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South Dakota

Bird  Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

*Photo Credit: Kelly Preheim*

Eastern Bluebird, Fort Randall Dam

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# SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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## President's Page

Mark Schmidtbauer

The unfortunate report by the world's leading scientific journal, *SCIENCE* (Sept 2019) a few years ago said that 2.9 billion breeding adult birds have been lost since 1970. That is more than one in four birds gone forever in less than a single human lifetime. These staggering numbers of course are depressing for us bird supporters and can make us feel like all hope is lost. For us to continue our mission to promote the study of birds in South Dakota, we need living breathing birds left for us to study. There are little things we can do as individuals to help the plight of birds, such as making our yards and gardens better habitats by choosing native plants; minimizing bird strikes in problem windows of our homes by leaving the shades down to lessen sky reflection; and using less or eliminating pesticides, fertilizers, and salts that contaminate their habitat.

There are other ways to help birds and much information is out there and readily available. As an organization we have a vested interest in doing our part to help birds survive and thrive. A question to be asked is, "What can SDOU do as an organization about the continuing widespread depletion of birds and their habitats?" While researching the early years of SDOU, I found that during some time periods SDOU was actively involved in bird protection and habitat conservation. During the late 50's and early 60's they formed a liaison committee made up of SDOU members that worked side by side with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department to protect great horned owls, sharp-shinned hawks and Coopers hawks. This ultimately led to the passage of SD Bill 90 on hawk and owl protection (*Bird Notes* March 1961). A wonderful success for SDOU! (And a big sigh of relief from our South Dakota hawks and owls because at that time protections were limited.)

During this time period SDOU also passed two resolutions at its annual meeting (*Bird Notes* March 1962). The first was that all government assistance for drainage of wetlands in South Dakota should be stopped. The second was that a new National Wildlife Refuge should be set up to offset the sandbars being used by Sandhill Cranes that were to be lost by building the Oahe Dam on the Missouri River. Of course, we all love seeing the gulls that flock to the huge reservoirs on this now dammed river but so many riparian areas were lost along with the miles of sandbars. This river's edge habitat provided food and shelter not only for the cranes but also to birds that lived there year-round, and the river's edge also benefited birds who used it for summer breeding grounds and migration stopover.

Definitely, environmental tragedies like building of the dams, plowing of the prairies and draining of the wetlands contributed to the vast numbers of bird losses in this state, and I am proud that SDOU at the time stood up for our birds. These two early resolutions were both targeted and local and this made them more legitimate to other environmental organizations and allies of the time to see that we agreed and supported them in their conservation efforts. Even though these two resolutions may have had no teeth, they showed that our founders cared considerably about bird protection and conservation of their habitats. Currently, I believe there are projects that we could get behind and support, environmental concerns that could be addressed, and other dangers to our birds that need to be publicized. SDOU's stance and actions on the detriments facing birds today will not only be beneficial to birds, but also show our successors that threats to birdlife were perceived by us and we did our best to help.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings: The 2023 Fall meeting will be held at USD in Vermillion on September 29 – October 1. The 2024 Spring meeting will be in Custer, date TBD. Watch for upcoming announcements on the web site and in social media for more details.



# 2022 Report of the Rare Bird Records Committee

David L. Swanson

*Department of Biology, University of South Dakota, Vermillion*

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) met virtually on 15 May 2022 for the spring meeting and in-person for the fall meeting in Sioux Falls on 2 October 2022. The RBRC acted on records submitted since the last meeting of the committee on 6 November 2021. Rare Bird Reports were circulated to all members electronically and the committee acted on reports not receiving unanimous ratings electronically during the meetings. 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 <http://www.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 <http://www.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 summarized 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 2022. 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).**

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. 8 May 2022. Five adults southeast of Humboldt, Minnehaha Co.

Photographed, Mick Zerr. Accidental migrant and summer visitor.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. 8 June 2022. Fifteen adults at Lake Alcazar, Armour, Douglas Co. Photographed, Kelly Preheim. Accidental migrant and summer visitor. See back photo *South Dakota Bird Notes Vol 74(2)*

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. 18 June 2022. One adult along Highway 50 twelve miles west of Yankton, Yankton Co. Photographed, Ricky Olson. Accidental migrant and summer visitor.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. 22 July 2022. Two adults at Columbia, Brown Co. Photographed, Ricky Olson and Kenny Miller. Accidental migrant and summer visitor.

Tundra Swan. 25 March 2022. Two adults at Rabbit Creek Reservoir, Harding Co. Photographed, Scott Stolz. Rare West. See back photo – *South Dakota Bird Notes 73 (4)*

Long-tailed Duck. 3 June 2022. One adult female molting to breeding plumage at Ft. Randall Dam tailrace, Charles Mix Co. Photographed, Jeff Palmer. First summer record for South Dakota.

Rufous Hummingbird. 6-10 August 2022. Two immatures at Ft. Pierre, Stanley Co. Photographed, Ricky Olson. Accidental away from Black Hills.

Rufous Hummingbird. 6-10 August 2022. Two immatures at Winner, Tripp Co. Photographed, Ricky Olson. Accidental away from Black Hills.



Common Gallinule. 24 July 2022. Two adults with 5-6 chicks at Bitter Lake, Day Co. Photographed, Jeff Palmer. Accidental breeder. See article and photos in *South Dakota Bird Notes 74(3): 38*

Whimbrel. 27-28 May 2022. One adult south of Castlewood, Hamlin Co. Photographed, Cheryl Vellenga, Owen McElroy, and Terry Spitzenberger. Rare migrant.

Red Knot. 28 August 2020. One juvenile in northern Brown Co. Photographed, Barry Parkin. Casual migrant.

Baird's Sandpiper. 14-21 December 2021. Two adults at Missouri River, Yankton Co. David Swanson, One individual photographed by Greg Pavelka. First Winter record. (5 Class 1P, 1 Class 3).

Western Sandpiper. 23 April 2022. One adult in breeding plumage in Miner Co. Photographed, Jeff Palmer. Casual migrant.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. 22 August 2021. One juvenile at Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte Co. Photographed, Danny Tipton. Accidental West.

Glaucous-winged Gull. 18-24 April 2022. One first-cycle bird at Oahe Dam tailrace, Stanley Co. Photographed, Ricky Olson and Scott Stolz. Fourth state record.

Brown Pelican. 21 July 2022. One adult at Fort Randall Dam tailrace, Charles Mix Co. Photographed, Ricky Olson. Accidental visitor.

Ash-throated Flycatcher. 7 July 2022. One adult near Buffalo Gap, Fall River Co. Photographed, Sally Anne Schipke Rall. First state record.

Yellow-throated Vireo. 23 May 2022. One adult at Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed, Scott Stolz. Accidental West.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow. 27 January-15 February 2022. One adult at Hecla, Brown Co. Tom and Donna Stehly. Photographed, Cathy Schneider. Fifth state record.

Savannah Sparrow. 11-12 December 2021. One near Vermillion, Clay Co. Photographed, David Swanson. First December record.

Golden-crowned Sparrow. 24 December 2021-1 May 2022. One immature at Sturgis, Meade Co. Nancy Drilling et al., Photographed Ricky Olson. Fifth state record.

Mourning Warbler. 23 May 2022. One adult male at Canyon Lake in Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed, Jackie Stucky-Strom, Judy Hengen, Rachel Benton, and Jocie Baker. Accidental far western South Dakota.



Cerulean Warbler. 18 May 2021. One adult male at Elmwood Park, Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Photographed, Mick Zerr and Chris Anderson. Accidental migrant.

Pine Warbler. 9-29 January 2022. One immature male or adult female in winter plumage at Union Grove State Park, Union Co. Photographed, David Swanson. First January record.

Painted Bunting. 12 May 2022. One adult male at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Photographed, Tim Barry. Sixth state record.

Painted Bunting. 15 May 2022. One adult male at southern Sioux Falls, Lincoln Co. Photographed,

eBird report from anonymous observer. Seventh state record.

Painted Bunting. 25 May 2022. One adult male at Wall, Pennington Co. Photographed, Ken Thompson. Eighth state record.

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

Tundra Swan. 23 March 2022. Five adults near Bison, Perkins Co. Scott Stolz. Photographs submitted with the report were supportive of the identification but were distant and not diagnostic, thus the Class 2 rating. Rare migrant in far western South Dakota.

Mute Swan. 19 August 2021. Two in juvenile plumage on the Missouri River, south of Elk Point, Union Co. Dave Swanson. Casual visitor.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (nesting record). 21 July 2022. Two adults on the ridge separating Keogh and Ward draws, Lawrence Co. One adult carried food repeatedly to a dense area of branches near the top of a spruce tree, the other was singing occasionally from the top of the same tree. Scott Stolz. First confirmed nesting record for the state.

Mountain Chickadee. 13 July 2021. Two adults at Horse Thief Lake Trail, Pennington Co. Mike Fernandez. (6 Class 2, 1 Class 3). Fourth state record.

Tufted Titmouse. 8 May 2022. One at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Todd Jensen. (5 Class 2, 1 Abstention). Accidental visitor.

Tufted Titmouse. 16 July 2022. One near Big Stone Lake, Lake Township, Roberts Co. Lauren Hatch. Accidental visitor.

Nashville Warbler. 15 July 2022. One adult male at Big Sioux Recreation Area, Minnehaha Co. Leigh Spencer. (6 Class 2, 1 Class 3). Third July record.

Kentucky Warbler. 14 May 2022. One adult male at Richmond Lake State Recreation Area, Brown Co. Gary Olson. Rare to Casual migrant and summer visitor.

Cape May Warbler. 13 May 2022. One adult male at Oelrichs, Fall River Co. Peter Hill. Sixth record for western South Dakota.

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

Mississippi Kite. 18 June 2022. One first summer bird at Lake Madison, Lake Co. (4 Class 2, 2 Class 3).

The dissenting committee members felt that a light effect couldn't be ruled out and were bothered by the lack of a mention of the pale gray head in the report.

Hammond's Flycatcher. 5 September 2021. One in fresh basic plumage at Ardmore, Fall River Co. (3 Class 2, 2 Class 3). Dissenting committee members noted that some key points (e.g., the underside of the lower mandible, primary extension) were missing from the report, so that juvenile Least Flycatcher was not conclusively ruled out.

Prothonotary Warbler. 14 August 2022. One juvenile at North Alabama Bend, Clay Co. (5 Class 1P, 2 Class 3). Dissenting committee members noted that the photo submitted along with the report was supportive of Prothonotary Warbler but felt that the photos also showed a small bird, with too much dark on the head, a blue-gray (not olive) back, minimal white on the undertail, and a hint of white or chestnut on the side.

Cerulean Warbler. 18 May 2021. One adult male at Sioux Falls, Lincoln Co. (4 Class 2, 3 Class 3). Dissenting committee members noted that there was no mention of streaking on the flanks or the necklace across the breast and that the details listed were minimal. The report did not conclusively eliminate a hybrid Lazuli X Indigo bunting.

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

No reports were rated as Class 4 in 2022.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The committee voted to remove Tundra Swans observed in western South Dakota from the review list. The committee also discussed a formal strategy to deal with eBird or Facebook records for species requiring rare bird reports. The committee decided on the following procedures for such records: (1) ask the reporter for a rare bird report; (2) if no report is received, act on reports with supplementary documentation (e.g., photos, sound recordings), but with up to a 1-year lag period between the report and the committee action; (3) do not act on reports consisting only of descriptions, unless a rare bird report is subsequently submitted.



## Winter Season Bird Photos

*Compiled by Kelly Preheim*

We have some great photographers in South Dakota. In addition to our cover photos, the following are some photos taken in South Dakota during winter 2022-2023. All photos reproduced with the permission of the photographers.



Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, Perry Coleman



Greater Scaup. Roger Dietrich



Trumpeter Swan. Roger Dietrich



Brant, 12-11-2022. Marie Pflugrad



Redheads. Kelly Preheim





Common Merganser,  
Kelly Preheim

Hooded Merganser,  
Roger Dietrich



Rough-legged Hawk,  
Kelly Preheim

Ferruginous Hawk, Lake Andes  
National Wildlife Refuge. Kelly Preheim





Sharp-shinned Hawk, Armour. Kelly Preheim



Red-bellied Woodpecker. Kelly Preheim



Northern Shrike. Kelly Preheim



Townsend's Solitaire. Kelly Preheim



Eastern Bluebird, Fort Randall Dam, Kelly Preheim



Eastern Bluebirds, 12-22-2022, Lewis and Clark Lake. Kevin Henseler



Cedar Waxwing Minnehaha Co. Ike Curley

Northern Cardinal. Kelly Preheim



## Annotated list of recent research publications on South Dakota game birds

*Compiled by Nancy Drilling*

Ornithologists, including students, academic faculty, and agency staff, have long conducted research on South Dakota's birds. Research results are published in a variety of formats, including theses and dissertations, reports, and publication in scientific journals. This is the first of a series of articles to disseminate some of the recent (2020-2023) published research results to *Bird Notes* readers. This section highlights research on South Dakota's game birds.

To access the original research papers, follow the links or type the name of the article into a search engine such as Google Scholar. Note that some publications are free to download while for others, you must pay for access to the full article.

### **Assessing predation of artificial nests: Does patch size matter?**

Alex J. Solem and Travis J. Runia. *The Prairie Naturalist* 54 (2022):24–40

<https://www.eaglehill.us/prnaonline/access-pages/PRNA-54/009-Solem-accesspage.shtml>

This study looked at whether the size or other characteristics of a patch of nesting habitat affects the survival of Ring-necked Pheasant nests. The authors placed artificial nests with domestic chicken eggs in two patch sizes of Conservation Reserve grasslands (small ~8 ha, large ~32 ha) in Beadle and Sanborn counties. They found that nest survival was impacted by factors at both the landscape and local scale. Specifically they found that nest survival increased with 1) an increase in percent grassland within 2 km,

2) greater distance from the edge, 3) an increase in average litter depth at the nest, and 4) higher percent of developed area within 2 km. They conclude that “wildlife managers should continue to manage and advocate for large patches of undisturbed nesting cover to reduce predation risk while establishing additional nesting cover near small patches.”

### **Snow and land use alter pheasant survival in South Dakota**

Hilary R. Kauth, Andrew J. Gregory, Adam J. Kauth, Sprih Harsh, Travis J. Runia, Robert C. Lonsinger. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 86 (2022): e22243

<https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jwmg.22243>

The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of landscape features on female Ring-necked Pheasant winter survival in northeast South Dakota. The authors fitted and tracked more than 300 female pheasants with radio transmitters from 2017-2019. About 66% of the females survived the winter. Female survival decreased with increasing snow depth. Birds not using perennial cover (emergent wetlands, tall or woody vegetation, food plots) had a 2.22 times greater risk of raptor predation. In addition, females in emergent wetlands had a 58% reduced risk of weather mortality. The authors conclude that “pheasants would greatly benefit from conservation of emergent wetlands and integrating perennial cover into harvested cropland.”

### **A Bayesian approach for multiscale modeling of the influence of seasonal and annual habitat variation on relative abundance of ring-necked pheasant roosters**

Reza Goljani Amirkhiz, Ranjeet John, David L Swanson. *Ecological Informatics* 75 (2023): 102003

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1574954123000328>

Using SDGFP rooster count data and remote sensing photos, the authors modeled the effects of environmental conditions on rooster abundance over space and time. By simultaneously including both seasonal and annual environmental conditions at local and landscape scales, they obtained a more nuanced view of the effects of these conditions on pheasant abundance. Overall, pheasant abundance was positively affected by intermediate amounts of grassland on the landscape. However the importance of other habitat variables on pheasant abundance varied among years, depending on local weather and climate conditions.

### **Habitat amount or landscape configuration: Emerging HotSpot analysis reveals the importance of habitat amount for a grassland bird in South Dakota**

Sprih Harsh, Robert C. Lonsinger, and Andrew J. Gregory. *PloS One*, 17(9), p.e0274808

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0274808>

In this analysis, the authors used 24 years of SDGFP Ring-necked Pheasant brood counts to identify environmental factors associated with variation in pheasant productivity. Using HotSpot analysis, they classified fixed brood routes to identify high (HotSpot) and low (ColdSpot) pheasant production areas. They then looked at habitat differences between the two types of areas. They found that the amount of grassland at a local spatial scale was the primary factor influencing an area being a HotSpot. This result aligns with the habitat amount hypothesis, which states that the amount of particular habitat types in the landscape is important for ring-necked pheasant populations.

### **Evolutionary origin and genetic diversity of ring-necked pheasants in the Upper Midwest, United States**

Hernán Vázquez-Miranda, Magdalena J. Olson, and Robert M. Zink. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 44(2):246–251; 2020

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/bioscifacpub/864/>

In this study, the authors compared the DNA of Ring-necked Pheasants in South Dakota and Nebraska to that of Ring-necked Pheasants in their native Eurasian range. The Midwestern pheasants came from two wild lineages – the northern Eurasian lineage and the eastern China lineage. The eastern China lineage is three times more frequent in SD/NE birds but the authors could not distinguish whether this is because the Chinese lineage is released more frequently, survives better, and/or is more easy to harvest. The researchers also found a low level of genetic diversity in Midwestern birds, suggesting an inbreeding effect.

## Breeding site fidelity of blue-winged teal in South Dakota

Toay, Bruce W., Randell R. Meidinger, and Kaylan M. Kemink. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 83 (2021): 1143-1150

<https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jwmg.21682>

This study calculated the breeding site fidelity of blue-winged teal (*Spatula discors*) in the Prairie Pothole region of South Dakota. From 2003 to 2014, the authors banded 12,543 female blue-winged teal in north-central South Dakota. They then used the live recapture and dead recovery data to estimate probabilities of fidelity, survival, recapture, and reporting. They found that the estimated probability that a female teal returned to her breeding site ranged from 0.20 to 0.91, depending on year and environmental factors. They also estimated overall average probabilities of 0.62 for hatch-year (first-year) teal and 0.67 for after hatch year teal. They conclude that “environmental factors may cause blue-winged teal to return to breeding sites more frequently than previously assumed.”

## Landowner and biologist perceptions of game bird predators and management

Fino, Samantha R., Larry M. Gigliotti, Aaron T. Pearse, and Joshua D. Stafford. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* (2023): e1443

<https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wsb.1443>

Nest survival is the most important factor causing population change in game birds, and predation, influenced by habitat management, is the primary cause of nest failure of upland game birds. The authors developed a questionnaire to evaluate landowner and natural resource biologist perspectives of different aspects of game bird management in South Dakota. Concerning responses on predator management, the authors found three groups of landowners – those that had strong (37%), moderate (35%) or weak (28%) support of lethal predator control. Landowners with strong or moderate support of lethal predator control rated predators as the primary cause of game bird abundance declines, whereas landowners with weak support of lethal control rated habitat loss as the major factor negatively impacting game birds and disagreed that predators were the primary cause of game bird declines. Biologists' views aligned with the latter group, rating habitat loss as the primary driver of population declines. Thus, when questioned about the effectiveness of different methods to help game bird populations, most landowners focused on predator management while biologists focused on habitat loss and habitat management. The authors hope that the insights gained will help natural resource managers better understand different perspectives and better communicate the reasons for management actions to reverse game bird population declines.



# The 2022 Summer Season 01 June 2022 to 31 July 2022

Compiled by Chris Anderson

The primary goal of the Summer Season compilation is to report Confirmed Breeding records observed during the season. There were 98 species reported as Confirmed Breeding this year, including 5 first county breeding records. The ten-year (2012-2021) average of Confirmed Breeding species is 115, 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 238 total species, including 3 rarities (Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Brown Pelican) reported during the season. The ten-year (2012-2021) average is 253 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/sdousbor/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 Marshall GO

**Canada Goose** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG; 11 Jun Clay (PY) GJS; 13 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG, KM; 16 Jun Charles Mix (PY) GJS; 20 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG

**Trumpeter Swan** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Harding (PY) KM

**Wood Duck** Confirmed Breeding (11): Bon Homme, Brown, Hughes, Lake, Minnehaha, Pennington, and Union counties

**Blue-winged Teal** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Potter (NE) MMM; 24 Jun Roberts (PY) CV; 18 Jul Brown (PY) CV; 24 Jul Kingsbury (PY) CV; 25 Jul Douglas (PY) CV

**Northern Shoveler** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jul Brown (PY) KM

**Gadwall** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Perkins (PY) ND; 20 Jul Brown (PY) CV

**American Wigeon** Only Report: 14 Jun Fall River JSP

**Mallard** Confirmed Breeding (6): Bon Homme, Kingsbury, Lake, Minnehaha, and Pennington counties

**Northern Pintail** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Butte (PY) ND

**Green-winged Teal** Confirmed Breeding: **25 Jul Douglas (PY) CV**

**Canvasback** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Harding (PY) ND

**Ring-necked Duck** Only Report: 03 Jun Bon Homme JSP

**Bufflehead** Only Report: 23 Jun Yankton RND

**Common Merganser** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG

**Ruddy Duck** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jul Faulk (PY) KM

**Northern Bobwhite** Reported: 03 Jun Gregory JSP; 16 Jun Union DS; 17 Jun Charles Mix KP; 12 Jul Clay DS

**Wild Turkey** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Stanley (PY) KM; 25 Jul Charles Mix (PY) RND

**Ruffed Grouse** Only Report: 12 Jun Custer JSP

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Pennington (PY) MMM; 11 Jul Pennington (PY) MMM

**Greater Prairie-Chicken** Only Report: 04 Jun Sully MMM

**Ring-necked Pheasant** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Hughes (PY) KM; 24 Jun Stanley (PY) KM

**Western Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Sully (PY) RDO; 24 Jul Clark (PY) CV; 30 Jul Codington (PY) CV

**Clark's Grebe** Only Report: 16 Jun Charles Mix GJS

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jul Minnehaha (FL) CA

**White-winged Dove** Only Report: 03 Jul Hughes RDO

**Mourning Dove** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Sully (NY) KM; 26 Jun Roberts (FL) CV; 30 Jun Harding (NY) KM

**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 12 Jun Harding ND; 17 Jun Charles Mix KP; 27 Jun Sully KM; 24 Jul Hutchinson CV

**Common Nighthawk** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Sully (NY) KM; 08 Jul Sully (NY) KM

**Common Poorwill** All Reports: 26 Jun Harding ND; 30 Jun Harding KM; 10 Jul Pennington MMM; 28 Jul Lawrence MMM

**Eastern Whip-poor-will** All Reports: 26-28 Jun Charles Mix KP; 31 Jul Lincoln CA

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Roberts (FL) CV

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Custer (UN) RDO

**Black-necked Stilt** Only Report: 05 Jun Beadle KM

**American Avocet** Confirmed Breeding: **06 Jul Douglas (FY) KP**

**Semipalmated Plover** All Reports: 22 Jul Brown KM, RDO; 22 Jul Sully RDO; 23 Jul Yankton CA; 29 Jul Minnehaha JSP

**Piping Plover** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Clay (PY) GJS

**Killdeer** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Lake (PY) JSP; 10 Jul Pennington (PY) MMM; 24 Jul Hanson (PY) CV

**Upland Sandpiper** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Custer (NE) MMM; 16 Jun Charles Mix (DD) GJS; 20 Jun Sully (NY) KM

**Long-billed Curlew** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Custer (PY) MMM

**Stilt Sandpiper** Late: 01 Jun Yankton RND ... Early: 23 Jul Hutchinson, Yankton CA; 25 Jul Charles Mix RND

**Sanderling** Only Report: 25 Jun Charles Mix GJS

**Dunlin** Only Report: 03 Jun Bon Homme JSP

**Baird's Sandpiper** Late: 03 Jun Bon Homme JSP; 03 Jun Roberts CV ... Early: 25 Jul Beadle, Douglas CV, KP; 25 Jul Charles Mix RND, GJS; 29 Jul Minnehaha JSP

**Least Sandpiper** Late: 03 Jun Roberts CV ... Early: 25 Jul Charles Mix RND, GJS, CV; 30 Jul Douglas KP; 30 Jul Minnehaha CA

**White-rumped Sandpiper** All Reports: Late 01 Jun Yankton RND; 03 Jun Bon Homme JSP; 03 Jun Roberts CV; 09 Jun Bon Homme DS; 09 Jun Douglas KP

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Early: 20 Jul Brown CV; 22 Jul Faulk KM; 22 Jul Sully RDO

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: 09 Jun Bon Homme DS; 03 Jun Bon Homme JSP; 03 Jun Roberts CV ... Early: 06 Jul Roberts CV; 08 Jul Sully RDO; 22 Jul Brown, Sully RDO; 23 Jul Yankton CA

**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 08 Jul Sully RDO; 25 Jul Charles Mix RND

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Late: 09 Jun Douglas KP ... Early: 30 Jun Gregory KP; 22 Jul Faulk KM; 22 Jul Sully RDO

**Red-necked Phalarope** Only Report: **03 Jun Bon Homme JSP (first county record)**

**Solitary Sandpiper** Early: 20 Jul Brown CV; 25 Jul Charles Mix RND; 29 Jul Minnehaha JSP

**Greater Yellowlegs** Early: 06 Jul Roberts CV; 08 Jul Sully RDO; 22 Jul Brown KM

**Willet** Late: 12 Jun Harding ND; 08 Jun Potter MMM ... Early: 08 Jul Sully RDO; 10 Jul Hughes KM; 22 Jul Faulk KM

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late: 22 Jun Lake JSP; 09 Jun Bon Homme DS; 01 Jun Yankton RND ... Early: 07 Jul Roberts CV; 08 Jul Sully RDO; 20 Jul Brown CV

**California Gull** All Reports: 07 Jun Hughes KM; 19 Jun Hughes KM

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** All Reports: 27 Jun Hughes RDO; 29 Jun Stanley RDO

**Caspian Tern** All Reports: 07 Jun Hughes KM; 24 Jul Clark CV

**Black Tern** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Roberts (CF) CV

**Common Tern** Only Report: 28 Jun Hughes KM

**Common Loon** Late: 29 Jun Gregory KP; 27 Jun Sully KM; 22 Jun Lake JSP ... Early: 16 Jul Meade VDF; 21 Jul Charles Mix KP; 21 Jul Hughes KM

**American Bittern** All Reports: 03 Jun Roberts CV; 05 Jun Beadle KM; 01-11 Jul Brown GO; 16 Jul Day GO; 16 Jul Meade VDF; 22 Jul Brown KM

**Least Bittern** All Reports: 10 Jun Yankton RND; 22 Jul Brown KM, RDO

**Great Blue Heron** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun – 25 Jul Pennington (NY) CLG; 25 Jul Douglas (FL) CV



**Osprey** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun – 25 Jul Pennington (NY) CLG, ND, KM; 14 Jun Lawrence (ON) ND; 22 Jun Stanley (NY) RDO

**Golden Eagle** All Reports: 16 Jun Jackson GJS; 17 Jun Sully KM; 28 Jul Custer MMM

**Northern Goshawk** Only Report: 28 Jul Lawrence RDO

**Bald Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Perkins (NY) ND

**Broad-winged Hawk** Only Report: 28 Jul Lawrence MMM

**Ferruginous Hawk** All Reports: 03 Jun Sully MMM; 08 Jun Potter MMM; 24 Jun Meade ND; 26 Jun Perkins ND

**Barn Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jul Hughes (ON) KM

**Eastern Screech-Owl** Only Reports: 08 Jun Hughes KM; 11 Jul Hughes KM

**Burrowing Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Custer (FL) MMM

**Long-eared Owl** Only Report: 24 Jun Stanley KM

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Harding (NY) KM

**Belted Kingfisher** Confirmed Breeding: **02 Jul Harding (ON) KM**

**Lewis's Woodpecker** All Reports: 11 Jun Custer KM; 13 Jun Custer ND; 18 Jun Custer GJS

**Red-headed Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jul Douglas (FL) KP; 23 Jul Yankton (FL) RND; 27 Jul Clay (FL) GJS

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 24 Jun Yankton (FY) RND

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; **05 Jul Brown (FL) GO**

**Red-naped Sapsucker** All Reports: 12 Jun Custer JSP; 24-25 Jun Lawrence CA; 23 Jul Lawrence VDF

**Downy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun – 18 Jul Roberts (FY) CV

**Hairy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun – 05 Jul Roberts (FY) CV

**Northern Flicker** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jul Roberts (FL) CV; 30 Jul Minnehaha (FL) CA

**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 02-03 Jun Roberts CV

**American Kestrel** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Custer (ON) GJS

**Merlin** All Reports: 30 Jun Harding KM; 02 Jul Harding KM

**Prairie Falcon** All Reports: 01 Jun Harding KM; 12 Jun Lawrence KM; 22 Jun Pennington KP; 29 Jul Pennington KM

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** All Reports: 03 Jun Lincoln KM; 26 Jun Lawrence EK

**Western Wood-Pewee** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Harding (CN) ND; 01 Jul Harding (ON) KM

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jun Minnehaha (ON) CA

**Least Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Harding (CN) ND

**Dusky Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Custer (CN) ND

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Roberts (CN) CV

**Western Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 26-27 Jun Gregory (FY) KP; 06 Jul Roberts (CF) CV; 12 Jul Sully (ON) KM; 17 Jul Minnehaha (FL) CA

**Eastern Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Charles Mix (ON) GJS; 24 Jun Meade (ON) ND; 25 Jul Douglas (FL) CV; 30 Jul Day (FL) CV

**Red-eyed Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Roberts (FL) CV

**Loggerhead Shrike** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Custer (FY) MMM

**Canada Jay** All Reports: 12 Jun Custer JSP; 28 Jul Lawrence MMM

**Pinyon Jay** Only Report: 13 Jul Fall River RDO

**Blue Jay** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 14 Jun Pennington (CF) ND; 09 Jul Douglas (FL) KP

**Black-billed Magpie** Confirmed Breeding: 20-22 Jun Pennington (NY) KP

**Clark's Nutcracker** Only Report: 13 Jun Custer ND

**Black-capped Chickadee** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Harding (CN) ND; 27 Jun Pennington (FL) CLG

**Purple Martin** Confirmed Breeding: 01-15 Jul Douglas (NY) KP; 12 Jul Clay (FL) GJS; 30 Jul Minnehaha (FL) CA

**Tree Swallow** Confirmed Breeding (8): Clay, Gregory, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, and Roberts counties

**Bank Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Roberts (ON) CV

**Barn Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Jackson (ON) GJS; 27 Jun Pennington (NY) CLG; 30 Jul Day (FL) CV

**Cliff Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Minnehaha (ON) KM; 26 Jun Perkins (CN) ND; 20 Jun Pennington (NB) CLG

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Only Report: 12 Jun Custer JSP

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Fall River (FY) RDO

**Brown Creeper** All Reports: 25 Jun Lawrence CA; 19 Jul Hughes KM

**Rock Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Jackson (CF) KP

**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 11 Jun Custer KM; 12 Jun Custer JSP; 13 Jun Custer ND; 18 Jun Custer GJS

**House Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 28 Jun Clay (CF) GJS; 06 Jul Hughes (NY) KM

**American Dipper** Only Report: 14 Jun Lawrence ND

**European Starling** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Douglas (FY) KP; 25 Jul Pennington (FY) CLG

**Gray Catbird** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Clay (FL) GJS

**Brown Thrasher** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Pennington (ON) MMM

**Northern Mockingbird** Only Report: 12 Jun Harding ND

**Mountain Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Custer (FY) ND; 18 Jun Custer (CF) GJS

**Townsend's Solitaire** Confirmed Breeding: **04 Jul Harding (NE) DB**

**Veery** All Reports: 26 Jun Marshall, Roberts CV; 26 Jun Lawrence EK

**Swainson's Thrush** Late East River: 04 Jun Brown GO

**American Robin** Confirmed Breeding (9): Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Douglas, Jackson, Lawrence, Pennington, Roberts, and Ziebach counties

**Cedar Waxwing** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Pennington (FY) CLG

**House Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Clay (ON) GJS; 20 Jun Pennington (CN) CLG

**House Finch** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Minnehaha (NY) CA; 18 Jun Roberts (FL) CV; 23 Jul Douglas (FL) KP

**Cassin's Finch** Only Report: 13 Jun Custer ND

**Pine Siskin** Only Reports: 05 Jun Lawrence VDF; 01 Jul Douglas KP

**Lesser Goldfinch** Only Report: 16 Jun Fall River JSP

**American Goldfinch** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Charles Mix (CF) KP; 24 Jul Charles Mix (CN) CV

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** All Reports: 12 Jun Harding ND; 24 Jun Meade ND; 26 Jun Perkins ND

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Potter (DD) MMM

**Chipping Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding (7): Douglas, Faulk, Gregory, Hughes, Lincoln, and Roberts counties

**Field Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lincoln (CF) CA

**Lark Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Custer (CF) ND

**Lark Bunting** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Harding (CF) ND; 02 Jul Custer (FL) MMM; 08 Jul Pennington (CF) MMM

**White-throated Sparrow** Late: 01 Jun Harding KM

**LeConte's Sparrow** Only Report: 26 Jun Roberts CV

**Song Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Lawrence (FL) EK

**Swamp Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 09 Jul Clay (CF) DS

**Spotted Towhee** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jul Clay (PE) DS; 21 Jul Hughes (FL) KM

**Eastern Towhee** Confirmed Breeding: 31 Jul Lincoln (FL) CA

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Yankton (ON) RND

**Eastern Meadowlark** All Reports: 11 Jun Clay CA, GLS; 25 Jun Union DS; 30 Jul Bon Homme KB

**Western Meadowlark** Confirmed Breeding (8): Custer, Grant, Hanson, Harding, Meade, Pennington, and Roberts counties

**Orchard Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 04 Jul Douglas (CF) KP

**Bullock's Oriole** All Reports: 01 Jun Harding KM; 01 Jun Lawrence VDF; 16 Jun Fall River JSP; 22 Jun Pennington KP

**Baltimore Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Douglas (ON) KP

**Red-winged Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Douglas (CN) KP; 06 Jun Pennington (ON) CLG; 10 Jun Yankton (ON) RND; 24 Jun Meade (CF) ND

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Roberts (ON) CV; 24 Jul Gregory (FL) ND

**Brewer's Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Perkins (FS) ND

**Common Grackle** Confirmed Breeding (11): Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Jackson, Minnehaha, Pennington, and Roberts counties

**Great-tailed Grackle** All Reports: 05 Jun Beadle KM; 12 Jun Harding ND; **06 Jul Grant CV (first county record)**

**Ovenbird** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jul Lawrence (CF) MMM

**Blue-winged Warbler** Only Report: 04 Jun Lincoln KM

**Tennessee Warbler** Late: 04 Jun Lincoln KM

**Virginia's Warbler** All Reports: 11 Jun Custer KM; 13 Jun Custer JSP

**MacGillivray's Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Lawrence (CF) EK

**Hooded Warbler** All Reports: 04 Jun Lincoln KM; 31 Jul Lincoln CA

**Yellow Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Roberts (CN) CV

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Harding (NB) KM

**Northern Cardinal** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jul Roberts (CF) CV

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 26 Jul Roberts (FL) CV

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Lawrence (FL) EK

**Blue Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jul Custer (CF) MMM; 28 Jul Douglas (CN) KP

**Dickcissel** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Clay (FL) GJS

### Species Expected But Not Reported

Cinnamon Teal, Gray Partridge, Red-necked Grebe, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Herring Gull, Neotropic Cormorant, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Barred Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Cassin's Kingbird, Pygmy Nuthatch, Sage Thrasher, Sprague's Pipit, Brewer's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow

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

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck: 08 Jun Douglas KP (first county record);** 18 Jun Yankton RND, RDO; 18-22 Jul Brown KM, RDO, CV (approved by committee)

**Long-tailed Duck:** 03 Jun Charles Mix JSP (approved by committee)

**Brown Pelican: 21-25 Jul Charles Mix, Gregory CA, RND, ND, RDO, KP, GJS, CV (first county records; approved by committee)**

**Rock Wren: 30 Jul Bon Homme KB (confirmed breeding)**

### Contributing Observers

CA	Chris Anderson
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KB	Kelly Bauder
CLG	Canyon Lake Group Survey
RND	Roger Dietrich
EDS	Eileen Dowd Stukel
ND	Nancy Drilling
VDF	Vic/Donna Fondy
EK	Elizabeth Krueger
MMM	Michael M. Melius
KM	Kenny Miller
GO	Gary Olson
RDO	Ricky D. Olson
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
KP	Kelly M. Preheim
MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
GJS	Gary & Jan Small
DS	David Swanson
CV	Cheryl Vellenga





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**Hooded Mergansers, Yankton**

*Photo Credit: Roger Dietrich*