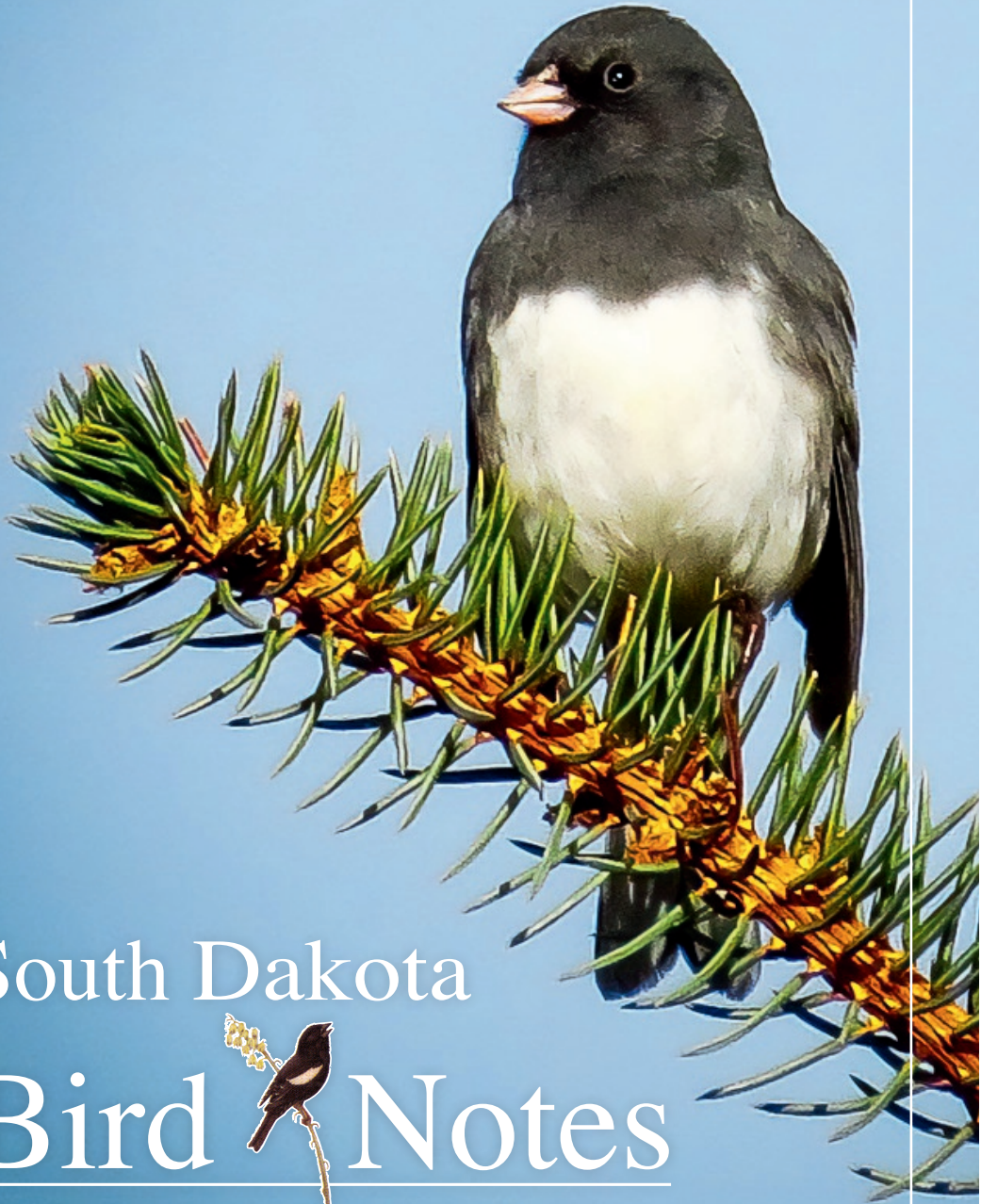


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South Dakota

Bird  Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

*Photo Credit: Ingrid Arlton*

Dark-eyed Junco, Rapid City.

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No. 4

# SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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## President's Page

### WHAT I HAVE LEARNED DURING MY FIRST 10 YEARS OF BIRDING

*Kelly Preheim*

Years ago, before I was a birder, I was a walker. My friend and I would walk miles at the track or I would walk around the lake for exercise. Afterwards, I wanted to be outdoors more, but I didn't know what to do. I am so thankful I found a passion for birding that gets me out exploring nature and studying birds. Here are some things I have learned along the way:

- There are many different species of birds in our state. Their plumage, songs, and behaviors are so fascinating.
- Reported birds often stick around for a while and that surprised me.
- Going back to the same habitat several times, may reveal something different, so having a "patch" to check regularly is a good idea.
- Rainy days and inclement weather often equal good birding days. Mornings and evenings are usually the best times to go birding.
- Often an unsuspected detour while driving can yield a surprise bird or habitat.
- Habitats change more than I realized and it can be upsetting to see great birding habitat demolished or a favorite tree cut down.
- Like everything in life, you need to practice. You need to go birding often to improve your observation skills. Birders usually have amazing observation skills!
- There are patterns in nature that are comforting to observe. The arrival and departure of birds during migration is one of them.
- Most people do not understand birding and it is difficult to explain, but one thing is true – it is a great way to connect with nature.
- Birding ignites curiosity about birds and the natural world. It causes a person to wonder and it sparks curiosity.
- Being a birder can lead to meeting new friends that share a common interest.
- Sharing my passion of birds with other birders and children makes me happy.
- Young children really get excited about birds when they're taught about them.
- Many birders find themselves becoming naturalists as they experience countless natural wonders.
- Birding is perfect for those of us who are lifelong learners.
- Nearly everything on this Earth is interconnected and we see this when birds interact with other animals and their habitat. We notice it during their migration as their livelihood is dependent on their habitats along the way being intact.
- Being observant and being mindful while birding are both ways to melt away stress.
- One great thing about birding is that you can observe and enjoy birds wherever you are.



I hope this finds you well and enjoying the birds in your area. Please continue to support SDOU by renewing your membership each year and attending the spring or fall meeting if you can. We are a unique group of individuals with the superpowers of being able to identify birds by sight and sound. Not many people can attest to that. We need to stick together. Let's do what we can to get others interested in birds as well. The birds need our help to protect them and their habitats. Happy birding to you all!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Second Annual Big Day

After a very successful inaugural SDOU Big Day last year, we will again sponsor the 2022 Big Day on Saturday, May 14, 2022. The event will involve individuals or groups birding in an area of their choice in South Dakota. Birding on the Big Day is allowed for the entire 24-hour day on May 14, from 12:00 am to 12:00 am, or any portion thereof.

Each person or group will keep a list of all species observed (seen or heard) during the day. The lists should include all locations visited during the 24-hour period. We will not require separate lists of species for each location visited. We also will not require counts of individual birds observed.

After completion of the Big Day, please submit your species lists, along with a list of locations visited, to Dave Swanson at [david.swanson@usd.edu](mailto:david.swanson@usd.edu). Dave will compile the lists into a single Big Day list for the state. Please submit your bird lists using the taxonomic order of the checklist on the SDOU website at <https://sdou.org/Birds/Seasonal.aspx>. Questions can be addressed to Dave Swanson at the email address above.

### Upcoming Meetings

In 2022, we plan to resume in-person SDOU meetings. The spring meeting will be held April 29 – May 1 in Belle Fourche. See details in the last issue of *Bird Notes* or online at [sdou.org/meetings](https://sdou.org/meetings). The fall meeting will be in Sioux Falls. We will post details on our website and in future *Bird Notes* issues as they become available.



## 2021 Report of the Rare Bird Records Committee

David L. Swanson.

Department of Biology, University of South Dakota

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) conducted business completely electronically this year because both spring and fall SDOU meetings were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The RBRC acted on records submitted since the last meeting of the committee on 6 November 2021. The committee met via Zoom on 2 June and 6 November 2021 to discuss records that did not receive unanimous ratings electronically. The members of the committee were David Swanson (Chair and Secretary), Chris Anderson, Nancy Drilling, Todd Jensen, Ricky Olson, Jeffrey Palmer, and Scott Stolz.

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

The RBRC requests rare bird reports for species listed as hypothetical or accidental in the state. The Species Review List is available from the SDOU website by clicking on the *Species Review List* tab under the *Rare Birds* link. The RBRC also requests reports of bird species from a portion of the state or time of year where that species is listed as accidental. A listing of birds belonging to these categories in South Dakota is provided in the latest versions of the Distributional and Seasonal checklists of South Dakota birds, accessible at <https://sdou.org/> by clicking on the *Birds* link and then clicking on the links for the *Seasonal* or *Distributional checklists*. The RBRC regularly adds or removes species from the review list, based on current data, and these changes to the review list are reported in the annual reports of the RBRC in *South Dakota Bird Notes*. In addition, reports are requested for observations listed in the “Species Requiring Acceptance by the Rare Bird Records Committee” section in the Seasonal Reports of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Observers whose records are accepted (Classes 1 and 2) are encouraged to publish

these records in *South Dakota Bird Notes*, so details of the observation can be communicated to a wider audience.

Following are the results of the committee's action for records acted upon in 2021. The parenthetical numbers accompanying some reports indicate the committee's vote. If no numbers are listed, the vote was unanimous. The committee wishes to emphasize that a rating of Class 3 or 4 (non-accepted record) does not imply any personal criticism of the observer. Such a rating only means that the information provided in the report, in the opinion of the committee, did not conclusively eliminate other similar species.

**CLASS 1 (Accepted - Specimen, photograph, or recording).**

Mute Swan. 10-11 June 2021. Two in juvenile/second-basic plumage at Lake Yankton, Yankton Co. Photographed. David Swanson and Roger Dietrich. Seventh state record.

Greater Scaup. 25 July 2021. One adult male at Bitter Lake, Day Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Cheryl Vellenga. (5 Class 1P, 1 Class 3). First summer record.

Harlequin Duck. 21-22 December 2020. One juvenile along Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Photographed. Chris Anderson. Eighth state record.

Black Scoter. 24 January – 1 February 2021. SDGFP Outdoor Campus, Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed. Nancy Drilling and Ingrid Arlton. Accidental West.

Sandhill Crane. 25 July 2021. Two adult birds near Peever, Roberts Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson and Cheryl Vellenga. Casual summer visitor.

Black-chinned Hummingbird. 2 June 2021. One male in Yankton Co. Photographed. Roger Dietrich. Third state record.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird. 20 June 2020. One nest with female and two young along Needles Highway, Custer Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. Casual nesting.

American Woodcock. 2 December 2020. One bird at Yankton, Yankton Co. Photographed. Roger Dietrich. Second December record.

Arctic Tern. 17-19 October 2020. One first winter and one second-winter/adult, non-breeding plumaged birds at Lewis and Clark Lake Marina, Yankton Co. Photographed. Mark Brogie and Roger Dietrich. Casual migrant.

Eastern Wood-Pewee. 22 May 2021. One adult at Hell Canyon, Custer Co. Video and sound recording. Heidi Ware Carlisle and Jay Carlisle. (6 Class 1R, 1 Class 3). Accidental Far West.

LeConte's Sparrow. 9 October 2020. One bird along Brush Creek, Harding Co. Photographed. Kenny Miller. Accidental Far West.

Kentucky Warbler. 7 June 2020. One singing adult at Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln Co. Photographed. Chris Anderson. Casual spring and summer visitor.

Painted Redstart. 20-21 September 2020. One adult at Ft. Pierre, Stanley Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. First state record.

Western Tanager. 19 May 2020. One adult male at Union Grove State Park, Union Co. Photographed. Roger Dietrich. Casual East.

Western Tanager. 24 June 2020. One adult male at Great Bear Recreation Area, Minnehaha Co. Photographed. Chris Anderson. Casual East.

Lesser Goldfinch. 17 January 2021. One female at Joe Creek Lake, Hughes Co. Sound recording. Kenny Miller. Accidental away from Black Hills.

Painted Bunting. 8 June 2020. One adult female at Goat Island, nominally Clay Co. Photographed and banded. David Swanson. Fifth state record.

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

Tundra Swan. 20 December 2020. Two adults and three juveniles south of Sorum, Harding Co. Scott Stolz. Accidental winter West.

Western Sandpiper. 11 May 2021. One breeding-plumaged bird at Hyde Waterfowl Production Area, Hughes Co. Photographed. Ricky Olson. (3 Class 1P, 3 Class 2). The photo was supportive of the identification, but was not very clear and in poor light, so dissenting committee members did not believe that other “peeps” were conclusively eliminated by the photo, thus the Class 2 rating. Casual spring migrant.

Glaucous Gull. 12 December 2020. One non-breeding adult at Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte Co. Nancy Drilling. Accidental West.

Red-shouldered Hawk. 31 October 2020. One adult at West Bend Recreation Area, Hughes Co. Ricky Olson. Casual visitor.

White-eyed Vireo. 26 November 2020. One bird in first-winter plumage at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Kenny Miller. Casual visitor and latest fall record.

Clark’s Nutcracker. 30 May 2021. One adult at West Short Pine Hills, Harding Co. Scott Stolz. Accidental away from Black Hills.

Wood Thrush. 22-23 October 2020. One at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Kenny Miller. Rare migrant away from southeast; second latest fall record. (6 Class 2, 1 Class 3)

Swamp Sparrow. 9 October 2020. One along Brush Creek, Harding Co. Kenny Miller. Casual Far West.

Black-and-White Warbler. 28 March 2020. One at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Rosemary Draeger. (6 Class 2, 1 Class 3). Earliest spring record.

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

Common Goldeneye. 22 September 2020. Three breeding-plumaged males at Lake Hendricks, Brookings Co. (3 Class 3, 4 Class 2). Dissenting committee members noted that this record would be approximately three weeks earlier than the earliest fall record for Common Goldeneye. The report was not complete enough to conclusively rule out Barrow’s Goldeneye. Also, some members of the committee felt that the description of a white cheek patch in the report was not fully consistent with Common Goldeneye, as goldeneyes should have the white in front of the eye rather than on the cheek.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. 15 September 2020. One at Kadoka Lake, Jackson Co. Photographed. (4 Class 3, 2 Class 2, 1 Class 1P). The photo was distant and dark so plumage details were not visible. Dissenting committee members noted that the photo did not conclusively eliminate Upland Sandpiper or juvenile Ruff. Class 2 votes accepted the written description but felt that the photo was not completely diagnostic.

Western Sandpiper. 26 June 2021. Two in breeding plumage at Lacreek NWR, Bennett Co. (6 Class 3, 1 Class 2). The description in the report was incomplete and did not compare the species in question to Least Sandpiper. Further, in the opinion of dissenting committee members, the description did not conclusively eliminate White-rumped Sandpiper, which would be more common at this time.

Sedge Wren. 21 March 2021. Two south of Lacreek NWR, Bennett Co. (6 Class 3, 1 Class 2). This record is very early and far west of usual range for Sedge Wren in South Dakota. The description was rather incomplete and, in the opinion of dissenting committee members did not conclusively eliminate Marsh Wren. The description of the song in the report also did not conclusively eliminate western Marsh Wren, in the opinion of dissenting committee members.

Kentucky Warbler. 30 May 2020. One adult at Sica Hollow State Park, Roberts Co. (5 Class 3, 2 Class 2). This report was based largely on the song that was heard, but the song was only briefly described, without mention of the cadence, frequencies, or rising or falling notes. Committee members also were not completely convinced that the flying bird that was briefly observed in the report was the same individual doing the singing. The description of the vocalization did not conclusively rule out Carolina Wren or Northern Cardinal.

**CLASS 4 (Not accepted – Identification probably or certainly incorrect or provenance likely not wild).**

No reports were rated as Class 4 in 2021.

## OTHER BUSINESS

The committee discussed what to do about records for which we have photos, sound recordings or some other supporting evidence posted to the SD Birds Listserv, eBird, Facebook or other online platforms. The consensus was that the RBRC Chair and/or the eBird editors receiving such evidence would ask for submission of a rare bird report. In the absence of a rare bird report, however, the committee voted unanimously to act on the supporting evidence, if the RBRC has the date, location and observer information for the photo(s), sound recordings, or other supporting evidence.

The committee voted to remove East River records of Western Tanager from the review list, as several accepted records have occurred within the last few years. The committee also voted to remove fall records of Cassin's Vireo from the Black Hills and the southwestern part of the state from the review list. Finally, the committee voted to remove East River reports of Red-shouldered Hawk, White-eyed Vireo, and Kentucky Warbler from the review list.



## In Memoriam: Leslie M. Baylor, 1926-2022

David Swanson

Long-time South Dakota birder, SDOU Past-President, and many-term SDOU Secretary Leslie M. "Les" Baylor died on 27 February 2022 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Survivors include his children, Duane Baylor of Ralston, NE, Marnie (Baylor) Gould of Rapid City, SD, and Nancy Baylor-Taylor of Federal Way, WA.

Les was born on 14 August 1926 to Florence Louella and H. Kelsye Baylor in Sublette, IL. He moved with his family to Freeport, IL, where he attended primary and secondary schools. He enrolled at Northwestern University following high school graduation, but his studies were interrupted by his service for the U.S. Army in World War II, where he eventually attained the rank of Technical Sergeant, before being honorably discharged in 1946. He married Mary E. Young on 22 May 1945 during leave from his military service and they remained married until Mary passed in 2007. Les completed his undergraduate work at Northwestern University and pursued advanced degrees in theology, biology and English. He was hired at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, SD, following his post-graduate work, and taught English there for many years.

Les developed an early interest in birds that continued throughout his life. He was a tireless worker and advocate for the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union and served many roles for the organization. These roles included President from 1967-1969, Vice President from 1963-1967, Treasurer from 1975-1977 and Secretary from 1979-1996. I especially remember Les in his role as Secretary, where he kept SDOU general membership and BOD meetings on task and served an important role for the BOD as the "institutional memory." Les was also a prolific contributor to *South Dakota Bird Notes*, authoring articles on noteworthy bird observations, memorials to SDOU members (including Herbert Krause and Nathaniel Whitney), and many book reviews. Among the noteworthy bird observations that Les published in *Bird Notes* were the first state record for Vermilion Flycatcher (SDBN 11:13-14, 1959), the first records for Barrow's Goldeneye (SDBN 23:79-80, 1971), Yellow-throated Vireo (SDBN 27:27-29, 1975), and Scarlet Tanager (SDBN 23:101, 1971) in the Black Hills, an extensive annotated checklist of summer birds of Harding County (with Willard Rosine, SDBN 22:36-48, 57, 1970), and notes on a Northern Cardinal that inhabited his neighborhood in Rapid City for a summer (SDBN 53:86, 2001). Les also had a particular fondness for ornithological history in South Dakota and the history of the SDOU. He wrote several articles for *Bird Notes* on historical topics including *SDOU Meetings: 1949-1973* (SDBN 26:64-69, 1974), *Before South Dakota Bird Notes* (SDBN 58:63, 2006), *The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union Since 1949* (SDBN 49:85-92, 1997), and a regular *From Our Past* column in the late 2000s.

I also read through all the *President's Pages* in *South Dakota Bird Notes* authored by Les during his time as SDOU president from 1967-1969 to gain an appreciation for what topics were of particular interest to him. Les was a strong and consistent advocate for the missions of SDOU to advance the study of ornithology, beyond simply identification and listing of birds, and to bring together amateur and professional ornithologists. Les was a champion of this mission in some of his *President's Pages*, where he extolled the benefits of bird study, such as migration, distribution, population change and life history studies (May 1968), highlighted the accomplishments of SDOU, including the role of *Bird Notes* in South Dakota Ornithology (March, June and September 1969), and reviewed important themes and business occurring at SDOU meetings (December 1967, June 1968, December 1968, March 1969). In the December 1967 *President's Page*, Les described the work of the SDOU Checklist Committee in developing an official checklist of South Dakota birds. This article occurred 11 years prior to the publication of the first edition of *The Birds of South Dakota*, so it illuminates some of the historical process underpinning this seminal publication on South Dakota birds. In the September 1968 *President's Page*, Les mentioned the first appearance of Dutch elm disease in South Dakota and strategies under consideration at the time to combat the spread of this disease, including the use of DDT to kill beetles that carried the pathogenic fungus. Such a strategy was promoted by government programs at the time, but Les highlighted the evidence outlining the harm that DDT caused to bird populations and developed a strong message against DDT use to protect birds and the environment, as well as humans. DDT was not banned until 1972 in the United States. Those debates echo some of the current arguments surrounding neonicotinoid insecticides. Les also mentioned that building membership in SDOU was a topic of concern for SDOU (June 1968), showing that some issues faced by SDOU at that time remain relevant today.

Following retirement, Les and Mary became "snowbirds," including travels to expand their birding opportunities. I remember one trip that I made with some friends over Spring Break in early March during the early 1990s. We were birding at Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park in the Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas and were walking through the former campground area, where people parked campers and often fed birds throughout their stay. During our birding, who did we run into but Les Baylor, who was camped at one of the campground slots, and he gave us some really helpful tips to see some of the specialty species of the area. Jocie Baker relates a similar story from Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in southern Texas, where she took a chartered boat trip on 1 January 1981 to see the Whooping Cranes that winter there. Jocie lived only a little over a mile from Les in Rapid City at that time, but nevertheless saw him only infrequently. However, also in the line for the boat trip, and totally unexpected to Jocie, were Mary and Les Baylor. They all saw Whooping Cranes on that trip, 20 or so birds according to Jocie.

Jocie knew Les for over 30 years, both through contact at SDOU meetings and other interactions, since they both lived in Rapid City for much of that time, so I had Jocie contribute some of her memories of Les as well. Jocie writes ...

*"My first recollection of Les was when he observed a Yellow-throated Vireo in the cottonwood trees on the west side of Canyon Lake Park 11 May 1974 and I went to see it while he and Nat Whitney were there. While I was there viewing the bird, Les was counting the number of times the bird called per minute.*

*I, Nat Whitney and Les checked for the Barrow's Goldeneye that wintered at Canyon Lake for a number of years. Les and Nat first observed the male at the lake on 29 November 1970, and apparently observed it 11 times until 21 March 1971. Then, the next year, the two of them observed a male again at the lake from 7 November 1971 through 10 March 1972, for a total of 26 observations. Since the lake disappeared when the dam was washed away in the deadly and destructive flash flood on Rapid Creek in June of that year, the Barrow's was not seen again until after the spillway was put in several years later and we had a lake again. Then I and Les and Nat began to see the male and occasionally a female or two for many years after that. Another memory that I have of Les was on 4 July 2001 when he had a Northern Cardinal in his back yard. I had heard one on that same date where I live, and also went over to Les's house to see the one in his back yard. That one continued to be in his yard and the valley behind it for a while after that initial sighting."*



After his beloved wife, Mary, passed in 2007, Les made generous donations to SDOU which established the Mary E. Baylor Scholarship for undergraduate students in South Dakota interested in careers in ornithology and ecology and the Mary E. Baylor endowment that supports multiple SDOU activities.

Throughout his life, Les Baylor made substantial and varied contributions to ornithology in South Dakota. His selfless service to SDOU, his helpful guidance of the direction of SDOU as a long-term officer, and his boundless enthusiasm for birds and for the mission of SDOU will be greatly missed.



# Avian Surveys at Canyon Lake, Rapid City, SD: Finches through House Sparrow Species Accounts

*Gene K. Hess*

## INTRODUCTION

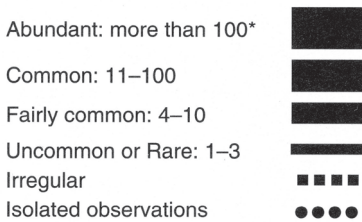
This is the fourth, and final, of a series of accounts of species found on weekly avian surveys conducted at Canyon Lake in Rapid City, SD from October 2010 through February 2019. Previously (Hess 2019, 2020a, 2020b, 2021) I described the results for the non-passerine species and part one of the passerine species. Here I report the results for the last 46 songbird species.

## METHODS

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

In the following species accounts, seasonal occurrence percentages are the number of surveys the species occurred on in that season—divided by total number of surveys in that season. Seasonal bar graphs were constructed for the period October 2010 through September 2018. Months are divided into quarters as follows: January, March, May, July, August, October, December 1–7, 8–15, 16–23, 24–31; February, April, June, September, November 1–7, 8–14, 15–22, 23–30. The bar heights from short to tall represent the following abundance categories: 1–3, 4–10, 11–100, 101–1,000. Isolated records are shown as a dot. A bar of narrow width indicates irregular occurrence, usually at the beginning or end of migration (Fig. 1).

### Seasonal Bar Graph Key

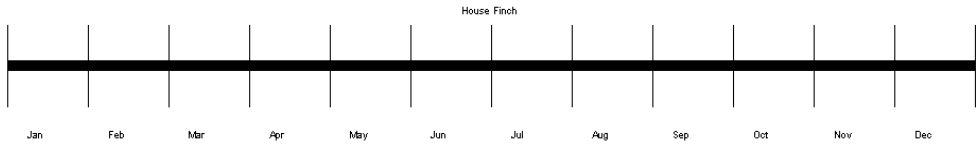


\*Number seen in a field day.

**Fig. 1.** Seasonal Bar Graph key.

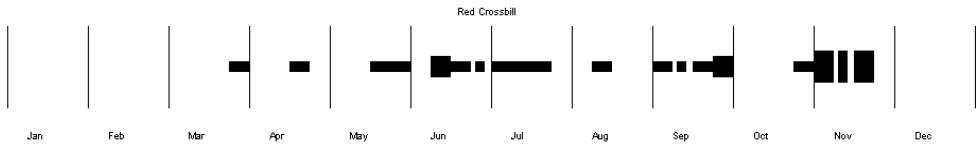
## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**House Finch** – Found on 55.6% of all surveys this resident species was an uncommon visitor to the park (Fig. 2). No evidence of breeding was found. It was least likely to be found in the winter, occurring on 27.9% of the winter surveys. In winter it probably was in the nearby neighborhoods where bird feeders can be found.



**Fig. 2.** House Finch seasonal occurrence.

**Red Crossbill** – This irregularly occurring species (recorded 21 times in seven years) could be found at most any time of year (Fig. 3). Although this is a regular breeder in the Black Hills (Drilling *et al.* 2018) no evidence of breeding was found in the park. This is likely because there are few pines present in the park and nearby areas. Numbers ranged from 1 – 35. Most were seen and heard flying overhead.



**Fig. 3.** Red Crossbill seasonal occurrence.

**White-winged Crossbill** – Five were found on 25 March 2013 and four were found on 1 April 2013. The latter observation included young birds with the bill starting to cross and streaked breasts. Because this species nests in high elevation spruce forests in South Dakota (Drilling *et al.* 2018) it is unlikely these birds nested near Canyon Lake.

**Pine Siskin** – Like Red Crossbill this species could appear at any time of year (Fig. 4). It occurred eighteen times in 2012, three times in 2013 and twice each in 2014 and 2016. In 2012 it occurred twelve times in the late winter and mid-spring and five times in the fall. Counts ranged from 1 – 12 birds.



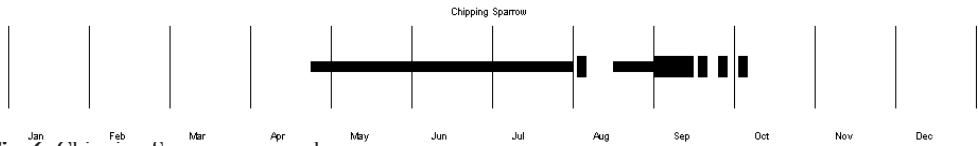
**Fig. 4.** Pine Siskin seasonal occurrence.

**American Goldfinch** – This finch was uncommon throughout the year (39.2% of all counts) and was consistently seen or heard only during the warmer months (64.3% of summer counts, Fig. 5). Nest building was discovered on 8 July 2018 in a large shrub in the butterfly garden. On 30 July one young was noted in the nest and on 13 August three young were seen. By the following week the nest was empty. Most observations were of a few birds calling overhead. High counts are of 30 on 25 April 2016, 15 on 15 October 2012, and 12 on 19 May 2017.



**Fig. 5.** American Goldfinch seasonal occurrence.

**Chipping Sparrow** – This summer resident was uncommon from its arrival through the summer (47.1% of summer counts, Fig. 6). It was not until fall migration did the numbers increase. No sign of breeding was found in the park.



**Fig. 6.** Chipping Sparrow seasonal occurrence.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – A migrant in western South Dakota (Tallman *et al.* 2002), this spring and fall visitor (Fig. 7) to the park was typically found in numbers of 1 – 3. But on 13 May 2013 a remarkable 120 birds was recorded. The next highest count was 12 on 7 May 2018.



**Fig. 7.** Clay-colored Sparrow seasonal occurrence.

**Field Sparrow** – This rare visitor to the park was present on four days in August and September of 2012 and once in May 2013.

**Brewer’s Sparrow** – Not usually found in Pennington County (12 reports from 2012 – 2016, SDOU database), one individual of this unexpected species was found on 8 September 2014.

**Lark Sparrow** – This common prairie species (Tallman *et al.* 2002), was an occasional visitor found eight times in May and twice in August. Counts ranged from 1 – 6 birds.

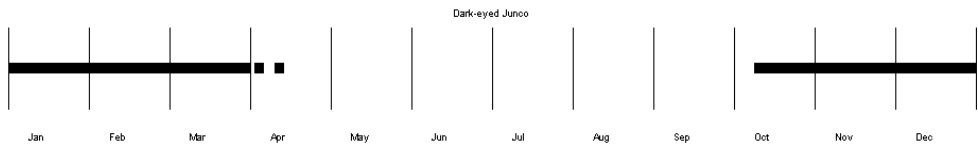
**Lark Bunting** – Another common prairie species (Tallman *et al.* 2002), this was an unexpected visitor. The first was one on 30 July 2012, then two on 3 September 2012, two on 27 May 2013, and lastly one on 1 August 2016. Presumably these were migrants or wandering birds.

**American Tree Sparrow** – This is a common winter visitor except in the Black Hills (Tallman *et al.* 2002). Only 1 – 3 individuals of this winter species were found, most often in early spring migration (Fig. 8).

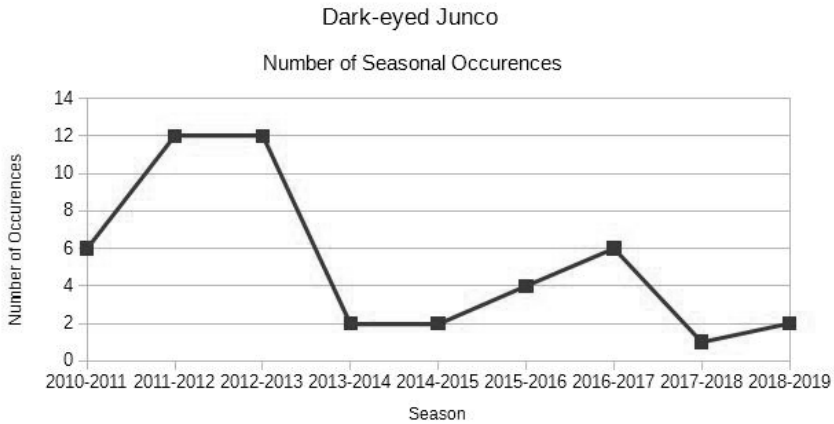


**Fig. 8.** American Tree Sparrow seasonal occurrence.

**Dark-eyed Junco** – This annual winter visitor occurs in low numbers (Fig. 9). Beginning with the 2013–2014 winter season the number of surveys juncos were found on declined precipitously (Fig. 10). In 2013 the lower 4 – 5 feet of branches of the spruce and pine trees in the park were removed and in 2015 a number of spruce trees along Jackson Blvd were removed. This took away the cover the birds used. The high count was 10 on 29 October 2012.

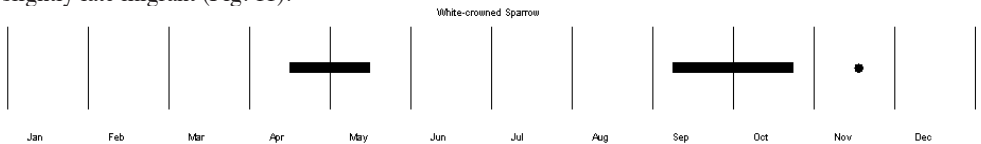


**Fig. 9.** Dark-eyed Junco seasonal occurrence.



**Fig. 10.** Dark-eyed Junco occurrence in all seasons at Canyon Lake park.

**White-crowned Sparrow** – This common migrant (Tallman *et al.* 2002), was uncommon in the park. It was found every year but 2014. The high count was six on 20 April 2012. One on 20 November 2017 was a slightly late migrant (Fig. 11).

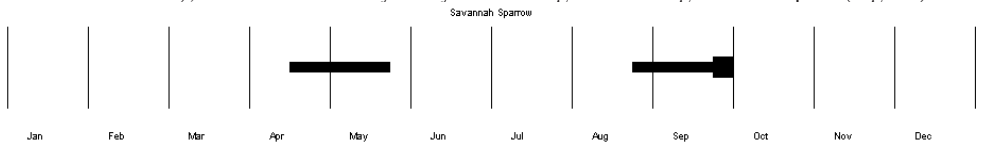


**Fig. 11.** White-crowned Sparrow seasonal occurrence.

**Harris’s Sparrow** – Two individuals of this uncommon western South Dakota migrant (Tallman *et al.* 2002) on 21 October 2013, is the record at the park.

**Vesper Sparrow** – This common migrant and summer resident sparrow (Tallman *et al.* 2002) was recorded five times in the fall of 2012 with a high count of eight on 24 September. Other observations were of single birds on 14 September 2015, 2 May 2016, and 24 September 2018.

**Savannah Sparrow** – Rare in the Black Hills and uncommon to rare elsewhere in western South Dakota (Tallman *et al.* 2002), it was found in only five years making it a rare migrant in the park (Fig. 12).



**Fig. 12.** Savannah Sparrow seasonal occurrence.

**Song Sparrow** – A few individuals of this uncommon but increasing (Drilling *et al.* 2018) visitor can usually be found from spring (71.4% of spring counts and 55.7% of summer counts) through early fall at the small cattail marsh or the thicket paralleling Jackson Blvd (Fig. 13). The two December records are of one bird on 19 and 28 December 2010.

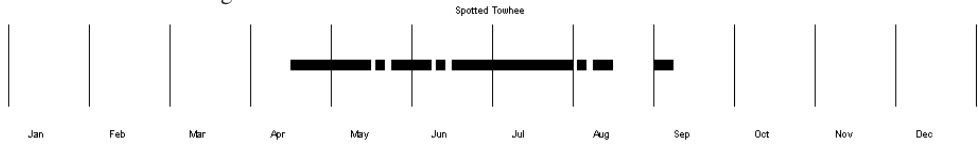


**Fig. 13.** Song Sparrow seasonal occurrence.

**Lincoln’s Sparrow** – An uncommon western South Dakota migrant (Tallman *et al.* 2002). Found on only eight surveys, this sparrow occurred most often in the fall. Usually only one or two were recorded but three were found on 5 May 2014.

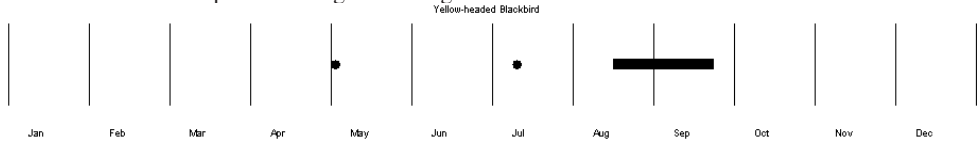
**Swamp Sparrow** – Rare in western South Dakota (Tallman *et al.* 2002), one was found on 15 October 2012.

**Spotted Towhee** – Present in most years, single birds were recorded a few times from mid-April to early September (Fig. 14). There were no observations over a sufficient time period in any year to suggest breeding. A lack of shrubby undergrowth probably makes the park unattractive as a nesting territory. All observations were of single birds.



**Fig.14.** Spotted Towhee seasonal occurrence.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – This is a fairly regular but uncommon fall visitor to Canyon Lake park (Fig. 15). The only spring records are two on 6 May 2013 and one on 7 May 2018. One on 9 July 2012 likely was an unsuccessful or post-breeding wandering bird.



**Fig. 15.** Yellow-headed Blackbird from spring through early fall

**Western Meadowlark** – This prairie species was unexpectedly found on eight surveys from April to October. Two on 26 June 2017 was the high count.

**Orchard Oriole** – This common species (Tallman *et al.* 2002) was a rare species at the park. On 27 May 2013 two were found and one was found on 3 September 2018.

**Bullock’s Oriole** – This common species (Tallman *et al.* 2002) was another rare oriole in the park, three were recorded on 13 August 2012 and one on 3 June 2013.

**Baltimore Oriole** – This common (Tallman *et al.* 2002) migrant was found once, 2 birds on 19 May 2014.

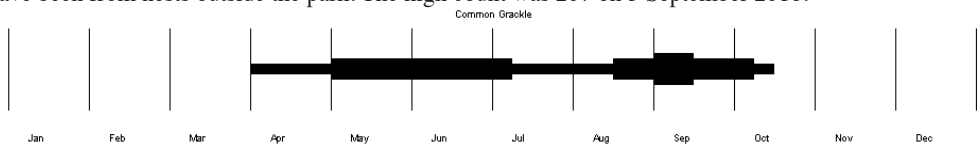
**Red-winged Blackbird** – Uncommon during most of year at the park, this species could be found at the cattail marsh or the shrubby area where Rapid Creek enters the lake (Fig. 16). It was found on 74.5% of the spring surveys and 87.1% of the summer surveys. In migration it was often noted in flocks overhead. The high count was 140 birds on 12 September 2016.



**Fig. 16.** Red-winged Blackbird seasonal occurrence.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** – Uncommon in the park this species was found in only six years. The high count was nine on 6 May 2013.

**Common Grackle** – This is a fairly common species in the park during the warmer months (Fig. 17). It was found on 98.6% of the summer surveys. Fledged young found on 27 June 2016 and 2 July 2018 may have been from nests outside the park. The high count was 207 on 3 September 2018.



**Fig. 17.** Common Grackle seasonal occurrence.

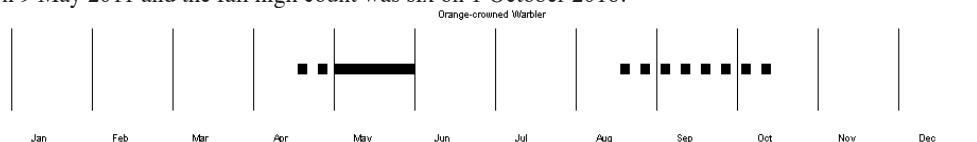
**Ovenbird** – One that sang twice from the hill near the cattail marsh on 4 June 2018 was the only record. Ovenbirds nest in mature timber (Drilling *et al.* 2018) so it is not surprising it occurred only once.

**Northern Waterthrush** – A single bird of this uncommon migrant (Tallman *et al.* 2002) was noted on 13 May 2013.

**Black-and-white Warbler** – Considered a common migrant (Tallman *et al.* 2002), one was found on 10 and 24 September 2012 and one on 6 May 2013.

**Tennessee Warbler** – An uncommon spring migrant (Tallman *et al.* 2002), the only report was of one on 23 May 2011.

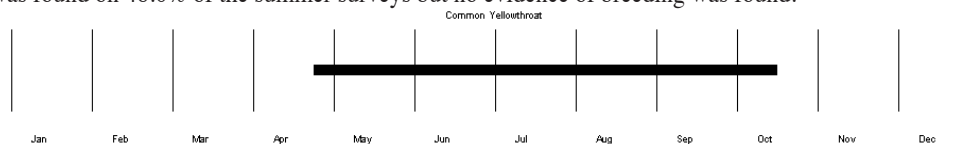
**Orange-crowned Warbler** – This warbler is regularly seen in spring (21.4% of spring surveys) and somewhat less regularly in the fall (8.3 % of fall surveys, Fig. 18). The spring high count was seven birds on 9 May 2011 and the fall high count was six on 1 October 2018.



**Fig. 18.** Orange-crowned Warbler seasonal occurrence.

**Nashville Warbler** – Considered accidental in the west of the state (Tallman *et al.* 2002), single birds found on 10 and 24 September 2012 and on 27 May 2013 were great finds.

**Common Yellowthroat** – This secretive warbler was present throughout the nesting season (Fig. 19). It was found on 48.6% of the summer surveys but no evidence of breeding was found.



**Fig. 19.** Common Yellowthroat seasonal occurrence.

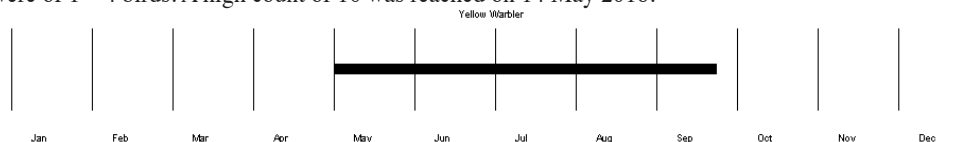
**American Redstart** – This uncommon to rare (Drilling *et al.* 2018) conspicuous warbler was found more often in fall (11.8% of fall surveys) than in spring (6.1% of spring surveys). Most observations were of one or two birds, rarely as many as four (Fig. 20).



**Fig. 20.** American Redstart seasonal occurrence.

**Northern Parula** – This is a casual visitor to western South Dakota (Tallman *et al.* 2002). So single birds found on 23 July 2012 and on 10 September 2012 were an unexpected find.

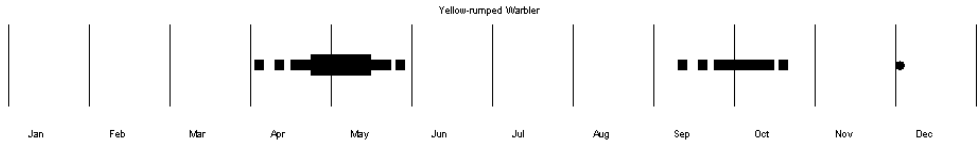
**Yellow Warbler** – Found from May to late September (Fig. 21), this species was found nesting three times and occurred on 24.3% of the summer surveys. On 22 July 2013 two young were seen being fed; on 23 June 2014 a possible nest was found, and on 20 July 2015 one young was seen being fed. Typical counts were of 1 – 4 birds. A high count of 16 was reached on 14 May 2018.



**Fig. 21.** Yellow Warbler seasonal occurrence.

**Blackpoll Warbler** – Single individuals of this rare western spring migrant (Tallman *et al.* 2002) were found on 19 May 2014, 25 May 2015, and 14 May 2018.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** – Both the Myrtle and Audubon’s subspecies were observed. This warbler was most abundant in the spring (Fig. 22). All high counts occurred in spring, the highest being 53 on 2 May 2011. Fall counts were of 1 or 2 birds. The single winter observation was of 1 bird on 6 December 2010.



**Fig. 22.** Yellow-rumped Warbler seasonal occurrence.

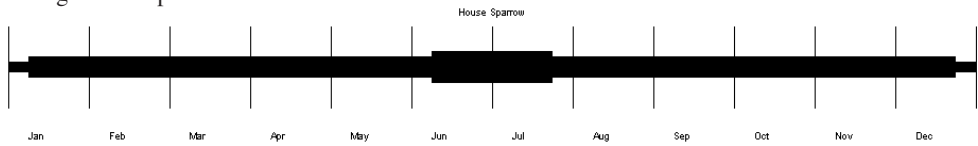
**Wilson’s Warbler** – An uncommon migrant in western South Dakota (Tallman *et al.* 2002), seven of eight observations were in September; the last was in May. One to three birds were found.

**Western Tanager** – South Dakota is on the eastern edge of this bright tanager’s breeding range. It breeds in the Black Hills and other ponderosa pine forests (Drilling *et al.* 2018). Seen three times each in 2011 and 2012 and once in 2016 this was an unusual visitor to the park. One to three birds were found.

**Northern Cardinal** – This bright bird is rare in western South Dakota (Drilling *et al.* 2018, Tallman *et al.* 2002). It can be found at a few locations in and around Rapid City. Single birds put in an appearance on 11 June 2012 and 11 April 2016.

**Black-headed Grosbeak** – A fairly common breeding bird in western South Dakota (Drilling *et al.* 2018) this was a rare bird in the park. Single birds were found on eight counts; one in May, two in June and July and five in August.

**House Sparrow** – Found on every survey this species fairly common most of the year (Fig. 23). Breeding was confirmed in the park on several occasions. The higher June and July abundance likely reflects the presence of young. The low December and January abundance suggests this species does not like early morning cold temperatures.



**Fig. 23.** House Sparrow seasonal occurrence.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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# The 2021 Summer Season

## 01 June 2021 to 31 July 2021

Compiled By: Chris Anderson

The primary goal of the Summer Season compilation is to report Confirmed Breeding records observed during the season. There were 94 species reported as Confirmed Breeding this year, including 10 first county breeding records. The ten-year (2011-2020) average of Confirmed Breeding species is 124, with a high of 198 in 2012. Secondary objectives of the Summer Season summary include sightings of rare (or at least infrequently reported) species, late spring and early fall migration dates, and species that are reported from unusual locations. Records in bold are either new county records (breeding or otherwise), or new latest spring/earliest fall observations of non-breeding species. There were 244 total species, including 4 rarities (Mute Swan, Greater Scaup, Sandhill Crane, Pacific Wren) reported during the season. The ten-year (2011-2020) average is 255 with a high of 278 in 2012. A full listing of all reported sightings can be obtained from the online database (<https://research.dsu.edu/sdoubor/default.aspx>). This report contains those sightings and species which are consistent with the objectives of the Summer Season as described above.

**Snow Goose** All Reports: 01 Jun Brown GO; 01 Jul Brown GO

**Ross's Goose** Only Report: 01 Jun Brown GO

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Only Report: 01 Jun Marshall GO

**Canada Goose** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun - 28 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 03 Jul Minnehaha (PY) CA; 11 Jul Brookings (PY) CV

**Trumpeter Swan** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Tripp (ON) RDO

**Wood Duck** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 24 Jun Brown (PY) GO; 02 Jul McCook (PY) CA; 03 Jul Minnehaha (PY) CA; 15 Jul Hughes (PY) KM

**Blue-winged Teal** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Clark (PY) JSP; 05 Jul Aurora, Brule (PY) ND; 05 Jul Faulk, Sully (PY) CA; 10 Jul Potter (PY) KM; 29 Jul Meade (PY) ND; 29 Jul Roberts (PY) CV

**Northern Shoveler** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Meade (PY) ND

**American Coot** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Brule (PY) ND; 05 Jul Sully (PY) CA

**Admiral Wigeon** Confirmed Breeding: **05 Jul Sully (PY) CA**

**Mallard** Confirmed Breeding: 6 Jun - 29 Jul Brule, Custer, Faulk, Meade, Pennington, and Sully counties

**Northern Pintail** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Faulk (PY) CA

**Canvasback** All Reports: 02 Jun Marshall GO; 03 Jun Stanley RDO; 26 Jun Marshall JSP

**Ring-necked Duck** All Reports: 02 Jun Marshall GO; 03 Jun Douglas KP; 26 Jun Marshall JSP

**Common Merganser** All Reports: 07 Jun - 26 Jun Pennington CLG; 20 Jun Stanley KM

**Northern Bobwhite** All Reports: 03 Jun Gregory KP; 04 Jul Union ND; 11 Jul Brookings CV; 17 Jul Gregory JSP

**Ring-necked Pheasant** Confirmed Breeding: 3 Jul - 30 Jul Aurora, Brown, Clark, Day, Fall River, Faulk, and Marshall counties

**Greater Sage-Grouse** Only Report: 05 Jul Harding KM

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jul Fall River (PY) ND

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** Only Report: 01 Jun Tripp RDO

**Wild Turkey** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jul Fall River (PY) ND; 25 Jul Marshall (PY) CV; 26 Jul Fall River (PY) ND

**Pied-billed Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 2 Jun - 25 Jul Brown, Clark, Faulk, Jerauld, Marshall, Minnehaha, and Potter counties

**Red-necked Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Brown (ON) JSP

**Eared Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Brown (PY) JSP; 29 Jun Potter (PY) RDO; 05 Jul Aurora (ON) ND; 10 Jul Potter (PY) KM; 25 Jul Marshall (PY) CV; 30 Jul Marshall (FY) GO

**Western Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jun Potter (PY) RDO; 03 Jul Clark (PY) JSP; 10 Jul Potter (PY) KM; 24 Jul Day (PY) JSP; 25 Jul Brown, Marshall (PY) CV; 30 Jul Marshall (FY) GO

**Clark's Grebe** All Reports: 23 Jul Fall River ND; 25 Jul Brown CV; 26 Jul Brown RDO

**White-winged Dove** All Reports: 08 Jun Hughes DG; 09 Jun Hughes RDO; 29 Jun Hughes RDO



**Mourning Dove** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Union (ON) ND; 12 Jul Brown (FL) GO; 17 Jul Douglas (ON) KP

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jul Hughes (CF) KM

**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 02 Jun Marshall GO; 05 Jun Lincoln CA; 09 Jun Roberts CV; 22 Jun Sully KM; 17 Jul Gregory JSP

**Common Nighthawk** Confirmed Breeding: **16 Jul Brown (FL) GO**

**Common Poorwill** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Stanley (ON) KM; 28 Jun Stanley (FL) KM

**Eastern Whip-poor-will** All Reports: 01 Jun Charles Mix KP; 03 Jun Lincoln CA; 14 Jun Lincoln KM; 05 Jul Yankton ND

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jul Roberts (FL) CV ... West River Report: 31 Jul Pennington ND

**Rufous Hummingbird** All Reports: 25 – 31 Jul Lawrence DGP; 30 Jul Meade RDO

**Common Gallinule** Confirmed Breeding: **24 Jul Day (PY) JSP; 25 Jul Day (PY) CV**

**American Coot** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Brown (PY) JSP; 03 Jul Clark (PY) JSP; 05 Jul Faulk (PY) CA; 24 Jul Day (PY) JSP; 29 Jul Roberts (PY) CV; 30 Jul Marshall (PY) GO

**Black-necked Stilt** All Reports: 03 Jun Douglas JSP; 05 Jul Beadle CA; 15 Jul Douglas KP; 24 Jul Day JSP; 25 Jul Douglas KP

**American Avocet** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Charles Mix (PY) KP; **02 Jul Minnehaha (PY) CA**

**American Golden-Plover** Only Report: 28 Jun Clay DS

**Semipalmated Plover** All Reports: 13 Jul Charles Mix KP; 23 Jul Sully KM; 30 Jul Brown, Marshall GO

**Piping Plover** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Clay (PY) GJS

**Killdeer** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun – 19 Jul Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, McCook, Minnehaha, Pennington, Sully, and Union counties

**Upland Sandpiper** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Clark (PY) JSP

**Long-billed Curlew** All Reports: 03 Jun Stanley RDO; 09 Jun Fall River JSP; 20 Jun Custer RDO; 04 Jul Harding KM

**Marbled Godwit** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Lyman (PY) RDO; **05 Jul Brule (PY) ND**

**Stilt Sandpiper** Late: 22 Jun Charles Mix ... Early: 13 Jul Charles Mix KP; 15 Jul Douglas KP; 23 Jul Sully KM

**Sanderling** Only Report: 17 Jul Hughes KM

**Baird's Sandpiper** Early: 05 Jul Brule ND; 09 Jul Charles Mix KP; 11 Jul Brookings CV; 25 Jul Pennington ND

**Least Sandpiper** Early: 02 Jul Minnehaha CA; 05 Jul Brule ND; 05 Jul Sully CA; 25 Jul Pennington ND

**White-rumped Sandpiper** All Reports: Late: 03 Jun Douglas JSP; 07 Jun Clay DS; 19 Jun Jerauld JSP ... Early: 09 Jul Charles Mix KP

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Late: 22 Jun Charles Mix KP ... Early: 09 Jul Charles Mix KP; 10 Jul Clay DS; 11 Jul Brookings CV; 29 Jul Meade ND

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: 07 Jun Clay DS; 03 Jun Douglas JSP ... Early: 09 Jul Charles Mix KP; 10 Jul Potter KM; 11 Jul Brookings CV; 29 Jul Meade ND

**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 13 Jul Sully RDO; 29 Jul Meade ND

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Early: 09 Jul Charles Mix KP; 10 Jul Sully KM; 15 Jul Douglas KP; 25 Jul Pennington ND

**American Woodcock** Only Report: 04 Jul Clay ND

**Solitary Sandpiper** Early: 11 Jul Brookings CV; 13 Jul Sully RDO; 15 Jul Hughes KM; 29 Jul Meade ND

**Greater Yellowlegs** Late: 22 Jun Charles Mix KP ... Early: 02 Jul McCook, Minnehaha CA; 05 Jul Beadle, Faulk, Sully CA; 25 Jul Pennington ND

**Willet** Late: 29 Jun Sully RDO ... Early: 05 Jul Beadle, Faulk CA; 05 Jul Brule ND

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late: 29 Jun Faulk, Hughes, Potter, Sully RDO ... Early: 02 Jul McCook, Minnehaha CA; 03 Jul Clark JSP; 05 Jul Beadle, Faulk, Sully CA; 25 Jul Pennington ND

**Wilson's Phalarope** Confirmed Breeding: **29 Jun Hughes (PY) RDO**; 29 Jun Sully (PY) RDO

**Ring-billed Gull** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

**California Gull** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

**Herring Gull** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

**Caspian Tern** Only Reports: 24 Jul Day JSP; 25 Jul Day CV  
**Common Tern** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Sully (ON) RDO  
**Forster's Tern** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jul Marshall (CF) GO  
**Common Loon** Late: 29 Jun Charles Mix KP ... Early: 03 Jul Clark JSP; 10 Jul Potter KM  
**Neotropic Cormorant** All Reports: 29 Jun Sully RDO; 13 Jul Sully RDO  
**American White Pelican** Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jul Day (FL) CV  
**American Bittern** All Reports: 02 Jun Marshall GO; 19 Jun Brown GO; 26 Jun Brown JSP; 10 Jul Edmunds KM; 12 Jul Douglas KP  
**Least Bittern** All Reports: 02 Jun Marshall GO; 26 Jun Brown JSP  
**Great Blue Heron** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun – 05 Jul Pennington (NY) CLG  
**Osprey** Confirmed Breeding: 7 Jun – 26 Jul Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Pennington, and Stanley counties  
**Golden Eagle** All Reports: 11 Jun Fall River JSP; 05 Jul Harding KM  
**Cooper's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Brown (NY) GO; 06 Jul Hughes (FL) KM  
**Bald Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Hutchinson (NY) KP; 22 Jun Charles Mix (NY) KP; 23 Jun Hutchinson (NY, FL) KP  
**Broad-winged Hawk** All Reports: 01 Jun Stanley KM; 02 Jun Marshall, Roberts GO  
**Barn Owl** Only Report: 03 Jun Hughes RDO  
**Eastern Screech-Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul Stanley (FL) RDO  
**Burrowing Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jul Fall River (FL) ND; 25 Jul Pennington (FL) ND  
**Barred Owl** Only Report: 13 Jun Lincoln KM  
**Lewis's Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 31 Jul Custer (FY) ND  
**Red-headed Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jul Charles Mix (CF) KP; 23 Jul Charles Mix (FY) KP; 31 Jul Custer (NY) ND; 31 Jul Charles Mix (FY) KP  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 07 Jul Roberts (FY) CV; 17 Jul Roberts (CF) CV  
**Downy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun – 19 Jul Roberts (FL, FY) CV; 21 Jun Pennington (FL) CLG; 30 Jun Brown (FY) GO  
**Hairy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Lawrence (CF) KP; 13 Jun Pennington (NY) JSP; 20 Jun – 30 Jul Roberts (CF, FL, FY) CV  
**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 02 Jun Marshall GO; 02 Jun – 29 Jul Roberts GO, CV  
**Peregrine Falcon** All Reports: 28 Jun Minnehaha CA; 12 Jul Douglas KP; 18 Jul Fall River ND  
**Prairie Falcon** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Custer (NY) KP  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher** All Reports: 17 Jun – 30 Jul Lawrence DGP  
**Western Wood-Pewee** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Lawrence (NY) ND  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** Only Report: 02 Jun Marshall GO  
**Western Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Gregory (CN) KP; 09 Jul Douglas (FL) KP  
**Eastern Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Gregory (CF) KP; 19 Jun Hutchinson (NB) KP; 06 Jul Hughes (FY) KM; 09 Jul Douglas (FY) KP  
**Red-eyed Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Lincoln (ON) KM  
**Loggerhead Shrike** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Custer (FY) MMM; 21 Jul Fall River (FL) ND  
**Blue Jay** Confirmed Breeding: 07 – 19 Jul Roberts (FL) CV; 11 Jul Brookings (FL) CV  
**Clark's Nutcracker** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Custer (FY) DB  
**Black-capped Chickadee** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Pennington (FL) CLG; 28 Jun Pennington (FY) CLG  
**Purple Martin** Confirmed Breeding: 03 – 22 Jul Douglas (FL, FY, ON) KP  
**Tree Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Lawrence (ON) ND  
**Bank Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Stanley (ON) KM; 23 Jun Hutchinson (ON) KP; 07 Jul Pennington (ON) ND  
**Barn Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Brown (ON) GO; 07 Jun – 26 Jul Pennington (ON) CLG  
**Cliff Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 07 – 15 Jackson (NB, ON) KP; 07 – Jun – 28 Jul Pennington (NB, NY) CLG, ND  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND

**White-breasted Nuthatch** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun – 27 Jul Roberts (FL, FY) CV  
**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 11 Jun Custer KP; 23 Jun Custer DB; 24 Jul Pennington ND  
**Brown Creeper** All Reports: 11 Jun Pennington EK; 24 Jun Lawrence KM; 27 Jun Lawrence DGP; 30 Jun Lawrence DGP  
**Rock Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Jackson (CF) KP  
**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 09 – 12 Jun Custer JSP, KP; 14 Jun Lawrence KP; 26 Jun Meade CA; 27 Jun Fall River KM; 31 Jul Custer ND  
**House Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Turner (FY) KP; 13 – 31 Jul Roberts (FS, ON) CV; 17 Jul Clay (CF) GJS  
**European Starling** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Gregory (NY) KP; 16 – 18 Jun Roberts (FY) CV; 18 Jun Minnehaha (CF) CA; 28 Jun Hutchinson (FY) KP  
**Gray Catbird** Confirmed Breeding: 20 – 29 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 04 Jul Union (CF) ND; 08 Jul Hughes (CF) KM  
**Brown Thrasher** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Hutchinson (CN) KP  
**Eastern Bluebird** All Reports: 05 Jun Yankton CA; 01 Jul Minnehaha CA; 17 Jul Gregory JSP  
**Mountain Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Custer (ON) KP  
**Veery** All Reports: 02 Jun Marshall, Roberts GO; 14 Jun Lawrence KP  
**Swainson's Thrush** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lawrence (CF) KM  
**American Robin** Confirmed Breeding: 1 Jun – 28 Jul Aurora, Custer, Douglas, Fall River, Gregory, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Minnehaha, and Pennington counties  
**Cedar Waxwing** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Gregory (CN) KP; 05 Jun Lincoln (CN) CA; 14 Jun Pennington (CN) CLG  
**House Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Aurora (CF) ND; 05 Jul Pennington (FL) CLG; 12 Jul Douglas (CN) KP; 17 – 30 Jul Roberts (CF, FY) CV  
**House Finch** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jul Clay (FY) GJS; 30 Jul Roberts (FY) CV  
**White-winged Crossbill** All Reports: 14 Jun Custer JSP; 23 Jun – 24 Jul Lawrence DGP  
**Pine Siskin** reported West River ... Late East River: 23 Jun Roberts CV; 05 Jun Lincoln CA; 03 Jun Brown GO ... Early: 12 Jul Brown GO  
**Lesser Goldfinch** Only Report: 18 Jul Fall River ND  
**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Sully (FL) CA  
**Grasshopper Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Custer (NE) MMM; 06 Jul Fall River (CF) ND; 21 Jul Fall River (FL) ND  
**Chipping Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Pennington (CF) CLG; 18 Jun – 30 Jul Roberts (CF, FL, FY) CV; 04 Jul Brown (FL) GO; 09 Jul Hughes (CF) KM  
**Clay-colored Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Day (CF) JSP  
**Field Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jul Roberts (FL) CV  
**Brewer's Sparrow** All Reports: 09 Jun Fall River JSP; 04 – 05 Jul Harding KM  
**Lark Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Stanley (CF) KM; 18 Jul Fall River (CF) ND  
**Nelson's Sparrow** All Reports: 05 Jul Sully CA; 23 Jul Sully KM  
**Song Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Lawrence (CF) ND  
**Spotted Towhee** Confirmed Breeding: **23 Jun Sully (FL) KM**  
**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Minnehaha (FL) CA  
**Western Meadowlark** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Hutchinson (CF) KP; 23 Jul Fall River (CF) ND  
**Orchard Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Gregory (NY) KP; 02 Jun Gregory (CN) KP; 19 Jun Hutchinson (CF) KP; 25 Jul Hughes (FY) KM  
**Bullock's Oriole** All Reports: 03 Jun Custer GJS; 11 Jun Fall River JSP; 20 Jun Fall River RDO; 26 Jul Fall River ND  
**Red-winged Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jul Brown (FL) GO  
**Common Grackle** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Gregory (CF) KP; 24 Jun Brown (FY) GO; 18 Jul Fall River (CF) ND; 21 Jul Douglas (CF) KP; 24 Jul Pennington (CF) ND  
**Great-tailed Grackle** All Reports: **21 Jun Jones RDO; 27 Jun Jones KM**  
**Blue-winged Warbler** All Reports: 05 – 16 Jun Lincoln CA, KM  
**Black-and-white Warbler** Late: 14 Jun Lawrence KP; 12 Jun Todd KM, RDO

**Virginia's Warbler** All Reports: 09 Jun Custer KP; 12 Jun Custer JSP; 21 Jun Custer RDO; 25 Jun Custer KM

**Common Yellowthroat** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul Hughes (CF) KM

**Hooded Warbler** All Reports: 05 Jun Lincoln CA; 13 Jun Lincoln KM

**American Redstart** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Clay (CN) GJS

**Yellow Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Gregory (CN) KP; 30 Jun Hughes (CF) KM

**Scarlet Tanager** Reported: 12 Jun Mellette KM, RDO (second county record)

**Western Tanager** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Custer (CN) GJS; 31 Jul Custer (FY) ND

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 07 Jul Roberts (CF) CV

**Blue Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: **23 Jul Fall River (CF) ND**

**Indigo Bunting** Confirmed Breeding: **22 Jul Hughes (CF) KM**

**Dickcissel** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Stanley (CF) KM

### Species Expected But Not Reported

Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead, Gray Partridge, Ruffed Grouse, Red-necked Phalarope, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Merlin, Cassin's Kingbird, Pinyon Jay, Sage Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Sprague's Pipit, LeConte's Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark

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

**Mute Swan:** 10 Jun Yankton DS (first county record) (report already confirmed by RBRC)

**Greater Scaup:** 25 Jul Day CV (first summer record) (report already confirmed by RBRC)

**Sandhill Crane:** 25 Jul Roberts CV, RDO (report already confirmed by RBRC)

**Pacific Wren:** 01 Jun – 21 Jul Lawrence DGP

### Contributing Observers

CA	Chris Anderson	KM	Kenny Miller
DB	Doug Backlund	GO	Gary Olson
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
CLG	Canyon Lake Group Survey	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
ND	Nancy Drilling	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
JF	Jennifer Fowler	DGP	Douglas G. Prisbe
DG	Dale Gates	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	DS	David Swanson
MMM	Michael M. Melius	CV	Cheryl Vellenga









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*Tundra Swans, Harding County, March 25, 2022.  
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