

# SOUTH DAKOTA Ornithologists' Union

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*Gyr Falcon*

*Lyman Co., 1/17/2010*

*Photo: Terry Sobl*



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Vol. 69

March 2017

No. 1

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**SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES**, the official publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Life membership: \$400; Family Life membership (one subscription to *SD Bird Notes*): \$500; Sustaining membership: \$40; Regular membership: \$20; Family membership (one household; one subscription to *SD Bird Notes*): \$25; Junior/Student membership: \$10; Library Subscription: \$30. Single and back copies: Members, \$5; non-members, \$6. All dues, contributions, and orders for back copies should be sent to the SDOU Treasurer, Rosemary Draeger, 2520 E. Whisper Trail, Sioux Falls, SD, 57108.

**SDOU website: <[www.sdou.org](http://www.sdou.org)>.**

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Vol. 69

MARCH 2017

No. 1

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# FLEDGLING TRACTS

JASON THIELE

## *Why Didn't Someone Just Tell Me That?!*

A couple of months ago, I took a defensive driving class as a requirement for my job. Admittedly, I was not particularly excited to spend several hours sitting in a classroom learning about safe driving and then rolling around town in a government minivan getting my braking and accelerating and blinkering critiqued by a stranger. All in all, though, it turned out to be a worthwhile course, and I know that everyone gained some valuable knowledge. But what stuck out to me most during the course was that a lot of the things the instructor was telling us were things that I'd learned through my driving experiences over the years, and very little of the material involved things that I had been told by my parents or my driver's education instructor back in my teen years. And I thought, *"Why wasn't I told these things in the first place? I could have been so much less stressed behind the wheel!"*



The next day, as I was taking a short birding walk over my lunch break, I got to thinking about how much the question of “Why didn’t someone just tell me that?” applies to birding. While I certainly have had a number of birding mentors and have learned a great many things from time spent in the field with more experienced birders, the fact is that the vast majority of the time I spend birding is spent alone. Because of that, much – perhaps most – of what I know about birds and how to find them has come from trial and error. While I think there is some value in learning through experience, I also know that sometimes people give up on an activity if they find it too overwhelming at first try or if they feel like their skills are so inferior to the “experts” that it isn’t worth pursuing (I think this is why I’ve never gotten into dancing). Therefore, I think that those of us who are trying to get others into birding could do a lot of good by teaching new birders our “secrets” so that they can enjoy greater success right away and be encouraged to learn even more. With that in mind, over the next few issues of *Bird Notes*, I will be discussing a few of the “tricks of the trade” that seem so obvious to me now but that would have been nice to know ten years ago...

### **1. Birds Attract Other Birds**

I mentioned that my inspiration for this article came during a lunchtime birding walk. As so often happens, I was walking along a greenway a few blocks from my office, with very little sign of bird life except for the ever-noisy Carolina Wrens that sing all year long here in North Carolina. But then, I heard the sound I was listening for, “Chick-a-dee-dee-dee!!” I had been spotted by a Carolina Chickadee. The various species of chickadees are common birds around much of the country, and they are favorites of many birders. There is much to like about them. Take the Black-capped Chickadee found in South Dakota: It’s one

of the tiniest birds in the state, but it doesn't flee to the southern US or the Neotropics in the fall but toughs out the winter. And nearly everyone finds their simple but sweetly whistled songs just as endearing as their sassy scolding calls. But experienced birders know that when there are chickadees around, there are often other birds following them. Shortly after that first chickadee call, the other birds started to emerge. First was a Tufted Titmouse. And then another. I heard a Golden-crowned Kinglet calling. Then its ruby-crowned cousin. A Downy Woodpecker and a White-breasted Nuthatch worked a tree trunk. Then I heard a super-high-pitched note and watched a Brown Creeper fly in to join the fun. A handful of Yellow-rumped Warblers flitted about in the high branches. And then I spotted the highlight of the day in a patch of shrubbery: an Orange-crowned Warbler hanging out with the chickadees and kinglets. All these birds were moving together through the woods, looking for food.

Mixed-species foraging flocks are actually quite common in the avian world. Indeed, a quick search of the ornithological literature reveals a wealth of studies going back many years about mixed-species foraging. The phenomenon has been documented in many taxa throughout the world, especially among insectivorous species. In general, there are two primary hypotheses that researchers have proposed for why birds often join in these mixed flocks: 1) Birds join mixed-species flocks because foraging becomes more efficient, and 2) Birds join mixed-species flocks because the risk of predation decreases. Evidence has been produced to support both hypotheses, and they are not mutually exclusive. For example, it stands to reason that foraging is more efficient if less time is spent watching for predators (because there are many more eyes in a flock) and more time is spent searching for food. Almost certainly, the underlying mechanisms and reasons for mixed-species flocking behavior vary among species and situations.

A common theme in the literature is that certain species, such as the chickadees mentioned above, tend to act as "leaders" of these flocks, while other species are usually "followers." Chickadees are characteristic of leader species since they are somewhat gregarious, have a varied diet, and spend a lot of time being "vigilant," or on the watch for predators. On the face of it, the concept behind joining a mixed flock shouldn't seem strange to us humans. At the risk of anthropomorphizing birds too much, let me offer an analogy. When I'm traveling, it is very likely I could end up needing to stop and eat at a place I've never been. One of the ways that I use to determine where I want to dine is to evaluate the cars in the parking lot. If I see a lot of local vehicles parked outside of a restaurant, there's a pretty good chance that the people who live in the area have identified this establishment as a reliable place to get a delicious meal. Similarly, it is quite likely that a Magnolia Warbler that has just made a stopover in Union County, SD, on its way from the Yucatan Peninsula to the Canadian north woods could benefit by finding a crowd of the local chickadees that have spent their entire lives in that area and know where to find the best foraging areas. There are few experiences quite like walking through the woods in the spring and fall to find mixed flocks of warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other neotropical migrants that are making a fueling stop on their long journeys; I often find these flocks associating with the less-flashy homebody chickadees, especially in fall, when the warblers aren't singing like they are in the spring. In addition to "textbook" mixed-species foraging flocks, any assemblage of birds should be examined closely, even if it appears to consist of just a single common

species. When common birds are attracted to a certain area because of resource availability, they often attract the attention of uncommon birds. How many of us have been rewarded by taking the time to pick through a big flock of Red-winged Blackbirds or Common Grackles to find a few Rusty Blackbirds mixed in? I know that South Dakota has at least a few fans of picking through the flocks of gulls that gather below the dams in the winter months, studying each one so that a rarity doesn't get overlooked among the oodles of common species. Who knows when a Little Gull might be found among the Bonaparte's Gulls? I hope that someday when I'm taking a winter walk and discover a group of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings feeding on fruit that I'll find a Bohemian Waxwing among them (I will probably need to move back to the Midwest to increase my odds). And few things get me more excited than a mudflat filled with shorebirds picking, probing, and chasing bugs! Sometimes a flock that appears at first glance to be made up of just one or two species turns up some nice surprises.

All in all, the take-home message here is to always study groups of birds – even very common ones – to see if something else is hanging around. And you will often find yourself glad you did.

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## *End of an Era – and Beginning Anew*

It seems that time does fly.

It hardly seems possible but it was almost ten years ago that I edited my first *South Dakota Bird Notes* for the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. Counting the first four issues I produced (from December 2006 to September 2007) I got the publishing of *SD Bird Notes* up to date, and they have continued on-time ever since.

So this is my Issue 42. That number rings a bell from my college days. Ah! Yes. A famously absurd—but delightful book—*The Hitchhikers Guide to the Universe* by Douglas Adams. The largest computer ever built (larger than many asteroids), so-named Deep Thought, spit out “42” after 7.5 million years of high level computing. It was the answer to THE ULTIMATE QUESTION. The reason it meant nothing was that the original examiners did not know what that ultimate question was, so of course the answer meant nothing. But now we know...the answer was “42”. The Ultimate Question is “How Many Issues of *SDBN* will Douglas Chapman edit?”

But seriously, I want to thank the SDOU Board for their confidence in me and the SDOU membership for supplying me with great articles, photographs and stories about the birds of interest to South Dakotans. Those who wrote about their adventures interacting with birds also have earned my thanks. The proofing editors and those offering good advice have been greatly appreciated. I know I didn't satisfy all the people all the time. But I tried my best. As my grandfather would say, “Those in the middle of the road, will get hit by traffic from both directions.”

I am proud to leave *SD Bird Notes* in pretty good fettle. Even in an age when many organizations have stopped printing journals altogether, SDOU has persevered. Between SDOU Treasurer Rosemary Draeger and myself, our printing and mailing costs have been lowered and then kept down as much as possible. Thank you Rosemary.

I want to thank Jason Thiele for his always interesting columns in *Fledgling Tracts*. Mick Zerr's new column *YardBirds* has been informative for those who stock bird feeders and Jeff Palmer has always submitted informative, prompt and accurate *Seasonal Reports*. Dan Tallman's gift for getting to the heart of a book have been helpful in selecting ornithology literature in the feature *Book Reviews*. Many members and non-members have also contributed to *SD Bird Notes*. Often small states, without the larger numbers that organizations in more populated states enjoy, cannot even produce a journal. I believe that SDOU from its very inception has offered a quarterly journal of quality and has informed many readers of the great bird life in this very diverse state.

As SDOU goes into the future, *South Dakota Bird Notes* should continue to be a very great source of pride for our small state's ornithology community.

Bird On...

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## WHERE HAVE ALL THE RAPTORS GONE?

by Terry Sohl

I still vividly remember the first time I had ever visited the Fort Pierre National Grasslands (Grasslands). It was 2000, and I had been bitten by the birding bug. My interest in birds, birding, and photography only began in my mid-30s. During the winter of 1999-2000, I purchased my first single-lens reflex (SLR) camera and a pair of lenses. On a cold winter's day, I ventured out of the house, not really knowing how to use the camera, and not really knowing what I wanted to photograph. Just a few blocks from our house in Brandon is an abandoned quarry. I'd never really been interested in birds or birding, but as I walked past, I noticed a bit of open water and a few dozen Canada Geese sitting on the ice along the water's edge. I excitedly took a single photo, not wanting to waste a frame of film, and moved on to look for more photo opportunities. I walked another block or two and saw a house with several bird feeders in the front yard. There were several bird species visiting the feeders, and I started taking more photographs. I continued shooting that day until the roll of film was exhausted. After processing the film, I excitedly leafed through a newly bought birding guide to try to identify the species that I had photographed.

For the next few weeks, much of my free time was spent birding and taking photos, and as a new birder, there certainly were plenty of "new" birds to discover, just around my home town of Brandon. However, it was a trip to the central part of South Dakota that first winter that turned my new hobby into a lifetime passion. My friend at work had been a birder since he was a boy, and he told me about a Gyrfalcon that had been seen in the central part of South Dakota. Even he had never seen the species before, and knowing it was potentially a special find, I decided to make my first trip to the Fort Pierre National Grasslands to look for the Gyrfalcon.

It couldn't have been easier on that first visit. The "Pheasant Farm Gyrfalcon" was hanging around a farmstead that raised pheasants for hunting operations in the region. I talked with Doug Backlund from Pierre, a great birding contact who also helped a lot in my early birding years, and he provided directions. He had said that he was likely to be around that location early on a Saturday morning, so I made plans to get up ridiculously early and drive to the Fort Pierre National Grasslands and arrive at that spot just after dawn. I set my alarm, packed up my equipment at 4:30 A.M., and started the long drive. My timing was good, and I arrived on County Line Road right around 8:00 AM. As I reached an old abandoned schoolhouse that marked the location close to the pheasant farm, I saw a pair of cars. I got out, saw Doug, and asked if they'd seen the Gyrfalcon. He smiled, and pointed to the top of a nearby telephone pole, and there it was! My first Gyrfalcon, and it was about as easy a "capture" as a birder can ever hope for with such a rarity!

From that day forward, I was hooked on the Grasslands. Given that it's about 3 1/2 hours from home, it's not a love of convenience. But I quickly learned to appreciate the isolation and beauty of the area. Winter in the middle of South Dakota may not sound like a time for abundant bird life, but the Fort Pierre National Grasslands was building a reputation as a magnet for raptors. This included not only one of the best chances in the lower 48 states to see a Gyrfalcon, but also a diverse list of other raptors that spent their winter months in the region. Rough-legged Hawks were found in extremely high numbers, and there were many times that it seemed odd to drive for more than a mile without seeing one perched on a nearby telephone pole or fence post. It's the first place I saw a massive Golden Eagle. It's the first place I saw a Ferruginous Hawk, a bird with such a brilliantly white underside that from a distance I thought I was about to see my first Snowy Owl. It wasn't that year, but later the Fort Pierre National Grasslands were indeed the place I saw my first Snowy Owl,

including one incredible winter where Snowy Owls were practically as abundant as the ever-present Rough-legged Hawks. It's the first place I saw a Prairie Falcon and a Merlin, two smaller cousins of the Gyrfalcon. It's the first place I saw a Short-eared Owl, a summer-time encounter where two adults were tending four younger birds. That encounter concluded with an adult circling me for several minutes as I stood outside my car, resulting in one of my most memorable photo opportunities.

There have been days on the Grasslands where one could potentially stay within a relatively small driving area of 10 to 20 square miles, and find several dozen raptors. During all my winter trips to the Fort Pierre National Grasslands, I learned to appreciate not only the Grasslands themselves, but the area south of the Grasslands. I'd necessarily drive the I-90 corridor past Reliance, Kennebec, and Presho to get to the Grasslands themselves, and couldn't help notice all the raptors in that area. Soon, my "Grass-

lands" birding trips became "central South Dakota" birding trips. I would spend mornings in the Presho area and afternoons on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands. Birding life was good, and many a cold, dismal, South Dakota winter was saved by the vibrant display of life that was always available in central South Dakota.

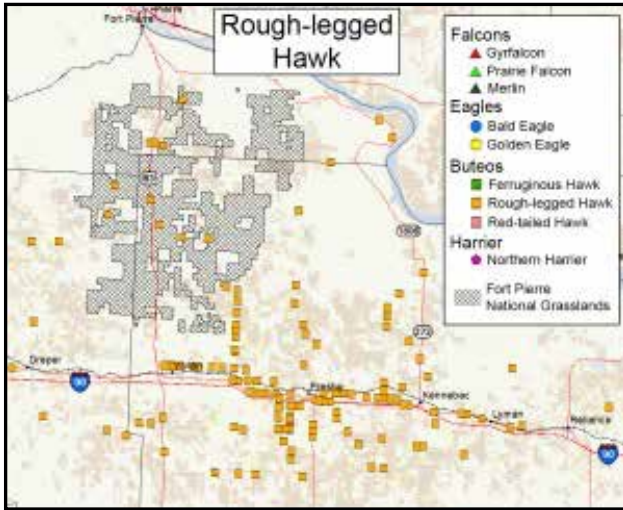
However, about five years ago, something happened. I had planned one of my typical winter trips to the area. The first half of the trip was like past trips, with many of raptors of several different species in the Presho area. However, as I headed north towards the Grasslands themselves, the birds disappeared. Given the history of finding winter raptors on the Grasslands, I kept expecting the birds to show up around the next corner, but they never did. There was an occasional raptor here or there, primarily Golden Eagles or Ferruginous Hawks, but the incredible density of Rough-legged Hawks, the species that once made up a good 80% of



*The ubiquitous **Rough-Legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*), once seemingly found on every other fence post and telephone pole on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands in winter. However, for the last five years, they have been curiously absent.*



all the raptors found on the Grasslands, was almost completely absent.



*Fig. 1. Winter sightings of just Rough-legged Hawks. Note the incredibly dense populations near I-90, and the sharp drop off towards the Grasslands in the north.*

That first winter after the raptors disappeared, I just speculated that something happened to the prey base that attracted the raptors. When driving the Grasslands, plenty of Ring-necked Pheasants, Greater Prairie Chickens, and Sharp-tailed Grouse could be seen. There didn't



*A Greater Prairie Chicken (Tympanuchus cupido) on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands. Whatever the cause of the raptor decline on the Grasslands, it doesn't appear to be because there's been a noticeable decline of gamebirds.*

seem to be any obvious crash in the populations of these three gamebird species. In my most recent trip, I visited the Grasslands a couple of days after a massive storm had coated the region in snow and crusty ice. I ran across several very large groups of Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie Chickens, milling about in the open and looking for foraging spots in the ice-locked vegetation. However, despite all the game birds that were out, raptors were again curiously absent.

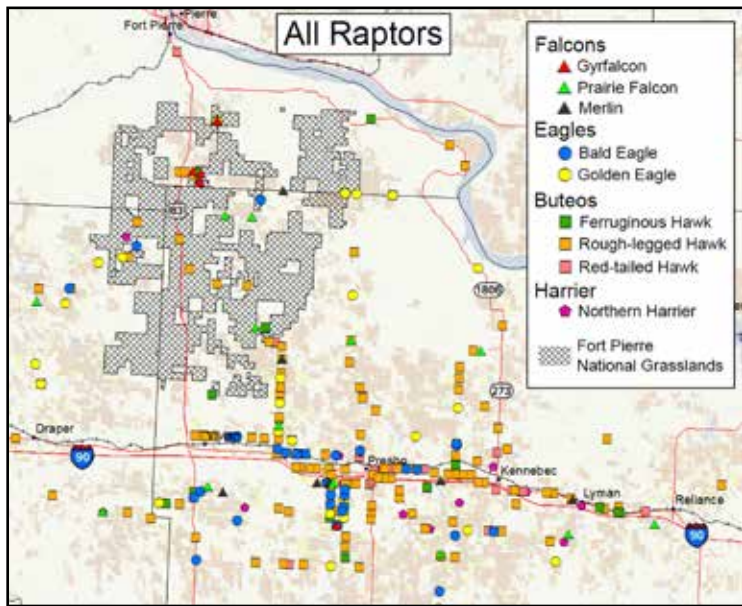
If not a decline in game birds, what else could be

behind the decline? One factor that may play some role is the loss of some truly massive prairie dog towns in the region. Not all raptors target prairie dogs, but Ferruginous Hawks certainly key in on prairie dogs, and other raptors will take them as well. However, over the last several years, many of the prairie dog towns in the area have disappeared. Considered an agricultural “pest” by some, prairie dog towns outside of the administrative boundaries of the Fort Pierre National Grasslands themselves are fair game for poisoning, as are those along the fringes of the Grasslands. However, the decline in prairie dogs also fails to fully explain the decline in raptors. There are no prairie dog towns down by Presho and Kennebec, yet raptors of every kind are still found there in incredible numbers.



**Black-tailed Prairie Dog** (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). There's little doubt numbers of these guys HAVE declined around the fringes of the Grasslands, given active poisoning programs.

Could a decline in the small rodent population in the area explain the disappearance of the raptors? For a raptor such as a Rough-legged Hawk, mice and voles make up a large part of the diet. Small rodent numbers go through cycles of boom and bust, but it's been 5 years since the noticeable and sharp decline in raptor numbers. One other major prey source in the area, particularly for Merlins and Prairie Falcons, are the very large flocks of Lapland Long-



*Fig. 2. Winter raptor sightings in central South Dakota over the last 5 years. The Fort Pierre National Grasslands themselves used to be “the” hotspot for winter raptors, including great chances for rarities like Gyrffalcons and Snowy Owls. In recent years, raptor numbers are incredibly low compared to areas just south of the Grasslands, in and around Presho and Kennebec.*

spurs, Horned Larks, and Snow Buntings that are sometimes found in the winter. The clear majority of Merlin sightings I've had in South Dakota have been on the Grasslands themselves or in the Presho area. One can still often see roving flocks of Longspurs, Larks, and Snow Buntings on the Grasslands, certainly enough to capture the attention of a raptor that's passing through, but the numbers of those potential prey species have also

seemed lower than what are found in the Presho/Kennebec area in recent years.

The map in Figure 2 depicts raptor sightings I've made and recorded in eBird over the last five winters. Over the last five years, I have driven most of the roads on the Grasslands themselves, as well as available roads around the I-90 corridor. The available roads in the region clearly dictate the potential spatial distribution of sightings, yet obvious spatial patterns in sightings are evident. I primarily drive gravel roads and avoid major highways such as Highway 83, and there are only a handful of north-south gravel roads that allow travel from the Presho area northward into the Grasslands. Raptor concentrations have been very high near the I-90 corridor, but drop off rather quickly as one moves northward towards the Grasslands themselves. On every trip over the last five years, I have driven County Line Road, an east-west road indicated on the map that intersects the heart of the Grass-



**Sharp-tailed Grouse** (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*). Despite good numbers of these birds still seen on the grasslands, raptor numbers seem to be declining.

lands. Once a hotspot for raptors, I've found very few along this road in recent years. Overall, Rough-legged Hawk numbers are much lower on the Grasslands when compared to the area near I-90. Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Bald Eagles have been common around the I-90 corridor but much less common on the Grasslands. Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and Prairie Falcons are more distributed across the region. Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks are much more likely to key in on mammals, including rabbits and other larger mammals.

The beauty, isolation, and possibility of seeing rare raptors is still a draw for birders on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands in winter. Most of the Gyr-falcons I've seen in recent years have been on the Grasslands rather than farther south around the I-90 corridor. Just the chance to see a Gyr-falcon is reason enough to continue to explore the Grasslands during the winter

months, and over the last 17 years, I've also been much more likely to find Snowy Owls and Short-eared Owls on the Grasslands themselves. It will be interesting to observe over the next several years if raptor populations overall increase on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands in winter, or whether the corridor from Reliance to Presho will continue to be the premier winter birding location in the region.

**Front Cover:** A Gyr-falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) taken during the "Golden Years" on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands. This is a very dark-phase juvenile, and I've never seen one quite like this. The Grasslands may still be a good spot to try to find this mega-rarity, but it's not an ideal spot for other winter raptors any more.

# SEASONAL REPORTS

JEFFREY S. PALMER

## The 2016 Fall Season

Compiled By: Jeffrey S. Palmer  
01 August 2016 to 30 November 2016

College of Arts & Sciences  
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There were 311 species, including seven rarities, reported during the 2016 Fall Season. The ten-year average (2006-2015) is 311. Below, I have tried to highlight the more significant sightings (early/late dates as given in the online database and species that are significantly out of range). For early/late migration dates, I have listed the three earliest/latest dates (by county). However, if these did not include a sighting East River, West River, and along the Missouri River, I have included the earliest/latest reported date from the missing region also. Included at the end of this report is a list of species that were not reported this year but might be expected during the Fall Season. A species is placed on the list if it was not reported this year but had been reported during fall in at least two of the previous five years. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of consecutive years (up to four) that the species has appeared on the list during the season. **Glossy Ibis** and **Baird's Sparrow** went unreported for the fifth consecutive Fall Season and were therefore removed from the list.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Early: 13 Aug Kingsbury JSP; 14 Oct Roberts MO; 17 Oct Minnehaha MKZ; 18 Oct Charles Mix RM ... Late: 30 Nov Stanley RDO, KM; 15 Nov Charles Mix RM, KP; 12 Nov Kingsbury JSP

**Snow Goose** Early: 16 Aug Douglas KP; 04 Nov Minnehaha CA; 07 Nov Stanley KM

**Ross's Goose** Early: 04 Nov Minnehaha CA; 10 Nov Charles Mix KP; 19 Nov McPherson BP ... Late: 27 Nov Clark ND; 26 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 21 Nov Charles Mix RM

**Cackling Goose** Early: 12 Nov Hughes KM, RDO; 13 Nov Bon Homme KP; 14 Nov Brown GO; 14 Nov Pennington CLG

**Trumpeter Swan** Late: 28 Nov Yankton CV; 05 Nov Perkins ND; 04 Nov Meade SW

**Tundra Swan** Early: 08 Oct McPherson BP; 29 Oct Charles Mix KP; 05 Nov Marshall BP, MO ... Late: 27 Nov Day and Clark ND; 26 Nov Codington ND; 21 Nov Charles Mix RM

**Wood Duck** Late: 26 Nov Codington ND; 16 Nov Brown GO; 11 Nov Minnehaha CA; 10 Nov Stanley RDO; 02 Nov Pennington OCW

**Gadwall** Late: 30 Nov Stanley KM; 28 Nov Potter BP; 27 Nov Day ND; 25 Nov Pennington KM, JLB

**American Wigeon** Late: 30 Nov Stanley KM; 26 Nov Yankton SS, RND; 26 Nov Bon Homme SS; 25 Nov Pennington KM, JLB; 25 Nov Haakon KM; 12 Nov Lake JSP

**Blue-winged Teal** Late: 21 Nov Charles Mix RM; 15 Nov Yankton MKZ; 06 Nov Minnehaha CA; 10 Oct Pennington CLG

**Northern Shoveler** Late: 30 Nov Stanley KM; 30 Nov Gregory RM; 27 Nov Hughes KM; 27 Nov Day ND; 25 Nov Pennington ND; 25 Nov Meade JLB

**Northern Pintail** Late: 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Codington ND; 26 Nov Bon Homme SS; 13 Nov Haakon RDO

**Green-winged Teal** Late: 30 Nov Stanley KM; 30 Nov Gregory RM; 27 Nov Fall River JLB; 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Grant ND

**Canvasback** Late: 28 Nov Yankton CV; 26 Nov Grant ND; 25 Nov Haakon ND, KM

**Redhead** Late: 30 Nov Gregory RM; 28 Nov Yankton CV; 27 Nov Clark ND; 25 Nov Pennington KM

**Ring-necked Duck** Late: 28 Nov Yankton CV; 26 Nov Stanley RDO; 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Grant ND; 25 Nov Pennington ND, KM

**Greater Scaup** Early: 25 Oct Stanley RDO; 06 Nov Douglas KP; 11 Nov Walworth RDO; 11 Nov Yankton DS ... Late: 26 Nov Stanley RDO; 21 Nov Yankton RND; 12 Nov Lake JSP

**Lesser Scaup** Late: 30 Nov Stanley KM; 27 Nov Hughes KM; 27 Nov Day ND; 14 Nov Ziebach RDO

**Surf Scoter** Early: 14 Oct Yankton SS; 24 Oct Stanley KM, RDO; 26 Oct Hughes KM ... Late: 25 Nov Yankton KP; 07 Nov Stanley RDO

**White-winged Scoter** Early: 05 Nov Marshall MO; 11 Nov Yankton DS; 12 Nov Hughes KM, RDO; 23 Nov Meade JLB ... Late: 25 Nov Yankton KP; 25 Nov Meade JLB

**Black Scoter** Early: 11 Nov Yankton DS ... Late: 26 Nov Yankton SS, RND

**Long-tailed Duck** All Reports: 23 Nov Yankton RND; 26 Nov Yankton RND, SS

**Bufflehead** Early: 26 Sep McPherson BP; 08 Oct Brown GO; 08 Oct Deuel JSP; 11 Oct Butte ND; 14 Oct Hughes KM

**Common Goldeneye** Early: 05 Nov Marshall MO; 11 Nov Yankton DS; 12 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 14 Nov Butte RDO

**Hooded Merganser** Early: 23 Aug Brookings KCJ; 28 Sep Day BP; 08 Oct Brown GO; 08 Oct Deuel JSP; 16 Oct Yankton KCJ; 07 Nov Pennington CLG ... Late: 30 Nov Stanley and Hughes KM; 28 Nov Yankton CV; 27 Nov Fall River JLB; 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Grant and Codington ND

**Common Merganser** Early: 01 Aug Pennington CLG; 08 Aug Gregory RM; 10 Aug Charles Mix KP; 12 Nov Lake JSP

**Red-breasted Merganser** All Reports: 29 Oct Sully RDO; 13 Nov Butte and Stanley RDO; 19 Nov Yankton ND; 23 Nov Yankton DS; 25 Nov Gregory RM

**Ruddy Duck** Late: 27 Nov Day ND; 26 Nov Stanley RDO; 26 Nov Minnehaha MKZ; 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Grant and Codington ND; 26 Nov Charles Mix KP; 25 Nov Pennington ND

**Gray Partridge** reported 22 Nov McPherson BP

**Ruffed Grouse** All Reports: 25 Sep Lawrence EK; 13 Nov Lawrence SW

**Northern Bobwhite** Only Report: 13 Nov Bon Homme KP

**Pacific Loon** All Reports: 27 Oct Meade JLB; 30 Oct Meade JLB; 01 Nov Butte ND; **23 Nov Yankton DS, RND**

**Common Loon** Early: 18 Sep Lyman RDO; 28 Sep Stanley KM; 13 Oct Sully DB; 19 Oct Harding ND; 05 Nov Marshall MO ... Late: 23 Nov Yankton RND, DS; 20 Nov Sully RDO, ND; 19 Nov Gregory ND; 16 Nov Fall River ND; 12 Nov Kingsbury JSP

**Pied-billed Grebe** Late: 30 Nov Stanley KM; 26 Nov Yankton RND; 26 Nov Minnehaha MKZ; 26 Nov Hughes KM; 25 Nov Pennington ND; 25 Nov Meade JLB; 25 Nov Haakon KM

**Horned Grebe** Early: 03 Oct Butte ND; 06 Oct Meade JLB; 08 Oct Roberts JSP; 13 Oct Sully DB ... Late: 27 Nov Day ND; 26 Nov Gregory RM; 16 Nov Hughes KM; 16 Nov Fall River ND

**Red-necked Grebe** Early: 13 Oct Sully DB; 05 Nov Hughes RDO ... Late: 20 Nov Sully ND; 12 Nov Hughes RDO, KM

**Eared Grebe** Late: 27 Nov Fall River JLB; 05 Nov Perkins ND; 05 Nov Charles Mix KP

**Western Grebe** Late: 26 Nov Charles Mix KP; 20 Nov Lyman RDO; 19 Nov Davison ND; 16 Nov Fall River ND

**Clark's Grebe** All Reports: 07 Aug Hughes DB; 20 Aug Charles Mix ND; 01 Sep Charles Mix RM; 08 Sep Charles Mix RM

**American White Pelican** Late: 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Charles Mix KP; 15 Nov Yankton MKZ, RND; 23 Oct Butte JLB

**Double-crested Cormorant** Late: 30 Nov Hughes KM; 30 Nov Charles Mix RM; 27 Nov Fall River JLB; 27 Nov Clark ND

**American Bittern** All Reports: 14 Aug Douglas KP; **09 Nov Sully SS**

**Least Bittern** All Reports: 24 Aug Charles Mix RM; 03 Sep Douglas KP; **23 Sep Charles Mix RM**

**Great Blue Heron** Late: 27 Nov Hughes KM; 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Douglas KP; 25 Nov Pennington KM, JLB

**Great Egret** Late: 01 Nov Day BP; 29 Oct Lake JSP; 18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Snowy Egret** Late: 03 Oct Day BP; 18 Sep Kingsbury RND; 07 Sep Yankton RND

**Cattle Egret** Late: 29 Oct Hughes RDO; 26 Oct Charles Mix RM; 21 Sep Brown BP

**Green Heron** Late: 24 Sep Lake JSP; 17 Sep Brookings JSP; 10 Sep Brown GO, BP; 04 Sep Yankton ND

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Late: 29 Oct Stanley KM; 22 Oct McPherson BP; 24 Sep Charles Mix KP; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** All Reports: **01 Aug Clay DS**; 16 Aug Turner KP; 06 Sep Minnehaha CA

**White-faced Ibis** Late: 17 Oct Minnehaha MKZ; 13 Oct Day BP; 13 Oct Brown GO; 23 Sep Charles Mix RM; 03 Sep Oglala Lakota and Bennett ND

**Turkey Vulture** Late: **14 Nov Meade EEM**; 18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 17 Oct Brookings KCJ

**Osprey** Late: 05 Nov Minnehaha MKZ; 20 Oct Stanley RDO; 18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 10 Oct Pennington CLG

**Northern Harrier** Late: 30 Nov Gregory RM; 29 Nov Brookings CV; 25 Nov Sully ND; 05 Nov Perkins ND

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** Early: 04 Sep Charles Mix KP; 14 Sep Brookings KCJ; 24 Sep Hughes DB

**Northern Goshawk** All Reports: 09 Oct Lincoln CA; 22 Oct Hughes SS; 26 Oct Hughes DB; 01 Nov Hand KM

**Broad-winged Hawk** Early: 10 Sep Custer ND; 16 Sep Brookings KCJ; 17 Sep Hughes DB ... Late: **17 Oct Brookings KCJ**; 24 Sep Hughes DB; 23 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Swainson's Hawk** Late: 09 Nov Charles Mix RM; 19 Oct Pennington OCW; 14 Oct Yankton KP; 14 Oct Moody KCJ

**Rough-legged Hawk** Early: 09 Oct Butte EK; 19 Oct Harding ND; 22 Oct Brown and McPherson BP; 29 Oct Charles Mix KP

**Ferruginous Hawk** Late: 20 Nov Pennington ND; 12 Nov Lawrence ND, JLB; 11 Nov Sully RDO

**Golden Eagle** Early: 05 Aug Stanley RDO; 04 Sep Union ND; 30 Oct Buffalo RDO; 30 Oct Hyde and Lyman KM, RDO



**Virginia Rail** Late: 30 Oct Lawrence SW; 13 Sep Hand BP; 03 Sep Bennett ND; 06 Aug Walworth RDO

**Sora** Late: 18 Oct Meade ND; 13 Oct Hughes EDS; 10 Oct Pennington CLG; 13 Sep Hand BP

**American Coot** Late: 30 Nov Stanley KM; 28 Nov Yankton CV; 27 Nov Fall River JLB; 26 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 26 Nov Grant ND

**Sandhill Crane** Early: 04 Oct Custer MMM; 06 Oct Pennington JLB; 07 Oct Hughes EDS; 01 Nov Hand KM ... Late: 30 Nov Lake KB; 25 Nov Charles Mix RM; 13 Nov Lawrence SW

**Black-bellied Plover** Early: 06 Aug Sully RDO; 10 Aug Brookings KCJ; 18 Aug Brown GO; 03 Oct Butte ND ... Late: 26 Oct Hughes KM; 21 Oct Day BP; 20 Oct Spink BP; 08 Oct Perkins ND

**American Golden-Plover** All Reports: 21 Sep Brown BP; 23 Sep Charles Mix RM; 24 Sep Charles Mix KP; 03 Oct Butte ND

**Semipalmated Plover** Late: **16 Oct Yankton ND, CA**; 12 Oct Day BP; 01 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 03 Sep Oglala Lakota ND

**Piping Plover** All Reports: 19 Aug Stanley KCJ; 20 Aug Stanley RDO

**Killdeer** Late: 06 Nov Douglas KP; 05 Nov Charles Mix KP; 29 Oct Yankton RND; 17 Oct Pennington CLG

**Black-necked Stilt** Only Report: **05 Sep Charles Mix KP**

**American Avocet** Late: 05 Nov Marshall BP; 05 Nov Lake JSP; 04 Nov Meade SW; 27 Oct Stanley RDO

**Spotted Sandpiper** Late: 21 Sep Charles Mix RM; 08 Sep Lake JSP; 05 Sep Pennington CLG

**Solitary Sandpiper** Late: **10 Oct Lake MKZ, CA**; 10 Sep Minnehaha MKZ, CA; 10 Sep Brown GO, BP; 08 Sep Charles Mix RM; 03 Sep Bennett ND

**Greater Yellowlegs** Late: 05 Nov Perkins ND; 05 Nov Brown BP; 01 Nov Butte ND; 23 Oct Charles Mix KP

**Willet** All Reports: 12 Aug Brown RND; 14 Aug Charles Mix KP; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late: 21 Oct Day BP; 19 Oct Stanley RDO; 10 Oct Lake MKZ, CA; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Upland Sandpiper** Late: 07 Sep Custer MMM; 15 Aug Meade ND; 14 Aug Pennington JLB; 12 Aug Douglas KP; 03 Aug Charles Mix RND

**Hudsonian Godwit** Only Report: 20 Aug Miner ND

**Marbled Godwit** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 03 Aug Charles Mix RND; 06 Aug Harding ND; 27 Aug Stanley RDO; 05 Sep Aurora DS, JSP

**Stilt Sandpiper** Late: 17 Oct Minnehaha MKZ; 10 Oct Lake MKZ, CA; 08 Oct Perkins ND; 24 Sep Sully RDO

**Sanderling** All Reports: 13 Aug Brown BP; 18 Sep Kingsbury RND; 02 Oct Sully RDO; 03 Oct Butte ND; 17 Oct Hughes KM

**Dunlin** All Reports: 10 Oct Lake CA, MKZ; 22 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 29 Oct Kingsbury JSP

**Baird's Sandpiper** Late: 10 Oct Lake MKZ, CA; 24 Sep Miner JSP; 24 Sep Charles Mix KP; 03 Sep Oglala Lakota and Bennett ND

**Least Sandpiper** Late: **05 Nov Marshall BP**; 22 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 20 Oct Spink BP; 24 Sep Sully RDO; 24 Sep Charles Mix KP; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**White-rumped Sandpiper** All Reports: 02 Aug Roberts MO; 20 Aug Hutchinson ND

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Early: 02 Aug Roberts MO; 20 Aug Kingsbury ND; 21 Aug Walworth RDO, SS ... Late: 18 Sep Hand BP; 11 Sep Charles Mix KP

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Late: 22 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 16 Oct Yankton RSL et el; 13 Oct Day BP; 03 Oct Butte ND

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** Late: **18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 16 Oct Yankton RSL**; 07 Oct Day BP; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Short-billed Dowitcher** Only Report: 08 Aug Clay DS

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Late: 29 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 22 Oct Hughes KM; 20 Oct Stanley RDO; 20 Oct Brookings KCJ; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Wilson's Snipe** Late: 12 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 08 Nov Roberts CV; 28 Oct Brookings KCJ; 23 Oct Charles Mix KP; 19 Oct Perkins ND

**American Woodcock** Only Report: 15 Sep Brookings KCJ

**Wilson's Phalarope** Late: 18 Sep Hand BP; 05 Sep Aurora DS, JSP; 21 Aug Pennington JLB; 21 Aug Codington MKZ; 14 Aug Charles Mix KP

**Red-necked Phalarope** All Reports: 05 Sep Aurora DS, JSP; 18 Sep Hand BP

**Sabine's Gull** All Reports: 23 Sep Hughes DB, SS; 24 Sep Butte JLB; 24 Sep Stanley RDO; 24 Sep Yankton DS

**Bonaparte's Gull** Early: 22 Sep Stanley RDO; 24 Sep Hughes DB; 24 Sep Miner JSP ... Late: 30 Nov Hughes KM; 30 Nov Charles Mix RM; 27 Nov Day ND

**Franklin's Gull** Late: 16 Nov Brown BP; 12 Nov Yankton RM; 12 Nov Lake JSP; 11 Oct Butte ND

**Ring-billed Gull** Late: 30 Nov Hughes KM; 30 Nov Charles Mix RM; 29 Nov Codington CV; 27 Nov Fall River JLB

**California Gull** Late: 30 Nov Hughes KM; 26 Nov Sully RDO; 22 Nov Stanley RDO; 16 Nov Fall River ND; 12 Oct Day BP

**Herring Gull** Early: 05 Aug Stanley RDO; 30 Aug Sully DB; 14 Sep Yankton RND; 26 Sep Pennington CLG; 11 Nov Day BP ... Late: 30 Nov Hughes KM; 30 Nov Charles Mix RM; 26 Nov Kingsbury JSP; 11 Oct Butte ND

**Thayer's Gull** Early: 12 Nov Yankton RM; 24 Nov Charles Mix RM

**Iceland Gull** Only Report: 30 Nov Charles Mix RM

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Early: 05 Aug Stanley RDO; 30 Aug Sully DB; 30 Sep Charles Mix KP ... Late: 26 Nov Sully RDO; 24 Nov Charles Mix RM; 23 Nov Yankton DS

**Great Black-backed Gull** All Reports: 12 Nov Yankton RM; 15 Nov Yankton RND, MKZ; 21 Nov Yankton MKZ

**Least Tern** All Reports: 04 Aug Gregory RM; 07 Aug Hughes RDO; 08 Aug Gregory RM; 10 Aug Charles Mix KP; 14 Aug Stanley RDO; 23 Aug Stanley RDO

**Caspian Tern** Late: 12 Sep Day BP; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 11 Aug Stanley RDO

**Black Tern** Late: 10 Sep Minnehaha MKZ, CA; 05 Sep Charles Mix ND; 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP; 03 Sep Bennett ND

**Common Tern** Late: 24 Sep Stanley RDO; 24 Sep Meade ND; 20 Sep Hughes SS, RDO, DB; 21 Aug Hamlin ND

**Forster's Tern** Late: 13 Oct Day BP; 13 Oct Brown GO; 29 Sep Charles Mix RM; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Mourning Dove** Late: 19 Nov Moody CA; 19 Nov Brown BP; 18 Nov Clay DS; 20 Oct Jackson KM

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 01 Aug Charles Mix RM; 05 Aug Lincoln KP; 05 Sep Charles Mix KP

**Black-billed Cuckoo** All Reports: 10 Aug Gregory KP; 11 Aug Lincoln KP; 21 Aug Charles Mix KP; **10 Sep Brown GO**

**Barn Owl** Only Report: 20 Aug Tripp ND



**Burrowing Owl** Late: 10 Oct Custer MMM; 02 Oct Corson MMM; 27 Sep Sully KM  
**Barred Owl** Only Report: 08 Sep Lincoln CA  
**Long-eared Owl** All Reports: 03 Nov Sully KM; 06 Nov McPherson BP  
**Short-eared Owl** Only Report: 03 Aug Harding MO  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl** Early: 28 Sep Brookings KCJ; 09 Nov Sully KM  
**Common Nighthawk** Late: **17 Oct Minnehaha MKZ**; 15 Sep Brookings KCJ; 08 Sep Lincoln CA; 05 Sep Mellette ND; 05 Sep Clay GJS; 05 Sep Charles Mix KP  
**Common Poorwill** Only Report: 24 Aug Fall River ND  
**Eastern Whip-poor-will** Late: 15 Sep Charles Mix RM; 08 Sep Lincoln CA  
**Chimney Swift** Late: 23 Sep Douglas KP; 14 Sep Clay GJS; 14 Sep Brown BP; 05 Sep Pennington CLG  
**White-throated Swift** Late: 05 Sep Pennington CLG; 04 Sep Custer DS, JSP  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Late: **18 Oct Charles Mix RM**; 05 Oct Clay GJS; 03 Oct Douglas KP; 15 Sep Pennington ND  
**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** All Reports: 01 Aug Custer and Pennington RDO; 03 Aug Meade MO; 15 Aug Pennington ND; 31 Aug Pennington ND; 01 Sep Pennington ND  
**Rufous Hummingbird** Late: 31 Aug Pennington CLG; 10 Aug Meade EEM; 01 Aug Custer RDO  
**Belted Kingfisher** Late: 30 Nov Hughes KM; 27 Nov Fall River JLB; 26 Nov Lake JSP  
**Red-headed Woodpecker** Late: 17 Oct Hughes DB; 24 Sep Butte ND; 23 Sep Charles Mix RM; 17 Sep Kingsbury RND  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker** reported **21 Nov Lawrence VDF**  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** All Reports: 05 Aug Lincoln KP; 29 Sep Lake JSP; 01 Nov Charles Mix RM  
**Red-naped Sapsucker** Late: **14 Oct Lawrence VDF**; 10 Sep Custer ND; 04 Aug Pennington MO  
**American Three-toed Woodpecker** All Reports: 04 Aug Pennington MO; 01 Sep Custer RSL; 22 Oct Lawrence RM; 12 Nov Lawrence JLB, ND  
**Black-backed Woodpecker** All Reports: 06 Nov Lawrence ND; 12 Nov Lawrence JLB, ND  
**Pileated Woodpecker** All Reports: **02 Aug Marshall MO**; 27 Nov Roberts ND  
**Merlin** Early: 20 Aug Custer KCJ; 30 Aug Sully DB; 31 Aug Day BP  
**Gyrfalcon** Only Report: 26 Nov Jones KM  
**Peregrine Falcon** Early: 13 Aug Douglas KP; 20 Aug Charles Mix ND; 20 Aug Custer MMM; 20 Aug Jones KCJ ... Late: 18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 14 Oct Lyman KM; 14 Oct Brookings KCJ; 24 Sep Butte JLB  
**Prairie Falcon** Early: 21 Aug Walworth RDO; 17 Sep Gregory RM; 03 Oct Stanley RDO; 06 Nov McPherson BP  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher** Early: **02 Aug Roberts MO**; 11 Aug Hughes DB; 12 Aug Stanley DB ... Late: 06 Sep Minnehaha CA; 06 Sep Clay GJS; 03 Sep Douglas KP  
**Western Wood-Pewee** Late: 03 Sep Lawrence VDF; 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP; 30 Aug Perkins ND  
**Eastern Wood-Pewee** Late: 21 Sep Charles Mix RM; 18 Sep Gregory RM; 14 Sep Yankton RND; 08 Sep Lincoln CA  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** All Reports: 13 Aug Douglas KP; 19 Aug Douglas KP; 24 Aug Clay DS  
**Alder Flycatcher** Only Report: **15 Aug Clay DS**

**Willow Flycatcher** Late: 05 Sep Charles Mix ND; 29 Aug Lyman SS; 27 Aug Union KP, CA; 23 Aug Brookings KCJ

**Least Flycatcher** Late: 10 Sep Custer ND; 06 Sep Hughes EDS; 05 Sep Union ND; 01 Sep Brown GO

**Dusky Flycatcher** All Reports: 03 Aug Meade MO; 04 Aug Custer MO; 17 Aug Fall River ND

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** Only Report: 31 Aug Pennington CLG

**Eastern Phoebe** Late: 13 Oct Lake JSP; 02 Oct Minnehaha CA; 17 Sep Gregory RM, KP; 17 Sep Brookings JSP; 28 Aug Fall River RSL

**Say's Phoebe** Late: **20 Oct Jackson KM**; 24 Sep Butte ND; 17 Sep Custer MMM; 15 Sep Hughes DB

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Late: 13 Sep Lincoln CA; 05 Sep Union ND; 04 Sep Yankton ND; 04 Sep Stanley RDO; 04 Sep Charles Mix KP; 03 Sep Bennett ND

**Western Kingbird** Late: 12 Sep Douglas KP; 06 Sep Brown GO; 05 Sep Fall River DS, JSP; 05 Sep Charles Mix ND, KP

**Eastern Kingbird** Late: 17 Sep Gregory RM, KP; 15 Sep Brookings KCJ; 13 Sep Hughes DB; 11 Sep Bennett RSL

**Loggerhead Shrike** Late: 03 Sep Pennington RSL; 03 Sep Bennett ND; 28 Aug Harding ND; 28 Aug Fall River RSL; 07 Aug Lyman RDO

**Northern Shrike** Early: 08 Oct Perkins ND; 16 Oct Jackson ND; 23 Oct Meade JLB; 29 Oct Hughes KM; 29 Oct Yankton RND

**Bell's Vireo** Late: 04 Sep Union and Bon Homme ND; 04 Sep Stanley RDO; 04 Sep Charles Mix KP; 03 Sep Pennington RSL; 03 Sep Bennett ND; 12 Aug Minnehaha CA

**Yellow-throated Vireo** All Reports: 02 Aug Roberts MO; 24 Aug Charles Mix RM; 27 Aug Union CA, KP

**Plumbeous Vireo** All Reports: 01 Sep Custer RSL; 04 Sep Lawrence JLB

**Blue-headed Vireo** Early: 24 Aug Clay GJS; 27 Aug Union CA, KP; 01 Sep Stanley RDO; 06 Sep Brown BP ... Late: 17 Sep Union DS; 07 Sep Clay GJS

**Warbling Vireo** Late: 28 Sep Douglas KP; 26 Sep Charles Mix RM; 18 Sep Stanley RDO; 18 Sep Clay GJS; 30 Aug Perkins ND

**Philadelphia Vireo** All Reports: 23 Aug Clay GJS; 04 Sep Charles Mix KP; 04 Sep Union ND; 05 Sep Stanley RDO; 08 Sep Hughes EDS

**Red-eyed Vireo** Late: 02 Oct Hughes DB; 17 Sep Charles Mix KP; 13 Sep Clay GJS; 10 Sep Minnehaha MKZ, CA; 10 Sep Brown GO, BP; 03 Sep Bennett ND

**Clark's Nutcracker** Only Report: 04 Aug Custer MO

**Black-billed Magpie** reported 01 Oct Corson and Dewey MMM; 30 Oct Lyman KM, RDO

**Purple Martin** Late: 04 Sep Union ND; 01 Sep Lake JSP; 23 Aug Brookings KCJ

**Tree Swallow** Late: 21 Sep Brown BP; 17 Sep Brookings JSP; 11 Sep Charles Mix KP; 15 Aug Pennington JLB

**Violet-green Swallow** Late: 15 Aug Pennington JLB; 05 Aug Fall River MO; 04 Aug Custer MO

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** Late: 17 Sep Brookings JSP; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 01 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Bank Swallow** Late: 17 Sep Gregory RM; 17 Sep Brookings JSP; 11 Sep Charles Mix KP

**Cliff Swallow** Late: **01 Oct Beadle RND**; 23 Sep Charles Mix RM; 17 Sep Brookings JSP; 17 Aug Fall River ND

**Barn Swallow** Late: 18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 11 Oct McPherson BP; 10 Oct Lake and Kingsbury MKZ, CA; 17 Sep Pennington RSL

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Early: 11 Aug Brown GO; 23 Aug Hughes DB; 01 Sep Lake JSP  
**Pygmy Nuthatch** All Reports: 01 Aug Custer BP; 04 Aug Pennington MO; 30 Sep Pennington ND; 05 Nov Pennington RSL  
**Brown Creeper** Early: 08 Oct Roberts JSP; 15 Oct Clay GJS; 25 Oct Stanley KM  
**Rock Wren** All Reports: 01 Sep Custer RSL; 03 Sep Bennett ND; 04 Sep Custer DS, JSP; 19 Sep Butte EK  
**Canyon Wren** All Reports: 04 Aug Custer MO; 01 Sep Custer RSL; 04 Sep Custer DS, JSP; 10 Sep Custer ND; 12 Nov Lawrence SW  
**House Wren** Late: 04 Oct Hughes DB; 02 Oct Charles Mix KP; 30 Sep Minnehaha CA; 23 Sep Custer MMM  
**Winter Wren** Early: 08 Oct Roberts JSP; 17 Oct Charles Mix RM; 23 Oct Stanley KM ... Late: 26 Nov Hughes RDO; 29 Oct Douglas KP  
**Sedge Wren** Late: **03 Nov Clay RND**; 22 Oct McPherson BP; 12 Oct Hughes KM  
**Marsh Wren** Late: 12 Nov Hughes KM; 08 Oct McPherson BP; 02 Oct Charles Mix KP; 21 Sep Pennington OCW  
**American Dipper** Only Report: 04 Sep Lawrence JLB  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet** Early: 01 Oct Lake JSP; 09 Oct Lincoln CA; 14 Oct Charles Mix RM  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Early: 07 Sep Hughes EDS; 10 Sep Minnehaha CA, MKZ; 13 Sep Clay GJS ... Late: 16 Nov Hughes KM; 01 Nov Hand KM; 31 Oct Stanley KM; 24 Oct Pennington CLG  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Late: 13 Sep Charles Mix RM; 08 Sep Lincoln CA; 06 Sep Minnehaha CA; 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP  
**Eastern Bluebird** Late: 26 Nov Yankton SS; 19 Nov Gregory RM; 14 Nov Butte RDO; 29 Oct Kingsbury JSP  
**Mountain Bluebird** Late: 16 Nov Fall River ND; 05 Oct Pennington EK; 30 Sep Lawrence EK  
**Townsend's Solitaire** Early: 13 Oct Sully KM; 14 Oct Hughes KM; 20 Oct Stanley DB; 01 Nov Hand KM  
**Veery** All Reports: 02 Aug Roberts MO; 01 Sep Hughes DB; 01 Sep Stanley RDO; 04 Sep Clay ND; 04 Sep Hughes DB  
**Gray-checked Thrush** Only Report: 18 Sep Stanley RDO  
**Swainson's Thrush** Early: 28 Aug Stanley SS; 30 Aug Hughes EDS; 30 Aug Perkins ND; 01 Sep Lake JSP ... Late: 24 Sep Hughes DB; 21 Sep Stanley RDO; 17 Sep Pennington ND; 16 Sep Brookings KCJ  
**Hermit Thrush** All Reports: 05 Oct Minnehaha BP; 14 Oct Roberts MO; 09 Nov Sully KM  
**Gray Catbird** Late: 30 Nov Pennington ND; 31 Oct Stanley KM; 10 Oct Hughes KM; 02 Oct Minnehaha CA  
**Brown Thrasher** Late: 30 Nov Lawrence VDF; 27 Nov Hughes KM; 24 Oct Stanley KM; 25 Sep Brookings KCJ  
**Northern Mockingbird** All Reports: 05 Aug Fall River MO; 16 Oct Gregory ND  
**American Pipit** Early: 24 Sep Charles Mix KP; 26 Sep McPherson BP; 01 Oct Harding ND ... Late: 30 Oct Hamlin CA; 29 Oct Kingsbury JSP; 18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 08 Oct Perkins ND  
**Bohemian Waxwing** Early: 01 Nov Hand KM; 06 Nov Sully KM; 10 Nov Stanley KM  
**Ovenbird** Late: 30 Sep Hughes EDS; 16 Sep Brookings KCJ; 05 Sep Turner ND; 05 Sep Brown BP; 18 Aug Pennington ND

**Northern Waterthrush** Early: 30 Aug Hughes EDS; 31 Aug Stanley RDO; 01 Sep Custer RSL ... Late: 24 Sep Hughes DB

**Black-and-white Warbler** Early: 02 Aug Roberts MO; 07 Aug Hughes DB; 21 Aug Stanley RDO; 29 Aug Lawrence VDF ... Late: 08 Sep Brown GO; 07 Sep Hughes EDS; 07 Sep Clay GJS

**Tennessee Warbler** Early: 28 Aug Stanley SS; 03 Sep Bennett and Oglala Lakota ND; 03 Sep Charles Mix RM; 15 Sep Codington BP ... Late: 06 Oct Brown GO; 30 Sep Minnehaha CA; 22 Sep Pennington ND; 05 Sep Hughes RDO

**Orange-crowned Warbler** Early: 22 Aug Pennington CLG; 30 Aug Perkins ND; 01 Sep Custer RSL; 01 Sep Hughes DB; 05 Sep Hutchinson ND ... Late: **01 Nov Hand KM**; 24 Oct Stanley and Hughes KM; 16 Oct Tripp RDO

**Nashville Warbler** Early: 27 Aug Union CA, KP; 31 Aug Day BP; 01 Sep Brown GO; 01 Sep Lake JSP ... Late: 06 Oct Lake JSP; 02 Oct Minnehaha CA; 02 Oct Hughes DB

**MacGillivray's Warbler** All Reports: 04 Aug Custer MO; 15 Aug Lawrence ND; 04 Sep Custer DS, JSP

**Mourning Warbler** All Reports: 24 Aug Clay GJS; 05 Sep Charles Mix ND; 06 Sep Hughes EDS; 14 Sep Brookings KCJ; 30 Sep Hughes EDS

**Common Yellowthroat** Late: **19 Oct Pennington OCW**; 12 Oct Hughes KM; 01 Oct Lake JSP

**American Redstart** Late: 19 Sep Pennington CLG; 18 Sep Stanley BP; 14 Sep Brookings KCJ

**Northern Parula** All Reports: 01 Oct Hughes DB, KM, RDO; **02 Oct Hughes DB**

**Magnolia Warbler** All Reports: **21 Aug Hughes DB**; 01 Sep Lake JSP; 03 Sep Hughes DB

**Bay-breasted Warbler** Only Report: 10 Sep Brown GO

**Blackburnian Warbler** All Reports: 23 Aug Stanley RDO; 27 Aug Union CA, KP

**Yellow Warbler** Late: 24 Sep Hughes DB; 20 Sep Charles Mix RM; 19 Sep Pennington CLG; 10 Sep Brown BP

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** All Reports: 22 Aug Stanley RDO; 30 Aug Hughes EDS; 18 Sep Stanley BP

**Blackpoll Warbler** All Reports: 02 Sep Hughes DB; 03 Sep Hughes DB; 05 Sep Union ND; 06 Sep Hughes EDS

**Palm Warbler** All Reports: 18 Sep Buffalo RDO; 26 Sep Hughes EDS; 01 Oct Hughes RDO; 02 Oct Hughes DB; 11 Oct Hughes DB; **22 Oct Kingsbury JSP**

**Pine Warbler** Only Report: 01 Nov Hand KM

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** Early: 08 Sep Stanley RDO; 10 Sep Lyman JSP; 13 Sep Spink BP ... Late: 28 Nov Hughes KM; 19 Nov Charles Mix ND; 13 Nov Yankton KP; 05 Nov Marshall BP; 11 Oct Butte ND

**Black-throated Green Warbler** All Reports: 27 Aug Union CA, KP; 05 Sep Turner ND

**Canada Warbler** Early: 23 Aug Clay GJS; 27 Aug Union CA, KP; 30 Aug Stanley RDO; 01 Sep Lake JSP ... Late: 07 Sep Clay GJS; 02 Sep Stanley KM

**Wilson's Warbler** Early: 21 Aug Stanley RDO; 24 Aug Fall River ND; 25 Aug Lake JSP ... Late: 28 Sep Pennington OCW; 26 Sep Hughes EDS; 21 Sep Stanley RDO; 16 Sep Brookings KCJ

**Yellow-breasted Chat** Late: 07 Sep Hughes EDS; 03 Sep Oglala Lakota ND; 03 Sep Pennington RSL; 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP

**Scarlet Tanager** Late: 05 Sep Union ND; 04 Sep Yankton ND; 30 Aug Lincoln CA

**Western Tanager** Late: **26 Sep Pennington CLG**; 05 Sep Meade EEM; 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP

**Spotted Towhee** Late: 03 Nov Lake JSP; 19 Oct Hughes DB; 16 Oct Yankton SS, KP, CA; 16 Oct Tripp RDO

**Eastern Towhee** Late: **16 Oct Yankton SS**; 27 Sep Charles Mix RM; 27 Aug Union KP, CA; 18 Aug Lincoln CA

**American Tree Sparrow** Early: 12 Oct Yankton RND; 17 Oct Hughes KM; 19 Oct Stanley RDO; 22 Oct Lake JSP; 22 Oct McPherson BP; 24 Oct Pennington CLG

**Chipping Sparrow** Late: 11 Nov Brown BP; 05 Nov Charles Mix KP; 29 Oct Lincoln MKZ; 19 Oct Pennington OCW

**Clay-colored Sparrow** Late: 18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 15 Oct Clay MKZ et al; 11 Oct Hughes DB; 08 Oct Brown GO; 01 Oct Harding ND

**Field Sparrow** Late: 10 Oct Hughes KM; 10 Oct Custer MMM; 09 Oct Lincoln CA; 09 Oct Brown GO

**Vesper Sparrow** Late: 26 Oct Charles Mix RM; 22 Oct Douglas KP; 17 Oct Minnehaha MKZ; 06 Oct Meade JLB; 06 Oct Custer MMM

**Lark Sparrow** Late: **15 Oct Clay ND, KCJ**; 04 Sep Stanley RDO; 04 Sep Charles Mix KP; 03 Sep Oglala Lakota and Bennett ND; 03 Sep Pennington RSL; 13 Aug Brown BP

**Lark Bunting** Late: 03 Sep Pennington RSL; 03 Sep Meade JLB; 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP; 29 Aug Lyman SS

**Savannah Sparrow** Late: 22 Oct McPherson and Brown BP; 18 Oct Clay RND; 18 Oct Charles Mix RM; 10 Oct Custer MMM

**Grasshopper Sparrow** Late: 23 Sep Charles Mix RM; 17 Sep Gregory RM; 21 Aug Brookings ND

**Le Conte's Sparrow** Early: 30 Sep Minnehaha CA; 10 Oct Clay DS; 14 Oct Roberts MO ... Late: **08 Nov Clay DS**; 22 Oct Charles Mix KP; 08 Oct Minnehaha MKZ, CA

**Fox Sparrow** Early: 25 Sep Brookings KCJ; 29 Sep Lake JSP; 30 Sep Minnehaha CA; 08 Oct Hughes RDO; 23 Oct Lawrence VDF ... Late: 26 Nov Charles Mix KP; 20 Nov Minnehaha CA; 19 Nov Clay GJS

**Song Sparrow** Late: 24 Nov Pennington KM; 22 Nov Stanley KM; 16 Nov Hughes KM; 06 Nov McPherson BP

**Lincoln's Sparrow** Early: 26 Aug Stanley SS; 28 Aug Fall River RSL; 01 Sep Hughes DB; 14 Sep Brookings KCJ ... Late: 04 Nov Lawrence VDF; 02 Nov Pennington OCW; 20 Oct Lincoln CA; 16 Oct Yankton SS et al

**Swamp Sparrow** Late: 04 Nov Yankton DS; 31 Oct Stanley KM; 29 Oct Hughes KM; 08 Oct Minnehaha MKZ, CA

**White-throated Sparrow** Early: 18 Sep Stanley RDO; 24 Sep Charles Mix KP; 25 Sep Brookings KCJ; 27 Sep Lawrence VDF ... Late: 11 Nov Minnehaha CA; 05 Nov Marshall MO; 05 Nov Hughes KM

**Harris's Sparrow** Early: 26 Sep Douglas KP; 26 Sep Hughes EDS; 26 Sep Lake JSP; 28 Sep Pennington OCW ... Late: 20 Nov Minnehaha CA; 19 Nov Moody CA; 19 Nov Clay GJS; 12 Nov Lawrence ND

**White-crowned Sparrow** Early: **03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP**; 11 Sep Bennett RSL; 17 Sep Hughes DB; 17 Sep Pennington BP, RSL; 26 Sep Douglas KP; 26 Sep Lake JSP ... Late: 20 Nov Minnehaha CA; 16 Nov Hughes KM; 12 Nov Lawrence ND, JLB

**Dark-eyed Junco** Early: 13 Sep Hughes DB; 26 Sep Lake JSP; 27 Sep Brown GO; 27 Sep Charles Mix RM

**Lapland Longspur** Early: 30 Oct Stanley KM, RDO; 31 Oct Perkins ND; 02 Nov Charles Mix KP; 05 Nov Marshall MO

**Smith's Longspur** All Reports: **02 Oct Sully RDO; 05 Nov Roberts MO**

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** All Reports: 21 Aug Hand ND; 03 Sep Pennington RSL

**Snow Bunting** Early: 06 Nov McPherson BP; 19 Nov Moody CA; 21 Nov Charles Mix RM; 21 Nov Roberts CV

**Northern Cardinal** reported 09 Aug Pennington JLB

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Late: 18 Sep Clay GJS; 12 Sep Charles Mix RM; 08 Sep Lincoln CA

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Late: 12 Sep Charles Mix RM; 10 Sep Custer ND; 04 Sep Stanley RDO; 13 Aug Brown BP

**Blue Grosbeak** Late: 10 Sep Lyman JSP; 08 Sep Charles Mix RM; 07 Sep Custer MMM; 17 Aug McCook KP

**Lazuli Bunting** Late: 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP; 03 Sep Bennett ND; 30 Aug Perkins ND; 29 Aug Lyman SS

**Indigo Bunting** Late: **11 Oct Hughes EDS**; 18 Sep Clay GJS; 17 Sep Gregory RM, KP; 23 Aug Brookings KCJ; 05 Aug Fall River MO

**Dickcissel** Late: **15 Oct Clay CA, BP**; 08 Sep Charles Mix RM; 29 Aug Lyman SS; 20 Aug Hanson ND

**Bobolink** Late: **24 Sep Miner JSP**; 20 Aug Charles Mix ND; 15 Aug Meade ND

**Red-winged Blackbird** Late: 27 Nov Hughes KM; 27 Nov Day ND; 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Douglas KP; 26 Nov Charles Mix KP; 24 Nov Tripp RDO

**Eastern Meadowlark** Only Report: **03 Sep Bennett ND**

**Western Meadowlark** Late: 30 Nov Stanley KM; 26 Nov Jones KM; 26 Nov Charles Mix KP; 12 Nov Lake JSP

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** Late: 13 Nov Brown GO; 05 Nov Perkins ND; 30 Oct Stanley RDO, KM

**Rusty Blackbird** Early: 08 Oct Perkins ND; 23 Oct Charles Mix KP; 24 Oct Hughes KM; 04 Nov Minnehaha CA ... Late: 30 Nov Hughes KM; 21 Nov Charles Mix RM; 18 Nov Clay DS; 13 Nov Brown GO; 05 Nov Perkins ND

**Brewer's Blackbird** Late: 21 Nov Charles Mix RM; 19 Nov Douglas KP; 05 Nov Perkins ND; 05 Nov Marshall BP

**Common Grackle** Late: 26 Nov Lake JSP; 26 Nov Codington ND; 22 Nov Jones KM; 22 Nov Brookings KCJ; 19 Nov Clay GJS; 19 Nov Charles Mix ND

**Brown-headed Cowbird** Late: 21 Nov Charles Mix RM; 11 Nov Minnehaha CA; 05 Nov Perkins ND

**Orchard Oriole** Late: 05 Sep Charles Mix KP; 04 Sep Brown BP; 03 Sep Oglala Lakota ND; 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP

**Bullock's Oriole** Only Report: 05 Aug Fall River MO

**Baltimore Oriole** Late: 16 Sep Charles Mix RM; 06 Sep Brown BP; 04 Sep Union ND; 04 Sep Stanley RDO; 04 Sep Hughes DB; 04 Sep Custer DS, JSP; 04 Sep Clay ND, GJS; 04 Sep Bon Homme ND

**Purple Finch** Early: 09 Oct Lincoln CA; 22 Oct Lake JSP; 24 Oct Stanley KM

**Cassin's Finch** Only Report: 04 Sep Custer DS, JSP

**Pine Siskin** All Reports: 01 Aug Custer BP; 04 Oct Pennington RDO; 24 Oct Stanley KM

**Lesser Goldfinch** Late: **11 Sep Pennington ND**; 03 Sep Fall River DS, JSP, KCJ

**Evening Grosbeak** All Reports: 03 Aug Meade EEM; 09 Sep Lawrence VDF; 30 Nov Lawrence VDF

## Reports Requiring Acceptance By The Rare Bird Records Committee

**Cinnamon Teal** 20 Oct Charles Mix RM  
**Red-throated Loon** 11-13 Nov Yankton DS, RM, KP, RND  
**Horned Grebe** 04 Sep Charles Mix KP; 11 Sep Charles Mix KP  
**Neotropic Cormorant** 02 Oct Charles Mix KP  
**Arctic Tern** 20 Sep Hughes DB, RDO, SS  
**Black-chinned Hummingbird** 01 Aug Meade DC, RDO; 03 Aug Meade MO  
**Costa's Hummingbird** 17 Oct – 26 Oct Pennington JLB, ND, RDO, RSL, SS, RM  
**Rufous Hummingbird** 23 Sep Pennington ND  
**Calliope Hummingbird** 09-10 Oct Hughes DB, KM, RDO, SS  
**Cassin's Vireo** 04 Sep Custer DS, JSP  
**Common Raven** 04 Oct Harding KCJ; 09 Oct Lake JSP  
**Violet-green Swallow** 06 Aug Walworth RDO, MO  
**Cliff Swallow** 18 Oct Charles Mix RM  
**Hooded Warbler** 17 Sep Charles Mix RM  
**White-throated Sparrow** 06 Aug Minnehaha CA  
**Purple Finch** 29 Nov Lawrence VDF

## Species Expected But Not Reported

American Black Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye (3), Greater Sage-Grouse, Common Gallinule (3), Whooping Crane (2), Long-billed Curlew, Black-legged Kittiwake (2), Little Gull, Mew Gull, Glaucous Gull (2), Snowy Owl, Cassin's Kingbird, Pinyon Jay (2), Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, Varied Thrush (2), Sage Thrasher, Sprague's Pipit, Golden-winged Warbler (2), Blue-winged Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler (2), Cape May Warbler (4), Black-throated Blue Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle (4), Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill (2), Common Redpoll

## Contributing Observers

CA	Chris Anderson	RDO	Ricky D. Olson
DB	Doug Backlund	MO	Mark Otnes
JLB	Jocelyn L. Baker	JSP	Jeffrey S. Palmer
KB	Kristel Bakker	BP	Barry Parkin
DC	Douglas Chapman	KP	Kelly M. Preheim
RND	Roger N. Dietrich	GJS	Gary & Jan Small
ND	Nancy Drilling	SS	Scott Stolz
VDF	Vic & Donna Fondy	EDS	Eileen D. Stukel
CLG	Canyon Lake Group	OCW	Outdoor Campus West Survey
KCJ	Kent C. Jensen	DS	David Swanson
EK	Elizabeth Krueger	CV	Cheryl Vellenga
RSL	Richard S. Latuchie	SW	Scott Weins
RM	Ron Mabie	MRZ	Mick R. Zerr
MMM	Michael M. Melius		
EEM	Ernest E. Miller		
KM	Kenny Miller		
GO	Gary Olson		

## *To Feed or Not to Feed: That is the Question*

Controversy concerning seasonal feeding of birds has been the subject of discussion for many years. While many homeowners feed birds primarily in the winter, trying to gauge the success of winter survival relative to feeder activity is difficult. “Since the prevalence of bird feeding has become so universal,” notes David Bonter, citizen science director at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, “the biggest challenge for scientists studying the impact of bird feeders is finding a control population that does not have access to feeders”.

We can envision the magnitude of this problem by just driving around South Dakota and doing a superficial inventory of feeders in both rural and urban settings. “Even if *this* problem could be solved,” Bonter adds, “it would be extremely difficult to separate the effects of supplemental feeding from changes in habitat caused by humans, or changes from the effects of global warming.” In other words, there are so many relatively new external factors affecting bird populations and survival, that it will take intensive study to make determinations as to the role of bird feeding in this broad arena.

To survive Dakota winters, monophagous (eating only one kind of food) feeding habits would be detrimental to a bird’s health. For instance, the European Starling most of the year eats widely available insects and fruit, but will also take fruit, suet, human food scraps, seeds and carrion during the winter. However, birds that eat a limited diet, such as insectivorous flycatchers must migrate for food or starve. Bird feeders will not help these species.

To feed birds in a specific area, one must research proper seasonal food to be offered for the specific avian species in your area. Many feeder birders only put out one kind of seed – the black oil sunflower. Nutritionally this seed may be a good choice, but it does not help a bird’s need for a diverse diet. It is vital to note that bird feeders are only a supplement (in most cases) to the diet of wild birds. In times of intense weather-related stress, the availability of feeder foods is often the most important factor in survival. Birds can survive cold temperatures, but only if they maintain their high body temperature, and this is accomplished best through an adequate diet.

According to Cornell’s Project FeederWatch, common feeder birds in North America are doing well, and bird feeding could certainly be playing a part by contributing to larger clutches or higher hatchling survival. Among the 65 to 70 species that Project FeederWatch monitors, most populations are stable or increasing. Feeder birders involved in Project FeederWatch or those just keeping their own records will note that certain species are increasing, decreasing, or staying stable. However, other environmental factors must be kept in mind.

After surveying data for 136 species, Project FeederWatch leader Emma Greig, presented a paper at the 2016 North American Ornithological Conference, which found that most feeder birds have strong populations, but those species most in trouble—such as seabirds and shorebirds—don’t come to feeders and are declining because of other threats. According to Greig, feeding birds may not help the hardest-hit species, but it may inspire people to support conservation.

However, ornithologists warn that feeding birds can have negative impacts, including outbreaks of mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, a disease that has wiped out sixty percent of House Finches in the eastern United States and is now seen in the American Goldfinch. Both



of these species are common feeder birds. Bird feeding also contributed to the eastward spread of the House Finch, (which is native to the west) from released birds (New York, 1940) thus helping in the spread of conjunctivitis.

Territorial migration changes, coupled with climate change and possibly feeder availability might be factors in the northern movement of Northern Cardinals in the Dakotas as indicated by comparisons of Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. Bird feeders may serve as ecological traps by tempting birds to nest too early or providing false clues that a habitat has abundant food.

A controversial assumption that feeders contribute to an increase in predator birds needs more study. A factor that may be considered is that birds will become more apt to escape or detect predators due to feeder birds learning from the demise of others. The “survival of the smartest” would tend to show the results in the increase and modus operandi of predator attacks. The Raptor Population Index Project ([rpi-project.org](http://rpi-project.org)) did not indicate an increase in U.S. feeder related accipiter populations, as might be expected if more prey were actually observed around feeders.

A multi-year study (2011-2014) (Wilcoxon, T. and D. Horn, et al.) compared three forested sites where supplemental food was provided with three forested sites for which no supplemental food was available. Changes in the individual health of birds were monitored to determine whether any changes in bird health had occurred after feeders had been removed from sites ten months before.

Generally, the individual health of birds improved with supplemental feeding, including increased antioxidant levels, reduced stress, and more rapid feather growth. In some species the study also found improved body condition index scores and innate immune defense. The difference among sites was not present ten months after feeders were removed, suggesting that the impact on health was indeed related to supplemental feeding. The study noted other potential negative effects of supplemental feeding including pox, dermal disease or cloacal disease among individual birds at forested sites where supplemental food was offered. The study found



*Common Redpolls at feeder. Photo: Mick Zerr.*

both positive and negative impacts of wild bird feeding. In general, though, birds that had access to supplemental food were in better physiological condition. Moreover, the negative effects found may be mitigated by hobbyists engaging in safer bird-feeding practices.

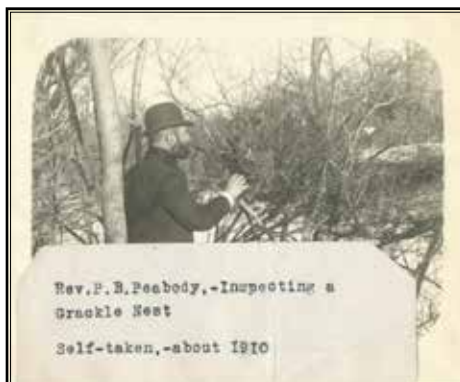
Feeding birds does have both negative and positive effects on the health and population of feeder birds. The evidence shows that the positive effects can outweigh the negatives if proper food is offered and feeder hygiene is practiced. This, coupled with the intrinsic and educational values of observing birds in the yard, especially if observations are reported to eBird, Project FeederWatch, or other citizen science monitoring tools, would indicate feeding birds has more positive results than negative.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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by Douglas Chapman

For any modern-day ornithologists who may wish to reconnect with a bit of very old-style ornithology, a visit to the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls would grant a taste of what was important in ornithology at the turn of the twentieth century. In 1930, Rev. Putnam B. Peabody donated his extensive collection of bird nests and eggs (including well-written notes) to the new Pettigrew Museum in Sioux Falls in. His sister, Miss Mary Peabody, was the first curator of the Pettigrew and their sister Helen Peabody was the Principal at All Saints School (founded by Episcopalian bishop Hare), now Waterford at All Saints. Mary was a science teacher at All Saints before becoming Curator at the new Pettigrew in 1930.



This was a very different time for study of birds. Oology—the science of collecting of eggs (often right after shooting the bird off the nest) was considered important to ornithological science. Peabody kept meticulous notes and signed each of his photos and cards. The card of the Least Vireo nest was signed by the reverend after the initial collection was donated, so it seems he must have continued to add to his donation.

This nest was collected in California by a Mr. Paul Field. These early ornithologists traded material widely, which is no doubt how Peabody acquired it. The Least Vireo (*Vireo pusillus*) breeds only in California and was then considered a separate species. It is now one of four subspecies of Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). It is Federally listed as a Critically Endangered subspecies.

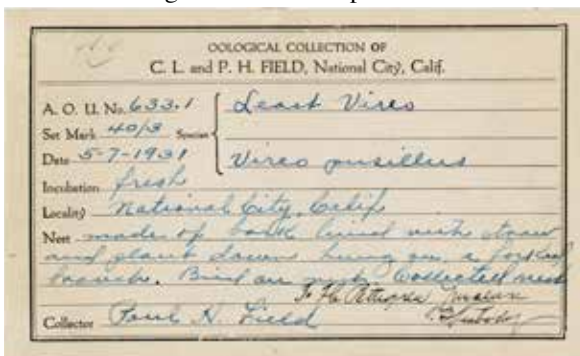


Fig. 2. Least Vireo Catalogue Card. "... Bird on nest. Collected nest."



Fig. 3. Piping Plover nest at Devil's Lake, ND

Peabody was an Episcopal priest who was assigned a wide variety of Missionary parishes. Born in Wisconsin, he served as the Parish priest for several years in Blue Rapids, Kansas, but was also involved in Wyoming, North Dakota, California and visited his sisters here in South Dakota to speak and study birds.

The Reverend published papers in many journals of the day, from *The Auk* to *The Wilson Bulletin*. For a sample, see his letter in defense of egg-collecting "Apropos of Egg-Collecting", found online at <<https://sora.unm.edu/node/94767>>. From his rhetoric it seems not everyone appreciated egg-stealing collecting.



Fig. 4. Labeled "Red-wing Nest in Raspberries". I wonder about that.



Fig. 5. Bullock's Oriole nest. Crook County, Wyoming.



Fig. 6. Catbird nest with cowbird egg.

The Argus Leader wrote an article about this new display in 1931. Selections from the collection are on display through the fall of 2017 on the second floor of the beautiful historic Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls.

When Rev. Peabody donated his collection, it was among the most diverse in the nation. For many years one entire room at the Pettigrew Museum housed the collection. It was a favorite of school children on field trips.

All photos are from Rev. Peabody's very fragile notebook now at the Old Courthouse Museum. Many thanks to Adam Nyhaug and Shely Sjovold of the museum staff.



## Contents

FLEDGLING TRACTS: <i>Why Didn't Someone Just Tell Me That?!</i> by Jason Thiele .....	3
EDITORIAL: <i>End of an Era—and Beginning Anew</i> .....	6
by Douglas Chapman	
Where Have All the Raptors Gone? .....	7
by Terry Sohl	
FALL 2016 SEASONAL REPORTS .....	12
by Jeffrey S. Palmer	
YARDSTUFF: <i>To Feed or Not To Feed</i> .....	24
by Mick Zerr	
Rev. Putnam Peabody Collection at.....	26
the Pettigrew Museum by Douglas Chapman	
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	Back Cover
Lake County, 1/27/2017 Photo: Mick Zerr	