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South Dakota

Bird  Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union



*Photo Credit: Kelly Preheim*

Eastern Kingbird Adult and Fledgling

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# SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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**Scholarships and Awards:** Nelda Holden, Ricky D. Olson (chair), Galen Steffen



## President's Page

*Kelly Preheim*

Explaining birding to others has always been difficult for me. My neighbor thought it was “cute” that I went out to look at the pretty birds so often. She is correct that I do love looking at the pretty birds. Birds are also amazing animals with interesting behaviors, phenomenal migrations, and intricate songs, but there's more to it.

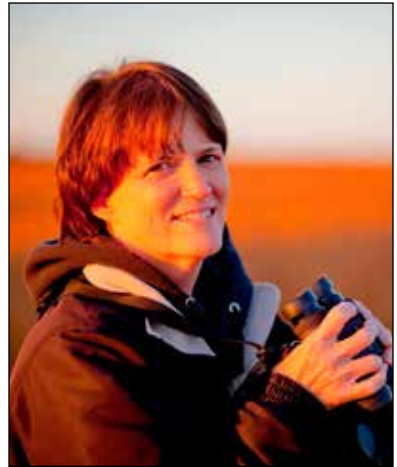
I've noticed after giving bird presentations, that people hadn't realized how many different species of birds there are. They didn't know that certain birds are in an area only at certain times of the year. Birders enjoy seeing migrating birds they hadn't seen for many months. I joke that it's like seeing an old friend again. One of the great things about birding, is that birds are everywhere and we can be entertained nearly anywhere we are.

I really enjoy science, so observing birds and studying birds is fascinating to me. Identifying a bird by sight and song can be challenging at times. Getting glimpses of a bird skulking around in a shrub and then identifying it correctly is rewarding.

Listing birds is like a game for birders. I'm a list-motivated person, so having lists of birds from different counties and parts of the United States is very interesting. I enjoy the challenge of trying to add to the lists now and then. Birding has taught me to be more aware of nature and its patterns.

Ten years ago, when I became a birder, I began taking photos, so I could identify certain birds at home with my field guide. Now, getting a good photo of a bird is a great souvenir and a great way to share what I see with others. It's important to share what birds we are seeing, to teach other people about birds and the natural world.

There is another part of birding that is special. Being out in nature is such a great feeling. Observing the beautiful scenery, sky, wildflowers and other animals is a feeling that's hard to describe. It helps me to feel that I'm a part of something bigger and it helps to ground me. I can't seem to get enough of it. Even now as I write this piece on a beautiful, calm, summer morning, I feel restless and I want to be outdoors. Birding is also a great way to relax and exercise. Being mindful and focused on birds while out in nature, is a great way to reduce stress. The next time someone asks you to explain what birding is, tell them they will need to take a seat because there's more to it than looking at pretty birds.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Upcoming Fall SDOU Meeting.**

The Fall 2021 meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union will be an in-person meeting at the Froiland Science Complex at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, September 10 – 12. There will be field trips Saturday and Sunday mornings, and featured speakers on Friday and Saturday evening. Biologists and students will give presentations on their current bird research projects during the day on Saturday.

We strongly encourage wearing masks indoors or while carpooling/birding. The science center will have plenty of room to be socially distanced during the meeting. We will have box dinners for the banquet on Saturday evening at Augustana University and we hope to have that meal outdoors, weather permitting. See details and registration information on pages 37-38.

## 2021 SDOU Scholarship Recipients

The Kenneth H. Husmann Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduate student majoring in ornithology, ecology or wildlife management. The 2021 Husmann Scholarship recipient is Mr. Reza Goljani Amirkhiz, a Ph. D. student in the laboratory of Dr. David Swanson at the University of South Dakota (co-advised by Dr. Mark Dixon). He is currently in the fourth year of the program and has completed his comprehensive exams to advance to Ph. D. candidacy. He intends to complete his Ph. D. in Spring of 2023. For his dissertation research, Reza is using ecological modeling techniques to (1) identify important habitat features relating to bird site occupancy and abundance and (2) examine land use and climate change impacts on the distribution and abundance of grassland bird populations in South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains. Specific research projects include (1) using hierarchical modeling to identify important climate and habitat features correlated with Virginia's Warbler occurrence in the Black Hills and to predict other potential areas of suitable habitat in the Black Hills outside of the current known range, (2) modeling pheasant abundance in South Dakota as a function of habitat and climate characteristics and predicting future population changes, and (3) using recently developed machine learning techniques to model impacts of different potential climate and land use change scenarios on grassland and wetland bird populations across the upper Missouri River Basin. All of these modeling projects have important conservation implications for species of conservation concern or economic importance in South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains region. To date, Reza has published one paper from his dissertation project. Goljani Amirkhiz, R., J.S. Palmer, M.D. Dixon, and D.L. Swanson. 2021. Investigating niches and distribution of rare species in a hierarchical framework: Virginia's Warbler (*Leiothlypis virginiae*) at its northeastern range limit. *Landscape Ecology* 36:In press. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-021-01217-7>.

The \$1200 Mary E. Baylor Memorial Scholarship is given to a student in his/her junior year at a South Dakota college or university. The student must be pursuing a major in biology with particular interest, in order of priority, in ornithology, ecology, wildlife management, biological education, medical practice, or medical research. This year's recipient is Ms. Alexandria Nicholson, a junior biology major in the biodiversity and conservation track at the University of South Dakota. This summer, Alexandria has volunteered to be involved in an undergraduate research project, for which she will get undergraduate research course credit (BIOL 498). She anticipates graduating in May of 2022. After graduation Alexandria is strongly committed to pursuing a career in ornithology, ecology, conservation biology, or animal husbandry, either as a government scientist or with a zoo. Her strong academic ability and commitment to such a career should virtually assure her success in this endeavor.

Two Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr. Memorial Research Grants were awarded in 2021. These grants fund research by qualified graduate and upper division students majoring in ornithology, avian ecology, avian wildlife management, or related scientific discipline or to other ornithologically or scientifically-qualified individuals, including amateur ornithologists. Whitney Small Grants are payable up to \$750. Recipients are expected to present the results of their research at an SDOU meeting or publish the results within three years of the research.

The first 2021 Whitney Grant recipient is Stephanie Nefas, a PhD student at University of South Dakota. Her research is entitled "Migratory bird use of early successional riparian: what do we lose by managing sandbars for plovers and terns?" The second recipient is Jennifer Linscott, a PhD student at University of South Carolina. Her project, entitled "The glaciated prairie pothole region of eastern South Dakota contains refueling sites for migrating birds", will investigate prairie hydrology in eastern South Dakota in tandem with the presence of the migratory Hudsonian Godwit.

# The First Annual SDOU Collective Big Day – 15 May 2021

David Swanson  
Vermillion

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person Spring 2021 SDOU meeting was cancelled. In lieu of an in-person spring SDOU meeting, SDOU hosted the inaugural SDOU Big Day on 15 May 2021. The event involved individuals or groups birding in an area of their choice in South Dakota, most often, although not exclusively, near their residence, although birding at any location or locations in South Dakota was allowed. Birding on the Big Day was allowed for the entire 24-hr day on 15 May, from 12:00 am on 15 May to 12:00 am on 16 May, or any portion thereof.

Each person or group kept a list of all species observed (seen or heard) during the day, which they submitted to the compiler, David Swanson of Vermillion. The lists also included all locations visited during the 24-hr period, but not separate bird lists for each location visited. Counts of individual bird species observed were also not recorded, only the species list. I received lists from twenty-six different individuals or groups, ranging across the state from the northern and central Black Hills to Roberts and Day counties to the southeastern part of the state. The total species count recorded for the day was 236 species (Table 1), with top list honors going to Chris Anderson and Peter Binstock, who birded from Newton Hills State Park to Lake Thompson to net 155 species. Rare birds detected on the Big Day included Whimbrel (Kingsbury and Marshall counties), Glossy Ibis (Potter Co.), Lesser Black-backed Gull (Lake Thompson) and Hooded Warbler (Newton Hills State Park).

Table 1. Species list for 2021 SDOU Collective Big Day

Snow Goose	Pectoral Sandpiper	Peregrine Falcon	Red Crossbill
Canada Goose	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Prairie Falcon	Pine Siskin
Trumpeter Swan	Short-billed Dowitcher	Olive-sided Flycatcher	American Goldfinch
Wood Duck	Long-billed Dowitcher	Western Wood-Pewee	Spotted Towhee
Blue-winged Teal	American Woodcock	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Towhee
Northern Shoveler	Wilson's Snipe	Willow Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Gadwall	Spotted Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Clay-colored Sparrow
American Wigeon	Lesser Yellowlegs	Eastern Phoebe	Field Sparrow
Mallard	Willet	Say's Phoebe	Vesper Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Greater Yellowlegs	Great Crested Flycatcher	Lark Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Wilson's Phalarope	Western Kingbird	Lark Bunting
Canvasback	Red-necked Phalarope	Eastern Kingbird	Savannah Sparrow
Redhead	Franklin's Gull	Loggerhead Shrike	Grasshopper Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Bell's Vireo	Song Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	California Gull	Yellow-throated Vireo	Lincoln's Sparrow
Bufflehead	Herring Gull	Blue-headed Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Philadelphia Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Common Merganser	Least Tern	Warbling Vireo	Harris's Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Caspian Tern	Red-eyed Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	Black Tern	Canada Jay	Dark-eyed Junco

Killdeer	Barred Owl	Veery	Yellow Warbler
Upland Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Whimbrel	Red-headed Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	Blackpoll Warbler
Long-billed Curlew	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Palm Warbler
Hudsonian Godwit	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Wood Thrush	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Marbled Godwit	Red-naped Sapsucker	American Robin	Scarlet Tanager
Ruddy Turnstone	Downy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	Western Tanager
Stilt Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Northern Cardinal
Sanderling	Black-backed Woodpecker	European Starling	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Dunlin	Northern Flicker	Cedar Waxwing	Black-headed Grosbeak
Baird's Sandpiper	Pileated Woodpecker	House Sparrow	Lazuli Bunting
Least Sandpiper	American Kestrel	House Finch	Indigo Bunting
White-rumped Sandpiper	Merlin	Cassin's Finch	Dickcissel

Despite a strong overall total of 236 species, a number of regular species for South Dakota for the middle of May were missed. Black Hills observers noted that spring always arrives later in the Black Hills than in the eastern part of the state, and maybe particularly slowly this year. Thus, some of the western breeding species hadn't arrived yet, which accounted for some of the missed species. In any event, 39 regular migrant or breeding species were missed on the Collective Big Day (Table 2), perhaps providing areas or bird species to target for next year.

Table 2. Regular migrants or breeding species not observed on the 2021 SDOU Collective Big Day.

Greater White-fronted Goose	Barn Owl	Evening Grosbeak
Ruffed Grouse	Long-eared Owl	Lesser Goldfinch
Greater Sage-Grouse	Short-eared Owl	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Horned Grebe	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Baird's Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Lewis's Woodpecker	LeConte's Sparrow
Common Nighthawk	American Three-toed Woodpecker	Nelson's Sparrow
Common Poorwill	Alder Flycatcher	Yellow-breasted Chat
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Dusky Flycatcher	Bullock's Oriole
White-throated Swift	Cordilleran Flycatcher	Virginia's Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	Plumbeous Vireo	Northern Parula
Least Bittern	Black-billed Magpie	Blackburnian Warbler
Ferruginous Hawk	Canyon Wren	Canada Warbler
Golden Eagle	Sprague's Pipit	Wilson's Warbler

The SDOU Board of Directors voted at their 16 May 2021 Zoom meeting to make the SDOU Collective Big Day an annual event, so look for an announcement in late April or early May of 2022. The potential for attracting new members from this event and the promotion of collegiality among members were mentioned as some of the benefits of making this an annual event. SDOU will carefully schedule the Collective Big Day so that it does not overlap with other events. The BOD vote was to make this an annual event to be held loosely in conjunction with Endangered Species Week, which occurs during the second or third week of May. Now that we have initial bird species and contributor totals, we have something to try to try to surpass next year, so I hope to see you involved in 2022. Let's see if we can beat the 26 lists submitted and 236 species observed.

# In Memoriam

## Bruce K. Harris, 1924-2021

*David Swanson  
Vermillion*

Long-time South Dakota birder, SDOU charter member, and SDOU Past-President Bruce Kent Harris died on 4 March 2021 in Brookings, South Dakota. Survivors include two of his children, Gordon Harris of Woodsville, NH, and Janet (Harris) Clark of Aurora, SD, seven grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

Bruce was born on 12 March 1924 to Dr. Herschel and Alice (Jones) Harris in Wilmot, SD. He attended schools in Wilmot and upon graduating, Bruce attended North Dakota State University for one year before being drafted into the military. He entered the Navy as a Pharmacist's Mate, 3rd Class, in 1943 and worked in naval hospitals in New Guinea and the Philippines. Bruce was honorably discharged from the Navy in March 1946. His natural history inclinations were evident during his time serving overseas with the Navy as he developed an interest in butterflies and built a small collection. This interest in butterflies continued upon his return stateside and he amassed a substantial collection of butterflies. Indeed, Bruce was acknowledged for providing access to butterfly specimens and records in Gary Marrone's 2002 book *Field Guide to the Butterflies of South Dakota*.

Following his naval service, Bruce attended the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University in Logan, UT, graduating with a degree in biology and botany. He then made a career working for Wildlife and Fisheries departments in California, New Mexico and South Dakota. Much of his career in South Dakota was as a Conservation Officer for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. Bruce married Lavinia Hove on 31 March 1956 in Newhall, CA. They had three children, Gordon, Mark and Janet.

Bruce maintained a lifelong interest in birds and birding and SDOU provided a natural outlet for his interests and talents. He was a charter member of SDOU, founded in 1949, and prior to his passing was the last remaining charter member. Bruce had an all-encompassing knowledge of South Dakota birds. His contributions to SDOU, including many publications in *South Dakota Bird Notes* and numerous service roles are too many to fully recount here, so I will just focus on a few highlights. Bruce served two years as President of SDOU from 1973-1975. He also served periodically as compiler for the Seasonal Reports feature in *Bird Notes* and served a long tenure on the Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC). Bruce was a charter member of this committee upon its establishment in 1987 and continued to serve as a highly valued RBRC member until 1998. Bruce was also a member of the SDOU Checklist Committee, which collectively authored the first two editions of *The Birds of South Dakota* in 1978 and 1991. Bruce was also a major contributor to the first *South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas*. His publications in *South Dakota Bird Notes* were voluminous and included first state records for Tricolored Heron (SDBN 32:81), Parasitic Jaeger (SDBN 51:53-54; along with Nelda Holden), Lesser Black-backed Gull (SDBN 48:33-34), and Boreal Chickadee (SDBN 24:84-85). Bruce also documented first South Dakota nesting records for Great Egret (SDBN 34:39-40), California Gull (SDBN 34:64-65), Caspian Tern (SDBN 50:32-35), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (SDBN 39:66-67), and Pileated Woodpecker (SDBN 47:28-31).

Many of Bruce's most interesting bird records came from northeastern South Dakota, in the counties surrounding his home in Clear Lake, Deuel County, and his cabin on Big Stone Lake in Roberts County, but he birded regularly throughout the state. Bruce was renowned as an excellent and caring mentor, with an excellent ear for identifying bird songs. I remember well Bruce taking my wife, Lisa, and me tromping through some mowed hayfields in Roberts County on a Sunday afternoon in October of 1994, after a Fall SDOU meeting at Enemy Swim Lake, which led to my lifer Smith's Longspur. Numerous other SDOU members can share similar stories of Bruce going out of his way to connect people to birds and to other birders. I also had the privilege of serving with Bruce for several years on the Rare Bird Records

Committee. Bruce was an astute observer with appropriately critical evaluation skills, and coupled with his expansive knowledge of South Dakota birds, Bruce was an invaluable member of the RBRC.

I asked Rosemary Draeger and Nelda Holden, who knew Bruce longer than I did, to provide some memories of birding with Bruce. Rosemary recalled that ...

I have many fond memories of birding with Bruce. Bruce always had time to help folks figure out just what species they were trying to identify. I so appreciated all the times he helped me learn more about ducks and shorebirds. Bruce knew the calls and songs of birds equally as well as their appearance. He enjoyed just getting out to search during migration, with no expectation of any great find. And I remember his great enthusiasm when we drove down to Union Grove one day during warbler migration and caught about eight species in trees in the picnic area there. This included Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, and Magnolia plus several others. Bruce called out "Look at this! It's a Red-letter Day!"

Bruce also knew his botany. He could name all the trees and bushes in which we saw birds. One of my very favorite moments with Bruce was one day we were headed over to Sand Lake to check on shorebirds and look for a Least Bittern, a bird I have to this day never seen clearly! So, after I picked him up in Clear Lake, his home town, and we headed across Highway 12 toward Sand Lake, stopping, by the way, at every single wet spot to check on all ducks, herons, and even ibises, he suddenly said "Stop, stop!" I put on the brakes, pulled over quickly, stopped the car, he leaped out, and ran across the road and back to the wet spot we had just passed just below the railroad tracks. I ran after him expecting a rare bird in the water. No, no, there he stood pointing and waving at a flower in the ditch, a prairie white-fringed orchid! I learned all about it right that minute! And even though I have cruised by the spot often in the spring while heading to Sand Lake or beyond, I cannot recall ever having seen another. So, thank you Bruce for that wonderful moment!

Nelda recalled that ...

Bruce was a charter member of SDOU and was an excellent birder. He also was an expert on butterflies and had a great collection. His home was in Clear Lake, but he also had a cabin on the lake which we visited with him several times. He was so pleased to show us the pileated woodpecker which I had never seen before. In later years his eye sight failed him so could not see the birds, but he still could identify them by sound. We will all miss him. His last years were spent in the United Living Community in Brookings, SD.

I read through all of Bruce's President's Pages in Bird Notes, from December 1973 through September 1975, as these columns reveal some of what he found special and especially interesting about South Dakota birds and birding. Bruce was always excited to find rare birds and he was really good at it. His enthusiasm for seeking rarities shows up in his first President's Page in December 1973, where he commented on the potential for bird feeding to attract rare birds. He went on to describe a specific example – the first South Dakota record for Boreal Chickadee, which showed up at his feeders in Clear Lake on 2 November 1972. Bruce revisited this topic in his September 1975 President's Page, focusing on putting records of rare birds in South Dakota into the broader context of large-scale bird movements. He also encouraged reporting of rare birds to better incorporate these records into the official bird records of the state. The Seasonal Reports feature in Bird Notes was initiated during Bruce's presidency, with the Winter of 1974-1975, and this, along with the Rare Bird Records Committee, has become the vehicle for incorporating records of rare birds into the official database for South Dakota bird records.

Bruce was President of SDOU during the 25th Anniversary in 1974 and in his March 1974 President's Page, he noted the prominent role of Herman F. Chapman in establishing and sustaining SDOU for its first few formative years. This demonstrates the appreciation Bruce had for the ornithological history of South Dakota and the work of others in laying the foundations for SDOU. Bruce also used the 25th Anniversary platform to recount the highlights of the 25th Anniversary SDOU meetings in the spring in Vermillion and in the fall in Pierre in the March 1974 and December 1974 President's Pages, respectively.

Bruce's background in natural resources and his extensive field work provided him with a clear understanding of bird-habitat relationships and he voiced his concerns over the conversion of natural



habitats to croplands due to high corn prices at the time in his June 1974 President's Page. It is interesting how nearly 50 years later, we are still seeing some of these same issues at play regarding birds and habitats in South Dakota. Bruce also commented on the land acquisition programs of state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy, in helping to preserve natural habitats for birds and other wildlife. These same programs are still important today for conservation of bird habitat. Bruce revisited this topic in his June 1975 President's Page, where he highlighted the purchase of the property that would become Ordway Prairie by The Nature Conservancy.

Winter birds and their relationships with weather, habitat, feeding and vagrancy were topics of special interest to Bruce, and he dealt with this topic in several of his President's Pages. For example, Bruce was a regular participant in Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) in South Dakota and used the September 1974 President's Page to review CBC opportunities in South Dakota and encourage participation. At that time, there were only 9 CBCs in the state, down from 12-13 in previous years. For reference, there are currently 19 CBCs in the state.

Membership in SDOU was, and still is, a concern and Bruce tackled this topic in the March 1975 President's Page. He highlighted the difficulties in recruiting younger members at that time and efforts undertaken to help make that happen. This is another example of history repeating itself, as recruiting young members remains at the forefront of SDOU membership concerns to this day.

Bruce's great enthusiasm for field ornithology, his keen eye and ear for finding birds, his endeavors to promote new information about birds and birding in South Dakota, his far-ranging knowledge of birds and their habitats throughout South Dakota, his willingness to teach and mentor others, and his willingness to serve SDOU in a variety of impactful ways will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



## What's in a Name?

*D. George Prisbe-Przybysz*

Quick. Name the four species of birds on the South Dakota checklist that begin with the color brown. Okay, too easy? Alright, name the six species with gray in their name. Still too easy? How about the fifteen species that reference yellow?

As an artist, I feel that I am always keenly aware of color. I notice this when entering observations in my daily journal. This is especially true on those days that begin something like this: black-capped chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, brown-headed cowbird, white-breasted nuthatch, red crossbill, yellow-rumped warbler, and so on.

This got me thinking, how many birds on the state checklist have names that refer to color? Turns out, according to my tabulation, the answer is one hundred and fifty-one. This is almost precisely one-third of the four hundred and fifty species and races on the SDOU checklist.

Six species have names that reference two colors (think black-throated blue warbler or gray-crowned rosy-finch).

The color black (which every artist knows is the total lack of color) tops the list with twenty-three species incorporating this "color" in their name. White, which is the sum of all colors, is represented eighteen times.

Red is associated with more bird names than any other color, appearing nineteen times on the checklist. This number expands to twenty-five species when including rose, rosy, cardinal, scarlet and vermilion. Blue completes the primary colors with twelve entries, though it could claim cerulean and duke it out with purple for rights to indigo and lazuli.

The secondary colors, though my favorite, are indeed secondary. Purple and green tally four each and orange shows up only twice, which will presumably drop to once, as the famed Orange-billed Nightingale

Thrush fades into history and is stricken from the list.

Some of the references to color are indeed a bit obscure: fulvous, clay, buff, glaucous, slate, rufous, ferruginous, chestnut, cinnamon, ruddy, and rusty.

As long as I was at it, I also made these notations: eighty-two species mention a geographic region (think American, Eurasian, Eastern, Caspian, etc.); fifty-two birds have names that refer to habitat (think marsh, field, swamp, tree, etc.); forty-nine species are named after someone (think LeConte, Cassin, Harris, Wilson, etc.); twenty-nine names refer to size (think least, greater, etc.); sixteen species infer sound (think song, cackling, laughing, warbling etc.); and thirteen have the prefix “common.”

When these ponderings about bird names began, there were one hundred and fifty-two checklist entries that referred to physiological features (think long-eared, black-bellied, hooded, ring-billed, rough-legged, etc.). That number increased with the recent A.O.S. decision to change McCown’s Longspur to Thick-billed Longspur.

That change also eliminated one species from the list of those birds named after people. The most recent version of the South Dakota checklist now includes forty-four eponymous names. The American Ornithological Society has undertaken the process of examining these names, and more changes are on the way. Regardless of how one may feel about this issue, politics and personal bias aside, I applaud this effort simply because of the possessive nature of these names. Can a person, can any species, lay claim to another, especially one as emblematic of freedom as are birds?

On a less serious note, there are those single word names that make alpha codes easy (think Osprey, Killdeer, Gadwall). Of these there are nineteen. The easiest four letter alpha codes to get right are, of course, RUFF and SORA!

I know what you are thinking, and it’s not true. I don’t have too much time on my hands and I do have much to do!



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## Cedar Waxwing with Wax Tipped Retrices

*Doug Backlund  
Pierre*

On the morning of 13 May, 2021 I happened to stop by the Farm Island bird banding station, Hughes County, near Pierre. Casey Heimerl and Hilary Morey (South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks) were banding some Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). I commented that one of the birds had seven red waxy wing tips of the secondaries of the right wing and Casey counted eight on the other wing. Then Casey noticed that the retrices also had red waxy tips. I was quite amazed as I have never seen nor heard of this before. I decided to do a bit more research into this.

It is well documented that the presence and number of red waxy tips on the secondaries varies by age and sex (Witmer et al., 2020). Waxy tips are usually confined to the nine secondaries, but rarely the retrices, primaries and even the greater coverts will have waxy tips. Usually birds with wax tipped retrices or primaries have most or all of the secondaries wax tipped. Wax tipped retrices occurred on only 0.3-0.9% of museum specimens (n=327) and banded samples (n=358) and less than 1% had primaries that were wax tipped (Yunick, 1970). Meyers and Meyers (1967) documented two birds with wax tipped retrices out of 537 banded.

Perhaps these birds with wax tipped retrices or primaries are rare simply because they are old. Whatever the reason, it is another fascinating bit of knowledge about birds.

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# The 2020-2021 Winter Season 01 December 2020 to 28 February 2021

*Compiled by Chris Anderson*

There were 154 species, including 5 rarities (Harlequin Duck, West River Black Scoter, American Woodcock, West River Glaucous Gull, Lesser Goldfinch), reported during the 2020-2021 winter season. The ten-year (2011-2020) 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 15 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** 36 reports across 11 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Douglas, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lyman, Minnehaha, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**Ross's Goose** 13 reports across 6 counties (Brookings, Brown, Kingsbury, Lake, Stanley, Yankton) 08 Dec – 01 Feb

**Greater White-fronted Goose** All Reports: 01 Dec Charles Mix RM; 05 Dec Charles Mix KP; 17 Dec Yankton DS; 20 Dec Charles Mix RM, KP; 06 Feb Hughes KM

**Cackling Goose** 34 reports across 13 counties (Bennett, Brown, Buffalo, Butte, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lyman, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**Trumpeter Swan** All Reports: 10 Jan Bennett ND; 27 Feb Yankton RND

**Tundra Swan** All Reports: 03-20 Dec Yankton CA, RND, KP; 14 Dec Perkins ND

**Wood Duck** 11 reports across 6 counties (Brown, Deuel, Hughes, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Yankton) 05 Dec – 27 Feb

**Northern Shoveler** All Reports: 05 Dec Hamlin JSP; 17 Dec Yankton RND; 20 Dec Brookings CV; 28 Dec Hughes KM; 01 Jan Stanley KM; 27 Feb Yankton RND; 28 Feb Charles Mix KP

**Gadwall** 42 reports across 7 counties (Brookings, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 28 Feb

**American Wigeon** 21 reports across 7 counties (Brown, Fall River, Lake, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 07 Dec – 27 Feb

**Northern Pintail** 11 reports across 5 counties (Brown, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Green-winged Teal** 15 reports across 7 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 14 Feb

**Canvasback** 18 reports across 5 counties (Brookings, Buffalo, Hughes, Lyman, Yankton) 04 Dec – 27 Feb

**Redhead** 43 reports across 9 counties (Brookings, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Lyman, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 28 Feb

**Ring-necked Duck** 28 reports across 7 counties (Brookings, Fall River, Hughes, Lyman, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**Greater Scaup** 25 Reports across 7 counties (Buffalo, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lyman, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 25 Feb

**Lesser Scaup** 33 reports across 8 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Fall River, Hughes, Lyman, Pennington, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**White-winged Scoter** All Reports: 02 Jan Charles Mix RM, KP

**Black Scoter** All Reports: 01-13 Dec Yankton RND, GJS, DS; 11 Jan Gregory RM

**Long-tailed Duck** 29 reports across 5 counties (Buffalo, Charles Mix, Kingsbury, Lyman, Yankton) 01 Dec – 21 Feb

**Bufflehead** 42 reports across 8 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Fall River, Hamlin, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 08 Dec-27 Feb

**Common Goldeneye** 133 reports across 15 counties (Brookings, Buffalo, Butte, Charles Mix, Fall River, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lyman, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec-28 Feb

**Barrow's Goldeneye** All Reports: 13 Dec Stanley RDO; 10 Feb Charles Mix RM

**Hooded Merganser** 65 reports across 9 counties (Brookings, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Fall River, Hughes, Lyman, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec-25 Feb

**Common Merganser** 133 reports across 13 counties (Buffalo, Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lyman, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec-28 Feb

**Red-breasted Merganser** 32 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec-28 Feb

**Ruddy Duck** 18 reports across 6 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Gregory, Kingsbury, Lyman, Yankton) 01 Dec – 06 Feb

**Northern Bobwhite** Only Report: 01 Dec Gregory RM

**Gray Partridge** All Reports: 01 Dec Gregory RM; 24 Dec Custer MMM

**Ruffed Grouse** All Reports: 02 Dec – 28 Jan Lawrence DGP

**Pied-billed Grebe** 23 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Fall River, Hughes, Lyman, Yankton) 04 Dec – 22 Jan

**Horned Grebe** All Reports: 09 Dec Charles Mix RM; 12 Dec Charles Mix KP

**Red-necked Grebe** All Reports: 02 Dec – 02 Jan Hughes KM, RDO

**Eared Grebe** All Reports: 01 Dec Pennington ND; 01 Dec Yankton DS

**Western Grebe** All Reports: 02-21 Dec Hughes KM, RDO; 14 Dec Stanley RDO; 08 Jan Stanley KM

**White-winged Dove** Only Report: 02 Dec Charles Mix RM

**Mourning Dove** 11 reports across 7 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Kingsbury, Minnehaha, Sanborn) 09 Dec – 15 Feb

**American Coot** 47 reports across 9 counties (Brookings, Brown, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Hughes, Kingsbury, Minnehaha, Pennington, Yankton) 01 Dec - 27 Feb

**Wilson's Snipe** All Reports: 17-23 Dec Yankton CA, KP, DS; 19 Dec Lawrence DGP; 23 Dec – 18 Jan Stanley KM; 22-30 Jan Lawrence DGP

**Bonaparte's Gull** 15 reports across 4 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley, Yankton) 01-22 Dec

**Franklin's Gull** All Reports: 07-08 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 28 Jan Charles Mix RM

**Mew Gull** 35 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 27 Dec – 06 Feb

**Ring-billed Gull** 98 reports across 12 counties (Buffalo, Butte, Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lyman, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec - 28 Feb

**California Gull** 22 reports across 3 counties (Gregory, Hughes, Stanley) 15 Dec - 25 Feb

**Herring Gull** 88 reports across 9 counties (Brookings, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lyman, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec- 24 Feb

**Iceland Gull** 24 reports across 5 counties (Buffalo, Charles Mix, Stanley, Sully) 24 Dec - 24 Feb

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** 34 reports across 6 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Lyman, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 02 Dec - 29 Jan

**Glaucous Gull** 21 reports across 7 counties (Butte, Charles Mix, Gregory, Hughes, Lyman, Stanley, Sully) 10 Dec - 24 Feb

**Great Black-backed Gull** Only Report: 01 Jan Charles Mix KP

**Common Loon** All Reports: 06 Dec Charles Mix RM; 09 Dec Charles Mix RM; 09 Dec Sully KM

**Double-crested Cormorant** 11 reports across 3 counties (Buffalo, Charles Mix, Gregory) 01 Dec – 20 Feb

**American White Pelican** All Reports: 01 Dec Charles Mix RM; 01 Dec Buffalo, Lyman RDO; 05 Jan Charles Mix RM; 11 Jan Brule ND; 19 Jan Charles Mix RM

**Great Blue Heron** 12 reports across 2 counties (Charles Mix, Pennington) 07 Dec – 22 Feb

**Golden Eagle** 57 reports across 19 counties (Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Hughes, Hyde, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully) 05 Dec – 27 Feb

**Northern Harrier** 21 reports across 14 counties (Bennett, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Fall River, Haakon, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Pennington, Stanley, Ziebach) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 30 reports across 14 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Fall River, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley) 12 Dec – 28 Feb

**Cooper's Hawk** 21 reports across 12 counties (Brown, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hughes, Lake, McCook, Minnehaha, Stanley) 15 Dec – 27 Feb

**Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 06 Dec Charles Mix RM; 06 Dec Perkins ND; 21 Dec Fall River ND; 01 Jan Pennington JLB; 10 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 28 Jan Fall River ND; 17 Feb Hughes KM

**Rough-legged Hawk** 104 reports across 39 counties (16 East River, 13 West River, 10 Missouri River corridor) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**Ferruginous Hawk** 29 reports across 14 counties (Buffalo, Fall River, Harding, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Meade, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Ziebach) 06 Dec – 27 Feb

**Eastern Screech-Owl** 12 reports across 9 counties (Brookings, Brown, Hughes, Jackson, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Roberts, Stanley, Yankton) 07 Dec – 16 Feb

**Snowy Owl** All Reports: 19 Dec Brookings CV; 01 Jan Brookings CV; 03 Jan Brookings CA; 16 Jan Beadle JSP; 31 Jan Edmunds, Faulk RDO; 25 Feb Spink ND

**Barred Owl** All Reports: 19 Dec Minnehaha CA; 02 Jan Lincoln CA; 06 Feb Minnehaha RDO

**Long-eared Owl** Only Report: 20 Dec Yankton CA

**Short-eared Owl** All Reports: 31 Dec Roberts CV; 01 Jan Brookings CV; 02 Jan Brookings JSP; 03 Jan Brookings CA; 09 Jan Brookings JSP; 10 Jan Bennett ND; 22 Jan Pennington CA

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** All Reports; 09 Dec Sully KM; 19 Dec Stanley KM; 20 Dec Yankton CA; 02 Jan Stanley KM; 08 Jan Stanley KM; 20 Jan Lincoln CA; 21 Jan Hughes RDO

**Belted Kingfisher** 35 reports across 6 counties (Charles Mix, Fall River, Hughes, Lawrence, Pennington, Yankton) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**Lewis's Woodpecker** All Reports: 07 Jan Lawrence ND; 23 Jan Lawrence, Meade CA; 27 Feb Lawrence RDO

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** All Reports: 14 Dec Charles Mix RM; 20 Dec Yankton CA, KP

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** 26 reports across 2 counties (Lawrence, Pennington) 02 Dec – 27 Feb

**Black-backed Woodpecker** All Reports: 13 Dec Pennington JF; 02 Feb Pennington MMM

**Pileated Woodpecker** 46 reports from 1 county (Roberts) CV 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Merlin** 32 reports across 14 counties (Charles Mix, Douglas, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Kingsbury, Lincoln, Lyman, Meade, Minnehaha, Moody, Oglala Lakota, Stanley, Union) 01 Dec – 25 Feb

**Gyr Falcon** All Reports: 02 Jan Harding ND; 25 Feb Lyman ND; 25 Feb Stanley KM; 26 Feb Stanley RDO

**Peregrine Falcon** All Reports: 20 Dec Yankton GJS; 23 Feb Faulk BP

**Prairie Falcon** 32 reports across 16 counties (Brule, Butte, Charles Mix, Fall River, Haakon, Hanson, Harding, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, McCook, Meade, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Stanley) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Northern Shrike** 49 reports across 22 counties (Beadle, Bennett, Brookings, Buffalo, Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Hanson, Harding, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Canada Jay** 19 reports across 3 counties (Custer, Lawrence, Pennington) 03 Dec – 28 Feb

**Pinyon Jay** Only Report: 28 Jan Fall River ND

**Clark's Nutcracker** Only Report: 03 Dec Custer ND

**Black-billed Magpie** 35 reports across 14 counties (Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Hughes, Jackson, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, Ziebach) 05 Dec – 28 Feb

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** 34 reports across 13 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Custer, Davison, Harding, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pennington, Union, Yankton) 01 Dec – 19 Feb

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Only Report 12 Feb Charles Mix RM

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** 176 reports across 19 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, Stanley, Union, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 05 Dec Pennington JLB; 06 Dec Pennington JLB; 20 Dec Pennington ND; 04 Jan Pennington MMM; 30 Jan Pennington ND; 22 Feb Pennington ND

**Brown Creeper** 49 reports across 16 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Harding, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley, Union, Yankton) 01 Dec – 25 Feb

**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 10 Dec Lawrence ND; 21 Dec Fall River ND; 28 Jan Fall River ND

**Winter Wren** All Reports: 17 Dec Pennington ND; 19 Dec Hughes KM; 07 Jan Hughes KM; 23 Jan Hughes KM; 24 Jan Hughes KM

**Marsh Wren** All Reports: 04 Dec Hughes KM; 15 Dec Hughes KM; 19 Dec Hughes KM; 21 Dec Fall River ND; 03 Jan Hughes KM; 16 Jan Hughes KM; 28 Jan Fall River ND

**Carolina Wren** 21 reports from 1 county (Clay) GJS 06 Dec – 28 Feb

**American Dipper** 16 reports from 1 county (Lawrence) 03 Dec – 22 Feb

**Eastern Bluebird** All Reports: 01 Dec Gregory RM; 20 Dec Yankton CA, KP; 21 Dec Charles Mix JSP; 02 Jan Charles Mix RM; 08 Jan Charles Mix RM; 21 Feb Gregory KP; 27 Feb McCook CA; 27 Feb Yankton RND

**Townsend's Solitaire** 38 reports across 14 counties (Butte, Custer, Fall River, Hughes, Jackson, Lawrence, McCook, Meade, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Union) 03 Dec – 27 Feb

**Brown Thrasher** 85 reports across 3 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Roberts) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Northern Mockingbird** All Reports: 20 Dec Hughes KM, RDO; 21 Dec Hughes KM; 01 Jan Hughes KM; 04 Jan Hughes KM, CV; 20 Jan Hughes KM

**Bohemian Waxwing** All Reports: 05 Dec Pennington ND; 14 Dec Perkins ND; 22 Dec Stanley KM; 28 Dec Sully KM; 06 Jan Stanley KM; 26 Jan Hughes RDO

**Evening Grosbeak** All Reports: 24 Jan Lawrence CA, ND; 27 Feb Lawrence RDO

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** All Reports: 06 Dec Harding ND; 24 Jan Harding CA

**Purple Finch** 125 reports across 14 counties (Brookings, Brown, Clay, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Roberts, Stanley, Union, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Cassin's Finch** All Reports: 19 Dec Lawrence ND; 24 Jan Lawrence CA

**Common Redpoll** 21 reports across 8 counties (Deuel, Harding, Kingsbury, Lawrence, McCook, Oglala Lakota, Perkins, Roberts) 05 Dec – 25 Feb

**Red Crossbill** 19 reports across 10 counties (Brookings, Butte, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Lawrence, McCook, Meade, Oglala Lakota, Pennington) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**White-winged Crossbill** 14 reports across 7 counties (Brookings, Brown, Custer, Lake, Lawrence, Minnehaha) 03 Dec – 24 Feb and first county record **17 Jan Douglas KP**

**Pine Siskin** 198 reports across 24 counties (Beadle, Bennett, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Fall River, Haakon, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lake, Lawrence, McCook, Meade, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Lapland Longspur** 21 reports across 12 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Jackson, Lake, Lyman, McCook, Meade, Moody, Stanley, Union, Yankton, Ziebach) 12 Dec – 28 Feb

**Snow Bunting** All Reports: 08 Dec Brookings, CV; 09 Dec Marshall CV; 31 Dec Jackson ND; 31 Dec Roberts CV; 03 Jan Moody CA; 16 Jan Kingsbury JSP; 21 Feb Roberts CV; 25 Feb Roberts CA

**American Tree Sparrow** 193 reports across 31 counties (14 East River, 9 West River, 8 Missouri River corridor) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Fox Sparrow** Only Report: 22 Dec Hughes KM

**Dark-eyed Junco** 313 reports across 28 counties (11 East River, 9 West River, 8 Missouri River corridor) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Song Sparrow** 29 reports across 11 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Davison, Douglas, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Pennington, Yankton) 01 Dec – 24 Feb

**Swamp Sparrow** All Reports: 20 Dec Yankton CA, KP, DS

**White-throated Sparrow** 35 reports from 1 county (Roberts) CV; 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Harris's Sparrow** All Reports: 01 Dec Roberts CV; 22 Dec Hughes KM; 26 Dec Hanson ND; 04 Jan Hughes KM; 11 Jan Hughes KM; 19 Jan Hughes RDO; 27 Jan Hughes KM; 12 Feb Hughes KM

**White-crowned Sparrow** All Reports: 05 Dec Charles Mix KP; 19 Dec Douglas KP; 19 Dec Meade ND; 11 Jan Hughes KM; 27 Jan Hughes KM; 12 Feb Hughes KM; 15 Feb Charles Mix KP

**Spotted Towhee** All Reports: 04 Dec Pennington JSS; 08 Dec Fall River ND; 10 Jan Hughes KM; 24 Jan Lawrence ND

**Western Meadowlark** 31 reports across 13 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Fall River, Hughes, Jackson, Lyman, McCook, Meade, Stanley, Turner, Union) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

**Red-winged Blackbird** 60 reports across 19 counties (Beadle, Bennett, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Douglas, Fall River, Hanson, Hughes, Jones, Lake, Minnehaha, Moody, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Brown-headed Cowbird** All Reports: 01 Jan Stanley KM, RDO; 22 Jan Jones RDO

**Rusty Blackbird** 19 reports across 7 counties (Brookings, Butte, Charles Mix, Clay, Moody, Roberts, Stanley) 01 Dec – 25 Feb

**Brewer's Blackbird** All Reports: 01 Dec Charles Mix RM; 18 Dec Stanley RDO; 07 Jan Stanley RDO; 22 Jan Jones RDO

**Common Grackle** 9 reports across 6 counties (Brookings, Butte, Clay, Kingsbury, Lawrence, Minnehaha) 06 Dec – 26 Feb

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 9 reports across 4 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley, Union) 01 Dec – 03 Feb

**Northern Cardinal** 190 reports across 18 counties (8 East River, 8 Missouri River corridor) and 01 Jan Pennington JLB; 25 Jan Pennington ND; 01 Feb Pennington CLG; and first county record **26 Feb Haakon RDO**

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

**Harlequin Duck** reported 19 Dec Minnehaha CA (first county record)

**Black Scoter** reported 25 Jan Pennington ND

**American Woodcock** reported 02 Dec Yankton RND

**Glaucous Gull** reported 10 Dec Butte ND

**Lesser Goldfinch** reported 17 Jan Hughes KM (first county record)

#### **Species Expected But Not Reported**

Tundra Swan (2), Blue-winged Teal (2), American Black Duck (4), Surf Scoter (4), Sandhill Crane (4), Black-legged Kittiwake, Killdeer (4), Barn Owl (2), Red-headed Woodpecker, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit Thrush (3), Varied Thrush, Gray Catbird, Pine Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow (3)

**Contributing Observers**

CA	Chris Anderson	GO	Gary Olson
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
CLG	Canyon Lake Group	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	BP	Barry Parkin
ND	Nancy Drilling	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
JF	Jennifer Fowler	DGP	D. George Prisbe
GFP	SD Game, Fish, & Parks	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
RM	Ron Mabie	JSS	Jackie Stucky-Strom
MMM	Michael M. Melius	DS	David Swanson
KM	Kenny Miller	CV	Cheryl Vellenga



# South Dakota Ornithologists' Union Annual Fall Meeting

September 10-12, 2021  
Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD

The 71<sup>st</sup> annual Fall meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (SDOU) will be held September 10-12, 2021. We will be headquartered at the Froiland Science Complex on the campus of Augustana College in Sioux Falls. The conference features special speakers, student presentations, and field trips. Registration is \$35/person; the Saturday evening banquet will be an additional \$12. You do not need to be a SDOU member to attend.

We strongly encourage wearing masks indoors or while carpooling/birding. The science center will have plenty of room to be socially distanced during the meeting. We will have box dinners for the banquet on Saturday evening at Augustana University and we hope to have that meal outdoors, weather permitting.

You can register online at <https://sdou.org/SDOU/NextMeeting.aspx> (best), mail in the attached registration form, or register at the meeting. Please register by **September 8<sup>th</sup>** if you plan if you plan to eat at the Banquet.

## **DRAFT SCHEDULE** (*All times are Central Daylight Time*)

### **Friday, 10 September** (Froiland Science Complex, Augustana)

6:30—7:30 PM: Registration and Social Hour

7:30—8:30 PM: Evening program: presentation by Jerry Toll, raptor biologist, Hitchcock Nature Center

### **Saturday, 11 September** (Froiland Science Complex, Augustana)

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Field Trip (Outdoor Campus)

10:00 AM-12:00 PM: Scientific presentations

12:00 PM-1:30 PM: Lunch (on your own)

1:30 PM – 4:00PM: Scientific presentations

4:00 – 5:00 PM: General Membership meeting

5:00 – 6:00 PM: Board of Directors meeting

6:30 – 7:30 PM: Banquet (hopefully outside)

7:30 – 8:30 PM: Evening program: presentation by Nick Antonson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Announcements

### **Sunday, 12 September** (Froiland Science Complex)

8:00 AM – 12:00: Field Trips (Good Earth SP and/or area wetlands)

12:30 – Bird Count Off

1:00 PM: Rare Bird Records Committee meeting

**Advance Registration Form**  
**2021 SDOU Fall Meeting**  
**10 - 12 September 2021**  
**Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD**

You are strongly encouraged to register online at <https://sdou.org/SDOU/NextMeeting.aspx> to ensure we receive your registration in time, or mail this form with check payable to SDOU, to:

Bob Bork, Treasurer  
8504 E. 38th St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and/or e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee.....\$35.00 x \_\_\_\_ people = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Free to children under 12)

Saturday Evening Banquet..... \$12.00 x \_\_\_\_ people = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Menu: box dinners)

Registration	\$ _____
Banquet	\$ _____
<b>Total (make check payable to SDOU)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Please register by **September 8<sup>th</sup>** if you plan if you plan to eat at the Banquet. See you in Sioux Falls!





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*Photo Credit: Hilary Morey*