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SOUTH DAKOTA  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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BIRD



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NOTES

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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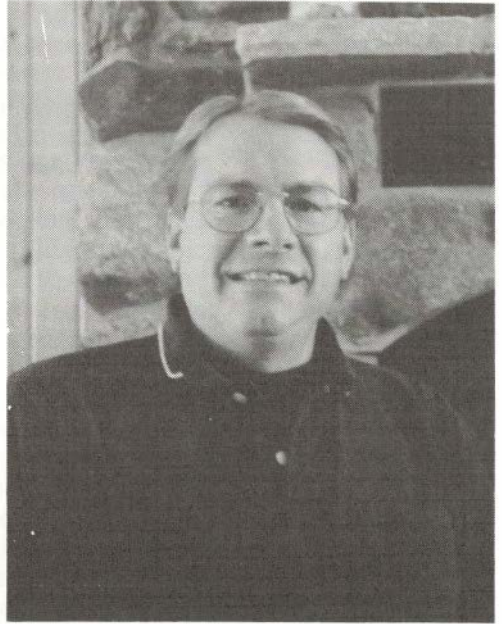
I want to begin my first President's Page by thanking the members of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union for giving me this honor and opportunity. I believe the work done by SDOU is invaluable in determining the current and past status of the birds of South Dakota. Without the work of our organization, few records would exist for the status of nongame birds throughout the state.

County listing is my birding passion. Many of us keep lists of the birds we have seen. Most start with a life list and a state list. The problem with these lists is that they do a poor job documenting the range and migration paths for birds—states are very large areas. My interest has been for smaller lists, particularly a list of all the birds I have seen within my home county, Minnehaha, and in the counties surrounding Minnehaha County. County lists are ideal for documenting birds, because they are small enough to give a relatively specific location for the sighting. County boundaries are well defined and they are used by ornithological organizations for reporting the location of a sighting.

In 1997, I took on a project to determine how many species of birds I could see in Minnehaha County in a calendar year (SDBN 51: 8-13). Over the course of the year I observed 231 species of birds. This total was 97% of all of the species of birds I had seen in Minnehaha up to that time. This list not only shows the diversity of the birds that occur in Minnehaha County, but also shows how regularly most birds occur within the county.

County lists tell us what birds occur commonly within the county and which species are rare. By examining the number of sightings for each species, one can establish how common each species is within Minnehaha. By comparing my Minnehaha County list to the list compiled from other counties, one can establish range and population differences of birds. By comparing these lists to lists that are compiled 100 years from now, the change in bird distribution will be apparent.

The process of county listing can also add to our knowledge by documenting unknown populations of birds. In the attempt to find one more species, a birder starts to look for unusual habitats. This exploration leads to the discovery of isolated populations of species that might be found commonly elsewhere in the state. It also adds to one's personal knowledge of the county and its habitats. The





search for birds documents the outer edges of a bird's range. In order to find more species, birders often talk to one another. If someone else has seen a bird within the county, an attempt to find that species again leads to further documentation. In this fashion, new county records are verified.

I believe one of the values of county lists is that they bring birds home to people. When nonbirders hear that someone has seen 300+ birds in the state, most believe that the birder must have traveled far from home. But, when individuals hear of 200+ birds being seen within their home county, there is a realization that there are a lot of birds to be seen locally. People begin to understand that the habitats near their homes are important and worth preserving and improving.

The SDOU WEB page (<http://www.usd.edu/biol/SDOU>) has county birding life lists, big year and big day records. These records can tell us much about which counties have the most diverse bird life. In the future I would like to see records from every county. It would be great if we had a big day, big year and lifetime record for every county in South Dakota.

The net result of county listing is a person feels that they know the habitats, geography, and bird life well in the county they call home. By documenting birds within the county, and checking on them regularly, one documents changes in bird populations and habitats. I encourage everyone to start a county list; it has one more attribute—county lists are a lot of fun! *Robb Schenck, 422 N Linwood Ct., Sioux Falls, SD 57103.*

## **A SIGNIFICANT BREEDING RANGE EXTENSION OF THE CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: A FIRST CONFIRMED BREEDING RECORD FOR SOUTH DAKOTA**

Doug Backlund

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
523 E Capitol, Foss Bldg., Pierre, SD 57501

Of the four species of Caprimulgidae known to occur in South Dakota, the Chuck-will's-widow is the rarest and the most enigmatic. The species has been reported from only two locations. The first state record was from Brookings County on 1 June 1967 and was based on a single bird heard calling for a few minutes (Holden and Holden, 1968). Chuck-will's-widows have also been reported from the cottonwood forests below Oahe Dam in Stanley County. Here, the species was reported three consecutive years from 1986 to 1988. In 1987 a Chuck-will's-widow was present from 13 June until early August (SDOU, 1991).

On 16 May 2000, Jeff Palmer and Robb Schenck reported hearing a Chuck-will's-widow below Oahe Dam. This species being a life bird for me, I went to the area that evening and also heard the singing Chuck-will's-widow. The next day I returned and searched the woods in the area, hoping to flush a bird or possibly find a nest, but had no success. Later that week, Rick Olson heard a Chuck-will's-widow calling from a nearby shelterbelt. We also checked

that area for birds or a nest with no luck. On several nights in June, we were unable to locate the singing male. We assumed it was a misplaced, non-breeding bird and that it had left the area.

However, on 4 July, my sister, Susan Leach, and Chuck and Myrtle Backlund were birding the Cottonwood Trail, about 0.20 miles east of the two locations where the male Chuck-will's-widow had been heard in May. Susan spotted two Chuck-will's-widows and the group was subsequently treated to several good views of the birds, obviously agitated and protective of a nest or young. Later that afternoon, they told me what they had seen and that they thought the birds were Chuck-will's-widows. With much anticipation, we returned to the site. The birds were still present and both adults began flying around the area giving guttural, grunting calls. A little more searching and we found one dependent, fledged bird capable of short flights of about 50 feet. This young bird was displaying a defensive posture of spread wings and fanned tail (see cover). Young are reported to be capable of flight at 16 to 17 days and able to forage independently at around 30 days of age (Straight and Cooper 2000). This bird was probably hatched between 4 June and 18 June, more likely closer to the later date. Incubation period is 20 to 21 days, which would place egg laying in late May.

On the evening of 5 July, I returned to the site. Just at dark, the male began singing. I approached the site where we had seen the young bird and the male switched to the grunting alarm call until I passed, then resumed the song. Males reportedly discontinue singing after the young hatch and then resume singing as migration approaches (Straight and Cooper 2000). This reported cessation of singing seemed to hold true, since we had not heard the bird for several weeks.

A rare bird report has been submitted to the South Dakota Rare Birds Record Committee, including video of all three birds. If accepted, this will be the first confirmed breeding record of the Chuck-will's-widow in South Dakota.

The reports from the 1980's indicate possible breeding of Chuck-will's-widows in the Oahe Dam area prior to the current breeding record. I suspect that this species has been nesting for many years in the Oahe Dam area and probably elsewhere in the state. Nocturnal, cryptic species are easily overlooked. In the case of Chuck-will's-widow, birders not familiar with these species may misidentify the birds or their calls as Whip-poor-wills. Range maps in field guides would support misidentifications. According to current field guides and *The Birds of North America* monograph (Straight and Cooper 2000) the nearest breeding records are in northeast Kansas and extreme southeast Iowa. However, John Dinan, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, provided the following information about Chuck-will's-widows' breeding records in Nebraska. There is a 1983 nest record for Saunders County, in east central Nebraska. This nest was discovered on the lower Platte River, in a bur oak woodland. The soon to be published Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas (Mollhoff, in press) reports four possible and four probable breeding records for Chuck-will's-widows during the atlas period. Seven of the breeding records were in southeast Nebraska. One record was near the Missouri River in Dakota County, in northeast Nebraska.

The breeding range is expanding north and west (Straight and Cooper 2000). South Dakota birders should expect more opportunities to see and hear Chuck-will's-widows in the coming years.

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## GENERAL NOTES

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**USE OF THE ARIKARA WETLAND PROJECT (HUGHES COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA) BY MIGRANT FALL SHOREBIRDS AND OTHER WETLAND-DEPENDENT BIRDS.** The Arikara Wetland Project is jointly funded by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and a grant to Ducks Unlimited from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Other partners that contributed to the project include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lower Brule Wildlife Enterprises, Delta Waterfowl, and the High Plains Wildlife Association. Eighty-three acres of wetland habitat were created, including 20 acres of seasonal and temporary wetland and 63 acres of semi-permanent wetland. The semi-permanent wetland is designed to be drought proof. The project design includes the capability to pump water from Lake Sharpe into the semi-permanent wetland during drought conditions. Construction of the Arikara Wetland Project was completed in 1996. Located on the south side of Highway 34, eleven miles east of the intersection of the truck-by-pass and Highway 34 in Pierre, the project lies between the DM&E railroad right-of-way and Lake Sharpe. The legal location is T110N R77W, Sec. 16 SW4, Sec. 17 SE4, and N2 of Sec. 20 and 21.

The primary function of the Arikara Wetland Project is waterfowl production, but many other species have benefited from the project. Prior to construction of the wetlands, the habitat was grassland, consisting primarily of the introduced, exotic grass species Smooth Brome and Crested Wheatgrass. The soils are heavy clay and are not suitable for tree planting. However, the heavy clay soil does hold standing water very well. Slowly falling water levels in late summer result in a large mud flat forming on the north side of the semi-permanent wetland. During the fall of 2000, we documented the use of this wetland project by 21 species of shorebirds. The project should continue to be an excellent habitat for shorebirds during migration, since the wetland is designed to be drought proof.

From 13 August to 18 September 2000, we frequently checked the mudflats of the semi-permanent wetland, identifying shorebirds and other wetland-dependent birds. We estimated the highest one-day abundance category of shorebirds or noted exact counts on some species. Table 1 lists the shorebird species and estimated highest abundance category.

Other wetland-dependent species we have observed using the project habitats include Western Grebes, Pied-billed Grebes, White-faced Ibis, Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Egrets, American Bitterns, Black Terns, Forester's Terns, American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, American Pipits, Ring-billed Gulls, and Franklin's Gulls.

**Table 1.** Shorebirds identified at the Arikara Wetland Project from 13 August to 18 September 2000. Highest one-day abundance is estimated in three categories (<10, 10-100, >100) or reported as actual numbers seen.

species	abundance
American Avocet	<10
American Golden Plover	<10
Baird's Sandpiper	10-100
Black-bellied Plover	<10
Common Snipe	<10
Dowitcher sp.	10-100
Dunlin	<10
Greater Yellowlegs	10-100
Killdeer	>100
Least Sandpiper	10-100
Lesser Yellowlegs	10-100
Marbled Godwit	<10
Pectoral Sandpiper	10-100
Piping Plover	1
Red Knot	3
Ruff	1
Sanderling	<10
Semipalmated Plover	10-100
Semipalmated Sandpiper	10-100
Stilt Sandpiper	10-100
Wilson's Phalarope	<10

In addition to the species mentioned above, many passerines, ducks, geese and raptors utilize the project's various habitats. The location adjacent to the Missouri River probably serves to concentrate shorebirds and other wetland-dependent birds migrating along the river. Birders visiting the Pierre area will want to make the Arikara Wetland Project a regular birding stop. *Doug Backlund, SD Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks, 523 E. Capitol-Foss Bldg., Pierre, S.D. 57501, Kenny Miller, 812 Harney Ct., Pierre, SD 57501 and Ricky Olson, PO Box 622, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532.*





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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**SWIFTS. A GUIDE TO THE SWIFTS AND TREESWIFTS OF THE WORLD. SECOND EDITION.** 2000. Phil Chantler. Yale University Press, New Haven. Hardbound, 272 pp, \$40.00.

Swifts are wondrous birds, but a whole book devoted to them? This book contains two major parts: 24 plates of small, dusky or black birds, occasionally with a splash of white here or there, followed by accounts of the world's swift species. Each account includes a species description, with maps, distribution, migration, and habitats. Elegant pen and ink drawings, showing various aspect of swift plumages, anatomies, or nests, are provided. For example, two Vaux's Swifts are shown, one with the tail spread, the other unspread. Several species have drawings of feet, showing taxonomic differences (though seldom have I seen a swift foot in the field).

A short introduction covers such topics as taxonomy, breeding behavior, ecology, molt, anatomy, conservation, and a short discussion of the possibility of the existence of undescribed swift specie. The book ends with a lengthy bibliography.

Because the book lacks photographs, I would recommend that you save your money for any of the various volumes of the monumental *Handbook to the Birds of the World*. On the other hand, the book undoubtedly would be a welcome edition to any university or regional library or for researchers with a particular interest in swifts. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*

**BIRDING IN THE AMERICAN WEST.** 2000. Kevin J. Zimmer. Cornell University Press, Ithaca. Softbound 402 pp, \$25.00.

South Dakota birders will enjoy this book. The main section of the book provides pointers for identifying difficult western birds. Most of these accounts are relevant to South Dakota. Examples include differentiating loon species, Clark's and Western Grebes, immature night-herons, Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, geese, female teal, scaup, female mergansers and goldeneyes, various raptors, shorebirds, jaegers, gulls, hummingbirds, sapsuckers, various flycatchers, female bluebirds, pipits, wing-barred vireos, Baird's, Savannah, Brewer's, Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows, winter longspurs, meadowlarks, red finches, and redpolls.

Most of this information is augmented in other birding texts. One thing that sets this book apart is a final chapter on finding western specialties. Those birders building life lists will appreciate directions to finding over 275 western "target" species. These birds are chosen because of their western ranges, some common, others quite rare. For example, directions for finding Three-toed Woodpeckers are given for eleven states, including South Dakota ("Harney Peak and burn areas anywhere in the Black Hills"). Nat Whitney is mentioned in the acknowledgments and presumably was an important source of information for our state. Do you want to see a particular bird during a western vacation—say a Yellow-billed Loon or a South Polar Skua? I would recommend a quick look in this book first.

The beginning of the book is of less interest for the intermediate to advanced



birder, who will already know techniques for finding and identifying birds. Of interest here are rare bird alert telephone numbers for western states. Addresses for finding boats for pelagic trips will also help birders searching for seabirds. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*

**THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS.** 2000. David Allen Sibley. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Softbound 544 pp, \$35.00.

This field guide to North American birds is essential for all birders. It surpasses all others on the market and is well worth the expense. Because of the variety of plumages illustrated, this book represents a quantum leap beyond other guides. The price may take some birders aback, but bargains can be found with some aggressive comparative shopping.

The advantages of the book are many. Most of the illustrations are superb and are in themselves elegant works of art. Sibley is an excellent birder. Peterson-like arrows connect written explanations to birds' features and the variety of plumages illustrated. An example is the page with six variations of House Wrens—compare that to four in the National Geographic guide. There are 41 Red-tailed Hawks illustrated—compared to six in the Geographic guide. Gulls, shorebirds and warblers all stand out as excellent. I thought the Geographic guide was the best on the market, but now it is a distant second. This variety of plumages may seem bewildering to a novice birder, who might be more comfortable with a Peterson guide. But I think the novice has a better chance of making a correct identification with the Sibley book.

The disadvantages are few. The book is hardly pocket-sized and, consequently, the birder needs a backpack or belt pouch to lug it around. However, size is a small price to pay for the variety of plumages illustrated. Second, the color register in my copy seems a bit off for the reddish-browns. This flaw is more annoying than truly serious. In my opinion, the worst example is the Brown Thrasher, with an unearthly orangish color. Many of the other reddish-browns seem off register, like the stripes on male Yellow Warblers or the reddish wings of some doves and flycatchers. The green back of the fall-plumaged Chestnut-sided Warbler is not the correct color. As I used the book, however, I was less offended by these colors (though I noticed them again when I picked up a fresh copy at a bookstore, so there may be some variation among books.) Missing is any comment of relative abundance of species, which seems to me something that should be taken into account of when identifying unknown birds.

In my opinion, the maps are the book's weakest point. The range maps are a bit small and ranges of birds with limited distributions, like bulbuls, are sometimes hard to find on the maps. Most seriously, the range maps contain little green dots that represent rare occurrence. As explained on the cover flap (there is no explanation of the maps in the book's introduction), "these dots are included to show broad patterns of occurrence, not necessarily precise details of rare records." The results are misleading maps. Why do some states have a bunch of dots, while others have but one? I do not know why a dot occurs in the middle of South Dakota for the range of Violet-green Swallows. There seems to be no consistent criterion for a dot's location on a map. Sometimes the dots are close to where rare birds have been seen in a state, but often they are not. At worst, a few West River birds have inaccurate maps. Dippers and nutcrackers are not shown to breed in South Dakota, South Polar Skuas are shown to occur here.

There is no green dot to indicate Green-tailed Towhees have occurred in South Dakota.

I field-tested this book last fall with my ornithology class, and in every case, this guide passed with flying colors. Female Common Yellowthroats are much better illustrated here than in the National Geographic guide. Juvenile Spotted Towhees are probably unidentifiable with National Geographic. For that matter, all sparrows and finches are superior in the Sibley guide. I don't think a female Ruby-crowned Kinglet is identifiable with the Geographic book. The golden edges of the wings are not shown. (How quickly we forget what it was like to be beginners.)

There is room for improvement in the Sibley guide—the illustrations are a little small for my old eyes. Since the book is already large for the field, I would suggest increasing the size by one inch all the way around (and/or attack the layout so pictures could be slightly larger). The maps need work. Thus, I already look forward to a second edition. But, meanwhile, this book will be my personal guide in the field and for my ornithology students in the future. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*



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## SEASONAL REPORTS

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### The 2000 Summer Season: 1 June 2000 to 31 July 2000

Compiled by Robert F. Schenck  
422 N Linwood Court, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Statewide temperatures were more than one degree cooler than normal for June, with July having temperatures averaging more than one degree above normal. June received 1.4" more precipitation than normal, with July having near normal precipitation. This report includes 115 confirmed breeding records. The average for 1995-99 is 98 confirmed breeding records. 241 species were reported, which compares to the five-year average of 239. Thanks to those who braved the hot South Dakota summer to produce these records. All confirmed breeding records submitted are included. Those breeding records representing a first for the county according to *The South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas* or the 1995-99 Summer Season Reports of *Bird Notes* are highlighted. Observations of birds within established breeding ranges as defined by *The Birds of South Dakota* were omitted. Records outside the normal breeding range are included. Sightings that would have been included in the last edition of *The Birds of South Dakota* are highlighted.

**Common Loon** Only Report: 12 Jul Day WS; 25 Jul Stanley RDO

**Pied-billed Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Meade (20) (ON) APB; 16 Jun Potter (ON) SVS;  
21 Jun Meade (Sevey Lake) (PY) APB; 22 Jun Brown (PY) KBA; 02 Jul Meade (ON) APB

**Red-necked Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 08 Jul Day (PY) KBA ... also reported 01 Jun Marshall WS

**Eared Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Meade (75+) (ON) JLB; 21 Jun Meade (Sevey Lake) (ON) APB; 08 Jul Marshall (PY) KBA

**Western Grebe** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Brown, 08 Jul Marshall (PY) KBA; 06 Jul Clark, 24 Jul Brown (CF) JCS; 29 Jul Clark (PY) JSP ... also reported from Charles Mix, Kingsbury, Fall River, Meade, Miner and Pennington counties.

**Clark's Grebe** Confirmed breeding: 22 Jun Brown (PY) KBA

**American White Pelican** Confirmed breeding: 22 Jun Day (ON) KBA ... also reported from Bon

Homme, Brookings, Charles Mix, Hamlin, Miner and Sully counties.  
**Double-crested Cormorant** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Beadle, Hughes (NY) PFS; 16 Jun Corson (ON) SVS; 22 Jun Day (ON) KBA ... also reported from Brookings, Lake Meade, Miner and Moody counties.  
**Least Bittern** Reported from Brown, Clark and Hughes counties.  
**Great Blue Heron** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Hughes (NY) PFS; 03 Jul Hughes (NY) RDO; 10 Jul Pennington (NY) MMM  
**Great Egret** Confirmed breeding: 22 Jun Brown (ON) KBA ... also reported from Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Miner and Sanborn counties.  
**Little Blue Heron** Reported from Brown County.  
**Tricolored Heron** All Reports: 24 Jun Clark JSP, RFS; 15 Jul (Hecla) Brown RDO  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Confirmed breeding: 22 Jun Brown (ON) KBA ... also reported from Meade county.  
**White-faced Ibis** Confirmed breeding: 22 Jun Brown (ON) KBA ... also reported from Cambell and Stanley counties.  
**Turkey Vulture** Reported from Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Davison, Minnehaha, Roberts Spink and Sully counties.  
**Snow Goose** All Reports: 03 Jun, 07 Jul (Onida) Sully RDO; 15 Jun Hamlin (1), 16 Jun Beadle (1) PFS; 17 Jun Lake, 24 Jun Brown JSP; 24 Jun Miner (10) RGR  
**Canada Goose** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Meade (FL) MMM; 10 Jun Lake (PY) JSP; 15 Jun Kingsbury (PY) PFS; 16 Jun Meade (FL) JLB  
**Wood Duck** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Brown (FL) JCS; 17 Jun Ziebach (FL) MMM; 17 Jun Pennington (PY) PFS; 12 Jul Meade (FL) JLB  
**Gadwall** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Meade (Sevey Lake) (PY) APB; 25 Jul Marshall (NE) WS  
**American Widgeon** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Pennington (PY) JLB; 07 Jul Brown (PY) KBA ... also reported from Butte, Custer, Hamlin, Meade, Perkins, Stanley and Yankton counties.  
**Mallard** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Brown (PY) JCS; 15 Jun Hamlin (PY) PFS; 16 Jun Meade (FL) JLB; 17 Jul Custer (FL) KH  
**Blue-winged Teal** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Meade (PY) EEM  
**Cinnamon Teal** All Reports: 15 Jun (Sevey Lake) Meade (3) JLB; 29 Jun (Sevey Lake) Meade (1) APB  
**Northern Shoveler** Confirmed Breeding: 19 Jun Day (PY) WS; 12 Jul Meade (FL) JLB  
**Northern Pintail** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Meade (PY) EEM  
**Green-winged Teal** All Reports: 07 Jul Meade JLB; 29 Jun Meade APB  
**Canvasback** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jul Brown (FL) JCS ... also reported from Meade county.  
**Redhead** Confirmed breeding: 07 Jul Brown (PY) KBA  
**Ringed-necked Duck** Reported: 15 Jun Meade (5) JLB  
**Common Merganser** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Pennington (FL) JLB ... also reported from Fall River, Lawrence and Meade counties.  
**Ruddy Duck** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Brown (FL) JCS ... also reported from Bon Homme county.  
**Osprey** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun (ON), 01 Jul (NY) Pactola Dam TBW; 02 Jun Pennington (ON) JLB; 21 Jun Pennington MMM; 27 Jul Pactola Dam (NY) KH ... also reported 05 Jun Hill City (2), 13 Jun Bismark Lake (1) KH;  
**Bald Eagle** Confirmed Breeding: 20 Jul Roberts (FL-2), 25 Jul Roberts (2) (FL-2) WS ... also reported 19 Jul Charles Mix (8) RM  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Reported: 05 Jun Custer SVS; 06 Jun Custer (1) KH  
**Cooper's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 23 Jul Pennington (FL) TBW ... also reported from Day, Custer and Marshall counties.  
**Northern Goshawk** Reported from Pennington County.  
**Broad-winged Hawk** Reported from: 02 Jun Pennington JLB; 20 Jul Meade (2 im. & 1 ad. in trees) REP  
**Swainson's Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Potter (ON) MMM  
**Red-tailed Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Brown (CF) JCS  
**Ferruginous Hawk** Confirmed Breeding: Perkins (2) (PY) DCG  
**Golden Eagle** Confirmed breeding: 27 Jun Fall River (ON) KBA  
**American Kestrel** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Oahe Dam (CN) JCS  
**Merlin** Confirmed Breeding: 24 Jul Meade (FY) REP  
**Peregrine Falcon** Only Report: 03 Jun Brown RDO  
**Gray Partridge** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Meade (PY) EEM ... also reported Lawrence county.

**Ringed-necked Pheasant** Confirmed Breeding: 05 Jun Brown (PY) SLS; 22 Jun Meade (PY) EEM; 28 Jul Brown (FL) JCS

**Sage Grouse** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Harding (PY) Kenny Miller

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Stanley (FL) JCS; 30 Jun Brown (PY) SLS

**Wild Turkey** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jun Meade (PY) APB; 24 Jul Pennington (FL) TBW; Jul Custer (FL) KH

**American Coot** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Brown (PY) SLS; 13 Jun Day (PY) WS; 16 Jun Dewey (ON) SVS

**Black-bellied Plover** Only Report: 22 Jun, 07 Jul Brown (1) KBA

**American Golden-Plover** Only Report: 22 Jun (3), 01 Jul (4) Brown KBA

**Semipalmated Plover** All Reports: 07 Jul Brown (1) KBA; 23 Jul Yankton SVS; 29 Jul Brown (2) DS, DT; 29 Jul Kingsbury JSP; 30 Jul Union (2) BH

**Piping Plover** All Reports: 19 Jul Charles Mix RM; 30 Jul Union (2 ad.) BH; 31 Jul Yankton (3) SVS

**Killdeer** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jun Custer (FL) MMM

**American Avocet** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jul (12) (ON) Faulk MMM; 06 Jul Clark (FL) JCS; 07 Jul Brown (PY) KBA

**Greater Yellowlegs** Reported: 16 Jun Hughes JCS; 22 Jun, 01 Jul Brown and 07 Jul Marshall KBA; 24 Jun Miner (32) RGR; 25 Jun & 08 Jul Union, 06 Jul Yankton SVS; 07 Jul Meade JLB; 15 Jul Brown RDO; 16 Jul Spink, 29 Jul Clark JSP

**Lesser Yellowlegs** All Reports: 22 Jun Turner SVS; 22 Jun (385), 01 Jul (142), 07 Jul (196), Brown 07 Jul (210) Marshall KBA; 24 Jun Brown, 08 Jul Miner JSP; 07 Jul Meade JLB; 15 Jul Sully RDO; 23, 31 Jul Yankton SVS

**Solitary Sandpiper** Only Report: 08 Jul Miner, 29 Jul Clark JSP

**Willet** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jun Day (PY) KBA; 27 Jun Brown (PY) SLS

**Upland Sandpiper** Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jul Pennington (FL) MMM

**Long-billed Curlew** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Meade (PY) EEM

**Marbled Godwit** Reported: 16 Jun (1), 07 Jul (3) Meade JLB ... also reported in Lyman and Stanley counties.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** All Reports: 03 Jun, 29 Jul Kingsbury JSP; 23, 31 Jul Yankton SVS

**Least Sandpiper** All Reports: 24 Jun Miner (1) RGR; 24 Jun Brown JSP; 01 Jul Brown (13) KBA; 08 Jul Union SVS; 11 Jul Meade JLB; 22 Jul Lake JSP

**White-rumped Sandpiper** All Reports: 03 Jun Hughes RDO; 03 Jun Kingsbury JSP; 04 Jun Sanborn (200) RGR; 12 Jun Yankton SVS; 22 Jun Brown (2) KBA

**Baird's Sandpiper** All Reports: 23 Jul Sully RDO; 29 Jul Kingsbury JSP

**Pectoral Sandpiper** All Reports: 12 Jun Yankton SVS; 18 Jul Meade RAS; 22 Jul Lake JSP; 23, 31 Jul Yankton SVS

**Stilt Sandpiper** All Reports: 01 Jul Brown (7), 07 Jul Marshall (1) KBA; 08 Jul Miner JSP; 30 Jul Bon Homme SVS

**Short-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 22 Jun (2), 01 Jul (6), 07 Jul (2) Brown KBA; 06 Jul Yankton SVS; 18 Jul Meade RAS

**Long-billed Dowitcher** All Reports: 15 Jun Meade (1) JLB; 24 Jun Miner RGR

**Common Snipe** Reported from Brown, Custer, Dewey, Grant, Meade, Pennington, Perkins and Roberts counties.

**American Woodcock** Only Report: 16 Jul Hughes RDO

**Wilson's Phalarope** Confirmed Breeding: Perkins (ON) DCG

**Ring-billed Gull** Confirmed breeding: 22 Jun Day (PY) (500 ad.) KBA ... also reported from Brown, Butte, Charles Mix, Clark, Hughes, Kingsbury and Lake counties.

**California Gull** Confirmed breeding: 22 Jun Day (PY) (12 ad.) KBA ... also reported from Hughes and Stanley counties.

**Herring Gull** Only Report: 05 Jun Stanley (2) RDO

**Caspian Tern** Confirmed breeding: 22 Jun Day (ON) (2 pr.) KBA ... also reported 15 Jun (US 81 east of Hayti) PFS; 24 Jun Brown JSP, RFS; 02 Jun Hughes RBA; 11 Jul (Sevey Lake) Meade (1) JLB; 21 Jul Yankton SVS

**Least Tern** All Reports: 18 Jun Sully RDO; 19 Jul Charles Mix RM; 30 Jul Union (2 ad. 2 juv. 1?) BH; 31 Jul Yankton SVS

**Mourning Dove** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Pennington (ON) PFS; 30 Jun Pennington (ON) TBW; 01 Jul Mellette (NE) KH

**Burrowing Owl** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jul Meade (PY) EEM; 28 Jul Custer (FL) MMM ... also reported from Butte, Custer, Dewey, Hughes and Meade counties.

**Short-eared Owl** Reported from Corson, Dewey, Perkins, Stanley, and Ziebach counties.



**Common Nighthawk** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jul Custer (NY) RAP  
**Common Poorwill** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Harding (PY) Kenny Miller  
**Chuck-will's-widow** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jun Stanley DS, EL; 07 Jul Stanley (FL) RDO ...  
 also reported 07 Jul Stanley RDO  
**Whip-poor-will** Reported: 04 Jun Stanley RDO; Jun 17 Charles Mix RM  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Reported from Charles Mix County.  
**Belted Kingfisher** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Pennington (CF) JLB; 10 Jun Perkins (ON)  
 DCG  
**Red-headed Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Oahe Dam (CN), 11 Jul Oahe Dam (CF)  
 JCS; 30 Jun Pennington (CF) TBW  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker** Reported: 17 Jun Haakon PFS  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Deuel (ON) PFS  
**Red-naped Sapsucker** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Custer (NY) SS; 09 Jul (NY), (CF) Penning-  
 ton MMM  
**Downy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 18 Jun Meade (NY) REP; 02 Jul Pennington (CF)  
 TBW  
**Hairy Woodpecker** Confirmed Breeding: 26 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW; 21 Jul Custer (FY) KH  
**Three-toed Woodpecker** Reported from Lawrence and Pennington counties.  
**Northern Flicker** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Oahe Dam (CN) JCS; 24 Jun Pennington (FY)  
 TBW; 24 Jun Brookings (FY) KIE  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher** All Reports: 11 Jul Butte RAS  
**Least Flycatcher** Reported from Lawrence and Perkins counties.  
**Dusky Flycatcher** Confirmed Breeding: 07 Jul Custer (NY) RAP; 30 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB  
**Cordilleran Flycatcher** Reported: 17 Jun Butte RAS; 30 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB  
**Say's Phoebe** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Custer (NY) RAP  
**Western Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Oahe Dam (NB) JCS; 03 Jul Brookings (ON) BH  
**Eastern Kingbird** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Oahe Dam (NB) JCS; 17 Jun Faulk (ON) MMM;  
 27 Jul Pennington (NE) JLB; Clay (2) (ON) DG, DS  
**Warbling Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 30 Jun Custer (ON) RAP; 18 Jul Sica Hollow (FY) JCS  
**Red-eyed Vireo** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jul Butte (ON) RAS; 18 Jul Sica Hollow (FY) JCS; 31  
 Jul Yankton (FY) SVS  
**Blue Jay** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW; 30 Jul Brookings (FY) KIE  
**Black-billed Magpie** Confirmed Breeding: 12 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW  
**Purple Martin** Confirmed Breeding: 03 Jul Brookings (PR) BH  
**Tree Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Pennington (CF) TBW; 02 Jun Pennington (ON) JLB;  
 04 Jun Meade (NE) EEM  
**Violet-green Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Pennington (ON) TBW  
**Cliff Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: 29 Jul Yankton (ON) SVS  
**Barn Swallow** Confirmed Breeding: Jun Custer (NY) KH;  
**Black-capped Chickadee** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jun Pennington (NY) JLB; 17 Jun Pennington  
 (FY) TBW  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW  
**White-breasted Nuthatch** Confirmed Breeding: 27 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW  
**Brown Creeper** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Meade (FY) REP  
**Rock Wren** Reported: 25 Jun Hughes RDO  
**House Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Beadle (ON) PFS; 19 Jul Butte (FY) RAS; 30 Jul  
 Brown (FL) JCS  
**Marsh Wren** Confirmed Breeding: 25 Jul Brown (CF) JCS  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** All Reports: 06 Jun Lincoln JSP, RFS; 31 Jul Yankton SVS  
**Eastern Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Pennington (ON) TBW; 07 Jul Meade (NE) APB  
**Mountain Bluebird** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun, 23 Jul Pennington (ON) TBW; 03 Jun Custer  
 (CF) JCS; 04 Jul Mellette (NY) KH; 18 Jun Harding (NY) Kenny Miller  
**Townsend's Solitaire** Confirmed Breeding: 21 Jun Meade (ON) (NE) REP  
**Veery** Reported: 15 Jun Oahe Dam JCS  
**Wood Thrush** Reported: 02 Jul Hughes RDO  
**American Robin** Confirmed Breeding: 10 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW; 11 Jun Pennington (FY)  
 JLB; 15 Jun Deuel (FL) PFS; 22 Jun Yankton (NE) SVS; 27 Jul Meade (CF) JLB; Clay (13)  
 (ON) DG, DS  
**Gray Catbird** Confirmed Breeding: 22 Jul Clay (ON) DG, DS; 27 Jul Codrington (FY) JCS; 27  
 Jun Brookings (FY) KIE  
**Northern Mockingbird** Only Report: 09 Jul Hughes (2) RDO

**Sage Thrasher** Only Report: 20 Jun Fall River (7 miles west of Edgemont) (1) PFS  
**Brown Thrasher** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Oahe Dam (CF) JCS; Clay (ON) DG, DS; 20 Jun Brookings (FY) KIE  
**European Starling** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Deuel (CN) PFS  
**Sprague's Pipit** All Reports: 02 Jun Perkins (3) DS, EL; 18 Jun Harding RBA; 29 Jul (Sulfur Creek) Meade (1) REP; 22, 31 Jul Perkins (Grand River National Grassland, Pasture #7, NE of Shadehill, also Pasture #3b, S of Hettinger) (many) DCG  
**Cedar Waxwing** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Oahe Dam (CF) JCS  
**Tennessee Warbler** All Reports: 01 Jun Perkins DS, EL  
**Virginia's Warbler** All Reports: 02 Jun Custer (3) JLB; 05 Jun Custer (3) SVS  
**Yellow Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Fall River (fledged Brown-headed Cowbird only) RAP; 11 Jul Oahe Dam (CF), **18 Jul Sica Hollow (FY)**, **26 Jul Codington (CN) JCS**  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jul Pennington (FY) TBW; 30 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB  
**American Redstart** Confirmed Breeding: **28 Jun Sica Hollow (CF) JCS**  
**Common Yellowthroat** Confirmed Breeding: **18 Jul Sica Hollow (FY) JCS**  
**Western Tanager** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Custer (ON) RAP; 16 Jul Pennington (FY) TBW  
**Spotted Towhee** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Oahe Dam (CF) JCS; 25 Jul Pennington (FY) TBW ... also reported from Butte, Charles Mix, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Meade, Mellette, Pennington and Stanley counties.  
**Eastern Towhee** Reported from Lincoln and Yankton counties.  
**Chipping Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Brown (CF) JCS; **16 Jun Faulk (FL) MMM**; 17 Jun Pennington (CN) JLB; 18 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW; 19 Jun Meade (NY) REP; 11 Jul Oahe Dam (FY) JCS  
**Clay-colored Sparrow** Reported from Faulk and Jerauld counties.  
**Brewer's Sparrow** Only Report: 18 Jun Harding RBA  
**Field Sparrow** Reported from Perkins County.  
**Lark Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: **01 Jul Mellette (NE) KH**; 27 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB  
**Lark Bunting** Confirmed Breeding: 04 Jul Folsom (NY) MMM ... also reported from Butte, Campbell, Custer, Harding, Meade, Perkins, Pennington and Stanley counties. Good nesting success Perkins and Harding DCG.  
**Savannah Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: **13 Jun Faulk (CF) MMM**  
**Baird's Sparrow** Reported from McPherson and Perkins counties.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: **03 Jul Brookings (PR) BH**; 27 Jul Pennington (CF) JLB  
**Le Conte's Sparrow** Reported from Brown and McPherson counties.  
**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** All Reports: 22 Jun Brown (1) SLS; 23 Jun McPherson, 08 Jul Brown & Marshall KBA; 15 Jul Brown RDO  
**Song Sparrow** Confirmed Breeding: **14 Jun Meade (FY) EEM**; 14 Jun Faulk (NE-3) MMM  
**Harris's Sparrow** Only Report: 10, 15 Jul Charles Mix RM  
**Dark-eyed Junco** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Meade (NE) JLB; 18 Jun Custer (FY) PFS; 24 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW  
**Chestnut-collared Longspur** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Perkins (4) (NE) DS, EL  
**Northern Cardinal** Confirmed Breeding: **30 Jul Yankton (FY) SVS**  
**Black-headed Grosbeak** Confirmed Breeding: 15 Jun Oahe Dam (CF) JCS; 15 Jun Meade (ON) EEM; 20 Jun Fall River (FY) PFS; 19 Jul Butte (FY) RAS; 26 Jul Pennington (FY) TBW; 15 Jun Oahe Dam (CF) JCS; 15 Jun Meade (ON) EEM ... also reported from Charles Mix county.  
**Blue Grosbeak** All Reports: 24 Jun Sully SS ... also reported from Custer, Dewey, Hutchinson Jerauld, Pennington, Stanley, Sully and Yankton counties.  
**Dickcissel** Reported as an invasion year Perkins and Harding (~2000) DCG  
**Bobolink** Confirmed Breeding: 11 Jul Meade (CF) JLB ... also 04 Jun Fall River (first in many years) RAP  
**Western Meadowlark** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Pennington (CF) JLB; 06 Jun (NE-5), 10 Jun (NE-5), 04 Jul (FL-3) Folsom MMM  
**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: **17 Jun Ziebach (FL) MMM**  
**Common Grackle** Confirmed Breeding: 01 Jun Custer (CF) JLB; 10 Jun Yankton (NE) SVS; 16 Jun Hand (CF) PFS; 17 Jun Haakon (FL) PFS  
**Great-Tailed Grackle** Only Report: June Clay DS, PFS  
**Brewer's Blackbird** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Meade (CF) JLB 29 Jul Pennington (FY) TBW  
**Brown-headed Cowbird** Confirmed Breeding: 02 Jul Fall River (NY) RAP; 16 Jul Pennington

(FY) TBW; 31 Jul Yankton (FY) SVS;

**Orchard Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 14 Jun Faulk (NE-5) MMM; Clay (4) (ON) DG, DS;

**Baltimore Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: Clay (2) (ON) DG, DS ... also reported from Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Day, Deuel, Faulk, Haakon, Lake, Minnehaha, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley and Yankton counties.

**Bullock's Oriole** Confirmed Breeding: 06 Jul Butte (CF) RAS also reported from Dewey, Fall River, Meade and Pennington counties.

**House Finch** Confirmed Breeding: 16 Jun Meade (FY) EEM ... also reported from Perkins and Stanley county.

**Red Crossbill** Confirmed Breeding: 17 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW; 20 Jul Meade (FY) EEM

**Pine Siskin** Confirmed Breeding: 13 Jun Pennington (FY) TBW

**Lesser Goldfinch** All Reports: 23 Jun, 04 Jul Fall River (1) RAP; 23 Jun, 04 Jul Fall River (1) RAP

**American Goldfinch** Confirmed Breeding: 28 Jul Brown (NB) JCS

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

**Glossy Ibis** 01 Jul, 08 Jul (Hecla) Brown KBA; **Ross's Goose** 03 Jun, 07Jul (Onida) Sully RDO; **White-tailed Kite** 08 July Stanley Mike Erickson (RBA); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 05 Jul Stanley RDO; **Wilson's Plover** 18 Jul Meade RAS; **Hudsonian Godwit** 22 Jun Brown KBA; **Ruff** Jul Brown (Hecla) Gary Otnes (RBA); **Rufous Hummingbird** 16, 25 Jul Custer KH; **Lapland Longspur** 16 Jun Oahe Dam JCS; **Lesser Goldfinch** 13, 19 Jun Butte RAS

### Species Observed But Not Included In This Report

American Bittern, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Lesser Scaup, Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon, Virginia Rail, Sora, Spotted Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, White-throated Swift, Western Wood-Pewee, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, Gray Jay, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, American Crow, Horned Lark, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Canyon Wren, Sedge Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Ovenbird, MacGillivray's Warbler Yellow-breasted Chat, Scarlet Tanager, Vesper Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Cassin's Finch, House Sparrow

### Species Expected But Not Reported

Horned Grebe (2), Trumpeter Swan, Bufflehead (2), Hooded Merganser, Ruffed Grouse (5), Greater Prairie-Chicken (4), Northern Bobwhite, Ruddy Turnstone (2), Sanderling (2), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (4), Red-necked Phalarope (3), Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl (2), Northern Saw-whet Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker (3), Pileated Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird (5), Pygmy Nuthatch (3), American Dipper (2), Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler (2), Mourning Warbler (2), McCown's Longspur (5), Eastern Meadowlark, Evening Grosbeak

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**Breeding Status Abbreviations**

CN Carrying nesting materials  
NB Nest Building  
PE Physiological evidence  
DD Distraction display  
PY Flightless precocial young  
FL Recently fledged young

ON Occupied nest  
CF Adult carrying food  
FY Adult feeding fledged young  
FS Adult carrying fecal sac  
NE Nest with eggs  
NY Nest with young

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