



*White Pelican*

*Photo by Ron Spomer*

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Some of the most interesting bird behavior occurs during the reproductive cycle. To illustrate that innate behavior tends to take place in patterns or sequences, I will give a very generalized account of a pair of hypothetical breeding birds.

When the breeding season approaches, the male, stimulated by the lengthening of the spring days, migrates. He arrives at the breeding grounds earlier than the female and establishes a territory. By singing, posturing, and fighting, he guards it from other males. The female comes somewhat later and is attracted by the male's song. At first the male threatens her. But, because she displays differently than a male, she is gradually accepted. Even after the young are hatched, displays between the two adults may continue as a means to strengthen and maintain the pair bond through the breeding season.

Some avian breeding displays include courtship feeding. In this ceremony, the female begs food from the male as though she were his young. The male either regurgitates the food or gives it to the female from his bill. Courtship feeding seems to help strengthen the pair bond and stimulate sexual drives. In pigeons this courtship feeding is so ritualized that food is no longer part of the ceremony--it consists only of billing. Birds have an extreme fear of being touched and the contact that occurs during courtship activities seems to help alleviate this fear.

The next step in the reproductive sequence is coition, which may or may not be preceded by elaborate displays. After coition comes nest building, an innate activity that may involve the male and the female or only the female. Nest building is not learned; weaverbirds raised in isolation through several generations will build regular weaverbird nests. Nest building is synchronized with the development of the eggs within the reproductive organs of the female.

Broodiness (the drive to incubate the eggs) is brought on, in part, by the presence of the eggs in the nest. However, the bird must be physiologically ready. If eggs are placed in the nest of a Herring Gull that has not yet laid eggs (and therefore is not physiologically ready), she will not brood the eggs--she will eat them! The sense that their egg-laying is a completed process seems to be innately controlled in birds in two different

ways. Some species will not stop laying and will brood until they see or feel the proper number of eggs typical of their clutch. Systematic robbing of their nests has caused swallows to lay up to fifty eggs. In contrast, the Herring Gull will usually lay three eggs and then stop, even if abnormal circumstances have caused the actual number of eggs in the nest to be more or less than three. If all the eggs are removed, time must pass before the gull starts to lay again. In species like the gull, the signal for stopping the laying and starting the brooding is the physiological effect of laying a certain number of eggs. On the other hand, broodiness of the first category is brought about by the physical or tactile stimulus of the correct number of eggs in the nest. In either case, if all the eggs are removed, the bird will not brood an empty nest for long. However, many species will brood completely inappropriate objects like golf balls, light bulbs, and marbles.

Hatching, the next major event in the cycle, brings on a radical change in behavior. The newborn must be fed, brooded, defended, and sheltered. This behavioral shift seems to have an internal physiological factor. A bird early in the incubation period will not accept the young of other birds. But if these young are offered near the end of a bird's normal incubation period, they are often accepted, even if that bird's own eggs are several days from hatching. The passage of time, in some way, is necessary for this change in behavior.

The final stimulus is the sight and sound of the young. The young's gaping is a very strong stimulus and creates a great parental drive to feed the young. The chicks are stimulated to gape at a very early age by vibrations on the nest and the sight and shape of the parent's head. Feeding of the young often continues after they have left the nest. But parental care gradually ceases. Often young are driven from the territory. This seemingly cruel behavior is an advantage for the birds because it results in dispersal, preventing overcrowding, food shortages, and inbreeding. As the breeding season ends, the complex chain of events ceases and the birds resume their daily maintenance of food gathering, protection, and travel. Territorial behavior usually disappears, nesting colonies are abandoned, and social aggregations and seasonal pairs break up. Fighting and threatening behaviors are largely discontinued. Solitary species ignore other birds. Species that flock or congregate tolerate other birds.

# Babysitting the Wood Ducks

by Marie Hollen

Sisseton 57262

I first saw Wood Ducks in the spring of 1977. We had just moved to the north side of Clear Lake (Lake City, SD). Our neighbors said that Wood Ducks nested in a tree hole a few doors from our lake home. Unfortunately, the tree blew down during a storm the next winter. In the spring, the Wood Ducks came and sat on the fallen tree. Feeling that I had to find the ducks a new home, I went to Sisseton and hired a carpenter to build a wooden Wood Duck nesting box. I placed it near the fallen tree. We watched ducks go in and out of the nesting box. But I still was not satisfied because I wanted to see the babies actually jump out of the box.

My carpenter built me two more Wood Duck houses. A neighbor put one in her yard, two doors from us. We put the second house 9 feet up in an elm tree in our yard that was 24 feet from our front door. With binoculars, I could watch everything from two picture windows at either side of the door. I could even see inside the duck house.

During the 1979 and 1980 breeding seasons, I made meticulous notes on the nesting behavior of these Wood Ducks. The following paragraphs summarize my data from both years.

During the 1979 winter, a squirrel or some bird must have used the Wood Duck house because some twigs and grass were piled up in the entrance. This pile, along with some sawdust in the house, appealed to Henrietta, our Wood Duck. She built her nest behind the pile and made a circle of the sawdust in which she laid her eggs. When we first saw her, Henrietta was at least two years old since she had a distinct wide white circle around her eyes. I think Henrietta nested in our box in both years I watched the house.

During both seasons, many ducks visited the houses during the last week of April. By the first week of May, Henrietta and her drake seem to have made claim to the territory. During this time, she would spend progressively longer times in the house. She usually entered between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m. and spent from 30 to 80 minutes in the box.

In 1979 she laid eggs until 4 May; in 1980 she laid all her eggs by 6 May. During 1980, other females may have added their eggs to her clutch, not an unheard of phenomenon among ducks. The drake went into the house only before laying began. After laying started, the drake always escorted her to the nest and then patrolled the shore for awhile after she entered.

During both years, Henrietta usually entered the nest between 6 and 8 a.m. We often saw her again between 6 and 8 p.m. Occasionally she left later, once because of the presence of a squirrel. Whenever she left the nest, she covered her eggs with down feathers. By mid to late May, the hen was in the nest almost any time we peered into it. During both years, Henrietta brooded 12 eggs (although a clutch of 14 was deposited in one of the neighboring boxes).

In 1979, the eggs hatched on 10 June, about 35 days after brooding began. The hen went out of the nest box at 6:45 a.m. to feed on 11 June and returned a half hour later. At 9:20 a.m. she flew to the lake a few feet from the nest. One duckling sat by the opening of the house. Then the hen walked up under the nest. She must have called to them because the young began falling out of the tree. Twelve healthy chicks came, one by one. When they were all out, she led them to the water. The chicks were so close to Henrietta that you would have thought they were riding on her back. They all headed across the lake and we watched them until they were out of sight.

The 1980 brood was not so fortunate. The eggs hatched on 27 May. Because of disturbances around the nest, the young were late jumping out of the nest. One chick ran the wrong direction and got left behind. Later a windstorm came up that caused the loss of that one and many more ducklings at the lake.

## **Can Ornithology be Taught in the Fall?**

by **Dan Allen Tallman**

and the 1980 NSC Ornithology Class\*

Ornithology courses are usually taught in the spring. After learning a few dozen permanent residents, students end the course in a blaze of colors when species such as tanagers and warblers return from the tropics. But at Northern State College, the spring semester ends well before May migrants re-appear. The only migrants we are likely to encounter are museum specimens.

Can an ornithology class be taught in the fall? During the fall semester of this academic year I tried it. At first the main drawback seemed to be the ticklish task of identifying fall birds, especially warblers. But this concern proved groundless. The class found the basic problem to be locating individual birds that a majority of the students could see before the birds hopped or flew away. In the fall course, the students had ample time late in the semester to review the many species they saw early in the season (students were responsible for the identification of only those species seen by at least two members of the class). Also an advantage to fall ornithology was that later labs could be run indoors, out of the cold, without missing too many important species. The lack of bird calls in the fall and a resultant lack of appreciation by the students of that aspect of ornithology proved to be the biggest disadvantage to a fall course.

\*Dick Benson, Dan Baltzell, Dave Kemnitz, Jay McDonald, Brad Meeks, Blake Olson, Gary Pullman, Cindy Stoley, Michelle Winther, Craig Woken, and Debbie Theeler.

As evidenced by the extensive and varied list of species observed by the class, the answer to the title question posed by this paper must be a resounding YES! The following list includes the species we saw during the 1980 fall class and the observation dates. The class had two lab sections that the students could choose between. All the species on the list were seen by at least two students and all but one of the species were observed in Brown Co. Of special interest are the following sightings, which are not repeated in the main list (all references to previous records are from Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*): Bonaparte's Gull, one seen at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge on 4 and 6 September; Red-breasted Nuthatch, three seen on 30 August on the NSC campus (this record is perhaps the second earliest date for the state; the earliest is 25 August in Hyde Co. [Harter 1969, SDBN 21:34-35]); Hermit Thrush, one tame individual foraging on the ground along Moccasin Creek in Aberdeen on 23 October, well after the latest previous date of 17 October 1965; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, although a potential winter resident, none seen in Aberdeen since our last record of 23 October (16 October is the latest date cited by Whitney et al.); Philadelphia Vireo, perhaps the most startling of these records, one observed by the whole class at extremely close range (within 10 feet) for several minutes on 30 October at Mina Lake State Park in Edmunds Co. (the previous late date was 17 September 1963!). The Philadelphia Vireo was clearly identified as being a wingbarless vireo. Although a variable species, the plate in Peterson's Texas bird guide comes closest to resembling our bird, which was a trifle paler on the mid-breast and slightly more intensely yellow on the throat and undertail coverts.

Other noteworthy records are boldfaced in the following list:

Eared Grebe--Sept.: 4, 6, 13.  
 Western Grebe--Sept.: 4, 6; Oct.: 16.  
 Pied-billed Grebe--Aug.: 28; Oct.: 23; Sept.: 6, 11, 18, 25.  
 White Pelican--Sept.: 4, 6.  
 Double-crested Cormorant--Sept.: 4, 6, 13, 18.  
 Great Blue Heron--Sept.: 4, 6, 25.  
 Green Heron--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 18.  
 Great Egret--Sept.: 6.  
 Black-crowned Night Heron--Aug.: 30; Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20.  
 Whistling Swan--Oct.: 16.  
 Canada Goose--Sept.: 4, 6.  
 White-fronted Goose--Oct.: 16.  
 Snow Goose--Oct.: 16.  
 Mallard--Aug.: 28; Sept.: 4, 6, 13, 18, 20, 25; Oct.: 16.  
 Gadwall--Sept.: 4; Oct.: 16.  
 Pintail--Sept.: 13; Oct.: 16.  
 Blue-winged Teal--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 6, 11, 13, 20.  
 American Wigeon--Sept.: 13.  
 Shoveler--Sept.: 4, 6, 13.  
 Wood Duck--Sept.: 6.  
 Redhead--Sept.: 4, 11, 13.  
 Ring-necked Duck--Sept.: 25.  
 Canvasback--Sept.: 4, 6.  
 Lesser Scaup--Nov.: 6.  
 Ruddy Duck--Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13; Oct.: 16.  
 Red-tailed Hawk--Sept.: 6, 13; **Oct.: 30.**  
 Swainson's Hawk--Sept.: 4, 6, 25.  
 Bald Eagle--Oct.: 16.  
 Marsh Hawk--Sept.: 4, 6; Oct.: 30.

●sprey--Aug.: 30.  
 Ring-necked Pheasant--Sept. 6, 11, 25; Oct.: 16; Nov.: 1, 6.  
 American Coot--Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13; Oct.: 16.  
 Killdeer--Aug.: 28; Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25; Nov.: 6.  
 Common Snipe--Sept.: 20; Nov.: 1, 20.  
 Spotted Sandpiper--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 4, 6, 13.  
 Solitary Sandpiper--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 11, 20.  
 Lesser Yellowlegs--Sept.: 6, 13.  
 Baird's Sandpiper--Sept.: 11.  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper--Sept.: 11.  
 Sanderling--Sept.: 13.  
 Long-billed Dowitcher--Sept.: 11, 25; Oct.: 16.  
 Stilt Sandpiper--Sept.: 11.  
 American Avocet--Sept.: 25.  
 Northern Phalarope--Sept.: 13.  
 Ring-billed Gull--Sept.: 4, 6, 13; Oct.: 16.  
 Franklin's Gull--Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13, 20, 25.  
 Forester's Tern--Sept.: 6.  
 Black Tern--Sept.: 4, 6.  
 Mourning Dove--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20; Nov.: 6.  
 Great Horned Owl--Oct.: 30.  
 Chimney Swift--Aug.: 30; Sept.: 11.  
 Belted Kingfisher--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 18, 20, 25.  
 Common Flicker--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25; Oct.: 16.  
 Downy Woodpecker--Aug.: 30; Oct.: 23; Nov.: 6.  
 Hairy Woodpecker--Sept.: 20.  
 Western Kingbird--Sept.: 4, 11.  
 Empidonax sp.--Sept.: 13 (dead on road).  
 Horned Lark--Oct.: 30.  
 Tree Swallow--Sept.: 6.  
 Bank Swallow--Sept.: 4, 6.  
 Barn Swallow--Aug.: 28; Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13, 25.  
 Cliff Swallow--Sept.: 4.  
 Blue Jay--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 13, 18, 20; Nov.: 1.  
 Common Crow--Oct.: 30.  
 Black-capped Chickadee--Sept.: 18; Oct.: 23; Nov.: 1, 6.  
 White-breasted Nuthatch--Nov.: 1, 6.  
 Brown Creeper--Oct.: 23, Nov.: 1.  
 House Wren--Sept.: 6, 13.  
 Long-billed Marsh Wren--Sept.: 6, 11.  
 Gray Catbird--Sept.: 6, 13.  
 Brown Thrasher--Sept.: 4, 6.  
 American Robin--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 6, 11, 13, 20, 25; Oct.: 23; Nov.: 1.  
 Swainson's Thrush--Sept.: 11, 18, 20.  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush--Sept.: 11.  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet--Oct.: 23.  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet--Sept.: 18, 20; Oct.: 23.  
 Cedar Waxwing--Sept.: 18, 20; Nov.: 1.  
 Starling--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25; Oct.: 1, 23, 30.  
 Warbling Vireo--Aug.: 30.  
 Orange-crowned Warbler--Sept.: 18, 20, 25.  
 Yellow Warbler--Sept.: 6.  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler--Sept.: 20.  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler--Sept.: 20; Oct.: 23.  
 Black-throated Green Warbler--Sept.: 20.  
 Common Yellowthroat--Sept.: 20.  
 House Sparrow--almost every outing.  
 Western Meadowlark--Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13, 25; Oct.: 16.  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird--Sept.: 4, 6, 13.  
 Red-winged Blackbird--Sept.: 4, 6, 11, 13, 25; Oct.: 16, 30.  
 Northern Oriole--Aug.: 30.  
 Brewer's Blackbird--Sept.: 6.  
 Common Grackle--Aug.: 28; Sept.: 6, 11, 13, 18, 20; Oct.: 16, 23, 30.  
 Brown-headed Cowbird--Sept.: 4, 25.  
 Evening Grosbeak--Oct.: 30; Nov.: 1, 6.



Purple Finch--Nov.: 1.  
 Pine Siskin--Nov.: 6.  
 American Goldfinch--Aug.: 28, 30; Sept.: 11, 13, 25; Oct.: 23; Nov.: 1, 6.  
 Rufous-sided Towhee (spotted race)--Sept.: 11.  
 Lark Bunting--Sept.: 4.  
 Savannah Sparrow--Sept.: 11, 13, 25.  
 Dark-eyed Junco--Sept.: 18, 20, 25; Oct.: 23, 30; Nov.: 1, 6.  
 Chipping Sparrow--Aug.: 30; Sept.: 11, 18, 20.  
 Clay-colored Sparrow--Sept.: 18, 25.  
 Harris' Sparrow--Sept.: 25; Oct.: 23; Nov.: 1.  
 White-crowned Sparrow--Sept.: 13, 25.  
 White-throated Sparrow--Sept.: 25; Oct.: 16.  
 Lincoln's Sparrow--Sept.: 11, 18, 20.  
 Song Sparrow--Sept.: 6, 11, 13, 25.

## 1981 South Dakota Christmas Counts

compiled by **Dan A. Tallman**

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This year the following Christmas Count data were submitted to me by the various compilers of the counts. The following details supplied by the compilers include the date of the count, the number of observers, and the weather. This year I have not included species seen during the count week but not on the count day.

**Aberdeen**--27 December 1980. 13 observers and 2 feeders. No snow cover, temperature 28 to 42°F. Compiler: Everett Montgomery.

**Brookings**--20 December 1980. 16 observers. Below 0 weather. Compiler: Nelda Holden.

**Deuel**--4 January 1981. 3 observers. No snow cover, temperature -13° to +15°F, wind 5-10 mph. Compiler: Bruce Harris.

**Hot Springs**--20 December 1980. 5 observers. 1 inch snow cover, temperatures 12 to 23°F. Compiler: Richard Rosche.

**Ortenville MN**--27 December 1980. 5 observers. Weather not reported. Compiler: Robert Berger. Note: about ¼ of this count is in South Dakota, including the Big Stone power plant cooling ponds. The birds in the Ortenville list include species seen in neighboring Minnesota. The Pileated Woodpecker reported on this count was not observed in South Dakota.

**Pierre**--21 December 1980. 30 observers. No weather data. Compiler: R.V. Summerside.

**Rapid City**--21 December 1980. 26 observers. No weather data supplied. Compiler: Esther Serr.

**Sioux Falls**--20 December 1980. 19 observers and 1 feeder. No snow cover, temperatures 7 to 10°F. Compiler: Gil Blankespoor.

**Watertown**--3 January 1981. 5 observers. No snow cover, -10° to +10°F with chill factor of -25°F. Compiler: Bruce Harris.

**Waubay**--21 December 1980. 5 observers. No snow cover, temperatures -10° to +6°F. Compiler: Linda Watters.

**Wilmot**--28 December 1980. 12 observers. No snow cover, temperatures 32 to 45°F! Compiler: Bruce Harris.

**Yankton**--3 January 1981. 10 observers. No weather data. Compiler: Willis Hall.

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Deuel	Hot Springs	Ortonville MN	Pierre	Rapid City	Sioux Falls	Watertown	Waubay	Wilmot	Yankton
Western Grebe						1						
Pied-billed Grebe				1								
White Pelican						1						
Great Blue Heron				2	2							1
Canada Goose	13				1,5758	12465	7				1	1
White-fronted Goose						4						
Snow Goose						6	1					
Mallard	60			6783	500	10555	825	36				2084
Gadwall				2		4	54					3
Pintail					2	2	3					
Green-winged Teal				1		2	16					
American Wigeon				12		3	34					
Northern Shoveler								1				
Wood Duck					1							
Redhead						4	2					
Ring-necked Duck							2					
Lesser Scaup						1						2
Scaup sp.					1							
Common Goldeneye				4	4	100	60					28
Barrow's Goldeneye							1					
Bufflehead							1					
Hooded Merganser						2						
Common Merganser				84	4	432	1					24
Sharp-shinned Hawk				2		1	1					
Cooper's Hawk							1					
Red-tailed Hawk		1				7	3	4				3
Rough-legged Hawk			1	7	2	1	1		1	1	1	
Ferruginous Hawk							1					
Golden Eagle				8		5	2					
Bald Eagle				6	1	19						19
Hawk sp.												1
Marsh Hawk				2		1				1		
Falcon sp.	1											
Prairie Falcon				1		2	2					
Merlin				4		1						
American Kestrel	1	1				5	1	4				2
Greater Prairie Chicken						2						
Sharp-tailed Grouse				13		140	79					
Bobwhite												20
Ring-necked Pheasant	195	9		4	32	425	12	90	3	1	26	16
Gray Partridge			8			7		17			32	
Turkey				190		3	88					
American Coot							8					
Killdeer				4			2					
Common Snipe				2			2					
Herring Gull						101						3
Hing-billed Gull						22						
Gull sp.												3
Rock Dove	131	245	44	53	42	200	281	327	42	12	197	375
Mourning Dove	1							7	2		20	
Screech Owl				1		1	1	1			2	1
Great Horned Owl	11	10	4	3	2	12	2	7	1	1	4	7
Snowy Owl	2	1			2	2						
Long-eared Owl						2						
Short-eared Owl		1										
Belted Kingfisher			1	3	2	2	8	2				5
Common Flicker	1	3	2	38		28	11	10			1	22

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Deuel	Hot Springs	Ortenville MN	Pierre	Rapid City	Sioux Falls	Watertown	Waubay	Wilmot	Yankton
Pileated Woodpecker					1							
Red-bellied Woodpecker		1				2		5			1	5
Red-headed Woodpecker								1				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1								
Hairy Woodpecker	8	19	6	5	6	21	25	18	2	8	14	14
Downy Woodpecker	16	41	16	5	9	25	31	104	4	11	45	31
Horned Lark	42	1	6	28		51		20	8	31	9	35
Blue Jay	13	30	7		8	1	43	14	11	9	30	16
Black-billed Magpie				74		14	110					
Common Crow		58	2	1	5		175	145	14	1	41	75
Pinyon Jay				200			489					
Black-capped Chickadee	33	171	40	70	21	128	227	324	25	31	141	66
White-breasted Nuthatch	16	23	5	5	6	14	25	54	2	5	39	17
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	9				3	55	2	3	2	3	2
Pygmy Nuthatch				1			1					
Brown Creeper	4	2	2			3	6	4	1	2	1	3
Long-billed Marsh Wren				2								
Canyon Wren				1			10					
Brown Thrasher	1											
American Robin	3	2		1397		1	7			10		44
Varied Thrush						1				1		
Townsend's Solitaire				42			63					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	4				2	9	4				2
Bohemian Waxwing	27											
Cedar Waxwing		37		1		60				20	2	20
Northern Shrike		1		5	1	7	3			1	1	1
Starling	659	347	107	25	92	573	1329	544	69	63	203	875
House Sparrow	989	1303	40	107	300	3425	576	1033	327	251	700	494
Western Meadowlark						10						
Yellow-headed Blackbird			1							1		
Red-winged Blackbird	24	7	45			600				61	7	2
Rusty Blackbird		1							80			
Brewer's Blackbird	1					11		1				
Common Grackle	21	5	1							32	2	
Cardinal								6				15
Evening Grosbeak		9		10	6	7	149					
Purple Finch	33	79	3	15	10	12	8	33	11	16	5	
Pine Grosbeak									4	5		
Common Redpoll	3	17	56				3	15	12	15	156	
Pine Siskin	255	91	35	42	35		254	251	75	5	135	1
American Goldfinch	19	58	4	91	9	22	174	91	6	34	2	106
White-winged Crossbill	1								2		2	
Dark-eyed Junco	34			402								
Slate-colored Junco		118	6		59	80	137	290	2		42	109
Oregon Junco		3					42	2		1	1	
White-winged Junco							359					
Tree Sparrow	6	294	19	139	35	166	93	509	8	90	110	646
Harris' Sparrow		1					1	4				17
Song Sparrow				2			1	5				6
Lapland Longspur						17				1	35	
Snow Bunting			70							1		
TOTAL SPECIES	34	36	26	50	31	64	61	37	25	33	34	44

## GENERAL NOTES

**MORE NOTES ON MIGRANTS IN ABERDEEN.**--Besides those records given in the previous paper in this issue, I obtained during the fall of 1980 a few other interesting records while not in the company of my bird class. Comparisons to past records in this account are all based on data contained in Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*. Unless otherwise stated, all birds were seen at my home in Aberdeen.

**Saw-whet Owl**--I banded this owl on 4 October 1980. I found no evidence of a roost in nearby cedars.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**--I caught an immature female sapsucker on 9 September 1980. The only other September citation by Whitney et al. is 19 September 1960. The species may breed in Roberts Co.

**Hermit Thrush**--This thrush was banded on 1 October 1980. Whitney et al. state only that it probably occurs in the "first half of October."

**Red-eyed Vireo**--Seven of these vireos were banded and one was found dead between 19 August and 21 September 1980. The August specimen was immature but I have no evidence of local breeding. Few previous records are documented for Brown Co.

**Black-and-white Warbler**--I saw this warbler on 29 September, four days later than previously recorded.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**--The date I banded this species, 25 October 1980, is four days later than the previous late record for the state.

**Black-throated Green Warbler**--Despite hitting a window and being mauled by a dog, a specimen, brought to me from near Aberdeen by one of my students, proved to be salvagable. It was collected on 30 October; the previous late record was 20 October. I also saw the species on 19 September 1980, noteworthy since Whitney et al. give no definite September dates.

**Blackpoll Warbler**--I netted this warbler on 20 September 1980. The previous late date was 17 September 1959.

**Field Sparrow**--On 11 September 1980 I saw this sparrow at a local nursery in Aberdeen. The previous early fall record is 13 September but early fall records may be somewhat misleading since the species may breed in the Aberdeen area.

**Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow**--Both these species were observed in the same flock in a neighbor's yard on 9 September. The junco's appearance is three days earlier than ever recorded, the White-throat ties a record cited by Whitney et al. from Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*.--Dan A. Tallman, Aberdeen 57401.

**CORRECTION.**--In SDBN 31(3):50, delete "Green Heron: 30 April, earliest on record, Missouri River (KJH)." This record seems to be in error since neither Kenneth Husmann nor I am aware of what it is based on.--Esther Serr, Rapid City 57701.

GOSHAWK NESTING IN HARDING COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA.--The Goshawk is a rare to uncommon permanent resident at higher elevations in the Black Hills of South Dakota (Whitney et al. 1978). It nests in several locations in the Black Hills (Wild 1973, Bartelt 1977) but breeding activity in other locations in the state has only been suggested (Visher 1914). This note presents evidence of Goshawks' nesting in Harding County, South Dakota, approximately 130 km NNE of the Black Hills.

On 21 July 1976, while conducting a songbird census in the southern Slim Buttes in southeastern Harding Co., I observed an adult Goshawk perched at the top of a 10 to 12 meter tall Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). The bird called loudly. As I approached to search for a nest, the Goshawk left its perch, continuing to call, but remaining in the area. Although I found no nest, the area contained several trees that could have been used for nesting.

I returned to the area on 24 July to conduct a more thorough nest search. In the same area, I found a Goshawk with two recently fledged young (several patches of down were clearly visible). I remained in the area for approximately three hours unsuccessfully searching for a nest. During this time all three hawks remained in the immediate vicinity. The adult called frequently and occasionally flew around the area. The juveniles remained perched in one or the other of two 15 meter Ponderosa Pines.

The presence of fledglings in late July corresponds with nesting dates noted by Wild (1973) and Bartelt (1977) for the Black Hills and strongly suggests Goshawk nesting activity in Harding Co., South Dakota.

**Acknowledgements:** These observations took place while conducting a study funded by the Office of Biological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Funding was through the South Dakota Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD.

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BANDING IN 1980.--Because of family illness, we were unable to band during the spring migration. Since we spend our winters out of state, our banding was limited to five months, June through October. Our 151st species was added when we caught a Turkey poult in our net at Newton Hills State Park. The following 48 species and 262 individuals were banded in 1980:

Broad-winged Hawk	1	Cedar Waxwing	1
Turkey	1	Starling	1
Mourning Dove	1	Red-eyed Vireo	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	Warbling Vireo	3
Yellow-shafted Flicker	7	Orange-crowned Warbler	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Myrtle Warbler	16
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	Black-throated Green Warbler	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	Northern Waterthrush	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Wilson's Warbler	2
Downy Woodpecker	16	Canada Warbler	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	House Sparrow	2
Traill's Flycatcher	2	Baltimore Oriole	6
Least Flycatcher	1	Common Grackle	8
Barn Swallow	1	Northern Cardinal	3
Blue Jay	3	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
Black-capped Chickadee	28	American Goldfinch	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Slate-colored Junco	13
Brown Creeper	2	Tree Sparrow	1
House Wren	9	Chipping Sparrow	5
Catbird	7	Field Sparrow	2
American Robin	70	Harris' Sparrow	2
Wood Thrush	1	White-throated Sparrow	11
Swainson's Thrush	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Swamp Sparrow	1

--Charles and Gladycce Rogge, Sioux Falls 57101.

GREAT EGRET IN TRIPP COUNTY.--I observed a Great Egret on 13 and 14 August 1980 in Tripp Co., South Dakota. On the 13th, the egret was on a shallow dam eight miles west and eight miles north of Winner. On the 14th, the bird was photographed at Roosevelt Dam, which is four miles east and two miles south of Colome. Whitney et al., in *The Birds of South Dakota*, do not mention this egret's occurrence in Tripp Co.--Roger F. Strom, Winner 57580.

WINTER WREN SIGHTED IN NORTHERN BLACK HILLS.--On 29 June 1978, while my family and I camped along the shore of Beaver Creek at the Beaver Creek Campground, I heard the tinkling of an unusual bird call.

I investigated and soon found a small, brownish, wren-like bird bobbing and fidgeting nervously as it moved through the bushes, fallen logs, and

twigs that lined the creekbank. After an exhaustive game of "Hide and Seek" (he hid and I sought), I made the identification--a Winter Wren.

I found no nest or mate but, judging from the time of year, the wren could have been nesting. Hopefully more of us will encounter this species so that someday we can definitely add it to our roster of nesters of the beautiful northern Black Hills.--Bob Rogers, Camp Crook 57724.

**GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH IN MOODY CO.**--On Saturday, 9 November 1980, I was stretched out on the sofa suffering from the flu, when my husband spoke the only words that could have gotten me to my feet. He said, "Now that's a different bird!" The bird was indeed different and it took Nelda Holden, the next day, to identify it--a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, a bird sighted only occasionally east of the Black Hills. The finch ate sunflower seeds at our feeders and was quite tame. It made daily appearances for several days; then it would not appear for several more. Our last recorded sighting was 6 December 1980. We live in northern Moody Co., 12 miles south of the city of Brookings.--Lois and Darrell Wells, Brookings 57006.

**1980 BANDING REPORT.**--During 1980 I banded the following 489 individual birds (comprising 35 species):

Mourning Dove	1	Myrtle Warbler	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Palm Warbler	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Mourning Warbler	1
Hairy Woodpecker	10	Wilson's Warbler	4
Downy Woodpecker	30	Common Grackle	36
Least Flycatcher	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Blue Jay	3	Purple Finch	2
Black-capped Chickadee	19	Pine Siskin	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	American Goldfinch	21
House Wren	1	Slate-colored Junco	178
Gray Catbird	8	Tree Sparrow	1
Brown Thrasher	2	Chipping Sparrow	41
American Robin	8	Harris' Sparrow	25
Swainson's Thrush	4	White-throated Sparrow	29
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Swamp Sparrow	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	25	Song Sparrow	1
Nashville Warbler	11		

Returns

Species	Date Banded	Date Returned
Chipping Sparrow	21 August 1977	29 September 1980
Black-capped Chickadee	06 April 1977	21 October 1980
Black-capped Chickadee	31 March 1976	12 December 1980

--Nelda Holden, Brookings 57006.

**1980 BURKE BANDING REPORT.**--The following is a list of the 36 bird species (614 individuals) that I banded in the Burke area, Gregory Co., in 1980. I concluded my personal color-marking project with Purple Martins

by placing yellow plastic bands on the left legs of 69 martin nestlings. An additional 104 nestlings and one adult were banded on the left leg with two plastic bands, white over dark green, in accordance with the continental color banding project for this species being conducted by biologists at the Bird Banding Laboratory. All birds were also banded with a numbered metal band.

Mourning Dove	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	6
Screech Owl	1	Nashville Warbler	1
Barn Swallow	9	Myrtle Warbler	18
Purple Martin	179	Common Grackle	28
Yellow-shafted Flicker	5	Brown-headed Cowbird	5
Downy Woodpecker	1	Orchard Oriole	1
Eastern Kingbird	2	Baltimore Oriole	28
Western Kingbird	1	Blue Grosbeak	1
Least Flycatcher	1	Purple Finch	1
Blue Jay	17	American Goldfinch	4
Black-capped Chickadee	10	Slate-colored Junco	49
House Wren	7	Tree Sparrow	3
Brown Thrasher	12	Chipping Sparrow	73
American Robin	112	Clay-colored Sparrow	15
Swainson's Thrush	2	Field Sparrow	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Harris' Sparrow	6
Philadelphia Vireo	1	White-throated Sparrow	3
Warbling Vireo	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	5

--Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523.

NOT SO REMOTE.--(From an editorial in the *Belle Fourche Post*.) One might say that revolution, guerrilla warfare, and industrial development in Central America have no direct effect on the birds of the upper Midwest. But world ornithologists say otherwise and are warning that the resultant ravaging of the tropical forests is destroying the winter habitat of North America's migrating birds. Although area birdwatchers may not notice the fewer numbers of migrants yet, the decline will begin to show before long. As I hear the warning, I wonder if that might not be the reason Yellow Warblers, once common, have been few in the past two years.

Destruction of Central America's tropical forests rushes pell-mell as warfare causes forest fires and industrialization brings plant construction and homes for workers, felling timber at a high rate. The U.S. is familiar with the picture, only the devastation is more concentrated in Central America than it is in our large nation. Environmental officials estimate that forestland equal to the size of Cuba is being destroyed in Central America every year.

Thus, upheaval in Central America is not so remote as it first sounds and proves how interdependent our whole world is. We can see the results of another nation's war even in South Dakota backyard bird feeders.--Irma Weyler, *Belle Fourche* 57717.



**SUMMER RECORDS OF RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES IN GREGORY CO.**--During July 1980 I recorded two sightings of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Burke area of Gregory Co.

The first sighting, on 19 July 1980, was in my yard in Burke. In the early afternoon, I heard the familiar "yank-yank" calls of a nuthatch. However, the call sounded higher pitched and not as loud as that of the White-breasted Nuthatch, the species one expects in Gregory Co. in the summer. I was amazed to discover a Red-breasted Nuthatch midway up the trunk of a Chinese Elm. I kept a close watch for the next several days, but the nuthatch was not seen again.

On 22 July 1980, I was birding at Burke Lake, two miles east of Burke, when I sighted another Red-breasted Nuthatch foraging along the limb of a large cottonwood. Often the bird was within 15 feet of me so there is no doubt as to the bird's identity.

A search of the available literature reveals only one other summer record of a Red-breasted Nuthatch in South Dakota outside of the Black Hills. This species was observed near Rosebud in Todd Co. on 12 July 1969 (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*).--Galen L. Steffen. Burke 57523.



*Upland Sandpiper*

*Photo: Ron Spomer*

## Book Review

by **Erika and Dan Tallman**

Northern State College  
Aberdeen 57401

*Birds of Prey of the World* by Friedhelm Weick. Paul Parey Publishers. 1980. 160 pp. \$48.00.

Are falcons and hawks your favorite birds? If so, this book may be for you! In this concise volume, you will find 1144 color drawings of most of the world's distinctive races and plumages of hawks, falcons, and vultures. A fascinating book, the text is written both in German and English, giving measurements, field marks, and distributions. The author also includes a nondicotomous size-class key to the species.

While the "falconiphiles" (meaning falcon-lovers, from a review by White in *Nature*, 1980, 288:519) among us are rushing to order this text, let us say a few words of caution to the rest of you. Although coffee-table-priced and sized, this book claims to be a field guide, complete with "Peterson-system" arrows pointing to important field marks. While it's interesting to have different races of Red-tailed Hawks illustrated on a single page, who among us is such a world traveller that he needs to pick our species from the Old World's Buzzard among the 30+ individual hawks on this single plate? With so many birds per plate, it is often confusing trying to tell to which species the proper names apply. The illustrations themselves are professionally executed but they are not pretty to look at; all the individuals are in the same pose, as though cut out by a cookie cutter. This practice is unfortunate, since much bird identification relies on subtle differences in shape and posture.

According to the cover leaf, this text "gives a complete key to identification, the first step towards a better understanding." Perhaps. But the lack of any ecological or behavioral information further limits the general appeal of this expensive book.

In conclusion, this book is for the specialist birder who thrills at the study of hawks or for people who plan journeys to parts of the world lacking local field guides. For the rest of us, the text is expensive with little practical value.

Plan to attend the SDOU 1981 fall meeting on the Northern State College campus, Aberdeen, SD, 25-27 September 1981. Presentations are urgently needed for the Saturday paper session!

# THE 1980-1981 WINTER SEASON

by **Bruce Harris**

Box 605, Clear Lake 57226

The winter was dry, with practically no snow in most areas, and mild, with only an occasional streak of below zero readings. We recorded an unusual number of late migrants or wintering birds. However, some species that normally winter commonly were rare or uncommon (meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, grackles, Mourning Doves, and Rusty Blackbirds). Some very early spring migrants appeared during the period, which ended on 28 February. These species appear in this report and will be mentioned again in the 1981 spring report. Birds on the Christmas Bird Counts are also included in this report as well as in the table earlier in this issue. I hope to give a better report of the season by including them here.

More kingfishers, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and Song Sparrows were reported this winter than have ever been in the past. Siskins and Purple Finches were very common. The Gray-crowned Rosy Finch at a feeder in Moody Co. remained through part of the winter. The Pileated Woodpecker reported during the fall season in Deuel Co. was also seen during December. Two Varied Thrushes, a Long-billed Marsh Wren. Gyrfalcons, Peregrines, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Glaucous Gulls were some of the better observations, but, when you also have three grebe species, pelicans, cormorants, and sapsuckers, you have difficulty picking out the best records. This winter was exceptional in all ways!

A few items need to be corrected in the 1980 Fall Report (SDBN 33:18-22). The Swainson's Hawk on 22 November was observed *only* by Willis Hall (and not by Juli Wilcox). The Ruddy Turnstone should be credited to Mrs. Carolyn J. Hoover (KJH) and not Ken Husmann (KHH); this bird was seen in Yankton Co., not Clay Co. The Sanderling of 28 October is the latest record for South Dakota and was seen in Yankton Co. The following species were also erroneously attributed to Clay Co. and should also be recorded from Yankton Co.: Oldsquaw, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, Red-shouldered Hawk (still awaiting details), Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, and Eastern Kingbird.

The following observers contributed to this winter season report:

## **Contributors for the Winter Season 1980-1981**

Doug Backlund (DB); Charlotte Baird (CNB); Jocie Baker (JLB); Dan Bjerke (DBj); Carl Boecke (CB); Robert Brashears (RHB); James Cole (JLC); George Crocker (GC); Dorothy Downs (DD); Willis Hall (WH); Bruce Harris (BKH); Alfred & Gertrude Hinds (A&GH); David Holden (DJH); Nelda Holden (NJH); Carolyn Hoover (KJH); Kenneth Husmann (KHH); Jack Kantwell (TKK); Doug Kreger (DEK); William Kurtenbach (WJK); James McLaird (JDM); Bob Rogers (BR); Dorothy Rosche (DJR); Richard Rosche (RCR); William Schultze (WAS); Harvey Smith (HOS); Ron Spomer (RCS); Gary Stave (GJS); Galen Steffen (GLS); Dan Tallman (DAT); Sam Waldstein (SJW); Linda Watters (LLW); Dar-

rel & Lois Wells (D&LW); Nat Whitney (NRW); Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS).

**Pied-billed Grebe**--Hot Springs CBC (RCR, DJR)

**Western Grebe**--Reported on Pierre CBC.

**Horned Grebe**--11 January, Pennington Co. (NRW), only other winter record was also in Rapid City.

**White Pelican**--a healthy bird wintered at Pierre (DB, KHH).

**Double-crested Cormorant**--14, 29, and 30 December, Yankton Co. (WH).

**Great Blue Heron**--Hot Springs CBC (RCR, DJR). Yankton CBC and 4 January, Yankton Co. (WH). 15 December, Hughes Co. (RCS). Ortonville CBC birds **not** observed in South Dakota.

**Trumpeter Swan**--20 January, LaCreek NWR, 196 (RHB).

**Canada Goose**--1 December, Sand Lake NWR, 1200, but only 150 on 1 January (SJW). December records from Brookings, Deuel, and Roberts Co. 15,750 wintered at Ortonville at S end of Big Stone Lake (F&WS). 20 February, Deuel Co., 200 early migrants (CB).

**Snow Goose**--Hughes Co. CBC, 6. Blue phase individual wintered at Sand Lake NWR (SJW). January and February, Rapid City, 1 (NRW). 14 February, Clay Co., 100, early migration (KJH).

**White-fronted Goose**--Pierre CBC, 4.

**Mallard**--Sand Lake NWR, 5000 wintered (SJW). 19 February, Waubay NWR, 40 (LLW). Ortonville CBC, 500. 3 January, Deuel Co. (BKH).

**Gadwall**--29 January, Yankton Co., 1 (WH).

**Pintail**--Reported from 4 CBC's. Sand Lake NWR, 25 wintered (SJW). 20 February, Hamlin Co. (KHH). 21 February, Davison Co., 5 (JDM). 24 February, Harding Co., 24 (BR). 23 February, LaCreek NWR, 1310 (RHB).

**Green-winged Teal**--Reports from Stanley, Fall River, Bennett, and Pennington Co.

**American Wigeon**--Reports from Fall River, Stanley, Bennett, and Pennington Co.

**Shoveler**--6 December, Pennington Co., 2 (JLB). Sioux Falls CBC, 1.

**Wood Duck**--18 January, Sand Lake NWR, (TKK). January and February, Pennington Co., 1 (NRW). Ortonville CBC record **not** from SD.

**Redhead**--January and February, Pennington Co., 1 (NRW). 23-24 February (WH). 26-28 February, Davison Co., 40-150 (JDM).

**Ring-necked Duck**--Reported on CBC in Yankton and Rapid City.

**Canvasback**--4 February, Pierre, 1 (NRW). 27-28 February, Davison Co., 1 (JDM). 23 February, Yankton Co., 4 (WH).

**Lesser Scaup**--12 December, Sand Lake NWR, 5, latest ever but may have been cripples (SJW). Reported also from Yankton and Hughes Co.

- Common Goldeneye--12 December, Sand Lake NWR, 1, possibly a cripple (SJW). 20 December, LaCreek NWR, 115 (RHB). On CBC at Rapid City, Ortonville (but not in SD), and Pierre. 21 February, Davison Co., 2 (JDM).
- Barrow's Goldeneye--1 January--14 February, Rapid City, 1 (NRW, JLB).
- Bufflehead--1 December, Yankton Co., 2 (WH). 1 January--14 February, Pennington Co. (NRW). 23 February, LaCreek NWR, 5 (RHB).
- Hooded Merganser--18 January, Sand Lake NWR (WAS). 15 December, Hughes Co., 2 (RCS).
- Goshawk--22 December, Lyman Co. (DB).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk--On CBC from Fall River, Rapid City, and Pierre. 2 February, Gregory Co. (GLS). 10 February, Davison Co. (JDM). Many more than usual.
- Cooper's Hawk--5 December, Gregory Co. (GLS). Also Rapid City CBC.
- Red-tailed Hawk--4 February, Pierre (Harlan's Hawk) (NRW). 1-8 January, Gregory Co., 10 (GLS). Reported also from Brookings and Hughes Co.
- American Rough-legged Hawk--Few reported but see Hot Springs CBC.
- Ferruginous Hawk--Only 1 on 10 CBC's! Reported only from Pennington, Sully, and Bennett Co.
- Golden Eagle--7 December, LaCreek NWR, 10 (RHB). 8 January, Gregory Co., 31 (19 adults) (GLS). 6 January, Sand Lake NWR (WAS). A total of 54 eagles were reported from Harding, Perkins, Clay, Meade, Hughes, Fall River, and Lyman Co.
- Bald Eagle--13 December, Fall River Co., 10 (5 adults) (RCR, DJR). 16 December and 3 January, Deuel Co. (BKH, GC). A total of 146 eagles were reported from Bennett, Yankton, Meade, Perkins, Hughes (51 including 24 adults seen by JDM), Hutchinson, Custer, Gregory (27, including 17 adults), Day, and Harding Co.
- Marsh Hawk--19 December, Day Co. (LLW). 12 December, Perkins Co. (A&GH). If these two records are not of wintering birds, they are the latest ever for migrants. 1 January, LaCreek NWR, 10 (RHB).
- Peregrine Falcon--8 February, Davison Co. (JDM), details in later SDBN. Reported also from LaCreek NWR but without details.
- Gyr Falcon--12 January, Sully Co., gray phase (RCS), details in next SDBN.
- Merlin--31 December and 2 January, LaCreek NWR (RHB). Pierre and Fall River CBC's. 24 January, Davison Co. (JDM). 24 February, Fall River Co. (RCR, DJR).
- Prairie Chicken--8 January, Davison Co., 20 (JDM).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse--Peak of 500 at LaCreek NWR (RHB).
- American Coot--11 December, Oahe Dam (DB).

- Killdeer**--Reported from Fall River, Bennett, and Pennington Co.
- Common Snipe**--Reported from Fall River, Gregory, Brown, and Pennington Co. More than usual.
- Glaucous Gull**--4 February, Oahe Dam, 2 immatures (NRW).
- Mourning Dove**--Reported on only 4 of 12 CBC's; but counts in Roberts and Codington Co. are in areas least likely to have wintering doves.
- Snowy Owl**--Probably a major flight year. 46 owls reported from 18 counties, including 6 in a 1 mile radius in Sully Co. on 22 December (RCS). 26 March, Deuel and Grant Co., a very late date (BKH).
- Long-eared Owl**--24 February, Gregory Co. Pierre CBC.
- Short-eared Owl**--Reported on only 1 of 12 CBC's. 4 January, Deuel Co. (GJS). Also reports from Hand, Day, and Spink Co.
- Belted Kingfisher**--Reported on 7 of 12 CBC's, many more than usual. 4 January, Grant Co., (DBJ). Reported also in Gregory, Meade, Hughes, and Deuel Co.
- Pileated Woodpecker**--For about the 4th year, on the Ortonville CBC, just across Big Stone Lake from SD. 8 December, Deuel Co. (JLC) (see also SDBN 33:18-22).
- Red-shafted Flicker**--22 January, Davison Co. (JDM).
- Red-bellied Woodpecker**--Reported on 5 of 12 CBC's, many more than usual. Reports from Brookings (banded, NJH), Roberts, Hughes, Yankton (5), and Minnehaha Co. (5).
- Red-headed Woodpecker**--18 January, Deuel Co., (DEK). Sioux Falls CBC.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**--Fall River CBC (RCR, DJR).
- Pinyon Jay**--Rapid City and Hot Springs CBC's.
- Black-billed Magpie**--Rapid City and Hot Springs CBC's.
- Common Crow**--13 December, Brookings Co., 134 (BKH, KHH). 8 January, Gregory Co., 250 in scattered flocks (GLS).
- Pygmy Nuthatch**--Hot Springs CBC (RCR, DJR). 12--27 January, Rapid City, 3 at feeder (NRW).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch**--Good flight year; reports from 10 of 12 CBC's. Also reported from Deuel, Day, Codington, Roberts, and Davison Co. Many more than usual.
- Long-billed Marsh Wren**--Hot Springs CBC (RCR, DJR).
- Brown Thrasher**--Present all winter at feeder, Aberdeen (DD).
- Robin**--Hot Springs CBC, 1397 (RCR, DJR). Not common East River.
- Varied Thrush**--Pierre and Waubay CBC's.
- Mountain Bluebird**--25 February, Custer Co. (NRW), early migrant.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet**--Reported from 6 of 12 CBC's.

- Bohemian Waxwing--24 December, 124, and 29 December, 60, Perkins Co. (A&GH). 17 December - 8 January, 200, Harding Co. (BR). 30 January, Pennington Co., 20 (NRW). Three reports East River from Day Co., Sand Lake NWR, and Brown Co.
- Northern Shrike--Reported on 8 of 12 CBC's, but not common East River. Reports from Day, Roberts, Brookings, Bennett, Mellette, Hand, and Pennington Co. First week in January, Gregory Co., 8 (GLS).
- Loggerhead Shrike--27 January, Yankton Co. (WH), no details.
- Western Meadowlark--In spite of mild weather, reported on only Pierre CBC. 19 February, Moody Co. (DJH). Wintered in Hand Co. (CNB).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird--Reported on Aberdeen, Waubay, and Deuel CBC's. 3 January, Hamlin Co. (KHH). More than usual wintering.
- Rusty Blackbird--Reports from only Brookings and Codington CBC's.
- Brewer's Blackbird--Reported from Aberdeen, Pierre, and Sioux Falls CBC's.
- Common Grackle--Reports from only 4 of 12 CBC's. Reported from Deuel, Roberts, Codington, Harding (BR), and Spink Co.
- Cardinal--Report from Aberdeen, Brown Co. (DD).
- Evening Grosbeak--Reported on 5 of 12 CBC's. Reports also from Brookings, Meade, Gregory, Hughes, and Harding Co.
- Purple Finch--Reported on all CBC's.
- Pine Grosbeak--19 December, Day Co., 4 (BKH, KHH). 3 January, Codington Co., 3 (NJH). 7 January, Brookings Co., 3 (KHH). 23 January, Day Co., 1 (WJK, HOS).
- Gray-crowned Rosy Finch--One bird at Wells' feeder from November through 6 December, Moody Co. (D&LW). 10 - 30 January, Harding Co. (BR).
- Common Redpoll--Reported from Brookings, Day, Roberts, Deuel, Sully, and Harding Co. Not common this winter.
- Pine Siskin--Very common; reported from all CBC's. 472 banded at Aberdeen, December--February (DAT).
- American Goldfinch--Common; reported from all CBC's.
- White-winged Crossbill--Small numbers in Roberts, Codington, Brookings, and Brown Co.
- Rufous-sided Towhee--22 December, Lyman Co. (DB).
- Harris' Sparrow--Reported on 4 of 12 CBC's.
- White-throated Sparrow--14 January--13 February, Davison Co., 4 (JDM).
- Song Sparrow--Reported from 4 of 12 CBC's. 3 wintered in Spink Co. (CNB). Many more than usual.
- Lapland Longspur--Reported from only 3 of 12 CBC's!
- Snow Bunting--Reported from only 2 of 12 CBC's!

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