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# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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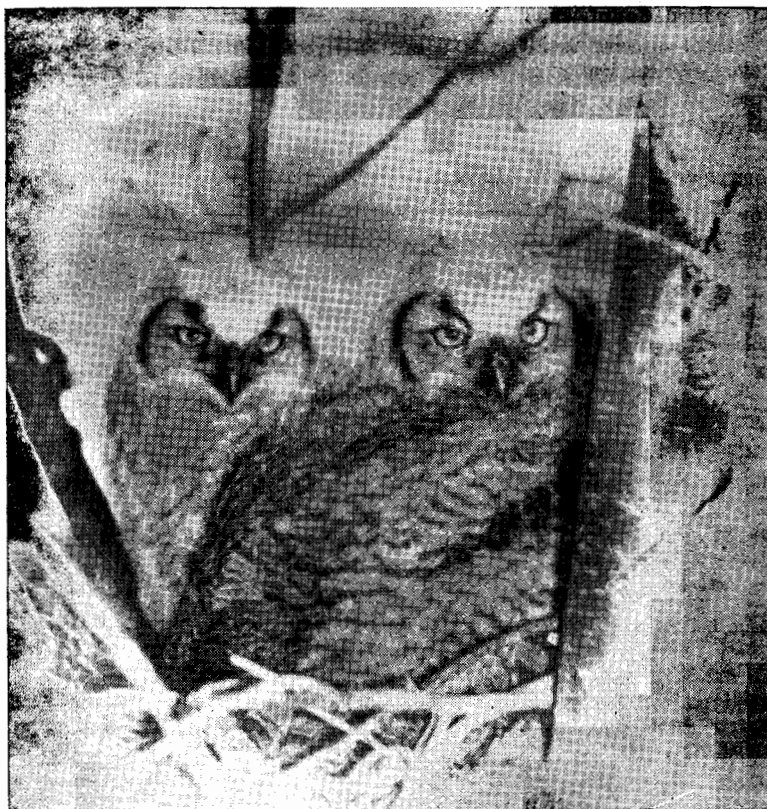
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## President's Page

OUR thoughts often turn to breeding populations of birds and how larger populations can be encouraged. Since one of the objectives of SDOU is the protection of birds, the factors that control their numbers are of importance to us.



Research on this problem has dealt primarily with game birds, but studies of certain other species have also been made. The limiting factor, as far as breeding populations are concerned, has been found to be nesting habitat. In most species, each breeding pair requires a territory of certain size, inversely proportional to the amount of food available. No matter how many individuals comprise the population at the beginning of the breeding season, only the pairs that can find a suitable territory will nest. The others will leave no descendants during a particular breeding season, although they may survive it and live to nest the next year.

Limitation of predation usually does not help. The excess population is usually sufficient to replace any breeding birds lost to predation, hail damage, or any other cause of mortality, and ordinarily all these tolls added together do not lower the population below the carrying capacity of the range.

Exceptions to the rule of each pair to its own territory are of course easy to find. An outstanding one in South Dakota is the presence of Ring-billed Gull colonies in Day County. Here the pairs nest just far enough apart to avoid bumping into each other, but they do not feed around the nest. Instead,

they move away from the colony, to feed in wet areas where nesting is impossible. Birds that can nest in the wet areas, like the grebes and Marsh wrens, are not colonial. Colonial nesting is characteristic of birds that breed in one habitat but feed in another. On the other hand, striking examples of extreme territorial requirements are known. James Tanner found that one pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers require a breeding territory of six square miles of virgin bottomland forest.

Perhaps you wonder why I bring this up. What does it have to do with SDOU? The answer is that we must turn our attention to preserving breeding habitat if we wish to see larger populations of birds. Draining of marshes, for example, eliminates a certain amount of breeding habitat for grebes, rails, and Marsh Wrens, as well as ducks, and this means that fewer pairs of these species can nest and raise young. Perhaps, of course, an equivalent number of other species could replace the marsh birds. Actually, though, this does not usually happen, since the marshes support a larger number of breeding birds than do most other South Dakota cover types, and since most drained marshes are converted into land which supports few birds.

In conclusion, therefore, I want to urge every member of SDOU to discourage wherever possible the drainage of marshes and the destruction of any kind of natural cover and to encourage the restoration of natural vegetation to areas that have been disturbed for agricultural or other purposes. In this way we can increase the number of breeding birds in the state and eventually build up a larger population of birds.

—N. R. Whitney, Jr.

# Birds of Bon Homme County, 1932

Carl M. Johnson

IN 1932 I made a list of the birds of the area around Tyndall, Bon Homme County. I was acquainted with most of them but to make the list more comprehensive I added species that others told me were present. Among the people who had been in the area for a good many years and helped me were Mr. Charles Eymmer and Mr. Dunwoodie; at Springfield there was Professor Stein of the College; George Pfeiffle gave me a bird list clipped from a 1920 newspaper.

The area covered was quite extensive. The Missouri River bottoms near Gardner's farm near the old Bon Homme Cemetery was a favorite spot. Much time was spent near the depot at Springfield. We often went to Running Water and the area near the river. We gave attention to the dry prairies near Marty Mission, and occasionally went to Lake Andes but most of the slough birds were found between Tyndall and Scotland.

I sent a copy of my incomplete list to Dr. Austin P. Larrabee, Department of Biology, Yankton College, and asked him to comment on the listings and occurrences. He added his comments and returned the list to me on July 25, 1933.

The list was never corrected or completed, but now after more than 25 years it may be of interest, especially if compared with the South Dakota Checklist made by a committee of SDOU and published in Bird Notes (VIII, 13, March 1956). Most of the area covered falls within the Southeast section of the State although some of the southeast corner of the Prairies Section was covered. Bon Homme County included most of the area but it also went into Yankton County to the east and Charles Mix County on the west.

It is surprising to note the different

status of some species in Yankton and Bon Homme Counties; for instance: Black-billed Cuckoo, "very rare around Yankton" but the more common of the two species near Tyndall; Barn Owl, not uncommon along the shale bluffs between Springfield and Running Water; Tree Swallow, "rare migrant, no summer records" at Yankton was sometimes an abundant migrant at Bon Homme and occasionally nested near Springfield; Chestnut-sided Pine and Palm Warblers were among the most dependable migrants in proper habitats near Tyndall; Savannah and Swamp Sparrows were abundant summer residents at Tyndall.

In making the list I used initials to abbreviate such terms as "Permanent Resident", "Migrant", "Winter Visitor", "Summer Resident", "occasional", "rare", "accidental". Dr. Larrabee's comment follow the species name and its status.

Turkey Vulture .....	SR	r
Goshawk .....	WV	
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	M	o WV
Possible. My records are wholly during migration.		
Cooper's Hawk .....	SR	o WV
Red-tailed Hawk .....	SR	o WV
Broad-winged Hawk .....	SR	
Swainson's Hawk .....	SR	
Rough-Legged Hawk .....	WV	
Ferruginous Hawk .....	SR	
Golden Eagle .....	WV	
Bald Eagle .....	M	WV
Marsh Hawk .....	SR	
Prairie Falcon .....	PR	r
Gyrfalcon .....	WV	r
Pigeon Hawk .....	M	
Sparrow Hawk .....	SR	o WV
Prairie Chicken .....	PR	
Numbers greatly reduced.		
Sharp-tailed Grouse .....	PR	
Very rare if it occurs at all.		
Partridge .....	PR	

- Bob-white ..... PR  
 Ring-necked Pheasant ..... PR  
 Mourning Dove ..... SR  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo ..... SR  
 Black-billed Cuckoo ..... SR  
 Very rare around Yankton.  
 Barn Owl ..... SR  
 A nesting record near Yankton in 1931. Should not expect this species to winter.  
 Screech Owl ..... PR  
 Great Horned Owl ..... PR  
 Snowy Owl ..... WV  
 Burrowing Owl ..... SR  
 Barred Owl ..... PR  
 Should expect these as summer residents.  
 Saw-whet Owl ..... WV  
 Have no records of this species.  
 Long-eared Owl ..... PR  
 Short-eared Owl ..... SR  
 Whippoorwill ..... SR  
 Very rare. I have not recorded it myself but have authentic reports of it.  
 Common Nighthawk ..... SR  
 Chimney Swift ..... SR  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..... SR  
 Belted Kingfisher ..... SR oWV  
 Flicker ..... SR oWV  
 Red-Shafted Flicker ..... M  
 Have never seen this species in summer and but few winter records, these likely hybrids.  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker ..... PR  
 Should expect these as summer residents.  
 Red-headed Woodpecker ... SR oWV  
 A possibility but have no records of it in winter.  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ..... rSR  
 A rare migrant here.  
 Hairy Woodpecker ..... PR  
 Downy Woodpecker ..... PR  
 Eastern Kingbird ..... SR  
 Western Kingbird ..... SR  
 Eastern Phoebe ..... SR  
 Say's Phoebe ..... SR  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher ..... M  
 I am interested in this record as I have looked for this species, so far without success.  
 Alder Flycatcher ..... SR  
 Least Flycatcher ..... SR  
 Eastern Wood Pewee ..... SR  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher ..... M  
 Recorded from Pierre (Over), the only record I know of but may be expected rarely.  
 Prairie Horned Lark ..... PR  
 The winter birds need to be studied. The few that I have seen in winter (dead specimens) seem referable to Hoyt's.  
 Tree Swallow ..... SR  
 Rare Migrant. No summer records.  
 Barn Swallow ..... SR  
 Rough-winged Swallow ..... SR  
 Bank Swallow ..... SR  
 Cliff Swallow ..... SR  
 Purple Martin ..... SR  
 Blue Jay ..... PR  
 Black-billed Magpie ..... WV  
 Common Crow ..... PR  
 Clark's Nutcracker ..... WV r  
 Black-capped Chickadee ..... PR  
 The Long-tailed may occur also.  
 White-breasted Nuthatch ..... PR  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch ..... M  
 I have a few records in winter of during migration.  
 Brown Creeper ..... WV  
 Tufted Titmouse ..... PR r  
 House Wren ..... SR  
 Winter Wren ..... M Rare  
 Carolina Wren Noted here Dec. 26, 1930.  
 Marsh Wren ..... SR  
 Sedge Wren ..... SR  
 Rock Wren ..... a  
 Carbird ..... SR  
 Brown Thrasher ..... SR  
 Robin ..... SR oWV  
 Wood Thrush ..... SR  
 Hermit Thrush ..... M Rare  
 Swainson's Thrush ..... M  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush ..... M  
 Both occur commonly in Spring migration as a rule, but only rarely in the Fall.

- Common Bluebird \_\_\_\_\_ SR oWV  
Golden-crowned Kinglet \_\_\_\_ M oWV  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet \_\_\_\_\_ M oWV  
Water Pipit \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Sprague's Pipit \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Bohemian Waxwing \_\_\_\_\_ WV  
Cedar Waxwing \_\_\_\_\_ SR oWV  
Have never seen them until latter part of winter or early Spring. Common then, as a rule. A few nesting records in Yankton.
- Northern Shrike \_\_\_\_\_ WV  
Loggerhead Shrike \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Bell's Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Yellow-throated Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Probably nests occasionally as I have seen some June and July records.
- Solitary Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ M  
A few records. Had a dead bird brought to me last May (1932).
- Red-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Warbling Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
White-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Its occurrence in the State would be accidental as its range is farther east.
- Black and White Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Varies. Generally comes in migration especially in the Spring.
- Tennessee Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Common in Spring migration.
- Orange-crowned Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Tolerably common migrant.
- Nashville Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Rare migrant.
- Yellow Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Magnolia Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Rather rare migrant. Generally record a few in Spring.
- Cape May Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Very rare.
- Myrtle Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Audubon's Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M r  
Black-throated Green Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
About three records here at Yankton, all in Spring.
- Blackburnian Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Not recorded here as yet.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Not recorded here as yet.
- Bay-breasted Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
A few records.
- Black-poll Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Generally common in migration, especially Spring.
- Parula Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
One record, fall of 1916, in Yankton.
- Pine Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Palm Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Not recorded here so far.
- Northern Waterthrush \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Mourning Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Not recorded here as yet.
- Yellow-throat \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
The Western Yellowthroat is the subspecies commonly ascribed to South Dakota. See Over's book of South Dakota.
- Yellow-breasted Chat \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Wilson's Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
Rare. Have more Fall than Spring records.
- Canada Warbler \_\_\_\_\_ M  
From description believe this species observed here this Spring (1933), otherwise recorded only from north-eastern part of the State.
- American Redstart \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Have you any summer records? I have never seen it except in migration.
- Bobolink \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Nests in rather limited numbers, or possibly I should say, in limited localities.
- Western Meadowlark \_\_\_\_\_ SR oWV  
Yellow-headed Blackbird \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Redwinged Blackbird \_\_\_\_\_ SR oWV  
Over gives the Eastern Redwing as the common species, the thick-billed as occurring during migration. According to the AOU check-list we should expect the Thick-billed to be the common species and the Giant occurring during migration.
- Orchard Oriole \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Baltimore Oriole \_\_\_\_\_ SR  
Bullock's Oriole \_\_\_\_\_ SR r  
Rusty Blackbird \_\_\_\_\_ M oWV  
Brewer's Blackbird \_\_\_\_\_ M oWV

- Purple Grackle ..... SR oWV  
 Common Cowbird ..... SR  
 Scarlet Tanager ..... SR  
 Cardinal ..... PR  
 Black-headed Grosbeak ..... SR r  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak ..... SR  
 Western Blue Grosbeak ..... SR  
 The AOU check-list apparently includes our form with the Eastern one. This should be looked into.
- Indigo Bunting ..... SR  
 Lazuli Bunting ..... SR r  
 Dickcissel ..... SR  
 Evening Grosbeak ..... WV  
 Have never seen this species here but it is to be expected.
- Purple Finch ..... M WV  
 Common Redpoll ..... WV  
 Hoary Redpoll ..... WV  
 To be expected.
- Pine Siskin ..... WV  
 A very irregular winter visitor, some years appearing in fair numbers, more commonly in limited numbers. A pair nested in Yankton in the Spring of 1926.
- American Goldfinch ..... PR  
 Red Crossbill ..... WV  
 A pair nested here March, 1920. Nest built and 2 eggs laid.
- White-winged Crossbill ..... WV  
 Red-eyed Towhee ..... SR  
 Arctic Towhee ..... M  
 Youngworth of Sioux City found the Arctic Towhee near here in July 1931. Personally I have not found it except in Spring and Fall. Have a record of Arctic Towhee at Christmastime, 1929. Winter records of Towhees have been recorded but when given simply as "Towhee" are not definite because either species might occur. Personally I have seen Red-eyed Towhees in Winter.
- Lark Bunting ..... SR  
 Some seasons occur here tolerably commonly. More often not noted at all.
- Savannah Sparrow ..... SR  
 I have no summer records of this bird.
- Grasshopper Sparrow ..... SR  
 Baird's Sparrow ..... M  
 Nelson's Sparrow ..... M  
 Should occur here in migration but I have no definite record of either species.
- LeConte's Sparrow ..... SR  
 Henslow's Sparrow ..... SR  
 Have seen these only in migration although they may be expected to breed.
- Vesper Sparrow ..... SR  
 Lark Sparrow ..... SR  
 Slate-colored Junco ..... WV  
 Tree Sparrow ..... WV  
 Chipping Sparrow ..... SR  
 Clay-colored Sparrow ..... SR  
 Nests north of us. Its occurrence in summer would be most unusual.
- Field Sparrow ..... SR  
 The Western Field Sparrow is a common summer resident.
- Harris's Sparrow ..... M  
 White-crowned Sparrow ..... M  
 Gambel's Sparrow ..... M  
 To be expected but I have no records of it.
- White-throated Sparrow ..... M oWV  
 Fox Sparrow ..... M oWV  
 I have no winter records but they are possibilities.
- Lincoln's Sparrow ..... M  
 Some seasons very common but varies greatly in number.
- Swamp Sparrow ..... SR  
 Have seen this species only in migration.
- Dakota Song Sparrow ..... SR oWV  
 Our Song Sparrows need to be studied carefully. Over gives the Eastern as occurring here also. Personally I have no records from May till August. Song Sparrows do occur in winter. The subspecies can only be determined by collecting them.
- Lapland Longspur ..... WV  
 Chestnut-collared Longspur ..... SR  
 Snow Bunting ..... WV  
 I have not seen this species. Apparently it used to occur here regularly, or fairly so, some years ago.

# Survey of the Birds of Jewel Cave National Monument

Dennis L. Carter

## Introduction

**D**URING the summer of 1958, I worked as a Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist at Jewel Cave National Monument, South Dakota. As part of my duties as naturalist on the monument, I made a study of the birds that were present there and am presenting my findings in the form of a preliminary survey which may serve as the basis for further work on the birds of this locality.

## Description of the Area

Jewel Cave National Monument consists of two sections of land located about 14 miles west of Custer in Custer County, South Dakota. The monument is on a high plateau broken by two canyons—Hell Canyon in the eastern part of the monument and Teepee Canyon in the western part. Elevations on the monument vary from 5200 to 5800 feet above sea level. During the summer months there is no standing water except for small pools of water that sometimes accumulate in Hell Canyon after heavy rains.

Most of the monument is covered by a virgin stand of ponderosa pine, but deciduous trees, primarily box elder, are present in Hell Canyon. Extensive stands of snowberry and a few chokecherries occur in Hell Canyon and in smaller canyons and ravines. There are two small grassland areas on the monument—one in Teepee Canyon near the south boundary and the other in the south central part of the monument.

## Methods and Scope of Work

My records for the monument extend from July 1 through September 2. During the month of July, I usually spent

one to three hours early each morning looking for birds on the monument, except on my two days off each week. I have records for 22 days in July. During August I took long hikes on the monument less frequently, but I have records for 18 days in August and also for the first two days of September.

I visited all parts of the monument at least once, but the most productive area and the one that I visited the most frequently, was Hell Canyon. I designated the portion of the canyon north of highway No. 16 as North Hell Canyon and the part of the canyon south of the highway as South Hell Canyon. I always recorded any unusual birds that I found in the headquarters area, and I saw several species at the bird bath near the ranger station.

I kept records of both the number of species and the number of individuals that I saw. I took great care to record only those individuals that I positively identified.

## Weather Conditions

During July cool, wet weather prevailed, and a total of 7.12 inches of rain fell. Temperatures during the month ranged from 42 degrees F. on July 20 and 28 to 83 degrees F. on July 22. Only 0.25 inch of rain fell in August, and warm weather prevailed during most of the month. Temperatures ranged from 39 degrees F. on August 21 to 95 degrees F. on August 9.

## Other Observers

A few competent, amateur ornithologists visited the monument while I was there, and I have included some of their records in this report. Dr. N. R. Whitney of Rapid City, South Dakota,



and I did some birding on the monument July 24 and again August 18. Stanley A. Belfore, Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist at Wind Cave National Park visited the monument July 26 and August 15. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klambunde of Lewiston, New York, birded on the monument July 22 and 23. Dale Birkenholz of Prairie City, Iowa, spent some time looking for birds on the monument August 3, 5 and 8.

#### Annotated List of Species

This list includes 43 species of birds recorded at Jewel Cave National Monument from July 1 to September 2, 1958. The nomenclature used and the order followed is that of the Check-list of North American Birds of the American Ornithologists' Union (5th edition, 1957). The species for which I obtained positive evidence of nesting, i. e. nest with eggs or young or adults feeding juveniles out of the nest, are marked with asterisks.

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*.—One was seen soaring over the area July 10 and again July 17.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*.—I carefully identified two July 15 and saw one of them feeding on a small bird. On July 18 I saw one soaring overhead and also watched it harassing a Red-tailed Hawk.

Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*.—Single birds were seen soaring over the monument on July 1, 17 and 29. Two were observed July 18.

Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius*.—I saw this falcon regularly in more open areas south of the monument and found one in pines just inside the east boundary July 17. I saw one soaring over the monument September 2.

\*Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura*.—I obtained 11 records ranging from July 1 to August 5. All records were of individual birds except for two seen July 1. On July 7 I flushed a dove

from a nest in a ponderosa pine in the northwest corner of the monument. This nest was about six feet above the ground and constructed of pine needles; it contained two eggs.

Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*.—Adults and immatures were present in Hell Canyon throughout the investigation period, and three immatures were seen in the canyon July 8. These owls were often heard calling at night and sometimes during the day.

Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*.—I saw one over the monument on July 12, two on July 26, one on August 6, and six on August 13. Dr. Whitney and I saw about 15 nighthawks, apparently migrants, flying overhead on August 18.

White-throated Swift, *Aeronautes saxatalis*.—I saw this species frequently from July 1 to 26, usually in North Hell Canyon where it may have nested. My highest count was 12 on July 4.

Flicker, *Colaptes* sp.—Most of the flickers on the monument appeared to be Red-shafted Flickers, but I suspect that many of them were hybrids between this species and the Yellow-shafted Flicker. I did not venture to identify either species positively on the basis of sight observations alone. Flickers were present throughout the investigation period, and the high count was seven on July 17.

\*Hairy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos villosus*.—This woodpecker was also present throughout the investigation period. I found it in all parts of the monument, but I never observed more than two individuals at one time. I saw an adult feeding a juvenile in South Hell Canyon July 12.

\*Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides arcticus*.—I have eight records from July 3 to August 28. On July 7 I found an adult male and an immature male on a dead pine in South Hell Canyon. The adult bird was

# Christmas Bird Count, 1958

x Species Reported	Armour	Brookings	Huron	LaCreek	Lake Andes	Madison	Milbank	Rapid City	Sioux Falls	Vermillion	Watertown	Waubay	Webster	Winner	Yankton
Canada Goose				110	371										
Mallard	99			22700	260000			584	7						1
Gadwall					1			10							
Pintail					3										
American Widgeon					10										
Green-winged Teal					6										
Wood Duck					1										
Ring-necked Duck				1	2										
Lesser Scaup					6										
Common Goldeneye				60	49			15							x
Bufflehead					1										
Hooded Merganser								1							
Common Merganser			1	x	177			9							x
Turkey Vulture								2							
Red-tailed Hawk								4	5						
Rough-legged Hawk				5				5							
Ferruginous Hawk	1														
Golden Eagle				9	1									x	x
Bald Eagle				x	20										x
Marsh Hawk				13				1	2						1
Prairie Falcon				x											
Pigeon Hawk					1										
Sparrow Hawk								1	1						x
Sharp-tailed Grouse				1				19							
Partridge								4			16	x	x		
Chukar Partridge													x		
Bob-White										20					22
Ring-necked Pheasant	16	173	129	520	19	365	92	40	192	4	150	79	x	2	20
American Coot					35										
Herring Gull					44										
Mourning Dove	1								1	7					1
Barn Owl									1						
Screech Owl		2							1						
Great Horned Owl	1	1	4	5	1	2	1		4		1	1	x		3
Burrowing Owl								2							
Short-eared Owl				13					3						
Belted Kingfisher								3	1						x
Flicker		4	1			1	2		49	3				4	2
Red-shafted Flicker			1	3					3						
Red-bellied Woodpecker		3							1						
Hairy Woodpecker		5	3		1	1	2	3	22	x	2	1	x	x	1

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Great Horned Owl	1	1	4	5	1	2	1	2	4	1	1	x	3
Burrowing Owl								2					
Short-eared Owl				13					3				x
Belted Kingfisher								3	1				x
Flicker		4	1			1	2		49	3			4
Red-shafted Flicker			1	3									2
Red-bellied Woodpecker		3							1				
Hairy Woodpecker		5	3		1	1	2	3	22	x	2	1	x
Downy Woodpecker		21	6	3		7	10	15	73	6	2		x
Horned Lark		4	43	x	63	332		2	1		100		x
Blue Jay		2	2			2	3	13	36				x
Black-billed Magpie			2	4	1			43	2			1	x
Common Crow	134	9	18	2		35	4	8	152		5		x
Pinyon Jay								54					x
Black-capped Chickadee		45	7	8		11	14	148	369	20	6	8	x
White-breasted Nuthatch		16	1			2	2	8	79	1	6	x	x
Red-breasted Nuthatch								8	7				x
Brown Creeper			1					2	12				
Robin			4					1	1				
Common Bluebird										4			
Townsend's Solitaire			2					3					
Golden-crowned Kinglet								1					
Bohemian Waxwing							38		5		120	x	
Cedar Waxwing		2	x	x					1				
Northern Shrike		95						2	1				
Starling	5	103	525			101	6	43	72	6	100		
House Sparrow	40	183	225	8	150	556		227	2581	200		x	33
Western Meadowlark		1	4	3	5	9		2	10		3		3
Redwinged Blackbird				11		9							
Purple Grackle				1					1				
Cardinal						1	2		40	3			
Evening Grosbeak												x	
Common Redpoll		2	x	x							15		
Pine Siskin			2										
American Goldfinch		36	2			82		6	12		3		
Red Crossbill								2					
White-winged Crossbill									x				
Vesper Sparrow								1					
White-winged Junco								66					
Slate-colored Junco		8	2		5	7	6	67	216	1		x	
Oregon Junco							2	15	8				22
Tree Sparrow	5	11	29	135		2		32	81	68			105
Harris's Sparrow		x	4						1	9			7
Song Sparrow	1				3			1	1				x
Lapland Longspur		x		x									
Snow Bunting									50			x	x

searching for insects which it fed to the immature. Both birds had yellow caps, but the immature appeared gray-er than the adult. I again saw an adult and an immature male, probably the same birds, on July 26. Stanley Belfore and I observed a female in the headquarters area August 15.

\*Western Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis*.—Soon after my arrival on the monument, I discovered that empidonax flycatchers were numerous in Hell Canyon, but I was not certain of their identity at first. I finally identified them as Western Flycatchers by their distinctive "psseet" calls and the yellowish underparts of some individuals. Dr. Whitney confirmed my identification of this species when he visited the monument July 24. On July 12 I found a nest of this species about 30 feet above the ground on the limb of a pine in South Hell Canyon. Adult birds were bringing food to young in the nest.

\*Western Wood Pewee, *Contopus sordidulus*.—I either saw or heard this bird each day that I spent on the monument through August 30. It was one of the most persistent singers and was still singing in August when most other species were silent. I found the wood pewee in all parts of the monument, and it was probably one of the most numerous species. On July 26 I observed adults feeding a juvenile in the headquarters area.

\*Violet-green Swallow, *Tachycineta thalassina*.—They nested in the cliffs in North Hell Canyon, and I often saw them flying overhead up until July 26. My highest count was about 14 on July 4.

Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis*.—I have ten records ranging from July 9 to September 1. My highest count is six at the campground August 22.

Clark's Nutcracker, *Nucifraga columbiana*.—I saw the nutcracker nine times

from July 1 to September 1. Dale Birkholz saw five on August 5, and Stanley Belfore saw this species when he was on the monument July 26.

Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*.—The chickadee was one of the more numerous species on the monument throughout the investigation period. My high counts were eight seen on July 12 and September 2.

\*White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*.—I found this nuthatch in small numbers while I was at the monument. On July 19 I saw adults feeding a juvenile bird in the headquarters area.

\*Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*.—This species was also present throughout the investigation period, but it was definitely more numerous than the preceding species. My high count was eight on August 15.

Pigmy Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea*.—I carefully identified three, probably wandering birds or migrants, in South Hell Canyon August 24.

Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris*.—The creeper was recorded nine times from July 1 to September 2. Five birds seen together July 1 appeared to be a family group.

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*.—My only record is one seen and heard by Stanley Belfore and me in North Hell Canyon July 26.

Canon Wren, *Catherpes mexicanus*.—I saw and heard this wren (a total of three individuals) in North Hell Canyon July 17 and later found it in the same locality six other days, the last being September 1.

\*Robin, *Turdus migratorius*.—It was present in small numbers until August 6, but after that I did not see it again until September 2 when one appeared at the bird bath. I found a nest in a box elder in South Hell Canyon and

another in a pine near the ranger station. I saw two young in the vicinity of the latter nest July 16.

\*Swainson's Thrush, *Hylocichla ustulata*.—I observed an adult feeding a juvenile on July 18, but my only other record is one that I saw in South Hell Canyon July 22.

Townsend's Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi*.—I found the solitaire in all parts of the monument and have 18 records ranging from July 1 to September 2. From the latter part of July on, I frequently saw this species at the bird bath, and on August 23 I observed six at the bath at one time.

Solitary Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*.—This vireo was present on the monument throughout the investigation period, and an individual was still singing September 2. I never saw more than two individuals at one time except on August 24 when I recorded eight, probably migrants, in South Hell Canyon.

\*Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*.—It was numerous in the limited stands of deciduous growth. I saw adults feeding a young bird in South Hell Canyon July 16. My last record was two seen August 21.

\*Audubon's Warbler, *Dendroica auduboni*.—This was a common species on the monument when I was there. On July 16 I watched two adults feeding two juveniles in South Hell Canyon. Migrants seemed to be moving through the area late in August, and I recorded eight on August 24.

Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*.—I found it five times during July and my high count was six on July 5. One seen in South Hall Canyon August 20 was most likely a migrant.

\*MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis tolmiei*.—This warbler was numerous in shrubby deciduous growth in Hell Canyon, and I have 18 records ranging

from July 1 to August 31. I saw a male and female feeding two juveniles in North Hell Canyon July 5 and observed an adult male and a juvenile in South Hell Canyon July 10.

Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla*.—I first discovered this migrant (one) in South Hell Canyon August 20. I observed single birds there August 24, 26 and 30 and saw two September 1. Wilson's Warbler is not listed for the Black Hills region in the 1956 "Checklist of South Dakota Birds" (South Dakota Bird Notes, Vol. VIII, No. 1).

American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*.—The redstart was not a summer resident on the monument, but individual migrants appeared in South Hell Canyon August 20 and September 1.

\*Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*.—In North Hell Canyon on July 26, Stanley Belfore and I saw a female Audubon's Warbler bringing food to an immature cowbird. Strangely enough this is my only record for the cowbird.

\*Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*.—This was another of the common summer residents on the monument, and I recorded it 17 times from July 1 to August 26. I saw a female feeding a juvenile in South Hell Canyon July 19. I never recorded more than four individuals in one day.

Cassin's Finch, *Carpodacus cassinii*.—Several times on July 2, at least four finches (two males and two females) visited the bird bath near the ranger station, and I had ample opportunity to watch them at close range. The males were somewhat similar to male Purple Finches which I had seen before, but they differed from the latter species in that they had red crowns contrasting with paler heads and also had paler breasts than male Purple Finches. The males also lacked the streaked sides of the House Finch. On the basis of these field marks, I identified them as Cassin's Finches. The finches appeared at

the bath again on July 3 and 4, and I became firmly convinced that they were Cassin's Finches. On August 22 I carefully observed what I believe was a female Cassin's Finch near the cave entrance. To my knowledge, the Cassin's Finch has not previously been reported from South Dakota, although the recent A. O. U. Check-list (1957) states that its breeding range includes the Black Hills of northern Wyoming.

**Pine Siskin, *Spinus pinus*.**—The siskin occurred rather sporadically on the monument while I was there. It may have nested earlier in the season. I recorded 14 on July 1, six on July 19, one on July 26, one on August 12, and six on August 15.

**Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*.**—This species was also rather erratic. I found four birds on July 1 including an adult feeding an immature but did not record it again until August 15 when Stanley Belfore and I saw about ten in pines near the ranger station. I saw one in the same locality on August 27, two on August 28, and one on September 1. Six appeared at the bird bath on September 2.

**Rufous-sided Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.**—I have the following records from North Hell Canyon: two on July 1, one male on July 12, one male and one immature on July 26, and one immature on July 29. It is possible that only one family group was present on the monument during the summer.

**Vesper Sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus*.**—On July 18 I carefully identified three immatures in the grassy area near the south boundary in Teepee Canyon. They may have been raised in this locality.

**Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus*.**—Two, apparently wanderers from another locality, were seen at the campground July 26.

**\*White-winged Junco, *Junco aikeni*.**—I would rank this junco as the second most numerous species on the monument during the time I was there. I saw it nearly every day that I was on the monument. My high count was 16 on July 1 including two adults seen feeding three flightless juveniles out of the nest. On July 5 I found a junco nest with three eggs beneath a clump of grass on a hillside. This nest contained two eggs and one newly-hatched young on July 16, two young and one egg on July 18, two young on July 22, and one young on July 26. Mrs. Klabunde found a nest with young on a ledge along the trail to the cave on July 22. When Dr. Whitney and I checked this nest on July 24, the young had left.

**\*Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*.**—This was certainly the most abundant species on the monument during July. Eight including a young bird barely able to fly were seen on July 1. On July 7 at least 22 were found including 10 juveniles. The Chipping Sparrow was noted less frequently during August. A flock of 12 was seen in South Hell Canyon September 2.

#### Status of Species

I probably arrived on the monument after early nesters, such as the Gray Jay and Pine Siskin, had finished nesting, but I did obtain positive evidence of nesting for the 16 species that are marked with asterisks in the preceding list. The following 15 species were definitely summer residents on the monument and probably nested there: Great Horned Owl, White-throated Swift, Flicker, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Canon Wren, Townsend's Solitaire, Solitary Vireo, Ovenbird, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, and Rufous-sided Towhee. This makes a total of 31 summer resident species at Jewel Cave National

(Continued on Page 67)

## General Notes of Special Interest

**BONAPARTE'S GULL**—On Oct. 7, 1958, at the pond three miles east of Altamont, S. D., where, just a week earlier, an albino Shoveller was a conspicuous member in a flock of Blue-winged Teal and Shovellers, I found a young Bonaparte's Gull.

The black ear spot at once suggested that here was something unusual. Then the slender black bill was noted, and as it flew about for some time when I approached it on foot the black tips of primaries stood out distinctly. The narrow black band at the end, or very near the end, of tail also checked.

But careful examination of the bird as it circled by several times failed to detect a white triangle in wing. Dr. Thomas S. Roberts in his "Birds of Minnesota," clears this point by saying: "Bonaparte's retains the largely dark juvenal wing-feathers until the first post-nuptial molt, so that it is not until after this time that the large amount of white on the wing, involving most of the primaries, except the black tips, becomes available as a ready distinguishing field mark." On Oct. 8 I got only a momentary look at the same bird at the same place before it left in the direction of Lake Alice.—Alfred Peterson, Brandt, S. D.

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**GOOD BLUE GROSBEAK RECORD**—On May 29, 1959, I caught and banded a male and a female Blue Grosbeak here in Winner. These were the first of the species I have banded, and I was both surprised and delighted to find them in my trap.—H. W. Wagar, Winner, South Dakota.

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**WOODCOCK IN UNION COUNTY**—During the week of June 8th, 1959, the writer was checking the extreme southeast corner of Union County for Prothonotary Warblers but was unsuccessful

in the search. On June 13, the last day of the search, while working the area between now nearly dry Mud Lake and the Missouri River I flushed a resting Woodcock and it flew into the larger trees. I followed and again flushed it.

Apparently the last specimen record for this species was in 1896 or 1897 by the late Mr. A. J. Anderson at McCook Lake. Even at that early date the Woodcock was a rare bird in this area and Dr. T. C. Stephens almost hesitated to list the species. (See Thomas C. Stephens, William G. Youngworth & William R. Felton, Jr., 1955, *The Birds of Union County, South Dakota*. Occasional Papers No. 1 Nebraska Ornithologists Union, Crete, Neb. P. 11).—Wm. Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa

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**EVENING GROSBEAKS AT PICKEREL LAKE**—On January 8, 1959, at 2:30 p. m. I went to Pickerel Lake to do a weekly chore—fill my five bird feeders. It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day with no wind and the temperature was 28 degrees. When I neared the cabin the chickadees and nuthatches began to gather and to chatter because they knew it was dinner time.

As I started to fill the feeders I noticed some rather large birds in the oak trees. I investigated and there were six Evening Grosbeaks! 5 males and 1 female. I watched them through my binoculars for almost half an hour till they left.

Peterson says the males are a dull yellow but these were a beautiful bright yellow which contrasted strikingly with their black and white. The female was definitely grayish and pale yellow.

They would stay in one tree for a few minutes and then fly to another, never staying long in one place. While I watched they went to three different

species of trees, oak, ash and American elm. I did not see them eat any seeds but they worked over the limbs very carefully. They acted very tame and paid little attention to me although if I approached their tree they would fly to another.

The last Evening Grosbeaks I had seen before these were 9 feeding on seeds of a box elder tree at Pickerel Lake on November 10, 1957.—**Herman P. Chilson, Webster, S. D.**

\* \* \* \*

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON IN KINGSBURY COUNTY**—On May 9, 1959, a bird later identified as a Yellow-crowned Night Heron, was shot in a farm grove about 10 miles north of DeSmet by a 10 year old boy. The bird was taken to Miss Martha Corlett, De Smet, who noted its general resemblance to the black-crowned night heron, except for color. She made a pencil sketch describing the patterns and indicated the colors by name, and took measurements: "About 25 inches long—bill to toes, dead. Across the wings, 38½—tip to tip."

On May 12 she contacted Mrs. Julia Larson, route 3, DeSmet, and asked for identification of the bird. Mrs. Larson thought it was a yellow-crowned night heron and sent the data on to me. I agreed.

On May 22 Mrs. Larson brought the bird to me. I was surprised that the specimen had been saved although by that time it was in poor condition. Nevertheless, all the marks were present and visible, except the eyes. We went over it separately and independently comparing it with the detailed description in "Birds of America" as well as with pictures and descriptions in Pough and Peterson. We were fully convinced that it was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron, S. D.**

\* \* \* \*

**VARIED THRUSH AT RAPID CITY**—A Varied Thrush was in our neighborhood for several weeks. He was first seen by the Grover O'Neals on January

3, 1959, about 15 feet from their house where they had a good chance to watch him (male, I think, for the orange-russet was quite bright). Then the bird was in my yard in plain view on the ground eating bread from January 10 to 26, but we haven't seen him since. He was extremely shy.

He seemed to prefer the chokecherry bushes and would sit in them for 10 or 15 minutes at a time and fly down to eat at intervals. He never ate ravenously as the blue jays and pinyons do. And I don't know whether he ever found the pieces of apple I put out for him, as the fox squirrels are fond of that and I saw one carry off a whole apple I had wired to the bushes for the thrush.

I think now that I had heard the thrush's call before I saw him as I remember hearing rather plaintive notes coming from the woods back of O'Neal's and my places just prior to the time the bird was first seen.—**Mrs. A. L. Hyde, Rapid City, S. D.**

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**WINTER RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER IN BEADLE COUNTY**—A red-bellied woodpecker was identified with certainty some three miles north of Huron on Highway No. 37 in the afternoon of January 18, 1959. The temperature was 25 with a 20 mile wind with some blowing snow. The bird was working high in a tree clump near an abandoned artesian well that was at the moment providing water for several other birds.

Surrounding tree strips sheltered the clump where the woodpecker worked; but he showed no hesitation about leaving for distant groves when the party approached too near.

This is our only sighting of this species in the area, the nearest other sighting being the one seen at the Highway No. 37 crossing of the James near Mitchell last spring.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron, S. Dak.**



**ALBINO SHOVELLER**—An albino Shoveller in a mixed flock of many Blue-winged Teal and several Shovelers caught my attention August 31, 1938, at a shallow pond located three miles east of Altamont, S. D. The ducks were resting quietly up on a stony mud bank. When I crowded up to them just a little too closely they took off for a feeding slough near by. There I worked my way through a dense growth of cat-tail and bur-reed and got a very good view of the albino, at as close a range as one could wish. It had three Shovelers in ordinary plumage as companions, in preference to the Teal.—**Alfred Peterson, Brandt, S. D.**

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**SOME MARTIN BEHAVIOR**—For several years I have noticed Purple Martins stripping tender new leaves from nearby willow and poplar trees, about when the nestlings are quite large. At first I thought they were feeding leaves infested with plant lice to the young. About the same time I saw the Martins and Barn Swallows often on a mud bank of the creek. The Barn Swallows were getting mud for nests but I did not see the Martins gather mud.

Last Fall when I cleaned the Martin houses I found dried green leaves and dried mud in all the nests. Often there was an inch of dried leaves and some mud always at the front part of the nest box near the entrance.

Perhaps it is possible they gather green leaves and wet mud to keep the nestlings cool when the weather is hot and the nest crowded.

In calm weather it is not unusual to see Barn Swallows or Tree Swallows play "Feather tag" by picking up a chicken feather, fly up with it and drop it. Then they try to catch it before it reaches the ground.

One day when the young martins were ready to leave the nest, I was attracted by a great deal of chattering. One old male was stunt flying and trying to get the nestlings to fly. Finally he flew to a willow tree and tore off a

leaf. Then flying over where the young could see him, he dropped the leaf and made several attempts to catch it as it fluttered down, chattering all the while.—**Lowry Elliott, Milbank, S. D.**

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**LONG-EARED OWL**—The South Dakota Checklist (Bird Notes VIII:13-19) lists the Long-eared Owl as a permanent resident in the prairie region of the State, a transient in the northeast, a winter visitor in the southeast, and a summer resident in the southwest and the Black Hills. Bent in his Life Histories says it "enjoys a wide distribution over nearly all the United States and the timbered regions of Canada, including the tree belts along streams on the western plains and even on the deserts." Bent also describes the winter range as north to include "southeastern South Dakota (Vermillion and Sioux Falls)."

Over the years I have seen a few owls in southeastern South Dakota which I could identify only as "probably", "possibly" or even just "might be" long-eared owl.

However, on December 12, 1958, things broke a little more favorably. Even though it was a few miles over the line in Minnesota, I think it reasonable to believe this individual, or others of the species, might get to South Dakota, especially as I had seen one of the "probable" long-ears a few miles away in South Dakota only 4 days earlier.

This "certain" long-ear was first sighted in a small willow tree beside U. S. highway 16 a few miles west of Luverne, Minnesota, and about 10-11 miles from the South Dakota line. We could not stop because of the traffic. About half an hour later we came back and looked for the owl. It was still in the same place in the willow. We pulled off the road and watched the owl from our car at a distance of 30-40 feet using our 7x50 binoculars for about 20 minutes. The owl was facing us and moved its head frequently.

Its size was the first feature of identification,—too large for a Screech Owl and too small for a Great Horned Owl. Next, its "ears" were located nearer the center of its forehead than those of either of those other owls and seemed proportionately longer and more slender. Then we noticed that its body was streaked lengthwise. There was indistinct barring across the tail. There was reddish-buff on the primaries and very noticeably on the face.

We got out our Peterson and compared the owl with the picture and the description, and were convinced that at last we had a sight of a Long-eared Owl in our neighborhood without any "probable", "possible," or "maybe."

The bird paid no attention to the traffic on the highway and very little to us. It seemed to know that it was scarcely noticeable against the bark of the tree. We left the owl sitting where we found it.—Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Findley, Sioux Falls, S. D.

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**BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS**—Bohemian waxwings have been numerous in Huron this January. The first report came from Mrs. H. M. Pierce who had 40 in their yard December 30, 1958.

They were seen about town in flocks of varying size for the next three weeks. The largest flock was counted

in Prospect Park January 10, 1959 and found to number 130. A few minutes after these had moved on, I was led by Miss Blanche Battin to a flock about a large crab apple tree full of rotten fruit at a point about a mile from the first location.

Counting this flock, which might or might not have been a part of the larger, gave a total of fifty, of which about 10 were cedar waxwings. They were examined at a distance of 50 feet or less with good glasses for a considerable period.

As this is being written on January 20, the last flock of record included about a dozen birds on January 18, 1959.—J. W. Johnson, Huron, S. D.

(Editor's Note. This seemed to be the year of the Bohemian Waxwing. This note by Mr. Johnson from Huron is typical of many reports from many parts of the state, e. g., see the tabulation of Christmas Bird Counts in this issue of Bird Notes. Reports continued till late in the Winter.)

## THE COVER

This photograph of young great Horned Owls in the nest is another of Willis Hall's fine pictures.

## Jewel Cave Bird Survey

(Continued from Page 62)

Monument in 1958. The Wilson's Warbler and American Redstart were definitely migrants. The monument was probably within the feeding territories of the following species even though they may not have nested there: Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, and Common Nighthawk. The remaining five species on my monument list can be classified as wanderers or stragglers from other localities.

### Migration

I first noted migrants on the monument August 20 when I found an Ovenbird, a Wilson's Warbler, and an American Redstart in South Hell Canyon. On August 24 I found a loose flock of bids in South Hell Canyon including six Empidonax Flycatchers, six White-breasted Nuthatches, six Red-breasted Nuthatches, three Pigmy Nuthatches, eight Solitary Vireos, eight Audubon's Warblers, one Wilson's Warbler, and one male Western Tanager. Most of these birds were probably migrants. I have given other records for migrant Wilson's Warblers and American Redstarts in the annotated list.

### Hypothetical List

In addition to the 43 species that I recorded on the monument, I saw seven other species in the Black Hills National Forest within two miles of the monument. All of these species have probably occurred on the monument at some time.

Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*.—I carefully identified an immature in East Hell Canyon August 17. Dr. Whitney and I saw one pursuing a Robin in West Hell Canyon August 18.

Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.—I found an adult in East Hell Canyon August 17.

Downy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos pubescens*.—It seems strange that I failed to find this species on the monument, but I did see two in East Hell Canyon August 17.

Black-billed Magpie, *Pica pica*.—I found two adults and an immature in Hell Canyon about a mile south of the monument July 14.

Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*.—On July 7 I saw a male, a female, and an immature in Hell Canyon south of the monument.

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*.—I found one along a road north of the monument August 5.

Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*.—I saw one in East Hell Canyon August 17.

### Summary

While working as a Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist at Jewel Cave National Monument, South Dakota from July 1, to September 2, 1958, I recorded 43 species of birds on the monument and obtained positive evidence of nesting for 16 of these. I found an additional seven species within two miles of the monument.