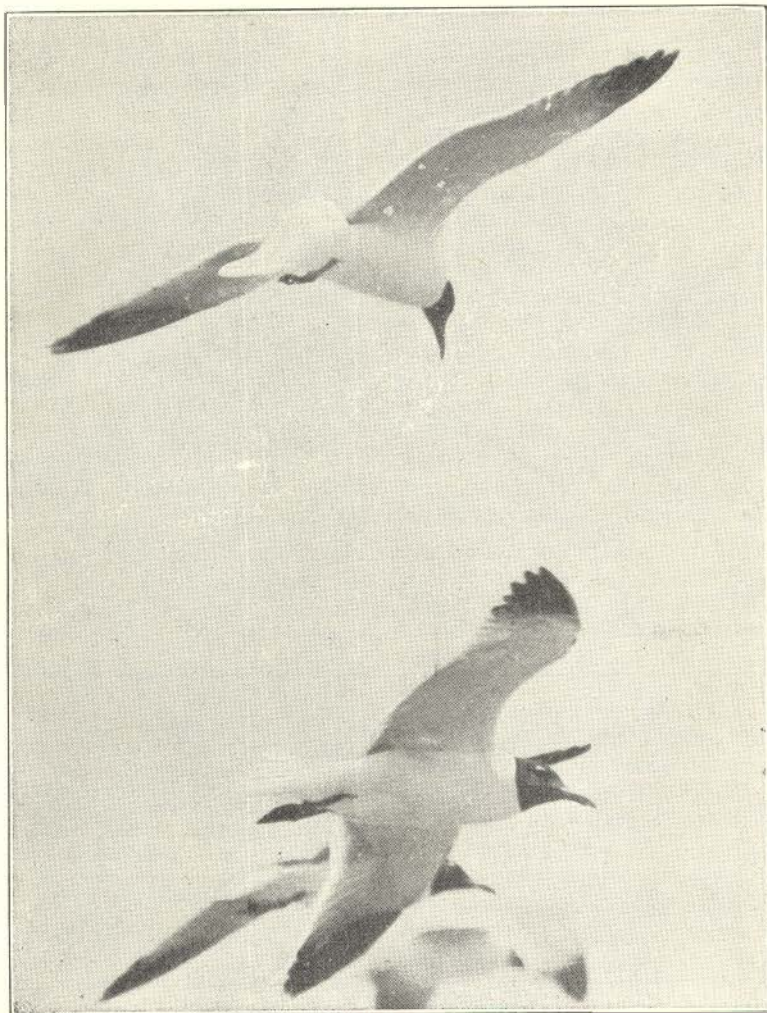


SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

Official Publication
of
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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

Volume IV, No. 2

South Dakota Bird Notes

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President's Page



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KENNETH KRUMM,
Martin, S. D.

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AT THE commencement of our official year I extend greetings to all members and friends of South Dakota Ornithologists' Union and express the hope that the Society may continue to progress as it has under the leadership of our presidents who have so ably served the organization since its incorporation in 1949.

South Dakotans are fortunate in residing in a state, which, by reason of geographical location and diversity of habitat, possesses one of the largest and most interesting varieties of bird-life in our nation. In the level farmlands of the east-river area, intersected by tree-bordered streams and containing many old tree claims, newer shelter belts and numerous lakes, we find many of the species of birds which range throughout eastern North America. As we cross the great Missouri valley and traverse the rolling prairies and short-grass plains of the west-river country, a gradual transition toward a western type of avifauna becomes apparent. And upon reaching the seven thousand foot Black Hills range, we find numerous species of typically western birds which are not known to occur elsewhere in the state. In the south-western section of the state there are several widely divergent types of habitat, attractive to an amazing variety of birdlife. These areas include the sandhills border with its dunes and small marshy lakes, the wooded ravines extending eastward to the Missouri valley, the short-grass prairie areas, and the conifer-fringed

pine ridges and badlands. Our unlimited opportunities for watching and studying birds have indeed justified the organization of a state-wide ornithological society, which should, logically, be supported by all who have interest in South Dakota birds.

Some may think that a society such as SDOU serves chiefly as a means of contacting others throughout the state who have interest in the absorbing subject of bird-study and in the exchange of observations. These purposes are worthy in themselves, but our members can serve in many other capacities directly affecting the welfare and conservation of birds. For instance, they may aid in promoting education toward a more enlightened public opinion for protection of our beneficial birds of prey. They can encourage interest in the birds observed in their communities by answering inquiries from friends and neighbors and by publishing articles in their local papers. Another important activity in which we should all participate is the locating and soliciting of new members for the Society so there will be an adequate number of observers in each section of the state.

Our most frequent function will probably consist of amassing and exchanging ornithological data from every region of the state. Much interesting information remains to be gathered concerning the ranges, nesting habits, migrations and life histories of many species of birds com-

(Continued on page 23)

Seasonal Variation

THE daily check-list of the various species of birds observed is a fundamental thing. The effort involved in compiling it develops skill in making identifications, "conditions" us to seeing birds. Presently we begin to note the number of each species seen; and, later, the sex and age of the various individuals, with their habitat.

Eventually there comes awareness of a pattern of presence which shifts as the season changes. The bird-watcher then experiences the desire to discover what degree of definiteness there is to that phase of bird-life. There may be, and probably is, a corresponding interest in a system of expressions for use in making reference to different phases of that pattern.

"Seasonal Variation" is a short title for the general subject, as we find it developed in "Birds Around New York City" by Cruickshank, published by The American Museum of Natural History, N. Y. The idea is developed in this fashion, in part:

"The bird-life of the New York City region varies considerably according to season. Some species are present throughout the year; some are present only in summer; some, only in winter; and some, only during migrations. Such birds may be easily and conveniently placed into distinct groups. The status of some species varies, however, from section to section, and the inclusion of such birds in one particular group must often be somewhat arbitrary. Though a few Robins are always present somewhere in our region in winter, the species is essentially a summer resident. Naturally, in a region as diversified and large as ours every possible stage of intergradation occurs."

In the "break-down" Mr. Cruickshank furnishes classifications which seem to be adequate for our use in South Dakota, which, with the author's explanation of their scope, in abridged form, are as follows:

Permanent Residents. This group includes all species that regularly have representatives present in many sections of our region throughout the year. Some are virtually non-migratory. The majority, however, are migratory, but they always have representatives present, the individuals at one season being different from those during another.

Summer Residents. Those species that arrive from the south, nest within our region and then retire south again belong to this group. Some may be regularly and widely recorded for ten months out of the twelve, while others may be recorded for only three or four. Some of these species winter very locally and might therefore qualify as permanent residents in some sections. A few species breed so locally that they might be considered transients in many sections.

Summer Visitants. This small group includes those species that breed to the south of us, yet regularly occur in our region during the summer months. Some, like the Egret and Herons, though breeding to the south of us, regularly wander north after the breeding season is over.

Winter Visitants. Those species that ordinarily breed to the north of us but regularly winter in our region belong to this group. Some, like the Junco, may be present from September to May, while others, like the Snow Bunting, may be present only from November through March.

(Continued on page 23)

S. D. ●. U. Annual Meeting, 1952

SDOU held its fourth annual meeting at Chamberlain, S. D., May 30, 1952. When President Findley called the meeting to order there were nearly thirty members present; others came in later; and some guests were with us from time to time.

Business matters were disposed of quickly. Treasurer Burgi's report showed the organization to be at least solvent. Secretary Mallory reported an only fair condition as to membership. There was talk of methods to improve both phases. A proposal to grant certain limited groups a reduced rate for membership was not approved.

Directors with terms expiring in 1952, re-elected for a three-year term were: Harry C. Behrens, Ruth Habegger, Cecil P. Haight, J. O. Johnson and Kenneth Krumm. The directors, meeting at noon, elected new officers as follows: President, Kenneth Krumm; Vice President, Harry C. Behrens; and reelected W. B. Mallory, Secretary; M. E. Burgi, Treasurer; and H. F. Chapman, Editor-Librarian.

The program was under the direction of Claude A. Van Epps. A. R. Lundquist showed some of his Kodachrome movies of various phases of wildlife in the Webster area with interesting comments. Mr. Krumm had obtained several reels from the Fish and Wildlife Service with which he is associated and as these were shown he furnished the explanatory narrative. A set of slides showing Black Hills birds was Harry Behrens' contribution, and another set, embracing all the full-page illustrations in Peterson's Field Guide, completed the picture series.

There were outstanding exhibits. Bill Felton displayed approximately 75 bird skins he had recently collected around his home on McCook Lake near Jefferson, S. D. This attracted

almost as much attention as did the beautiful Felton baby. J. O. Johnson presented several panels of his excellent photographs of shorebirds and their nests which were studied closely by a lot of folks who do not usually see the nesting activities of these species.

Stationery and interesting books were on sale, Alma Findley being in charge.

The high-light of the dinner session was the report by President Findley of the trip Mrs. F. and he made in April to Gatlinburg, Tenn., to attend the annual meeting of the Wilson Club. We heard many interesting and entertaining things about birds, people, places and weather, and we all wished we could have shared directly in their experiences.

The field trip was made the following day, the 31st, in the valley of the White River, near its confluence with the Missouri River. Heavy rain during the previous night discouraged some and limited the number in the party, and slippery "gumbo" roads materially reduced the time available for field work. In spite of handicaps a fairly good list was accumulated. Look for it in the General Notes section of this issue. The picnic lunch was served at big cottonwood stumps near a tree where American Magpies were nesting. All in all, it was a worthwhile experience in birding in an unusually interesting section of the great Missouri River Valley.—HFC



Have you heard about the new South Dakota species, the Rough-neck Swallow?

* * *

SDOU sight record sheets, 8½x11. 3-ring punched, free to members (but a little postage will help!!) Write Secy. Mallory, Canton, S. D.

Books and Articles About Birds

AUDUBON MAGAZINE is published bimonthly by The National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y., at a subscription of \$3.00 per year. There isn't anything better in the field of publications devoted to preservation of native wildlife. While beamed at the general public, it is of particular interest to students of birdlife.—HFC

* * *

Two items in *Wilson Bulletin*, June 1952: A Note on "Songs of the Western Meadowlark" and an illustrated article "The Displays and Calls of the American Coot" are of special value to SDOUers. Both will help us understand what is commonly heard and seen afield in South Dakota.

* * *

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY BEFORE AUDUBON, Elsa Guerdrum Allen, *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 41, Part 3. Illustrated. The American Philosophical Society, Independence Square, Philadelphia 6. \$2.00.

From ancient bird lore through the first ornithologist of Europe, Frederick II of Hohenstaufen, to Conrad Gesner, Captain John Smith, Mark Catesby, Thomas Jefferson, William Bartram, and many others, on to Alexander Wilson, the father of American ornithology; from preface to lengthy bibliography and fine index there are 206 pages of scholarly and interesting discussion of the men who laid the foundation for the science that Audubon made popular.

Mrs. Allen is not only the wife of an eminent contemporary ornithologist but writes as a Research Associate in Ornithology, Cornell University. We recommend this volume to bird-watcher and ornithologist.

FLORIDA BIRD SONGS, Comstock Publishing Associates, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, New York. \$2.50.

This is a 10-inch two-sided record of the songs of 10 Florida birds recorded by the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University. It goes well with Volumes I and II of *American Bird Songs*. Although some of the birds are never heard in our latitude, we can have the satisfaction of listening to the recorded voice of the near-extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

* * *

Several bird books are included among the pocket-size reprints of English books that are distributed in this country by Penguin Books, 3300 Clipper Mill Road, Baltimore 11, Md. They are interesting and probably valuable "over there" but less usable for us because of the differences in species and of names.

The cost is marked 2/- or 2/6 and they sell here at 50c to 85c.

* * *

SOUTH DAKOTA WEEDS, Publication No. 5, April, 1950, by South Dakota Weed Board in cooperation with Agricultural Extension Service, South Dakota State College, Brookings, S. D.

This paper-bound book of 343 pages was prepared with the expectation that it would "aid in the identification of various weeds and, consequently, support South Dakota's vigorous weed control program." It describes and illustrates 165 different weeds. Each of the state's eight most troublesome weeds is the subject of a full-page colored plate; page-size line drawings illustrate the others; text accompanies each illustration.

Plants which furnish feed, nesting sites, nesting material and cover for

many species of South Dakota's birds deserve consideration by the student of those birds, which should begin with identification.—HFC

* * *

WYOMING HAWKS, by Ralph B. Williams and Clyde D. Matteson, Jr., Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Cheyenne, 1948, Tag paper cover, 6½x9½ pp. i-viii and 1-84, with 44 photographs and several drawings and cuts, \$1.00.

This work includes a classification table, key for identification, glossary, bibliography, and two indexes, one for the common names, the other for the scientific names. Many of the photographs are large and all are excellent. It is entirely practicable for use in South Dakota.

The authors quote freely from Bent, Bendire, Fisher and other authorities for the purpose of furnishing means of easy and certain identification of Wyoming raptors.

Most laudable concern is expressed in the Preface: ". . . Most people know the hawks, eagles and falcons only through vicious and untruthful propaganda. As the general public becomes more acquainted with the true status of the various raptors, the more rapidly is the old hatred replaced with an interest in the survival of these striking examples of our country's fauna."



President's Message

(Continued from page 19)

mon locally. SDOU members may contribute to this knowledge by their field studies, and, in instances where time is not available for extensive field work, observations about the yard or garden, even from the study window, will often provide interesting and valuable data. SDOU will thus be enabled to serve as a source of important ornithological information for those interested in the birds of our state.

Seasonal Variations

(Continued from page 20)

Irregular Winter Visitants. This group is made up of those species that breed to the north of us and irregularly winter in our region. Some of these birds may be expected three winters out of five. Others may be abundant one winter and then be virtually unrecorded for five or more years at a time. A few could well be placed on the list of accidental visitants.

Transient Visitants. Those species that winter entirely or chiefly to the south of us, breed entirely or chiefly to the north of us, and regularly pass through our region on migrations belong to this group. The majority occurs every spring and fall. Some are regular only during the southward migration and are rare or casual in spring. A few are always rather rare and may be unrecorded for several years. A few of the species on this list breed very locally. A few winter very locally, but since they are known over the larger part of our region as transients they are placed in this category.

Casual or Accidental Visitants. All of the species in this group are very rare in our region. A few have occurred too often to be regarded as strictly accidental. Many, however, have homes so distant that their occurrence here is referable to severe meteorological disturbances or a defective migratory instinct. Many of these birds have been captured or seen but once in our region and it is possible that some might never occur again.

Summary

Permanent Residents
Summer Residents
Summer Visitants
Winter Visitants
Irregular Winter Visitants
Transient Visitants
Casual or Accidental Visitants

Editorial Comment

CONSERVATIONISTS finally have succeeded in securing protection for the Bald Eagle in Alaska. The salmon and fur-farming industries had felt the Eagles were destructive, but studies disclosed that they did no significant damage and, on the other hand, are an important tourist attraction. Hence, the Alaska Game Commission recommended that the bounty on Eagles be discontinued. They are now protected in Alaska by federal regulation, as they have been since 1940 in South Dakota and all other states. They are protected here by state law, too.

We hear occasional complaints about destruction of pheasants by the Eagle in South Dakota, but probably careful investigation would show that it does not do "significant damage." The reports of game technicians do not show the presence of any large number of any of the larger so-called "predators." Anyway, isn't it worth a few salmon or an occasional pheasant to keep this striking bird among the living instead of the extinct species? As a hunter, as well as an ornithologist, we will donate our share of pheasants from our bag for the support of Bald Eagles in South Dakota.

* * *

We are thinking of the possibilities of a film of birds, nature and scenery of South Dakota.

There now is "The Hills of Gold" by Dr. O. S. Pettingill, one of the Audubon Screen Tours,—a beautiful, interesting, hour-long picture,—but it does not exhaust the subject and shows only one part of the State.

There are many short shots of a large number of South Dakota subjects that might be combined to make an interesting film that would be

hard to limit. We remember Jim Kimball's pictures of Western Grebes dancing on the water, others in the Game Department's library of booming Prairie Chickens, Sharp-tailed and Sage Grouse, the late Dr. John D. Donahoe's White Pelicans, and numerous pictures of geese and ducks.

We think of other birds that would make striking subjects,—the Water Ouzel, the Avocet, and the Willet; dancing Sandhill Cranes; Franklin's Gulls following a plow; a colony of Cliff Swallows at their nests; an American Bittern in display; Ruddy Ducks showing off; a Burrowing Owl bobbing and scolding; a Mourning Dove feeding its young; a Magpie at its out-size nest. There might be difficulty in getting some pictures!

There should be animals, too—buffaloes, of course, antelopes, elk, deer, bighorns, badgers, wildcats and prairie dogs. How about a spoonbilled catfish from the Jim River. A shot of a howling coyote would be something!

There is scenery, too,—the Black Hills, of course; but also the Coteau des Prairies, the hills in the northeast, the Badlands, buttes, the lakes, and, importantly, a record of the Missouri's valley before it is flooded.

To end the picture perhaps it would be hard to beat a sunset at Reva Gap photographed by the late Mr. Jackely, the state rattlesnake hunter.

Surely such a picture would be as interesting and exciting as Walt Disney's "Beaver Valley" and would let the World know something of some of the fine things, especially the many birds, that have been missed by so many photographers, authors and just plain folks.

If only our budget of time and money would permit - - - !

Pioneer Prairie Ornithologists

EDMUND HARRIS SWEET

EDMUND HARRIS SWEET was born July 7, 1884 at Silverton, Colo. His parents removed to South Dakota in 1885 and settled on a farm overlooking the valley of the James ("Jim") River, between Scotland and Menno. The prairie uplands and the wooded valley teemed with wildlife in those days. It was here and under these conditions that Edmund Theodore, the amateur naturalist father, taught his son Edmund some of the secrets of Nature and trained him in the collection and preservation of specimens of various forms of local wildlife. Under this wise paternal guidance the young lad and his sister Julia made collections of birds and their eggs and butterflies, as they roamed the prairies afoot or on their ponies.

Soon came the years in country school, followed with "town school" in Menno and Vermillion, and finally collegiate training at the University of South Dakota, culminating with A. B. in 1907 and LL.B. in 1910. During a portion of the years 1908-09 Edmund was "proving up" on a homestead out in the short-grass country, near the Badlands, 10 miles southwest of Cottonwood and about 18 miles west of Kadoka. For several weeks in the late summer and early fall of 1908 his friend S. S. Visser, now an honorary member of SD●U, lived at Ed's claim shanty and made scientific studies in the area.

But it was during the early days in Hutchinson County and at Vermillion that Edmund Sweet's interest in birds was the highest. The birds and mammals collected and mounted by the father in Colorado, and specimens taken by the son in South Da-

kota were all donated to the University Museum soon after W. H. Over went there in 1913. The catalog of this group includes at least 75 species of birds common to central eastern South Dakota. These specimens, well prepared and fully labeled, constitute a material part of the ornithological section of the W. H. Over Museum. Sweet's identifications and specimens are accepted as authoritative.

The later years included the practice of law at Sturgis, S. D., then school teaching in North Dakota, Oregon, Idaho and Washington. He married Bernardine Browder at Colfax, Washington, in 1926. He died at the age of 51 years at Ritzville, Washington, survived by his wife and a daughter, Constance, both of whom now live at Craigmont, Idaho, by a sister, Julia (Mrs. W. F. Schnaidt), Sioux Falls, S. D., and by a brother, Oliver E. Sweet, Washington, D. C.

An obituary, published in his home community, included these tributes:

Edmund H. Sweet was a personality of strength whose passing is difficult for us to realize. He seemed to be full of life, and was entering into his work and interests. His associates feel a great loss of the power which was his. . . . His influence and worthy example were forceful and will continue to live in the hearts of the students who were fortunate to have contact with him. . . . He was interested not only in his own branch of work, but was a staunch supporter in any community activity.

The Business of Nests . . .

IN THE July, 1944, issue of Museum News, published by the University of South Dakota, Dr. Over copied an article with this title which had appeared in the publication of the Illinois Museum. It read:

"From the loose platform of sticks which the mourning dove, with a great deal of cooing and gurgling seems to think is the perfect nest for two white eggs to the exquisite little creation of spider webs, lichens, and plant silk made by the humming bird, nests tell about the birds that made them.

"Each kind of bird has a distinctive nest which usually is located at about the same level and in the same sort of environment year after year. Many a bird that built in a certain tree or bush will return to the same place, but, although an old nest may appear to be in good condition, it is never used a second time by the bird that made it. * An old woodpecker hole, however, may be used many times, not by the original maker who apparently scorns such second-handed trash and laboriously chisels a new one, but other birds use it by turns.

"Nesting is a business-like venture. The structures housing eggs are made according to an ancestral plan, almost always of the same sort of material and in the same style of architecture. High in the tops of trees are the nests of crows, hawks and great horned owls. Saddled on a high branch is the pewee's nest, with the gnatcatcher's tiny nest even higher. Blue jays build high in the branches; out on a bending bough is the well-woven bag nest of the Baltimore oriole. The basket-nest of the warb-

ling vireo far out on a twig is fairly high, too, while lower down are the similar nests of red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, the nesting platforms of the great blue heron and night heron, the tiny nest of the hummingbird, and the frail structures of grosbeak and tanager. Wood thrushes and robins build their mud-lined nests fairly low in a tree; the dove usually builds just above the eye-level of a man, and, in a broken hollow the crested flycatcher lays its glossy olive-brown eggs, and often drapes a snake skin or some fish scales at the entrance.

"In thickets are the nests of catbird, brown thrasher, mockingbird, cardinal, shrike and kingbird; in low bushes the nests of indigo bunting, yellow warbler, yellow-throat chipping sparrow, Bell's vireo, song sparrow, and cuckoo. The homes of field sparrows are found in weeds or pasture bushes. In marsh cattails are the nests of red-winged blackbirds, marsh wrens and bitterns. On the ground, always in the open, are the nests of bob-white, nighthawk, towhee, vesper sparrow, horned lark, meadowlark and killdeer. Sometimes, of course, there are freaks, and independent individuals who nest where few of their tribe built before, such as the brown thrasher that nested on the ground in a half-flooded cornfield, the flicker which bored holes in a barn, robins on the coupling of a railroad boxcar, bluebirds in a jug, catbirds in a mailbox and house wrens in the pocket of an old coat, but these variations only lend spice to this business of identifying nests and to the usually orthodox pattern which it follows."

* In an article in the April, 1949, issue of Museum News, Dr. Over stated: "Hawks, owls and eagles often repair their old nests or even add material to crows' nests of the previous season."

General Notes of Special Interest

"The world is already well supplied with mere fact-gatherers. It has too few who can use the facts as a means to a higher end—the attainment of understanding."—Rachel L. Carson, *Atlantic Naturalist*.

GENERAL REPORT ON WEBSTER-WAUBAY AREA, N. E. So. Dak.—Director A. R. Lundquist, Webster, S. D., submits the following general report: "Lee Arnold, federal Refuge Manager, Waubay, saw a flock of Bohemian Waxwings at the Refuge at Christmastime, and Mrs. E. A. Sewell, Webster, reported 14 of them eating old apples still hanging on a seedling tree on Feb. 16. Ray Murdy, Game Technician, reports a Snowy Owl on Oct. 20, south of Waubay, and a Saw-whet Owl east of Sisseton, Roberts County, Oct. 10. He saw a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers during spring migration in 1950 at Rush Lake and wonders if there are any other reports of the species. C. K. Dahlgren, of the Soil Conservation Service, says he has seen several Snowy Owls; and on Jan. 26, 1952, a White Gyrfalcon near Pierpont in the northwest corner of Day county. That is the second report I have of the species in that region. Thomas Peabody, Webster, also reported one a year ago within a few miles of the spot where Dahlgren made his observation."

Then Lundquist continues with this interesting comment: "The Blue and Snow Geese are due to fly over Webster on March 31st—almost as sure as the Capistrano swallows,—never varies more than two or three days. For five years straight we first saw them on March 31st."

* * *

HORNED LARKS WINTER IN CENTRAL EASTERN SO. DAK.—On Feb. 10, 1952, a group of Madison bird-watchers saw large flocks of birds feeding along the highway and on

grassy fields where snow had melted away. We parked on the shoulder of the highway again and again in order to catch a better view of them on the ground. Finally we were satisfied we saw a yellow line over the eye, so decided we were seeing Northern Horned Larks. There were in the flocks some smaller birds, with the same undulating method of flight, which we could not identify. I was not so certain of our identification when I later consulted some references on the Horned Lark. This is always exasperating. Memory is capricious, anyway! Over and Thoms, in *Birds of South Dakota*, list only Hoyt's, as a winter resident, but say it has a white line over the eye; they show the Prairie Horned Lark only as a nesting, summer resident, and do not list the Northern, at all. Roberts, in *Birds of Minnesota*, says the Northern is an uncommon spring and fall migrant, and this was in mid-winter, and these were by no means uncommon. Obscure footnotes in some references list fourteen subspecies of Horned Larks in North America and Mexico. Certainly the species is wide-ranging and variable in form. I also found statements to the effect that during winter and in migration, when several forms may be associated, it is usually impossible to identify them in the field. But Peterson really did give me a jolt when he said, in the appendix to *Field Guide to the Birds*, that it is poor ornithology to become concerned over the subspecies of Horned Larks unless one is collecting. What a splendid opportunity for a bird-bander, if the Horned Larks would permit them-

selves to be trapped!—**Ruth Habeger, Madison, S. D.**

* * *

CARDINAL, REDPOLL, ETC., AT WEBSTER, N. E. SO. DAK.—Today, April 7, 1952, a flock of Juncos have been spending their time around our place. With them, and very much a part of that group of eight, is a female Redpoll. I have never seen that before. Two years ago last fall a Robin with an injured wing was left behind. Several others stayed until the first bad storm and when they left I took over, spreading bread and suet crumbs near the honeysuckles where the crippled Robin stayed, gradually coaxing it closer to the feeding tray by spreading the crumbs closer to the feeding tray. When the bird could fly a little higher, I put the feed only on the tray. That year a female Cardinal wintered here and visited the tray regularly. The Robin was not as punctual. The two past days a Robin has been coming up to the tray to eat. I think it must be my friend of two winters past as no other Robin has ever come there. The tray is fastened to the house below the windows.—**Mrs. E. A. Sewell, Webster, S. D.**

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THE BIRDS OF RAPID CANYON, BLACK HILLS, S. D., OBSERVED IN JULY AND AUGUST, 1939-1951. (The locations of any birds not seen in Rapid Canyon are specified in parenthesis). Mallard (Stockade Lake), Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk (Devil's Tower), Duck Hawk (Devil's Tower), Sparrow Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant (Devil's Tower), Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Avocet (Canyon Lake 8851), Rock Dove or Domestic Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Poor-Will, Nighthawk, White-throated Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird,

Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Red-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Western Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Canada Jay, Blue Jay, American Magpie, Crow, Pinon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker (Terry Peak), Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Dipper or Water Ouzel, House Wren (Elk Creek), Canyon Wren (Dark Canyon), Rock Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler (Rapid City), Audubon's Warbler, Ovenbird, Macgillivray's Warbler, Yellowthroat, Long-tailed Chat, American Redstart, House or English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole (Canyon Lake), Bullock's Oriole (Devil's Tower), Brewer's Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Pine Siskin, Eastern Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Spotted Towhee, Lark Bunting, Lark Sparrow (Devil's Tower), White-winged Junco, Eastern Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Compiled by R. L. Mixter, Dept. of Biology, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.

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WHITE PELICANS AT LACREEK REFUGE, S. W. So. Dak.—(July 7, 1952) "We rowed out to Pelican Island last week and found about 125 young birds of all sizes. Was interested to note that our Pelicans seem to be feeding almost exclusively on mud puppies at present. We have lowered out the water in two of our large pools to enable them to get at

the stuff and permit us to do some aquatic seeding over the flats. Rev. Fr. Szalay of Mission visited here a few days ago. He mentioned the Connecticut Warbler, among others. This bird has been recorded on the Niobrara River in Nebraska to the south of the Rosebud Country but do not recall other records for this particular section of South Dakota."—**Kenneth Krumm, Manager, Federal Wildlife Refuge, Martin, S. D.**

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COMPOSITE LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED BY SDOU MEMBERS ATTENDING ANNUAL MEETING, SDOU, CHAMBERLAIN, S. D., MAY 31, 1952.—Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Redhead, Lesser Scaup Duck, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Coot, Killdeer, Upland Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas (Western) Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Prairie Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, American Magpie, Crow, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, Redwing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, (Bullock's Oriole?), Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Lark Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark

Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow.

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BIRDS OF PREY, NORTH CENTRAL So. Dak., 1951-2.—One Snowy Owl at each location: 12-29, Northern Brown County; 1-6, Sand Lake Refuge; 1-11 Lord's Lake, Brown Co.; 1-12, Northern Brown; 1-16 NW Brown; 1-17, Central Brown; 1-30 Sather's Ranch, Roberts County; 2-7, Northern Brown; 2-21, Northern Brown; 3-1, Central Faulk County; 3-25, Northern Brown; 3-26, Central Brown. Total Snowy Owls—12.

EAGLES: 12-29, 1 Golden, 10 mi. N. Aberdeen; 12-1, 3 Bald (apparently 1 adult, 2 young) Sand Lake Refuge; 1-13 1 Golden 20 mi. NW of Aberdeen; 2-7, 2 Golden 2 mi. SW of Hecla; 2-26, 3 Golden Faulk County; 3-1, 1 Golden, Faulk County. Totals—8 Golden, 3 Bald.

There was a large decrease in the number of Snowy Owls in my region during this past winter. There were also very few Rough-legged Hawks wintering here. The first Meadowlark arrived in the Aberdeen area on March 17. I noticed my first Marsh Hawk that day. Observed a Great Horned Owl on the nest on Feb. 22, this year.—**Leo M. Kirsch, Aberdeen, S. Dak.**

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PINE SISKINS AT CANTON, S. D.—On the morning of March 7, 1952, I discovered six Pine Siskins on our front lawn. Two remained for about two hours, several returned at intervals practically all day, and from two to six have been back several times each day since, there having been five the morning of March 11. When I discovered them I called to Mrs. Mallory, telling her there were some brownish birds with heavy stripes feeding on the lawn and she immediately said, before seeing them, they must be Siskins. This is the first opportunity I have had to study these birds at close range. They feed much in the same manner as do Juncos,

searching in the grass and frequently picking up a leaf and throwing it to one side to see what they can find underneath. I have never before observed them so close to the house, although at Lennox I once saw a number feeding in a weed patch close to our home. They were accompanied by Redpolls and Goldfinches.—**W. B. Mallory, Canton, S. D.**

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WARBLERS COMPETE WITH SAPSUCKER, WATERTOWN, S. D.—On April 25, 1950, during a snowstorm, I watched the antics of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. It was making holes in the bark of a large maple on which the buds were swelling. Three Magnolia Warblers, evidently in need, would come to the holes at one area as soon as the Sapsucker flew a few feet to another area he was working. They would just get nicely started, apparently drinking the sap, when the Sapsucker would dash back and drive them away. They would immediately go to the other area and go to work. This performance went on for half an hour while I watched with a binocular. The poor Sapsucker was so busy trying to keep the Warblers away he had little time for anything else. I wonder if this has been observed by others. Perhaps the Warblers were desperate for food as it was rather a heavy snowstorm and sources of food were few on that day.—**Dr. L. J. Moriarty, Watertown, S. D.**

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BLUE GROSBEEK IN BADLANDS, Western, So. Dak.—While on my summer vacation, 1951, I visited the Bad Lands National Monument for the first time. I drove into the area from Rapid City, I believe on Route 16. As one goes into the park from the north, he skirts the edge of the Bad Lands for a few miles and the road then goes down into the bottom land. About two-thirds of the way down I saw a bird fly out across the road which I

The Cover . . .

Laughing Gulls. While there is a general resemblance to Franklin's Gulls, the solid black wing tips make identification of *L. atricilla* fairly easy. They are rare as stragglers in South Dakota, according to Over and Thoms. Cut courtesy of Wilson Bulletin.

didn't recognize. I stopped the car and got out and found that it was a full-plumaged male Blue Grosbeak. As this is well north of its known range, I thought it would be of interest to ornithologists in that area. I was particularly interested because the habitat is more or less like the area in which they are found in Nevada and parts of the South. Inasmuch as I found this bird on August 17, I was intrigued with the thought that there might be an island or colony of these birds in this rather specialized habitat. If the birds are found to be breeding there next summer, I would be much interested in hearing about it, as it will probably be many years before I can make the trip out there again. I saw the bird in bright sunlight at a distance of 50 feet through my B & L binocular. After thirty years of watching birds I feel there can be no question about the identification.—**Robert D. Coghill, Lake Bluff, Ill.**

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SUMMER COMES

Edith Tatum in Christian Science Monitor
Summer comes with choruses of song—
The mocking bird, the cardinal, the jay,
The muted wood thrush at the close of day,
Into the night their music they prolong.
Tree-shadows lie across the ground like lace,
Small furry creatures take a stealthy way
So no night owls will their dark going trace.

Short Tales

Harry R. Woodward of Hot Springs is quoted in a note in Wilson Bulletin, June, 1952, relating how migrating ducks were lured to death when they mistook wet streets, illuminated by street lights, for a stream which was covered by fog.

A more cheerful note comes from May Magers of Selby. The wild ducks she raised several years ago left in the fall but returned the following spring, called for food and when fed returned to the pens they had occupied the year before.

Bill Goebel, 18, Sioux Falls, a Director of Sioux Falls Bird Club, has been awarded a student scholarship to the Audubon Camp at Greenwich, Conn. He will spend 10 weeks there, employed part time as "trail boy" and busy at other times attending lectures and conducting a field research program under professional guidance.

When Miss Clara Knutson, Madison, S. D., was returning from Norway last summer her steamer one morning crossed the path of a flock of migrating Baltimore Orioles. Numerous birds flew against parts of the ship and fell onto the deck, but presently joined the flock which was flying south. Only male birds were noted.

Ruth Habeger started a sunflower-planting project among the grade school children of Madison this spring. Seeds were distributed in small packages to be planted according to the printed directions. Prizes will be awarded at the August Flower Show. All seeds grown are to be used for bird-feeding this coming winter. The children will surely become more interested in birds and their conservation.

Miss Zell Lee, president, Sioux City Bird Club, ex-president, Iowa O. U., and member of SDOU, is in an Iowa City hospital. We hope for good news soon from this fine woman who has enjoyed many birding trips in South Dakota.

The June, 1952, issue of South Dakota Conservation Digest, of which G. W. Ziemann, Pierre, S. D., is Editor, contains a tabulation, keyed to an accompanying illustrated map, locating and describing 46 State Parks and Recreation Areas. Did you realize that the State is maintaining so many good birding areas? Better write "Zie" for an extra copy to paste in your Bird Guide.

"I was happy", writes Ruth Habeger, Madison, "to add the Blackheaded Grosbeak to my life-list on June 4th. From our cabin porch at Silver City in the Black Hills we observed a pair of these birds nesting, mating and incubating their eggs. The male sang a pretty melody almost continuously from a branch a few feet away. What an interesting introduction to a new life-list!"

Adrian C. Fox, of Lincoln, Neb., ex-president of Nebraska Ornithologists Union, has been granted an award by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture for his work in furthering soil and water conservation through aid to educational institutions in a six-state area which includes South Dakota. Mr. Fox was associated in 1935 with the Wolsey-Shyde Creek Soil Conservation Demonstration Project near Huron. He is an active supporter of SDOU.

Herbert Krause and Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Chapman of Sioux Falls made an all-day tour of LaCreek Refuge in May. They were guided by Refuge Manager Kenneth Krumm (Pres. of SDOU). A list of 85 species was compiled. An Osprey was noted, for the second time in the history of the Refuge, and Sharp-tailed Grouse on their dancing grounds created much interest. Visitors are welcome at the Refuge and there is much to see there.

Mrs. E. M. Drissen, Britton, is enjoying bird photography.

Katherine Kaufman of Freeman advises that through misunderstanding the report on ornithology courses in South Dakota Colleges, in the December, 1951, issue of S. D. Bird Notes was not correct as to Freeman Junior College. She reports that there are 65 specimens, representing at least 40 species, in the collection and that ornithology has been taught during the last five years.

The Meadowlark

Shelley, who was a poet, lost his heart to the skylark, and wrote a magnificent ode to that slim bird that seeks the upper air and sings to the earth as if he were a disembodied spirit.

Being no poet, though once I thought I was and covered many a clean, white page with measured lines, I prefer the meadowlark that sits on a fence post and pours his rich song over the flat fields and the golden grain.

I have not seen any skylark, nor heard that "blithe spirit" making his shrill delight in the dawn. I have heard the nightingale but once, and that was in a tree at a crossroads in an interval between the thunder of shell and rattle of machine guns.

But I have seen the neat brown waxwings congregating in my garden; I have seen the whirl of many blackbirds flying against the sky at sunset; and I have seen the glossy single blackbird with the scarlet flash on his wings brightening the air in a small green valley.

I have not heard that skylark that taunted the straining poet, Shelley, that "our sincerest laughter with some pain is fraught; our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought" . . . But I have heard that modest meadowlark, in whose song is no hint of pain or melancholy and no reminders of the brevity of life and the tears that lurk behind the smiles.

So, somehow, I prefer the song I know to the song I have not heard. I prefer that minstrel of the fence post to the angelic singer of the skies,—as I prefer the common fellow who is tortured by ambition to the brilliant lad who will climb over his fellows to achieve his shining goal,—as I prefer the understanding heart to the brilliant mind,—as I prefer those who struggle gallantly to those who conquer easily.

I'll take the friendly singer, I'll take the meadowlark, singing in the full sun of life.—Marshall Maslin.