

## Chapter 1 : Where To Find Birds

*South Dakota Birding. Where East Meets West. South Dakota is blessed with many varied habitats from the western edge of the tallgrass prairie to the more westerly shortgrass prairie and on into the small mountainous region known as the Black Hills.*

The male ring-necked pheasant is a spectacular looking bird. He has a shiny green head with short "horns" of feathers, a naked red face, a white ring around his neck, and a shiny copper-colored breast. The female is less flashy. She is mottled brown and black and is smaller than the male. A male ring-necked pheasant is approximately 34 inches. The female is only 25 inches. Distribution The ring-necked pheasant can be found throughout most of South Dakota, except for the Black Hills. This bird, however, was originally from China. The first successful introduction of the pheasant into the United States occurred in Oregon in 1872. Many attempts were made to introduce the bird into South Dakota, but the first successful introduction occurred in Spink County in 1873. Ebbert, adjoining farmers south of Doland, released the pheasants into the wild. Since that time, the South Dakota pheasant population has fluctuated from a high of 16 million birds to a low of 1. In 1970, the pheasant population was estimated to be around 5 million birds. Table 1 includes data on South Dakota pheasant populations and hunting records from 1873 through 1970. The highest population density of pheasants used to occur in east-central South Dakota, but currently the greatest numbers of birds are found in the south-central part of the state. Natural History Pheasants are polygamous. The males start claiming territories in March. They mark their territory by crowing at the boundaries. The male tries to attract females to his territory. In April, the male mates with several females. Each female will then look for a nesting site and begin to lay eggs. She nests on the ground, using leaves, grass, and breast feathers as lining for the nest. She will lay from 10 to 12 eggs, one each day. When the last egg has been laid, she will start incubating them. Many predators, such as cats, dogs, skunks, raccoons, weasels, mink, fox, hawks, owls and coyotes, threaten nesting hens and their eggs. However, the hens are very good at hiding in the grass. If a nest is destroyed, the hen will reneest. Her eggs will hatch after 21 to 24 days of incubation. She will only raise one brood of young per year. Pheasants have precocial young. The precocial chicks are downy and are able to walk as soon as they are dry. The young develop quickly. Because they need a high protein diet to aid their rapid growth, young pheasants eat a lot of insects, comprising up to 90 percent of their diet. They are able to make short flights at 2 weeks of age, and reach adult size by October or November. Prime pheasant habitat occurs in areas with a mixture of grain fields, grasslands, and woodlands or thickets. In these areas, they can attain the four basic needs of wildlife; food, water, shelter, and space. Adult pheasants feed on a variety of seeds, insects, and berries. The majority of their diet consists of grains, such as corn, wheat, oats, barley, and buckwheat, that have fallen to the ground. Large numbers of pheasants can be found in areas where greater than 50 percent of the land is under cultivation. Pheasants get the water they need from seeds, berries, dew, and rainwater pools. The reason pheasants are so often seen along roadsides is that they, like many other seed-eating birds, eat gravel. Cover is especially important for pheasants. They need protection from the cold and snow during the long winters. Woodlands or thickets serve as protection from the cold winds and snow. Wetland vegetation also can provide cover during the winter. These hiding places are equally important to the birds as safe havens from predators. Grassland cover is needed for the nesting hens during the spring. Population numbers reported each year show that South Dakota usually has the largest population of pheasants in the United States. The pheasant has been economically important to the state of South Dakota. Pheasant hunting brings in millions of dollars in revenue each year. The amount of money brought in fluctuates with pheasant population numbers. While pheasants are hardy birds, they experience a high turnover each year. The most vulnerable birds are the young of the year. More pheasants will survive the winter if plenty of food and cover is available. Intensive farming practices are hard on pheasants. Not only is less waste grain available for food, but pesticides and chemical fertilizers can have ill effects. Pesticides destroy weedy and woody cover needed for protection and destroy insects needed

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by the young for rapid development. Chemical fertilizers can cause nitrate poisoning in pheasants. Wildlife managers, besides providing habitat, manage pheasant populations by keeping records of pheasant densities, productivity, and mortality. They establish population numbers using pheasant and hunter surveys. One survey they do is "cock crowing counts. Glossary Polygamous - situation in which a male mates with more than one female. Precocial - young that are covered with feathers and are capable of moving around immediately after hatching. Predator - an animal that kills and consumes other animals for food. References Bent, Arthur Cleveland. Dover Publications, New York. Upland Game Biologist, S. South Dakota Conservation Digest 51 3: South Dakota Ornithologists Union. The Birds of South Dakota. Crestwood House, Mankato, MN.

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### Chapter 2 : South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

*The Birds of South Dakota [South Dakota Ornithologists' Union] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Handbook of the Birds of the World, Vol. Sandgrouse to Cuckoos H. This description still applies. As in the previous volumes, the layout consists of a long section describing each bird family covered. Topics include systematics, morphology, habitat, behaviour, voice, breeding, movements, and relationships with people, including status and conservation. Following this come a series of species accounts, with notes on taxonomy, distribution with a map, description, habitat, food, breeding, migration, status and conservation, and a bibliography. The family description is lavishly illustrated with stunning color photographs. These photos must be the result of digital technology, as they are uniformly excellent, at times approaching three-dimensional. Outstanding in this volume is a photo of a Greater Roadrunner grasping in its beak a large rattlesnake. Another photograph is of a nearly surrealistic mob of green, blue and yellow lorries, so closely packed together that there is no space between the individuals. In front of each species account section lie a series of paintings showing each of the species covered usually males, but occasionally other plumages. The editors apologize in the introduction that the number of artists has increased from about a dozen to The editors are concerned about style variations. To me, the paintings look uniformly excellent, and those of cockatoos by Lewington approach photographic quality. In total, there are 70 color plates and photographs in the volume. I also notice that, beginning with the cuckoos, voice is included with the species descriptions, whereas for previous families this aspect was only covered for the family in general. This addition will be very helpful with the upcoming passerine volumes. Volume 4 comes with two added features. The first is a print of a perky Ostrich head taken from the cover of the first volume. The second is more valuable, an introductory lecture on the nature of our understanding of the species concept as it applies to birds. Ornithologists tend to think of birds species as real, rather than subjective, entities. It turns out that there are three schools of thought, those that hold to the typographical concept, the biological concept, or the phylogenetic concept. Depending on which concept you hold dear, the result in numbers of bird species recognized ranges from about 8, to 20,! The author, Jurgen Haffer, argues for the biological species concept with resultant conservative totals. This forward is not easy reading and could probably have benefited by doubling its dozen pages for the benefit of the lay reader. However, the foreword, along with the introduction to avian biology in the first volume, result in a sophisticated ornithology course for any reader. So not only do you get a wonderful reference book, you get an ornithology course too. You can glean a powerful amount of data by just skimming these volumes. I have decided to read the family accounts cover to cover. Even if I retain only a fraction of the information contained within, I will vastly increase my ornithological knowledge. For example, did you know that pigeons and doves are almost the only birds to suck water when they drink? As said in my initial review, these books deserve whatever sacrifices you might need to make for their purchase. The quality of the series makes the price well worth the sacrifice. If the volumes are beyond your budget, you should make every effort to have your regional library obtain them. Information on pricing and even ordering forms, along with examples from each volume, can be obtained on the Internet at <http://>

### Chapter 3 : South Dakota Ornithologists' Union - Vol. 50, no. 2; June | Lynx Edicions

*The Birds of South Dakota by South Dakota Ornithologists' Union starting at \$ The Birds of South Dakota has 1 available editions to buy at Alibris.*

### Chapter 4 : Links - State Organizations and Checklists

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*Come to the Fall South Dakota Ornithologists' Union meeting in Madison, SD on November Learn more about birds, go birding and mingle with others who love birds. Non-members are welcome to attend.*

### Chapter 5 : South Dakota Ornithologists Union | NHBS Book Shop

*I love to learn about birds and I'm looking forward to learning more at the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union fall meeting/paper session in Madison, SD, which is only 12 days away.*

### Chapter 6 : Ring-necked Pheasant

*This section of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union website provides a place for members to share their stories of birding adventures within the state and beyond as well as publish other short items of interest that may not fit the criteria for South Dakota Bird Notes. You must be a member in good standing to write a post which is then.*

### Chapter 7 : Philip A. DuMont Papers, MS , Special Collections Department, Iowa State University Library

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