

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

Official Publication
of
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
(Organized 1949)

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—CUT COURTESY WILSON BULLETIN

Nest of American Bittern

South Dakota Bird Notes, the Organ of South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Adults, \$3.00; Juniors (12-16) \$1.00 per year. Subscription rate (for non-members) \$4.00 per year, single copies \$1.00. Published Quarterly.

*"The purposes for which this corporation is formed are to encourage study of birds in South Dakota and to promote the study of Ornithology by more closely uniting students of this branch of natural science."
Articles of Incorporation, South Dakota Ornithologists Union.*

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

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President's Page



J. S. FINDLEY
SIOUX FALLS

OUR CONSTITUTION says the aim of SDOU is to "encourage the study of birds in South Dakota and to promote the study of ornithology by more closely uniting the students of this branch of natural science."

Most of us do not need encouragement so much as we need more time for bird-study and some direction of our activities. We amuse ourselves with our bird-watching, but we can have added pleasure by working with others on definite projects and sharing our experiences by telling about them. We can promote bird-study by initiating others, who quickly become enthusiasts when they learn how much downright fun there is in it.

We can make a contribution to the study of birds in South Dakota and to ornithology by finding the answers to some of the many questions. There is considerable doubt whether all the species of this state have been found, whether their ranges are known, whether some of them are only transients or nest within the state, what are their habits, why we have them and why we do not have others.

Dr. Over listed in *Birds of South Dakota* 380 species, but since he published the list several more species have been found. No one knows what others remain undiscovered, challenging us to go and find them, to study them, to answer some of the questions about them, and to add to the sum of knowledge.

Our field is big and has not been worked exhaustively. Actually, little has been done. It is at the meeting of East and West, with many of the species

of both. It is on one of the principal migration flyways where we have opportunities, spring and fall, to see many species, with better chances than most bird students have to make discoveries, to study birds, to collect data and to answer questions.

As we do these things we want to share our experiences with other members of SDOU and the country's other ornithologists and to record our observations. The medium for this is *South Dakota Bird Notes*, which is interesting reading because it is the record of our own birding and valuable because it deals with ornithology of a part of the country not treated in other journals. All of us can help Editor Chapman.

The biggest item on the budget is for the publication of *Bird Notes*. It would be fine if we could print more pictures, enlarge our quarterly and dress it up, but we must be practical and stay "in the black." Our only revenue is from our membership fees. If we increase the size of *Bird Notes*, it will take more money and that will mean more members. The membership committee has an important job and needs the help of all of us. Each can help by getting at least one new member and by submitting names of persons who are interested.

SDOU is young and has taken its place among state ornithological organizations, but perhaps there is still further service it can give at home. It collects information of general interest as well as special data. We are organizing a new committee to distribute ornithological items and news to the papers of the state. Good birding!!

BIRD STUDY BY JUVENILE GROUPS

(Note: The following article appeared in the April, 1951, issue of North and South Dakota Horticulture. The author, a director of SDOU, reports that over a hundred children went on bird hunts at Madison, S. D. in May, 1951.)

REPORT FROM BIRD CHAIRMAN

By
Ruth Habeger

This is a good way to contact all Garden Club Bird Chairmen. I am sorry that I have not had time to write letters to each of you. I appreciate the fact that many club members are very interested in birds and I have tried to answer promptly letters asking for help.

Perhaps a brief outline of the work done by the Madison Garden Club may be a help to you. At each meeting we have had short talks or discussions on birds, or we have had a bird panel. The latter has proven most successful because the chairman can guide the questioning period and keep the members on the topic under discussion. Our garden club plans to have an early morning May bird breakfast for the members of the club interested in birds. We will report on it at a later date.

Our most surprising result has been with the Junior Garden Clubs of the city. On a nice day in late April or in early May before the trees leaf out, notices are sent to our three Junior Garden Clubs that there will be a meeting in the city park for bird study. We have handled nicely ninety children at a time by the following procedure:

The children are divided into groups of eight or ten (never more than ten). In order to separate children from the same schools and to eliminate the rivalry common between schools, we had the children count off into groups. Then we put all ones in group one, twos in group two, and so on. For each group there was a competent adult guide put in charge. You will be surprised how many of your adult garden club members, college students and teachers offer to help as guides and do a creditable job.

Methods used by guides should be uniform. Guides should come prepared with materials to keep records, bird books and bird glasses.

Each guide and his group are assigned a definite area of the city park or farther afield if he has a car to transport all of his group. In this way various habitats are covered. The group chooses a secretary who, with the help of the guide, keeps a record of all the birds seen on their bird walk. There is a time limit, usually forty-five minutes, when all must return to a definite place to make a report of their observations.

When all groups have returned oral reports are given. It takes a whistle to quiet the children because they are always excited and want to tell children of the other groups what they found. Each secretary gets up where all can see and hear him and he reads off the list of birds his group has seen and answers questions the children may ask. It is important to compliment a group on accurate lists and good observations and to avoid too much competition over length of list. A complete list of birds seen by all the groups is compiled and is published in the city paper. Such a list not only stimulates city-wide interest but arouses also the interest of the children who have participated. It is always gratifying to have the children remember from year to year some of the less common migrants.

I hope some of the other garden clubs of South Dakota try a similar bird hunt and write me of their experiences. The children are always eager participants. All you need is some guides and a few well-laid plans for such an excursion. You will find the experience rewarding.

Mrs. H. J. Wagner, 1818 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the national bird chairman. She has a limited number of pamphlets called "Save Our Birds."

SDOU Spring Meeting, 1951

THE 4th annual meeting of SDOU was held in Vermillion, May 5, 6, 1951. Local arrangements were handled by a committee under chairman Dr. W. R. Hurt, and the program had been arranged by Miss Ruth Habeger. Meetings were held in the Students' Union Building and began with President I. D. Weeks welcoming SDOU to the University campus. Dr. G. B. Spawn, President of SDOU, responded, thanking the University, Dr. Weeks and the committee.

At the business session directors whose terms expired were re-elected: M. E. Burgi, Springfield; J. S. Findley, Sioux Falls; S. H. Rames, Mitchell; Mrs. H. B. Stevens, Hot Springs; C. A. Van Epps, Huron. James Kimball had resigned as Director because he was moving from the state. Cecil Haight, Spearfish, was elected to fill the vacancy. The Directors held a meeting at which officers for the year were chosen: J. S. Findley, Sioux Falls, President; Kenneth Krumm, Martin, Vice-President; M. E. Burgi, Springfield, Treasurer; W. B. Mallory, Canton, Secretary; and H. F. Chapman, Sioux Falls, Editor and Librarian.

Kenneth Krumm, Manager of the La Creek Refuge, started the program with a discussion of Birds of the Short Grass, which emphasized to many of us the great number of species in South Dakota and how little is known, outside of the state, of their distribution and presence.

Wilson Tout, North Platte, Nebr., a charter member of SDOU, also a charter member of Nebraska Ornithologists' Union in which he has held membership for over fifty years and of which he has served as president, gave a demonstration of his method of interesting junior high school pupils in bird-study. This was complete down to the distribution of candy bars at the end.

Miss Ruth Habeger, General Beadle State Teachers College, Madison, con-

ducted a panel on Bird-study in the Field and Record-keeping. Participating with her were Mr. Tout, M. E. Burgi, who described his experiences with college students, and C. A. Van Epps, with his Boy Scouts.

Wallace Maarsingh, Dakota Wesleyan, Mitchell, could not attend but deposited his paper on Methods of Making Bird Surveys.

Willis Hall, Yankton, discussed Cover and Feed, using his own colored slides for illustrations.

Cecil Haight, Spearfish, presented a paper on Birds of the Hills, to round out the discussion of the avifauna of the western part of the state. It is evident there are several species yet to be added to the South Dakota list, and this paper again emphasized the field that can be worked by SDOU.

The films exhibited at the various sessions included "Birds of the Inland Waterways," "Identification of Hawks," and excellent pictures taken on the Bear River Refuge.

In the evening a fine banquet was served in Dakota Hall. Contributing to the enjoyment of the occasion was the bird whistling of Miss Lyn Hartgrove, Madison. Then the meeting adjourned to the Museum for an open house with Dr. Over.

After an early breakfast the next morning, the members drove to nearby Burbank for a field trip through the woods by the sloughs and ox-bows by the Missouri River. It started auspiciously with an unforgettable sight of hundreds of Tree Swallows resting on the branches of a snag in the water and reflecting the early morning sunlight from their metallic blue backs. It also ended on a high note with the observation of a South Dakota rarity, A Red-bellied Woodpecker, at the mouth of the Vermillion River near the location of one of Audubon's camps on the Missouri River one hundred years ago.

Pioneer Prairie Ornithologists

Austin Park Larrabee

ROSAMUND BURGJ HALL, YANKTON, S. D.

IT IS difficult to transfer the life of a man to paper. Perhaps it is not necessary to picture Austin Park Larrabee in words because many people, in South Dakota and elsewhere, know him for his kindness, ability as a teacher, and special interest in birds.

He was as much at home in South Dakota as a Western Meadowlark, but his speech was a constant reminder that he was born and reared in Maine. His sound formal education (Bowdoin B.A., Harvard M.A., the University of Iowa Ph.D.) had been interspersed with summer study in interesting spots (Woods Hole, Mass., the Bermudas, Stanford University.) His scholarship was attested by membership in Phi Beta Kappa and in Sigma Xi. He had explored nature from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but was an enthusiastic about the birds of the Yankton, South Dakota, vicinity as he could be anywhere.

After teaching five years in high school and seven years at Fairmont College in Kansas, he came to Yankton College, Yankton, S. D. in 1916. There he began his work in Ward Hall, where inadequate equipment did nothing to spoil the excellence of his instruction nor the delightfulness of his humor that came forth in his twinkling eyes and in his sprightly puns. He did his later teaching in Forbes Hall which he helped plan.

Though Dr. Larrabee's doctoral dissertation had to do with fish, birds were his special delight. His interest in birds

is one of long standing. Many of the bird skins in the Yankton College Museum (a collection for which we have him to thank) go back to his boyhood days in Maine. He has written for the *Maine Journal of Ornithology*, the *Wilson Bulletin*, the *Proceedings of the South Dakota Academy of Sciences*, and *Audubon Magazine* and its predecessors. He was the South Dakota representative for the Audubon Association from 1932 to 1938, making reports on birds seen near Yankton. For many years he took the Christmas Bird Count near Yankton, and before coming to South Dakota, around Wichita, Kansas. On those Counts he often took with him one of his sons, a student, a colleague, or an interested townsman.

In his last months of teaching at Yankton, he noted and reported the total absence that year of any Yellow Warblers and the presence of only one kind of vireo—the Warbling Vireo.

Dr. Larrabee taught ornithology both during the regular year and in the summer session. He often took his classes on trips to nearby rivers and swamps, to woods and valleys. In the summer he would start out on these trips before sunrise and as the birds began their calls he would reply with good imitations.

He retired in June, 1949, and now lives with his wife near Nelscott, Oregon, where he searches the hills and seashore for what has always been his chief delight, birds.

During March and April this year, Roger Tory Peterson taught a course in Bird Study at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. He was assisted by Dr. Irston Barnes, President of the D. of C. Audubon Society. The course included these subjects: Recognition of birds; Evolution of structures and adaptations to environment; Where and how birds live; Birds in flight and migration; Behavior of birds; Nesting; Bird calls and songs; and Bird population.

PITTMAN-ROBERTSON PERSONNEL

Stationed at various points throughout the state are technicians on Pittman-Robertson Projects. While they are specialists in various particular fields, many are much interested in Ornithology. Members of SDOU who get acquainted with them will be assured of having their full cooperation in field study of birds.

Bernard A. Nelson, State Office Bldg., Pierre.

John B. Farley, State Office Bldg., Pierre.

Eldon H. Smith, State Office Bldg., Pierre.

Maurice E. Anderson, 107½ S. Egan, Madison.

Lester M. Berner, 212 Main Street, Rapid City.

Wendell Bever, Custer.

G. Wayne Davis, 111 Siever St., Lead.

Wilbur C. Foss, 22½ W. 7th, Webster.

Robert Gage, Spearfish.

Lyle Geissing, Gettysburg.

Reuel Janson, Mobridge.

Leo Kirsch, 10—9th Ave. S.E., Aberdeen.

Ray Murdy, 22½ W. 7th, Webster.

Raymond Peterson, Spearfish.

Erling Podoll, 253—13th St. S.W., Huron.

Carl G. Trautman, 821—8th Ave., Brookings.

Since the foregoing directory was prepared for printing, the June, 1951, issue of *The Wilson Bulletin* has been delivered. At page 138 there is an article, "The Persecution of Predaceous Birds," which seems to connect rather directly with the suggestion that we get acquainted with the men whose salaries and expenses are paid from Pittman-Robertson Act funds. After discussing various types of educational activities designed to protect the so-called "Birds of Prey" the authors continue in this fashion:

"The education of the public is but one approach. What other chances are there for doing something positive for predaceous birds? In this era of cheap money, one wonders if there is not something to be garnered for the less-prized species. While non-game birds benefit considerably from the acquisition and development of refuge areas set aside annually with the use of Federal Aid funds, more than just a token acknowledgment is due this segment of bird fauna, particularly predatory species. Why not counter-balance the heavy subsidization of game investigations with some much needed research on non-game? There is danger of the present system nurturing the philosophy that

conservation is only for game species. . . . Notwithstanding the fact that a large portion of the money comes from the sportsman's pocket, any activity that does not adhere to the principle of saving all the flora and fauna is not true conservation.

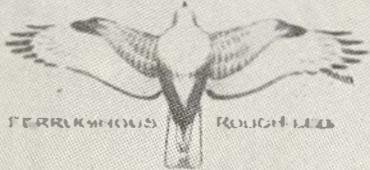
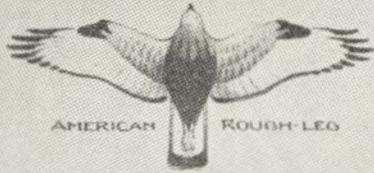
"Nothing in the wording of the Pittman-Robertson Act indicates that Federal Aid money may not be used for the benefit of non-game species. Selection of projects appears to be a matter of choice with the states, and the emphasis upon game species was natural in the early days of the assistance program. . . . Perhaps it is now time to question whether some of the game research money being spent is really well spent. Would it be better spent is applied to a less intensively cultivated field of wildlife investigation, namely predaceous birds?"

Here is a question members of SDOU may properly discuss among themselves and with Pittman-Robertson personnel, as well as with members of the State Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

The eagles, hawks, falcons and owls of South Dakota should be considered and treated with more common sense and with less foolish prejudice!—HFC

WESTERN HAWKS

BROAD-WINGED - RODENT HAWKS



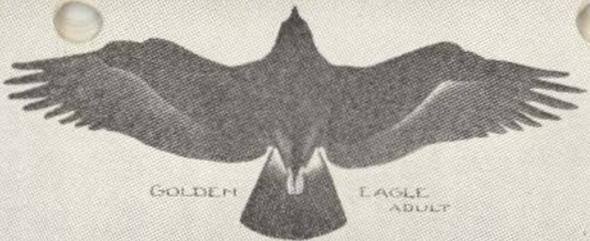
SHORT-WINGED BIRD HAWKS



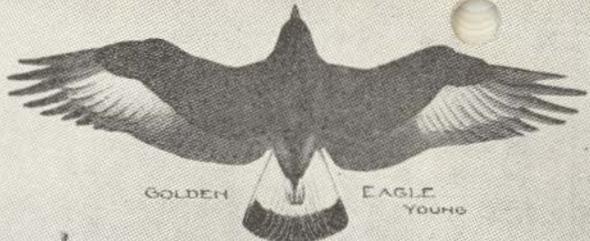
POINTED-WINGED FALCONS



RING-TAILED-MOUNTAIN EAGLE

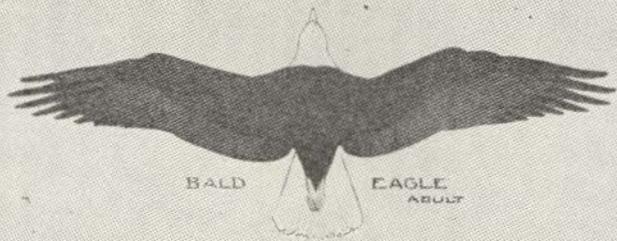


GOLDEN EAGLE ADULT

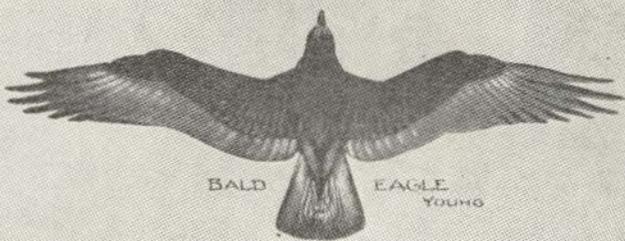


GOLDEN EAGLE YOUNG

WHITE-HEADED-FISH-EATING EAGLE



BALD EAGLE ADULT



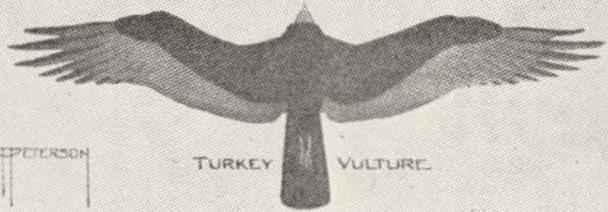
BALD EAGLE YOUNG

WHITE-HEADED-FISHING HAWK



OSPREY

SMALL-HEADED-CARRION BIRD



TURKEY VULTURE

H. PETERSON

(Cut Courtesy S. D. Conservation Digest)

General Notes of Special Interest

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Here's what Wilson Tout, Chairman of the President's Committee of the Nebraska Ornithologists Union, recently told his co-workers. Mr. Tout is past president and a charter member of N.O.U., a newspaper man and author of "Birds of Lincoln County."

"The editor of the Nebraska Bird Review has two important duties. One is to decide what is to be printed in the Review and the other is to make the needed revisions in the copy offered so it will meet the standards of the publication.

The members of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union have the obligation to send him items about their bird observations. We have not been doing this and the editor is sometimes out of copy and at his wits end to fill the pages.

It is not necessary that the items submitted by the NOU members be unusual. The idea is to print items in the Review that will enable those interested to add something to their knowledge of the bird life of this state.

"Is it true?" should be the first test of every item. When an observer sees two birds that belong to the same species, he is not at liberty to call them a pair as a pair is understood to be male and female. The male and female Redwing and the male and female Cardinal are so different that one can readily tell if he sees a pair or just two. It is difficult to tell the male Robin or Blue Jay from the female so they should be described as two, not a pair, unless we know it is a pair. Every item should tell the exact truth as we see it.

Food habits are important. Dried apples, still hanging on a tree in January, are eaten by some birds and passed up by others. When we see a bird in that apple tree we are not justified in reporting that it was eating the dried apples, unless we saw it in the act.

The Snowy Owl has been reported in the Bird Review and elsewhere, from many places in this state through the years. And yet it is not common. Students of bird life all over the nation scan every bit of literature to get these reports. From them they learn which years the Snowy Owl visited different parts of the United States in winter and of their comparative abundance. They work this information into cycles and deduct conclusions as to the causes of their irregular migrations. So every item about Snowy Owls is important. Winter appearances in Nebraska of the Snow Bunting, Mountain Bluebird, Pinon Jay, Solitaire, Evening Grosbeak, Clark's Nutcracker, etc. are important and should be reported.

Unusual dates of arrival and departure of migrants, unusual nesting sites, abnormal clutches of eggs, ground nesting records, accidents to birds, etc. are interesting. Members should send in all their items of interest about birds and leave it to the editor to use those he thinks best.

All items should be sent to the editor of the Nebraska Bird Review. His name and address is printed in each issue of the Review."

* * * * *

WOOD DUCKS AT PIERRE, S. D.—One pair of Wood Ducks was seen on Capitol Lake, at Pierre, S. D., April 14, 15, 16, and 17. For a period of about a week prior to the observation of the pair, the female was seen at the Lake, feeding on grain in company with Mallards and other ducks.—J. B. Owen, Fish and Wild Life Service, Pierre, S. D.

LINCOLN'S SPARROWS AT MADISON, S. D.—I added Lincoln's Sparrow to my life-list this spring. Why such an inconspicuous bird should be so wary is a mystery to me. Leon Dawson writes that this sparrow is the "Bird-afraid-of-his-shadow," and I agree with Mr. Dawson. About half a dozen of these sparrows worked around the base of a spirea hedge which borders the creek running through the city park at Madison. They always kept on the far side of the bushes and I had to spend considerable time observing them to be sure of my identification. I first saw them on May 10 and saw my last one May 14.

—Ruth Habegar, Madison, S. D.

MATING DISPLAY OF AM. BITTERN.—On May 24, 1951, about 5:00 p. m., one mile south of Waik Lake, in western Minnehaha County, six of us from our car at a distance of about 100 feet and with 8x binoculars watched the mating display of an American Bittern.

Two Bitterns were in a slough in grass that covered only part of their legs. The female was in a typical "frozen" pose. The male stood about 3 feet from her, with his head pointing at an angle of about 30° from the vertical and inclined toward the female. His neck was inflated to at least twice its normal size, making the black marks on the sides of the head and neck very prominent. Two white tufts of plumes about 4 inches long, on either side of his back about at the shoulders, waved in the fairly strong wind.

The male strutted and turned but in general faced and "stalked" the female. She may have been disturbed by the observers, (the male seemed oblivious to them) and lowered her head in a few minutes and slipped slowly toward tall weeds farther from the observers. As she moved, the male lowered his head and seemed to gulp. We heard no sound but the wind may have interfered. In a few minutes both birds had disappeared in tall growth near by.

We then drove on about 150 feet and saw a Bittern in reeds in the roadside ditch. It "froze" until we flushed it, then flew toward the place the others had been. When it was about halfway there the male flew up to meet it. His plumes were still visible. Both alighted near the place the first Bitterns had gone out of sight and we did not see any of them again.

It is possible the third Bittern was the one that had been in the act earlier, but it is doubtful whether there had been time enough for the trip as Bitterns usually move slowly, and there was good cover and feeding grounds on the first side of the road.

Subsequent examination of some of the literature makes us believe we witnessed a scene that is seldom observed. The descriptions vary, especially in regard to the location of the plumes. Roberts, *Birds of Minnesota*, "chanced to see" the display and says the two large white pompons were on the back between the shoulders. He quotes Breckenridge's description of the bird strutting, with its 4-inch plumes showing just about the point of the shoulders. Forbush and May mention the display as occurring sometimes during the mating season (especially when two males meet), the plumes, each of 9 or 10 light-colored feathers, being erected and spread like a ruff to the breast. In *Birds of America*, Pearson speaks of white plumes on the sides of the neck or breast which are concealed except during the mating antics. Taverner, *Birds of Canada*, says they are over the bend of the wings. Bagg and Eliot, *Birds of the Connecticut Valley*, place them on either side of the breast, and say they were first noted in 1905 and described in 1908 and that William Brewster first saw them in 1910, 45 years after he began bird-study.—Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Findley, Mrs. M. A. Stewart, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Dr. G. M. Stewart, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stewart, Tarkio, Mo.

LOVE SONG OF AMERICAN BITTERN.—Just before sunset on May 26, 1951, Mrs. Chapman and I were birding among the sloughs and potholes of western Minnehaha County. About four miles north of the place where Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Findley had observed the courtship of an American Bittern a day or two earlier, we saw a male Bittern in the short grass on the edge of the road ditch. As we waited and watched, the bird crouched, then made four well-spaced but quick, low, horizontal strokes with its head. There was noise with each stroke, made perhaps by snapping the bill. Apparently at the same time, the whole neck and upper breast (the entire area well-streaked with brown) become greatly distended. The bird then straightened up, and there followed the familiar "thunder-pumping." First, the bird made a convulsive pull-up of the pouch, at the same time striking out low and horizontally and making a low-pitched hollow sound which might be represented by "whonkk." Next followed a fast out-and-back head movement at about 45 degrees above horizontal; wide-open bill was quickly snapped shut; while a high-pitched, short "wheenk" was uttered. This also was accompanied by a flopping-up of the distended pouch. Four of each of these evenly-spaced alternate movements were made. Finally, with no inflation or distension visible, the bird stood with its bill pointed almost vertically. Presently, in perhaps two minutes, a similar set of sounds was repeated from a grassy slough some distance away, but we could not see the other bird. In a minute or two the one we watched started its performance again, and call and response were repeated a number of times. Our bird moved about a little from time to time, and once flew away a hundred yards or so, but not in the direction of the other caller, and almost immediately walked rapidly back to its original station. Eventually it flew over into the slough, almost directly away from the apparent source of the other calls. We could discover no bird near where it landed in the short vegetation. It seemed to us that the wing-beats were more rapid and shallower than in the usual flight. We were able to see clearly, even without glasses, the light-colored feathers which extended outward from among the dark back feathers between the bends of the wings. While these partially disappeared when the bird made flight, by the time the next vocal performance began they were showing fully again. They were very light buff, and with our glasses we saw a dark line which may have been the shaft of the feather. These were bunchy tufts only a few inches long, rather than of the floating-plume type which appears on the Great Blue Heron. During the past several years we have frequently seen American Bitterns in this general area throughout the late spring, summer and early fall, but this was our first observation of the outward mechanics of "thunder-pumping."

—H. F. Chapman, Sioux Falls, S. D.

OSPREY AND LITTLE BLUE HERON, AT JEFFERSON, S. D.—In late afternoon of April 25, 1951 at McCook Lake I saw a large hawklike bird approaching and soon recognized it as an Osprey. When this bird was about 300 yards away it hovered and then dove, feet first, into the water. It was out of sight for a short time but was soon floundering on the surface and, after considerable difficulty, took off with a fish about 18 inches in length. It wasn't able to gain altitude and soon disappeared into the willows and cottonwoods. Ospreys were seen here at numerous times during the next two or three weeks. I observed one catch a 12-inch carp at Loblolly Lake and fly off with it with no difficulty. It is interesting to note that the Osprey carries the fish head foremost and not crosswise.

May 20th while Wm. Youngworth and I were hunting warblers we had the good fortune to flush from a small slough one Little Blue Heron in all white plumage—needless to say it was beautiful. We had a good enough look to know that it wasn't an Egret as we had first suspected.—William Felton, Jefferson, S. D.

SNOWY OWLS, ABERDEEN AREA—

Date	No.	Location
11/8/50	2	1½ miles west of Sand Lake Refuge HQ
11/16/50	1	Sand Lake Refuge
11/19/50	3	Sand Lake Refuge
11/21/50	7	Sand Lake Refuge
11/24/50	1	3 miles north of Columbia
11/26/50	1	Richmond Lake
11/28/50	1	Day County (exact location not known)
12/20/50	1	4 miles south of Aberdeen
1/5/51	1	5 miles west and 4 south of Aberdeen
1/5/51	1	2 miles west and 4 south of Aberdeen
1/11/51	1	1½ miles southeast of Mina Lake
1/9/51	1	5 miles east and 1 south of Fredrick
1/12/51	1	3 miles west and 2 north of Aberdeen
1/12/51	1	3 miles west of Westport
1/13/51	1	3 miles south of Aberdeen
1/25/51	1	2 miles east of Huffton
1/25/51	1	3 miles northwest of Britton
1/27/51	1	3 miles north and 2 west of Aberdeen
1/30/51	1	3 miles east and 7 north of Aberdeen
2/4/51	1	4 miles east and 8 north of Aberdeen
2/6/51	1	5 miles north of Ipswich
2/12/51	1	5 miles south of Wetonka
2/15/51	1	5 miles south and 4 east of Wetonka
2/17/51	1	½ mile south of junction of Putney Slough and Hy. 37
3/13/51	2	3 miles north of Wetonka

Some owls observed at Sand Lake were not recorded because they were believed to be repeats.—Lco Kirsch, Aberdeen, S. D.

COMPOSITE LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED AT VERMILLION, CLAY COUNTY, S. D., MAY 6, 1951, ON ANNUAL FIELD TRIP OF SDOU:—Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Lesser Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup Duck, Shoveller, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, *Ring-necked Pheasant, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Nighthawk, Northern Flicker, *Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Prairie Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Eastern Bluebird, *Starling, *Yellow-throated Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Grinnell's Water Thrush, *House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Evening Grosbeak, Red-eyed Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow. A total of 76 species.

Species indicated by * were not included in Visher's List of Birds of Clay County, Wilson Bull. June 1915. That list enumerated 255 species which had been observed during the period 1854-1915.—HFC

WINTER VISITANTS AT PINE RIDGE—On the 30th day of January, 1951, a flock of approximately 30 Goldfinches and 60 Pine Siskins was in the weeds in our back yard. We have never before seen mixed flocks, but as Siskins were not common with us in Iowa, this is probably the reason. Perhaps 50 to 100 Robins have been here all winter. We see them every few days. There have been flocks of Longspurs, but too far away to identify the species through the windows. An occasional American Rough-leg and Marsh Hawk have been seen. One flock of Pinon Jays was near here in early February but they must be common winter residents in this part of the state. I occasionally see a Magpie from the window. Horned Larks have appeared off and on all winter, and probably have increased in number during February.—Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, Pine Ridge, S. D.

EGRETS AND WOOD DUCKS IN S. E. SO. DAK.—On two occasions during early May, 1951, I observed two Egrets (possibly Snowy) feeding near the outlet of Swan Lake in Turner County. Last year several were there for about a week.

I had a report of a Wood Duck nest, containing a dozen eggs, about two miles south of Canton, S. D., near Beaver Creek, but, when I investigated, the duck was not in sight and there were no eggs in the nest. Last summer I observed several hen Wood Ducks with broods of young on the Sioux River near Hudson, S. D.—F. L. Sundling, State Game Warden, Canton, S. D.

SCARLET TANGERS IN S. E. SO. DAK.—This year there have been more than the usual number of reports of Scarlet Tanagers in southeastern South Dakota. The W. B. Mallory's saw one in Canton. Others were identified in Newton Hills, ten miles south of Canton, by Bill Gobel and by C. H. Rogge. Miss Maude Linahan found a dead second-year male in her yard in Sioux Falls. This was in the same neighborhood where C. H. Rogge observed Scarlet Tanagers twice last year. The most unusual experience was reported by Miss Ruth Habeger, who says that a male and a female Scarlet Tanager landed on the window ledge of the second grade room at General Beadle College school, Madison, for the teacher and all the pupils in the room to see.

Are these Tanagers extending their range as Cardinals have? Have the planting and growth of our trees made an acceptable habitat? Is it a temporary influx? Whatever the cause, we are glad to see them.

—J. S. Findley, Sioux Falls, S. D.

NESTING OF BARN SWALLOW—Ludlow Griscom, in *Modern Bird Study*, in support of his statement that not all birds are adaptable, cites the lack of reports, at least from northeastern U.S., of Barn Swallows using any nesting site other than a building. On a recent trip into northwestern South Dakota, where sets of ranch buildings are at least several miles apart, we saw Barn Swallows skimming under and around a wooden bridge across a small and nearly dry stream bed. We found an empty, cup-shaped nest of mud plastered against the side of a beam, resting on the projecting end of a bolt, several inches below the bridge floor. Since it was lined and edged with several fairly large fluffy feathers, and the Swallows flew close to us, uttering faint chipping calls, we believed we had found a nest of the Barn Swallow. Have other SDOU members made similar observations?—Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Chapman, Sioux Falls, S. D.

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James W. Kimball, formerly of Pierre, S. D., has accepted an appointment under the Regional Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with headquarters at 1006 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, Minn. After July 1, his home address will be 216 South Thomas, Minneapolis. "Jim" was one of the charter members of SDOU and was elected a Director at the organization meeting in 1949. He resigned his Directorship prior to the May meeting of SDOU.

Books and Articles About Birds

MIGRATION OF BIRDS. By F. C. Lincoln. Circular 16, Fish & Wildlife Service, 1950. 102 pages, paper covers, illustrated with 23 charts, with bird portraits. Supt. of Pub. Documents, Washington, D.C. 30c, (and worth much more!)

The 86 pages of text are supplemented by Appendix I., giving common and scientific names of each bird mentioned; while II., furnishes a brief description of and short operating directions for Bird Banding. The 5-page bibliography should be helpful to the student who wishes to go further than the text takes one. There is an ample index. The charts indicate migration routes of various species.

While recognition is given to the various theories concerning the different phases of Bird Migration, the little book is crammed with facts, interestingly told. Mr. Lincoln's years of travel and study during his long association with the federal service have qualified him for the good job he has done in presenting this popular-scientific treatment of matters which puzzle and interest many "bird-watchers."—HFC

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The June, 1951, issue of National Geographic Magazine carries an article, "The Bird's Year," by Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Professor of Ornithology at Cor-

nell University. It is illustrated with 44 pictures, 36 in natural color, from photographs by the author. It is good reading and the pictures should not be missed.—JSF

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WHERE BIRDS LIVE. Habitats in the Middle Atlantic States. Edited by Shirley A. Briggs and Chandler S. Robbins. Published by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, Box 202, Benj. Franklin Stn. Washington 4, D.C. 58 pages, 30 illustrations, 75c.

"The chapters in this book have appeared from time to time in the Atlantic Naturalist and its predecessor, The Wood Thrush. They were prepared primarily to assist bird watchers who are beginning to get acquainted with the birds of the Washington Region. However, it is hoped that in their present form they may appeal to a wider audience." Separate chapters deal with 12 types of habitat, a majority of which may be found in South Dakota. These treatments of particular environmental conditions should help one to answer the question "What species ought to be found here?" The whole series of papers emphasizes, as John W. Aldrich points out, that "conservation of habitat is an essential part of any conservation program designed to protect birds."

—HFC

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AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

During the coming winter Audubon Screen Tours will again be presented by various South Dakota organizations. Some speakers, new to S.D.O.U., will appear. The schedules now available are as follows:

Huron: Dec. 4, Roger T. Peterson "Riddle of Migration;" Jan. 17, Lucie Palmer "Underwater Kingdom;" Feb. 14, Bert Harwell "Canada North;" March 7, Howard Cleaves "Midnight Movies in Animal Land;" April 25, Carl Buchheister "Wildlife Down East."

Sioux Falls: Oct. 15, W. J. Breckenridge "Paul Bunyan Country;" Jan. 15, Lucie Palmer "Underwater Kingdom;" Feb. 12, Bert Harwell "Canada North;" March 6, Howard Cleaves "Animals Unaware;" April 23, Carl W. Buchheister "Wildlife Down East."

Brookings: Dec. 3, Roger Tory Peterson "Riddle of Migration;" Jan. 16, Lucie Palmer "Underwater Kingdom;" Feb. 13, Bert Harwell "Canada North;" March 10, Howard Cleaves "Midnight Movies in Animal Land;" April 28, Carl W. Buchheister, "Wildlife Down East."

Field Identification

Somewhere in my recent reading I ran across an article on field identification, but failed to note the source. Here's a list of characteristics which it was suggested should be observed as aids to quick and certain identification: (1) Any unusual feature, such as a crest or contrasting colors; (2) which of the upper parts show white; (3) shape, size and color of bill; (4) type and color of legs; (5) color scheme on sides and top of head, on throat and on breast; (6) comparative size.

It was stated that the "identification experts" were often aided by some of these factors: (a) flight; (b) general color pattern; (c) comparative size; (d) shape, build and carriage; (e) behavior and style of movement, (walk or hop); (f) habitat; and (g) season.

There is an article in *The Auk* for 1925, pp. 209-18, on the various types of flight.—H. F. C.

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SONG OF THE LARK

Opening the door in the morning
To a fresh wind from the north
I look to the crimson cloud banks
And eagerly venture forth.
I know how they felt, those pagans,
As the sun in the east came up
And the whole enchanted horizon
Was the edge of a golden cup.
For the mountains are burning with
beauty
In pursuit of the fugitive dark;
Enraptured, my spirit is bathing
In the soaring sweet song of the lark.
—Maretta Conway Kennard in *Pieces of Eight*.

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The set of 36 full color Wildlife stamps issued by the National Wildlife Federation for 1951 includes animals, trees and the following birds: Gadwall, Indigo Bunting, Virginia Rail, Willow Ptarmigan, Dickcissel, Western Grebe, Evening Grosbeak, White Gyrfalcon, Franklin's Gull, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Prairie Warbler, Scott's Oriole, Mallard Duck, and Ring-necked Pheasant. Available at \$1.00 from National Wildlife Federation, 3308 Fourteenth Street, N. W., Washington 10, D. C.

Favorite Birds

While the late Dr. T. C. Stephens was Editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*, he received a letter asking which was his favorite bird. Here is his answer:

"I think I will have to say that I have no favorites among the birds. One interests me about as much as another. Yet I would not claim to be devoid of sentiment about them.

"However, I am going to try to accommodate you by picking out a list of twelve birds which I like best. The birds I would rather retain if all the others had to go would be those which do not hide themselves away where I can not easily see them; and I would want those which are numerous enough to serve the purpose for which I am choosing them.

I will choose six birds because of their grace and beauty or song: Western Meadowlark, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, Field Sparrow and Wilson's Phalarope; and six more because of their friendly association with man: Bluebird, Robin, Dickcissel, House Wren, Purple Martin and Eastern Kingbird. A few of these birds have dispositional weaknesses, but I think I could get along with them."

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FIELD STUDIES OF THE DIURNAL RAPTORES OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL KANSAS. By Howard K. Gloyd. Reprinted from *The Wilson Bulletin*, Sept. 1925. The author says: "It is the purpose of this paper to facilitate in some measure the problem of field discrimination of the species of day-flying birds of prey." A copy was sent to charter members of SDOU. A few copies still available. Send some stamps.—HFC