

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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Whole No. 15



W. B. MALLORY

A charter member of S. D. O. U. and its Secretary from 1949 to date.

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President's Page



AMONG the interesting birds which are well represented and available to be studied here during the winter are the birds of prey: the hawks, owls and eagles.

Until comparatively recent times, little interest was exhibited either in the fate of these birds or in their part in the "balance of nature." As various regions were settled, systematic efforts were generally made to wipe out birds of prey. Eventually, and almost too late, it was recognized that the control of rodent population was directly related to the presence or absence of these predatory species. In sections of the Old World where raptors were once decimated one may now see perches set up in fields and meadows to attract hawks, for control of small rodents. Most of our states now have statutes protecting these beneficial birds. However, considerable prejudice still exists against these birds, and much educational work must be done before they will receive the degree of protection now accorded to game and insectivorous birds.

Our most magnificent birds of prey, the eagles, are especially subjected to criticism as destroyers of game. Yet I have seen as many as thirty-five Bald Eagles gathered at a waterfowl concentration area with little evidence of molestation by these beautiful birds or of disturbance on account of their presence. Golden Eagles are sometimes said to be among the most destructive of all

predators, yet studies of the food habits of these birds indicate that various rodents comprise much of their diet. After all, the degree of predation on game birds or animals is directly associated with the amount of cover or ability of the individual prey to escape.

Several general groups among the hawks include: the large, slow-flying Buteos, typified by the Red-tailed Hawk and the Rough-legged Hawk; the Accipiters, fast-flying individuals with short rounded wings, such as the Sharp-shinned and the Cooper's Hawks; and the Falcons, which have long pointed wings. The latter two groups, particularly the Accipiters, are chiefly responsible for the occasional, spectacular swoops on song and game-birds or poultry, which seem to give all hawks a bad name among some sportsmen and rural residents. But these species have their rightful place in the bird-world and the large proportion of rodents consumed by them and the degree of control exercised by them over the over-abundant English Sparrows, Starlings and Pigeons compensate largely for their occasional attacks on the beneficial species.

There are occasions when an Accipiter hawk, Snowy Owl or Golden Eagle establishes a territory adjacent to a game-farm pen, poultry yard or bird-banding station and there creates a nuisance, but provision is made in the law for frightening away or otherwise disposing of such an offending bird. There is no good reason to extend unlawful persecution and wholesale destruction to all hawks merely because of isolated incidents created by only a very few

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Pioneer Prairie Ornithologists

WILLIAM B. MALLORY

WILLIAM B. MALLORY was born August 23, 1878, in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. One of his earliest recollections is that of seeing his father bring in a wild turkey which he had shot for the family Thanksgiving dinner. In 1882 the family emigrated to North Dakota and settled on a farm near Ellendale.

As a young boy he became interested in birds through watching a pair of Eastern Kingbirds nesting on the abandoned running-gear of a farm wagon which site they had adopted in the absence of trees. His interest was further stimulated by a close observation of a bird which he now knows was a Turkey Vulture and by the great numbers of Snow Buntings which occasionally came to the home yard in hard winters.

He became very expert in trapping gophers for the bounty, sometimes catching as many as 60 in a single day. During the trapping operations there was much leisure time and much of this he spent in searching out the nests of prairie-nesting birds. In this he became so proficient that he often found as many as 15 in a single day. Many of these were nests of the Western Meadowlark, but even more were those of Horned Larks and of various species of sparrows. Although at that time he did not know their names, he now believes the sparrows were of the Lark, Vesper and Grasshopper species.

During his early life there were myriads of wild fowl, shorebirds and other varieties of birds near his home. The Upland Plover was especially plentiful and he found many of their nests and caught in his hands and released many of the young

birds. One of his most pleasurable recollections is that of listening to the weird notes of the Sand-hill Cranes drifting down from on high on hot days in late summer. He also has a distinct remembrance of the drumming or booming of the Prairie Chickens on their courting grounds.

He graduated from the Ellendale High School in 1897 and received an A. B. degree from Wesleyan University of Mitchell, S. D. in 1902. In 1904 he was granted an LL B. degree from Wisconsin University and the same year began the practice of law at Lennox, South Dakota. In 1905 he was married to Mary E. Avery, of Mitchell, S. D. They have four children, Paul, Avery, Mary Alice and Charles. Paul is also a bird student and has been a member of the SDOU.

Mr. Mallory's active interest in birds began in 1910 when he discovered a nest of a pair of Brown Thrashers in a brush pile on his residence grounds at Lennox. Thereafter he always kept a brush pile for Thrashers and seldom did a pair of these birds fail to make use of this convenient nesting site. At this time he began erecting boxes for hole-nesting birds and at one time had 15 of these in use. They were occupied by Bluebirds, Flickers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wrens and Chickadees and, on one occasion, by a pair of Screech Owls. He had a 17-compartment martin house which was usually filled nearly to capacity each year. He was probably the first person in South Dakota to use the Berlepsch type nesting box, having obtained ten of these the first time they were available in the United States.

(Continued on next page)

Pioneer Prairie Ornithologists

(Continued from preceding page)

In addition to the hole-nesting birds nearly every species which nests in towns, either in trees or on the ground, eventually nested on his residence lots.

For many years he held a bird-banding permit and banded several thousand individuals. He banded many Brown Thrashers and had the pleasant experience of having one banded female Thrasher nest in the same brush pile for five successive years and having for its mate for three of these years the same banded male. He made a special study of Harris's Sparrows and banded several hundred of this species and studied closely many others. A recent article in **South Dakota Bird Notes** sets out some of his observations on this species.

One of Mr. Mallory's hobbies has been that of attracting birds about the home. He kept a list of all the birds which he observed on or flying over his home site in Lennox. This list numbered 147. He has a life-list of birds identified of 227.

The Mallory family moved to Canton, S. D. in 1941 and there his main hobby has been in maintaining a bird-feeding station. He has had as many as 13 Cardinals feeding there at one time in the winter and often as many as 12 species of birds feed there in a single winter day.

His most active years in birding extended from 1912 to 1930. During that time he contributed several articles to **Bird Lore** which was then the official publication of the National Audubon Society. His first Christmas bird census was taken in 1913 and published in the early 1914 issue of **Bird Lore**. Since then he has taken and had published in that

magazine or in **The Season** many other Christmas bird censuses. He was a contributor to the first study published in **Bird Lore** which finally culminated in the magazine now published by the Audubon Society under the name "**The Season**" He still sends reports to that publication.

Mr. Mallory has been County Judge of Lincoln County, South Dakota, since 1940. He is a charter member of SDOU and has been its secretary ever since its organization in 1949. He has contributed numerous articles and small items to **South Dakota Bird Notes**. He still goes on "birding" trips and occasionally speaks on his hobby before schools and public service organizations. It is his belief that his hobby has helped him to keep calm in difficult times and to banish many of his worries.

(Mary E. Mallory, in collaboration with Edith M. and Susan A. Avery)



President's Page

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individual members of some of the species.

Members of SDOU can render valuable service through observing our birds of prey and disseminating information as to the value of these species, thereby sustaining and encouraging support for the progressive codes which protect most of these birds. Your continued cooperation in obtaining data on all birdlife throughout the state and during the year and submitting notes based thereon to the editorial staff is also solicited.

On behalf of the Society I extend to all members and friends of SDOU best wishes for a Pleasant Holiday Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, with "good birding."

KENNETH KRUMM, Martin, S. D.

At It Again!

By IRMA G. WEYLER

In the Belle Fourche Post, Dec. 11, 1952

FOR two years, off and on thru spring and summer and this year on Dec. 4, we've written about a bird strange to this area that appeared in our neighborhood. It looked like a Mockingbird, it acted like a Mockingbird, it sounded like a Mockingbird.

Though we have, with a "can't believe our eyes" attitude, labeled it a Mockingbird for two years, we've not had a single suggestion that the bird might be something else. That is— not until Tuesday when a letter came from a Hot Springs reader suggesting that the bird might be a Townsend's Solitaire. The letter read: "We have a similar bird in our yard and have learned from one who knows that it is a Townsend's Solitaire."

We never before had heard of a Solitaire. But that was not surprising. Our knowledge of birds is strictly in the pre-amateur stage. We turned to our bird book, (the big one sent us by a relative with the comment: "If you insist on writing about birds, use this") and there we found both picture and complete identification, plus an essay on the bird.

It was easy to see why the two birds might be confused—both of the same general color effect, both "accidental" in this area. Both are thrushes, the Mockingbird a mimic thrush; the Solitaire, a plain thrush. Both are Order Passeres! Suborder, Oscines; but the Mockingbird is of the family Mimidae; the Solitaire Turidae—if that means anything to you.

The general description of the Solitaire reads:

Length, eight inches; plumage, brownish gray, paler below; bill short and broad; wings moderately

long, rounded; tail, about same length as wings, double rounded; legs, short and slender.

Parts of the Solitaire's description that fitted the bird seen here Dec. 4, were the general color of brownish gray, the white markings on wings and tail, and its distribution, which included the mountain districts of western North America including the Black Hills. The approach of winter early drives it to lower levels in quest of food.



NEST OF SOLITAIRE WITH YOUNG

Photo by P. E. Peabody
(Cut courtesy Wilson Bulletin)

So much was right for the strange bird. But many other things were wrong. The bird seen here was a good 10 inches in length, not eight. Instead of a tail about the same length as the wing, the tail was long and slender, and the white markings—instead of being paler tones of the upper colorings like the Solitaire—were distinctly white, and the gray was dark enough to give the bird a

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Trip To Eagle's Nest

HARDING COUNTY, in the northwest corner of South Dakota, is one of the largest counties of the state. As I rode a saddle horse over the cactus-covered prairies of the section, during the first two weeks in May, 1925, I found bands of antelope common. Sagehens, Prairie Grouse and Long-billed Curlews were plentiful.

Scattered here and there along the creekbeds, which were dry except for an occasional small pond of water, were scrub trees. Nearly all of these contained nests, most of them appearing to have been used year after year and enlarged to such an extent that one could see the nest a mile away, almost before you could see the tree. In these nests, out on the open prairie, in the hot sun, I found Western Horned Owls nesting. At that time the young were large. Swainson's Hawks were common, and just starting to nest. Other nests were of the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk and the Magpie.

Leaving the ranch at sunrise on May 9th, I rode with a companion to the foot of the Slim Buttes where we met Paul Orket, also with a companion, and the four of us started on one of the most enjoyable trips I have ever taken.

Slim Buttes are a rugged range of rocky hills, crested here and there with groups of pine timber, other parts bare and rocky, near the top

bordered with high cliffs of loose rock, with many caves, ledges and crevices. In these rocks I saw, on this one day, nests and nesting places of Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Duck Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Owl, and White-throated Swift. Sparrow Hawks were plentiful.

Winding our way up a narrow ravine among rocks and buckbrush, we reached the top of a broken ridge. From there we had a wonderful view of the Grand River and surrounding country. Eagles, Vultures and Falcons were soaring overhead. Riding perhaps a mile north along this ridge we came in sight of a chimney rock, peculiarly-formed, towering above the crest of a ridge so steep our horses could hardly find footing. On the top of this rock was the nest where Paul had seen young Eagles in previous years.

As we approached, a Falcon flew from a shelf near the top. By the use of several lariat ropes Paul reached the top, to find the nest deserted. We found many other deserted nests of Eagles, and I learned that only a few years ago they were very common, but are (in 1926) being killed off rapidly by federal trappers who are sent there to kill predatory animals.

We were then fifteen miles from the ranch; time, middle of the afternoon. Our route was back over the higher country. Antelope were seen on most of the ridges; occasionally a coyote would skulk to the nearest cover; an Eagle would glide by eyeing us suspiciously. At sundown, after a perfect day, we turned our tired saddle horses into the corral at the ranch.

(Note: The foregoing article by F. A. Patton, Artesian, S. D., was published in *The Oologist*, March, 1926. It has been slightly condensed. It would appear that the references to 'Eagle' were intended to relate to the Golden Eagle.)

Books and Articles About Birds

THE POTOMAC VALLEY History and Prospect Audubon Society of District of Columbia, Inc. 1952 44 pp. paper covers, 75c.

Shirley A. Briggs, who is doing so much good for and with this notable Audubon Society and its outstanding publication, *Atlantic Naturalist*, has edited, designed and illustrated a collection of five authoritative articles dealing with conservation in a great Valley. The principal reason for this note may be a nostalgic recollection of the Potomac and the C. & O. Canal, as a prairie-boy civil-servant saw and enjoyed them more than 40 years ago. However, there is much of interest and concern here for SDOUers who still see and appreciate local potholes and sloughs, and buffalo grass and fringed gentians.

* * *

THE TUNDRA WORLD by Theodora C. Stanwell-Fletcher 1952 Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

Another "Northern" by the author of *Driftwood Valley*. This fictional narrative is based on observations of the out-of-doors in which this nature-writer lived during two summers she spent on the west coast of Hudson Bay near Churchill. The frontispiece, a tundra scene by Sutton, recalls his exploits in this same section of the sub-Arctic. This easily-read book should be satisfying to watchers who wonder how avian migrants raise their broods and what may be their breeding-season plumage and habitat.

* * *

Harvey K. Nelson, Assistant Manager of the Federal Refuge at Sand Lake, near Columbia, writes about "Hybridization of Canada Geese with Blue Geese in the Wild", in a recent

issue of *The Auk*. The short article is based on observation and study of geese taken by hunters near the Refuge.

* * *

One aspect of prairie ecology which merits consideration by SDOU members is COVER. In the *Conservation Digest*, Oct. 1952, there appears a fine article on Great Plains Forestry, written by Gareth C. Moon, Assistant State Forester. We recommend it to all thoughtful birdwatchers.

* * *

Occasionally we see a fine scientific publication which embodies the observations of a skilled ornithologist which were made in a section of this country of which he is not a resident. Frequently, too, the area involved is one of those "white spots" to which Dr. Pettingill has referred as not having been studied at all recently or thoroughly. An outstanding example of this type of literature is "Observations on some Wyoming Birds," by Fuller and Cole, published some years ago under the auspices of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. How we wish some such institution would subsidize some such ornithologist in making a study of birds of South Dakota, especially in the Missouri River flood-plain prior to the extensive inundation which will follow the completion of the several big dams on the Missouri within this state.

* * *

We don't want to appear "snooty" but we again suggest that readers carefully preserve all issues of this publication. Back numbers are already rather good "collector's items."

At It Again!

(Continued from page 54)

black and white effect in flight, particularly. Nor was the bird shy—one that would take the name Solitaire. He was active, perky in his movements and actually welcomed the sight of human beings. Further, the Solitaire does not sing at night, and a Mockingbird's song has rung from the draw on many moonlight nights in the past two summers.

Since sight can be deceiving and memory fickle, we consulted a neighbor who likewise saw the bird Dec. 4. She insists that the bird was larger than eight inches, that it had a long perky tail, was alert in movement, was marked distinctly with black and white on wing and tail and was friendly toward people—acted as if it sensed the coming storm and wanted to come inside.

This, of course, does not fit the ornithologist's description of the Solitaire: "This little fellow avoids civilization and makes his main habitation in the inaccessible mountain gorges of the west. Visitors to Yellowstone or Glacier National Parks often see these birds along the mountain roads or trails."

The bird books describe both Mockingbird and Solitaire to the last feather. And in the markings there is one that might prove to be the clincher. The Solitaire has a white line all around the eye; the Mockingbird has a white stripe over the eye.

To add interest, there is the fact that birds as well as men are being forced to change their habits by a changing world. Air fields, particularly in Texas—a favorite land of the Mockingbird—have driven the songster from its nesting grounds, and it has given up trying to sing against the roar of the bombers. But long before the airfields, Mockingbirds were found occasionally nesting as

far north as Maine and Wisconsin.

Now—is the Belle Fourche bird Solitaire or Mockingbird? There's evidence on both sides. Or—might the Hot Springs bird be a Mockingbird?



Evening Grosbeak



These cuts are from drawings by W. J. Breckenridge, now Director of the U. of Minn. Museum of Natural History. They first appeared in Roberts' Logbook of Minnesota Birds, published by the U. of Minn. Press. Observations of these rare winter visitors should be reported for publication in Bird Notes.



Snowy Owl

College Guiding Methods and Recording

M. E. BURGI, Springfield, S. D.

Southern State Teachers College

PERHAPS one of the first steps in the process of teaching identification of birds is to have the student learn the topography of the bird, because a body region frequently gives the clue to the identity. These areas are very often differently colored and peculiarly marked.

The body of the bird is divided into four main regions. 1. The head and neck are divided into seven areas which are provided with special names: forehead, lores, crown, auriculars, nape, chin and throat. 2. The back and tail region includes the following areas: back, rump, upper tail coverts, tail feathers, outer tail feathers, and under tail coverts. 3. The wing region is divided into the following areas: primaries, secondaries, lesser wing coverts, middle coverts, greater coverts, and bend of the wing. 4. The lower region of a bird is made up of the following areas: breast, belly, sides and flank. After the student has mastered these areas and can affix an approximate size to a bird by comparing it to a well-known bird, such as crow, robin, or sparrow, he is ready for another step in bird identification.

The second stage in learning identification is for the student to associate the call notes and songs with the particular bird under observation. Fortunately, many birds can be identified by sound alone. Even the beginning student will be able in short order to discern a great many of the more easily recognized calls and songs. Then as the observer continues to work in the field he will be able to pick up many more calls and songs that are less noticeable, and thus add to his ability to identify birds by sound.

A third step is to observe the hab-

itat of the bird and, if possible, the nest along with the eggs. These often give valuable clues to the identity. A knowledge of the bird's habits of flight, perching, food-getting and so on, is likewise important.

Mounted specimens and bird skins are great aids in instruction. With them, the size, coloration and special markings can be pointed out and thus become more firmly fixed in the student's mind. Motion pictures and slides, especially if they are colored, have their place in the course along with reading assignments and bird-keys.

However, the major portion of the work in identification must be done in the field. The fact that a student can identify a bird in the hand from a preserved specimen does not guarantee that he can do the same in the field. The giving of a great many field tests is an invaluable method to check the progress of the students and to appraise the quality of the teaching that has been attempted. There is no substitute for work in the field with a good binocular or field glasses.

In recording the findings of the class, some type of permanent record must be used. Perhaps the form furnished by the SDOU is adequate. We have been using it in the past and plan to use it in the future.



The common Swallow (our Barn Swallow) is found all the way around the world.



Unless there are two or more of the complete instrument, the correct form of the name is "binocular"—no final "s".

General Notes of Special Interest

"Providence favors the beginner, or so it seems; and the beginner, on his part, is prepared to be favored, because to him everything is worth looking at."

Torrey—A World of Green Hills.

MIGRATION OF SWALLOWS—S. E. So. Dak. The following note by Zell C. Lee, Charter member of SDOU, was published in the Oct. 1952 Dickcissel, Sioux City Bird Club's Journal: "On August 31, 1952, the writer, in company with L. J. Nicholson and Bob Nicholson, made a trip to the McCook Lake, Mud Lake and marshes lying along the road running westward to what is known as the Island Schoolhouse, hoping to see American Egrets. We turned to the right at the Island Schoolhouse intersection and traveled due north toward the first farm lying west of the road. As we approached the farm buildings we noted large numbers of birds flying low over the adjacent fields and a large flock of birds in the road, itself, feeding and dust-bathing. Using our binoculars and the 24x63 spotting scope, which Wm. R. Felton, Jr., owns, we identified these birds as swallows. The number of birds increased steadily, flying over the fields and alighting on the telephone and electric light wires. Soon the wires were covered with swallows, including those birds which had been on the road. Swallows seemed to be everywhere. There were two open round metal cribs in the farmyard which had metal roofs with several raised ridges running from the center of the roof to the edge. Those ridges and the tops of the roofs were literally covered with swallows. We were delighted to note five species of swallows, both mature and immature, in this large migratory flock: Barn, Cliff, Bank, Rough-winged and Tree. The light and calm air were

perfect for study and observation of these birds. We could catch the sound of their voices very well. At times very few birds were in the air; all seemed to be resting. We remained for almost one-half hour studying these birds and estimated that there were fully five thousand birds in this flock."

* * *

A QUERY ABOUT GREAT HORN-ED OWL—Why the white throat of the Great Horned Owl? Yesterday, Dec. 6, 1952, I had a nice visit with two of these birds at a "tree claim" on Highway 77 four miles south of Clear Lake, S. D. With a bright sun at my back shining directly on them, the owls showed very clearly through the glass. One was darker than the other, and, it seemed to me, larger. It hooted frequently, perhaps because, being at a greater distance, it was less cautious. Both were careful to keep watch in all directions so from time to time the white throat-mark appeared and disappeared as both birds faced in several directions alternately. Then it was that I noticed something—the white spot. When this was out of view I found myself looking carefully with the naked eye to find the owls, although I knew exactly where to look. But when the white came round, ah, what a difference! This stood out boldly against the background of a dense dark grove, almost like a flash. Why the white throat?—**Alfred Peterson, Brandt, S. D.**

SOME BLACK HILLS RECORDS, OLD AND NEW—The Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting and Upland Plover were seen on the east slope of the Black Hills this (1952) summer.

Looking over some old records of observations made by others, I find Henry Behrens gives two dates for Blue Grosbeak: Sept. 1899 and Aug. 1900. My June, 1952, records are: Spring Creek, 12 miles south of Rapid City; and northeast of New Underwood.

The Dickcissel was observed by Henry Behrens in Sept. 1899, and June, 1902. Cecil Haight says there were many in the hayfields near Spearfish this June, when I also observed them south of Rapid City.

Of the Indigo Bunting, Visher reported two broods near Black Hawk, 7 miles north west of Rapid City, no dates are given, but probably late in 1900. I saw this species on Spring Creek twice in June, 1952.

The Upland Plover is probably a more common summer resident. Fred Dille saw this species at Wind Cave, Sept. 1913. Henry Behrens observed it at Spring Creek in April, 1898, 1899 and 1900. My records show July, 1951, on Box Elder Creek; again 16 miles east of Rapid City; also in June, 1952, in Rapid Valley east and later west of the City, where three young were noted.—**Harry Behrens, Rapid City, S. D.**

* * *

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT
—Something of a rarity in the old days, except in special places, this bird is now to be seen "everywhere." The other day one showed me how to catch a fish, in cormorant-style. It evinced no fear of me, the being with the peculiar white face sitting in the big body which, in its experience, had been harmless. So, not recognizing any interruption, but with great zest, it continued to pursue and cap-

ture many small silvery fish, in shallow water, at a distance of from six to four rods from my car. Its method was simple—just push forward a bit to start the prey from hiding in the stringy water plants, then submerge, go ahead two or three feet, and come up with a fish every time. Often the fish was held across its body near the tail, the head dangling, but a quick sidewise motion by the bird flipped the fish into the bird's maw. Then followed the swallowing process. Immediately the performance was repeated time after time until I could understand the nature of a grievance that commercial fishermen sometimes hold against cormorants.

Suddenly satisfaction or surfeit was reached, whereupon my cormorant swam out to land, sat on a convenient driftwood fence post, extended its wings to the breeze in a way cormorants have with them and held this position for a full five minutes. When the car made a move to go by, the bird tensed as if to indicate, "if you come an inch nearer I'll have to go." We eased by, I and the car, and left D-CC there to resume fishing later.—**Alfred Peterson, Brandt, S. D.**

* * *

GOLDEN EAGLES AND PRAIRIE FALCONS ACTIVE—State Game Warden L. B. Bristol, Faith, S. D., reports in Conservation Digest, Oct. 1952: "The hot and dry weather of past weeks has bunched coveys of upland game around the larger lakes and ponds in order that they might get water for the young birds. Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons are taking a heavy toll of birds as they always do following a continued dry spell."

* * *

The common Swallow (our Barn Swallow) is found all the way around the world.

AUDUBON'S SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD-LIST—Avocet; Bluebird; Bunting, Henslow's, Emberiza; Chat, Y-b; Coot; Curlew, L-b; Dove; Duck, Black, Gadwell, Spoon; Finch, Harris's, Lark, Lazuli, Lincoln, Palida, White-crowned; Fly-catcher, Arkansas, Say's; Goose; Grebe; Grosbeak, Blue, Black-headed, Evening; Gull; Hawk, Cooper's, Fork-tailed, Marsh, Night, Pigeon, Sparrow; Heron, Blue; Lark, Yellow or Ground, Meadow, Prairie; Magpie; Martin; Pelican, White; Pewee, Least; Pigeon; Prairie Hen; Parakeet; Raven; Sandpiper, Bartram, Spotted; Swan; Swallow, Barn, Cliff; Tern, Black; Thrush, Red, Wood; Troupial (Y-B) Black-bird); Turkey; Vireo, Bell's; Warbler, B & Y (Magnolia); Whip-poor-will; Wren; Woodpecker, Red-headed, Red-shafted, Pileated.

The foregoing is a list of birds which Audubon, in the journal of his trip up and down the Missouri River in 1843, recorded as having been seen by him or his party in what is now South Dakota. It was prepared some years ago by State Historian Doane Robinson. It seems to us that it includes: 40 species now common, 2 extinct; 5 definitely no longer resident or visitant; 4 doubtful status because of form of name; 5 indefinite, of which some are possibly common; and 5 quite rare. What is your score?

* * *

MIGRATING SPARROWS, CANTON, S. D.—A heavy wave of Lincoln's Sparrows was observed here Sept. 21, 1952, the density increasing for several days, then diminishing, the last being seen Oct. 12. I was trapping English Sparrows at the time and most of these small Lincoln's which got into the trap escaped by slipping out through the meshes of the wire before I could release them.

On Oct. 15 a wave of Harris's Sparrows was observed at my home. Ac-

companying them were many Tree Sparrows whose numbers gradually lessened, likely because they went into the surrounding country-side. The Harris's also thinned out to only a few by the 25th. As my latest date for them then was Nov. 13, I was surprised to discover a lone specimen feeding with other wild birds on my porch on Dec. 4, a new "latest date seen."—**W. B. Mallory, Canton, S. D.**

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CENTRAL S. D. NOTES—We went hiking May 30, 1952, along a small creek 3½ miles southwest of Dallas, S. D. in Tripp County. There were only about four dozen trees and all of them willows. Here we found 2 pairs of Baltimore Orioles, 1 pair of Orchard Orioles, 1 pair of Blue Grosbeaks and 3 pairs of Lark Sparrows. Between Chamberlain and Gregory we saw quite a number of Lark Sparrows and a couple of them between Chamberlain and Fort Thompson. Saw another male Blue Grosbeak just a mile from American Island Park. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were abundant on grasslands around Dallas, also many Dickcissels and Lark Buntings. Sam Chestnut-collared Longspurs all the way on the return trip as far as St. Lawrence, east of Miller. We still were seeing Lark Buntings when we stopped at Redfield. At points between Chamberlain and Fort Thompson there were both Lark Buntings and Bobolinks,—kind of interesting telling them apart as we drove at traveling speed.—**Arthur R. Lundquist, Webster, S. D.**

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GOLDEN PLOVERS—Oct. 8, 1952, was the day I found 50 Golden Plovers wading in a shallow mud-bottom pond near Goodwin, S. D. This is the only sight I had of them this fall. However, they were numerous in migration last spring.—**Alfred Peterson, Brandt, S. D.**

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Editorial Comment

We get so interested in listing the birds we see from day to day and developing an occasional note about some unusual occurrence that there is danger we are overlooking some things that are of considerable ornithological importance.

As we go over the state, getting acquainted with other "birders", we are surprised at the number of people who are interested in birds and the number who have compiled lists or made collections. All of these folks are possible sources of important data.

The North Platte, Nebr., "Lincoln County Tribune" for years ran bird stories by Wilson Tout. Later these stories were published in a book called "The Birds of Lincoln County." Perhaps there is no chance to find such a book in the files of any of our newspapers, but doubtless ample material is there for a mighty interesting scrap-book,—if it was collected!

One of our active birders was recently bemoaning the fact that important lists of birds of various parts of South Dakota are compiled here by visitors but carried home. It is a loss, as we certainly could use the lists,—but how to get them? Once in a while a collector's license is issued to an outsider. Apparently no record of what material is collected by the licensee is left in the state,—perhaps there has been no indication that it was wanted here.

Archaeological projects in the Missouri Valley during the past few summers have preserved some of the facts in that field which would otherwise be lost by the flooding of the Valley. We wish more work had been done and that it had included exhaustive surveys of the avifauna

and flora of the Valley.

We know of the work done by Dr. J. F. Brenckle, Mellette, in banding some forty thousand or more birds, and of the banding done by Arthur Lundquist at Webster, Judge Mallory at Canton, Dr. Over at Vermillion and Rev. Wagar, now at Minot, but we wonder whether there are others and where their records are.

A biological laboratory or station was located at Enemy Swim Lake for several seasons. There should be records of its work which might contain valuable ornithological material, but they have not been located yet.

There are collections of many specimens of birds taken in South Dakota: in the Over Museum at the University at Vermillion; on the Henry Behrens ranch near Rapid City; at State College, Brookings; and a substantial number in the Pettigrew Museum at Sioux Falls. But how many more are there and where are they? We know that the numerous specimens collected by the late Fred Dille, principally in the Black Hills, were available to South Dakota, at a price not wholly out of reason, but were finally sold to Nebraska. Only recently we heard that one Jack Kauf was among the earliest settlers in Beadle County, and that he was so interested in the birds he found there that he collected and mounted many, said to be several hundred. What became of them?

The problem in the case of the fine collection of birds' nests which George Myers, Salem, assembled, is different—it is one of space in which to display them.

When we think of these possibilities we wonder whether South Dakota is really poor in ornithology. Per-

(Continued on next page)

Editorial Comment

(Continued from preceding page)

haps the lack is rather of time and personnel and the will to find what is here in the state, waiting for some one to discover it and then to house it. Incidentally, some day, not too far distant, there will have to be a Museum Building erected on the campus at the University at Vermillion.

* * *

To counteract in part the damage done to wildlife by the draining of potholes, landowners can preserve, improve and use those which are not destroyed. The following publications, prepared by Soil Conservation Service personnel, are available from the Supt. of Documents, U. S. Printing Office, Washington: How to Build a Farm Pond, USDA Leaflet 259; Making Land Produce Useful Wildlife, USDA Farmers' Bulletin 2035; Technique of Fishpond Management, USDA Mis. Pub. 528; Stock-Water Developments, etc., USDA Farmers' Bulletin 1859.

☆☆☆

Rosalie Edge (Mrs. C. N.) of New York City, has advised the officers of SDOU that the hawk pictures appearing on pages 40 and 41 of the September, 1952, issue of Bird Notes are unauthorized reproductions of original drawings by Roger Tory Peterson which she owns, which are copyrighted in her name and were first published in 1940 by an Emergency Conservation Committee of which Mrs. Edge is chairman. No attempt was made by us to obtain from any of these parties authorization for the use of the excellent pictures because none of these facts were then known to us. Now that we do have the facts, we are glad to give the credit. We especially appreciate the fairness and generosity evidenced by Mrs. Edge, who now assures us that she would cer-

tainly have given permission for the use of the pictures had we asked her for it.—HFC.

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General Notes

(Continued from page 61)

CARDINALS DO SING IN WINTER—Referring to the note in the March issue by Mr. Krause, "Winter Singing of Cardinals," my observations are very much the same as his. I have heard Cardinals singing here all year round, especially in winter, and, as Mr. Krause says, there is a drop-off in late summer. It is easy to call the male Cardinal. He will come close enough until he finds out what is calling him, then he will leave if he is disturbed. I was surprised to hear that Cardinals are rare in other parts of the state, as we have plenty of them here.—**Morris Schmeidt, Centerville, S. D.**

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MULTIPLE NESTS—I have observed several instances of Mourning Doves using nests built by Robins. On one occasion the Robins did not use the nest and English Sparrows built upon it. I threw out the Sparrow eggs and later the nest was utilized by Mourning Doves. The next year Doves again built on the old structure and raised at least one young. Other Doves nested, unsuccessfully, twice in one year on the same nest of another species. My list of old nests used again by the same or different species includes those built by Robin, Brown Thrashers, Mourning Doves and Grackles.—**Lester Russe!! Lauritzen, Centerville, S. D.**

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GOLDEN PLOVERS—On Oct. 18, 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Wheeler and we saw 25 Golden Plovers feeding in a pasture near Nunda, S. D. They were not alarmed as we watched them from our car for about 15 minutes.—**Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Findley, Sioux Falls, S. D.**

Short Tales

☆ Northward the range of Cardinals, . . . Mrs. Arthur Bonham had a female in her yard at Britton, S. D. last spring. Two Bluebirds were there for several days, but did not nest. Encouraging . . . better luck next year! Nesting boxes might be the needed inducement. (One man gave away 100 boxes at St. Paul a little while ago!) Many sparrows broke their fall migration for feed, and water in her yard.

☆ We are sorry that another of our members, Mr. Charles M. Kranz, Watertown, died December 8, 1951. The Purple Martin which was his pet responds to her name with a call and runs across the floor with wings held high. Miss Esther Kranz rescued a young Robin which was injured and nearly blind. It, too, has lost fear and has adjusted itself to a dependent life, being fed dog food and moist bread, finding water and sand by feeling.

☆ Mrs. W. L. Tilton, a member of SDOU for several years, died in Brookings in July, 1952.

☆ Referring to our recent article about nesting material, Lester R. Lauritzen, Centerville, Route 3, says: "If anyone thinks it will make good nesting material, I have some horse-hair, both body and mane and tail, which will about fill a shoebox by spring. I will send it to any SDOUer who will pay COD postage." Some urban birder may accept!!

☆ On Aug. 18, 1952, in the early forenoon, Chimney Swifts were pouring in and out of a big smoke-stack near 14th and Main in Sioux

Falls. One count ran past 1000. The next day none were in sight.

★ Cecil P. Haight, Spearfish, writes: "Like Miss Habeger, I saw my first Black-headed Grosbeak this summer; also saw some Curlews up close to the pine timber."

☆ On Aug. 17, 1952, the Findleys and Chapmans made a trip from Sioux Falls to Brandt, there met Mr. Alfred Peterson, and continued to "bird" on up near to Watertown. A census of Kingbirds seen on the whole trip showed 91 Easterns and 2 Westerns. Proportionately, many more of the latter were seen in the same area 3 weeks earlier.

☆ The Sioux City Bird Club's "Dickcissel", Oct. 1952, carried a note by Mrs. W. W. Barrett, telling of her observations in South Dakota last July. A flock of 20 Avocets was seen north of Chadron, Neb.; in the Black Hills both Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds were noted and a young Water Ouzel was fed by an adult close to their cabin; the eastern edge of the range of the Lark Bunting seemed to be near Lake Andes. In the same issue Zell C. Lee reported observations of American Egrets in the vicinity of McCook Lake, Union County, S. D., during July, 1947, 11 being seen by her there on July 27th.

☆ Studies of nocturnal bird migration have been made at various points in South Dakota this fall by recording bird movements across the face of the full moon. This is part of a nation-wide project which may result in establishing interesting facts about night flight.