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South Dakota

Bird  Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

Long-billed Curlew, Limestone Butte, Fall River County, 6/16/2022

*Photo Credit:
Jeffrey Palmer*

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President's Page

Mark Schmidtbauer

While driving around Sioux Falls, I mostly see yards and city. What an incredible time it is to be a bird watcher! Technology in the last few years has made the task of identifying birds through sight and song remarkably easier. Arguably, in the last century, advances in field guides and binoculars were the most important contributors to improved bird watching. Before field guides and binoculars, people mostly identified birds by using traps and guns to catch and kill birds to identify in the hand with bird identification keys. The advent of the Migratory Bird Act of 1918, along with better binoculars and field guides, helped to diminish the archaic and barbaric practice of killing a bird to identify it. Because of this, over the decades bird watching has become increasingly popular, where it is now listed as one of the top hobbies for people.

Bird song has always been one of the harder aspects for the bird watcher to learn but doing so can greatly enhance your bird identification skills. Many bird watchers learned bird songs by listening to live recordings on tapes and compact discs or by learning mnemonics, which uses rhythmically sounding phrases, words and syllables to somewhat match the songs of birds. Now, with the prevalence of mobile devices, every bird watcher can easily identify a song. Certain birding identification applications can be downloaded that can be used to record the bird you are hearing in real time. The app then quickly suggests an identification for the bird, making identifying bird song effortless. This is an amazing technology to have! Many years of studying and memorizing bird song has all been replaced in the seconds it takes for the app to identify the bird. I find the accuracy of this app quite high and since I know my local bird songs relatively well, I can distinguish the few times where it is not identifying the bird correctly. These apps can be a good way to reinforce the bird songs that you already know and also make learning new bird songs less of a challenge. With the repetition of hearing a bird sing, along with being correctly identified by the app, committing the song to memory is done quickly with no second guessing.



The latest technology in binoculars is also incredible and I am eager to someday try it. There is a new binocular that when focused on a particular bird, through technology in the optics, can identify the bird and name it visually in the viewfinder while you are looking at it. Again, what an amazing time to be a birder! All the work that made up most of the time spent previously identifying a bird can now be eliminated from bird watching by using these new bird apps and binoculars.

However fascinating these technologies are, they can minimize the challenges that first attracted me to bird watching. I think a lot of the intrigue of bird watching is seeing an unknown bird and using your own observational skills to identify it. How long is its beak? What color is its head? What sound does it make? All these observations, put together with your previous experience and knowledge of birds, makes identifying them a captivating puzzle that over time keeps growing. Small day-to-day, then year-to-year gains in bird identification skills, build up slowly until one day, what was once an unknown and difficult bird to identify becomes an easy and completed puzzle. There is a satisfaction, I believe, in the process of learning that cannot be replaced by a device that gives you the answer.

For the new bird watcher, learning bird identification skills first-hand from an experienced mentor is invaluable.

able because you will learn why the traits of the bird lead to its identification. Relying too heavily on technology, especially for a new bird watcher, could act as a crutch, which makes it harder long term to learn and retain bird identification skills and walk on your own. With any new technology there are pros and cons to consider, but overall I think these technological advancements are revolutionizing bird watching just like the introduction of binoculars and field guides did to the hobby many decades ago. The successful study of birds is becoming easier to attain by these technological advancements and could ultimately make more people interested in birds. More people caring about birds and their habitats can only be good for the plight of birds. I hope we will recognize what we value in bird watching and not let technology surpass the human expertise in bird watching. The process of identifying a bird by observing, questioning, and confirming its traits on your own is just as important to improving your bird watching skills as the resulting correct identification. As the often-used adage goes, it's the journey, not the destination, that is most important.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SDOU spring meeting will be held May 31 – June 2, 2024 at the Custer Library in Custer. Activities will start off Friday evening with registration and social hour 5-7 PM, followed by our guest speaker, Paul Horstead. Paul is the author and photographer of “Custer Expedition Then and Now”. He will talk about both history and natural history in western South Dakota, including comparative photos taken during the 1874 expedition and today. This presentation is especially timely because this is the 150th anniversary of the Custer expedition to the Black Hills. Paul will also have his books available for purchase. After a full day of birding on Saturday, our Saturday evening speaker will be Maggie Engler from the Black Hills Raptor Center, who will present on the current status of the Raptor Center and raptor recovery in western South Dakota, as well as a show and tell of live birds of prey.

Registration and more details are on the sdou.org website. You do not need to be a member to participate. See you all in Custer!



2023 Report of the Rare Bird Records Committee

David L. Swanson, Department of Biology, University of South Dakota

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee (RBRC) met on 21 May 2023 in Marvin, SD, for the spring meeting and on 1 October 2023 in Vermillion, SD, for the fall meeting. The RBRC acted on records submitted since the last meeting of the committee on 2 October 2022. 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. 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 2023. 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).

Eurasian Wigeon. 18-19 April 2023. One adult male below Echo Point, Stanley Co. Photographed, Ricky Olson. 7th state record.

Common Gallinule. 20 August 2022. One juvenile east of Hecla, Brown Co. Photographed, Jeffrey Palmer. Casual summer visitor.

Ruddy Turnstone. 3 July 2023. One adult male in breeding plumage west of Folsom, Custer Co. Photographed, Michael Melius. Accidental western South Dakota.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. 11 September 2023. One adult at Sage Creek Rim Road, Badlands National Park, Pennington Co., Photographed (photo shown). Brian Brown. Accidental far west.



Laughing Gull. 10 June 2023. One in first-summer plumage near Discovery Island, Hughes Co. Photographed, Ricky Olson. Accidental migrant and summer visitor.

Brown Pelican. 11 September-1 October 2022. One adult in nonbreeding plumage at Big Bend Dam tailrace, Buffalo/Lyman Cos. Photographed, Ricky Olson. Accidental visitor.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. 1 September 2022. One juvenile at Lacreek NWR, Bennett Co. Photographed, Kenneth and Donavee Copenhaver. 4th record for western South Dakota.

Mississippi Kite. July-August 2022. One adult along Skunk Creek in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Photographed, Anonymous post to South Dakota Birding Facebook page. Casual migrant and summer visitor.

Mississippi Kite. 6 September 2022. One juvenile at D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery, Spearfish, Lawrence Co. Photographed, Alejandra Lewandowski. Casual migrant and summer visitor.

Mississippi Kite. 3 June 2023. One adult at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Photographed, Doug Backlund and Susan Leach. Casual migrant and summer visitor.

Mississippi Kite. 24 May 2023. One adult at Belle Fourche, Butte Co. Photographed (photo shown), Anne Norwood Carter. Casual migrant and summer visitor.

Mississippi Kite. 10-11 August 2023. Two adults and one recent fledgling, with at least one adult sitting on a nest, in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co. Photographed, Chris Anderson. First confirmed nesting for South Dakota.



Hammond's Flycatcher. 27 August 2022. One bird at Oahe Downstream Archery Range, Stanley Co. Photographed, Liz Almlie. 5th state record, and 1st away from Black Hills.

Brambling. 12 November 2022. One male at a feeder, south-east of Britton, Marshall Co. Photographed, Kyle Ackerman. 3rd state record.

Prothonotary Warbler. 4 June 2023. One adult at Rapid City, Pennington Co. Photographed, Michele Looby. 4th record for western South Dakota.

CLASS 2 (Accepted – Satisfactory written description).

Common Goldeneye. 2-3 July 2023. One female with seven chicks at Bitter Lake, Day Co. Jason St. Sauver. 1st breeding record for the state.

Rivoli's Hummingbird. 6 September 2022. One adult male at Brookings, Brookings Co. Anne-Marie Hoskinson. 2nd state record.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. 4 September 2022. One juvenile at Angostura Reservoir, Fall River Co. David Swanson and Jeffrey Palmer. Accidental far west.

Red-naped Sapsucker. 27 April 2023. One female at Farm Island, Hughes Co. (5 Class 1P, 2 Class 2). Kenny Miller and Ricky Olson. Accidental away from Black Hills. Photographs submitted along with the report were partially supportive of the identification of Red-naped Sapsucker but the amount of red on the nape was very limited and the throat was not visible, so some committee members rated the report as Class 2.

White-eyed Vireo. 11 September 2021. One adult at Farm Island, Hughes Co. Kenny Miller. Casual migrant.

LeConte's Sparrow. 1 May 2022. One adult below Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte Co. Kenny Miller. Accidental western South Dakota.

Worm-eating Warbler. 16 May 2023. One breeding-plumaged adult at Good Earth State Park, Lincoln Co. Adam Dudley. Casual migrant east.

Mourning Warbler. 30 May 2022. One male at Buffalo, Harding Co. Kenny Miller. Accidental western South Dakota.

Hooded Warbler. 5 September 2022. One adult male at Roby Canyon, Custer Co. David Swanson and Jeffrey Palmer. Accidental western South Dakota.

Cape May Warbler. 14 May 2022. One adult male at Short Pine Hills, Harding Co. Kenny Miller. Accidental western South Dakota.

Black-throated Gray Warbler. 8 May 2022. One adult male at Chappelle Lake, Hyde Co. Kenny Miller. 8th state record.

Black-throated Green Warbler. 14 May 2022. One adult male at Short Pine Hills, Harding Co. Kenny Miller. Accidental western South Dakota.

Lesser Goldfinch. 17 June 2022. One male and two females at Ft. Pierre, Stanley Co. Ricky Olson. Accidental away from Black Hills.

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

Red-throated Loon. 7 April 2023. One juvenile bird transitioning to breeding plumage below Oahe Dam, Stanley Co. (5 Class 2, 2 Class 3). The dissenting committee members noted that the report did not treat other similar species in transitional plumage from nonbreeding to breeding, so felt that Pacific Loon was not conclusively ruled out.

American (Northern) Goshawk. 29 April 2023. One immature at Salt Lake, Deuel Co. The committee noted that the description was incomplete, with no mention of facial pattern and only a limited description of the underparts. Some aspects of the description were conflicting, mixing juvenile and adult features. The committee felt that the report did not conclusively eliminate Cooper’s Hawk or some Buteos.

Red-naped Sapsucker. 29 September 2006. One juvenile at Fisherman’s Point, Stanley Co. (4 Class 3, 2 Class 2). The dissenting committee members noted that the video and photos submitted with the report were of rather poor quality, so it was difficult to verify the features described in the report. The bird appears dark, which supports the identification as Red-naped, but red in the crown and throat in juvenile plumage at that time of year is not definitive. Furthermore, the description was incomplete with no mention of the presence or absence of spotting on the crown or malar. Thus, the dissenting committee members did not believe that Yellow-bellied Sapsucker had been conclusively eliminated.

Sedge Wren. 1 May 2022. One bird below Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte Co. (4 Class 2, 3 Class 3). The dissenting committee members noted that the details in the report were very brief and did not conclusively eliminate other wrens or similarly colored sparrow species.

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

No reports were rated as Class 4 in 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

The committee discussed whether any bird species merited removal from or addition to the review list based on recent records, or the lack thereof, but no action was taken. The committee noted that the list of reportable species on the SDOU website needs to be updated.



Winter Season Bird Photos

Compiled by Kelly Preheim

In addition to our ack bcover photo, the following are a selection of photos taken in South Dakota during winter 2023-2024. All photos reproduced with permission of the photographers.



Trumpeter Swans, Lake Yankton, January 29, 2024.
Photo by Gregory Pavelka



Ferruginous Hawk, West Bend, February 21, 2024.
Photo by Susan Kaiser Rice



Ferruginous Hawk, Silver Lake, Hutchinson County.
Photo by Kelly Preheim



Golden Eagle, western South Dakota, February 7, 2024.
Photo by Aileen Brunner



Barred Owl, Yankton County, January 3, 2024.
Photo by Randy Hoeck



Short-eared Owl, Grant County, February 15, 2024.
Photo by Hal Teske



Eastern Screech-Owl, Codington County, February 25, 2024.
Photo by Devin Pitts



Merlin, Brookings, January 23, 2024.
Photo by Dan Kemp



Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yankton, February 16, 2024.
Photo by Sharon Koller



Northern Flicker, Yankton, January 15, 2024.
Photo by Sharon Koller



Red Crossbill, Good Earth State Park, December 26, 2023.
Photo by Jim Henning



Northern Cardinal (Gyandromorph), Pierre, January 24, 2024.
Photo by Aileen Brunner

The Tracked Migrations of Four Female Long-billed Curlews Nesting in South Dakota

Kevin Ellison, American Bird Conservancy, Bozeman, MT; Janice Bovankovich, American Bird Conservancy, Buffalo, SD; Jay Carlisle¹, Intermountain Bird Observatory, Boise State University, Boise, ID

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The Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) is a species of conservation concern in five states and two provinces, including South Dakota. Populations breeding in the US are fairly stable at ~180,000 individuals (Stanley and Skagen 2007, Gregory et al. 2012). However, declines are likely to continue with the loss and degradation of habitat throughout the areas used in the species' annual cycle (Figure 1). As a part of a broader study (Boisestate.edu/ibo/curlews), we tagged four female Long-billed Curlews nesting in South Dakota in 2022. Herein we describe their movements and migrations. These curlews are the first to be tracked from nests in the Dakotas, an area that now represents the eastern edge of the species' retracted inland breeding range.

Figure 1. Current breeding and wintering range of Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) from Fellows and Jones (2009).



Between May 22-23, 2022 we tagged four nesting female curlews in north-western South Dakota (Harding Co.). Three curlews nested in native rangeland and one in a non-native smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) hayfield. We banded each bird with a metal USFWS band and a green polyvinyl chloride leg flag, each with a unique two-digit alphanumeric code. We attached 10-12g cellular transmitter tags (2 Ornitela OT-10-4GC-S tags; 2 Cellular Tracking Technologies ES-420 tags) to each using a figure-eight leg-loop harness technique (Rappole and Tipton 1991). Curlews were weighed to confirm that tags did not exceed 3% body mass. The Ornitela tag is solar-powered and uses 3G networks to communicate position data (Figure 2). When 3G networks are unavailable the tag can send text messages with up to 10 GPS points. In addition to GPS location data, the ES-420 determines position from other GNSS networks (GLONASS, Galileo, BeiDou, and QZSS). Most tags have a battery life of 1-1.5 years (some up to 3 years), depending on conditions. All birds behaved normally after release, spending their time in the vicinity of the nest and on breeding territories.

Figure 2. Image of the tags deployed on four female Long-billed Curlews tagged in Harding County, South Dakota in May 2022. From left to right: Ornitela OT-10-4GC-S and Cellular Tracking Technologies ES-420 tags. The green leg flag is about one inch for scale.



Figure 2. Image of the tags deployed on four female Long-billed Curlews tagged in Harding County, South Dakota in May 2022. From left to right: Ornitela OT-10-4GC-S and Cellular Tracking Technologies ES-420 tags. The green leg flag is about one inch for scale.

The tagged birds moved south from their breeding areas between June 15 and July 11, 2022 and arrived in wintering areas between June 26 and July 13 (Figure 3). The variation in timing occurs largely because of nest success. Female curlews depart successful nests within a week, leaving males to care for the mobile young. Some females have to leave later because of re-nest attempts following ear-

ly nest failures. On the way, two birds stopped at one location each, before flying to their wintering areas, while one bird made stops at four locations before arriving at its wintering area.

Figure 3. Mapped migrations of four Long-billed Curlews tagged in May 2022 in Harding County, South Dakota.



Using the curlew tracking data, we reached out to local birders at sites along the migration routes. In several instances, birders found numerous (4-150) other curlews at the tagged bird's location. Curlew 578 was photographed November 2, 2022 foraging with four other curlews (Figure 4). She was seen again February 5, 2023 again with four other curlews.



Figure 4. Images of the leg flag used on each of four female Long-billed Curlews tagged in Harding County, South Dakota in May 2022. Sample photos of the groups of associated curlews detected during re-sighting events based on the tracked location of the tagged curlews in north Texas. Photos by Vicki Willmarth.

Long-billed Curlew Migration
 Fall 2022 Spring 2023 Fall 2023



One bird wintered in northern Texas, south and east of Amarillo, and the other three migrated to the Laguna Madre ecosystem – with one wintering on Padre Island in Texas and the other two in coastal Mexico (Figure 3). The bird in north Texas (town of Canyon near Amarillo) wintered there until she was apparently depredated April 6, 2023. The tag for the bird that wintered in the Matamoros Mexico area (number 614) stopped moving January 2, 2023.

By March 31-April 4, 2023 the remaining two curlews moved north and returned to their nest sites by April 12-13, 2023. After the 2023 breeding season, their tags were still functioning and we tracked them through their southern migrations in 2023 (Figure 3). The 2023 southern migrations were similar to movements in 2022 and similar wintering locations were used.

The tracking data for all four birds showed a relatively common flyway approximately 500-km wide east of the Black Hills and south through Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Migration distances ranged from 1,413-2,683 km (878-1,667 miles) and 2,549-3,045 km (1,593-1,892) for southern and northern migrations, respectively.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has developed breeding habitat recommendations for Long-billed Curlews ([Land-Managers-Guide-to-Long-billed-Curlew-Conservation](#)), and with the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has implemented projects to improve over 30,000 acres of habitat in South Dakota (youtu.be/vjLizOdm4RA?si=oxx4OZIHht5n9aB2). Our data suggest that curlews breeding in the Dakotas winter at dispersed sites and use multiple stop-over and staging areas along their migrations. The existence of multiple important locations throughout the curlew annual cycle highlights the need for habitat maintenance and/or improvement at these locations to help conserve curlews.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for the access and assistance provided by local landowners and SD-NRCS staff. Nate Reid (ABC), Jessica Howell (formerly ABC), and Charlie Miller (community scientist) were also a big help in finding nests and trapping curlews in South Dakota.

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Fall and Winter Notable Sightings, September 2023-February 2024

Ricky D. Olson, Fort Pierre

I am writing these articles just to inform people of some South Dakota sightings they may not know about otherwise. To me a notable sighting does not have to be a rare sighting, it could just be an uncommon sighting.

Fall of 2023 was great for gull sightings; many species were seen. Several gull species go several years without a South Dakota sighting; then several will be seen in a short period of time. **Black-legged Kittiwake** is one of these species. Several were seen this



fall all along the Missouri River. Two September sightings of **Laughing Gulls** were very unusual, one at **Big Bend (Lake Sharpe)** and the other in the **Pierre area**. We also had several **Short-billed Gulls** (formerly called Mew Gull). Other notable gull species seen were **Sabine's, Little, and Great Black-backed gulls**.

In September, I had a pair of **Evening Grosbeaks** at my water feature in Fort Pierre. This is an unusual sighting for this date and location.

This year the sea ducks migrated through again, mainly on the Missouri River. **White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter and Long-tailed Duck** were observed.

In September in Sturgis, Randy Podoll found a **Costa's Hummingbird**, and at his residence, two **Anna's Hummingbirds**. Another unidentified *Calypte* hummingbird was reported from Hot Springs on Facebook.

Multiple groups of **Pine Grosbeaks**, another irruptive species, were seen throughout the Fall and Winter, beginning in early November with a female calling at Shadehill. The species was also reported in Sioux Falls, the Pierre area, Harding County, and several locations in the Black Hills.

December into January, many of the fall notable species were still present: **Short-billed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Pine Grosbeak**.

In late December, a species rare for the state, **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, was discovered at a feeder in Roscoe by Bob Anderson of North Dakota. Ironically, Bob was down looking at the out-of-range **Pinyon Jay** reported at Java. To add juice to the story, Jack Lefor of North Dakota was down looking for the Pinyon Jay and found a beautiful adult male **Varied Thrush** in Java.

In Pierre, I observed a Pacific Loon and Dan Svingen located a **Laughing Gull**. The **Laughing Gull** would be South Dakota's first winter record if accepted by the SDOU Rare Bird Record Committee. We also had a couple of uncommon **Franklin's Gulls** this winter season.



The 2023 Summer Season

01 June 2023 to 31 July 2023

Compiled By: Chris Anderson

The primary goal of the Summer Season compilation is to report Confirmed Breeding records observed during the season. There were 100 species reported as Confirmed Breeding this year, including 5 first county breeding records. The ten-year (2013-2022) average of Confirmed Breeding species is 104, with a high of 126 in 2013. 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 2 rarities (Laughing Gull, Mississippi Kite) reported during the season. The ten-year (2013-2022) average is 249 with a high of 264 in 2013. 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 Brown GO; 06 Jul Gregory KP
Greater White-fronted Goose All Reports: 08 Jul Miner JSP; 20 Jul Yankton RND
Cackling Goose Only Report: **08 Jul Stanley RDO (earliest fall record)**
Canada Goose Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Pennington (NY) CLG; 05 June Minnehaha (PY) CA; 10 Jun Roberts (PY) CV
Trumpeter Swan Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Tripp (PY) RDO; 18 Jun Harding (PY) ND
Wood Duck Confirmed Breeding: Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Roberts, and Tripp counties
Blue-winged Teal Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Moody (PY) CA; 27 Jun Roberts (PY) CV; 28 Jun Minnehaha (PY) CA
American Wigeon All Reports: 10 Jun Sully RDO; 18 Jun Harding ND; 27 Jun Pennington CLG; 25 Jul Brown KM, RDO
Mallard Confirmed Breeding: Faulk, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, and Yankton counties
Northern Pintail Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Hyde (PY) MMM; 18 Jun Harding (PY) ND
Canvasback Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Marshall (PY) CV
Ring-necked Duck Only Report: 1 Jul Marshall (PY) JSP
Common Goldeneye Reported: 22 Jul Day JSP; 25 Jul Day KM, RDO
Hooded Merganser Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Brown (PY) JSP; **04 Jul Minnehaha (PY) CA**
Common Merganser Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Pennington (PY) CLG
Ruddy Duck Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Roberts (PY) CV
Northern Bobwhite Only Report: 14 Jul Charles Mix KP
Wild Turkey Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Clay (ON) GJS; 24 Jul Lincoln (PY) CA
Sharp-tailed Grouse Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jul Day (PY) JSP
Greater Prairie-Chicken Only Report: 06 Jun Stanley RDO
Gray Partridge All Reports: 17 Jun Pennington MMM; 17 Jun Perkins ND
Ring-necked Pheasant Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Miner (PY) JSP; 09 Jul Sully (PY) KM; 18 Jul Roberts (PY) CV
Pied-billed Grebe Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Tripp (PY) RDO; 04 Jul Marshall (PY) CV; 22 Jul Day (PY) JSP
Red-necked Grebe All Reports: 27 Jun Roberts CV; 04 Jul Marshall CV; 21 Jul Campbell RDO
Western Grebe Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jul Brown (ON) KM
Rock Pigeon Confirmed Breeding: **24 Jun Codington (FL) CV**
White-winged Dove All Reports: 04 Jun Hughes RDO; 17 Jun Hughes RDO
Mourning Dove Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Gregory (CN) KP; 16 Jul Roberts (FL) CV
Common Poorwill Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Sully (NY) KM
Eastern Whip-poor-will All Reports: 18-19 Jun Lincoln KM; 05 Jul Charles Mix KP; 10 Jul Lincoln CA
Broad-tailed Hummingbird Only Report: 25 Jun Pennington RDO
Common Gallinule Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jul Brown (FY) RDO
American Coot Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jul Brown (FY) KM
Sandhill Crane Only Report: 17 Jun Butte ND
Black-necked Stilt Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Sully (DD) RDO
American Avocet Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Brown (PY) CV; 24 Jun Douglas (FY) KP
Semipalmated Plover All Reports: 21 Jul Douglas KP; 26 Jul Clark KM, RDO; 29 Jul Kingsbury JSP
Piping Plover Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Clay (PY) GJS
Killdeer Confirmed Breeding: Custer, Haakon, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, and Roberts counties
Long-billed Curlew All Reports: 04 Jun Custer MMM; 11 Jun Haakon MMM; 18 Jun Pennington MMM; 19 Jun Harding ND

Stilt Sandpiper Late: 10 Jun Sully RDO ... Early: 02 Jul Brown CV; 13 Jul Douglas KP; 15 Jul Lake JSP; 27 Jul Charles Mix KP

Sanderling Only Report: 10 Jun Sully RDO

Baird's Sandpiper Early: 13 Jul Douglas KP; 14 Jul Charles Mix KP; 21 Jul Sully RDO

Least Sandpiper Early: 01 Jul Clay GJS; 08 Jul Miner JSP; 12 Jul Minnehaha CA

White-rumped Sandpiper Only Report: 10 Jun Sully RDO

Buff-breasted Sandpiper Only Report: 29 Jul Kingsbury JSP

Pectoral Sandpiper Early: 08 Jul Miner JSP; 13 Jul Douglas KP; 14 Jul Charles Mix KP

Semipalmated Sandpiper Early: 13 Jul Douglas KP; 15 Jul Lake JSP; 22 Jul Day JSP; 27 Jul Charles Mix KP

Short-billed Dowitcher All Reports: **02 Jul Brown CV (earliest fall record)**; 21 Jul Campbell RDO

Long-billed Dowitcher Early: 16 Jul Douglas KP; 25 Jul Brown KM, RDO

American Woodcock Only Report: 10 Jul Lincoln CA

Spotted Sandpiper Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul Charles Mix (FY) KP

Solitary Sandpiper Early: 01 Jul Clay DS; 10 Jul Douglas KP; 13 Jul Mellette KM, RDO

Greater Yellowlegs Late: 29 Jun Douglas KP ... Early: 02 Jul Brown CV; 08 Jul Miner JSP; 13 Jul Douglas KP; 14 Jul Charles Mix KP

Willet Late: 28 Jun Hughes KM; 17 Jun Brown CV; 13 Jun Faulk MMM ... Early: 08 Jul Brown GO; 22 Jul Day JSP

Lesser Yellowlegs Late: 10 Jun Sully RDO ... Early: 01 Jul Clay DS; 02 Jul Brown CV; 04 Jul Marshall CV

Franklin's Gull Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Brown (FL) CV

Ring-billed Gull Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Sully (FL) RDO

California Gull Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Sully (FL) RDO

Herring Gull Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Sully (ON) RDO

Least Tern Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Clay (CF) GJS

Caspian Tern Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Sully (ON) RDO; 26 Jul Codrington (CF) KM

Black Tern Confirmed Breeding: **12 Jun Hyde (CF) MMM**; 25 Jul Roberts (FY) KM

Common Loon Late: 06 Jun Stanley RDO; 03 Jun Sully KM ... Early: 01 Jul Hughes KM; 16 Jul Meade VDF

Double-crested Cormorant Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Brown (ON) CV

American Bittern All Reports: 07 Jun Roberts CV; 13 Jun Faulk MMM; 02 Jul Brown GO; 25 Jul Day KM, RDO

Least Bittern Only Report: 17 Jun Brown CV

Great Blue Heron Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Custer (ON) MMM; 05 Jun Pennington (NY) CLG; 13 Jun Faulk (ON) MMM; 17 Jun Brown (ON) CV

Great Egret Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Brown (ON) CV; 26 Jul Codrington (ON) RDO

Tricolored Heron Only Report: 22 Jul Day JSP

Osprey Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Lawrence (ON) KP; 15 Jun Custer (NY) KP; 19 Jun Pennington (NY) CLG

Bald Eagle Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Hutchinson (NY) KP; 18 Jun Perkins (NY) ND

Broad-winged Hawk All Reports: 01 Jun Roberts CV; 25 Jun Lawrence EK

Red-tailed Hawk Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Pennington (CF) MMM

Ferruginous Hawk All Reports: 02 Jul Brown CV; 13 Jul Mellette KM

Great Horned Owl Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Yankton (FY) RND

Burrowing Owl Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Pennington (CF) MMM; 19 Jun Custer (CF) MMM; 13 Jul Mellette (FL) KM, RDO

Barred Owl All Reports: 18-19 Jun Lincoln KM

Short-eared Owl All Reports: 05 Jun Custer MMM; 25 Jun Custer MMM
Lewis's Woodpecker All Reports: 08 Jun Custer KM; 12 Jun Custer KP; 25 Jun Custer RDO
Red-headed Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Hutchinson (CF) KP; 05 Jun Douglas (NY) KP; 22 Jun Charles Mix (FY) KP
Red-bellied Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Roberts (FY) CV
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Roberts (FY) CV
Red-naped Sapsucker Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Lawrence (NY) EK
Black-backed Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Pennington (FY) RDO
Downy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Roberts (FY) CV; 14 Jul Pennington (FL) OCW
Hairy Woodpecker Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jun Roberts (FY) CV
Northern Flicker Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jul Pennington (FL) OCW
Pileated Woodpecker All Reports: 05-08 Jun Roberts CV; 18 Jun Lincoln KM
American Kestrel Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Pennington (CF) MMM
Merlin Only Report: 16 Jul Harding DB
Olive-sided Flycatcher All Reports: 28-31 Jul Hughes KM
Western Flycatcher (formerly Cordilleran Flycatcher) Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Lawrence (ON) VDF
Eastern Phoebe Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Lincoln (ON) KM
Say's Phoebe Reported East River: 24 Jul Brookings KP
Eastern Kingbird Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Hughes (NB) KM; 10 Jun Lincoln (CF) CA; 29 Jun Charles Mix (FL) KP
Bell's Vireo Reported: **08 Jul Miner JSP (first county record)**
Red-eyed Vireo Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Roberts (ON) CV
Loggerhead Shrike Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Custer (CF) MMM
Canada Jay Only Report: 20 Jun Custer ND
Blue Jay Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jun Roberts (FY) CV; 21 Jul Douglas (FY) KP
Black-billed Magpie Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Custer (CF) MMM
Black-capped Chickadee Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Yankton (FL) RND; 01 Jul Clay (CF) GJS; 01 Jul Roberts (FY) CV; 03 Jul Pennington (FL) CLG
Horned Lark Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Roberts (FL) CV
Purple Martin Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Clay (ON) GJS; 16 Jul Douglas (FY) KP
Northern Rough-winged Swallow Confirmed Breeding: **01 Jun Hutchinson (CN) KP**; 04 Jul Roberts (FL) CV
Tree Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Lincoln (ON) CA; 28 Jun Yankton (ON) KP; 02 Jul Douglas (FY) KP
Violate-green Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Custer (ON) KP
Bank Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Sully (ON) RDO; 02 Jul Brown (FL) CV
Barn Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Custer (ON) KP; 19 Jun Pennington (NY) CLG; 01 Jul Douglas (FY) KP; 04 Jul Roberts (FL) CV
Cliff Swallow Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Custer (ON) KP; 17 Jun Brown (CN) CV
Golden-crowned Kinglet Only Report: 23 Jun Lawrence KM
White-breasted Nuthatch Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Yankton (FY) RND; 03 Jul Roberts (FY) CV
Brown Creeper All Reports: 15 Jun Custer KP; 25 Jun Pennington RDO
Canyon Wren Only Report: 25 Jun Pennington RDO
House Wren Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Roberts (ON) CV; 12 Jun Custer (ON) KP; 07 Jul Pennington (FY) OCW; 09 Jul Clay (FL) GJS
American Dipper Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Lawrence (CF) KP

European Starling Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 07 Jun Minnehaha (ON) CA; 10 Jun Lincoln (CF) CA

Gray Catbird Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Clay (FY) GJS; 25 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 27 Jun Pennington (FL) CLG; 24 Jul Brookings (CF) KP

Brown Thrasher Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jun Custer (CF) KP; 21 Jun Douglas (CF) KP

Eastern Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Lincoln (ON) CA

Mountain Bluebird Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Custer (ON) KP; 14 Jun Pennington (ON) KP

Veery All Reports: 07 Jun Marshall, Roberts CV; 10 Jun Lawrence KP; 01 Jul Roberts JSP

Wood Thrush Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Lincoln (CF) KM

American Robin Confirmed Breeding: Brookings, Clay, Douglas, Faulk, Lake, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, Union, and Yankton counties

Cedar Waxwing Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Clay (CN) GJS; 21 Jul Pennington (FY) OCV

House Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Minnehaha (ON) CA

House Finch Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Yankton (FL) RND; 03 Jul Pennington (NY) CLG; 14 Jul Roberts (FL) CV; 26 Jul Douglas (FY) KP

Pine Siskin Only West River Report: 23 Jun Lawrence KM ... Early East River: 18 Jul Clay GJS

Lesser Goldfinch Only Report: 26 Jun Fall River RDO

Chestnut-collared Longspur Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Sully (NE) MMM; 12 Jun Hyde (NY) MMM

Grasshopper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Harding (CF) ND; 23 Jun Clay (CF) GJS

Chipping Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Roberts (CN) CV; 15 Jun Faulk (FL) MMM

Brewer's Sparrow Only Report: 19 Jun Harding ND

Lark Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Stanley (CF) KM; 23 Jun Charles Mix (FY) KP; 08 Jul Gregory (CF) KP; 13 Jul Mellette (CF) KM; 21 Jul Douglas (FY) KP

Lark Bunting All Reports: 17 Jun Butte, Perkins ND; 19 Jun Harding ND

Dark-eyed Junco Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jun Lawrence (CN) KM

Vesper Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jun Custer (CF) ND; 16 Jul Roberts (FL) CV

Nelson's Sparrow Only Report: 25 Jun Brown KM, RDO

Savannah Sparrow Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Roberts (FY) CV

Baird's Sparrow Only Report: 18 Jun Perkins ND

Yellow-headed Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Brown (CF) CV

Bobolink Confirmed Breeding: **24 Jun Douglas (CF) KP**; 27 Jun Roberts (CF) CV

Western Meadowlark Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jun Roberts (CF) CV; 17 Jun Perkins (CF) ND; 24 Jun Douglas (CF) KP

Eastern Meadowlark All Reports: 06-24 Jun Clay JSP, GJS; **06-11 Jun Lincoln CA (first county record)**; **23 Jun Minnehaha MS (first county record)**; **15 Jul Lake JSP (first county record)**

Orchard Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 26 Jul Codington (CF) KM

Bullock's Oriole All Reports: 09 Jun Custer KP; 25 Jun Fall River RDO; 16 Jul Meade VDF

Baltimore Oriole Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jun Douglas (CF) KP; 13 Jun Yankton (FY) RND; 25 Jun Roberts (CF) CV

Red-winged Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Lincoln (CN) CA; 19 Jun Pennington (FL) CLG; 28 Jun Hughes (CF) KM

Brown-headed Cowbird Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Roberts (FL) CV

Brewer's Blackbird Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Harding (CF) ND

Common Grackle Confirmed Breeding: Douglas, Gregory, Minnehaha, Roberts, and Yankton counties

Great-tailed Grackle All Reports: 10 Jun Sully RDO; 25 Jun Fall River RDO; 16 Jul Douglas KP; 25 Jul Day RDO

Blue-winged Warbler All Reports: 10-20 Jun Lincoln CA, KM, JSP

Black-and-white Warbler Late East River: 07 Jun Roberts CV ... Reported West River: 20 Jul Lawrence VDF; 31 Jul Pennington CLG
Tennessee Warbler Late: 05 Jun Hughes KM
Virginia's Warbler All Reports: 08 Jun Custer KM; 11 Jun Custer KP
Hooded Warbler All Reports: 17-19 Jun Lincoln KM, JSP
Yellow Warbler Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Pennington (DD) MMM; 02 Jul Yankton (FY) RND; 08 Jul Brown (FY) GO
Northern Cardinal Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Yankton (FL) RND; 14 Jul Pennington (FL) OCW
Rose-breasted Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jul Roberts (FY) CV
Black-headed Grosbeak Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Pennington (FY) OCW
Lazuli Bunting All Reports: 01 Jun Harding KM; 19 Jun Harding ND; 20 Jun Custer ND
Dickcissel Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Clay (FL) GJS

Species Expected But Not Reported

Ross's Goose (2), Cinnamon Teal (4), Ruffed Grouse, Clark's Grebe; Red-necked Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Neotropic Cormorant (2), Golden Eagle, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Long-eared Owl (2), Northern Saw-whet Owl (2), Peregrine Falcon (2), Prairie Falcon, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Northern Mockingbird, Sprague's Pipit (4), White-winged Crossbill, LeConte's Sparrow (2)

Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

Laughing Gull: 10 Jun Hughes KM, RDO (already approved by committee)
Mississippi Kite: 03 Jun Hughes DB (first county record; already approved by committee)

Contributing Observers

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ND	Nancy Drilling
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EK	Elizabeth Krueger
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GO	Gary Olson
RDO	Ricky D. Olson
OCW	Outdoor Campus West
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
KP	Kelly M. Preheim
MS	Mark Schmidtbauer
GJS	Gary & Jan Small
DS	David Swanson
CV	Cheryl Vellenga



Contents

President's Page	68
<i>by Mark Schmidtbauer</i>	
Announcements	69
2023 Report of the Rare Bird Records Committee	69
<i>by David Swanson</i>	
Winter Season Bird Photos	72
<i>by Kelly Preheim</i>	
The Tracked Migrations of Four Female Long-billed Curlews Nesting in South Dakota	77
<i>by Kevin Ellison, Janice Bovankovich, and Jay Carlisle</i>	
Fall and Winter Notable Sightings, September 2023- February 2024	79
<i>by Ricky Olson</i>	
The 2023 Summer Season	80
<i>by Chris Anderson</i>	