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South Dakota

Bird  Notes

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

Eastern Screech-Owl Fledglings, Codington County, 7/9/2024

*Photo Credit: Devin Pitts*

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**Vol. 76**

**SUMMER 2024**

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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

*Mark Schmidtbauer*

It has been a privilege to lead this fine organization over the last few years and now my term will soon come to an end. Hopefully in my columns I have portrayed how strongly I believe in the mission of SDOU and its importance for birds and bird watchers alike in South Dakota.

We at SDOU do much more than just watch birds. Yes, we enjoy that part the most I am sure, but we also contribute significantly to the study of birds in South Dakota. We were founded way back in 1949 and this year marks SDOU's 75th anniversary! What an accomplishment for our organization to still be active in 2024 while still holding true to our mission, which is to encourage the study of wild birds in South Dakota and to promote the study of ornithology by more closely uniting the students of this branch of natural science.



A couple of ways SDOU adheres to its mission is by monitoring a statewide bird checklist by the Rare Birds Committee and by overseeing an online seasonal bird reporting system and database. Our quarterly publication, South Dakota Bird Notes, and our book, Birds of South Dakota, are other excellent examples of how we encourage the study of birds. SDOU's history - along with other important historical avian records and documents - are maintained in several special collections housed at the Center for Western Studies at Augustana University in Sioux Falls. The public has access to these archives, which is an important part of fulfilling our mission.

Years ago, many SDOU members volunteered to survey nesting birds statewide. This data played an integral part in the research that led to the publication of both Breeding Bird Atlases by the South Dakota Games Fish and Parks and the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, thus enhancing the knowledge of South Dakotas breeding birds. At SDOU's biannual meetings that gather birders together from across the state, university students, professors, and SDOU members present the results of research projects, bird surveys, environmental work, and special ornithology trips. Many of the university students who present ornithological research have taken advantage of SDOU's scholarships and grants that we award to deserving students yearly. This helps to promote future leaders, teachers and researchers in their fields of study.

All the efforts over the last 75 years by the many people who worked hard to make SDOU what it is today are commendable. The resolve and purpose our past leaders had to keep this organization relevant, meaningful and on-mission is extraordinary. Let's all work hard at SDOU and keep focused on our mission for the next 25 years to make it a century strong!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The spring 2025 meeting will be a joint meeting with the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. The meeting location will be South Sioux City, NE May 15-18, 2025. More information will be posted at [sdou.org](http://sdou.org) and [iowabirds.org](http://iowabirds.org) as they become available.



## 2024 SDOU Scholarships and Grants

Every year the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union awards a variety of scholarships and grants (<https://sdou.org/SDOU/Grants.aspx>) in support of its mission 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”. The following are the 2024 recipients.

The NATHANIEL R. WHITNEY, JR. MEMORIAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM awards small research grants for bird study in South Dakota. Recipients may be students at a four-year college or university in South Dakota, other scientifically-qualified individuals, or amateur ornithologists.

In 2024, the grant will be split between two awardees. The first is Katherine Millman, a second-year Master's student at South Dakota State University. Her research focuses on avian and vegetative communities by assessing the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE) in eastern South Dakota. The second recipient is Kyle Dane Jorgensen, a first-year Master's student at the University of South Dakota. The purpose of his research is to “gain a greater understanding of the use of off-river foraging habitat by Least Terns along the 59-mile reach of the Missouri River within the Missouri River National Recreational River”.

The MARY E. BAYLOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP is given to an undergraduate student studying for a degree in a relevant biological science at a South Dakota college or university. The 2024 recipient is Hannah Slattery, a senior Biodiversity and Conservation major at the University of South Dakota (USD). Hannah has always had a strong interest in the outdoors, but it was while she took the Ornithology class at USD that she became hooked on birds. During summer 2024, Hannah was a Missouri River Natural Resources Intern, which is a joint program between USD's Missouri River Institute and the National Park Service's Missouri National Recreational River staff. As part of her summer, Hannah collected data on Least Tern on- and off-river foraging activities and assisted with capturing and tagging Least Terns.

TRAVEL AWARDS are given to students who give presentations during the Fall SDOU meeting. This year, Hannah Slattery, Zoe Donelan, Kathryn Yurek, and Chelsi Marolf received awards to defray the cost of traveling to the Spearfish Fall meeting.



# FLEDGLING TRACTS: IMBCR Field Season Adventures

*Maggie Figura, Sioux Falls*

Hello! This issue is the perfect time to write about the more occupational side of birding, as I just completed my 2024 field season with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. I spent the summer traveling collecting IMBCR (Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions) bird data all over the Northern Great Plains, that is, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. All of us here are of the type to spend a great deal of time birding and go to some great lengths to try to get that lifer, but field season really comes with its own quirky lifestyle. When hiring technicians for field work, we try to prepare them for what to expect, but even experienced birders and backpackers may be surprised by the labor, hazards, and eccentricities that come with field season and its lifestyle.

For some background, BCR's (Bird Conservation Regions), represent ecologically distinct plant and bird communities that form the basis for IMBCR's sampling design. Surveys are grouped by region so that separate population estimates can be generated and compared by region. IMBCR data provides robust, scientifically defensible estimates of bird occupancy, abundances, and trends to inform science-based decisions for managing bird populations and evaluating how land use, management decisions, or climate changes affect bird populations and ecosystem services. These data account for incomplete detection and allow for comparison at different geographic extents as well as providing basic habitat association data for most land bird species. These data are used to develop tools for supporting decisions that help guide conservation efforts and provide a quantitative measure of conservation success. Additionally, because birds are "indicator species" of environmental conditions, IMBCR monitoring of bird populations allows us to keep a finger directly on the pulse of the health of our natural communities.

The IMBCR protocol calls for a trained technician to visit a series of transects at randomly generated, spatially balanced coordinates. These may fall in a golf course or, more often, somewhere unbelievably, ruggedly remote. A transect is composed of a 1-km<sup>2</sup> cell with a grid of 16 equidistant points, each of which the technician must hike to and perform a point count. A point count involves first standing at the point for about 2 minutes and visually assessing and recording habitat characteristics before beginning a 6-minute timer and recording every single bird they can detect, as well as which minute in the count it was detected, how, and at what distance. This seemingly simple protocol comes with a diverse array of challenges and a whole new lifestyle for the 2 ½ months that it lasts; in Northern Great Plains these dates are roughly May 20 – July 10.

For IMBCR field work, you need to be at your next survey for the start of each day, so you're traveling somewhere new every single day and have to bring all the necessities with you. The easiest way to pick up and travel like this is by living out of your car. I don't think anyone expects how downright comfortable that lifestyle can be; you have your own cozy mobile nest with you everywhere and everything you ever need is only an arm's reach away. One of the reasons we do this is because our surveys all start half an hour before sunrise. So let's imagine you have a survey in Wind Cave National Park near Hot Springs on June 21st and you have a 5 mile hike in to access it. Well then sunrise is at 5:05, so your survey starts at 4:35, and you're going to want at least 2 hours for that hike in, which means you're leaving your car no later than 2:30 am. And who wants to pack up a tent in the dark at that time? But what if your 16-point transect is 10 miles from any road? Well, then you're hiking in the night before and finding somewhere in the back country to filter some water and pitch a tent. You'll spend the night being visited by coyotes and bison circling your tent and not knowing where the nearest human soul other than yourself might be, but with a fantastic view of unpolluted moon and starlight over the prairie.

But can you really do that 5-mile hike in only 2 hours? Well, that depends. Are those 5 miles over nice, relatively flat grassland or located somewhere in a national park that you can take advantage of a trail system to get part way there? Or do you have to hike around Badlands formations or onto the top of a mesa? As our survey coordinates may fall almost anywhere, there's no telling what kind of terrain you may have to traverse to reach them. We field workers face workday challenges unlike almost any other profession and get to see places probably few humans have ever planted their feet. This summer I had the opportunity to show a friend around South Dakota, and in doing so I also pointed out some of the places I have surveyed. My friend described me as "unhinged" for the rough, crevassed slopes I'd clambered -or slid- down in the dark and the high, narrow ridges I traversed even in winds strong enough to knock me over and nearly off. This really gives us the great privilege, however, to see the national parks and forests in a way no tourist ever could, but also means when you walk out of the woods covered head-to-toe in mud and carrying a backpack, clipboard, and 5 pieces of gear strapped to your body, the real tourists will stop and gawk or outright laugh at you.

Traveling every day, hiking into remote locations, and primitive camping conditions broadly represent the work challenges we field researchers face. For us, it is not unusual to go to bed (or to try, rather) in greater than 100 degree weather and wake up to conditions less than 40 degrees and frosty. We are constantly surrounded by biting and buzzing insects, even spiders found in the pit toilets available to us; and that's not to mention the pleasures of bushwhacking through stinging nettle, falling on cacti or into marshes, running into rattlesnakes, being bluff charged by deer, chased by dogs, or approached by gruff landowners waving guns. You also become a total hobo for the summer, that one person washing their hair in the faucet at the city park in a residential neighborhood before sleeping in your parked car. It is nice though, that with such trials you can spend your whole day looking forward to the can of soup you will have for dinner, then be immeasurably pleased when you finally get to sit down with it that night. But what the field workers always remark on is the experience of being fully alone for interminable stretches of time, when we work independently in remote locations for days on end, and your only human interaction comes in the rare times you can get phone service.

Despite its challenges, field work comes with benefits I know many would be jealous of if they only knew, it's hard to believe we're even paid to do it! All field researchers marvel at the experience of witnessing a true dawn chorus, the reward for getting up prior to sunrise when every bird is singing at the top of its lungs and you are inundated with birdsong from every species in every direction. It becomes a superpower, to not only identify so many bird songs from a chorus, but to realize how much you can ascertain about an environment even with your eyes closed just by listening to the birds present. For me, my favorite part is seeing the most dazzling sunrises over dramatic landscapes and knowing that few people will ever witness such a scene, and then the confidence that you can get yourself anywhere and everywhere on the power of your own two legs. In field surveys, you also get to see the birds themselves in a new light, noticing aspects of their behavior that may not be so apparent to casual observers and gain intimate insight into their habitat preference, even anthropomorphize them. You learn to have pre-dawn conversations with Common Nighthawks, that Killdeer and Red-tailed Hawks will chase you and become a downright nuisance as they obscure other birds present, that Mourning Dove distances are a pain to judge, and Short-eared Owls and grouse are out to get you as they swoop from behind or explode from the grass when you least expect it.

Field season really is a wild experience and its own lifestyle, but it comes with the satisfaction of knowing you did meaningful work that will contribute to a good cause, furthering avian science and conservation, and is a thrilling adventure every step of the way! All data used in evaluating bird populations is thanks to the bug-bitten, sweaty, blistered, and tired field biologists out there hoofing it through the muck to find those birds!



Sunrise at Wind Cave National Park



## Notable Sightings - July and August 2024

*Ricky Olson, Fort Pierre*



In July, a Pacific Wren was reported along Slate Creek in Pennington County, a different location than historical sightings. The Rapid City Eurasian Tree Sparrow continued to be observed. A Carolina Wren was reported in the Vermilion area again, including one banded at Frost GPA on July 7th (photo by Chelsi Marolf).

Sandhill Cranes, some with young, were reported across the state; reports came from Tripp, Butte and Grant counties. In recent times, the Sandhill Cranes have slowly, in small numbers, begun to breed in the South Dakota and Nebraska part of their historical range.

A Black-chinned Hummingbird was sighted near White-wood. A Calliope Hummingbird was reported in both Pierre and Fort Pierre in August.

Also in August, an Ash-throated Flycatcher was photographed by Doug Backlund in Custer County. This observation has been accepted by the Rare Bird Records Committee and is the second state record!



## Summer Season Bird Photos

*Compiled by Kelly Preheim, Armour*

In addition to our front and back cover photos, the following are a selection of photos taken in South Dakota during summer 2024. All photos reproduced with permission of the photographers.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yankton, July 20, 2024

*Photo by Sharon Koller*



Common Nighthawk, Big Stone City, June 2, 2024

*Photo by Devin Pitts*





American Avocet chick, Fensterman Slough, June 16, 2024

*Photo by Moises Perez*



Spotted Sandpiper, Fensterman Slough, June 16, 2024

*Photo by Moises Perez*



Red-tailed Hawk, Bon Homme Co., July 16, 2024

*Photo by Randy Hoeck*



Bald Eagle nest, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, May 19, 2024

*Photo by Roger Dietrich*



Juvenile Turkey Vulture, Canyon Lake Park, Rapid City, August 26, 2024

*Photo by Hal Bielstein*



Eastern Screech-owl, Bon Homme Co., July 2, 2024

*Photo by Randy Hoeck*



Lewis's Woodpecker, Hell Canyon, June 6, 2024

*Photo by Kelly Preheim*



Western Wood-pewee on nest, Rapid City, July 22, 2024

*Photo by Judy Hengen*



Common Raven, Hell Canyon, June 6, 2024

*Photo by Kelly Preheim*



Brown Thrasher, North Alabama Bend, June 9, 2024

*Photo by Gary Small*



Baltimore Oriole, Palisades State Park, June 25, 2024

*Photo by Steve Johnson*



Grasshopper Sparrow, North Alabama Bend, June 9, 2024

*Photo by Gary Small*



Black-headed Grosbeak, Black Hills, June 2, 2024

*Photo by Kelly Preheim*



Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Mitchell, June 22, 2024

*Photo by Lonnie Wiese*



# The 2023-2024 Winter Season

## 01 December 2023 to 29 February 2024

*Compiled by Chris Anderson, Sioux Falls*

There were 137 species, including 3 rarities (Laughing Gull, Pinyon Jay, Eurasian Tree Sparrow), reported during the 2023-2024 winter season. The ten-year (2014-2023) average is 138. 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, Barn Owl has been removed from this list.

**Snow Goose** 50 reports across 15 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Dewey, Douglas, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

**Ross's Goose** 15 reports across 6 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Hughes, Kingsbury, Stanley) 02 Dec – 27 Feb

**Greater White-fronted Goose** 30 reports across 16 counties (10 East River, 6 Missouri River) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

**Cackling Goose** 53 reports across 14 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Edmunds, Grant, Haakon, Hughes, Lake, Meade, McCook, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Walworth, Yankton) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

**Trumpeter Swan** All Reports: 31 Jan Yankton GJS; 25 Feb Clay DS

**Tundra Swan** Only Report: 28 Dec Kingsbury DGP

**Wood Duck** All Reports: 01 Jan Hughes KM; 16 Jan Hughes RDO; 24 Feb Lawrence ND

**Northern Shoveler** 12 reports across 6 counties (Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Minnehaha, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 03 Feb

**Gadwall** 62 reports across 10 counties (Charles Mix, Gregory, Haakon, Hughes, Kingsbury, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**American Wigeon** 28 reports across 7 counties (Charles Mix, Grant, Haakon, Lake, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**Northern Pintail** 17 reports across 10 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Dewey, Grant, Haakon, Hughes, Kingsbury, Minnehaha, Stanley, Sully) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

**Green-winged Teal** 32 reports across 10 counties (Charles Mix, Haakon, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 27 Feb

**Canvasback** 15 reports across 7 counties (Charles Mix, Haakon, Hughes, Lake, Minnehaha, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 27 Feb

**Redhead** 44 reports across 8 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lake, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 26 Feb



**Ring-necked Duck** 45 reports across 8 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Haakon, Hughes, Lake, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 27 Feb

**Greater Scaup** 19 Reports across 3 counties (Hughes, Stanley, Yankton) 19 Dec – 08 Feb

**Lesser Scaup** 14 reports across 8 counties (Bon Homme, Brookings, Charles Mix, Haakon, Hughes, Minnehaha, Pennington, Yankton) 03 Dec – 27 Feb

**White-winged Scoter** All Reports: 16 Dec Yankton DS; 29 Dec Gregory ND

**Black Scoter** Only Report: 16 Dec Yankton DS

**Long-tailed Duck** 14 reports across 4 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Kingsbury, Yankton) 02 Dec – 22 Dec

**Bufflehead** 37 reports across 8 counties (Brookings, Charles Mix, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 26 Feb

**Common Goldeneye** 67 reports across 11 counties (Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

**Hooded Merganser** 47 reports across 10 counties (Charles Mix, Fall River, Grant, Hughes, Lake, Lyman, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 27 Feb

**Common Merganser** 85 reports across 16 counties (3 West River, 4 East River, 9 Missouri River) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

**Red-breasted Merganser** 21 reports across 5 counties (Charles Mix, Gregory, Hughes, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 25 Feb

**Ruddy Duck** All Reports: 02-12 Dec Yankton RND, DS; 09 Dec Kingsbury JSP

**Gray Partridge** Only Report: 29 Feb Ziebach ND

**Pied-billed Grebe** 11 reports across 2 counties (Pennington, Sully) 04 Dec – 12 Feb

**Horned Grebe** Only Report: 22 Dec Sully KM

**Mourning Dove** 8 reports across 5 counties (Brown, Clay, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Walworth) 01 Dec – 18 Feb

**American Coot** 45 reports across 7 counties (Brown, Clay, Hughes, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec - 26 Feb

**Killdeer** 10 reports across 4 counties (Clay, Hughes, Kingsbury, Pennington) 02 Dec – 26 Feb

**Baird's Sandpiper** Only Report: 07 Dec Kingsbury JSP

**Wilson's Snipe** 9 reports across 3 counties (Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 03 Dec – 27 Feb

**Black-legged Kittiwake** 19 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 01 Dec – 11 Jan

**Bonaparte's Gull** 30 reports across 3 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley) 01 Dec – 11 Jan

**Franklin's Gull** 17 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 27 Dec – 27 Feb

**Short-billed Gull** 27 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 12 Dec – 11 Jan

**Ring-billed Gull** 71 reports across 13 counties (Bon Homme, Brown, Charles Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lyman, Minnehaha, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

**California Gull** 9 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 13 Dec - 15 Feb

**Herring Gull** 46 reports across 4 counties (Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley, Sully) 01 Dec – 27 Feb

**Iceland Gull** 36 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 01 Dec – 18 Feb

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** 27 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 01 Dec – 18 Feb

**Glaucous Gull** 9 reports across 2 counties (Hughes, Stanley) 12 Dec – 28 Jan

**Pacific Loon** 26 reports from 1 county (Hughes) 26 Dec – 12 Jan

**Common Loon** All Reports: 07 Dec Sully KM; 22 Dec Sully KM

**Double-crested Cormorant** 12 reports across 4 counties (Charles Mix, Gregory, Minnehaha, Stanley) 02-29 Dec

**Great Blue Heron** 11 reports from 1 county (Pennington) 04 Dec – 26 Feb

**Golden Eagle** 24 reports across 16 counties (8 West River, 8 Missouri River) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

**Northern Harrier** 35 reports across 16 counties (6 West River, 4 East River, 6 Missouri River) 07 Dec - 29 Feb

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 31 reports across 12 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hughes, Hutchinson, Lake, Mellette, Roberts, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 02 Dec - 26 Feb

**Cooper's Hawk** 15 reports across 8 counties (Codington, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Sully) 01 Dec – 26 Feb

**American Goshawk** Only Report: 15 Jan Stanley RDO

**Rough-legged Hawk** 41 reports across 20 counties (6 West River, 6 East River, 8 Missouri River) 09 Dec – 29 Feb

**Ferruginous Hawk** 11 reports across 7 counties (Butte, Custer, Hutchinson, Jackson, Lyman, Pennington, Stanley) 01 Dec – 20 Feb

**Eastern Screech-Owl** 11 reports across 8 counties (Brown, Faulk, Hughes, Jackson, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley, Yankton) 16 Dec – 24 Feb

**Barred Owl** All Reports: 16 Dec Minnehaha CA; 30 Dec Lincoln CA

**Long-eared Owl** 13 reports across 5 counties (Hand, Hughes, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 03 Dec – 21 Feb

**Short-eared Owl** 16 reports across 10 counties (Brown, Butte, Custer, Edmunds, Faulk, Hughes, McPherson, Pennington, Spink, Stanley) 01 Dec – 29 Feb including **03 Jan Spink MMM (first county record)**

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** 16 reports across 6 counties (Codington, Douglas, Lincoln, Stanley, Sully, Yankton) 07 Dec - 29 Feb including **22 Dec Codington CA (first county record)**

**Belted Kingfisher** 23 reports across 5 counties (Hughes, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 26 Feb

**Lewis's Woodpecker** Only Report: 20 Feb Meade ND

**Red-headed Woodpecker** All Reports: 18-22 Jan Stanley RDO

**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: 22 Dec Roberts CV; 23 Dec Roberts CA; 30 Dec Lincoln CA

**Merlin** 19 reports across 9 counties (Brown, Codington, Edmunds, Faulk, Hughes, Minnehaha, Stanley, Sully, Turner) 02 Dec – 28 Feb

**Gyrfalcon** All Reports: **18 Dec Mellette RDO (first county record)**; 04 Jan Stanley RDO

**Prairie Falcon** 10 reports across 8 counties (Charles Mix, Faulk, Harding, Hughes, Lyman, Pennington, Stanley, Sully) 17 Dec – 25 Feb

**Northern Shrike** 27 reports across 12 counties (Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Deuel, Faulk, Hughes, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley, Sully) 01 Dec – 19 Feb

**Canada Jay** All Reports: 24 Feb Lawrence ND; 26 Feb Pennington ND

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

**Black-billed Magpie** 14 reports across 8 counties (Custer, Fall River, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Sully) 30 Dec – 29 Feb

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** 10 reports across 6 counties (Brown, Douglas, Hughes, Lincoln, Stanley, Yankton) 14 Dec – 05 Feb

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** 33 reports across 9 counties (Brown, Codington, Edmunds, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, Stanley, Tripp) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

**Pygmy Nuthatch** 6 reports from 1 county (Pennington) 01 Dec – 25 Feb

**Brown Creeper** 32 reports across 10 counties (Brown, Charles Mix, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley, Yankton) 01 Dec – 26 Feb

**Carolina Wren** All Reports: 30 Dec Lincoln CA; 01 Jan Lincoln CA

**American Dipper** Only Report: 09 Feb Lawrence ND

**Eastern Bluebird** All Reports: 30 Dec Jackson ND; 31 Jan Charles Mix RDO; 19 Feb Charles Mix KP

**Townsend's Solitaire** 59 reports across 12 counties (Brown, Codington, Custer, Edmunds, Fall River, Hughes, Jackson, Lincoln, Pennington, Stanley, Sully, Union) 01 Dec – 26 Feb

**Bohemian Waxwing** All Reports: 31 Jan Hand KM; 12 Feb Stanley RDO; 20 Feb Hughes KM

**Pine Grosbeak** 20 reports across 4 counties (Hughes, Stanley, Sully, Union) 06 Dec – 21 Feb

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** Only Report: 28 Feb Pennington RDO

**Purple Finch** 20 reports across 9 counties (Brown, Codington, Edmunds, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Stanley, Union) 02 Dec – 23 Feb

**Common Redpoll** All Reports: 30 Dec Jackson ND; 25 Jan Codington DGP; 26 Jan Lake JSP; 01 Feb Lake JSP

**Red Crossbill** 19 reports across 7 counties (Brown, Custer, Grant, Hughes, Lawrence, Pennington, Stanley) 04 Dec – 28 Feb

**Pine Siskin** 89 reports across 20 counties (5 West River, 7 East River, 8 Missouri River) 01 Dec – 28 Feb

**Lapland Longspur** 13 reports across 9 counties (Charles Mix, Grant, Harding, Hughes, Jackson, Lake, Lyman, Stanley, Yankton) 09 Dec – 17 Feb

**Snow Bunting** 10 reports across 7 counties (Codington, Faulk, Lincoln, Roberts, Stanley, Turner, Union) 28 Dec – 09 Feb

**American Tree Sparrow** 62 reports across 18 counties (2 West River, 8 East River, 8 Missouri River corridor) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

**Fox Sparrow** 8 reports across 5 counties (Brown, Clay, Stanley, Union, Yankton) 02 Dec – 18 Feb

**Dark-eyed Junco** 190 reports across 28 counties (5 West River, 11 East River, 12 Missouri River corridor) 01 Dec – 29 Feb

**Song Sparrow** All Reports: 17 Dec Pennington OCW; 30 Dec Lincoln CA; 05 Jan Hughes KM; 15 Jan Minnehaha CA

**Harris's Sparrow** 20 reports across 8 counties (Brown, Clay, Hughes, Jackson, Lake, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Yankton) 02 Dec – 29 Feb

**White-crowned Sparrow** All Reports: 02 Dec Charles Mix KP; 20 Dec Hughes KM; 05 Jan Hughes KM; 29 Feb Hughes KM

**White-throated Sparrow** All Reports: 03 Dec Stanley KM; 16 Dec Stanley KM; 19 Dec Hughes KM; 04 Jan Stanley KM; 24 Jan – 20 Feb Hughes KM

**Spotted Towhee** All Reports: 01-27 Dec Hughes KM; 24 Feb Charles Mix KP

**Western Meadowlark** 17 reports across 8 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Hughes, Jackson, Lincoln, Stanley, Sully) 09 Dec – 24 Feb

**Red-winged Blackbird** 31 reports across 13 counties (Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Edmunds, Grant, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lake, Meade, Minnehaha, Potter, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 10 Jan

**Brown-headed Cowbird** All Reports: 16 Dec Stanley RDO; 01 Jan Stanley KM; 10 Jan Stanley RDO

**Rusty Blackbird** All Reports: 03 Dec Brookings JSP; 09 Dec Lake JSP; 30 Dec Clay DS

**Common Grackle** All Reports: 04-5 Dec Roberts CV; 12 Dec Stanley RDO; 27 Jan Walworth RDO; 24 Feb Roberts CV

**Great-tailed Grackle** Only Report: 31 Dec Clay DS

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 11 reports across 6 counties (Brown, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley, Yankton) 02 Dec – 11 Jan

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

**Laughing Gull** reported 05-06 Jan Hughes KM, RDO; 07 Jan Stanley KM

**Pinyon Jay** reported 07-17 Jan Walworth KM, RDO

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** reported **17 Jan Edmunds KM, RDO (first county record)**

### Species Expected But Not Reported

Barrow's Goldeneye, Northern Bobwhite (3), Western Grebe, Great Black-backed Gull (2), American White Pelican (2), Snowy Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (3), American Three-toed Woodpecker (2), Black-backed Woodpecker (2), Peregrine Falcon (3), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2), Canyon Wren (2), Winter Wren (3), Marsh Wren (2), Gray Catbird (4), Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch (3), White-winged Crossbill (2), Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird (2), Brewer's Blackbird

### Contributing Observers

CA	Chris Anderson
CLG	Canyon Lake Group
RND	Roger N. Dietrich
ND	Nancy Drilling
BLM	Brennan & Lucious McCullough
MMM	Michael M. Melius
KM	Kenny Miller
GO	Gary Olson
RDO	Ricky D. Olson
OCW	Outdoor Campus West
JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
KP	Kelly M. Preheim
DGP	D. George Prisbe
GJS	Gary & Jan Small
DS	David Swanson
CV	Cheryl Vellenga





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