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South Dakota

Bird  Notes

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South Dakota Ornithologists' Union



*Photo Credit: Hal K. Bielstein*

Osprey Nest Platform, Canyon Lake Park

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# SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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## President's Page

*Kelly Preheim*

Do you love learning about birds? Do you wish you could discuss birds with other like-minded people? Would you like to go birding with other birders? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then consider attending an SDOU meeting.

In 2011, I attended my first SDOU meeting in Brookings, SD. I was a bit nervous, but I wanted to check it out. I was amazed at the members' bird knowledge and I learned so much in a short time. I was very impressed with how these birders could identify distant birds easily by their behavior. I knew I wanted to have those skills. I remember how interesting it was at the banquet listening to SDOU members discuss their bird observations and birding adventures. At one table, birders were looking at a map and were discussing where they had last seen the Virginia's Warbler in the Black Hills. I felt a sense of relief that day, as I knew I had found "my people." They were people who also loved the study of birds and nature as much as I did. This group of people has always been special to me.



When attending SDOU meetings you can:

- Learn more about bird identification and bird behavior
- Listen to university students, SDOU members and other speakers share their bird research and experiences
- Learn about ways that SDOU finances scholarships, research and projects like the American Dipper nest box project
- Become informed of conservation efforts in South Dakota to help birds
- Get pointers on how to be a better birder
- Explore different location in South Dakota with SDOU members
- See amazing birds

Grab a friend and make a road trip to our next meeting! Come with an open mind, ready to learn and enthusiastic about seeing great birds! Please plan ahead and sign up on time, so we know how many will be in attendance. That way we can plan accordingly.

Your next chance to attend a meeting is the Spring SDOU Meeting, which will be on April 29-May 1, 2022 in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. This location should give you a decent chance to see the rare Thick-billed Longspur, Greater Sage-Grouse and other early spring migrants. The Fall SDOU Meeting will be in Sioux Falls, SD. Check out one of our meetings for yourself and see what you think. I hope to see you there!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **SDOU Scholarships and Grants**

SDOU is currently accepting nominations for the 2022 Alfred Hinds Memorial Award. The Alfred Hinds Memorial Award for Ornithology, established in 1983, is given to an individual, student (high school, undergraduate, or graduate), or an organization/agency that has made a significant contribution to the

advancement of ornithology in South Dakota. It may also be awarded to a special project of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union that needs financial support. Nomination deadline is June 1, 2022. See [sdou.org/SDOU/grants.aspx](http://sdou.org/SDOU/grants.aspx) for more details about how to submit a nomination.

## **SDOU Spring Meeting**

Join us in Belle Fourche, South Dakota for the SDOU Spring Meeting on April 29, 30 and May 1, 2022. Non-members are encouraged to join us. Field trips will target western birds such as Greater Sage-grouse, Thick-billed (formerly McCown's) Longspur, Long-billed Curlew, Sprague's Pipit, Northern Saw-whet Owl, western raptors such as Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, and Ferruginous Hawk, and Black Hills Spruce Forest birds such as Ruffed Grouse and American Three-toed Woodpecker. We will have guest speakers on Friday and Saturday nights. Registration is \$20 per person; meals are \$9 for Saturday noon sack lunch and \$16 for Saturday night meal. Register by April 25th to be included in the meal count.

A block of rooms (\$89 for single, king or queen) is reserved at the AmericInn (605-892-0900) in Belle Fourche for the event. Other hotels are available in Belle Fourche and Spearfish. Camping options will be limited this early in the season. Meals, meetings, and presentations will be at the Branding Iron Steakhouse. See more details about the meeting at [sdou.org/meetings](http://sdou.org/meetings)

## **Schedule of Events**

### **Friday**

6:00 -7:00 PM: Meet and Greet

7:00 – 8:00 PM: Evening Presentation: Forest Management and Bird Projects in the Northern Black Hills by Ruben Mares, a Forest Service wildlife biologist based in Spearfish

### **Saturday**

7:00 AM-3:00 PM: Birding Field Trips (trips to see grouse will start earlier)

3:30-5:30 PM: Board of Directors' Meeting

6:00 PM: Meal

7:00-8:00 PM: Evening Keynote Presentation: Of Birds and Herds: Grassland Bird Conservation on Working Rangelands in Northwest South Dakota. The speaker is Jessica Howell and she works for the American Bird Conservancy out of the Buffalo, SD NRCS office. She will talk about the partnerships she is fostering between private landowners and government agencies to improve habitat for Long-billed Curlews and other prairie birds in northwest South Dakota.

### **Sunday**

7:00 AM – Noon: Birding Field Trip

Noon: Bird Species Check-off

## **To Register**

1. Go to <https://sdou.org/>
2. Click on the top tab titled, SDOU, view the drop box and click on "Meetings".
3. Then click on the brown box titled, "Details/Register"
4. Read through the agenda, then click the brown box titled, "Register Here by 4-25-2022."
5. Fill out the information and then click on the black box.
6. The next page will have you add your email address for confirmation. Then choose to pay by check or electronically.
7. That's it!

We hope you will join us. It should be a memorable time with good birding!

# Northern Saw-whet Owl Nest Box Project: 2021 Update

Charlie Miller  
Buffalo

Starting in 2003, Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) have been nesting in owl nest boxes placed in mixed Ponderosa Pine/deciduous draw habitat in Custer National Forest in Harding County (Miller, C. E., 2010, Nesting Nesting Saw-whet Owls in Harding County. SDBN 62(3):56-59; Miller, C. E., 2015, Saw-whet Owls and Forest Fires in the Slim Buttes. SDBN 67(3):62-64). Starting with seven boxes, there now are 146 boxes scattered throughout the five units of the National Forest (Slim Buttes, North and South Cave Hills, East and West Short Pines). Every year the boxes are checked in early spring for owl occupancy and monitored throughout the season to determine number of eggs and nestlings, and nest success. All of these metrics vary dramatically among years, with unusually high occupancy and nest success in 2007, 2011, 2015, and 2019, and unusually low occupancy and nest success in 2006, 2009, 2013, and 2017. This article provides an update on the current situation.



*Contents of a Saw-whet Owl nest with three eggs and stored prey: at least three deermice and at least seven bats. Photo by Charlie Miller*

Following an above average season last year, 2021 ended up being well below average for nesting Saw-whet Owls. There were six attempts (nests in which eggs were laid). Clutch size was 3.3 eggs, well below the overall average of 5.6 with five or six being the typical nest. This year there were three nests with four eggs, two nests with three eggs, and one nest with two eggs. Two nests were lost to predation sometime during incubation. One nest initiated in early June had two of the three eggs hatch, but both young perished in the nest in late July shortly before fledging, possibly due to the hot weather at the time. Daytime temperatures were in the 100s with nighttime temperatures only cooling down to the mid 80s. The three remaining nests fledged seven young, well below the highest year of 2015 when 235 fledged.

The number of cached prey in the nest during incubation and brooding was also way down, especially in the later nests. An interesting and unusual note: one nest initiated in late April had three eggs, two mice and eight bats when the nest was checked in early May (see photo). The bats appeared to be Little Brown Myotis. I've only been able to document bats as prey on three other occasions: A pellet in the prey mat with a skull identified as a Silver-haired bat, a prey mat with the long wing bones of a bat, and an intact Little Brown Myotis in the prey mat of this year's nest with the two young that perished.

There were three other nests, all early, with numerous Saw-whet feathers and partial remains in the box. I have witnessed Saw-whets calling from the opening of a nest cavity early in the nesting season. This is speculation on my part, but I would guess in these cases male Saw-whets advertising for a mate fell prey to Eastern Screech-Owls. This has happened nine times in past years.

Other nest box tenants for the year were:

Eastern Screech-Owl----one nest

American Kestrel-----one nest

Northern Flicker-----two nests

House Wren-----four nests

# Range Expansion of Breeding Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in South Dakota

Nancy Drilling

The Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a large, fish-eating raptor found throughout the world. The main portion of the Osprey's North American breeding range is along the coasts, and in Alaska, Canada, the Rocky Mountains, and the Great Lakes. Here in South Dakota, Osprey historically nested in the southeastern corner of South Dakota along the Missouri River during the 1880s (Agersborg 1885). However, the species was absent as a breeder from the state for more than 100 years. This article summarizes Osprey breeding biology and the history of the establishment and expansion of breeding Ospreys in South Dakota.

## BASIC BREEDING BIOLOGY

Osprey feed exclusively on fish and thus breed near water with adequate fish populations. They choose areas with an elevated nest site that is protected from ground predators and an adequate supply of fish within commuting distance (less than 15 miles). Breeding pairs easily habituate to human activities near their nest. In the Black Hills, Osprey begin nesting after ice-out in early April and nests may last into August. The nest is a bulky pile of sticks that the pair add to each year. Nests become huge after a few years and can host smaller cavity-nesting birds, such as Tree Swallows and House Sparrows, in the lower parts. Clutch size is 3 eggs; each egg is laid every 2 to 3 days. The male feeds the female during egg-laying and the following 38-day incubation period. When small, the nestlings are fed pieces of fish by an adult. Older chicks eat the fish by themselves. Chicks are 51 to 54 days old at first flight but young Osprey are dependent on their parents for food for at least another 10 to 20 days. After migrating, first-year birds generally remain on the wintering grounds for 18 months, returning to breed when 3 years old (Bierregaard et al. 2020).

## ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPANSION OF BREEDING PAIRS

Black Hills. The reestablishment of breeding Osprey in the state started in the Black Hills, and the bulk of the breeding population occurs here. Osprey probably never nested in the Black Hills before European settlement because of a lack of suitable fish populations. However the introduction of trout into Black Hills streams and building of reservoirs stocked with fish have provided a reliable food source. A pair built a nest near Pactola Reservoir in the east-central Hills in 1990 and returned in 1991 to successfully raise chicks. During the second South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas (2008-2012), at least 16 nests were active (Drilling et al. 2018) and there currently are more than 25 active nests in and around the Black Hills (SDGFP 2020).

Natural Osprey nest sites are trees or ledges on rocky cliffs. However Osprey are adaptable and will nest on man-made structures. Many Black Hills nests are built on power line structures. This is not desirable because birds may be electrocuted or could cause power outages or even fires. Thus, SDGFP and utility companies have worked together to move these nests to nearby nesting platforms, which the birds readily accept. In addition, nesting platforms have been put up near lakes and other water bodies. During the second Atlas, all but two nests were on utility poles or artificial platforms, with the remaining two built in Ponderosa Pine snags. This propensity to nest on man-made structures and platforms continues and the majority of Black Hills nests are on these structures and platforms.

Missouri River. In an effort to reintroduce breeding Osprey in South Dakota, SDGFP reintroduced 120 young Ospreys along the Missouri River in southeastern South Dakota from 2003 – 2006 and from 2008 – 2010 (Dowd Stukel et al. 2011). None of these birds returned to nest in the area and no nesting is known to have occurred along this stretch of the river. However, one bird introduced in South Dakota in 2008 attempted an unsuccessful nest in Burt County, NE (about 50 miles south of Sioux City) in 2013 (Silcock and Jorgensen 2020).

Osprey had unsuccessfully attempted to nest on various dam structures at Big Bend Dam for several years before a successful nest in 2017. The female of that pair was one of the Osprey released in southeastern South Dakota in 2010. These birds continue to nest on a power line structure at the dam. Osprey have also

finally started to nest at Oahe Dam. See the article by Ricky Olson in this issue of Bird Notes for details.

Elsewhere. Osprey have nested in two areas in northeastern South Dakota since at least 2013. These birds are assumed to be an extension of Minnesota's Osprey population. Osprey nested on a cell phone tower near Hartford Beach State Park, Roberts County, until the tower was deactivated in 2019. Every year one to two pairs nest on platforms at Big Stone Power Plant in northern Grant County.

#### CONSERVATION STATUS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The Osprey is a state Species of Greatest Conservation Need and is listed as Threatened in the state (SDGFP 2014). In 2018, SDGFP developed goals to delist (remove) Osprey from the state Threatened species list (SDGFP 2020). The objective is to have a stable and successful set of nests within the Black Hills and elsewhere in the state. Specifically, for delisting, there must be an average of at least 20 active Osprey nests in the Black Hills for at least 5 years in a 7-year time span and a second group of an average of at least 6 active nests outside the Black Hills for at least 5 years in a 7-year time span. Currently the population outside of the Black Hills does not meet the goal and so Osprey continues to be on South Dakota's state Threatened list.

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## First Nesting by Osprey at Canyon Lake Park, Rapid City

by Jocelyn Baker  
Rapid City

An Osprey nesting platform was installed in mid-October, 2015 at the northwest corner of Canyon Lake Park in Rapid City by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and Black Hills Energy Corp. (BHE). The platform is located in the corner of a parking lot for anglers and walkers and also at the beginning of a hiking trail into a nature area. Although Osprey visited the well-stocked lake daily during the breeding season to obtain fish, five years passed before Osprey showed any interest in the platform.

In mid-May of 2020, an Osprey was observed bringing vegetation to the platform, adding to the branches

which had been previously placed there by Shelly Deisch, SDGFP biologist, to encourage nesting. For a week, a pair continued placing and arranging sod, sticks and tree branches on the platform creating a nest. The two birds were heard calling to each other while in flight and also were seen standing in the nest. Following this behavior, neither bird was observed near the nest and no other courtship behavior was observed. Osprey did continue to visit the lake as they had in previous years to catch fish and carry prey to other locations.

Osprey returned to Canyon Lake in 2021 in early April. On April 17, an individual was observed standing in the platform followed within a few days by a pair that began bringing nesting materials. Copulations were observed for the first time on April 22 and continued to be observed until May 4. The male brought fish to the female who was standing or sitting in the nest and both continued adding material to the nest.

Throughout May and June, the birds were on the platform and in the nest. The female was mostly down in the nest incubating eggs until late June when observers began to suspect that the eggs had hatched. The adults were noted leaning down into the nest possibly feeding young. On July 2, a small head was seen. Another day passed when a second head appeared followed by a third in another day or two, making a total of three nestlings. Throughout July and into August the adults continued to bring sticks and sod to the nest, as well as tending to the young with food and providing shelter with spread wings during hot days and rain storms. By mid-July the young in the nest were heard vocalizing and were seen feeding themselves by picking pieces from fish provided by the adults. The nest was occupied by at least one adult practically all day and night until late July. When Turkey Vultures, which had a large roost nearby, flew near the nest the male Osprey defended the area around the nest and was observed flying after the vultures. Additionally, a Bald Eagle that visited the nest area was actively pursued in flight by the male and was repeatedly attacked until it flew out of the area.

In mid-August the nestlings became more active, flapping their wings to exercise, moving about the nest, and even perching on the beams that extend from the platform. In late August all three nestlings fledged the nest. They traveled around the lake on short flights but did not attempt to catch fish at that time. However, observers on August 31 noticed one young in the nest continuously calling and behaving as though injured. The next morning Hal Bielstein photographed the bird and noticed that the bird had a leg injury. A large swath of heavy dense nylon material and wires, possibly part of a sun shade, had become attached to the young bird's lower leg and foot. The nylon had worn through the flesh which caused a deep infection in the foot. Bielstein, Maggie Engler at the Black Hills Raptor Center, and Shelly Deisch at SDGFP swung into action. Black Hills Energy provided a "bucket truck" and John Halverson from the Raptor Center rescued the injured fledgling from the nest. Biologist Deisch immediately drove the injured bird to a rehabilitation veterinarian in Pierre. The bird was operated on the next morning, September 2, which included removing a talon. The Pierre vet told Deisch that Osprey do not make good rehab patients because they need live fish from the parents to survive. Thus, the injured bird needed to be returned to the lake as soon as possible. The bird remained in rehab in Pierre until September 7. Upon returning to the nesting platform, it became known as "3-Toes" to the photographers and birders who had been observing the nest and its occupants throughout the season. As so many people were involved in the injured bird's discovery and recovery, Shelly Deisch stated "it takes a village to manage Osprey and the rescue was a fine example of that."

During the first week of September, the two uninjured fledglings were continuously practicing flying and diving into the water, learning how to retrieve fish. After "3-Toes" returned, all three young Ospreys at times returned to the nest to feed on fish provided by the adults. In late evening the young often left the nest to roost nearby in large trees. By mid-September the two uninjured fledglings and the female parent were no longer present at the lake. September 19 marked the last time the male parent brought a fish to the nest for the remaining fledgling and also marked its last appearance at the lake. "3-Toes", which had been observed flying longer distances but always returning to the nest, departed from the lake on the morning of September 22.. The Osprey family had left its nesting site to migrate south for the winter months.

The Osprey nesting at Canyon Lake won the attention and caring of people throughout the city, who visited the park frequently throughout the spring and summer. These people, who spoke of the birds as "our Osprey," felt they were part of the village that cared about these birds and their welfare. Visitors



and regulars at the lake continue to ask questions about where the birds went, when will they return, and whether the young will also come back. No doubt the village will be anxiously waiting and watching to see if the Osprey nesting story at Canyon Lake continues next year.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Hal Bielstein for providing photographs and to Maggie Engler of the Black Hills Raptor Center and Shelly Deisch of SDGFP for information on the injury and care given to “3-Toes.” Judy Hengen proofread the article, provided additional information and made helpful suggestions to improve the text.

Additional thanks are extended to the 17 people and two organizations that generously contributed to an Osprey Nesting Platform fund that I initiated in the fall of 2015. The donated \$1100.00 was given to SDGFP to assist in the cost of building the structure and installing it at Canyon Lake Park.



*Figure 1. Material removed from the nestling Osprey. The fork provides a size reference.*



## Ospreys Nest in the Pierre South Dakota Area

*Ricky D. Olson  
Ft. Pierre*

I had four Osprey nest platforms erected in the Pierre area in 2008. The locations of the platforms were Farm Island backwater (Hipple Lake), mouth of the Bad River, along the Oahe Dam Stilling Basin, and along the pond near the Oahe West Tailrace.

I initiated this project for a few reasons: the SD GF&P was trying to reintroduce Ospreys near Yankton, Ospreys were staying in our area longer in the spring, higher numbers were being seen here, and more Ospreys were nesting in the Black Hills.

The erection of the platforms involved many people. I asked Doug Backlund to request funding from Missouri Breaks Audubon, which agreed to pay for materials. I constructed the platforms. I asked and received three power poles from the city of Ft. Pierre. Morris Inc. agreed to donate the metal screens for the bottoms. The city of Ft. Pierre dug the holes for three platforms and erected the poles with their boom truck. Oahe Downstream Park Manager Pat Buscher orchestrated the permissions with the Corps of Engineers and SD GF&P on the locations. SD GF&P put the platform on top of an existing pole at Farm Island.

Over the years many Ospreys sat on the platforms in May, but there was always only one adult present and no nesting attempt occurred.

Twice in the last few years, a pair of Ospreys attempted building a nest on the crane on the water intakes of Oahe Dam, but the Corps of Engineers removed the nest. In 2020 the Ospreys built a nest on the Missouri River railroad bridge. They were not successful even with a valiant attempt. The eggs never hatched. My hypothesis is the vibration of the train at fast speed addled the eggs and they were not viable.

In 2021 the Ospreys attempted to nest on the intakes again and, as before the Corps removed the nest. But this time, the pair moved to the platform near the west tailrace. The pair constructed a nest. The Osprey successfully fledged three young. During the third week of August the young were flying.



*Erecting an Osprey nest platform*

As many say “build it and they will come.”



*Osprey with two young chicks*



## The 2021 Spring Season 1 March 2021 to 31 May 2021

*Compiled By: Chris Anderson*

There were 309 species, including 4 rarities (Western Sandpiper, Pacific Wren, Kentucky Warbler, Cerulean Warbler) and 9 first county records reported to the SDOU online database during the season. The ten-year (2011-2020) average is 320. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (early/late dates as given in the online database or first county records, indicated in bold; species that are significantly out of range; or confirmed breeding for species that breed early). For early/late migration dates, I have listed the three earliest/latest dates (by county). However, if these did not include a sighting East River, West River, and along the Missouri River, I have included the earliest/latest reported date from the missing region also. Included at the end of this report is a list of species that were not reported this year but might be expected during the Spring season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported

this year but had been reported during spring in at least 2 of the previous 5 years. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of consecutive years (up to 4) that the species has appeared on the list during the season.

- Snow Goose** Early: 02 Mar Brown GO; 02 Mar Charles Mix KP; 02 Mar Clay GJS; 28 Apr Todd RDO ... Late: 27 May Charles Mix KP; 15 May Brown GO; 15 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 06 May Harding CM
- Ross's Goose** Early: 02 Mar Brown GO; 04 Mar Stanley RDO; 08 Mar Brookings CV ... Late: 01 Apr Brown GO; 28 Mar Beadle CA; 27 Mar Kingsbury JSP
- Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 02 Mar Charles Mix KP; 02 Mar Hand KM; 02 Mar Yankton DS ... Late: 03 May Marshall GO; 10 Apr Aurora JSP; 04 Apr Lyman RDO
- Cackling Goose** Early: 1 Mar Charles Mix RM; 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 02 Mar Douglas KP ... Late: 18 Apr Roberts CV; 18 Apr Sully CA; 31 Mar Pennington CLG
- Canada Goose Confirmed Breeding (ON, PY): 01 Apr-31 May Brown, Charles Mix, Douglas, Hansen, Hyde, Lake, Lyman, Marshall, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley, Yankton**
- Trumpeter Swan** All Reports: 02 Mar Yankton DS; 05 Mar Yankton RND; 09 Mar Minnehaha CA; 22 Apr Harding CM; 24 Apr Tripp RDO; 02 May Pennington JLB; 07-08 May Harding CM
- Tundra Swan** All Reports: 15 Apr Brown GO; 01 May Brown GO; 03 May Marshall GO
- Wood Duck** Early: 07 Mar Brown GO; 09 Mar Lake JSP; 13 Mar Clay CA; 22 Mar Pennington CLG
- Blue-winged Teal** Early: 09 Mar Lake JSP; 10 Mar Minnehaha CA; 20 Mar Clay DS; 20 Mar Jerauld JSP; 24 Apr Tripp RDO ... Confirmed Breeding: 22 May Hyde (NE) MMM
- Cinnamon Teal** Early: **04 Apr Lyman RDO**; 16 Apr Brule RM; 25 Apr Stanley RDO; 13 May Douglas KP; 17 May Pennington CLG
- Northern Shoveler** Early: 02 Mar Yankton DS; 06 Mar Douglas KP; 07 Mar Charles Mix KP; 03 Apr Harding CM
- Gadwall** Early: 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Yankton GJS; 09 Mar Lake JSP
- American Wigeon** Early: 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 02 Mar Charles Mix KP; 04 Mar Minnehaha CA
- Mallard Confirmed Breeding: 30 Apr-29 May Douglas (ON) KP; 09 May Brown (PY) GO; 17, 24 May Pennington (PY) CLG; 20 May Hughes (PY) KM**
- American Black Duck** Only Report: **28 Mar Hamlin CV**
- Northern Pintail** Early: 02 Mar Brown GO; 02 Mar Charles Mix RM, KP; 12 Mar Jones RDO
- Green-winged Teal** Early: 02 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Yankton GJS; 04 Mar Stanley RDO; 05 Mar Douglas KP; 08 Mar Pennington CLG
- Canvasback** Early: 03 Mar Yankton GJS; 07 Mar Charles Mix KP; 07 Mar Minnehaha CA; 01 Apr Harding CM
- Redhead** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 02 Mar Gregory RM; 05 Mar Douglas KP
- Ring-necked Duck** Early: 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 02 Mar Gregory RM; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 05 Mar Minnehaha CA
- Greater Scaup** Early: 02 Mar Charles Mix, Gregory RM; 04 Mar Hughes RDO; 21 Mar Minnehaha CA ... Late: 24 Apr Clay DS; 20 Apr Brookings CV; 18 Apr Hand CA
- Lesser Scaup** Early: 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 02 Mar Charles Mix, Gregory RM; 03 Mar Minnehaha CA
- Long-tailed Duck** Late: 02 Apr Yankton DS; 02 Mar Charles Mix RM
- Bufflehead** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 03 Mar Yankton GJS; 09 Mar Lake JSP ... Late: 24 May Pennington CLG; 09 May Harding CM; 08 May Minnehaha CA; 08 May Stanley RDO
- Common Goldeneye** Late: 06 May Perkins KM; 17 Apr Harding CM; 10 Apr Brookings CV; 26 Mar Charles Mix KP
- Hooded Merganser** Early: 02 Mar Gregory RM; 03 Mar Yankton GJS; 06 Mar Douglas KP; 31 Mar Pennington CLG ... Late: 28 May Roberts JSP; 15 May Charles Mix, Douglas KP; 15 May Kingsbury CA; 30 Apr Butte VDF
- Common Merganser** Late: 31 May Pennington CLG; 15 May Charles Mix KP; 08 May Harding KM; 27 Apr Roberts CV

**Red-breasted Merganser** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Stanley RDO; 09 Mar Lake JSP ...  
Late: 03 May Yankton RND; 15 Apr Marshall GO; 03 Apr Brookings JSP

**Ruddy Duck** Early: 03 Mar Yankton GJS; 03 Mar Charles Mix RM; 09 Mar Lake JSP; 10 Apr Harding CM

**Northern Bobwhite** All Reports: 28 Apr Charles Mix RM; 19 May Turner JSP

**Gray Partridge** All Reports: 13 Mar Union CA; 23 Apr Custer MMM; 30 Apr Roberts CV; 20 May Meade VDF

**Ring-necked Pheasant Confirmed Breeding: 23 May Sully (NE) KM**

**Ruffed Grouse** All Reports: 01 Apr Lawrence DGP; 05 Apr Lawrence DGP; 21 May Lawrence DGP

**Greater Sage-Grouse** All Reports: 28 Mar Butte RDO; 21 May Harding CM

**Pied-billed Grebe** Early: 21 Mar Minnehaha CA; 22 Mar Charles Mix RM; 27 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 24 Apr Tripp RDO

**Horned Grebe** Early: 26 Mar Charles Mix KP; 31 Mar Minnehaha CA; 02 Apr Yankton DS ... Late: 09 May Harding KM; 30 Apr Hughes KM; 27 Apr Roberts CV

**Red-necked Grebe** All Reports: 17 Apr Charles Mix RM; 18 Apr Roberts CV; 24 Apr Day CA; 15 May Roberts CV; 23 May Roberts CV; 28 May Marshall JSP

**Eared Grebe** Early: 02 Apr Charles Mix KP; 02 Apr Harding CM; 10 Apr Aurora JSP

**Western Grebe** Early: 04 Apr Hand RDO; 05 Apr Marshall GO; 10 Apr Aurora JSP; 23 Apr Hughes KM; 25 Apr Meade JLB

**Clark's Grebe** All Reports: 03 May Marshall GO; 07 May Harding CM; 08 May Harding KM; 15 May Marshall GO; 19 May Hughes KM; 20 May Hughes RDO

**Mourning Dove** Early: 04 Mar Minnehaha CA; 15 Mar Yankton RND; 23 Mar Brown GO; 03 Apr Pennington JF

**Eurasian Collared-Dove Confirmed Breeding: 31 May Pennington (ON) CLG**

**Mourning Dove Confirmed Breeding: 13 May Stanley (NE) KM; 23 May Sully (NE) KM; 29 May Harding (NE) KM**

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Early: 19 May Lincoln KM, RDO; 21 May Union RND; 22 May Bon Homme KM

**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 15 May Lincoln CA; 19 May Lincoln KM; 25-26 May Lincoln MO; 31 May Roberts CV

**Common Nighthawk** Early: 20 May Hughes KM; 20 May Lincoln CA; 21 May Roberts CV; 28 May Butte VDF

**Common Poorwill** All Reports: 13 May Stanley KM, RDO; 25 May Pennington MMM; 28 May Harding KM

**Eastern Whip-poor-will** Early: 28 Apr Charles Mix RM; 15 May Lincoln CA

**Chimney Swift** Early: 29 Apr Charles Mix RM; 30 Apr Douglas KP; 01 May Turner KP; 03 May Pennington CLG

**White-throated Swift** Only Report: 06 May Harding KM

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Early: 06 May Clay GJS; 09 May Lincoln CA; 10 May Charles Mix RM

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** All Reports: 15 May Pennington JF; 31 May Lawrence DGP

**Virginia Rail** Early: 07 May Lake JSP; 10 May Brookings CV; 11 May Douglas KP

**Sora** Early: 09 May Brown GO; 09 May Douglas KP; 10 May Lyman RDO; 30 May Custer MMM

**American Coot** Early: 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 07 Mar Charles Mix KP; 09 Mar Yankton RND; 09 Mar Lake JSP

**Sandhill Crane** Early: 12 Mar Charles Mix RM; 19 Mar Douglas KP; 20 Mar Jerauld JSP; 10 Apr Tripp RDO ... Late: 31 May Brown GO; 06 May Harding KM; 22 Apr Sully KM

**Whooping Crane** All Reports: 02 Apr Charles Mix RM; 10 Apr Aurora JSP

**Black-necked Stilt** Early: **28 Apr Todd KM, RDO**; 01 May Brown GO; 11 May Douglas KP; 16 May Lyman KM ... Confirmed Breeding: 19-20 May Beadle KM, RDO

**American Avocet** Early: 04 Apr Charles Mix, Douglas KP; 08 Apr Hughes KM; 21 Apr Meade VDF

**Black-bellied Plover** Early: 12 May Hughes KM; 14 May Charles Mix GJS; 14 May Sully KM ... Late: 18 May Hughes KM; 17 May Marshall GO; 15 May Potter RDO

**American Golden-Plover** Early: 25 Apr Charles Mix KP; 01 May McCook KP; 08 May Hanson JSP ...  
Late: 24 May Charles Mix KP; 24 May Faulk MMM; 23 May Hutchinson KP

**Semipalmated Plover** Early: 16 Apr Clay GJS; 23 Apr Minnehaha CA; 26 Apr Hughes RDO; 28 Apr  
Todd KM, RDO ... Late: 28 May Kingsbury MO; 22 May Miner KP; 22 May Roberts CV; 16 May  
Lyman KM

**Piping Plover** Early: 15 Apr Stanley RDO; 26 Apr Hughes KM; 30 Apr Clay GJS

**Killdeer** Early: 03 Mar Minnehaha CA; 05 Mar Douglas KP; 05 Mar Yankton RND; 22 Mar Pennington  
CLG ... Confirmed Breeding: 03, 11 May Hughes (PY) KM, RDO; 15 May Kingsbury (PY) JSP; 17  
May Jackson (PY) KM; 20 May Brown (PY) GO

**Upland Sandpiper** Early: 27 Apr Custer MMM; 28 Apr Todd KM; 03 May McCook CA; 04 May Hyde  
KM

**Whimbrel** All Reports: 14 May Hughes KM, RDO; **15 May Kingsbury JSP**

**Long-billed Curlew** Early: 04 Apr Custer MMM; 14 Apr Stanley RDO; 18 Apr Jones CA

**Hudsonian Godwit** Early: 10 Apr Aurora JSP; 10 Apr Douglas KP; 15 Apr Yankton RND ... Late: 31  
May Charles Mix GJS; 30 May Clay DS; 25 May Minnehaha MO

**Marbled Godwit** Early: 14 Apr Hughes KM; 15 Apr Custer MMM; 16 Apr Sully RDO; 19 Apr Minne-  
haha CA

**Ruddy Turnstone** Early: 15 May Clay GJS, DS; 15 May Kingsbury CA, JSP; 15 May Marshall GO; 15  
May Potter RDO ... Late: 30 May Kingsbury JSP; 28 May Stanley RDO; 28 May Hamlin JSP

**Stilt Sandpiper** Early: 25 Apr Charles Mix KP; 01 May Hutchinson KP; 03 May Hughes KM; 08 May  
Harding CM, KM ... Late: 30 May Clay DS; 27 May Charles Mix KP; 25 May Hughes KM; 25 May  
Minnehaha MO

**Sanderling** Early: 10 May Yankton RND; 11 May Brown GO; 12 May Hughes KM; **17 May Jackson  
KM** ... Late: 30 May Kingsbury JSP; 28 May Hamlin JSP; 19 May Hughes KM

**Dunlin** Early: 01 Apr Clay GJS; 13 Apr Yankton RND; 24 Apr Miner JSP ... Late: 30 May Clay DS; 28  
May Charles Mix KP; 25 May Minnehaha MO

**Baird's Sandpiper** Early: 13 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 20 Mar Clay DS; 28 Mar Beadle CA ... Late: 23 May  
Douglas KP; 23 May Roberts CV; 22 May Miner KP; 15 May Charles Mix KP; 15 May Clay GJS; 15  
May Kingsbury CA; 15 May Potter, Sully RDO; 15 May Yankton RND; 07 May Harding CM

**Least Sandpiper** Early: 13 Apr Yankton RND; 16 Apr Brule RM; 18 Apr Clay GJS; 28 Apr Minnehaha  
CA ... Late: 28 May Charles Mix KP; 24 May Clay MO; 23 May Roberts CV

**White-rumped Sandpiper** Early: 26 Apr Hughes KM; 01 May McCook KP; 03 May Minnehaha CA  
... Late: 31 May Charles Mix GJS; 31 May Yankton RND; 30 May Clay DS; 28 May Hamlin JSP; 28  
May Kingsbury MO

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Early: 27 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 05 Apr Clay DS; 09 Apr Yankton RND ... Late: 31  
May Yankton RND; 25 May Minnehaha MO; 23 May Douglas KP

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Early: 07 Apr Hughes KM; 09 Apr Yankton RND; 23 Apr Minnehaha CA;  
28 Apr Todd KM, RDO; 08 May Harding, Perkins KM ... Late: 30 May Clay DS; 28 May Charles  
Mix KP; 28 May Kingsbury MO

**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 28 Apr Charles Mix RM; 30 Apr Butte CM; 08 May McCook CA:  
09 May Hughes KM; 10 May Clay DS

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Early: 24 Mar Hughes KM; 31 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Apr Minnehaha CA;  
28 Apr Todd KM, RDO ... Late: 16 May Lyman KM; 15 May Douglas KP; 15 May Lake CA; 15  
May Potter, Sully RDO; 08 May Harding, Perkins KM

**American Woodcock** Early: **05 Mar Codington CV**; 18 Mar Roberts CV; 21 Mar Stanley KM

**Wilson's Snipe** Early: 05 Mar Lawrence DGP; 03 Apr Brown GO; 03 Apr Hughes KM

**Wilson's Phalarope** Early: 23 Apr Clay GJS; 24 Apr Clay, Union DS; 24 Apr Miner JSP; 24 Apr Tripp  
RDO; 25 Apr Hughes, Stanley KM

**Red-necked Phalarope** Early: 06 May Harding KM; 08 May Charles Mix KP; 09 May Hughes RDO ...  
Late: 30 May Clay DS; 15 May Charles Mix KP; 14 May Hughes, Sully KM

**Spotted Sandpiper** Early: 26 Apr Pennington CLG; 27 Apr Douglas KP; 28 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Solitary Sandpiper** Early: 26 Apr Clay GJS; 26 Apr Hughes KM; 26 Apr Yankton RND; 28 Apr Brown  
GO; 30 Apr Lawrence VDF ... Late: 22 May Roberts CV; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May McCook  
CA; 14 May Charles Mix KP

**Greater Yellowlegs** Early: 07 Mar Charles Mix KP; 22 Mar Clay GJS; 28 Mar Beadle CA; 10 Apr Tripp RDO ... Late: 18 May Kingsbury CV; 15 May Douglas KP; 15 May Roberts CV; 114 May Charles Mix KP; 25 Apr Meade JLB

**Willet** Early: 14 Apr Yankton RND; 22 Apr Sully KM; 24 Apr Douglas KP; 26 Apr Harding CM ... Late: 28 May Day JSP; 17 May Jackson KM; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Marshall GO; 15 May McCook CA; 15 May Potter, Sully RDO

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Early: 27 Mar Clay DS; 27 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 28 Mar Charles Mix KP; 20 Apr Butte CM ... Late: 15 May Clay GJS; 15 May Douglas KP; 15 May Edmunds, Potter, Sully RDO; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Marshall GO; 15 May McCook, Minnehaha CA; 15 May Yankton RND; 08 May Harding CM

**Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 26 Mar Charles Mix KP; 02 Apr Yankton DS; 06 Apr Stanley KM; 10 Apr Aurora JSP ... Late: 18 May Kingsbury CV; 10 May Brookings CV; 10 May Hughes KM; 09 May Stanley RDO; 06 May Harding KM

**Franklin's Gull** Early: 14 Mar Stanley KM, RDO; 17 Mar Charles Mix RM; 22 Mar Hutchinson RM; 23 Apr Harding CM

**Short-billed (Mew) Gull** Only Report: 18 Apr Stanley RDO

**Ring-billed Gull** Early: 02 Mar Charles Mix RM; 04 Mar Stanley RDO; 05 Mar Yankton RND; 07 Mar Fall River ND; 08 Mar Douglas KP

**California Gull** Early: 11 Mar Stanley RDO; 23 Mar Sully KM; 28 Mar Butte RDO; 18 Apr Hughes, Sully CA; 18 Apr Roberts CV

**Herring Gull** Early: 04 Mar Stanley RDO; 07 Mar Charles Mix KP; 09 Mar Lake JSP ... Late: 24 Apr Miner JSP; 20 Apr Stanley RDO; 18 Apr Roberts CV; 18 Apr Roberts CA

**Iceland Gull** All Reports: 04 Mar Stanley RDO; 24 Mar Stanley KM; 01 Apr Stanley RDO

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Early: 24 Mar Minnehaha CA; 07 Apr Stanley RDO; 18 Apr Sully CA ... Late: 29 May Hughes, Stanley RDO; 15 May Kingsbury CA

**Glaucous Gull** All Reports: 04 Mar – 20 Apr Stanley RDO

**Great Black-backed Gull** All Reports: 24 Mar – 20 Apr Stanley KM, RDO

**Least Tern** All Reports: 09 May Charles Mix RM; 15-31 Clay MO, GJS, DS; 27 May Stanley RDO

**Caspian Tern** Early: 24 Apr Day CA; 24 Apr Stanley KM; 25 Apr Butte EK ... Late: 29 May Stanley RDO; 15 May Yankton RND

**Black Tern** Early: 02 May Turner KP; 07 May Harding CM; 08 May Charles Mix, Douglas KP; 08 May Hanson JSP; 08 May Minnehaha CA; 08 May Stanley RDO

**Common Tern** All Reports: 30 Apr Butte CM; 08-09 May Stanley RDO; 10 May Hughes KM; 15 May Marshall CV; 29 May Stanley RDO

**Forster's Tern** Early: 14 Apr Yankton RND; 19 Apr Minnehaha CA; 23 Apr Stanley RDO; 07 May Harding CM; **08 May Hanson JSP**

**Common Loon** Early: 26 Mar Charles Mix KP; 02 Apr Lake JSP; 03 Apr Hughes KM; 03 Apr Minnehaha CA ... Late: 26 May Sully KM; 22 May Clay GJS; 14 May Yankton GJS; 08 May Perkins KM

**Neotropic Cormorant** Only Report: 31 Mar Charles Mix RM

**Double-crested Cormorant** Early: 24 Mar Douglas KP; 24 Mar Hughes KM; 25 Mar Charles Mix KP; 27 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 15 Apr Perkins CM ... Confirmed Breeding 14-28 May Charles Mix (ON) KP

**American White Pelican** Early: 05 Mar Yankton RND; 12 Mar Charles Mix KP; 21 Mar Brule CA; 21 Mar Douglas KP; 30 Apr Harding CM

**American Bittern** All Reports: 06 May Roberts CV; 08 May Butte EK; 15 May Edmunds RDO; 15 May Marshall GO; 15 May McCook CA; 22 May Roberts CV

**Great Blue Heron** Early: 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 12 Mar Lake JSP; 21 Mar Aurora CA; 21 Stanley KM ... Confirmed Breeding: 31 Mar – 31 May Pennington (ON, NY) CLG; 04-12 May Hyde (ON) KM; 13-22 May Harding (ON) CM

**Great Egret** Early: 27 Mar Clay DS; 28 Mar Brookings CV; 06 Apr Charles Mix RM

**Snowy Egret** Early: 18 Apr Charles Mix KP; 18 Apr Hand CA; 23 Apr Minnehaha CA

**Cattle Egret** Early: 23 Apr Minnehaha CA; 25 Apr Charles Mix RM, KP; 01 May Brown GO

**Green Heron** Early: 26 Apr Yankton RND; 02 May Brown GO; 07 May Lake JSP; 10 May Pennington CLG

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Early: 20 Apr Brookings CV; 23 Apr Minnehaha CA; 02 May Turner KP; 10 May Lyman RDO ... Confirmed Breeding: 15 May Potter (CN) RDO

**Glossy Ibis** All Reports: 10-14 May Hughes KM, RDO; 15 May Potter RDO

**White-faced Ibis** Early: 12 Apr Douglas KP; 16 Apr Brule RM; 16 Apr Hutchinson KP; 18 Apr Charles Mix KP; 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO ... Confirmed Breeding: 15 May Potter (CN) RDO

**Turkey Vulture** Early: 22 Mar Clay GJS; 26 Mar Minnehaha CA; 26 Mar Yankton RND; 02 Apr Custer MMM

**Osprey** Early: 02 Apr Lawrence VDF; 05 Apr Pennington CLG; 07 Apr Stanley RDO; 09 Apr Brown GO ... Confirmed Breeding: 26 Apr Pennington (NB, ON, NY) CLG; 26 Apr Hughes (NB) KM; 09 May Stanley (NB) KM

**Golden Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Apr Harding, Perkins (ON) CM

**Northern Harrier** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Brookings RND; 04 Mar Sully KM; 12 Mar Jones RDO

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Late: 08 May Harding CM; 24 Apr Roberts CA; 24 Apr Stanley KM

**Cooper's Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 01 May Harding CM**

**Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 02 Mar Brown GO; 04 Mar Sully KM; 23 Mar Sully KM; 03 Apr Brown GO; 22 May Lawrence DGP

**Bald Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 51 reports 03 Mar – 22 May Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Clay, Fall River, Harding, Hughes, Hutchinson, Marshall, Moody, Roberts, Yankton counties (CN, ON, FY, NY)

**Broad-winged Hawk** Early: 23 Apr Brown GO; 24 Apr Day CA; 27 Apr Roberts CV; 28 Apr Mellette, Todd KM, RDO; 29 Apr Clay GJS; 29 Apr Hughes KM ... Late: 28 May Roberts JSP; 20 May Hughes KM; 19 May Lincoln CA, KM, RDO

**Swainson's Hawk** Early: 06 Apr Clay GJS; 10 Apr Aurora JSP; 17 Apr Stanley KM; 25 Apr Custer MMM

**Red-tailed Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 14 Mar Stanley (ON) KM; 25 Apr Harding (ON) CM; 02 May Turner (ON) KP; 12 May Hyde (ON) KM**

**Rough-legged Hawk** Late: 20 Apr Harding CM; 17 Apr Stanley KM; 10 Apr Aurora

**Ferruginous Hawk** Early: 06 Mar Custer ND; 13 Mar Harding ND; 20 Mar Hand JSP ... Confirmed Breeding: 08 May Harding (ON) KM

**Barn Owl** All Reports: 01 May Sully KM; 23 May Sully KM

**Eastern Screech-Owl** All Reports: 04 Mar Sully KM; 08 Mar Stanley RDO ... Confirmed Breeding: 22 Apr Harding (ON) CM

**Great Horned Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 36 reports 01 Mar – 24 May Beadle, Charles Mix, Douglas, Harding, Hughes (ON, FL, NY)

**Burrowing Owl** Early: 08 Apr Hughes KM; 10 Apr Stanley RDO; 21 Apr Custer MMM

**Barred Owl** All Reports: 08 Mar Minnehaha CV; **30 Mar Codington CV**; 04 Apr – 25 May Lincoln CA, KM, MO, JSP

**Short-eared Owl** Early: 02 Mar Brookings CV; 13 Mar Kingsbury JSP; **02 Apr Moody CA** ... Late: 26 Apr Custer MMM; 24 Apr Minnehaha CA; 20 Apr Brookings CV;

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Apr Harding (ON) CM; 17 May Harding (NY) CM

**Belted Kingfisher** Early: 02 Mar Brookings CV; 03 Mar Lawrence DGP; 04 Mar Hughes RDO

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Early: 04 Apr Lincoln CA; 11 Apr Lake JSP; 17 Apr Clay GJS

**Red-naped Sapsucker** All Reports: 26 Apr Lawrence DGP; 01 May Lawrence EK; 07 May Pennington JLB; 09-15 May Pennington JF; 31 May Lawrence DGP

**Lewis's Woodpecker** Only Report: 27 Mar Lawrence RDO

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Early: 02 May Clay DS; 06 May Union RND; 08 May Charles Mix KP; 27 May Harding KM

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** All Reports: 01 Mar – 01 May Lawrence DGP; 01 May Lawrence EK

**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 01 Mar – 20 May Roberts JSP, CV; 24 May Lincoln MO

**Northern Flicker** Early: 01 Mar Pennington CLG; 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 02 Mar Brown GO

**Merlin** Late: 07 May Harding CM, KM; 26 Apr Hughes KM; 22 Apr Pennington MMM; 10 Apr Aurora JSP

**Gyr Falcon** Only Report: 13 Mar Harding ND

**Peregrine Falcon** Early: 08 Apr Minnehaha CA; 18 Apr Sully CA; 25 Apr Charles Mix KP; 07 May Harding CM ... Late: 25 May Hughes KM; 21 May Clay DS; 21 May Minnehaha CA; 09 May Perkins KM

**Prairie Falcon** Late: 04 Apr Hand RDO; 02 Mar Charles Mix KP

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Only Report: 13 May Union DS

**Western Wood-Pewee** All Reports: 24 May Pennington CLG; 29 May Fall River JF; 30 May Harding KM

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Early: 12 May Minnehaha CA; 12 May Yankton RND; 14 May Union DS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** Only Report: 19 May Douglas KP

**Alder Flycatcher** Early: 15 May Roberts CV; 18 May Lake JSP; 20 May Minnehaha CA; 22 May Bon Homme KM ... Late: 28 May Marshall MO; 27 May Lincoln, Minnehaha MO; 26 May Clay GJS; 26 May Lincoln, Union MO; 26 May Sully KM

**Willow Flycatcher** Early: 07 May Clay DS; 08 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Lake CA; 15 May Stanley RDO

**Least Flycatcher** Early: 02 May Brown GO; 05 May Harding CM; 07 May Clay DS

**Dusky Flycatcher** All Reports: 17 May Lawrence DGP; 31 May Lawrence DGP

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** Only Report: 10 May Pennington CLG

**Eastern Phoebe** Early: 29 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Apr Clay DS; 03 Apr Lincoln CA; 28 Apr Mellette, Todd KM, RDO

**Say's Phoebe** Early: 07 Apr Custer MMM; 07 Apr Stanley KM, RDO; 08 Apr Hughes KM, RDO

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Early: 09 May Lincoln CA; 11 May Union DS; 13 May Stanley KM; 21 May Pennington MMM

**Western Kingbird** Early: 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO; 03 May Stanley KM; 04 May Hyde KM; 14 May Brown GO

**Eastern Kingbird** Early: 04 May Charles Mix RM; 06 May Union DS; 07 May Lake JSP; 08 May Butte EK

**Bell's Vireo** Early: 15 May Charles Mix KP; 15 May Clay DS; 15 May Minnehaha CA; 26 May Pennington MMM

**Yellow-throated Vireo** Early: 07 May Lake JSP; 06 May Lincoln CA; 07 May Union DS

**Blue-headed Vireo** Early: 06 May Lincoln CA; 06 May Union RND; 08 May Brown GO; 08 May Minnehaha CA ... Late: 18 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Hughes KM; 11 May Union DS

**Philadelphia Vireo** All Reports: 14 May Union DS; 19 May Douglas KP; 19 May Lincoln JSP; 24 May Sully KM

**Warbling Vireo** Early: 02 May Clay GJS; 02 May Douglas KP; 06 May Union RND; 29 May Harding KM

**Red-eyed Vireo** Early: 01 May Charles Mix RM; 12 May Lake JSP; 12 May Lawrence VDF

**Loggerhead Shrike** Early: 05 Apr Lyman RDO; 07 Apr Custer MMM; 18 Apr Sully CA

**Northern Shrike** All Reports: 28 Mar Brown GO; 26 Mar Charles Mix KP; 21 Mar Brule CA; 13 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 12 Mar Jones RDO

**Blue Jay Confirmed Breeding: 12 Apr Pennington (CN) CLG**

**Canada Jay** All Reports: 01 Mar – 31 May Lawrence EK, RDO, DGP; 15 May Pennington JF

**Clark's Nutcracker** All Reports: 07 May Harding CM, KM; 07 May Pennington JLB; 15 May Pennington JF

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** Early: 25 Apr Charles Mix KP; 26 Apr Stanley KM; 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO; 02 May Hutchinson KP

**Purple Martin** Early: 04 Apr Douglas KP; 15 Apr Minnehaha CA; 20 Apr Brown GO; 26 Apr Hughes RDO ... Confirmed Breeding: 28 Apr McCook (ON) CA

**Tree Swallow** Early: 25 Mar Yankton RND; 26 Mar Clay DS; 02 Apr Charles Mix KP; 03 Apr Brookings JSP; 03 Apr Minnehaha CA; 12 Apr Pennington CLG ... Confirmed Breeding: 07 May Charles Mix (NB) RM; 15 May Clay (ON) GJS

**Violet-green Swallow** Early: 03 May Pennington CLG; 29 May Fall River JF; 29 May Harding KM

**Bank Swallow** Early: 03 May Marshall GO; 03 May Stanley KM; 04 May Hyde KM; 06 May Perkins KM

**Barn Swallow** Early: 11 Apr Charles Mix KP; 13 Apr Yankton RND; 24 Apr Miner JSP; 24 Apr Tripp RDO ... Confirmed Breeding: 24-31 May Pennington (ON) CLG



**Cliff Swallow** Early: 25 Apr Stanley KM; 01 May Lake JSP; 01 May McCook KP; 07 May Harding CM, KM ... Confirmed Breeding: 23 May Clay (NB) GJS

**Black-capped Chickadee Confirmed Breeding: 11 Apr Hughes (CN) KM; 31 May Yankton (FY) RND**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Late: 15 May Roberts CV; 09 May Minnehaha CA; 05 Apr Day GO

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Early: 02 Apr Lake JSP; 06 Apr Clay GJS; 19 Apr Brown GO; 26 Apr Harding CM ... Late: 17 May Clay GJS; 15 May Hughes KM; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Lincoln CA: 15 May Yankton RND

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Late: 22 May Davison KP; 20 May Hughes KM; 17 May Minnehaha CA ... Confirmed Breeding: 24 May Pennington (ON) CLG

**White-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 01 May Roberts (CF) CV**

**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 07 Mar Pennington ND; 12 Apr Pennington CLG; 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO

**Brown Creeper** Late: 24 May Lincoln MO; 26 Apr Clay GJS; 26 Apr Hughes KM

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Early: 28 Apr McCook CA; 06 May Lincoln CA; 07 May Union DS

**Rock Wren** All Reports: 26 Apr Pennington MMM; 30 Apr Harding CM; 06 May Harding KM; 15 May Pennington JF; 29 May Harding KM

**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 07 Mar Custer ND; 16 May Meade KM; 26 May Lawrence DGP; 29 May Fall River JF

**House Wren** Early: 26 Apr Clay GJS; 26 Apr Douglas KP; 29 Apr Charles Mix RM; 07 May Harding CM, KM

**Winter Wren** All Reports: 20 Mar Hughes KM; 18 Apr Lincoln CA; 26 Apr Hughes KM

**Sedge Wren** Early: 05 May Minnehaha CA; 10 May Yankton RND; 15 May Clay GJS; 15 May Charles Mix KP; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Miner CA; 15 May Roberts CV

**Marsh Wren** Early: 05 Apr Hughes KM; 26 Apr Stanley KM; 08 May Brown GO; 10 May Lawrence VDF

**Carolina Wren** All Reports: 01-02 Mar Clay GJS; 19 May Clay GJS

**American Dipper** All Reports: 04 Mar – 26 May Lawrence DGP

**Gray Catbird** Early: 10 Apr Clay GJS; 28 Apr Charles Mix RM; 08 May Hughes RDO; 09 May Pennington JF

**Brown Thrasher** Early: 01 Mar Roberts CV; 26 Apr Douglas KP; 26 Apr Stanley KM; 28 Apr Mellette KM, RDO

**Northern Mockingbird** All Reports: 09 May Stanley RDO; 11 May Minnehaha CA

**European Starling** Confirmed Breeding: 5 reports 05 Apr – 31 May Douglas and Pennington counties (CN, CF, FY)

**Eastern Bluebird** Early: 01 Mar Charles Mix RM; 03 Mar Gregory KP; 08 Mar Hughes KM; 22 Apr Harding CM

**Mountain Bluebird** Early: 07 Mar Custer ND; 27 Mar Meade RDO; 28 Mar Haakon RDO

**Townsend's Solitaire** Late: 14 Apr Stanley KM; 02 Mar Hand KM

**Veery** All Reports: 24 May Union DS; 28 May Marshall MO, JSP; 28 May Roberts MO

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** All Reports: 03 May Brown GO; 11 May Brown GO; 11 May Clay GJS; 11 May Hughes KM; 13 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Roberts CV

**Swainson's Thrush** Early: 22 Apr Harding CM; 02 May Brown GO; 02 May Clay DS; 02 May Hughes KM; 02 May Lake JSP ... Late: 31 May Lake JSP; 27 May Lincoln MO; 26 May Sully KM

**Hermit Thrush** All Reports: 11 Apr Moody CA; 25 Apr Hughes KM; 02-03 May Brown GO; 15 May Marshall, Roberts CV

**Wood Thrush** Early: 06 May Clay DS; 07 May Lake JSP; 09 May Lincoln CA ... Confirmed Breeding: 15 May Lincoln (ON) CA

**American Robin** Confirmed Breeding: 7 reports 12 Apr – 27 May Brown, Douglas, Pennington counties (NB, CF, ON, FL)

**House Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Mar Pennington (CN) CLG; 05 Apr Pennington (CN) CLG; 25 Apr Douglas (NB) KP; 17 May Minnehaha (ON) CA; 21 May Douglas (CN) KP

**American Pipit** Early: 19 Mar Clay GJS; 27 Mar Lake JSP; 03 Apr Minnehaha CA ... Late: 20 May Hughes KM; 08 May Clay DS; 08 May Minnehaha CA; 07 May Harding CM

**Evening Grosbeak** All Reports: 19 Mar Lawrence VDF; 27 Mar Lawrence RDO

**House Finch** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Mar Pennington (CN) CLG

**Purple Finch** Late: 09 May Roberts CV; 29 Apr Lake JSP; 25 Apr Douglas KP; 18 Apr Clay GJS

**Cassin's Finch** All Reports: 04 Apr Lawrence DGP; 28 May Lawrence DGP

**Common Redpoll** All Reports: 06-18 Mar Roberts CV; 14 Mar Lawrence DGP

**Red Crossbill** Late: 06 Mar Roberts JSP

**White-winged Crossbill** All Reports: 01 Mar Lawrence DGP; 31 May Lawrence DGP

**Pine Siskin** Late: 31 May Douglas KP; 31 May Roberts CV; 29 May Lake JSP; 25 May Sully KM ...  
Confirmed Breeding: 26 Apr Pennington (CN) CLG

**Lapland Longspur** Late: 30 Apr Sully KM; 06 Mar Roberts JSP; 05 Mar Stanley KM

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Early: 04 Apr Hand RDO; 10 Apr Aurora JSP; 10 Apr Buffalo KM; 12 Apr Custer MMM ... Confirmed Breeding: 22 May Hyde (NE) MMM

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Early: 01 May Gregory RM; 15 May Lincoln CA; 22 May Bon Homme, Clay KM; 29 May Pennington EK

**Chipping Sparrow** Early: 09 Apr Clay GJS; 10 Apr Brown GO; 10 Apr Minnehaha CA; 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO

**Clay-colored Sparrow** Early: 26 Apr Custer MMM; 26 Apr Douglas KP; 28 Apr McCook CA; 01 May Clay GJS

**Field Sparrow** Early: 03 Apr Clay GJS; 15 Apr Lake JSP; 18 Apr Lincoln CA; 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO ... **Confirmed Breeding: 01 May McCook (CN) KP**

**Brewer's Sparrow** All Reports: 07 May Harding CM; 08 May Harding KM

**Lark Sparrow** Early: 26 Apr Douglas KP; 27 Apr Lincoln CA; 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO; 29 Apr Charles Mix RM ... Confirmed Breeding: 19 May Douglas (CN) KP

**Lark Bunting** Early: 06 May Custer MMM; 07 May Harding CM; 09 May Pennington JF

**American Tree Sparrow** Late: 18 Apr Jones CA; 09 Apr Clay GJS; 07 Apr Stanley RDO; 05 Apr Marshall GO

**Fox Sparrow** Early: 21 Mar Clay GJS; 23 Mar Sully KM; 25 Mar Minnehaha CA ... Late: 10 May Lawrence VDF; 08 May Charles Mix KP; 28 Apr Brown GO; 28 Apr Roberts CV

**Dark-eyed Junco** Late: 12 May Roberts CV; 03 May Brown GO; 30 Apr Hughes KM

**White-crowned Sparrow** Early: 04 Mar Minnehaha CA; 24 Apr Custer MMM; 25 Apr Harding CM; 26 Apr Clay GJS; 26 Apr Hughes KM ... Late: 18 May Stanley KM; 15 May Brown GO; 15 May Butte EK; 15 May Hughes KM; 15 May Roberts CV

**Harris's Sparrow** Early: 10 Mar Clay GJS; 13 Mar Lake JSP; 26 Mar Charles Mix KP; 07 May Harding CM ... Late: 16 May Roberts CV; 15 May Clay GJS; 15 May Day, Marshall GO; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Lincoln CA; 15 May Stanley RDO

**White-throated Sparrow** Early: 05 Mar Roberts CV; 18 Apr Clay GJS; 26 Apr Minnehaha CA; 05 May Harding CM ... Late: 16 May Roberts CV; 15 May Brown GO; 15 May Hughes KM; 15 May Lincoln CA; 15 May Marshall CV; 09 May Harding KM

**Vesper Sparrow** Early: 06 Apr Clay GJS; 10 Apr Aurora JSP; 10 Apr Brookings CV; 24 Apr Tripp RDO

**LeConte's Sparrow** Only Report: 13 May Clay DS

**Savannah Sparrow** Early: 10 Apr Aurora JSP; 24 Apr Miner JSP; 24 Apr Roberts CA; 25 Apr Hughes, Stanley KM; 06 May Harding KM

**Song Sparrow** Early: 02 Mar Douglas KP; 07 Mar Charles Mix KP; 08 Mar Stanley KM; 22 Mar Pennington CLG

**Lincoln's Sparrow** Early: 21 Apr Stanley KM; 26 Apr Harding CM; 26 Apr Hughes KM; 26 Apr Roberts CV ... Late: 24 May Sully KM; 19 May Minnehaha KM; 17 May Lake JSP; 10 May Pennington CLG

**Swamp Sparrow** Early: 27 Apr Stanley KM; 07 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Lake CA

**Spotted Towhee** Early: 13 Mar Hughes KM; 31 Mar Lawrence VDF; 14 Apr Charles Mix RM; 18 Apr Lincoln CA

**Eastern Towhee** Early: 23 Apr Clay GJS; 06 May Lincoln CA; 06 May Union RND

**Yellow-breasted Chat** All Reports: 18-23 May Stanley KM, RDO; 24 May Sully KM; 25 May Lincoln MO; 25 May Pennington MMM; 29 May Fall River JF

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Early: 13 Mar Kingsbury JSP; 15 Mar Clay GJS; 20 Mar Jerauld JSP; 24 Apr Tripp RDO

**Bobolink** Early: 02 May Turner KP; 04 May Charles Mix RM; 06 May Clay GJS; 08 May Harding CM, KM

**Western Meadowlark** Early: 04 Mar Sully KM; 08 Mar Charles Mix RM; 09 Mar Clay GJS; 09 Mar Douglas KP; 09 Mar Meade ND

**Eastern Meadowlark** All Reports: 03 Apr – 24 May Clay GJS; 13 May Union GJS

**Orchard Oriole** Early: 02 May Clay GJS; 07 May Douglas KP; 09 May Charles Mix RM; 29 May Fall River JF; 29 May Pennington EK

**Bullock's Oriole** All Reports: 09 May Pennington JF; 12 May Lawrence VDF; 15 May Pennington JF; 29 May Fall River JF

**Baltimore Oriole** Early: 27 Apr Clay GJS; 02 May Charles Mix RM; 02 May Turner KP

**Red-winged Blackbird** Early: 01 Mar Lincoln CA; 02 Mar Charles Mix KP; 03 Mar Brookings RND; 03 Mar Minnehaha CA ... Confirmed Breeding: 15 May Charles Mix (CN) KP

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Early: 08 Mar Clay GJS; 15 Mar Minnehaha CA; 20 Mar Douglas KP; 28 Apr Mellette KM; 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO ... Confirmed Breeding: 22 May Hyde (NE) MMM

**Rusty Blackbird** Early: 07 Mar Charles Mix KP; 09 Mar Lake JSP; 12 Mar Clay GJS ... Late: 05 Apr Clay DS; **28 Mar Beadle CA**; 19 Mar Minnehaha CA

**Brewer's Blackbird** Early: 07 Mar Charles Mix KP; 18 Mar Roberts CV; 12 Apr Douglas KP; 01 May Harding CM

**Common Grackle** Early: 06 Mar Clay GJS; 07 Mar Lake JSP; 07 Mar Minnehaha CA; 04 Apr Harding CM ... Confirmed Breeding: 6 reports 26 Apr – 29 May Charles Mix, Douglas, Fall River, Hanson, Pennington, and Roberts counties (CN, NB, CF)

**Great-tailed Grackle** All Reports: 22 Mar Douglas KP; 10 Apr Brookings CV; 18 Apr Roberts CV

**Ovenbird** Early: 08 May Brown GO; 09 May Douglas KP; 09 May Lincoln, Minnehaha CA; 10 May Yankton RND; 15 May Pennington JF

**Northern Waterthrush** Early: 04 May Brown GO; 04 May Codington CV; 04 May Hyde KM; 04 May Yankton RND; 07 May Harding CM ... Late: 15 May Lincoln CA; 13 May Minnehaha CA; 11 May Brown GO; 11 May Hughes KM

**Golden-winged Warbler** All Reports: 09 May Lincoln CA; 15 May Lincoln CA; 19 May Lincoln KM, RDO

**Blue-winged Warbler** All Reports: 09-27 May Lincoln CA, KM, RDO, MO, JSP

**Black-and-white Warbler** Early: 28 Apr Todd KM, RDO; 06 May Union RND; 07 May Minnehaha CA ... Late: 19 May Minnehaha KM, RDO; 15 May Charles Mix KP; 15 May Hughes KM; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Lincoln CA; 15 May Roberts CV

**Tennessee Warbler** Early: 07 May Harding CM; 08 May Brown GO; 09 May Lincoln, Minnehaha CA; 09 May Stanley KM ... Late: 28 May Roberts MO, JSP; 26 May Sully KM; 25 May Lincoln MO; 15 May Pennington JF

**Orange-crowned Warbler** Early: 25 Apr Hughes KM; 26 Apr Brown GO; 26 Apr Clay GJS; 26 Apr Pennington CLG ... Late: 20 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Douglas KP; 15 May Hughes KM; 15 May Lake, Lincoln CA; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Pennington JF; 15 May Roberts CV; 15 May Stanley RDO

**Nashville Warbler** Early: 06 May Union RND; 08 May Minnehaha CA; 09 May Lincoln CA ... Late: 16 May Roberts CV; 15 May Lake, Lincoln CA; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 11 May Clay GJS

**Connecticut Warbler** Only Report: 27 May Lincoln MO

**MacGillivray's Warbler** All Reports: 16 May Lawrence DGP; 29 May Lawrence DGP

**Mourning Warbler** Early: 15 May Lincoln CA ... Late: 27 May Lincoln MO; 25 May Clay GJS; 25 May Sully KM; 24 May Lincoln MO; 24 May Union MO, DS

**Common Yellowthroat** Early: 04 May Clay DS; 05 May Harding CM; 05 May Hughes KM; 09 Lincoln, Minnehaha CA

**Hooded Warbler** All Reports: 09-27 Lincoln CA, KM, RDO, MO

**American Redstart** Early: 07 May Harding CM, KM; 08 May Brown GO; 08 May Charles Mix KP

**Cape May Warbler** All Reports: 01-15 May Roberts CV; 18 May Clay DS

**Northern Parula** Only Report: 13 May Minnehaha CA

**Magnolia Warbler** Early: 08 May Brown GO; 09 May Clay DS; 09 May Lincoln CA ... Late: 20 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Day GO; 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Roberts CV; 15 May Stanley RDO

**Bay-breasted Warbler** All Reports: 15 May Roberts CV; 18 May Lake JSP  
**Blackburnian Warbler** All Reports: 11 May Union DS; 23 May Sully KM  
**Yellow Warbler** Early: 01 May Charles Mix RM; 01 May Hutchinson KP; 03 May Brown GO; 07 May Harding CM, KM ... Confirmed Breeding: 22 May Hanson (CN) KP  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler** All Reports: 13 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Lincoln CA; 15 May Roberts CV; 20 May Minnehaha CA  
**Blackpoll Warbler** Early: 05 May Hughes KM; 06 May Union RND; 08 May Brown GO; 08 May Charles Mix KP ... Late: 24 May Sully KM; 21 May Hughes KM; 21 May Union RND  
**Palm Warbler** Early: 26 Apr Douglas KP; 27 Apr Stanley KM; 01 May Brown GO; 07 May Harding CM, KM ... Late: 15 May Kingsbury JSP; 15 May Roberts CV; 13 May Brown GO  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Early: 26 Mar Charles Mix KP; 11 Apr Clay GJS; 11 Apr Hughes KM; 25 Apr Butte EK ... Late: 22 May Lake JSP; 19 May Minnehaha KM; 17 May Douglas KP; 15 May Hughes KM  
**Black-throated Green Warbler** All Reports: 08-09 May Brown GO; 09 May Lincoln, Minnehaha CA; 11 May Hughes KM; 11 May Union DS; 18 May Clay GJS  
**Scarlet Tanager** Early: 08 May Stanley RDO; 13 May Union DS; 15 May Lincoln CA  
**Western Tanager** Early: 09 May Lawrence VDF; 16 May Meade KM; 26-30 May Lawrence DGP  
**Northern Cardinal** Reported West River 05 Mar Pennington ND; 28 Apr Mellette, Todd KM, RDO; 02 May Pennington JLB ... Confirmed Breeding: 29 May Douglas (DD) KP  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Early: 28 Apr Roberts CV; 01 May Turner KP; 02 May Hughes KM; 15 May Lawrence DGP; 17 May Pennington CLG  
**Black-headed Grosbeak** Early: 03 May Stanley KM; 05 May Lawrence DGP; 08 May Harding CM; 14 May Lincoln CA  
**Blue Grosbeak** Early: 21 May Pennington MMM; 22 May Hanson KP; 22 May Lake JSP; 23 May Clay DS; 23 May Stanley KM, RDO  
**Lazuli Bunting** Early: 08 May Harding CM; 09 May Pennington JF; 15 May Hughes KM; 18 May Lake JSP  
**Indigo Bunting** Early: 11 May Union DS; 12 May Minnehaha CA; 15 May Lincoln CA  
**Dickcissel** Early: 14 May Charles Mix GJS; 15 May Clay GJS; 18 May Minnehaha CA

**Species Expected But Not Reported**

Barrow's Goldeneye, Surf Scoter (2), White-winged Scoter (2), Black Scoter (2), White-winged Dove (2), Least Bittern (3), Little Blue Heron (3), Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Black-backed Woodpecker (3), Plumbeous Vireo, Pinyon Jay (3), Bohemian Waxwing (3), Lesser Goldfinch (3), Snow Bunting (2), Worm-eating Warbler (4), Virginia's Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Summer Tanager

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

**Western Sandpiper:** 10 May Hughes KM; 11 May Hughes RDO  
**Pacific Wren:** 15 May Lawrence DGP  
**Kentucky Warbler:** 27 May Lincoln MO  
**Cerulean Warbler:** 18 May Minnehaha CA

**Contributing Observers**

CA	Chris Anderson	CM	Charlie Miller
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	KM	Kenny Miller
CLG	Canyon Lake Group Survey	GO	Gary Olson
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
ND	Nancy Drilling	MO	Mark Otnes
VDF	Vic & Donna Fondy	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
JF	Jennifer Fowler	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	DGP	Douglas G. Prisbe
RM	Ron Mabie	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
MMM	Michael M. Melius	DS	David Swanson
		CV	Cheryl Vellenga





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Osprey Nestlings, Canyon Lake Park

*Photo Credit: Judy Hengen*