The Southeast South Dakota Birding Trail is a cooperative service of:

- South Dakota Office of Tourism
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- South Dakota Tourism
- South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation
- South Dakota Chapter
- Missouri Breaks Audubon
- South Dakota
- Central City Television
- Southeast South Dakota

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- Franklin’s Gull in flight
  Terry Sohl
- Upland Sandpiper
  Doug Backlund
- Yellow Warbler
  South Dakota Tourism

Logo:
- Blue Grosbeak
  Doug Backlund
This guide provides information about each site on the trail, how to get there, what birds you should look for, the best months to visit and tips on birding each location.

More than 300 species of birds may be observed among the 33 points along the trail. Eastern South Dakota is a stopping place for millions of birds following both the Central and Mississippi migratory flyways in spring and fall. Its varied habitats offer the right environment for nearly 150 nesting species, and a number of species that nest in the northern reaches of the continent spend each winter here.

Southeastern South Dakota, as Lewis and Clark saw it 200 years ago, was largely undulating prairie cut longitudinally by three large rivers and their tributaries. The most western-reaching fingers of the nation’s vast eastern deciduous forests extended to the Big Sioux River near the eastern border of South Dakota. Prairie forests of cottonwood, ash, boxelder and elm dotted the James River and the Missouri River corridors. These rivers of eastern South Dakota provided large areas of floodplains and oxbows. Glacier-formed pothole lakes were scattered throughout the region.

Today, while agriculture is the region’s dominant industry, significant areas of grassland habitat remain, allowing birders to observe prairie species such as Upland Sandpiper, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Bobolink and Short-eared Owl. Sandhill Cranes are annual migrants, stopping in fields throughout the western counties of the region. Whooping Cranes have been observed on rare occasions during spring and fall migration in this same area.

The Missouri River provides sandbars, on which may be found nesting Piping Plovers and Least Terns, and miles-long reservoirs with quiet bays where one may find many species of waterfowl, gulls and terns, including Common Goldeneye, Canvasback, Canada and Cackling geese, and Franklin’s Gull. Sabine’s Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Arctic Tern have been found at Gavins Point Dam. Riparian and cottonwood habitats along the shores of the Missouri, James and Big Sioux rivers attract dozens of songbird species, including Bell’s Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.
Birding Trail

The region’s woodlands are a magnet for three dozen species of warblers during spring migration, such as Blackburnian, Cape May, Magnolia and Mourning warblers. The woods are alive with nesting species throughout spring and summer, such as Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Eastern Screech-Owls are common in the region. One may regularly find American Woodcock and Wood Thrush in the woodlands along the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers.

Prairie pothole lakes and other wetlands teem with migrating and nesting ducks, wading birds, shorebirds and wetland species, including Hooded Merganser, Wilson’s Phalarope, Willet, Least Bittern and Sedge Wren.

Soaring over the entire region are the raptors, including Bald Eagle, Swainson’s Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk and American Kestrel.

Welcome to Southeast South Dakota’s birding trail.
Good birding!

General Birding Trail Tips:

Roads Slow down when driving on gravel roads. Some gravel roads may be impassable when muddy or snow-covered. Check with local contacts if in doubt. Less-traveled gravel roads provide great birding. Watch for good places to pull over and bird as you drive between the trail hot spots.

Vehicle trails Many of the trail’s state game production areas (GPAs) and federal waterfowl production areas (WPAs) have rough roads. It is recommended you walk rather than attempt to drive on these dirt roads. Please respect “No vehicles beyond this point” signs.

Multiple use Although southeastern South Dakota has an abundance of public land, be aware of and considerate of others. Site contacts can provide specific information about hunting or other activities at locations you plan to visit.

Weather Air temperature and precipitation can change quickly in South Dakota. Be prepared with outerwear suitable to the season. Plan to include insect repellent for summer birding.

Parks All state parks and recreation areas require a park entrance license, except Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and Spirit Mound Historic Prairie. All state parks offer parking and toilets. Most offer camping.

Finding Birds Timing is important in birding. Check your birding field guide and other references before embarking on a search for a specific species listed in this trail guide. We have not attempted to duplicate reference information regarding the best time of year, time of day or habitat in which individual species may be found.

Birding Ethics The best birding is the least intrusive to birds and their habitat. Disturbing a bird – making it flush from cover, call in alarm or focus on your presence – stresses it and may expose it to predators. Use binoculars, stay back, avoid damaging habitat and enjoy. (See American Birding Association’s Code of Birding Ethics.)
Great Bear Recreation Area

Habitat  In winter, Great Bear Recreation Area focuses on cross-country and downhill skiing. From March through November, the many trails in the 277-acre park offer excellent birding. Great Bear is a deciduous woodland with two small reservoirs, open grassy areas and ski slopes, which are grass-covered in late spring and summer.


Rarity: Summer Tanager

Best birding months  March through September

Tips  The Valley Trail starts at the information kiosk beside the parking lot, runs along the north side of the ski lodge, then southeast past two small ponds, and continues through a draw, with a slight incline, and connects to two other trails, the American Plum Trail and the Shady Glen Trail, which continue away from the ski lodge with a gentle incline. This is easy walking, one mile each way, and offers varied habitat and species, differing by season. Additional trails run through the park, some gently inclined and some steep.

Contact  Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Department, 600 E. Seventh St., Sioux Falls, SD  57103-1338. (605) 367-8222

Scarlet Tanager
William Paff,
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

Map Legend

Birding Locations
Interstate Highway
United States Highway
State Highway
County Highway
Rivers/Streams/
Temporary Waters
U.S. FWS Waterfowl
Production Area

S.D. GFP Game Production
Area (GPA) and S.D. GFP
Water Access Area (WAA)
Parks and Recreation Areas
Cities/Towns
Lake
County Boundary
Parking
Vault Toilet
Comfort Station

Birding Trail
resources online

Contact information is listed in this guide for each trail stop. General information is available online from several sources. Log onto the following:

Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association’s Web site for links to accommodations and regional activities  www.southeastsd.com

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Web site for state parks and recreation area information  www.sd.gov/parks

South Dakota Office of Tourism Web site for links to lodging, food and travel information  www.TravelSD.com


South Dakota Ornithologists’ Union Web site for current sightings and birding information  www.homepages.dsu.edu/palmerj/SDOU/SDOU.html

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Web site for information about corps-controlled land at the Fort Randall and Gavins Point dams  www.nwo.usace.army.mil

U.S. Government recreation site  www.recreation.gov
The Outdoor Campus

Habitat This facility, operated by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks in south central Sioux Falls, houses a small natural history museum in its main building and provides maintained trails looping through native prairie-planted fields, along an oxbow of the Big Sioux River and around a constructed pond.


Best birding months April through September

Tips Trails throughout the grounds.

Contact The Outdoor Campus, 4500 S. Oxbow Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106. (605) 362-2777 TOC@state.sd.us
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700
www.sdgfp.info/Wildlife/Education/OutdoorCampus/index.htm

The Northwest Stretch of the Sioux Falls Bike Trail

Habitat The Sioux Falls Bike Trail runs for approximately 16 miles beside the Big Sioux River as it flows through the city. The three-mile northwest stretch of the bike trail runs along the northern boundary of the Sioux Falls Municipal Airport, passes the west side of Elmwood Golf Course and heads south to Elmwood Park. It offers a rich diversity of habitat ranging from open grassland on the airport grounds with farmland on the opposite side of the river to dense deciduous woods surrounding an old river oxbow at Elmwood Park. In late summer, sandbars appear in the river.

Look for these birds Blue Grosbeak, Western Kingbird, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Green Heron, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Baird’s Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow. At Elmwood Park, look for Baltimore Oriole, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Eastern Bluebird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Swainson’s Thrush. Rarities: Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Golden-winged Warbler, Wood Thrush

Best birding months April through May, August through September

Tips Upland Sandpipers may occasionally be seen and heard whistling in the fields across from the airport during fall migration. Great Blue Herons are common along this river stretch in late August and early September. Elmwood Park is a great spot to find warblers and other songbirds during spring migration. Check the trees scattered on the lawn next to the bike trail, and walk into the woods to find those warblers that prefer the understory. Park at the Maple Street cul-de-sac on the west side of Elmwood Golf Course, cross the bridge and walk north on the gravel trail along the airport boundary. At Elmwood Park, from the south parking lot, you may circle the perimeter of the park, ducking into the woods here and there to look for spring migrants.

Contact Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Department, 600 E. Seventh St., Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1338. (605) 367-8222
4 Big Sioux Recreation Area

Habitat   This 430-acre park includes river bottom with huge cottonwood trees, steep draws densely covered with bur oaks and hillside covered in prairie grasses. The Big Sioux River runs through the park.

Look for these birds   Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Green Heron, Solitary Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Towhee, Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Screech-Owl, Wood Duck, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-throated Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Migrants: Blue-headed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler. Rarities: Cape May Warbler, Winter Wren

Best birding months   March through September

State park entrance license is required. (P, T)

Tips   Park trails lead through different habitats. Check the trail map at the main parking area to select the habitat you wish to walk. Valley of the Giants Trail offers steep hiking through bur oak draws and cottonwood river bottom. The bike trail follows the Big Sioux River, riparian habitat, trees and brush. Prairie Vista Trail climbs to prairie-covered hillside with broad views of park. Several miles east of Big Sioux Recreation Area is Beaver Creek Nature Area with maintained trails throughout. No entrance fee required. Contact the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation for a canoeing map of the Big Sioux River.

Contact   Park Manager, 410 Park Ave., Brandon, SD  57005. (605) 582-7243  BigSioux@state.sd.us  www.sdgfp.info/parks

5 Prairie Pothole Lake Loop

Habitat   A series of prairie pothole lakes and smaller wetlands scattered through farmland, with shelterbelts, pasture and grassland along driving loop.


Best birding months   March through September

State park entrance license is required. (P, T)

Tips   From Sioux Falls, drive west to Wall Lake, stopping along the southeast corner and south side boat ramp area, then one-half mile west. Drive north on 462nd Ave. for two miles. From this corner, crisscross back and forth from 462nd Ave. to 454th Ave. as you move north toward Humboldt, stopping at the south end of Weisensee Slough on 263rd St. between 454th and 455th Ave. Drive east to 459th and north to the parking area on the east side of Grass Lake. Continue north to 259th St. and west to the south side of Beaver Lake. Drive west to 457th Ave., north through Humboldt and east to Scott Lake on 258th St.
6 Lake Vermillion Recreation Area and GPA

**Habitat**  This includes a 270-acre recreation area on each side of the 500-acre Lake Vermillion, plus 1,800-acre GPA extending north along the east branch of the Vermillion River which feeds into Lake Vermillion. Brushy draws with deciduous groves extend from the lakeshore to bluffs overlooking the lake. Stands of conifers are scattered throughout the area.

**Look for these birds**  Cattle and Snowy egrets, Willow Flycatcher, Bell’s Vireo, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Canvasback. Migrants: California Gull, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey, Snow and Ross’ geese, Canada and Cackling geese, Greater White-fronted Goose. Winter: Northern Goshawk, Red Crossbill in pines on southeast side.  
**Winter rarities:** Bohemian Waxwing, Common Redpoll

**Best birding months**  March through September

State park entrance license is required. (P, T)

**Tips**  In the northeast corner of the lake, a gravel road to the GPA offers access to the lake. Willow Flycatcher and Bell’s Vireo are possible here. Ice breaks up earlier on Lake Vermillion than on other lakes in the region. Early migrating geese and ducks may be found on the southeast side.

**Wetland and Prairie Driving Loop**  From the west side of Lake Vermillion, drive west through Canistota to the Hyde WPA, which you will see on the south side of the road. Continue to 435th Ave. Traveling north from Bridgewater, go north two miles then west four miles to Lehrman Slough, a GPA with deep water wetland and grassy upland. Leaving Lehrman Slough, go north one mile, east seven miles and continue to crisscross back and forth across 435th Ave. Continue north past many wetlands and potholes to Hwy 38. Turn west and continue to Hwy 25. Go north to 247th St. and west two miles to the north end of Long Lake in Hanson County.

Look for shorebirds, ducks, geese, prairie sparrows and songbirds. Each WPA and GPA on the route offers parking and walking access onto public property with a mix of wetlands and grasslands. From the north end of Long Lake you may return to Hwy 25 and travel south to I-90, or you may continue north and west to Chip Allen GPA, trail stop No. 13.

**Contact**  Park Manager, 26140 451st St., Canistota, SD 57012. (605) 296-3643  LakeVermillion@state.sd.us  www.sdgfp.info/parks

As you crisscross your way back to Sioux Falls, you will pass a number of WPAs and GPAs. Each WPA and GPA on the route offers parking and walking access onto public property with a mix of wetlands and grasslands. Or from Scott Lake, you can drive east to Lake Vermillion State Recreation Area, trail stop No. 6.

**Contact**  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Madison Wetland Management District. (605) 256-2974
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700
8 Milwaukee Lake

Habitat   This large shallow lake has both marshy and rocky edges. A stretch of deciduous trees lines the abandoned township road that runs through and divides the lake.

Look for these birds   Most shorebirds that migrate through South Dakota may be found here during the spring migration. Western Grebes have nested here. Look for Horned Grebe, Green Heron, Baird’s Sandpiper, Dunlin, Hudsonian Godwit, American Avocet, Wilson’s Phalarope, Sanderling, Stilt Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Ruddy Duck, Redhead. Rarities: Peregrine Falcon, Piping Plover during May

Best birding months   March through October

Tips   The main access to the slough is 463rd Ave., one mile east of Wentworth. You will want to park well off the road and walk along the edge for best viewing. One mile west of 463rd Ave. is an abandoned township road easily approached from the north. Access from the south may be muddier in spring. Plan to park at the north edge of the lake and walk south along the vehicle trail, where many shorebirds are found at the sandy gravel edge of the lake during migration. One mile farther west, 461st Ave. runs north and south along the western edge of the slough. In addition to shorebirds and herons, look for migrating warblers and resident songbirds in the trees and shrubs lining the road as it borders the slough.

Wetland Driving Loop   From Milwaukee Lake, known locally as Milwaukee Slough, an interesting driving loop during spring migration and summer breeding season runs east six miles, crossing into Moody County. Drive north to the Brookings County line, back into Lake County, traveling south again to Milwaukee Lake. The loop passes several WPAs and two GPAs, all of which have parking areas and public access. These allow you to walk into prairie wetlands, scattered with deciduous and coniferous groves. From the corner of 463rd Ave. and 231st St., drive east eight miles, then south one-half mile on 471st Ave. to Sioux Prairie, a 200-acre native prairie maintained by The Nature Conservancy. Sioux Prairie may also be reached by going three and one-half miles north on 471st St. (old Hwy 77) from Hwy 34. Leaving Sioux Prairie, go north one and one-half miles, head west on 230th St. for two miles, then crisscross back and forth through several WPAs. As you travel north to 220th St. on the Brookings County line, pass along the east side of Lake Campbell on 467th Ave. Turn west on 220th St., continue four miles to 463rd Ave., crisscross down

7 Flandreau City Park

Habitat   This 15-acre park, located one mile east of the city of Flandreau, provides a deciduous tree belt and brushy shoreline along the Big Sioux River. A wetland borders the entrance road on the west, and a municipal golf course is to the east on the far side of the river.


Best birding months   April through May, August through September

Tips   Walk along the road looping through the park, as well as the campground area. The Moody County Sportsman’s Club leases a small area from the city. You may walk the river beyond the clubhouse when the sportsman’s club is not conducting an event. Just east of the entrance to the park from Hwy 32 is the entrance to the municipal golf course, on the east bank of the river. You may walk the river on the golf course side when golfers are not on the course. If the golf course is open, please stop in at the clubhouse. Watch for warblers and songbirds migrating in spring and fall. A Blue-headed Vireo is occasionally spotted in the trees along the river.

Contact   Flandreau City Office. (605) 997-2492
to Mud Lake and drive between two sections of the lake on 222nd St. Drive north one mile and west five miles to Gaardner GPA. Continue north on 456th Ave. and west on 220th St. to Green GPA. Drive south on Hwy 81 to 223rd St., returning east to 463rd Ave., then crisscross between 463rd and 465th Ave. as you travel south back to Milwaukee Lake. Between April and June, when wetlands are full, many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, marsh birds and songbirds may be seen along this drive. The WPAs and GPAs have native grass-planted uplands.

Contact    U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Madison Wetland Management District. (605) 256-2974 MadisonWetlands@fws.gov
9 Madison Wetland Management District Headquarters and Madison WPA

Habitat  This U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service district office sits on the northwest end of Lake Madison. The office has a visitor center and viewing platform overlooking Bourne Slough. Madison WPA, one-quarter mile south of the headquarters, provides a 450-acre upland prairie with permanent wetlands.

Look for these birds  Virginia Rail, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, Snowy Egret, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Eared Grebe, American Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, Black Tern, Common Yellowthroat, Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Orchard Oriole. Rarities: Eurasian Collared-Dove, Snowy Owl in winter

Best birding months  March through October

Headquarters visitor center is open 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. on regular business days. (CS at headquarters, P, T at Madison WPA)

Tips  From the headquarters, drive 400 yards south on Hwy 19 to a Game, Fish and Parks Lake Madison access parking lot next to the lake. From this parking lot you may walk along the shore to the north and onto a strip of land separating the main body of the lake from the northwest tip, known as Bourne Slough. A cormorant colony may be found in the trees along this peninsula. During high water periods in spring, the lake shore may be muddy or partially submerged, making it necessary to walk in the brush. At the Madison WPA there is a drive-through trail along the north side of the wetland. It is possible to walk completely around the permanent wetland. Park at the Karl Mundt rest stop along Hwy 19, on the west side of the road, to begin your hike. In winters of increased migration into South Dakota, Snowy Owls have been seen on the frozen lake from the road that runs along the far east end of Lake Madison and also in trees beside the road at the same spot.

Contact  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Madison Wetland Management District, (605) 256-2974  MadisonWetlands@fws.gov  http://madisonwetlands.fws.gov
10 Lake Herman State Park

**Habitat** This is a 227-acre park on a peninsula jutting into 1,350-acre Lake Herman. Cover includes deciduous oak and aspen woodland with scattered ponderosa pine and spruce stands, large cattail and bulrush wetland, and lake edge with both sandy and gravel shoreline.


**Best birding months** March through October
State park entrance license is required. (P, T)

**Tips** Roads and walking trails throughout the park. Look around the Luce Cabin for Northern Cardinals, woodpeckers and warblers in migration. Check the wetland just inside the park for marsh birds, and look around the conifer area in the southeast corner of the park for Long-eared Owls in migration in early March.

**Contact** Park Supervisor, 23409 State Park Drive, Madison, SD 57042. (605) 256-5003 LakeHerman@state.sd.us www.sdgfp.info/parks

11 Reynolds Slough GPA

**Habitat** This 570-acre slough has prairie uplands with spring and summer-blooming wildflowers on both north and south sides of a large wetland with open water.

**Look for these birds** Cattle Egret, Swainson’s Hawk, American Bittern, Sedge Wren, Cooper’s Hawk, Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Western Kingbird, huge Snow, Ross’, Canada, and Cackling geese flocks in late fall. Rarity: Broad-winged Hawk

**Best birding months** Late March through September

**Tips** Parking at the southwest corner, this highest point gives a view of the whole area. Wildflowers bloom in profusion in June and July. Hunting is popular here in October and November.

**Contact** South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700 Hooded Merganser Terry Sohl
**12 Lake Carthage GPA**

**Habitat** This 500-acre GPA provides a large deciduous woodland along the south and east sides of Lake Carthage and a large grove of evergreens along the north side. The rest of the GPA and the surrounding countryside are grassland and farmland.

**Look for these birds** Harris’ Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Baltimore Oriole, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Broad-winged Hawk. Winter: Purple Finch. Winter Rarity: Snowy Owl

**Best birding months** April through June

**Tips** A good birding drive from Madison during spring migration is north from Hwy 34 on the first gravel road inside the eastern boundary of Miner County. Criss-cross the Vermillion River and tributaries to McCart Slough, looking for waterfowl and shorebirds. Drive north to two GPAs, Eimers and Pester, that receive drainage from Lake Thompson, checking again for shorebirds and waterfowl. Drive west to Lake Carthage GPA, visiting the wooded areas on the north and east sides for resident and migrating songbirds. Continue on to the city park in Carthage, one mile southwest of the GPA. It offers good woodland habitat and a stream that attracts spring migrants. This loop can yield many species of sparrows, warblers, waterfowl and shorebirds.

**Contact** South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700

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**13 Chip Allen GPA**

**Habitat** Grassland surrounding several small permanent lakes, known locally as the Chain Lakes make up this 2,100-acre GPA. The lakes are clumped near the center of the GPA, and are accessible by walking about one-half mile to the interior. In wet years the entire area is covered with wetlands mixed with uplands.

**Look for these birds** Eared Grebe, Black Tern, White-rumped Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, Short-billed Dowitcher, Upland Sandpiper, huge flocks of Snow and Ross’ geese, Canada and Cackling geese, Greater White-fronted Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, American Bittern, Gray Partridge, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Blue-winged Teal. **Rarities:** Cinnamon Teal, Golden Eagle

**Best birding months** March through September

**Tips** From the north side, park at the intersection of 242nd St. and 419th Ave. Walk in three-fourths mile along grassland and wetland areas to a high point where you have a good view of several small lakes. Waterfowl and shorebirds are abundant during migration, and resident birds are readily observed during the summer months.

From the southwest corner of Miner County, 418th Ave. goes north for one mile. The wetland on the west side of the road is part of the GPA and easily observed from the road. Another excellent viewing area for shorebirds and waterfowl is along the south side of the GPA at the bend in the road.

**Contact** South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700

Blue-winged Teal

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Doug Backlund
Humphrey WPA and Humphrey Slough GPA
This 900-acre combined GPA and WPA with lake, slough, a deciduous shelterbelt, a strip of flooded cottonwoods is surrounded by grassland and cropland. Look for Dunlins, White-faced Ibises, White Pelicans, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Black-bellied Plovers, Eastern Kingbirds, Orchard Orioles, Black Terns, Western Grebes, Hudsonian Godwits, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, American Kestrels. North of the town of White Lake, drive west on 248th St. to the lake and slough. Approach the south side of the slough from 249th St., by parking at the GPA entrance and walking north for several hundred feet along a cedar shelterbelt.

Maine WPA
This 800-acre wetland has excellent shorebird viewing during April and May, August and September. Look for nesting Marbled Godwits, nesting Upland Sandpipers, Green Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Black-bellied Plovers, Eastern Kingbirds, Orchard Orioles, Black Terns, Western Grebes, Hudsonian Godwits, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, American Kestrels. North of the town of White Lake, drive west on 248th St. to the lake and slough. Approach the south side of the slough from 249th St., by parking at the GPA entrance and walking north for several hundred feet along a cedar shelterbelt.

Lake Mitchell

Habitat  Fed by Firesteel Creek on the north side of Mitchell, this 670-acre reservoir is surrounded by groves of deciduous trees, scattered evergreens and wetlands, intermingled with housing.


Best birding months  March through October

Tips  A road circles the entire lake, with many parking turn-outs and rough dirt trails along the lake shore. A large wetland at the north end of the lake and woodlands at both the north and south ends offer excellent birding. With a canoe, it is possible to paddle up Firesteel Creek for two to three miles, looking for wading birds and shorebirds.

Contact  Mitchell Park, Recreation and Forestry Department, 1300 N. Main, Mitchell SD  57301. (605) 995-8450

Spring and Fall Driving Loop  From Mitchell, head west past Mt. Vernon to Fish Lake GPA, then on to White Lake north of the town of White Lake, then south of I-90 to Maine WPA and back to Mitchell or on to Broken Arrow WPA, trail stop No. 17.

Fish Lake  This is a 420-acre GPA with lake surrounded by smaller wetlands and grasslands. Look for Caspian Terns, Willets, Sandhill Cranes, Marsh Wrens, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and flocks of thousands of Snow Geese during migration. A drive-in area passing two wetlands is accessible from the road through the golf course along the lake shore. Turn off this road onto a vehicle trail, which may be driven in dry weather and walked anytime. Rarities: Snowy Owl, Northern Mockingbird, Black-necked Stilt

Humphrey WPA and Humphrey Slough GPA
This 900-acre combined GPA and WPA with lake, slough, a deciduous shelterbelt, a strip of flooded cottonwoods is surrounded by grassland and cropland. Look for Dunlins, White-faced Ibises, White Pelicans, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Black-bellied Plovers, Eastern Kingbirds, Orchard Orioles, Black Terns, Western Grebes, Hudsonian Godwits, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, American Kestrels. North of the town of White Lake, drive west on 248th St. to the lake and slough. Approach the south side of the slough from 249th St., by parking at the GPA entrance and walking north for several hundred feet along a cedar shelterbelt.

Maine WPA  This 800-acre wetland has excellent shorebird viewing during April and May, August and September. Look for nesting Marbled Godwits, nesting Upland Sandpipers, Green Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Prairie Falcons, White-rumped Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpipers, Short-billed and Long-billed dowitchers. This wetland, though quite large, may dry up during severe drought periods. During normal rainfall conditions, thousands of shorebirds visit in August and September. Sandhill Cranes may be seen in western Aurora County fields during migration. Watch also for American Golden-Plovers and White-fronted Geese in wet fields in the spring.
Hogrefe GPA

Habitat  The 260-acre Hogrefe GPA (pronounced hoe'-gri-fee) sits on a hilltop overlooking the James River. It has deciduous wooded draws leading to the river, riparian bottomland, a dense young cottonwood stand and native sod uplands. A prairie recovery project is underway, with native grass and forb plantings. Cattle are grazed periodically to encourage re-emergence of prairie grasses. Native wildflowers abound on the hillsides.

Look for these birds Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bald Eagle, Orchard Oriole, Upland Sandpiper, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Screech-Owl, warblers and shorebirds in migration.

Best birding months April through September

Tips Eleven miles east of Parkston, the GPA is reached by going north one mile on 422nd Ave. from Hwy 44. Turning off onto a gravel vehicle trail, continue one-eighth mile north into the GPA to a parking area. Proceed one hundred yards on foot to a hillside vantage point overlooking the James River valley. Bald Eagles may be seen from this vantage point in March and April, as they follow migrating geese north. Walk the prairie and wooded draws to find many migrants and summer resident songbirds.

Contact South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700

James River Road

Habitat The James River Road (County Road 11 in Hutchinson County) runs from Milltown and Hogrefe GPA through Hutchinson County into Yankton County (Jim River Road in Yankton County) to a lake access point just northeast of Yankton. This route provides an excellent view for 40 miles of the James River valley and the bluffs on the east side of the river. River bottom habitat, cottonwood stands, including both living and dead trees, grasslands, cropland and native prairie are also present.

Look for these birds Short-eared Owl, Bald Eagle, Swainson’s Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Bank Swallow, Yellow Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Gray Partridge, Great Blue Heron, Blue Grosbeak, Belted Kingfisher, Loggerhead Shrike, Brown Thrasher, Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur. Winter: Merlin, Northern Shrike. Rarity: Lark Bunting

Best birding months April through June, September through November

Tips Start your trip at the Milltown Dam, a historic rock dam constructed with a grinding wheel for milling grain, one mile east and one-half mile north of Milltown. The foundation for the mill and rock dam are still in place. As you begin traveling south, watch for a silo on the west side with a tree growing out the top. This is a good general area for eagle watching in the winter. The road jogs away from the river in a few places, so a map is useful for staying on course. The south end of the river road is only a few miles from Gavins Point Dam, trail stop No. 24.

Contact South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700
17 Broken Arrow WPA

Habitat This 2,720-acre WPA consists of open, rolling grassland dotted with both permanent and temporary wetlands.

Look for these birds Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sandhill Crane, Ruddy Duck, Redhead, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Marbled Godwit, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, American Bittern, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, marsh birds. Rarity: Whooping Crane has been sighted in this area on rare occasions during spring and fall migration.

Best birding months March through September

Tips Good parking on west side at 269th St. and 373rd Ave. just west of the Douglas County line in Charles Mix County. A trail from this parking area extends one and one-half miles into the WPA through excellent wetland habitat.

Contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Andes Wetland Management District. (605) 487-7603
Gray GPA and Platte Creek Recreation Area

Habitat Side by side at the edge of Lake Francis Case are 1,970-acre Gray GPA and 190-acre Platte Creek Recreation Area. Both of these areas provide prairie uplands, riparian woods and river bottomland.

Look for these birds Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, nesting American Avocet, Wood Duck, Long-eared Owl, Bald and Golden eagles, Broad-winged Hawk, American Woodcock, Black-billed Magpie, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Townsend’s Solitaire, migrating warblers and other songbirds, woodpeckers, shorebirds.

Rarities: Northern Bobwhite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barn Owl

Best birding months April through October
State park entrance license is required at Platte Creek Recreation Area. (P, T)

Tips The Gray GPA has a two-mile walking trail going north from the parking area off Hwy 1804. This trail offers bur oak woodland and takes you along Platte Creek and up Castalia Creek. Both the woodland and creek trails are good areas for migrating warblers and other songbirds, woodpeckers and Bald and Golden eagles. Native prairie graces the uplands at Gray GPA.

An interesting drive from Platte Creek Recreation Area to North Point Recreation Area is to wind your way along the river, stopping at Pease Creek Recreation Area to hike the scenic trails that overlook the river. Drive through White Swan GPA, over to Svatos Bay and on to North Point. The drive is indirect, with roads leading to the river then away from it, but offers a chance to see Greater Prairie-Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse. A very rough gravel road running north from the boat ramp at Pease Creek Recreation Area makes a good walking trail. Another interesting walk at Pease Creek is the trail at the southernmost end of the recreation area. State park entrance license is required at North Point Recreation Area, Platte Creek Recreation Area and Pease Creek Recreation Area. (P, T)

Contact Park Supervisor, Snake Creek Recreation Area, 35316 Hwy 44, Platte, SD 57369. (605) 337-2587 SnakeCreek@state.sd.us www.sdgfp.info/parks

Wood Duck
South Dakota Tourism

Broad-winged Hawk
L. Page Brown, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
19 Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge

**Habitat**  This 5,600-acre refuge holds a 4,700-acre lake surrounded by grassland, pasture, cropland, wetlands and mixed woodlands.


**Best birding months**  March through October (P, T)

**Tips**  Across from the headquarters on the south side of the road is a series of wetlands and the Owens Bay Nature Trail, a maintained trail providing access to the area. Many waterfowl, wading birds and marsh birds are found here, including nesting Hooded Mergansers, bitterns, herons and marsh birds. Great-tailed Grackles have been found here. Starting at the headquarters, take a driving loop that crosses both dikes over the lake to get a good view of waterfowl and shorebirds. Stop at deciduous woods on the east side of the lake for warblers in migration and other migrating and resident songbirds.

A few miles south of the refuge is 800-acre Red Lake GPA. In years of plentiful rain, this is an excellent shorebird stopover. Whooping Cranes have been observed here in the past. Migrant Le Conte’s and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed sparrows may be found here as well.

**Contact**  Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, 38672 291st St., Lake Andes, SD 57356.  (605) 487-7603 LakeAndes@fws.gov http://lakeandes.fws.gov

Snow Geese
South Dakota Tourism
20 North Point Recreation Area

**Habitat**  This 920-acre recreation area on the east shore of Lake Francis Case just north of Fort Randall Dam includes grassland, cedar draws, cottonwoods, pine stands and deciduous woods, in addition to several miles of shoreline.


**Best birding months**  March through October
State park entrance license is required. (P, T)

**Tips**  Look for gravel roads off the main park entrance road. Plan to walk these roads when snowy or muddy. Walk and drive paved roads through the park and campground. A walking/biking trail also offers good birding.

**Contact**  Park Supervisor, 38180 297th St., Lake Andes, SD 57356. (605) 487-7046  NorthPoint@state.sd.us  www.sdgfp.info/parks

An interesting birding area is Svatos Bay, on the north side of Lake Francis Case. Go north from Pickstown on Hwy 18 to 293rd St. just south of Lake Andes. Drive west across Garden Creek, turn south on 381st Ave., then go west and south along the west shore of Svatos Bay. This area offers great diversity of species including Olive-sided Flycatchers in migration, Indigo Buntings, Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Upland Sandpipers and Greater Prairie-Chickens. A rarity to watch for is the Ferruginous Hawk.

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21 Randall Creek Recreation Area and Pickstown GPA at Fort Randall Dam

**Habitat**  The area around Fort Randall Dam on the Missouri River has habitat ranging from Lake Francis Case (including Svatos Bay) above the dam, to the tailrace below the dam, which includes a park with campground and woodlands. Farther downstream is a wooded area along the river bluffs, and the banks and offshore sandbars of the Missouri River.


**Best birding months**  September to December for gulls, November to March for Bald Eagles, April through October for general birding. State park entrance license is required. (P, T)

**Tips**  From Pickstown, take Hwy 18 across the dam to an eagle-viewing area on the south side. Bald Eagles wintering in the Karl Mundt Refuge downstream may be easily seen flying up and
down the river, fishing and perching in trees along the banks just downstream from the dam.

The Randall Creek Recreation Area is just south of the eagle-viewing area. It offers roads throughout the park and campground and along the bluffs above the river. Many species may be found in the woods, dense grasses, creek beds and cottonwoods in this recreation area. The road through the area is closed to vehicles Oct. 1-April 30 to help protect Bald Eagles wintering in the nearby Karl E. Mundt National Wildlife Refuge.

Continuing south, turn back toward the dam on Toe Road to the historic, restored Fort Randall Chapel. Take the interpretive trail walk, listen for Northern Bobwhites and look for sparrows, songbirds and hawks in the fields and trees nearby.

Contact  Park Manager, Randall Creek Recreation Area, 38180 297th St., Lake Andes, SD 57356. (605) 487-7046 NorthPoint@state.sd.us www.sdgfp.info/parks
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office. (605) 734-4530
Lake Manager, USACE, P.O. Box 199, Pickstown, SD 57367.
23 Meier’s Lake Spring Migration Loop

Habitat  A series of small prairie pothole lakes and other wetlands mix with grassland in this area.

Look for these birds  Ruddy Turnstone, Wilson’s Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, Dunlin, Sanderling, Stilt Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Sandhill Crane, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Eared Grebe, Blue Grosbeak, herons, marsh birds, grassland sparrows.

Best birding months  Late March through early June

Tips  A driving route starts five miles south and five miles west of Tripp. From the intersection of 406th Ave. and 292nd St., drive south one mile and east one mile to 407th Ave. Continue south two miles, east one mile to 408th Ave., south two miles to Hwy 46, then west three miles to Meier’s Lake. This route takes you past several WPAs and GPAs, all of which have parking and walking access to wetlands and prairies.

Contact  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Andes Wetland Management District. (605) 487-7603

24 Gavins Point Dam

Habitat  This includes Lewis and Clark Lake and tailwaters below the dam. Additionally, Lake Yankton is just north of the dike that runs along the tailrace, as well as two campgrounds with cottonwoods, scattered evergreens, grassy open areas and thickets.


Best birding months  March through December

State park entrance is required at Chief White Crane Recreation Area. (P, T)

Tips  Begin your exploration of this area by driving across the dam to a parking area on the north side of the spillway. This is a good vantage point for finding interesting gull species during spring and fall migration. This is also a good place to observe Bald Eagles flying up and down the river during winter months. Drive downstream to the Chief White Crane Recreation Area and walk around the edges of the deciduous woods, looking for migrating warblers and resident songbirds. To protect wintering Bald Eagles, Chief White Crane Recreation Area is closed to vehicular travel Nov. 1-March 31. Drive back toward Hwy 50, stopping in the Cottonwood Campground bordering Lake Yankton. Here you will get a close view of migrating waterfowl on the lake as well as many species of migrating thrush, warblers and sparrows in the campground.

Contacts  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gavins Point Project, P.O. Box 710, Yankton, SD 57078. (402) 667-7873
Park Supervisor, 43349 Hwy 52, Yankton, SD 57078. (605) 668-2985 Lewis-Clark@state.sd.us
www.sdgfp.info/parks
25 Missouri River Observation Route

**Habitat**  Myron Grove GPA, Frost GPA and Burbank Boat Landing all provide good views of Missouri River sandbars and sandy shoreline. Look for cottonwood stands, deciduous woodlands and areas of brushy undergrowth away from the river.

**Look for these birds**  Black Scoter, Piping Plover, Least Tern, Sanderling, Bald Eagle, Yellow-throated Vireo, American Redstart, Bell’s Vireo, Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, waterfowl and shorebirds in migration. Winter: Bald Eagle. Rarities: Loggerhead Shrike; Louisiana Waterthrush, Carolina Wren and Kentucky Warbler in Myron Grove; White-eyed Vireo in Burbank Boat Landing

**Best birding months**  March through October

**Tips**  A spotting scope is helpful to scan distant sandbars in the river. At Myron Grove, look for a small spring on east side of the road between the parking lot and boat ramp. At Burbank Boat Landing, look for White-eyed Vireos around the boat ramp.

**Contact**  South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700

26 Clay County Lakeside Use Area

**Habitat**  Cottonwood forest with dogwood understory along Missouri River, with riverbank marked by gravel shore, driftwood piles and scattered cedars.


**Best birding months**  March through October

**Tips**  No park entrance license required. (P, T)

**Contact**  Park Manager, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, 43349 Hwy 52, Yankton, SD  57078. (605) 668-2985 Lewis-Clark@state.sd.us
27 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve

Habitat  This 1,500-acre preserve along the banks of the Missouri River features sandy river banks, a large cottonwood stand, deciduous woods, open prairie and cropland.


Best birding months  March through October
No park entrance license required. (P, CS)

Tips  There are more than 16 miles of trails on the preserve. Guided golf cart tours are available by reservation for visitors with physical limitations. Contact the park for details.

Contact  Park Manager, 272 Westshore Drive, McCook Lake, SD 57049. (605) 232-0873  AdamsNature@state.sd.us  www.sdgfp.info/parks

28 Spirit Mound Historic Prairie

Habitat  “from the top of this Mound we beheld a most butifull landscape; Numerous herds of buffalow were Seen feeding in various directions...” William Clark, Aug. 25, 1804.

Spirit Mound is now a 320-acre historic site including a restored prairie with a creek running through it and a walking trail to the top of the famous hill. Spirit Mound juts up above the prairie, from which Lewis and Clark viewed the surrounding plains and where Clark was inspired to pen his enthusiastic journal entry.

Look for these birds  Le Conte’s Sparrow, Harris’ Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Gray Partridge, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Orchard Oriole, Sedge Wren. Rarities: Lark Bunting, Loggerhead Shrike

Best birding months  April through October
No park entrance license required. (P, T)

Tips  Maintained trail with interpretive signs runs through the site.

Contact  Park Supervisor, 28771 482nd Ave., Canton SD 57013. (605) 987-2263  NewtonHills@state.sd.us  www.sdgfp.info/parks
29 **Union Grove State Park**

**Habitat** Eastern deciduous woodland, with a stand of pines, a small native prairie and scattered stands of cedars. A few exotic trees and shrubs remain from an experimental planting done in the 1930s. Brule Creek runs through the 500-acre park.


**Best birding months** March through September

State park entrance license is required. (P, T)

**Tips** Follow roads and trails that take you to Brule Creek to find the Kentucky Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. The campgrounds are in pine woods. A Cooper’s Hawk has nested here for several years. A trail leading along the south-facing bluffs of the park starts at the east end of the upper campground. Look for migrating warblers at the edges of the woods at the lower picnic shelter and parking areas along the main road through the park.

**Contact** Park Supervisor, 28771 482nd Ave., Canton SD 57013. (605) 987-2263 NewtonHills@state.sd.us www.sdgfp.info/parks
Oak Ridge GPA

Habitat This 650-acre GPA borders the bank of the Big Sioux River for one and one-half miles. It includes floodplain habitat with willows, cottonwoods, dense brush and grasslands, a hillside oak savanna woodland with prairie on top of the south ridge and a large grassland on the north side.


Best birding months March through June

Tips Three distinct areas offer different species. The woodlands are accessible from three parking areas. An old vehicle trail aids hiking around this section from the parking area at the foot of the hill as you enter the GPA. The southern floodplain area offers deer trails for walking through grasslands scattered with cottonwoods. The northern river edge requires walking through rough terrain using deer trails when possible. This site requires physical stamina because hiking without trails is required to get to distant areas of the GPA.

Contact South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700

Newton Hills State Park

Habitat This 1,064-acre park is a heavily-timbered eastern deciduous forest divided by many ravines, spring-fed drainages and a permanent stream running through it. The 270-acre McKee GPA, immediately to the east, runs along the Big Sioux River and offers a strip of open-canopied woodland plus one-half mile of river access. Cottonwoods and deciduous undergrowth edge the river, and cropland is present through the middle. Across the road to the south is 400-acre Lake Lakota. Dense cedar shelterbelts surround the lake. Mudflats appear on both the west end and south side by late summer.

Lake Lakota: Great Egret, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Baird’s Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Willet, American Kestrel, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, Clay-colored Sparrow. Rarities: Common Loon, Northern Bobwhite

Best months for birding April through October

State park entrance license is required. (P, T)

Tips Sargeant Creek runs through the northern section of Newton Hills State Park. It offers a rich diversity of species along the trail between the horse camp on the north end of the park and the picnic shelter several hundred yards south. From the picnic shelter, trails go up draws, through the woods and across grassy openings at the top of the ridges, circling back to your starting point. At Lake Lakota, parking areas on the north side allow good views of the lake and the shoreline. There is also access to the lake and additional shoreline from the west side. Drive one and one-half miles east, then two and one-half miles south on 484th Ave. from the north entrance of Lake Lakota GPA area on 288th St. This brings you to Watershed Lake GPA, which is a good place to find shorebirds, waterfowl and herons.

Contact Park Supervisor, 28771 482nd Ave., Canton SD 57013. (605) 987-2263 NewtonHills@state.sd.us www.sdgfp.info/parks
32 Mud Lake

Habitat  Mud Lake sits in the middle of the 580-acre Schaeffer GPA. This prairie pothole lake is surrounded by marsh, cattail sloughs and uplands with deciduous shelterbelts on all sides. A cedar grove is present on the west side. Just to the south is the 320-acre Crosley GPA, with native prairie grasses on the north side, and mixed deciduous and coniferous tree groves along the south and east sides of a large wetland complex.

Look for these birds  Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Virginia Rail, Sora, Northern Cardinal, Ruddy Duck, Redhead, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Northern Harrier, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole. Winter: Purple Finch.

Best birding months  March through September

Tips  Parking areas are available on all sides of Mud Lake. A canoe launch area is on the east side. Canoeing the lake in late spring will bring you close to nesting herons, blackbirds, bitterns and Marsh Wrens.

Contact  South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Sioux Falls Regional Office. (605) 362-2700

33 Atkins Slough WPA

Habitat  Atkins Slough is a 160-acre wetland with grassy upland at the edge of the city of Tea. It includes a small lake surrounded by cattails and sedge grasses.

Look for these birds  Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Sedge Wren, Wilson’s Snipe, Redhead, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Great Blue Heron, Savannah Sparrow, Le Conte’s Sparrow. Rarity: Great-tailed Grackle

Best birding months  March through September

Tips  An interpretive trail leaves the parking area (east side entrance) and takes you north and west through a cattail marsh and onto a grassy slope with scattered cottonwoods and other deciduous trees. Walk over to the edge of the lake for a view of the entire area.

Contact  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Andes Wetland Management District. (605) 487-7603
### Birds of the Southeast South Dakota Region

Status is indicated if RARE (R), seen fewer than six times a year or ACCIDENTAL (a), few recorded sightings. Breeding (*), indicates species nests in suitable habitat.

#### Loons
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon

#### Grebes
- Pied-billed Grebe*
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe
- Eared Grebe*
- Western Grebe*
- Clark’s Grebe

#### Pelicans
- American White Pelican*
- Brown Pelican

#### Cormorants
- Double-crested Cormorant*

#### Bitterns, Herons, Egrets, Ibises
- American Bittern*
- Least Bittern*
- Great Blue Heron*
- Great Egret*
- Snowy Egret*
- Little Blue Heron
- Cattle Egret*
- Green Heron*
- Black-crowned Night-Heron*
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- White Ibis
- White-faced Ibis

#### Vultures
- Turkey Vulture*

#### Geese
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Ross’ Goose
- Canada Goose*
- Cackling Goose
- Brant

#### Swans and Ducks
- Trumpeter Swan
- Tundra Swan
- Wood Duck*
- Gadwall*
- Eurasian Wigeon

#### Grouse, Turkey and Quail
- Gray Partridge*
- Ring-necked Pheasant*
- Sharp-tailed Grouse*
- Greater Prairie-Chicken* R
- American Wigeon*
- American Black Duck
- Mallard*
- Blue-winged Teal*
- Cinnamon Teal*
- Northern Shoveler*
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal*
- Canvasback*
- Redhead*
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter R
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Barrow’s Goldeneye R
- Hooded Merganser*
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck*

#### Kites, Hawks and Eagles
- Osprey
- Mississippi Kite
- Bald Eagle*
- Northern Harrier*
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper’s Hawk*
- Northern Goshawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk R
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Swainson’s Hawk*
- Red-tailed Hawk*
- Ferruginous Hawk a
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Golden Eagle

#### Falcons
- American Kestrel*
- Merlin
- Gyr Falcon
- Peregrine Falcon
- Prairie Falcon

#### Rails and Coots
- Yellow Rail
- King Rail
- Virginia Rail*
- Sora*
- Common Moorhen
- American Coot*

#### Cranes
- Sandhill Crane
- Whooping Crane R-a

#### Plovers, Avocets
- Black-bellied Plover
- American Golden-Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Piping Plover*
- Killdeer*
- Black-necked Stilt R
- American Avocet*

#### Sandpipers, Phalaropes
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Willet*
- Spotted Sandpiper*
- Upland Sandpiper*
- Whimbrel
- Long-billed Curlew
- Hudsonian Godwit
- Marbled Godwit*
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper R
- Least Sandpiper
- White-rumped Sandpiper
- Baird’s Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Ruff
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Wilson’s Snipe*
- American Woodcock

#### Gulls
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Laughing Gull
- Franklin’s Gull*
- Little Gull
- Bonaparte’s Gull
- Mew Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- California Gull
- Herring Gull
- Thayer’s Gull
- Iceland Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Sabine’s Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake

#### Terns
- Caspian Tern
- Common Tern
- Arctic Tern

#### Doves
- Rock Dove*
- Eurasian Collared-Dove R
- Mourning Dove*

#### Cuckoos
- Black-billed Cuckoo*
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo*

#### Owls
- Barn Owl*
- Eastern Screech-Owl*
- Great Horned Owl*
- Snowy Owl
- Burrowing Owl*
- Barred Owl*
- Short-eared Owl*
- Northern Saw-whet Owl R

#### Geese
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Ross’ Goose
- Canada Goose*
- Cackling Goose
- Brant

#### Swans and Ducks
- Trumpeter Swan
- Tundra Swan
- Wood Duck*
- Gadwall*
- Eurasian Wigeon a
### Union Checklists

#### Swallows
- Chimney Swift
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow

#### Hummingbirds
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird

#### Kingfishers
- Belted Kingfisher

#### Woodpeckers
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker

#### Flycatchers
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Alder Flycatcher
- Say's Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Willow Flycatcher
- Alder Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Say's Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Western Kingbird
- Eastern Kingbird

#### Shrikes
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Northern Shrike

#### Vireos
- White-eyed Vireo
- Bell's Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Blue-headed Vireo
- White-eyed Vireo
- American Crow
- Black-billed Magpie
- American Crow

#### Kinglets and Gnatcatchers
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Varied Thrush

#### Thrushes
- Eastern Bluebird
- Mountain Bluebird
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren

#### Mimids
- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Brown Thrasher

#### Starlings, Pipits
- European Starling
- American Pipit

#### Waxwings
- Bohemian Waxwing
- Cedar Waxwing

#### Warblers
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Northern Parula

#### Wrens
- Rock Wren
- Carolina Wren
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren

#### Orioles
- Orchard Oriole
- Baltimore Oriole

#### Cardinals and Allies
- Northern Cardinal
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak
- Lazuli Bunting
- American Redstart
- American Redstart
- Prothonotary Warbler
- American Redstart
- Wood-eating Warbler
- American Redstart
- Ovenbird
- American Redstart
- Northern Waterthrush
- American Redstart
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- American Redstart
- Kentucky Warbler
- American Redstart
- Connecticut Warbler
- American Redstart
- Mourning Warbler
- American Redstart
- MacGillivray's Warbler
- American Redstart
- Common Yellowthroat
- American Redstart
- Hooded Warbler
- American Redstart
- Wilson's Warbler
- American Redstart
- Canada Warbler
- American Redstart
- Yellow-breasted Chat

#### Sparrows
- American Tree Sparrow
- Black-throated Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Lark Bunting
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Baird's Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Le Conte's Sparrow
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Harris' Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Lapland Longspur
- Smith's Longspur
- Chestnut-collared Longspur
- Snow Bunting

#### Blackbirds
- Bobolink
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Western Meadowlark
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Great-tailed Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird

#### Finches
- Pine Grosbeak
- Purple Finch
- House Finch
- Red Crossbill
- White-winged Crossbill
- Common Redpoll
- Hoary Redpoll
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch
- Evening Grosbeak
- House Sparrow