

SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH
BIRD



DAKOTA
NOTES

VOL. 42

SEPTEMBER 1990

NO. 3

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 \$150.00; Family life members (husband and wife) with 1 subscription to *Bird Notes* \$200; sustaining members \$15.00, regular members \$9.00; family members (husband and wife) with 1 subscription \$12.00; juniors (10-16) \$4.50; libraries (subscription) \$9.00. Single and back copies: Members \$2.50, Nonmembers \$3.00. All dues payments, change-of-address notices, and orders for back copies should be sent to the Treasurer, Nelda Holden, Rt. 4, Box 252, Brookings, SD 57006. Manuscripts for publication should be sent to Editor Dan Tallman, NSU Box 740, Aberdeen SD, 57401.

VOL. 42	SEPTEMBER 1990	NO.3
IN THIS ISSUE		
HOUSE FINCHES/ABERDEEN 1990 by Chuck Branson.....		Cover
PRESIDENT'S PAGE.....		51
THE WAUBAY BLUEBIRD TRAIL: 1989 BREEDING SEASON		
by Dennis Skadsen.....		52
BANDING RECOVERIES OF SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS by Dan Tallman.....		55
GENERAL NOTES - Skadsen 1989 Banding Report; Ringed Turtle Dove in Grant County; Ringed Turtle Dove in Sioux Falls; Common Poor-will nest in Tripp County; Eastern Bluebirds Survive Minus 20 Degree Weather in Day County		60
BOOK REVIEWS.....		63
SPRING 1990 MIGRATION REPORT.....		64

SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
Officers 1989-1990

President..... Kenneth Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka, 57543
 Vice President..... Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239
 Secretary..... L. M. Baylor, 1941 Red Dale Drive, Rapid City 57702
 Treasurer Nelda Holden, Rt. 4, Box 252, Brookings 57006
 Editor Dan Tallman, NSU Box 740, Aberdeen 57401
 Librarian Mark Skadsen, 1209 N Harlem Ave, Sioux Falls, 57104

Elected Directors

For Term expiring 1990: Kelly Lane, Rapid City; Linda Riner, Black Hawk; Dan Reinking, Brookings; Dennis Skadsen, Grenville; George Vandell, Pierre.
 For Term expiring 1991: Ken Graupmann, Kadoka; Joyce Harrell, Vermillion; Michael Melius, Hermosa; Richard Peterson, Oelrichs; Galen Steffen, Burke.
 For Term expiring 1992: Eileen Dowd, Pierre; Gertrice Hinds, Prairie City; Mark Skadsen, Sioux Falls; Dan Tallman, Aberdeen; Stephen Van Sickle, Yankton.

Past President Directors

Jocelyn L. Baker, L. M. Baylor, Gilbert Blankespoor, Robert Buckman, Cecil Haight, Byron Harrell, Bruce Harris, Nelda Holden, Kenneth Krumm, Rex Riis, N. R. Whitney, Jr.

Associate Editors: Erika Tallman and David Fuller.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings from a much greener western South Dakota. The rains have come on a regular basis this past spring and summer. So now the really good news, Kadoka Lake is rapidly filling with water and is again an excellent place to bird. The efforts to make better waterfowl habitat appear to have been very successful. Even with the rains being late, I observed broods of Mallards on the lake in early July. There is much more emergent vegetation and, as the lake fills, an island has been cut out of a peninsula that should make for even better nesting habitat--perhaps even herons or pelicans will nest here. If you happen to pass through Kadoka on I-90, be sure to stop and bird Kadoka Lake.



For those of you who attended the spring meeting in Bison, I don't have to tell you about the great time had by all. We observed over 140 species of birds, the meals were great, and we were able to bird another beautiful part of South Dakota. Next year's spring meeting will be in Brookings in May. This year's fall meeting will be in Vermillion on 5-7 October. Hope to see you there.

At the Board of Director's meeting in Bison, the board decided to go ahead and see if we can put together a series of slides on the birds of South Dakota. This series could be used by members and others interested in educating people about the value to birds in our state. I know I need to go through my slides now and then, so I am asking those of you who take slides of birds to go through your collections and see if you have duplicate slides that you are willing to donate to SDOU. Slides of nests, eggs, or young can also be used. After deciding which slides you want to donate, send me a list and I will contact you about which slides we can use.

Have a good birding fall. I am looking forward to seeing you at Vermillion. Ken Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka, SD 57543.

THE WAUBAY BLUEBIRD TRAIL: 1989 BREEDING SEASON

by Dennis Skadsen
RR Box 113, Grenville 57239

Nesting

Several nests observed under construction on 20 April contained full clutches by 29 April. Young from these nests fledged during the last week of May. The last young to fledge from the nest box trail did so the second week of August. Unlike 1988 when drought conditions and high temperatures caused most nesting to cease after the first of July, bluebirds successfully raised young during the entire breeding season. A summary of 1989 bluebird nesting and banding data is given in Table 2.

Nest Failure

Although the number of attempted nests increased, the percentage of successful nests (nests which fledged at least one bluebird) remained lower than two of the previous three years of observations (see Table 1). Several reasons may account for this. There was a dramatic increase in mammalian predation by raccoons and possibly domestic cats. Nests in boxes protected with and without post-mounted predator shields were destroyed, leading one to suspect cats, which could have reached the box by jumping over the guard. In an attempt to identify the predators, I placed traps under active bluebird nests. Only one raccoon was caught in this manner and no feral cats were trapped or observed. Shields have now been made for placement on all nest boxes on the refuge. Predation by House Wrens also increased but that may be due to a larger wren population competing to nest on the trail. Placement of nest boxes farther from brush and woods will help reduce wren predation in 1990. For the first time, evidence of pesticide poisoning as cause of mortality was observed. Several young bluebirds were found dead in nest boxes located along road ditches recently sprayed with herbicides. Spraying of these ditches is controlled by county maintenance crews. Better communication between refuge staff and the county weed board will hopefully solve this problem in the future. Several consecutive nights of 25 to 37 degree Fahrenheit temperatures may have caused abandonment of a few nests during mid-May. On 7 August, an unseasonable low nighttime temperature of 47 degrees Fahrenheit killed most of the 10- to 12-day-old nestling bluebirds on the trail. At this age nestlings lack enough feathers to withstand cold temperatures and are too large to be successfully brooded by adult birds. Attempts to rescue several young failed.

Banding

Banding of Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows nesting on the trail continued. Three male bluebirds originally banded in 1988, and one banded in 1987, were recaptured on the trail during the 1989 breeding season. Twenty-four Tree Swallows were recaptured on the trail, 9 birds were originally banded in 1987 and 15 originally banded in 1988. To date, a total of 260 Eastern Bluebirds and 555 Tree Swallows have been banded on the nest box trail. No foreign retraps of birds banded on the refuge have been reported.

Table 1. Bluebird Nesting Success/Failure 1986-1989.

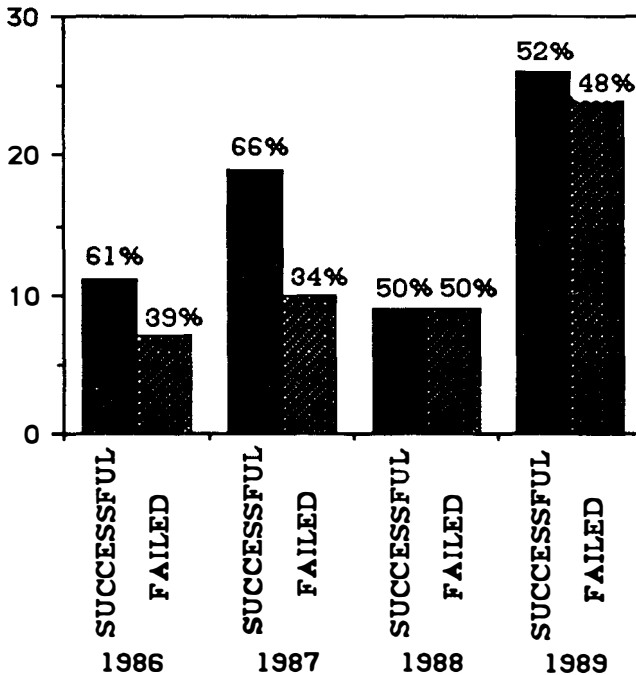
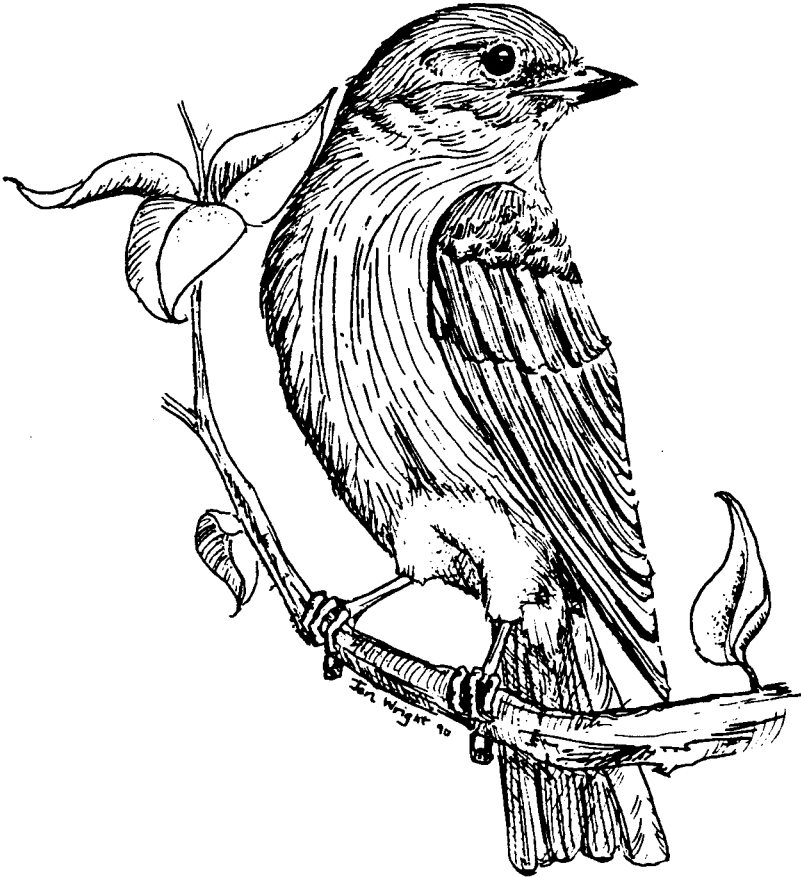


Table 2. A summary of 1989 bluebird nesting and banding data.

Nest boxes used	39
Nesting attempts	
Successful	26
Failed	24
Unknown	1
Reason for failure	
Wren predation	9
Raccoon predation	9
Miscellaneous	6
Number of eggs laid	216
Average Number of eggs per clutch	4.2
Number of eggs hatched	147
Number of young fledged	93
Number of young banded	
Female	54
Male	39
Unknown	7
Number of adults banded	
Female	20
Male	14

Number of banded adults recaptured	
Originally banded 1987: male	1
female	0
Originally banded 1988: male	3
female	0



BANDING RECOVERIES OF SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS

Part 3: Sparrows and Finches
by Dan Tallman
Northern State University
Aberdeen 57401

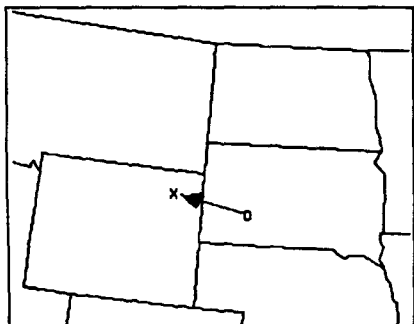
INTRODUCTION. This article is the third of a projected series summarizing bird banding recoveries of South Dakota birds. I have included both birds banded in South Dakota and recovered outside the state and birds banded elsewhere but recovered in South Dakota. The banding records include many interesting local recaptures but, for the most part, I have ignored these data. In this survey, the taxonomic sequence is by AOU numbers, and, therefore, is somewhat archaic.

METHODS AND MATERIALS. The information upon which these maps are made come from a printout run on 5 January 1990 by the Banding Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The maps were computer generated on MapMaker for the Macintosh by Select Micro Systems, Inc.

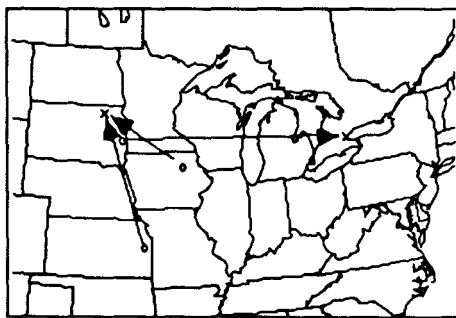
EXPLANATION OF THE MAPS. On these maps, "O" is the approximate point of banding and "X" is the approximate point of recovery. Because the Banding Office does not record exact locality data and because computer mapping is imprecise, the location points on the maps should only be considered as approximate. When discrete banding or recovery points are close together, they are represented by a single "O" or "X." The arrows also reflect points of origin and recovery. Birds recovered well after the year of banding may have enjoyed wide migratory patterns in the interval between banding and recovery. Identical records are not indicated on the maps. Some records that do not add to the informational content of the map have also been ignored.

A WORD ON THE TEXT. The maps tend to be self explanatory. However, to the left of the maps, I have included a short text that identifies the species for which the map is drawn and includes some noteworthy records.

Map. 19 Purple Finch. The bird banded in Kansas was recaptured by me in Brown Co. on 22 April 1984, just 8 days after it had been banded. The Ontario finch was banded on 4 May 1983 and found on 9 February 1985.

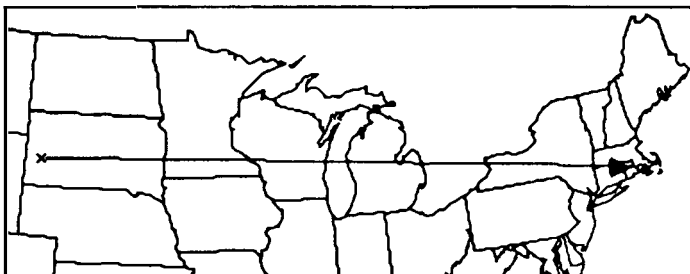


Gray-crowned Rosy Finch



Purple Finch

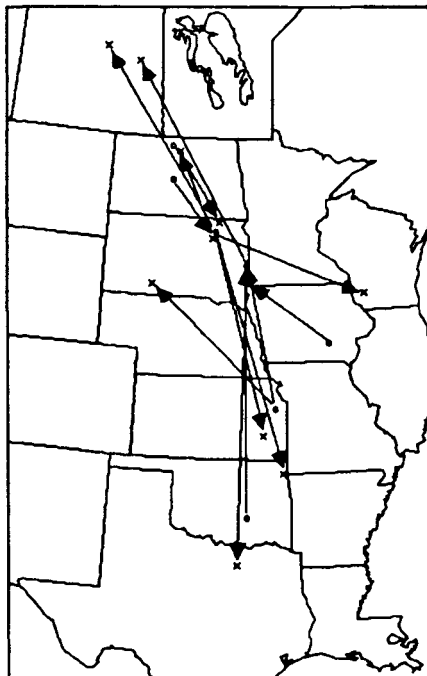
Map 20. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. Our only Rosy Finch recovery was banded in South Dakota on 7 December 1986 and recovered in Wyoming on 31 March 1988.



Common Redpoll

Map 21. Common Redpoll. Our only redpoll was one banded in Western South Dakota on 1 April 1970 and recovered in Massachusetts on 17 February 1972.

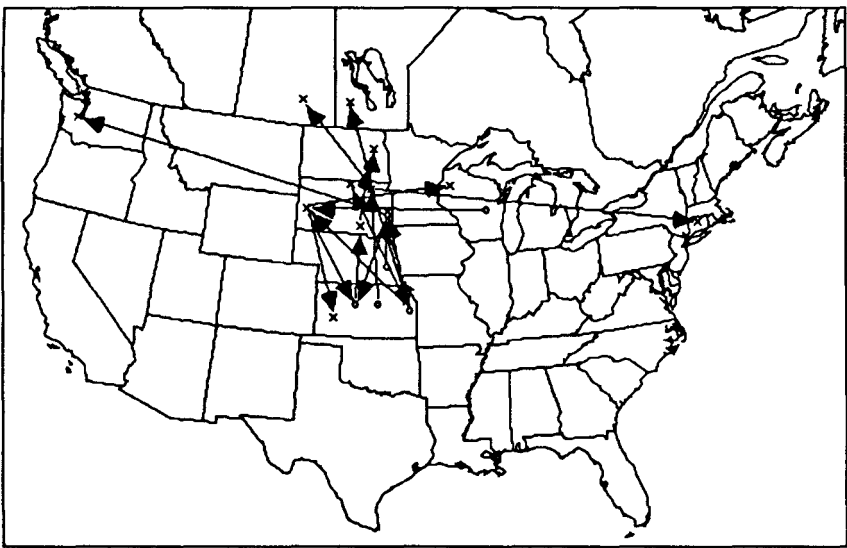
Map 22. American Goldfinch. A bird banded on 25 May 1937 in northern South Dakota was recovered in Saskatchewan on 27 June 1937. A bird recaptured in Texas on 4 January 1988 was banded in eastern South Dakota on 17 May 1984, our oldest known South Dakota goldfinch.



American Goldfinch

Map 23. Pine Siskin. Of interest among the Siskin recoveries are two birds banded the same day in Wisconsin, 10 May 1973. Both were recovered at the same location in western South Dakota, one on 30 December 1973, the other on 3 February 1974. About a half dozen birds have been banded in Kansas in the early spring and recovered in South Dakota later in the same migration. For example, one banded on 4 April 1987 was recovered in South Dakota on 14 days later. A bird banded at the same location and on the same day was recovered on 27 April, also at the same location in South Dakota.

Since this article went to press, one of my siskins was recovered in central Alberta, a recovery which will be reported in a future issue of *Bird Notes*.



Pine Siskin

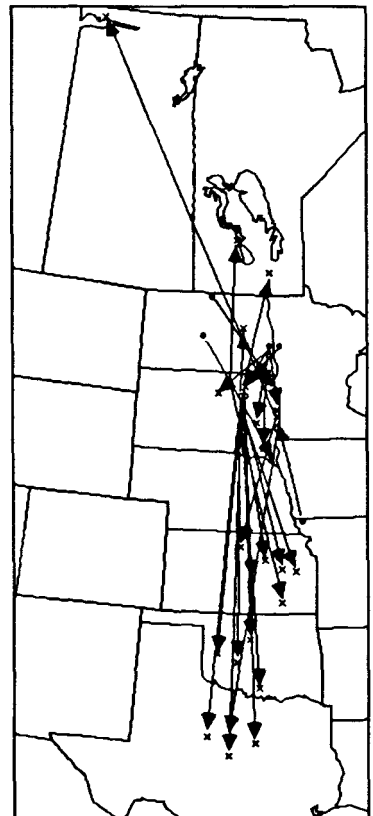
Map 24. Lark Sparrow. This single Lark Sparrow was banded near Rapid City on



Lark Sparrow

27 July 1963 and was recovered in March 1964 in Michoacan, Mexico.

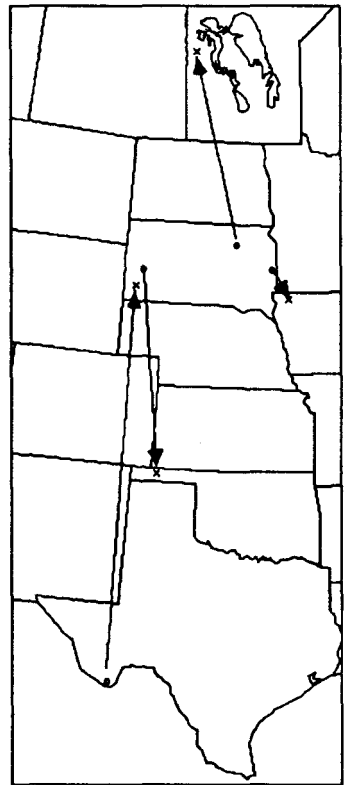
Map 25. Harris' Sparrow. A bird banded in Brown Co. on 9 May 1933 was recovered 5 days later in Manitoba. Our oldest bird was banded in South Dakota on 16 October 1943 and recovered in North Dakota on 15 September 1948.



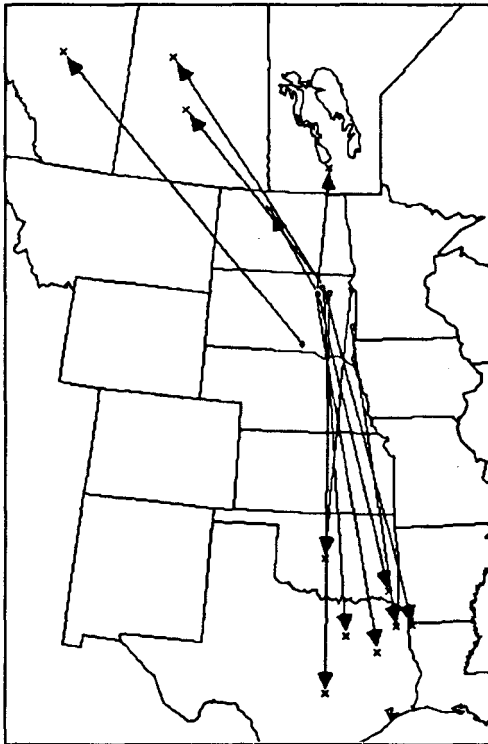
Harris' Sparrow

Map. 26 White-crowned Sparrow. A bird banded in Brown Co. on 1 May 1934 was recovered in Manitoba six days later. The bird from Big Bend, Texas, was banded on 26 January 1967 and recovered in South Dakota in May 1967. Because of inconsistent identification by banders, this map lumps all races of the White-crowned Sparrow.

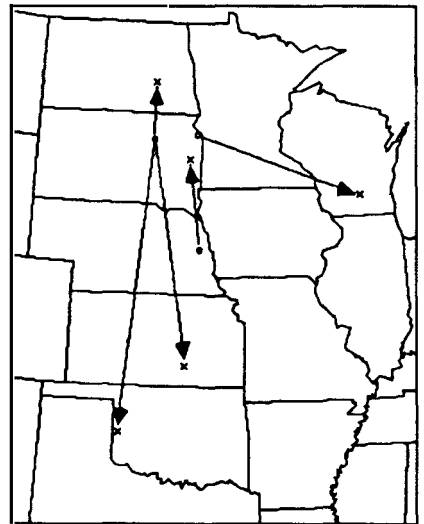
Map 27. White-throated Sparrow. A bird banded in Brown Co. on 7 May 1942 was recovered in Saskatchewan six days later. Another sparrow banded in northern South Dakota on 4 October 1954 was recovered the same month in Oklahoma. Our oldest known South Dakota bird was banded on 28 April 1970 and recovered in Texas on 7 January 1975.



White-crowned Sparrow



White-throated Sparrow

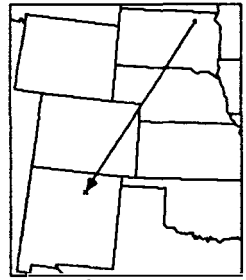


American Tree Sparrow

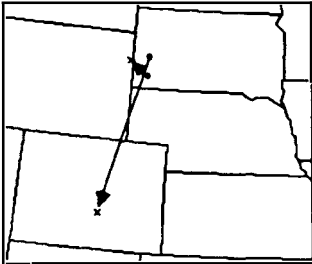
Map 28. American Tree Sparrow. The Wisconsin recovery is intriguing. A bird was banded in South Dakota on 30 October 1958 and recovered later that winter, in Wisconsin in February 1959. Was the individual already migrating north from some southerly wintering ground, or is there a wide wandering

by wintering birds? The Nebraska bird was banded on 1 December 1962 and recovered in South Dakota on 6 November 1966.

Map 29. Chipping Sparrow. Our only Chipping Sparrow recovery is a bird banded in Aberdeen on 15 September 1935 and recovered in New Mexico on an unknown date that same year.



Chipping Sparrow

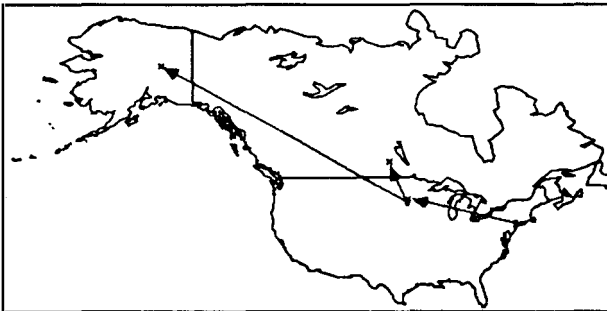


White-winged Junco

Map 30. White-winged Junco. The bird recovered in Colorado was found on 4 January 1959 and was banded on 23 February 1957.

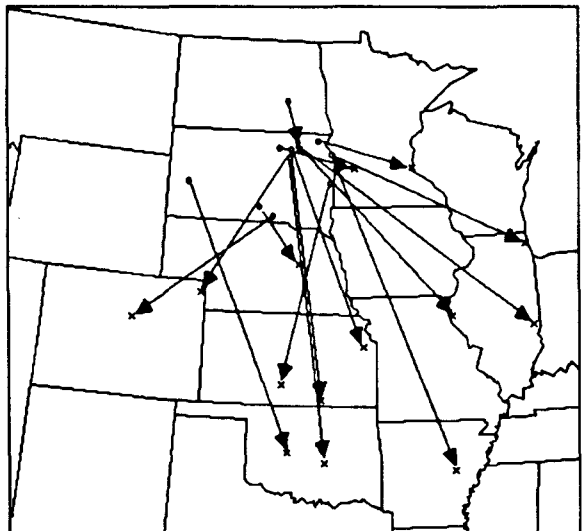
Map 31. Slate-colored Junco. Three birds were recovered outside the midwest USA.

A junco banded in New Jersey on 1 November 1957 was recovered in eastern South Dakota on 6 May 1958; perhaps the bird wintered in the southeastern US. A bird banded in eastern South Dakota on 20 October 1977 was recovered in central Alaska on 28 August 1978. Finally, a bird banded in South Dakota on 6 April 1973 was found in Manitoba in June of the same year.



Slate-colored Juncos recovered outside of midwest

In the midwest, Juncos seem to wander aimlessly in their migration routes (although I have recovered the same individual junco at my banding station in years subsequent to the year the bird was banded). Only a few of these recoveries were made in the same year as banding, including one banded in South Dakota on 9 October 1958 and recovered 17 days later in Nebraska. The oldest junco recovered outside of the state was banded in South Dakota on 14 April 1970 and recovered in Oklahoma on 12 March 1976.



Slate-colored Juncos in the midwest

GENERAL NOTES

SKADSEN 1989 BANDING REPORT. The following report covers birds banded under permit 22127 during the calendar year 1989. All species except Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds were banded at Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area in Day Co. All bluebirds and Tree Swallows were banded on the Waubay national Wildlife Refuge, also in Day Co. A total of 1334 individuals of 65 species were banded during the year.

Blue-winged Teal	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Nashville Warbler	17
Cooper's Hawk	2	Yellow Warbler	88
Mourning Dove	4	Magnolia Warbler	2
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	57
Whip-poor-will	1	Blackpoll Warbler	2
Downy Woodpecker	7	Black-and-White Warbler	1
Hairy Woodpecker	4	American Redstart	2
Northern Flicker	1	Ovenbird	5
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Northern Waterthrush	5
Least Flycatcher	4	Mourning Warbler	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	Common Yellowthroat	22
Eastern Kingbird	2	Wilson's Warbler	12
Tree Swallow	34	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	17
Blue Jay	3	American Tree Sparrow	15
Black-capped Chickadee	27	Chipping Sparrow	58
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	Clay-colored Sparrow	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	Fox Sparrow	1
House Wren	34	Song Sparrow	30
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10	Lincoln's Sparrow	16
Eastern Bluebird	134	White-throated Sparrow	41
Veery	1	White-crowned Sparrow	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	Harris' Sparrow	99
Swainson's Thrush	7	Slate-colored Junco	161
American Robin	55	Common Grackle	71
Gray Catbird	33	Brown-headed Cowbird	4
Brown Thrasher	9	Orchard Oriole	5
Cedar Waxwing	90	Purple Finch	11
Solitary Vireo	1	Common Redpoll	4
Warbling Vireo	5	Pine Siskin	3
Philadelphia Vireo	1	American Goldfinch	50
Red-eyed Vireo	1	Evening Grosbeak	1
Tennessee Warbler	4		

Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.

RINGED TURTLE DOVE IN GRANT COUNTY. Mrs. Neil Miller called me on 3 July 1989 and reported that, since 25 June, an unusual dove had been coming to their feeder on the bank of the Whetstone River. The exact location is about 5 miles north and 1 mile east of Milbank. On 4 July, my wife Lee and I had fine views of this bird, within 10 yards for 30 minutes. We identified it as a Ringed Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*), an African and Middle Eastern species that has been introduced into the United States and is locally common in southern California, Arizona, Texas, and

Florida. The bird is about the size of a Mourning Dove, but a lighter sandy-gray color, with a conspicuous black crescent on the back of its neck.

When the Millers first noticed the dove on 25 June, it carried twigs away from their patio feeding station. It was very tame at all times, feeding with other birds but paying no particular attention to Mourning Doves that came to feed. Neil Miller walked into the trees along the Whetstone, where the bird took the twigs, but he found no evidence of a nest, and only on 25 June was the bird seen with twigs. Apparently only one Ringed Turtle Dove was in the area and it remained in the vicinity until 15 July.

The bird was photographed by Mr. Miller. The clear picture shows no sign of feather wear, as might be expected if the bird had been caged. But the dove probably was an escaped or released bird. The species is a popular cage bird among Mexicans and other bird fanciers and is common in the pet bird trade. Possibly it escaped from Mexican nationals driving through the area on their way to work in the beet fields of the Red River valley of North Dakota. But, just as likely, the bird escaped from the rather large aviary kept by the owner of Ike's Chicken Shack, a popular eating place by Lake Traverse, north of Brown's Valley, Minnesota. Ike's may also have been the source of the Inca Dove that was found in Brookings, South Dakota. That bird remained at a feeding station much of September and October 1983 (SDBN 36:17). However, it is remotely possible that the Inca Dove was a wild bird, since the species has been reported in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas and is quite common farther south and west. *Bruce Harris, Box 605, Clear Lake, SD 57226*

RINGED TURTLE DOVE IN SIOUX FALLS. A Ringed Turtle Dove was in Sioux Falls for some weeks. Joe Lockwood, 1804 East 24th Street saw it first in his yard on 30 August 1989. I saw it on 15 October and observed it from all angles for about 30 minutes before it flew to the neighboring yard and landed in a small apple tree. We could get within 2 feet of the bird before the dove would move. It most probably was an escapee as it was very tame. The Lockwood's had observed it "displaying" with two Mourning Doves on the ground a few days earlier. The chances that the dove survived the winter are minimal. *Gladyce Rogge, 2012 Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105.*

COMMON POOR-WILL NEST IN TRIPP COUNTY. On 6 June 1990, Mark Gabel and I were collecting fossils on the east side of Turtle Butte, Tripp Co., when we noticed two white eggs on the bare ground at the base of a flat rock. A few hours later, we returned and carefully approached the nest. The Poor-will was on the nest. I noted the black throat, grayish color, and the small size. When the bird was flushed, no white was visible on the rounded wings. The dark patches on each side of the tail and the light-colored corners were plainly seen.

The Common Poor-will is listed on the South Dakota Natural Heritage Rare Species List, and is described as an uncommon west river summer resident in the Birds Of South Dakota (Whitney et al. 1978). In the past I have heard Poor-will calls, but the birds have always proved to be elusive and difficult to locate. To the best of my knowledge, this record is the forth nesting record for the species in the state. *Doug Backlund, 515 Mason Street, Spearfish, SD 57783.*

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS SURVIVE MINUS 20 DEGREE WEATHER IN DAY COUNTY. On 4 December 1989, I was birding in the mixed woodland of Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area. I birded the 80 acre west unit of the park, where the best mixture of conifers, deciduous trees, shrubs, and 40 year-old prolific fruit trees are found. A small creek wanders through the "wild" part of the park and often provides open water during the winter.

The day was partly overcast, but quite pleasant, with a temperature in the plus 20-degree Fahrenheit range. I easily located Pine Grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwings, Cedar Waxwings, White-winged Crossbills, and Purple Finches. When I first heard the characteristic note of bluebirds, it did not immediately register on me. The second time the call came, I really woke up and started looking around. But I could not believe that bluebirds could be present at that time of year in northeastern South Dakota. Nevertheless, four Eastern Bluebirds, their colors bright in the sun, fed on cedar berries. I watched them for 10 to 15 minutes, noting that all appeared healthy.

On 18 December, when I returned to Pickerel Lake to assist in the Waubay Christmas Bird Count with Dennis Skadsen, neither of us thought much about bluebirds since it seemed outlandish that they could still be in the area. We were both astounded to hear the call and to find the birds in nearly the same location, again foraging on cedar berries. But, on this day, the temperature was between *-20 and -25 below zero Fahrenheit*, and had been below zero for the past 10 days! The birds certainly acted as cold as we felt, but they all seemed to be just as healthy as on the earlier date. Bluebirds have been reported on CBC's in the southern part of the state at Vermillion, Yankton, Springfield, and Hot Springs. But, to have them in the northeast, under such wintry conditions, seems exceptional. *Bruce Harris, Box 605, Clear Lake, SD 573226.*

**SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES IS PUBLISHED ON
RECYCLED PAPER**

PLAN TO ATTEND THE FALL MEETING IN VERMILLION

5-7 OCTOBER 1990

BOOK REVIEWS

LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN PETRELS AND PELICANS AND THEIR ALLIES. Arthur Cleveland Bent. 1987 Reprint. Dover Publications Inc., New York. 335 pp. \$9.95 paper.

This timeless classic, first published in 1922, remains one of the best sources of information on ornithology to date. While other books collect dust on their shelves, my Bent volumes are referred to time and time again. Each species account contains a wealth of information on habits, nesting, eggs, young, food, behavior, migration, and distribution. Bent's rich narrative makes these volumes surpass any dry scientific tome while conveying correct and concise life histories. His narrative is further added to by the letters and observations of many contributors who are quoted throughout the volume. Black and white photographs depict many aspects of each species' natural history. Although some of the scientific nomenclature has been changed, this book and its sister volumes should be on every serious birder's library shelves. A further incentive is the relatively inexpensive price. Most volumes can be purchased for under fifteen dollars each. *Dennis Skadsen, Grenville SD 57239.*

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF BOLIVIA by J. V. Remsen, Jr. and Melvin A. Traylor, Jr. 1989, Buteo Books, Vermillion. 79 pp.

This checklist is indispensable for anyone traveling to Bolivia or any researcher interested in the birds of South America. Opposite each species name in the checklist are columns corresponding to various regions of Bolivia. In each column is a number which refers to the literature section at the end of the book. The last column on the list indicates of the many Bolivian life zones in which each species is found

The checklist is unillustrated, except for a stunning macaw color portrait by John O'Neill on the cover. A map of the Bolivian states and habitats occurs inside the book and is repeated on the back cover. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this checklist, for the student of ornithology, is the taxonomic footnote section in which the authors explain their decisions on various taxonomic matters (why they have split or lumped various species or adopted various nomenclature). *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

BIRDS IN KANSAS, VOLUME 1 by Max Thompson and Charles Ely. 1989. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. 404 pp. \$14.95

A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING IN KANSAS AND WESTERN MISSOURI by John L Zimmerman and Sebastian T. Patti. 1988. University Press of Kansas. 244 pp.

Birders interested in midwestern ornithology will want to own this text. *Birds in Kansas* covers Kansas nonpasserines. A second volume, due out early next year, will cover the passerines. What is remarkable about this text is that a black and white photograph accompanies almost every species account. Each account includes a small map of Kansas with dots to indicate occurrences by county.

The accounts include status, time of occurrence, habits and habitat, field marks, and food. Some of these sections may not be appropriate for inclusion in a state bird book. Field marks and food, for example, are types of information that are easily available in other texts. The earliest and latest migration dates are given but their sources are not cited. Precise dates and citations for breeding records are also not provided. The problem with these omissions is that researchers on particular species can not easily enter the ornithological literature through this book.

The short introduction includes data on ecology and explains the terms in the species accounts. But Kansas habitats are not illustrated, which is surprising considering the wealth of species photographs.

Going to Kansas or Western Missouri? You need to take *Bird Finding in Kansas and Western Missouri* along if you plan to go birding. The book begins with a checklist showing seasonal occurrence and then describes about a dozen locations (over 80 total) in each major habitat in the region. The text is replete with maps and directions, species to be observed, and handsome pen and ink drawings of various birds. At the end of the book is a list of "speciality species" and where to look for them.

I would like to see SDOU make a similar book for South Dakota, with various chapters appearing in *Bird Notes* (Dennis Skadsen has just such an article appearing in our next issue). Buy this book to find out how a bird finding book should be written. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

SPRING 1990 MIGRATION REPORT

by Dennis R. Skadsen
RR Box 113
Grenville, SD 57239

Precipitation was below normal during March and the first half of April. A late snowstorm, which began with freezing rain on 27 April, brought 4 to 6 inches of snow to the northeast. This began a cycle of normal precipitation and below normal temperatures throughout the state that lasted through May.

The below normal temperatures and late snows were detrimental to nesting birds. The late April storm which lasted two days caused 75% of the bluebirds to abandon nests on the Waubay NWR trail. On 29 April, twenty-nine dead Tree Swallows were found in nest boxes throughout the trail. Swallows and martins were not observed in the area again until 2 May. As of 31 May, Tree Swallows had not laid any complete clutches on the nest box trail.

Many reporters commented that they had observed the best warbler migration in recent years. No doubt the bad weather stalled migration in several areas. Note the number of rare and uncommon species observed. In the northeast, the first wave of warblers was noted on 3 May and consisted mainly of Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, and Black & White Warblers. Many observers reported large numbers of Swainson's Thrushes on 10, and 11 May. Also unusual was the abundance of White-

crowned Sparrows, which, in the northeast, outnumbered the more common White-throated 3 to 1. Waterfowl migration was considered sporadic at SLNWR. Migrating geese lingered well into May in several locations. All reporters felt that most species were 1 to 2 weeks later than normal in arriving statewide. House Finches have now become established in several eastern cities in the state. The finches have been observed regularly for the last year in Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Sioux Falls, and Yankton.

Observers cited:

Doug C. Backlund (DCB)
Dan Brady (DB)
Robert Buckman (RB)
Mark Dickson (MD)
Ken Graupmann (KG)
Willis Hall (WH)
Bruce K. Harris (BKH)
Augie Hoeger (AH)
Nelda J. Holden (NJH)
Jan A. Kieckhefer (JAK)
Robert W. Kieckhefer (RWK)
Jon R. Kieckhefer (JRK)
Lester R. Lauritzen (LRL)
Jim D. McLaird (JDM)
Ernest E. Miller (EEM)
Flora Mae Miller (FMM)

Everett C. Montgomery (ECM)
Richard A. Peterson (RAP)
Dan Reinking (DR)
Bob G. Rogers (RGR)
Mark S. Skadsen (MSS)
Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS)
Paul F. Springer (PFS)
Jerry C. Stanford (JCS)
Gary Stava (GS)
Dan A. Tallman (DAT)
Rose Van Sickle (RVS)
Steve Van Sickle (SVS)
Darrell Wells (DW)
Lois I. Wells (LIW)
Nathaniel R. Whitney (NRW)
J. David Williams (JDW)

Abbreviations used: **PLSRA** - Pickrel Lake State Recreation Area, Day County;
SLNWR - Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Brown County; **WNWR** -
Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day County

Common Loon - 29 March, Butte Co., 3, very early (DCB).
Horned Grebe - 30 April, WNWR, 48 (WNWR).
Eared Grebe - 25 May, WNWR, 158 (WNWR).
Western Grebe - 29 March, Butte Co., 2, **ties earliest ever** (DCB).
Great Egret - 11 April, Hamlin Co., very early (BKH).
Snowy Egret - 26 April, Brookings Co. (DR). 30 April, and 25 May, WNWR, 11 (WNWR).
Cattle Egret - Observed in Day, Kingsbury, Marshall, Sanborn, and Yankton counties.
White-faced Ibis - 20 April, Brown Co., 4, very early (SLNWR). 1 May, Deuel Co. (BKH, SVS). 26 May, Day Co., 3 (WNWR).
Greater White-fronted Goose - 13 May, Day Co., 45, very late (BKH).
Snow Goose - 22 March, SLNWR, peak population of 210,000 (SLNWR). 28 May, Lake Co., 14, **ties latest ever** (RB).
Ross' Goose - 20 April, Pennington Co., **latest ever spring observation** (NRW).
Wood Duck - 16 May, Lawrence Co. (DCB). 25 May, WNWR, 25 (WNWR). 29 - 31 May, Harding Co., 6 (PFS).
American Black Duck - 27 March, 11 April, Hamlin Co., 5 (BKH).
Cinnamon Teal - 28 April, Meade Co., 3 (EEM). 28 May, SLNWR, rare in the east (SLNWR).
Redhead - 20 March, Meade Co., 800+ (NRW).
Greater Scaup - 25 March, Deuel Co., 4 (BKH). 5 April, Brookings Co. (DR).
Surf Scoter - 23 April, Yankton Co., **only second spring observation** (WH).
Bufflehead - 20 May, Dewey Co., male (JDW). 25 May, WNWR, (WNWR). 26 May, Perkins Co., 10 (PFS). Very late dates.
Hooded Merganser - Observed in Beadle, Brookings, Day, Davison, Lake, and, Moody counties.

- Red-breasted Merganser - 2 April, Yankton Co., 18 (WH). 9 April, SLNWR (SLNWR). 15 April, Lake Co., 4 (RB). 24 April, WNWR (WNWR).
- Turkey Vulture - 13 April, Roberts Co. (BKH). 25 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 12 May, Kingsbury Co. (DB). 20 May, Lincoln Co., 7 (MSS).
- Osprey - 29 March, Butte Co., **ties earliest ever** (DCB). Also observed in Kingsbury, Jackson, Meade, Minnehaha, and Yankton counties.
- Bald Eagle - 13 March, SLNWR, 13 (SLNWR). 27 March, Hamlin Co., 32 birds sitting on ice (BKH). Also observed in Brookings, Brown, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, and Kingsbury counties.
- Cooper's Hawk - 29 April, PLSRA, Day Co., adult on nest (DRS).
- Broad-winged Hawk - 16 May, Sica Hollow (DR).
- Ferruginous Hawk - 17 April, Roberts Co., adult on nest, young observed in nest on 16 May (DR, BKH).
- Merlin - 9 May, Day Co., late (WNWR).
- Peregrine Falcon - 28 April, Yankton Co. (SVS). 1 May, Davison Co. (JDM). 10 May, Deuel Co., 2 (BKH). 16 May, Bitter Lake, Day Co. (DR, BKH). 18 May, Clark Co., very late (DR). 19 May, Shannon Co. (DCB).
- Sage Grouse - 31 May, Harding Co., 2 males (PFS).
- Greater Prairie-Chicken - 5 May, Marshall Co., 4 on lek (BKH). 17 May, Grant Co., and 30 May, Roberts Co., 3 (WNWR).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse - 23 May, WNWR, and 30 May, Roberts Co., 2 (WNWR).
- Northern Bobwhite - 20 May, Newton Hills, Lincoln Co. (MSS).
- Sora - 22 April, Stanley Co., calling, **ties earliest ever** (NRW).
- Sandhill Crane - 4 April, Deuel Co., 400 grounded due to strong north winds (BKH).
- Black-bellied Plover - Perkins Co. (NJH).
- Piping Plover - 18 April, Yankton Co. (WH).
- American Avocet - 13 May, Bitter Lake, Day Co., 75 birds (BKH, ECM).
- Whimbrel - 28 May, SLNWR, rare spring migrant, **latest ever observed** (FMM).
- Marbled Godwit - 20 April, Brown Co., 50 (SLNWR). 29 April, Spink Co., 25 (JCS).
- Ruddy Turnstone - 18 May, Clark Co. (DR).
- Sanderling - 28 April, Yankton Co. (SVS). 21 May, Kingsbury Co. (LW). 26 May, Perkins Co., and 27 May, Harding Co. (PFS).
- White-rumped Sandpiper - 23 May, Perkins Co. (PFS).
- Baird's Sandpiper - 27 March, Clark Co., 2, very early (BKH).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper - 27 May, Brookings Co., 20 with flock of Lesser Golden-Plovers, latest ever (JDM).
- American Woodcock - 2, 11 May, PLSRA, Day Co., singing males (DRS). 14 May, Deuel Co., bird found in open garage (GS).
- Laughing Gull - 28 April, Missouri river, Yankton Co., in breeding plumage, overwintered, first observed on 10 Jan. (SVS).
- Franklin's Gull - 11 March, Roberts Co., early (DRS).
- Bonaparte's Gull - 5 April, Yankton Co., very early (WH).
- California Gull - 16 May, Day Co. (BKH, DR). 18 May, Stanley Co., 2 (BKH).
- Caspian Tern - 22 May, Yankton Co. (WH). 28 May, Lake Co. (RB).
- Mourning Dove - 6 April, PLSRA, Day Co., nest w/eggs, **earliest ever nesting** (DRS).
- Snowy Owl - 4 March, SLNWR (SLNWR).
- Burrowing Owl - 11 April, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 30 May, Beadle Co. (RGR).
- Whip-poor-will - 16 May, Hartford Beach State Park, Roberts Co., male singing, considered a rare migrant outside southeastern SD, but found every spring and summer for the last six years in this locale (DR, BKH).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 19 May, Brookings Co. (JAK). 28, 29, 31 May, Moody Co., 2 (LW).
- Red-bellied Woodpecker - 8 April, WNWR, Day Co., pair (DRS).
- Pileated Woodpecker - 16 May, Hartford Beach State Park, Roberts Co., rare but increasingly local in this area along Big Stone Lake (DR, BKH).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher - 14 May, Brookings Co., very early (RGR). 20 - 22 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 20 May, Lincoln Co. (MSS).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - 16 May, Turner Co. (LRL). 19 May, Brown Co., 4 (JCS). 20 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 21 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 30 May, Brown Co. (DAT).
 Alder Flycatcher - 25, 29 May, Deuel Co., observed singing (BKH).
 Least Flycatcher - 1 May, Brown Co., very early (JCS).
Vermillion Flycatcher - 12 May, PLSRA, Day Co., male, accidental, third record for state if accepted by Rare Birds Committee (DRS).
 Horned Lark - 17 April, Deuel Co., fledgling, very early nesting (BKH).
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 16 May, Edmunds Co. 19 May, Brookings Co. (JAK, RWK).
 Both late dates.
 Sedge Wren - 28 April, Minnehaha Co., very early (MSS).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 21 May, Moody Co., **ties latest ever** (LIW).
 Eastern Bluebird - 18 March, Sanborn Co., 16 in flock (RGR).
 Mountain Bluebird - 23 March, McPherson Co., 2, rare migrant east (SLNWR).
 Gray-cheeked Thrush - 25 May, Perkins Co. (PFS).
 Hermit Thrush - 19 May, Brown Co., **latest ever** (JCS).
 Northern Mockingbird - 10 May, Deuel Co. (BKH). 25 May, Perkins Co., pair, male singing (PFS).
 Bohemian Waxwing - 23 March, Pennington Co. (NRW).
 Solitary Vireo - 9, 20 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 12 May, Beadle Co. (RGR). 16 May, Roberts Co. (DR, BKH).
 Yellow-throated Vireo - 7 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 16 May, Hartford Beach, Roberts Co. (DR). 20 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS).
 Philadelphia Vireo - 16 May, Sica Hollow (BKH, DR). 22 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 23 May, Beadle Co. (RGR, JDM). 26 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Blue-winged Warbler - 17 May, Brookings Co., singing male (DR).
 Golden-winged Warbler - 18 May, Minnehaha Co., 2 (AH). 20 May, Minnehaha Co., male (MSS). Rare migrant in eastern SD.
 Nashville Warbler - 23 April, Fall River Co., **earliest ever** (RAP).
 Chestnut-sided Warbler - 20 May, Beadle Co., 4 (RGR). 20 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS). 22 May, Roberts Co. (BKH). 24 May, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 24 May, Minnehaha Co., 4 (AH).
 Magnolia Warbler - 8 May, Edmunds Co., early (JDW). 16 May, Deuel Co. (DR). 19, 26 May, Brown Co., 4 (JCS). 15, 20, 22 May, Minnehaha Co. (MSS).
 Yellow-rumped Warbler - 8 April, WNWR, Day Co., male, early (DRS).
 Black-throated Green Warbler - 16 May, Hartford Beach, Roberts Co. (DR, BKH). 14 May, Brookings Co. (RGR). 16 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Blackburnian Warbler - 14 May, Brookings, and 23 May, Beadle counties (RGR, JDM). 23 May, Brookings Co. (JRK). 23 May, Moody Co. (DW). 23 May, Lake Co. (RB). 26 May, Brown Co. (JCS).
 Prairie Warbler - 5 May, Beadle Co., one male, considered accidental (RGR).
 Palm Warbler - 29 April, Yankton Co. (RVS).
 Bay-breasted Warbler - 23 May, Lake Co. (RB).
 Worm-eating Warbler - 27 May, PLSRA, Day Co., **latest ever**, banded & photos taken (DRS).
 Northern Waterthrush - 16 May, Lawrence Co. (DCB). 23 May, Harding Co. (PFS).
 Louisiana Waterthrush - 18 May, Minnehaha Co., observed singing (AH).
 Connecticut Warbler - 22 May, Minnehaha Co., male (MSS). 28 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH). Rare spring migrant east.
 Wilson's Warbler - 23 April, Fall River Co., very early (RAP).
 Yellow-breasted Chat - 20 May, ~~Yankton~~ Co. (JCS). *Brown*
 Scarlet Tanager - 23 May, Beadle Co., unusual for this area (RGR, JDM). 26 May, Edmunds Co., photographed (JDW).
 Western Tanager - 13 May, PLSRA, Day Co., male (BKH). 7 May, Minnehaha Co., male, very early (AH).
 Blue Grosbeak - 28 May, Brookings Co. (NJH).
 Lark Sparrow - 11 May, Kingsbury Co. (DB).

Published by
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
EDITOR: DAN TALLMAN
NSU BOX 740
ABERDEEN SD 57401

Nonprofit
organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit 60
Aberdeen SD
57401
BLK RT

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

-
- Baird's Sparrow - 18 May, Ordway Prairie, McPherson Co. (DR). 20 May, Perkins Co. (BKH, KG). 22 May, Perkins Co., one singing, and 27-29 May, Harding Co., 2 singing (PFS).
- Le Conte's Sparrow - 31 May, Minnehaha Co., uncommon migrant (AH).
- White-throated Sparrow - 23 May, Brookings Co., 10, very late (JAK).
- Bobolink - 10 May, Kingsbury Co., 30 males (DB). 14 May, Roberts Co., flock of 15 (DRS).
- Rusty Blackbird - 14 March, Turner Co., 12 (LRL).
- Brewer's Blackbird - 20 March, Brookings Co. (DR). 26 April, Brown Co., flock of 120-130 (JDW).
- House Finch - 31 March, 3 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 22 April, Brookings, male singing (DR). 27 April, Brookings Co., pair (GL). 3 May, Davison Co., pair (JDM). 19 May, Yankton Co., 3 (WH).
- White-winged Crossbill - 14 March, Brookings Co., 12 (MD). 23 April, Brookings Co., 3 (JAK). 11 May, Brown Co., late (DAT).