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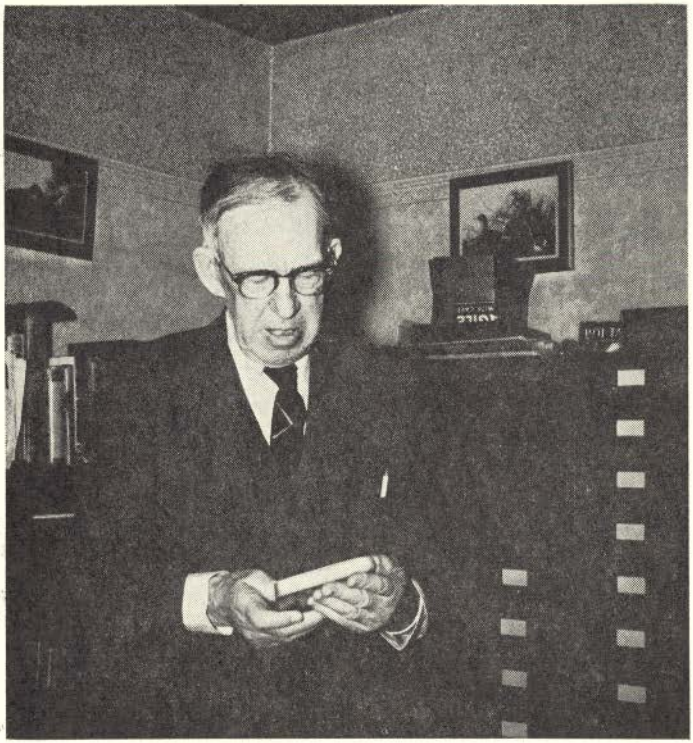

ALFRED PETERSON

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In This Number . . .

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President's Page

SINCE this is my last President's Page, I want to review some of our accomplishments of the past and list some ideas for future projects.

In the tenth anniversary issue of March-June, 1959, Herman Chapman, Scott Findley, and Herbert Krause summarized very ably the past, present and future of SDOU, and I want to add a footnote to their remarks.

Our activities can be divided into three categories: educational, scientific, and conservation.. So far I think that education has been our chief activity.

We have published a journal to disseminate information on birds, we have met and exchanged ideas, and we have talked with all of our friends who want to listen to us.

In the future, we should continue all these efforts. We should also speak, whenever invited, to groups outside our own membership, and especially to grade-school children, who may be particularly interested in natural history.

Finally, we should work toward the publication of a succinct statement of the status of all bird species that occur in the state.

Although we use the term **ornithologist** in our title, thereby implying a scientific point of view, there are only a few of us who work with birds in any professional capacity, and only a few others who are doing spare-time research.

Scientific studies to me mean investigations which add to the total fund of human knowledge and particularly to published knowledge of bird lift.

Many of the reports that have appeared in South Dakota Bird Notes in the past are in this category, and other scientific work has been published elsewhere.

Among the latter are the life history accounts of the Chestnut-collared Longspur and White-winged Junco which Herb Krause and I are preparing for the Bent series, and several papers by Krause, Youngworth, and others that have appeared in various national ornithological journals.

The statement of the status of all birds in South Dakota, which I mentioned in the last paragraph, would also be a scientific contribution.

In addition, careful investigations of population density in various habitats, details of migration routes and dates, and life-history studies of breeding species, should be made throughout the state.

In the past, we have done little in conservation, other than to talk among our friends and to try and convert them to our way of thinking.

However, with the increased use of powerful pesticides and with the

(Continued on Page 18)

Alfred Peterson

J. W. Johnson

INTERVIEWING people is different from interviewing birds—and my experience has been with birds.

Birds have few and simple ideas and they never write letters to editors, demanding retraction or claiming they were misquoted. And they never make it a personal matter when they see their own words in print and how they sound.

True, there is a language problem; but a common language is too often a pious theory, even a trap. You think, just because some one else uses the same words, in the same way you do, you both mean the same thing. If anything the advantage is still with the birds.

In the months since it has become clear that I had the problem of interviewing Alfred Peterson, of Brandt, S. Dak., for "Bird Notes," excuses for delay came easily.

My questions and his answers! Published to be read by people who have known him a lot longer than I have —than they have known me!

But those who excel to the point of becoming figures of legend, in their own time and among those best qualified to judge their work, are not many.

Perhaps they also have a duty to the future, to help make themselves understandable to those of lesser attainments.

At least the thought made something to cling to while I prepared to step out of character and pry into a man's life, his ideas, and his motives.

Peterson checks copy for his Shorebird Table

All the usual statistics on him I had, furnished in advance, through his kindly understanding of my difficulty. But nothing among them was of great importance to people who knew and admired the man and his work.

At best they furnished me a few starting points for the less tangible but no less real answers to what makes a man such as this.

How and why had he become interested in birds? Why shorebirds, the group most discouraging to beginning students? What held him to the years of study and close observation, where most of us drift into something else?

That it had not always been shore-

birds appeared from a letter written by W. J. Breckenridge, Director of the Minnesota Museum of natural history, who mentioned that their collection of hawks was greatly enriched by Peterson during the early thirties.

That could also indicate that hawk shooting occurred in more volume than sound ornithology would require. Which brought up another line of questions: What had been the purpose behind it and what had changed the outlook — assuming it had been changed? Was it a suddenly acquired view? Or a development of years?

A modest, sensitive, and unassuming man, whose papers on shorebirds make important the publication carrying them, Peterson had been, even before the hawk collecting phase, an observer whose work was accepted without question by authorities—over thirty years ago.

That shorebirds were not his first or his only field of natural history, I had learned only recently—and not from Peterson. He had long been interested in botany and had made extensive studies in that field also—in the first decades of the century.

While identifying the something like 500 plant species in the Pipestone, Minnesota area, he found two that did not fit exactly the descriptions in Gray's "Manual of Botany."

Such lack of order in science was disturbing to his orderly soul. Being the gentleman that he is, he made no trouble about it.

But, when the next edition of the manual, the eighth, came out, he was gratified to note that the science had caught up:

His two odd plants were included, one, a goldenrod: Solidago missouriensis, as a new variety. The other, an arrowwood: Viburnum dentatum, had been accorded full species rank.

In other widely different fields that I knew of, Peterson had grown well beyond the usual amateur level.

And this was the man I had to interview, make real in a few pages to people who knew both him and his work, even to make him understandable—should the expected duty be accomplished.

More and more I feel that birds are my level. How wonderful the thought of returning to them—and their beautifully uncomplex natures.

Arriving in Brandt to meet Peterson at near the appointed time, I found the thin, stooped figure walking up and down, waiting to greet me.

At once he led me upstairs to his apartment, where he has lived alone for many years. He had never married, he told me later, during the course of the interview.

Two of the rooms had well packed bookcases standing at intervals around the walls; but they held nowhere all the books I could see. Overflows were stacked here and there, on table, on the floor, on top of cases, wherever room could be found not occupied by mineral specimens.

For Peterson was also more than a little of a geologist. Besides the piles of specimens on the floor, boxes of uncommonly interesting minerals stood in stacks between and in front of the bookcases. A many drawered cabinet against the wall held smaller specimens of mineral.

A case of books on geology, with its attendant overflow included well over a score of titles.

And he had made the game of check-

ers a study on a scale startling to one who had never imagined it had much of a literature. A case of books he showed me held his library on that subject. These books run generally smaller in size than the others. They number just under 190 titles of the slightly over 210 possible, I was told. Peterson, himself, was working on a book on checkers that had already been underway for seventeen years.

For one whose addiction is books, particularly old and beautiful out-of-print books, this was a terrible scene in which to conduct an interview, even one with such an interesting character as Peterson.

Books, known and unknown, strange beyond all guessing, books I had never even hoped to see, stood everywhere, to be fondled at will.

May the record show that I kept the conversation close enough to the planned route of the interview to cross it now and then.

To get the essential data out of the way quickly, Alfred Peterson was born in Iowa, November 21, 1880, the oldest of nine children, two brothers and six sisters.

He went to work for the Rock Island Railroad in 1902, became telegraph operator and cashier at Pipestone, Minnesota, in 1904, agent at Brandt, S. D., in 1938, and retired in 1950 with a total of 48 years' service.

No doubt the Peterson story should here refer only to his work with birds. Yet this man cannot be fairly evaluated by what he has done in one field alone, however highly we esteem it or his work in it. To so confine the study would be an inexcusable distortion of the man.

Likewise, it might seem that consideration of more than his work would be beyond the scope of this paper. Such handling would be a gross injustice. Difficulties overcome cannot but be essential to the measure of accomplishment.

Accordingly these matters may not be ignored, though they will not be dwelt on more than needed to give a fair and balanced picture of this man.

Surprisingly, Peterson's life has always been that of a lonely (Here Peterson, reading galley proof, asks that the words "but not depressed" be inserted. Addition approved and accepted by author) person. The family was always shadowed by poverty, severe even for that age. Harassed understanding his early efforts to avoid the penalty of high intelligence with no outlet.

Even at an early age it was natural history that attracted him. He saw that the windrows of snail shells cast up by the waves on the nearby lake shores varied greatly in type. He undertook a project of collecting, classifying, and studying them that soon led him to the study of mollusks in general.

But his need was lost in the chaos of insoluble problems besetting his parents. That the result left no mark of bitterness is probably beyond simple explanation.

During his early teens he was taken to live with grandparents. Their lonely Wisconsin farm furnished no human companionship of near his own age and cost him three years of high school.

The latter loss was to affect Peterson more than it would many. It took away his chance for formal academic training, when his main interests have always been in fields where college degrees are almost essential.

With his sensitive nature he must

have felt the lack keenly at times, far beyond the understanding of the more fortunate.

Whatever other psychological factors or problems he may have had, loneliness dominated, feeding and fed on feelings of inferiority, the result of sensitivity and high intelligence in a childhood with no place for them.

But his intelligence allowed him not only to find acceptable outlets for his reaction to inferiority status, but, in time, to understand something of his own psychological problems. Within himself he found the answer to much of his difficulty.

A standard prescription for such trouble has long been:

"Go out and get a mastery."

Without professional advice Peterson did just that, was trying to do it long before he understood why. He gained not one mastery but many—and over broad fields. That he found it necessary to continue the self-medication beyond any reasonable expectation could be taken as an indication lack of effect. Yet he seems now to be at peace with himself.

Probably the explanation is that he found real interest in these fields—along with the ability to learn faster than the average.

A story about Peterson has developed differing versions because of its interest to those who know him. I asked for the real story:

A Ruddy Turnstone had fallen into a quarry near Pipestone. A workman, who thought it was pretty, put it in a cage.

Peterson bought the bird for a dollar and took it to Minneapolis to give it to the Museum and Dr. Roberts, then Director there.

On the street car from the station the bottom dropped out of the cage and the bird escaped into the car full of people—who made no secret of their enjoyment of the embarrassed efforts of this quiet and retiring man to recapture it.

Peterson chased the obviously healthy bird hither and yon through the car and among the delighted people of his audience.

Even at this late date he still remembers that nobody offered the slightest help to him in catching the bird. If not actively pro bird, they were effectively neutral.

But, in time, he caught the exhausted bird at a window while it tried to solve the mystery of glass that would let light in but not birds out.

This time the cage was made secure and one Ruddy Turnstone delivered to the Museum and Dr. Roberts.

It was on this trip, where he was welcomed in the usual kindly manner by Dr. Roberts, that, through some detail now lost, Peterson realized what manifold administrative duties demanding Dr. Roberts' time, had to wait while Peterson was made to feel welcome.

From then on he made it a point to send his specimens in and stay away himself.

When I asked about the killing of hawks, Peterson said that it had been 30 years since he had shot a hawk.

This was the way it had started: Dr. Roberts had seemed dubious of Peterson's statement that the western Red-tailed Hawk (rather, a western bias of the mixture of the western and eastern races of the red-tail) migrated through the Pipestone area.

Peterson started sending him hawks

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Lincoln's Sparrow

Migration pattern as observed in the three state area adjacent to Sioux City, Iowa.

Wm. Youngworth

The Lincoln's Sparrow is one of the shyest little sparrows of the Upper Missouri River Valley and, for that reason alone, is probably overlooked by some observers. As a migrant through this region it is probably slightly more common in the fall than in the spring. Hardly an abundant migrant it can still be found every spring or fall, with a bit of patience. The band of buff across the breast, coupled with the small fine spots on the breast, should serve to distinguish it from the more heavily marked Song Sparrow.

Since this sparrow winters from our own southern states to Central America, the bird student should not be surprised to find it in the middle of April as well as the middle of May. My earliest spring arrival date here in the Sioux City area is April 19, 1948. This is not particularly early in the season and perhaps other observers in the area have earlier arrival dates.

It seems as though the spring departure date can be set around May 20th most years, but I do have a departure date from Dakota County, Nebraska, for May 23, 1957. Here again others might have later departures on a few vagrant birds.

The fall flight of the Lincoln's Sparrow is interesting in that it is usually of a bit more duration. It usually starts in mid-September, but there are years when some of the adult birds appear earlier. These birds might be nesting along Canadian border, probably even in northern Minnesota and migrating early. My earliest fall arrival date is August 31, 1955, although other early dates are September 5, 1927, and September 6, 1954.

It came as sort of a shock to this observer to find migrating Lincoln's Sparrows in August and it made him wonder if, during the past thirty years, maybe he had neglected to look for migrants during the heat of late summer.

The fall visit of the Lincoln's Sparrow can well be spread over most of September and October in this area, with the usual departure date well toward the end of the latter month.

With the coming of November most of the Lincoln's Sparrows have moved to warmer climates, with my only November dates being the 7th in 1926, the 5th in 1928, and the 1st in 1950.

I have long admired the candid way in which the late Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, author of the Birds of Minnesota, 1932, admitted that he had never seen this bird in life or had never heard the song of such and such a bird; the Lincoln's Sparrow was one of the birds he had never heard.

So, when many years ago I heard my Lincoln's Sparrow sing here at Sioux City, in the spring, I was thrilled to say the least. Since that time I have

been privileged to hear it just a few times more. The song is a beautiful sweet warble, but is so lacking in volume that the singer must be quite close.

Just out from our bedroom window are three white cedar trees, so close together that their branches entwine, and it is here that early, on a spring morning, I am apt to hear the fine song of the Lincoln's Sparrow. When I do my day is already complete.

My records on this Sparrow are summarized in the following tables:

Spring Observations

Year	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Important Flights	Remarks
1926				Not reported in Spring
1927	May 6	May 22		Reported 3 days
1928	May 6	May 17		Reported 4 days
1929	April 24	May 20	May 6 - May 8	Reported on 7 days
1930	April 24	May 23	May 2 - May 9-13	Reported on 10 days
1931	April 28	May 19	May 7 - May 14	Reported on 9 days
1932	April 26	May 17		Reported on 5 days
1933	May 6	May 6		Only one record
1934	May 11	May 11		Only one record
1935				Unreported this year
1936	May 5	May 5		Only spring record
1937				Unreported
1938				Unreported
1939	April 22			Only record for year
1940				Unreported
1941				Unreported in spring
1942				Unreported this year
1943	May 1			Only record for year
1944				Unreported
1945	April 22	May 20		Only 2 records in 1945
1946	April 28			Only spring record
1947				Unreported
1948	April 19	May 5	April 19 - April 29	Best April flight
1949				Not reported in spring
1950	May 12	May 15		Reported twice
1951	April 27	May 16	May 9 - May 11	Reported 7 times
1952	April 28	May 20		Three Reports
1953	May 2	May 15		Three spring records
1954	April 24	May 13	May 4 - May 8	Recorded 9 days
1955	April 21	May 8	April 30 - May 2	Recorded 8 days
1956	April 28	May 19	May 14 - May 18	Recorded on 17 days, the greatest number on record for spring. Heaviest flight was late: from May 14 to May 18, when on two days ten Lincoln Sparrows were seen.

(Continued on Page 13)

SHOREBIRD

In Northeastern

As Observed by

TABULATION

	1953		1954		1955	
(1) Ringed Plover	5-13,1 7-24,1	5-18,4 9-24,2	5-4,1 8-8,4	5-25,3 9-12,1	5-5,10 8-2,1	5-29,1 9-10,1
(2) Piping Plover			5-5,1	8-7,4	8-10,5	8-15,5
(3) Killdeer	3-29 Common		4-5,1	10-11	3-31,1	?
(4) Golden Plover	5-9,1 9-26,25	5-25,40 10-11,23	5-11,23	5-20,20	5-15,few	5-22,1
(5) Black-bellied Plover	5-18,1 9-24,8	5-25,2 10-8,1	5-18,6 9-13,3	5-20,2 9-15,1	5-17,5 8-10,2	6-9,11 8-15,1
(6) Ruddy Turnstone .	5-14,1	5-31,50	5-24,13 8-8,15	5-29,98 8-22,15	5-21,2 8-7,5	6-10,2 8-15,2
(7) Common Snipe ...	4-13,1 9-13,1	4-31,1	4-28,1 10-17,1	5-8,1 10-21,1	8-10,1	8-29,1
(8) Upland Plover	5-8,1	8-2,2	5-13,2	8-1,1	5-8,4	8-15,5
(9) Spotted Sandpiper	5-13,few	?	5-14,1	9-5,1	5-17,1	8-15,1
(10) Solitary Sandpiper	5-13,1 7-23,1	5-21,1 8-24,1	5-2,2 7-28,1	5-19,1 9-16,1	5-19,2 7-16,1	? 9-8,1
(11) Willet	5-3,4	9-3,1	5-4,3	9-13,1	4-30,1	8-23,1
(12) Greater Yellow-legs	4-10,4 7-26,1	5-13 10-7,20	4-8,1 7-28,1	5-11,1 10-31,1	4-6,2 8-2,1	5-12,1 9-10,1
(13) Lesser Yellow-legs	3-29 7-24,4	5-19 10-18,25	4-8,8 7-22,5	6-24,1 10-27,1	4-7,3 7-16,3	6-8,1 9-10
(14) American Knot ..						
(15) Pectoral Sandpiper	4-1,8 9-10,1	5-25 10-11,5	4-9,3 7-22,4	5-24,7 8-23,1	4-7,6 7-16,1	5-24 9-10
(16) White-Rumped Sandpiper	5-19,25	5-28 9-3,20	5-11,2 9-16,6	6-4,10 ?	5-12,1	5-28
(17) Baird's Sandpiper	4-10,1 8-23	4-26few 10-17,4	4-19,10 10-11,35	5-11 10-13	4-16,10 8-25,3	4-23,6 8-28
(18) Least Sandpiper .	5-13,5 9-10,5	5-17,2 10-6,1	5-11,2 7-30,2	5-19,1 9-13	5-3,1	5-18
(19) Dunlin			5-11,1	6-4,1	5-17,16	5-28,6
(20) Dowitcher	4-28,3 8-23,100	5-19,5 10-22,14	5-2,2 7-25,2	5-20,20 10-18,12	4-30,70 8-2,100	5-27,1 9-7,4
(21) Stilt Sandpiper ..	5-10,7 7-13,12	5-23,15 9-7,4	5-11,2 8-8,10	5-24,1 10-12,18	4-18,2 7-18,15	5-26,12 9-10,18
(22) Semipalmated Sandpiper	5-10	5-23,few	5-4,10 7-25,many	6-4,8 9-6,3	5-8,many	5-28
(23) Buff-breasted Sandpiper					5-16,1	
(24) Marbled Godwit .	4-26,4	10-11,1	5-5,4	9-5,4	4-23,3	8-15,75
(25) Hudsonian Godwit	4-18,5	5-21,34	4-19,1	5-19,9	4-18,7	5-29,5
(26) Sanderling	5-14,2 9-13,1	5-23,3 10-10,1	5-24,18 7-25,6	5-29,16 9-19,2	5-24,7	6-7,8
(27) Avocet	5-2,2	5-31,6	4-19,4	9-5,4	4-23,2	8-10,2
(28) Wilson's Phalarope	4-23,4	?	5-5-,3	9-13,1	4-30,100	?
(29) Northern Phalarope	5-17,150	5-31,32 10-10,2	5-18,3 8-22,20	5-29,4 9-5,25	5-25,10	5-28,16

MIGRATION

South Dakota

Alfred Peterson

OF DATA . . .

1956		1957		1958		1959	
5-3,1	5-23,1	5-10,2 8-3,3	6-5,1 10-10,1	5-3,2 7-16,2	5-29,2 8-30,1	4-27,1	5-19,1
		5-5,1		5-25,1		4-17,1	
4-5,1	9-4,6	3-29,1	9-29,60	5-5,11	11-14,1	3-27,1	10-9
5-12,4 10-4,20	5-23,2 10-17,1	5-3,30	5-29,70 8-5,1	9-28,14	11-11,1	5-1,34 9-17,3	5-25,1 10-12,10
5-26,1 10-15,3	5-29,1 10-22,2	5-22,9 10-1,1	5-27,3 11-5,3	5-19,3 9-2,1	6-2,1 10-13,1	10-14,2	11-2,1
5-19,1	5-27,90	5-19,1	5-29,15	5-18,6	6-5,30 8-15,2	5-19,49	5-26,70
9-11,6	10-29,7	4-28,1 8-27,1	? 10-24,5	4-11,1 8-21,2	4-17,2 10-24,15	4-17,1	5-7,1 10-14,1
5-6,3	8-5,2	4-30,2		5-3,1	8-15,1	5-4,2	8-22,2
5-6,1	8-28,2	6-12,6	9-6,1	5-6,1	8-31,1	5-6,1	7-21,1
5-6,1 7-11,1	5-14,1 9-14,1	5-14,1 8-4,2	? 9-12,3	7-9,1	7-28,1	5-10,2 7-17,2	? 9-9,3
5-6,3	8-5,1	5-2,5	? 8-9,3	4-29,3	8-31,1	4-27,4	?
4-12,1 9-21,1	4-24,2 10-29,10	4-10,5 8-3,2	5-5,1 10-30,7	4-15,1 7-11,1	4-26,4 9-27,1	4-15,1 10-14,few	4-27,1 10-18,1
4-11,5 7-11,2	5-29,6 11-3,2	4-16,4 7-25,20	6-12,7 10-26,3	4-10,1 6-18,3	5-23 10-1,2	4-7,4 7-1,1	5-25,2 10-22,8
		9-11,2	9-13,1				
4-19,6 7-11,2	5-27 8-28	5-4,1 7-25,20	5-27,4 10-31,5	4-15,4 7-9,8	6-1,16 10-7,2	4-7,5 7-12,1	5-19 10-22,15
5-10,10 8-5,few	5-29 10-18,1	5-4,1 10-3,1	5-24 10-14,6	4-30,few	6-21,8	5-13,10	6-2,20 8-2,1
4-12,5	5-1,1 10-17,1		8-27,1		8-25,1	4-8,5	4-24,15
5-6,1 8-1,1	5-15 10-23,2	5-11,20 8-3,few	5-15 11-5,3	5-1,1 7-28,1	6-9,few 9-20,1	4-27,1 7-17,1	5-19 7-21,4
5-14,12	5-29,1	5-11,10 11-4,1	5-29,2 11-5,3	5-18,few	6-1,20	5-13,4	?
4-15,1 7-15,25	5-19,3 10-23,12	5-10,20 9-4,1	5-22,4 10-23,few	4-30,17 7-10,2	5-22,50 10-14,1	5-5,80 9-2,20	5-19,1 11-2,20
5-12,24 7-19,40	5-29,12 10-20,10	5-9,6 7-25,20	5-29,2 10-3,12	5-6,2 7-10,20	5-28,20 10-2,1	5-8,1 7-17,15	5-26,many 10-16,few
5-10,12 7-12,20	5-29 9-30	5-5,10 7-25,20	5-26,few 10-31,2	4-30 7-10,12	6-5,2 9-22,2	5-7,20 7-17,1	6-1,2 10-16,20
4-19,2	7-28,8	5-4,2	9-18,1	5-1,1	7-11,6	4-15,1	7-1,3
4-19,30	5-29,4	5-9,8	5-23,2	5-1,11	6-1,1	4-17,9	5-19,14
		5-24,4	5-29,2	5-24,1	6-7,2 8-15,1	4-27,1 8-9,2	5-26,3 10-14,4
4-19,11	9-23,3	4-19,1	9-13,6	5-5,20	7-11,1	4-13,2	10-9,65
5-2,4	8-20,10	5-4,2	9-6,3	4-30,200	7-28,1	4-29,9	11-2,1
5-14,200	5-29,26 8-31,20	5-22,65	5-29,50	5-23,30	6-6,1	5-15,3	9-2,1

EXPLANATION

Dates shown, first and last, should not be taken as strictly marking times of arrival and departure. Generally, however, they may be trusted as bearing close to actual dates. The birds arrive or depart without regard to bird watchers, who, on noticing certain facts, peg them down with dates and comments.

Each compartment in table has a line for spring and a line for fall. The left hand side indicates first seen and right side last seen.

A glance at the table discloses the Dunlin to be spring and fall migrant, the Hudsonian Godwit as spring migrant only, and the Avocet as arriving early in spring, remaining as a summer resident. Exact counts are often not to be obtained, hence round numbers are expedient in use.

The area given most attention extends from Arlington to Lake Preston and north to Webster and Waubay lakes — too large for daily checks in all parts. Late in season, because the round trip to Waubay lakes takes another 200 miles out of the old car, this mileage has been often put to use nearer home.

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

(1) Common. 1953: 5-16, several. 1954: 5-9, 5. Up to 10 or 12 at times.

(2) Rare. 1955: 8-7, 4; 8-10, and 8-15, 5.

(3) Abundant. 1957: 9-29, 60.

(4) Common. 1953: 5-13, 100; 5-16, 120; 5-23, 100. 1954: 5-18, 150. 1959: 5-14, 60.

(5) Regular. 1957: 10-22, 20. 1958. 5-23, 30.

(6) Common. 1953: 5-23, 41. 1954: 5-29, 98. 1959: 5-26, 70.

(7) Uncommon. 1958: 10-9, 40. 1959: 4-23, 11.

(8) Regular. 1958: 6-22, 8.

(9) Regular. Perhaps 6 on a good day.

(10) Frequent. Have seen six together.

(11) Common. 1953: 5-17, 10. 1959: 5-8, 10.

(12) Common. 1953: 5-3, 10. 1954: 10-17, 20. 1955: 4-10, 16.

(13) Abundant. 1953: 7-25, 100. 1954: 8-8, very many. 1955: 7-17, 100. 1959: 7-17,40.

(14) Accidental. 1957: 9-11, 2.

(15) Abundant. 1959: 7-17, 50.

(16) Common. 1953: 5-21, 100. 1958: 6-9, 70.

(17) Regular. 1953: 4-23, 100.

(18) Common. 1959: 5-13, many.

(19) Common. 1955: 5-24, 30. 1953: 5-24, 150; 5-25, 200.

(20) Abundant. 1953: 9-13, 95. 1954: 3-22, 200. 1955: 8-2, 100. 1956: 10-18, 105. 1959: 10-9, 100; 10-16, 325.

(21) Abundant. 1953: 8-23, 30; 10-6, 30. 1954: 9-15, 100. 1959: 9-2, 200; 9-19, 550.

(22) Common. 1954: 5-9, 40; 8-8, 20.

(23) Rare.

(24) Common. 1953: 7-13, 50. 1955: 8-15, 75. 1956: 7-17, 75.

(25) Common. 1953: 5-21, 34. 1957: 5-11, 25. 1958: 5-19, 91. 1959: 5-17, 18.

(26) Infrequent. 1953: 10-6, 50 to 60. 1955: 5-29, 8 or 10. 1958: 6-5, 30. 1959: 10-9, 12.

(27) Regular. 1954: 5-5, 17. 1955: 5-8, 15; 8-2, 10. 1956: 7-28, 29. 1957: 9-6, 11. 1959: 9-17, 60; 10-9, 600.

(28) Common. 1953: 5-10, 50; 5-14, 28. 1954: 5-18, 20. 1955: 4-30, 100. 1956: 5-3, 100; 8-20, 10. 1957: 8-5, 50. 1958: 4-30, 200.

(29) Frequent. 1953: 5-23, 1,000. 1954: 5-24, 100. 1955: 4-30, 100. 1956: 5-29, 50; 6-1, 8 or 10.

CONCLUSION

Elliott Coues, in his "Birds of the Northwest," 1874, reported many observations from the vicinity of Fort Randall and Yankton.

His comments on Shorebirds are interesting, as the quotations that follow will serve to show:

"The Turnstone has not, to my knowledge, been found in the Missouri region."

(Dowitcher) "But nowhere have I

(Continued on Page 17

Lincoln's Sparrow

(Continued from Page 9)

Fall Observations

Year	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Important Flights	Remarks
1957	May 9	May 23	May 9 - May 10	Three Spring dates
1958	May 1	May 10	May 5 - May 10	Reported on 7 days
1959	April 30	May 14	May 1 - May 2	Reported on 5 days
1926	Sept. 25	Nov. 7	Sept. 25-26	Recorded on 7 days
1927	Sept. 5	Oct. 23		Reported 2 days
1928	Sept. 10	Nov. 5	Oct. 1, 14 - 28	Reported 10 times
1928	Sept. 23	Nov. 5	Oct. 1, 14 - 28	Reported 15 days
1930	Sept. 20	Nov. 2	Sept. 29 - Oct. 26	Reported 11 days
1931	Sept. 17	Oct. 21	Sept. 17, 29 - Oct. 1	Reported 11 days
1932	Sept. 19	Oct. 14	Oct. 8 - Oct. 10	Reported 5 days
1933	Sept. 25			Only fall report
1934				No fall report from this area
1935				No fall report from this area
1936	Sept. 25			Only fall report
1937				Unreported
1938				Unreported
1939				Unreported
1940				Unreported
1941	Sept. 21			Only report
1942				Unreported
1943				Unreported
1944				Unreported
1945				Unreported
1946	Sept. 19	Oct. 15		Reported 4 days
1947				Unreported
1948	Sept. 18			Only record
1949	Sept. 16	Oct. 17	Sept. 21 - 26	Reported 10 days
1950	Sept. 16	Nov. 1	Oct. 13 - Oct. 17	Reported 8 days
1951	Oct. 11			Reported once
1952	Sept. 18	Sept. 25		Reported 8 days
1953	Sept. 25			Only report
1954	Sept. 6	Oct. 19	Sept. 21 - 26	Reported 12 days
1955	Aug. 31	Oct. 13	Sept. 12 - 13	Reported 7 days
1956	Sept. 17	Oct. 28	Oct. 2 - 15	Reported 37 days
1957	Sept. 30	Oct. 3	Sept. 30 - Oct. 3	Reported 3 days
1958	Sept. 27	Oct. 22	Oct. 8 and Oct. 20	Reported 4 days
1959	Sept. 22	Oct. 15	Sept. 22	Reported 4 days

(Continued on Page 17)

General Notes of Special Interest

KINGLETS IN SIOUX FALLS--Both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets were unusually numerous in Sioux Falls during September and October, 1959,

I recorded my first individuals on Sept. 17 when in an excellent concentration of passerines which invaded Woodlawn Cemetery, I counted 35 Ruby-crowns—the largest number for one day in my records.

However, I feel ecrtain that there were many more in this wave of an estimated four to five hundred birds.

Several males flashed the red crest, perhaps in warning to members of their own species or to neighbors of other species, for the wave was fairly thickly concentrated, warblers, kinglets, flycatchers, vireos, often close together as they unhurriedly streamed through the trees, sometimes in the lower branches, infrequently in the tiptops, most often in the middle branches.

The kinglets seemed to be the liveliest members of the wave, wings flipping restlessly, greenishyellow flashes darting here and there, fluttering at a twig-end momentarily, then tumbling head-long several branches downward to another twig-end.

Sept. 17 seems to be an early date for Sioux Falls. Larson (1925. WILSON BULL., 37:75) reports Sept. 24 as his earliest fall arrival date for this area, although Roberts (1936. BIRDS OF MINNESOTA, 2:145) records Sept. 16 as an average date for southeastern Minnesota.

On Sept. 19 I counted 10 Ruby-crowns in the same cemetery—possibly left-overs from the previous wave. On the 21st I found 6 but on 27th only 3. On Oct. 9, following a cold front, I noted 6; on the 13th, 5.

On Oct. 22 there was another small "wave" with an incursion of Golden-crowned Kinglets. That day I counted 5 Ruby-crowns. My last record is Oct. 30 when I saw a single individual.

I saw my first Golden-crowned Kinglet—a female—on Oct. 13, shortly after the wide-spread storms of Oct. 5 through 12.

This is earlier than Larson's Oct. 30 date (1925. Ibid.) but late when compared with Roberts' Sept. 22 average (1936. Ibid., 2:142).

On Oct. 15 I counted 7, 5 in one American elm of which number 3 were females dashing with fluttering wings at each other, apparently in the excitement of a territorial squabble.

On Oct. 22 I struck an avian jackpot —a small "wave" of Golden and Ruby-crowns. I saw 4 Ruby-crowns, 2 singing short scraps of song in American elm trees in Woodlawn Cemetery. Suddenly they were pursued by 5 Golden-crowns.

The Ruby-crowns flashed their red crests warningly, small scarlet spots in the dull elm, but took to their wings before the oncoming Golden-crowns.

I took one look into the neighboring trees and was certain why the Rubys fled. The branches were scattered with fluttering bits of greenish-white.

I managed to count 19 Golden-crowns in the shifting numbers but am sure there were more. I noticed that all

the kinglets seemed to be responding to some kind of stimulus—perhaps invasion of feeding territory. I saw nothing more alarming.

Nevertheless, Ruby-crowns chased each other, then Golden-crowns pursued Rubys, Rubys retaliated by darting at Goldens, Goldens pestered each other, until ribbons of birds curved among the branches. Sometimes a Chickadee was caught in the excitement and flew near, only to be dive-bombed by the midget kinglets. Often when a Chickadee took off, several Golden-crowns would take wing after it, following closely but curving aside quickly when the Chickadee stopped to perch.

Though the Chickadee seemed to ignore all this twittering pigmy chit-chat, it twitched aside suddenly when a Golden-crown zoomed past its head. Between skirmishes, the kinglets fed, apparently dividing their attention equally between conifers (pine and spruce) and deciduous trees (American elm, maple and ash).

Once a Downy Woodpecker undulated by and was promptly beset by three Golden-crowns which zipped about its flight for a moment, however much they kept what seemed to be precautionary distances from the zeppelin-like Picidae.

Then, as if their over-energized spirits needed further release, they tore at each other. For a moment there was a tangle of revolving greenish blurs.

After some five minutes of activity among these trees, the kinglets suddenly drifted away. I left them. Later I counted 7 more Golden-crowns in two other parts of the cemetery and one Ruby-crown—a total of 26 Goldens—more than I'd ever seen before.

All in all, it was a kinglet day in the cemetery. On the 25th I saw only 2 Golden-crowns. Since then I have seen them sporadically by one's and two's—seldom more.

Over a ten-year period I do not have a single winter in which they have not been present in small numbers. In contrast Larson states (1925. Ibid., 75) that in 1906-16, they were "seen occasionally in winter" and that they "wintered 1907-08."

My records agree with Stephens-Youngworth-Felton's conclusion (1955. BIRDS OF UNION COUNTY 24) "a few hardy (Golden-crowned) kinglets remain all winter."—**Herbert Krause, English Dept., Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.**

* * * *

BIRD NOTES FROM PLATTE—During the spring migration of 1959 a Yellow-Breasted Chat feasted on the suet I had nailed to a post on our bird feeder, only about a dozen feet from where we stood behind the window watching. Has any other of our group seen a Chat eat suet?

In the autumn of 1958 while picking apples I found a Saw-whet Owl sitting next to the trunk of the tree from which I was picking. He did not fly until I had picked a bushel of apples from a position where I could have reached him at any time.

It was evident from his markings that he was not a Screech Owl, and on checking with Peterson's guide I found it to be definitely a Saw-whet.

This winter two Barred Owls stayed in our corner of Platte for several weeks. The crows gave away their daytime roosts, and one was shot for a Great Horned Owl.

I brought it home and checked its identification marks, and there is no doubt that it was a Barred Owl. That

was in January. Over and Thoms state that Barred Owls are rare summer residents in our state.

Great Horned Owls are rather common here. The crows nearly always point them out to the bird watcher, but most people do not appear to notice them, sitting, as they do, in a sheltered spot in a tree, where crows cannot readily attack them.

Twice recently they have sought refuge in cedar trees near our house, once not more than thirty feet from it. There the crows could not get at them, and soon gave up trying.

Our three grandchildren in going to school walked within a few feet of the tree having been admonished not to throw at the owl, and did not frighten him away. In each case they stayed for as much as a half day.

Great Horned Owls used to fly as soon as I approached within ten rods. I believe that they are becoming accustomed to our presence, since we do not try to frighten them, or shoot them, and they appreciate our bird refuge.—**Chas. A. Nash, Platte.**

* * * *

LAPLAND LONGSPURS—Just to show how far we can miss when we make statements, I quote W. H. Over, in "Birds of South Dakota."

Under Lapland Longspur he says: "We see these birds only in winter, when they come to us on the wings of a storm."

That is evidently the usual thing but the fact is today, April 8, 1960 Mrs. M. and I went birding and spent a full hour studying with 10x50 and 22x70 glasses, a flock of fully plumaged Lapland longspurs feeding in a barren pasture.

It was a bright sunny spring day (late spring, that is) and windy. There was no question of identity and we estimated at least 500 on a 30-acre field. —**L. J. Moriarty, Watertown.**

* * * *

ROOSTING BROWN CREEPERS—The nocturnal habits of many northern birds, especially those which winter in South Dakota and in those states adjacent to the Canadian Provinces, continue to intrigue investigators.

Where does the Golden-crowned Kinglet find shelter in storms as severe as that which in South Dakota saw the old year out and the new 1960 year in? Or what protection do the Snow Bunting and the Lapland Longspur, ground birds both, have against the freezing rain and sleet of a freakish storm like that which plagued South Dakota during Dec. 26 through 29, 1959?

Or what sort of roosting place do the Common Redpoll and the Pine Siskin find when temperatures creak down to minus 20 and 30 degrees? And does the Brown Creeper actually creep under a loose piece of bark in winter to secure lodging for the night, as a woodsman once solemnly told me?

There are probably few answers to these queries, apparently because snow and deep cold compound the difficulties which confront the investigator in any study of the night-time behavior of animals. Therefore, the following observations may perhaps be of interest.

I am indebted to Dr. Dilwayn Rogers, Dept. of Biology, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, for the following information which is submitted with his approval: The weather during December—at least until Christmas time—was unusually mild with no particularly cold days and some melting periods.

On Dec. 15 Dr. Rogers noted bird

droppings in a corner of a porch on his house. However, he saw no birds and supposed that House Sparrows were the visitors. On Dec. 16 he came out on the porch after dark. Light from the open door illuminated the area enough so that he caught sight of what seemed to be birds roosting just under the ceiling in an upper corner. He brought out a flashlight and found two Brown Creepers clinging to the rough surface of the wall. They were huddled close together as if for warmth.

At first they remained undisturbed by the flashlight, moving their heads a little as though watching this intrusion. But when Dr. Rogers turned to call his wife, both of the birds flew away. Later that evening, however, they were back in the same place, once more perched side by side.

The roosting place seemed well chosen. It was high under the ceiling in a right angle formed by a wall and a projecting frieze-like panel under the eaves of the porch. The porch itself faced south.

Here neither wind nor wet could reach the birds easily. Although they came back after the first disturbance, the birds did not return the following evening. Nor did Dr. Rogers see them again.—**Herbert Krause, Dept. of English, Augustana College, Sioux Falls.**

* * * *

Conclusion

(Continued from Page 12)

seen them so abundant as in Dakota during the fall passage."

"I have never yet seen the Stilt Sandpiper alive, and it appears to be rather rare in the United States."

(Buff Breasted Sandpiper) "This species I have never yet seen alive."

"This Hudsonian Godwit is much less abundant than the preceding (Marbled). I have never seen it alive."

Here Chapman's "Birds of Eastern North America," says, "This species is now one of our rarest shorebirds."

Well. The shorebirds have not done so badly in this region. Check with Ruddy Turnstone, Dowicher, Stilt Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, and rejoice.—**Brandt.**

* * *

Lincoln's Sparrow

(Continued from Page 13)

Range of Numbers

The first day of any spring flight is usually very light and in going back to May 6, 1927, the count was four; April 24, 1929, the count was six; April 24, 1930, the count was 3; April 28, 1931, the count was 2.

Usually a week or so later the count definitely increases and then tapers off to the last date.

This fact nearly always holds up, but in 1929 more Lincoln's Sparrows were counted the last day than on any other date that year: May 4 (3), 6 (15), 8 (20), 11 (1), 16 (8), 20 (25).

In 1930 the flight was strong again, May 2 (20), 5 (7), 9 (30), 10 (20), 13 (10), 15 (8), 18 (2), 23 (1).

In 1931 the main flight was as follows, May 7 (30), 11 (12), 13 (15), 14 (12), 15 (6), 19 (4).

The Fall flights often run heavier and while not to be expected every year the following two years give a pretty good idea what can be expected with considerable field work:

October 1, 1928, (15), 2 (5), 15 (50), 15 (4), 16 (30), 18 (25), 28 (15), November 5 (6).

October 1, 1929, (25-50), 3 (50-75), 7 (6), 9 (5), 14 (20), 16 (25), 29 (2).

—Sioux City, Iowa

Alfred Peterson

(Continued from Page 7)

as he could get them, from roadside discoveries of dead birds, hawks killed by people of his acquaintance, as well as some he collected himself for the purpose. Altogether and over a period of years it made a lot of hawks.

It was about here that Peterson told how he finds identification of birds, shorebirds particularly, more satisfactory from the live bird in the wild than from a study skin. The bird's habits, mannerisms, and postures are often as distinctive as the colors.

Peterson's work on birds gets mention in Dr. Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota," and 56 citations are given him in the same author's, "Logbook of Minnesota Birdlife, 1917-1937."

During one of the intervals when I had to break off and go look at seductive books, I found a case of them devoted to fishing. Again I was amazed at the literature on a subject.

Peterson came and showed me a copy of the first book on fishing published in the United States, in 1834, as well as earlier ones from England.

Would there be any end to my discoveries of this man, Peterson? And the incredible amount of detail he had in the forefront of his mind all the time!

One last realization: With the search for and collection of books on his various interests he was led to still another: The knowledge and collection of rare and out of print books, with appreciation of the books themselves.

When I, at last, became aware of time it was late. I went away, filled with wonder at this man.

(Acknowledgements for help with material and ideas for this paper are due the friends and admirers of Mr. Peterson, particularly the following:

To Wm. Youngworth of Sioux City for the original suggestion. Mr. H. F. Chapman not only helped with material and suggestions but secured material from Mr. Breckenridge and Mr. Peterson's sister, Ida L. Peterson, all of which was gratefully received. Herbert Krause and J. S. Findley gave encouragement and material.

The total was far beyond possible space and led to my rewriting as above.

And, last and most important, Peterson himself, who allowed himself to be dissected by the not always gentle words—with never a quiver. JWJ.)

—Huron

* * *

President's Page

(Continued from Page 3)

drainage of potholes and marshes accelerating in parts of the state, we should study the known effects of these procedures on wildlife.

We should then achieve closer liason with other groups in the state interested in conservation to work out plans of action.

In our eleven years of existence as an organization, we have established ourselves in the educational and scientific fields.

In the future, we must continue them, but must also assume leadership in formulating public policy in relation to the wild birds of South Dakota.

—N. R. Whitney

MORE ON THE HARRIS' SPARROW—Mr. Youngworth's article on Harris' Sparrow in the December issue is an excellent account of personal observations. I think, however, one should be very cautious in drawing conclusions about changes in distribution.

In 1940, Mr. Haecker of Omaha gave a paper at the Wilson Club meeting, in which he suggested that downy woodpeckers had become more common along the Missouri River since Audubon's time because he did not mention them.

I was at once reminded that in Wood's list of North Dakota birds, the ovenbird was rated uncommon because Russell Reid had not mentioned records because he considered them common.

Reference should be made to the article in the Wilson Bulletin for September 1929, where records to date were compiled. These included some from Ohio since 1889, eastern Ontario 1897-1913, Massachusetts in 1929, British Columbia since 1891, California since 1900. Professor Swenk felt that there was some movement southward after Christmas.

Fifty years ago I used to get three to seven species in the Christmas list. Now with several parties, and cars to cover the maximum area, they get 20 species.

I might mention also that I used to consider all winter waxwings as Bohemian but with more careful observation we are finding cedar frequent. Maximilian's winter list of birds at Fort Clark, North Dakota, in 1833-34 includes the same that we would expect today except for raven.—**O. A. Stevens, Fargo, N. Dak.**

* * * *

WITH THE BANDERS

LOWRY ELLIOTT—1959—Yellow-billed flycatcher 2, Northern Shike 1, Bohemian Waxwing 1, Blue-headed Vireo 1, Warblers: 12 species: Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-poll, Connecticut, Mourning, Yellow-throat, Wilson's, Redstart. 1 MacGillivray's Warbler, White-winged Cross-bill. Sparrows, 16 Species: Savannah, Vesper, S-c. Junco, Oregon Junco, Tree, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Harris', W-c, Gambell's, W-t, Fox, Lincoln, Swamp, Song and other, more common species. Total 1368 individuals of 53 species.—**Milbank.**

J. S. FINDLEY—1959. Mallard 2, Solitary Sandpiper 1, Semi-palmated Plover 2, Piping Plover 1, Mourning Dove 5, Downy Woodpecker 1, Y-s. Flicker 4, Eastern Wood Pewee 2, Traill's Flycatcher 1, Blue Jay 23, Starling 2, Cowbird 2, Yellow-headed Blackbird 1, Red-winged Blackbird 16, Orchard Oriole 1, Grackle 14, American Goldfinch 6, Savannah Sparrow 1, White-crowned Sparrow 2, Gambel's Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 21, Clay-colored Sparrow 1, Tree Sparrow 8, Field Sparrow 1, Slate-colored Junco 35, Song Sparrow 13, Lincoln's Sparrow 8, Swamp Sparrow 1, Fox Sparrow 8, Rufous-sided Towhee (Eastern) 2, (Arctic) 1, Cardinal 14, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4, Cedar Waxwing 14, Red-eyed Vireo 2, Phildelphia Vireo 1, Warbling

Vireo 1, Solitary Vireo 1, Nashville Warbler 3, Orange-crowned Warbler 2, Tennesee Warbler 10, Yellow Warbler 10, Myrtle Warbler 4, Bay-breasted Warbler 1, Palm Warbler 4, Ovenbird 1, Northern Water-thrush 2, Mourning Warbler 6, MacGillivray's Warbler 1, Yellowthroat 8, Yellow-breasted Chat 1, Wilson's Warbler 3, Canada Warbler 1, Redstart 2, Water Pipit 1, Catbird 24, Brown Thrasher 26, House Wren 10, Brown Creeper 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Black-capped Chickadee 37, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Swainson's Thrush 5, Robin 32—**Sioux Falls.**

N. R. WHITNEY—1959. Pinon Jay 5, Blue Jay 1, Robin 1, Mountain Bluebird 3, Loggerhead Shrike 7, Audubon Warbler 1, Western Tanager 1, Lark Bunting 1, White-winged Junco 92, Slate-colored Junco 9, Oregon Junco 9, White-crowned Sparrow 3, Lincoln's Sparrow 1, Bohemian Waxwing 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, (Banded as a captive in mid-July, shot about a week later, half a mile from point of release. A Slate-colored Junco, banded in mid-April, 1959, recaptured at the same place on Nov. 15. The Shrikes and 3 of the White-winged Juncos were banded while still in the nest. The Bluebirds, Audubon Warbler, and Tanager were all flightless fledglings. The Waxwing, Lark Bunting, and 1 White-crowned Sparrow were all injured birds that were banded before release.—**Rapid City.**

J. W. JOHNSON—1959. Of the 751 Robins banded at Huron during the summer of 1959 by George Jonkel of the U. S. F. & W. S. with the help of Huron Bird Club Members, returns have come in on five—all from within a radius of 75 miles—in the South Texas Region.

One came from Hamilton, the rest almost exactly on a line from Hempstead to Lockhart, Texas.

Two birds were shot; the rest were found dead, presumably from the late winter storms. The fact that no other returns have come in to indicate otherwise seems to mean a relatively narrow dispersion of these birds at their winter range.—**Huron.**

1960 CONVENTION

WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU

AT RAPID CITY MAY 27-30