common Goldeneye – Considered to be locally common in the Black Hills (Tallman *et al.* 2002) this small diver was fairly common to common (Fig. 27) at Canyon Lake. Mid-winter numbers have not returned to the same level as before the lake being drained (Fig. 28).

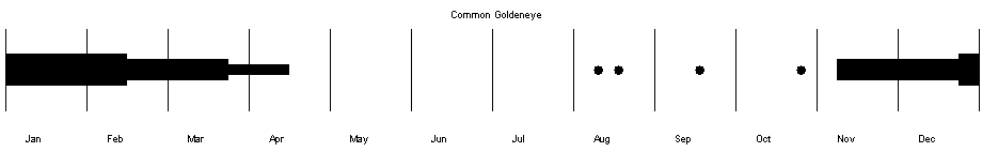


Fig. 27 Common Goldeneye seasonal occurrence.

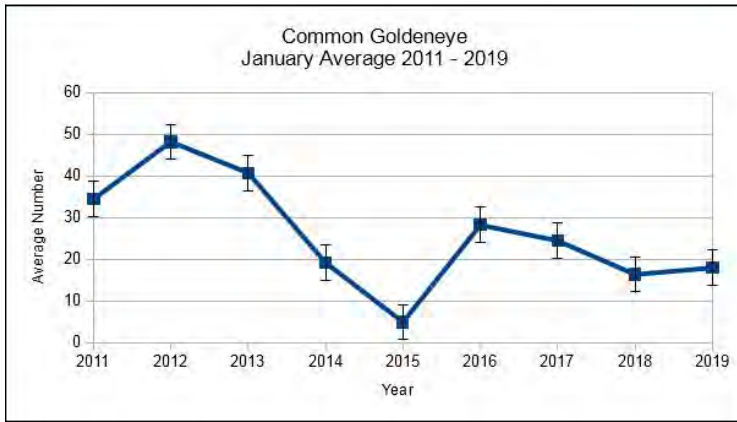


Fig. 28. Common Goldeneye 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Barrow’s Goldeneye – A single male was found by four observers on 2 April 2018. Earlier occurrences of Barrow’s Goldeneye were previously summarized (Baker and Hess 2012).

Hooded Merganser – Fall arrival of Hooded Merganser is very variable with a few sometimes arriving in September or late October (Fig. 29). The end of October marks the usual arrival time. Spring departure is usually finished by early March. The April and June observations were of single birds. A rare west river breeding bird (Drilling *et al.* 2018) no evidence of breeding was noted at Canyon Lake. However one young bird capable of flight was recorded on 11 June 2018. As this species does not breed until it is two years old, this bird likely was a one-year-old immature bird.

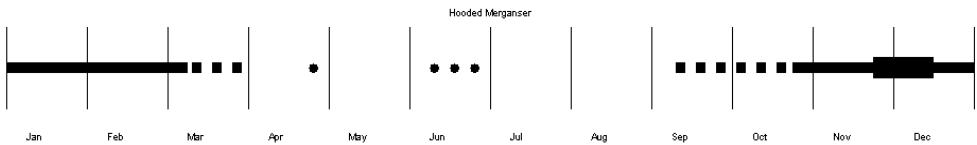


Fig. 29. Hooded Merganser seasonal occurrence.

Common Merganser – Present year round, Common Mergansers were fairly common most of the year (Fig. 30). Mid-winter numbers declined during the reconstruction of the dam in 2015. Since then numbers have returned to or exceeded their previous levels (Fig. 31). The earliest broods appeared was on 22 May 2017; the latest was 22 August 2011 (Hess 2019b). In 75% of survey years broods were present in the July – August period. Common Merganser had the fewest ducklings at the lake in May – June.

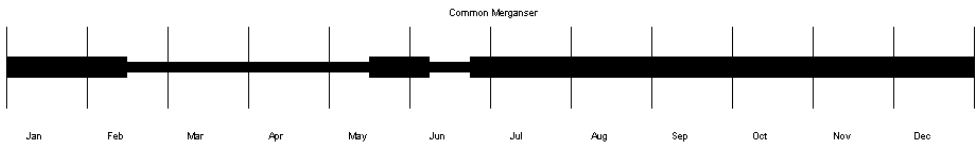


Fig. 30. Common Merganser seasonal occurrence.

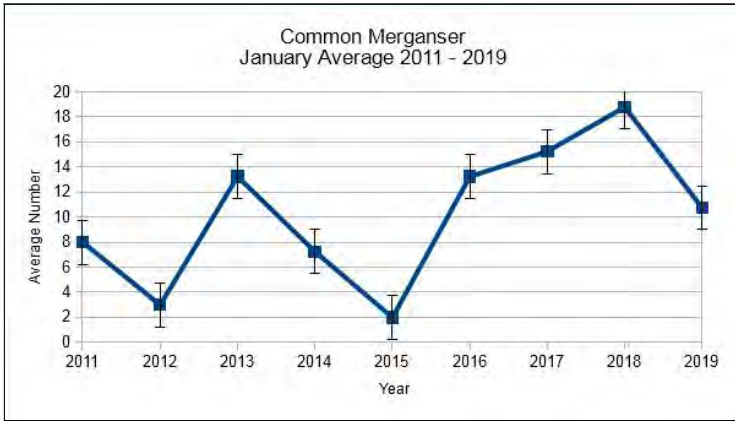


Fig. 31. Common Merganser 2011 – 2019 mid-winter average.

Ruddy Duck – This rare visitor to Canyon Lake has occurred twice each in spring and fall. Although this is a rare west river breeding duck (Drilling *et al.* 2018) none of the May observations suggested local breeding. Presumably the fall observations were of migrants.

Acknowledgments

This survey was first conducted during the winters of 2003 – 2004 and 2004 – 2005 by Jocie Baker. She and Hess have co-lead the surveys reported here. We thank Maurice V. Barnhill, III for permission to use his seasonal bar graph program. Mark Keese provided useful comments. Our thanks are extended to all the volunteers who helped on the surveys.

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The 2019-2020 Winter Season 01 December 2019 to 29 February 2020

Compiled By: Chris Anderson

There were 136 species, including 2 rarities (Pacific Wren, Field Sparrow), reported during the 2019-2020 winter season. The ten-year (2010-2019) average is 142. In the following report, I have not included all reported species but have tried to highlight the distribution of expected winter-only species, unusual early/late dates, species that are out of range, and new county records (found in bold). If there were 8 or fewer reports of a species, all reports are included. Otherwise, the number of reports and counties are listed to show the prevalence of reports of that species across the state. In some cases, if a particular bird or group of birds were observed in the same county repeatedly during the season, those dates and observations have been summarized to represent the length of stay. At the end is a list of 27 species that were not reported this season but might be expected during the Winter Season. A species is placed 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** 24 reports across 9 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hughes Lake, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, and Yankton) 12 Dec – 29 Feb
- Ross's Goose** All Reports 03-12 Dec Stanley KM, RDO; 15 Dec Yankton DS; 29 Feb Hughes RDO; 29 Feb Lake JSP; 29 Feb Sully KM
- Greater White-fronted Goose** 9 reports across 7 counties (Clay, Charles Mix, Hutchinson, Hughes, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 23-29 Feb
- Cackling Goose** 40 reports across 6 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Douglas, Fall River, Hughes, Pennington) 02 Dec – 29 Feb
- Trumpeter Swan** Only Report: 16 Feb Bennett ND
- Wood Duck** All Reports: 04 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 11 Jan Lawrence ND; 21 Jan Stanley KM; 16 Feb Hughes RDO; 17 Feb Hughes KM, JSP
- Northern Shoveler** All Reports: 07 Dec Yankton DS; 15 Dec Yankton CA; 17 Dec Stanley KM; 30 Dec Stanley RDO; 03 Jan Stanley KM; 07 Jan Stanley RDO; 08 Feb Pennington ND; 23 Feb Yankton RND
- Gadwall** 33 reports across 6 counties (Charles Mix, Davison, Lake, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 09 Dec – 29 Feb
- American Wigeon** 22 reports across 3 counties (Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 17 Feb
- Northern Pintail** 39 reports across 7 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Fall River, Hughes, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 06 Dec – 29 Feb
- Green-winged Teal** All Reports: 15 Dec Yankton CA; 16 Feb Bennett ND; 22 Feb Lake JSP; 23 Feb Yankton RND; 28 Feb Charles Mix RM; 29 Feb Charles Mix KP
- Canvasback** reported 06-23 Dec Stanley KM, RDO; 16 Feb Hughes RDO; 17 Feb Hughes KM, JSP; 18 Feb Stanley KM; 23 Feb Yankton RND; 28-29 Feb Charles Mix RM, RSP
- Redhead** 55 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 29 Feb
- Ring-necked Duck** 39 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 08 Dec – 29 Feb
- Greater Scaup** All Reports: 03 Dec – 27 Feb Stanley KM, RDO; 15 Dec Yankton DS; 17 Jan Hughes KM; 31 Jan Hughes MO; 28 Feb Charles Mix RM
- Lesser Scaup** 35 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Hutchinson, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 29 Feb
- White-winged Scoter** All Reports: 01 Dec – 05 Jan Stanley, Hughes KM, RDO
- Long-tailed Duck** All Reports: 18-19 Jan Stanley KM, RDO; 14-29 Feb Charles Mix RM, JSP, KP; 15-23 Feb Yankton RND, DS
- Bufflehead** 41 reports across 6 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Hutchinson, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec-29 Feb
- Common Goldeneye** 96 reports across 12 counties (Bennett, Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, McCook, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec-29 Feb
- Barrow's Goldeneye** All Reports: 15 Feb Yankton DS; 17 Feb Yankton RND, GJS; 23 Feb Yankton RND

Hooded Merganser 39 reports across 7 counties (Charles Mix, Grant, Hughes, Moody, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec-26 Feb

Common Merganser 99 reports across 10 counties (Charles Mix, Fall River, Grant, Gregory, Hughes, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec-29 Feb

Red-breasted Merganser 32 reports across 3 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley) 03 Dec-29 Feb

Ruddy Duck reported 07 Dec Yankton RND, DS; 15 Dec Yankton CA; 21 Dec Davison KP; 02 Jan Gregory KP; 17-25 Feb Yankton RND

Ruffed Grouse All Reports: 12 Dec Lawrence DGP; 24 Jan Lawrence DGP

Pied-billed Grebe reported 02 Jan – 29 Feb Charles Mix RM, JSP, KP

Mourning Dove All Reports: 14 Dec Brown GO; 04 Jan Lincoln CA; 27 Feb Brown GO

Virginia Rail Only Report: 22 Dec Fall River ND

American Coot 39 reports across 8 counties (Bennett, Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec - 29 Feb

Black-legged Kittiwake Only Report: 16 Dec Charles Mix RM

Bonaparte's Gull 22 reports across 4 counties (Charles Mix, Gregory, Hughes, Stanley) 01 Dec - 13 Jan

Ring-billed Gull 60 reports across 6 counties (Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec - 29 Feb

California Gull 26 reports across 3 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley) 05 Dec - 17 Feb

Herring Gull 72 reports across 7 counties (Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec- 29 Feb

Iceland Gull 33 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 01 Dec - 25 Feb

Lesser Black-backed Gull 24 reports across 2 counties (Charles Mix, Stanley) 01 Dec - 18 Jan

Glaucous Gull 35 reports across 3 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley) 05 Dec - 25 Feb

Double-crested Cormorant All Reports: 12 Dec Stanley RDO; 02 Jan Charles Mix KP; 09 Jan Charles Mix RM; 11 Jan Charles Mix KP

American White Pelican 24 reports across 2 counties (Charles Mix, Stanley) 03 Dec - 29 Feb

Great Blue Heron All Reports: 09 Dec – 24 Feb Pennington CLG; 17 Dec Stanley KM

Golden Eagle 70 reports across 22 counties (Butte, Corson, Custer, Fall River, Faulk, Harding, Hughes, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Ziebach) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

Northern Harrier 49 reports across 20 counties (Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Hughes, Hutchinson, Jackson, Lawrence, Lyman, McCook, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Ziebach) 03 Dec – 29 Feb

Sharp-shinned Hawk 42 reports across 13 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Davison, Douglas, Edmunds, Fall River, Faulk, Hughes, Hyde, Lake, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley) 03 Dec – 28 Feb

Cooper's Hawk 21 reports across 10 counties (Brown, Davison, Hughes, Hyde, Lake, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

Northern Goshawk 30 reports across 15 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Edmunds, Fall River, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Mellette, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Union, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

Rough-legged Hawk 118 reports across 37 counties (12 East River, 15 West River, 10 Missouri River corridor) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

Ferruginous Hawk 39 reports across 16 counties (Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Stanley, Todd, Ziebach) 05 Dec – 28 Feb

Eastern Screech-Owl 31 reports across 12 counties (Davison, Hanson, Hughes, Jackson, Kingsbury, Lincoln, Mellette, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Todd, Yankton) 02 Dec – 28 Feb

Snowy Owl All Reports: 20 Dec Hyde RDO; 20 Jan Faulk RDO; 22 Jan Hyde KM; 01 Feb Faulk/Hyde ND; 03 Feb Faulk KM, RDO

Barred Owl All Reports: 14 Dec Minnehaha CA; 04 Jan Lincoln CA

Long-eared Owl 24 reports across 5 counties (Hughes, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Perkins, Stanley, Sully) 06 Dec – 15 Feb

Short-eared Owl 21 reports across 8 counties (Bennett, Butte, Harding, Jackson, Meade, Miner, Minnehaha, Stanley) 05 Dec – 25 Feb

Northern Saw-whet Owl 32 reports across 12 counties (Charles Mix, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Yankton) 07 Dec – 28 Feb, and first county records **07 Dec Hanson CA; 21 Dec Hanson RDO; 31 Jan Bon Homme, Hutchinson, CA; 01 Feb Hand CA; 21 Feb Douglas CA, KP**

Belted Kingfisher 28 reports across 8 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Miner, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

Lewis's Woodpecker All Reports: 24 Jan Lawrence KM, RDO; 28 Jan Lawrence ND

Red-headed Woodpecker All Reports: 13 Dec Stanley RDO; 16 Dec Stanley KM

American Three-toed Woodpecker All Reports: 05 Dec – 21 Feb Lawrence DGP

Black-backed Woodpecker All Reports: 14 Dec Lawrence GDP; 02 Feb Pennington ND

Pileated Woodpecker All Reports: 04 Dec – 27 Feb Roberts CV; 21 Dec Roberts JSP; 04 Jan Lincoln CA, MO

Merlin 36 reports across 17 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Davison, Douglas, Hughes, Hutchinson, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, McCook, Meade, Miner, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, Todd) 05 Dec – 28 Feb

Gyr Falcon All Reports 04 Jan Stanley RDO; 05 Jan Stanley RDO; 15 Jan Jones KM; 26 Jan Lyman RDO; 30 Jan Stanley RDO; 31 Jan Stanley KM; 01 Feb Stanley RDO, MO

Prairie Falcon 35 reports across 12 counties (Butte, Charles Mix, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Hutchinson, Hyde, Jackson, Lyman, Meade, Stanley, Tripp) 03 Dec – 17 Feb

Northern Shrike 48 reports across 24 counties (Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Davison, Day, Fall River, Gregory, Hanson, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lyman, Miner, Moody, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, Stanley, Sully) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

Canada Jay All Reports: 01 Dec Lawrence DGP; 24 Jan Pennington KM, RDO; 29 Feb Lawrence DGP

Pinyon Jay Only Report: 13 Jan Fall River RDO

Clark's Nutcracker Only Report: 24 Jan Pennington KM, RDO

Black-billed Magpie 30 reports across 13 counties (Custer, Fall River, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Ziebach) 01 Dec – 22 Feb

Golden-crowned Kinglet 33 reports across 11 counties (Beadle, Davison, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

Ruby-crowned Kinglet Only Report 15 Dec Yankton DS

Red-breasted Nuthatch 84 reports across 24 counties (Beadle, Brown, Clay, Codington, Custer, Douglas, Edmunds, Fall River, Hand, Hughes, Jackson, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Mellette, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Yankton) 07 Dec – 29 Feb

Pygmy Nuthatch All Reports: 23 Dec Pennington ND; 24 Jan Pennington KM, RDO; **28 Feb Todd KM, RDO**

Brown Creeper 38 reports across 16 counties (Beadle, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Edmunds, Hand, Harding, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Yankton) 06 Dec – 28 Feb

Canyon Wren All Reports: 22 Dec Fall River ND; 22 Feb Fall River ND

Pacific Wren reported 04 Dec – 18 Feb Stanley KM (continuing bird documented during fall season)

Winter Wren 12 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) KM 01 Dec - 26 Feb

Carolina Wren Only Report: 05 Jan Charles Mix RM

American Dipper All Reports: 09 Dec Lawrence DGP; 11 Jan Lawrence ND; 07 Feb Lawrence DGP

Gray Catbird Only Report: 13 Dec Stanley KM

Mountain Bluebird Only Report: 13 Jan Fall River RDO

Townsend's Solitaire 37 reports across 13 counties (Brown, Davison, Fall River, Hand, Hughes, Jackson, Lawrence, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Union) 06 Dec – 22 Feb

Varied Thrush All Reports: 12 Dec Custer ND; 23 Dec Pennington ND; 02 Pennington KM; 13 Jan Pennington Custer RDO; 08 Feb Pennington ND

Bohemian Waxwing All Reports: 03 Jan Perkins ND; 04 Jan Harding ND; 11 Jan Lawrence ND

Evening Grosbeak Only Report: 13 Jan Lawrence RDO

Pine Grosbeak All Reports: 14 Dec Brown GO; 14 Dec Stanley KM; 17 Dec Stanley KM; 21 Dec Stanley KM; 06 Jan Stanley RDO; 19 Feb Stanley KM; 24 Feb Hughes KM

Purple Finch 74 reports across 8 counties (Brown, Clay, Day, Edmunds, Hughes, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

Red Crossbill 26 reports across 12 counties (Brookings, Brown, Codington, Custer, Day, Fall River, Hughes, Lake, Minnehaha, Perkins, Stanley, Todd) 10 Dec – 28 Feb

White-winged Crossbill All Reports: 23 Dec Minnehaha KM; 01 Jan Minnehaha CA; **03 Jan Perkins ND**; 04 Jan Minnehaha MO; 05 Jan Lawrence DGP; **09 Jan Perkins KM, RDO**; 08 Feb Minnehaha CA; 18 Feb Hughes RDO; **23 Feb Codington CA**

Pine Siskin 99 reports across 15 counties (Beadle, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Codington, Edmunds, Faulk, Hughes, Jackson, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Roberts, Stanley, Sully) 07 Dec – 29 Feb

Lapland Longspur 25 reports across 13 counties (Codington, Davison, Gregory, Hughes, Jones, Lake, Lincoln, Lyman, McCook, Miner, Stanley, Sully, Turner) 03 Dec – 29 Feb

Snow Bunting 20 reports across 17 counties (Aurora, Brookings, Brown, Codington, Davison, Day, Douglas, Jerauld, Lake, Lyman, Miner, Roberts, Stanley, Sully) 03 Dec – 19 Feb, and first county records **21 Dec Deuel JSP; 16 Jan Hyde KM, RDO; 01 Feb Corson ND**

American Tree Sparrow 90 reports across 23 counties (Beadle, Bennett, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hand, Harding, Hughes, Jackson, Lake, Lincoln, Lyman, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

Dark-eyed Junco 233 reports across 36 counties (17 East River, 10 West River, 9 Missouri River corridor) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

Song Sparrow All Reports: 02 Dec Pennington ND; 07 Dec Yankton DS; 22 Dec Fall River ND; 01 Jan Clay GJS; 29 Jan Hughes KM; 08 Feb Pennington ND

White-throated Sparrow All Reports: 01 Dec – 22 Jan Brown GO; 01 Dec Clay DS; 11 Dec Lake JSP

Harris's Sparrow All Reports: 07 Dec Lake JSP; 14 Dec Stanley RDO; 12 Jan Lincoln CA; 14 Jan Stanley KM; 17 Jan Stanley RDO; 25 Jan Moody JSP

White-crowned Sparrow 14 reports across 3 counties (Douglas, Hughes, Stanley) 12 Dec – 25 Feb

Spotted Towhee 11 reports in 3 counties (Hughes, Jackson, Stanley) 06 Dec – 25 Feb

Yellow-headed Blackbird All Reports: 12 Dec Stanley RDO; 14 Dec Stanley RDO; 08 Feb Brookings JSP; 19 Feb Stanley RDO

Western Meadowlark 17 reports across 8 counties (Brown, Brule, Charles Mix, Hughes, Jackson, Lyman, Stanley, Todd) 07 Dec – 29 Feb

Red-winged Blackbird 30 reports across 13 counties (Bennett, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Edmunds, Hyde, Jones, Lincoln, Lyman, McCook, Stanley, Yankton) 04 Dec – 28 Feb

Brown-headed Cowbird 10 reports across 5 counties (Bennett, Davison, Lincoln, Lyman, Stanley) 12 Dec – 19 Feb

Rusty Blackbird 14 reports across 5 counties (Brookings, Clay, Davison, Hughes, Lincoln, Stanley) 11 Dec – 10 Feb

Brewer's Blackbird All Reports: 14 Dec Stanley RDO; 25 Jan Jones RDO; 01 Feb Stanley RDO, MO

Common Grackle 10 reports across 8 counties (Brookings, Edmunds, Lake, Lyman, Potter, Roberts, Stanley, Turner) 03 Dec – 19 Feb

Yellow-rumped Warbler All Reports: 12 Dec Hughes KM; 28 Dec Hughes KM; 06 Feb Hughes KM

Northern Cardinal 123 reports across 17 counties (9 East River, 6 Missouri River corridor) and 02 Jan Pennington KM; 02 Feb Pennington CLG; 08 Feb Pennington ND; **28 Feb Mellette KM, RDO**

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Pacific Wren reported **28 Feb Todd KM, RDO**
Field Sparrow reported 01 Dec Clay DS

Species Expected But Not Reported

Tundra Swan, Blue-winged Teal, American Black Duck (3), Surf Scoter (3), Black Scoter, Gray Partridge, Western Grebe, Red-necked Grebe (2), Sandhill Crane (3), Killdeer (3), Franklin's Gull (2), Mew Gull, Great Black-backed Gull (4), Barn Owl, Wilson's Snipe, Common Loon (3), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Marsh Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush (2), Brown Thrasher (3), Northern Mockingbird (2), Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (3), Cassin's Finch (2), Common Redpoll, Fox Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow (2)

Contributing Observers

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CLG	Canyon Lake Group	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	DS	David Swanson
RM	Ron Mabie	CV	Cheryl Vellenga
KM	Kenny Miller	JW	Josh Wallestad
GO	Gary Olson		

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