

check List  
S. Dak Birds  
page 13

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

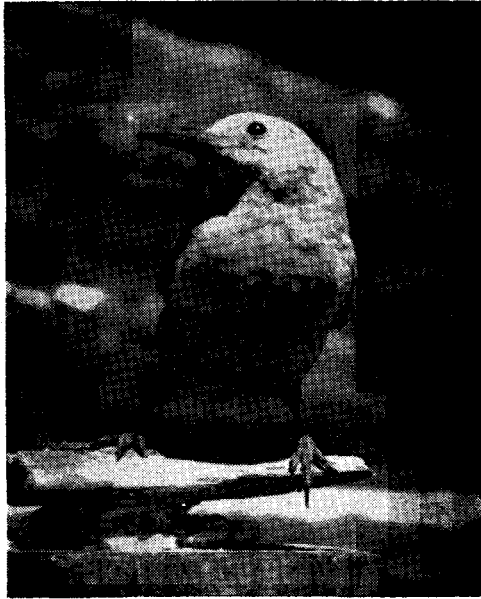
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Robin + Snake



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Volume VIII, No. 1

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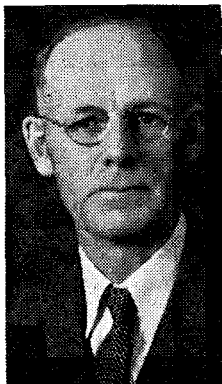
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## President's Page



**I**N RECENT years there has been considerable advance in proving the value of most forms of wild life. Now we understand no species can be destroyed without disturbing the balance among the various species.

It is generally agreed that most forms of life can serve a useful purpose, although there may be exceptions as to individuals, or to species in certain locations or under special circumstances.

Nature-lovers have changed their attitude toward the so-called "predators". Now some would extend protection even to wolves, lynx, bobcats and coyotes, in addition to all native birds; but since the direct interest of SDOU is in birds we shall limit our discussion to them.

When we think of protection we think first of legislation, and in that respect South Dakota has lagged. The birds not protected were listed in 1907 as: English Sparrow, blackbirds, Great Horned Owl, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk. In 1909 there were added: Crow, Magpie, Camp Robber (better known as Canada Jay and now called Gray Jay), Blue Crow (which should be called Pinon Jay). When the 1939 Code was enacted blackbirds were dropped, but European Starling and Purple Grackle were added. (This Grackle is not found in South Dakota.

No doubt it is an error. Bronzed Grackle could have been listed, although the new A. O. U. check-list relegates it to a subspecies). All of these birds are now given no protection by law.

Whoever wrote the 1939 law may have relied to some extent on Over and Thom's Birds of South Dakota in which the owl and two hawks are referred to as destructive. The authors added, "No hawk should be killed until one is sure what species he is killing", but very few shooters are able to identify any hawk, and the hawk-shooter usually claims he thought the bird he killed was one of the unprotected species. But the hawk is dead!

Apparently no one, not even in SDOU, takes any step toward securing protection of South Dakota hawks, owls and eagles that are on the "bad bird" list. They are entitled to the protection provided by law. There are even rumors that some of these are being officially destroyed because they have preyed on game birds. There are certainly some "angles" to that!

South Dakota may not be ready for legislation protecting all hawks, jays and owls. It certainly is ready for a strong, steady campaign of education for the public, including officers of the law, that the present law can and should be enforced.

It might be a good idea, too, for all of us to know more about the bounty system, as it is applied to birds and animals in the State. Visits with our county auditors and field game wardens may help us appraise this plan of "predator control."

—J. O. Johnson

# Highway Mortality of Winter Birds

Robert W. Randall

ON JANUARY 26, 1954, John W. Leete, James R. Sholes and I drove from Bismarck, N. Dak., to Huron, S. Dak., The sky was partly cloudy and there were light winds. The ground was covered with snow, but roads were bare. Thousands of Lapland Long-spurs and fairly large numbers of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks were noted along our route. The largest concentration of birds occurred in Walworth County, S. Dak, north and east of Selby.

All three species of birds were feeding on the highway and would fly up at the approach of cars, however, numerous birds had been killed by cars. In order to obtain an estimate of numbers, dead birds were counted on two 20-mile sections of the road. One count began near Herreid, S. D., and extended south to Sand Lake on U. S. Highway 83. In this area 143 dead birds were counted for an average of 7.1 per mile. The second 20-mile check began just east of the inter-section of U. S. Highways 83 and 12, south of Selby, and extended east to Bowdle. On this section of highway a total of 681 dead birds were counted for an average of 34.0 per mile.

It is believed that the number of dead birds per mile recorded south of Herreid was fairly representative for the highway from Bismarck to a point to about 5 miles north of Selby. The count east of Selby was believed representative of perhaps 30 miles of highway. From Bowdle east and south very few dead birds were seen.

Several stops were made to determine the identity of the dead birds and 49 individuals were definitely identified. All of these were Lapland Longspurs. Observations indicated that the Longspurs were a little less alert than the other two spe-

cies. The identity of dead birds seemed to bear this observation out, although the sample identified was rather small and may not have been representative.

As the above figures indicate the mortality of these winter birds was extremely high. It was difficult to keep from hitting them with a car even at speeds under 30 miles per hour. In order to flush the birds we tried using the horn when approaching a flock. This was effective in flushing the birds from the highway far enough ahead to reduce the chance of hitting them. It is suggested that anyone driving the highways when large flocks or birds are on the roadway try blowing their horn in an effort to reduce these road kills.

—Bismarck, N. D.

\* \* \* \*

## Annual Meeting

The 1956 annual meeting of SDOU will be held at Watertown on May 26-27. On the 26th there will be an early field trip to nearby spots for members who arrive the evening before or get in early that morning. Then there will be the registration and a paper and picture program. In the evening there will be the annual banquet with a featured speaker. The next day will be given over to field trips in the Webster-Waubay area with a noon lunch at one of the lakes.

This will be the first meeting of SDOU in the northeastern part of the State. The program is good and the field trips should be outstanding. Further notice will be mailed to members and will include information about places and times, hotels and motels. All members should plan to attend.

## William H. Over

William H. Over, a charter member and the first honorary member of South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, died at the age of 89 at Vermillion on February 20, 1956, after a long period of failing strength, but with undiminished interest in the natural history of South Dakota.

Dr. Over can be included in the group of real naturalists whose broad interests embraced many fields, but probably his greatest interest was in ornithology and it was there that he made his greatest contribution. He was the first in South Dakota to give it continued and state-wide attention. His book with Craig S. Thoms, *The Birds of South Dakota*, has gone through two editions and remains the basic reference.

The breadth of his interests is indicated by the fields covered in oth-

er of his publications: *The Wild Flowers*, the *Mollusca*, the *Amphibia and Reptiles*, and the *Flora of South Dakota*; and, with E. P. Churchill, *The Mammals and Fish of South Dakota*.

Other tangible evidence of his interests and his contributions is the museum which he established at the University of South Dakota and of which he was director for more than forty years. Several years ago it was officially named the W. H. Over Museum. The museum's collections of mounted birds and animals is largely the result of Dr. Over's field work. His interest in the history of the state brought about the preservation of many valuable things connected with its early days.

These collections and the Museum remain a fitting memorial to Dr. Over.

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## Books For Birders

**T**RAVELS AND TRADITIONS OF WATERFOWL, H. Albert Hochbaum. University of Minnesota Press. 1955. 301 Pp. 75 illustrations by the author. \$5.00.

In his book Mr. Hochbaum presents a detailed explanation and analysis of the theory of biological tradition and the role which it plays in the migrations of waterfowl. While this subject has found its way here and there into current biological literature, it is presented in this book as a fully developed discussion.

Mr. Hochbaum is the director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station at Delta, Manitoba, Canada, where he has observed the flights and other aspects of waterfowl behavior at the Delta Marsh over 17 years. His account is based on these long-term observations, experiments carried on at

the research station, and an extensive survey of the literature.

The author is a graduate of Cornell University and has a degree from the University of Minnesota. He is also the author of "The Canvasback on a Prairie Marsh", which won the Brewster medal of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Literary Award of the Wildlife Society. "Travel and Traditions of Waterfowl" is a worthy successor.

\* \* \*

**WILD AMERICA.** Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher. Illustrations by RTP. 434 pp, index. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. \$5.00

The title page reads: "The record of a 30,000-mile journey around the continent by a distinguished naturalist and his British colleague", but there is much more than that! Peter-

son had toured Europe and Britain with Fisher, and it was Fisher's turn to be the visitor. The acknowledgments name about a hundred friendly folks who helped make the trip a success. Many of them acted as local guides and the list reads like a "Who's Who in USA Ornithology."

For two and a half months the two ornithologists traveled along the rim of the USA taking notes which are combined and summarized in this remarkable book. While all Nature interested them, birds held top priority, and the bird list which reached 498 at Anchorage, Alaska, passed the 497-in-one-year mark made by Guy Emerson in 1939. The map inside the cover indicates the two flew back, separately, over South Dakota. A short lay-over by either in "The Land of Infinite Variety" might have extended the list even further.

We are happily accustomed to Peterson's clear, easy style. Fisher's contribution to the text adds color flowing from his British background and his happiness and excitement in seeing so much, so many, so great, which he appreciated so much.

Peterson's many illustrations of flora and fauna add much charm to this distinctly "birdy" travelogue. His Audubon Screen Tour is a movie-lecture version of what is so interestingly written about in "Wild America."—H. F. Chapman.

\* \* \*

A LABORATORY AND FIELD MANUAL OF ORNITHOLOGY. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Illustrations by W. J. Breckenridge. Third edition, 1956. 4to. 379 pp. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis. \$5.00.

This is the third edition of the manual that was first published in 1939 and makes it an even better book than its predecessors. Although the book was intended for use in colleges and universities,—and it has been adopted by over a hundred in 42 states,—it

can also be used and will be interesting study for the bird-watcher. We certainly recommend it to all who want to extend the borders of their own knowledge to include any of the many things related to an interest in birds. The 4-page table of contents lists many things we can learn more about.

\* \* \*

FINDING BIRDS IN MEXICO. Ernest P. Edwards. 101 pp. Privately printed by E. P. Edwards and Co., Amherst, Va.

Travel in Mexico is becoming so popular and bird-watchers are so interested in lengthening their lists that this little book by an ornithologist who has spent much time in Mexico should be in demand. It includes such practical things as outlines of simple bird-finding tours, a directory of possible camp sites, a list of species, a chapter on identification of Mexican birds, and a glossary of Mexican bird names.

Dr. Edwards appeared on the Audubon Screen Tours this season and is planning conducted tours of bird finding in Mexico for this coming summer.

\* \* \*

A MANUAL FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE BIRDS OF MINNESOTA AND NEIGHBORING STATES. Thomas S. Roberts. University of Minnesota Press. \$3.50.

This 1955 revision of this manual includes changes in the nomenclature approved by the American Ornithologists' union. The main text is identical with the keys and descriptions in the second volume of the revised edition of "The Birds of Minnesota" by Thomas S. Roberts, which is now out of print.

The Manual in its limp cloth binding is a "must" for the bander in eastern South Dakota and helpful to other banders and bird students.

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## General Notes of Special Interest

**BLUE GROSBEAKS**—Since publication of December, 1955, Bird Notes, records of some interesting South Dakota observations of Blue Grosbeaks have come to us. Probably the most interesting was the record of a pair four miles east of Mobridge seen by Robert W. Randall, Bismarck, N. Dak., on July 18, 1950. This is farther north than any other South Dakota record.

In addition to the Mobridge record, Mr. Randall submitted seven other sight records along the Fort Randall Reservoir between Wheeler and American Island, Chamberlain, in 1946 and 1954. One of them was near Academy in an area a little east of the Missouri from which we have no other reports.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Chapman, Sioux Falls, made a complete list of their Blue Grosbeak records and include some near the James and Vermillion Rivers which have suitable habitats but for which we have lacked records. They are: near Volin, July 17, 1948; northeast of Davis, August 24, 1952; south of Montrose, August 9, 1953; west of Alexandria, August 14, 1954 and July 15, 1955; Johnson Creek near Woonsocket, August 3, 1954. They also have records at Springfield, Farm Island near Pierre, DeGrey, and several in the productive Chamberlain-White River area.

William Youngworth, Sioux City, reports the following specimens taken in Yankton County: a beautiful full-plumaged male taken on July 13, 1931, a male not in full plumage but probably of the second or third season on July 4, 1932, and another of about the same plumage on July 9, 1934. These specimens are an important addition to the record.

The map in the December, 1955, Bird Notes will look different if we mark these records at Mobridge, Farm Island, DeGrey and mark the five records to fill in the blanks along the James and Vermillion Rivers.

\* \* \* \*

**HUNTING BEHAVIOR OF A GOLDEN EAGLE**—On May 30, 1955, we stopped along state highway 79 to watch a large bird soaring over the prairies of Spring Creek Valley in Pennington County. We identified it as a Golden Eagle, and then saw that it was intent on prey. Quickly it dived at a spot on the prairie ridge. As it swooped up again, we looked at the ground. There were three White-tailed Jackrabbits loping away from the spot, each going in a different direction. The eagle selected one rabbit, swooped again, and again missed. Then it followed its prey, dropped quickly, and very neatly picked up the rabbit from the hillside.

The raptor's ability to maneuver was astounding. The rabbit was picked up as if it had been standing still. Meanwhile the other two rabbits disappeared over the hill, and the eagle soared away with its meal.  
—N. R. Whitney, Jr., Rapid City, S. D.

\* \* \*

**ROBIN KILLS SNAKE**—One quiet, warm, sunny afternoon the latter part of May at Pickerel Lake, Day County, South Dakota, I saw a male Robin fly up and down excitedly, so I got my binocular to see what was going on.

The Robin was attacking a large garter snake which was coiled and flicking its tongue at the Robin repeatedly. The bird kept flying around and around to avoid the sudden jabs of the snake's head and kept

pecking at the snake's head and body. This went on for eight minutes before the Robin was the victor and flew away with a large piece of snake meat for its babies. I then went over to look at the dead snake.—**Herman P. Chilson, Webster, S. D.**

\* \* \*

**NOTES FROM A BLIND**—On September 1, 1955, I built a box-like structure of old lumber at the edge of the windbreak facing our orchard. About 20 feet in front of it I placed a bird bath on a post. Water from an overhead pail dripped into the bath. The season was very dry and birds flocked to the bath in such numbers that it was common to see eight at a time enjoying the 18-inch bath.

I watched from the blind but the birds were soon accustomed to me and might be enjoying a fresh drink before I was seated after filling the pail. Blue Jays sometimes scolded me from the open back of the blind and Robins peeked in the hole through which I looked.

Robins were dominant and often smaller birds had to wait their turn. Daily calls were also made by the Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Mockingbirds, and Baltimore and Orchard Orioles until they left for the south. During September birds visited the bath at a rate of more than two a minute during the rush hours. These callers also included Yellow and Red-shafted Flickers, Downy Woodpecker, Olive-backed Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat, Starling, Cardinal, a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Towhee, Junco; Song, Vesper, White-crowned, White-throated, Harris's, Tree, Field, Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows.

Young Cedar Waxwings came daily from September 5 to October 28. The Harris's Sparrows first appeared on October 3 and are still with us on De-

ember 3 and we may see as many as 20 a day. The Red-shafted Flicker came in mid-November and is still here. Even an escaped parakeet patronized the bath until cold weather slowed him up.

When freezing weather came we kept the bath open with frequent additions of hot water. It was interesting to see the Harris's Sparrows and the Cardinals sipping the cool water near the edge of the bath and bathing in the open water in near-zero weather.

We also have a bird bath and feeding station a few feet from our kitchen window and I have watched the birds there during cold weather. When snow came we replaced the bath with a feed tray. Suet pumpkin and muskmelon seeds, screenings from a grain elevator, and dried apples were the principle items on the menu. Watermelon seeds are discarded. Chickadees and Cardinals favor pumpkin and sunflower seeds. Harris's Sparrows like muskmelon seeds.

My biggest headache is the House Sparrows that come in flocks and eat everything but pumpkin seeds. I hoped to discourage them by not putting out millet and sunflower seeds, but it is I who am getting discouraged.

My experience with the blind, bird bath and feeding station has been so rewarding that I wish I had started it sooner.—**Charles A. Nash, Platte, S. Dak.**

\* \* \*

**SOLITAIRE NEST IN THE BLACK HILLS**—We spent the night of June 1, 1955, in a motel west of Lead, Lawrence County. At daybreak the next morning I walked up the canyon on U. S. Highway 85. About two miles from the motel, I found a Townsend's Solitaire perched in a bush and then flying to a rocky cliff formed by the roadcut. I followed the bird to the cliff and found a nest with three recently-hatched young in a niche 20

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feet from the edge of the road and five feet above the road level. During the 45 minutes that I watched the nest, the parent made two visits with food and brooded the young for a few minutes. The young were still at the stage of extending their heads straight up to demand food, and the parent fed the highest mouth first and then the closest. I photographed the nest, but was unable to follow its progress.—**N. R. Whitney, Jr., Rapid City, S. D.**

\* \* \*

**NOTES FROM A NOTEBOOK**—When I look over my notes of day to day observations of a year ago, several are of particular interest—to me, at least—Two Robins on March 12 were rather early for this latitude. Then on May 11 a Harris's, a White-throated and a White-crowned Sparrow came at the same time for their early morning drinks. Two days later two Ovenbirds were scratching under the lilac hedge. I count on seeing them every year and then I feel that Spring is really here. The next morning Mrs. Rose-breasted Grosbeak came for a drink but I did not see the male until two weeks later.

The next item is, "Catbirds and Brown Thrashers are showing up now." The Catbirds used to nest in the lilac hedge but abandoned the spot when cats became too numerous in the neighborhood. Several years ago my tape measure disappeared during Spring house cleaning. In the Fall I found it when the leaves had fallen. It was woven into the catbirds' nest.

A sad day came when I found the still warm body of one of the Ovenbirds. There was no mark on the body and it was in good flesh. I wonder whether its heart just stopped like it does sometimes with us.

On May 29 I traced a new spring song, a liquid warble, to an alder where a Northern Water-thrush was drying after a bath. (He visits our

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hedge every Spring. I first identified the bird on August 11, 1938 at the Pickerel Lake hatchery). Later in the day a Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang without a stop for a full half-hour from the top of an ash tree. I felt it was his grateful hymn of praise for the beautiful Sabbath morning.—**Mrs. Ury Dahling, Webster, S. D.**

\* \* \*

**SHORT TALES**—Dr. John V. Madison was visited at Sioux Falls on January 9, 1956 by a flock of about 60 Bohemian Waxwings.

Are Bob-Whites making a comeback in South Dakota? In recent months there have been several reports of the species in different parts of the State. One was of a single bird that spent the Fall in the south part of Sioux Falls. Willis Hall says there were 6 at the time of his Christmas Count in Yankton although he did not include them in his official report because he was not near enough to make an absolutely positive identification. Also Miss Ruth Habeger tells of 2 that she did not include in her Christmas Count at Madison. They were seen by Douglas O'Connell outside of the area surveyed. But Mrs. Adelene Siljenberg saw 2 Bobwhites within the Vermillion area on which she reported.

Lowry Elliott, Milbank, gives us a few dates for Harris's Sparrows. Last Spring he saw his first on April 30 and the last on May 30. They came back on September 25, were plentiful through October and were gone by

(Continued on page 12)

## THE COVER

This portrait of a Clark's Nutcracker was taken by J. O. Johnson on August 10, 1943, in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming, but the bird is also a resident of South Dakota's Black Hills.

# Christmas Bird Count 1955

x — Species Reported	Armour	Lake Andes	Canton	Hot Springs	LaCreek	Milbank	Madison	Platte	Rapid City	Sioux Falls	Springfield	Vermillion	Wall Lake	Watertown	Waubay	Webster	Winner	Yankton
Goose, Canada .....	1500				75													
Mallard .....	12000				9351				1023						10			
Scaup, Lesser .....									1									
Golden-eye, American .....					31				34									
Hawk, Rough-leg .....	2				6				1	2			3				6	
Ferruginous .....	1																	
Eagle, Golden .....					5				2		1						1	
Bald .....					1													
Hawk, Marsh .....					1			1										2
Falcon, Prairie .....					1													
Hawk, Pigeon .....									1									
Sparrow .....							3			1								
Grouse, Sharp-tail .....								3								3		
Bob-white .....												2						
Partridge, European .....						10	12			15			12					
Pheasant, Ring-neck .....	112				81	35	1715	39	10	334	18	7	228	10	24		292	40
Dove, Mourning .....										1								
Owl, Screech .....							2			1					1			
Horned .....					1			1		1	2				2		1	3
Short-ear .....	2																	
Burrowing .....								1										
Kingfisher .....									4	1								1
Flicker .....					1	1				4			7					5
Red-shaft .....								1	1									
Woodpecker, Red-bellied .....											2	1						
Heiry .....			x	x	2	1	3		4	14		1		1	3		1	1

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Horned Lark																			
Jay, Blue		x																	
Jay, Pinyon																			
Magpie																			
Crow	3000	x																	4
Chickadee, Black-cap	4	x	x		6	8	799	500		5	65	30	9	1	5				1517
Nuthatch, White-b.		x			3	8	14	5		79	329	19	10	18	8	x			4
						2	4			17	16	20	6		8	x			1
Red-b.		x								3	11								
Creep. Brown		x								5	5						9		
Wren, Canyon																			
Ouzel										2									
Robin										12	1		1		1				3
Bluebird, Eastern																			
Solitaire, Townsend												1							
Kinglet, Gold-cr.										7									
Waxwing, Cedar										2									
Bohemian																	2	17	x
Shrike, Gr. Gray					1					2								1	1
Starling	75	x			18	235	16			91	134	60	100		2			x	x
Sparrow, House	200	x	x		3	x	1102	75		32	1200	60	x		x		56	x	x
Meadowlark, West.	1		x		3		1				7		2						148
Redwing							1				6						2		2
Grackle											4								
Cardinal											31	25	17						2
Redpoll, Common		x			6	3	3	2		50	30	11					250	x	8
Grosbeak, Evening										6								1	4
Pine															4				
Siskin, Pine										30	5								x
Goldfinch, American	4									30		30							x
Crossbill, Red										54									
White-wing										8									
Junco, White-wing										98									
Slate-color	4	x			4	108	3			3	103	40	10		20				x
Oregon										7	1								28
Sparrow, Tree					15	1	20			5			10				2		4
Harris's										8		2							1
Song											2								
Longspur, Lapland					903	65	27												50
Bunting, Snow						6	3							15					

## News and Notes

(Continued from page 9)

November 14, although one spent all day December 12 at the feeding station. He banded 16 of them in the Spring and 117 in the Fall. 23 of them repeated, including one that came back 7 times in 15 days. The December bird had a band on its leg.

\* \* \* \*

The Chicago Museum of Natural History sponsored its 11th International Exhibit of Nature Photography last February. Contestants from 39 states and 13 foreign countries submitted 3291 color slides and 508 prints. From these, the jury of five selected 813 slides and 209 prints for the exhibit and of these a smaller number for a traveling exhibit.

SDOU-member Willis Hall, Yankton, had one of his slides chosen. This is the second time that Mr. Hall has had a winner. Ted Johnson, Worthington, had two of his slides selected and one of them was taken for the traveling exhibit. Our good and well-known neighbor, Dr. J. S. Schott, Sioux City, also had his entries selected.

\* \* \* \*

Dr. W. E. Lanyon, University of Arizona, has published in *Ecology* a paper on the Ecological Aspects of the Sympatric Distribution of Meadowlarks in the North-central States. In his list of references he cites *Bird Notes* V:7, 16. He also mentioned the help given him by SDOU-member Kenneth Krumm, manager of La-Creek Refuge, who discovered the colony of Eastern Meadowlarks in southwestern South Dakota, wrote it up for *Bird Notes*, and showed it to Dr. Lanyon who made a tape recording of the songs.

\* \* \* \*

The National Audubon Society will conduct a camp in northwestern Wis-

consin this summer for the second time. There will be five two-week sessions between June 17 and September 1.

Last year persons from 19 states, the District of Columbia and Canada attended. They were teachers, doctors, nurses, librarians, students, housewives, secretaries, businessmen and retired people.

It would make a fine vacation for any nature lover; reasonable, too.

\* \* \* \*

It is estimated by the Office of River Basin Studies, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that some 50,000 acres of duck-nesting habitat were destroyed last year by pot-hole and marsh drainage in the states of Minnesota, North and South Dakota alone.

\* \* \* \*

Dr. E. W. Elmen, Sioux Falls, found an injured Brown Creeper that died from its injuries. A good number of people were able to examine the interesting bird closely.

Miss Ruth Habeger, Madison, reported 14 Hudsonian Godwits on April 22.

Mrs. Leo Lippert and Mrs. Melvin Wheeler, Sioux Falls, had a Black and White Warbler that, apparently, had flown against a window on April 26. It recovered and was released. An early warbler in a late spring.

Data is being collected on an irruption of Mountain Bluebirds into southeastern South Dakota early this year. The first date for Eastern Bluebirds was March 20.

\* \* \* \*

Visiting Ornithologist—Do you know where I can find Franklin Gulls?

Local Yokel—No, but have you looked in the telephone directory?

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

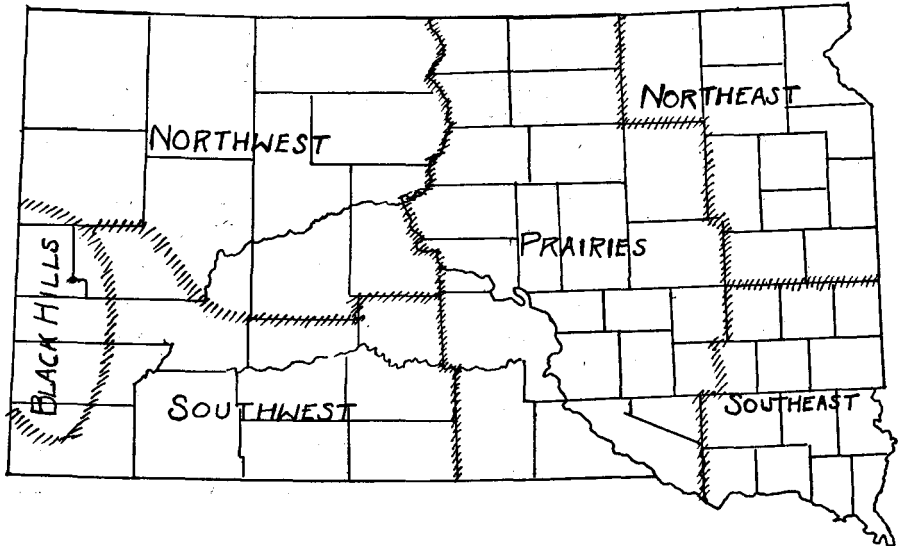
# Checklist of South Dakota Birds

This checklist has been prepared as a consolidation of our present knowledge, and as a point of departure for the preparation of a more elaborate book on the birds of South Dakota. It is intended primarily as a guide for bird watchers of the state, indicating what birds can be expected. In it we have tried to answer two questions:

1. What species of native birds have been found in South Dakota?
2. In what parts of the state and in what seasons can they be expected?

In presenting this tabulation, we realize a two-letter symbol is not an entirely satisfactory way of indicating the status of a species. For example, many ducks may winter as scattered individuals, but since the main population has moved south, we have not listed them as wintering. No attempt has been made to indicate relative abundance.

We have divided the state into six regions, as indicated on the accompanying map. Species may inhabit only part of the designated area. For example, the Sage Grouse is known regularly in Harding County, but probably does not inhabit the entire northwest region. The bird life of many counties of the State is very poorly known.



Probably there has been adequate recent coverage in only Day, Codington and Deuel Counties in the Northeast Region; in Lake, Minnehaha, Lincoln and Union Counties of the Southeast; a part of southern Bennett County in the Southwest; and on the northern, eastern and southern perimeter of the Black Hills Region. In addition to this there are old publications covering Harding and Sanborn Counties in the Northwest and the Prairies Regions.

The following symbols are used:

PR—permanent resident.

SR—summer resident, probably, but not necessarily, breeding in the region.

SV—summer visitant, not breeding.  
 WV—winter visitant  
 TV—transient visitant.  
 AV—accidental visitant.

The symbol AV is used only for species which are regular in some parts of the state but not in others. Birds that are not regularly found anywhere in the state are listed in a separate Accidental list. In using these symbols, we are following Cruikshank's BIRDS AROUND NEW YORK CITY (See S. D. Bird Notes, vol. IV, p. 20); they are also the standard symbols for the Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge lists.

The English species names used are those proposed for the forthcoming Checklist of the American Ornithologists' Union. In several instances, they do not agree with the names in the Peterson Field Guides. No subspecific names are used, although in a few cases, subspecies are recognizable in the field.

Species	NE	SE	Prairies	NW	SW	Hills
Common Loon	SR	TV	TV	TV	TV	AV
Red-necked Grebe	SR	TV			TV	
Horned Grebe	SR	TV	TV		TV	
Eared Grebe	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	TV
Western Grebe	SR	TV	SR		SR	TV
Pied-billed Grebe	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	TV
White Pelican	SR	TV	SR		SR	
Double-crested Cormorant	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	TV
Great Blue Heron	SR	SV	SR	SR	SR	
Common Egret	SV	SV	AV		AV	
Snowy Egret					SV	
Little Blue Heron		TV				
Green Heron	SR	SR	SR	AV	AV	
Black-crowned Night Heron	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	
American Bittern	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	
Least Bittern	SR	SR	SR		AV	
Whistling Swan	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Canada Goose	SR	TV	SR	TV	TV	TV
White-fronted Goose	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Snow Goose	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Blue Goose	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Mallard	SR	SR	SR	TV	PR	PR
Black Duck	TV	AV	TV		TV	
Gadwall	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	TV
Pintail	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	TV
American Widgeon	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	TV
Green-winged Teal	SR	TV	TV	SR	SR	TV
Blue-winged Teal	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	TV
Cinnamon Teal	AV	AV	TV		SV	
Shoveller	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	TV
Wood Duck	AV	SR	SR	AV	AV	
Redhead	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	TV
Ring-necked Duck	TV	TV	TV	TV	SR	TV
Canvasback	SR	TV	SR	TV	SR	TV
Greater Scaup	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Lesser Scaup	SR	TV	TV	TV	PR	TV
Common Goldeneye	SR	TV	WV		WV	WV
Bufflehead	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Old-Squaw	TV	AV				
Ruddy Duck	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	TV
Hooded Merganser	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV

Common Merganser	TV	TV	TV	TV	WV	WV
Red-breasted Merganser	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Turkey Vulture	SR	SV	TV	SR	SR	SR
Goshawk	WV	WV	TV	SV	TV	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	SR	PR	WV	TV	SR	PR
Cooper's Hawk	SR	PR	PR	TV	TV	PR
Red-tailed Hawk	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Red-shouldered Hawk		TV	TV			
Broad-winged Hawk	SR	TV	SV		TV	
Swainson's Hawk	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Rough-legged Hawk	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV
Ferruginous Hawk		WV	PR	SR	SR	SR
Golden Eagle	WV	WV	WV	SR	PR	PR
Bald Eagle	WV	WV	WV		PR	WV
Marsh Hawk	PR	PR	PR	SR	PR	TV
Osprey	TV	TV	AV	TV	AV	AV
Gyr Falcon	WV	AV				
Prairie Falcon	WV	WV	WV	SR	PR	SR
Peregrine Falcon	SV	TV	TV	AV	TV	SR
Pigeon Hawk	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	PR
Sparrow Hawk	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Ruffed Grouse	PR			PR		PR
Prairie Chicken	PR	AV	PR	PR	PR	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	PR	AV	PR	PR	PR	PR
Sage Hen				PR	PR	
Partridge	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
Chukar Partridge			PR	PR		
Bob-white	PR	PR	PR		PR	
Ring-necked Pheasant	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Wild Turkey		PR				PR
Whooping Crane			TV	TV	TV	
Sandhill Crane			TV	TV	TV	TV
King Rail	SR	SR			SV	
Virginia Rail	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	
Sora	SR	SR	SR		SR	
Yellow Rail		SR				
Common Gallinule	SR	AV			AV	
American Coot	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	TV
Semipalmated Plover	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Piping Plover	SR	TV	TV	SR		
Killdeer	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Golden Plover	TV	TV	TV			
Black-bellied Plover	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Ruddy Turnstone	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Common Snipe	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV,WV
Long-billed Curlew				SR	SR	
Whimbrel					TV	
Upland Plover	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Spotted Sandpiper	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Solitary Sandpiper	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV
Willet	SR	TV	SR		SR	TV
Greater Yellowlegs	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Lesser Yellowlegs	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Pectoral Sandpiper	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
White-Rumped Sandpiper	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Baird's Sandpiper	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Least Sandpiper	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Dunlin	TV	TV	TV			
Dowitcher	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Stilt Sandpiper	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	TV	TV	TV		TV	

Western Sandpiper	TV	TV				
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	TV	TV		TV		
Marbled Godwit	SR	TV	TV	SR	SR	
Hudsonian Godwit	TV	TV	AV		TV	
Sanderling	SR	TV	TV		TV	
Avocet	SR	TV	SR	TV	SR	TV
Wilson's Phalarope	SR	TV	SR	SR	SR	SR
Northern Phalarope	TV	AV	TV		TV	
Herring Gull	TV	SV	TV		TV	
Ring-billed Gull	SR	SV	TV	TV	TV	TV
Franklin's Gull	SR	SR	SR	TV	TV	
Bonaparte's Gull	TV				TV	
Forster's Tern	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	
Common Tern	SR	SR	SR		TV	
Least Tern		SR	SR			
Caspian Tern	TV	AV				
Black Tern	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	
Mourning Dove	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	SR	SR	SR		SR	SR
Black-billed Cuckoo	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Barn Owl		PR	SR	SR	SV	
Screech Owl	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Great Horned Owl	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Snowy Owl	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	
Burrowing Owl	SR	SR	SR		SR	SR
Barred Owl		PR				
Long-eared Owl	TV	WV	PR		SR	SR
Short-eared Owl	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
Saw-whet Owl	WV					PR
Whippoorwill	SR	SR				
Poorwill				SR	SR	SR
Common Nighthawk	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Chimney Swift	SR	SR	SR		SR	SR
White-throated Swift				SR	SR	SR
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	SR	SR	SR			
Belted Kingfisher	SR	PR	SR	SR	PR	PR
Yellow-shafted Flicker	PR	PR	PR	SR	SR	
Red-shafted Flicker	WV	WV	SR	SR	SR	SR
Red-bellied Woodpecker		PR	PR			
Red-headed Woodpecker	SR	PR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Lewis's Woodpecker	AV	AV				PR
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	TV	TV	TV		TV	SR
Hairy Woodpecker	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Downy Woodpecker	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker				PR		
American 3-toed Woodpecker						PR
Eastern Kingbird	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Western Kingbird	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Great Crested Flycatcher	SR	SR	SR		TV	
Eastern Phoebe	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Say's Phoebe		AV		SR	SR	SR
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	TV	TV	TV			
Acadian Flycatcher		SR				
Traill's Flycatcher	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Least Flycatcher	SR	TV	TV	SR	SR	SR
Wright's Flycatcher						SR
Western Flycatcher						SR
Eastern Wood Pewee	SR	SR	SR		TV	
Western Wood Pewee				SR	SR	SR
Olive-sided Flycatcher	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV



Horned Lark	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Violet-green Swallow					SV	SR
Tree Swallow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Bank Swallow	SR	SR	SR	SR	TV	
Rough-winged Swallow	SR	SR	SR		SR	SR
Barn Swallow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Cliff Swallow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Purple Martin	SR	SR	SR			
Gray Jay						PR
Blue Jay	PR	PR	PR	SR	SR	PR
Black-billed Magpie	WV	WV	PR	PR	PR	PR
Common Raven	AV		AV	WV	TV	
Common Crow	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Pinyon Jay				PR	PR	PR
Clark's Nutcracker				PR		PR
Black-capped Chickadee	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
White-breasted Nuthatch	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Red-breasted Nuthatch	WV	WV	TV	PR		PR
Pigmy Nuthatch						PR
Brown Creeper	WV	WV	WV		WV	PR
Dipper						PR
House Wren	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Winter Wren	TV	TV	TV		TV	WV
Carolina Wren		TV, WV			AV	
Long-billed Marsh Wren	SR	SR	SR		SR	TV
Short-billed Marsh Wren	SR	SR	SR		SR	
Canyon Wren				TV		SR
Rock Wren		SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Mockingbird	AV	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Catbird	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Brown Thrasher	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Sage Thrasher				SR		
Robin	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Wood Thrush		SR	SR			
Hermit Thrush	TV	TV	TV			SR
Swainson's Thrush	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV
Gray-cheeked Thrush	TV	TV	TV		TV	TV
Veery	TV	TV	TV	TV		SR
Common Bluebird	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Mountain Bluebird				SR	SR	SR
Townsend's Solitaire					AV	PR
Golden-crowned Kinglet	TV	TV, WV	TV, WV		TV	PR
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	TV	TV	TV			SR
Water Pipit	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Sprague's Pipit	SR	TV	TV	SR	TV	
Bohemian Warbler	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV
Cedar Waxwing	TV	PR	SR	SR	TV	SR
Northern Shrike	WV	WV	WV		WV	WV
Loggerhead Shrike	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Starling	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR
Bell's Vireo	SR	SR	SR	SR	SV	
Yellow-throated Vireo	SR	SR				
Solitary Vireo		TV				SR
Red-eyed Vireo	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Philadelphia Vireo	TV	TV				
Warbling Vireo	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Black and White Warbler	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Prothonotary Warbler		SR				
Blue-winged Warbler		AV	TV			
Golden-winged Warbler	TV	TV	TV			

	NE	SE	PRARIE	NW	SW	HILLS
Tennessee Warbler	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Orange-crowned Warbler	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV
Nashville Warbler		TV	TV	TV	TV	
Parula Warbler	TV	TV				
Yellow Warbler	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Magnolia Warbler	TV	TV	TV		TV	
Cape May Warbler	TV	TV				
Black-throated Blue Warbler	TV		TV			
Cerulean Warbler		TV	TV			
Myrtle Warbler	TV	TV	TV		TV	TV
Audubon's Warbler	TV			SR	TV	SR
Black-throated Green Warbler	TV	TV	TV			
Blackburnian Warbler	TV	TV	TV			
Chestnut-sided Warbler	TV	TV	TV			
Bay-breasted Warbler	TV	TV	TV			
Black-poll Warbler	TV	TV	TV		TV	TV
Pine Warbler	TV	TV				
Palm Warbler	TV	TV	TV			
Ovenbird	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Northern Water-Thrush	TV	TV	TV	TV		
Louisiana Water-Thrush		TV				
Connecticut Warbler		TV				
Mourning Warbler		TV	TV			
MacGillivray's Warbler	TV					
Yellow-throat	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Yellow-breasted Chat	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Pileolated Warbler	TV	TV	TV	TV		
Canada Warbler	TV	TV	TV			
American Redstart	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
House Sparrow	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
Bobolink	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Eastern Meadowlark		SR	SR		SR	SR
Western Meadowlark	SR	PR	PR	SR	PR	SR
Yellow-headed Blackbird	SR	SR	SR	TV	SR	TV
Redwinged Blackbird	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Orchard Oriole	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Baltimore Oriole	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SV
Bullock's Oriole			SR	SR	SR	SR
Rusty Blackbird	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	
Brewer's Blackbird	SR	TV	TV	SR	SR	SR
Purple Grackle	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Common Cowbird	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Western Tanager				TV	SR	SR
Scarlet Tanager	AV	SR	SR		AV	AV
Cardinal	PR	PR	PR	WV	AV	AV
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	SR	SR	SR		TV	AV
Black-headed Grosbeak		SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Blue Grosbeak		SR	SR		SR	SR
Indigo Bunting	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Lazuli Bunting	SR	AV	SR	SR	SR	SR
Dickcissel	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Evening Grosbeak	WV	WV	WV		WV	WV
Purple Finch	WV	WV	WV			WV
Pine Grosbeak	WV	AV	WV			PR
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch					WV	WV
Common Redpoll	WV	WV	WV		WV	WV
Hoary Redpoll					WV	
Pine Siskin		PR	WV	TV	WV	PR
American Goldfinch	PR	PR	PR	SR	PR	PR
Red Crossbill		WV	TV	SR		PR
White-winged Crossbill		WV				WV
Eastern Towhee	SR	SR	SR		TV	
Spotted Towhee	TV	SR	TV	SR	SR	SR

Lark Bunting	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Savannah Sparrow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Grasshopper Sparrow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Baird's Sparrow		AV	TV	SR	TV	
LeConte's Sparrow	SR	TV	SR			
Henslow's Sparrow	SR		TV	TV		
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	SR				TV	
Vesper Sparrow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Lark Sparrow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
White-winged Junco				SR		PR
Slate-colored Junco	WV	WV	WV	TV	TV	WV
Oregon Junco		WV			TV	WV
Tree Sparrow	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV
Chipping Sparrow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Clay-colored Sparrow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Brewer's Sparrow				SR		TV
Field Sparrow	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
Harris's Sparrow	TV, WV	TV, WV	TV, WV		TV	TV
White-crowned Sparrow	TV	TV, WV	TV	TV	TV	
Fox Sparrow	TV	TV	TV			
Lincoln's Sparrow	TV	TV	TV		TV	TV
Swamp Sparrow	SR	SR	TV	SV	SR	
Song Sparrow	SR	SR	PR	PR	PR	PR
McCown's Longspur			SR	SR	SR	
Lapland Longspur	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV
Smith's Longspur		TV	TV			
Chestnut-colored Longspur	SR	WV	SR	SR	SR	
Snow Bunting	WV	WV	WV		WV	

#### ACCIDENTALS

(not regular anywhere in the state)

Brown Pelican  
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
 White Ibis  
 Fulvous Tree Duck  
 Barrow's Goldeneye  
 White-winged Scoter  
 Surf Scoter  
 American Eider  
 Woodcock  
 Black-necked Stilt  
 Red Phalarope  
 California Gull  
 Laughing Gull  
 Pomarine Jaeger  
 Richardson's Owl  
 Pileated Woodpecker  
 Tufted Titmouse  
 Bewick's Wren  
 Worm-eating Warbler  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler  
 Hooded Warbler

#### EXTINCT

(formerly ranging regularly within the state, but now no longer found)

Trumpeter Swan  
 Swallow-tailed Kite  
 Eskimo Curlew  
 Carolina Parakeet  
 Passenger Pigeon

The committee wishes to acknowledge the assistance given by Kenneth Krumm of Martin and Alfred Peterson of Brandt in reviewing the status of species in their areas.

The Check-list Committee:

Harry Behrens  
 Herman Chapman  
 W. R. Felton, Jr.  
 J. S. Findley  
 Herbert Krause  
 Gerald Spawn  
 N. R. Whitney, Jr.  
 William Youngworth