

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

Official Publication  
of  
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION  
(Organized 1949)

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John O. Johnson  
(President S.D.O.U., 1954-1956)

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*In This Number . . .*

|   |    |
|---|----|
| President's Page, Ruth C. Habeger .....   | 3  |
| John O. Johnson, Dr. L. J. Moriarty .....   | 4  |
| The Wilderness Bill, N. R. Whitney, M. D. ....  | 8  |
| Birds' Nests of South Dakota, Dr. L. J. Moriarty .....  | 9  |
| Hawks, 1960, Alfred Peterson .....  | 10 |
| Robin Banding, Lowry Elliott .....  | 11 |
| Christmas Bird Count, 1960 .....  | 12 |
| Our Juniors .....   | 14 |
| General Notes of Special Interest .....   | 17 |
| Sage Thrashers East of Smithwick, Townsend's Solitaire at Huron, Gos-<br>hawk Records, Fall and Winter Grebes at Rapid City, Trees and Spray-<br>ing, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch at Volin, Unafraid Short-eared Owl near<br>Yankton, Common Egret in Beadle and Kingsbury Counties, Red-winged<br>Blackbirds near Madison. |    |
| 1961 Convention at Watertown, and List of Hotels and Motels .....   | 23 |
| New Members of SDOU, 1960 .....   | 24 |
| Bald Eagle Investigation .....  | 24 |

**South Dakota Ornithologists' Union**

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## President's Page

**WE** OF SDOU, wish to thank all the Legislators of South Dakota for the passage of Senate Bill 90. This bill added to the South Dakota birds now protected, Great Horned Owls, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks. We also wish to congratulate the liaison committee for a job well done. Now it is the duty of each member of our organization to give the news of the passage of this law full publicity. Tell all your friends that all hawks and all owls of South Dakota are protected by law. Advertise the wonderful characteristics of these birds. Report illegal shooting to your nearest game warden. Do all you can to show your appreciation of the passage of a fine law.

The annual meeting is to be held in Watertown on May 20-21. It would be wise for you to arrive Friday evening the 19th for registration and a get-together meeting. If you arrive Friday evening you will be able to get an early start on the Saturday morning field trips. Alfred Peterson, Lowry Elliot and Dr. Moriarty will lead the field trips.

On the afternoon of the 20th a film, **The Big Four**, will be shown. We are all looking forward to seeing this film on conservation because its script is written by former SDOU president Krause. A business meeting will follow.

Our banquet speaker is Dr. P. B. Hofslund of the biology department, University of Minnesota. Dr. Hofslund has made an extensive study of the

hawk flights in the Duluth area. He has also taken some interesting pictures which will be shown.

Sunday morning there are more field trips planned. These trips will end at Hidden Valley ranch about noon.

At this annual meeting the SDOU hopes to celebrate the passage of the SD Bill 90. This bill will add to the South Dakota birds now protected—the Great Horned Owls, Sharp-shinned hawks and Cooper's hawks.

From questionnaires returned, Secretary Moriarty reports that members voted 4-1 in favor of protective legislation for hawks and owls. I know of only seven other states with hawk and owl protection laws.

I have had interesting letters urging SDOU to take action on prairie preservation. Wm. Youngworth (SDOU member from Sioux City, Iowa) wrote me of his 30 years of struggle to help get three areas of prairie preserves set aside in Iowa. With federal backing and, I understand, some federal funds which the Wilderness Bill sanctions, we hope our liaison committee can work a little faster. But time is running out. Dr. Whitney, as state chairman of Nature Conservancy (one of the many groups favoring the Wilderness Bill) has digested the literature put out by the Wilderness Committee. His interpretation of this bill and his comments appear in this issue.

Those SDOU members who are accustomed to attending the annual meeting always return. If you have not attended before, try to make it this spring. It is a wonderful experience. This year we hope to show you many of those elusive and hard to identify shore birds.—**Ruth C. Habeger**



# J. O. Johnson

Dr. L. J. Moriarty



## With Mrs. Johnson, Off For Mountain Trails and Good Fishing

**J**OHNSON was born in Chatfield, Minnesota, October 15, 1876, one of a family of eight children. Grade school training came in due course, but, because of the real need that he work, he attended high school only one year.

He worked  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years in a drug store, 12-hour days, 6 days a week, for \$10.00 a month. After ten months, wages were increased to \$15.00 per month. He then hired out to a telephone company as a lineman, digging holes. At the age of 25 he took a job with the

Dakota Central Telephone Company, at DeSmet, South Dakota. By the end of five years he had risen from lineman to District Manager, and he then moved to Watertown, South Dakota. The Dakota Central later became a part of Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, and John Johnson continued in its employ until he retired in 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson live today in Watertown. They have three children. One son is an electrical engineer in shipbuilding, with the Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C. The



J. O. at home.



## The Gumbo Lily

"It typifies the pioneer spirit of Dakota, a beautiful flower, growing in the hard, sun-baked gumbo. It excites my admiration."—J. O. Johnson

other son teaches languages and journalism in Benton City High School, Benton City, Washington.

The daughter is married to a public accountant and lives in West Virginia.

A description of the Johnson library gives something of a picture of this genial man and his mind. The room is about 14 feet square; the walls, except the openings, are covered from floor to ceiling by walnut open book cases. The shelves, about 160 lineal feet, are filled with books, all catalogued in two steel files.

"J. O.", as everyone knows him, was told that, as he sat in his library, he looked like a college professor. He was amused at this description, and replied, "My sisters were teachers, and one of my sons is a teacher, but I am just not

the type." He admitted, however, that he was occasionally mistaken for a faculty member while browsing in college libraries.

While still a boy in Minnesota, John Johnson began reading everything he could lay his hands upon. (Rudyard Kipling was a favorite author.) He was soon collecting books and that was the beginning of a life-long activity.

"A library has a way of getting you interested in many things" he says, and he soon became interested in works on trout-fishing, early Americana (history of the West), as well as birds and nature in general. In his study of early American history and the Indian he soon exhausted the possibilities of local libraries, as well as those of near-by university libraries, and eventually was to be found in the Library of Congress

searching for material on the early fur-traders.

Such interest lead to the accumulation of approximately 300 volumes dealing with the history and exploration of the West, including many first editions and numerous valuable documents. For example, he has first editions of **The Black Hills** by Rev. Peter Rosen, for which he has refused substantial offers. He has **Journals of Maximilian, Ordway and Lewis and Clark**, and a first edition of **Black Hills** by Anne Tallent. Recently he has donated some of his interesting and valuable volumes. One of his two copies of the first edition of Richard Irving Dodge's **The Black Hills of 1876**, dated 1876, he gave to the Adams' Museum at Deadwood. Albert Jerome Dickson's **Covered Wagon Days** was placed in the Carnegie Library of Chatfield, Minnesota. Many other books have gone to libraries scattered from Wyoming to Wisconsin. He is a member of the South Dakota Historical Society, as well as that of Wyoming, and he has copies of all their publications.

J. O.'s early interest in birds was expanded by reading reports by many of the early explorers of the birdlife encountered by them in the West. This led to the acquisition of a couple hundred books on birds, including a now much-used set of Roberts **Birds of Minnesota**, which was ordered before publication. His library has the complete **Bent Series**. This interest logically and eventually resulted in his becoming a charter member of South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, which he served as President (1954-1956).

He has always kept a camera in his car while on outings, ready to photograph birds' nests. Many of his pictures thus obtained have been used as cover illustrations and in text of **South Dakota Bird Notes**, as well as in **Birds**

of **South Dakota** by Over and Thoms, and in the magazine **Wyoming Wildlife**. He has a file, containing several hundred negatives and prints, which he says he will let SDOU have after he is through with it.

In addition to all this, about 1921 he became interested in fly fishing for trout, and, naturally, in the literature of fly-fishing. Over the years he has gathered a library of at least 500 books on this subject—no doubt the finest collection of its sort in South Dakota, perhaps in the Northwest. Most of these are English publications. The catalog begins with the first book to mention floating flies, published in 1654, and includes an original copy of a work by Cotton, published in 1676, as the second part of Walton's **Compleat Angler**. He also has 35 editions of Walton and Cotton, **The Compleat Angler**, including a "first". This library contains all the books on angling, with colored plates, which were published between 1800 and 1850.

As one result of his interest in things historical, Mr. Johnson has traveled most of the Oregon Trail, much of it by pack-train, some of it on foot. "J. O." and his wife Edith were especially fond of the mountains of Wyoming, and made many pack trips through the Big Horn and Wind River Ranges, usually with a guide. They spent parts of ten summers at Paint Rock Lodge on the west slope of the Big Horns, elevation 9000 feet. It was a splendid location, with four lakes within a mile of the Lodge, and good fishing in all, which was of prime concern to "J. O." His photographs include many excellent views of this high mountain country, and of its flora and fauna.

During all these years of LEISURE, while he was making a living and finding time to be friend to everyone he

(Continued on Page 22)

# The Wilderness Bill

N. R. Whitney, M. D.

IN 1957 a bill was introduced into the U. S. Congress for the purpose of establishing a permanent policy of wilderness preservation on public lands. To quote the purpose, it is to preserve the designated areas for "the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservational, and historical use and enjoyment by the people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Specifically prohibited are all forms of commercial usage. This policy has already been established in the National Park Service, and all of the national parks, national monuments, and national historic parks are protected as wilderness areas subject only to such modifications as are deemed necessary to expedite the purposes of the National Park Service.

In my library I have a copy of the printed record of the hearings on this bill held on June 19 and 20, 1957. A revision was made in 1958, and further changes have been made subsequently. In reviewing the record of the hearings, which covers 429 pages, mostly in small print, it is clear that many scientific and conservation organizations as well as outdoor recreation associations have given strong support to this measure. I think the necessity for wilderness preservation in scattered areas throughout our country will be obvious to all S.D.O.U. members, especially when we see how many prairie areas are going into construction of homes

and commercial enterprises and when we see examples of prairie animals such as the bison and the whooping crane being crowded out of existence by the advance of civilization.

The primary opposition comes, naturally, from commercial interests who would lose the legal right to exploit these areas were the bill to be passed. Clearly such enterprises as mining, oil well drilling, and reservoir construction bring about permanent changes in the landscape through which any wilderness character is lost. Lumbering and grazing, however, are borderline activities, which if properly managed can permit the continuation of the original natural community. The Department of Agriculture, through its branch, the U. S. Forest Service, has followed a policy of multiple use of national forest lands with wider utilization than the wilderness bill would permit.

Personally I favor a policy of wilderness preservation that will permit some areas to be protected permanently from major changes. I find a unique esthetic enjoyment in visiting a wilderness, and I know that primeval wilderness has definite scientific value for comparison with managed areas. The multiple use principles of the Forest Service should, on the other hand, be continued in many areas. A definite national policy of wilderness preservation must, however, be formulated into law within the near future.—Rapid City



# Birds' Nests of South Dakota

Dr. L. J. Moriarty

## A.O.U. #494 BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

THE NEST of this bird is rather hard to find before the eggs hatch, the nests being placed in a tuft of grass, usually in a field of tall grass, most often on rather low damp areas.

The cup is woven of fine grasses in a depression in the ground, about 1½ inches deep and 2½ inches across. It is woven neatly but loosely, in a circular manner, using grasses, and weed stems, and lined with finer grasses and rootlets, the whole being cleverly concealed.

The eggs are four or five in number, of a regular roundish ovate shape, 0.80 x 0.60 inches. The ground color is grayish white, thickly spotted with brownish and heavily blotched, particularly around the larger end. The Bobolink's nest often contains one or two cowbird eggs.

Bobolinks are abundant nesters in June, particularly in the eastern third of the state, less common west of this area to about the Missouri River.

The bird seems never to go directly to the nest but flies down from a weed stalk and walks the rest of the way. However, by placing a willow switch as close as possible to the nest area, watching the bird fly from it to the ground, then moving the switch a few yards in the direction the bird takes in flying to the ground, the location can be pinpointed.

When the young are being fed, the nest can be more easily located by careful watching—using the same method.

Some nests, in coarse grass, are

mostly above the actual ground surface with little or no depression in the soil.

Evidence points to Bobolinks being polygamous. I have seen one male feed young in two nests about 100 feet apart.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A. O. U. #497 YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

This bird does not nest as plentifully as the Redwing in South Dakota, but is common in the proper type of slough, in the eastern part of the state. I find their nests always over water, farther from shore, usually over deeper water, than the Redwing and only in a slough with cattails.

The nests are bulky, very firmly woven, and attached to cattails or reeds at a height from 6 inches to 3 feet above water. They are largely woven from dead cattail leaves of from 1½ to ½ inch in width, neatly lined with finer material, all of the same color as the dead reeds.

Usually they are 5 to 6 inches across the outside and 4 to 10 inches in height. The cup is about 3 inches wide and 2½ inches deep. Uneven growing of the new plants often tips the nest over.

The bulk of the nest is intricately woven of long wet strips of leaves and the lining is woven circularly of fairly fine grasses much after the manner of the orioles in its complex style of work.

They are colonial nesters, with nests at distances of 10 feet or less apart,

(Continued on Page 16)

# Hawks, 1960

Alfred Peterson

THIS list is offered as a comparison with "Hawks, 1959," which appeared in Bird Notes Whole No. 42, of September, 1959.

- (1) Cooper's Hawk
- (2) Red-tailed Hawk
- (3) Broad-winged Hawk
- (4) Swainson's Hawk
- (5) Rough-legged Hawk
- (6) Marsh Hawk
- (7) Prairie Falcon
- (8) Sparrow Hawk

Seen in 1960 but not in 1959: Broad-winged Hawk.

Seen in 1959 but not in 1960: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Duck Hawk.

(1) 5/29, 1 near Pactola in the Hills.

(2) 4/29, 1 Waubay Refuge; 5/4, a fine Krider's northwest of Nassau; 6/22, 1 at the Hidewood, hunting up and down the creek; 7/11, 1 very spooky; 8/26, 3 near Thomas; 9/8, 3, and a beautiful Krider's on Waubay Refuge. Overall 40 days are entered for the Red-tailed Hawk, generally 1 or 2 seen, occasionally 3 to 4, so I do not hesitate to say that they did well this year. Some fine adults appeared in the lot, and the 2 Krider's were without question the most noteworthy. Found one immature dead on highway. These young birds are sometimes remarkably tame, which is in sharp contrast with the behavior of adults.

(3) 4/26, An adult at Oakwood Lakes was not at all shy. I jogged it along several times before it turned away from the highway.

(4) 4/25, A fine adult 6 miles east of Brandt studied 10 minutes. Yellow on bill seen clearly, and breast plate in perfect order; 5/27, 1 west of Bison;

7/3, 1 near Brandt; 9/14, a beautiful black individual on Highway 77 midway Brandt to Clear Lake.

(5) 4/6, 1 at Fox Lake; 4/9, close up; 4/13, 1 dead on highway near Thomas; 4/16, 1 on Highway 77 enroute to Clear Lake, very tame, on dead branch in a tall tree; 5/8, 1; 10/27, 3 at Jct. 77-28 west of Toronto; 11/5, 2 north shore of Clear Lake; 11/24, 1 near Clear Lake, sitting quietly on an oat stubble at a safe distance from the road. The 2 of 11/5 were companions out exploring possibilities along the lake shore. They were look-alikes, and dark, the broad terminal band on tail showing perfectly as they coursed overhead. One was slightly inferior in size, but not in spirit.

A wye (like the letter Y) forms junction of 77-28. Here, early in the morning of 10/27, the 3 Rough-legs mentioned above scurried from the east leg of wye as I drove onto the west leg. To get the sun behind me I drove around to the east side and stopped hardly more than 100 feet from a newly killed jackrabbit lying on the road. Two dark hawks continued out of sight, but the third, a beautiful bird in the light phase, bolder than the two, stopped on a fence post, and on a nearby plowed field.

While I waited for developments it flew back to the road, and settled down a short distance beyond the rabbit. With wings extended and feet lightly touching ground it moved up to the rabbit like a miniature plane coming to a stop, facing me and the wind, and at once went to work. An oncoming car swerved over to drive it

(Continued on Page 22)

# Robin Banding

Lowry Elliott

## ROBIN BANDING

|              | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Total |
|--------------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|
| 1954 .....   | —    | —    | —   | —    | —    | —    | —     | 2    | 0    | 2     |
| 1955 .....   | 3    | 0    | 3   | 16   | 19   | 3    | 5     | 27   | 1    | 77    |
| 1956 .....   | —    | —    | 1   | 9    | 17   | 11   | 1     | 50   | 2    | 91    |
| 1957 .....   | —    | —    | 11  | —    | 43   | 7    | 26    | 11   | —    | 98    |
| 1958 .....   | —    | —    | 6   | 5    | 68   | 71   | 20    | 71   | 7    | 248   |
| 1959 .....   | —    | 10   | 5   | 14   | 38   | 32   | 91    | 34   | —    | 224   |
| 1960 .....   | —    | 1    | 2   | 3    | 7    | 6    | 1     | 35   | 1    | 56    |
| Totals ..... | 3    | 11   | 28  | 47   | 192  | 130  | 144   | 230  | 11   | 796   |

Robins notably fewer in 1960, fewer nesting pairs and fewer young birds in July and September-October, when they are usually about in flocks.

## DATE OF FIRST ROBIN OBSERVED

March 11, 1955; March 21, 1956; March 21, 1957; March 22, 1958; March 14, 1959; April 2, 1960.

## BANDED ROBINS RETRAPPED

| Band Number | Banded  | Retrapped |
|-------------|---------|-----------|
| 552-16934   | 7-29-58 | 4-3-59    |
| 552-16811   | 7-20-58 | 6-14-59   |
| 552-16959   | 10-3-58 | 9-11-59   |

## BANDING RECOVERIES

| Banded-Bird Haven Farm | Recovered:  |
|------------------------|---|
| Robin 10-22-56         | 6-15-57 Found dead at Barton, N. Dak.                 |
| Robin 10-26-56         | 10-15-57 Found dead at Watertown, S. Dak.             |
| Robin 7-15-58          | 1-23-59 Found dead ten miles west of Jasper, Arkansas |

BIRD HAVEN FARM is located four miles south and seven miles east of Milbank, S. Dak., on the bank of the North Fork of the Yellow Bank River, in Grant County. It is 2¼ miles from the Minnesota line. The altitude is 1100 above sea level.

An extensive planting of trees bear fruit attractive to Robins, Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, and many others.

A heavy crop this year of Tartaran Honeysuckle, Russian mulberries, American mountain ash, Russian olives, Service or June berries, buffalo berries, wild currants (black and yellow) and wild crab apples. Also some choke cherries, May Day, (European choke cherry) hawthorne, Catone aster, gooseberries, and Nanking, Korean, and bush cherries.—Milbank.

# Christmas Bird Count, 1960

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

|                            | Armour | Brookings | Huron | LaCreek | Madison | Milbank | Rapid City | Sand Lake | Sioux Falls | Sturgis | Vermillion | Webster | Yankton |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-----------|-------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|
| Horned Grebe               |        |           |       |         |         |         | 1          |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Trumpeter Swan (Captives)  |        |           |       | 16      |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Canada Goose (62 Captives) |        |           |       | 116     |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Mallard                    |        |           |       | 733     |         |         | 190        | 80        | 1           |         |            |         | 4165    |
| Gadwall                    |        |           |       |         |         |         | 12         |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Pintail                    |        |           |       |         |         |         | 1          |           |             |         |            |         | 8       |
| Baldpate                   |        |           |       |         |         |         | 1          |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Canvasback                 |        |           |       |         |         |         | 1          |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Common Goldeneye           |        |           |       | 3       |         |         | 20         |           |             |         |            |         | 145     |
| Hooded Merganser           |        |           |       |         |         |         | 2          |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Common Merganser           |        |           |       |         |         |         | 10         |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Red-tailed Hawk            |        | 1         |       |         |         |         |            |           | 2           |         |            |         | 3       |
| Harian's Hawk              |        |           |       | 2       |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Rough-legged Hawk          | 1      | 1         | 1     | 9       | 1       |         | 3          | 6         | 8           |         |            |         |         |
| Golden Eagle               |        |           |       | 6       |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Bald Eagle                 |        |           |       |         |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         | 2       |
| Marsh Hawk                 | 2      | 2         |       | 10      | 1       | 1       |            |           | 6           |         | 1          |         | 6       |
| Cooper's Hawk              |        | 1         |       |         |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         | 1       |
| Peregrene Falcon           |        |           |       |         |         |         |            |           | 1           |         |            |         |         |
| Sparrow Hawk               |        | 3         |       |         |         | 1       |            |           |             |         |            |         | 3       |
| Greater Prairie Chicken    |        |           |       |         |         |         |            | 1         |             |         |            |         |         |
| Sharp-tailed Grouse        |        |           |       | 7       |         |         | 5          |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Bobwhite                   |        |           |       |         |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         | 37      |
| Pheasant                   |        | 263       | 1480  | 899     | 192     | 120     | 19         | 1400      | 117         |         | 14         | 108     | 22      |
| Gray Partridge             |        |           | 10    |         |         |         |            | 8         |             |         |            | 23      |         |
| Killdeer                   |        |           |       |         |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         | 3       |
| Mourning Dove              |        | 2         |       |         | 3       |         |            |           | 29          |         | 2          |         |         |
| Screech Owl                |        | 3         |       |         |         |         |            |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Great Horned Owl           | 3      | 5         | 3     | 4       | 3       | 2       | 1          | 4         | 7           |         |            |         |         |
| Short-eared Owl            |        | 12        |       |         |         |         |            |           | 17          |         |            |         | 5       |
| Belted Kingfisher          |        |           |       |         |         |         | 1          |           | 5           |         |            |         |         |
| Flicker, Y. S.             |        | 3         | 8     |         | 3       |         |            | 4         | 13          |         | 3          |         |         |
| Flicker, R. S.             |        |           |       | 1       |         |         | 1          |           |             |         |            |         |         |
| Lewis's Woodpecker         |        |           |       |         |         |         | 1          |           |             |         | 5          |         |         |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker     |        | 5         |       |         |         |         |            |           | 2           |         |            |         |         |

MARCH, 1961

|                                    |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Hairy Woodpecker                   | 13 | 2   |     | 1   | 4    | 1   |     | 18  |      | 2   | 1   |     |
| Downy Woodpecker                   | 42 | 9   | 6   | 1   | 5    | 1   | 3   | 60  | 2    | 2   | 6   | 4   |
| Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker |    |     |     |     |      |     | 1   |     |      |     |     |     |
| Horned Lark                        | 21 | 78  | 174 | 154 | 1360 | 350 |     | 94  | 52   |     | 125 | 56  |
| Gray Jay                           |    |     |     |     |      |     | 19  |     |      |     |     |     |
| Blue Jay                           |    | 4   |     |     | 5    | 5   |     | 1   | 32   | 4   |     | 1   |
| Black-billed Magpie                |    |     |     | 4   |      |     |     |     |      | 5   |     | 2   |
| Common Crow                        |    | 21  | 43  | 2   | 13   | 4   |     | 14  | 12   | 327 | 2   | 8   |
| Pinon Jay                          |    |     |     |     |      |     | 164 |     |      |     |     | 13  |
| Black-capped Chickadee             | 37 | 60  | 16  |     | 14   | 15  |     | 72  | 8    | 242 | 4   | 1   |
| White-breasted Nuthatch            |    | 22  | 2   |     |      | 2   |     | 4   |      | 40  |     | 2   |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch              |    |     |     |     | 1    |     |     | 31  |      | 1   | 1   |     |
| Brown Creeper                      |    | 2   | 1   |     |      |     |     | 2   |      | 4   |     | 2   |
| Robin                              |    |     | 7   |     |      |     |     | 1   |      |     | 2   | 17  |
| Townsend's Solitaire               |    |     |     | 1   |      |     |     | 15  |      |     | 4   |     |
| Cedar Waxwing                      |    |     |     |     |      |     |     | 5   |      |     | 44  |     |
| Northern Shrike                    |    |     | 2   |     |      |     |     |     | 2    | 2   |     |     |
| Starling                           | 27 | 195 | 373 |     | 175  | 33  | 105 | 32  | 163  | 39  |     | 5   |
| House Sparrow                      |    | 321 | 319 | 14  | 233  | 250 | 427 | 310 | 1016 | 27  | 12  | 5   |
| Western Meadowlark                 | 6  | 6   | 40  | 15  | 3    |     |     |     | 5    |     |     | 8   |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird            |    |     |     |     |      |     |     | 1   |      |     |     |     |
| Red-winged Blackbird               |    | 83  |     | 104 |      |     |     | 70  |      |     |     |     |
| Rusty Blackbird                    |    |     |     |     |      |     |     | 10  |      |     |     |     |
| Common Grackle                     |    | 4   |     |     |      |     |     | 5   |      |     |     | 1   |
| Brown-headed Cowbird               |    | 6   |     |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Cardinal                           |    | 1   | 2   |     | 2    |     |     |     | 15   |     | 4   | 4   |
| Evening Grosbeak                   |    |     |     |     |      |     | 2   |     |      |     |     |     |
| Purple Finch                       |    |     |     |     |      |     | 237 |     |      |     | 1   |     |
| Pine Grosbeak                      |    | 13  |     |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Common Redpoll                     |    | 17  | 6   |     |      |     |     |     | 1    |     |     |     |
| American Goldfinch                 | 2  | 11  |     |     | 3    |     | 3   |     |      | 1   |     | 3   |
| Pine Siskin                        |    |     | 24  |     |      |     | 56  |     | 32   |     | 1   |     |
| Red Crossbill                      |    | 15  |     |     |      |     | 279 |     | 29   | 2   |     |     |
| Rufous-sided Towhee                |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |     | 1   |
| White-winged Junco                 |    |     |     |     |      |     | 70  |     |      | 19  |     |     |
| Slate-colored Junco                |    | 104 | 12  |     | 17   | 6   | 73  |     | 227  |     | 18  | 1   |
| Oregon Junco                       |    |     | 1   |     |      |     | 17  |     |      |     |     |     |
| Tree Sparrow                       | 4  | 116 | 8   | 425 | 135  | 1   | 63  |     | 318  |     | 2   | 154 |
| Harris' Sparrow                    |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |     | 18   |     | 2   |     |
| White-crowned Sparrow              |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |     | 1    |     |     |     |
| Song Sparrow                       |    |     |     |     |      |     | 1   |     |      |     |     | 1   |
| Lapland Longspur                   |    | 2   |     |     |      |     | 125 |     |      |     |     |     |
| Snow Bunting                       |    |     |     |     |      |     | 18  |     |      |     |     | 2   |

13

## *Our Juniors*

Dear Juniors:

This space is for you to use in telling of what you see of birds or other wild-life. Only by observing do we learn to be accurate in our observations. By writing them down we learn to write well and feel responsibility for the observations we report.

And you must not feel that useful works depends first on age and that, because you are young, your observations are not important. They are important, for at least two good reasons:

You have time and opportunities to see things that older people miss. Your fresh approach is particularly useful here.

You will be learning the more rapidly and certainly about the world around you so that sooner you can be adding to the total of world knowledge.

And we want to watch your progress in these pages. No matter how young you are, just do the best you can and write me a letter about it. I don't mind correcting mistakes. I do it all the time for grownups who should know better.

Our Canadian friends of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Regina, Sask., publish a wonderfully good magazine they call the **Blue Jay**. It has a whole section devoted to letters from young people and I am sure they won't mind if I borrow a few to show you what they are doing. By the time you read this our birds will be coming back from the south and there will be no end of observations for you to write out and send me.—The Editor

All the letters below have been taken from the **Blue Jay**.

### **COOPER'S HAWK NESTS**

by Myles Ferrie, Invermay, Sask.

Near the middle of May I found a Cooper's Hawk nest near our farm one mile north of Invermay. The nest held three eggs. At this time I was not sure whether it was a Cooper's or a Sharpshinned Hawk. On May 23, Eddy Shepherd, Graham Thompson, Gary Anweiller, Dr. Stuart Houston, and I were banding owls. I showed him the nest. He told me it was a Cooper's Hawk. He also told me Cooper's Hawks were very rare in this area. I visited

it now and then until they were ready to band. When I returned a few days later with the bands they had left the nest.

About this time I had found another Cooper's Hawk nest with one egg. I came back a few days later and found the nest deserted.

I have found four Cooper's Hawks nests in two years with the help of Eddy Shepherd. And believe me, Eddy hasn't had all the bad luck that he says he has. One 1959 nest was used twice, the other three were old crow's nests.

## BIRD BANDING AND NEST OBSERVATIONS

by Ed Shepherd, Invermay, Sask.

On Monday, May 23rd, Victoria Day, I spent the day with Dr. Stuart Houston, banding Great Horned Owls (young ones). Out of eight nests, we banded twenty young ones and are about to band some Long-eared Owls and Marsh Hawks. Myself, I found four Marsh Hawk nests which isn't very many and also four Long-eared Owl's nests. I also found two Mourning Dove's nests and when Dr. Houston sent me the bands to band them they were already gone, but that is just my luck.

There are many Coot nests because I found eight around one little corner of Saline Lake. One nest had twelve eggs in it. Also I found one Pied Billed Grebe's nest and two Eared Grebe's nests. Both Eared Grebes had six eggs and the Pied Billed Grebe only had two.

Note.—Ed also tells us about the contest he has entered finding Owl nests for Dr. Stuart Houston and lists some of the nests he has found. He reports as well that he has seen a Jumping Mouse and a Whooping Crane was seen going over their school on May 3rd. It was not too high but was quite large and white. His body was not of a stocky type but slim and it had a long stretched out neck.”

—O—

## TWO UNEXPECTED VISITORS

by Gordon Sawchuk, age 13,  
Endeavour, Sask.

Early one morning when I came to school I saw a pair of beautiful Barn Swallows sitting on the map case. I tried to chase them out but did not succeed in doing so. When our teacher, Mr. Hutchinson, arrived at school, he, my friend Jack and I tried to get them to fly out but they were just too smart

for us. When the bell rang one girl was scared of those harmless little birds, but somehow we got her convinced that they wouldn't bite or hurt her.

All that morning the Barn Swallows sat on the map at the front of the room, acting just like a pair of keen teachers. After dinner Mr. Hutchinson darkened the room, left the door open and thought that the birds would fly to the outside but they didn't. At last, at recess we managed to get rid of one but one still remained. My grade had to stay in after school to take a class. All of a sudden from outside we heard a Barn Swallow chirping away and as quick as a wink the Barn Swallow that was inside the school flew out. I guess it was its mate calling it.

—O—

## THE ALBINO SWALLOW

by Kenneth Underwood, age 11,  
Strasbourg, Sask.

One day in late August my brother and I were coming down from the barn. We noticed a white bird on the power line. When we looked at it through Dad's telescope we found it was a Barn Swallow. It was just about pure white with a slightly yellow throat and a dark eye. We know it was a Barn Swallow because of its song and its deeply-forked tail. The other swallows seemed to be picking on it, but it still flew around with them.

—●—

## KINGFISHER OBSERVATIONS

by Ricky Sanderson, age 15,  
Regina, Sask.

In early June, as I was making a periodic round of the Regina Waterfowl Park, I happened upon an uncommon nest. I was checking for Bank Swallow nests when I found an extra large

burrow. It was about five feet up in the bank, three and one-half feet long, three inches high and about three inches wide. At the end of the burrow I could see only one white egg lying on the earth. Being unfamiliar with this type of nest I checked through several reference books and afterwards decided that it was a Belted Kingfisher's home.

It was not until several days later that I was able to see the adult bird. It was sitting on a dead branch carefully watching the water below. I noticed that each time the bird flew away it alighted on the same telephone pole. Only once did I see it dive from its perch ten feet above the water and rise with a small minnow in its long bill.

Upon my next visit to the nest site the parent bird never left the safety of its burrow. I could see it sitting on the eggs looking very worried. This was in late June.

On Dominion Day a quick check revealed a young bird and an egg in sight. Four days later there were a total of four young in the nest. With this check I discovered that someone had been busy trying to enlarge the entrance of the burrow. No harm had been done to the young birds or the remaining egg, and I could hear the young squawking quite loudly.

During all my visits not once did I see the adult with any type of food, nor did I ever see more than one adult at a time.

Another check on July 6 revealed a tragedy. Two of the young Kingfishers had fallen from their nest and drowned in the shallow water below. Their eyes were not yet open and they had only the slight pinfeather on their wings. A second last check on July 7 revealed another tragedy. Two more babies had fallen into the water and one had drowned. The other one had landed on a chunk of mud and I was

able to place it back in the nest, with the fifth baby that had just recently hatched. All was well on July 8 which was my last chance to check on the success of the nest.

I arrived home August 5 after a long holiday, to find the nest empty. I checked to see what remained and found the remains of three crayfish and some small bones. There were only a few feathers that appeared as though they may have belonged to young birds, indicating that they might have reached the feathered stage.

Unfortunately I can't be sure of the success of the nest but even their attempt to nest here is another first for the Regina Waterfowl Park.

\* \* \*

## Birds' Nests

(Continued from Page 9)

nearly always over water between 2 and 4 feet deep. Often a hundred or more nests occur in one colony.

Three to five eggs, usually four, rarely five, form the clutch. They are more roundish or less pointed than the Redwing's eggs, usually measuring about 1.02 x 0.75 inches.

The ground color is usually grayish white, profusely and evenly speckled over the entire surface with different shades of brown, drab, ecru, and cinnamon, giving an overall coloration that blends very well into the color of the nest. They resemble the Brown Thrasher's eggs quite closely in color.

In contrast to the Redwing, I have found few Cowbird eggs in the Yellow-head's nests, partly, I believe, because Yellow-head colonies are farther from shore, in sloughs with very little brush or tree growth around them.—Water-town.



## *General Notes of Special Interest*

SAGE THRASHERS EAST OF SMITHWICK—Somehow we don't have as many birds nesting close up as we used to. I can't say that I have seen or heard a Sage Thrasher in the last two or three years and I believe it is fair to say they are my favorite song birds, or perhaps I should say that I rate their singing the finest—possibly some discount for rarity.

We did have a nest once, in a buffalo berry bush southwest of the house, about 40 inches from the ground, a nest much like the Brown Thrasher's nest, but not so bulky.

These birds, or at least the male, sang very freely. A daintier, more refined song than the Brown Thrasher's, more rapid and without the repetitions and definitely set-apart measures, like a "tape recording"—without pause and well sustained.

Besides my acquaintance with them about home I believe I have never seen them except at Cedar Butte, about ten miles east of home, where I have gone many, many times for plants. There I would occasionally hear the well distinguished song and observe the bird. I never found a nest there, though there were a few cedars, several patches of buffalo berry, some three-leafed sumach and *Artemisia cana* in abundance. Cedar Butte is a rather deserted place, miles from human habitation. Other birds than Meadowlarks, Horned Larks, and Hawks are certainly infrequent.—Claude A. Barr, Smithwick (Prairie Gem Ranch).

SUGGESTION BY CHAPMAN, MORIARTY, ET AL—Bring surplus Bird Books and periodicals to the May meeting for auction or sale, the proceeds to go to SDOU, along with that from the sale of stationery, etc. Might be fun and put literature into the hands of people who want it. Field check lists and sight record sheets are also to be available.

\* \* \* \*

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE AT HURON—December 31, 1960 was our day for the Christmas Count. It was also our first sight this year of a Townsend's Solitaire.

It was nearly noon when we were taking a second look about the cemetery. The sun had melted a little snow in the top of a metal barrel by the shop.

While we were less than 30 feet away, the bird came down to drink, the white eye-ring, lighter throat, buff of wing feathers showing clearly in the 7x50 binocular trained on it from five directions. As it flew away, the buff wing pattern and white feathers in the sides of the tail could be seen.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron**

\* \* \* \*

GOSHAWK RECORDS—The Goshawk is such a casual winter visitor in southeastern South Dakota, that the writer felt that the following should be recorded. While on a field trip on January 7, 1961 looking for Red Crossbills, we flushed a fine Goshawk from the cedar trees at the edge of Bluff View Cemetery in Vermillion.

Our next stop was the Beresford Cemetery, but just before we reached

there a Goshawk dashed across the road toward a flock of several hundred pigeons, which took to the air in a great hurry.

Our final stop was the Hawarden, Iowa, Cemetery and as I walked slowly down the main drive a third Goshawk flushed, but promptly perched again and I had the pleasure of flushing it again. This time it took off for a nearby farmyard and we turned for home.—Wm. Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa.

\* \* \* \*

FALL AND WINTER GREBES AT RAPID CITY—All of the prairie grebes are known as transients in the Rapid City area, but wintering grebes are infrequent. Therefore, I want to report a single Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) which has been seen repeatedly in December, 1960, on Canyon Lake in the southwest part of Rapid City. I observed this bird carefully on December 26, 1960, noting its contrastingly striped head—black above and snow white below—and the white neck with a narrow posterior nuchal black stripe. The bird was studied both through 8x35 binocular and through a 20x spotting scope. It was feeding in the company of several Mallards and Gadwalls.

Earlier in the fall, three larger grebes were picked up on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology near the southeastern corner of Rapid City. They seemed uninjured, but were unable to fly from land. On October 17, two individuals were picked up by students and given to Harry Behrens. He had no bands to fit them, but released them on Canyon Lake, after identifying them as Western Grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). Later, on November 9, 1960, he was given another bird from the

School of Mines campus, and gave it to me, since I have a few bands in the large grebe size. I finally identified this individual as a Red-necked Grebe in winter plumage, after comparing it carefully with Peterson's Eastern and Western Guides. Points of distinction were the rather nondescript plumage of my bird as contrasted with the striking black and white plumage of the Western Grebe in all seasons, and the presence of two white patches on each wing—one on the anterior band, and one on the posterior. This bird was photographed and banded, and was then released on Rapid Creek—N. C. Whitney, Rapid City.

\* \* \* \*

TREES AND SPRAYING—Exposed as they are to second-guessing, public officials often exhibit a maddening if human tendency to cling to erroneous methods or fruitless projects. To err is human but for a public official to admit error must take something almost superhuman. When he discarded DDT spraying after seven years, City Forester Joseph A. Sweeney of Toledo, Ohio, exhibited both intellectual honesty and rare courage. He was promptly and viciously attacked by individuals and groups who probably were more interested in the profitable business of selling chemicals than in saving the trees.

Toledo started the massive spraying of elms in 1953 and repeated the treatment annually through 1959, according to Donald B. Kendall, president of the Toledo Naturalists' Association. An outbreak of cottony maple scale in 1958 and the subsequent failure of the chemical, malathion to check the scale, caused Forester Sweeney to take a second look at the elms and the results he was failing to get with DDT.

Sweeney examined the elms in surrounding Lucas County, which had not

been sprayed, and found them less affected by the disease than the DDT-treated city trees. He then made his decision to stop the spraying, which he concluded was destroying natural controls for Dutch elm disease as well as the cottony maple scale.

Mr. Kendall reported that various civic groups are helping with the new Toledo program, removing the diseased elms and replacing them with other trees.—**National Audubon Society's Conservation Guide.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**DISCUSSION NEEDED**—The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union was brought to my attention just the other day, along with **South Dakota Bird Notes**. Although my two or three visits to South Dakota each year are brief, I should like to receive the publication of this admirable organization. I am much impressed with the June 1960 **Bird Notes**, which I read in its entirety, and hope that in some future issue space will be given to a discussion of the extraordinary fluctuation in bird population and varieties from year to year.

At my Connecticut feeders I can expect without disappointment pretty much the same kinds of birds year after year, but not at Highmore, where I spend Christmas.

In 1959 we were delighted by cardinals, slate-colored juncos, white-breasted nuthatches, both hairy and downy woodpeckers, brown creepers, black-capped chickadees—all in numbers except for the one pair of cardinals.

This year we have seen one hairy woodpecker, two nuthatches, and a brown creeper once. Our feeding habits have not changed—**Robert Hawkins, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn.**

(We hope for comment on the point Mr. Hawkins raised, both in its long and short run aspect. We do have extreme changes. The tables we have published bring out some of them. More of the same kind of material and with attention to other species and locations is needed—before it gets lost forever.—Ed.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**OUR LONG-SUFFERING SECRETARY AND TREASURER, Dr. Moriarty, has asked that some such notice as the following be in the next (this) issue:**

SDOU is a mutual, cooperative organization. Each member has the individual responsibility to help keep at absolute minimum the cost in money and effort of carrying on the program.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR. THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF BIRD NOTES THAT WILL BE SENT TO YOU UNLESS OR UNTIL YOUR 1961 DUES OF \$3.00 ARE PAID IN FULL. . . . SORRY . . . DO NOT WAIT FOR ANOTHER STATEMENT OR NOTICE . . .**

**SO . . . . . PLEASE !!!**

**SEND YOUR REMITTANCE, PAYABLE TO SDOU, TO (No currency, please): Dr. L. J. Moriarty, 302 Midland Bldg., Watertown, S. Dak.**

**AND THANKS FOR YOUR GOOD HELP, Unquote. Sounds like Doc has his dander up.**

But while we are on this subject it might as well be mentioned that the second 5-year index will probably be done before we have the money to publish it. So contributions to that purpose are still in order.

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH AT VOLIN—A letter from Miss Evelyn Lein of Volin told of a bird coming to her feeder that she could not identify. January 15, 1961, my wife and I drove over to see it.

From the kitchen window of this lady's home we had a good view of this bird, which was new to me. After much study and consultation of bird books we finally came to the conclusion that it was a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch—though the "pinkish wash" supposed to be on the wings and upper and lower tail coverts certainly was not evident. The wings had extensive light brown or tan color but no pink. The patch of gray on the head was well defined.

I shall try to get a picture of the bird because it certainly is not like the illustrations in the books we have.

Miss Lein does a very good job of feeding the birds, keeping several feeders always well stocked. It's a busy place for the birds.—Willis Hall, Yankton.

\* \* \* \* \*

UNAFRAID SHORT-EARED OWL NEAR YANKTON—After being confined to our indoor jobs for a long time, we were glad to get out and see the birds. Most pleasing were the Short-eared Owls who were so unconcerned with our long and close scrutiny of them. The first one we met was especially charming—so much so that we watched it for about an hour and a half, from as close as thirty feet. It must have been a young bird, judging by its more rounded appearances and the silky softness of its feathers. How I wish I could have got it on film at the close range I saw it there in my binocular.

But the sky was overcast and my lens was not equal to it—though the Owl was willing, and forgave me much

squeaking of the car door and repeated clanking of my noisy shutter. To watch an owl for so long at such close range makes you feel a great wonder and admiration of it—its constant searching, its quietness, its sudden dropping to the tall grass without a sound.

We should have been glad to watch it and wonder at it until darkness came, but we had to pull off to the side of the trail when a car approached. How we feared for that Owl as we saw a gun barrel sticking out the window of the car. Most fortunately we must have presented such an odd appearance that the two men saw only us as they drove by, and the Owl remained on its post. We backed up to try to get near it again, but, evidently, it had had enough of cars and went its way in its peculiar flopping flight, while we admired its long wings with their showy buffy patches.—Willis Hall, Yankton.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMON EGRET IN BEADLE AND KINGSBURY COUNTIES—On September 11, 1960, a Common Egret was seen flying over the road on the north side of Lake Byron in north central Beadle County. When it settled down beyond a hill, we followed a farm path until we came to a pond where we found the Egret in company with a Great Blue Heron. The yellow bill and strong black legs of the Egret showed plainly.

Driving on east to Lake Agnew, in Kingsbury County, we were pleasantly surprised at seeing another Common Egret. Two Great Blue Herons and seven Black-crowned Night Herons were at this lake at the same time.

Later checks at Lake Agnew, on September 13 and 25, revealed that the Egret was still there. In all, on these three dates, the bird was seen by a total of eight members of the Huron

Bird Club, who were all able to examine it at leisure, in good light, and at reasonable viewing distances.—Mrs. H. M. Pierce, Huron.

\* \* \* \*

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS NEAR MADISON**—Just before sundown in mid-January when we were having that spell of mild weather we went out to a slough area three miles east and two miles north of Madison. There we saw small flocks of red-winged blackbirds. We got our binoculars on these birds and discovered a motley crew of blackbirds in all stages of winter plumage.

Occasionally we got a glimpse of dull red epaulets of some of the males. The females with lighter breasts at times took on an orange cast. We decided that the oblique rays of the sun gave this effect since even the tree trunks had an orange cast. We heard their distinct blackbird clatter with a short, clear "conqueree."

In half an hour all the tree tops in a quarter mile area around the slough were full of these same birds. By counting the number in one tree, we got a count of over 2,000 birds. It was fun to be in the midst of such a noisy convention of blackbirds. Then to our surprise, as the sun began to drop out of sight, we saw a few birds drop down to the tall slough grass and after a little shifting of position settle down for the night, low enough to disappear from sight. Soon others followed suit and the trees were almost empty when the last red glow of the sun was gone. We went out several times in the mild weather of January and enjoyed the gathering and bedding down of our great flock of blackbirds. I found that Roberts, in *Birds of Minnesota*, reports a flock of blackbirds in southern Minnesota in mid-January.—Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Beardsley, Ruth Habeger.

**WREN HOUSE IDEA**—The obvious answer appears late in human research—while we speak slightly of bird brains. Yet we, who have long observed Wren difficulties with small entrances and wondered at the birds' simple decision to ignore the twigs they drop in the struggle to get them in and go after others less recalcitrant—they assume—now wouldn't be surprised if the birds were just accepting the guilt to avoid hurting our feelings. We are just that low.

The final breakthrough locally came when Mrs. E. G. Hatch, Box 82, Miller sent us a clipping—certainly not new, from the look of it—from the *Minneapolis Journal*. Since anybody needing to be told may also need detailed instructions, existing Wren doorways can be widened sidewise by any of several carpenters' tools—including a pocket-knife. The clipping follows:

(From the *Minneapolis Journal*—a reader's letter)

**(SPEAKING AS A WREN)**

To the Editor of the Journal:

If I were a wren and could write I would say this to the world:

Here wife and I are looking for a place to build our nest, and we do not know where to go. We see that many people are trying to be kind to us, but they do not seem to know how. We see tiny boxes and even barrels with a hole bored in each about the size of a man's thumb nail. This doubtless is meant to prevent sparrows from "jumping" our claim. The intention is kindly, but there is no sense to it. The thing is contrived as a good man thinks it ought to be, but not as we want it.

Now we wrens build our nests mostly from twigs. We select one with care, pick it up in the middle, fly to the

house you have made for us, then find that we can't get in with our twig thus crosswise in our bills. This perplexes us more than we can tell. It seems mostly by accident that we get a few in endwise.

Now why shouldn't our front door be a wide slit like we love to find occasionally in a decayed gatepost just high enough for little birds like us, and wide enough for our twigs, and this would not admit the troublesome sparrow.

Dear man, if you have anything to behold with, behold us birds of the air, and give us help the way we want it.—Birds' Neighbor, Minneapolis.

\* \* \* \*

## Hawks, 1960

(Continued from Page 10)

off. While waiting for its return I moved up to about 30 feet (not much more). The bird now approached more confidently, wings spread as before, and resumed tearing away at the rabbit, favoring me with a glance now and then. In late afternoon only 1 hawk was seen. It was one of the dark phase, on a high pole, and unapproachable.

(6) The Marsh Hawk appears in late March or early April, and stays with us as a common summer resident. Although it is a light-weight it is capable of snatching a Meadowlark from her nest. This suggests that small birds may sometimes fall prey to an energetic Marsh Hawk.

(7) On Nov. 15 a Prairie Falcon in rapid flight at a point 5 miles west of Brandt caused a major disturbance in a large flock of Lapland Longspurs.

(8) 3|27, 1; 3|28,1; 3|29,1; 4|6, 2; 4|9, 3; 4|12, 4; 1 or 2 every day; 4|20, 7 or 8; 4|26 and 4|27, several; 4|29, common; 5|9, 1; then 7|21, 1; 9|8, 2; 9|10, 2; 9|23, 9 near Sunnyside school, 3 miles west

of Brandt; 9|23, 4; 9|24, 4; 9|26 and 9|27, 1; 9|29, 2. I do not recall ever having seen a dead Sparrow Hawk that had been killed by a forlorn shooting man out of luck in his search for game.—Brandt.

\* \* \*

## J. O. Johnson

(Continued from Page 7)

met, "J. O." still found time to serve the public in various ways. He was president of Greater South Dakota Association; served on the Board of Education and on the Park Board of Wattertown; was a member of the South Dakota Board of Regents of Education; worked in and for his favorite political party as County Chairman from 1920 to 1934. He was County Chairman for the U. S. Bond drive during World War II, and controller of the Sub Area District of South Dakota for the blackouts during that war. Incidentally, he paid his own expenses on two trips over South Dakota, before officialdom allowed any expense for such travel.

"J. O." is a splendid example and perfect illustration of the fact that a man can become highly educated without having had much formal education, provided he has a good mind and the will to learn. There is quickness and alertness about him that belies his age of more than four score years. He is able to switch from one subject of conversation to another, without hesitation. He recalls experiences of 60 years and more ago as clearly as they happened only yesterday. "J. O." is one of the most unforgettable characters I have ever met. I feel keenly a loss for having known him for only about 25 years. It is really tragic that such culture as he possesses cannot be passed on to others; but it can be and is an inspiration to all who know him.—Wattertown.

# 1961 Convention

WATERTOWN · MAY 20-21

Don't forget the May 20-21st meeting at Watertown, S. D. We will have Dr. P. B. Hofslund from the University of Minnesota as speaker. Also the film "The Big Four", script for which was written by our member, Herbert Krause for the University. More time for field trips and less for papers. This is one of the best bird areas and Alfred Peterson, one of the best on shore and water birds, will lead a trip or two. Make your reservations now. Headquarters, Drake Hotel. Accommodations from \$2.00 up, in Watertown, are as follows:

| Hotel                | Single | Double       |
|----------------------|--------|--------------|
| Grand Hotel .....    | 4.25   | 6.00         |
| Drake .....          | 5.00   | 6.75 to 9.00 |
| Lincoln .....        | 3.50   | 5.00         |
| Motels               |        |              |
| 212 .....            | 4.50   | 7.50         |
| Pine Lodge .....     | 4.50   | 6.50         |
| Scott's .....        | 4.75   | 8.50         |
| Uptown .....         | 4.50   | 6.50         |
| Conklins .....       | 4.00   | 7.00         |
| Elco .....           | 4.00   | 5.50 to 7.00 |
| Kampeska Hotel ..... | 2.00   | 3.00         |

—L. J. Moriarty

## New Members of SDOU, 1960

New members are always a pleasure to record. Some of the ones below should have been listed with those in the December issue but got lost in the confusion of the editor's desk. For which we apologize. And hope we don't do it again. Of course you are all welcome and we hope you are happy with us.

Anderson, Douglas ..... c/o Arne Anderson, Hurley  
Benson, Kent ..... c/o Burt Benson, Hurley  
Cronkite, Earl ..... De Smet  
Gering, Rickie ..... c/o Sid Gering, Hurley  
Hawkins, Mrs. F. E. .... Highmore  
Hawkins, Robert ..... The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn.  
Hill, Mrs. Lois A. .... 667 Calif. Ave. SW, Huron  
Long, Gregory ..... c/o Ralph Long, Hurley  
Mosiman, Mrs. Elmer ..... Box 24, Onida  
Mote, G. A. .... 807 West Linn, Marshalltown, Ia.  
Mundell, Mrs. F. E. .... 823 1st St. NW, Watertown  
Sherbondy, Duane ..... c/o Rev. Sherbondy, Hurley  
Talon, Billy ..... 111 2nd St. SE, Watertown  
Taylor, Mrs. C. A. .... 914 4th St., Brookings  
Van Ornum, Leata ..... 622 N. Egan Ave., Madison  
Woolstencroft, Mrs. Mark ..... Box 634, Watertown

## Help Requested In Investigation Of The Bald Eagle

Alarmed by persistent reports of a downward trend in the population of Bald Eagles, the National Audubon Society has launched a study aimed at determining the status of the species. This project is designed to cover at least five years and to gather data from all parts of North America. The study will consist of two parts, first an inventory based on the number of active nests located and second an investigation of various aspects of eagle biology. Information isurgently needed on the location of active eagle nests and also on wintering concentrations of eagles. If you have information on these or any other facets of eagle biology, please communicate with:

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Box 231  
Tavernier, Florida