

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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Whole No. 33

Golden Plover 29  
Hairy eats Sunfl. seeds 30



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## President's Page

SDOU is more than a roster of officers and directors. It is even more than the sum total of its membership. SDOU is that portion of the thinking in South Dakota which devotes its energies as an organization to state-wide studies of birds of all species, from the largest to the smallest, from the hummingbird to the Whooping Crane. SDOU does not distinguish between "game birds" and "non-game birds", between shorebirds and singing birds. It encompasses the study of all. SDOU was founded eight years ago on the firm idea that the gathering and dissemination of information about state birds was an important contribution not only to the natural history of South Dakota but also to the conservation of natural resources of the state. The past presidents of SDOU and the editors of BIRD NOTES, in maintaining this goal, have laid well the foundation stones of the organization.

SDOU has always insisted upon the preservation of an ample stock of all avian species. It has, however, maintained general open-mindedness on the harvest of populations in generous supply and under proper legal regulation. Many members, them-



seives avid fishermen and hunters, feel that the aims and purposes of SDOU are not in any sense inimical to those of other outdoor and conservation groups in the state. The goal is ultimately the same—the conservation in all its forms of South Dakota's varied natural resources, which includes the preservation of all avian species.

But in the face of condition such as the drainage of marshes and pot-holes, the inundation of river bottomlands, the transformation of prairie land into cultivated fields, all of which threaten drastically to reduce native cover and habitat and diminish our wildlife, it is imperative that SDOU-ers report all information about the range and relative abundance, or scarcity, of South Dakota species. This is particularly true of the Sparrow family. We have little reliable information about the nesting areas and populations of Baird's, Henslow's, Leconte's, Sharp-tail and Grasshopper Sparrows. Does Baird's, reported from the northwest, actually nest? Who has recently seen or found nests of Leconte's, Henslow's or Grasshopper Sparrows? Or observed Sprague's Pipit or the Chestnut-colored Longspur? Is Brewer's Sparrow, listed for northwestern portions of Nebraska, possibly moving across our southern border? To report any or all of these birds would be a noteworthy contribution to SDOU and to South Dakota ornithology.

—Herbert Krause

# An Ornithologist's Notes From the Canary Islands

Miss Ruth Habeger

**F**ROM MARCH 23 to April 23, 1957, my sister and I lived on the island of Tenerife, the largest and most picturesque of the Canary Islands off the northwest coast of Africa. The main object of my visit to this island, was to study the different species of birds in their various habitats.

We spent most of the time on the north side of the island in the famous valley of Orotava. Ascending almost directly above this valley is the snow-capped extinct volcano of Teyde. The ascent from sea level to the peak of the volcano affords a great variety of habitats in a very short distance which made it an interesting study of bird ecology. From the coast inland and on upward, one passes first through semi-desert scrub with richer growth on the steep-sided barrancos. This gradually gives way to a zone of evergreen broad-leaved trees. Then comes a zone of treeless-heath. This is normally followed by the pine forest (*Pinus canariensis*) but most of the forest has been cut in the last 100 years and the trees that remain standing are "swept" clean of needles and grass which is used for packing bananas and for animal bedding. This, of course, has changed the character of the bird population of the pine forest.

Authorities say the number of breeding species of land birds of this island is far fewer than on the nearest mainland with comparable habitats. This seems to be a common characteristic of islands in general.

There are only three endemic species in the Canaries: the Blue Chaffinch (*Fringilla teydea*), the Chat (*Saxicola dacotiae*), and the Pipit (*Anthus bertheloti*). I am sorry to

report that I have seen none of these. I did see 19 of the 43 species of birds of Tenerife according to a study made in 1949 by David Lack and H. N. Southern of Oxford University. They are as follows with a brief description of each: (Only the male descriptions are given. These are taken from Peterson's **Field Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe**.)

**Raven** (*Corvus corone*) 25". All black, glossy in good light. Heavy black bill. Often soars and glides with legs dangling and then spins around rapidly in descent. Found in all habitats, but extreme peak and desert.

**Linnet** (*Carduelis cannabina*) 5½". Male has chestnut-brown mantle; dark brown wings and forked tail are edged with white; breast pinkish. Rare in thickets and hedges of coastal inland. Residents say it was formerly in demand as a caged bird.

**Canary** (*Serinus canarius*) 4½". Streaked yellowish finch. Distinguished by its stubby bill and bright yellow rump. Much like our Pine siskin, but with more yellow on its body and it also has an occasional canary-like song which is rich and musical and includes long rolls. Common in coastal region where there is cover, also in all types of forests and even above the tree-limit.

**Spanish Sparrow** (*Passer hispaniolensis*). Much like our House Sparrow but with the chestnut-red of nape extended over the crown and much more extensive black throat and upper breast, black-streaked flanks and blacker on the black. Very common and tame in town around buildings.

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## Annual Meeting

THE 1957 annual meeting of SDOU was held on Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge May 18-19 with excellent cooperation in all departments except the weather. In that one department was rain and more rain. However, Refuge Manager Kenneth Krumm and his efficient helpers did much to overcome the handicaps imposed by the mud, and it turned out that a good time was had by all the guests.

On Friday evening the members and guests began to gather in Martin, S. D. and appreciated the nice reception and welcome tendered them in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, next door to the hotel. Mr. T. M. McKee, president of the Martin Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the group. Mr. Clair Rollings, Assistant Supervisor, Wildlife Refuges, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minneapolis, showed his film of Yellowstone Park and the Tetons. Mrs. Krumm and Mary Ann Krumm served coffee and cookies.

The rains had made the regular road to the Refuge impassable and so the next morning the group was routed over a slightly longer road to a corner of the Refuge where it was met by trucks to transport them to Headquarters after they had parked their cars at the picnic grounds. There were also tractors standing by ready to help intrepid drivers who wanted to drive their cars in. The ride by truck was a "vista dome conducted tour" turning up sharp-tailed grouse, lark sparrows, white pelicans, grebes, cormorants and what have you.

The field trip continued until registration and the program at Headquarters. President Crutchett gave an address of welcome and review of last year, Herbert Krause presented the history of SDOU, and Manager

Krumm told of Lacreek Refuge bird-life and migrations. Then Mr. Rollings showed a film with accompanying narrative about the management of Region Three wildlife refuges.

At noon the weather relented and turned off the rain while the group ate a fine picnic lunch prepared and served on the lawn by Mrs. Krumm, Mrs. Crutchett and a fine corps of volunteer helpers.

The formal program continued with an interesting discussion of the Natural History of the Badlands National Monument by Superintendent John A. Rutter, and of the West River National Park Service Area birdlife by Wayne Bryant, Park Naturalist, Wind Cave National Park. L. J. Moriarty, Watertown, showed slides and told of his birding in South Dakota and Mexico. Before the business meeting and the meeting of the board of directors, there was an opportunity for members to tell some of their good bird experiences. This included the very informative impromptu discussion by State Game Warden W. B. Elley, Hot Springs, of the routes of the Sandhill Crane migrations around the Black Hills.

At the business meeting the treasurer and the secretary each presented reports of their activities during the year. The nominating committee made its report and the membership elected five directors for terms of three years: Harry Behrens, Rapid City; Kenneth Krumm, Martin; Ruth Habeger, Madison; J. O. Johnson, Watertown; J. W. Johnson, Huron.

Following the business meeting the directors held a meeting to complete their reorganization, and chose officers as follows: president, Herbert Krause; vice-president, N. R. Whitney, Jr.; secretary, J. O. Johnson; trea-

(Continued on Page 26)

# Spring Shore Birds, 1957

Alfred Peterson

**T**IME SPENT with the Shore Birds is time well spent. This spring of 1957 is the fifth in which I have watched my favorites, the Shore Birds, as they passed leisurely through the Lake Region of South Dakota. Conditions affecting the migrations vary from year to year. Many of my best locations of two, three or four years ago are now of no use. Water levels fell below normal in 1956, so much so that that part of Bitter Lake west of the Florence-Waubay highway, which was most fruitful of exceptional records, became a bed of weeds. And so it was at the early part of this season. The Avocets, last year and this, took up residence in a bay off the main lake. Then, when recent heavy downpours of rain filled most of our sloughs and ponds to overflowing, the contrary conditions prevailed—water, water, too much water, with exceptions. "Avocet Island" is again flourishing as a bird nursery, and a full quota of young Avocets should have their beginning there this summer.

Now the record, which may be checked against those of previous years.

**Piping Plover.** May 5, one seen on the shore of Bitter Lake, the west side, near the spot where 4 (1 adult and 3 young) were found Aug. 7, as recorded in the Sept., 1955, number of Bird Notes.

**Semipalmated Plover.** May 10, two only on a trip to Lake Cochrane, Lake Alice and home, that turned up a fine lot of Shore Birds otherwise. 5|12, 1 at Fox Lake.

**Killdeer.** An early arrival, always dependable, and common.

**Golden Plover.** A half dozen reports of Golden Plover, in flocks of

20 to 14, came to me from May 3 to May 8, but I did not catch sight of any until May 22, when I saw 14 on a plowed field puddle of shallow water at Albee. The following morning one lay dead on the highway at Turnerville. Then, a little later the same day, 70 by count occupied a bit of pasture land at Kranzburg. By mid-afternoon they had vacated the place, to be seen there again May 29, near the end of the day.

**Black-bellied Plover.** May 22, nine at Turnerville; 5|27, 3 at Fox Lake.

**Ruddy Turnstone.** May 22, one at Albee; 5|14, 14 at Hayti; 5|29, 2 at South Waubay lake and 15 at Lake Winnewassa.

**Bartramian Sandpiper.** April 30, two near Round Lake. Since that date 1 or 2 have been alerted on each day of investigation.

**Spotted Sandpiper.** June 12, several, Grant County.

**Solitary Sandpiper.** May 14, one. Solitary, yes, but should appear occasionally, both spring and fall.

**Willet.** May 2, five up Waubay way. Henceforth a fairly common summer resident, never in large flocks, but from 1 to 3 here and there. I do not recall seeing them away from water at any time.

**Greater Yellow-legs.** April 10, five over the lake at Clear Lake; 5|5, 1 at Florence. Other reports received.

**Lesser Yellow-legs.** April 16, four. Now common in greater or lesser numbers, the last date 5|29, 2 at Bitter Lake.

**Pectoral Sandpiper.** May 4, one at Fox Lake. This is another common migrant. The last date 5|27,4.

**White-rumped Sandpiper.** May 4, one. Several seen May 10, 15, 24.

**Least Sandpiper.** May 11, twenty at

Fox Lake, apart from all others; 5|15, some at Colman.

**Red-backed Sandpiper.** May 11, ten or 12 at Fox Lake. Rather sparingly later at several places, the last 5|29 at Bitter Lake.

**Dowitcher.** May 10, about twenty; 5|11, 25; with other dates, the last 5|22, 4.

**Stilt Sandpiper.** May 9, a number at Lake Norden. Other dates 5|22, 14 at Altamont; the latest 5|29, 2 at Bitter Lake.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper.** May 5, few on Bitter Lake. Several later records but not in abundance. 5|26, few at Fox Lake.

**Marbled Godwit.** May 4, two at Salt Lake. Elsewhere, three dates, total of 9, which does not fairly represent the Godwit population, since they are scattered for the nesting. They gather into large flocks before their departure in fall.

**Hudsonian Godwit.** May 9, eight at Lake Norden. Total of 78 later, which covers a number of localities. The latest date, 5|23, 2 at Tunerville. This bird is nearly always listed as rare. During the years I have been rewarded by many satisfactory sight records.

**Sanderling.** May 14, four at Hayti; 5|29, 2 at South Waubay lake.

**Avocet.** April 19, one at Salt Lake. May 29, upward of 20 could be seen from a car on highway that cuts through the southwest reach of Bitter Lake. A summer resident, it seems that wherever one goes in the Waubay region, and to the south and west for some distance, the Avocet is sure to be seen. It feeds in shallow water, keeping step with the side to side motion of its bill as it sweeps the bottom, and swims easily when on deeper water.

**Wilson's Phalarope.** May 4, two at Salt Lake. Seen many times but never in such numbers as in 1956. Nests sparingly.

## Registration At Lacreek

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Krumm, Lacreek; Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kingsbury, Martin; Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Crutchett, Armour; Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hall, Yankton; Mr. Lowry Elliott, Milbank; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Riss, Big Stone City; Miss Alice Johnson, Miss Gertrude Bachman, Miss H. Elva Smith, Mrs. Fred Burton, Rapid City;

Miss Mable Cummings, Rapid City; Alfred Peterson, Brandt; Miss Julia MacNeill, Miss Elsie Day, Chicago; Clair T. Rollings, Minneapolis; Forrest Brooks, Lacreek; Mr. and Mrs. Herman F. Chapman, Sioux Falls; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Huenecke, Duane Norman, Sand Lake; Herbert Krause, Sioux Falls;

Manford Bill, W. B. Elley, Hot Springs; Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Moriarty, Watertown; Ira N. Wallingford, Martin; Mrs. D. S. Baughman, Mrs. Ethel Dohlar, Madison; Mrs. Carol Breen, Holly Breen and Robert Breen, Hurley; William Ireland, Lacreek;

John A. Rutter, Cedar Pass; Dr. and Mrs. N. R. Whitney, Jr., Rapid City; Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Rogge, Sioux Falls; Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Yarger, Vickey and Terry Yarger, Rapid City; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rice, Tut-hill; Wayne Bryant, Wind Cave; Mrs. Alice Krumm, Decorah, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Scott Findley, Sioux Falls.

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**Northern Phalarope.** May 22, about sixty on Salt Lake and 5 at Al-bee; 5|23, 4 at Florence; 5|24, 2 at Hayti; 2 at Fox Lake the same day; 5|25, 15 at Fox Lake; 5|29, about 50 scattered on Bitter Lake.

# Combined List of Birds Seen On Lacreek Refuge May 18-19, 1957

Eared Grebe	Black Tern	Parula Warbler
Western Grebe	Mourning Dove	Myrtle Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Horned Owl	Audubon's Warbler
White Pelican	Belted Kingfisher	Black-throated Green
Double-crested	Red-headed Woodpecker	Warbler
Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Black-poll Warbler
Black-crowned Night	Eastern Kingbird	Ovenbird
Heron	Western Kingbird	Northern Water-Thrush
American Bittern	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-throat
Canada Goose	Say's Phoebe	Yellow-breasted Chat
Mallard	Least Flycatcher	Pileolated Warbler
Gadwall	Western Wood Pewee	American Redstart
Pintail	Horned Lark	House Sparrow
American Widgeon	Tree Swallow	Bobolink
Blue-winged Teal	Bank Swallow	Eastern Meadowlark
Shoveller	Rough-winged Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Redhead	Barn Swallow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	Cliff Swallow	Redwinged Blackbird
Bufflehead	Blue Jay	Orchard Oriole
Ruddy Duck	Black-billed Magpie	Baltimore Oriole
Cooper's Hawk	Common Crow	Bullock's Oriole
Marsh Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Rusty Blackbird
Prairie Falcon	House Wren	Purple Grackle
Sparrow Hawk	Short-billed Marsh	Common Cowbird
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Wren	Scarlet Tanager
Ring-necked Pheasant	Mockingbird	American Goldfinch
Virginia Rail	Brown Thrasher	Eastern Towhee
Sora	Robin	Spotted Towhee
American Coot	Swainson's Thrush	Lark Bunting
Killdeer	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Grasshopper Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Sprague's Pipit	Vesper Sparrow
Common Snipe	Loggerhead Shrike	Lark Sparrow
Upland Plover	Starling	Chipping Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	Clay-colored Sparrow
Willet	Yellow-throated Vireo	Harris' Sparrow
Lesser Yellowlegs	Solitary Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Dowitcher	Black and White	White-throated Sparrow
Avocet	Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
Wilson's Phalarope	Tennessee Warbler	Swamp Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Orange-crowned	Song Sparrow
Franklin's Gull	Warbler	Chestnut-Collared
Forster's Tern	Yellow Warbler	Longspur
Common Tern	Magnolia Warbler	



## Ornithologist's Notes

(Continued from Page 20)

**Common Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*) 6". Commonest finch. Distinguished by bold double white wing-bars and in flight by white outer tail feathers. Pinkish-brown below, with chestnut mantle, greenish rump, and slate-blue crown and nape. Prefers forests.

**Corn Bunting** (*Emberiza calandra*) 7". Sandy brown, streaked above and below. No white on wings or tail. Common in cultivated coastal uplands singing from walls and telephone wires.

**Gray Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*) 7". A very long, black tail with conspicuous white outer feathers, blue-gray upper parts and yellow under tail-coverts. Breast brilliant yellow. A very common, friendly bird who can be seen running fearlessly along the aquaduct walls close to the washerwomen; it is so tame that it is known by the natives as the "Lavendera" which is the Spanish word for washerwoman. It is loved by the islanders much as we love the robin.

**Blue Tit** (*Parus caeruleus*) 4½". A little smaller than our Black-capped Chickadee but just as acrobatic when feeding and has a similar voice. This Tit has a bright blue crown, wings, and tail. Yellow underparts, white cheeks with black line through the eye and around the nape and cheek to a blue-black chin. Common from coast to upper limits of pine forest wherever there are any trees and shrubs.

**Great Gray Shrike** (*Lanius excubitor*) 9½". Very similar to our Northern shrike except its tail is a little longer. Seen occasionally on the south side of the island near cultivated fields.

**Blackcap** (*Sylvia articapilla*) 5½". This is one of the capped warblers of the island. Glossy black crown down to eye-level, upper parts grayish

brown, sides of head and underparts ashy gray. Seen usually where there is thick growth. Many in the Botanical Gardens of the Orotava. Walks along the ground in a manner similar to the robin.

**Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*) 10". Sturdy all-black bird with bright orange yellow bill and eye rim. Common in town gardens and other areas with trees and in banana plantations. The occasional song has a thrush-like quality.

**Swift** (*Apus apus*) 6½". All black plumage, long, scythe-shaped wings; short forked tail. Found near the coast.

**Pallid Swift** (*Apus pallidus*). Much like the above except found in alpine regions.

**Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops*) 11". Unmistakable. Both sexes have pinkish-brown plumage, body barred, black and white wings and tail, long, black-tipped erectile crest and long curved bill. Voice a low far-carrying "poo-poo-poo" and also several mew-ing notes in action. Flight lazy and undulating. Found in open bushy country. Nests in holes of old trees. When resting on the rough lava rock, it is completely camouflaged.

**Egyptian Vulture** (*Neophron percnapterus*) 23-26". Has distinctive flight silhouette, with long straight-edged but pointed black and white wings and wedge-shaped white tail. Found usually high up on the northern coast and over cultivated areas.

**Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*) 22". Similar to our herring gull, but yellow legs instead of pink.

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*) 29". Adults black above edged with white; the rest of the body is white. Flesh legs. Large number following ship at the port of Santa Cruz.

**Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*) 11". Recognized by slender shape and well-graduated black tail with

white edges. Black and white patch on side of the neck. Common in gardens of coastal areas in large trees. Voice is softer and sleepier than that of other pigeons.

**Barbary Partridge** (*Alectoris barbata*) 13". One of the red-legged partridges which can be identified by its broad chestnut collar and blue-gray cheeks. Found in desert and high altitudes. Now it is scarce because it has been hunted.

Perhaps the two most interesting birds on the island (of those which I have seen) are the Gray Wagtail and the Hoopoe.

The Gray Wagtail is interesting because of its fearlessness and for the enthusiasm which the natives have for it.

The Hoopoe is like no other bird which I have ever seen. Its conspicuous brown and white zebra-like markings show only when it is in flight. When the bird rests among the brown-black lava rock, all the gay markings are hidden and it is rarely seen. It is a pleasure to watch its dipping flight with its high crest held now up and now down. Its main food is butterflies which it catches with its long, curved bill while in flight.

\* \* \* \*

**THE BIRDS OF DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA**, by the late T. C. Stephens, M. D., Sc. revised and annotated by William Youngworth. Occasional Papers, No. 3, Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, 1957. Crete, Nebraska, 28 pages, map. \$1.00.

This list of the birds of the extreme northeastern county of Nebraska is of particular interest to South Dakota ornithologists, especially when considered with *The Birds of Union County, South Dakota*, by Stephens, Youngworth and Felton, and when we remember that Union County is just across the Missouri River from Dakota County.

## Annual Meeting

(Continued from Page 21)

surer, L. J. Moriarty; editor, J. S. Findley. The directors also selected Sioux Falls for the 1958 meeting on the third week end of May.

In the evening the annual banquet was held in the dining room of the American Legion Memorial building in Martin. Chairman Krumm called on President Crutchett, President-elect Krause and H. F. Chapman to speak and then introduced Chief Black Elk who made very apt remarks on tribal and bird lore, and then in turn introduced Lavern Yankton who helped him demonstrate Oglala Sioux songs and dances.

The next morning there was another field trip on the Refuge followed by another good picnic lunch in the headquarters building, before the meeting broke up as the members began the drives back to their homes in various parts of the State. At the lunch a combined list was compiled of the birds seen on the Refuge. It is printed elsewhere in this Bird Notes.

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**THE BIRD BIOGRAPHIES OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON**, edited by Alice Ford. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1957. 304 pages. 12 full color plates. \$10.00.

A 7"x10" book containing 80 of the ornithological biographies which Audubon wrote to accompany his great folio, *The Birds Of America*. The selection from the 500 biographies has been good, from puffins to parakeets, from Laborador to Louisiana, from common to uncommon. Audubon wanted to write "a pleasing as well as an instructive book", and here we have perhaps the most pleasing and the most instructive of the biographies. Adding greatly are the illustrations, reproductions for the first time of 12 Audubon originals.

This is interesting reading for bird watcher or ornithologist.

## *General Notes of Special Interest*

**LAZULI BUNTINGS AT HURON**—Three Lazuli Buntings were seen in Huron this Spring.

The first, on May 8, caused some trouble with identification. Its colors were hardly classical. On the other hand they were too near those of this bird for it to be anything else.

The second was seen in the forenoon of May 25 by Mrs. and Miss Kettle, Mrs. H. M. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Keck visiting from Bronxville, N. Y., Mrs. Johnson and myself. It was studied for about 30 minutes at distances of 30 to 75 feet, in good light, with 7x50 binoculars, by all of us, and none had any doubt of its identification. All marks were seen clearly. Its blue was thought rather lighter than usual but otherwise all marks were according to pictures.

The third was seen the same morning by some members of the same group, a quarter of a mile from the second and more than an hour later. The location was near the place the first had been seen. Its blue was clearly darker than that of the second, but with that exception it was the same.

None of us had seen this species before east of Pierre. The locations were along the foot of the hills just west of the James River. The first and third were below the end of Seventh Street, and the second below the end of Fourth Street.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron, S. D.**

\* \* \*

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE AT ARMOUR**—Lake Anahpe is a pond of 3 or 4 acres located in the edge of Armour. On April 15, 1957, I found on this lake 1 pair of coots, 3 pairs of baldpates, 3 pairs of shovelers, 1 female lesser scaup, 3 gadwalls and 1 Barrow's goldeneye.

I had seen an American goldeneye on the pond on another occasion and so I checked particularly on the white spot before the bill and noted that it was the crescent of the Barrow's with which I had been acquainted during 4 summers spent on a homestead in west central Alberta close to the Rocky Mountains. There was a small pond on the homestead and there were timbered shores on two sides of the pond. During the summer of 1916, one or two pairs of Barrow's goldeneyes and one or two pairs of buffleheads were on the pond all summer. I felt sure that both species nested in the trees, but some cursory searching did not reveal the nests. Although the Barrow's goldeneye seems to be a rare visitor to South Dakota, I am persuaded that my previous familiarity with the duck in Alberta justifies the feeling that my identification of the bird at Lake Anahpe on April 15 was correct.—**Charles P. Crutchett, Armour, S. D.**

\* \* \*

**RING-NECKED DUCK**—The Ring-neck was more common than usual in the spring migration this year. A group of 20, in the company of many Lesser Scaups, were attracted to the farthest corner of Clear Lake, at the outlet, and a like number to Sutton's Lake north of the town of Clear Lake. They were also seen at several other places.

It was clear that the Ringnecks preferred segregation, although the Lesser Scaups outnumbered them heavily, for they generally kept to themselves and stayed longer than the others at the best patches of underwater plant growth.

By their marks shall you know them. The white spot before the wing,

when at a considerable distance, shows clearly; the triangular head shape is quite noticeable; the black, or dark, back should be detected; and at close range the ringed bill stands out sharply.—**Alfred Peterson, Brandt, S. D.**

\* \* \*

**KILLDEER NESTING ON ROADWAY**—A unique nesting site was established by a Killdeer on the roadway traversing the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge. The nest, containing four eggs, was first noticed during the last week in June in the center of the roadway with traffic passing over it daily. When first noted the brooding female exhibited the decoying flight at the approach of vehicles, but as incubation advanced the bird would patter deliberately off the trail a few yards to await passage of the car and would return shortly to the nest. Although interrupted several times daily in the brooding task, the bird successfully brought off the young which commenced hatching on July 5.

The nesting site was left unmarked due to the possible swerving of vehicles or investigation of the markers by other birds or mammals. Nesting sites on the margin of roadways are not unusual but this site midway between the main wheel tracks was somewhat unusual, as was the successful hatching of the young on the used roadway.—**Kenneth Krumm, Lacreek Refuge, Martin, S. D.**

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**COTURNIX QUAIL**—Something new has been added to the fauna of Day County. Ten pairs of Coturnix were released in May by the Day County chapter of the Isaac Walton League, after they were banded by the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

The Coturnix is the native quail of central and southern Europe, North Africa and most of Asia. There are several species and subspecies which

are more or less migratory. The species released is the least migratory. It is more hardy than the Bobwhite which it is intended to supplement rather than to supplant. It also has a high reproductive rate and is a good game bird.

The Coturnix is somewhat smaller than the Bobwhite. The live weight on most Bobwhite is 6 to 6½ ounces, and on the Coturnix it is 4½ to 5½ ounces. During the mating season the male of these quail-like birds has a chocolate brown throat while the female's throat is much lighter in color. The female is usually a little larger than the male.

European Quail, a species of Coturnix, have been used in the dog field trials at Spencer and Sturgis, South Dakota, and possibly may have added Coturnix in those localities also.—**Arthur R. Lundquist, Webster, S. D.**

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**RING-BILLED GULLS MOVE**—The colony of Ring-billed Gulls which Arthur R. Lundquist described as nesting on Bitter Lake in South Dakota (Bird Notes VII-3, page 37, Sept. 1955) has changed its location. It abandoned as a nesting site the old island which was transformed into a point of land by low stage of water in 1956. From the southwest a long sweep of stony grassland extends like an arm into the lake toward the eastern shore, and at lands end, also on a small island near by, the colony has come to rest for the season.—**Alfred Peterson, Brandt, S. D.**

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**UNION COUNTY SPRING NOTES**—Several days from May 15 to May 23, 1957, were spent in Union County touring the Felton Woods on the banks of the Missouri River and the timber along the Big Sioux River. Warbler records were spotted and I like to blame it on the terrific rain storms in Texas, which no doubt held birds and then sent them north in

surges. Two male Laxuli Buntings were seen on May 22 near the Hunter Bridge. A male Cerulean Warbler was watched in the same area for about an hour. Despite reports that this warbler is a fairly common summer resident in South Dakota, this is the writer's first record for this species in over thirty years of birding in the Sioux City area. As I recall, the late Dr. T. C. Stephens reported this species only once in over forty years of extremely active field work in the entire three-state area.

Other warblers seen were the Black and White, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Myrtle, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Ovenbird, Mourning, Northern, Yellowthroat, Chat, Wilson, Canada, and Redstart.

The Blue-headed Vireo and a nice flock of Bobolinks were also seen.—  
Wm. Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa.

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**GOLDEN PLOVERS IN DAY COUNTY**—About 6:30 p. m. on May 3, 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Vander Linden came and asked me to go for a short ride to see some Golden Plovers. A mile north of Webster we saw the flock of 50 in a pasture. What a thrill! Their dark bellies and the white question marks on their necks and heads made them stand out very clearly. We studied them with our binoculars until Mr. and Mrs. Norman Martinson drove up. The birds flew across the road and alighted only a little way from us so we all studied them until I had to leave.

Many more of our Webster bird lovers saw them including Art Lundquist, Rich Fiksdal, Warren and Everett Sewell, Dr. and Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Lester Knott, Dr. Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Flagstad, and probably many others.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bierschbach report that they saw Golden Plovers not only this year but also in 1954 in

the same general area. They live on a farm about a half mile north of Webster and are doing their best to attract birds to their lovely farm home and yard.

Kermit Parks, who lives 10 miles southwest of Webster, says he has seen flocks of Plovers on his farm every year for the past 15 years in flocks that varied in size from 25 up to 100 birds. As they were doing their spring field work they would come upon the Golden Plover that would move in their characteristic stop-and-go manner. Mr. Parks is very conservation minded and has done much to preserve wild life with many protected areas on his farm where hunting is prohibited. At present he is cultivating 10 acres of new trees.—

**Herman Chilson, Webster, S. D.**

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**MISCELLANY**—Art Lundquist, Webster, says a flock of Golden Plover stayed in the neighborhood for a week or more while many observers went out to see them. Another flock was seen north of Holmquist about the same time.

May 23 seemed to be Warbler Day in Webster. Lundquist saw 13 species as he walked to work that morning. He saw no new "firsts" but a few were not common.

Speaking of warblers: Alfred Peterson lists those he saw this Spring: Black and White, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Palm, Ovenbird, Grinnell's Water Thrush, Mourning, Yellowthroat, Pileolated, Redstart.

Even the Sioux Valley Farm woman in her newspaper column mentioned the Parulas she had seen near Sioux Falls,—“Almost as colorful as parakeets”.

Two libraries reported that never before had there been such a demand for bird books, and a bookstore said

that Peterson's Guide was among the best sellers.

The Arthur Riss, Big Stone City, had an orderly procession of Whip-poor-wills at their window that reminded them of those they had known in Illinois.

Dennis L. Carter, Fairmont, Minn., added to the Whistling Swans seen in South Dakota this Spring. With Charles Lacy he saw 8 flying up the Missouri River west of Elk Point, Union County, on March 25. Later the same day there were 4 more on Holmberg Slough, Minnehaha County. Also there was an adult Bald Eagle at the mouth of the Vermillion River, Clay County, on the same day.

There is something in a game bird over and above its pound of flesh. You don't "need" the meat any longer: for you don't know what hunger is, save by reading of it. Try the field glass and the camera, instead of the everlasting gun. Any fool can take a five-dollar gun and kill a bird: but it takes a genius to photograph one wild bird and get a "good one". As hunters the camera men have the best of it. One good live-bird photograph is more of a trophy and a triumph than a bushel of dead birds.—**William T. Hornaday** in **National Parks Magazine**.

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**SWAINSON'S HAWKS**—On the afternoon of May 5, 1957, we saw two pairs of Swainson's Hawks along the gravel road leading east from Mac's Corner and Stephan on highway 34 east of Pierre, not many miles from the Hyde-Hand County line.

All four birds were studied at distances of about 30 feet with 7x50 binoculars by our entire party which also included Mrs. H. M. Pierce, Mrs. Johnson, and Mary Aberdeen Ketelle. The details of their markings, down to individual breast feathers, were clearly seen. Only one of the birds was alarmed by the approach of the car, which

was stopped opposite the fence posts on which they sat in one case. We observed them from the car which served as a blind.

The first bird took off as the car came near his post, but he merely circled for a few moments, then dropped down to copulate with his mate on the adjacent post.

The second pair, a few miles east, remained on their posts on opposite sides of the road while the car was stopped between them. After our leisurely study, we went on leaving the birds still unalarmed on their posts.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron, S. D.**

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**DOWNY WOODPECKER EATS SUNFLOWER SEEDS**—My wife and I have spent countless hours watching the Juncos, Chickadees, Nuthatches and Blue Jays feeding on our sunflower seeds and also the Downies and Hairies making their repeated trips to the suet.

Imagine our surprise when we saw a female downy coming to the bird feeder for a sunflower seed! She took it to a nearby tree and put it in the crevice of the bark and proceeded to eat it and then come back for more. We saw her do this many times a day for over a two week period during our winter vacation at Pickerel Lake the latter part of January and the first week of February 1957. We have many downies and hairies but this female was the only one who had evidently decided to copy the Nuthatch.—**Herman P. Chilson, Webster, S. Dak.**

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## The Cover

The cover picture of a Lark Bunting, by Wayne Trimm, New York Conservation Commission and formerly of Sioux Falls, belongs to the Sioux Falls Audubon Society and is used again with its permission. It was used on Bird Notes Vol. I, No. 1.

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

MAMMALS OF THE MAJOR LONG EXPEDITION, 1823, by Herbert Krause, appeared in the Spring, 1957, number of the Minnesota Naturalist. It is the leading article in the magazine and continues the series which was introduced by Prof. Krause's article on the ornithology of the expedition, which was reviewed briefly in the March, 1957, Bird Notes. The present article lists and comments on the animals, or the scarcity of them found by the expedition as it went from Prairie du Chien up the Mississippi to the Minnesota River, thence to Big Stone Lake, Lake Traverse, down the Bois des Sioux and Red Rivers to the international boundary at Pembina (where an oak post was set to mark the boundary); then on to Lake Winnipeg, down to Rainy Lake and then to Fort William. It was quite a journey but unproductive for the bird lister and the mammalogist, although Krause points out accomplishments politically, geologically, topographically, and perhaps in other fields. Keating, who wrote the narrative of the expedition, remarked, "Since the establishment of the garrison at Fort St. Anthony they (buffalo) have all been destroyed or they have removed farther west." Krause thinks since the establishment of settlements and cultivation, they have been destroyed and there is no farther west.

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Audubon said, "The pleasures which I have experienced in this chequered life of mine have been many . . . perhaps more than I should have had had I not been a devoted lover of the wondrous works of Nature from earliest memory. Among the greatest of these pleasures has been the pursuit and faithful description of our American Birds." The Bird Biographies of John James Audubon.

JUNE, 1957

CULTIVATE YOUR GARDEN BIRDS by Anne Winton Dodge, W. J. Breckenridge, D. W. Warner. Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota. 1957. Illustrated. 35 pages. 35c.

The sub-title of this little booklet, Pamphlet Series No. 2, is "Suggestions on Attracting Birds in the Upper Midwest (Summer)". The booklet has definite suggestions about the nesting requirements of a number of species, house construction, nesting material, water, summer feeding, control of the undesirable species, developing bird habitats. There are lists of trees and shrubs, vines and flowers that can be planted to attract birds and to furnish food. There is also a short list of references.

Altogether it is an attractive booklet that is well worth its small cost to any one interested in attracting birds to his yard or garden.

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According to the National Geographic Magazine the Spotted-breasted Oriole now nests near Miami, Florida. They may have been liberated there or they may have been blown in by tropical storms from their home in southern Mexico, 1000 air miles away. It is a new bird in this country.

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Birds have more feathers in winter than in summer. A goldfinch was found to have one thousand more than the usual summer count. From An Introduction to Ornithology by George J. Wallace.

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The plumage of most birds is waterproof, but it is not true of all. The anhinga, for instance, gets soaked when it dives for food, and must dry its feathers in the sun. From An Introduction to Ornithology by George J. Wallace.