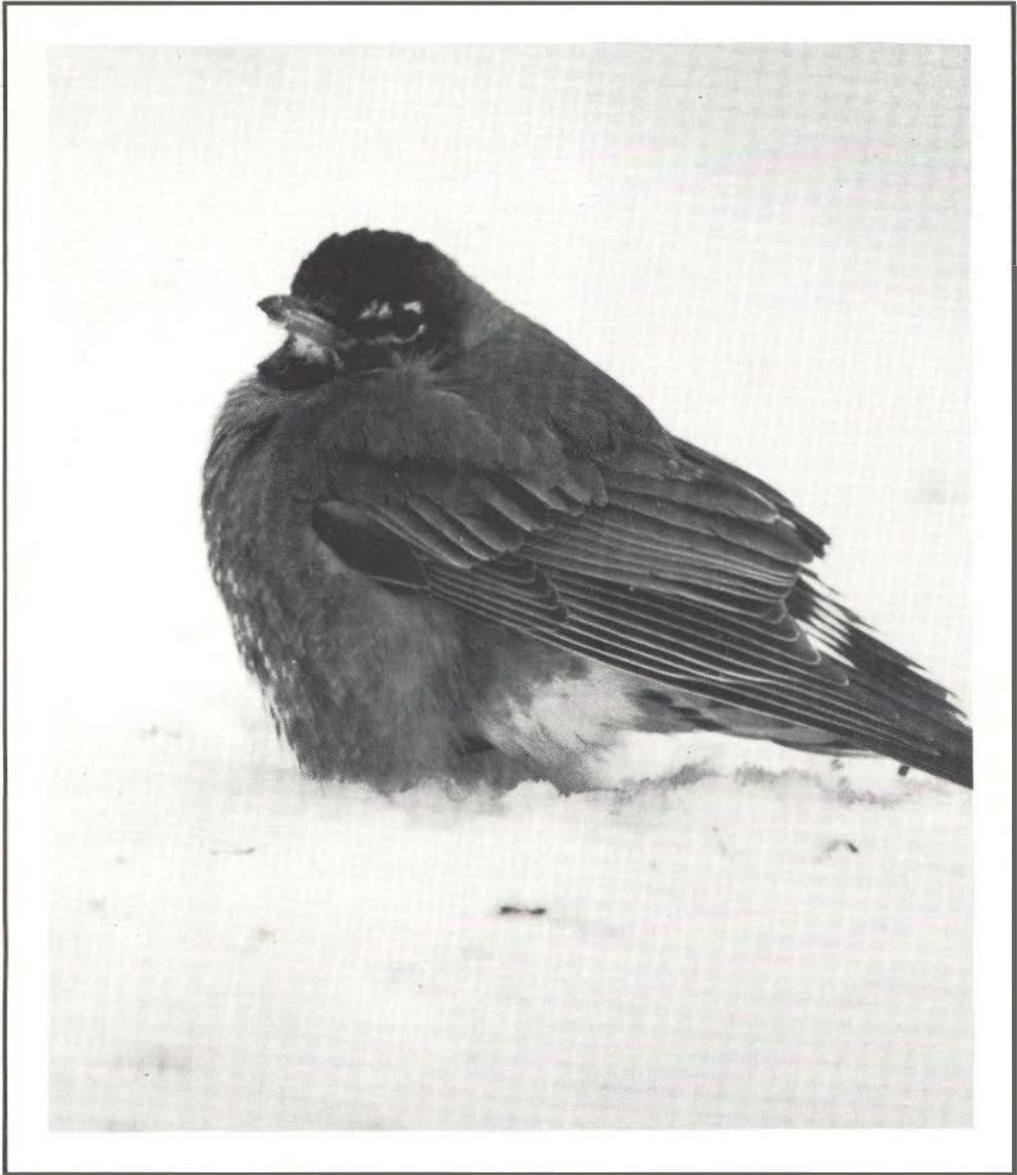


SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH
BIRD



DAKOTA
NOTES

South Dakota Bird Notes, the official publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (organized 1949), is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Life members \$125.00; sustaining members \$12.00; regular members \$6.00; family members (husband and wife) with 1 subscription to Bird Notes \$9.00; juniors (10-16) \$3.00; libraries (subscription) \$6.00. Single and back copies: Members \$1.50, Non-members \$2.00. All dues payment, change-of-address notices, and orders for back issues should be sent to the Treasurer, Nelda Holden, Rt. 4, Box 252, Brookings SD 57006. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to Editor Dan Tallman, NSC Box 740, Aberdeen SD 57401.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Several years ago the SDOU Checklist Committee designed a form entitled "Documentation of Rare Bird Sightings for the SD Ornithologists' Union Records." The committee recognized a need for more information about rare bird sightings in the state. When an unusual bird is found, the observer submits the form to provide the committee with additional details about the record. This form is enclosed in this issue of *Bird Notes*.



On the form, the reporter briefly notes facts about the observation, such as optical equipment used, light conditions, location, date and time of the sighting, and other observers present. Detailed information requested includes a complete field description of what was actually seen and heard (without reference to a field guide). Ideally this data can be recorded in detail at the time of the sighting or shortly thereafter, before memory fades or can be confused by information from outside sources. The observer is then asked to explain how the bird in question differs from similar species. An account of prior experience with the rare bird and with similar species is requested.

Reporters who are unsure if a bird warrants a form being filed should consult the book, *Birds of South Dakota*. Some may feel that the Checklist Committee requests unnecessary information about bird sightings. However, I believe that we all can remember instances when our eyes and ears played tricks on us. Regardless of the level of expertise, even the best observers occasionally make mistakes.

Until now, the Checklist Committee has not had a formalized procedure for evaluating sightings submitted on rare bird forms. The committee is currently reviewing the by-laws and procedures from 7 other state record committees. This process is fairly detailed and lengthy. Hopefully the committee will have a set of by-laws written in time for the Fall 1986 meeting.

Gary Rosenberg, writing in the recent Christmas Bird Count issue of *American Birds*, stated that "written records must STAND FOR THEMSELVES." Rosenberg meant that whatever documentation is submitted should be sufficiently descrip-

tive to convince a majority of readers that the account is authentic. Rosenberg, in evaluating the count sightings, found that a few observers submitted poor details but stated that they were familiar with the species in question and could hardly misidentify them. "These [records] are unacceptable as documentation," wrote Rosenberg, "of an unusual sighting....and should not be included without proper documentation." We of the SDOU should have the same high standards for our state records, our journal (*Bird Notes*), and our book (*Birds of South Dakota*). We can take a step in the right direction by completing the rare bird form for each unusual sighting that we submit for inclusion with our state records.

IN MEMORIAM

James Walters Johnson
1901-1985

James W. Johnson, a long-time SDOU member and director, died at his home in Huron on 15 November 1985. Jim was born on 14 July 1901 in Orange County, Indiana, and grew up on the family farm. He graduated from Purdue University in 1927 with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering. Early in his professional career, he worked in Mississippi, where he met and married his first wife, Lucille McCool.

In 1939, Jim and Lucille moved to Huron, where they made their home for the remainder of their lives. On 31 December 1968, Jim retired as a civil engineer with the Chicago Northwestern Railroad.

In subsequent writings about Lucille's family, Jim indicated that he became interested in bird study after moving to Huron. I remember him telling me that he had been an amateur astronomer, and that he spent several months building a home telescope. After completing the scope, he looked for another project, and eventually took up birding. He and Lucille were among the organizers of the Huron Bird Club. Jim joined the SDOU in 1953. For several years, beginning in 1953, he wrote a nature column for the *Huron Plainsman*.

When J. Scott Findley retired as editor of *Bird Notes*, in early 1959, Jim volunteered to take over the position, which he held for 10 years. His first issue was the combined March-June 1959; his last, June 1969. The extent of his contribution is evident in his many editorials, book reviews, and longer articles written during those 10 years.

When he finally indicated in 1969 that he wished to resign as editor, the SDOU accepted his resignation with deep regret. We immediately elected him president, a post he served for the next 2 years. Between 1957 and his death, Jim served on the SDOU Board of Directors for 28 years.

In a sense, Jim was godfather to *The Birds of the Black Hills*. In 1960, I compiled an annotated list of the birds of the Black Hills, based mostly on my own observations. I sent it to Jim for publication in *Bird Notes*, and he wrote back that he needed to give it much consideration before publishing. As it was too long for a single issue, we considered running it serially. Since Jim claimed no expertise on Black Hills birds, he sent my manuscript to several other people, including Dr. O. S. Pettingill, Jr., director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Pettingill had made several summer trips to the Black Hills in the 1940's, and Jim suggested that I write to him for some information that I needed. As a result, Dr. Pettingill and I collaborated to publish the book in 1965, in time to be sold at the Wilson Society meeting at Sylvan Lake.

When we reconstituted the Checklist Committee in 1967 to write *Birds of South Dakota*, Jim accepted membership and prepared the accounts for all 83 species from flycatchers through vireos. We held the first few meetings in conjunction with SDOU meetings, but found we could not accomplish much in such limited time. When we decided to hold a series of workshop meetings, Jim immediately invited us to his home to work. Between 1969 and 1975, *The Birds of South Dakota* was written over the Johnson's dining room table.

Meanwhile Lucille's deteriorating health required that Jim spend more time on housekeeping duties. He was also writing a book on his family genealogy. He told me that he spent each morning on the bird book and each afternoon on the genealogy book. Eventually both were published.

In a late 1968 letter, in reply to my comments about his editorship of *Bird Notes*, Jim wrote, "With about ten years experience on it, I can say, like I do about feeding birds: Whether or not it helps the birds may be problematical. But there is no doubt that feeding birds is good for the one who does it. And editing a magazine is good for the editor, no matter how the readers suffer."

Lucille died on 25 September 1978, and on 31 December 1979, Jim married Blanche Battin of Huron, who had also been a bird student and SDOU member for many years. They both continued to be active in SDOU, despite health problems that prevented their regular attendance at meetings. When we reorganized the Checklist Committee in 1982, Jim declined

to continue as a member because he was once again involved in genealogy research.

We will miss Jim. He is one of the people who has had a profound influence on the success of the SDOU. Other tributes to Jim by D. G. Adolphson and Winona Sparks appear in *SDBN* 24:76. However, perhaps a most fitting end to this memoriam would be the following article, a copy of an unedited handwritten paper written by Jim shortly before his death:

A hawk caught a robin in the yard about noon Sept. 21, 1985. Our first knowledge of the action came when a flock of robins were passing through and stopping for water as they had been doing from about 9 o'clock. Some ten or so of the birds were at the ground concrete bird bath, around it or in the water. Blanche was calling them off as I recorded the number. Suddenly all the robins in sight vanished. She mentioned the fact wonderingly and I looked up at her exclamation. Not a bird was in sight.

We peered about the yard to see what had so alarmed the birds. Other species had been noted during the morning: a thrasher, a Swainson's Thrush, several Pine Siskins, a couple of chickadees, a couple of flickers. The day was dull after the bright morning. It took some minutes to find a hawk on the ground to the left side of the yard under a small buckeye. It was busily plucking an object held on the ground. Its back was to our left. It was about the size of a Cooper's Hawk with very light underparts which were faintly barred in gray. We tried to get a view of the tail but due to shade and poor light could make out no marks. The wings seemed to be about the length relative to its tail as those of the Cooper's Hawk.

No strong face marks showed. Rather the face gradually lightened from back to bill. The back of the bird was very dark hardly short of black. The face of the bird was dark without marks except slightly paler in the area of eyes and base of bill. We had no memory of ever seeing a hawk of this coloring.

After some ten minutes the hawk took off to our right through trees and was lost to our sight without our getting a worthwhile glimpse of relative wing length.

When we examined the ground later we found only a few fine feathers with a reddish tint and presumably they were from the breast of a robin. So the hawk apparently carried the robin when it took off.

On Sept. 13, 1985, a hawk we identified as a Merlin was seen briefly in the yard but the effect on the presence of other birds was not great.

But the Cooper's Hawk appearance and activities, brief as they were, had a more drastic effect. During the morning we had counted 1237 robins actively using the bath. Afterward during the afternoon almost no birds except a few resident chickadees and an occasional migrant, particularly the smaller birds. AND NO ROBINS.
--J. W. Johnson, Huron 57350.

--Nathaniel Whitney, 533 Berry Pine Road, Rapid City, 57702.

BIRDS OF BLACK HILLS OLD GROWTH FOREST

By Richard Peterson
Box 981, Hot Springs 57757

Introduction

My study, done while I was a volunteer for the Black Hills National Forest during the summer of 1985, had 4 primary objectives: 1. Describe the characteristics of old growth forest (OGF) in the Black Hills; 2. Inventory OGF habitat by using a scorecard; 3. Determine the suitability of the Goshawk as an indicator species for OGF; and 4. Determine avian species occurrence in the habitat categories that were developed as a result of this study.

Methods and Materials

Sixty-two timber stands from throughout the Black Hills and all 7 districts of the Black Hills National Forest were selected for rating. The sites were selected as having potential to be highly rated OGF stands. I filled out a habitat scorecard as I walked a circular route through the stand. All bird species noted by sight or sound were recorded. Generally an hour was spent at the sites, each of which averaged about 80 acres. To minimize edge effect, I attempted to stay at least 300 feet from all stand boundaries.

Results and Conclusions

Of the 62 rated stands, 59 had overstories dominated by Ponderosa Pine; 3 had overstories dominated by White Spruce; 8 had significant spruce in the over or midstory; 19 had significant deciduous trees in the mid or understory; 10 had been recently logged; and 12 were above 6000 feet elevation.

Table 1 is divided into habitat categories based on scorecard ratings. The 2 categories, 31-35 and 36+, are considered OGF categories in the Black Hills. These sites are characterized by over 50% canopy coverage, overstory trees over 10 inches DBH (diameter at breast height), 2 or more snags/acre, and a multiple-layered canopy. The other 2 categories, 26-30 and 25 and under, are characterized by a less than 50% canopy, overstory trees less than 10 inches DBH, 0-1 snag/acre, and usually a single-layered canopy.

The Northern Goshawk was the only species found to be dependent on OGF. All goshawk sightings, active nests, and old nests occurred in stands rated 31-35. This finding supports using goshawks as an indicator species for OGF in the Black Hills. Other species that had greater occurrence in this category were the American Robin and Solitary Vireo.

The highest rated stands (36+) can be described as Late Old Growth, with more snags and larger trees than in the previous category. Species that preferred this habitat were Hairy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Gray Jays, Western Tanagers, and Ovenbirds.

The 26-30 category, a more open pine habitat, was preferred by White-winged Juncos. My data show that Red Crossbills occurred most often in the lowest category. However, I believe this latter finding likely to have been due to chance, rather than an indication of actual habitat preference.

This study indicates a sharp decrease in species richness in stands located above 6000 feet elevation. At the high elevation sites only 11 species were recorded.

No recently logged stands rated above 30. Therefore, logging results in much less optimum habitat for OGF species. Continued logging without some protection of nesting habitat could mean extirpation or, at least, a great reduction in goshawk populations that seem to depend on Old Growth Forest stands for nesting habitat.

Table 1. Percent of stands in which species were sighted. Species with only 1 occurrence include Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Mountain Bluebird, kinglet sp., Black-headed Grosbeak, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

rating categories----->	25 or less	26-30	31-35	36+
number of stands/category	11	18	23	10
species	% stands where species occurred			
Northern Goshawk			13	
Red-tailed Hawk		6	4	10
Northern Flicker		6	4	20
Hairy Woodpecker	20	22	38	50
Black-backed Woodpecker	9	6	4	
Empidonax sp.		6	4	
Western Wood-Pewee			4	10
Gray Jay		12	29	60
Black-capped Chickadee	60	67	75	80
White-breasted Nuthatch		6	25	40
Red-breasted Nuthatch	63	61	88	80
American Robin	18	22	33	20
Swainson's Thrush			8	10
Townsend's Solitaire	27	44	46	30
Solitary Vireo	9	6	21	10
Warbling Vireo		12	8	
Audubon's Warbler	27	67	67	70
Ovenbird	9	12	25	50
Brown-headed Cowbird		6	4	
Western Tanager		22	21	40
Pine Siskin	9	12	8	10
Red Crossbill	55	33	38	30
White-winged Junco	55	72	63	40
Chipping Sparrow	9	6	4	
Total species/category	13	21	24	18

TWO NEW BIRDS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA LIFELISTS

reviews by Dan Tallman
Northern State College

Birders with lifelists should be aware of 2 changes in the recent supplement of the American Ornithologists' Union's *Checklist of North American Birds*. Added to the South Dakota list of species were the Clark's Grebe and the Red-naped Sapsucker. This review summarizes some of the reasons for these taxonomic changes as presented in 2 important papers, "An Analysis of Plumage and Morphological Characteristics of the two Color Forms of the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus*)" by Storer and Neuchterlein in *Auk* 102:102-119, 1985, and "Speciation in Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus*): I. Genetic Differentiation" by Johnson and Zink in *Auk* 100:871-884. Interested readers are urged to consult both these articles.

The Western Grebe has long been known to have 2 color phases. In the first, the black crown covers well below the eye on the sides the bird's face; this phase, most common in South Dakota, should be called the Western Grebe. In the second, the black crown does not extend below the eye, which is therefore completely surrounded by white; this form has been declared a discrete species, not just a color phase, and should be known as the Clark's Grebe. The Clark's Grebe is relatively uncommon in South Dakota, perhaps as little as 1% of our populations. The pale birds become more common to the south and west, thus careful observation and reporting is required in our state. I urge reporters of Western Grebes to clearly state that they are aware of the Clark's Grebe's existence.

Why isn't the Clark's Grebe simply a color phase of the Western? While hybrids between the species are known, the birds usually select mates of their own type. Immatures or winter-plumaged individuals often have been mistaken as intermediate forms. A reason for this "assortive" mating is that advertising calls, given during courtship, are single notes in Clark's Grebes and double notes in Western Grebes. The 2 grebes take different-sized prey items because their feeding behavior is slightly different: light birds apparently dive deeper for their prey than do dark grebes.

The 2 species are thought to have diverged, the Western Grebe in the north and the Clark's in the South, when the populations became isolated during a dry period when suitable habitat was absent in intermediate areas. The authors further speculate that the process of speciation continued after the populations reunited. Hybrids are uncommon and

presumably are becoming rarer. Storer and Nuechterlein end their paper by lecturing: "...it is the situation, not the nomenclature (or the potential length of life lists), that is of prime biological interest." The American Ornithologists' Union now considers the 2 populations to have achieved the status of independent species.

Three sapsucker species were recognized in the 34th supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Checklist of North American Birds*: the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the Williamson's Sapsucker, and the Red-breasted Sapsucker. This last species, native to the Pacific Northwest and California, does not interbreed with other sapsuckers within its range, and, unlike other sapsucker species, the male and female plumage does not differ.

Johnson and Zink studied 39 genetic loci by electrophoretic methods. By this method, the sapsucker's genes were compared by counting proteins produced by those genes. Closely related populations will share more proteins than less closely related birds. In other words, this study attempts to measure genetic distance between different bird populations.

While no absolute distance exists that will automatically tell us if 2 populations are separate species, the authors make several observations. Red-naped Sapsuckers, previously considered a subspecies of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, from California, Montana, and South Dakota are very similar genetically, despite the fact that Black Hills birds are isolated from Rocky Mountain populations. Despite the obvious differences in plumage between Red-naped and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, these 2 species, which very seldom interbreed, are similar genetically. Red-naped and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, however, are genetically distant. The authors speculate that the first sapsuckers resembled present-day Williamson's Sapsuckers. These populations gave rise to Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, some of which became the ancestors of the Red-naped and Red-breasted forms, which have themselves only recently become isolated.

South Dakotans may see the Red-naped Sapsucker in the Black Hills; the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is found East River. The 2 forms are illustrated in the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Male Red-naped Sapsuckers have a red crown and a red patch at the back of their heads (lacking in male Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers). Female Red-naped Sapsuckers also have this head patch and have a bicolored throat: white under the bill and red on the lower throat. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers' throats are uniformly white.

GENERAL NOTES

BLANKESPOOR'S FLICKER -- LEUCISTIC OR ALBINISTIC?--An interesting observation of an "albino" Common Flicker by Blankespoor (*SDBN* 34:41) exemplifies the inherent problems of defining terms for abnormally colored birds.

Blankespoor described his flicker as "pink-eyed and all white, except for a red nape and yellow flight feathers and tail underlinings." Blankespoor correctly pointed out that this flicker was capable of processing carotenoids, but could not synthesize melanin. The bird could thus be classified as non-melanic leucistic (Buckley, pp. 21-110 in Petrak, Ed., *Diseases of Cage and Aviary Birds, 2nd Ed.*, Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1982), although this term is not entirely correct since leucism as defined by Buckley is "the complete loss of a particular pigment, or all pigments, in feathers but not in soft parts." The pink eyes in this case suggest albinism, but Buckley further states that albinism is "the complete absence of all pigmentation, resulting in white feathers, pink eyes....and light bills and legs/feet. Albinism is all or nothing, and a bird can no more be a 'partial albino' than a female mammal 'partially pregnant'." Regardless of the appropriate terminology, Blankespoor's flicker does suggest that, in flickers, the synthesis of melanin in both the soft parts and feathers is under similar genetic control.

Hailman (*Fla. Field Nat.* 12:36-38, 1984; *'Elepaio* 45: 81-82, 1985) recently discussed some of the problems with interpreting abnormal coloration in birds, and suggested that authors should use straightforward descriptions rather than ambiguous and misleading terms with little or no analytical value. Blankespoor's flicker not only points out the need for revising our present terminology for abnormal coloration, but is significant in that only through the compilation of many careful observations can we ever hope to understand the genetic and pigmental bases of avian coloration.--F. E. Hayes, 1350 Hogback Road, Ann Arbor MI 48104.

UNUSUAL ROBIN MIGRATION.--On 24 September 1984, from late afternoon until dusk, Jim Johnson and I noted a large number of robins at the bird bath, eventually counting 502. We began keeping close count of robins actually using the bath to drink or bathe. We suspect we would not be counting too many birds twice during migration because the birds would be moving through the area.

To our amazement, we counted 5210 during September and 1034 during October, a total of 6244. The top day was 21

September when, between 9 am and 12:30 pm, we counted 1237 robins. The movement of Robins stopped only when a hawk joined the scene and caught a robin (see memoriam in this issue). No more robins showed up until 2 days later. We wondered how they knew to avoid us.--Blanche Johnson, 1421 Utah SE, Huron 57350.

GYRFALCON IN BROWN COUNTY.--Just north of the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, as we approached Brown Co. Highway 10 from the south we caught a glimpse of a large, long-tailed falcon flying with slow wing beats low over the north side of the highway and disappear behind an east-west running treerow. After failing to find the bird on the north side of the highway, we turned west on highway 10. The falcon perched on a telephone pole to the south.

Gyrfalcons are extremely variably plumaged birds. Ours had a white stripe above the eye and faint moustache markings. Although heavily streaked below, the bird was not as dark as shown in most current field guides. The underwings were a pale brown. Of all the pictures of Gyrfalcons we have seen, ours comes closest to photographs at the end of Bent's Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey (1938, *USNM Bull.* 170). We were impressed by the bulk of the falcon's body, its long tail, and relatively small head. Although in apparently immature plumage, our bird's tarsi and toes were yellow. The eye was dark brown.

As we watched, the Gyrfalcon flew a few feet above a snow-filled marshy pothole. Suddenly the falcon banked sharply, coming to an almost vertical stall. The falcon went down, snow and feathers flew as the raptor apparently chased and struck at a running partridge. The partridge exploded from the marsh, flew a short distance, before seeking cover. But the Gyrfalcon did not give further chase, landing instead in some low willow bushes at the edge of the marsh. The bird sat there for several minutes while we again marvelled at the falcon's huge size. We noted faint white windows on the bird's nape. The bird then took flight with steady wing beats and flew relatively low along the ground to the southwest.--Dan A. Tallman and George Prisbe, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

EAGLE INVASION OF CROW CREEK.--On 29 December 1985, during a pre-Christmas Bird Count survey west of Spearfish and south of I-90, George G. Ross and I observed 8 eagles resting along a quarter mile stretch of Crow Creek, a tributary of Redwater River (that runs through McNenny Fish Hatchery). Four eagles (2 adults and 1 immature Bald Eagles and 1 adult

Golden) were resting in deciduous trees along the east side of the county road while 4 eagles (3 adult and 1 immature Bald) were on the west side of the county road downstream from a ranch headquarter building. After about 10 minutes, 2 of the adult Bald Eagles flew southerly as they aerobatically chased each other toward the Black Hills.

After observing the eagles for 15 minutes, we continued north on our survey by driving to Crow Creek on the service road. We observed a pair of Golden Eagles flying over a large red butte to the west of Crow Creek. We drove within 250 yards of the butte where 1 of the Golden Eagles had landed while the other circled overhead. The perched eagle joined the other in flight after about 5 minutes and together they flew west toward Redwater River.

In all we observed 7 Bald Eagles and 3 Golden Eagles within a three-quarter mile stretch of Crow Creek. This eagle concentration is the largest that George and I have seen since we have been observing birds in the Spearfish area.--Daniel L. Bjerke, 1108 Verdale, Spearfish 57783.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS AND A POSSIBLE GLAUCOUS GULL IN JACKSON COUNTY.--On 27 August, while searching Kadoka Lake for shorebirds, I saw 6 small sandpipers feeding on a grassy peninsula caused by the summer drought. Moving closer, I saw the buffy color on the head, neck and breast and as the birds moved while feeding, I noted the dark yellowish legs that confirm identification of Buff-breasted Sandpipers. I watched this area for the next few days and again saw 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers on the 29th. These records are the second and third time that I have seen this species at Kadoka Lake, always in the same habitat (short green grasses caused by the fluctuation of lake water levels). These birds may be regular in western South Dakota and birders should watch this type of habitat closely for them.

Kadoka Lake is entirely enclosed by public land and no permission is needed to bird there. Access exists from the frontage road that parallels I-90. A missile site on the north side of the lake marks a dirt road that leads to the lake. A gate just to the right of the second cattle guard you cross gives access to the west and south side of the lake--if you have a vehicle that you trust off the road. In season, the south side of the lake generally has the greatest concentrations of shorebirds. Anyone interested in birding the lake can contact me for more information.

On 12 December 1985, while driving to Longvalley School during a ground blizzard, I saw an unidentified gull. The snow was blowing on the road at a height of 1 to 2 feet,

making visibility difficult. From about 100 feet I saw what appeared to be a block of snow or ice. At perhaps 50 feet, I realized that the block was a gull. I had only a few seconds' glimpse of the bird but it was a large gull with black on the part of the bill that I could see. No black in the primaries was visible when the bird flew as I passed. In summary, this gull was large, all white, with black on its bill. The bird may have been a Glaucous Gull, although Iceland or Thayer's Gulls are also possible, but they are not listed as occurring in South Dakota. I returned to the area later but could not find the bird again.--Kenneth Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka 57543.

GRAUPMANN 1985 BANDING RESULTS.--I banded the following 63 species during 1985. In this list, the first number shows the total number banded. The number in parenthesis is the difference (+ or -) from 1984; an asterisk (*) means that the bird was banded for the first time in Jackson Co.; an equals sign (=) means the same number was banded; 2 asterisks (**) means the bird was banded in Pennington Co. Species banded in 1984 but not in 1985 include Townsend's Solitaire, Brown Creeper, Hairy Woodpecker, Yellow-shafted Flicker, White-throated Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Vesper Sparrow and Red-headed Woodpecker.

Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 (*)	Gray Catbird	20 (+14)
Common Snipe	1 (*)	Brown Thrasher	45 (+23)
Mourning Dove	6 (+6)	Loggerhead Shrike	6 (+5)
Black-billed Cuckoo	6 (+1)	Bell's Vireo	43 (+19)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2 (=)	Warbling Vireo	4 (-21)
Downy Woodpecker	2 (+1)	Red-eyed Vireo	11 (+9)
Red-shafted Flicker	1 (=)	Tennessee Warbler	1 (*)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2 (*)	Orange-crowned Warbler	2 (+1)
Willow Flycatcher	9 (-1)	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2 (-1)
Least Flycatcher	24 (+16)	Black-and-white Warbler	4 (+4)
Great Crested Flycatcher	7 (+2)	American Redstart	9 (+8)
Western Kingbird	1 (*)	Ovenbird	22 (+17)
Eastern Kingbird	10 (-2)	Northern Waterthrush	1 (*)
Blue Jay	9 (-3)	Common Yellowthroat	5 (-14)
Black-capped Chickadee	22 (-2)	Wilson's Warbler	2 (-2)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 (*)	Yellow-breasted Chat	27 (+14)
White-breasted Nuthatch	1 (+1)	Black-headed Grosbeak	17 (+2)
House Wren	9 (-33)	Blue Grosbeak	1 (*)
Veery	1 (+1)	Lazuli Bunting	2 (=)
Swainson's Thrush	55 (+42)	Spotted Towhee	41 (-16)
American Robin	13 (+4)	American Tree Sparrow	353 (+22)

Chipping Sparrow	35 (+34)	Western Meadowlark	2 (+2)
Clay-colored Sparrow	24 (+14)	Common Grackle	8 (+7)
Field Sparrow	14 (-8)	Brown-headed Cowbird	3 (-1)
Lark Sparrow	7 (-12)	Orchard Oriole	71 (-64)
Lark Bunting	1 (*)	Baltimore Oriole	2 (+2)
Savannah Sparrow	1 (+1)	Bullock's Oriole	28 (+20)
Song Sparrow	5 (-5)	Rosy Finch	117 (**)
Lincoln's Sparrow	3 (-22)	Purple Finch	1 (*)
White-crowned Sparrow	32 (-55)	Pine Siskin	1 (*)
Harris' Sparrow	2 (-7)	American Goldfinch	13 (+5)
Dark-eyed Junco	28 (-16)		

--Kenneth Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka 57543.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Vermont edited by Sarah B. Lauglin and Douglas P. Kibbe. University Press of New England. hardbound. 436 pp. \$45.00.

Although this book deals strictly with Vermont's breeding birds, it should be purchased or read by anyone seriously interested in atlasing projects. This text, "the first in a new generation of wildlife volumes," as stated in the forward, is the first state breeding bird atlas to be published in North America. The purpose for atlasing is "the documentation of the current status and distribution of all breeding species in a geographical region."

The Vermont breeding bird atlas survey was initiated in 1976, with data collected through 1981 by over 200 fieldworkers, all of whom are listed in the acknowledgments. The book's bulk consists of species accounts containing the information collected by these workers. Each account is accompanied by a map of Vermont showing the atlas survey blocks. The species' status in each block is denoted by a different-sized dot depending on the bird's breeding status: confirmed, probable or possible. Besides the map, each account contains 2 tables with data on the number of blocks and physiographic regions in which the species was recorded, information on habitat requirements, nest building, breeding, courtship, general behavior, distribution, and a brief history of the species' occurrence in the state. A small pen and ink drawing illustrates the bird described in each account.

In the introductory chapters, the reader is provided with the history and methods used in atlas surveys. Information for interpreting and using the species accounts is given as are explanations of data collection, recording, and analysis. Several maps are included showing location of atlas blocks, coverage obtained in each block, physiographic regions, counties, land elevations, agricultural lands, temperature, precipitation, vegetational regions, drainage, and wetlands. The last 8 maps are reprinted on 4 overlays that can be placed over each map in the species accounts. Sections on recording codes and terms and abbreviations used in the book are also provided.

The atlas project provided several interesting conclusions and much needed data on the current status of Vermont's breeding birds. 178 species were confirmed as breeding during the project. 7 of these birds had not previously been recorded as breeding in the state. Another 14 species were noted for the first time as possible or probable breeders. Before the survey, information on Vermont's birds tended to be biased toward the more populated areas of the state. One of the main purposes of the project was to motivate observers to work in areas where little or no data existed. By comparing atlas data with historic records, many changes in distribution were documented. Finally, several species thought to be widespread and common were found to have unstable populations.--Dennis Skadsen, Box 97, Platte 57369.

Avian Ecology by C. M. Perrins and T. R. Birkhead. 1983. Chapman and Hall, New York. Softbound 221 pp. \$21.00.

This text, directed at the advanced amateur and undergraduate student, rather effectively conveys the state of modern avian ecology. Despite its British origin, the book is quite readable and each page is packed with a wealth of information. I suppose we must resign ourselves to the current high price of books. I blanch at the prospect of shelling out \$21.00 for a relatively slim paperback and have sympathy for my students who must pay twice that amount for textbooks. The price of this book is its major drawback.

I will use this text to upgrade my ornithology class lectures. Even as a professor, I was stimulated by many of the ideas and facts in the book. The biology here is thoroughly modern. The ecological questions posed in these chapters are always firmly treated in an evolutionary foundation. Why birds act as they do is investigated in a framework of how the actions benefit energy reserves and

otherwise optimize reproduction.

Included in the chapters are sections on territories and colonies; breeding systems and seasons; clutch size; life histories and regulation of population size; community ecology, niche theory, and competition; foraging behavior; and migration. The reader leaves this text well versed in bird ecology. However, many examples are of British and Old World birds because that is the authors' home turf. The text contains a few black and white photographs and many graphs and tables. Because the book does not include anatomy or physiology, song or learning, the text probably is not suitable for most introductory ornithology classes. --Dan Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

THE 1985/86 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

compiled by Dan Tallman
Northern State College

- Aberdeen. 21 December 1985. Compiler: E. Montgomery. Observers not given. Wind 5-10 mph. 13-21° F. 18-20 inches snowcover.
- Brookings. 21 December 1985. Compiler: N. Holden. Wind 0-15 mph. 11 observers. 10-24° F. 14-17 inches snowcover.
- Deuel Co. Date not given. Compiler: B. Harris. 7 observers. Weather "good."
- Hot Springs. 4 January 1986. Compiler: R. Peterson. 11 observers. 15-28° F. 6-12 inches snowcover.
- Madison. 18 December 1985. Compiler: D. Gilbert. 10 observers. Weather not given.
- Pierre. 29 December 1985. Compiler: R. Summerside. 18 observers. Moderate temperature. Recent heavy snow.
- Rapid City. December 1985 [no day given]. Compiler: E. Serr. About 24 observers. More snow than usual.
- Sand Lake. 2 January 1986. Compiler: W. Schultze. 1 observer. Calm. 0-24° F. 5-24 inches snowcover.
- Sioux Falls. 21 December 1985. Compiler: G. Blankespoor. 11 Observers. Calm. 9-20° F.
- Spearfish. No date given. Compiler: D. Bjerke. 4 parties [number of observers not given] 10-45° F. 90% snowcover.
- Waubay. No date given. Compiler: M. Getman. Number of observers not given. "Chilly."
- Watertown. No date given. Compiler: B. Harris. 18 observers. Weather "good."
- Wilmot. No date given. Compiler: B. Harris. 7 observers. High afternoon wind.
- Yankton. 27 December 1985. Compiler: W. Hall. 9 observers. Wind 25-40 mph. 18-21° F. 0-36 inches snowcover.

	ABERDEEN	BROOKINGS	DEUEL CO	H. SPRINGS--	MADISON	PIERRE	RAPID CITY	SAND LAKE	SX. FALLS	SPEARFISH	WATERTOWN	WAUBAY	WILMOT	YANKTON	TOTAL
Pied-billed Grebe															1
Snow Goose							1								1
Canada Goose						5985	1		5	8					5999
Wood Duck							2		1						3
Green-winged Teal							17								17
Mallard			1034			8810	915		43	55	1	10		1317	12185
Northern Pintail							3								3
Gadwall							40							6	46
American Wigeon							36								36
Canvasback							1								1
Redhead							1	4						1	6
Ring-necked Duck							2								2
Lesser Scaup							2	1		2					5
Common Goldeneye				26		36	51		3					9	125
Barrow's Goldeneye							1								1
Bufflehead							9								9
Hooded Merganser							1								1
Common Merganser							62	31	5					111	209
Bald Eagle				2			26			6				7	41
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1			1	1							3
Cooper's Hawk												1			1
Northern Goshawk		3			2							3		2	10
Accipiter sp.				3											3
Buteo sp.		1													3
Red-tailed Hawk				2		3	1		3					5	14
Ferruginous Hawk						1	4								5
Rough-legged Hawk						1	3		1	1	1		1		8
Golden Eagle				14			2			2					18
American Kestrel									2				2		4
Merlin							1			1					2
Prairie Falcon				1											1
Gray Partridge	6	8	44					11		5	69	14	52	2	211
Ring-necked Pheasant	596	7	4	31	95	139	16	126	13	2	100	59	31	30	1249
Greater Prairie Chicken						3									3
Sharp-tailed Grouse				67		221	46			9	2				345
Wild Turkey				179		40	104			6					329
Northern Bobwhite														7	7
American Coot														18	18
Common Snipe							1			10					11
Ring-billed Gull							3								3
Rock Dove	36	56	39	41	189	296	734	23	187	151	70	54	56	35	1957
Mourning Dove				1											1
Eastern Screech-Owl							1	1			1				3
Great Horned Owl	4	8	6		7	15	1	2	5	2	2	1	2	3	58
Snowy Owl												1			1
Long-eared Owl							2								2
Short-eared Owl							1								1
Belted Kingfisher							14		2	2				2	20
Red-headed Woodpecker														1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker									2				2	2	6
Downy Woodpecker	21	28	13	3	8	9	28	1	22	13	31	17	32	13	239
Hairy Woodpecker	7	11	5	6	3	14	19		6	8	7	7	12	8	113
Northern Flicker	1	8		7	3	2	4		6	3				15	49
Horned Lark	9	8	6	67	242	175			35	122	69	2	76		811
Gray Jay				1			1								2
Blue Jay	15	38	11	6	9	3	72	2	11	68	6	18	7	19	285
Pinyon Jay							91								91
Black-billed Magpie				22			30			4				9	65
American Crow			28	8	50	34	125		135	16	4	22	10	71	503
Black-capped Chickadee	105	187	66	70	45	69	270		251	240	81	61	97	92	1634
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	12	1	4	4	5	37			5	1	4		1	85

White-breasted Nuthatch	19	30	12	4	15	14	21		43	9	10	16	13	12	218
Pygmy Nuthatch							12								12
Brown Creeper		1	1		3	6	1		10	5		1	1	1	30
Canyon Wren				3											3
Townsend's Solitaire				54		1	35			14					104
American Robin	1	3		409		3	11	3		68	1			13	512
Bohemian Waxwing	54	1					255			478					788
Cedar Waxwing		45		27		38	10				40	71			231
Northern Shrike	2	6	2	1	4	5	2			4	3	1	1	2	33
European Starling	184	180	68	98	255	422	962	57	149	74	52	107	57	525	3190
Northern Cardinal		1			4				2					9	16
Tree Sparrow	2	16	6	7	6	53	39		81	86		1		101	398
Song Sparrow		1				1									2
Harris' Sparrow	1	5				2								9	17
Dark-eyed Junco			7	162	13						1	7	16		206
Slate-colored Junco	9	81				20	154		32	35				74	405
Oregon Junco	1	3				7				6	1				18
White-winged Junco						317				66					383
Lapland Longspur		3													3
Snow Bunting			38		302	37			20		63	10	464		934
Red-winged Blackbird	2			20		190								2	214
Western Meadowlark		1													1
Yellow-headed Blackbird					1										1
Rusty Blackbird		9		10	13	3				20		4			59
Brewer's Blackbird						1									1
Common Grackle	8	2			3	26	1					10		2	52
Brown-headed Cowbird						7									7
Rosy Finch				50						74					124
Purple Finch	41	47	5		37	15	4				29	29	7	10	224
Cassin's Finch				12			8								20
House Finch							9								9
Red Crossbill			3							5					8
Common Redpoll	6	163	3	6	40	54	37	172	198	45	20	10	70		824
Pine Siskin	77	101	1	180	3	350	209	19	42		107		58		1147
American Goldfinch	2	8	18	6	10	180	12	12	13		1		142		404
Evening Grosbeak		13	6	38	3	169		1	206	11	12		81		520
House Sparrow	1870	1131	580	182	1324	925	599	169	419	4	442	334	687	284	8950
total individuals	3090	2253	955	2906	2677	18285	5590	394	1696	2148	1142	1006	1636	3161	46943
total forms	27	36	27	40	29	54	59	9	32	43	26	32	22	42	97

THE 1985/86 WINTER SEASON

by Bruce Harris

Box 605, Clear Lake SD 57226

This winter was generally cold, snowy, and windy, with only occasional relief to our misery. Roads were blocked for most the season, making birding difficult. A major blizzard hit 30 November and 1 December, bringing well below zero temperatures. We enjoyed a warming trend (to about 20° F above zero) for the Christmas Counts at the end of December. January was windy and generally cold. February began relatively mild but the cold and snow returned by mid-month. Warmth once again at the end of the month brought geese to the NE, where they found no water and moved back south.

High numbers of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, and Red-breasted Nuthatches were found on Christmas Bird Counts. Reports of siskins and, especially, goldfinches were spotty. Goldfinches were few in number or absent in many counties, yet were rated abundant in Charles Mix and Yankton Co. Siskins were reported on most CBC but were considered common only in Charles Mix and Gregory Co.

Kim Eckert has identified the gull photographs taken by Willis Hall at Gavin's Point (and reported in the last issue of Bird Notes) as those of a Thayer's Gull, making it the second state record for this difficult-to-identify species. Hall also took many photographs of a wintering Red-shouldered Hawk. A Barrow's Goldeneye turned up in Rapid City for the 9th winter and a Greater Scaup was observed by many at Capitol Lake in Pierre. Other highlights include a Gyrfalcon, House Finch, and a major flight of Rosy Finches.

CBC records are listed elsewhere in this issue. Observers cited in this report:

Leon J. Anderson (LJA)	Nelda J. Holden (NJH)	Steve Van Sickle (SVS)
Jocie L. Baker (JLB)	Karen Kronner (KK)	Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS)
Gil Blankespoor (GB)	Ernest E. Miller (EEM)	Mark S. Skadsen (MSS)
Ralph L. Bryant (RLB)	Bruce K. Harris (BKH)	Aylene Spevak (AS)
James Cole (JC)	Marjorie J. Parker (MJP)	Galen L. Steffen (GLS)
John M. Gilman (JMG)	Richard A. Peterson (RAP)	Dan A. Tallman (DAT)
Marjorie Glass (MG)	George Prisbe (DGP)	Sam J. Waldstein (SJW)
Ken Graupmann (KG)	Rex Riis (RR)	Duane C. Weber (DCW)
Willis Hall (WH)	Robert G. Rogers (RGR)	Lois I. Wells (LIW)
Gertrice Hinds (GBH)	William Shultz (WAS)	Nat R. Whitney (NRW)

CANADA GOOSE--Migrants: 25 February, Gregory Co; 27 February, Minnehaha Co.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON--7 December, Turner Co. (LJA)

WOOD DUCK--During period, Rapid City, 3 males (DCW).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL--29 December, Yankton Co. (WH). 27 February, Yankton Co. (LJA)

MALLARD--Waubay Fish Hatchery, 12 wintered.

NORTHERN PINTAIL--25 January, Rapid City, 2 (DCW). 27-28 February, Yankton Co., up to 12 early migrants (LJA).

AMERICAN WIGEON--12 February, Yankton Co. (WH). 27 February, Yankton Co., migrants (LJA).

CANVASBACK--All winter, Pierre, 1 female (RR et al.). 27-28 February, Yankton Co., migrants (WH, LJA).

REDHEAD--8 February, Yankton Co., 1 (SVS). 27 February, Yankton Co. (LJA). 28 February, Pierre (DGP et al.).

RING-NECKED DUCK--Individuals wintered, Pierre, Rapid City, and Yankton Co. 28 February, Yankton Co., 40 migrants (WH).

GREATER SCAUP--21 February, Pierre, 1 male with large rubber band between mandibles and around back of head but bird otherwise apparently healthy as seen at least during remainder of month (DGP et al.).

LESSER SCAUP--16 and 19 January, Yankton Co. (WH, MSS). 21 February, Pierre (DGP et al.).

COMMON GOLDENEYE--9 December, Grant Co., 2 (BKH). 21 December and 16 February, Minnehaha Co. (GB).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE--All winter, Rapid City, male for 8th consecutive season (JLB et al.).

BUFFLEHEAD--All winter, Day Co., Waubay Fish Hatchery.

HODDED MERGANSER--7 December and 12 January, Charles Mix Co. (DRS, MSS). 11 February, Rapid City, (NRW). 21 February, Pierre (DAT, DGP).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER--12 January, Charles Mix Co. (DRS).

RUDDY DUCK--27 February, Yankton Co. (LJA).

BALD EAGLE--29 December, Fall River Co., 3 adults with 5 Golden Eagles at antelope carcass (RAP). December, Perkins Co. (GBH). 2 and 30 February, Sand Lake NWR (WAS, SJW). 7 February, Meade Co. (EEM). All winter, Rapid City, 2 (NRW).

NORTHERN HARRIER--7 February, Yankton Co. (WH). Very few wintered this year.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK--Reports from Fall River, Hughes, Pennington, and Meade Co.

COOPER'S HAWK--Reports from Day, Codington, Brown, and Gregory Co.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK--Reports from Minnehaha, Gregory, Brown, Codington, Lake, Lincoln, Brookings, and Roberts Co. Apparently a good year.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK--8 January-February, Yankton Co., many photos (WH). 14 January, Charles Mix Co. (WH).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK--Reported Hughes, Custer, Charles Mix Co.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK--Reports from Brown, Yankton, Hanson, Turner, Day, Codington, Roberts, Pennington, Bon Homme, Edwards, Charles Mix Co.

GOLDEN EAGLE--East-river records from Faulk, Brown, Charles Mix, and Yankton Co.

MERLIN--Reports from Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, and Custer Co.

GYRFALCON--4 January, Sand Lake NWR, 1 (DAT, DGP).

PRAIRIE FALCON--Only 1 on 14 CBC.

CHUKAR--7 February, Custer Co., 1 (fide DCU). Undoubtedly escaped from captivity.

GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN--15 February, Brown Co., 4 with 1 Sharp-tailed Grouse (DGP, DAT). 6 January, Charles Mix Co., 34 (DRS).

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE--18 December, Waubay NWR, (RLB). 24 January, Waubay NWR (MHG).

AMERICAN COOT--2 December-19 February, Yankton Co., 15 (WH, MSS).

BONAPARTE'S GULL--7 December, Fort Randall Dam, latest ever (DRS, MSS).

HERRING GULL--23 December, Brown Co. (RLB).

THAYER'S GULL--24-30 November, Yankton Co., first year bird, second state record, photographed (WH).

GLAUCOUS GULL--7 December, Yankton Co. (DRS). 2 December, same area (WH).

MOURNING DOVE--Very few wintered this year.

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL--Reported from Deuel, Roberts, Day, Hughes, Codington, Yankton, and Pennington Co.

GREAT HORNED OWL--9 December, Day Co., crippled pale race at Watertown Zoo (fide JMG). Birds on nests: 6 February, Turner Co.; 15 February, Codington Co. (LJA, BKH).

SNOWY OWL--Only reports from Codington, Day, and Brown Co. Not a good year.

LONG-EARED OWL--Regularly during December, Bon Homme Co. (KK).

SHORT-EARED OWL--8 December, Brookings Co. (BKH, NJH). Scarce this winter.

BELTED KINGFISHER--Ca. 15 December, Deuel Co. (JC). 27 January, Yankton Co. (LJA).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER--Reported from Roberts, Minnehaha, Davison, Brookings, and Yankton Co.

NORTHERN FLICKER--Generally fewer than normal this winter.

PINYON JAY--Regular, Custer Co., 80-90 at feeder (MJP).

PYGMY NUTHATCH--Daily, Custer Co., 2 at feeder (MJP).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET--26 January, Minnehaha Co., 2 (MSS). Also reported from Davison Co. (RGR).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD--2 February, Yankton Co. (SVS).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE--5 December, Yankton Co. (SVS). Regular through 25 January, Brown Co., at birdbath (DAT).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING--Widely reported but in small numbers East River; normal numbers West River.

NORTHERN SHRIKE--Reported by most observers.

NORTHERN CARDINAL--Present all winter, Brown Co., 1 banded male (DAT).

SONG SPARRROW--December, Moody Co., 1 at feeder (LIW).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW--9 December, Codington Co. (JMG). 3 December-17 February, Yankton Co. (WH). Throughout winter, Custer Co. (DCW).

HARRIS' SPARROW--Reported from Deuel, Brookings, Brown, Hughes, and Yankton Co. Fewer than normal reported this season.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK--3 December, Yankton Co. (WH). 6 December and 6 January, Charles Mix Co. (DRS). 11 December, Turner Co., 3 (LJA). 9 January, Lincoln Co. (LJA).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD--Reported from Sand Lake NWR (DAT, DGP) and Charles Mix Co. (DRS).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD--Reports from Pierre, Lake, Roberts, Charles Mix, Brookings, Codington and Yankton Co.

ROSY FINCH--22 February, Rapid City (NRW). 3 January, Custer Co. (MJP). Since November, Badlands, 225 banded and over 200 at feeder at once (MG, KG).

PURPLE FINCH--19 January, Gregory Co., 10 (GLS). A good flight this winter.

CASSIN'S FINCH--4 January, Rapid City (NRW).

HOUSE FINCH--2 January-15 February, Gregory Co. (GLS).

RED CROSSBILL--A poor winter statewide.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL--2 December, Brown Co. (DAT). 2 February, Codington Co. (BKH, AS).

COMMON REDPOLL--A good flight year with flocks of up to 300 in some areas.

HOARY REDPOLL--9 and 26 January, 15 and 26 February, Brown Co. (DAT).

EVENING GROSBEAK--Usual numbers West River; widely scattered East River, generally with low numbers except at Yankton, where common.

Published by
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
Editor: Dr. Dan Tallman
NSC Box 740
Aberdeen, S.D. 57401

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 60 Aberdeen, S.D. 57401 814 Rt

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