



Ron Martin

Weather patterns were relatively uniform across the Region this summer. June had average temperatures and well-above-average precipitation. Glasgow, Montana had already reached the 30-year average for precipitation by the end of June. July was hot and dry. Glasgow, Montana set a record with seven days with a low temperature of 70° F or above.

There was an unprecedented influx of Snowy Plovers into the Dakotas, and the first nesting confirmation for this species was recorded in both states. South Dakota also had the first recorded nesting for Herring Gull and Winter Wren. In North Dakota, Trumpeter Swans nested for the first time in over a century. Low water conditions at Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota produced some notable shorebird peaks.

## SWANS THROUGH IBIS

A pair of Trumpeter Swans with cygnets was photographed in Jun in *Grand Forks*, ND. Likely the result of expansion from introductions in Minnesota, this documented the first nesting for North Dakota in over a century (*vide* DOL). Accidental in North Dakota in summer, a White-winged Scoter was in *Eddy* 13 Jun (AH, BT, JZ) and a Black Scoter at Audubon N.W.R. 10 Jul+ (DK, CH, BL). A Harlequin Duck in Billings, MT 25-26 Jul was unusual away from the mountains (RK). Accidental in summer, a Long-tailed Duck was at the Yellowtail Dam Afterbay, MT 1-9 Jun (SS).

Furnishing the first Jun report for South Dakota, a Common Goldeneye was in *Brookings* 9 Jun (JSP). Casual in summer, a Red-breasted Merganser was in *Stanley*, SD 22 Jun (RDO). Two Common Merganser broods on the Missouri R. in *Oliver*, ND 5 Jul (PS) and 6 Jul (DNS) likely indicate a local breeding population. A brood was seen in the same area last year.

Least Bittern reports from four North Dakota locations were above average. The only Little Blue Heron report from South Dakota was of a juv. 22 Jul in *Brown* (BU). A casual breeder in North Dakota, up to 4 Little Blue Herons were observed during periodic visits to the Chase Lake N.W.R. heron/egret colony this summer. Nesting attempts included

one pair of Little Blue Herons and one mixed pair—Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret. Both nests fledged young (AB, LDI). Providing just the 9th report for North Dakota, a Tricolored Heron was at Lake Alice N.W.R. 14 Jun+ (DOL). This observation was from the same area where one was seen last fall. A possible 4th record for South Dakota, a Glossy Ibis was in *Brown* 22 Jul (BU).

## HAWKS THROUGH PHALAROPES

An incredible 71 Ferruginous Hawks were seen in a mile-long stretch of road n. of Chester, MT 11 Jul (HM). A male Peregrine Falcon hatched in Fargo, ND in 2005 spent the summer on a water tower in Grand Forks but did not succeed in attracting a mate



Part of the Snowy Plover invasion into the Dakotas this summer, this individual was one of several at Stone Lake, Sully County, South Dakota 16 June 2007. Photograph by Doug Backlund.

(DOL). Sandhill Cranes nested successfully at two locations in *McHenry*, ND. One pair was at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., where the last con-



Accidental in the Northern Great Plains in summer, this Black Scoter was at Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, North Dakota 10 July 2007 (here) through the end of the period. Photograph by Ben Lardy.

firmed North Dakota nesting took place in 1993 (REM, DM). A pair was also noted in *Kidder*, ND 10 Jul (PCV).

Marking the 4th nesting record for South Dakota, a Black-necked Stilt brood was in *McPherson* 22 Jun–21 Jul (JW). American Avocet peaks included 1000 at Freezeout L., MT 21 Jun (MS) and an incredible 20,000 at Long Lake N.W.R., ND 26 Jul (MJR). The North Dakota peak was nearly seven times the previous high count. Rare in Montana, a Red Knot was at Freezeout L., MT 21-23 Jul (MS). A flock of 800 Sanderlings was still at Round L. near Westby, MT 9 Jun (TN). Rare in w Montana, single Short-billed Dowitchers were at Freezeout L. three times during the 4-26 Jul period (MS). A spectacular peak of 75,000–100,000 Wilson's Phalaropes was at Long Lake N.W.R., ND 26 Jul (MJR).

## GULLS THROUGH WARBLERS

Casual in summer in South Dakota, a Bonaparte's Gull was in *Day* 20 Jul (BU). Furnishing the first confirmed nesting for South Dakota, a Herring Gull was photographed on a nest on an island in L. Oahe, *Stanley* 10 Jun (RDO). A Great Black-backed Gull at Arrowwood N.W.R. 27 Jun would furnish the 6th record for North Dakota, if accepted (SB). The 7th and 8th reports for South Dakota White-winged Doves were in *Pennington* 26

Jun (*vide* DB) and *Sturgis* 3 Jul (EM, RP). A peak of 90 Short-eared Owls was noted in *Grand Forks*, ND 23 Jul, where at least 25 pairs were thought to have nested (EEF, DOL). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was unusually far e. in *Stanley*, SD 30 Jul (RDO). In North Dakota, a Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 25 Jul in *Beach* provided the 6th report of either species (DB).

**SA** Snowy Plovers made an unprecedented push into the Dakotas this season, almost certainly a product of flooding in parts of the s. Great Plains in spring and summer. Birds were present at Stone Lake, Sully, SD 10 Jun+, with a high of 8 noted 17 Jun. A chick was seen 18 Jul, furnishing the first nesting confirmation for the state (RDO).

Number	Location	Observer(s)	Date(s)
2	Missouri R., <i>Morton</i>	RG	6 Jun
2	Big Muddy L., <i>Kidder</i>	CA	12 Jun
2	Missouri R., <i>Burleigh</i>	DSA	15 Jun
1	L. Williams, <i>McLean</i>	JF	Jun–Jul
12 [six pairs]	Long Lake N.W.R., <i>Burleigh</i>	CA	Jun–Jul
2	Turtle L., <i>McLean</i>	SDL, REM, CDE	16-17 Jul

There were only four previous sightings in South Dakota. In North Dakota, no fewer than 21 individuals were noted among six locations in four counties (Table 1). There were just nine previous reports for the state. The first North Dakota breeding record was established when a nest was found 24 Jun at Long Lake N.W.R. (PCV, KHG, MAG, DNS).

# New from ABA SALES!

## A Birder's Guide to Florida

by Bill Pranty,  
published 2005;  
672 pages; paper (lay-flat)

**Item #175**  
**ABA Member**  
**Price: \$20.76**  
(List \$25.95)



North American birders savor Florida as the place to see species not found elsewhere in the US or Canada, such as Snail Kite, Short-tailed Hawk, Black-hooded Parakeet, Mangrove Cuckoo, Black-whiskered Vireo, or Florida Scrub-Jay. These are but a few of the Florida specialties that make a trip to the Sunshine State such an exciting adventure for birders. More than 330 birding sites are described, and more than 400 species accounts are now included.

## A Birder's Guide to Michigan

by Allen Chartier and Jerry Ziarno, published 2004;  
672 pages; paper (lay-flat)


**Item #288**  
**ABA Member**  
**Price: \$23.16**  
(List \$28.95)

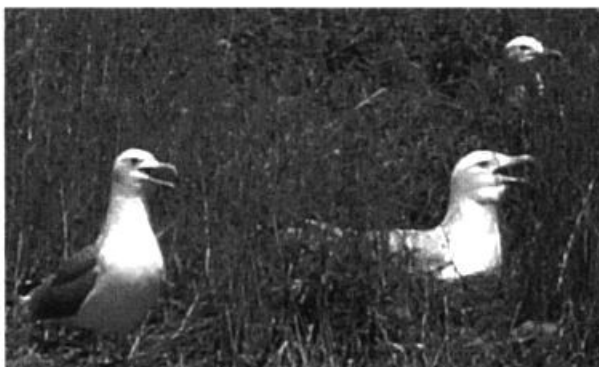


## A Birder's Guide to Southeastern Arizona

by Richard Cachor Taylor, revised 2005;  
384 pages; paper (lay-flat)

**Item #102**  
**ABA Member Price: \$19.96**  
(List \$24.95)

 **Call to Order**  
American Birding Association **800/634-7736**



This Herring Gull at a nest at Lake Oahe, Stanley County marked the first breeding confirmation for South Dakota (here 10 June 2007). Photograph by Ricky Olson.



This fledgling Winter Wren in the Black Hills 30 June 2007 provided the long-expected first breeding confirmation for South Dakota. Photograph by Michael L. P. Retter.

A first confirmed nesting for South Dakota, fledgling Winter Wrens were photographed 30 Jun in *Lawrence* (MR). An Eastern Bluebird at Freezeout L. 21 Jun was well w. of the species' usual range in Montana (MS). Sprague's Pipits made an appearance back in some of their former range, with 10 individuals noted 18-27 Jul in *McPherson* and *Faulk*, SD (RR, BU, MM). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in *Custer*, SD 22 Jun (BH). The species has nested in the Black Hills. Representing the 12th and 13th reports for North Dakota, Prothonotary Warblers were at Audubon N.W.R. 2 Jun (JL) and in *Emmons* 17 Jun (DNS). The Prairie Warbler reported in the spring in *Lincoln*, SD remained through at least 14 Jul. Also in *Lincoln*, SD, 3 Kentucky Warblers were heard 9 Jun (RDO), and at least one remained through 14 Jul; the species is casual in this state. A Wilson's Warbler 24 Jul in *Custer* provided the 2nd summer record for South Dakota (MM).

## TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A Summer Tanager 3 Jul in *Lincoln*, SD furnished the first Jul report for the state (BU). Three Henslow's Sparrow reports from North

Dakota spanned 9-24 Jun, and three South Dakota reports spanned 2 Jun-20 Jul. Le Conte's Sparrow numbers were quite low in North Dakota this summer. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was in *Grand Forks*, ND 8 Jun (EEF). Following the report of a White-crowned Sparrow in the Black Hills of South Dakota last summer, 2 more were reported this year: one in *Custer* 23 Jun (BH) and one in *Lawrence* 21 Jun (DC). Blue Grosbeaks were noted again this year in Montana, with the 5th and 6th reports for the state: a pair was in *Warren*, and a male was e. of *Bridger* on 27 Jun (JO). A peak of 8 Blue Grosbeaks was noted in *Emmons*, ND 3 Jul (HCT). An Indigo Bunting was far w. at *Billings*, MT 26 Jul (RK). Out-of-range Eastern Meadowlarks were in *Custer* 18 Jun (BH) and *Stanley*, SD 7 Jul (RDO). In North Dakota, an Eastern Meadowlark was in *Kidder* 14 Jun (HCT, BM). The 11th report for Montana, a Lesser Goldfinch was

in *Billings* 28 Jun, in the same area where birds were seen last summer (GM).

**Contributors** (state editors in boldface):  
MONTANA: **Chuck Carlson**, Ron Kuhler, Harriet Marble, Garret MacDonald, Ted Nordhagen, Jean Olson, Mike Schwitters, Starr Stevens. NORTH DAKOTA: Dan S. Ackerman, Carol Aron, Scott Barnes, Alisa Bartos, Diane Bingeman, **Corey D. Ellingson**, Justin Feld, Eve E. Freeberg, Ralph Gabrysh, Kristin H. Gonzalez, Mark A. Gonzalez, Ann Hoffert, Craig Hultberg, Larry D. Igl, Daryl Kress, Dave O. Lambeth, Ben Lardy, Joe Lautenbach, Sherry D. Leslie, Dom Marsden, Ron E. Martin, Betty Morgan, Mike J. Rabenberg, Paulette R. Scherr, Peder Stenslie, Dan N. Svingen, H. Clark Talkington, Bill Thompson III, Paul C. Van Ningen, Julie Zickefoose. SOUTH DAKOTA: Doug Backlund, Doug Chapman, Bill Huser, Michael Melius, Ernie Miller, Ricky D. Olson, **Jeffrey S. Palmer**, Randy Podoll, Michael Retter, Robert Russel, Bill Unzen, J. Williams. ☺

**Ron Martin**, 16900 125th Street SE  
Sawyer, North Dakota 58781-9284, (jrmartin@ndak.net)