

South Dakota

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

MAP LEGEND

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- 🛣 U.S. HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY

- 1 Oahe Downstream Recreation Area
- 2 Peoria Flats Lakeside Use Area
- 3 Okobojo Point, Cow Creek, Spring Creek Recreation Areas
- 4 Little Bend GPA, Lakeside Use Area
- 5 Stone Lake, Cottonwood Lake, Onida Area GPAs
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- 7 West Whitlock Recreation Area
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Baird's Sparrow
Doug Backlund



Welcome to South Dakota's

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

THIS GUIDE PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT EACH SITE ON THE TRAIL, HOW TO GET THERE, WHAT BIRDS TO LOOK FOR, WHAT MONTHS TO VISIT AND GREAT BIRDING TIPS.

The Great Lakes Birding Trail boasts at least 322 species, 164 of which are breeding species. This birding trail follows the course of the Missouri River through the center of South Dakota and is named for three huge dam-created lakes on the river. Lake Oahe, 250 miles long, spreads north behind the Oahe Dam near Pierre, the state capital. Downstream of Oahe is the 25-mile-long Lake Sharpe, which lies behind Big Bend Dam at Fort Thompson. Farther south is the 100-mile-long Lake Francis Case, sitting behind the Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown. Below Fort Randall Dam runs 39 miles of one of the last remaining stretches of free-flowing Missouri River in South Dakota. This stretch has been designated a National Recreational River. It is recognized on the birding trail as the Missouri River Bottoms route.

The trail could also have been named the Lewis and Clark Birding Trail because it follows the route of the famous expedition by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, which ran upstream in 1804 and downstream in 1806. South Dakota Highways 1804 and 1806, which roughly parallel the river on the east and west sides respectively, commemorate this historic journey. It was just north of the White River, near modern-day Oacoma, that Messieurs Lewis and Clark discovered the Black-billed Magpie and, through their journals, introduced this species to the world. Ironically, the Black-billed Magpie is now very rare within the area covered by the birding trail.

The Missouri River's course, through what we now call South Dakota, was set many eons ago. It flows from north

to south along what was the western edge of the vast Pleistocene-age glacier fields. On the east side of the river, the birding trail runs through gently rolling, glacially-scoured land, now largely farmland, and passes by small glacially-formed pothole lakes and isolated woodlands and wetlands. On the west side of the river, mixed grass prairie, generally unmarked by glaciers, predominates. On both sides at the river breaks, you will find high bluffs, steep draws filled with cedars and deciduous trees and shrubs, cottonwood groves, and miles of cliff faces and shoreline, offering striking vistas and perfect habitat for a wide variety of bird species, from songbirds to raptors.

The trail offers an extraordinary opportunity for birders to find several very desirable species, including Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit in summer and Gyrfalcon and Snowy Owl in winter. The fast-water tailraces below the three dams occasionally offer surprising finds of waterfowl, terns, and gulls, such as Pomarine Jaeger, Harlequin Duck, Sabine's Gull, Little Gull and Arctic Tern.

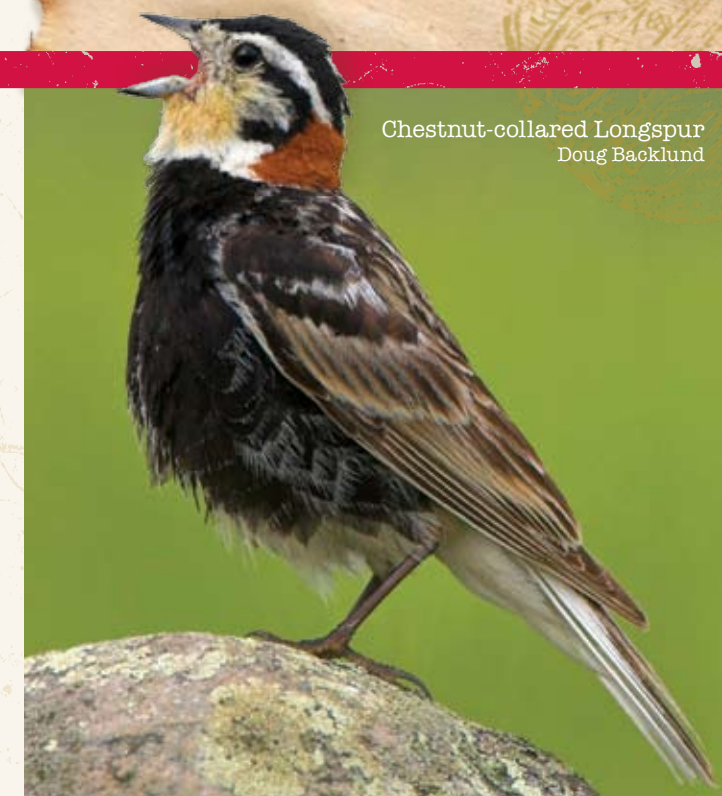
On areas of open prairie, you may find active Greater Prairie-Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse leks, Burrowing

Owls in prairie dog towns, Long-billed Curlews, flights of Lark Buntings, summer-nesting Chestnut-collared Longspurs and wintering flocks of Lapland Longspurs. You may find Barn Owls nesting and roosting in burrows dug in cliff faces along the river. Look for them wherever Bank Swallows have been nesting. When warblers come through in spring migration, they find wooded oases on the prairie; and you could easily find ten to twelve species of warblers in one late spring day's visit at trail stops such as Lake Hiddenwood (Stop 8) or Buryanek GPA (Stop 34).

And don't miss the opportunity to walk out over a field of native prairie during blooming season, such as at Harter/Cowan WPA (Stop 21) or Neugebauer GPA (Stop 36). You will find yourself connected across time to the pioneers who settled this beautiful land 150 years ago.

BIRDING TRAIL MAP LEGEND

- Birding Site
- Birding Trail Main
- Birding Trail Extra
- Interstates
- State Highways
- Rivers
- Lakes
- County Boundary
- City Limits
- Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA)
- Game Production Areas (GPA)
- Parks and Recreation Areas
- USFS Grasslands
- Reservations and Tribal Lands
- Parking
- Vault Toilet
- Comfort Station



Chestnut-collared Longspur
Doug Backlund



Tips and Online Resources

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

ONLINE RESOURCES

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lake Andes and Huron Wetland Management District Office Web sites for regional wetland information.

WWW.FWS.GOV/LAKEANDES/WMD.HTM

WWW.FWS.GOV/HURONWETLANDS/



GREAT LAKES
OF *South Dakota* TOURISM ASSOCIATION

THIS GUIDE PROVIDES GENERAL BIRDING TRAIL TIPS AND INFORMATION. ONLINE RESOURCES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE, JUST LOG ONTO THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES.

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.

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 birding 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. Most GPAs and WPAs have access but not a formal parking lot. On GPAs, a sign will be posted to "Park Cars Here" at the end of a trail or will tell you if vehicle travel is restricted. There are no fees required to visit WPAs and GPAs.

MULTIPLE USE

Although the Great Lakes region of 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.

Waterfowl hunting from road rights-of-way is a popular activity in central South Dakota. Be aware of this fall and winter pursuit; and keep a respectful distance from these hunters, who often station themselves in road ditches.

PARKS

All state parks and recreation areas require a park entrance license. All state parks offer parking and toilets. Most offer camping as well.

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.

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. This birding trail includes opportunities to view species with special protection from disturbance, such as the Least Tern, Piping Plover, Bald Eagle, and Whooping Crane. Adhere to any signs indicating the presence of nesting terns and plovers or wintering bald eagles. Violating federal or state laws protecting these species can result in serious penalties in addition to the potential harm done to the nesting, migrating or wintering birds. (See American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics.)

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

WWW.SDGFP.INFO/PARKS/INDEX.HTM

Great Lakes of South Dakota Tourism Association's Web site for free Visitor Guide.

WWW.SDGREATLAKES.ORG

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

WWW.TRAVELSD.COM

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe visitor information.

WWW.CRSTGFP.COM

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe visitor information.

WWW.LBST.ORG

Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge.

WWW.FWS.GOV/LAKEANDES

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union Web site for current sightings and birding information.

WWW.SDOU.ORG/

U.S. Government recreation Web site.

WWW.RECREATION.GOV/

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Web site for information about corps-controlled land at the Fort Randall and Big Bend dams.

WWW.NWO.USACE.ARMY.MIL/HTML/LAKE_PROJ/

Great Blue Heron
Doug Backlund



GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

OAHE DOWNSTREAM RECREATION AREA

HABITAT 1

Large cottonwood and deciduous forest, bays, rock-embanked Missouri River tailrace below Oahe Dam, brushy and sandy shorelines, trails and roadways.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Many species of ducks, geese, gulls, terns, shorebirds along the shore and tailrace plus loons and grebes in migration. Songbirds, owls, woodpeckers, and raptors; 69 species have been banded over the years at Fisherman's Point. In winter, as many as 90 Bald Eagles may be seen in trees near the river. Woody draws and tree plantings harbor five to six species of owls. Rarities: Harlequin Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Mew Gull, all three species of scoters, Caspian Tern, Pacific Loon, Chuck-Will's-Widow, Worm-eating Warbler. Accidental: All three species of jaegers, Arctic Tern, Red-throated Loon.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through October. State park entrance license required. P, T, CS-summer

TIPS

Check West-side tailrace area, the river tail waters, and bays for water birds, gulls, terns and raptors. In the marina area, bird along trails, through campgrounds and out at the point at the southern end of the recreation



area. This small forest area is the best place for migrating warblers. Just south of the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area is Fisherman Point. Check the river edge and sandbars for waterfowl and gulls. The trees, shelterbelts, and man-made wetland offer migrating warblers, thrushes, Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, Mourning Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Green Heron, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Bittern, and wintering sparrows. At the archery range, a little north on Hwy 1806 of the Oahe Recreation Area turnoff, Common Poorwills may be heard in the evening in the summer.

CONTACT

District Park Supervisor, Oahe Downstream, 20439 Marina Loop Rd., Ft. Pierre, SD 57532, (605) 223-7722.

PEORIA FLATS LAKESIDE USE AREA

HABITAT 2

Grassy draws and river bottom, gravel and sandy shore.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Piping Plovers on sandbars off the Flats and Least Terns flying up and down the river, Barn Owl, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Loggerhead Shrike, sparrows, Prairie Falcon, waterfowl and shorebirds. Rarities: Gyrfalcon, Northern Goshawk and Snowy Owl in winter.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

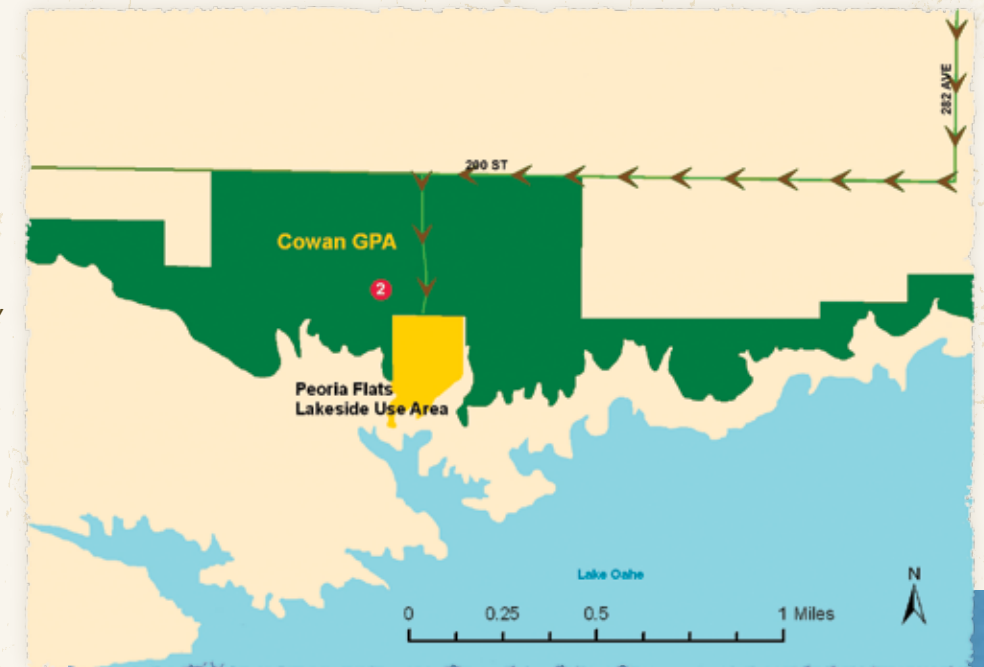
January through September. P, T

TIPS

From the time you turn north on Highway 1804 north of Pierre and then west toward Peoria Flats, watch along the drive for Gyrfalcons in winter, and other raptors, owls, sparrows, and shrikes.

CONTACT

District Park Supervisor, Oahe Downstream, 20439 Marina Loop Rd., Ft. Pierre, SD, 57532 (605) 223-7722.



Gyrfalcon
Doug Backlund





Common Loon
Doug Backlund



Least Tern
Doug Backlund



Short-eared Owl
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

OKOBOJO POINT, COW CREEK AND SPRING CREEK RECREATION AREAS

HABITAT 3

Cedar draws, shoreline, camping areas, deciduous and evergreen shelterbelts, cottonwoods, grassy knolls/fields.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Western and Clark's Grebes, Common Loon, gulls, Barn Owl, songbirds in migration, Townsend's Solitaire in winter, Least Tern, Piping Plover. Hundreds of thousands of Canada Geese in the fall. Rarities: all three scoters, Tundra Swan, Lesser Black-backed Gull.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

January through September. State park entrance license required. P, T, CS-summer at Okobojo Point & Cow Creek.

TIPS

These three state recreation areas are close to each other and share similar habitat. Follow roads throughout the areas, both walking and driving.



CONTACT

District Park Supervisor, Oahe Downstream, 20439 Marina Loop Rd., Fort Pierre, SD 57532, (605) 223-7722.

LITTLE BEND GPA AND LAKESIDE USE AREA

HABITAT 4

Peninsula into Lake Oahe. Miles of shoreline, grassy slopes, steep and gently sloping cedar draws, exposed cliffs.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Excellent birding area for many species of raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, and owls. Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Saw-whet Owl are found here, as are Piping Plover and Least Tern. Sharp-tailed Grouse are common.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through November. State park entrance license required. P, T

TIPS

For Saw-whet Owl, try carefully climbing down cedar draws, searching clumps of cedars, November through February. Good area for Northern Shrikes in winter.



CONTACT

District Park Supervisor, West Whitlock Recreation Area, 16157 A West Whitlock Rd., Gettysburg, SD 57442, (605) 765-9410.

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

STONE LAKE, COTTONWOOD LAKE AND ONIDA AREA GPA

HABITAT 5

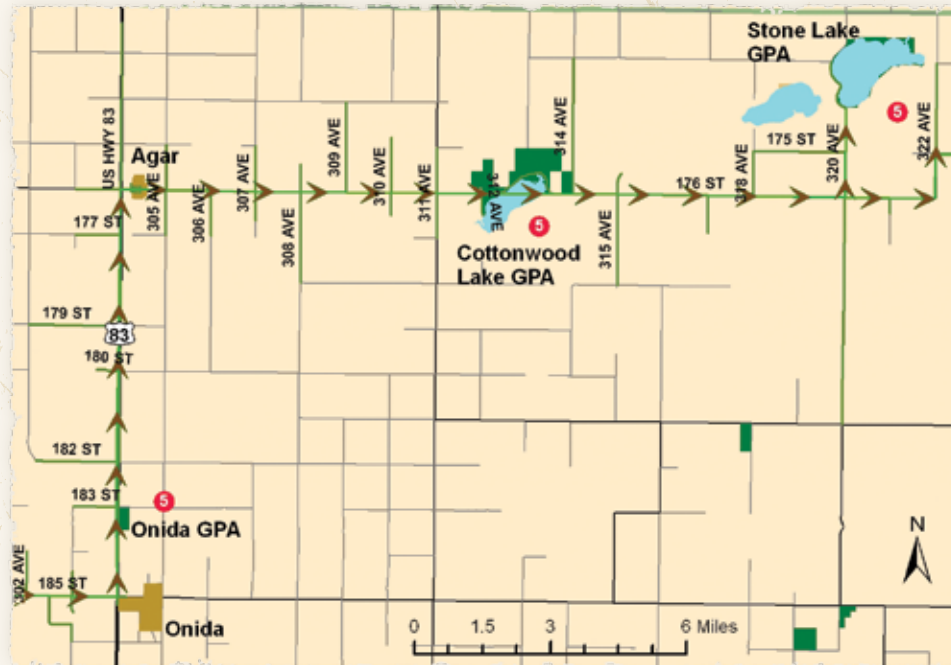
Onida Area GPA: 80 acre wetland with an ash tree planting. Cottonwood Lake GPA: 160-acre GPA shallow lake with shrubby shoreline, shelterbelt with pine and cedar trees, dead cottonwoods, deciduous grove. Stone Lake GPA: 748 acres of open sandy and rocky shoreline and shallow lake with a small shelterbelt of deciduous trees alongside road.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Onida Area GPA: Stilt Sandpiper, American Avocet, many peeps and other shorebirds. Cottonwood Lake GPA: Raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl, Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Yellow Warbler, American Goldfinch. Stone Lake GPA: Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Peregrine Falcon (spring and fall), American Avocet, Franklin's Gull, Marbled Godwit, Sandhill Crane, thousands of shorebirds in migration. Rarities: Onida: Black-necked Stilt. Stone Lake: Snowy Plover, Whooping Crane, Sandhill Crane, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red Phalarope, Red Knot, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Chestnut-collared Longspurs along roads passing through native prairie.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through November.



TIPS

At Onida wetland, park well off the road on the west side and walk around wetland to east side. At Cottonwood Lake, walk along the shore on the north side and walk the two-track road through the GPA. At Stone Lake, the road edges the west side of the lake. You can walk along the shore around the lake, but a scope is very helpful here. Check for warblers in the shelterbelt next to the road. A drive between Stone Lake and Spring Lake in Hyde County is the best area to find Sandhill Cranes on the ground.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.

RICE LAKE GPA

HABITAT 6

In years of normal rainfall, this 256-acre GPA has a large wetland. In dry years, the mixed native prairie and CRP grassland still provide good sparrow, longspur and grouse habitat. Area has several large old cottonwood trees.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Chestnut-collared Longspur, Grasshopper Sparrow, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Western Meadowlark, Upland Sandpiper. When wetland is active, look for Marsh Wren, shorebirds, waterfowl, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

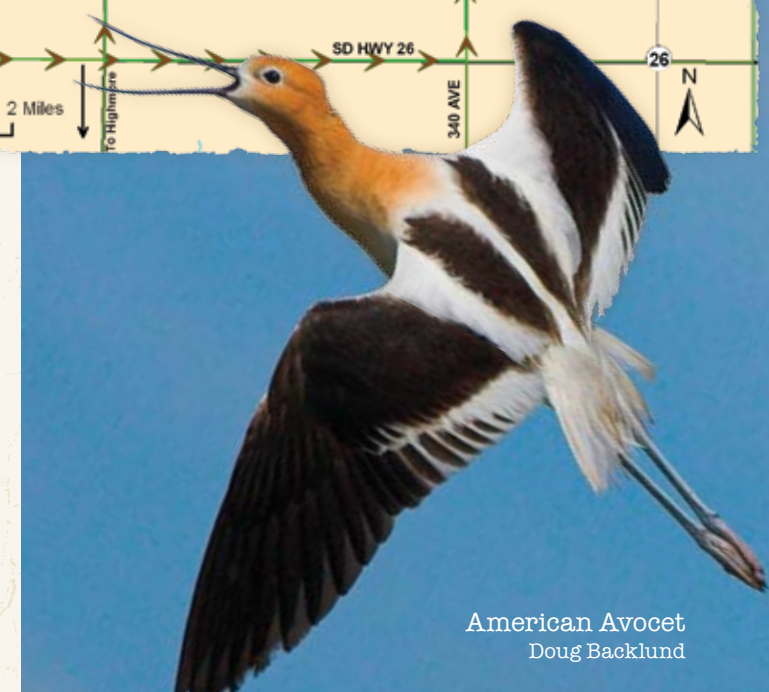
April through September.

TIPS

From Rice Lake GPA, take a short drive east to Rezac Lake GPA, where normal rainfall years provide a large wetland. Several shelterbelts are contained on this GPA, providing varied bird habitat. Many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and other prairie species have been found here.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.



American Avocet
Doug Backlund



Golden Eagles
Chad Coppess



Marbled Godwit
Doug Backlund



Greater Prairie-Chicken
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

WEST WHITLOCK RECREATION AREA

HABITAT 7

At the edge of Oahe Reservoir, this 175-acre recreation area has a large stand of trees in addition to shoreline and grassy slopes.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Gulls, Sharp-tailed Grouse, songbirds.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September. State park entrance license required. P, T, CS-summer

TIPS

Walk the Louis Badger Trail. Look for the prairie dog town on the Siebrasse GPA between Bob's Resort and the S. Whitlock area resorts off 212. Park at field entrance; go through gate; walk to top of hill. Burrowing Owls are scattered throughout.



CONTACT

District Park Supervisor, West Whitlock Recreation Area, 16157 A West Whitlock Rd., Gettysburg, SD 57442, (605) 765-9410.

LAKE HIDDENWOOD RECREATION AREA

HABITAT 8

Mixed deciduous, cedar and pine woods, small lake and creek in 332-acre recreation area.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Clay-colored Sparrow, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, many warbler species in migration, vireos, thrushes, waterfowl, egrets and herons.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September. State park entrance license required at the recreation area. P, T

TIPS

Good trails along creek, lake shore, and through woods.

CONTACT

District Park Supervisor, West Whitlock Recreation Area, 16157 A West Whitlock Rd., Gettysburg, SD 57442, (605) 765-9410.





Virginia Rail
Doug Backlund



Bonaparte's Gull
Doug Backlund



Barn Owls
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

LAKE POCASSE AND POLLOCK NATURE TRAIL

HABITAT 9

Reservoir with sandy and rocky shore, a long tree belt with the Pollock Nature Trail woven through, and a large marsh with brush and cattails through Pocasse Wildlife Refuge.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

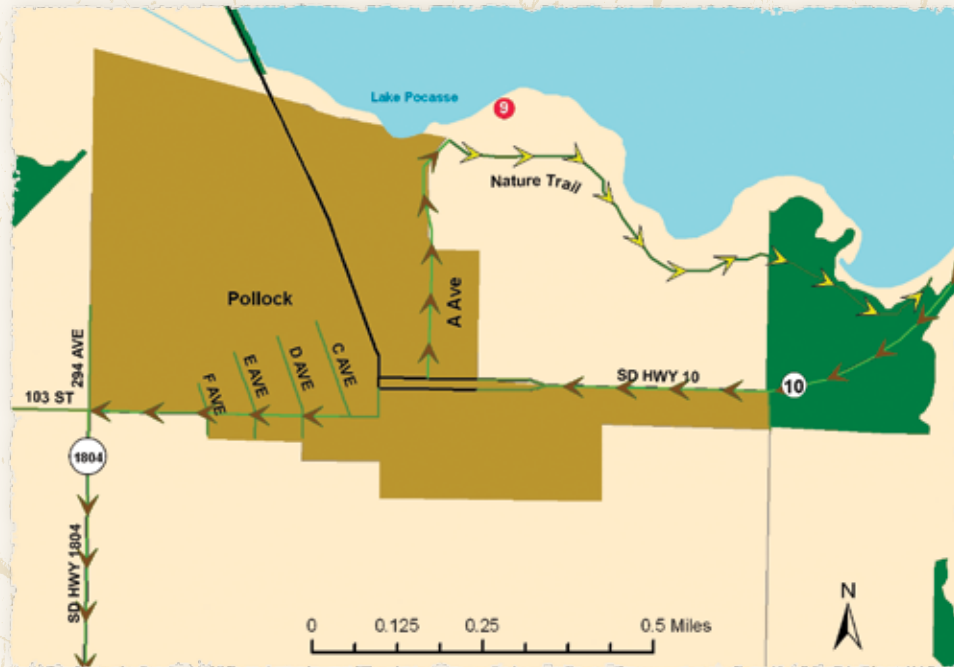
At the lake, shorebirds, ducks, geese. Along the nature trail, warblers, thrashers, flickers, vireos, catbirds, thrushes. At the marsh, in normal rainfall years, excellent for marsh birds, heron.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September.

TIPS

Go north from Pollock on A Street to boat ramp. The nature trail takes off to the east for approximately a mile along the shore of Lake Pocasse. This is a good vantage point for the lake as well. The west branch of the Nature Trail starts from the east parking lot of the Pollock Sports



Complex just west of the Lake Pocasse dam. Highway 10 crosses the lake and offers excellent viewing.

REVHEIM BAY RECREATION AREA

HABITAT 10

There are 296 acres of grassy bluffs overlooking Oahe Reservoir, several shelterbelts with small trees and dense brush, and native prairie grasses outside picnic areas. Below the high water line, young cottonwoods and sandy beaches prevail.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Gray Catbird, Spotted Towhee, Yellow Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, warblers and thrushes in migration, gulls, waterfowl, grouse.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September. State park entrance license required. P, T

TIPS

Walk and drive the roads through the area. Walk the sandy beaches in low-water years. Look for a trail that runs along the bluff.



CONTACT

Park Manager, Indian Creek Recreation Area, 12905 288th Ave., Mobridge, SD 57601, (605) 845-7112.



Lazuli Bunting
Doug Backlund



Black-billed Magpie
Doug Backlund



Burrowing Owls
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

GRAND RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND

HABITAT 11

Thousands of acres of native mixed-grass prairie with scattered wetlands. Prairie dog colonies are present. Inquire at Forest Service office for locations.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

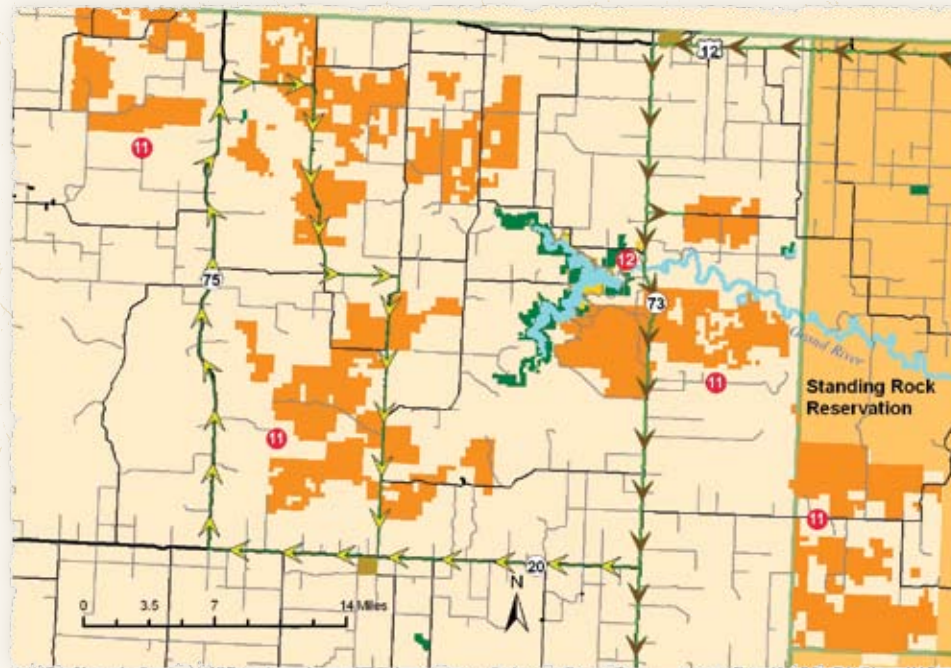
Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Burrowing Owl, Bobolink, Lark Bunting, Marbled Godwit, Upland Sandpiper, Common Poorwill, Savannah, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Black-billed Magpie, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Great Horned Owl, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, Great Blue Heron.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through October.

TIPS

The best way to explore the grasslands is to purchase a Grand River and Cedar River National Grasslands Visitor's Map. The Lemmon Lake GPA, Humphrey Draw GPA and North Fork Grand River are excellent for birding; but if roads are rough, you will need a high-clearance vehicle. Ask for a copy of Bird Status and Distribution on the



Grand River and Cedar River National Grasslands, 2005. Drive the Forest Service roads, watch for godwits, raptors, curlews, and Burrowing Owls (in prairie dog towns), and listen for pipits, longspurs and sparrows. Baird's Sparrows move around the grassland but are most often found in the northwestern South Dakota sections.

CONTACT

Grand River Ranger District Office, PO Box 390, Lemmon, SD 57638, 605-374-3592; Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Game and Fish Department, 701-854-7263.

SHADEHILL AND LLEWELLYN JOHNS MEMORIAL RECREATION AREAS

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR 12

Least Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Rock Wren, Ferruginous Hawk, Lazuli Bunting, Black-billed Magpie, Yellow-breasted Chat and Eastern Bluebird.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

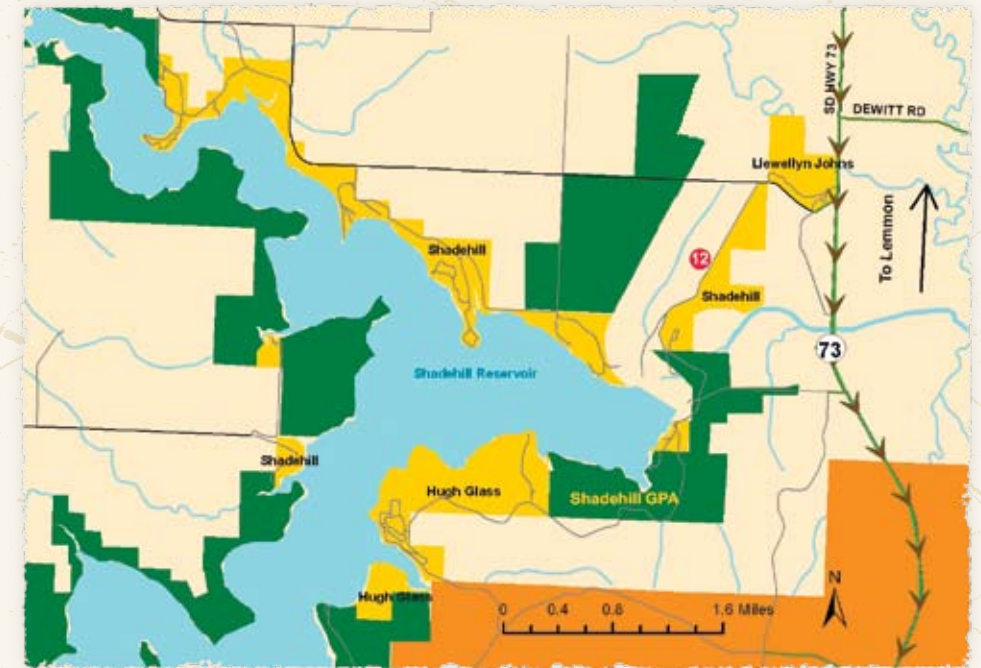
April through September. State park entrance license required. P, T, CS-summer at Shadehill

TIPS

At Shadehill Dam spillway, scan for Osprey, Bald Eagle, Bank, Cliff, and Barn Swallows. At Llewellyn Johns Rec. Area, walk north to Flat Creek Lake for grebes, ducks and shorebirds during migration.

CONTACT

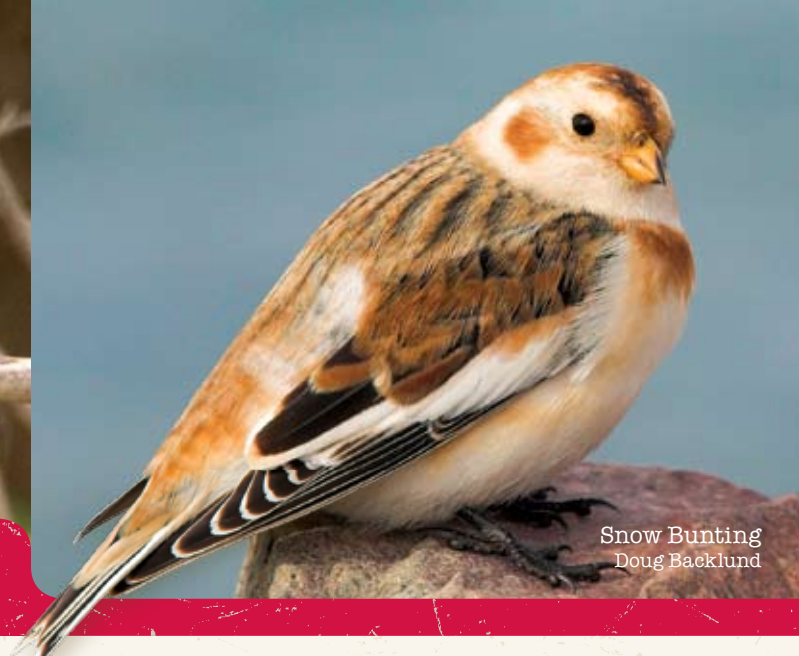
Park Manager, Shadehill Recreation Area, 19150 Summerville Rd., Box 63, Shadehill, SD 57638, (605) 374-5114.



June 3rd - I was just passing through and saw two Lazuli Buntings in the Recreation Area! Thrashers and a few Chats were out in the same afternoon too!



Black-headed Grosbeak
Chad Coppess



Snow Bunting
Doug Backlund



Snowy Owl
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

LITTLE MOREAU GPA

HABITAT 13
Deciduous forest, spruce and cedars, hilly with grassy areas.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR
Ferruginous Hawk, Wild Turkey, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Black-headed Grosbeak, Great Horned Owl, sparrows, grosbeaks, Yellow Warbler, thrushes, towhees, woodpeckers and owls.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS
April through September. P, T

TIPS
Little Moreau is a good stop along the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation Birding Loop. Look for Northern Shrikes along area roads in the winter.

CONTACT
SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.



CHEYENNE RIVER INDIAN RESERVAION BIRDING LOOP

HABITAT 14
Vast open grasslands and bluffs overlooking Oahe Reservoir.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR
Burrowing Owl, Grasshopper, Baird's, and Savannah Sparrows, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Long-billed Curlew, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, waterfowl and geese, Snowy Owl in winter, plus all the woodland species to be found at the Little Moreau GPA stop on the trail.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS
April through October.

TIPS
From Pierre, follow Hwy 34 west through Hayes, turning north on Hwy 63 and crossing the Cheyenne River onto the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. There are two main loops on this birding trail, the BIA 8-Hwy 212 loop and the Hwy 212-BIA 7/BIA 4/County Rd. 18/Hwy 63 loop. Follow shorter or longer driving loops through



different habitats. Look for prairie dog towns to find Burrowing Owls and raptors. This is sparsely populated country, so start with a full tank of gas and a sound vehicle.

CONTACT
Game, Fish and Parks Tourism Division, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, PO Box 212, E. Hwy 212, Eagle Butte, SD 57625.

May 13th - So many sparrows, owls, grosbeak and woodpeckers flying in this past week!

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

GYRFALCON LOOP

HABITAT 15
Grasslands, inactive (Foster Bay) and active (Minneconjou) boat launch areas at Cheyenne River delta into Lake Oahe.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR
Gyrfalcons (in winter), Ferruginous Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Baird's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Grouse, prairie sparrows.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS
January through October.

TIPS
From Fort Pierre, turn north on 1806, ending at Minneconjou boat launch; or drive west toward Hayes on Highway 34, through Hayes, then north on Hayes Rd, east on Sansarc and back to Hwy 1806; or continue past Hayes to Hwy 63, drive north past 192nd St. and bear right onto Foster Bay Rd., ending at the Foster Bay boat launch.

LA FRAMBOISE ISLAND NATURE AREA

HABITAT 16
Cottonwood and mixed deciduous and cedar woodland with open meadows, ponds and shoreline around the island.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR
Black-headed Grosbeak, Great Crested Flycatcher, American Woodcock, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Willow Flycatcher, Purple



Finch, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Goshawk, Brown Creeper, Great Blue Heron, Hooded Merganser, California Gull, Caspian Tern, Herring Gull, many migrants, thrushes, gulls, terns, grebes, ducks, geese, rails. Rarities: Thayer's Gull, Mew Gull, Glaucous Gull, Pine Grosbeak, Varied Thrush.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS
March through October. P, T

TIPS
Park first at the causeway leading to the island, check for rare gulls, shorebirds, waterfowl, then continue to island parking area and follow trails throughout island.

CONTACT
Regional Park Supervisor, 1301 Farm Island Rd., Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 773-2885.

LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL

HABITAT 17
This paved walking/bicycling trail follows the east bank of the Missouri River from La Framboise Island to Farm Island through cottonwood groves, wetlands, brushy, sandy and rocky shoreline.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR
Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cooper's Hawk, Gray Catbird, many of the species also found on La Framboise and Farm Islands.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS
April through October. P, T

CONTACT
Regional Park Supervisor, 1301 Farm Island Rd., Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 773-2885.

FARM ISLAND RECREATION AREA

HABITAT 18
Dense cottonwood and deciduous forest, with cedars and willow underbrush, ponds and meadows.

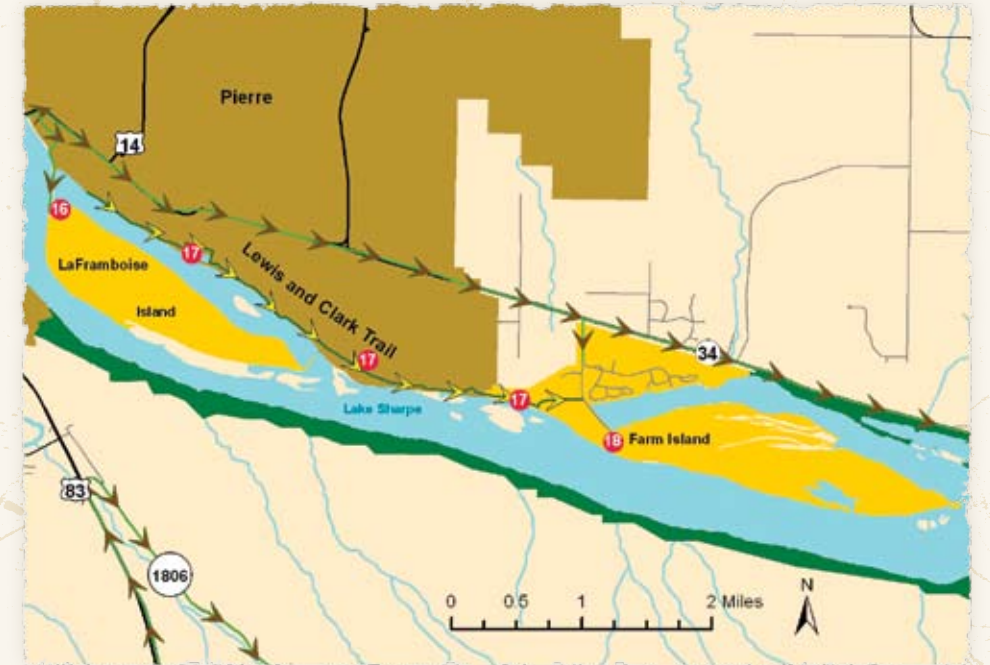
BIRDS TO LOOK FOR
Bald Eagle, Spotted Towhee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Willow Flycatcher, Sora, Green Heron, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Woodcock, Pine Siskin. In winter, Townsend's Solitaire, American Tree Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet. Ducks, geese, shorebirds, woodpeckers, warblers. Rarities:

Long-eared Owl, Blue-headed Vireo, Evening Grosbeak. In winter, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Red and White-winged Crossbills.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS
March through October. State park entrance license required. P, T, CS-summer

TIPS
Follow trails throughout island. It is common to find flycatchers and warblers right at the parking lot during migration. Check Hipple Lake, adjacent to the island, and the Missouri River channel for gulls and waterfowl.

CONTACT
Regional Park Supervisor, 1301 Farm Island Rd., Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 773-2885.





Ovenbird
Doug Backlund



Black-throated Green Warbler
Doug Backlund



Northern Saw-whet Owl
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

ARIKARA GPA

HABITAT 19

Man-made wetland with dense sedges, cattails. Water levels are changed periodically for management purposes, which changes the mix of species here.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-headed Black-bird, Great-tailed Grackle. Rarities: Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Little Blue Heron. In years when water level is favorable for shorebirds, look for Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Red-necked Phalarope. Rarities: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Red Knot.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September.



TIPS

Most years, this is a very good habitat for marsh birds.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.

WEST BEND RECREATION AREA AND NORTH BIG BEND GPA

HABITAT 20

Woodlands, river bottoms, grasslands.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

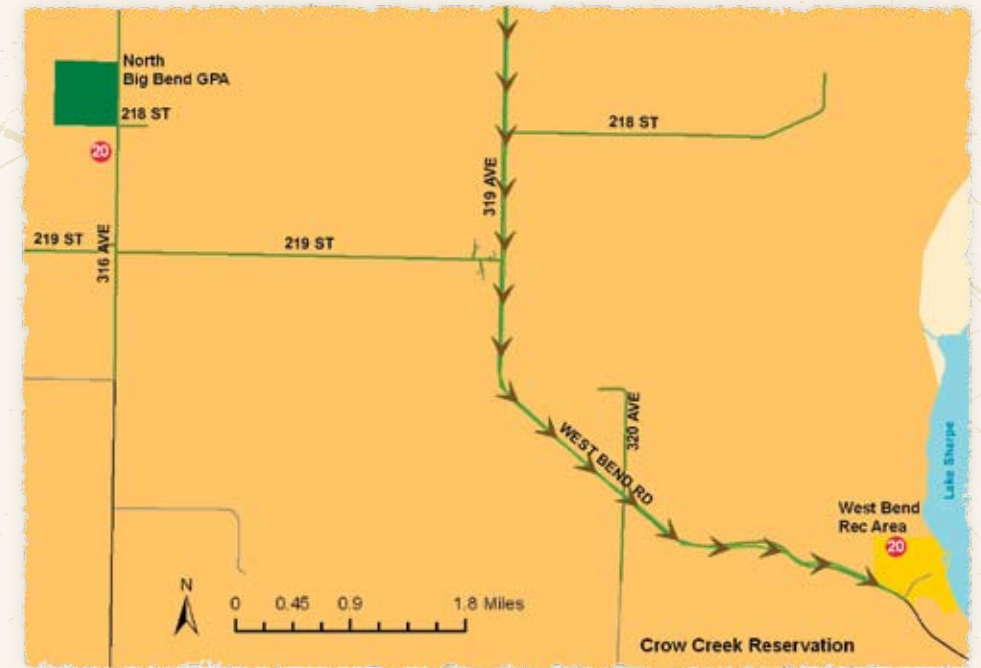
Indigo Bunting, Bay-breasted Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Sabine's Gull, Long-eared Owl, Bell's Vireo, Cooper's Hawk. In winter, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Northern Goshawk.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September. State park entrance license required at West Bend Recreation Area. P, T, CS-summer

CONTACT

West Bend Park Manager, 1301 Farm Island Rd., Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 773-2885; Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, PO Box 50, Fort Thompson, SD 57339-0050, (605) 245-2221.



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300043



Northern Waterthrush
Doug Backlund



Yellow-headed Blackbird
Doug Backlund



Black-throated Blue Warbler
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

HARTER AND COWAN WPAS

HABITAT 21

This 2,500-acre combined WPA includes native mixed and shortgrass prairie, and a huge glacial Kame, caused by glacial melt. Pronghorns can be found on this wide-open prairie with few trees.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

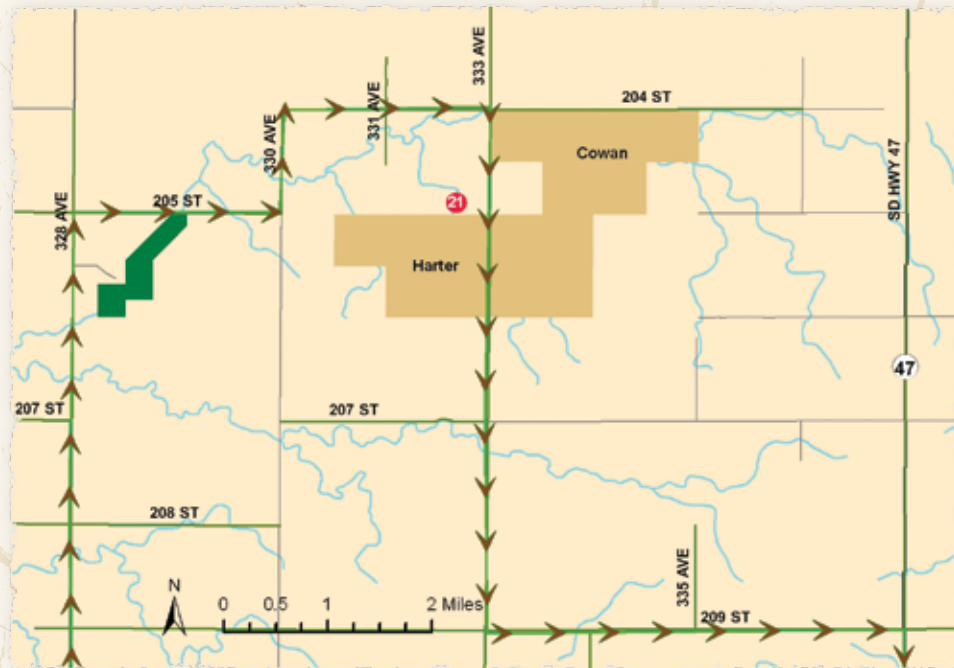
Greater Prairie-Chicken, Northern Harrier, Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, Bobolink, Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, many prairie species. Rarity: Baird's Sparrow.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September.

TIPS

Drive into the WPA from the north. West side of Harter WPA offers a large population of Greater Prairie-Chickens. The east side of the Cowan WPA holds the ancient Kame and the possibility of Baird's Sparrows on its native grassland slopes.



CONTACT

Huron Wetland Management District, Room 309 Federal Building, 200 Fourth St. SW, Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352-5894.

BRULE BOTTOM GPA

HABITAT 22

This 2,000-acre GPA offers native grassland, dense cedar breaks, deciduous groves and designated trails to Missouri River shoreline.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Great Horned Owl, Spotted Towhee, woodpeckers, warblers, thrushes, sparrows.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September.

TIPS

Some road access into the GPA. A nearby GPA to explore is the 172-acre Chamberlain Area GPA.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.





Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Doug Backlund



Western Meadowlark
Chad Coppess



Bell's Vireo
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

WHITE LAKE, HUMPHREY SLOUGH GPA AND HUMPHREY WPA

HABITAT 23

In years of normal rainfall, Humphrey Slough GPA plus Humphrey WPA provide 900 acres of slough, lake shoreline and mudflats, with brushy deciduous shelterbelts and a row of large dead cottonwoods.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Dunlin, White-faced Ibis, White Pelican, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black-bellied Plover, many hawks, shorebirds and waterfowl in migration.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

May through October.

TIPS

White Lake and surrounding mudflats dry up completely during drought; but in years of normal rainfall, it is an excellent birding spot. A spotting scope is helpful for scanning the lake; 248th St. takes you right to the edges of the lake and mud flats.



CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530; US Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Andes Wetland Management District, (605) 487-7603.

RED LAKE AND BOYER GPAS

HABITAT 24

Red Lake GPA is a 65-acre site composed of rushes, cattails, a stand of trees and muddy shoreline. It sits at the north-east edge of Red Lake, a very large and shallow wetland. Boyer GPA is 1,393 acres of combined native prairie, cedar breaks and shoreline along the Missouri River.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

At Red Lake GPA: Osprey and many species of shorebirds and waterfowl in large numbers during migration. At Boyer GPA: Sharp-tailed Grouse, Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bell's Vireo. Rarities: At Red Lake, Whooping Crane, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September.

TIPS

At Red Lake, a scope is useful, especially in dry years when the water may be away from the public viewing area. At



Boyer, look for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie-Chicken on top of the ridge. Enter the GPA on the north, follow trail to the end and walk west along the river.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.



Cedar Waxwing
Chad Coppess



Sharp-tailed Grouse
Doug Backlund



Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

CHAIN LAKE (HOLOUBEK) GPA AND KOSS WPA

HABITAT 25

GPA is a 480-acre site with three ponds, tree belts, shallow wetlands and restored prairie. Koss WPA is an 820-acre combined grassland and shallow wetland area with sedges, cattails, brushy shoreline and old remnant shelterbelts.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

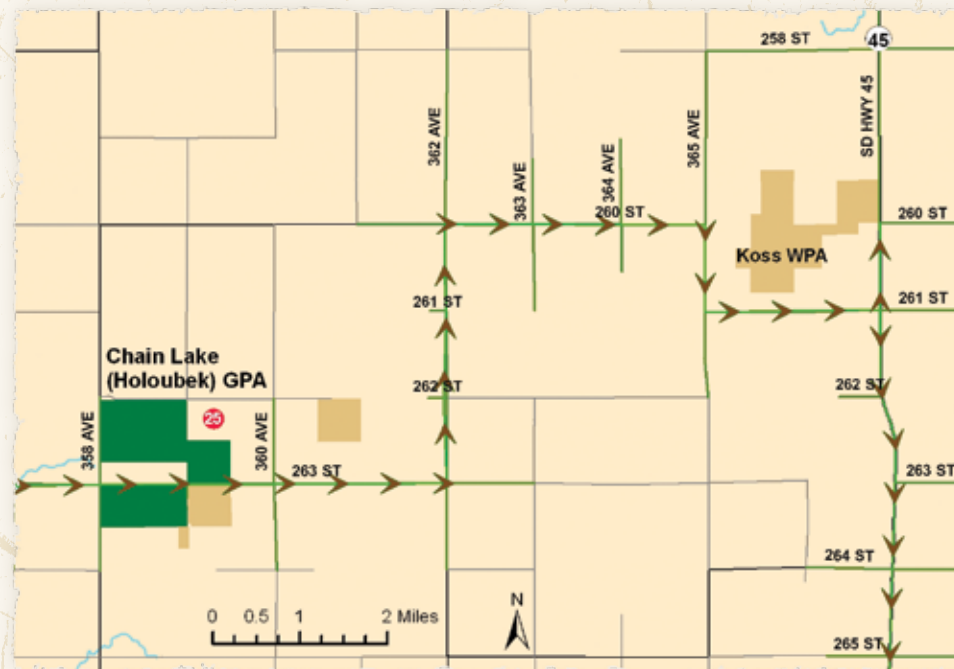
Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bobolink, Chimney Swift, Sedge Wren, Willow Flycatcher, Sora, Orchard Oriole, Savannah Sparrow, shorebirds, swallows, ducks, sparrows.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September.

TIPS

Enter Koss WPA from Highway 45 onto two-track, go 1/4 mile to parking area, walk another 1/4 mile to lake and lake bed.



CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.

BROKEN ARROW WPA

HABITAT 26

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

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

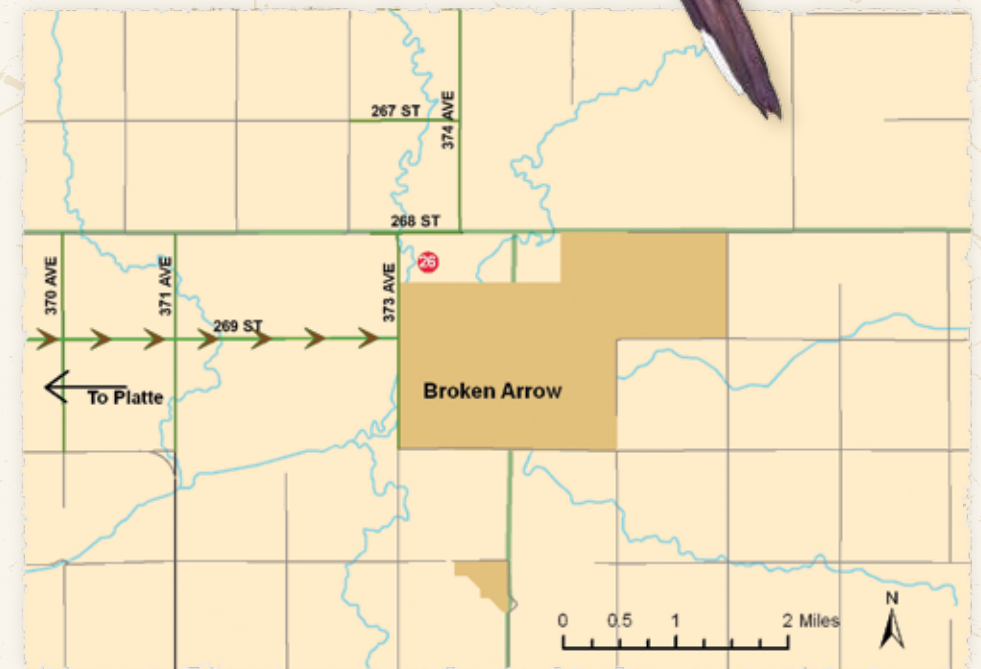
Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sandhill Crane in migration, Ruddy Duck, Redhead, Upland Sandpiper, Marsh Wren, American Bittern, Blue Grosbeak. Rarity: Whooping Crane has been sighted in this area on rare occasions during spring and fall migration.

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 the 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.



Least Bittern
Doug Backlund



Wood Duck
Chad Coppess



Black-crowned Night-Heron
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

GRAY GPA AND PLATTE CREEK RECREATION AREA

HABITAT 27

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.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, nesting American Avocet, Wood Duck, Long-eared Owl, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, American Woodcock, Black-billed Magpie, migrating warblers and other songbirds, woodpeckers, shorebirds. In winter, Golden Eagle, Townsend's Solitaire. Rarities: Northern Bobwhite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barn Owl.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through October.

TIPS

A two-mile walking trail goes north from the parking area off Highway 1804 through bur oak woodlands and follows Platte Creek and up Castalia Creek. Look for migrating warblers and other songbirds, woodpeckers and eagles. The uplands at Gray GPA are composed of



native prairie. Driving route from Platte Creek Recreation Area to North Point Recreation Area: wind along the river, stopping at Pease Creek Recreation Area to hike the rough boat launch road and scenic trails that overlook the river. Drive through White Swan GPA, over to Svatos Bay, and on to North Point. The drive is indirect but offers a chance to see prairie-chickens and grouse.

CONTACT

Park Supervisor, Snake Creek Recreation Area, 35316 Hwy 44, Platte, SD (605) 337-2587.

LAKE ANDES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HABITAT 28

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

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Eared, Western, and Clark's Grebes, Franklin's Gull, Great Egret, Least Bittern, Osprey, Caspian Tern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Bald Eagle, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Loggerhead Shrike, Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, Hooded Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, Greater White-fronted Goose, Chestnut-sided Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter. Rarities: White-faced Ibis, Little Blue Heron, Great-tailed Grackle.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through October.

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, American



Bitterns, Green Herons and Marsh Wrens. 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.

CONTACT

Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, 38672 291st St., Lake Andes, SD 57356, (605) 487-7603.



Golden-crowned Kinglet
Doug Backlund



Piping Plover
Doug Backlund



Bald Eagle
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

MISSOURI RIVER BOTTOMS ROUTE

HABITAT 29

A drive from Pickstown to Running Water and on to Springfield along the Missouri River offers a view of one of the last wild stretches of the Missouri River. Many places along the route have large stands of cottonwoods and riparian habitat.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Piping Plover, Least Tern, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, White-winged Scoter, Bonaparte's Gull, Dickcissel, Bell's Vireo, Bald Eagle, Whip-poor-will, American Woodcock, Scarlet Tanager, Caspian Tern. Rarities: Barn Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk, Great-tailed Grackle, Loggerhead Shrike.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

Late March through October.

TIPS

This drive offers many stopping places to look for Piping Plovers and Least Terns on sandbars in the river. Negotiating this route from Pickstown means taking little-used gravel roads and doubling back and around where the road ends. Birding can be excellent on these back roads. Barn Owls can be found in holes in cliffs along the Missouri River. A good place to look is along the north shore cliffs just downstream from Springfield, but a motor boat is a necessity



here. A popular canoe trip for experienced canoeists is an overnight camping trip from Pickstown to Running Water.

CONTACT

South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation, (605) 773-3391; South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division: Chamberlain Regional Office (605) 734-4530; Sioux Falls Regional Office, (605) 362-2700.

NORTH POINT RECREATION AREA

HABITAT 30

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.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Cardinal, Harris's Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Lazuli Bunting, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, Swainson's Hawk. In winter, Snow Bunting, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk. Rarities: Northern Mockingbird, Evening Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rock Wren.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through October. State Park entrance license required. P, T, CS-summer

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. Another interesting area to drive is Svatos North 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, then go west and south along the west shore of Svatos Bay. This area offers great diversity of species including Olive-sided Flycatcher in migration, Indigo Bunting, Warbling Vireo, Upland Sandpiper and Greater Prairie-Chicken.

CONTACT

Park Supervisor, 38180 297th St. Lake Andes, SD 57356, (605) 487-7046.

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

RANDALL CREEK RECREATION AREA AND PICKSTOWN GPA AT FORT RANDALL DAM

HABITAT 31

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 river.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Red-breasted Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Forster's Tern, Bonaparte's and Franklin's Gulls, Bald Eagle, Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Kestrel, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Fox Sparrow, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Purple Finch, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, several species of gulls. Rarities: Northern Bobwhite, Barred Owl, Black-legged Kittiwake, Mew Gull, Barrow's Goldeneye, Little Gull, Thayer's Gull, Sabine's Gull, Brant, Glaucous Gull.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

September through December for gulls, November through February 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 closed-to-visitors Karl Mundt National Wildlife



Refuge downstream may be easily seen flying up and down the river. Continue south to the Randall Creek Recreation Area. Walk roads through the park, campground and along the bluffs above the river. The road through the area is closed to vehicles October 1 through April 30 to help protect wintering Bald Eagles. Look for the historic, restored Fort Randall Chapel. Take the interpretive trail walk, listen for Northern Bobwhites and look for songbirds and hawks in the fields and trees nearby.

CONTACT

Park Manager, Randall Creek Recreation Area, 38180 297 St., Lake Andes, SD 57356, (605) 487-7046; South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530; Lake Manager, United States Army Corps of Engineers, PO Box 199, Pickstown, SD 57367.

BURKE LAKE RECREATION AREA

HABITAT 32

This 200-acre site includes a small lake surrounded by ponderosa pine, red cedar, apple trees, and prairie grassland.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Blackpoll and Black-and-white Warblers, Western Grebe, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, several species of ducks and shorebirds. Rarities: Summer Tanager, Chestnut-collared Longspur.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September. P, T

TIPS

Follow roads and trail through area and around lake. Driving loop: From Burke Lake, drive to Dog Ear Lake (birding trail stop # 33) but also drive to 120-acre Rahn Lake GPA, southeast of Dog Ear Lake, and up to 280-acre Snow Dam GPA just south of Hamill in northern Tripp County. At Snow Dam GPA with boxelder, ash, willow, plum thickets and a few cottonwoods around the lake, look for many species of songbirds and waterfowl.

CONTACT

District Park Supervisor, Snake Creek Recreation Area, 35316 SD Hwy. 44, Platte, SD 57369.



Red-bellied Woodpecker
Doug Backlund



Yellow-breasted Chat
Doug Backlund



Baltimore Oriole
Doug Backlund



Long-billed Curlew
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

DOG EAR LAKE GPA

HABITAT 33

This GPA consists of 318 acres with a small lake, cottonwoods, willows, pine and mixed tree plantings, and some patches of cattails.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Trumpeter Swan, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Curlew, Sedge Wren, Upland Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron, Red-headed Woodpecker. In migration, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Palm Warbler, Wilson's Warbler.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

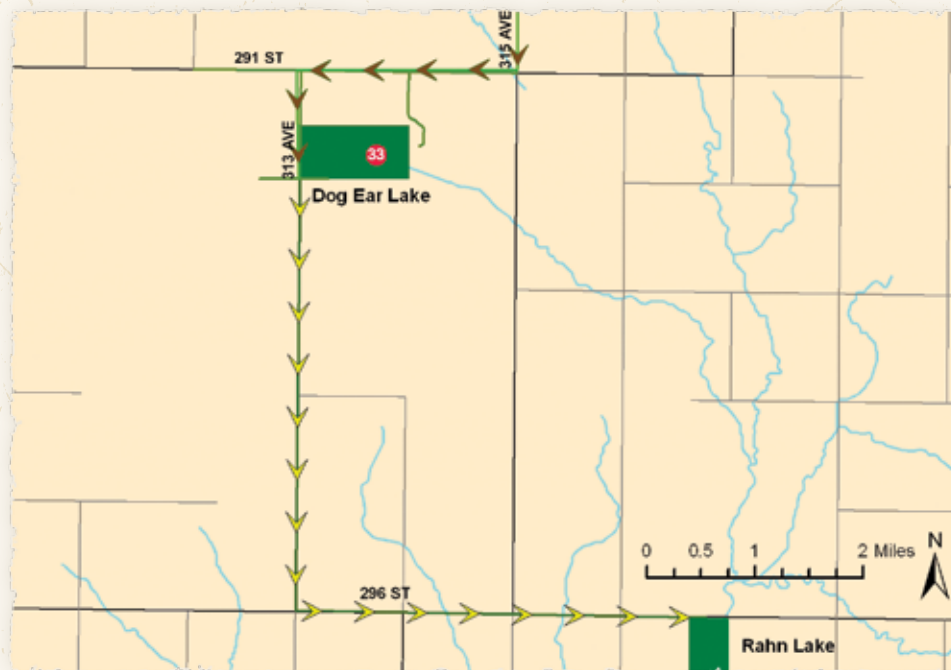
April through September.

TIPS

Dog Ear Lake has consistently had a pair of breeding Trumpeter Swans, though not every year. Access is from the north. Rahn Lake, with dense pine and cedar plantings, is an especially good winter birding spot for Northern Goshawk, Purple Finch, Townsend's Solitaire, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-billed Magpie, Great Horned Owl.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.



May 8th - I was surprised to see so many Ovenbirds and I was able to get quite close. It's really fun to see new birds in the area!

BURYANEK RECREATION AREA AND BURYANEK GPA

HABITAT 34

Buryanek GPA is over 3,600 acres and sits just to the south of 70-acre Buryanek Recreation Area. Both areas include scattered shrub thickets, woodlands, native grasslands and heavy cedar draws overlooking the Missouri River.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

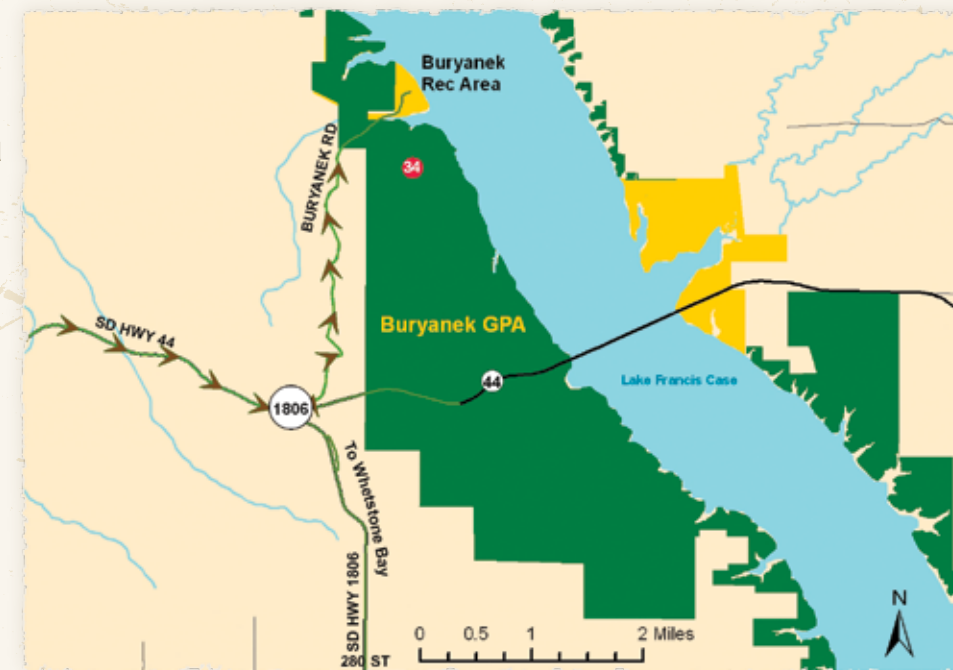
Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Spotted Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September. State park entrance license required at recreation area. P, T, CS-summer

TIPS

Walk trails on the GPA. Roads wind through the campgrounds at the Recreation Area. Driving route: Drive south from the GPA on old Hwy 1806 and then gravel road across open rangeland to Whetstone Bay GPA and Whetstone Bay Recreation Area. Look for Lark Bunting, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon and Grasshopper Sparrow. Whetstone Bay area includes cottonwoods, river



bottoms and willow thickets. Here, look for flycatchers and ten species of warblers in migration, Eastern Bluebird, Upland Sandpiper. Rarity: Clark's Grebe at Whetstone Bay Recreation Area. The road beyond the recreation area is public up to Mulehead Ranch.

CONTACT

District Park Supervisor, Snake Creek Recreation Area, 35316 SD Hwy. 44, Platte, SD 57369; SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

LINDLEY AREA AND GAMMON BOTTOM GPAS

HABITAT 35

These large GPAs, together nearly 2,000 acres, consist of river bottom, cottonwoods, willows and grassland.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Bell's Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, shorebirds, hawks, warblers in migration, prairie species, owls, woodpeckers, grouse. Rarity: Lark Bunting, Black-billed Magpie.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through September.

TIPS

Go approximately one half mile south on Hwy 47 from the Hwy 47 and 49 junction and turn east onto the gravel road at the small Public Access sign. Approximately one mile east will be a junction. Turn north to go to Gammon Bottom GPA; continue east into Lindley Area GPA.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.

BYRE BOTTOM AND NEUGEBAUER GPAS

HABITAT 36

Byre Bottom GPA includes deciduous shelterbelts, two small ponds, grassland, cropland and a brush-covered dike overlooking the White River. Neugebauer GPA is a 1,565-acre expanse of native prairie that runs from the top of the White River bluffs down to the river. It is drivable ONLY in dry weather.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

At Byre Bottom: Wild Turkey, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-

crowned Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Spotted Towhee, ducks, warblers in migration, many songbirds, owls, woodpeckers. At Neugebauer: Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, prairie sparrows, meadowlarks, raptors. Rarity: Black-billed Magpie.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through October.

TIPS

At Byre Bottom, enter just north of the White River bridge off Hwy 47; follow the designated two-track nearly 2 miles through different habitats, ending at the ponds and river dikes. At Neugebauer, the 2-mile road through the GPA down to the river may not be driven in wet or potentially rainy weather, but it may be walked any time.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.



CARPENTER AREA GPA

HABITAT 37

This 1,200-acre GPA sits on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River and includes native grasses, cedar draws and shelterbelts plus scenic vistas of prairie and the river.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Vesper Sparrow and other grassland sparrows, Gray Catbird, Red-tailed Hawk, many songbird species, grouse, prairie-chickens, Long-eared Owl.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through October.

TIPS

Take 337th Ave. south from Cooper School Rd.; follow two-track trails through GPA. 337th Ave. offers good birding along the road.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.

KIOWA GPA

HABITAT 38

GPA offers 1,800 acres of varied habitat with cottonwood stands, cedar stands, deciduous groves, grassland, creeks running into the Missouri River and shoreline.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Gray Partridge, Sandhill Crane in migration, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Eastern Screech-Owl, Common Nighthawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Black-headed Grosbeak. Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

April through October.



TIPS

Follow gravel roads and two-tracks through GPA, walking where vehicles are restricted during drought conditions.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.

Loggerhead Shrike
Doug Backlund





Lapland Longspur
Doug Backlund



Hooded Merganser
Doug Backlund



Ferruginous Hawk
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

BIG BEND DAM

HABITAT 39

Behind the dam is Lake Sharpe and below the dam flows the tailrace back into the Missouri River. River banks, both upstream and downstream, offer brushy and deciduous tree habitat.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

This is an excellent area for many species of gulls, terns and waterfowl. Look for the Osprey platform on the southern downstream side.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through November.

TIPS

A scope is helpful in searching groups of gulls and terns resting on rocky shores and sand spits.

CONTACT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Big Bend Project, 33573 N. Shore Rd., Chamberlain, SD 57325,
(605) 245-2255.



June 21st - What a day! I saw plenty of gulls in flight and feeding in Lake Francis Case.

LOWER BRULE INDIAN RESERVATION BIRDING LOOP

HABITAT 40

Routes BIA 10 and Hwy 1806 provide a scenic and bird-filled drive through the reservation. Habitats include grassland, cedar draws, bluffs, farmland, wetlands, cottonwood bottoms and deciduous tree stands. For walking areas, please register at tribal wildlife headquarters and pick up a map. All are invited to drive through, stopping along the road at any safe spot.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Ferruginous Hawk, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Rough-legged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Burrowing Owl, waterfowl, Western Meadowlark, prairie sparrows, White Pelican, Short-eared Owl, Chestnut-collared and Lapland Longspurs, Horned Lark, Osprey, songbirds and woodpeckers.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through October.

TIPS

Good stopping places along the route include the Narrows Boat Ramp, Medicine Creek, Cedar Creek and Mni Sho Sho



Goose Camp. Please contact or stop by the Wildlife Dept. Headquarters to register and pick up a map if you plan to include hiking on the Lower Brule birding trail loop.

CONTACT

Lower Brule Wildlife, Fish, and Recreation, Box 246, Lower Brule, South Dakota 57548, (605) 473-5666, E-mail: www.LBWFR1@wcnenet.com



Long-eared Owl
Chad Coppess



Wilson's Phalarope
Doug Backlund



Spotted Towhee
Doug Backlund

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

FORT PIERRE NATIONAL GRASSLAND

HABITAT 41

116,000 acres of native mixed-grass prairie, small wetland at Richland Dam, creeks, few trees and shrubby draws and swales. Prairie dog colonies are present. Inquire at Forest Service office for locations.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

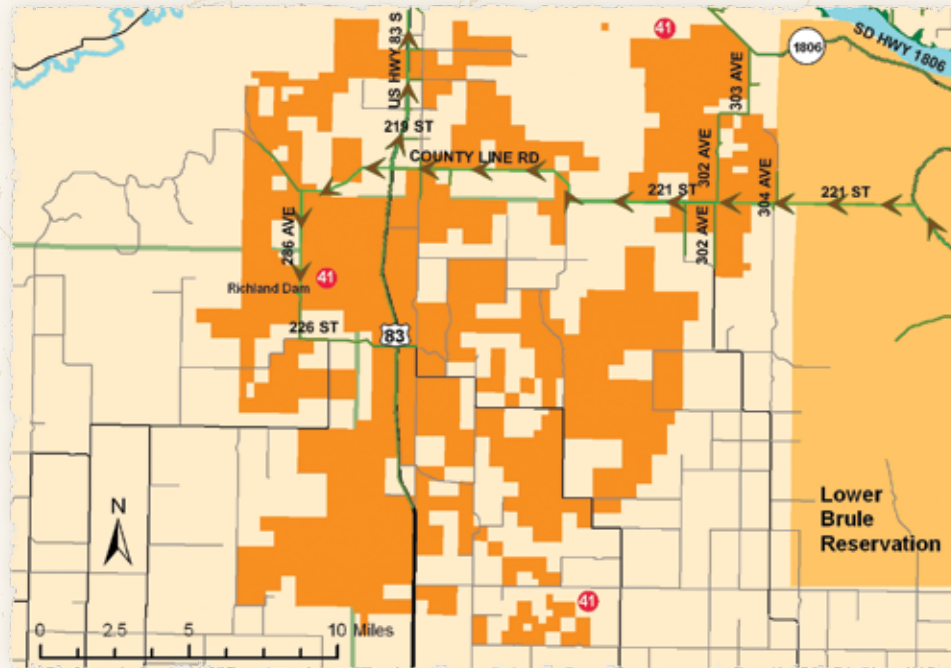
Gyr Falcon, Prairie Falcon and several additional species of raptors. Lapland Longspur and Snowy Owl in winter, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, prairie sparrows. Rarity: Sprague's Pipit, Say's Phoebe at bridges over creeks, Wilson's Phalaropes nesting in wetlands.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

December through February for Gyr Falcons and Snowy Owls, August through October for Sprague's Pipits, April through October for nesting and migrating prairie species.

TIPS

Driving east on County Line Road from Hwy 83 and then following gravel roads off County Line Road yields good chance of Snowy Owl and Gyr Falcon in winter, weather



and driving conditions permitting. Sprague's Pipit has been found in late summer on the grassland turning west on the two-track about one-half mile south of Richland Dam; watch and listen for them for the next mile. Prairie dog colonies provide great birding areas for Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Burrowing Owls and Ferruginous Hawks.

CONTACT

Fort Pierre National Grassland, Fort Pierre, (605) 224-5517.

ANTELOPE CREEK GPA

HABITAT 42

This 270-acre GPA provides grassland, creek bed, shelter-belts and shrubby shoreline on the Missouri River.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

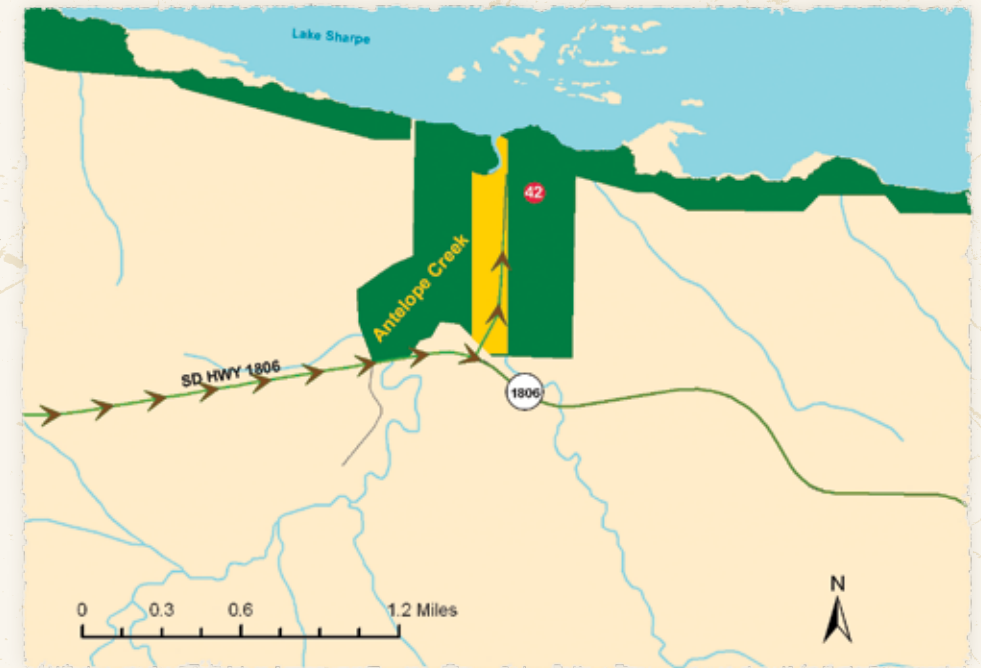
Sparrows, warblers in migration, towhees, Great Horned Owl, raptors, flycatchers, waterfowl, gulls, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Grosbeak, Long-eared Owl, Bell's Vireo, Eastern Bluebird nest in area.

BEST BIRDING MONTHS

March through October.

TIPS

Drive slowly down the road into the GPA, birding both sides of the road and around the parking area at the edge of the river. A prairie dog colony is about 1/4 mile east of the parking lot area. There are cedar draws downstream that provide a good hiking area, but there are no developed trails. A good drive to search for grassland birds is the Bad River Road which takes off from Hwy 83 to the west from just south of Fort Pierre. This road runs for several miles along the Bad River, then stretches west to Highway 14, a few



miles north of Midland. Turning north onto Hwy 14 takes you up to Hayes and back into Pierre. This is a good loop to look for Gyr Falcons in winter.

CONTACT

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Chamberlain Regional Office, (605) 734-4530.



The Ornithologists' Union of South Dakota

GREAT LAKES BIRDING CHECKLIST

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

LOONS

- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon

GREBES

- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe
- Eared Grebe
- Clark's Grebe
- Western Grebe

PELICANS

- American White Pelican
- Brown Pelican

CORMORANTS

- Double-crested Cormorant

BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS, IBISES

- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Cattle Egret
- Green Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- White-faced Ibis

VULTURES

- Turkey Vulture

GEESE

- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Ross's Goose
- Canada Goose
- Cackling Goose
- Brant

SWANS, DUCKS

- Trumpeter Swan
- Tundra Swan
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon
- 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
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck

KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES

- Osprey
- Mississippi Kite
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Northern Goshawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Swainson's Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Golden Eagle

FALCONS

- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Gyrfalcon
- Peregrine Falcon
- Prairie Falcon

GROUSE, TURKEY, QUAIL

- Gray Partridge
- Ring-necked Pheasant
- Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Greater Prairie-Chicken
- Wild Turkey
- Northern Bobwhite

RAILS, COOTS

- Yellow Rail
- King Rail
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- Common Moorhen
- American Coot

CRANES

- Sandhill Crane
- Whooping Crane

PLOVERS, AVOCETS

- Black-bellied Plover
- American Golden-Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Piping Plover
- Killdeer
- Black-necked Stilt
- 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
- 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
- Wilson's Phalarope

- Red-necked Phalarope
- Red Phalarope

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
- Forster's Tern
- Least Tern
- Black Tern

DOVES

- Rock Dove
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Mourning Dove

CUCKOOS

- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo

OWLS

- Barn Owl
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Snowy Owl
- Burrowing Owl
- Barred Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Northern Saw-whet Owl

GOATSUCKERS

- Common Nighthawk
- Whip-poor-will
- Common Poorwill

- Chuck-will's-widow

SWIFTS

- Chimney Swift

HUMMINGBIRDS

- Rudy-throated Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

- Belted Kingfisher

WOODPECKERS

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

FLYCATCHERS

- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Alder Flycatcher
- Willow Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe
- 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
- Warbling Vireo
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo

JAYS, CROWS

- Blue Jay
- Black-billed Magpie
- American Crow

LARKS

- Horned Lark

SWALLOWS

- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow

- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow

CHICKADEES, ALLIES

- Black-capped Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper

WRENS

- Rock Wren
- Carolina Wren
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren

KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS

- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

THRUSHES

- Eastern Bluebird
- Mountain Bluebird
- Townsend's Solitaire
- Veery
- Gray-cheeked Thrush
- Swainson's Thrush
- Hermit Thrush
- Wood Thrush
- American Robin
- Varied Thrush

MIMIDS

- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Brown Thrasher

STARLINGS, PIPITS

- European Starling
- American Pipit
- Sprague's Pipit

WAXWINGS

- Bohemian Waxwing
- Cedar Waxwing

WARBLERS

- Blue-winged Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler

- Northern Parula
- Yellow Warbler
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Magnolia Warbler
- Cape May Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Prairie Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Cerulean Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler
- American Redstart
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Worm-eating Warbler
- Ovenbird
- Northern Waterthrush
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Kentucky Warbler
- Connecticut Warbler
- Mourning Warbler
- MacGillivray's Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Hooded Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat

TANAGERS

- Summer Tanager
- Scarlet Tanager
- Western Tanager

TOWHEES

- Spotted Towhee
- Eastern Towhee

SPARROWS

- American Tree Sparrow
- Black-throated Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Lark Bunting
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow

- House Sparrow
- Baird's Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Harris's Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Lapland Longspur
- Smith's Longspur
- Chestnut-collared Longspur
- Snow Bunting

CARDINALS, ALLIES

- Northern Cardinal
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak
- Lazuli Bunting
- Indigo Bunting
- Dickcissel

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

ORIOLES

- Orchard Oriole
- Baltimore Oriole

FINCHES

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

Bird-watching Journal

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL

BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Lined writing area on the left page of the journal.

Lined writing area on the right page of the journal.

THE GREAT LAKES BIRDING
TRAIL GUIDE IS A COOPERATIVE
SERVICE OF THE FOLLOWING.



GREAT LAKES
OF *South Dakota* TOURISM ASSOCIATION



South Dakota
Office of Tourism



Missouri Breaks Audubon



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Photographers **Doug Backlund**, Wild Photos Photography
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South Dakota

GREAT LAKES BIRDING TRAIL



BIRDS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION