

## Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

**Project Type**            Monitoring

**Title**    Monitoring American dippers in the Black Hills

**In a nutshell**            To learn more about this state threatened species, field monitoring from 2004 – 2009 focused on collecting nesting season information from 48 sites along Spearfish Creek and many of its tributaries in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

### **Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

- American dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*)

**Relevant Habitats**            coldwater streams of the Black Hills

**Cooperators**            Contractor Kristie Lovett

### **Purpose**

- monitor annual production at nest sites for five years
- assess aquatic insect abundance at nest sites
- monitor winter use of stream habitat by dippers for five years
- track the movements and length of survival of color banded dippers for five years

**Timeframe**    2005 - 2008

**Location**    Black Hills, South Dakota

### **Summary or Important Findings**

- report contains summary of color-banded of American dippers and observations during the field survey in the Spearfish Creek watershed
- nest site types were classified; nest boxes were the most commonly used type (41%)
- total number of fledglings for all 6 study years was 245, with an average of 41 per season
- potential limiting factors in the Black Hills include pollution, loss of water flow, damage to stream banks, and sedimentation

**Best contact person**            Casey Heimerl, SDGFP

### **More Information**

Lovett, K. no date. The American dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Report for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.