

November 2014
Newsletter



PRAIRIE FALCON

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Newsletter

Thursday

November 20th

**First United Methodist
Church**

Media Center

117 N. Central Ave

Board Meeting

6:30 pm

Regular Meeting

7:30 pm

Presenter:

Ruben Mares

**"History and Current Status
of Fort Pierre National
Grasslands"**

Christmas Bird Count

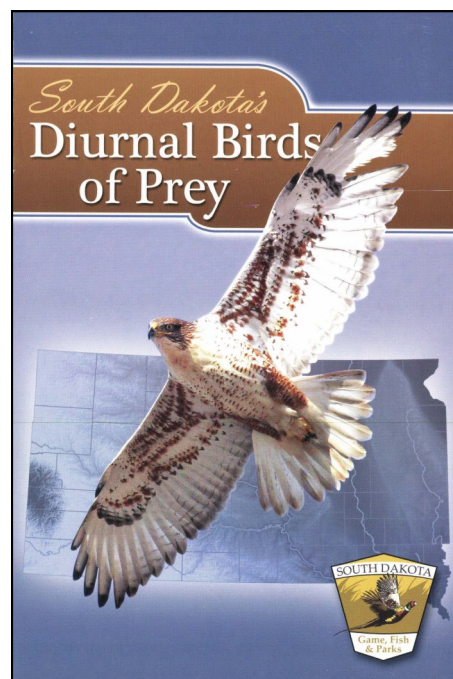
Saturday

December 20th, 2014

THIS MONTH:

South Dakota's Diurnal Birds of Prey

Game, Fish and Parks recently published a new book on South Dakota Raptors. Written and compiled by Eileen Dowd Stukel, this new book includes color photos and descriptions of 19 species of hawks, falcons and eagles, plus two diurnal owl species. Most of the photos are by Doug Backlund. Request free publications online at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/critters/birds/default.aspx>. Or, by calling 605-223-7660.



**USD student studies Common Nighthawk (from
Associated Press via Rapid City Journal)**

A researcher at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion spent a lot of time on the roof of several flat-top buildings on campus to study the habits of a nocturnal bird.

Biology graduate student Gretchen Newberry had to go where the Common Nighthawk commonly nests. She got permission and watched the birds on top of the I.D. Weeks Library, Al Neuharth Media Center and Richardson Residential Hall when they nested last summer.

The medium-sized, mottled gray-and-white species is found throughout nearly all of North America in the summer and they migrate deep into South America during winter.

Nighthawk numbers appear to be dwindling. The North American Breeding Bird Survey says populations have declined 59 percent from 1966 to 2010.

MISSOURI BREAKS
AUDUBON CHAPTER

National Audubon Society
Box 832, Pierre, SD 57501
Established 1978

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Dave Johnson, *Membership*

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New Website Location

This newsletter and other valuable birding links are all available at our website, <http://www.missouribreaksaudubon.org>

Weather brings fall migrants:

The recent cold weather and strong winds have brought in and through some fall migrants to the area. Many snow geese were seen in the area and were essentially gone the next day! Would that be considered a fallout? Doug Backlund located a Pine Warbler at Farm Island. Ricky Olson has seen at least 5 species of gulls near the tailraces: Herring, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's, Lesser Black Backed, and Thayers. Kris Dozark noticed many Hooded Mergansers in their frequent location in the southeast corner of Capital Lake. There have also been reports of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs along the face of the dam and along roadsides.

High school's avian mascots

Watching the South Dakota High School football championships this weekend I started wondering about avian mascot names. There were two teams that had avian mascots: Wolsey-Wessington Warbirds and the Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central Blackhawks! My curiosity got the best of me and I decided to look up other bird related mascots for high schools in South Dakota. There are five "Eagles", four "Cardinals", three "Pheasants", three "Falcons", a couple "Nighthawks, Golden Eagles, and Hawks", one each of the "Orioles, C-Hawks, Skyhawks, Thunder Hawks, Tanagers, Warbirds and Blackhawks". And my favorite is the Tiospa Zina Wambdi, which translates to Eagles.