

## ANNOTATED CHECKLIST

### **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**

(*Anser albifrons*)

**Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Look for Greater White-fronted Geese on large wetlands and in cropland.

**High Counts:** About 10 Greater White-fronted Geese were in Nels Three-Quarters Pasture in April 2011 (Ryan Cumbow pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** In Central SD, Greater White-fronted Geese (Figure 15) are most often found mixed with large flocks of Canada or Snow Geese. White-fronted migration peaks in April and from late September to late October. One or two Greater White-fronted Geese were heard with Canada Geese flying over Prairie Hills North Pasture on 10 February 2015 (DNS, Ryan Cumbow).

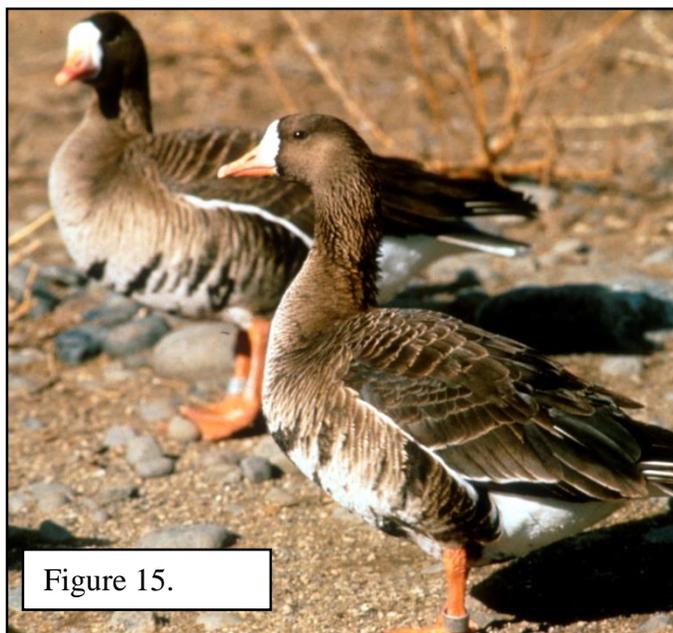


Figure 15.

### **SNOW GOOSE** (*Chen caerulescens*)

**Status:** Abundant but irregular spring and fall migrant, casual summer and winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Snow Geese use cropland and large wetlands.

**Remarks:** Snow Goose migration peaks in April and again from late September to early November. A lingering spring bird was near Dry Hole Chester Pasture on 1 May 2014 (DNS, Ryan Cumbow). A “blue” Snow Goose was observed several times in the SW portion of the checklist area (for example at Booth Dam) in June 2010 or 2011 (Ryan Cumbow pers. comm.). Alan Van Norman reported a Snow Goose in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 5 January 2013 (eBird database).

### **ROSS’S GOOSE** (*Chen rossii*)

**Status:** Fairly common but irregular spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** The distribution of the Ross’s Goose is the same as the Snow Goose.

**High Counts:** Approximately 40 Ross’s Geese were with the hundreds of Snow Geese passing over the Cookstove Shelterbelt on 10 November 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Look for this species in large flocks of Snow Geese. Peak migration periods for Ross’s Geese are April and October/November.

**CAACKLING GOOSE***(Branta hutchinsii)*

**Status:** Common but irregular spring and fall migrant, uncommon but irregular winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Cackling Geese use cropland and wetland habitats.

**Remarks:** Watch for this species in flocks of Canada Geese. Cackling Goose (Figure 16) migration peaks in April and October/November. Carey Cooper reported a relatively late Cackling Goose on 17 May 2014 in the Stanley County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland (eBird database).



Figure 16.

**CANADA GOOSE***(Branta canadensis)*

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer resident, abundant but irregular winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Canada Geese use both cropland and wetlands.

**Nesting Records:** Nests and broods are found annually within the checklist area. For example, a brood with 6 goslings was at South Lake Flat Dam on 12 July 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Local numbers swell with migrants from mid-March to late April, and again from October to early November. Early April to mid-August is the peak of breeding. Wintering flocks centered in Pierre are occasionally seen flying over or feeding in the checklist area.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** (*Cygnus buccinator*)

**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Trumpeter Swans use large reservoirs.

**Remarks:** The only local record for this species pertains to two birds seen at Nels North Pasture on 16 October 2014 (Ryan Cumbow pers. comm.).

**TUNDRA SWAN** (*Cygnus columbianus*)

**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Trumpeter Swans use large reservoirs.

**Remarks:** The only local record for this species pertains to a bird verified by Doug Backlund in County Line #14 on 29 November 2009 (District Files).

**WOOD DUCK** (*Aix sponsa*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Wood Ducks might be found in any seasonal or semipermanent wetland, but are most likely to be found at large reservoirs with shoreline trees.

**High Counts:** Four birds were at Sheriff Dam on 17 August 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Migration occurs in April, September, and October. Most summer records pertain to single male birds such as the 2014 birds at: Antelope Creek South Pasture on 22 June; Mueller Dam on 19 July; near Bad River Three-quarters on 8 August, and at War Creek Dam on 19 August (all sightings DNS).

**GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Gadwall can be found in all wetland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Broods have been seen on many of the checklist area's stock ponds.

**Remarks:** Peak migration is from mid-April to mid-May, and again from September through October. Late May to late August is the peak of breeding.

**AMERICAN WIGEON**

(*Anas americana*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Like Gadwall, American Wigeon can be found in all wetland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Broods have been seen on many of the checklist area's stock ponds.

**Remarks:** April and September to mid-October are the most active periods for American Wigeon (Figure 17) migration, whereas early June to mid-August is the peak of breeding.

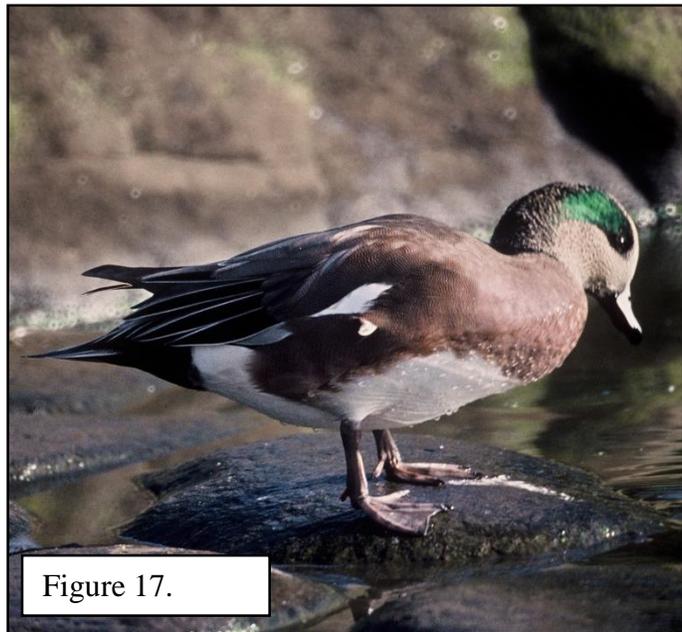


Figure 17.

**MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident, abundant but irregular winter visitor.

**Distribution:** The adaptable Mallard can be found anywhere there is water. They are also regularly seen in cropland

**Nesting Records:** Nests and/or broods are seen annually in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Spring migration runs from mid-March to early May; fall flights are most obvious in October and November. Late April to mid-August is the peak of breeding. Wintering flocks

centered in Pierre are occasionally seen flying over or feeding in the checklist area.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** (*Anas discors*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** All wetland habitats are used by this species.

**Nesting Records:** Blue-winged Teal broods are noted annually in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Blue-winged Teal (Figure 18) arrive in the second half of April, and depart by early October. Mid-May to mid-August is the peak of breeding.



Figure 18.

**CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas cyanoptera*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant, accidental summer resident.

**Distribution:** Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal use the same types of habitat.

**Nesting Records:** An adult female Cinnamon Teal and brood was observed at a wetland near Bad River Three-quarters Pasture on and after 19 June 2010 (Ricky Olson pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** A Cinnamon Teal pair was found at a wetland near Bad River Three-quarters Pasture on 23 May 2010 (Ricky Olson pers. comm.). The only other local record is of a male Cinnamon Teal reported from the Stanley County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 17 May 2014 (Carey Cooper, eBird database).

**NORTHERN SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses wetland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Broods are seen annually in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Peak movements are from mid-April to mid-May and again from September through October. Mid-May to mid-August is the peak of breeding.

**NORTHERN PINTAIL** (*Anas acuta*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, fairly common summer resident.

**Distribution:** Northern Pintails use wetlands and cropland.

**Nesting Records:** Broods are seen annually in the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Forty Northern Pintails flew over Sheriff Dam on 1 September 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Migration occurs from mid-March to early May and from early October through

November. Breeding activities peak from early April to early August.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** (*Anas crecca*)

**Status:** Common spring migrant, uncommon summer resident and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses wetlands.

**Nesting Records:** Broods have been seen on many of the checklist area's stock ponds.

**High Counts:** Twenty Green-winged Teal (mostly males) were at the dugout in West Bad River Big Pasture on 22 June 2013 (DNS).

**Remarks:** April and October are important migration months. Breeding activity peaks from mid-May to mid-August.

**CANVASBACK** (*Aythya valisineria*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare but irregular summer resident.

**Distribution:** Canvasbacks favor semipermanent wetlands with moderate amounts of emergent cover such as cattails or bulrushes, and extensive beds of submergent vegetation. In the checklist area, they are most likely to be seen on the largest stockponds available.

**Nesting Records:** A Canvasback brood was found on the Fort Pierre National Grassland during waterfowl surveys in 1993 (District Wildlife Files).

**Remarks:** Canvasback (Figure 19) migration occurs in early April and from mid-September through October. Peak breeding activity is from mid-May to mid-August.

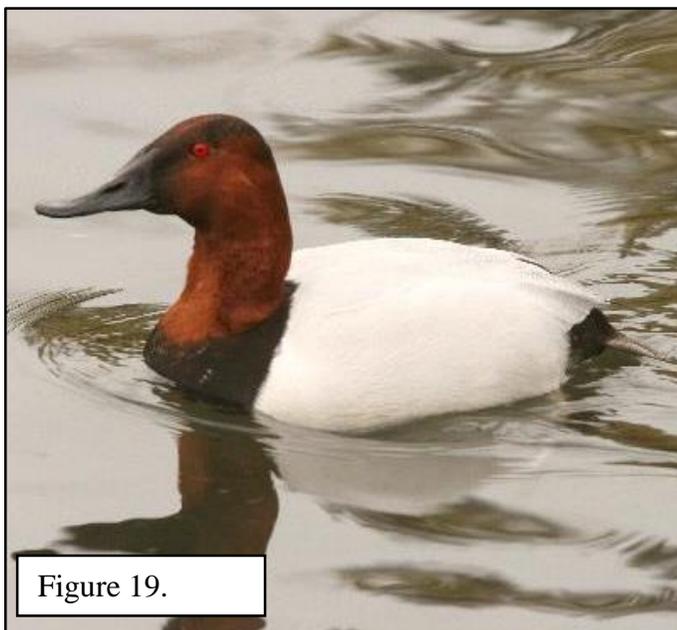


Figure 19.

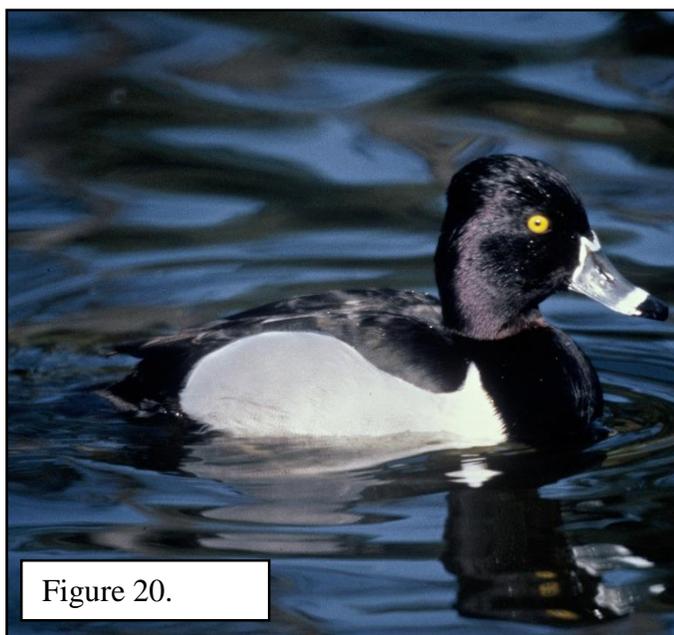
**REDHEAD** (*Aythya americana*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare but irregular summer resident.

**Distribution:** Redheads and Canvasbacks are often found using the same habitat.

**Nesting Records:** Two Redhead broods were found on the Fort Pierre National Grassland during waterfowl surveys in 1993 (District Wildlife Files); another was recorded in 1994 (ibid). A brood with 8 ducklings was at Mueller Dam on 19 July 2014 (DNS); a female with 6 young was in the Camp Flat East South Pasture on 25 August 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Early April and October are the periods of greatest abundance. Peak breeding activity occurs from early June to late August.

**RING-NECKED DUCK***(Aythya collaris)***Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Look for Ring-necked Ducks in the same types of habitats used by Canvasbacks and Redheads.**High Counts:** Fifty Ring-necked Ducks were at Nels Dam in the Nels North Pasture on 1 October 2015 (DNS, RM, CE, Kelly Fuoss).**Remarks:** Ring-necked Duck (Figure 20) migration is most active from mid-March through April and during October. Two early birds were at Nels Dam on 23 September 2014 (DNS, Ryan Cumbow pers. obs.).**GREATER SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*)**Status:** Uncommon spring migrant, rare but irregular fall migrant.**Distribution:** Look for Greater Scaup in the same habitats used by Canvasback.**Remarks:** Migrants pass through during April and again from October until freeze-up.**LESSER SCAUP** (*Aythya affinis*)**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor.**Distribution:** Look for Lesser Scaup in the same habitats used by Canvasback.**Remarks:** Migrant numbers peak from April through early May, and again from October through early November. Three male Lesser Scaups were at Mueller Dam on 5 June 2014 (RM, DNS).**BUFFLEHEAD** (*Bucephala albeola*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** This species uses the same kinds of habitat that are used by Canvasbacks.**Remarks:** Spring migration peaks in April; fall migration peaks in the second half of October.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE** (*Bucephala clangula*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring migrant, rare but irregular fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Common Goldeneye use the largest, deepest, least vegetated wetlands present.

**Remarks:** Migration occurs mostly from late March through early April and from mid-October through late November.

**HOODED MERGANSER** (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, casual summer visitor, accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Hooded Merganser use wetlands.

**Remarks:** April and October are the peak migration months for Hooded Mergansers. A bird was in Medicine Creek #3 Pasture (on pond #832W06) on 28 March 2014 (RM); a female was near the Antelope Creek South Pasture on 1 June 2014 (DNS). Alan VanNorman reported 3 Hooded Mergansers in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 2 December 2010 (eBird database); Scott Stolz had 3 there on 8 April 2013 (eBird database).

**COMMON MERGANSER** (*Mergus merganser*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Common Mergansers use the largest, deepest, least vegetated wetlands available.

**Remarks:** March through April is the local peak of spring migration for this species.

**RUDDY DUCK** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Ruddy Ducks are most likely to be found on stockponds with sufficient growths of emergent vegetation, such as cattail or bulrush.

**Nesting Records:** Three Ruddy Duck broods were found on the Fort Pierre National Grassland during waterfowl surveys in 1993 (District Wildlife Files). A brood with 5 ducklings was at Mueller Dam on 19 July 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Early May is the peak of spring numbers for Ruddy Ducks (Figure 21), whereas fall numbers swell from mid-August to mid-October. Mid-June to late August is the peak of breeding. A late bird was in Camp Flat East North Pasture on 4 November 2014 (DNS).

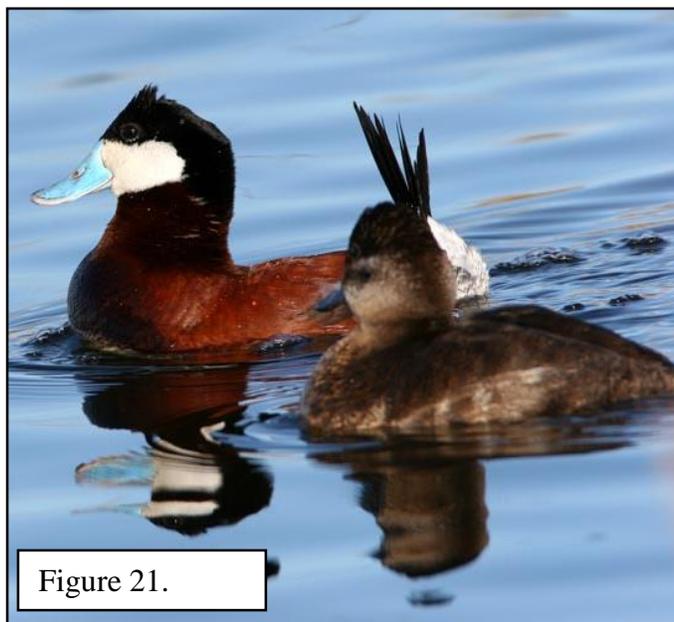


Figure 21.

**GRAY PARTRIDGE** (*Perdix perdix*)

**Status:** Extirpated year-round resident, accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Gray Partridge use all open habitats; they are most often found in or adjacent to cropland, hayland, or idle grasslands. In winter, partridge are most likely to be seen near occupied farmsteads (especially where livestock were being fed) or in harvested grain or sunflower fields.

**Nesting Records:** A Gray Partridge brood with two young was found near the Dobe Flat North Pasture on 15 July 2006 (CE).

**Remarks:** Gray Partridge numbers fluctuate year-to-year. The species has not been reported in the checklist area in

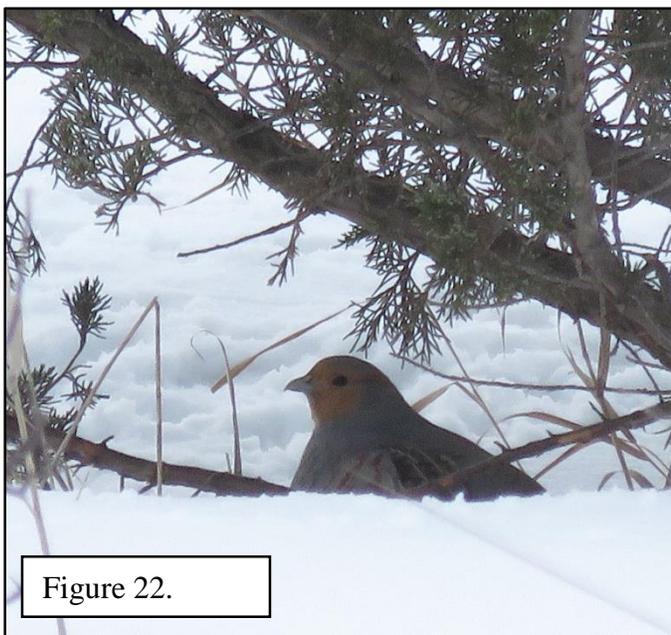


Figure 22.

the last several years, with the exception of a single bird (Figure 22) photographed along Countyline Road near the Timber Creek Home Pasture on 22 January 2016 (Ryan Cumbow, CE, DNS). Late May to late August is the peak of the breeding season.

**RING-NECKED PHEASANT** (*Phasianus colchicus*)

**Status:** Common year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Ring-necked Pheasants and Gray Partridge use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Pheasant nests and/or broods are seen annually throughout the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Alan Van Norman reported 2,500 Ring-necked Pheasants in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 2 December 2010 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** Mid-May to mid-August is the peak of breeding. Males can be heard calling during the early morning hours, from April through June.

**SHARP-TAILED GROUSE** (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)

**Status:** Fairly common year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Sharp-tailed Grouse are occasionally seen perched in isolated trees, and often roost or loaf in large shrub patches. They are most often encountered in or adjacent to cropland, hayland, idle grasslands or mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Nests and/or broods are annually found in the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Male Sharp-tailed Grouse (Figure 22) gather at leks to attract mates. Males can be observed on the leks from late March to mid-May, and again in mid-to late September. Peak activity is typically in the first 2 hours after dawn, during mid-to late April.

### **GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN** (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

**Status:** Common year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Greater Prairie-chickens are most often encountered in or adjacent to cropland, hayland, idle grasslands or mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Nests and/or broods are seen annually in the checklist area.

**High Counts:** On 3 December 2015, 500 birds were seen west of US 83, including 230 in a single flock near War Creek Dam (DNS).

**Remarks:** Male Greater Prairie-Chickens gather at leks to attract mates. Males can be observed on the leks from late March to mid-May, and again in mid-to late September. Peak activity is typically in the first 2 hours after dawn, during mid-to late April.

### **WILD TURKEY** (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

**Status:** Casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Wild Turkeys use a variety of habitats, but are most likely to use woodland and cropland.

**Remarks:** Ryan Cumbow photographed a hen Wild Turkey (Figure 23) on private land adjacent to the Knobblock Pasture on 16 January 2015. He had previously found Wild Turkey tracks, scat, and feathers at Smith Dam on an unspecified date. Dan Svingen photographed a Wild Turkey adjacent to Bomber West Pasture on 19 December 2015; the bird was subsequently seen nearby through the winter.



Figure 23.

### **PIED-BILLED GREBE**

(*Podilymbus podiceps*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Pied-billed Grebes use large stockponds, especially those that have an extensive (33%-66%) coverage of cattails and bulrush.

**Nesting Records:** A Pied-billed Grebe nest with 7 eggs was on Mallard Dam on 30 June 1987 (District Wildlife Files). Ruben Mares photographed an active nest (Figure 24) in the Chester ½ Section North Pasture on 19 June 2014. Broods are annually noted in the checklist area; for example, a



Figure 24.

dependent chick and attending parent were on Mueller Dam on 19 July 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Pied-billed Grebes typically arrive in mid-April, with most birds departing by mid-October. Six lingering birds on 12 November 2014 were trapped by ice near the Dry Hole Chester Pasture (DNS).

### **HORNED GREBE** (*Podiceps auritus*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Look for Horned Grebes on large reservoirs.

**Remarks:** Spring migration is active in April. The only local records are of a bird found by Scott Stolz in the Lyman County portion of the checklist area on 8 April 2013 (eBird database) and of 10 birds at Mueller Dam on 17 April 2014 (RM).

### **EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare but irregular summer resident.

**Distribution:** Look for Eared Grebes on large reservoirs with open water and extensive beds of submergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** An Eared Grebe was seen sitting atop a nest on Mueller Dam on 19 July 2014 (DNS).

**High Counts:** Six Eared Grebes were at Mueller Dam on 11 July 2014 (RM, DNS).

**Remarks:** Migrants are most numerous from mid-April to mid-May, and again during September and October.

### **WESTERN GREBE**

(*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual summer resident.

**Distribution:** Western Grebes prefer stockponds with at least some emergent vegetation, such as cattails or bulrush.

**High Counts:** Three birds were at Upper Booth Dam on 27 April 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Spring migration peaks from mid-April to mid-May, whereas fall migration peaks during October. Dan Svingen photographed a bird (Figure 25) at Reed Ranch Dam on 29 April 2015. A bird was at Richland Dam on 2 July 2001 (CE). A lone bird was at Sheriff Dam from May through September 2015 (DNS).

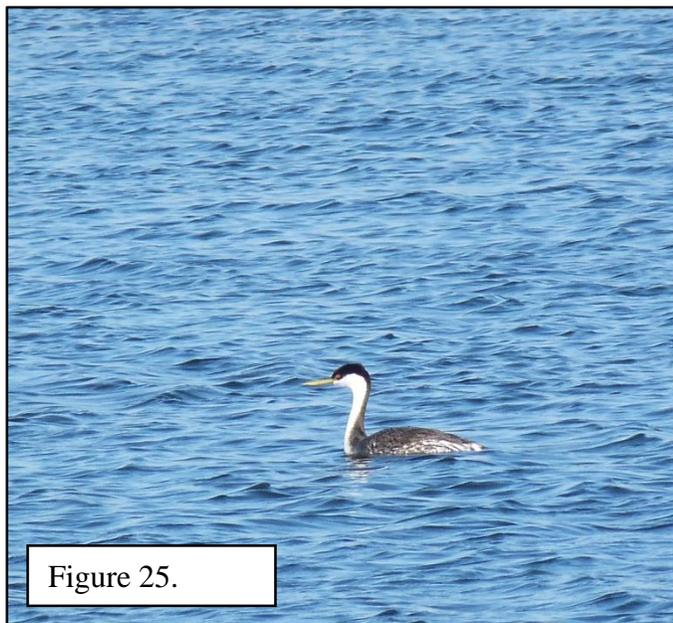


Figure 25.

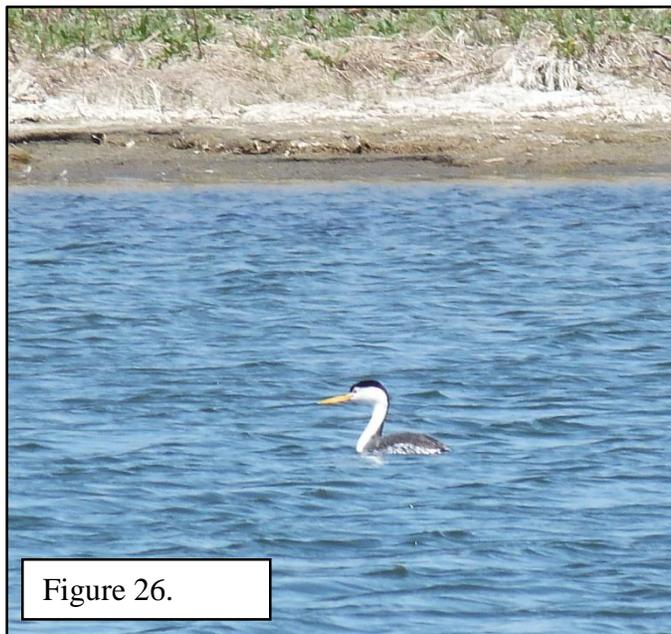
**CLARK'S GREBE***(Aechmophorus clarkii)***Status:** Casual spring migrant.**Distribution:** This species uses the same habitats frequented by Western Grebes.**Remarks:** The sole local record is of a bird photographed (Figure 26) by Dan Svingen at Monument Dam on 27 April 2015.

Figure 26.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT***(Phalacrocorax auritus)***Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer visitor.**Distribution:** Double-crested Cormorants prefer large stockponds.**High Counts:** Forty Double-crested Cormorants were at Mueller Dam on 27 April 2015 (DNS).**Remarks:** This species typically arrives in early April and is then present through late October. A late bird was at Richland Dam on 12 November 2014 (DNS).**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** *(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)***Status:** Uncommon spring migrant, rare summer visitor, uncommon but irregular fall migrant.**Distribution:** In the checklist area, American White Pelicans are found on large stockponds or are seen flying overhead.**High Counts:** On 11 September 1997, Carol Erickson saw 200-300 American White Pelicans flying over the Brule Pasture. Sheriff Dam hosted 13 American White Pelicans on 20 June 2007 (CE).**Remarks:** Pelicans might be present anytime between early April and mid-September and are occasionally seen into early November. The latest record is of 3 birds at Richland Dam on 8 November 2007 (CE). Most summer birds are likely non-breeders, as no nearby nesting colonies are known. A single bird was at Mueller Reservoir on 19 July 2014 (DNS).

**AMERICAN BITTERN** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

**Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species use the edges of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with extensive stands of emergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** A fledgling American Bittern was found in the Butte South Pasture on 26 July 1994 (CE).

**Remarks:** During wet years, this species should be watched for from mid-April through early October, though it is most likely to be found from early May to late August. Mid-June to late July is the peak of the breeding season. For a list of past sightings, see Appendix 2.

**GREAT BLUE HERON** (*Ardea herodias*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Great Blue Herons can be seen at wetlands throughout the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Five Great Blue Herons were in Ditch Creek West North Pasture on 18 April 2014 (RM, DNS).

**Remarks:** Great Blue Herons arrive in early April. Most depart during October. A late bird was in Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 8 November 2014 (DNS). This species nests just outside of the checklist area along both Medicine Creek and the Missouri River.

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Great Egrets use the same types of habitat that are used by Great Blue Herons.

**Remarks:** Great Egrets migrate in April, May, September, and October. Post-breeding dispersal occurs in July and August. Single Great Egrets were: in Reservation Road #18 Pasture on 5 June 2007 (CE), at Gould Dam on 21 June 1994 (CE), at Mueller Dam 16 September 2015 (DNS), at Grass Creek Dam on 17 September 2014 (Ryan Cumbow pers. comm.), and at South Lake Flat Dam on 8 October 2015 (DNS). Doug Backlund photographed two (Figure 27) of the four Great Egrets at Wyly Dam on 13 May 2014.



Figure 27.

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*)**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Cattle Egrets use mixed-grass prairie and wetlands.**High Counts:** Five Cattle Egrets were in the Sand Creek Prairie Dog Pasture on 15 May 1997 (CE). Four Cattle Egrets were near 50/50 East Pasture on 4 May 2014 (Ryan Cumbow and Tim Iron Thunder pers. comm.).**Remarks:** You are most likely to encounter this species during May. Julie Wheeler photographed a single bird (Figure 28) at Richland Dam on 4 May 2014; Doug Backlund photographed 3 of the four Cattle Egrets at American Dam on 20 May 2014. A single bird was seen north of Sheriff Dam on 15 May 2014 (Gary Marrone and Bruce Coonrod *fide* Doug Backlund). Three Cattle Egrets were by Kennedy Winter Pasture on 19 September 2015 (Doug Gordon, Tim Iron Thunder pers. comm.). This species often associates closely with livestock.

Figure 28.

**GREEN HERON** (*Butorides virescens*)**Status:** Casual spring migrant.**Distribution:** Green Herons use wetlands; in the checklist area, they are most likely to be seen along the treed edges of stockponds.**Remarks:** Watch for this species in May. The only local record to date is of a bird photographed (Figure 29) at Sheriff Dam by Doug Backlund on 19 May 2014.

Figure 29.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species prefers seasonal and semipermanant wetlands with extensive emergent vegetation.

**High Counts:** Four Black-crowned Night-herons were at Sheriff Dam on 7 June 2005 (CE) and at Nels Dam on 1 October 2015 (DNS, CE, RM).

**Remarks:** Migration peaks during the second half of April and during September and October. Additional recent sightings have included: 1 Black-crowned Night-heron in Reservation Road Winter Pasture on 27 May 2012 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database), and 1 at Mueller Dam on 5 June 2014 (RM, DNS) and 19 July 2014 (DNS), 2 at Alkali West Dam on 2 October 2006 (Ryan Cumbow pers. comm.).

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** (*Plegadis chihi*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** White-faced Ibises forage along margins of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands.

**Remarks:** Sightings include: 4 White-faced Ibises at War Creek Dam on 4 May 2014 (DNS); 3 birds in the Jones County portion of the checklist area 23 July 2014 (Kevin Smith, eBird database), 1 bird in Reed Ranch West Pasture 5 September 2014 (Glenn Moravek pers. comm.), 1 bird in Corral Flat South Pasture on 28 September 2014 (CE); and 2 birds in Corral Flat South Pasture on 1 October 2014 (DNS).

**TURKEY VULTURE** (*Cathartes aura*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Turkey Vultures are seen in flight throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**High Counts:** Twelve Turkey Vultures were in the Stanley County portion of the checklist area on 15 August 12 (Scott Stolz, eBird database).

**Remarks:** Look for Turkey Vultures (Figure 30) from early April through September. Stragglers are seen into early October. May to July is the likely peak of breeding activity.

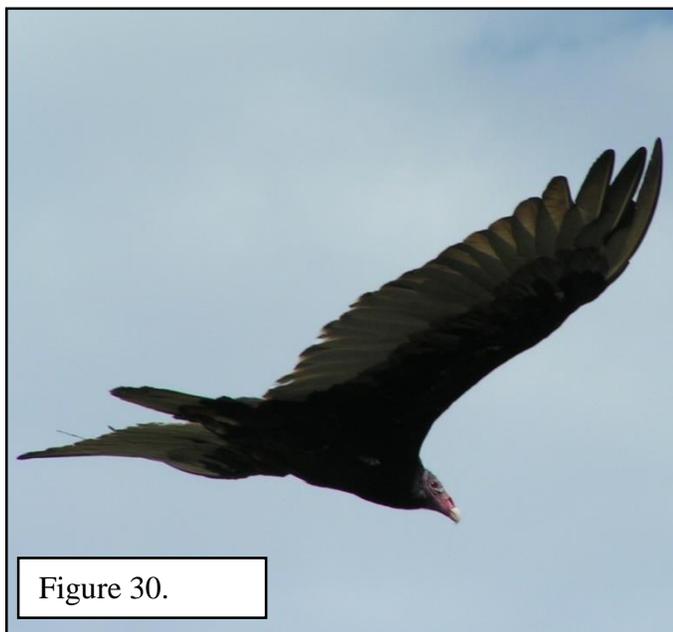


Figure 30.

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*)**Status:** Rare fall migrant.**Distribution:** Ospreys forage in large reservoirs.**Remarks:** Migrants are most often encountered from late April through early May and from late September through mid-October. Single Ospreys were at: Richland Dam on 10 and 11 September 2015 (Glenn Moravek, DNS respectively), Gould Dam on 15 September 2015 (Scott Stolz pers. comm.), Corral Flat North Home Pasture on 17 September 2010 (RM), Kennedy Home Pasture on 21 September 2013 (CE, RM), and Richland Dam from 9-17 October 2014 (DNS). Unusually early Ospreys were near Richland Dam on 21 August 2006 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.) and near Cookstove Dam on 26 August 2015 (Glenn Moravek pers. comm.). An unusually late Osprey was near Bower Allotment on 15 November 1994 (CE).**BALD EAGLE** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual summer resident, fairly common winter resident.**Distribution:** Bald Eagles are seen throughout the checklist area.**Remarks:** Bald Eagle migration is most active in March and April, and from September through December. This species has nested just west, south, and east of the checklist area.**NORTHERN HARRIER***(Circus cyaneus)***Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident, uncommon but irregular winter resident or visitor.**Distribution:** Northern Harriers can be seen throughout the checklist area.**Nesting Records:** Carol Erickson photographed a Northern Harrier nest (Figure 31) in the Richland Wildlife Area on 1 July 2008.**High Counts:** Richard Latuchie found 11 Northern Harriers in the Stanley County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 1 January 2012 (eBird database).**Remarks:** Northern Harriers are regularly present from early March to late November. The peak breeding season is from early May to mid-July.

Figure 31.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** (*Accipiter striatus*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Sharp-shinned Hawks are most often seen in or near woodland.**High Counts:** An adult and immature Sharp-shinned Hawk were at Sheriff Dam 9 October 2015 (DNS).**Remarks:** Sharp-shinned Hawks are most likely to be encountered in April, September, and October.**COOPER'S HAWK** (*Accipiter cooperii*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.**Distribution:** Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks use similar habitats.**Remarks:** Watch for Cooper's Hawks in April, September, and October. Alan Van Norman reported a Cooper's Hawk in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 10 December 2011 (eBird database).**NORTHERN GOSHAWK**(*Accipiter gentilis*)**Status:** Casual winter visitor.**Distribution:** Northern Goshawks use a variety of habitats in the checklist area, but are most likely to be seen in or near wooded habitat.**Remarks:** This species (Figure 32) has been occasionally sighted during winter in the checklist area, particularly during irruptive years (Mike Erickson pers. comm.).**BROAD-WINGED HAWK**(*Buteo platypterus*)**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Broad-winged Hawks can be seen overhead anywhere in the checklist area, but are most likely to be seen in or near wooded habitat.**Remarks:** Peak migration periods through central South Dakota are mid-April to mid-May and mid to late September. On 4 May 2014, a Broad-winged Hawk was flushed from the trees at Sheriff Dam (DNS); the next day one was seen flying high overhead across the Reed Ranch Southeast Pasture (DNS). A very late adult flying over Williams Dam on 2 November 2014 was harassed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (DNS).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** (*Buteo swainsoni*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Swainson's Hawks nest in large trees and forage in open habitats, including cropland, hayland, idle grasslands, and mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Swainson's Hawk nests are found in the checklist area each year.

**High Counts:** On 30 September 2014, 151 Swainson's Hawks flew over Sheriff Dam in a 20-minute period; 112 of those birds were in a single kettle (DNS).

**Remarks:** Swainson's Hawks are present from mid-April to late-September. Mid-May to late July is the peak of breeding activity.

**RED-TAILED HAWK** (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer and winter resident.

**Distribution:** Red-tailed and Swainson's hawks use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Red-tailed Hawk nests have been found numerous times in the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Alan Van Norman reported 8 Red-tailed Hawks in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 6 January 2013 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** "Eastern" Red-tailed Hawks can be seen yearlong, with "Kriger's", "Western" and "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks appearing during migration (the former is very rare, but included a bird seen by Dan Svingen in Chester Quarter Pasture on 22 October 2014). Breeding activities are concentrated between late April and late July.

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK**

(*Buteo regalis*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, rare but irregular summer resident, uncommon winter resident.

**Distribution:** Ferruginous Hawks use the same types of habitat favored by Red-tailed and Swainson's hawks. This species (Figure 33) is most often seen at or near prairie dog colonies.

**Nesting Records:** Numerous Ferruginous Hawk nests have been found within the checklist area. Recent nests include one in Lookout Middle Pasture on 11 July 2010 found by Scott Stolz (Drilling 2014), and another in the Prairie Hills North Pasture in April 2015 (RM).

**High Counts:** Terry Sohl reported 12-15 Ferruginous Hawks in and near the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 27 November 2011 (SD Bird ListServe archives). Alan Van Norman reported 15 Ferruginous Hawks in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National

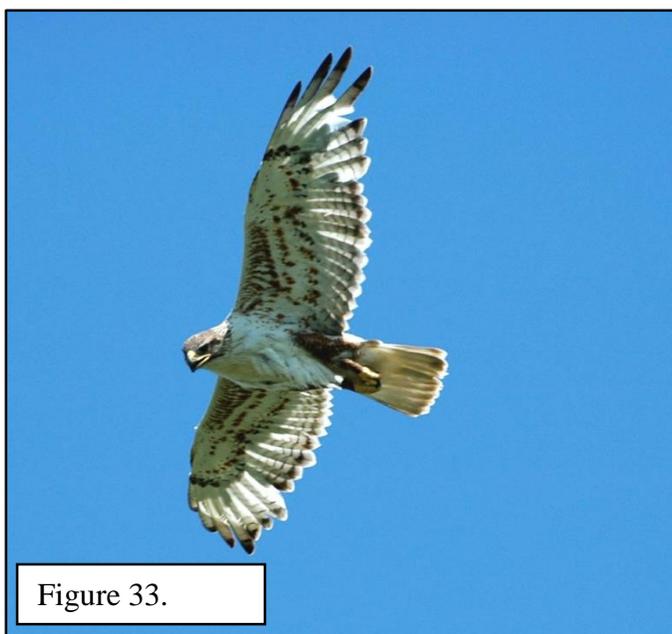


Figure 33.

Grassland on 6 January 2013 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** Ferruginous Hawks migrate in March, April, August, September, and October. Late April to early July is the peak of breeding activities.

### **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** (*Buteo lagopus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, fairly common but irregular winter resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Rough-legged Hawks forage in cropland, hayland, idle grasslands, and mixed-grass prairie. They also forage along wetland edges.

**High Counts:** Doug Backlund found 70 Rough-legged Hawks on 7 January 2009 during a winter raptor survey in the northeast portion of the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Rough-legged Hawks should be watched for from mid-October to early April.

### **GOLDEN EAGLE** (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and winter resident, casual summer resident.

**Distribution:** Golden Eagles can be encountered throughout the checklist area; they use a wide variety of habitats, including prairie dog colonies.

**Nesting Records:** In about 2000, Glenn Moravek (pers. comm.) found a Golden Eagle nest along the South Branch of Cedar Creek in the Mallard South Pasture; he suspects that the birds involved were among those released on the National Grassland by raptor rehabilitators.

**High Counts:** Terry Sohl reported 6 Golden Eagles on and near the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 27 November 2011 (SD Bird ListServe archives). Alan Van Norman reported 12 Golden Eagles in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 6 January 2013 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** Breeding activity peaks between March and June. Golden Eagles are most likely to be seen in the checklist area between October and late April.

### **VIRGINIA RAIL** (*Rallus limicola*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Virginia Rails use wetlands with dense emergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local breeder.

**Remarks:** Virginia Rails typically arrive in early May and likely depart in September and October. The probable breeding season is late May to mid-August. A calling bird was at Sheriff Dam on 4 May 2014 (DNS); others were in Alkali Alkali Pasture on 3 June 2014

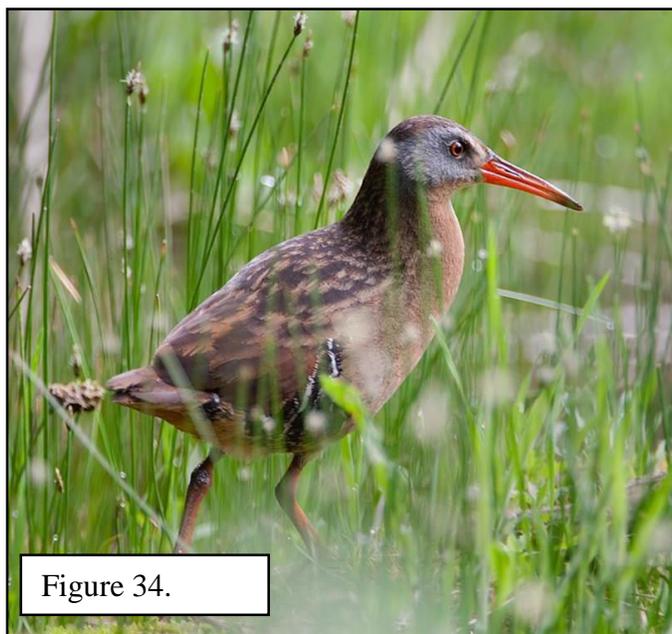


Figure 34.

(RM, DNS) and near Bad River 3/4 Pasture on 26 July 2002 (CE, Julie Wheeler). Doug Backlund photographed one of two birds (Figure 34) at Sheriff Dam on 27 May 2014. Single birds were heard at the playa in Mueller A Pasture on 5 June 2014 and 11 July 2014 (RM, DNS). Two or three Virginia Rails were at Richland Dam on 22 June 2014 (DNS). The latest records are of single birds at Sheriff Dam 16 September 2015 (DNS) and 6 October 2015 (DNS), and in the Nels North Pasture on 16 October 2014 (Ryan Cumbow pers. comm.).

**SORA** (*Porzana carolina*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Soras and Virginia rails use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** The juvenile (Figure 35) photographed on 8 August 2014 at South Lake Flat Dam by Dan Svingen was considered evidence of local breeding.

**Remarks:** Soras arrive in early May and depart in late September. Peak breeding activities occur between June and August. Single Soras were at Richland Dam on 13 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.), 5 September 2015 (DNS), and 28 September 2004 (CE). Others were in at Bower Dam 25 May 1999 (CE), Wyly Kerwin Pasture on 26 May 2014 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database), Alkali Home Pasture on 27 May 2015 (DNS), in Nels North Pasture on 1 June 2011 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database), Bower Section 30 Pasture on 15 August 1995 (CE), and at Cookstove Dam on 5 September 2015. Two Soras were calling at the playa in Mueller A Pasture on 5 June 2014 (RM, DNS). One calling bird was at Sheriff Dam 30 September 2015 (DNS); another was at South Lake Flat Dam on 6 October 2015 (DNS).



**AMERICAN COOT** (*Fulica americana*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** American Coots use wetland habitats, particularly those with stands of emergent and submergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** American Coot nests and broods are found annually within the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Fifty American Coots were at Cookstove Dam on 4 May 2014 (DNS); 1,003 American Coots were at Nels Dam on 1 October 2015 (RM, DNS, CE, Kelly Fuoss).

**Remarks:** American Coots arrive in mid-April and persist until mid-October. Early May to mid-August is the peak of the breeding season.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Sandhill Cranes are most often detected as they fly overhead. Occasionally, birds can be seen on the ground at wetlands or feeding in cropland.

**High Counts:** Three hundred Sandhill Cranes were in Prairie Hills North Pasture on 19 April 1996 (CE); a similar-sized group was also by the Lake Flat Winter Pasture the same day (Glen Moravek, District Files). Eighty Sandhill Cranes flew over Cookstove Shelterbelt on 11 November 2014 (DNS). Two hundred and forty birds were in and near the Prairie Hills North Pasture on 10 April 2015 (DNS, Jim Pitts).

**Remarks:** Look for Sandhill Cranes from early April through early-May, and from late July through mid-October. On favored passage days, thousands of birds might be seen migrating through the checklist area.

**WHOOPIING CRANE** (*Grus americana*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses cropland, grassland, and wetland habitats.

**Remarks:** A satellite-transmitter tagged bird used the Fort Pierre National Grassland in April 2014. For a listing of past sightings, see Appendix 2.

**AMERICAN AVOCET**

(*Recurvirostra americana*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** American Avocets use wetland habitats; in the checklist area they are most often seen at reservoirs.

**Nesting Records:** American Avocets with dependent young were repeatedly observed at a wetland near Bad River Three-quarters pasture in 2010 (Ricky Olson pers. comm.). Two chicks and an adult pair were at Mueller Dam on 11 July 2014 (RM, DNS).

**Remarks:** Avocets are typically present from mid-April through October. Mid-May to early July is the peak of the breeding season. Dan Svingen

photographed an American Avocet (Figure 36) at Mueller Dam on 19 July 2014.

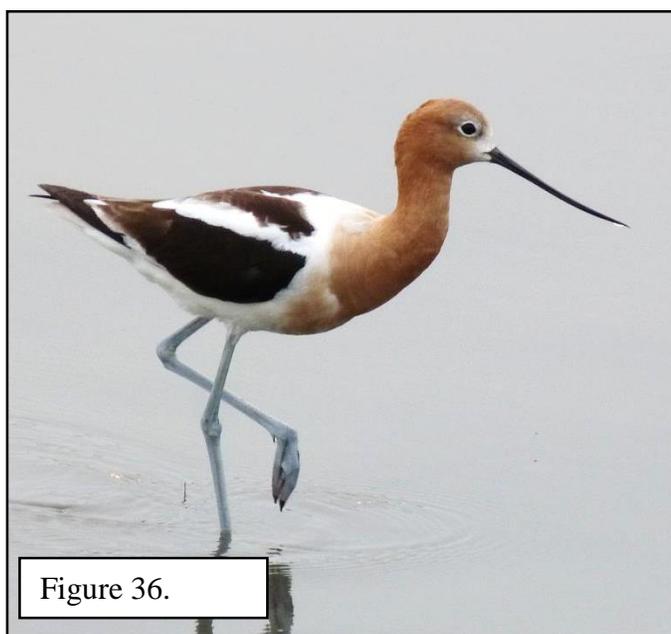


Figure 36.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses wetlands (especially those with wide mudflats), cropland (especially if fallowed or recently plowed), or grassland (especially if recently burned).

**Remarks:** This species passes through central South Dakota in May and again between late July through October. Ricky Olson (pers. comm.) has seen this species in the checklist area several times during spring, though exact dates are unknown. Some of those observations were near Bad River Three-Quarters Pasture. There are no known fall records from the checklist area.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** (*Pluvialis dominica*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses wetlands (especially those with wide mudflats), cropland (especially if fallowed or recently plowed), or grassland (especially if recently burned).

**Remarks:** This species passes through central South Dakota in May and again between late July through October. The only checklist area record is of 11 birds on recently burned cropland by Nels North Pasture on 23 September 2014 (Ryan Cumbow, DNS).

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER**

(*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species is most likely to be seen along wetland edges with wide margins of mud.

**High Counts:** Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory staff recorded five Semipalmated Plovers on 17 May 2010 in Alkali Middle Pasture (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database). Deirdre Robinson reported 7 birds in the Lyman portion of the checklist area on 22 April 2005 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** Semipalmated Plovers (Figure 37) might be found in central South Dakota from mid-April through September.



Figure 37.

**KILLDEER** (*Charadrius vociferus*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Killdeer are most likely to be seen along wetland edges with wide margins of mud, but they are seen in a variety of habitats, including along roadsides and in cropland.

**Nesting Records:** Nests and broods are commonly seen in the checklist area each year.

**High Counts:** On 4 September 2014, 45 Killdeers were at Mueller Dam (DNS).

**Remarks:** Killdeers are early migrants and are sometimes seen as early as mid-March. A more typical arrival date is early April. Lingering birds can be found into mid-October. Three late birds were at Williams Dam on 2 November 2014 (DNS). Early May to mid-July is the peak of breeding.

### **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (*Actitis macularius*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Spotted Sandpipers use wetlands.

**High Counts:** Two Spotted Sandpipers were at Richland Dam on 12 May 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Spotted Sandpipers might be present anytime from mid-April to late September, but are most likely to be found from mid-April to mid-May and from mid-August through September.

### **SOLITARY SANDPIPER**

(*Tringa solitaria*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Look for Solitary Sandpipers along wetland edges, especially those with flooded trees.

**Remarks:** Solitary Sandpipers are most likely to be encountered in early May, and from mid-July to mid-September, though we know of no summer records to date. Dan Svingen photographed single birds at Cottonwood Dam on 2 September 2014 (Figure 38) and Knoblock Dam on 12 August 2015. A bird was near the Cookstove Shelterbelt on 12 May 2015 (DNS).



Figure 38.

### **GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along shallow wetland edges, seeming to prefer sites with wide mud margins.

**High Counts:** Ten Greater Yellowlegs were at Mueller Dam on 11 July 2014 (RM, DNS).

**Remarks:** Watch for Greater Yellowlegs in April and early May, and again from mid-June into October. A relatively late spring bird was in the West Bad River Big Pasture on 24 May 2014 (DNS).

**WILLET** (*Tringa semipalmata*)**Status:** Casual spring migrant**Distribution:** Willets use both mixed-grass prairie and wetland habitats.**Remarks:** The only records regard single birds in: Alkali Middle Pasture on 17 May 2010 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database), Nels Three-Quarters Pasture on 23 April 2015 (DNS), and at Upper Booth Dam in Stockton South Pasture on 27 April 2015 (DNS).**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa flavipes*)**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer visitor.**Distribution:** This species is found in the same kinds of habitats that are used by Greater Yellowlegs.**Remarks:** The Lesser Yellowlegs' seasonality is similar to that of the Greater Yellowlegs'.**UPLAND SANDPIPER***(Bartramia longicauda)***Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.**Distribution:** The Upland Sandpiper (Figure 39) uses mixed-grass prairie.**Nesting Records:** Nests and/or broods of this species are encountered in the checklist area on an annual basis.**High Counts:** Jennifer Rycenga found 60 Upland Sandpipers in the Lyman portion of the checklist area on 4 July 2006 (eBird database).**Remarks:** Upland Sandpipers may be encountered from early May to early August. Most breeding activities occur between late May and early July. A relatively early migrant was in Reed Ranch SE Pasture on 24 April 2015 (DNS). Relatively late migrants were at Mueller Dam on 27 August 2014 (DNS) and in Kennedy Winter Pasture on 3 September 2015 (Kelly Fuoss, DNS).

Figure 39.

**WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*)**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.**Distribution:** This species should be looked for along wetland edges.**Remarks:** The sole record of Whimbrel from the checklist area is of a bird found on 7 September 1995 in Lake Flat South Eldridge Pasture (CE). The description reads, in part: "Godwit-sized, pale buff breast, color beginning at base of neck. Bill down-turned; uniformly dark. White strip thru crown bordered by dark bands above eye stripe. Wings noticeably darker

than tail or upperwing when folded. Very tame, acts out of place in road. Ate a beetle as I watched. Observed for 30 min.” (District Files).

### **LONG-BILLED CURLEW**

*(Numenius americanus)*

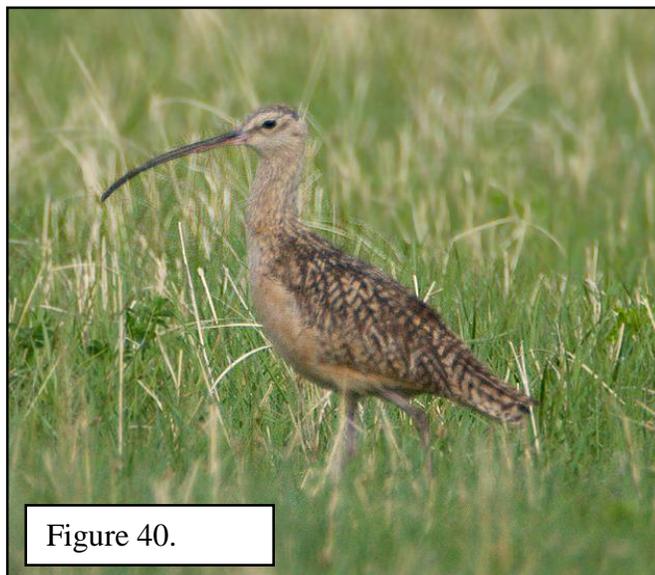
**Status:** Rare spring migrant and summer resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Long-billed Curlews use closely-cropped mixed-grass prairie and sparsely vegetated cropland.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**High Counts:** Doug Backlund (pers. comm.) saw five Long-billed Curlews in flight over the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 8 April 2007.

**Remarks:** Watch for Long-billed Curlews from April to mid-August; this species might nest in the checklist area, most likely on private rangeland. The likely peak breeding season is from late April to late June. Doug Backlund photographed a bird (Figure 40) near Richland Wildlife Area on 20 May 2014. For a listing of past sightings, see Appendix 2.



### **MARBLED GODWIT** *(Limosa fedoa)*

**Status:** Fairly common spring migrant, uncommon summer resident, rare fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Marbled Godwits use wetlands and adjacent uplands in mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**Remarks:** Marbled Godwits might be present from mid-April to late August. The likely peak breeding season is from early May to late June.

### **STILT SANDPIPER** *(Calidris himantopus)*

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**High Counts:** Corey Callaghan found 21 Stilt Sandpipers in the Jones County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 12 May 2012 (eBird database). Doug Backlund (pers. comm.) found 24 birds near the junction of Countyline Road and US Highway 83 on 17 May 2014.

**Remarks:** Peak migration for Stilt Sandpipers is in May and in late July, though they might be encountered for most of the period between late April and mid-October. A late spring migrant was near the junction of County Line Road and US Highway 83 on 4 June 2014 (DNS).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER***(Calidris bairdii)***Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges as well as in the habitats used by Buff-breasted Sandpipers.**Remarks:** Baird's Sandpipers (Figure 41) might be encountered from mid-April through mid-October. Peak numbers occur in April/May and August/September.**LEAST SANDPIPER***(Calidris minutilla)***Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.**Distribution:** Least Sandpipers use wetland edges.**High Counts:** Corey Callaghan (eBird database) found 41 Least Sandpipers in the Jones County portion of the checklist area on 12 May 2012.**Remarks:** This species might be encountered from mid-April through mid-October, but peak numbers occur in May and from mid-July to mid-September. A late spring migrant was near the junction of County Line Road and US Highway 83 on 31 May 2014 (DNS).**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** *(Calidris fuscicollis)***Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring migrant and summer visitor.**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.**High Counts:** Sixty White-rumped Sandpipers were near the junction of County Line Road and US Highway 83 on 4 June 2014 (DNS).**Remarks:** Spring migrants pass through from early May into mid-June; peak numbers occur from mid-May to early June.**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *(Calidris subruficollis)***Status:** Casual fall migrant.**Distribution:** This species should be looked for in mown hayland, fallowed cropland, on large mudflats, and in recently burned prairie.**Remarks:** Doug Backlund (pers. comm.) found a Buff-Breasted Sandpiper on burned prairie near Richland Dam on 23 September 2007.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** (*Calidris melanotos*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**High Counts:** Doug Backlund (pers. comm.) found 18 Pectoral Sandpipers near the junction of Countyline Road and US Highway 83 on 17 May 2014.

**Remarks:** Pectoral Sandpipers can be encountered from mid-April through early November. Peak numbers occur from mid-April through May and from early August to mid-September. A late spring migrant was near the junction of County Line Road and US Highway 83 on 4 June 2014 (DNS).

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER**

(*Calidris pusilla*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Semipalmated Sandpipers are found along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** Semipalmated Sandpipers (Figure 42) might be encountered from mid-April through late September, but peak numbers occur in late May and from mid-July to mid-August. A late spring migrant was near the junction of County Line Road and US Highway 83 on 4 June 2014 (DNS).



Figure 42.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species is found along wetland edges.

**Remarks:** Long-billed Dowitchers may be present for most of the late April to late October period. Peak numbers occur from mid-August to mid-October.

**WILSON'S SNIPE** (*Gallinago delicata*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident.

**Distribution:** Wilson's Snipe use wetland edges.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**Remarks:** Wilson's Snipe may be present from April through late October. Late May to early July is the likely peak of the breeding season. Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory staff found a Wilson's Snipe in Alkali Middle Pasture on 17 May 2010. Winnowing birds were heard in both Alkali Alkali and Alkali Home Pastures on 3 June 2014 (DNS).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE***(Phalaropus tricolor)***Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.**Distribution:** Wilson's Phalaropes use wetlands for foraging. They nest in adjacent mixed-grass prairie.**Nesting Records:** Carol Erickson photographed a Wilson's Phalarope nest (Figure 43) in Cookstove Alkali Pasture on 30 May 1999.**Remarks:** Wilson's Phalaropes are present from mid-April to mid-September. Late May to early July is the peak of the breeding season.

Figure 43.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL***(Leucophaeus pipixcan)***Status:** Common spring and fall migrant, uncommon but irregular summer visitor.**Distribution:** Franklin's Gulls use wetlands and cropland.**Remarks:** Franklin's Gulls might be present in the checklist area from April through October, but are most likely in April and September.**RING-BILLED GULL** (*Larus delawarensis*)**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer visitor.**Distribution:** Ring-billed Gulls use wetlands and cropland.**High Counts:** Mary Anne Romito found 61 Ring-billed Gulls in the Stanley County portion of the checklist area on 30 July 2014 (eBird database).**Remarks:** Ring-billed Gulls may be present from late March until wetlands freeze in the fall.**CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor.**Distribution:** Look for California Gulls in the same habitats that are used by Ring-billed Gulls.**Remarks:** California Gulls return to central South Dakota in late March, with most birds departing by late September.

**BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias niger*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, uncommon but irregular summer resident.

**Distribution:** Black Terns use wetlands, especially large reservoirs with extensive stands of emergent vegetation.

**Nesting Records:** Local breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species.

**High Counts:** Ten Black Terns were in Mallard North Pasture on 25 May 1994 (Glenn Moravek, District Files) and at Mueller Dam on 27 August 2014 (Scott Stolz, Paul Baicich, DNS).

**Remarks:** Black Terns might be seen from late April to mid-September, with peak numbers occurring in late May and mid-July to mid-August. The peak of the breeding season is likely late May to early August. Dan Svingen photographed a first-summer bird (Figure 44) at Mueller Dam on 19 July 2014. For a list of past sightings, see Appendix 2.

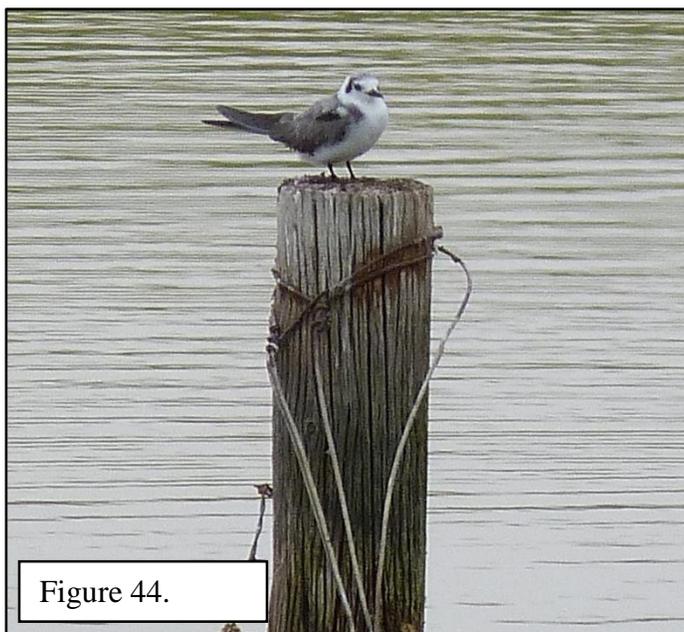


Figure 44.

**COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Common Terns are most likely to be seen at large reservoirs.

**Remarks:** The only record to date is a bird reported by Deirdre Robinson on 22 April 2005 in the Lyman County portion of the checklist area (eBird database).

**FORSTER'S TERN** (*Sterna forsteri*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, casual summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Forster's Terns use wetlands, especially large reservoirs with extensive stands of emergent vegetation.

**Remarks:** Forster's Terns are most likely to be encountered in May, August, and September. A first-summer bird was at Mueller Dam on 5 June 2014 (RM, DNS).

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round visitor.

**Distribution:** Rock Pigeons are closely associated with farmsteads but might be seen flying overhead anywhere in the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local breeding species.

**Remarks:** Locally, this species is largely dependent on anthropogenic structures and habitats.

Breeding activity likely peaks from May through July.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Eurasian Collared-Dove use woody habitats. They are most frequently encountered at farmsteads.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local breeding species, though two birds were calling and flight-chasing by War Creek Dam on 19 April 2014 (DNS).

**High Counts:** Alan Van Norman found 10 Eurasian Collared-Doves in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 5 January 2013 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** This recently-arrived species has rapidly colonized suitable habitat and is now abundant in nearby communities such as Pierre and Fort Pierre. Breeding activity likely peaks between April and August.

**MOURNING DOVE**

(*Zenaida macroura*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Mourning Doves are seen throughout the checklist area's habitats.

**Nesting:** Mourning Dove nests and fledglings are noted annually in the checklist area. Dan Svingen photographed a nest (Figure 45) with young nestlings on 21 August 2014 at Sheriff Dam. A nest with a newly hatched nestling and unhatched egg was photographed there 4 September 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** The hardiest Mourning Doves arrive in late March and persist into at least November. Peak numbers occur in August and September. The long breeding season has a peak from early May to mid-August. A leucistic Mourning Dove was at Bower Dam on 11 July 2014 (RM, DNS).



Figure 45.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** (*Coccyzus americanus*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Yellow-billed Cuckoos use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** The sole record is of a bird found in the Reservation Road Winter Pasture on 27 May 2012 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database).

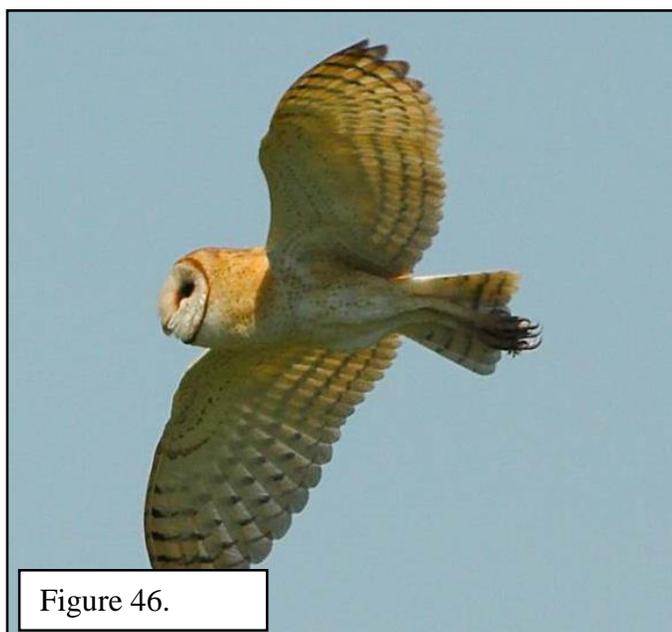
**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.**Distribution:** Black-billed Cuckoos use deciduous woodland.**Remarks:** The sole record is of an unusually late bird found at the Cookstove Shelterbelt on 8 September 2010 (Ricky Olson pers. comm.).**BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*)**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Barn Owls use the coniferous woodland plantings.**Remarks:** Doug Backlund photographed a Barn Owl (Figure 46) at Richland Dam on 13 May 2006; a bird was also seen there on 19 April 2014 (DNS). A Barn Owl was at Sheriff Dam on 4 September 2014 (DNS). Mike McCloy found a Barn Owl in the Lyman County portion of the checklist area on 20 May 2012 (eBird database).

Figure 46.

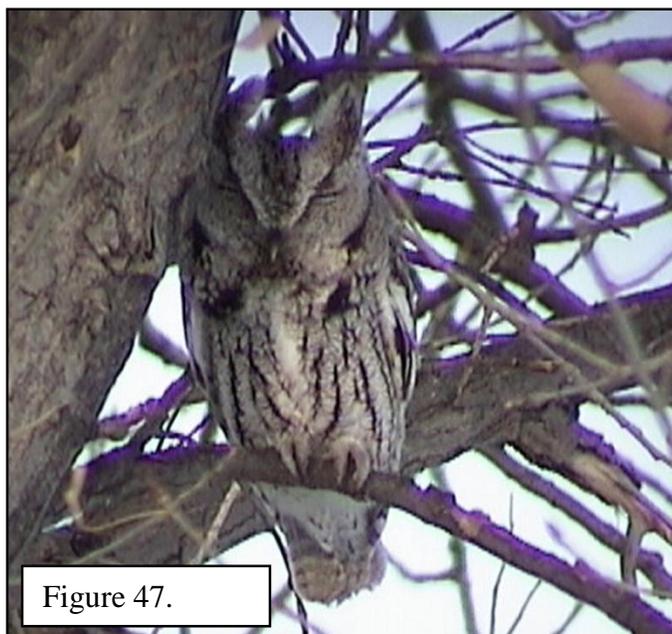
**EASTERN SCREECH-OWL***(Megascops asio)***Status:** Casual fall and winter visitor.**Distribution:** Eastern Screech-owls use woodland habitats.**Remarks:** The only local records to date regard a bird photographed (Figure 47) by Doug Backlund in the Nels Three-quarters Pasture at the intersection of County Line Road and Bear Paw Ranch Road on 29 February 2008, and another that answered play-back at Sheriff Dam on 22 October 2015 (DNS).

Figure 47.

**GREAT HORNED OWL** (*Bubo virginianus*)

**Status:** Uncommon year-round resident.

**Distribution:** Great Horned Owls use all of the checklist area's habitats, but are most likely to be found in woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Great Horned Owl nests and fledglings are encountered annually within the checklist area; for example, a nest with 2 young was at Bower Dam on 14 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** Peak breeding activity occurs from early March to late June.

**SNOWY OWL** (*Bubo scandiacus*)

**Status:** Rare but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Snowy Owls use mixed-grass prairie and cropland habitats.

**High Counts:** Doug Backlund (pers. comm.) has found up to 20 Snowy Owls in the checklist area during a single day.

**Remarks:** This species might be present anytime from early November into late March.

**BURROWING OWL** (*Athene cunicularia*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Burrowing owls use mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Dependent fledglings are encountered annually within the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Over 99% of the Burrowing Owl observations in the checklist area have been at or near Black-tailed Prairie Dog colonies. Burrowing Owls are present from mid-April through September. Late May to early August is the peak of the breeding season. Two birds were in the South Lake Flat West Pasture on 6 October 2015 (DNS).

**LONG-EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous and coniferous woodland.

**Remarks:** This species migrates in April, October, and November, but should be looked for at any time of year. The only local records are of a Long-eared Owl in the Reservation Road Shelterbelt on 14 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.) and of a bird photographed (Figure 48) by Kelly Fuoss in the IT #25 Pasture on 27 July 2012.

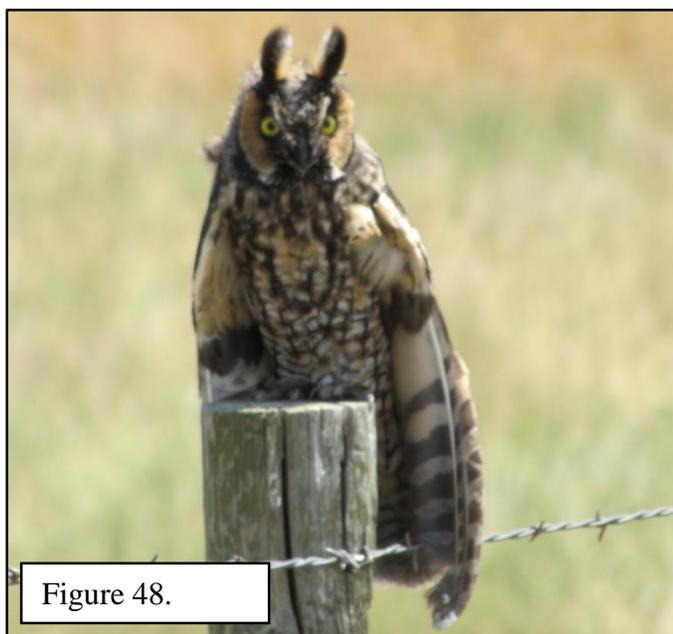


Figure 48.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** (*Asio flammeus*)

**Status:** Uncommon but irregular year-round visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Short-eared Owls use mixed-grass prairie, hayfields, and idle grasslands.

**Nesting Records:** A Short-eared Owl nest was found in the Cookstove Alkali Pasture on 8 June 2008 (CE, Kelly Phillips, District Wildlife Files).

**High Counts:** Doug Backlund (pers. comm.) has seen up to 46 Short-eared Owls in the checklist area during a single afternoon.

**Remarks:** Late April to mid-July is the peak of breeding.

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL**

(*Aegolius acadicus*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Northern Saw-whet Owls use planted woodland.

**Remarks:** This species migrates in March, October, and November. The only record to date regards the birds photographed by Dan Svingen at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 20 November 2014 (Figure 49) and 22 October 2015.



Figure 49.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK**

(*Chordeiles minor*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** This species can be seen throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Common Nighthawks have yet to be confirmed as local nesters.

**High Counts:** Mary Anne Romito found 2 Common Nighthawks in the Stanley County portion of the checklist area on 30 July 2014.

**Remarks:** Common Nighthawks should be looked for from late May through early September; peak numbers occur during the last half of August. The likely breeding season peaks from mid-June through July. Carol Erickson photographed a bird on 6 September 2001 in the Number Two SE Pasture. Single Common Nighthawks were in Reservation Road Winter Pasture on 27 May 2012 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database) and at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 1 June 2014 and 1 September 2015 (both sightings DNS).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Archilochus colubris*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Ruby-throated Hummingbirds use woodland.

**Remarks:** Two immature Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at Sheriff Dam on 30 August

2014, with one bird persisting until at least 4 September 2014 (DNS). Scott Stolz (pers. comm.) has also seen the species at Sheriff Dam during autumn.

### **BELTED KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle alcyon*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Belted Kingfishers use drainages and reservoirs, especially those with trees.

**Remarks:** Belted Kingfishers are most likely to be seen in the checklist from April to May, and from September to October. Gerald Hoekstra found a Belted Kingfisher in the Lyman County portion of the checklist area on 29 April 2015 (eBird database). A relatively early Belted Kingfisher (a male) was at Sheriff Dam on 21 August 2014 (DNS). Single birds were along Stony Butte Creek near Stony Butte Butte Pasture on 29 September 2014 (RM) and at Richland Dam 6 October 2015 (DNS).

### **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER**

(*Melanerpes lewis*)

**Status:** Accidental spring visitor.

**Distribution:** Lewis's Woodpeckers use open woodland and mixed-grass prairie.

**Remarks:** The only record to date regards the bird (Figure 50) photographed by Brad Bolduan on 27 May 2012 along 226<sup>th</sup> Street in the Number Two Southeast and Summit West Pastures.

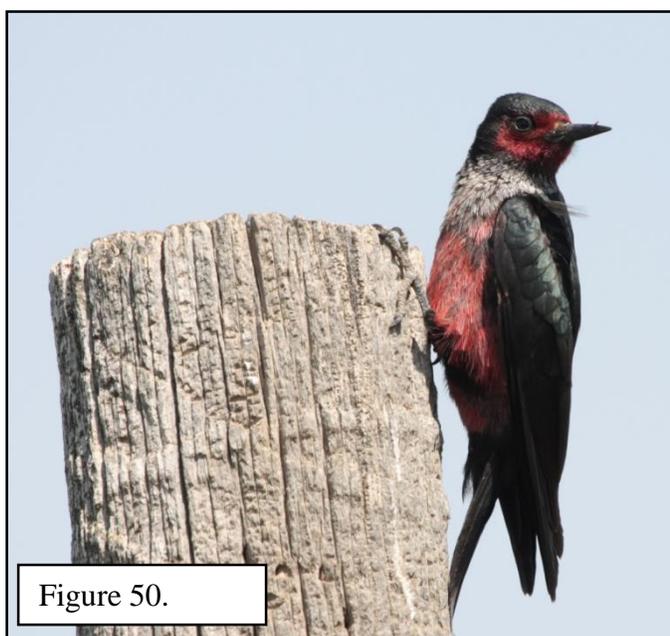


Figure 50.

### **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER**

(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

**Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant, rare but irregular summer resident.

**Distribution:** Red-headed Woodpeckers prefer open woodland.

**Nesting Records:** Dan Svingen filmed a bird at a nesting cavity in a Cottonwood near Bower Dam on 16 June 2015. Following a high-wind storm on 22 June 2015 no further activity was noted there, but one or two Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen frequenting a nearby nesting cavity for the remainder of the summer.

**Remarks:** June and July are the peak of nesting activities. An adult bird was seen frequently through summer 2015 south of Richland East Pasture (DNS).

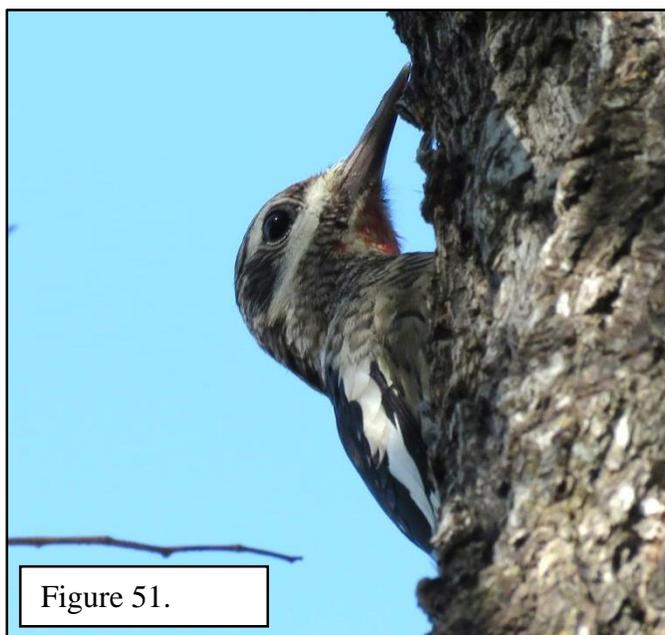
**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER***(Sphyrapicus varius)***Status:** Casual fall migrant.**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.**Remarks:** A bird was at Reed Ranch Shelterbelt on 1 October 2014 (CE, DNS). A bird was at Richland Dam 6 October 2015 (DNS); another the same day was photographed at Cookstove Shelterbelt (Figure 51) by Dan Svingen.

Figure 51.

**DOWNY WOODPECKER***(Picoides pubescens)***Status:** Rare year-round visitor.**Distribution:** Downy Woodpeckers can be seen in any woodland habitat.**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.**Remarks:** May to July is the likely peak of breeding activities. This species nests just outside of the checklist area. A male Downy Woodpecker was at Sheriff Dam on 21 August 2014; others were there 31 October 2014 and 6 November 2014 (all sightings DNS).**HAIRY WOODPECKER** *(Picoides villosus)***Status:** Rare year-round visitor.**Distribution:** Hairy Woodpeckers have the same distribution pattern as do Downy Woodpeckers.**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.**Remarks:** May to July is the likely peak of breeding activities. This species nests just outside of the checklist area. A Hairy Woodpecker was at Sheriff Dam on 25 and 27 August 2014 (DNS); others were at Richland Dam on 11 and 16 September 2014 (DNS), and by Mallard Dam on 3 October 2014 (Kelly Fuoss, pers. comm).**NORTHERN FLICKER***(Colaptes auratus)***Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare summer and winter resident or visitor.**Distribution:** Northern Flickers use all of the checklist area's woodland habitats.**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.**Remarks:** The Northern Flicker is most likely to be found from early April to mid-October. The likely breeding season peak is from early May to early July. Most birds seen in the checklist area are "yellow-shafted".

**AMERICAN KESTREL** (*Falco sparverius*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring migrant, rare summer resident, fairly common fall migrant.

**Distribution:** American Kestrels are most often found in woodland and mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Nick Lowrey (pers. comm.) found an American Kestrel pair using a cavity in a large Cottonwood near Richland East Pasture on 8 June 2015.

**High Counts:** Five American Kestrels were in the checklist area on both 11 September 2014 and 11 September 2015 (DNS) and 13 September 2006 (CE). Approximately 15 birds were observed near the Williams Pastures on 22 September 2014, with another six to eight birds along the Presho Road (RM).

**Remarks:** Birds may be present from March through late October. Peak breeding occurs from mid-May to late July.

**MERLIN** (*Falco columbarius*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant, casual summer visitor, uncommon fall migrant, rare winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** Merlins might be seen in any of the checklist area's habitats.

**Remarks:** Both "Prairie" (*F. c. richardsonii*) and "Taiga" (*F. c. columbarius*) Merlins pass through the checklist area. Spring migration peaks in March and April, whereas fall migrants can be encountered anytime between August and December. A Merlin was at Knoblock Dam on 22 July (RM). A Merlin was seen in the West Bad River Allotment on 25 July 2008 (RM). Another attacked a Prairie Falcon in the West Bad River Pasture on 2 Sept. 2015 (DNS, m.ob.). Single Merlins were near Sheriff Dam on 20 January 2007 (Glenn Moravek, RM, District Wildlife Files) and 4 January 2009 (RM), and at Williams North and Sand Creek North Pastures on 29 January 2010 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.). Alan Van Norman reported a Merlin in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 6 January 2013 (eBird database).

**GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*)

**Status:** Rare but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident.

**Distribution:** Gyrfalcons use all of the checklist area's habitats.

**Remarks:** Gyrfalcons are most often seen in the checklist area between November and March. Doug Backlund has photographed numerous Gyrfalcons (Figure 52) in the checklist area over the last decade.

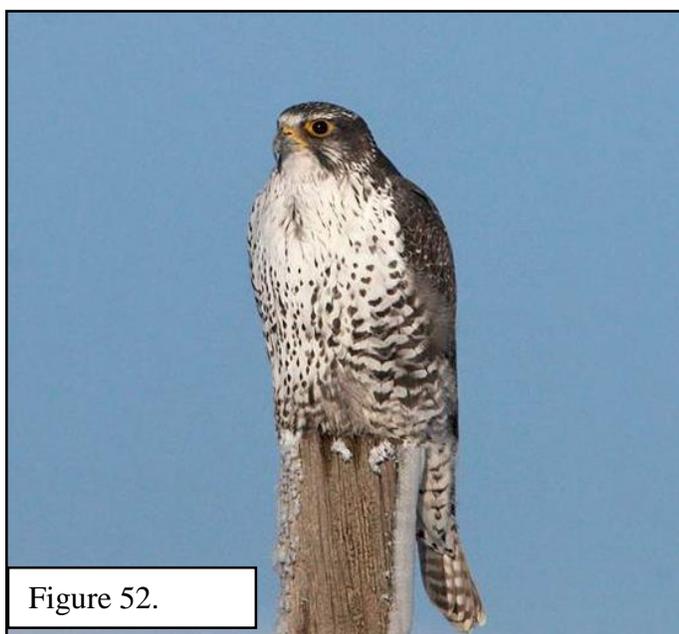


Figure 52.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Peregrine Falcons use the same types of habitats used by Gyrfalcons.

**Remarks:** Migrating Peregrines are most likely to be seen from mid-April to late May, and again from early September through mid-October. Doug Backlund photographed a bird on the War Creek Road on 15 May 2005, whereas Ruben Mares photographed one in the American Creek Bass Dam Pasture on 14 May 2008. Casey Mehls and Silka Kempena found a Peregrine Falcon in the Missouri Breaks Upper Sand Creek Pasture on 5 January 2012 and near the Timber Creek Home Pasture on 15 February 2012. Single birds were by Cedar Creek Miller Pasture on 6 May 2014 (DNS), at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 12 May 2015 (DNS), at Sheriff Dam on 30 September 2015 (DNS, RM), and near Chester ½ Section North Pasture on 9 October 2014 (RM). John Carlson photographed another while it was being chased by a Prairie Falcon in the West Bad River Big Pasture on 2 September 2015 (DNS, m.ob.).

**PRAIRIE FALCON** (*Falco mexicanus*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor, rare winter resident.

**Distribution:** Prairie Falcons can be seen across the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Terry Sohl reported 9 Prairie Falcons on and near the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 27 November 2011 (SD Bird ListServe archives).

**Remarks:** Prairie Falcons are least likely to be seen in the checklist area during May and June.

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER**

(*Contopus cooperi*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland, particularly the tops of snags.

**Remarks:** The Olive-sided Flycatcher's fall migration period in central South Dakota is mid-August to mid-September. Dan Svingen photographed a distant bird (Figure 53) at Cottonwood Dam on 2 September 2014; another bird was photographed at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 16 September 2014 (DNS).



Figure 53.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE**

(*Contopus virens*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant.

**Distribution:** Eastern Wood-Pewees use wooded habitats.

**Remarks:** This species' spring migration is most active in mid to late May. The only record of Eastern Wood-pewee from the checklist area is a bird seen by Scott Stolz (pers. comm.) at

Sheriff Dam on 26 May 2013. A silent, and so unidentified, wood-pewee was photographed at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 1 September 2015 (DNS).

### **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax flaviventris*)

**Status:** Accidental summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Yellow-bellied Flycatchers use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** This species migrates in late May/early June and late August/early September. The only local record is of a bird found at the Reed Ranch Shelterbelt on 5 June 2010 (Ricky Olson pers. comm.).

### **WILLOW FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax traillii*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland, particularly plantings.

**Nesting Records:** An adult with two dependent fledglings was at Sheriff Dam on 10 August 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Spring migration is active in May; the species is absent by late August or early September. Late June to late July is the peak of the breeding season. Currently there are no records of Alder Flycatcher from the checklist area.

### **LEAST FLYCATCHER**

(*Empidonax minimus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Least Flycatchers use deciduous woodland.

**High Counts:** Six Least Flycatchers were at Reed Ranch Shelterbelt on 22 August 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Watch for this species in May, late August and early September. This species nests just outside of the checklist area. Dan Svingen photographed a Least Flycatcher (Figure 54) at Knoblock Dam on 27 May 2015.



Figure 54.

### **SAY'S PHOEBE** (*Sayornis saya*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident.

**Distribution:** Say's Phoebes use mixed-grass prairie, particularly where eroded clay buttes or old buildings are present.

**Nesting Records:** Several nests of this species have been found in the checklist area (Doug

Backlund pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** This hardy flycatcher might be encountered anytime from early April to late September. The peak of breeding is from late May to late July.

#### **WESTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Western Kingbirds can be seen perched on wires, fenceposts, or trees throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Numerous nests of this species have been found in the checklist area. For example, an active nest was found in the Grass Creek Shelterbelt on 22 June 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Western Kingbirds are typically present from early May to late August. Western Kingbird peak breeding activity occurs mid-June to mid-July. A late bird was near Sheriff Dam on 4 September 2014 (DNS).

#### **EASTERN KINGBIRD**

(*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** The Eastern Kingbird (Figure 55) uses the same habitats as does the Western Kingbird.

**Nesting Records:** Numerous nests and broods of this species have been found in the checklist area. For example, an adult was being followed by three fledged juveniles in Glenn Pasture on 27 August 2014 (Paul Baicich, DNS).

**Remarks:** This species' seasonality is similar to that of the Western Kingbird. A late bird was at Sheriff Dam on 11 September 2014 (DNS).

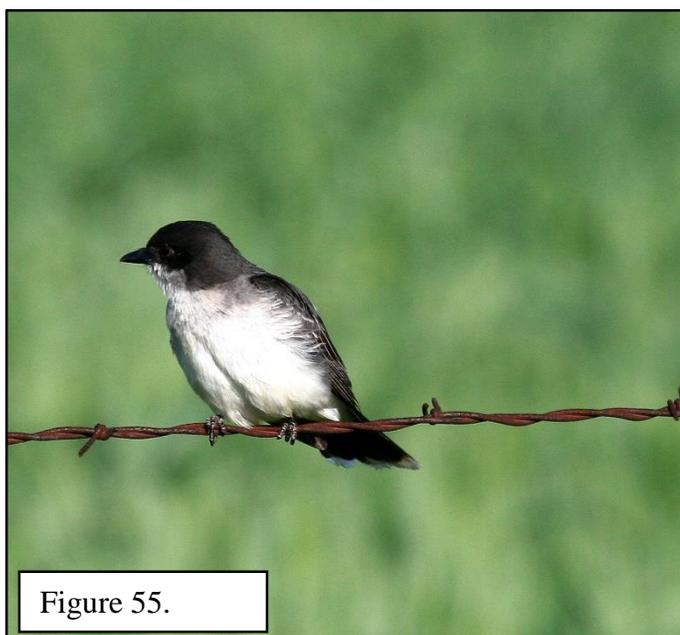


Figure 55.

#### **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

**Status:** Accidental summer visitor and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Scissor-tailed Flycatchers use open woodlands and prairie habitats.

**Remarks:** The only local records are of an adult photographed in the Cookstove Allotment on 13 July 1998 (*vide* Doug Backlund), and of a juvenile bird found on 14 October 2000 in the Sand Creek Pasture (i.e. T109N, R77W, Sections 17/20; Doug Backlund pers. comm.).

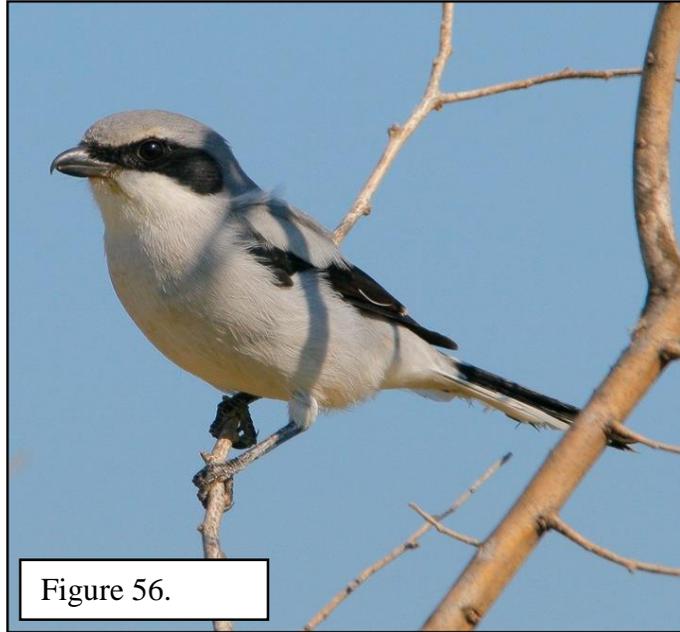
**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE***(Lanius ludovicianus)***Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.**Distribution:** Loggerhead Shrikes use tree and shrub patches in or near mixed-grass prairie, cropland, hayland, or idle grasslands.**Nesting Records:** This species (Figure 56) has nested in the past at the Cookstove Shelterbelt (CE). Doug Backlund found an active nest attended by food-carrying adults in the Timber Creek North Pasture on 25 May 2014.**Remarks:** Loggerhead Shrikes are typically present from early April to late August, but some birds linger into October. The breeding season peak for the Loggerhead Shrike is from early May to mid-July. For a list of recent past sightings, see Appendix 2.

Figure 56.

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** (*Lanius excubitor*)**Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident.**Distribution:** Northern and Loggerhead shrikes use similar habitat.**Remarks:** Northern Shrike may be present anytime between mid-October and late March.**BELL'S VIREO** (*Vireo bellii*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor or resident.**Distribution:** Bell's Vireos use deciduous woodland.**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.**Remarks:** This species should be watched for from mid-May through the end of August. The likely breeding season peak is from late May to late July. Two Bell's Vireos were found in the Timber Creek North Pasture on 23 May 2014, with another singing in the Cookstove Shelterbelt the same day (Doug Backlund pers. comm.). A pair of Bell's Vireo were at the Reservation Road Shelterbelt on 27 May 2015 (DNS); a bird was singing there on 3 June 2014 (RM, DNS). Juvenile Bell's Vireos were at Sheriff Dam on 21 and 26 August 2014 and Cookstove Shelterbelt on 1 September 2015 (all sightings DNS).

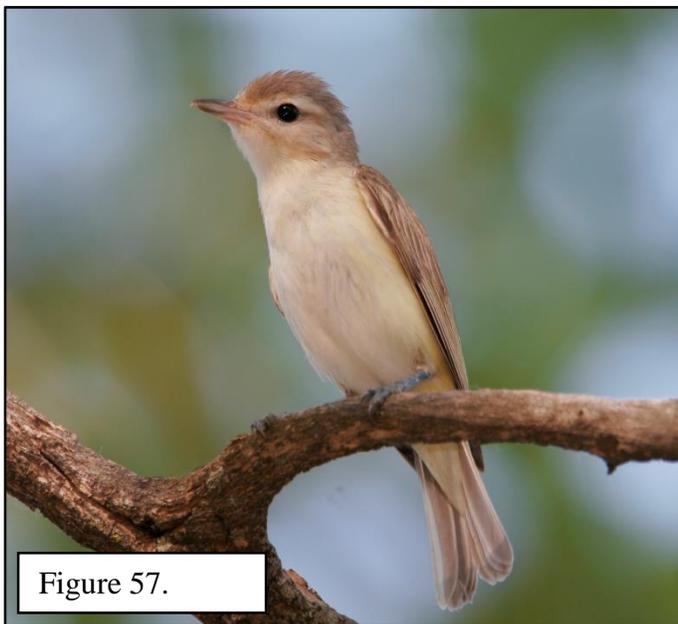
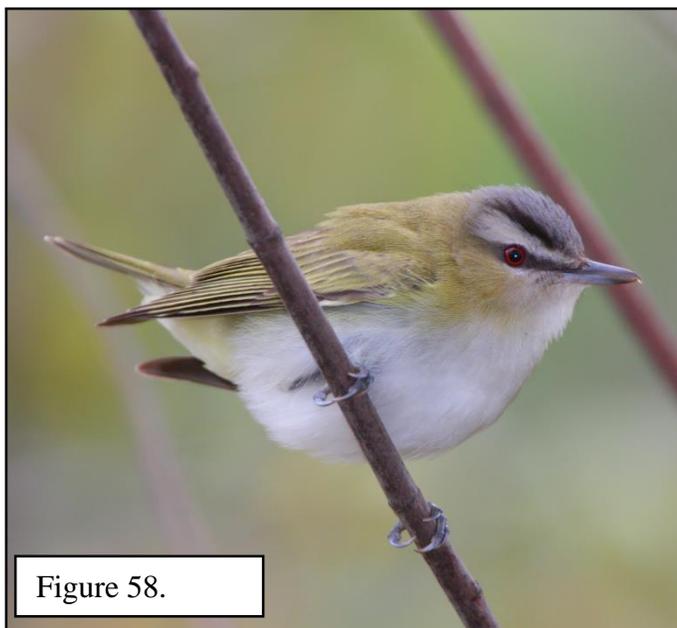
**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** (*Vireo solitarius*)**Status:** Casual fall migrant.**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland.**Remarks:** Blue-headed Vireos migrate through central South Dakota in May, August, and September. The only records from the checklist area are of single birds at Sheriff Dam on 1 September 2015 and 2 September 2014 (both sightings DNS).**WARBLING VIREO** (*Vireo gilvus*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident.**Distribution:** Warbling Vireos can be found in deciduous woodland.**Nesting Records:** The Warbling Vireo has yet to be confirmed as a local breeder.**Remarks:** This species might be present from mid-May through the end of September, but is most likely to be found in the last half of May and in the first half of September. The likely breeding season peak for the Warbling Vireo (Figure 57) is from late May to late July. Two-three birds were at the north side of the Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 1-5 June 2014 (DNS).

Figure 57.

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** (*Vireo philadelphicus*)**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.**Distribution:** Philadelphia Vireos use deciduous woodland.**Remarks:** This species migrates through South Dakota in mid to late May; it is considered accidental west of the Missouri River (Tallman et al. 2002). The sole local record is of a bird found at Sheriff Dam on 18 May 2015 (DNS).

**RED-EYED VIREO** (*Vireo olivaceus*)**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Red-eyed Vireos use deciduous woodland habitat.**Remarks:** Red-eyed Vireo (Figure 58) migration occurs in May, August, and early September. This species nests along the Missouri River, just outside the checklist area. Doug Backlund found a Red-eyed Vireo at Sheriff Dam on 19 and 20 May 2014. Dan Svingen found single birds there on 11 September 2014 and 30 May 2015.**BLUE JAY** (*Cyanocitta cristata*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual winter visitor.**Distribution:** This species uses woodland.**High Counts:** A flock of six Blue Jays was at Sheriff Dam on 7 October 2014 and on 14 May 2015 (both sightings DNS). An astounding 100+ birds were there the second week of October in 2014 (Nick Lowrey pers. comm.).**Remarks:** Blue Jay migration is most noticeable in May and October. A bird was in Alkali West Pasture on 25 September 2015 (Doug Gordon, Tim Iron Thunder pers. comm.). The only local winter record is of two birds recorded in the Lyman County portion of the checklist area on 2 January 2011 (Alan Van Norman, eBird database).**AMERICAN CROW** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** American Crows are seen and heard throughout the checklist area.**High Counts:** On 9 October 2015, 260 American Crows were observed flying over the Fort Pierre National Grassland, including 140 birds in a flock above County Line #14 Pasture (DNS).**Remarks:** Watch for this species in March, April, May, September, and October.**COMMON RAVEN** (*Corvus corax*)**Status:** Accidental fall migrant.**Distribution:** Common Ravens use a wide variety of habitats, including all of those found in the checklist area.**Remarks:** The only record of a Common Raven from the checklist area is of a bird seen in the 50/50 East and 50/50 West Pastures on 21 November 2014 (DNS). The bird landed repeatedly along US Highway 83 to inspect carrion as it worked its way south from near Fort Pierre.

**HORNED LARK** (*Eremophila alpestris*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant, common summer resident, abundant but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** Horned Larks are prominent in mixed-grass prairie and cropland habitats.

**Nesting Records:** A fledgling was found in Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 25 May 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Migration periods for this species are late February to early April and in September and October. Late April to late July encompasses the peak of the Horned Lark's protracted breeding season.

**TREE SWALLOW** (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Tree Swallows are most often found near reservoirs, but can be seen in a wide variety of habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Tree Swallows are found annually across the checklist area using nest boxes and tree cavities. For example, two adults were tending a nesting cavity in a Cottonwood by Bower Dam on 2 July 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Peak annual numbers are seen between mid-April and mid-May. Many birds depart by late July or early August, but some may still be present to mid-October. Peak breeding activity is from early June to mid-July.

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW**

(*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Watch for Northern Rough-winged Swallows along the shores of the checklist area's largest stockponds, as well as at stream cutbanks.

**Nesting Records:** Dan Svingen photographed a brood of six fledglings (Figure 59) tended by an adult at Richland Dam on 20 July 2014.

**Remarks:** These swallows arrive in late April and early May; most are southbound by early August. Mid-May to mid-July is peak breeding time.

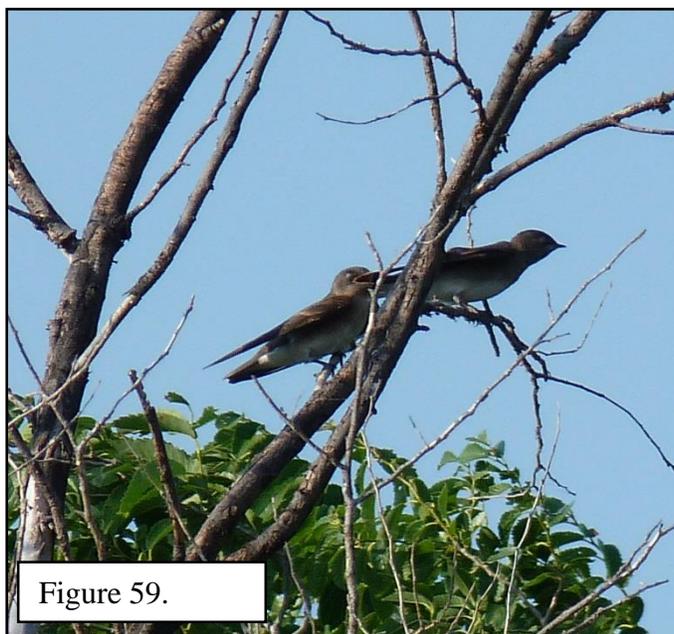


Figure 59.

**BANK SWALLOW** (*Riparia riparia*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Bank Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallow use similar habitats.**Remarks:** Bank Swallows are relatively late migrants, arriving mostly in mid-May. The highest numbers are seen in the last half of August. Most birds depart by early September.**CLIFF SWALLOW** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare summer visitor.**Distribution:** Cliff Swallows might be seen foraging in any open habitat.**High Counts:** A flock of 40 Cliff Swallows was at Sheriff Dam on 21 August 2014 (DNS).**Remarks:** Cliff Swallows may be found from late April to mid-September, but are most likely to be seen in May, August, and September. At least 7 Cliff Swallows were in Nels North Pasture on 1 June 2011 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database).**BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*)**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.**Distribution:** This species is most often seen near human habitations. Foraging birds are seen in a variety of habitats throughout the checklist area.**Nesting Records:** Nests of this species are easy to find each year. For example, Dan Svingen photographed a nest (Figure 60) with four nestlings along 291<sup>st</sup> Ave. adjacent to Countyline #18 Pasture on 16 July 2014.**Remarks:** Barn Swallows return north in late April and depart by mid-October. Breeding activities occur mostly from late May to early August.

Figure 60.

**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE** (*Poecile atricapillus*)**Status:** Casual spring migrant and winter visitor.**Distribution:** Black-capped Chickadees use woodlands. The species is most abundant in deciduous woodland habitat.**Remarks:** Scott Stolz (pers. comm. and eBird database) saw two Black-capped Chickadees at Richland Dam on 22 February 2013. Deirdre Robinson (eBird database) found six birds in the Lyman County portion of the checklist area on 22 April 2005.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH***(Sitta canadensis)***Status:** Casual fall migrant.**Distribution:** Red-breasted Nuthatches inhabit woodlands.**Remarks:** This species' fall migration occurs from September into December. Scott Stolz saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Sheriff Dam on 9 September 2011. Dan Svingen photographed a Red-breasted Nuthatch (Figure 61) at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 11 September 2014, and found two birds each at Richland Dam on 4 September 2015 and at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 6 October 2015.

Figure 61.

**ROCK WREN** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)**Status:** Casual spring migrant.**Distribution:** Rock Wrens use clay cutbanks and rock piles.**Remarks:** During spring, Rock Wrens migrate in April and May. Doug Backlund (pers. comm.) found a singing bird along 291<sup>st</sup> Avenue adjacent to the Lookout Middle Pasture in spring (date unspecified); this is the only record from the checklist area. This species nests on clay buttes just outside the project area.**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*)**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitats.**Nesting Records:** At Bower Dam on 2 July 2015, a food-carrying adult was seen entering a tree cavity from which begging nestlings could be heard (DNS).**Remarks:** Most individuals do not arrive until early May. Numbers typically drop rapidly after mid-September. A late bird was photographed at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 6 October 2015 (DNS). Peak breeding activity is from late May to mid-July.

**WINTER WREN** (*Troglodytes hiemalis*)**Status:** Casual fall migrant.**Distribution:** Winter Wrens use woodland.**Remarks:** Look for this species in late September through October. The only record from the checklist area is of a bird partially photographed (Figure 62) by Dan Svingen at Sheriff Dam on 9 October 2015.

Figure 62.

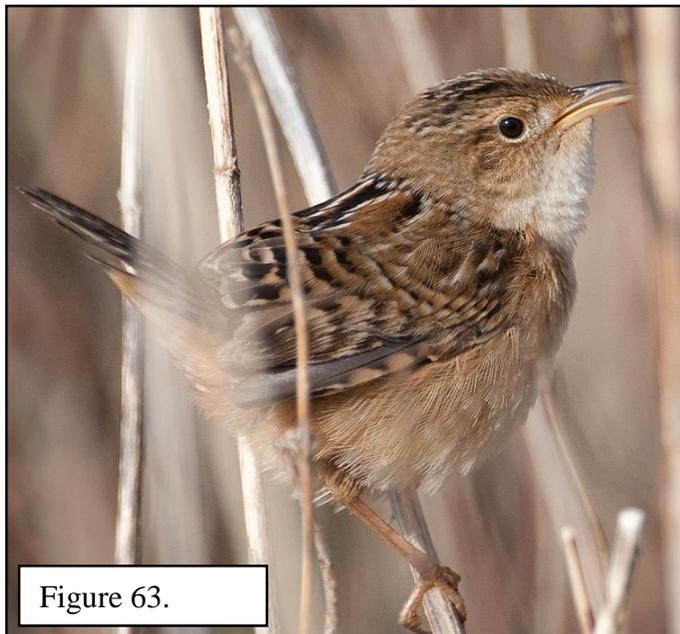
**SEDGE WREN** (*Cistothorus platensis*)**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant and summer resident or visitor.**Distribution:** Watch for Sedge Wrens in extensive stands of dense grass, especially near wetlands.**Remarks:** Sedge Wrens migrate in May, August, and September. Doug Backlund photographed a bird (Figure 63) at Bower Dam on 14 May 2014. Another singing bird was at Cottonwood Dam on 11 July 2014 (RM, DNS). Cory Gregory (eBird database) found 4 birds in the Jones County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland and 1 bird in the Stanley County portion on 12 August 2013.

Figure 63.

**MARSH WREN** (*Cistothorus palustris*)**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant and summer resident.**Distribution:** Watch for Marsh Wrens in extensive stands of cattails and bulrush at wetlands.**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.**High Counts:** Four birds were calling in Alkali Alkali Pasture on 3 June 2014 (RM, DNS).**Remarks:** Marsh Wrens migrate in April/May and September/October; the likely breeding season is June and July. Stolz found Marsh Wrens at Sheriff Dam on 26 May 2015 and 9 August 2012. Other single birds were in Alkali Home Pasture on 27 May 2015 (DNS), at Sheriff Dam on 13 July 2015 (DNS), at War Creek East Dam on 25 August 2015 (CE), at Cookstove Dam on 5 September 2015 (DNS), in Buer Winter Pasture 5 October 2015 (RM), at South Lake Flat Dam on 6 October 2015 (DNS), and at Sheriff Dam on 20 October 2015 (DNS, Nick Lowrey).

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET***(Regulus calendula)***Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Ruby-crowned Kinglets use woodland habitats.**High Counts:** A heavy fallout on 6 October 2015 resulted in tallies of: 150 Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Cookstove Shelterbelt (Figure 64), 25 at Richland Dam, and 100 at Sheriff Dam (DNS, Nick Lowrey).**Remarks:** Ruby-crowned Kinglet migration occurs from mid-April until mid-May and again from mid-September to mid-October. A late bird was at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 31 October 2014 (DNS).

Figure 64.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia sialis*)**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Watch for Eastern Bluebirds along woodland edges.**Remarks:** This species migrates in April, May, September, and October. Gerald Hoekstra found a bird in the Lyman County portion of the checklist area on 29 April 2015 (eBird database). Single birds were found on 24 May 2014 at: Cookstove Shelterbelt (DNS), Cedar Creek Miller Pasture (DNS), and near Timber Creek Home Pasture (Doug Backlund, pers. comm). On 22 October 2015, Dan Svingen found 11 Eastern Bluebirds at Richland Dam and 12 at Cookstove Shelterbelt.**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*)**Status:** Casual spring migrant.**Distribution:** Mountain Bluebirds use the edges of woodland habitats.**Remarks:** In central South Dakota, springtime Mountain Bluebirds arrive in early March and depart by early April. The sole record from the checklist area regards a bird found by Scott Stolz at Richland Dam on 26 March 2013.

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** (*Myadestes townsendi*)**Status:** Casual winter resident or visitor.**Distribution:** Townsend's Solitaires use woodland.**Remarks:** This species may be present anytime between October and April. Scott Stolz found a Townsend's Solitaire at Sheriff Dam on 22 February 2013 (eBird database); this is the only known local record.**VEERY** (*Catharus fuscescens*)**Status:** Accidental spring migrant and summer visitor.**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitats.**Remarks:** Spring migrants pass through central South Dakota in mid to late May, and occasionally into early June. The only known local records are of a singing bird heard on 29 May 1996 by Shawn Fritcher (exact location unknown), and a singing bird heard near Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 1 June 2014 (DNS).**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH***(Catharus minimus)***Status:** Rare spring migrant.**Distribution:** Gray-cheeked Thrushes use woodland habitat.**Remarks:** Gray-cheeked Thrushes migrate in May. Doug Backlund photographed a bird (Figure 65) at Sheriff Dam on 15 May 2014. Dan Svingen photographed another at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 12 May 2015.

Figure 65.

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH***(Catharus ustulatus)***Status:** Uncommon spring migrant, rare fall migrant**Distribution:** Swainson's Thrushes use woodland habitat.**High Counts:** Ten birds were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 12 May 2015 (DNS).**Remarks:** Migration occurs in May and from late August through September. A relatively late bird was in Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 30 May 2015 (DNS). Autumn sightings included single Swainson's Thrushes at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 1 September 2015 and 11 September 2014, at Richland Dam on 16 September 2014, and at Sheriff Dam on 11 and 16 September 2014 (all sightings DNS).

**HERMIT THRUSH***(Catharus guttatus)***Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant**Distribution:** Hermit Thrushes use woodland habitat.**Remarks:** Migration occurs in April and October. Single birds were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 7 October 2014 and 6 October 2015 and at Sheriff Shelterbelt 6 October 2015 (all sightings DNS). Dan Svingen photographed a Hermit Thrush (Figure 66) in atypical mixed-grass prairie habitat near South Lake Flat Dam on 27 April 2015.

Figure 66.

**AMERICAN ROBIN***(Turdus migratorius)***Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident, common but irregular winter resident.**Distribution:** This species is widely distributed. It can be found in and near all woodland habitats.**Nesting Records:** The American Robin has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.**High Counts:** Two-hundred American Robins were at Richland Dam on 17 October 2014 (DNS, RM), while 100 were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 6 October 2015 (DNS) and 200 were at Sheriff Shelterbelt 6 October 2015 (DNS, Nick Lowrey).**Remarks:** Migrant numbers peak in April and again from September through mid-October. Breeding likely occurs from mid-April to mid-August, with peak activity from late April to late July.**GRAY CATBIRD** (*Dumetella carolinensis*)**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Gray Catbirds use deciduous woodland.**High Counts:** Two Gray Catbirds were at Sheriff Dam on 21 August 2014 to at least 4 September 2014 (DNS).**Remarks:** Mid-May and mid-September are the peak migration periods for this species. Dan Svingen photographed a relatively early bird at Richland Dam on 5 May 2015. Late birds were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 30 May 2015 and at Cookstove and Sheriff Shelterbelts on 6 October 2015 (all sightings DNS).

**BROWN THRASHER** (*Toxostoma rufum*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, accidental winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Brown Thrashers and Gray Catbirds use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** Doug Backlund observed a pair of Brown Thrashers nest-building at Richland Dam on 21 May 2014.

**Remarks:** Spring migration for the Brown Thrasher is concentrated in early May, whereas fall migration is conducted throughout September. A late bird was at the Cookstove Shelterbelt on 6 October 2015 (DNS). The peak of the breeding season is early June to late July. Richard Hill reported a Brown Thrasher wintering in an area of heavy underbrush and cedar trees below a stock dam on the Fort Pierre National Grassland, Jones County on 25 January 1975 (South Dakota Bird Notes Volume 28, No. 2).

**SAGE THRASHER** (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

**Status:** Accidental spring migrant.

**Distribution:** This species should be looked for in mixed-grass prairie and in deciduous woodland, including plantings.

**Remarks:** Samantha Robinson (eBird Database) found a Sage Thrasher along Forest Service 224 on 4 May 2012. Scott Stolz (pers. comm.) found a bird adjacent to the Reed Ranch Shelterbelt on 20 May 2014.

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD**

(*Mimus polyglottos*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant and summer visitor; accidental fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Northern Mockingbirds use open woodlands; in the checklist area, they are most likely to occur at farmsteads and in shelterbelts.

**Remarks:** Shawn Fritcher found a Northern Mockingbird in the Lyman County portion of the Ft. Pierre National Grassland on 6 June 1996 (District Files). Ricky Olson (pers. comm.) found a Northern Mockingbird at Reed Ranch Shelterbelt on 5 June 2010. Doug Backlund photographed a Northern Mockingbird (Figure 67) at Richland Dam on 27 May 2014. A Northern Mockingbird was at Reed Ranch Shelterbelt on 1 October 2014 (CE). A bird has also been found at Sheriff Dam, though on an unspecified date (Scott Stolz pers. comm.).

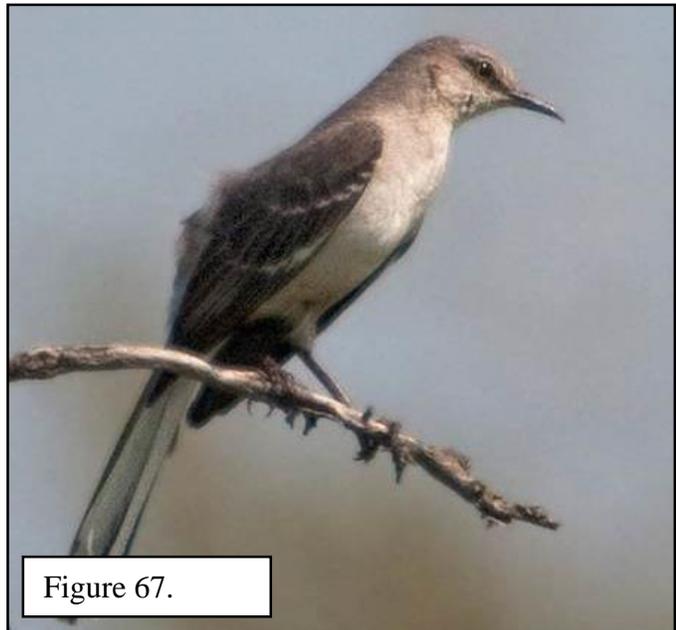


Figure 67.

**EUROPEAN STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident, uncommon but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** This adaptable species can be seen throughout the checklist area. It is most numerous in trees near farmsteads.

**Nesting Records:** Nest building activity was observed in Number Two SW Pasture in May 2014 (DNS).

**High Counts:** Forty birds were near Bomber South Pasture on 12 March 2014 (Robby Calkins pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** Late April to mid-June is the peak of breeding.

**AMERICAN PIPIT** (*Anthus rubescens*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Migrant American Pipits are seen at wetlands with wide mud beaches. They also can be encountered along roadways, in cropland, and in mixed-grass prairie.

**High Counts:** Forty American Pipits were in Medicine Creek #1 Pasture on 15 October 2014 (RM, DNS).

**Remarks:** Watch for American Pipits during early May and again during September and into October.

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT**

(*Anthus spragueii*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant, extirpated summer resident.

**Distribution:** Migrant Sprague's Pipits use mixed-grass prairie.

**High Counts:** Fifty birds were in the Richland East Pasture on 26 September 2004 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.).

**Remarks:** This species should be looked for in April, August, September, and October. Doug Backlund has regularly found birds on Black-tailed Prairie Dog colonies, especially in the western half of the checklist area. He photographed a bird (Figure 68) in the Richland East Pasture on 30 August 2009. In summer 1997, Shawn Fritcher noted several singing birds between May and August, suggesting local nesting. No summer birds have been noted since then. For a listing of past sightings, see Appendix 2.

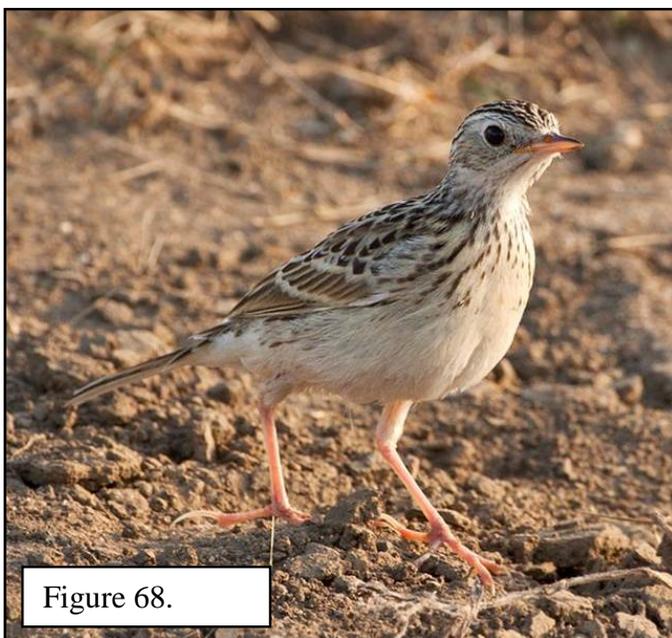


Figure 68.

**CEDAR WAXWING***(Bombycilla cedrorum)*

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, casual summer visitor, common but irregular winter visitor or resident.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Cedar Waxwings (Figure 69) are most likely to be found from September through May. Cedar Waxwing flocks should be searched for Bohemian Waxwings. A Cedar Waxwing was at Sheriff Dam on 13 July 2015 (DNS).

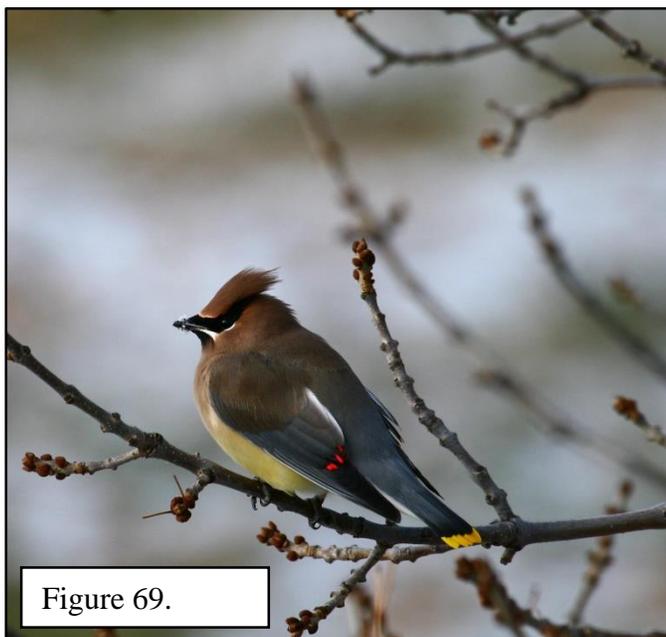


Figure 69.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR***(Calcarius lapponicus)*

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, abundant but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** Lapland Longspurs are most often found along roadways and in cropland. They can also be found in mixed-grass prairie.

**High Counts:** Scott Stolz (eBird database) reported 250 Lapland Longspurs in the Stanley County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 17 February 2013; 500 birds were found in the checklist area scattered west of US 83 on 10 November 2015 (RM, DNS).

**Remarks:** This species should be looked for from late September to early May; migration peaks occur in April and October.

**CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR** *(Calcarius ornatus)*

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Heavily-grazed native mixed-grass prairie is preferred by this species.

**Nesting Records:** Doug Backlund found a nest with 5 eggs in a Black-tailed Prairie Dog colony within the Antelope Creek South Pasture on 30 May 2009 (Drilling 2014). A food-carrying male Chestnut-collared Longspur was noted in Stockton Middle Pasture on 16 July 2014 (RM).

**High Counts:** Ten Chestnut-collared Longspurs were grouped together on the north fenceline of Mueller B Pasture on 9 August 2014 (DNS). Scott Stolz found 18 birds in the Stanley portion of the checklist area on 8 April 2013 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** Birds arrive in early to mid-April and are present into late September; a few remain into mid-October. Peak breeding activity occurs from early May to mid-July.

**MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR***(Rhynchophanes mccownii)***Status:** Accidental spring migrant.**Distribution:** In the project area, McCown's Longspurs are most likely to be found along roadways, in cropland, or on Black-tailed Prairie Dog colonies within mixed-grass prairie.**Remarks:** Shawn Fritcher saw two McCown's Longspurs in the Stanley County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 12 May 1996 (*vide* Doug Backlund). Doug Backlund photographed a McCown's Longspur (Figure 70) in the Antelope Creek South Pasture along FSR 248 on 15 April 2007.

Figure 70.

**SNOW BUNTING** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)**Status:** Rare but irregular spring and fall migrant, abundant but irregular winter visitor.**Distribution:** Snow Bunting use roadsides, cropland, and mixed-grass prairie.**High Counts:** On 27 December 2015, a minimum of 1,000 Snow Buntings were along US 83 adjacent to Number Two SE and Lookout South Pastures (DNS, Elena Svingen).**Remarks:** This species might be found anytime from mid-October through late March. Snow Buntings can sometimes be found in association with Lapland Longspurs.**OVENBIRD** (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Ovenbirds use deciduous woodland.**Remarks:** Ovenbirds should be looked for in May, August, and September. Alex Lamoreaux and Ian Gardner reported an Ovenbird in the Lyman County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 16 May 2014 (eBird database). An Ovenbird was at Sheriff Dam on 30 August 2014 (DNS).

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH***(Parkesia noveboracensis)***Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland. It is most likely to be seen along the edges of treed wetlands.**Remarks:** Northern Waterthrush should be looked for in May and from mid-August to late September. Doug Backlund photographed a Northern Waterthrush (Figure 71) along FSR 208 on 15 May 2014; another bird was at Sheriff Dam the same day (Doug Backlund pers. comm.). Richland Dam and Sheriff Dam had two birds each on 12 May 2015 (DNS). A Northern Waterthrush was at Richland Dam on 11 September 2014 (DNS).

Figure 71.

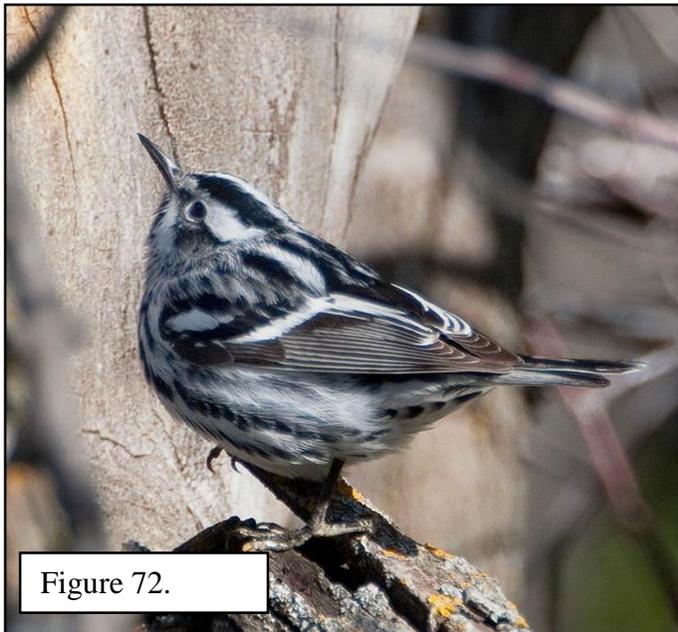
**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER***(Mniotilta varia)***Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Watch for this species in woodland habitat.**Remarks:** Black-and-White Warblers may be present from late April through May and in August and September. Sightings include singles at: Cookstove Shelterbelt on 4 May 2014 and 1 September 2015 and at Alkali West Dam on 7 May 2014 (all sightings DNS). Doug Backlund photographed a Black-and-White Warbler (Figure 72) at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 15 May 2014.

Figure 72.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER***(Oreothlypis peregrina)***Status:** Uncommon spring migrant, rare fall migrant.**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.**High Counts:** Nine Tennessee Warblers were at Sheriff Dam on 19 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.).**Remarks:** Tennessee Warbler numbers peak from mid- to late May and again from August to early September. Detection of late-migrating birds during early June would not be unexpected.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** (*Oreothlypis celata*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses woodland habitat.

**High Count:** Ten Orange-crowned Warblers were at Sheriff Dam on 24 September 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Orange-crowned Warblers can be found from mid-April to mid-May and from September to early October.

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**

(*Geothlypis trichas*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Common Yellowthroats are widely distributed. They use dense mixed-grass prairie and hayland as well as emergent vegetation surrounding wetlands. In migration, they are often found in deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** A fledgling was at South Lake Flat Dam on 9 August 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** The Common Yellowthroat (Figure 73) arrives in early May and departs by late September. Early June to mid-August is the peak breeding season.



Figure 73.

**AMERICAN REDSTART** (*Setophaga ruticilla*)

**Status:** Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This species uses deciduous woodland.

**High Counts:** Three American Redstarts each were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 20 May 2014 and at Sheriff Dam on 23 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.). Two birds were at Sheriff Dam on 14 May 2015 (DNS). Eight birds were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 1 September 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** American Redstarts should be looked for in May and in August to mid-September. This species prefers sites with a well-developed shrub and small tree layer. An adult male was at Sheriff Dam on 21 August 2014 (DNS); others were seen there and at Richland Dam on 2 September 2014.

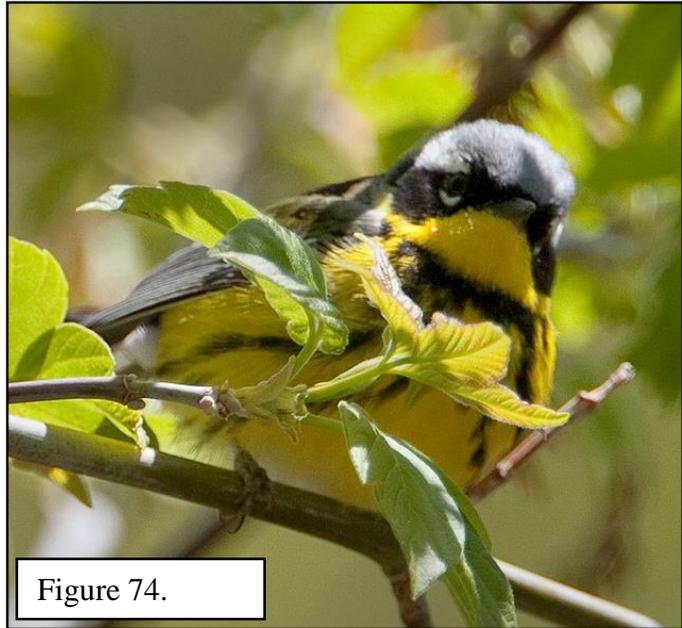
**MAGNOLIA WARBLER***(Setophaga magnolia)***Status:** Casual spring migrant.**Distribution:** Magnolia Warblers use woodland habitats.**Remarks:** Watch for this species during May. Doug Backlund photographed a bird (Figure 74) at Sheriff Dam on 15 May 2014. Single birds were also found there on 14 May 2015 (DNS) and 26 May 2015 (Scott Stolz pers. comm.).

Figure 74.

**YELLOW WARBLER***(Setophaga petechia)***Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.**Distribution:** Yellow Warblers use wooded habitats.**Nesting Records:** A male Yellow Warbler was observed carrying food on 22 June 2014 in the Cookstove Shelterbelt (DNS).**High Counts:** Fifteen Yellow Warblers were at Sheriff Dam on 21 August 2014 (DNS).**Remarks:** Numbers build quickly in early May and taper off in early September. A late bird was at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 6 October 2015 (DNS). Early June to late July is the peak of breeding activities.**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** *(Setophaga pensylvanica)***Status:** Casual fall migrant.**Distribution:** Chestnut-sided Warblers use deciduous woodland.**Remarks:** This species migrates through central South Dakota in mid to late May and in late August to mid-September. The sole local record pertains to a bird at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 24 August 2015 (DNS).

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER***(Setophaga striata)***Status:** Fairly common spring migrant.**Distribution:** Blackpolls use both deciduous and coniferous woodland habitats.**High Counts:** Doug Backlund found 15 Blackpoll Warblers at Sheriff Dam on 15 May 2014.**Remarks:** Watch for Blackpolls throughout May. Doug Backlund photographed a male Blackpoll Warbler (Figure 75) at Sheriff Dam on 15 May 2014.

Figure 75.

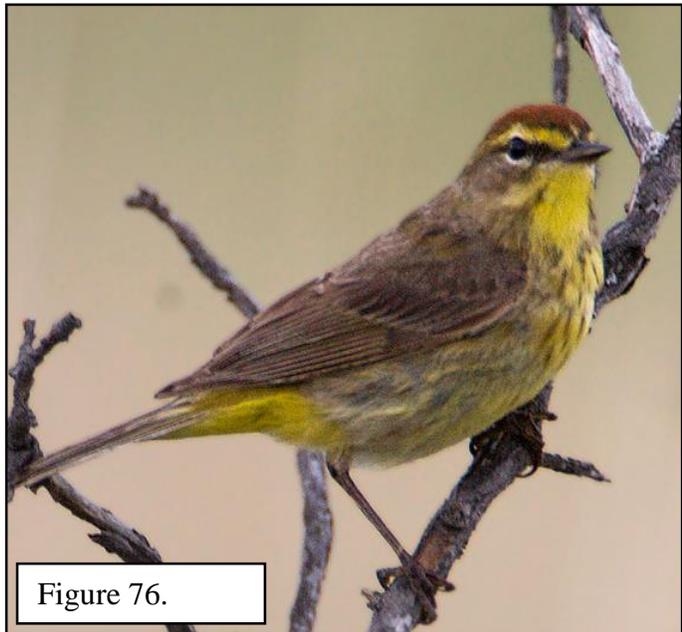
**PALM WARBLER***(Setophaga palmarum)***Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Watch for this species in woodland habitat and along wetland margins.**Remarks:** Migration occurs in early-mid May and September. Doug Backlund photographed a Palm Warbler (Figure 76) at Sheriff Dam on 20 May 2014. Two Palm Warblers were in the Chester Middle Pasture on 29 September 2014 (DNS).

Figure 76.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** (*Setophaga coronata*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Yellow-rumped Warblers use all of the checklist area's woodland habitats.

**Remarks:** Although present throughout April and May and from September through October, the highest numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers are seen in the first half of May and the last half of September. The vast majority are of the Myrtle subspecies (*S. c. coronata*). Three late birds were at Sheriff Dam on 10 November 2015 (DNS).

**WILSON'S WARBLER** (*Cardellina pusilla*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Wilson's Warblers use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** The last half of May and mid-August to mid-September are peak migration windows. Recent sightings by Doug Backlund have included: singles at Sheriff Dam on 17 and 20 May 2014 and at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 20 May 2014. Single Wilson's Warblers were at Sheriff Dam on 18 May 2015 and at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 24 August 2015 (both sightings DNS). Another was at Sheriff Dam on 14 May 2015 (both sightings DNS). Two Wilson's Warblers were at Cottonwood Dam on 2 September 2014 and at Sheriff Dam on 24 August 2015 (DNS). A late bird was at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 6 October 2015 (DNS).

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**

(*Icteria virens*)

**Status:** Rare spring migrant, casual fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Yellow-breasted Chats use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Watch for this species during the last half of May and in September. Doug Backlund photographed a bird (Figure 77) at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 20 May 2014; he also found single birds at Sheriff Dam on 19 and 20 May 2014 and at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 23 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were at Cottonwood Dam on 2 September 2014, Cookstove Shelterbelt on 4 September 2015, and Sheriff Dam on 27 May 2015 (all sightings DNS).



Figure 77.

**SPOTTED TOWHEE** (*Pipilo maculatus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident.

**Distribution:** Spotted Towhees use woodland.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**High Counts:** Five Spotted Towhees were at Sheriff Dam on 4 May 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Spotted Towhee migration occurs from mid-April to mid-May and from mid-September to mid-October. Late May to mid-July is the likely peak of breeding activities. A calling Spotted Towhee was heard at Richland Dam on 12 July 2013 (DNS).

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW** (*Spizella arborea*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** American Tree Sparrows prefer “weedy” habitats, such as along tree rows, riparian zones, and cropland margins.

**Remarks:** Mid-March to mid-April and October are the peaks of migration.

**CHIPPING SPARROW**

(*Spizella passerina*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon summer resident.

**Distribution:** Chipping Sparrows use woodland habitats; they also make use of grassland and cropland edges during migration.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**Remarks:** Chipping Sparrows (Figure 78) might be found from mid-April to mid-October. Breeding season activity is likely concentrated from early June to early August. Two birds were at the north end of Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 1 June 2014 (DNS). A bird was near Sheriff Dam on 30 May 2015 while one was at Sheriff Dam 13 July 2015 (DNS). Independent fledglings have been seen at Sheriff Dam several times in early to mid August (DNS), suggesting nearby nesting.



Figure 78.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** (*Spizella pallida*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring migrant, casual summer visitor, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Clay-colored Sparrows use weedy and brushy patches within the mixed-grass prairie habitat, as well as the edges of woodland habitat.

**High Counts:** Twenty-five Clay-colored Sparrows were at Sheriff Dam on 4 May 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Look for this species during early May and again from mid-August to mid-September. A relatively late bird was in Cookstove Shelterbelt on 23 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Sheriff Dam on 13 July 2015 (DNS).

**FIELD SPARROW** (*Spizella pusilla*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Field Sparrows are most numerous in woody riparian areas and shelterbelts.

**High Counts:** Richard Latuchie (eBird database) found 3 Field Sparrows at Richland Dam on 1 October 2011.

**Remarks:** Field Sparrow migration occurs in April, May, September, and October. Dan Svingen photographed a bird (Figure 79) at Sheriff Dam on 30 September 2015.



Figure 79.

**VESPER SPARROW**

(*Pooecetes gramineus*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Vesper Sparrows are widely distributed. Look for them especially along field margins and roadways in cropland and mixed-grass prairie.

**High Counts:** On 28 September 2014, at least 250 Vesper Sparrows were along roadsides in the checklist area (RM, DNS).

**Remarks:** Vesper Sparrows migrate in April, May, September, and October. Glenn Moravek saw one near the Wylly SE Pasture on 6 July 2009 (Drilling 2014).

**LARK SPARROW** (*Chondestes grammacus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident.

**Distribution:** Lark Sparrows are found along woodland edges.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester

**High Counts:** Five Lark Sparrows were at Richland Dam on 5 May 2014 (DNS, RM); five were also present at Sheriff Dam on 10 August 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Migration occurs from mid-April to mid-May and again from mid-August to early September. A relatively late bird was in the Knoblock Pasture on 28 September 2014 (DNS). Breeding activity likely peaks from late May to mid-July.

## LARK BUNTING

(*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

**Status:** Common but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Lark Buntings occur in mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Elizabeth Pokrivka saw a food-carrying Lark Bunting in the West Bad River Winter Pasture on 15 July 2009 (Drilling 2014). A dependent fledgling was accompanied by an adult in County Line #7 Pasture on 20 July 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Lark Buntings (Figure 80) often do not arrive until late May or early June, and then start departing by late July or early August. In most areas of SD, the species is rarely seen in

September. Relatively early birds included singles near IT #28 Pasture on 5 May 2014 (RM) and in Prairie Hills North Pasture on 7 May 2014 (RM). Peak breeding activity encompasses the period from early June to early August. This species is well-known for its irruptive population patterns, being numerous some years, absent others.

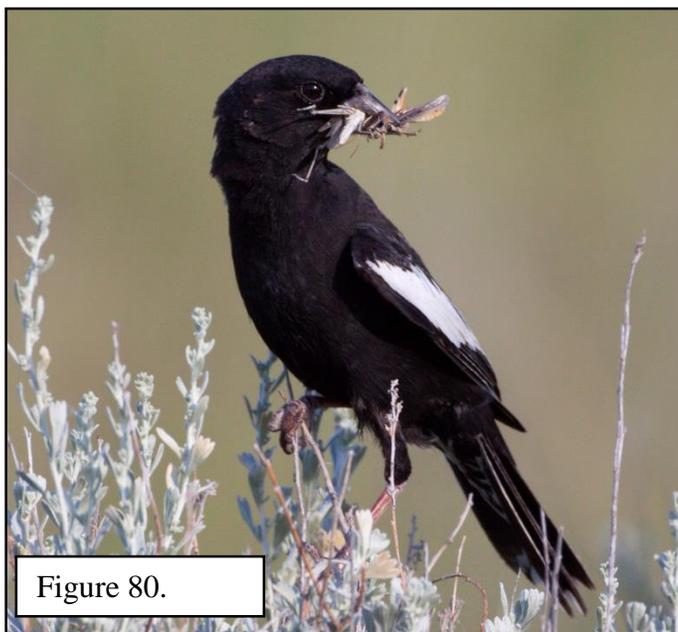


Figure 80.

## SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Savannah Sparrows prefer relatively mesic mixed-grass prairie, hayfields, and idle grasslands.

**High Counts:** Twenty Savannah Sparrows were at Sheriff Dam on 4 May 2014 (DNS). On 28 September 2014, at least 300 Savannah Sparrows were along roadsides in the checklist area (RM, DNS); 40 Savannah Sparrows were near the Cookstove Shelterbelt on 16 September 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Savannah Sparrows migrate in April, May, September, and October. A relatively early Savannah Sparrow was at Sheriff Dam on 21 August 2014 (DNS).

### GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

(*Ammodramus savannarum*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Grasshopper and Savannah sparrows use similar habitats.

**Nesting Records:** A nest with both eggs and newly hatched nestlings (Figure 81) was photographed by Dan Svingen on 12 July 2014 in the Number Two Southwest Pasture. Dependent fledglings were photographed in Mueller A Pasture on 19 July 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Grasshopper Sparrows first arrive in early May and start departing by early August, with the latest birds leaving in early October. Breeding activity is concentrated from early June to late July.



Figure 81.

### BAIRD'S SPARROW

(*Ammodramus bairdii*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant, extirpated summer resident.

**Distribution:** Baird's Sparrows use hayfields, idle grasslands, and mixed-grass prairie.

**Remarks:** Watch for this species in early May. Dan Svingen photographed a bird (Figure 82) in American Creek Middle Pasture on 9 May 2013. In summer 1997, Shawn Fritcher noted several singing birds between May and August, suggesting local nesting. No summer birds have been noted since then. For a list of past sightings, see Appendix 2.



Figure 82.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW***(Ammodramus henslowii)***Status:** Accidental spring migrant and summer resident.**Distribution:** This species uses open, relatively tall, dense grassland.

**Remarks:** Mike McCoy found a Henslow's Sparrow near the Reed Ranch Shelterbelt (Lyman County) on 23 May 2012 (eBird database). The bird was photographed by Doug Backlund on 6 June 2012. Nancy Drilling found two males singing there the same day. A Henslow's Sparrow was along Forest Service Road 219 in American Creek North Pasture on 16 June 2011 (*vide* Nancy Drilling, SD ListServe archive). Eric Ripma found a singing Henslow's Sparrow on the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 29 May 2014 (online blog). Dan Svingen photographed a singing male (Figure 83) in Number Two Southwest Pasture on 12 July 2014.

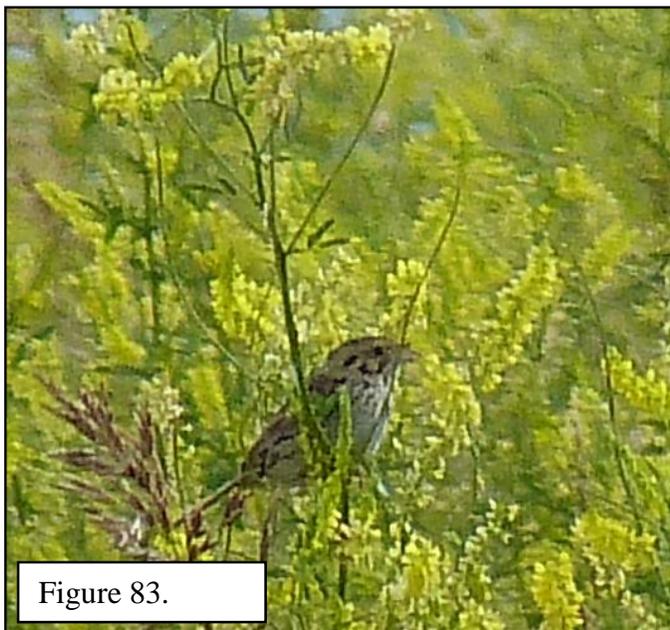


Figure 83.

**FOX SPARROW** (*Passerella iliaca*)**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Dense, low growing riparian shrubs are preferred by migrating Fox Sparrows. Look for them in deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Migration peaks are April and October. Scott Stolz found a bird at Sheriff Dam on 5 May 2014. Doug Backlund photographed a bird (Figure 84) along the Presho Road near the Williams Pastures on 11 October 2004. A Fox Sparrow was at Sheriff Dam on 1 October 2014 (DNS). Two birds were at the Sheriff Shelterbelt on 20 October 2015 (DNS, Nick Lowrey).

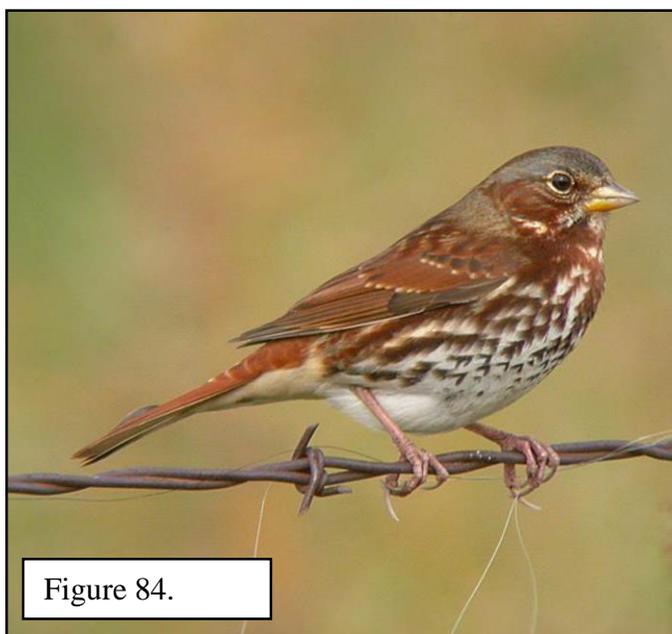


Figure 84.

**SONG SPARROW***(Melospiza melodia)***Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Song Sparrows use dense grass stands and brush tangles in or near wetlands across the checklist area.**Remarks:** This species might be found in April or May and from August through October. There are no summer records to date, though the species is a regular nester in central South Dakota. Dan Svingen photographed one (Figure 85) of the two Song Sparrows present at Sheriff Dam from 21 August 2014 to at least 4 September 2014. Two late birds were at Sheriff Dam on 20 October 2015 (DNS, Nick Lowrey).

Figure 85.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW***(Melospiza lincolnii)***Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.**Distribution:** Lincoln's Sparrows are most often found in brush tangles in woodland.**High Counts:** Five Lincoln's Sparrows were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 4 May 2014 (DNS); six were at Bower Dam on 14 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.).**Remarks:** Peak migration is in early May and in September. Birds may be found, however, from mid-April through May and from mid-August through mid-October.**SWAMP SPARROW** *(Melospiza georgiana)***Status:** Rare fall migrant.**Distribution:** This species uses dense cattail, dense grass, and deciduous brush stands during migration.**Remarks:** Fall migration peaks from mid-September to mid-October. Scott Stolz found a Swamp Sparrow at Sheriff Dam on 9 September 2011. On 30 September 2014, a Swamp Sparrow was found at a stockpond in Section 6 of the Sioux West Pasture, while three birds were at the nearby stockpond in Section 8 (DNS). Single Swamp Sparrows were at Sheriff Dam and South Lake Flat Dam on 6 October 2015 (DNS), while 4 were at Sheriff Dam on 20 October 2015 (DNS, Nick Lowrey).

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** White-throated Sparrows are most often found in brush tangles in deciduous woodland.

**High Counts:** Ten White-throated Sparrows were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 4 May 2014 (DNS); 15 birds were there on 12 May 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Mid-April to late May and September/October are the peaks of migration.

**HARRIS'S SPARROW**

(*Zonotrichia querula*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Harris's Sparrows use brush and small tree rows in or adjacent to cropland and mixed-grass prairie habitat. They also use feedlots and bird feeders.

**High Counts:** Twenty Harris's Sparrows were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 4 May 2014 (DNS); another 20 were at Sheriff Dam the same day (DNS). Fifty Harris's Sparrows were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 29 September 2014 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Harris's Sparrow (Figure 86) migration occurs from mid-April to late May and mid-September to mid-October. A late bird was near Sioux Bull Pasture on 12 November 2014 (DNS).

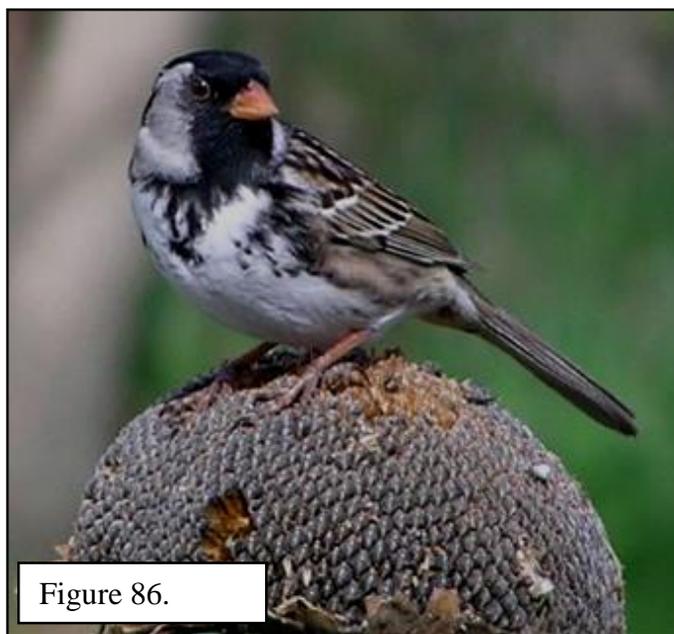


Figure 86.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** This sparrow species can be found along fence rows, tree rows, and in brush tangles throughout the checklist area.

**High Counts:** Forty White-crowned Sparrows were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 4 May 2014 (DNS); another 40 were at Sheriff Dam the same day (DNS).

**Remarks:** Mid-April to late May and September/October are the peaks of migration.

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** (*Junco hyemalis*)

**Status:** Fairly common spring and fall migrant, uncommon but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** Dark-eyed Juncos can be found along fence rows, tree rows, and in brush tangles throughout the checklist area.

**Remarks:** Juncos may be present from early September through mid-May.

**WESTERN TANAGER** (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

**Status:** Accidental summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Western Tanagers use woodland habitat.

**Remarks:** Terry Sohl found a Western Tanager at Richland Dam on 17 July 2004 (*vide* Scott Stolz). Scott Stolz (pers. comm.) saw a Western Tanager at Sheriff Dam on an unspecified date.

**NORTHERN CARDINAL**

(*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant and winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Northern Cardinals use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** Scott Stolz (eBird database) found a Northern Cardinal in the Jones County portion of the checklist area on 16 February 2013. Deirdre Robinson found two Northern Cardinals in the Lyman Co. portion of the checklist area on 22 April 2005 (eBird database). Dan Svingen photographed a Northern Cardinal (Figure 87) adjacent to Sheriff Dam on 30 August 2014; the bird was there until at least 4 September 2014.

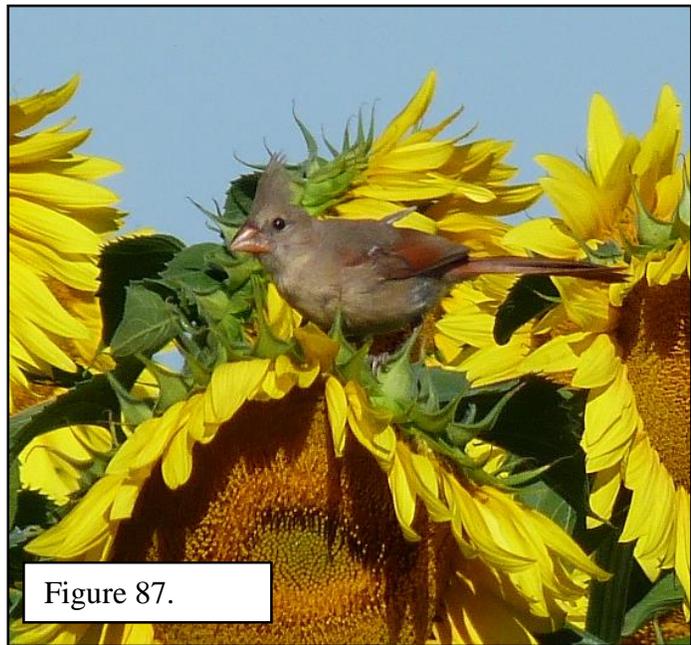


Figure 87.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK***(Pheucticus ludovicianus)***Status:** Rare spring migrant.**Distribution:** Rose-breasted Grosbeaks use deciduous woodland.**Remarks:** Spring migration occurs from early to late May. Fall migration occurs from late August to late September.

Doug Backlund photographed a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Figure 88) at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 15 May 2014. He found two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Sheriff Dam on 15 May 2014 and a female at Sheriff Dam on 17 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.).

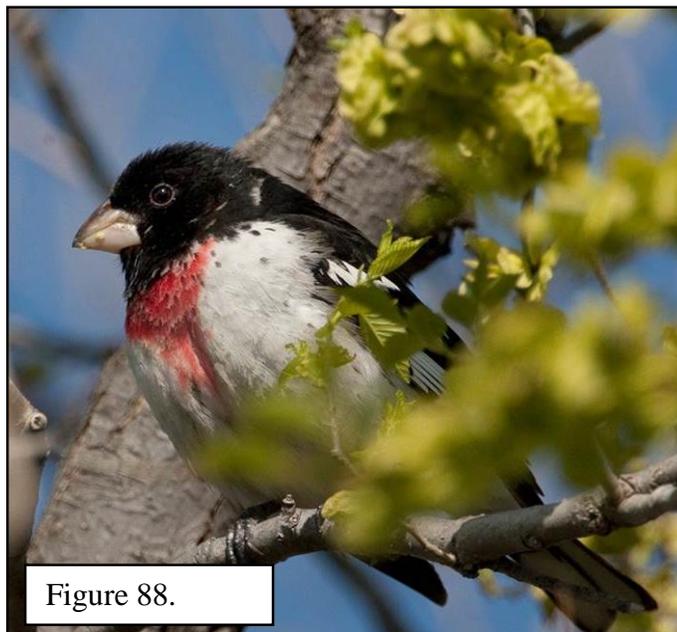


Figure 88.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK***(Pheucticus melanocephalus)***Status:** Casual spring migrant.**Distribution:** Black-headed Grosbeaks use deciduous woodland.**Remarks:** Spring migration occurs from early to late May. The only local record pertains to a bird in Cookstove Shelterbelt on 17 May 2014 (RM).**BLUE GROSBEAK** (*Passerina caerulea*)**Status:** Rare spring migrant and summer resident, casual fall migrant.**Distribution:** Blue Grosbeaks use deciduous woodland habitat.**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**Remarks:** A bird was seen on 21 August 2012 at Reed Ranch Dam (Scott Stolz pers. comm.). Immature (i.e. one-year old) males were at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 24 May and 5 June 2014 (RM, DNS) and at Richland Dam on 12 July 2014 (DNS). Adult pairs of Blue Grosbeaks were seen near Sand Creek Fall Pasture on 1 June 2014 (DNS) and 20 August 2014 (RM); at Richland Dam on 22 June 2014 (DNS), and at Cookstove Shelterbelt 20 May 2015 (DNS, RM). An adult Blue Grosbeak male was at Sheriff Dam on 13 July 2015 (DNS).

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*)

**Status:** Casual spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Lazuli Buntings use deciduous woodland.

**Remarks:** This species (Figure 89) migrants north in May. The only records to date are of single adult males near Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 20 May 2015 (Noel Henriksen pers. comm.) and at Knoblock Dam on 27 May 2015 (DNS); and of a hatch-year female at Cookstove Shelterbelt on 1 September 2015 (DNS).

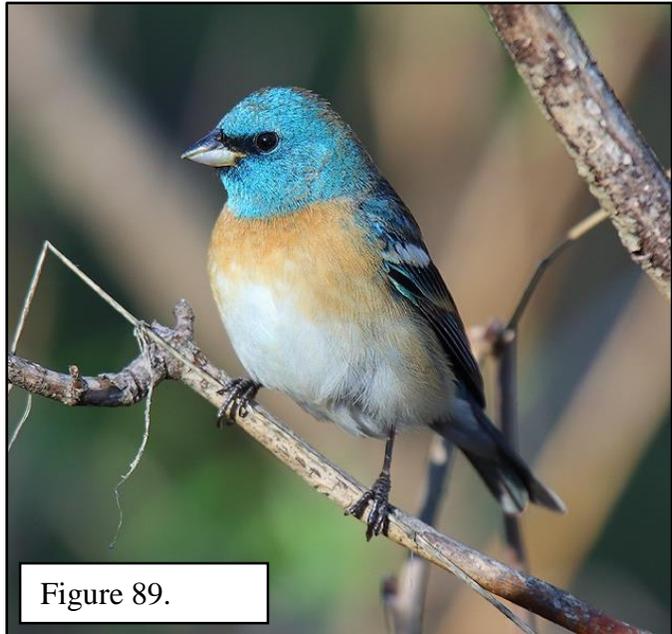


Figure 89.

**INDIGO BUNTING** (*Passerina cyanea*)

**Status:** Casual spring migrant and summer visitor.

**Distribution:** Deciduous woodland is the preferred habitat for Indigo Buntings.

**Remarks:** This species migrants north in May and breeds nearby before migrating south in August and September. A bird was in the Bad River East Pasture on 26 May 2014 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database). Mary Anne Romito found an Indigo Bunting in the Stanley County portion of the Fort Pierre National Grassland on 30 July 2014 (eBird database).

**DICKCISSEL** (*Spiza americana*)

**Status:** Common but irregular spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Dickcissels use the densest mesic grassland habitats available in the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Doug Backlund photographed a food-carrying female (Figure 90) in the Bomber South Pasture on 4 July 2006. Dan Svingen photographed a food-carrying female in the Stony Butte Butte Pasture on the surprisingly late date of 25 August 2014; even more surprising was the food-carrying female in Bomber South Pasture on 30 August 2014 (DNS).

**High Counts:** Twenty Dickcissels were near Sheriff Dam on 21 August 2014 (DNS).

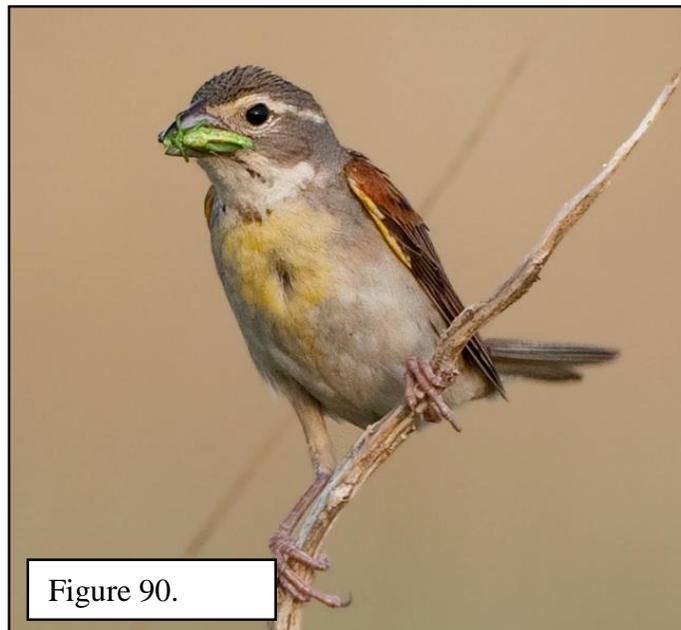


Figure 90.

**Remarks:** Watch for Dickcissels from late May to early September. Breeding activities are concentrated in June and July.

**BOBOLINK** (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

**Status:** Common spring migrant and summer resident, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Bobolinks use mesic mixed-grass prairie, croplands, hayfields, and idle grasslands.

**Nesting Records:** Dan Svingen photographed a food-carrying male (Figure 91) in the Mueller A Pasture on 19 July 2014.

**Remarks:** Bobolinks arrive in early to mid-May and start departing in late July. Practically no birds are present by mid-September. Breeding activities are concentrated between early June and mid-July.

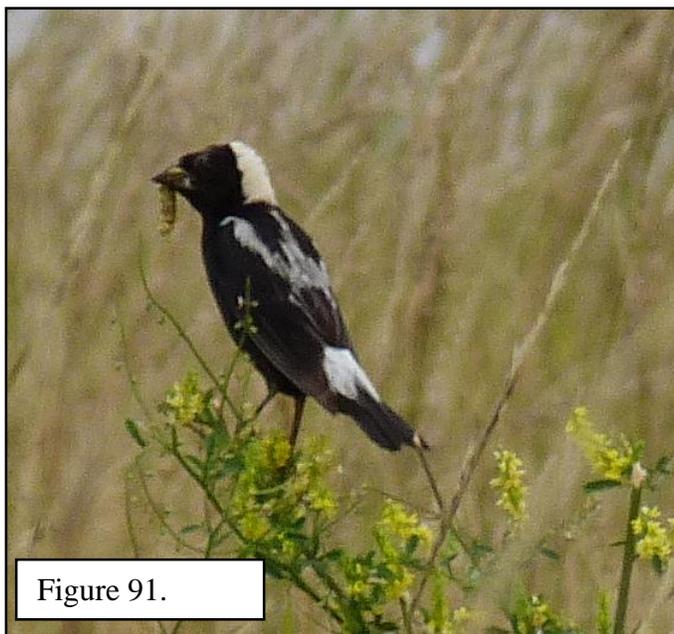


Figure 91.

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident, rare but irregular winter resident.

**Distribution:** Red-winged Blackbirds nest at wetlands with cattail and/or bulrush stands.

During the non-breeding season, this species is often found in trees bordering agricultural fields.

**Nesting Records:** Nest and fledglings of this species are encountered annually in the checklist area. For example, a dependent fledgling was at Richland Dam on 22 June 2014 (DNS).

**High Counts:** Three hundred Red-winged Blackbirds were near the Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 9 January 2015 (DNS). Scott Stolz found 750 birds in the Stanley Co. portion of the checklist area on 30 August 2012 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** Red-winged Blackbirds are regularly present from mid-March to late October. Breeding occurs between mid-May and late July.

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** (*Sturnella neglecta*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident, casual winter resident.

**Distribution:** Western Meadowlark use mixed-grass prairie.

**Nesting Records:** Dan Svingen photographed a Western Meadowlark nest with two eggs in Sioux Bull Pasture on 22 May 2013.

**High Counts:** Jennifer Rycenga found 107 Western Meadowlarks in the Lyman Co., portion of the checklist area on 4 July 2006 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** Spring migrants typically arrive in mid-March. Most birds depart by mid-October. Early May to mid-July is the peak of the breeding season. Following a very mild fall in 2015, several meadowlarks attempted to winter locally, including the 8 seen 30 December 2015 (DNS) near the Cookstove Pasture.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

**Status:** Common spring migrant, fairly common summer resident and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Yellow-headed Blackbirds nest at wetlands with cattail and/or bulrush stands. During the non-breeding season, this species is most often found in trees bordering agricultural fields.

**Nesting Records:** Elizabeth Pokrivka noted adult Yellow-headed Blackbird carrying nest material at Reese Dam on 2 June 2009; a fledgling was found nearby on 19 July 2009 (Drilling 2014). Dependent fledglings were noted at Mueller Dam on 19 July 2014 (DNS) and at a dam in the Richland East Pasture on 25 August 2015 (CE).

**High Counts:** Scott Stolz found 150 birds in the Stanley Co. portion of the checklist area on 30 August 2012 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** Yellow-headed Blackbird migration peaks in April and September, some birds remain into October. Breeding activity is at its peak from mid-May to mid-July.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD**

(*Euphagus carolinus*)

**Status:** Casual fall migrant and winter visitor.

**Distribution:** Rusty Blackbirds are most often found in trees bordering wetlands, cropland or feedlots.

**Remarks:** Migrants pass through central South Dakota in March and early April and again in October and early November. Ruben Mares photographed one (Figure 92) of the three bird near Bad River  $\frac{3}{4}$  Pasture on 10 November 2015. Scott Stolz found a Rusty Blackbird at War Creek Dam on 16 February 2013 (eBird database).

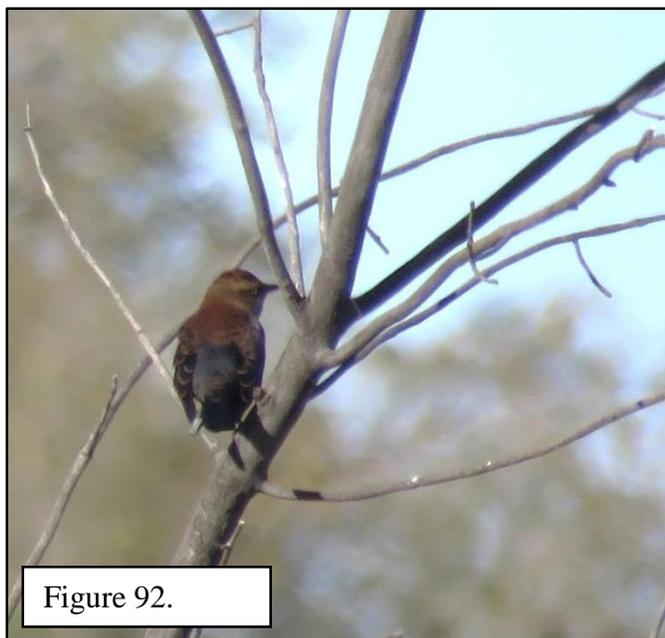


Figure 92.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Brewer's Blackbirds use cropland, mixed-grass prairie, and woodland.

**High Counts:** A flock of 50 Brewer's Blackbirds was in cropland adjacent to Sheriff Dam on 4 May 2014 (DNS); 300 were near Number Two SE Pasture on 20 October 2015 (DNS, Nick Lowrey). Ruben Mares photographed some of the 150 birds in Reservation Winter Pasture on 10 November 15 (DNS, RM).

**Remarks:** Brewer's Blackbird migration peaks in April, September and October. Four relatively late birds were near Sioux Bull Pasture on 12 November 2014 (DNS). Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory staff recorded six (6) Brewer's Blackbirds in Alkali Middle Pasture on 17 May 2011 (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory database).

**COMMON GRACKLE**

(*Quiscalus quiscula*)

**Status:** Common spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Common Grackles use all of the checklist area's habitats. They are most frequently seen in or near woodland, cropland, and at farmsteads.

**Nesting Records:** This species is annually found nesting at large patches of conifers throughout the checklist area. Dan Svingen photographed a food-carrying male Common Grackle (Figure 93) at the Cookstove Shelterbelt on 22 June 2014.

**High Counts:** Fifty Common Grackles were at Sheriff Dam on 4 May 2014 (DNS). On 17 October 2014, 160 were there (DNS).

**Remarks:** Birds typically arrive in late March with most birds departing by mid-October.

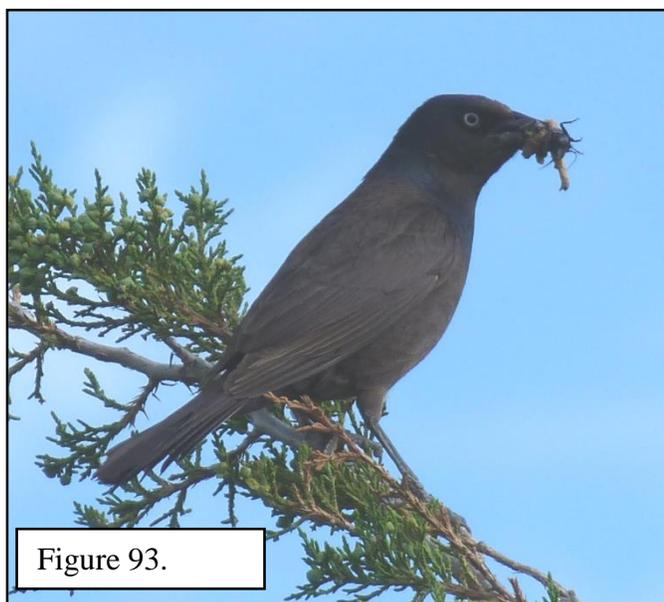


Figure 93.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** (*Molothrus ater*)

**Status:** Abundant spring and fall migrant and summer resident.

**Distribution:** Brown-headed Cowbirds can be found throughout the checklist area.

**Nesting Records:** Dependent Brown-headed Cowbird fledglings are seen in the checklist area each year.

**High Counts:** A flock of 800 Brown-headed Cowbirds was in the Bad River Three-quarters Pasture on 8 August 2014 (DNS). Scott Stolz found 450 birds in the Stanley Co. portion of the checklist area on 30 August 2012 (eBird database).

**Remarks:** This species is present from early April until mid-August, when numbers start falling quickly. In most years, it is completely absent by late September. The peak of the breeding

season is from late May to mid-July.

### ORCHARD ORIOLE

(*Icterus spurius*)

**Status:** Common spring migrant and summer resident, uncommon fall migrant.

**Distribution:** Orchard Orioles should be looked for in deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** An active nest was found at Richland Dam on 22 June 2014 (DNS). Dan Svingen photographed a dependent fledgling (Figure 94) at Sheriff Dam on 13 July 2015.

**High Counts:** Nine Orchard Orioles were at Sheriff Dam on 19 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.). Three birds were at Richland Dam on 24 August 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Orchard Orioles do not arrive in numbers until mid-May, numbers then fall quickly after late July. The species is largely absent after late August. Two relatively late birds were at Sheriff Dam on 2 September 2014 (DNS). The peak of the breeding season is from early June to mid-July.



### BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*)

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident or visitor.

**Distribution:** Baltimore Orioles use deciduous woodland.

**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be confirmed as a local nester.

**High Counts:** Seven Baltimore Orioles were in Williams North Howe Pasture along Timber Creek on 23 May 2014 (Doug Backlund pers. comm.); three Baltimore Orioles were at Richland Dam on 24 August 2015 (DNS).

**Remarks:** Baltimore Orioles migrate in May and August. The likely peak of the breeding season is from early June to early July. Nancy Drilling found a singing male at Cottonwood Dam on 15 June 2011 (Drilling 2014). Another singing male was along 226<sup>th</sup> Street at the north end of Farlow Hay ½ Section Pasture on 1 June 2014 (DNS). A male was at Sheriff Dam on 13 July 2015 (DNS).

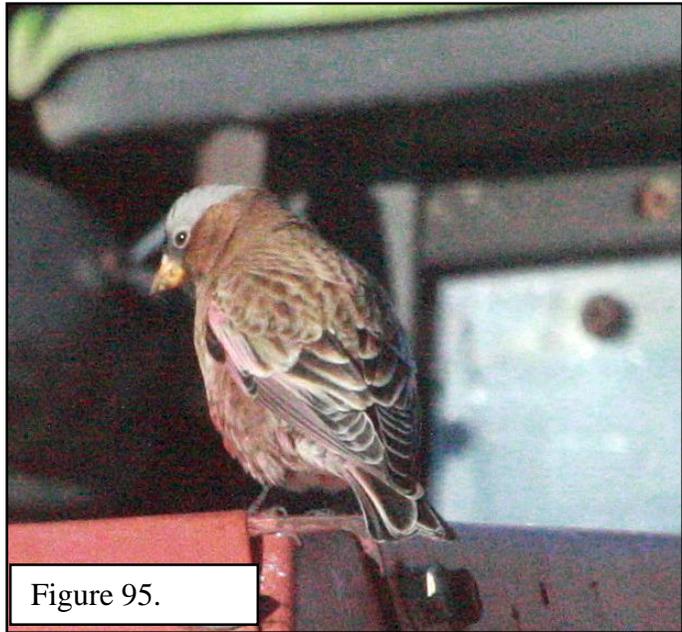
**GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH***(Leucosticte tephrocotis)***Status:** Accidental fall migrant.**Distribution:** Suitable habitats for this species within the checklist area includes: grassland, cropland, and feeders.**Remarks:** The sole local record of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch pertains to six birds photographed (Figure 95) by Lynn Barber near the Cookstove Pasture the intersection of County Line Road and US Highway 83 on 15 November 2012.

Figure 95.

**HOUSE FINCH***(Haemorhous mexicanus)***Status:** Uncommon year-round resident or visitor.**Distribution:** House Finches use woodland habitats, most often at farmsteads.**Nesting Records:** This species has yet to be documented as a local nester.**High Counts:** Six House Finches were at Sheriff Dam on 9 October 2015 (DNS).**Remarks:** The likely breeding season is from May to July.**COMMON REDPOLL** *(Acanthis flammea)***Status:** Uncommon but irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident.**Distribution:** Common Redpolls use “weedy” habitats in mixed-grass prairie, such as tree rows, fence rows, and the margins of agricultural fields. They are especially attracted to sunflower fields.**Remarks:** Common Redpolls might be found from late October to late March.