

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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(Organized 1949)

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Whole No. 80



Nest of Pied-billed Grebe

—J. O. Johnson

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Vol. XXI, No. 1

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In This Number . . .

President's Page	3
Tall Television Tower and Bird Migration, Max E. Pierce	4
Your Records Can Really Contribute, Atlantic Naturalist, Adapted	5
Christmas Count at Huron, 1956-68, J. W. Johnson	6
Highlights of the Breeding Bird Survey, 1968, N. R. Whitney, Jr.	7
The Life of Our Martins, Chapter V, 1960, J. W. Johnson	9
A Birder's-Eye View of an International Ornithologists' Congress	15
General Notes of Special Interest: Lesser Nighthawk in Badlands National Monument, Gyrfalcon in Faulk County, Bonaparte's Gulls at Rapid City, Christmas Count at Belle Fourche, Sandhill Cranes in Brookings County, Rusty Black Birds at Rapid City, West River Owl Notes, Check-List Committee Meeting, Sandhill Crane flight over Pierre, Bobwhite Covy in Sanborn County, Harris' Sparrows at Belle Fourche, Bald Eagles at Spearfish and Chamberlain, Prairie Falcon at Spearfish, Flock of Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches at Keystone, South Dakota has 76 Trumpeter Swans	19

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President's Page

SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (Organized 1949). These words from the cover of BIRD NOTES remind us that with the current issue SDOU enters its third decade. That SDOU has completed 20 years of service to South Dakota ornithology should bring satisfaction to all of us and a renewed dedication to further contributions in subsequent years.

On January 15, 1949, Herman Chapman and others gathered in Sioux Falls to found this organization dedicated to "the study of birds in South Dakota and to promote the study of ornithology by more closely uniting the students of this branch of natural science." Their interest led not only to the birth of SDOU but to the creation of SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES, with its first issue published in July, 1949.

The Charter Membership Roll, published in that first issue, listed 150 active members, 15 junior members, and one honorary member. The 265 members in 1968 included at least 14 of those charter members. This anniversary year of 1969 must be especially meaningful to them. We hope to make it equally meaningful to all members by special observations in the coming year.

A committee composed of Herman Chapman, J. W. Johnson, Herman Chilson, and Jean Jonkel will seek appropriate ways to observe SDOU's 20th anniversary. The committee will welcome

suggestions from all members. Don Adolphson has already proposed an unique display for the 1969 fall meeting at Huron.

As one contemplates SDOU's past 20 years, he naturally looks at changes. The increase in membership is an important change. For reasons of human mortality and social mobility, valued friends are no longer members. Nevertheless, new members have continually enhanced the organization through their ornithological studies, contributions to BIRD NOTES, and financial support. (Herman Chapman recently made the interesting observation that SDOU has a 20-year record of solvency in publishing its journal and sponsoring its other activities—an exceptional record among state ornithological organizations.) Truly, SDOU is indebted to the loyal support of its many members over the years.

Another change during the time of SDOU's existence involves the growth of ornithology as a serious study and a respected activity. Would-be humorists and cartoonists still poke fun at bird students, but now we can laugh with the jokesters rather than cringe at being the objects of scorn. The attraction of people to bird study has been phenomenal and has had its influence in many ways. For example, at the August, 1967, meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of the Wildlife Society, a number of speakers reminded the wildlife managers that they must administer their programs for more than just the hunters, for today the

(Continued on Page 24)



Tall Television Tower and Bird Migration

Max E. Pierce

THE construction of the 1,117-foot high television tower for KSOO-TV eight miles southeast of Flandreau, South Dakota was completed in July, 1960.

Scott Findley made us aware of migratory birds being killed by such tall structures through studies made at WEAU-TV, Eau Claire, Wisconsin and other parts of the country. Due to Scott's encouragement we kept a record of such occurrences at KSOO-TV, although somewhat incomplete at times.

Each year the tower was standing between July 1960 and May 1968 we recorded instances of birds being killed by striking the tower. However, with the exception of 1965 only one or two birds at a time were recorded, and only during fall migration. During spring migration except for one or two occasions, did we ever find a dead bird at the base of the tower.

On the night of March 27 and the early morning hours of March 28, 1965, some 578 horned larks were killed either by flying into the tower or the transmitter building. This was during a rather freakish storm containing much snow and high winds that came up suddenly and dissipated just as quickly. It is believed that most of these birds were killed by flying against the lighted windows of the transmitter building. The engineer on duty turned out all lights except those on the tower and one small light inside the building, then closed all window shades. These measures proved effective as afterwards, very few birds struck the windows. As soon as the storm was over, we recovered 578 individuals, all horned larks. This instance can hardly be considered as having occurred during

spring migration, considering the time was late March and all individuals recovered were horned larks, and winter residents. We have never since noted a similar accident.

The worst instance of migratory birds being killed at the KSOO-TV tower occurred between 4:30 and 6:30 a.m. on the morning of September 14, 1965, when approximately 200 individuals were killed. One hundred and two birds of 32 different species were recovered. Unfortunately a large number were not recovered because their condition was such that positive identification could not be made. A complete list of those recovered is given at the end of this report.

The weather just prior to the time the birds started hitting the tower and building was very unsettled. The temperature was in the 60's with very little wind. About 4:30 a.m. the engineer on duty first noticed the birds hitting the windows, and immediately turned cut all lights with the exception of the tower lights and closed all window shades. The birds continued striking the windows and tower until about 6:30 a.m. Approximately 15 minutes later a violent thunderstorm broke with heavy driving rain and very strong northwest winds which continued for about one hour.

It is believed that a migration wave was flying ahead of the storm and because it was so close behind them, were flying at a lower altitude than normal. Again, as in the spring, we felt most of the birds were killed by striking the building.

The KSOO-TV engineering staff at the transmitter have instructions to recover as many birds as possible after

instances of this kind in order to help determine what steps we can take, if any, to reduce the number of birds killed in this manner. Unfortunately we have as yet been unable to make any study of this nature at the new 2,000-foot TV tower.

We wish to thank Mr. Herbert Krause and Dr. Willard Rosine of Augustana College for their work in identifying the birds listed below. Also great credit must be given to J. Scott Findley for his aid, interest and encouragement in this study during the years and for his help in preparing this report.

**LIST OF IDENTIFIED BIRDS
KILLED SEPT. 14, 1965**

Pied-billed Grebe	1
Least Bittern	1
Sora Rail	1
Mourning Dove	1
Wood Pewee	1
Short-billed Marsh Wren	1
Catbird	12
Swainson's Thrush	12
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5

Cedar Waxwing	1
Solitary Vireo	1
Red-eyed Vireo	5
Philadelphia Vireo	2
Black and White Warbler	3
Nashville Warbler	7
Parula Warbler	1
Yellow Warbler	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1
Blackpoll Warbler	2
Pine Warbler	1
Ovenbird	8
Northern Waterthrush	1
Mourning Warbler	5
Yellowthroat, male	5
Yellowthroat, females	10
Wilson's Warbler	3
Bobolink	1
Scarlet Tanager	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Field Sparrow	1
Lincoln Sparrow	3
Swamp Sparrow	1

Totals: 32 species - 102 individuals
—Director of Engineering, KSOO-TV,
Inc., Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57102

Your Records Can Really Contribute

(Adapted from *Atlantic Naturalist*, Vol. 23:152)

PEOPL**E** tend to send in lists when they go to a known good birding spot, which is fine, but one of the great lacks in our records is of birds in your own garden, giving early and late dates, peak numbers, and nesting dates. We suspect that most members believe the study of field ornithology is far more advanced than is really the case. With every review of the **Field List** we realize how little we know about bird migrations, habits, and nesting, and the many other details that a broad range of observations from members could provide. We need a reliable corps of

observers well distributed through our region who will send in their reports systematically, and to whom we can send seasonal suggestions.

Perhaps the traditional name of "check list" for the printed form we urge members to use is one stumbling block. May we suggest a rule: **NEVER JUST CHECK A CHECKLIST**. A compiler finds few things more frustrating than lists by good observers, from choice areas on ace migration dates, on which just a check mark appears after

Continued on Page 8)

Christmas Count at Huron, 1956-68

J. W. Johnson

DISCUSSION

AS compiler on all the above counts a few observations occur to me in examining the crude statistics. Some factors make direct year to year comparisons meaningless, if not absurd. Caution in extended mathematical treatment of such figures is also in order.

One factor hard to evaluate is the increasing competence in identification by the group as a whole. This is further complicated by gradual turnover in personnel—which effect was further modified by the tendency of less able birders to drop out after a season or two.

Probably of even greater importance was the continued improvement of knowledge of the territory. In 13 years of year-round experience, with the Christmas Counts more or less continually in mind, accumulated information

on habitat is bound to have its effect. Yet this is irregularly countered by continually deteriorating habitat due to “cleanup” and agricultural poisons applied.

That such factors would, to a greater or less degree, affect all counts seems likely.

In addition, some events have had an important effect on the local count. The most important of these was the coming of the Jonkels to Huron in 1959. Their knowledge and experience not only gave us better coverage of the territory but they identified birds that would otherwise have been missed. The effect from 1960 on must have been decisive.

Total individuals for the three most abundant species have been listed. The fact that they are all exotics will not

Huron Christmas Counts

Year	Day	Species	Individuals	Pheasants	Starlings	House Sparrows	Observers	Parties
1956	12-29	19	341	6	2	225	6	1
1957	12-21	29	1675	45	55	1205	8	2
1958	12-20	24	1086	129	525	225	6	1
1959	12-26	18	762	58	251	300	8	2
1960	12-31	24	2544	1480	373	319	9	2
1961	12-23	27	2688	545	244	1106	6	2
1962	12-22	32	2586	315	422	808	8	2
1963	12-21	39	2811	936	152	582	12	2
1965	1-2	33	2279	725	203	866	9	3
1965	12-23	30	2087	48	143	1094	10	3
1966	12-26	35	1618	21	450	453	7	2
1967	12-23	32	2030	197	187	1128	6	2
1968	12-21	24	2562	210	32	561	7	2

escape notice. Other columns show species, total individuals, observers, and parties.

Because of their decreasing numbers pheasants are now of wide-spread interest. Obviously, the figures given for them above cannot be taken as more than the most general indication of numbers actually present and are even less meaningful in the earlier years. I am sure no great effort at complete count was made prior to 1960. Pheasants were too common everywhere for more than casual attention by people particularly interested in native and rarer species. Snow on the ground some years had an important result by making the birds clearly visible to the naked eye at distances far beyond where they would have been noted on bare ground. To a lesser extent the same caution would apply selectively to other species.

With these reservations, we can gingerly look for trends in the tabulated data. I tried plotting species and total

individuals against time and found the correlation not particularly good. But, when average curves were added for each, to show trends, I found the two curves rather closely parallel. Both trended upward, neglecting the uncertainty of 1958 and prior, until 1964, when they fell off more steeply to 1968, coming roughly to the same level as that of 1959. This is with no attempt at adjusting the data for the factors mentioned. How much the method itself eliminates the effect of these factors, of uncertain value, is a speculation likely to be more interesting than helpful.

Apparently the number of parties had no effect on the results that can be deduced from the data, though we must assume that, without one in any year the results would have been fewer species and individuals.

Other ideas, comment on, or extensions of any of the above thoughts would be appreciated.—Huron

Highlights of the Breeding Bird Survey, 1968

N. R. Whitney, Jr.

FOR the second consecutive year, South Dakota observers in 1968 participated in the Breeding-Bird Survey, under the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Twenty-nine South Dakota surveys were made in 1968, in contrast to 27 in 1967. Of these surveys, 23 were covered both years by the same observers. Two were covered by different observers during the two years; Route No. 10 in Brookings County was studied by Paul Springer in 1967 and Nelda Holden in 1968, and Route No. 2 in Hutchinson County by the Rogges in 1967

and the Crutchetts in 1968. Four routes were covered for the first time in 1968, in Stanley, Perkins, Tripp, and Potter counties. Two routes, Wilmot in Roberts County and Long Lake in McPherson County, were surveyed in 1967 but not in 1968. We still have four routes designated but not covered either year.

B. J. Rose, again this year, surveyed four routes, June Harter and N. R. Whitney three each, and Don Adolphson, Keith Evans, Lucille Johnson, Robert Johnson (Waubay Refuge), L. J. Moriarty, and Charles Rogge two each. Charles Crutchett, Les Baylor, Rod

Drewein (Sand Lake Refuge), Bruce Harris, Nelda Holden, Dave Olson (Lake Andes Refuge), and Jack Saunders (Northern State College) each made one survey. Furthermore, it should be noted that most observers had an assistant who helped with driving, recording of data, and other details.

Early in November, 1968, I wrote to W. T. Van Velzen, who is national coordinator of the project, for a summary of information from the 1968 surveys. He reported with regret, however, that technological problems, connected with the computer, had arisen, and that therefore no reports were yet available. Thus my comments below are based entirely on my own evaluation of reports.

In the course of my own two Black Hills surveys, I was impressed by the large numbers of Red Crossbills in 1968. Small groups of crossbills were very conspicuous at almost every stop, and they thus constituted the most numerous species. In contrast, I seemed to be seeing more Robins along the road between stops than I saw when I was stopped and counting. I believe that this reflects differences in the phases of the breeding cycle. Most birds in mid-June are in an early phase of the cycle, when they sing frequently to proclaim territory. Robins, however, are earlier nesters, and by mid-June they are too busy feeding young to sing frequently. Red Crossbills nest still earlier, and by mid-June the young have fledged and have joined the parents in noisy travelling family groups.

I have also reviewed three other routes—Bruce Harris' White Lake study, Don Adolphson's Harding survey, and my own Cedar Pass Route. I compared the numbers recorded the two years for each of 12 characteristic prairie species, and found variable trends in most. However, Killdeers and Lark

Buntings showed definite increases in 1968 over 1967, while Dickcissels, absent from the Harding route, were lower in numbers in 1968 in the other two.

What of the future? First, we still have four routes not yet covered. Three are in the north-central part of the state, where routes are relatively inaccessible to all of us, and one is in the southeast. Most important, however, the routes already surveyed once or twice should be continued, by the same observer each year if possible. Conclusions are more significant when we have adequate data on which to base them.—**Rapid City**

* * * *

Your Records Can

(Continued from Page 5)

the species seen. Unless we know how many birds there were, even an estimate, this means virtually nothing and cannot be used either in our columns or files. Another common problem comes from all those who lump all observations for a week end over a large area into one list.

Lists of numbers, dates, and locations are the backbone of our statistics, but where possible please give us more than these bare bones. As William Russell commented, if the 15 wood pewees in your woods are the most you have ever seen there at any one time, say so. This means far more than simply reporting the number. Tell us also any interesting observations of bird behavior, especially with unusual birds or activities: what trees were they in, what were they eating, etc. With more such information our columns and files will expand to something of greater value. Our general ignorance of the birds of South Dakota will automatically qualify many of these items for the **Special Interest** section.

The Life of Our Martins

J. W. Johnson

Chapter V

1960

(For prior history of this colony see B.N. 9:52, 11:15, 12:72)

ARRIVAL—NEST BUILDING

OUR first observed Martin arrival at our martin house in Huron, this spring was at about 10 a.m., April 20. I heard him talking, saw him flying past, and ran to get the sparrow traps down before he got into them. However, the only bird seen, a purple male, disappeared to the west and did not come back.

While this was our first observed arrival, reports of earlier appearances in town had come to me, the earliest, April 6, when Ardway Bennett, 776

Wisconsin SW, saw a purple male stop at his martin house for less than a minute around 6:30 p.m.

A call from C. D. Brehm, 1356 McDonald Drive, April 10, told of his birds just starting to come in. C. W. Habicht, 1227 McDonald Drive, called April 15 to say his martins were coming in and that he had some "a week ago." Neither had noted if his birds were purple or mixed.

Arrivals and activities during this early period at our martin house, are tabulated below:

DATE 1960	HOUR	COLOR		REMARKS
		Purple	Gray	
April 20	10:00 a	1		Heard and seen briefly.
April 23	7:00 a	2	1	Purples courting the gray.
	9:00 a	3	2	Soon left.
April 24	8:00 a	2	2	
April 25	7:45 a	6	3	Temp 40°, drizzling, dark.
	6:15 p	6	3	Came home to roost, the first day they were seen to do so. Temp 40°, falling, cloudy.
April 27	6:00 p	5	4	Went to roost, 7:40 p., cloudy, 42°.
April 28	7:00 a	3	4	Later in day I found two purples in the Flicker house unable to get out.
	6:00 p	5	4	Released they made up a total of 9 that came in to roost at 6 p., in drizzle, 40°.

DATE 1960	HOUR	COLOR		REMARKS
		Purple	Gray	
April 29	----			Cold wind. Hard freeze expected. Birds seem to be suffering—some look to be far gone from hunger and cold.
May 4	6:00 p	3	3	Three pairs of martins roosting in the house this evening. Cloudy, 45°.
May 6	7:40 a			Gray collecting sticks (wet) from bird bath for nest.
May 7	9:00 a	4	3	Gray building in 4 E, going down to bird bath for wet grass and sticks. Some fighting among the general population.
May 9	-----	3	3	Still three pairs only. All gathering nesting material, 2 west and 1 east side, Taking wet weed stems from bird bath.
May 15	----	5	4	Four pairs of martins busy with nest building. More birds here at times.
May 20	-----			Apt. 2W, 4W, and 7W occupied, 4E seems chosen on the east side, though this pair go into all at times. Males carrying pieces of green leaves (Bolliana Poplar) to 3E.
May 22	8:15 a	5	5	Much activity following setting traps for encroaching sparrows.
	8:00 p			A great to do, with martins flying about overhead, at the tops of their voices, 15 birds in the air.

STATUS OF OBSERVED NESTS

East Side Apartments

- 1, 2—Nests started, green leaves scattered about.
- 4, 5—Nests well along, using mud. Green leaves about.
- 7, 8—Nests started. No mud.

West Side Apartments

- 1, 9—Nests well along. Mud wall in front unusually high.
- 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8—Nests barely started.

May 24—Two purple males found dead in flicker house. Starling had built over them. Estimate their death dates from April 29, or soon after.

May 25, 7:20 a—First banded martin

seen. On middle east platform. Band on left leg, meaning a bird from the west side of the house, banded in 1959. A light gray bird. Closely associated with two other grays, unbanded but appear

to be new arrivals, since purples have nothing to do with them, as though already paired.

May 26, 5:00 a—Banded martin at 1 E.

June 1—In 9W could see 3 eggs, amid green leaves. At 1W a mud wall has been built high across the front. A special mirror will be needed to see over it. It will cut off light also, making view poor at best.

June 5, 6:00 a—Three martins with bands—all gray. More than usual number of birds on east side (7, all gray) Two banded on right leg (hatched on East side). 6:40 a—Gray bird with left band bringing green leaves to 8E. The pair here are both gray and the banded one acts as platform guard, as the purple ones do. The carrying of green leaves also seems to be male's work. No purple birds seen on east side among 7 grays.

June 10—Nest started in 1 E, about complete in 4 E and 5 E. In 8 E, the nest of the banded martin—almost certainly a male of last year, with plumage similar to female—has one egg.

June 18—Confusion among the martins, that continued into the forenoon of June 19. A total of 13 birds counted, 5 purple, and the only one with a band—indicating six males. Fighting, possibly over apartments.

June 22—By special effort was able to get sight of the inside of 1 W. Young bird, looking several days old. Unable to tell if any others. Estimated bird in 1 W at week old. (Hatched June 16?)

June 23—In 9W the eggs are either gone or covered deeply with green leaves.

June 29—Four purple males seen.

July 1—In 9 W four eggs could be seen whole in afternoon. A fifth seemed damaged, top broken in, but not like normal hatching. This egg nearest the entrance.

July 2—Birds in 1 W that looked several days old on June 22, if estimated

hatching date of June 16 is correct would be 16 days old—and they look it. When I came to band them today only 2 were present. As before banded west birds on left leg. For visual check on year of hatch they were given a red plastic band on the other leg. Damaged egg in 9 W not visible. Four good eggs show clearly at 7:30 a.m.

July 4—In 9 W, five eggs clearly seen.

July 5—In 9 W, still five eggs.

July 8—In 5 W, two eggs gone since yesterday. No idea as to cause. In 9 W only four eggs—one looked damaged.

July 10—In 9W, four eggs at 10:00 a.m.

July 11—Hatching in 9 W at 7:30 a.m. One bird out, barely able to move. One egg partially open, one looks whole. At 5:15 p.m. 2 birds, two eggs. Banding birds in 4 E and 8 E.

July 12—In 9 W, hatching, one egg remains in a pile of little birds.

July 13—Four purple males about, complaining at my interference.

July 14—Banded 3 young birds in 6 W.

July 17—Birds out of 1 W. Last seen in house 7-14 when banding 6 W.

July 23—A mixup on the east side. Two birds in 4 E, 1 in 7 E, fed by purple male, two in 8 E. One in 7 E could be from above (4 E) but most likely is from 8 E on same level. But the male of 8 E is gray. The old birds must be confused. For example: The whole colony, including the strayed youngster, ignored the sparrow family that lived in 7 E. I had pulled out part of their nest but two of the young sparrows had escaped coming out with it and now I could see them, smaller than the martin, with open mouths on either side of it and the parent sparrow outside, likewise pushed aside by the purple male feeding the young. Question: Who did he actually feed? Later the sparrow

was able to feed their young, the martin having retired from the opening. Then the purple male brought a large dragon fly to the young martin. Sparrow (f) fed the young martin some minutes after it had swallowed the huge dragon fly, since the young martin now had the whole doorway. Then it was fed by the banded male.

July 26—All east side birds out by 5:30 p.m. today except one in 7 E—the sparrow apartment. The young sparrow I could see looked to be in bad shape. This morning I saw both sparrows refuse to feed the young martin but, unable to get past it, left, taking their food with them. Also, this morning, birds were present in 4 E, 7 E, and 8 E but much confusion—as if they were being incited to come out. As noted all were out by 5:30 p.m.

July 27—At 5:30 p.m., all martins out except unbanded brood in 9 W which are about the right age for banding.

July 28—Banded martins in 9 W at 6 p.m., left leg and plastic red band on right. Four birds, 1 notably smaller than the others, one unhatched egg with partially developed and dead embryo. Sixteen martins about in noisy confusion. Saw one red band on left leg, the first seen outside the nest.

July 30—Sixteen martins on wires at 8:10 a.m. Only one band, left leg, (1959 banded male) was seen. Six purple males seen—thus representing the 6 nesting males and another male.

August 3—Young martins fell out of nest—from 9 W, by band numbers—and were left on the ground as they obviously would not stay in nest if returned.

August 4—Seven martins on east end and top of house: 5 purple, the banded

male, another gray. Conference in re the young bird on the ground—that I saw a few minutes later. At 7:30 a.m. saw one young on the ground under house, wearing a red band. Number not read. Two birds seen at 5:30 p.m. Left them undisturbed and they soon hid themselves.

August 5—Wind and driving rain ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") about daylight. In looking about for the young martins found two dead birds, presumably drowned in the rain. The same two numbers as read before. Also found the wearer of the successive band dead in the nest (9 W). One remained alive in this apartment at 6:00 p.m.

August 6—Last martin, the sole survivor of the four from 9 W, out before 5 p.m.

August 7—Eight martins, 4 purple on wires.

August 8—No martins about house. A martin caught at the disposal plant where we were netting robins, given band No. 582-898342 and a yellow plastic band on other leg.

August 9—Three martins at 7:30 a.m.

August 11—Found dead martin in 9 E, band number 582-89608, banded July 11 from apartment 8 E. Looks as if it had gotten into an empty apartment July 23, or the following day, when these youngsters were changing around and all lost track of it so that it didn't get fed. A few martins around this morning.

EGG LAYING—HATCHING—FLEDGING

DATE	EAST APARTMENTS			WEST APARTMENTS		
	No. 4	No. 8	No. 1	No. 5	No. 6	No. 9
June 1			?			3
June 5	0	1				
June 10				0	0	2
June 12	3	3				2
June 13		4			4	3
June 14	5	5	?		4	3
June 16	5	5	3		3	?
June 21	4	5	?		3	?
June 22	4	5		3	5	?
(West Apartment No. 1 Hatched Several Days Old)						
June 23	5	5			5	?
June 24	5	5			5	?
June 27	5	5		3	4	2
June 28	3 Birds	5			3	3
June 29, 7 a.		1 Hatched		3	4	3
June 29, 5:45 p.	1 egg left	3 Hatched		3	3	3
June 30	Hatched	Hatched		3 Hatching		3
July 1				3 Hatched		4
July 2			2 Banded	3		4
July 3				3		4
July 4				3		5
July 6				3		4
July 8, 8:40 a.				3		4
July 8, 5:30 p.				1		4
July 9				0		4
July 10, 6:30 p.				0		4
July 11, 7:30 a.	West Apartment No. 9: Hatching, 1 Out, 1 Pipped					
July 11, 5:30 p.	West Apartment No. 9: 2 Birds, 2 Eggs					
July 11, 7 p.	Banded 4	Banded 5				
July 12						West Apartment No. 9: 1 Egg Left
July 14, 6:30 p.				2 Birds	Banded 3	
July 17, 8 a.				West Apartment No. 1: Birds Out		
July 23				East Apartment No. 8: 1 Lost. See Above		
		No. 7				
July 24, 9 a.	Birds	1 Bird	Birds		Birds	
July 25, 6 p.	2 Out		2		2 Birds	4
July 26, 7 a.	2		2		2	4
July 26, 5:30 p.	Out	1	Out		Out	4
July 28, 6 p.				West Apartment No. 9: Banded 4, 1 Egg		
August 5				West Apartment No. 9: 3 Drowned		
August 6, 5 p.				West Apartment No. 9: 1 Out		

SUMMARY

DATE	EAST APARTMENTS			WEST APARTMENTS		
	No. 4	No. 8	No. 1	No. 5	No. 6	No. 9
Date Hatched	6-28	6-29	6-16+		6-30	7-11
Age at Banding (Days)	13	12	16+		14	17
Total Young Banded	4	5	2		3	4
Age Left Nest (Days)	27	26	29+		27	26
Date Left Nest	7-25	7-26	7-26		7-27	8-6
Young Known Lost		1				3

BANDING RECORD OF YOUNG

Total birds banded 18
 Total birds leaving nest, not known to be dead 14

Date	Leg	Apt.	Band No.	Remarks
July 2	Left	1 W	582-89502 582-89503	(All birds given red plastic band on other leg)
July 11	Right	4 E	582-89600 601 602 603	
	Right	8 E	582-89604 605 606 607 608	(Found dead 8-11-60 in 9 E)
July 14	Left	6 W	582-89630 582-89631 582-89632	
July 28	Left	9 W	582-89740 741 742 743	(Drowned 8-5-60) (Drowned 8-5-60) (Drowned 8-5-60)

THE COMMUNITY ROOST

At the roost, near the east edge of Huron, martin numbers had been building up in the evenings. From the location near the grove, where we were netting and banding robins, we could see the martins busy in the air and gradually disappearing into the trees. Our activities allowed no time for a detailed check of the martins on the wires at any particular times, as had been done in previous years. Sometimes we would make a quick estimate of the numbers, trying to be sure in all cases they were martins and nothing else.

On July 23 about 75 martins were seen on the wires and another 25 in the air over the trees—total 100 minimum.

On August 12 and again on August 20 the peak number of 200 minimum was estimated, including those perched on the wires and those in the air.

By August 27 over 100 were still present at the roost but the possibility has been suggested that these were largely from farther north, as practically no martins were observed about

town during the day.

After this date the numbers decreased rapidly and none were seen by the last day of the month.

CONCLUSIONS

The table of observations during egg laying, hatching, and fledging has been reduced to contain only those indicating a change of status, or significant data near the time of changed status.

No attempt has been made to correct discrepancies in numbers of eggs or young observed. The green leaves continually being brought to the nests, spread over the contents, shifted at random, drying out and being added to, made any real count doubtful without actually clearing the nest each time. This I did not do except when removing the young birds for banding at the times shown. I did quite a bit of stirring among the green leaves with various implements, such as a pencil, a weed stem, or a piece of wire to uncover eggs for a count. The results were seldom satisfactory so I quit trying it.—Huron

A Birder's-Eye View of an International Ornithologists' Congress

Selected by J. W. Johnson

THE popular writing of an unnamed Scottish ornithologist who is also an avid practicing bird watcher is occasionally handed to me by Mrs. George Vanderstein of Huron. It comes to her from Mrs. H. W. Gardner of 19 Stamerland Avenue, Clarkston, Glasgow.

This man signs his newspaper columns M.F.M.M. and I have never learned his name, though I have followed with pleasure his pursuit of birds in his columns, always a year or more behind publication, about over the British Isles, and across the U.S., even across South Dakota, to the Pacific Coast and home by way of Canada.

Since our South Dakota observers are so often too busy to provide us with the data they have on our own birds, it occurred to me we might as well use some space for a Scotchman's view of at least one memorable bird trip few of us even know about. M.F.M.M.'s story follows with out division into the four parts of its original and without credit to the original publication, since I do not have its name either.—J. W. Johnson

Greenrock, Saturday.—I am writing in my dormitory on board the *Devonia*, waiting for the beginning of the cruise of the International Ornithologists' Congress. The Congress itself is being held in Oxford, as the President and Secretary both live there, but the Scottish Ornithologists' Club have organized the excursion—and most efficiently too, to judge from the present form.

There are 900 birdwatchers on board, and if a rare bird is observed to starboard we shall all rush to the gunwales

and the ship may roll over. Meanwhile it is a pleasure to see many foreigners delighting in the beauties of Scotland and of its birds.

This is purely an interim note, but I shall be writing you from Rhum and points to the north and west. If the Nature Conservancy do not turn on a Great Auk for us at St. Kilda we shall be very disappointed.

The *Devonia* is a big ship and after nearly a week I think there are still some who could not find their way to their cabins, like the Corn Bunting, the only bird which is unable to find its own nest. Almost the first person I met on board was my own first cousin, but it was nearly 24 hours before I could find him again among the other 899 ornithologists. They came from a number of countries. Outstanding was the Islandic delegate, six foot, five inches and 18 stone, the perfect illustration of Bergmann's rule, which states that individuals of a species are larger the nearer they are to the Poles. I was in a dormitory with delightful bird-lovers from the Communist countries.

The main attraction of the Congress for me is to meet old friends. There was the great James Fisher, who invented the Fulmar, stumping about in yellow oilskins and directing hearty bandinage at me over the loudspeaker, unfairly, as I was only able to retort privately; the excellent Bierman, ear-nose-and-throat man from Holland, whose scheme is to convert the Pope to birdwatching so that birds may get a squarer deal in Catholic countries;

the veteran Stresemann, looking like a king in Thule, who managed to convey bird-books to British prisoners of war; Sir Hugh Elliott, the first administrator of Tristan da Cunha, who would kick my head in the night, until once I caught hold of his big toe at three in the morning.

There were those, of course, who would pin you against the gunwales and talk interminably about the toilet of the Glossy Ibis or epigamic activity in the Merganser, so that you wished you had taken up small-bore shooting early in life. On the first day a leading expert on sea birds and myself identified a Razorbill, when a harsh voice said from behind: "It iss not a Razorbill. It iss a Guillemot." Since he came from Holland which is remarkable for its enormous sea cliffs, we felt he was bound to know. The expert was quite hurt, and said plaintively later: "I don't think he was quite aware who he was talking to."

An odd coincidence was that there were five people on board who had all been chased by the same bull elephant. They were my Dutch friend, Bierman, a Swede, a professor in a Scottish university, an English lady, and a Canadian lady. The occasion was an ornithological conference in Africa where the birds were bigger than they bargained for. They should form a club and have a special tie.

The occasion of the cruise was the four-yearly International Ornithological Congress, of which the more serious and solemn part is now being held at Oxford. It was a great chance for me and many others to visit the remote for the first, and perhaps the last time. On the first day we passed Ailsa, the Mull of Kintyre, and Islay, and woke up next morning off Rhum. There were running commentaries throughout, ably translated into French and

German, even if one of the translators was later to refer to Muckle Flugga as the northernmost point of England.

Our day on Rhum was perfect, almost too hot. After a long walk I was freely perspiring, and my new shoes had brought on blisters, and, risking the presence on the island of 900 pairs of binoculars, I took a delicious bath at a secluded bend of the burn.

Only those who got up early the next day saw the whole of St. Kilda, and that only from a distance, since the mist started to creep over it about seven o'clock. This was a great disappointment, but we were in time to see the top of one of the stacks and the spectacle of the mist swirling around the cliffs pierced by the flight and calls of hundreds of thousands of sea-birds was wild and romantic. We were told that during the trip we had seen 60 percent of the world's Gannets, and I quite believe it. Once, when everybody was staring through glasses at the precipices, I had the whim of strolling over to the seaward side of the ship, and there saw a Great Shearwater passing in the distance, the only one to be seen on the cruise.

In the afternoon we passed The Flannans, Sula Sgeir, and North Rona, all much as I had expected them to be. In these waters we first saw petrels, both Storm and Leach's. An announcement came over the loudspeaker that the Storm Petrels were visible on the port bow; there was an immediate rush to that quarter, in which I was late, but, by crouching down on the deck, I was able to have a momentary glimpse of one between the legs of a retired corn-chandler from Illinois. On the next day, at about 7 a.m., Sir Hugh, myself and a few others were lucky enough to see Leach's Petrel for a few seconds, before it lighted on the sea, and then became invisible.

Foula, although we did not land there, was the most exciting experience

for me, accompanied as it was by the expert commentaries of Christopher Mylne, who was formerly schoolmaster there. Arctic Skuas, more of the dark phase than the light, were constantly flying past, but the number of Great Skuas was incredible. I learned that there were 900 pairs on the island, two birds to every ornithologist aboard. And I had not previously known that there were so many in the whole of Scotland, or even the northern hemisphere. I feel that such large destructive birds will have to be controlled, or "culled" as the authorities put it—a curious Glaswegian pronunciation of the word "killed."

Shortly after leaving Foula I spotted what I thought to be a Sooty Shearwater, skimming over the waves a long way ahead, but, as a large lady stepped right in front of me, I lost sight of it. Later, however, a Sooty Shearwater approached and obligingly flew in a complete circle around the ship under the admiring gaze of hundreds of optical instruments. We proceeded without incident, but in beautiful sunshine, to Muckle Flugga, where the gannet colony could be seen in the distance like a bank of snow. But then the blessed fog descended once more and persisted until we woke up next day at Lerwick.

Our excursion in Shetland was concerned with things too well known to concern us here. In my coach the foreigners were most interested in *Senecio smithii*, a large, showy, daisy-like flower growing round the cottages; it is a native of the Falkland Islands and was brought to Shetland by whalers. The native Marsh Ragwort, that gives such brilliance to northern meadows in August, was not yet in full bloom; it was more advanced, I noticed, in Orkney.

In Lerwick itself we found Collared Doves, whose invasion of Britain has

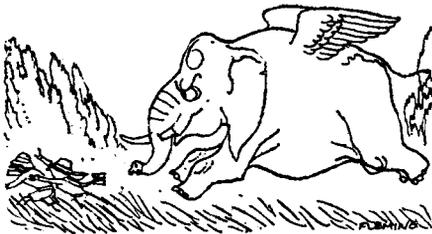
thus reached its northern limit. We saw them on the way to visit the new Museum. Here the remarkable collection of agricultural and fishing tools, and other antiquities were well displayed in an airy, well-lighted building that is most pleasing to the eye. The Museum is the creation of Tom Henderson, Shetland patriot and bibliophile. He was typically modest about his achievement: "It was easy," he said, "once people knew there was going to be a museum, they simply brought the things in to me."

Here too was the St. Ninian's treasure, on loan for the summer months. I regret that they cannot stay here permanently, but their lordships have ruled otherwise. I could not help wondering, if Stornoway opens a museum, what will happen to the chessmen from Uig in Lewis, some of which are actually in London, of all places, where the British Museum is playing at Elgin Marbles with them.

Orkney was perhaps more interesting from the natural history point of view. On the shores we visited were clumps of *Mortensia*, the Oyster Plant, a curious and lovely circumpolar species. (I had with me McClintock and Fitter's "Pocket Guide"—known to Mr. Swalker as "Fitter on Weeds"—but was luckier still in the presence on board of Richard Fitter in person.) This is a Crossbill invasion year and among the heather one of the Swiss delegates found three Parrot Crossbills, a species from the high north. As we were returning from our jaunt, a large bird was seen to dash into the garden of the leader of the Liberal Party. It was a pearly grey male Hen Harrier. It missed its first stoop, but then very cunningly flew low down the drive, where it was hidden, and made a surprise rush at a flock of Starlings at the end of it. It missed again—a pity; we

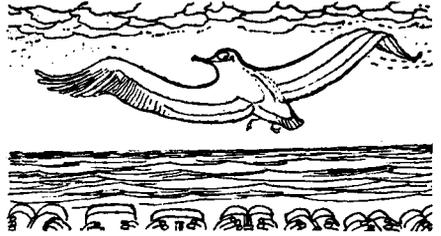
can spare a Starling or two for Hen Harriers' afternoon teas.

And so home to the more familiar waters of the Firth of Forth. I have already written about these ad nauseam, but I must say that our views of Gannets on the Bass Rock were the most impressive of the whole trip. All was an enormous success: the weather was mainly sunny, the seas were calm, the beds comfortable and the food was good, and one didn't mind queuing up for it, because one simply carried on with a conversation started on deck. The organization was superb, involving much hard work by many people. If any one person should be singled out among these, it is Irene Waterson, the secretary of the Scottish Ornithologist Club, for whom the cruise was a personal triumph. I wanted to get a photograph of her, but it was not to be, for she was never still for a moment. The whole excursion was a great testimonial to Scottish efficiency."—M.F.M.M.

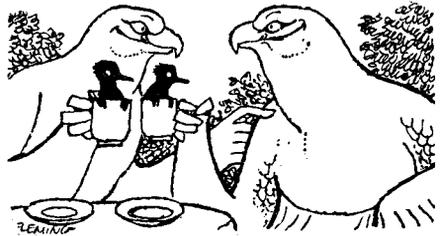


Chased by the Same Elephant

After the above was set into type, there came, via the same route, an answer to my long quest for the identity of the author, M.M.F.M.. A clipping from the Glasgow Herald, the paper carrying the columns, and hereby credited, gives not only the author's name, Maury Meiklejohn, but adds the further information that he is a professor at



Under the Admiring Gaze



Harriers at Tea with Two Starlings

Glasgow University and lectures there on Italian.

Professor Meiklejohn spends a month each summer in Sardinia and may retire there. He is said to be the only person in Britain who knows the Sardinian language—"It's the nearest thing left to Latin—you hear shepherds saying whole sentences that are more or less pure Latin."

The whimsical cartoons that head each of M.M.F.M.'s columns are no small part of the delight I have long had in them. They are signed: "Fleming" but I have no other information at the moment. A sample is reproduced here.—JWJ

General Notes of Special Interest

LESSER NIGHTHAWK IN BADLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT—On July 6, 1966, we drove west through the Badlands National Monument into Wall, where we stopped at a motel. Then, after supper, we drove back into the Badlands, hoping to see pronghorns or other large animals that are active about dusk. Inside the north entrance we turned west on the gravel road that leads to the prairie dog town. Almost immediately we became aware of a nighthawk flying low over the grasslands to the north and then crossing the road and disappearing over the edge of the escapement to the south. The bird then appeared behind us and repeated this large circle. As we moved on up the road, the bird landed on the road behind us. We turned around and came back, illuminated the bird with the lights of the car and studied it carefully. We then flushed the bird three times before it finally circled widely again and disappeared over the edge of the cliff. By this time it was dark and we were unable to follow it further.

The important points to us were these: This bird seemed smaller than the usual common nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*, and the white bars on the wings appeared to be located more distally. We were able to look at the bird, Peterson's Western Field Guide, and back to the bird repeatedly. More importantly, the bird always remained very close to the ground in flight, never being over eight feet above the ground and usually less. In addition, we never heard any calls or noise from it. The wind was blowing strongly enough so that we may not have heard soft calls,

but it never made the loud sounds characteristic of the common nighthawk. My wife, my son, Billy, and I all felt that it was a lesser nighthawk, *Chordeiles acutipennis*.

We have all seen the lesser nighthawk in Texas and New Mexico on two previous trips to the southwest. The manner of flight is characteristic and very different from the common nighthawk. While this bird was far north of its listed range, it was in the same dry, gravelly, prairie habitat where we found it in the southwest. And it landed each time on the bare gravel road. It seemed so far out of normal range that I felt someone in your area would be interested. I hope so.—Ray O. Edwards Jr., M.D., 1661 Riverside Avenue, Suite B, Jacksonville, Florida 32204

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GYRFALCON IN FAULK COUNTY—On December 17, 1968 while visiting one of our Giant Canada goose restoration project cooperators in Faulk County (R70W, T119N) I was informed of a large bird of prey that had been killed by the cooperator the same morning. The cooperator reported that the bird had killed approximately a half-dozen mallards and two Canada geese during the preceding week. Immediately prior to shooting the bird, the cooperator observed it killing a hen pheasant.

The cooperator showed me the bird which I identified as the gray phase of the Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticlus*). The length of the specimen was 23 inches, and it had a wing spread of 48 inches. The bird is presently in my possession and will be prepared as a study skin.

The cooperator had observed the Gry-

falcon in the vicinity of his buildings for about one week. During this period the Gryfalcon was observed on several occasions chasing pheasants that were wintering in a shelterbelt adjacent to the house and goose pens.—**Rod Drewien, Waterfowl Research Biologist, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Aberdeen, S. Dak. 57401**

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BONAPARTE'S GULLS AT RAPID CITY—Two Bonaparte's Gulls were at Canyon Lake in Rapid City on November 28, 1968. The birds displayed the characteristics of adult Bonaparte's gulls in winter plumage, as described by Peterson, **A Field Guide to Western Birds, 1961**. B. J. Rose came to the lake to confirm this observation and photographed the birds. Since these gulls were not present the following three days, they must have been birds of passage that found a convenient resting place at Canyon Lake. Their occurrence here, no doubt, is accidental, for there seems to be no other record of the appearance of this species at Rapid City.—**L. M. Baylor**

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CHRISTMAS COUNT AT BELLE FOURCHE—In keeping with the season, we made a private Christmas Bird Count on our hill and chose for the day, the worst possible—Saturday, Dec. 28. Our totals were checked again December 29, 1968 (the day our terrace thermometer dropped to 30 below) and the figures were slightly larger. The count was made naturally from the windows of the house. The result was 18 species and 140 individuals.

Heading the list of unusual was a Brown Thrasher, the first we have ever seen here in winter. It usually migrates in late August or early September. We thought we were seeing things when we saw the beautiful cinnamon-brown bird, creamy breast streaked with dark brown, perched on the wire fencing

around the spruce on the terrace. But we knew for certain December 29 when we picked up the poor bird in the area way to the back door and brought it in to the house to thaw out. This was bird-in-the-hand proof. (The bird died later, probably of earlier injury.)

Other unusuals were the three black-backed robins. Our regular winter resident had been joined by two others of his kind and coloring, and all found refuge under the terrace spruce. This tree has become an igloo through piling of snow on its branches and at the base of the outer spread. Further, the igloo is stocked with crabapples, raked under it in the fall. The thrasher too had stayed there.

Other birds counted were: Bohemian waxwings 30, blue jays 5, slate-colored juncos 11, Harris' sparrows 18, tree sparrows 15, red-shafted flickers 2, yellow-shafted flicker 1, downy woodpeckers 3, hairy woodpecker 1, house sparrows 23, black-capped chickadees 9, sparrow hawk 1, ring-neck pheasants 5 (1 cock), horned larks 10, red-breasted nuthatch 1, brown creeper 1.

Others which have been seen on the hill during the period but not on the day of the count were: Townsend's solitaire, red-headed woodpecker, white-crowned sparrow, cedar waxwing, belted kingfisher, Oregon junco, and northern shrike. Though starlings were numerous last fall, not one has been seen for weeks.

This is the count for our hill and were observations compiled on a regular area, the total would undoubtedly be larger.—**Irma G. Weyler, Belle Fourche (The Daily Post) 57717**

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SANDHILL CRANES IN BROOKINGS COUNTY—An immature Sandhill Crane flew into the harvested flax field just to the north of our home about noon on October 11, 1968. It called softly as it flew in and the characteristic outstretched neck and legs were ob-

served clearly. It was quite brown looking with a reddish cast to its wings. It did not quite look like the books pictured the immature for they did not show the reddish cast to the wing. However, it did have the head color of the immature Sandhill. This bird seemed quite tame and spent the afternoon walking over the flax field seemingly to be picking up insects, possibly grasshoppers.

Others who observed the bird that day were David Holden, Raymond Linder, Orena Cooper, and Ann Trump. The bird cooperated splendidly and came within 50 feet of us so excellent observations were made. Finally the crane flew over to the Big Sioux River to the west of our house, but by late afternoon it was back in the flax field. The crane was still in the field the next morning and it flew over to the Big Sioux River later that morning. This was the last sighting of the bird but it may have been in the area the rest of the day.

The Sandhill Crane is a common migrant along the Missouri River Basin and also along the edge of the Black Hills. However, in recent years they are rarely seen in the eastern part of South Dakota. According to G. S. Agersborg in his "Birds of Southeastern South Dakota" published in the Auk, 1885, the Sandhill was a common migrant in this area and a few remained to breed. McChesney (1879) in his Notes on the Birds of Fort Sisseton, Dakota Territory" remarked that a few remained to breed on the Coteau. Visher (Bird Notes, 2:10) observed its nesting in Sanborn County. In Youngworth's comparison of the crane in "The Birds of Fort Sisseton, South Dakota" (Wilson Bulletin, September, 1935) found it an uncommon bird even as a migrant. In Over and Thoms "Birds of South Dakota" (1946:89) the following remark is made. "Once very common in migration over the eastern part of the state and

nested" but "of recent years the Sandhill Crane has shifted its migratory route to the west . . . flying over the eastern foothills of the Black Hills."

Herbert Krause reported seeing three flying over Woodlawn Cemetery, Sioux Falls, on October 9, 1959 (Bird Notes 11:69) while Adelene Siljensberg sighted a large flock flying over Vermillion on November 5, 1959 (abid). Two flocks of 100 birds each were seen flying near Huron on October 23, 1960 reported by M. D. Ritchey (Bird Notes 12:88). On October 2, 1960 Lowry Elliott observed three at Chain Lake (Bird Notes 13:41). Thus the month of October seems to be the normal fall migration period for the Sandhill Crane.—Nelda Holden, Brookings, S. Dak.

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RUSTY BLACKBIRDS AT RAPID CITY—In the late afternoon of November 10, 1968, I observed a flock of nine Rusty Blackbirds voraciously feeding along the north shore of Canyon Lake in Rapid City. The birds were in their typical winter plumage. Within a short time, B. J. Rose came to the lake and shared this observation. Two days later, Rose found and photographed two rusty blackbirds in this same area.

This occurrence of rusty blackbirds at Rapid City emphasizes the "rare or uncommon transient" judgment by Pettingil and Whitney (Birds of the Black Hills, 1965), for they list only Whitney's observation of this species on November 4-5, 1956.—L. M. Baylor

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WEST RIVER OWL NOTES

Eight miles north of Belle Fourche, Butte County, on May 10, 1968, I found a short-eared owl nest that contained five eggs. The nest consisted of only a flattened area on the ground in a sage bush. On June 11, one young and one infertile egg was found. Prey in the nest included two meadow mice.

Fifteen miles south of Hot Springs, Fall River County, a Barn Owl was ob-

served on July 15, 1968 and July 31, 1968. The bird was perched under the Hat Creek bridge and would fly to a ledge in the cut bank when disturbed. The area is on the south edge of the Black Hills. The observation makes one of the only sightings of the barn owl in this vicinity. Pettingill and Whitney report a barn owl was found dead in Spearfish in February, 1962.

Ten miles north of Belle Fourche, Butte County, on May 1, 1968, I found a great Horned owl nest that contained four young. Of the 75 owl nests found in the last three years this is the only one with four young. Thirty per cent of the nests found contained one young, 50 per cent had two young, and 18 per cent had three. This nest with the four young was used the previous year by Swainson's Hawks. It was 25 feet high in a cottonwood tree along a dry creek. The adult owls were attacked by a migrating Rough-legged Hawk when they exposed themselves. Early that day, when I was banding owls in another nest, a Golden eagle attacked these adult owls. Usually Swainson's Hawks and red-tailed hawks attacked the great horned owls that fly in the open but this is the first time I have seen a rough-legged hawk or golden eagle chase the owls.—D. G. Adolphson, Rapid City

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CHECK-LIST COMMITTEE MEETING, NOVEMBER 22-23, 1968

The Check-list Committee met informally on the evening of November 22 and the morning of Nov. 23, 1968, in conjunction with the annual S.D.O.U. meeting. Committee members present included N. R. Whitney, chairman; and J. W. Johnson, Bruce Harris, Don Adolphson, B. J. Rose, Jean Russell, and Nelda Holden. President Les Baylor and Past-president Herman Chilson also attended *ex officio*.

Mapping of the breeding ranges of individual species was discussed briefly.

We agreed that the map used should fit onto 8½x11-inch paper, and should be sufficiently detailed to show counties and major rivers. Such a map is available through the State, for use by the highway and game departments. Adolphson and Mrs. Russell both felt that they could arrange for Xerox reproduction of such a map, if S.D.O.U. would purchase the supplies.

Bruce Harris circulated information that he had gathered on rare or little-known species within the state to the appropriate members of the committee.

As available, members began circulating among themselves the species accounts that they had prepared. Between now and the May meeting in Webster, members of the committee will try to complete all first drafts of species accounts, and review them at the meeting. We agreed that the first drafts should be detailed and comprehensive, and that condensation could be done later as necessary. While we hope to have the first draft pretty well completed by May, 1969, the chance of publishing in 1969, as a recognition of the twentieth anniversary of S.D.O.U., seems remote.—N. R. Whitney Jr.

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**SANDHILL CRANE FLIGHT OVER
PIERRE**—On October 27, 1968, about 11:10 p.m., after completing my stint at the hospital, I heard a large migration of cranes go over, and could hear the deep rolling k-r-r-oo repeated over and over. It was a fairly large migration because I sat outside several minutes and could hear them all the time. Unfortunately, the moon was not out and no birds could actually be seen.—**Jeanne Russell, Pierre**

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**BOBWHITE COVEY SIGHTED IN
SANBORN COUNTY**—On January 4, 1969, my wife and I saw a covey of Bobwhite Quail in central Sanborn County. Twice before, in the past six years, I've

seen singles in Beadle County but this was my first sighting of a covey in east central South Dakota.—Kent Olson, Huron

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HARRIS' SPARROWS AT BELLE FOURCHE—Feb. 11, 1969—It is with satisfaction that we see the Harris' sparrows still on the hill, though the weather has been mild for over a week. It is our hope that they will stay long enough to change from their present darkish crown, buff face and splotched breast to full black crown, face and bib. Though the Harris has been wintering on our hill for several years, and this year's flock of around 20 has been here since early December, we have yet to see one in the full black markings. Maybe, we hope, we'll see this flock make the change before they go.—Irma G. Weyler, Belle Fourche Daily Post

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BALD EAGLES AT SPEARFISH AND CHAMBERLAIN—About 10:15 a.m., Nov. 17, 1968, while driving on Highway No. 85 about five miles north of Spearfish, we saw a large hawk-like bird flying above the road ahead. We drove up closer and stopped. With our binoculars, we identified it as an adult Bald Eagle. We watched it until it flew out of sight in a northeasterly direction.

On February 2, 1969, on Highway I-90 about two miles east of Chamberlain, we saw and identified a second mature Bald Eagle. This one soon disappeared in a northeasterly direction.—Delbert A. and Doris Nelson, Box 404, Newell, S. Dak. 57760

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PRAIRIE FALCON AT SPEARFISH—On December 14, 1968, my wife and I identified a Prairie Falcon about one mile south of the junction of Highways 85 and 14, just east of Spearfish, S. Dak. When we first saw the bird, it was perched on a telephone pole. We stopped and, with our binoculars, saw its face pattern was not well defined,

indicating that it would be a Prairie Falcon rather than a Perigrine. Then it flew to another pole and we saw its dark "wing pits" as Peterson's *Western Birds* puts it. Also the bird was in open grassy country. We watched this Prairie Falcon for another five minutes before going on.—Delbert A. and Doris Nelson

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FLOCK OF GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCHES AT KEYSTONE—Late in the day of December 14, 1968, we watched and identified a flock of about 150 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches at the junction of Highways 16 and 16A, just north of Keystone. We watched them for 15 to 20 minutes, sometimes at very close range, with binoculars. They were "running around on the ground" in the road ditch. They seemed to be picking up seeds. They had a gray patch on the back of the head, eliminating the brown-capped rosy finch. They had dull pink on their shoulders and rumps. Their bodies were brownish rather than blackish in color, eliminating the black rosy finch.—Delbert and Doris Nelson

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SOUTH DAKOTA HAS 76 TRUMPETER SWANS—Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife biologists counted 3,641 trumpeters in the United States during their 1968 fall aerial survey and concluded that the total population probably is between 4,000 and 5,000. Additional trumpeters are in Canada.

At one time these majestic birds were eagerly sought by feather traders and others were shot for meat. In 1932, only 69 trumpeters were left in the 48 contiguous States. These were in the Yellowstone-Red Rock Lakes—Jackson Hole region of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

The Red Rock National Wildlife Refuge in Montana was established in

1935; transplants to other refuges began in 1939.

During the recent survey, trumpeters were seen in South Dakota (76), Oregon (51), Washington (37), Nevada (34) and Minnesota (16). All of these are transplants or offspring of transplants. Except in Minnesota, all were on or near national wildlife refuges.

Counts in other states were: Alaska (2,842), Montana (365), Wyoming (126) and Idaho (94).

In addition, about 50 zoos in the United States now have this swan. Some trumpeters have lived 30 years in captivity; their life span in the wild is unknown.—Don Adolphson, Rapid City.

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CALLING ALL SNOWY OWLS

Anyone seeing a snowy owl this winter please send the date and place to the address below. Also anyone finding an owl or hawk nest this spring with young is urged to contact me—D. G. Adolphson, 2611 Lawndale Drive, Rapid City, S. Dak. 57701

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HONORARY MEMBERS OF SDOU

Dr. W. H. Over	1949
Stephen S. Visher	1951
W. B. Mallory	1953
J. O. Johnson	1961
O. S. Pettingill	1962
Alfred Peterson	1963
Wayne Trimm	1966
J. Scott Findley	1966

COVER

J. O.'s note reads: "Tobey Slough. Codrington County. 5-24-41 seven eggs. Nest material sopping wet. Pied-billed Grebe."

President's Page

(Continued from Page 3)

bird students and people interested in nature lore far outnumber the hunters.

Another example of the changed status of bird study came to me by a curious circumstance. Recently, while seeking special information in a periodical index, I chanced upon the listing "South Dakota Bird Student." Through an interlibrary loan, I secured a copy of this article. It recorded facts about Gabriel S. Angersborg, who came with his parents from Norway to a homestead in South Dakota. As an observer, collector, and taxidermist, Mr. Angersborg must have been quite an active South Dakota bird student in the 1880's and 1890's. His collection of bird specimens became a part of the South Dakota exhibition at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

This information about Angersborg's studies appeared in HOBBIES magazine, April, 1947. Thus, about two years before SDOU was founded, bird study still earned attention as a hobby. Would a hobby magazine offer a similar feature today? I doubt that it would.

Of course, there is a hobby quality of interest for many of us in bird study, but this avocational activity has grown beyond mere "dickybird" watching to possible contributions to ornithological knowledge. Through the efforts of modern ornithologists such as Dr. Arthur A. Allen and so many others, ornithology has a respected status and an unique status in that professionals and avocationalists work with a relatively high degree of harmony to advance knowledge of birds. Bird study is now more than a pleasant pastime or hobby, and surely the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union has made its contribution to the increasingly respected status of ornithology.—L. M. Baylor