

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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

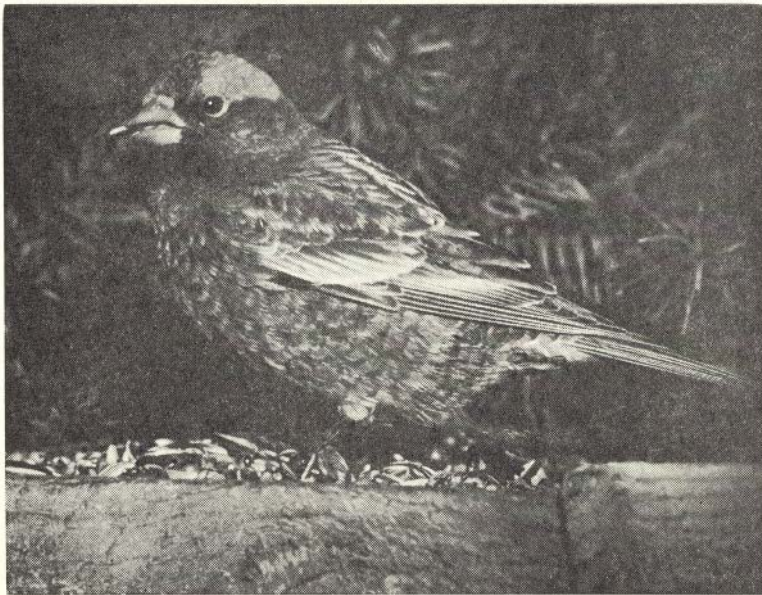
---

Vol. XIII, No. 2

JUNE, 1961

Whole No. 49

---



Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch

—Willis Hall

South Dakota Bird Notes, the Organ of South Dakota Ornithologists Union, is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Adults, \$3.00; Juniors (10-16) \$1.00 per year. Single and back copies \$1.00 to non-members; \$0.50 to members. All dues should be remitted to the Treasurer, Dr. L. J. Moriarty, 302 New Midland Building, Watertown, S. Dak. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to the Editor, J. W. Johnson, 1421 Utah Ave. SE, Huron, S. Dak. Orders for back numbers should be sent to the Librarian, Herman P. Chilson, Webster, S. Dak. Published Quarterly.

*In This Number . . .*

President's Page, Ruth Habeger	27
The Olive-sided Flycatcher as a Migrant in the Upper Missouri River Valley, Wm. Youngworth	28
Burrowing Owls, Vanishing Birds of the Vanishing Prairie, Willis Hall	29
The Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch at Volin, Evelyn Lien et al	36
Birds' Nests of South Dakota, L. J. Moriarty	37
Our Juniors: Hawks, Billy Talen, Jr.	38
Fall Shore Birds, 1957, Alfred Peterson	40
General Notes of Special Interest: Bird Haven Notes, Winter Robins, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak at Brookings, Palm Warblers in Day County, Ring-necked Duck in S. Dak., Books, Warbler Wave at Huron, Notes on S. D. O. U. Trip of 1961, Waubay Notes, Bonaparte's Gulls, Golden Eagle at Centerville, Snowy Owl Near Huron	41
With the Banders, 1960	46
The 1961 Convention, Blanche Battin	53
Open-Space Land Bill Gains Support	54
Species of Birds Observed on Field Trips of May 20-21, 1961	55
Cover — Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Willis Hall	51

**South Dakota Ornithologists' Union**  
**OFFICERS 1961-62**

President	Ruth C. Habeger, Madison
Vice-President	Lowry Elliott, Rt. 1, Box 84, Milbank
Secretary and Treasurer	Dr. L. J. Moriarty, 302 New Midland Bldg., Watertown
Membership Chairman	Lowry Elliott, Rt. 1, Box 84, Milbank
Liaison Chairman	N. R. Whitney, M. D., High Acres, Rt. 1, Box 41, Rapid City
Editor	J. W. Johnson, 1421 Utah Ave. SE, Huron
Librarian	Herman P. Chilson, Webster

**DIRECTORS**

For Term Expiring 1962: Herman Chilson, Webster; Willis Hall, Yankton; Herbert Krause, Sioux Falls; C. A. Hughlett, LaCreek Refuge, Martin; N. R. Whitney, Jr., Rapid City.  
For Term Expiring 1963: Alfred Peterson, Brandt; Ruth Habeger, Madison; J. W. Johnson, Huron; Clara Yurker, Rapid City; Lowry Elliot, Milbank.  
For Term Expiring 1964: Louise Cratchett, Armour; Chas. Rogge, Sioux Falls; L. J. Moriarty, Watertown; Nelda Holden, Brookings; Lois N. Chapman Sioux Falls.

## President's Page

OUR 1961 CONVENTION, held in Watertown on May 19-21, was a big success. I believe the meeting was enjoyed by everyone. With the exception of a couple misty hours, which held their own particular kind of beauty, on our first morning's field trip, the weather was perfect, and the birds cooperative. We ended with a composite list of 148 species for the two morning field trips. The areas covered included many interesting lakes and sloughs around Watertown. The alkali sloughs supplied a different bird population from the other lakes.

Grateful for the honor of being re-elected president I will do my best to help S. D. O. U. become a bigger and better organization. Other officers elected were Lowry Elliott, vice president and L. J. Moriarty, secretary-treasurer.



I reappointed the same persons to the Liaison committee—N. R. Whitney, L. J. Moriarty and Herman Chapman. The Membership committee is composed of Lowry Elliott, Nelda Holden and Clara Yarger.

There are now two new committees: J. S. Findley and N. R. Whitney were appointed to investigate the duties and responsibilities of a state ornithologist as suggested to the Governor by Mr. Tubbs of Lemmon, S. D., and David Holden and Richard Hurd were named to study the possibilities of the preser-

vation of natural areas in South Dakota.

I hope to meet with some of these committees this summer at my lake cottage.

J. O. Johnson was awarded an honorary membership to S. D. O. U. As a charter member, president, secretary-treasurer, he served us long and well. His guidance and help in our formative years was a great help to our organization. We owe him a debt of gratitude and we hope we have shown a measure of our appreciation in this way.

We are pleased with the passage of legislation which now protects all owls and hawks in South Dakota. Dr. P. B. Hofslund's illustrated lecture on "Hawk Flights and Identification" was an appropriate celebration of the event.

Another year is before us, in which we hope to concentrate on the preservation of natural areas of South Dakota.

Not long ago people scoffed at those who thought land ought to be set aside for mere recreation. The idea of having useless lands was not practical; but now all of us worry aloud about the dwindling of our lands. Suburbs, highways and other accumulations of society are gobbling up the countryside at an alarming pace. I am sure each of you can remember a favorite wooded or prairie area on the edge of town where there is now a new gas station or suburban home. Maybe you recall a favorite meadow which is now a housing development or a wonderful slough once the nesting area for birds which has now been drained and used for farm land.

Many beautiful flower-banked streams are now filled with refuse. Our once

(Continued on Page 35)

# The Olive-Sided Flycatcher as a Migrant in the Upper Missouri River Valley

Wm. Youngworth

**I**N GOING over the published records of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in South Dakota and Nebraska publications, this writer was surprised to find how few people reported this large flycatcher. The species should be considered as a regular, but uncommon migrant both spring and fall.

In going back over the spring migration reports in the Nebraska Bird Review for twenty five years I can only find a dozen or two records and oddly enough most of these records are from the eastern edge of the state or the extreme western part. Fall records are extremely scarce.

In South Dakota ornithology the records are almost non-existent. In the eleven years life of the South Dakota Ornithologists Union I can find only the published record of Dr. Harold Waggar from Milbank and one of my own. The report of a specimen taken on the Custer Expedition, 1874, and published by Richard and Margaret Hurd in South Dakota Bird Notes, March June, 1959, is timely in that the date the specimen was taken, August 16, 1874, might indicate a breeding bird. This should be a challenge to Black Hills birders to look for the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the highest, coolest pine forests of the Black Hills during the nesting season.

All authorities seem to agree that this bird requires coolness, coniferous trees and water for its nesting habitat. Such were the breeding conditions where the writer found these flycatchers in the cool, moist pine forests of Itasca State Park in Minnesota, with

Dr. T. C. Stephens in 1927.

In earlier years I had observed them in yet cooler surroundings on the top of the Laramie Mountains in Wyoming. In Wyoming the loud "pu-wheu" calls were heard all through the summer, as the pair nested just back of our cabin.

A good description of this flycatcher would not be amiss at this point and I have yet to find a better one, so will quote the entire paragraph from Arthur Cleveland Bent, *Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and Their Allies*, 1942, page 299, "The erect pose of the olive-sided flycatcher, as it sits on the top of some tall forest tree, its stout figure, dark color, short neck, and large head are all distinctive. If facing the observer, it may be recognized by the white abdominal region narrowing to a point between the dark olive of the sides of the breast and throat. If seen from one side or from the rear, two glaring white patches of silky plumage may be seen, on each side of the lower back, often showing above the wings; these conspicuous patches are excellent field marks and may often be seen in flight. On migrations, when it is mainly silent, the above marks must be looked for, but on its breeding grounds its voice is its most distinctive character."

The question of where you should look for this flycatcher during migration might well be next explored. The chances of seeing the bird in your own yard are not too good unless you have

(Continued on Page 50)

# Burrowing Owls

## VANISHING BIRDS OF THE VANISHING PRAIRIE

Wills Hall

THE last hour of sunlight of July 4th—and I had been seeing and hearing heavy traffic since daybreak. Here, just twenty miles from the largest city in the state, I had been hidden, at least partially, in the roadside ditch that I might better observe these once common native birds of our prairie. This, indeed, was barely a remnant of prairie, but the Owls were making the best of it.

I left my blind to pick up my equipment at the owl burrow. As I began winding up the 550 feet of electrical cord leading to the blind, a car stopped on the highway. Three men got out and went towards my blind; but, when they came to the ditch, they found it contained water several inches deep and extending far past the frail structure of the blind. The biggest one of the three did not hesitate; he waded straight out to the blind.

I continued methodically winding my cord as I approached. The big man had finished peering through the slit in the blind and had gone ashore to confer with his companions when he saw me moving towards them. His shoes and trousers looked wet and muddy.

None of them said anything as I came up. After I had tried to explain the situation they had little to say. The big fellow, who had sacrificed his dry feet, seemed especially uncomprehending—no doubt unwilling to believe he had gotten his feet wet for such ridiculous business.

Yet, to me, it seemed a worthwhile project. Thanks to Mr. Charles Crutchett of Armour, who has introduced

me to other Owl families, I had learned of this one when we attended the S. D. O. U. Convention in Rapid City, May 27, 1960. The Crutchett's had seen an Owl on the low mound of earth in front of the burrow as they drove past on May 10.

Not until June 5th was I able to visit the Owls. Mr. Crutchett had drawn a map for me that led to the exact spot. No Owls were in sight as I drove by, but, when I had passed again, at a slower than normal speed, two flew up.

After parking in the ditch at a distance from the burrow, I walked up to see it. The entrance was only eight feet from the edge of the hard surfaced highway—on the sloping side of the fill. Apparently the burrow led right under the road, and, perhaps the cars and trucks, thundering overhead, were not too different from the thundering herds of buffalo on the vanished prairie.

The short grass and weeds around the low mound of dirt at the entrance couldn't hide a blind from the passing motorists. Remote control of the camera seemed best. To introduce the birds to only a slight change in their environment, I set up a small (12 inches high) well-camouflaged tripod. It was put about ten feet from the entrance.

A quarter mile to the south was a turn-off where I could park and observe the Owls with a binocular. Forty minutes went by before an Owl flew above the burrow and hovered, its long legs dangling, with something gripped in the talons of one foot. It did not go down—but soon came again and re-

peated the performance. The third time it came, it dropped and stayed for a while. The grass was too tall for me to see it on the ground and, so after waiting a few minutes, I drove past the burrow again—but saw no Owl.

Finally one appeared on a fence post. I found it stayed there even when I drove quite slowly. I tried for some distant camera views of it from the car. At a lull in the traffic I took several pictures without disturbing the bird enough for it to leave.

Quitting for the day, I went to get my tripod and found the Owl still on its post. It remained until I got quite close—then let out a rather disturbing volley of high pitched chatter as it flew upward and hovered with whirring wings for a couple of seconds before flying into the field.

On June 8, I came to the Owl area late in the afternoon. The fields were being cultivated and I saw one Owl in the newly worked land not far from the ditch.

Early in the afternoon of June 12, I arrived at my parking place. A half hour of waiting brought no sight of an Owl. One went to a post when I slowly drove by the burrow. As I approached it when I went to set up the tripod and dummy camera, it stared back at me, hopped up and down and chattered until I was within about thirty feet. It soon returned to the post when I had retreated to my observation place. Only a few minutes later it went to the burrow.

When the Owls had come and gone several times, it was mid-afternoon. I then put up the camera in place of the dummy. Following Mr. Crutchett's suggestion, I had made a device which would trip the camera shutter when the car wheel ran over it as I drove by. To prevent other cars from going over it, I placed it on the gravel shoulder of the highway. If I saw the Owl at the

burrow entrance I would run the car over the tripper. So it was planned.

At my observation point I watched the two Owls on neighboring posts. How unlike they were. The one I had been seeing most of the time was light above, tan or buff, with very light spots. It had a throat patch of pure white, and a patch of white on the breast. The other one was dark brown above, and mostly dark below—except for some light spots on the breast, and more white on the belly.

Since the lighter bird had been acting as guardian most of the time, while the other remained unseen (below ground, I believed) I decided to call the lighter bird the male.

While I watched these two Owls on their posts, I noted, as I had done before, that they were not molested by other birds. In fact other birds seemed to like their company. Mourning Doves, Grackles, Meadowlarks, Western Kingbirds, and even a Flicker had come to perch near them. At one time there were five Grackles on the fence close to the two Owls on their posts. When the Owls flew into the corn field, a Grackle or two would not be far behind, and would walk about close to them. The Owls, after a while, flew to the road to better observe my camera set-up. A couple of Grackles went along and walked about on the road near them. Later one bird did violate this "friendly" attitude.

After hovering over the camera a few times, the female lighted. Hastily I left my parking place and hurried to drive over my tripping device. The grass prevented me from seeing in advance whether the bird was at the right place—so I concentrated on hitting the tripper.

Next time I tried driving more slowly. When I got onto the crunchy gravel, the bird flew up before I came to the tripper. Another long wait fol-

lowed, during which the male spent most of his time on the post. Finally, after returning from the field, and briefly stopping on the post, he went to the burrow. With all haste I headed for the tripper and, without a glance at anything else, hit it. I was indeed glad to see the speedlight flash. The Owl was on his post when I looked back.



### Burrowing Owl

—From color slide by Willis Hall.

The halftones for the three pictures of the owls were also the gift of Mr. Hall.

The camera arrangement was far from satisfactory. How much better it would have been if the camera could have been tripped just as the bird landed. I resolved to find some other way and made a new plan to try on the next trip.

For I found myself visiting the Owls at every opportunity—Sunday and Wednesday. I did not miss going on these days until after July 13. It was a long way to go. Trips back and forth from Yankton, then back and forth in front of the Owls, and, quite often, around them, amounted to over 1800 miles for the project.

The new plan was to get the Owl at close range while he was on his post. The male seemed so fond of a certain post I thought it might be possible to take advantage of his habit.

If I could have left dummy cameras up for a number of days, gradually moving them closer, I am sure it would have been a simple thing to get him to consent—but his favorite post being so close to the burrow—I did not want to leave anything to attract passing motorists' attention. The camera, well camouflaged with grass, was put about seven feet from his post. Two neighboring posts were given dummy cameras, only six feet away.

Alas, it was a long day of waiting. The Owls avoided all three of the posts except for one time when the male came to the right one. But he looked so unsettled that I hesitated—and the next moment he was done.

On June 22, at 4:00 a. m., we left Yankton with added equipment in another effort to get a picture. I had another "hot-shot" battery (now making three) and more electrical wire, to trip the camera from 550 feet away where I would place a blind. This place, along the fence to the south of the burrow, just happened to come where water was standing six inches deep. My fold-

ing camp stool provided a dry place to sit, and the batteries were put on an inverted bushel basket that Rosamond had found in the ditch.

She found two baskets, one nested inside the other—and between them was a mouse's nest with four almost grown young mice, who left their home before we could photograph them.

Rosamond acted as my "go-awayster," when I was seated in my blind with all equipment properly arranged (so I thought). Soon after she got back to the car, the female flew to the edge of the road where she carefully looked over the camera situation. She went to the burrow—my camera failed to respond. At my signal, Rosamond came back to the blind (up to the edge of the water), where I insisted she lie in the grass to simulate a disappearance into the blind.

The camera, I found, was locked. This remedied, we went through the ritual of installing me in the blind again. The Owl returned—again the camera failed. This time it was the speedlight. Now I had to rely on sunlight and use a slow shutter speed—and, worst of all, I could see no flash to tell me if the camera was responding to my push button.

It was 11:00 a. m. when it seemed I had finally got some pictures. When I pushed the button the female flew up, just after lighting. Now that I believed the camera was working I was able to make ten pictures before returning to rewind it. The male went several times to hover over the burrow (or camera) but did not light. He spent much of his time on posts, after short absences.

My blind happened to be in the territory of a Red-winged Blackbird who was near it most of the time. It did not object to the blind but now I saw it fly over to the Owl on his post. After diving at the Owl several times, with

no effect, the Blackbird sat on the fence a few feet away. The Owl did not budge. Finally the Blackbird left him. Later I saw this Red-wing go over to the Owl again, diving at him from this side and that, coming very close indeed. But the Owl was unmoved. The Red-wing returned to my blind, and, just a foot away from my head, he sang his flutey song—what quality it had at such close range.

June 26 was warm, with a south wind. At 6:45 a. m. I was at the Owl area, glad to find that my blind had not been disturbed. An Owl flew from the burrow as I got within forty feet of it, carrying my equipment. At 7:45 I was in the blind, but had no "go-awayster", since it was Sunday, when Rosamond could not be away from home. At 9:10 I took time to note that I had seen no Owls. I was listening to the pleasing songs of Meadowlark and Horned Lark. The water in the blind had gone down to two inches.

At ten o'clock I decided to test the camera. At the push of the button the female flew up and went to a fence post. But my speedlight had not flashed. The female returned and I tried the camera again—no flash. Next the male came to one of the posts near the female and she went to the burrow.

After driving around a square mile (to help disassociate myself from the blind) I went to the camera. The female, just a couple of feet from the camera, appeared very dark as I approached close to her. Her color seemed well matched to the cultivated field nearby. She flew to the post and chattered—considerably louder than the male.

After setting the camera for sunlight, I went around another square mile to get back to my blind as inconspicuously as possible. It may seem ridiculous to drive three and three quarter miles to get to a place a quarter of a mile away,



but I had found that these owls had learned the particular sound of my car and were undoubtedly becoming touchy about my driving by so much. And so I spared them as much as I could.

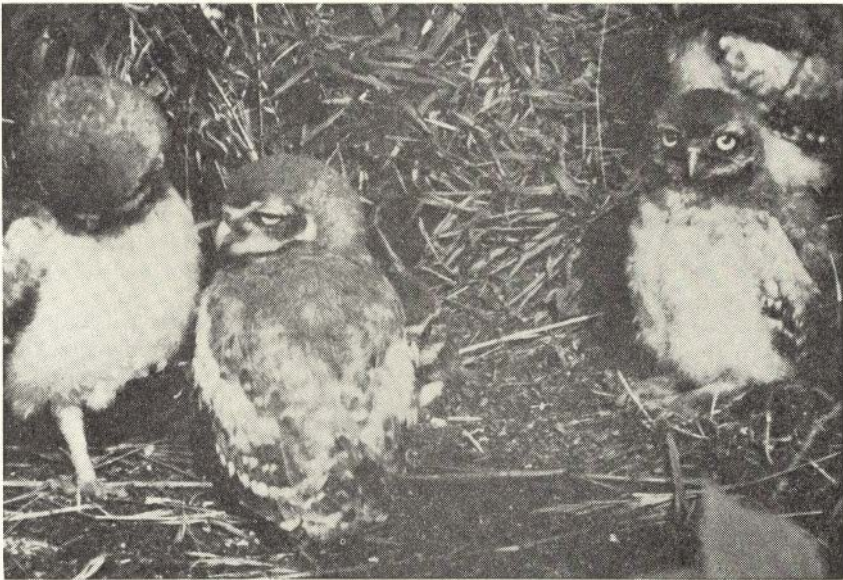
On this day it was quite hard to see the Owls, for the tall grass was blowing across the peep-hole of the blind. At 12:05 the female flew to the edge of the road. In a minute she went to the burrow and I made two exposures in rapid succession. Using these tactics, I continued to make a good number of exposures in the afternoon. Sometimes, when there was a long wait, I would push the button just for luck.

The following Wednesday I had more difficulty with the speedlight. Using flash bulbs, I had to return to the camera after each exposure to replace the bulb. It took a lot of time for a few exposures.

Two young Owls greeted me when I went early to the burrow on July 3.

They were not disturbed by the car. Now I had hopes of getting owls in my pictures more often. My speedlight was working today and the female jumped up as it flashed the first time. I began taking some pictures when cars were just past the Owls, hoping that the sound of the passing car would attract the attention of all the Owl family.

Maybe I was making too many exposures to suit the male because, for the first time, he came into the territory shared by the Blackbird and me. Instead of perching on a lowly fence post, he went to the top of a telephone pole just across the road from the blind. The female went to the edge of the road near the camera—with much bowing she seemed to be disapproving it. She stayed at the edge of the road even while cars were passing. At last a car and a motorcycle together made her fly to a post.



Young Burrowing Owls

—By Willis Hall



### “A Good Assemblage of Young Owls”

—by Willis Hall

All morning the Bobolink had been near my blind.—once he held in his beak a nice long worm as he perched on the fence. The Horned Lark had been singing exuberantly and Grackles and the Red-wing had been telling me of their nearness. Once the Red-wing called in a high-pitched squeaking note I've never heard before.

Early on July 4 I visited the Owls. A young one was outside as I drove by. As I set up the camera, I could barely see him just inside the burrow. He chattered softly to me. An hour after I was in the blind the parent Owls appeared. The female at the edge of the road preened herself as the

male came over to a telephone pole near the blind. Suddenly he flew low, straight to the burrow and lighted. My speedlight flashed.

There was considerable activity now—both birds going to the burrow, to the edge of the road, to various posts, and away into the fields. On one of my flashes two birds flew up and then settled. My speedlight worked only part of the time; so, when I went to wind the camera, I changed to a daylight setting. Once, when the female was at the edge of the road, she walked down to the burrow instead of flying. Four young were at the burrow entrance when I went back. One looked out at

me after they had gone inside.

The following Wednesday, July 6, when Rosamond was able to be with me, we used an improved system of photographing our subjects. Instead of my being in the blind, Rosamond was stationed there (the water had disappeared, so her feet got only muddy). I drove past the Owl burrow many times that day. If I saw a good assemblage of young Owls—or even one that was looking the right way—I raised a handkerchief on a long stick out the car window as a signal to Rosamond to take some pictures. Several times I was glad to see six young ones at the entrance as I drove by. Most of the young were about the same size, but a couple were considerably smaller.

Our last trip to photograph the Owls was made on July 13. Quite a crew of young ones (seven) were at the entrance as we arrived early in the morning. They spent much time out in the open that day. When the temperature rose considerably in the early afternoon, they disappeared. A good number of pictures of the young were taken that last day. In few of them were the birds arranged at all satisfactorily, but that is always a problem with youngsters of any kind.

We were indeed sorry to leave the Owl family. We had to go away for two weeks and could only hope that the family would continue to prosper. There seemed little chance they would be there after two more weeks, for the young were large and well feathered.

When we did return on July 31 (we made a point of returning to Yankton via the Burrowing Owls) I could see that the dirt in front of the burrow was no longer well packed by the feet of the little ones.

About forty feet away, on the shoulder of the road, was a traffic fatality—one of the little Owls. Not far away, across the road, was another bird. This, I found, was a young pheasant. And so we had hopes that, at least eight Burrowing Owls of this family were somewhere in the vicinity, to continue their part in this unusual fragment of South Dakota prairie life.—Yankton.

\* \* \* \*

## President's Page

(Continued From Page 27)

peaceful lakes with their natural shoreline habitats are now encircled and closed off by private summer cottages whose owners overrun the waters with their noisy motorboats. You who long for natural areas are going to have to fight for them. Time is running out. We as an organization can, with concentrated action, help to preserve our natural heritage.

When our committee reports and recommends ways and means of action, let us give them full support and publicity. We can do something before it is too late if we take decisive action now. Will each of you bend your efforts towards this cause?—Ruth C. Habeger

## HELP

*In order to cut cost of printing new supplies of back issues of Bird Notes now out of print or nearly so, will anyone who has unwanted issues send them to Herman P. Chilson, Webster, S. D.*

# The Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch at Volin

Miss Evelyn Lien, et al

**A**BOUT Christmas, 1959, someone in the family noticed a strange bird outside in the cedar tree and called my attention to it. I didn't know it and no one could tell me what it was. After several weeks, during which we saw the bird occasionally, it disappeared.

This winter (1960-61) we have a feeder right outside the kitchen window and about Christmas, we noticed a sparrow-sized brown bird with a slate-gray crown and a yellow bill that came to the feeder; didn't pay much attention to the other birds, and ate heartily several times every morning.

It didn't seem afraid but kept its left side toward the window and, after watching closely for a week or so, I discovered that its right eye seemed to have something wrong with it. I thought it might be blind. It also had a growth on the right foot.

A cousin suggested that the bird might be a rosy finch but I couldn't see any rose color at first. Then one morning when the light was right, I could see a faint pink cast or wash on the sides and wing.

By this time we had decided that it was a finch and Mr. Hall had been out to see it and take its picture. (BIRD NOTES:XIII, 20).

It has come to eat almost every day. It chases the sparrows doesn't take much from the nuthatches, but doesn't mind the chickadees.

At first it flew away when the camera went off; later it only jumped, and then it didn't mind at all. Movement inside the window doesn't bother it much either. The eye trouble has cleared up. At first I thought it appeared

like a gray rim around the eye. February 15 the eye itself seemed clear and bright.

The bird likes sunflower seeds and sorghum grain. I believe it is the same bird we saw last winter.—Volin.

Feb. 10.—We hurried to Volin to see the Rosy Finch, but it didn't like us and flew away. We waited in an alley and it got hungry and came back; we watched it for several minutes. It was a thrill to never forget. I can never repay Willis for writing and telling me about it.—Bill Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa.

Feb. 19—I went over to Volin to set up a couple of cameras, hoping to get a picture of the Rosy Finch. More than two hours went by without his making an appearance. Since I had to return to Yankton, but could come back later in the afternoon, I left the cameras up and instructed Miss Lien how she could take some pictures during the noon hour—if the finch showed up. Just as I was about to get in the car she called to me that the bird had arrived. I took one picture and then dashed for home. When I returned in the afternoon I found a note saying that Miss Lien had taken four more pictures of it.

This finch gives the appearance of being a solid character. When it gets on the feeding table it doesn't waste any time at all. It eats rapidly while the other birds watch from a distance.

The coloration, as we see it, varies greatly with the existing light. The gray cap doesn't change much but the browns and tans do. His rosy tint is

(Continued on Page 44)

# Birds' Nests of South Dakota

L. J. Moriarty

## A. O. U. #605, LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*

**T**HIS bird replaces almost completely the Bobolink in the western two thirds of South Dakota, nesting generally on a little higher, dryer ground than the former.

I have more often than not found the nests at the base of a Canada thistle or other weed, in a shallow depression in the ground. It measures about the same as the Bobolink nest but usually somewhat shallower.

Woven of grass and fine weed stems, it is lined with finer grasses and vegetable down. In most nestings I have seen, thistle down was rather liberally used in the lining. Since they seem to nest somewhat later than the Bobolink, they find the thistle down available.

The eggs are either four or five, more commonly five, of a clear pale blue color and about .80" x .60". I have never seen them spotted although some spotting has been reported by others.

This bird has also been parasitized by the Cowbird. The Lark Bunting flies more directly to the nest, giving away its location more quickly than the Bobolink, though it is rather hard to find also.

I have found a few nesting pairs in the Watertown area and they are plentiful in Spink and Hand Counties, 75 to 100 miles west of Watertown.

\* \* \*

## A. O. U. #498, REDWINGED BLACKBIRD

*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*

This bird is one of the most plentiful nesting in northeastern South Dakota, generally near or over water. Its nests

can be found around nearly all sloughs and lakes. Often they are found in cattails, willows, and bushes of any kind, over shallow water and around the fringes of marsh. I have found them common in sumac, wild rose, chokecherry, willows, and low bushes of any sort.

They tend to nest in colonies and defend a very small territory when in a colony. It is believed they are polygamous. The nests are located from ground level where I have found them in alfalfa and weed clumps to about 10 feet above ground in small trees.

The nest is rather loosely, but well, woven, of coarser grasses, sedges, and cattail leaves. It is well lined with finer grass circularly woven, making a neat cup measuring about 3" in diameter and about 2.5" deep.

The usual nesting period is in early June, when the clutch of 3 to 5, most often 4, ovate eggs is laid. Their ground color is a blue-green and blotched on the large end with rather large scrawls and spots of dark brown, black and dark purple. They measure about 1" x .70".

I find that the Cowbird parasitizes the Redwing nest more than that of any other bird in this area. In a check of 26 nests in June on one peninsula extending into a lake, only one Redwing nest did not contain Cowbird eggs. Of the remaining 25 nests, all with Redwing eggs, one contained one Redwing and 6 Cowbird eggs, one had 3 Redwing and 4 Cowbird eggs, 2 had 3 Cowbird eggs, 8 had 2 Cowbird eggs and the remaining 13 one Cowbird egg

(Continued on Page 51)

## Our Juniors

In some fields outstanding people show signs of their bent at an early age. Musicians and ornithologists are particularly inclined to show early interest and talent.

Perhaps we have in Billy Talen, whose paper on hawks speaks for itself, one who will make S.D.O.U. famous in the years ahead. If this should be so, let this word record our thanks to Dr. L. J. Moriarty for his discovery and encouragement of this boy, whose family only recently moved to Watertown from Wisconsin, and for forwarding this paper to Bird Notes.

All will join me in the hope of seeing many more papers published under the same by-line as the years go on. Won't other Juniors join Billy in keeping these pages filled until there is no room for editorial comment?—Ed.

### HAWKS

William (Billy) C. Tallen Jr.

Age 10, 5th Grade

Scientists count about 290 species of hawks in the world. Thirty four of these nest in the United States. Although there are smaller groups (kites, ospreys, harriers, etc.), most hawks fall into 3 groups: the falcons, the buteos, and the accipiters.

Falcons are the most streamlined of hawks. They have long, pointed wings and longish tails. The wingstrokes are rapid; the slim wings are built for speed, not soaring like the buteos. Some falcons are known to fly at 350 m.p.h. But when falcons do soar they change their form and are puzzling to the inexperienced bird watcher. Long ago, falcons were used for hunting by Kings and Lords. The Kings and Lords most commonly used the Duck Hawk or Peregrine falcon for this, thus giving it the name noble falcon. Falconry has not been forgotten, Prince Charles of England is learning falconry. The falcons consist of the duck hawk or peregrine falcon, the pigeon hawk or merlin, the gryfalcon, the sparrow hawk

or kestrel and the Prairie Falcon.

The buteos or buzzard hawks are the largest group of hawks. They have short wide tails with broad wings bigger than the falcons. Buteos are wonderful soarers. They can soar for hours without flapping a wing. Black and melanistic phases often occur in this group, especially in the rough-legged hawk. Many hawks are hard to tell apart and one must be an expert to identify some of them. The buteos consist of the Harlans, the Swansons, the short-tailed hawk, the rough-legged, broad-winged, red-shouldered, and the red-tailed hawks.

The accipiters or short-winged hawks are the woodlands group of hawks. They have short-wings, long tails with small heads. The sharp-shinned is the smallest in the family. The Cooper's is a little bigger. Do not mix the female sharp-shinned and the male Cooper's. The third member of the family is the large goshawk. This hawk is rarely seen in the United States. It does not have the bright yellow-orange underparts as the Cooper's and sharp-shinned but is all gray. They fly with

several rapid beats and a sail, not soaring so much as the buteos. The voice is like the flicker and pileated woodpeckers.

The harrier or marsh hawk is a very small group. They have small heads and a long body with long tail and wings. The male has a pale gray back with lighter underparts and a white rump. The female is the same except it is brown. Their tails have thin bands on them.

Kites are of southern distribution. They (except the Everglade Kite) are like falcons except for the shape of the wings. There are four species of kites in the United States. Kites are from 14 to 24 inches long. They are remarkable in gracefulness, flight and power. The kites are: the Everglade Kite, the Swallow-tailed Kite, White-tailed Kite, and the Mississippi Kite.

The Osprey is an eagle-like hawk. It is blackish above and white below. It is the only large bird of prey so patterned. The osprey flies with a crook in its wings. Its voice is a short series of cheeping whistles; it sounds like it is annoyed. The Osprey is very often seen near large bodies of water, hunting for fish.

Most hawks like to nest in desolate places commanding large views, although some are known to nest on skyscrapers. Some falcons lay their eggs on a bare rock or in a hollow tree. Marsh Hawks nest on the ground. Hawks come back to nest in the same places year after year and many have been known to mate for life. The young, when born, are quite helpless and need to be tended for a long time. These birds flock together only during migration. Then huge numbers--some 10,000 of a single kind--may be seen flying over such places as Hawk Mountain

in Pennsylvania. This area is now set aside as a sanctuary to save the hawks from being slaughtered by hunters.—**Watertown.**

\* \* \*

### OUR PET HAWKS

by Douglas T. MacFarlane, Jr.,  
age 14, Peebles, Sask.

My brother Donald and I brought two Red-tailed Hawks home when they were young fluffy chicks. We had found the nest before the eggs were hatched and watched regularly until we thought the chicks were big enough to bring home. Young as they were they were still rough and fierce to handle and we had to use gloves to protect ourselves from the sharp, strong claws. We had to force them to eat by stuffing mice and pieces of gophers down their throats but it wasn't long before they started eating by themselves. When we had them about a month we let them out of the cages and found that they were quite tame and happy to stay around the farm. We still had to feed them but the odd time we could see them swooping down on gophers and field mice. We hunted sparrows and mice with our B.B.s in order to fill their great hunger. I could hold a mouse or sparrow in one hand and they would swoop down and take it out of my hand. Other times I would throw food in the air and they would fly down and catch it in midair. After having them about three months they began to fly further and further from the farm hunting food on their own. But they always returned daily. Now they are full grown and gone on their own. I have banded them and maybe some day I will see them again. Who knows, they may come back next year to have another look at their old home.—**Blue Jay.**

# Fall Shore Birds, 1957

Alfred Peterson

"BIRD NOTES", Whole No. 33, June, 1957, page 22, relates in some detail the occurrence of spring shore birds, 1957. The notes which follow carry on from the end of spring until the last of the year, to take in the fall shore birds.

- (1) **Ringed Plover.** June 5, 1; 8|3, 3 east of Lake Norden; 8|5, 1 Oakwood Lakes; 8|25, 2 Fox Lake; 9|5, dozen Fox Lake; 9|19, 9|26, 1; 10|1, 3; 10|9 and 10|10, 1.
- (2) **Piping Plover.** (May 5, 1)
- (3) **Killdeer.** Common. March 29, 1; 9|29 many at Fox Lake.
- (4) **Golden Plover.** Aug. 5, 1; 9|29, flock of about 60 over Fox Lake.
- (5) **Black-bellied Plover.** Oct. 1, 1 Fox Lake; 10|4, 2; 10|6, 2; 10|8, 8 Fox Lake; 10|9, 1; 10|10, 6 Fox Lake; 10|15, 3; 10|16, 4; 10|17, 2; 10|18 and 10|19, 2; 10|22, 20 Fox Lake; 10|23, dozen; 10|24, 1; 10|26, 4; 10|28, 1; 11|4, 2 Fox Lake; 11|5, 3.
- (6) **Ruddy Turnstone.** No fall record.
- (7) **Common Snipe.** (April 28, 1), Oct. 28, 1 southeast of Arlington; 9|4, 3 at Fox Lake; 9|6, 3 Arlington; 9|20, 2; 10|16, 2; 10|23, 1; 10|24, 3; also 2 at Clear Lake.
- (8) **Upland Plover.** Fall records nil.
- (9) **Spotted Sandpiper.** Aug. 5, 1 Oakwood Lakes; 8|23, 1; 8|27 and 9|6, 1 at Arlington.
- (10) **Solitary Sandpiper.** Aug. 4, 2 north of Tunerville; 8|18, 2; 9|4, 1; 9|12, 3 Clear Lake.
- (11) **Willet.** Aug. 5, 2 Oakwood Lakes; 8|29, 8 Bitter Lake.
- (12) **Greater Yellowlegs.** Aug. 3, 2 east of Poinsett; 8|5, 2 Oakwood Lakes; 8|8, 3 Astoria; 9|5, 3 Fox Lake; 9|11, 2; 9|12, 2 north of Clear Lake; 9|16, 2; 10|13, 3 Fox Lake; 10|23, 3; 10|26, 1; 10|30, 7 Hayti.
- (13) **Lesser Yellowlegs.** June 12, 7 near Salt Lake; 7|25, about 20 Fox Lake; 8|3, 25 east of Poinsett; 8|4, half dozen north of Tunerville; 8|5, 30 Oakwood Lakes; 8|7, few; 8|19, few; 8|27, many southeast of Arlington; 9|4, 9|5 and 9|6, few; 9|29, some on Fox Lake; 10|1, plentiful Fox Lake; 10|5, large flock Fox Lake; 10|16, 1; 10|26, 3.
- (14) **Knot.** Sept. 11, 2 on Fox Lake; 9|13, 1.
- (15) **Pectoral Sandpiper.** July 25, 20 Fox Lake; 8|3, 1 or 2 near Lake Norden; 8|4, 1; 8|5, about 50 Oakwood Lakes; 8|7, few Fox Lake and 20 east of Astoria; 8|19, many at Fox Lake; 8|27, some near Arlington; 9|4, few Fox Lake; 9|5 and 9|6, few; 9|18, 3; 10|16, 6; 10|18, 6; 10|19, 6; 10|20, 10|22, 10|26 and 10|30, few seen; 10|31, 5 Fox Lake.
- (16) **White-rumped Sandpiper.** Oct. 3, 1 Fox Lake; 10|13, 8 Fox Lake; 10|14, few.
- (17) **Baird's Sandpiper.** Aug. 27, 1 southeast of Arlington.
- (18) **Least Sandpiper.** Aug. 3, few near Lake Norden; 8|27, few; 9|5, some Fox Lake; 9|11, several; 10|1, few; 11|4, 2 Fox Lake.
- (19) **Dunlin.** Nov. 4, 1 Fox Lake; 11|5, 3 Fox Lake.
- (20) **Dowitcher.** Sept. 4, 1 Fox Lake; 9|5, 6 or 8 Fox Lake; 9|6, 100 plus southeast of Arlington; 9|11, 20 Fox Lake; 9|13, 40; also 30 Arlington; 9|16, 30 Fox Lake; 9|17,

(Continued on Page 49)



# General Notes of Special Interest

## BIRD HAVEN NOTES

Lowry Elliott

Aug. 25, 1960. A Common Egret flying up the North Fork of the Yellow Bank River during a shower.

Sept. 4. At Chain Lake a large flock of Blue-winged Teal, 150 or more, 4 Common Egrets, and 4 Great Blue Herons.

At Salt Lake about 4000 Franklin Gulls, many ducks, 12 Ringed Plovers, 3 Black-bellied Plovers, 4 Golden Plovers, 12 Wilson Phalarope.

Oct. 2. Common Egrets were gone from Chain Lake but 4 Great Blue Herons still there. A flock of about 60 Greater Yellowlegs and three Sandhill Cranes. The Cranes were on the banks and seemed to be feeding on weed or grass seed that they stripped from the plants.

On the same trip two beautiful, dark Red-tailed Hawks, 12 Sparrow Hawks, a Sharp-shin and 4 Marsh Hawks. Hundreds of Franklin Gulls flying and catching insects like Barn Swallows. A dark Screech Owl crying in our trees. A Green Heron flew up from the road in the lights of the car.

## Fall Migration

A Dickcissel and Bobolink year. Both stopped singing and started moving after a week of extremely hot weather, July 20-27.

Shorebirds started about July 26, though an unusually large flock of over 150 Marbled Godwits were at North Waubay Lake July 9.

The mild weather made the migration a leisurely affair, with many birds lingering later than usual.

Warbler migration started about Aug.

17, with numbers few and species also. Last seen, a Myrtle, Oct. 19.

Sparrow migration started Sept. 15, with Lincoln's.

First dates of other arrivals were as follows:

White-throated Sparrow .....	Sept. 18
Harris' Sparrow .....	Sept. 22
Slate-colored Junco .....	Sept. 23
Tree Sparrow .....	Sept. 22
Snow Bunting .....	Sept. 24
White-crowned Sparrows .....	Sept. 28
Lapland Longspurs .....	Nov. 2

Most Martins left Aug. 14 but a few singles stayed late.

Barn Swallows leaving Sept. 25, last seen Oct. 10.

Usually hundreds of Tree Swallows; but none this fall.

Golden-crowned Kinglets scarce, though Ruby-crowns about in usual numbers.

Migrating hawks unusually plentiful and later than usual.

Robins scarce but a few seen during last week of October.

Pine Siskins unusually plentiful. First seen Oct. 3, a flock of 16.

## Unusual

Jan. 5, 1961. Adult Bald Eagle sitting in a cottonwood. Had good view with binocular. Could see large yellow beak and large eyes. Apparently watching for a fox squirrel—where I have often seen them.

Jan. 7, 1961. A Sparrow Hawk on top of a crib seemed to be eating corn. When I investigated, a smear of blood and a bit of mouse fur on an ear of corn told the story.—Milbank, S. D.

**WINTER ROBINS**—Since the appearance of my last article in Bird Notes I have received two letters casting more light on the subject of Robins spending the winter in the Black Hills.

Harry Behrens, Rapid City, has a cousin living in the limestone area not far from Castle Creek and she had 50 to 75 robins both this winter and last winter. She called Harry on January 18th and said "what are these robins living on?". He told her, "probably cedar and juniper seeds, kinnikinic (bearberry) and other plants that hold their fruit during the winter." Harry also had reports of 100 to 200 robins staying all winter in the brakes along the Cheyenne River east of Rapid City. The food there would definitely be juniper berries as that is about the only thing that grows in the brakes.

John Palmer, executive secretary of the Badlands Natural History Association, writes that he has also been wondering about the Robins in the Badlands. He has recorded them in the groves of junipers at Cedar Pass every month of the year. He has seen them eat the juniper berries and noted that this was an excellent year for berries. This winter he has a flock of 40 but previous winters there were a trifle less. He also reports that old timers say there have always been Robins in the Badlands all winter long.

Thanks for these fine letters and the information and let us hear from more of you as I think we are uncovering some worthwhile data.—**Herman P. Chilson.**

\* \* \* \*

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER EATING CORN**—In October we moved 7 miles south of Brookings on our new five-acre estate. It is very close to the Big Sioux River, so we have quite a few woodpeckers.

I had put out ears of corn to attract

Blue Jays; for a couple of months nothing ate it. Then I noticed that one ear had been partially eaten and wondered what it could be. It turned out to be a male Red-bellied Woodpecker.

The female came later and she too ate the corn. They would take a kernel of corn from the ear and fly to a nearby tree where they ate it. They also ate quite a bit of suet.

Checking the diet of these birds, I find, in Pough's **Audubon Bird Guide**, "Its food is ants, beetles, and vegetable matter, including beech and acorn mast and corn, as well as wild fruits."—**Mrs. David Holden, Rt. 1, Box 80, Brookings.**

\* \* \* \*

**PINE GROSBEAKS AT BROOKINGS**—We had a wonderful surprise on our Christmas Bird Count this year. Our area includes a cedar grove one mile west of Volga and this year a flock of 12 Pine Grosbeaks were roosting in the grove. We saw at first only the females but we soon spotted a beautiful male. Then a Sharp-shinned Hawk flew by and the grosbeaks took to the air. But a group of five lit again in another part of the grove. We all had excellent views of the four females and one male for they were quite tame, and we were able to get within 15 feet or so of them. It was a new bird for the life list for almost everyone in the group and quite a thrill for all.—**Mrs. David Holden, Rt. 1, Box 80, Brookings.**

\* \* \* \*

**SNOWY OWL NEAR HURON**—February 26, 1961 we were on a road 6 miles north and a mile east of Huron when we saw a Snowy Owl. The bird moved from one pole to another ahead of us for a while before leaving the road.—**Marion Ritchey, Huron.**

\* \* \* \*

**GOLDEN EAGLE AT CENTERVILLE**—On February 11, 1961, as we were

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

nearing Centerville a very large bird flushed from near the highway and flew toward some nearby trees. The white portion of the upper tail with the broad black terminal band told us it was a juvenile Golden Eagle. We were so close that size alone determined it was an eagle and the above tail markings put it in the right species.—Wm. Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa.

\* \* \* \*

#### PALM WARBLERS IN DAY COUNTY

—At 5:30 a. m. on May 13, 1960 with hot coffee under our belt, binoculars cleaned and polished, our eyes not yet quite opened but eager with anticipation, Herb Krause and I started walking from our cabin door on one of our annual birding weekends. We had not gone 100 yards before our list included over 20 species. Suddenly Herb said, "Listen." His sharp ears had picked out the soft weak notes of the Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*. Then he spied it in a wild plum tree, *Prunus americana*. "Sec the chestnut cap on his head? Watch him constantly pumping his tail up and down", said Herb. "Do you hear the weak song? It sounds like a sick chipping sparrow: thi, thi, thi, thi, thi," he continued.

The Palm Warbler was very accommodating and stayed in the area for over 15 minutes; we had every chance to study him with our glasses. The breast was yellowish and the body was olive green to brownish in color with a very definite chestnut cap on his head. The constant tail wagging, up and down, was similar to the Eastern Phoebe's but very much different from the cocking and slowly dropping of the tail of the Hermit Thrush.

Bent's *Life Histories of North American Warblers* says: "the wagging tail of the Palm Warbler is a pronounced up and down sweep, through a much larger arc than the twitching tail of the

Black Poll and Prairie Warblers; tail wagging more persistent than Prairie Warbler; constantly wagging his tail up and down like a pipit."

Krause also remarked on the location as being unusual, a wild plum thicket bordered on one side by the lake shore and on the other by an open pasture.

This was another first for me and how fortunate I was to have such a patient and reliable bird student for a teacher and companion. His enthusiasm is contagious and continues through the whole day, being just as interested in bird No. 110 on the list as he was with number one.

The Federal Game Refuge at Wau-bay, S. Dak., did not include the Palm Warbler in its check list as of May, 1957. John Carlsen, the present manager, arrived in the fall of 1957 and asked help in revising the check list. On the recommendations of Herb Krause, myself and others, the Palm Warbler was added to the new revised list which was published in November, 1958. In May, 1960, John Carlsen, Herb Krause and I observed a Palm Warbler in the middle of a pasture sitting on a fence post in Nutley Township, Day County, South Dakota.—**Herman P. Chilson, Webster.**

\* \* \* \*

#### RING-NECKED DUCK IN SOUTH DAKOTA

—On September 22, 1960, a hen Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*) with a brood of twelve ducklings was observed on a lake of about eight acres in size in Marshall County, South Dakota. The wetland is located about nine miles southeast of Lake City in Section 25, Township 126 North, Range 53 West. Placing them in the classification of ducklings used in waterfowl studies, the young were in size class IIC. This size duckling still has some down in evidence. The wetland where the brood was seen was an open water

area with a margin of cattails and some tree cover.

Mr. Grady Mann of Fergus Falls, Minn., was along to verify the observation. Mr. Mann has conducted water-fowl studies in Minnesota where the Ring-necked Duck is a more common nester.

For this duck the former breeding range is given: "From central British Columbia and western Ontario, south to southern Wisconsin, northern Iowa, northern Nebraska, northern Utah, and central Arizona, with at least former occurrence in northern Illinois. Within this broad area the range was discontinuous throughout much of its southern part."

The present breeding range: "The former rather heavy populations of the Dakotas are now reduced to a mere remnant in South Dakota. Concurrent with the decline in South Dakota, the Nebraska Ring-necks likewise disappeared, except for a few birds bred in recent years in the north central part of the state."

This information is noted from Howard L. Mendalls "The Ring-necked Duck in the Northeast, University of Maine Bulletin, Vol. LX, June 20, 1958, No. 16. Published in Orono, Maine.—Milt Reeves, Aberdeen

\* \* \* \*

## Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

(Continued from Page 36)

faintly seen only when the lighting is perfect.—Willis Hall, Yankton.

March 22, 1961—Some of the color slides (of the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch) under high magnification, show the rosy color on the sides, flank, and tips of the greater wing coverts. Miss Lien tells me the Finch has not been seen since March 15.—Willis Hall.

## BOOKS

**LOUISIANA BIRDS.** By Geo. H. Lowery, Jr. Second Edition. 567 pages. Published for the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge. \$7.50.

The bird book bargain of the year; unfortunately not a large edition. Waverers will not have much time to decide before it goes out of print.

Profusely illustrated. Forty Robert E. Tucker plates. About 90 photographs, largely by Allan D. Cruckshank, but many by Samuel D. Grimes, a few by others. One hundred and thirty-four figures, drawings and photographs.

A hundred pages of general information opens the book and prepares for the descriptions of species—all given with problems of the non-specialist student in mind and often with a new approach. A design for a simple nest trapping martin house should lead to more knowledge of these familiar but little known birds.

The descriptions of species contain a wealth of interesting and humanly written information, much of it new to the average reader.

All on good paper, well bound in dark green cloth into a book 6"x8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" with a dust jacket that repeats the frontispiece—a full page Robert E. Tucker Louisiana Heron.

**PENGUIN SUMMER.** By Eleanor Rice Pettingill. 190 pages. Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., New York. \$5.00.

For those who saw the Pettingills' film of the Penguins of the Falklands this book gives a worthwhile other dimension. An intimate picture of both the people of these remote islands, their way of life, a capsule comment on the way of man with wildlife becomes

a part of the story of the way it was on this scientific expedition.

Mrs. Pettingill's humor and charm of language makes her book one you do not easily lay down and yet doesn't detract from the impact of the hard things she has to say of the way wildlife is treated, not only in the Falklands but, explicitly, wherever there are people.

**BINOCULARS AND SCOPES AND THEIR USES IN PHOTOGRAPHY.** By Robert J. and Elisa Reichert. 128 pages. Chilton Company—Book Division. Paper covers. \$1.95. Foreward by Richard H. Pough.

In as near layman's language as possible this book tries to give the basics of optical instruments in common use and probably does as well as any book or teacher can do, alone. Certainly anyone willing to learn is given every reasonable opportunity.

In closing his foreward Pough has this to say: "Let's hope it means the end to the purchase of 7x50 binoculars under the impression that, because they have large objective lenses, they automatically have a large field, and also to the use of binoculars equipped with deep eyecups by those who wear eyeglasses and as a result lose much of the binocular's field of view."

May his hope be realized. But this reviewer would be satisfied if it could end an even worse lack of knowledge: what should be expected from a binocular.

I have found people looking at birds through 7x50 binoculars so monstrously out of line or adjustment they could have been seeing only with one eye—yet loud in their praises of their glasses.

To do either, this book, or any book, requires that it be read—well, and more than once.

JUNE, 1961

## WARBLER WAVE

May 22nd, the first morning after returning from the S. D. O. U. meeting at Watertown, I sat down at my window to see what changes had taken place in the bird world of our garden. It was 6:30 a. m. and aside from making a cup of coffee and a piece of toast which I ate at the window, I never left until 10:30 a. m.

It was a beautiful day and birds were everywhere. Listed in checklist order, they were: Mourning dove, Chimney Swift, Down Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Vireos: Bell's, Philadelphia, and Warbling. Warblers: Black and White, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Oven bird, Connecticut, Mourning, Yellow-throat, Wilson's, Canada, and American Redstart. Baltimore Orioles sang to us from the treetop and the Night-hawk made its first appearance of the season.

It was a day I never expect to be repeated. Fifteen species of warblers, four species of vireos and thirty-two species in all.—Blanche Battin, Huron.

\* \* \* \*

**WAUBAY NOTES — 1960:** Twelve flocks of White-fronted geese totalling about 925 birds were observed in migration during a period of 40 minutes on the morning of Oct. 10. They are considered regular but uncommon migrants here.

In our annual roundup of geese during the flightless period we captured 89 Honkers on Spring Lake. Ten of these birds had been banded here in previous years: eight in 1959, one in 1956, and one in 1951.

A wren house at Headquarters had  
(Continued on Page 52)

## With the Banders

LOWRY ELLIOTT, MILBANK — Mourning Dove 33, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 3, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Yellow-shafted Flicker 10, Eastern Wood Pewee, 1, Blue Jay 4, Cowbird 1, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Orchard Oriole 7, Baltimore Oriole 4, Bronzed Grackle 49, American Goldfinch 1, Pine Siskin 2, Vesper Sparrow 2, Savannah Sparrow 3, Harris' Sparrow 158, White-crowned Sparrow 8, Gambel's Sparrow 7, White-throated Sparrow 89, Tree Sparrow 3, Clay-colored Sparrow 3, Slate-colored Junco 105, Song Sparrow 80, Lincoln's Sparrow 60, Swamp Sparrow 2, Red-eyed Towhee 1, Purple Martin 3, Barn Swallow 34, Cedar Waxwing 1, Northern Shrike 2, Red-eyed Vireo 2, Nashville Warbler 3, Orange-crowned Warbler 17, Tennessee Warbler 3, Yellow Warbler 8, Myrtle Warbler 5, Magnolia Warbler 2, Palm Warbler 1, Connecticut Warbler 1, Mourning Warbler 2, Yellowthroat 13, Yellow-breasted Chat 1, Wilson's Warbler 3, Redstart 3, Catbird 13, Brown Thrasher 45, House Wren 43, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Black-capped Chickadee 31, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Grey-checked Thrush 2, Olive-backed Thrush 3, Robin 56. Total 1031 birds of 55 species. Trapped Tree Sparrow 1-18-61 that I had banded 11-8-58.—**Milbank**

\* \* \* \* \*

**KINGLETS IN SIOUX FALLS**—This Fall there seemed to be many kinglets in Sioux Falls but I wondered whether they were moving through or were loafing here because of the super-fine weather we enjoyed.

In addition to numbers of sight records, I was able to band an unusual (for me) number. The banding records look like there may have been a move-

ment through here since only one kinglet repeated and new birds kept coming. However, my data are too limited to warrant any conclusion.

The repeater was a ruby-crown banded on October 12 which was caught again on the 15th in addition to two new birds.

The weather turned cold and we had a freeze on the 18th.

These are my figures:

	<b>Kinglets</b>	
	Ruby-crowned	Golden-crowned
1960		
9 24	2	
9 29	1	
10 1	2	
10 6	1	
10 8	2	
10 9	2	
10 11		1
10 12	2	
10 13	3	
10 14	3	
10 15	2	
10 17		2
10 24		1
	—	—
	20	4

—J. S. Findley, Sioux Falls

\* \* \* \* \*

**HURON BANDING**—The Robin Banding program was continued through the summer of 1960. Use of 5 to 7 nets, compared to the one the summer before compensated partially for the tragically fewer birds. By working 66 evenings instead of the 34 in 1959 we were able to band 1497 Robins. During the operation 23 of the birds banded in 1959 were retrapped. Of these 13 had been banded as adults and 10 as immatures.

In addition to the robins the follow-

ing birds were caught and banded as a part of the joint efforts of Jean and George Jonkel, Blanche Battin, Lucille and J. W. Johnson, with some help from various others of the Huron Bird Club; Pectoral Sandpiper 10, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Mourning Dove 14, Sparrow Hawk 1, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1, Black-billed Cuckoo 1, Yellow-shafted Flicker 3, Eastern Kingbird 1, Eastern Wood Pewee 1, Least Flycatcher 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 18, Red-winged Blackbird 26, Baltimore Oriole 1, Common Grackle 19, Harris' Sparrow 4, White-throated Sparrow 7, Song Sparrow 9, Lincoln's Sparrow 6, Purple Martin 15, Cedar Waxwing 1, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Orange-Crowned Warbler 1, Yellow Warbler 4, Yellowthroat 4, Northern Waterthrush 1, Catbird 2, Brown Thrasher 4, Gray-cheeked Thrush 12, Olive-backed Thrush 14. Total species 30.

Birds banded by George Jonkel concurrently with but in addition to those listed above: Killdeer 2, Mourning Dove 3, Krider's Red-tailed Hawk 1, Great Horned Owl 2, Yellow-shafted Flicker 1, Eastern Kingbird 1, Least Flycatcher 1, Cowbird 17, Yellow-headed Blackbird 1, Red-winged Blackbird 16, Baltimore Oriole 2, Bronzed Grackle 25, Harris' Sparrow 1, White-crowned Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 20, Song Sparrow 2, Lincoln's Sparrow 3, Swamp Sparrow 1, Red-eyed Towhee 1, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2, Dickcissel 1, Philadelphia Vireo 1, Warbling Vireo 3, Nashville Warbler 1, Orange-crowned Warbler 2, Yellow Warbler 4, Myrtle Warbler 1, Redstart 1, Catbird 1, Brown Thrasher 3, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Gray-cheeked Thrush 1, Olive-backed Thrush 3. Total species 34.—Huron

REV. HAROLD W. WAGAR, now of Sturgis, late of Winner, advises he has banded 26 species, a total of 206 individuals, making his total of species 84.

He has started a record of birds seen in Meade County, to be continued as long as he is located there.

MRS. DAVID C. HOLDEN banded 252 birds representing 31 species. The most interesting ones were: one immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2 Rufus-sided Towhees, 2 Black and White Warblers, 1 Connecticut Warbler, and one Ruby-crowned Kinglet. My complete list is as follows: Killdeer, 2; Mourning Dove, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Blue Jay, 15; Cowbird, 1; Bronzed Grackle, 35; Harris's Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 32; Chipping Sparrow, 4; Field Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 10; Lincoln's Sparrow, 12; Rufus-sided Towhee 2; Purple Martin, 62; Barn Swallow 1; Black and White Warbler, 2; Yellow Warbler, 1; Ovenbird, 1; N. Waterthrush, 2; Connecticut Warbler, 1; Catbird, 3; Brown Thrasher, 2; House Wren, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 4; Swainson's Thrush, 6; Robin, 34.

#### RETURNS OF 1960

Band	Species	Date Banded	Date Returned
603-84628	Blue Jay	5 13 58	6 14 60
643-14207	Blue Jay	9 7 59	5 5 60
58-150102	Purple Martin	7 17 59	6 15 60 (1st year male)
572-00113	Brown Thrasher	7 18 59	5 27 60
27-37205	Chickadee	1 17 58	10 18 60 (Third return)
572-00126	Robin	4 17 60	9 4 60

### RECOVERIES OF 1960

Band	Species	Date Banded	Date Recovered	Where
643-14237	Grackle	5/7/60	6/12/60	Brookings
643-14249	Grackle	6/3/60	9/26/60	Brookings
623-37850	Grackle	5/4/59	4/29/60	Brookings
643-14230	Grackle	4/22/60	5/30/60	Brookings
623-37878	Blue Jay	5/11/59	6/18/60	Watertown
562-17679	Robin	6/8/59	3/3/60	Panacea, Florida

I was interested in the return of the Martin for he was banded the year before as a young bird. He came back the next year as an adult first year male and raised a family in the Martin house where he was reared.—**Rt. 1, Box 80, Brookings.**

DR. N. R. WHITNEY reports the following for the year 1960:

#### BIRDS BANDED:

Red-necked Grebe	1	Red Crossbill	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Rufous-sided Towhee	2
Peregrine Falcon	1	White-winged Junco	47
Spotted Sandpiper	4	Slate-colored Junco	5
Say's Phoebe	5	Oregon Junco	8
Horned Lark	1	Tree Sparrow	1
Magpie	1	Chipping Sparrow	4
Pinon Jay	12	White-crowned Sparrow	2
Robin	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Western Meadowlark	6		

TOTALS: 19 species, 106 individuals.

#### RETURNS DURING THE YEAR 1960

##### A. Pinon Jay.

#532-04171, banded at our home in Rapid City on April 20, 1958, found dead in Rapid City on February 15, 1960.

#532-04129, banded April 20, 1956, was retrapped Dec. 22, 1960. It was thus at least 5 years old, and still seemed to be in good health.

##### B. White-winged Junco.

#25-65043, banded at Rapid City Dec. 7, 1956, was found dead southwest of Hill City, South Dakota, on April 17, 1960.

Three individuals were banded at my home in October and November, 1959, and were retrapped there in March, 1960, after being completely absent from the banding area during all of December and January.

#28-6394, banded at our home April 19, 1959, was retrapped at the same place March 17, 1960, and several times subsequently through May. Both years it appeared to be on breeding territory, although I was unable to find a nest.

##### C. Slate-colored Junco.

#28-63971, banded in Rapid City on March 14, 1959, was retrapped at the



exact locality of banding on Nov. 15, 1959, and Dec. 19, 1960.

**D. Oregon Junco.**

#31-46713, banded in Rapid City on Nov. 15, 1959, was retrapped at the exact same place at noon December 25, 1960.

I should emphasize that the nearest known breeding areas of Slate-colored and Oregon Juncos are two hundred or more miles from Rapid City. Presumably neither one breeds in the Black Hills.—Rapid City.

## Fall Shore Birds, 1937

(Continued from Page 40)

dozen; 9|18, 8 or 10; 9|19, few; 9|21, dozen; 9|22, 20; 9|26, 30; 9|29, rather less; 10|1, few; 10|4, many; 10|5 and 10|6, many; 10|7 and 10|8, about 20; 10|9 and 10|11, not seen; 10|12 and 10|15, 20; 10|16, new lot of about 100; 10|17, 20; 10|18, 15; 10|23, few. All dates from 9|13 to end from Fox Lake.

- (21) **Stilt Sandpiper.** July 25, about 20 Fox Lake; 8|3, 1 near Lake Norden and 1 east of Poinsett; 8|5, about 50 Oakwood Lakes; 8|6, many near Thomas; 8|7, few Fox Lake; 8|19 and 8|25, some at Fox Lake; 8|27, some southeast of Arlington; 9|4, few; 9|5, about 150 on Fox Lake; 9|6, few; 9|13, 20 Fox Lake; also 15 near Arlington; 9|16, 10 Fox Lake; 9|17 and 9|18, 20; 9|20, few; 9|22, 20; 9|26, 30; 9|29, 25; 10|1, many; 10|3, 12.
- (22) **Semipalmated Sandpiper.** July 25, 20 Fox Lake; 8|3, about 100 near Lake Norden; 8|5, 100 Oakwood Lakes; 8|19, few on Fox Lake; 8|27, few near Arlington; 9|4 and 9|5, few Fox Lake; 9|6, many Arlington; 9|11, 9|13 and 9|26, few Fox Lake; 10|1, several; 10|3, 6; 10|31, 2.
- (23) **Buff-breasted Sandpiper.** None seen.
- (24) **Marbled Godwit.** Aug. 9, 2 Bitter Lake; 9|4, 1 Fox Lake; 9|5, 2; 9|6, 8 or 10 near Arlington; 9|11, 1 Fox Lake; also 3 Arlington; 9|13, 9|16, 9|17, and 9|18, 1 Fox Lake.

- (25) **Hudsonian Godwit.** Have never seen it in fall.
- (26) **Sanderling.** None since 5|29.
- (27) **Avocet.** Aug. 29, 3 Bitter Lake; 8|27, 14 southeast of Arlington; 9|6, 11 Arlington; 9|13, 6 Arlington.
- (28) **Wilson's Phalarope.** Aug. 5, about 50 at Oakwood Lakes; 8|9, 30 Bitter Lake; 8|27, 3 or 4 near Arlington; 9|6, 3.
- (29) **Northern Phalarope.** No fall dates. (5|24, 22 at Fox Lake; 5|27, 15).—Brandt.

\* \* \*

### ANIMALS AND HEART ATTACKS

Do wild animals have heart attacks? At least one case turned up recently, in a mature, female bald eagle. A Wisconsin conservation warden, Jim Whealon, reported this most unusual happening which took place near Eau Claire earlier last winter. A report came in of a downed bald eagle which appeared to be injured. The bird was apparently partially paralyzed on the right side of the body, and by the next day was found dead, in the same area where it had been observed.

After examination by Whcalon, Doctors Bakken and Schildt of the Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire and pathologists at an Eau Claire hospital, the verdict was a heart attack. They found a large blood clot in the heart indicating a heart attack at some earlier date. They determined that the eagle had suffered two attacks and that the latest was probably the cause of death.—Wyoming Wildlife.

## Olive-Sided Flycatcher

(Continued from Page 28)

some large tree with dead top branches nearby. However, never stop looking up toward the tops of your own trees, if you can't get into the field, because this writer, over the years, does have at least three records in his own neighborhood. If you can get out in the field look for the tallest dead tree you can find and if it is located on the edge of bank or high cliff, your chances seeing an Olive-sided Flycatcher are that much better.

Another good clue is that if you see a lone bird sallying forth after insects your chances are good, because this flycatcher has nothing to do with any other kind of birds, not even other Olive-sided Flycatchers. I would say the clincher would be if your bird is silent, that you are probably seeing a new bird for your life list.

It is always possible that terrific storms to the south of our area force some birds north faster in the spring than they would normally come, but, barring that, start looking for the Olive-sided Flycatcher in this area from May 1 to May 31. It so happens that my earliest spring record is May 9, 1930 and my latest May 31, 1928. The bulk of 15 records are, however, between May 10 and May 25.

Mr. Earl W. Glandon of Stapleton, Nebraska, out in the sandhills of western Nebraska, reports one Olive-sided Flycatcher on April 6, 1948, probably the earliest known spring migration record in this area. Mr. Glandon also has two other April dates for this flycatcher in over fifty years of conscientious bird watching in this area of Nebraska.

Since the Olive-sided Flycatcher apparently uses the identical migration route in the fall, don't fail to start look-

ing for this interesting flycatcher any time after September 1 and on until October 1. Here again you might get an early fall arrival on occasion, as I did on August 27, 1931, and again on September 1, 1957, but the main migration period, after checking my records, seems to be between September 10 and September 25.

Conclusions would be that, come this May, keep a sharp lookout for this perky but silent bird visitor. Check the dead branches on tall trees, especially if near water, and you might be rewarded by seeing a chunky Olive-sided Flycatcher flying out to snap up a tasty insect. Honey-bees are apparently part of his food, while in South Dakota, but his stay is so short, that the damage would not be too great, but could be if he lived with us during the summer.—**Sioux City, Iowa.**

\* \* \* \*

## Notes on the Field Trip, SDOU, May 21, 1961

**Osprey:** 1 at old sand pits Lake Kampeska.

**Virginia Rail:** 1 north of Florence.

**Sora:** 1 north of Florence in same tangle with the other Rail but not so shy.

**Marbled Godwit:** 2 or 3 seen several times along the way.

**Dunlin:** 100 at Bitter Lake (count of 92 and not completed).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 75 estimated at Bitter Lake, in large flock, restless.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Scarce.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Scarce, as they have been all season.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 1 at Rush Lake and were heard at Spring Lake.

Ruddy Turnstone: 20 on Rush Lake.  
 Sanderling: 3 on Rush Lake.  
 Stilt Sandpiper: 1 on Rush Lake.  
 White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 or 2 on  
 Rush Lake.  
 Eared Grebe: 12 on Rush Lake.  
 Black Tern: Common  
 Foster's Tern: Not so many.  
 Chestnut-collared Longspur: 1 near  
 Bitter Lake, where this Longspur  
 summers.  
 Swainson's Hawk: 1 shown by L. J. M.  
 on Refuge near its nest in a tree.  
 Bittern: 1 seen.  
 Great Blue Heron: 2 over Spring Lake.  
 Sparrow Hawk: 2 seen.  
 Eastern Kingbird: Plentiful.  
 Western Kingbird: Many seen on trip.  
 Hummingbird: 1 seen.  
 Upland Plover: 5 or 6.

And the nesting Ducks have conditions favorable to them, so also Coots. Perfect weather was experienced. The outdoor meal at Hidden Valley was the best ever. A glorious day it was—a glorious day indeed.—Alfred Peterson, Brandt.

\* \* \* \*

#### WORLD PARKS CONFERENCE

Carl W. Buchheister, president of the National Audubon Society, has been named to the U. S. organizing committee that will make plans for the First World Conference on National Parks, to be held July 1-8, 1962, in Seattle, Wash. The conference is being sponsored internationally by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the International Commission on National Parks. U. S. sponsor is the Natural Resources Council of America.—Audubon Leaders' Conservation Guide

JUNE, 1961

### THE COVER

From his color slides of the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch at Miss Lien's window feeder Willis Hall selected one for a print, which was obviously the Cover. It should be sound evidence for the presence of the bird also.

### Birds' Nests of S. Dak.

(Continued from Page 37)

each. The next year the same area had only 5 Redwing nests and one of these had 6 Cowbird eggs. In all my years of looking in Redwing nests I had never before seen 6 Cowbird eggs in one nest.

This colony was not over water but in brush and weeds near water. I am inclined to believe that the Cowbirds do not lay as many eggs in Redwing nests in rushes as in brush where the female Cowbird can hide and approach the nest unseen more easily. I also wonder if this colony diminished because of the Cowbirds. This particular area is badly infested with ticks, having a sheep pasture adjoining. Cowbirds are plentiful among the sheep and, I believe, thrive on ticks. Never, in any other area, have I seen practically all Redwing nests containing Cowbird eggs. However, many do receive one or two in most colonies in this area. I am also inclined to feel that the Cowbird is more plentiful than formerly.

I find some Redwings nesting as late as August and feel sure they often nest two, or possibly three, times a year.—Watertown.

## General Notes

(Continued from Page 45)

a nest of sparrows this spring but a pair of Tree Swallows drove them out, nested, and produced one young. After it flew away, a pair of House Wrens took over and nested.

On June 14, 1960, the Rookery Island in South Waubay Lake held 1050 Cormorant nests, 450 living young, about 100 dead young, and about 50 unhatched eggs. Several thousand Ring-billed Gulls have a nesting colony there. A small sand-spit island in the west end of South Waubay Lake had eight Avocet nests on it plus several Piping Plover and Sandpiper nests, which we photographed. Marbled Godwits are fairly common nesters in 1960 and the Upland Plovers did well too.

Western Grebes deserted Rush Lake and moved to Spring and Waubay Lakes. Unfortunately no nesting activity has been observed. Most of the birds rafted on Spring Lake.

Green-winged Teal and American Widgeon, considered rare nesters for the refuge, produced young this year. Redhead pairs were abundant this spring and several of the larger sloughs and lakes produced good hatches. I observed only two Canvasback broods during the summer.—**John C. Carlsen, Refuge Manager, Waubay.**

\* \* \* \*

**BONAPARTE'S GULL AT WAUBAY REFUGE**—Mr. Robert Storer, Research Biologist from the University of Michigan Museum was visiting the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge on April 26, 1960. He and the writer were touring the refuge looking for nesting pairs of grebes for Mr. Storer's study project. A group of about 50 Ring-billed and Franklin's gulls were feeding and flying around the dike which impounds the northeast bay of Spring lake. Mr.

Storer observed and pointed out to the writer a Bonaparte's Gull among other gulls. This individual was studied for several minutes with 7x50 binoculars and positive identification made. The wedge of white in the primaries and the difference in size was readily apparent in comparison with the Franklin's gulls.

Three days later another observation of a Bonaparte's Gull was made on the same lake by the writer and Ralph Page, a Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist from Minneapolis, Minn.

These observations are the first positive record for Bonaparte's Gull at the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

\* \* \* \*

**OTHER BONAPARTE'S GULLS**—On May 4, 1961, the writer positively identified an immature Bonaparte's gull on the U. S. Highway 12 causeway through Rush Lake. The black spot behind the eye and the narrow band of black in the tail were readily observed as well as other characters such as the small size, grayish back and indications of white in the primaries.

On May 8, 1961, Mr. Alfred Peterson of Brandt, South Dakota and the writer were birding along the Rush Lake causeway and an immature Bonaparte's Gull was seen in the identical place as the previous observation on May 4. All characters were carefully checked out. A few minutes later, on the opposite side of the causeway, two more Bonaparte's gulls were observed. One was an immature and the other an adult in full plumage. They were sitting on the beach at the water's edge and were studied for several minutes with 7x50 binoculars at a distance of about 40 feet. They were then flushed so the "wedge of white" wing pattern of the adult and the narrow black tail-band of the immature could be seen.—**J. C. Carlsen, Refuge Manager.**

# The 1961 Convention

Bianche Mattin

Over eighty people attended the S.D. O.U. annual meeting at Watertown May 20th and 21st, topping last year's registration by fifteen and again including several out-of-town visitors: Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Eastman of Minneapolis (their article "Birding in the Black Hills" appeared in South Dakota Bird Notes March 1958); Mr. Alex Walker, curator of Pioneer Museum, Tellamook, Oregon, and formerly a resident of Armour, S. Dak.; Mr. Bruce Harris, a charter member of S. D. O. U. now with the Carlsbad Canyon Wildlife Service; and Mr. and Mrs. Whitmas of Nebraska, also formerly from South Dakota and still members of S. D. O. U.

Twenty-seven early birders gathered at the Moriarty home Friday evening before going to the Plateau where they were introduced to Morey specials (delicious small steaks) and enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new ones.

Mr. Alex Walker having brought some of his slides of shore birds taken along the Oregon and Alaskan coasts to show to some of his old friends found himself showing them to the whole group. Lucky were the birders who arrived early, for Mr. Walker's slides entranced everyone into forgetting that they would have to get up early the next morning.

Six o'clock Saturday morning, with Alfred Peterson and L. J. Moriarty leading, sixteen cars started out in deep fog for the Clear Lake field trip. When the fog lifted the lake proved to be covered with grebes, ducks, sandpipers and terns. Thickets along the sides of the lake produced warblers including

a Parula Warbler which made the day for those who saw it.

Saturday afternoon the convention speaker, Dr. P. B. Hofslund, of the University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, gave an illustrated talk on Hawk flights and identification based on the hawk flights over Moose Mountain. The first survey of the flights was taken in 1951 and the number of birds counted each year since have varied from 7,000 to 17,000. This bird sanctuary has been created within the city limits of Duluth and the hawk migrations have received national publicity.

Following Dr. Hofslund's talk, the film "The Big Four" produced by the University of Minnesota and written and narrated by Herbert Krause was shown. The film which is on conservation of wildlife is available through the Audio-Visual Department of the University of Minnesota.

During the business meeting, the Membership Committee reported 210 paid up members inclusive of 30 junior members. An honorary membership was given J. O. Johnson by unanimous vote.

The Liaison Committee reviewed state legislation protecting hawks, owls, eagles and mourning doves and urged publicizing of these laws and contacting of state officials to call their attention to the importance of this type of protection. The committee is also trying to see that all game wardens receive copies of Bird Notes.

Dr. Harold asked the organization's support of a movement for the preservation of the state's resources by setting aside areas to conserve plant and

(Continued on Page 56)

## Open-Space Land Bill Gains Support

Legislation to help States and municipalities preserve open-space land in urban areas appears to be making progress in Congress. First introduced early this year by Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr., of New Jersey, the plan now has the endorsement of the Kennedy Administration.

Senator Williams' S. 1671, and similar H. R. 6423 by Congressman Albert Rains of Alabama, would empower the Housing and Home Finance Administrator to (1) give technical planning assistance to local government bodies, and (2) provide federal financial grants up to 20 per cent of the cost of acquiring permanent open-space land.

"Open-space land" is defined as "any undeveloped or predominately undeveloped land, including agricultural land, in or adjoining an urban area, which has (1) economic and social value as a means of shaping the character, direction, and timing of community development; (2) recreational value; (3) value in protecting natural resources; or (4) historic, scenic, scientific, or esthetic value."

The Administrator would be required to consult with the Secretary of the Interior (National Park Service) on policies to be followed in reviewing applications for grants.

A section of the bill that proposes federal loans for the acquisition of lands to be held and released later for commercial or residential development, seems to have less support than the sections dealing with the need for park, recreational and conservation areas.

H. R. 6423 is pending before the

Housing subcommittee of the House Committee on Banking and Currency. The House subcommittee is headed by Congressman Rains. S. 1671 has already cleared the Senate Subcommittee on Housing and may be reported shortly by the full Committee on Banking and Currency, of which Senator A. Willis Robertson (Va.) is Chairman.

A statement filed by the National Audubon Society at the request of the House subcommittee, which recently completed hearings, said:

"The National Audubon Society endorses the objectives of H. R. 6423, which is similar to S. 1671. . . . As the concerned with the conservation of nation's oldest citizen's organization and wildlife, we have been increasingly concerned with the importance—indeed, the dire necessity—of adequate planning and timely action to preserve open spaces and natural beauty in urban areas. . . .

"The Society's interest in this legislation has been heightened recently by the merger of Nature Centers for Young America, Inc., and our plans for an intensified nature centers program. For the record we respectfully submit the attached announcement by President Buchheister which appeared in Audubon Magazine for May-June, 1961. Natural areas that may be thoughtfully preserved if H. R. 6423 becomes law would provide opportunities in many urban areas for community development of nature centers where children may learn at first hand about nature and conservation.—Audubon Leader Conservation Guide.

# Species of Birds Observed on Field Trips of May 20 and 21, 1961

By Members of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

Common Loon	Least Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike
Red-necked Grebe	Dunlin	Starling
Horned Grebe	Stilt Sandpiper	Solitary Vireo
Eared Grebe	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Warbling Vireo
Western Grebe	Marbled Godwit	Black and White Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Hudsonian Godwit	Tennessee Warbler
White Pelican	Sanderling	Parula Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Avocet	Nashville Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Wilson's Phalarope	Yellow Warbler
Black-crowned Night Heron	Ring-billed Gull	Magnolia Warbler
American Bittern	Franklin's Gull	Cape May Warbler
Canada Goose	Forester's Tern	Myrtle Warbler
Snow Goose	Common Tern	Audubon's Warbler
Blue Goose	Black Tern	Black-throated Green Warbler
Mallard	Mourning Dove	Blackburnian Warbler
Gadwall	Short-eared Owl	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Pintail	Chimney Swift	Bay-breasted Warbler
American Widgeon	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black-poll Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Belted Kingfisher	Palm Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Ovenbird
Shoveller	Red-headed Woodpecker	Yellow-throat
Wood Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Wilson's Warbler
Redhead	Downy Woodpecker	American Redstart
Ring-necked Duck	Eastern Kingbird	House Sparrow
Canvasback	Western Kingbird	Bobolink
Lesser Scaup	Great Crested Flycatcher	Western Meadowlark
Bufflehead	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	Least Flycatcher	Redwinged Blackbird
Goshawk	Eastern Wood Pewee	Orchard Oriole
Cooper's Hawk	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Baltimore Oriole
Red-tailed Hawk	Horned Lark	Brewer's Blackbird
Swainson's Hawk	Tree Swallow	Common Grackle
Marsh Hawk	Bank Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Osprey	Rough-winged Swallow	Scarlet Tanager
Sparrow Hawk	Barn Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Hungarian Partridge	Cliff Swallow	Pine Siskin
Ring-necked Pheasant	Purple Martin	American Goldfinch
Virginia Rail	Blue Jay	Lark Bunting
Sora	Common Crow	Savannah Sparrow
American Coot	Black-capped Chickadee	Grasshopper Sparrow
Semi-palmated Plover	White-breasted Nuthatch	Vesper Sparrow
Piping Plover	House Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Killdeer	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Clay-colored Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Short-billed Marsh Wren	Field Sparrow
Ruddy Turnstone	Catbird	Harris' Sparrow
Upland Plover	Brown Thrasher	White-crowned Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Robin	Song Sparrow
Willet	Swainson's Thrush	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Lesser Yellowlegs	Veery	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Total — 148 Species

## The 1961 Convention

(Continued from Page 53)

wildlife as well as geologic formations in their natural state. The president was instructed to appoint a committee to formulate a resolution approving such a conservation program.

Five new directors were elected: Mr. Crutchett, Mr. Moriarty, Mrs. Holden, Mrs. Chapman and Mr. Rogge.

Some eighty people attended the banquet Saturday evening and heard Dr. Hofslund talk on "The Sounds of Nature" which he illustrated with both recordings and slides.

Sunday morning Alfred Peterson, Lowry Elliott, and L. J. Moriarty again led the group on a field trip covering Bitter Lake, Rush Lake, the Waubay Wildlife Refuge and ending up

at Hidden Valley Ranch for lunch and the taking of the combined checklist of birds seen on the trip. It was a beautiful sunny day and the birds appeared as though by request of the Watertown hosts.

It was another outstanding meeting and again we extend our thanks to our hosts whose efforts made it so.—**Huron.**

\* \* \* \*

America's bird population is estimated to be between seven and eight billions of 650 species. This is based on surveys sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During the 1960 Christmas holidays about 8,000 observers censused 600 count areas in the United States and Canada.—**Wyoming Wildlife**



Double-crested Cormorant Colony at Waubay Refuge

—Courtesy Wilson Bulletin