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Doug Backlund
S. D. Dept. of Game Fish and Parks
S.D. Natural Heritage Program
523 E. Capitol-Foss Bldg.
Pierre, S.D. 57501

Dear Doug;

On behalf of the organizational committee for the "Birds. At Home, On the Range" grassland birding tour, I would like to extend our thanks to the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department for providing monetary and personnel support for this educational activity.

On June 8th and 9th, approximately 50 people participated in the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition sponsored event. A total of 59 bird species were observed in a variety of habitats such as mixed grass uplands, ponderosa pine forest, riparian zones, and an oxbow and temporary wetlands (see enclosed list). The two ranchers hosting the event were Mark Kieffer, Rapid City, and Ellen Reddick, St. Onge. In addition to sharing the bird life and the management on their respective ranches, tour participants were treated to two home cooked meals at the Kieffer's. Doug Backlund, wildlife biologist with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, and Guy Tillet, professional photographer, presented the group with photography tips and some of their picture of they have taken over the years.

A variety of individuals attended the event with most participants being from western South Dakota. Several organizations were represented including South Dakota of Game, Fish and Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Conservation Service, South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, the Tatanka Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition.

We targeted the serious birder; but, after the tour, we felt that was too narrow of focus. We feel we need to target teachers, 4-H clubs, Boys & Girls Scout troops, etc. We ended up making a positive connection with the South Dakota Science Teachers Association and have been invited to their annual convention in Huron in February 2008. Fifty-nine bird species were recorded. I have attached the list and a brochure from the Tour.

Mark Kieffer



Food preparation at the Kieffer Ranch



Colette Kessler's daughter and Niece at the Keiffer Ranch



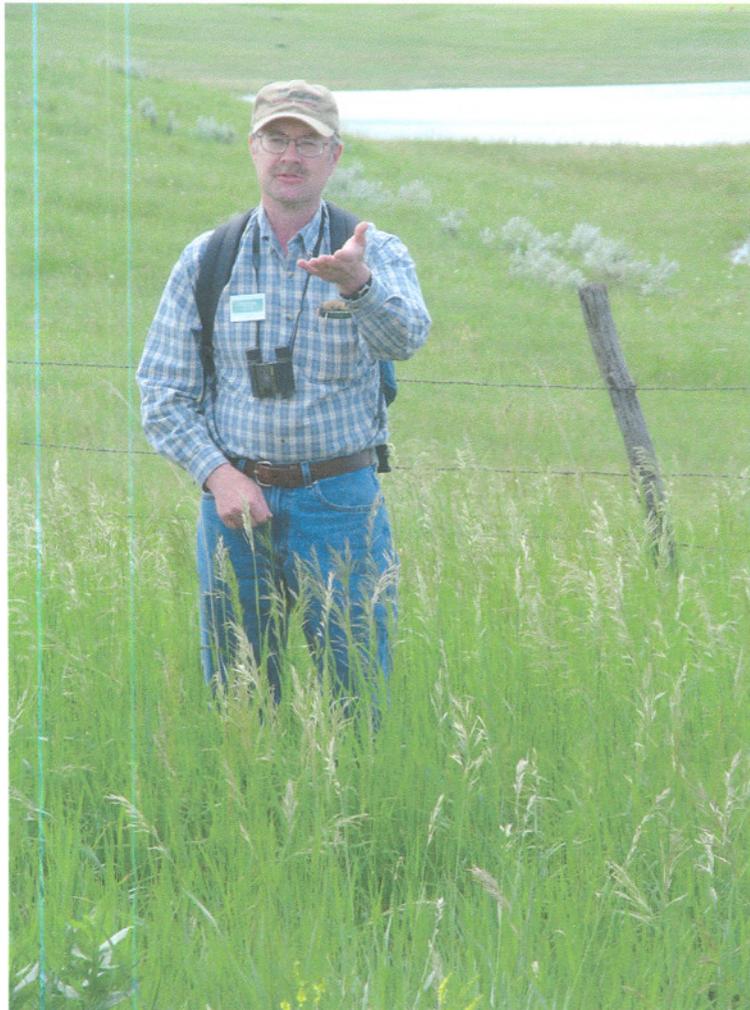
Ellen Reddick telling the attendees about her ranch operation.



One of the Reddick Ranches original structures, circa late 1800's.



Dave Ode addressing the crowd.



Birds. At Home, On the Range: South Dakota Birding and Rangeland Tour of Kieffer (Rapid City) and Reddick (St. Onge) ranches.

Bird species (common name) observed June 8-9, 2007

- 1 American coot
- 2 American crow
- 3 American goldfinch
- 4 American kestrel
- 5 American redstart
- 6 American robin
- 7 barn swallow
- 8 black-capped chickadee
- 9 blue-winged teal
- 10 brown thrasher
- 11 brown-headed cowbird
- 12 Bullock's oriole
- 13 Canada goose
- 14 cedar waxwing
- 15 chipping sparrow
- 16 cliff swallow
- 17 common grackle
- 18 common nighthawk
- 19 common yellowthroat
- 20 dark-eyed junco (white-winged race)
- 21 eastern kingbird
- 22 European starling
- 23 grasshopper sparrow
- 24 great blue heron
- 25 horned lark
- 26 house wren
- 27 indigo bunting
- 28 killdeer
- 29 lark bunting
- 30 lark sparrow
- 31 lazuli bunting
- 32 least flycatcher
- 33 mallard
- 34 mountain blue bird
- 35 mourning dove
- 36 northern flicker
- 37 northern rough-winged swallow
- 38 orchard oriole
- 39 pied-billed grebe

Bird species (common name) observed June 8-9, 2007, cont.

- 40 red-breasted nuthatch
- 41 red-eyed vireo
- 42 red-tailed hawk
- 43 red-winged blackbird
- 44 ring-billed gull
- 45 Say's phoebe
- 46 spotted towhee
- 47 Swainson's hawk
- 48 Swainson's thrush
- 49 tree swallow
- 50 turkey vulture
- 51 upland sandpiper
- 52 violet-green swallow
- 53 western meadowlark
- 54 western tanager
- 55 western wood-peewee
- 56 Wilson's phalarope
- 57 Wilson's snipe
- 58 yellow warbler
- 59 yellow-headed blackbird

THE CATTLE BUSINESS WEEKLY

or Cattlemen By Cattlemen

INSIDE THIS WEEK

- Dakota Flavor at State Fair again
- Tornado wipes out Kansas town
- KCEX Farm Director passes

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Rangelands for multi-use



Ranch tour helps showcase how birds and cows can co-exist

By Kindra Gordon

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition host-

ed a unique ranch tour June 8-9 in the Black Hills showcasing birds on the range. The tour invited bird watchers and ranchers to learn from one another about the importance of range management in providing habitat for wildlife, while also producing beef.

"Our goal is to bring birders and ranchers together and show that range management is beneficial to both," said Justin "Judge" Jessop with the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.

During the first day of the tour, participants visited Mark Kieffer's ranch west of Rapid City as well

as the Forest Service allots his cattle graze in the Black Hills National Forest from mid-June to late October. Several species of birds were cited.

Kieffer uses a rotational grazing system and said, "We use wildlife as a barometer of how well we are managing the range."

On Saturday June 9, the group of about 40 participants traveled to St. Onge, SD to Ellen Reddick's ranch to watch more birds and learn about Reddick's grazing management practices. She also uses rotational grazing to help balance wildlife and cattle

Continued on page 2

THE CATTLE BUSINESS WEEKLY

JUNE 13, 2007

Being Bullish

Continued from page 1

needs. Reddick has planted numerous shelterbelts on her property, which are now prime bird habitat.

If you are interested in integrating the habitat needs of birds and wildlife in your livestock operation, the Rocky Mountain Bird

Observatory recommends these management strategies:

- Implementing a rotational grazing system that varies the grazing patterns and timing in pastures annually.
- Waiting to hay areas until after July 15, when most birds are finished nesting.

- Altering use in riparian areas to allow birds to utilize the area. Or, using escape ladders to protect water quality and minimize loss of birds and other wildlife in stock tanks.

- Establishing native shrubs, legumes or forbs to add diversity to the habitat. Avoid establishing monoculture stands of forages.

- Considering stocking rate. Overstocking will reduce habitat quality for most species of wildlife and birds.

For more about the South Dakota Grassland Coalition visit www.sdgrass.org. The coalition will host a ranch management tour July 24 at the Slovek Ranch near Philip, S.D.



Ellen Reddick, St. Onge, S.D. and Mark Kieffer, Rapid City, S.D. welcomed the Grassland Coalition to their ranches June 8-9.



NRCS State Range Management Specialist Stan Boltz talks to tour goers about ecological sites and wildlife habitat.



Gadwall

Two-day Itinerary

Friday, June 8, 2007

7:00* am	Depart from Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City
7:30	Arrive at Mark Kieffer's East Ranch
7:45	Watch birds and record species
8:45	Break
9:00	Discuss bird group highlights
9:15	Habitat speaker "Birds & Cows"
10:00	Watch birds and record species
11:00	Travel to Kieffer's hills Ranch
12:00	Break and sack lunch
1:00	Presentation by Mark Keiffer
1:30	Group discussion and questions
2:00	Ranch and birding tour
4:00	Return to Kieffer's East Ranch
5:00	Slide show featuring participant's photos*
5:15	BBQ and refreshments at Kieffer Ranch
6:00	Return to Ramkota Hotel

Saturday, June 9, 2007

7:00* am	Depart from Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City
7:00	Travel to Ellen Reddick Ranch, St. Onge
8:15	Watch birds and record species
9:00	Break
9:15	Discuss bird group highlights
9:45	Habitat speaker "Birds & Cows"
10:30	Watch birds and record species
11:30	Presentation by Ellen Reddick
12:00	Break and lunch
1:00	Ranch and birding tour
3:00	Closing comments and discussion
3:15	Return to Ramkota Hotel

* All times Mountain Daylight Time

* Bring your digital camera to take photos during the tour!

Birds. At Home, On the Range. Bird Watching Tour

Cost to Participate:
\$15 per person for two-day event.

To Register:
Complete the registration form and mail to
Justin "Judge" Jessop
24690 299th Ave.
Presho, SD 57568

Lodging is not included in the registration fee. However, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel for tour participants. Please ask for the "Birds-At Home on the Range Tour" block. To take advantage of the group rate, please make your reservations by May 18, 2007.

Best Western Ramkota Hotel
2111 N Lacrosse St
Rapid City, SD 57701
PH: (605) 343-8550

I-90, Exit 59 – located on the north side of the interstate, next to the Rushmore Mall.

* The tour will begin in the northwest corner of the Ramkota parking lot. Please meet at this location, per the itinerary.

Cancellation Policy:
No refunds after June 1, 2007.



Black-capped Chickadee



Mountain Bluebird

South Dakota is truly a birder's paradise. Numerous species of rare and common birds make their homes across the state, especially in the Black Hills. The rugged terrain of rolling hills and granite peaks in addition to the lush vegetation and fresh water lakes makes for exceptional habitat for birds... not to mention breath-taking backdrops for birding enthusiasts.

The South Dakota Grasslands Coalition invites you to take a journey through western South Dakota to view the abundant populations of birds that make their home there. Learn how rangeland management plays an important role in the state's agricultural industry as well as provides adequate habitat for South Dakota's native feathered friends.

This two-day tour features visits to ranches situated in the beautiful Black Hills. As a participant, you will watch and record bird species, hear presentations from land owners and learn about conservation techniques used in this area.

Space is limited to 85 participants, so register now! Pre-register by completing the attached registration form and mailing a check, for \$15 per person, to the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition.

For more information on the tour contact:

South Dakota Grasslands Coalition

Justin "Judge" Jessop

PH: (605) 280-0127

jjessop@sdconservation.org

**Birds.
At Home,
On the Range.
Bird Watching Tour**



Meadowlark
Photo by South Dakota Tourism

**June 8 - 9, 2007
Black Hills
of South Dakota**

**Hosted by:
South Dakota Grasslands Coalition
www.sdgrass.org**



SD Grassland Coalition
24690 299th Ave
Presho, SD 57568

Birds. At Home, On the Range. June 8-9, 2007 Black Hills of South Dakota

REGISTRATION FORM

**Space is limited to 85
attendees.**

Register now!

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number in Party: _____ (Make copies of this form as needed. Each participant must submit a registration form.)

Special accommodations needed: YES NO If yes, please specify: _____

Please mail registration form and \$15 per person registration fee to:

**Judge Jessop
24690 299th Ave. Presho, SD 57568
(605) 280-0127**

For planning purposes, registration form and fee must be received by May 18, 2007.