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South Dakota  
Bird  Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

*Photo Credit: Doug Backlund*

Townsend's Solitaire, Stanley County

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# SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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



## President's Page

*Kelly Preheim*

It was the third weekend in October and I had not been out birding in a while. I thought about what birds I should be targeting, as that would determine where I would go. I was wondering when the Whooping Cranes made their annual migration through my area. Then I remembered to check SDOU's Online Seasonal Bird Observation Report System. I clicked on Explore Sightings and searched Whooping Crane. A very nice graph came up showing when the Whooping Cranes occurred in South Dakota in the past. I was correct on my guess that the third and last weekends of October were the prime times.

Birders have quite a few technological resources they can use to help them identify birds by sight and sound, learn about bird distribution and timing, and to report their sightings. Sometimes I think it is too bad that I use technology when I am birding, but I feel like my submitted observations to eBird and iNaturalist may make a difference for bird conservation. Here are some of my favorites.

### Helpful Resources

SDOU's Online Seasonal Bird Observation Report System – This database contains South Dakota-specific historic and current bird observations. Besides generating graphs of time of year that a species occurs in the state, you can also create a map of the counties where the bird in question has been reported. Many birders like myself upload our sightings to this site to report what we see in South Dakota, which in turn generates these graphs. Consider checking out this site and uploading your observations each season. <https://research.dsu.edu/sdousbor/default.aspx>

Sibley eGuide to North American Birds App – This field guide is on your phone and at your fingertips. It shows various photos of the birds, often showing them at different ages. It also can play recordings of the bird's songs. <https://www.sibleyguides.com/about/the-sibley-eguide-to-birds-app/>

eBird Mobile – This free phone app makes it easy to report the birds you find. I feel this is a valuable tool for those of us interested in helping with citizen science. <https://ebird.org/about/ebird-mobile/>

Merlin – Identify birds you see and hear with the free Merlin app. Answer three simple questions about a bird in question and Merlin will quickly give you a list of possibilities. <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

iNaturalist – This is another free phone app that helps you identify the flora and fauna around you. You may also upload the sightings. <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Birder's Guide to South Dakota – This is a great book by our own David Swanson. This is a guide to birds and birding locations in South Dakota. <https://sdou.org/SDOU/Merchandise.aspx>

Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds – A book by native South Dakotan Nathan Pieplow who has included over 3,600 spectrograms of bird songs and over 7,500 streaming audio files on the accompanying website, [petersonbirdsound.com](http://petersonbirdsound.com). Check out <http://earbirding.com/blog/book>

South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas II Online – This site maps the distribution of all breeding bird species



and their general habitat needs in South Dakota. <https://gfp.sd.gov/breeding-bird-atlas/>

There are many more resources I could have included in this article including a number of helpful field guides, books and other apps for birders to improve their birding skills. Studying them is very helpful, but as we know going birding often really makes a difference and helps us to become keenly aware of the birds in an area. Going birding and observing bird behavior is priceless. Remember that birders do have superpowers. Our ability to identify birds by sight and sound are unique among people. We spot birds and other animals in nature with ease. We notice details and distinguishing features of birds. I believe we have an increased connection to nature as well. Be proud of your birding skills, share your love of birds with others and continue to be ambassadors for birds. They need us.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming SDOU meetings. The next spring SDOU meeting will be 19 – 21 May, 2023 at the Abbey of the Hills near Milbank, while the next fall SDOU meeting be at University of South Dakota, Vermillion, with dates TBD.

New SDOU web site. The URL is the same ([sdou.org](http://sdou.org)) but our web site has a new look. Check it out! While you are there, log in to your member account and check that all of the information in your profile is complete and up to date. In addition, you can control which parts of your personal information can be seen by other members. Note that non-members or the general public can not see any of your information.



## Report of the SDOU Scholarship and Awards Committee for 2022

*Ricky D. Olson*

The SDOU Scholarship and Awards committee members are Nelda Holden, Galen Steffen and Ricky D. Olson (Chair). The following are the awardees for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Elsie Aslesen was awarded the Mary E. Baylor Memorial Scholarship. Elsie is currently an undergraduate student majoring in Biology at Dakota State University with plans to graduate in May of 2023. Elsie is extremely interested in the use of pesticides and their effects on wildlife. She worked on a research design proposal for a class assignment. Her work was outstanding and served as the foundation of an application for a Student Research Initiative grant which she received. The objective of her research is to determine if neonicotinoids accumulate in the eggshells of birds in the wild. Elsie is completed a pilot study which will be followed by a full field season during the summer of 2022. She presented preliminary results at the fall 2022 SDOU meeting

Ms. Chelsi Marolf has received the Husmann Scholarship. Chelsi is a Ph.D. student in the laboratory of Dr. David Swanson at the University of South Dakota. Chelsi is beginning the second semester of her first year in the Ph.D. Biology program and is making good progress toward completion of her degree program. Her coursework is currently underway, and she is in discussions about the specific elements that will make up her Ph.D. dissertation research project. Her dissertation research topic has not been completely finalized yet but will include an experimental analysis of the effect of fluctuating cold temperatures on physiological flexibility in birds. Thus, Chelsi's dissertation research will directly address questions of the costs and trade-offs of flexible metabolic rates in birds, which will provide important data to add to current species distribution modeling approaches predicting avian responses to climate change scenarios, which typically use average seasonal temperatures across broad geographic ranges. It is expected that she will produce at least 4-5 peer-reviewed publications from her dissertation work.

Nancy Drilling is co-awardee of the 2022 Hinds Award. Nancy has served in several officer positions for SDOU including President, Vice President, and Editor, and also has served on the BOD and on the Rare Bird Records Committee. Nancy was the coordinator for *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of South Dakota*. Nancy has led many field trips and presented several papers and presentations at SDOU meetings.

Jeff Palmer is the other co-awardee of the 2022 Hinds Award. Jeff has served numerous important roles for SDOU which have greatly assisted with the mission of the SDOU to "encourage the study of birds in

South Dakota and to promote the study of ornithology by more closely uniting the students of this branch of natural science.” Jeff has served in several officer positions for SDOU including President, Vice President, Librarian, and Webmaster, in addition to longterm service on the BOD and on the Rare Bird Records Committee. Jeff was also a co-author of the 3rd edition of *Birds of South Dakota*, published by SDOU, and contributed substantially to both South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlases. He served on the Technical Advisory Committee for *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of South Dakota*. Jeff has also hosted several SDOU meetings in Madison, South Dakota, and regularly leads field trips for SDOU meetings and other outings. Perhaps the two most important contributions that Jeff has made to ornithology in South Dakota, and thereby to SDOU, are his long-term service as editor of the *Seasonal Reports* feature for Bird Notes and his establishment and maintenance of the SDOU Bird Observation Database (<https://research.dsu.edu/sdousbor/default.aspx>).

The Holden Scholarship is awarded annually to an undergraduate student attending South Dakota State University, majoring in natural or biological science, with an interest in the environment. This years recipient is Ashlin DeBoer from Corsica who is majoring in Ecology and Environmental Science at SDSU.

For more information on SDOU grant and scholarships, and how you can donate, visit <https://sdou.org/SDOU/Grants.aspx>.



## Cracking the Alpha Code

*Cheryl Vellenga*

Short-cuts and time-savers always appeal to me so when I decided to become serious about birding after 30 years of home bird feeding and dabbling in duck identification (divers, too!), I was intrigued by the four-letter codes (Alpha Codes) that experienced birders use to ease their list notations. The early “how to bird” reading I’d done had emphasized the need to use correct names for birds and I had made a habit of mentally referring to each species I became comfortable with by its proper name. This habit served me very well when I advanced to both notebook listing and entering multiple species into lengthy eBird lists as it enabled me to correctly use Alpha Codes.

The original Alpha Codes were created by the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) in 1978 to assist banders in their record-keeping and the codes’ usage soon spread to ornithologists and birdwatchers. This system, however, was often subject to the BBL members’ personal preferences and didn’t follow hard and fast rules. Some groups of species weren’t even coded. To address these problems, another very similar system was developed by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) in 2003 and uses many of the same codes for species. The new system adheres to strict rules and IBP continues to update its lists when the names of species change. Additionally, the IBP codes not only cover all species in the U.S. and Canada but species in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean as well. The IBP list is now the more common system used by birders who code.

The formula to create an Alpha Code is quite simple. Exceptions to these rules, though rare, are marked by an asterisk on the IBP Alpha Code list and exist because there is a conflict in the coding. The codes are created as follows:

- 1) Single word names use the first four letters as their code: MALL = Mallard; KILL = Killdeer
- 2) Two-word names use the first two letters of the first word and the first two letters of the second word: AMRO = American Robin; COGO = Common Goldeneye; HOME = Hooded Merganser
- 3) Where the descriptive part of the name is hyphenated, use the first letter of each word in the hyphenation plus the first two letters of the last word: RNDU = Ring-necked Duck; WRSA = White-rumped Sandpiper
- 4) Likewise, where the descriptive part of the name is two separate words, use the first letter of each descriptive word plus the first two letters of the last word: GCFL = Great Crested Flycatcher; (same as

example 3 but without the hyphen).

5) Occasionally, the descriptive portion of the name is one word and the species portion is hyphenated. Here, you would follow the rule in reverse: JALC = Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo. Hey, you might get there, you never know!

6) For the occasional four-word bird name, use the first letter of each of the four words, hyphenated or not. Examples are Northern Saw-whet Owl NSWO, Northern Rough-winged Swallow NRWS, and Black and White Warbler BAWW.

7) Rarely, there are 2 or more species with the same would-be code names. In these situations, one species' code follows the above rules, while the others do not. Such is the case with Red-necked Phalarope RNPH taking the code formula honors, leaving Ring-necked Pheasant RNEP\* with an alternate code. Likewise, Roseate Tern ROTE follows the formula and Royal Tern ROYT\* gets second billing. Bank Swallow is BANS; Barn Swallow is BARS. Don't let these oddities throw you. They don't come up often but there may be instances when you actually want to look at the code list to double-check.

Using Alpha Codes will certainly have budding birders paying attention to and using birds' proper names, such as "American Crow", when referring to them. Paying attention to the descriptive portions, if any, of bird names and remembering whether they are one word, a hyphenation or two or more words will not only help you with codes, it will help build a solid foundation for your bird identification skills.

Believe it or not, it won't take long for these codes to start making sense and soon you'll even read these helpful short-hand terms and be able to say the species. You'll see NOFL and realize FL is either flycatcher or flicker, and the NO is pretty obviously for Northern. Ah, Northern Flicker! Some pronounceable codes are just plain fun to say. It isn't unusual to hear birders proclaim, "Oh, there went a MODO," or "I see a DOWO, no, 2 DOWO's, male & female."

More information is available along with downloadable pdf files of the lists at the IBP website <https://www.birdpop.org/pages/birdSpeciesCodes.php>. With this helpful aid in your birding toolkit, you'll enjoy spending much less time typing and listing and more sweet time finding birds.



## Confirmed Nesting Record for Swamp Sparrow in Clay County

David Swanson

On 9 July 2022, I observed a Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) carrying food toward a probable nest in reeds (*Phragmites australis*) on private property on the southeastern edge of Rose Lake in Clay County, South Dakota. I also saw a singing Swamp Sparrow at this location throughout the breeding season in 2021 but did not confirm breeding in that year. Swamp Sparrow is an uncommon nesting species in eastern South Dakota and in Bennett County (Tallman et al. 2002). Most nesting occurs in the northeastern portion of the state and neither South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas detected this species in Clay County, South Dakota (Peterson 1995, Drilling et al. 2018). The nearest confirmed nesting records of Swamp Sparrow to Clay County are in Bon Homme County to the west and Turner County to the north (Peterson 1995, Drilling et al. 2018). In addition, few breeding season (June and July) records exist for southeastern South Dakota in the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union Bird Observation database (SDOU 2021). Only five other records for the southernmost counties in the southeast part of the state exist in the SDOU database (SDOU 2021); these include confirmed breeding in Bon Homme County in the Lewis and Clark Delta east of Springfield (Kerby et al. 2012, Drilling et al. 2018), a June record for Bon Homme County in 1992 (Peterson 1995), a June record near Lesterville, Yankton County (Roger Dietrich), a July 2014 record of a bird near Springfield Bottoms, Bon Homme County (Kelly Preheim), and a July 2020 record of a bird near Menno, Yankton County (Chris Anderson).

Southeastern South Dakota is at the southwestern edge of the breeding range of Swamp Sparrow (Her-

bert and Mowbray 2020). It also breeds very locally in north-central Nebraska and a few other scattered locations in that state (Herbert and Mowbray 2020, Silcock and Jorgensen 2022). Breeding also was not confirmed in far northwestern counties bordering South Dakota in Iowa on either of the two Iowa Breeding Bird Atlases (Jackson et al. 1996, Dinsmore et al. 2020). Swamp Sparrows may be expanding their range northward in the eastern United States (Herbert and Mowbray 2020), but the trend between the two South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlases was from more widespread records in eastern South Dakota on the first BBA to a more restricted range in the northeast on the second BBA (Peterson 1995, Drilling et al. 2018). In addition, Over and Thoms (1946) list the Swamp Sparrow as an occasional breeder in the state in tall grass or reeds around lakes or sloughs. Interestingly, the first edition of the Birds of South Dakota (Whitney et al. 1978) list the Swamp Sparrow as an uncommon summer resident in eastern South Dakota, but more common in the southeastern quarter. Thus, this record does not appear to be related to any range expansion in South Dakota, but rather appears to be an isolated breeding occurrence in the limited appropriate breeding habitat (wetlands, marshes and wet meadows, including cattail marshes; Tallman et al. 2002, Herbert and Mowbray 2020) that exists in Clay County.

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# Nesting of Townsend's Solitaire in the Pine Forests of Harding County

Doug Backlund

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) is a common breeding species in the Black Hills of South

Dakota. However, outside of the Black Hills, there has never been a confirmed nesting record in South Dakota. The pine forests in Harding County are suitable habitat for this species and there are breeding season records. One of my goals during the last Breeding Bird Atlas (South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas II, 2008-2012) was to confirm nesting in these areas but I failed. My best record was of a copulating pair in the Slim Buttes, which earned a “probably breeding” status. Quoting from the online atlas website “There are several summer records of Townsend’s Solitaire in the pine-covered buttes of Custer National Forest in Harding County, but this thrush has not been confirmed breeding there and its status is uncertain in that region” (Drilling et al. 2018). I have searched eBird records and SDOU online database records and found no reports of Townsend’s Solitaire with breeding status in Harding County since the atlas period.

On 4 July 2022, I was walking through a thickly forested draw near Red Cross Spring in the Slim Buttes. I spotted one Townsend’s Solitaire as it flew to tree nearby and then another one appeared. Both birds seemed somewhat agitated at my presence. I retreated about 50 yards and sat down to watch. I waited for about 20 minutes and was rewarded by observing one of the birds fly to the ground and stay there. I walked over to the spot and never saw the bird flush. The only likely looking nest site was by a downed log. There was a dead pine bough with brown needles lying over the log. When I lifted the branch the female Townsend’s Solitaire flushed from the nest. The nest contained four eggs (see photo). On July 7, I returned to the nest with Charlie Miller, and we saw the female again flush from the nest, still with four eggs. That was my last visit.



Townsend’s Solitaire nest, Slim Buttes, Harding County, July 4, 2022. Photo by Doug Backlund

This is a late date for nesting. In the Black Hills, nesting is generally over by early July (Pettingill and Whitney 1965, Drilling et al. 2018, SDOU 2022). Baylor et al. (1972) commented on late nesting dates in the Black Hills. They found two nests with eggs, 13 and 18 July 1971. Whether these late records are renesting attempts after depredation or double brooding is unknown. Bowen (2020) reports that double brooding only occurred if the first nest fledged before 26 June (at Eagle Lake, CA), with renesting and second nests reported as late as 22 July.



Townsend’s Solitaire fledgling, Slim Buttes, Harding County, August 16, 2022. Photo by Doug Backlund

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# The 2021-2022 Winter Season 01 December 2021 to 28 February 2022

*Compiled by Chris Anderson*

There were 137 species, including 4 rarities (Baird's Sandpiper, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Pine Warbler), reported during the 2020-2021 winter season. The ten-year (2012-2021) average is 142. In the following report, I have not included all reported species but have tried to highlight the distribution of expected winter-only species, unusual early/late dates, species that are out of range, and new county records (found in bold). If there were 8 or fewer reports of a species, all reports are included. Otherwise, the number of reports and counties are listed to show the prevalence of reports of that species across the state. In some cases, if a particular bird or group of birds were observed in the same county repeatedly during the season, those dates and observations have been summarized to represent the length of stay.

At the end is a list of 25 species that were not reported this season but might be expected during the Winter Season. A species is placed on the not-reported list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during winter in at least 2 of the previous 5 years. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of consecutive years that the species has appeared on the list during the previous 5 winters. Having not been reported in the last 5 winters, the following species have been removed from this list: American Black Duck, Surf Scoter, Sandhill Crane, and Vesper Sparrow.

**Snow Goose** 35 reports across 12 counties (Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Kingsbury, Lyman, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 26 Feb

**Ross's Goose** All Reports: 06 Dec Stanley RDO; 14 Dec Bon Homme RND; 19 Dec Yankton CA, KP; 19 Feb Hughes RDO, JSP

**Greater White-fronted Goose** 9 Reports across 4 counties (Charles Mix, Lake, Lyman, Yankton) 04 Dec – 20 Feb

**Cackling Goose** 51 reports across 10 counties (Bon Homme, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Hughes, Lyman, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Trumpeter Swan** 18 reports across 6 counties (Bennett, Charles Mix, Clay, Hughes, Stanley, Yankton) 12 Jan – 28 Feb

**Tundra Swan** Only Report: 07 Dec Hughes KM

**Wood Duck** All Reports: 19 Dec Yankton KP; 02 Jan Hughes RDO; 16 Jan Hughes KM

**Northern Shoveler** All Reports: 02 Dec Stanley KM; 04 Dec Kingsbury JSP; 06 Dec Stanley RDO; 08 Jan Charles Mix KP; 16 Jan Hughes KM; 10 Feb Charles Mix KP

**Gadwall** 38 reports across 6 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Kingsbury, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 28 Feb

**American Wigeon** 27 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 04 Dec – 28 Feb

**Northern Pintail** 19 reports across 5 counties (Bon Homme, Brown, Charles Mix, Lyman, Stanley) 02 Dec – 28 Feb

**Green-winged Teal** 17 reports across 6 counties (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Lyman, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 23 Feb

**Canvasback** 19 reports across 4 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 21 Feb

**Redhead** 40 reports across 6 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Kingsbury, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 28 Feb

**Ring-necked Duck** 28 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 28 Feb

**Greater Scaup** 29 Reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Lyman, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 21 Feb

**Lesser Scaup** 22 reports across 7 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lyman, Minnehaha, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 26 Feb

**Long-tailed Duck** 17 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Gregory, Lyman, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 20 Feb

**Bufflehead** 38 reports across 8 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Lyman, Meade, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec-28 Feb

**Common Goldeneye** 103 reports across 12 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Gregory, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lyman, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec-28 Feb

**Barrow's Goldeneye** All Reports: 01-03 Jan Stanley KM, RDO; 19 Feb Charles Mix KP

**Hooded Merganser** 54 reports across 7 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Kingsbury, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec-23 Feb

**Common Merganser** 92 reports across 10 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Hughes, Lake, Lyman, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 03 Dec-28 Feb

**Red-breasted Merganser** 22 reports across 7 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Hughes, Lake, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 04 Dec-26 Feb

**Ruddy Duck** Only Report: 04 Dec Kingsbury JSP

**Gray Partridge** Only Report: 12 Dec Custer MMM

**Ruffed Grouse** All Reports: 08 Dec – 24 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Western Grebe** Only Report: 19 Dec Yankton CA, KP

**Mourning Dove** All Reports: 02 Dec Brown GO; 12 Dec Clay DS; 18 Dec Minnehaha CA; 26 Dec Davison CA; 03 Jan Clay GJS

**American Coot** 22 reports across 4 counties (Brown, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec - 28 Feb

**Killdeer** Only Report: 03 Dec Yankton DS

**Wilson's Snipe** All Reports: 01-04 Jan Stanley KM, RDO; 22 Jan Yankton DS; 05-10 Feb Stanley KM

**Bonaparte's Gull** 10 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 01-26 Dec

**Short-billed Gull** All Reports: 17-30 Dec Hughes KM, RDO

**Ring-billed Gull** 41 reports across 6 counties (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec - 19 Feb

**California Gull** 13 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 07 Dec - 19 Feb

**Herring Gull** 47 reports across 7 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Gregory, Lake, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 02 Dec - 27 Feb

**Iceland Gull** 30 reports across 4 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley, Yankton) 24 Dec - 24 Feb

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** All Reports: 04 Dec Kingsbury JSP; 07 Dec Hughes KM; 07 Dec Stanley RDO; 16 Dec Stanley KM; 17 Dec Hughes RDO

**Glaucous Gull** 15 reports across 3 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Yankton) 14 Dec - 19 Feb

**Great Black-backed Gull** Only Report: 03 Dec Yankton DS

**Common Loon** Only Report: 14 Dec Yankton DS

**American White Pelican** 9 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Yankton) 03 Dec - 08 Feb

**Great Blue Heron** 12 reports from 1 county (Pennington) 06 Dec - 28 Feb

**Golden Eagle** 31 reports across 12 counties (Custer, Gregory, Hughes, Jones, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade Mellette, Perkins, Potter, Stanley, Sully) 01 Dec - 20 Feb

**Northern Harrier** 31 reports across 15 counties (Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lyman, Miner, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, Tripp) 02 Dec - 27 Feb

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 42 reports across 14 counties (Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, McCook, Pennington, Stanley, Union, Yankton) 04 Dec - 21 Feb

**Cooper's Hawk** 22 reports across 8 counties (Bon Homme, Clay, Hughes, Lake, McCook, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley) 02 Dec - 15 Feb

**Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 05 Feb Lyman CA; 15 Feb Hughes KM

**Rough-legged Hawk** 109 reports across 37 counties (16 East River, 10 West River, 11 Missouri River corridor) 04 Dec - 28 Feb

**Ferruginous Hawk** 15 reports across 9 counties (Charles Mix, Custer, Gregory, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Stanley, Sully) 04 Dec - 20 Feb

**Eastern Screech-Owl** 14 reports across 9 counties (Douglas, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Meade, Stanley, Tripp, Yankton) 04 Dec - 27 Feb

**Snowy Owl** 17 Reports across 8 counties (Bon Homme, Brown, Charles Mix, Gregory, Kingsbury, Lincoln, Lyman, Sully) 11 Dec - 28 Feb

**Barred Owl** All Reports: 18 Dec Minnehaha CA; 02 Jan Lincoln CA

**Long-eared Owl** 10 reports across 4 counties (Lincoln, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 10 Dec - 20 Feb

**Short-eared Owl** 9 reports across 7 counties (Brown, Davison, Hughes, Hutchinson, Lyman, Stanley, Tripp) 18 Dec - 25 Feb

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** 23 reports across 6 counties (Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, Yankton) 02 Dec - 26 Feb

**Belted Kingfisher** 21 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Lake, Lawrence, Pennington, Yankton) 04 Dec - 28 Feb

**Lewis's Woodpecker** All Reports: 14 Feb Lawrence KM; 15 Feb Lawrence RDO

**American Three-toed Woodpecker** 25 reports across 2 counties (Custer, Lawrence) 02 Dec - 28 Feb

**Black-backed Woodpecker** Only Report: 28 Feb Pennington KM, RDO

**Merlin** 13 reports across 9 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Douglas, Hughes, Jackson, Minnehaha, Stanley) 01 Dec - 19 Feb

**Gyr Falcon** All Reports: 23 Dec Stanley RDO; 29 Dec Oglala Lakota ND; 15 Jan Stanley RDO; 07 Feb Hughes KM

**Prairie Falcon** 18 reports across 11 counties (Charles Mix, Faulk, Hand, Hughes, Jackson, Lyman, Meade, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Tripp) 03 Dec - 20 Feb

**Northern Shrike** 28 reports across 16 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Douglas, Fall River, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, Walworth) 03 Dec – 28 Feb

**Canada Jay** 23 reports across 3 counties (Custer, Lawrence, Pennington) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Clark's Nutcracker** Only Report: 28 Feb Pennington KM, RDO

**Black-billed Magpie** 17 reports across 10 counties (Custer, Fall River, Jackson, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Stanley, Sully) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** 23 reports across 8 counties (Brown, Douglas, Hughes, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Pennington, Union, Yankton) 02 Dec – 26 Feb

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Only Report: 14 Dec Stanley KM

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** 51 reports across 11 counties (Brow, Custer, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, McCook, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Union) 02 Dec – 28 Feb

**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 17 Dec – 30 Jan Pennington ND; 10 Jan Custer KM; 11 Jan Custer RDO; 20 Feb Pennington JLB; 28 Feb Custer KM

**Brown Creeper** 36 reports across 13 counties (Brown, Clay, Custer, Douglas, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 28 Feb

**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 07 Feb Lawrence DGP; 14 Feb Pennington KM, RDO; 19 Feb Lawrence EK

**Marsh Wren** All Reports: 03-29 Dec Hughes KM; 04 Dec Stanley KM; 26 Jan Hughes KM

**American Dipper** 16 reports from 1 county (Lawrence) 03 Dec – 20 Feb

**Townsend's Solitaire** 56 reports across 11 counties (Brown, Clay, Hughes, Jackson, Lawrence, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Union) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Hermit Thrush** All Reports: 18 Dec Hughes KM; 26 Jan Hughes KM

**Bohemian Waxwing** All Reports: 03 Dec Lawrence ND; 04 Dec Lawrence RDO; 18 Dec Hughes, Stanley KM; 28 Dec Hughes KM; 01 Jan Stanley KM; 30 Jan Brown RDO; 07 Feb Lawrence DGP

**Evening Grosbeak** Only Report: 26 Jan Lawrence RDO

**Purple Finch** 42 reports across 9 counties (Brookings, Brown, Clay, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley, Union) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Cassin's Finch** Only Report: 01 Dec Pennington ND

**Common Redpoll** 41 reports across 17 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Dewey, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lawrence, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Union) 02 Dec – 28 Feb

**White-winged Crossbill** All Reports: 12 Dec – 04 Jan Minnehaha CA; 18 Dec Brown GO; 12 Jan Brown GO; 20 Feb Brown GO

**Red Crossbill** All Reports: 20 Dec Perkins ND; 29 Dec Oglala Lakota ND

**Pine Siskin** 31 reports across 8 counties (Brown, Clay, Custer, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Pennington) 03 Dec – 28 Feb

**Lapland Longspur** 18 reports across 15 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Hughes, Hutchinson, Lake, Lyman, Miner, Moody, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, Yankton) 10 Dec – 26 Feb

**Snow Bunting** 9 reports across 7 counties (Brookings, Brown, Clark, Clay, Kingsbury, Lake, Moody) 04 Dec – 26 Feb

**American Tree Sparrow** 91 reports across 22 counties (10 East River, 2 West River, 10 Missouri River corridor) 02 Dec – 28 Feb

**Fox Sparrow** 10 reports across 6 counties (**Bon Homme**, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Union) 02 Dec – 26 Feb

**Dark-eyed Junco** 189 reports across 27 counties (11 East River, 7 West River, 9 Missouri River corridor) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Song Sparrow** All Reports: 19 Dec Pennington ND; 21 Dec Hughes KM; 24 Dec Lawrence DGP; 08 Jan Hughes KM; 19 Feb Gregory KP

**Swamp Sparrow** Only Report: 03 Dec Hughes KM

**Harris's Sparrow** All Reports: 05 Jan Clay GJS; 08 Jan Hughes KM; 20 Jan Charles Mix KM; 30 Jan Hughes KM; 21 Feb Clay GJS; 23 Feb Clay GJS

**White-crowned Sparrow** All Reports: 08 Jan Hughes KM; 30 Jan Hughes KM; 26 Feb Charles Mix KP; 26 Feb Kingsbury JSP

**Spotted Towhee** All Reports: 01 Jan Stanley KM, RDO; 17 Feb Stanley RDO

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Only Report: 14 Dec Bon Homme RND

**Western Meadowlark** 21 reports across 8 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hughes, Lyman, Mellette, Stanley, Tripp) 13 Dec – 27 Feb

**Red-winged Blackbird** 15 reports across 13 counties (Bon Homme, Brookings, Clark, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hughes, Hutchinson, Jones, Lake, Lyman, Stanley, Tripp) 02 Dec – 27 Feb

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Only Report: 14 Dec Bon Homme RND

**Rusty Blackbird** Only Report: 20 Dec Clay GJS

**Common Grackle** 12 reports across 3 counties (Bon Homme, Clay, Stanley) 02 Dec – 21 Feb

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 30 reports across 8 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hughes, Lincoln, Stanley, Union, Yankton) 02 Dec – 26 Feb

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

**Baird's Sandpiper** reported 14 Dec Yankton DS (already approved by committee)

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** reported 18 Dec Meade ND (already approved by committee)

**Savannah Sparrow** reported 11-12 Dec Clay DS (already approved by committee)

**Pine Warbler** reported 09 and 29 Jan Union DS (already approved by committee)

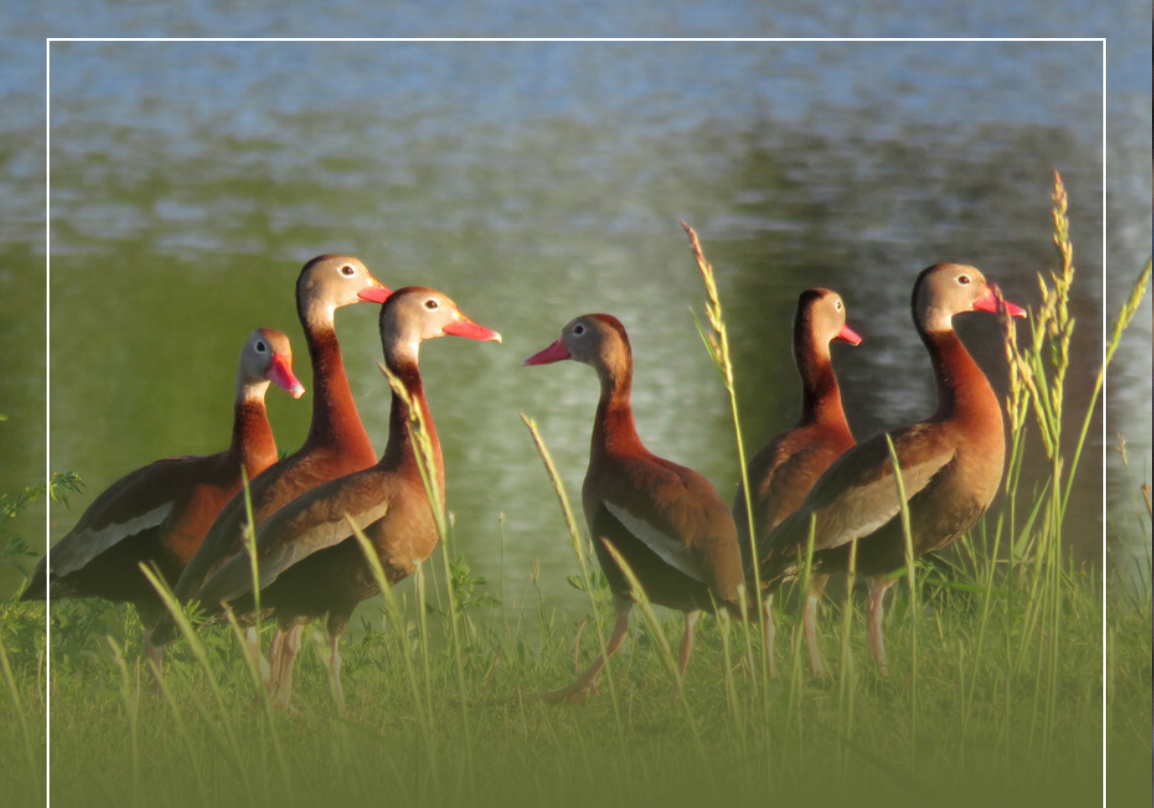
### **Species Expected But Not Reported**

Blue-winged Teal (3), Surf Scoter (4), White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Northern Bobwhite, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-legged Kittiwake (2), Barn Owl (3), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-headed Woodpecker (2), Pileated Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Pinyon Jay, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird (2), Varied Thrush (2), Gray Catbird (2), Pine Grosbeak (2), Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, White-throated Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird

**Contributing Observers**

CA	Chris Anderson	KM	Kenny Miller
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	GO	Gary Olson
KB	Kelly Bauder	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
CLG	Canyon Lake Group	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
ND	Nancy Drilling	DGP	D. George Prisbe
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
MMM	Michael M. Melius	DS	David Swanson





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**Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, 6/8/2022, Douglas County**

*Photo Credit: Kelly Preheim*