

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION  
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JUNE, 1969

Whole No. 81

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American Bittern

—From Color Slide by Willis Hall

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## President's Page

**E**FFORTS to secure a new editor seem to be progressing so that this issue of *Bird Notes* will be the last one edited by J. W. Johnson. In the next issue we expect to introduce the new editor.

During his editorship Jim began presenting biographical sketches of distinguished SDOU members and contributors to South Dakota ornithology. The new editor no doubt will continue this practice, at least with an appropriate vignette of Jim. While hoping to avoid infringement on that forthcoming account, I want to offer a few remarks about Jim Johnson's contributions in editing *South Dakota Bird Notes*.

This journal serves as the central link of meaningfulness for membership in SDOU. Our semiannual meetings, of course, provide special opportunities to share the bird-study experiences of others, but only a limited number of members have been able to attend these meetings. For the majority of us, membership in SDOU is *Bird Notes*—receiving and reading the accounts of South Dakota bird study. This reward of membership would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of our editor, and for the past ten years those efforts have been the responsibility of Jim Johnson, whose tenure as editor equals the total years of service by his worthy predecessors, E. R. Lamster, Herman Chapman, and J. Scott Findley.

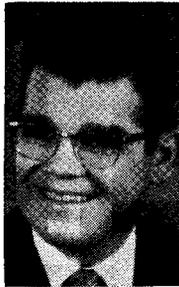
Editor Johnson will be the first to

respond that *Bird Notes* would not be possible without the efforts of many members. These members pay the dues to finance the journal's publication; they pursue the studies and make the observations that lead to articles and notes in *Bird Notes*. While there is significant truth in that contention, it does not diminish the importance of the editor, who must attend to the inestimable details associated with publishing each issue.

Too often, perhaps, we have not thought of our debt to our editor. His wages are only the satisfaction of dedication to the organization and service to the members. His sacrifices are immense. Only Jim can know how much time he has given to the many details of editing *Bird Notes*, and he probably has not thought it important to keep a record of the time devoted to the editor's duties. Nevertheless, he cannot help but be aware that it was time he could have used in other pursuits—time to engage in his own ornithological studies, time to write, time to travel, and visit with children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends, and time to share with his gracious wife. Indeed, our debt to Jim is great, and our openly expressed thanks have been to infrequent.

Jim's advertisement for a new editor (*BIRD NOTES*, XX: 96) referred to the "resignation of the present encumbrance." This astonishing phrase was not an editorial lapse. In addition to a willingness to work, Jim has those essential qualities for an editor of an ornithological journal: a wide knowledge of ornithology and a mastery of

(Continued on Page 46)



# Band Recovery Distribution of Double-Crested Cormorants from South Waubay Lake

Rod C. Drewien and Larry F. Fredrickson

**D**URING the past forty years various workers have reported on the nesting colony of Double-Crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) on South Waubay Lake in Day County, South Dakota (Lundquist 1932, 1949, 1951, Pettingill Jr. 1953, Elliot 1959a, Carlsen 1961, Moriarty 1963, Adolphson and Adolphson 1968, and others). Arthur Lundquist was the first individual to band a substantial sample of young cormorants from this colony, including 1175 during a three-year period. Results of these bandings were summarized by Lundquist (1932).

During the summers of 1965 and 1966 we visited the nesting colony and banded young Double-Crested Cormorants in order to determine recovery distribution and compare our information with that obtained by Lundquist (1932) from this same colony nearly forty years previously.

South Waubay Lake, covering about 2,000 acres is located five miles northeast of Webster, Day County. Two treeless islands in the lake are used by nesting cormorants with most nesting restricted to the larger east island. The east island covers about one acre, whereas the west island, about half the size of the larger east island, is

unavailable for nesting in some years due to high water levels.

Young, flightless Double-Crested Cormorants were banded in June 1965 and 1966 on the east island. Five hundred were banded on June 19, 1965, 156 on June 28, 1965, and 344 on June 25, 1966. Through 1967, forty-three band recoveries have been received.

Most cormorants banded were young that had left their nests and gathered in groups but had not left the island nesting colony. Some of these groups included over one hundred birds. A smaller number of young still in nests, but large enough to hold bands, were also included.

Band recovery distribution indicates that most cormorants from the Waubay Lake colony migrate south through the Great Plains to their wintering grounds on the Texas Gulf Coast and adjacent coastal waters in Mexico (Fig. one). Over fifty-one percent of all recoveries come from the wintering area, whereas thirty-three percent of the recoveries come from South Dakota and locations between the nesting area and the principal wintering area (Table One). A small number of recoveries from Minnesota, Iowa, Arkansas, and Louisiana suggests that a portion of the cormorants from this colony range southeasterly

(The authors are with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, located at Aberdeen and Brookings, respectively.)

Table 1. Geographic distribution of band recoveries of Double-Crested Cormorants banded at South Waubay Lake, Day County, South Dakota.

RECOVERY LOCATION	THIS STUDY		LUNDQUIST (1932)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
South Dakota	7	16.3	79	46.7
Nebraska	2	4.6	3	1.8
Kansas	3	7.0	3	1.8
Oklahoma	2	4.6	2	1.2
Texas	19	44.2	3	1.8
Mexico	3	7.0		
Minnesota	4	9.3	19	11.2
Iowa	1	2.3	8	4.7
Missouri			7	4.2
Arkansas	1	2.3	6	3.5
Wisconsin			1	0.6
Illinois			3	1.8
Tennessee			1	0.6
Mississippi			3	1.8
Alabama			1	0.6
Louisiana	1	2.3	28	16.6
Manitoba			1	0.6
Cuba			1	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>169</b>	

through the Mississippi Valley States to wintering areas in Louisiana (Fig. One, Table One).

Time distribution of fall and winter recoveries were analyzed to determine migration phenology (Table Two). Limited recovery information suggests that cormorants migrate from the breeding area in late September and early October. The latest recovery from the breeding area in South Dakota was October 15th. Recoveries indicate that cormorants pass through Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma throughout October and November, whereas the largest number

of recoveries on the wintering grounds in Texas and Mexico occurs from December through February. However, recoveries indicate that some cormorants have reached the wintering area in October (Table Two).

Many of the recoveries are turned in by waterfowl hunters. It is probable that the migration phenology shown in Table Two is strongly influenced by the dates of waterfowl hunting seasons throughout the migration area.

Information on northward spring migration phenology is limited as only six recoveries were received during

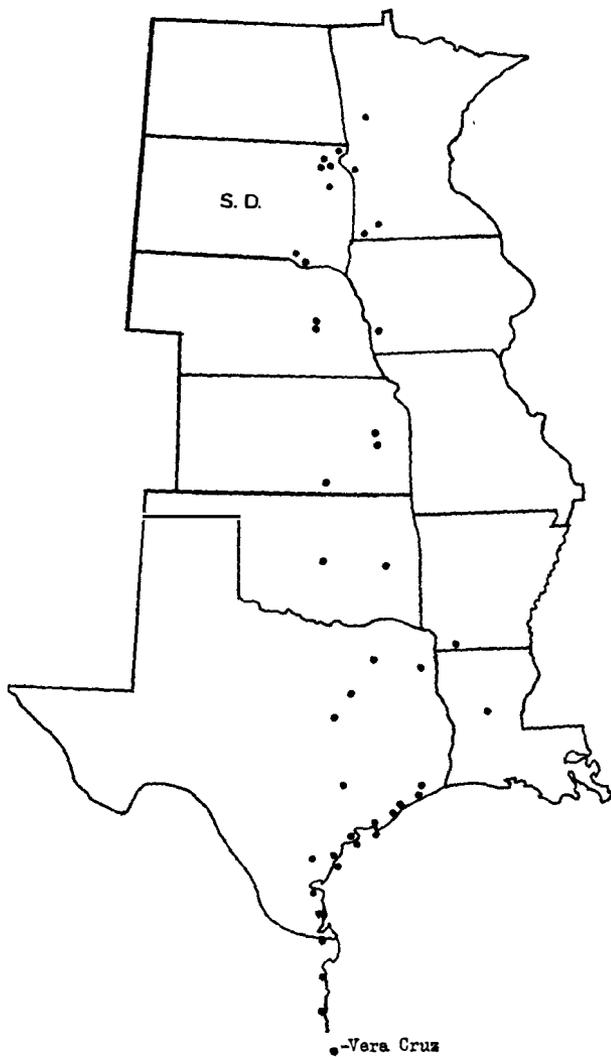


Figure 1. Band recovery distribution of Double-Crested Cormorants banded at South Waubay Lake, Day County, South Dakota, June, 1965 and 1966.

Table 2. Time distribution of band recoveries during fall and winter of Double-Crested Cormorants banded during June 1965-66, South Waubay Lake, Day County, South Dakota.

Recovery Location	August	September	October 1-15	October 16-31	November	December-February	Total
<b>Breeding Area</b>							
South Dakota	1	2	2				5
<b>Migration Area</b>							
South Dakota			1			1*	2
Minnesota and Iowa		1		1	1		3
Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma			2	1	1		4
<b>Wintering Area</b>							
Texas, Mexico and Louisiana			1	2	4	12	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>

\*Recovered at Lake Andes, South Dakota, December 24.

April-June. Recovery dates on the wintering grounds in Texas were April 3 and 21, and May 8, while a May 9 recovery from Arkansas suggests migration north was underway. Two recoveries in the vicinity of the breeding grounds (Minnesota-South Dakota border) occurred on May 23 and June 8. Spring migration may be a leisurely affair, since several recoveries indicate some cormorants to be present on wintering areas during April and early May, while observations show some cormorants to be present in northeastern South Dakota during April (Peterson 1959, Elliot 1959b, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge 1963, Harris 1964, Rose 1967). In 1965 we observed cormorants on South Waubay Lake on April 13.

In 1965, we banded 656 cormorants and received 22 recoveries during the fall and following January for a direct recovery rate of three and four-tenths

percent. In 1966, we banded 344 and received eight direct recoveries (two and three-tenths percent). In contrast, Lundquist (1932) banded 482 young cormorants during the summer of 1929 and received 79 recoveries during the following fall and January 1930 for a direct recovery rate of sixteen and four-tenths percent. Lundquist found that young cormorants banded in June had the lowest recovery rate (ten and eight-tenths percent); July banded young, an intermediate recovery rate (fourteen and seventy-five hundredths percent, and August banded young, the highest recovery rate (thirty-three and six-tenths percent). Lundquist suggested that early hatched cormorants were capable of flight at an earlier date and perhaps migrated earlier, whereas, late hatched young remained in the area longer and sustained a high kill from numerous waterfowl hunters in the vicinity of the breeding area. Possible reasons for pres-

ent day lower direct recovery rates are (1) all our banding included early hatched June young, (2) a lower incidence of shooting may have occurred in recent years, and (3) a lower band reporting rate.

Of forty-three band recoveries received, the most commonly reported method of recovery, including nineteen, was "found dead." Fourteen were reported as "shot," three were "entangled in nets," three were found as "skeltons," three were found "injured," and one "unknown."

Recovery data from 1965-66 bandings indicate a definite change in migratory routes compared to young cormorants raised in this same colony nearly forty years ago. Lundquist's data (Table One) shows that most cormorants migrated from South Dakota southeasterly through the Mississippi River Valley States to their major wintering area in Louisiana. Less than two percent of these early recoveries were from Texas and none were received from Mexico (Table One). In contrast, present recoveries show that Waubay Lake cormorants are now wintering principally on the Texas and Mexican Gulf coasts. Reasons for this dramatic shift in migration routes and wintering area are unknown to us. Perhaps gunning pressure along the migration route and on the wintering area, or major alterations in the wintering grounds, including loss of habitat or a change in its ecology are responsible.

Acknowledgement: Thanks are due Paul F. Springer for assisting with banding in 1966.

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# Snowy Owls, 1967-68

Don Adolphson

**D**URING the winter of 1967-68 the following Snowy Owls were observed in South Dakota:

Date	County	Observer
November ??	Sanborn	H. W. Grant
December 6	Beadle	Backlund and Muck
December 12	Charles Mix	Backlund and Muck
December 15	Charles Mix	Backlund and Muck
December 18	Sanborn	B. Harris
December 19	Beadle	Larson and Schmidt
December 19	Jones	Les Baylor
December 23	Miner	Post and Muck
December 29	Jerauld	Backlund and Muck
December 31	Butte	B. J. Rose
January 1	Miner	H. W. Grant
January 3	Kingsbury	Tom Redfield
January 6	Jackson	R. Henderson
January 14	Brown	L. R. Lynch
January 18	Miner	B. Bradwitch
January 18	Aurora	Larson and Schmidt
January 19	Miner	B. Harris
January 25	Yankton	L. C. Turner
February 1	Brown	L. R. Lynch
February 8	Hughes	B. Larson
February 9	Brown	L. R. Lynch
February 13	Aurora	Schmidt and Bradwitch
February 20	Edmunds	B. Bradwitch
February ??	Miner	Found Dead by H. W. Grant
March 1	Stanley	B. V. Summerside
March 16	Brown	L. R. Lynch
March 29	Day	B. Bradwitch
April 13	Day	B. Bradwitch
April 21	Brown	L. R. Lynch

—Rapid City

# Some Fall Records for Hyde County

June Harter

First Column—Earliest Date for Fall Migration

Second Column—Latest Date Noted for the Species

In a Few Cases it is the Only Date Recorded

Bl.-cr. Night Heron	—10- 5	Western Kingbird	— 9- 3
Y.-cr. Night Heron	— 8-30	Phoebe	— 8-15
Am. Bittern	— 9- 3	Traill's Flycatcher	— 9- 7
Cmn. Merganser	—11-28	Least Flycatcher	— 9-19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9- 7— 9-30	Wood Pewee	— 9- 8
Cooper's Hawk	9-10— 9-19	Olive-sided Flycatcher	— 8-28
Red-tailed Hawk	8-18— 9-21	Horned Lark	SR — WR
Red-shoul. Hawk	— 9-17	(Summer and winter pop- ulations of different sub-species, not always identified)	
Broad-winged Hawk	— 9-18	Rough-winged Swallow	— 8-30
Marsh Hawk (a few are WR)	—11-28	Barn Swallow	— 9-24
Pigeon Hawk	9-10— 9-28	Cliff Swallow	— 9-27
Sparrow Hawk	9- 7—10 4	Purple Martin	7-20—
(Hawks appear in migra- tory numbers about Sept. 10)		Blue Jay	—11- 4
Sandhill Crane	—10-25	(Migratory numbers be- gin first week of Sept.)	
Killdeer	—10-13	Magpie (PR in southwest corner of county)	
Upland Plover	— 9-16	Crow	—11- 5
Gr. and L. Yellowlegs	7-12— 9-13	(Migratory numbers ap- pear about Sept. 20)	
Avocet	— 8-25	Red-breasted Nuthatch	8-25—10-18
Northern Phalarope	— 9- 6	House Wren	—10- 1
Franklin Gull	— 8-26	Mockingbird	— 9-21
Black Tern	— 9- 6	Catbird	— 9-27
Mourning Dove (Migrat- ing numbers appear about 9[1])	—10- 5	Brown Thrasher	—10-13
Y.-billed Cuckoo	— 8-31	Robin	—12-31
Bl.-billed Cuckoo	— 9- 2	(Migration flocks last of Sept. to last of Oct.)	
Burrowing Owl	—10- 5	Swainson's Thrush	9- 2—10- 1
Nighthawk	— 9-18	Gray-cheeked Thrush	8-30—10- 1
Swift	— 7-26	Veery	— 9- 6
Hummingbird	7-26— 9- 1	E. Bluebird	—10-15
Flickers (some are WR) (in migratory numbers)	9- 7— 9-30	Gold-crowned Kinglet	9-30—11-13
Red-headed Woodpecker	— 9- 2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8-31—10-12
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	— 9-30	Sprague's Pipit	8-17—
Eastern Kingbird	— 9-13		

Loggerhead Shrike .....	— 9- 1	Vesper Sparrow .....	—10-16
Starling-PR in small nos. ..	—	Lark Sparrow .....	—10- 7
Bell's Vireo .....	8-28— 9- 7	S. C. Juncos .....	9-13—11-13
Solitary Vireo .....	9- 1— 9- 5	Chipping Sparrow .....	—10-18
Red-eyed Vireo .....	8-29— 9-10	Clay-colored Sparrow .....	—10- 5
Phila. Vireo .....	9- 2— 9- 6	Field Sparrow .....	—10- 8
Warbling Vireo .....	9- 1— 9- 6	Harris Sparrow .....	9-20—11-29
Black and White Warbler .....	8-25— 9- 9	Wh.-crowned Sparrow .....	9-18—10-28
Worm-eating Warbler .....	8-31— 9-18	Wh.-throated Sparrow .....	9-13—11-14
Tenn. Warbler .....	8-25— 9-20	Fox Sparrow .....	—10-31
Orange-crowned Warbler .....	9-15—10-20	Lincoln's Sparrow .....	9- 2—10-27
Nashville Warbler .....	9- 1— 9-26	Swamp Sparrow .....	9-15—10- 3
Yellow Warbler .....	— 9-17	Song Sparrow .....	—11- 2
Magnolia Warbler .....	—10- 8	Chest.-collared Longspur ..	—10-13
Cape May Warbler .....	—10- 8		
Bl.-throated Blue Warbler .....	10- 6—10- 8	* * * *	
Myrtle Warbler .....	9- 7—10-14		
Chest.-sided Warbler .....	8-31— 9-26	Winter residents and visitants. First	
Pine Warbler .....	9- 4—10- 1	fall dates and last spring dates are in	
Palm Warbler .....	9- 8— 9-28	accordance with available records.	
Prairie Warbler .....	9- 7— 9-24	Rough-legged Hawk .....	— WR
Kentucky Warbler .....	— 9-15	(From mid-Nov. to	
Yellow-throat .....	—10-17	March)	
Yel.-br. Chat .....	8-31— 9-24	Snowy Owl (1963-64; 1967-	
Wilson's Warbler .....	8-27—10-3	68) .....	— WR
Canada Warbler .....	9- 5— 9-11	Hairy Woodpecker .....	9-10— 4-24
Redstart .....	8-21— 9-17	Downy Woodpecker .....	8-29— 4-11
Meadowlark .....	—10-25	Am. Three-toed Wood-	
Yel.-head. Blackbird .....	— 9- 3	pecker .....	9-19—
R.-winged Blackbird .....	—11-17	Chickadee .....	8-28— 4-16
Orchard Oriole .....	— 9-16	White-br. Nuthatch .....	9- 1— WR
Baltimore Oriole .....	— 9-17	Brown Creeper .....	10-17— 5- 3
Brewer's Blackbird .....	—11-29	Townsend's Solitaire .....	10-14— 5-15
Common Grackle .....	—10-25	Bohemian Waxwing .....	8-20— 4- 8
Br.-headed Cowbird .....	— 8-30	Cedar Waxwing .....	8-23— 4- 4
Bl.-headed Grosbeak .....	— 8-23	Northern Shrike .....	11- 2—
Dickcissel .....	— 9-18	Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	— 5-26
A. Goldfinch (a few are		Evening Grosbeak .....	11-28— 5-25
WR) .....	—11-29	Purple Finch .....	9-17— 5- 8
Red Crossbill .....	11-30—12-13	Common Redpoll .....	9-26— 3-15
Towhee, Rufous-sided .....	9-10—10-24	Pine Siskin .....	9-26— 4- 5
Lark Bunting .....	— 9-14	Tree Sparrow .....	10- 6— 4-26
Savannah Sparrow .....	— 9-20	Lapland Longspur .....	— 3-19
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	— 9-13	(regular winter visitant)	
		Snow Bunting (occasional)	— 3-13
			—Highmore

# Additional Breeding Birds in Roscoe Area

Harold F. Duebbert

**A** LIST of breeding birds observed in the Roscoe Area during the summer of 1967 has been published previously (*South Dakota Bird Notes*, Vol. 20(2): 28-29). During 1968, the following species were recorded as breeding in that area in addition to the original list.

Species	Evidence of Breeding
American Widgeon .....	Two Nests, Two Broods
Marsh Hawk .....	One Nest
Gray Partridge .....	Two Broods
American Avocet .....	Pair with Five Young
Burrowing Owl .....	Sight Observation in July
Short-eared Owl .....	Two Nests with Young
Yellow-shafted Flicker .....	Sight Observation in July
Least Flycatcher .....	Sight Observation in July
Short-billed Marsh Wren .....	Sight Observation in July
Brown Thrasher .....	Sight Observation in July
Robin .....	Sight Observation in July
Yellowthroat .....	Sight Observation in July
House Sparrow .....	Sight Observation in July
Common Grackle .....	Sight Observation in July
Dickcissel .....	Sight Observation in July
American Goldfinch .....	Sight Observation in July
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	Sight Observation in July
Field Sparrow .....	Sight Observation in July

The above species bring the total to 51 breeding birds in the Roscoe area during 1967 and 1968.—Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, N. Dak.

## What is This Thing Called Ecology?

Ecology is the science that deals with the relations between all of the elements in the environment—the ecosystem. It rests upon all of the biological and physical sciences—botany, zoology, chemistry, physics, geology, soil science, meteorology, etc., with their innumerable ramifications—and when man is a part of the environment, the social sciences are also involved. Its distinguishing characteristic is that it uses these sciences in their relations to each other to determine what happens in a given environment, under both natural and modified conditions, and why it happens. In comprehensiveness and complexity, it is unique.—Dr. Samuel T. Dana, Dean Emeritus, University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources.—Michigan Audubon Newsletter

# Spring and Its Birds Come to Belle Fourche

Irma G. Weyler

(Compiled from Her Column in the Belle Fourche Daily Post)

## Blacks and Whites

**B**LACK and white was the theme Sunday, April 20, a bright April day with a high wind. The air was raw, but as it happens almost every year, spring migration brought the dainty jewel-like myrtle warblers.

When we tell ornithologists that we have myrtle warblers, they look knowing and add that the one in the Hills is the similar Audubon warbler. The two look alike—both are black and white in effect, with blue-gray backs, white below, and a conspicuous bright yellow rump. But the myrtle has two white wing bars and the Audubon has a white wing patch; the myrtle has a white throat, the Audubon's is yellow. Ours has white throat and white wing bars. It's a myrtle—and we should know. They nest every year in the honeysuckle thicket on the bank of the pond.

## The bird survived

The week end spring snowstorm of April 26-27 brought the usual congregation of spring and winter birds to our hill, the winter ones guiding the newcomers to the feeding tray put under the terrace roof in storms.

Among the winter birds was an especially welcome flock—about a dozen evening grosbeaks, both males and females. This is the first flock of these big-billed, gold, black and white birds we have seen in two years. In mild winters as many as thirty have spent the winter on our hill, and vicinity, feeding on sunflower seeds at bird stations throughout the town. But the past two

years, only a few stragglers have been seen in town, and those only briefly. The flock on the week end has been here several days and may stay a while. They have found the Russian olives and dried crabapples under the hedge.

The Harris' sparrows, which wintered on the hill, have been feeding rarely at the terrace tray throughout the milder days, but have been numerous in the thickets. The storm brought them to the terrace again, the whole flock of around twenty birds. They brought with them proof of the breeding season coloring we had given up hope of seeing—black cap, face and bib. Sunday, the winter buffy face, dark breast blotch and striping had given way, or was giving way, to mature markings, the black striking against a white breast. A few were richly black; some showed only blotching, in the process of change.

With the Harris' at the tray were some spring arrivals—the Gambel white crowns—the gray breasted sparrow with a black and white striped cap.

The redwing visited the tray alone. The striped females have not yet arrived. Juncos came, but only a few English sparrows.

Robins, half a dozen, were among the first to arrive at the tray under the terrace roof after we stocked it early Sunday morning. They had been huddled in the apple tree and must have watched us, and though they do not care much about feeding at a bird station, ate hungrily until the snow melted

back to expose earth in the terrace garden. There the worm supply was ample.

Colorful arrival was the spotted towhee—the bird slightly larger than a house sparrow with black head and upper breast, white center breast and robin red sides. Its tail is spotted with white which shows especially in take-off. In 1967 the towhee appeared first in the April 30-May 1 snowstorm. This year he was in similar setting, only four days earlier.

Monday morning, the sun is warm after a night that dropped to ten degrees above zero and froze a crust on the pond. Not until midday will the kill on plants and new leaves be known. But the birds survived. The numbers at the feeding tray are as large as those of the day before.

#### Was it a Scout?

A purple martin swirled over the pond Saturday in the bright sunshine of Maytime. Though martins are not listed by ornithologists as resident here, they once were common. George Grinnell, with the Custer expedition in 1874, listed purple martins as abundant in the Black Hills and stated that the expedition found them nesting in the highest branches of dead pines. Stephen Visher, as part of a summer, 1908 assignment by the Geological and Natural History Survey of South Dakota, compiled a list of western birds which included the martin, which he called "common in the Black Hills." But the martin has not been reported officially since 1908.

Nobody knows why the martins disappeared here. It could not be the arrival of too many people because martins like people. It might have been the culling of dead timber in which martins found holes for nests. It might have been the absence of man-built martin houses. Communities of the middle-western-states began building martin

houses abundantly and the birds both liked these houses and liked the idea of avoiding the long flight across the dry plains to the Hills. It might have been water pollution and drainage of beaver dams. Nevertheless, a few martins swirled over our pond last summer, and birders in the southeast part of town reported seeing them—not a number, a few.

The martin which swirled over the pond Saturday, May 3, came with half a dozen tree swallows.

If you don't know a martin, it is the largest of the swallows, measures about seven and a half to eight and a half inches. It is the only swallow which is uniformly blue-black above and below. The female martin has a dingy gray breast. The martin's wings are long and slender, and its flight is sheer grace.

Martins appear in the midwest about the last of March. However, martin houses erected as late as mid-June have drawn occupants in areas where the birds are common. First to come north are the old males, which act as scouts. The big flocks come a bit later.

Any martin scouting a good insect supply would approve Belle Fourche, located in the fork of two rivers, one of which borders the business district, and Hay Creek which crosses the town. Mosquitoes amount to a plague.

Martin housing? That is scarce, though there are a few houses and some dead timber near streams. Further, the birds soon may need lebensraum. Since martins are so popular with people and people with martins, a population explosion among martins must be present—or coming. There's no reason why they might not return to the Hills—especially to Belle Fourche.

It may mean something—and it may mean nothing—but a purple martin swirled over the pond Saturday.—**Belle Fourche.**

# SDOU, May 16-18, 1969, at Webster

J. W. Johnson



## At the Speakers' Table

Left to right: Lucille Johnson, J. W. Johnson, L. M. Baylor, Rosamond Hall and Willis Hall.

—Reporter and Farmer Photo

**A**S usual with SDOU meetings, the frustration of all too little time for more than a word with old friends in passing, with more things to do and more places to go, was ever present.

Yet, also as usual, there were high points of interest to remember and treasure as we look forward to the next time. Robert Johnson, our old friend from Waubay, gave us a fine film to open the Friday evening session. Nels Granholm's slides and his experiences in the Antarctic, studying the Adele

Penquins, gave everyone a new slant on work in the polar regions under modern conditions: more real work accomplished and less battling with the elements.

This was at the Izaak Walton Building, which was our headquarters for the entire meeting and for which everyone was deeply appreciative.

Early morning came all too soon, though not before the birds that were up ahead of us all. Two main trips had been set up so everyone could take

them alternately. One was in the Bitter Lake area, the other into the Waubay Wildlife Refuge. Ft. Sisseton. and the Julius Stavig farm. These were led by Dr. Moriarty, Herman Chilson, Paul Springer and Jerry Streckfuss. Or you could wander about on your own, trying to be lucky while having the best of each. It was a fascinating study in probability—in a country and time where all the odds were in your favor and no one could lose.

The Saturday night banquet was served at the Methodist Church, tables appealingly decorated in bird motif by Mrs. Joseph Lovering. Of course the high point here was Willis Hall's slides, Mrs. Hall working two projectors in turn quite effectively, while Willis' words brought to us the atmosphere of the time and gave his birds even more presence. It has always been a matter of regret for us that only a fraction of SDOU membership is ever able to see the Halls put on a program of bird slides. In passing, many of us learned for the first time that the Halls' old home was at Webster.

About 80 persons attended the meeting. Irene Buchanan and Mrs. Gordon Green and son of Evanston, Illinois came the farthest distance.

Sunday lunch at the Waubay Refuge was served by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson and was enjoyed by all.

The handling of the entire meeting was a tribute to Webster, its neighbors, its institutions, and its people, among them our Herman and Agnes Chilson. We hope to see them all again before too long.

Collecting the combined list of 146 birds, the traditional last act, closed the meeting.— **Huron.**



Rosamond and Willis Hall

**Their presentation of Willis' slides was a team operation.**

—Reporter and Farmer Photo

Note: The above is an adaptation and extension of coverage of the meeting by the Reporter and Farmer.—Ed

# Species Observed in Webster Area

## May 16-18, 1969 by SDOU Members

Common Loon	Ruddy Turnstone	Bank Swallow
Red-necked Grebe	Common Snipe	Rough-winged Swallow
Horned Grebe	Upland Plover	Barn Swallow
Eared Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow
Western Grebe	Willet	Purple Martin
Pied-billed Grebe	Lesser Yellowlegs	Blue Jay
White Pelican	Pectoral Sandpiper	Common Crow
Double-crested Cormorant	White-rumped Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee
Great Blue Heron	Baird's Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch
Black-crowned Night Heron	Least Sandpiper	Brown Creeper
Cattle Egret	Dunlin	Long-billed Marsh Wren
American Bittern	Dowditcher, L-b	Short-billed Marsh Wren
Canada Goose	Stilt Sandpiper	Catbird
Snow Goose	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher
Blue Goose	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Robin
Mallard	Marbled Godwit	Swainson's Thrush
Gadwall	Hudsonian Godwit	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Pintail	Sanderling	Veery
Green-winged Teal	Avocet	Eastern Bluebird
Blue-winged Teal	Wilson's Phalarope	Loggerhead Shrike
American Wedgeon	Ring-billed Gull	Starling
Shoveler	Franklin's Gull	Philadelphia Vireo
Wood Duck	Forster's Tern	Warbling Vireo
Redhead	Common Tern	Black and White Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Black Tern	Tennessee Warbler
Canvasback	Mourning Dove	Orange-crowned Warbler
Lesser Scaup	Great Horned Owl	Nashville Warbler
Bufflehead	Chimney Swift	Yellow Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Magnolia Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Myrtle Warbler
Swainson's Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Marsh Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Pigeon Hawk	Eastern Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Sparrow Hawk	Western Kingbird	Palm Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Ovenbird
Virginia Rail	Eastern Phoebe	Northern Water-thrush
Sora Rail	Trail's Flycatcher	Yellowthroat
American Coot	Least Flycatcher	Wilson's Warbler
Killdeer	Eastern Wood Pewee	American Redstart
Golden Plover	Horned Lark	House Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Tree Swallow	

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## Bison, Perkins County in 1970

The area of Bison, Perkins County, has been selected as the site for the Spring Meeting, to be held some time early in June of 1970. Exact dates will be determined later.

A meeting in this area has been the long-time project of H. F. Chapman and the hope of many others. Perkins County is the country of Alfred Hinds (Bird Notes, September 1968, pages 53-57) and some recent work has been done there by Les Baylor and Will Rosine.

We are all looking forward to this meeting.

## Comparison of Spring Arrival Dates of 15 Common Birds

Robert R. Johnson, Refuge Manager

### WAUBAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

(See Vol. 14:71 and Vol. 18:24 for similar data to 1959 inclusive)

Species	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Canada Goose	3-10	3-14	3-13	3-09	3-06	3-19
Mallard	3-13	4-04	3-13	3-21	3-06	4-05
Gadwall	3-31	4-14	4-03	3-23	4-02	4-05
BW Teal	4-15	4-16	4-11	3-24	3-30	4-10
L. Scaup	3-31	4-12	3-21	3-24	3-19	4-07
Ruddy	4-22	4-22	4-20	4-04	4-02	4-08
Marsh Hawk	3-16	3-18	3-15	3-01	3-16	4-03
Coot	3-21	4-09	3-29	4-10	4-02	4-09
Killdeer	4-10	4-07	3-14	3-23	3-18	4-07
Y-s. Flicker	4-15	4-11	4-12	3-29	4-02	4-07
Purple Martin	4-11	4-18	4-16	4-26	4-17	4-26
Robin	3-26	W.Res.	3-14	3-23	3-08	3-06
Meadowlark	3-16	4-01	3-14	3-19	3-15	3-17
Y-h Blackbird	4-06	4-12	4-12	4-09	4-23	4-07
R-w Blackbird	3-17	4-05	3-14	3-22	3-15	3-25

## Book Review

J. W. Johnson

**E**AGLES, Hawks, and Falcons of the World, by Leslie Brown and Dean Amadon. McGraw-Hill. 1969. Forty-nine dollars and fifty cents through June 30, 1969, fifty-nine dollars and fifty cents thereafter. Two volumes, 8½"x11," in heavy box. Nine hundred and forty-five pages, three hundred and eleven illustrations, including one hundred and sixty-six paintings, generally in full color, by internationally known bird artists, Peterson, Harrison, Eckelberry, Reid-Henry, Gilbert, Kelly, Coheleach, Sandford, Ellis, Ward, and Williams.

These books are printed on heavy coated paper and are bound in red cloth on heavy boards, the title in black running down the spines. About 300 detailed accounts give description, voice, general habits, food, and breeding habits, all quite readable and interesting. The work is limited to diurnal birds of prey but includes vultures.

A twelve-page index by subject, name, and species at the end of Volume II makes the mass of data accessible. A supplementary Bibliography occupies six pages. Ninety-four maps display clearly the distribution by genus and species.

Evaluation of a work of this magnitude is not to be undertaken lightly, least of all by this reviewer. Only in the shelter of the above associated names would it be considered. Yet only a little paging through it finds one reveling in a wealth of fascinating, never imagined information. Only firm resolution and the space limits imposed here return the attention to the orderly examination required.

A special one hundred and fifty page introduction fully explains the biology

and classification of birds of prey as a group, discussing topics such as flight, senses, migration, hunting methods and speed, nest building, and development and care of the young.

The authors devote special attention to the spectacular aerial performance of certain birds of prey. The whirling display of the eagles of the genus *Haliaeetus* is described: "The pair will be seen soaring over their territory, often calling to one another. The male dives toward the female, but instead of completing her roll in response, the female grasps his feet firmly with hers. With wings at full stretch, tautly connected by outstretched legs, the great birds come tumbling down in a series of cartwheels, over and over one another, often for several hundred feet, finally separating close to the ground or water and flying upwards again."

Authors Brown and Amadon also describe many other majestic displays of the great raptors, including the "undulating display" of the falcon, during which the displaying bird may plunge as much as one thousand feet straight down, only to recover at the last moment and rise sharply upward, repeating this feat again and again.

For those with a slight mathematical or aviation interest there are easily understood tables and graphs of wing loading in the chapter on flight which are both interesting and enlightening in unexpected ways.

Other topics covered in Part One, Volume I are: physical attributes, plumage and moult, the daily cycle, food consumption, territory, eggs and incubation, the post-fledgling period,

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## *General Notes of Special Interest*

BIRDS OF MIDWAY—Bruce Harris had the following from a serviceman friend who gives his view of the nesting Albatrosses, Layson and Black-footed, on Midway during a tour of duty there.

8 Dec. (68 ?)  
(Midway Island)

**Hi Bruce,**

It's another rainy, windy day; the fourth in succession. The island looks more like a lake, as it has been raining two to three inches per day driven by winds of up to sixty knots. Looks like a long wet winter ahead! Would be a fine place for some really good duck hunting if there were just some ducks. Did have two small flocks in November for about two weeks, but they were migrating and soon departed to parts unknown.

Was rather surprised to see any ducks at all out here. They were a species I had never seen before. The birds were about the size of gadwalls, dark brown with very little bright color in the wing feathers. Their necks were unusually slender and long—rather swan-like. They were very tame and apparently unafraid of humans. Kept putting off taking pictures, waiting for a sunny day until too late.

The gooneys started returning the first week of November. First to arrive were the black variety, followed in two days by the Layson. Had thought that when the gooneys came "home" it would be in a flock similar to ducks and geese, but it wasn't that way at all. They arrived in singles and pairs and one was never really aware of them until one day, there they were building a

nest! The ground is well covered with them now and I think they are all here. Nests are everywhere, about two to three feet apart.

Upon arriving, mating and nest building began, which was immediately followed by the laying of eggs. Have noticed that several birds have two eggs, maybe one hen out of every one hundred. Last spring I never noticed any birds with more than one chick, but there were a few extra eggs laying around. I imagine that as soon as one chick hatches, the other egg is discarded.

Watching the hens build their nests is quite interesting. Each is different in one way or another. Seems as though she selects a location that suits her without intelligent reasoning as some are in low spots and even holes which are under water every time it rains. Then she proceeds to sit down and "squirm" until the ground is packed and slightly depressed. Then, while sitting, she reaches out in every direction as far as she can reach and picks up whatever is available with her bill. This material, sand, grass, sticks, leaves, pine needles, paper, etc., is placed next to her all around and eventually results in a nest. They eventually dig into the ground with their bills all around the nest and use the resulting stones, sand, etc., in the nest building. This results in a ditch which completely surrounds it like a moat. Some of the nests are nearly a foot high when complete. Others are nothing more than a depression with an inch or two of sand piled up around it. While watching one bird attempting to build in a

barren sandy spot one day, I collected an armload of leaves and grass and placed within her reach to see what would happen. She used it.

Although I can't see any difference in the appearance of the young chicks from the old, I suspect that the better nests are built by the older birds who learn from year to year. The most ingenious construction I've seen is built on a small hill. She wasn't smart enough to move two feet either way in order to nest on level ground, but was intelligent enough to build up the low sides and end with a nest that was perfectly level even though the drop of the ground is nearly eighteen inches!

Those that have built in the flood area stay on the nest until the water gets so high as to float them off the egg. They then retreat to high ground and watch patiently until the water recedes.

Black goonies nest almost exclusively in open sandy areas and consequently all have poor nests. Many do not resemble anything more than a depression.

Last spring there were two gray goonies here. One of them and a different gray bird returned this fall. Apparently both are males. Neither the black, nor the white goonies will have anything to do with them. They appear every week or so, hang around for a couple of days, and then disappear. Think they probably just roam around this and other islands looking for a group of birds that will accept them.

Am enclosing a clipping from a Portland paper that you might find interesting. Dr. Fisher is still here, but I haven't found out what he has learned from their experiment.

Last month we shipped six birds to the St. Louis Zoo via aircraft. Don't know if they will be put on display,

used for research or both. I hear that previous attempt to keep them in captivity have failed.

Thought you might enjoy a little first hand novice information on the mighty albatross. They are the most interesting bird I've ever seen and certainly the easiest to observe because they are all around and completely unafraid of everything.

As ever,  
Chris

\* \* \* \*

**BAY-BREASTED AND PARULA WARBLERS AT BROOKINGS**—On May 14, 1968 my husband and I sighted a male Bay-breasted Warbler in a large American Elm in our yard. On May 17, we saw it twice, 8:00 A.M. and 1:30 P.M., both times at the ground level drinking pool just outside my kitchen window.

On May 16, at noon, a Parula Warbler spent fifteen or twenty minutes feeding in a box elder tree just outside our kitchen. We saw it again in the evening at the drinking pool.—**Esther R. Edie, Brookings.**

\* \* \* \*

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE AT ABERDEEN AND AT RICHMOND LAKE**—A Townsend's Solitaire was found in the Riverside Cemetery in Aberdeen. The bird has been there, off and on, since Nov. 3, 1968, to the time of writing, Nov. 29, 1968. I found the one at Richmond Lake on November 5 and it was still there today, November 29, 1968. Both birds seem to prefer junipers and are seen eating the berries from them.—**L. R. Lynch, Aberdeen.**

**VARIED THRUSH FOUND AT ABERDEEN**—Late in December, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fritsche, 1525 So. Lincoln St., Aberdeen, called my sister, a good birder, who called me to say that they had found a bird lying in their driveway. I went to see it. As they had thought, they had a full color male Varied Thrush. They took two pictures of the bird and then asked me to take care of it.

My wife, my sister, Mrs. Hoksch, and I, took a number of color slides of the bird. Shortly after, much to my sorrow, the poor bird died.

Later, I had a good friend, Dr. A. C. Vogle, come over and he made a half dozen slides of the dead bird. He has been in California several times and always tried to find a varied thrush for a picture but never succeeded. — L. R. Lynch, 502 So. First St., Aberdeen. 57401.

\* \* \* \*

## President's Page

(Continued from Page 27)

language. In the latter, as editor he has been an exponent of a simple, direct style of scientific writing. He knows the difference between an incumbent and an encumbrance. His allusion to himself by that preposterous word reflects two other qualities that probably have sustained his energies as editor—a self-effacing personality that will not let him take himself too seriously and a keen sense of humor.

Jim, all SDOU members thank you for your good services as editor of *Bird Notes*. We wish you rich experiences in your new ventures. We are glad for your decision to remain a South Dakotan in retirement, and we look forward to your continued contributions to ornithology—L. M. Baylor

## Book Review

(Continued from Page 43)

breeding success and productivity, longevity, mortality and enemies, and hawks and man, which includes a brief discussion of falconry.

Part Two of this Volume opens with a chapter on field identification, followed by the detailed species accounts into the Goshawks. The volume ends with the fifteen under-wing plates.

The Table of Contents, covering both volumes, is repeated in each for convenience.

Volume II completes the detailed species accounts. At their end are grouped the maps showing distribution.

This is not merely a work of selected species; it is a complete world list of the diurnal birds of prey. No doubt specialists can find fault with the treatment of their own small field of competence; it would be odd in a book of this coverage if such points might not be raised. Yet we are unlikely to see the distribution of a comparable piece of work in the field in our lifetime.

For those of us old enough to remember, however imperfectly, Tennyson's verses on the Golden Eagle, it is a thrill to see quoted at the closing of Part One of Volume I.

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.  
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

## In Memoriam

### Lowry Elliott

Lowry Elliott died in his sleep April 26, 1969. He was a long-time member of S.D.O.U., an active bander, and a careful observer of the birds of his area. His items and reports from Bird Haven, his farm that featured wildlife plantings, have long been a regular feature of Bird Notes.

His loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him.



### Alma Stewart Findley

1890-1969

Alma S. Findley was born June 23, 1890 in Harshaville, Pennsylvania. At an early age her family moved to Tarkio, Missouri where she attended public school and later graduated from Tarkio College. After teaching for several years she completed her nurses training and spent one summer working with the International Grenfell Mission. She returned to Chicago and worked for a number of years as assistant principal of a school for problem boys.

In 1943 she married J. Scott Findley and moved to Sioux Falls. Alma was an avid bird lover from the time she was 10 years old. Her first bird book was a colored advertisement put out by a sewing machine company.

Alma and her husband, Scott, made it a point to entertain Audubon lecturers in their home, among the more prominent of which were George Miksch Sutton, Olin Servall Pettingill, Fran Hall, Patricia Bailey Witherspoon and Roger Tory Peterson. Alma often remarked, "One of the nicest things about bird watching is the people we meet and the friends we make." She will be missed by all of these friends.—Mrs. Max E. Pierce, Sioux Falls

## Species Observed

(Continued from Page 41)

Bobolink  
Western Meadowlark  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Redwinged Blackbird  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
Rusty Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
American Goldfinch

Lark Bunting  
Savannah Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Baird's Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
Harris' Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Chestnut-colored Longspur  
Total ..... 146 Species

## The New Editors

It took some doing but a couple of people have yielded to persuasion and, probably, threats, and will become Associate Editors of Bird Notes, starting with the September, 1969 issue.

Winona Sparks, Spearfish, will do the chores of organizing the material and getting out the magazine. Don Adolphson, 2611 Lawndale Drive, Rapid City, will receive contributions and will approve or edit for ornithology.

I hope members with a cellar full of bird observations will at last take some trouble to get it in readable shape and send it to Don. Not much of a backlog is left for me to turn over to the new editors at the moment and nothing is more discouraging than being an editor with nothing to edit.

For the new editors, I am looking forward to a long and rewarding tenure for them. Like feeding birds at your window, I have come to see the work of putting together a magazine. Whether or not a window feeder does the birds any good or not is open to argument. But there is no doubt that it is good for the person doing the feeding. And so, with editing this magazine. Whether your work is ultimately of benefit or not may be argued. But there is no doubt at all that it is good for the editor in all sorts of ways. And so I hope you will in time be able to say with me: no other experience has been more rewarding.—  
**J. W. Johnson**