

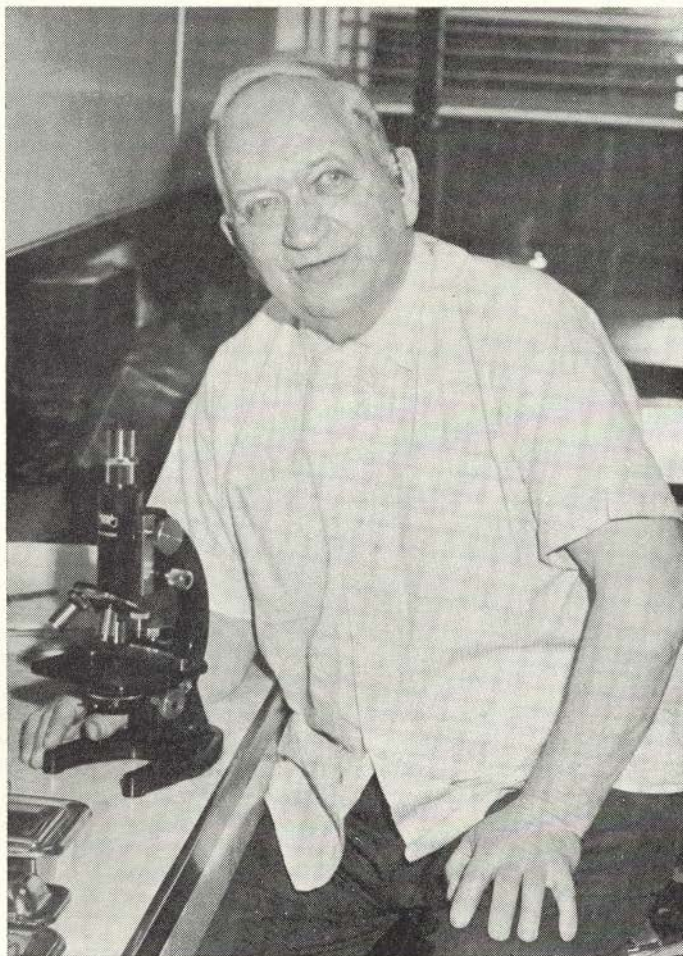
SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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

Vol. XIV, No. 2

JUNE, 1962

Whole No. 53



Art Lundquist

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President's Page

THE first thing I should say is that I deeply appreciate your making me your president. I will do all I can to advance the growth and aims of the organization.

Of course the best way to add new members is for each of us to interest just one person in bird study. This can best be done by taking someone who shows a little interest along on a field trip.

It is almost as much of a thrill to show some novice the details of a few of our common birds and watch his interest grow as to see a new bird yourself. And, of course, you can't teach another without, yourself, learning something new. He will always come up with some question that makes you take another look or read more extensively on the bird.

The tendency is, too often, to take someone along who is well informed; but try the reverse and see how you enjoy that. It will surprise you. And it will surprise you again when you see how readily some people take to bird study.

Best of all is to interest some youngster; their enthusiasm and nimble minds will thrill you and, incidently, they won't get into trouble while engaged in nature study. Our inevitable erosion of members with time must be made up, if at all, by these methods.

Our membership is now at an all time high of two hundred and thirty; but it could easily be doubled in a year.

Another thing I urge upon all of you is that you pay your dues without being billed. Each one who does that saves a statement, an envelope, and postage, plus a lot of time and work that could be better used. I hope we can avoid a raise in dues; but our income must be supplemented by other sources.

Now, for another important matter: Individual letters to your Senators and Congressmen, telling them what you think of the present trend toward destruction of the habitat necessary to all wildlife cannot but have a wholesome effect on the construction of unneeded dams, irresponsible straightening of streams, and drainage of wetlands.

To be most effective in advancing the cause of conservation we must not act like simple bird watchers but, ourselves, be familiar with all conservation matters as well as lend assistance to other groups with like aims.

Let us not be a little isolated group, looking only to ourselves. We can have birds as a primary interest and still cooperate intelligently with all other conservation groups, at least as individuals. This will help raise the bird watcher to the level of an ornithologist, aiding in the preservation of all natural beauty for future generations to study and enjoy.

But, with all these great opportunities before us, let us never fail to fill our own little niche in our organization: Do the job well, enjoy it, and help others to do the same. When you are called upon for help give it cheerfully and promptly. There are few things more satisfying than doing a task well—and on time.—**J. J. Moriarty.**



Arthur Lundquist

Herman P. Chilson

THE Milwaukee Columbian stopped at Webster, South Dakota, one fine June day in 1922 and a young Swede, fresh from the University of Minnesota, stepped off to survey his new home and to begin his profession as laboratory technician for the Peabody Hospital.

Art Lundquist was in a fertile field for his enthusiasm, knowledge and curiosity: on top of the Coteau Plateau in the Webster moraine, with its prairies, potholes, hills, valleys, sloughs and lakes. He was interested in all phases of natural history but most in ornithology. Little did we suspect that one of our top ornithologists was on his way.

Arthur Lundquist was born September 25, 1895 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He attended schools there and at Chelan Falls, Washington, where his family lived for a time before returning to Minneapolis where Art finished his high school education. As courses were not available in laboratory work at the University, it was the custom for students to serve as apprentices, usually for a span of three to four years. Art served under his brother, the first laboratory technician at the University of Minnesota. It is thus possible that Art was the second laboratory technician graduated from the University of Minnesota.

He served in the Army as lab technician in the base hospital number 26 unit in the years of 1917 to 1918 in France and served at St. Nazaire throughout the evacuation and until August 1919.

In June 1924 he was married to Olive



Art knew well the world of natural things.

Parks, of Day County, nurse in the Peabody Hospital. In 1928 their son, Charles, was born. He is now chief of Astro-physics at the Marshall Space Laboratories in Huntsville, Alabama, nationally recognized for his knowledge in the space missile field.

In 1939, a daughter, Dorothy, was born. She won first place in the National High School Science Fair when a senior at Webster, South Dakota, High School, and was asked to display

her winning exhibit at the National American Medical Association convention. Later she attended the University of South Dakota and, while there, received a Fulbright scholarship to the University in Tübingen, Germany, where she is at the present time. She is on leave of absence from a teaching fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley, California.

Both children inherited their parents' love of the great outdoors. Charles specialized in a rock and mineral collection and both Charles and Dorothy collect butterflies.

Once when Dorothy was working with a group of students in the tide pools of the Pacific Ocean, she caught a Western Grebe. Later, as they inspected a jar of algae and put it under the microscope to see all of the worms, algae, amoeba and other forms of life she said, "The Pacific Ocean is just a large Rush Lake."

Early in life Art showed an interest in birds. As a young boy he trained pigeons and even raised a meadowlark; but he reports that his attempt to make a magpie talk was not a success.

He was a charter member and the first president of the Izaak Walton League chapter of Webster and had the distinction of being president again some twenty years later. He served on the building committee when the league members wanted a rather large and pretentious building and the money was short. Much donated labor was furnished and Art worked night after night from supper to dark helping with the manual labor and construction work. For many years he served as program chairman and projectionist of the league.

Art was appointed by the Mayor of Webster to the tree planting commit-

tee in the spring of 1940. Hundreds of trees were set out in our city. Olive recalls that she has also helped and, as Art dug the holes, she would plant the trees. They worked not only in town but on vacant lots, ranches and on Mud Creek near Andover.

The range of his community responsibilities has been wide. The citizens of Day County elected him coroner for several terms. He served as master of the Masonic Blue Lodge, was Commander of the local Legion Post in 1939-1940 and served on civic committees too numerous to mention.

He was the recipient of the coveted Silver Beaver Award for his distinguished work with the Boy Scouts. From 1926 to 1948 he was active as scout master, assistant scoutmaster or as counselor. Art was probably one of Webster's most enthusiastic and active leaders; during his tenure over 8 Eagle Scouts earned their badges.

"We did not want to go to civilized lakes with cottages, but rather to the wilder ones." What lucky kids they were to draw on his vast knowledge of trees, shrubs, vines, wild flowers, mammals and birds.

One of his specialties was Bean Hole Beans and this term has become synonymous with the name of Lundquist in our whole area. Just say "Bean Hole Beans" to any adult man in Webster and he will think of Lundquist. This is the story: he headed many trips with the scouts and he would usually dig a large hole in the ground, get a fire started and then put a 5-gallon cream can in the hole partially filled with beans, pork and molasses. In this occasion, about 20 years ago, the scout executive, Mr. Rollins, was to be present; so, of course, this feed had to be something special. Art secured a large earthenware crock, thinking that this



Art Lundquist Receiving The Silver Beaver Award

would give better flavor, and filled it with beans, pork and molasses.

The plum wood used for the fire got hot enough to break the bottom out of the crock, so when Rollins and Art lifted it out of the hole all of the beans fell back, leaving them holding an empty crock. They still made a meal out of the beans and insisted that the added dirt gave an added flavor.

Lundquist contributed data on wild life and vegetation to the Economic and Social Survey of Day County published by the State Planning Board in 1935 under the Works Progress Administration.

William Youngworth in "The Birds of Fort Sisseton, S. Dak.", *Wilson Bulletin*, September 1935 says, "this work could not have been completed without the generous aid of Mr. Arthur Lundquist, lab technician at Peabody Hospital, Webster, S. Dak. Mr. Lundquist is a veteran field man and has entered the bird banding field in a wholesale manner. He has probably banded more immature double crested cormorants than any other individual bander in the United States. There is an account of his work in the *Wilson Bulletin* for December 1932."

Art banded from 1929 through 1933, a period of five years concentrating on colony birds like gulls, terns, and, as mentioned above, 1,472 cormorants. Banding was not always a job for one's best clothes. He tells about climbing a tree to band some immature black crowned night herons. The adults became excited and, before he finished, he was covered with regurgitation and excrement from tip to toe.

Dr. William Over and Dr. Thoms of the University of S. Dak. were frequent visitors and companions on outings during 1926. They camped on South Waubay Lake. Dr. Over gave Wesley

Kubichek of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service an introduction to Lundquist. At that time Kubichek was collecting for Coe College in Iowa. He came back later several times to work this same territory.

Dr. T. C. Stephens from Morningside and William Youngworth were both out in 1929. In 1931, Dr. Al Bailey, Director at Academy of Science at Chicago, Illinois (now at Colorado State Museum, Denver, Colorado) took some 35 mm films of their expeditions. Art was later able to secure these films to be run as an added feature at the motion picture theatres in Webster and Bristol, S. Dak.

Dr. W. Wright, also from the Academy of Science collected mammals on this same trip and took many species back to Chicago. Art recalled this incident with a twinkle in his eye, "Bailey wanted different species of birds so I marked several spots on a Day county map where he could locate these birds. One spot was Bates' Creek. I told him he could not walk across it in boots, but he did not believe me and tried it. Next time he listened to me."

Another incident with Bailey, "He was taking moving pictures of Upland Plovers and I said I would take him to a nest on the prairies east of Bitter Lake. I had marked it mentally a week before and took him straight to the nest. He was afraid to leave the nest without marking it and the car was only 100 yards away. He still could not figure out how I could keep this spot in mind so well."

Art and his son Charles took a duck-boat one week-end, started at the north end of Webster in the drainage ditch, thence to South Waubay Lake, caught a few fish on the way; stopped to see the cormorant colonies and up the east shore to the inlet from Rush Lake and

then down the middle of Rush Lake to the von Rohr clubhouse on the west shore of Rush Lake. Fresh fish for supper! Total mileage about 12 miles but what a different view from what one gets from a car on the highway covering approximately the same distance.

On another occasion Art and the game warden, Ury Dahling, had quite a trip in a duck boat, starting from Pickerel Lake and following the overflow into North Waubay Lake. (In the early years it was possible to go from Pickerel Lake to within 3 miles of Webster by boat with just a few short portages.) Ed von Rohr had taken Art and Ury to Pickerel Lake and then he drove to Waubay Lake at Grenville, S. Dak., to wait for them there.

Meanwhile Art and Ury were sailing down Block's Creek and the water force was tremendous as it is in the spring of the year, making it difficult to negotiate the curves. All of a sudden they came upon a wagon sitting in the middle of the creek where the farmer had placed it to soak the old wooden wheels and tighten the iron tires. There was no place to go and they could not stop; the duck boat turned over and over and they emerged on that chilly day in May all sopping wet. In the meantime Ury lost his fancy stiff brimmed warden's hat and no amount of searching downstream could locate it. There was nothing to do but to continue on with wet clothes to the appointed meeting place in Grenville.

"We wanted to see how the water runs," Art said, adding with a smile, "AND HOW IT RUNS."

Art was a charter member of S. D. ●. U. and a director from 1952 until 1956. He had an article in the very first issue of "Bird Notes" in 1949 and has been contributing ever since. His

has been the labor of faithfully mailing out the "Bird Notes" for the past several years.

His wife, Olive, is quite a bird fan, too. She not only likes to watch them but sees that they have plenty of feed. She even heats the water and the sand for them in below zero weather. She says, "It is so much fun to watch the little chickadees curl up and warm their toes in the warm sand during the cold weather." She has several pans in the oven at once and keeps replacing them as they cool off. Both she and Art are flower lovers, particularly the wild ones, and they have species from all over the state as well as from Wisconsin and Missouri. Art has five different colors in Spiderworts; the pale blue and pure white species are 30 inches tall. He specializes in iris and day lilies.

Sometimes I have questioned Art about a certain bird being out of its territory or eating food not ascribed to it in the bird books. "How come?", I'd ask. Art always had the same reply, "Evidently the bird never read the book."

One of his many hobbies was taking movies and he has hundreds of feet of good bird film. These have been shown at many club meetings and schools all over the area.

Art served as judge in many bird house contests in Webster, Aberdeen, Waubay and other towns in the state. He says, "I do not judge a house by its good looks or by the paint job; I try to judge it from the bird's point of view as to size, suitability, etc. . . ."

It can be said of Art: "What he knew of nature was always true." He is one of our pioneer ornithologists and due to his efforts we have a higher percentage of bird lovers than most communities our size.—Webster

Shore Birds in 1955

Alfred Peterson

AN article, *Shore Birds in Review*, published in BIRD NOTES, December, 1956, is a brief summary of 1955-1956 observations. The present paper takes up 1955 in more detail for permanent record in a series of eight years—1953 to 1960 inclusive.

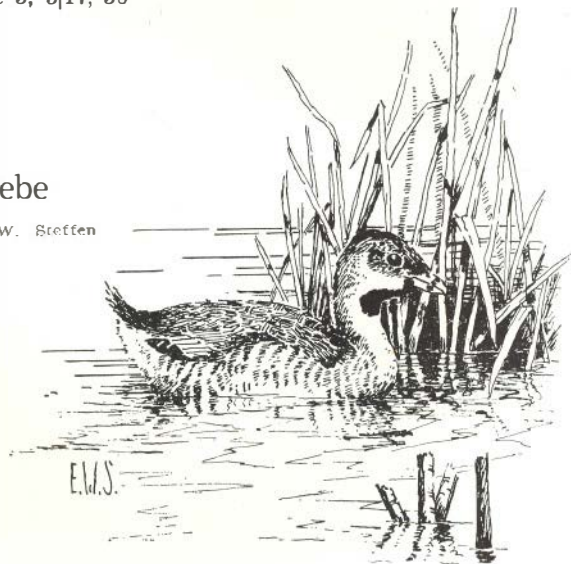
- (1) **Ringed Plover.** May 5, 10 Fox Lake; 5|10, 1; 5|12, 2 north of Clear Lake and 12 southeast of Clear Lake; 5|13, 12 and 2; 5|14, 2 Astoria; 5|15, 2; 5|18, 6; 5|19, 12 southeast of Brandt; 5|20, 10; 5|21, few at Salt Lake; 5|24, 12; also 10 southeast of Brandt; 5|27 and 5|29, 1; 8|2, 1 Bitter Lake; 8|7, 1; 8|10, 2; 8|14, 1; 8|25, 2 Lake Mary; 9|10, 1.
- (2) **Piping Plover.** Aug. 7, 4 Bitter Lake; 8|10 and 8|15, 5 Bitter Lake.
- (3) **Killdeer.** Mar. 31, 1; 4|1, 1; 4|2, several; 4|4, 1. Soon well placed. Tarries until late in fall.
- (4) **Golden Plover.** May 15, few Bitter Lake; 5|16, 16 southeast of Clear Lake; 5|17, 27 east of Tunerville; 5|20, 15 west Lake Kampeska and 4 north of Clear Lake; 5|21, 14.5 miles northeast of Tunerville; 5|22, 1 Bitter Lake.
- (5) **Black-bellied Plover.** May 17, 5 Salt Lake; 5|21, 4 Salt Lake; 5|22, 2; 5|24, 4; 5|25, 3; 5|28, 1; 5|29, 4 Salt Lake; 5|31, 1 or 2; 6|9, 11 Salt Lake; 8|10, 2; 8|15, 1 at Florence.
- (6) **Ruddy Turnstone.** May 21, 2 Salt Lake; 5|24, 3; 5|25, 9 at Poinsett; 5|29, 8 Salt Lake; 6|2, 42 Rush Lake; 6|7, about 60 Poinsett; 6|10, 2 females north of Clear Lake; 8:15, 2 Rush Lake.
- (7) **Common Snipe.** Aug. 10, 1 Kampeska; 8|29, 1 north of Hayti.
- (8) **Upland Plover.** May 8, 4 Bitter Lake; 5|12, 2 Lake Alice; 5|13 and 5|15, 2; 5|16 and 5|17, 1; 5|20, 3; 5|21, 4; 5|22, 1; 6|2, 3; 6|10, 1; 7|17, 1 and 1 young east of Brandt; 7|18, 1 at Altamont; 8|1, 1; 8|10, 1 at Bitter Lake; 8|15, 4 or 5 Bitter Lake.
- (9) **Spotted Sandpiper.** May 17 and 5|18, 1 Fox Lake; 5|27, 2; 5|29, 1 Fox Lake; 8|1, 8|7 and 8|15, 1.
- (10) **Solitary Sandpiper.** May 19, 2; May 19, 2; 7|16, 1 north of Clear Lake; 8|9, 2 Lake Alice; 8|13, 2; 8|27 and 8|29, 1; 9|8, 1.
- (11) **Willet.** Apr. 30, 1 Florence; also 2 Bitter Lake and 2 near Webster; 5|6, 2 Thomas; 5|8, 5; 5|9, 2 Poinsett; 5|10, 2; 5|15, 3 Florence and 2 Rush Lake; 5|20, 1; 5|22, 5; 5|24, 2 Salt Lake; 5|25, 2; 5|28 and 5|29, 1; 6|2, 2; and 2 west of Rush Lake; 8|2, 2 Florence and 4 north of Florence; 8|7, 6 or 7 Bitter Lake; 8|10, 6 north of Florence and 2 Rush Lake; 8|15, 2 Bitter Lake, 2 Rush Lake; 8|23, 1.
- (12) **Greater Yellowlegs.** Apr. 6, 2 Oakwood Lakes; 4|10 and 4|11, 16 at Brandt, 1 Fox Lake and 3 Astoria; 4|12, 16; 4|13 and 4|14, 16; 4|15, 4; 4|18, few on trip southwest; 4|21; 1 Fox Lake and 3 Astoria; 4|23, 1; 4|30, 2 Rush Lake; 5|1, 1; 5|8, 1 near Kampeska; 5|12, 1; 8|2, 1 Poinsett; 8|10, 2; 8|11, 1; 8|14, 1; 8|15, 2 Bitter Lake; 8|18, 1; 8|30, 1 Hayti; 9|10, 1.
- (13) **Lesser Yellowlegs.** Apr. 7, 3; 4|10, 6; 4|11, a number, and some Astoria; 4|12, 4|13 and 4|14, several; 4|18, some east end Milwaukee Lake; 4|21, about 25 seen; 4|23, not many; 4|30 and 5|1, few; 5|8 and 5|5, few; 5|6, 3; 5|8, about 25 Florence, and several Bitter Lake; 5|10, about 20 east of Astoria; 5|12, 5|13, 5|14 and

- 5|15, few; 5|17, some at Salt Lake; 5|19, 5|20, 5|21, 5|22 few seen; 5|29, 1; 6|8, 1. 7|16, 3; 7|17, upward of 100 southeast of Brandt; 7|18, 7|20, 20 north of Clear Lake; 7|25, few; 7|27, 100 as of 7|17; 7|28, few; 8|1, few seen; 8|2, very many Florence to Bitter Lake; 8|5, some southeast of Brandt; 8|6, many 7 miles southeast of Brandt.
- (14) **Knot.** None
- (15) **Pectoral Sandpiper.** Apr. 7, 6 at Fox Lake; 4|13 and 4|14, 2; 4|18, some at Poinsett; 4|28, 7 near Brandt; 4|30, few; 5|5 and 5|6, 1; 5|9, many on trip southwest; 5|10, 5; 5|12, 8 or 10 Altamont and about 100 southeast of Clear Lake; 5|13, several; 5|14, 3; 5|15, on trip many seen; 5|17, some Salt Lake; 5|18, 5|19, 5|20, 5|21 and 5|22, few; 5|24, few Salt Lake; 7|16 and 7|18, 1; 7|19, few; 7|27 and 7|28, few; 8|1, few Estelline; 8|2, some Florence to Bitter Lake; 8|5, about 200 7 miles southeast of Brandt; 8|6, very many; 8|7, many Florence and Bitter Lake; 8|8, many; 8|10, few; 8|11, many; 9|8, 10; 9|10, few.
- (16) **White-rumped Sandpiper.** May 12 and 5|13, 1; several east of Clear Lake; 5|17, 20 Salt Lake; 5|19, several; 5|20, some north of Clear Lake and northeast of Goodwin; 5|21, few; 5|24, some at Salt Lake; 5|25, few near Poinsett and near Lake Mary; 5|27, many north of Clear Lake; 5|27, many near Poinsett.
- (17) **Baird's Sandpiper.** Apr. 16, 10 Fox Lake; 4|23, 5 or 6 north of Florence; 8|25, 3 at Lake Mary; 8|28, some at Fish Lake.
- (18) **Least Sandpiper.** May 3, 1 Astoria; 5|10, 1; 5|12, several; 5|13 and 5|14, few; 5|16, few; 5|18, many east of Brandt; 5|19, 8 or 10 Fox Lake and many south of Fox Lake; 5|20, few; 5|21, some at Salt Lake; 5|24, again at Salt Lake; 5|28, several near Poinsett; 5|29, few near Clear Lake; 6|9, 1; 7|18, 10 north of Clear Lake and 2 east of Astoria; 7|20, 10 north of Clear Lake; 8|29, some near Thomas; 9|10, 1 near Kampeska.
- (19) **Dunlin.** May 17, 16 on Salt Lake; 5|19, 5 southeast of Brandt; 5|21, 20 Salt Lake; 5|24, some 30 Salt Lake; also 10 southeast of Brandt; 5|25, few near Poinsett; 5|27, 5; 5|28, half dozen seen.
- (20) **Dowitcher.** Apr. 30, 70 north of Florence; 5|8, 11 10 miles north of Tinkertown, and 40 others; 5|10, 30 south of Wood Lake; 5|12, 22 at Altamont; 5|15, 2 north of Florence and 1 Bitter Lake; 5|17, 20 Salt Lake; 5|18, 13 Fox Lake; 5|19, 1; 5|20, 3; 5|21 and 5|27, 1; 8|2, 100 10 miles north of Florence; 8-7, about 50 Bitter Lake; 8|13, 1; 8|15, about 20 north of Florence; 8|19, 2; 8|29, 2 Hayti and 9 Thomas; 9|7, 4 Hayti.
- (21) **Stilt Sandpiper.** Apr. 18, 2 near Poinsett; 5|15, 4 north of Tinkertown; 5|20, 3; 5|21, few; 5|24, 1; 5|25, 12 Lake Mary; 7|18, 15 north of Clear Lake; 8|2, few north of Florence; 8|7, 1 Kampeska, and 5; 8|10, 3; 8|13, 6; 8|29, 20 Hayti; 8|30, some near Thomas; 9|7, few Lake Mary; 9|10, 18 near Kampeska and about dozen northwest of Kampeska.
- (22) **Semipalmated Sandpiper.** May 8, some near Kampeska, at Florence and 10 miles north of Tinkertown; 5|9, abundant Wentworth and Lake Norden region; 5|12, few seen; 5|16, few; 5|18, some east of Brandt; 5|19, very many southeast of Brandt; 5|20, many north of Clear Lake and some near Goodwin Lakes; 5|24, many several locations; 5|25, many near Poinsett and about 100 Lake Norden; 5|27 many north and south; 5|28, many at Poinsett, and near Lake Mary; 5|29, some north of Clear Lake and Salt Lake; 5|31, about 30; 6|2, about 120 north of Florence; 6|12, several; 7|16, 20 north of Clear Lake; 7|18, 20; 7|19,

- 2; 7|28, few; 8|1, several; 8|2, many Florence; 8|5, few; 8|7, some; 8|8, few; 8|10, several; 8|15, several; 8|23, few; 8|25, few; 8|29, few; 8|30, few seen; 9|11, to Sioux Falls in jeopardy.
- (23) **Buff-breasted Sandpiper.** May 16, 1 southeast of Clear Lake with 16 Golden Plover.
- (24) **Marbled Godwit.** Apr. 23, 3 Bitter Lake; 4|30 and 5|8, 4 at school north of Florence; 5|15, 2 4 miles north of Tinkertown; also 4 others; 5|20, 2; 5|21, 4; 5|22, 2 near Watertown, 9 north of Florence and 1 at Bitter Lake; 5|24, 2 Salt Lake; 5|25, 1 near Lake Norden; 5|28, 2; 5|29, 1, and 2 Salt Lake; also 2 near Clear Lake; 5|31, 1; 6|2, 11 north of Florence; and at the school 5; 8|2, 2; 8|10, 35 at Bitter Lake; 8|15, 75 on Bitter Lake.
- (25) **Hudsonian Godwit.** Apr. 18, 7 5 miles east of Poinsett; 4|25, 3 near Thomas; 4|30, 4 north of Florence and 2 near Bristol; 5|8, 23 10 miles north of Tinkertown; 5|12, 1 Altamont; 5|13, 2; 5|15, 5; also at the school 2 and Bitter Lake 3; 5|17, 30 Salt Lake; 5|21, 30 Salt Lake; 5|24, 20 Salt Lake; also 2 southeast of Brandt; 5|25, 2; 5|29, 4 Salt Lake and 1 near Clear Lake.
- (26) **Sanderling.** May 24, 7 at Salt Lake; 5|27, 4 north of Clear Lake; 5|29, 8 or 10 Salt Lake; 6|7, 8 Dry Lake at Poinsett.
- (27) **Avocet.** Apr. 23, 2 Rush Lake; 5|8, 15 Bitter Lake; 5|15, 6 north of Florence, 4 at Bitter Lake and 4 others; 5|22, 2; 5|25, 2 Lake Mary; 5|29, 2 Salt Lake; 6|2, 2, and 1 at Bitter Lake; 8|2, 8 or 10 north of Florence; 8|10, 2.
- (28) **Wilson's Phalarope.** Apr. 30, 100 north of Florence; 5|1, 3 Astoria; 5|3, few; 5|5, few near Goodwin and at Fox Lake; 5|6, 3; 5|12, 5|18 and 5|19, few seen; 5|20, 5|21 and 5|22, few; 5|24, few Salt Lake and south of Brandt; 5|25, 1; 5|27, 5 north of Clear Lake; 5|28, 2 or 3.
- (29) **Northern Phalarope.** May 25, 10 near Lake Mary; 5|28, 2 at Poinsett and 2; also about 10 on Highway 28.—Brandt.

Pied-billed Grebe

—E. W. Steffen



Birds' Nests of South Dakota

L. J. Moriarty

A. O. U. #488 COMMON CROW

Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos

THE Common Crow nests thruout the State where suitable places exist. The most common location is high up in as tall a tree as can be found, preferably in an isolated area away from human habitation. Seldom are they found closer than one half mile from occupied buildings. The bulky nest is located high up, usually against the central trunk where a group of suitable branching limbs exist to hold it.

A typical nest will measure about 1½ feet across and 8 to 12 inches deep. It is constructed of coarse twigs of the thickness of a pencil, grading to fine twigs near the top. The cup measures about 7½ inches across by 4½ inches deep and is lined with grass or shreds of bark and, where sheep are pastured nearby, I have always found wool used in the lining, making a cozy nest. They are crude in outward appearance but well constructed and warmly lined.

The crow is an early nester, often before the trees leaf out in our area. For this reason they will use tall conifers where available. They are quite adaptable in selecting the nest site but always consider isolation by location or height. In our area nesting begins in April. Four to six eggs, most commonly five, make the usual set. They vary in size and shape but are commonly ovate and about 1.60 x 1.15 inches. The usual ground color is a pretty bluish green, spotted and scrawled with shades of brown; often the greater number of markings predominate at the larger end. In some sets the general color is a greenish drab but I find

a rather rich bluish green most common, making a rather pretty picture in a well lined nest.

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A. O. U. # 331

MARSH HAWK: HARRIER

(*Circus cyaneus hudsonius*)

This is the most common Hawk nesting in our State, and the only one nesting normally on the ground. The nest can usually be found in the tall marsh grass, cattails, bullrush or other wet land vegetation. I have never found the nest actually over water but usually on low damp dry pot hole areas. The nest is not built in a depression, but built up to 2 to 4 inches above ground.

The structure measures about 18 inches across, the whole being made of dry grass rather neatly and circularly placed, with no other lining in any I have seen.

The eggs in all well incubated nests I have found number 5 however some say 3 to 6. Others describe them as having some spotting, often pale and obscure. All eggs I have seen were plain dull white or with a very slight bluish or greenish tinge in the freshly laid eggs and no spotting or blotching. They are broadly oval, both ends being almost equal, they measure about 1.85 by 1.45 inches with some variation above and below that size.

The female is more bold in defense of the nest but both are very solicitous, will fly at the intruder coming within a few feet and crying, but not nearly as loudly as the Red tailed or others

(Continued On Page 47)

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

General Notes of Special Interest

BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS SIGHTED AT ARMOUR, S. D.—Sept. 4, 1960, 3:30 p. m.: I strolled from my home a half-block to a ravine that is a running creek in the springtime—a damp dry run the rest of the year. I paused there in front of a large maple tree which stood about 15 feet from the road. One large lower branch stretched out a clear 15 feet, with its tip overhanging the road.

There on the end of the branch and right in front of me a few feet above, was a very busy little bird, a warbler no doubt. He searched the branch from the tip clear up to the bole of the tree, then back out to the tip again. After doing this branch 2 or 3 times it disappeared into the tree. Another warbler came from the treetop and made a similar search of a nearby branch. The birds were quick and active, and also very thorough.

They were so oblivious of me that I had a wonderful chance at very close range to note all their coloration, identical for both birds.

I hurried back to my house and got out my bird keys. They all said the same thing: "Black eye-line; yellow underparts; two white wing-bars." I noted also the yellow forehead.

The identification seems to me to be unmistakable: A Blue-winged Warbler.—Charles P. Crutchett, Armour.

* * * *

WINTER ROBINS—Dr. V. B. Van Heuvelen of Deadwood, S. Dak., told me at the S. D. O. U. convention in Watertown last summer that he had seen large numbers of robins during the winter but to date I have not been

able to secure any specific data from him by mail.

We appreciate John Palmer's report of robins staying all winter in 1959, 1960 and 1961 at Interior, S. Dak., and Harry Behren's report on robins staying all winter in 1960 and 1961 in Custer, S. Dak. and also Rapid City, S. Dak.

Benny Bengston lives in Kennedy, Minn., in the northwest corner of the state and about 30 miles from the Canadian line. He writes, in the *Conservation Volunteer* for May-June, 1961, "During the winter of 1950-1951 thousands of robins never migrated at all, but remained with us all winter. It was a mild winter with little snow, and I saw them continually through December, January and February. Even the cold days didn't seem to bother them, for they appeared perfectly normal and healthy and I saw no dead ones.

This is the only time I can remember when large numbers of robins wintered in northern Minnesota. They probably fed on wild berries that still remained on the bushes in the swamps and thickets."

Does anyone else have anything to offer on diet or quantities seen, etc.? I observed two robins feeding on *craetagus crugalli*, our cockspur thorn, also called thorn apple, on November 25, 1961 at our place at Pickerel Lake.—Herman P. Chilson, Webster.

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CORRECTION—Under heading: "WINTER MEETING," in the March 1962 issue, it was reported that 75 species had been seen in our area during the Christmas counts since 1954. Maybe this should have been attributed to

some other area. After reading the article, my curiosity was aroused and I made a study and came up with the following figures: total species in Webster 31 plus an additional 8 from the Waubay Refuge area making a total of 39 species seen during the Christmas Censuses since the first one in 1953.—**Herman P. Chilson.**

* * * *

EARLY SHOREBIRDS IN MINNEHAHA COUNTY—Dowitchers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderlings, and of course, Killdeers. It was so recently that the shore birds stopped here on their way to the far north that it seems scarcely enough time has elapsed for them to have completed the flight, raised a family and now to have gotten this far on the southern trip. We have trouble sorting out the shorebirds each Spring and Fall and are happy when it is necessary only now and then to call a few "unidentified."

But right away we are in trouble with those Dowitchers. Are they Eastern or Long-billed? Usually they have been called "Long-billed" in South Dakota, but on account of the difficulty, or perhaps, impossibility, of separating them by sight observations we have been satisfied to call our sightings merely "Dowitchers."

Just now we have received the June, 1961, issue of The Flicker (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union) with Dr. Breckenridge's fine drawing of the Dowitchers and Robert W. Dickerman's discussion, and we are convinced we should not try to separate them. But anyway, we were glad to see those Dowitchers.—**J. S. Findley, Sioux Falls, S. D.**

* * * *

STRAIGHT PEANUT BUTTER NOT FOR SMALL BIRDS—As with small boys some small birds overestimate

their capacity. At least when it is peanut butter. **Consumers Bulletin** relays the word that, in the New York area, in a prolonged cold spell last year, small birds, mostly Chickadees, found dead were so stuffed with peanut butter they had choked to death. It has been our experience that Chickadee tastes for the stuff differ considerably with individuals. But it would do no harm to mix some other feed with the peanut butter.

* * * *

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRES AT HURON—In the afternoon of December 31, 1961 two Townsend's Solitaires were seen in Riverside Cemetery just south of Huron. The birds were viewed at close range, for a time, under 25 feet, with 7x50 binoculars by Miss Blanche Battin and myself.

The general gray color, the white feathers in the sides of the tail, the buff pattern of the wings in flight, the white eye-rings, the slim figures, the rollicking behavior, the robin-like notes were all observed and commented on by both of us.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

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BAIRD'S SPARROW ENQUIRY—A questionnaire on the Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) from John Lane, 38 Lorne Avenue East, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, has come in. It seems he has the task of writing the Life History for the Bent's series.

The questionnaire is long and data on the bird in South Dakota is short, its breeding (?) area being in the north and west part of the state—where information is the hardest to come by.

If anyone is able to supply Mr. Lane with any information at all it is certain to be of help and will be deeply appreciated.

FEEDING BY SEXES AMONG DOWNIES—One Sunday morning after early church services at Enemy Swim we drove home to Pickerel Lake to find our good friends, Lois and Herman Chapman waiting in our front yard. We spent most of the day visiting, resting, birding and feeding the squirrels and chipmunks.

During our conversation we had our eyes on the Downies, Hairies and Nuthatches in our suet feeders which we keep filled all summer long. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching the parents feeding their young at the suet holders each summer; the Chickadees play hard to get from nesting time until early fall, but the Nuthatches, Hairies and Downies show no fear and bring their babies for us to see.

We told the Chapman's of our experience in 1960 which we thought was rather odd: The female Downy brought the female baby Downy to the suet and fed her and not long afterwards the male Downy brought the male juvenal and fed him. We thought this was just a coincidence until it occurred again later that same day and once more the following day. We reasoned that they must be the juvenals as one male surely would not feed another male and likewise one female another female!

Chap questioned the markings on the juvenal birds and we looked it up in Roberts, **A Manual for Identification of Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring States**. Roberts says, "In the juvenal plumage there may be dark streaks and spots on side and breasts; crown in male juvenal red, pinkish red, or yellowish as in the juvenal hairy." Agnes and I would judge that the red on the crown of these juvenals was not pinkish but a red almost identical to their parents.

The afternoon passed altogether too quickly as the Chapmans had to leave

for Sioux Falls early that evening.—**Herman and Agnes Chilson, Webster.**

* * * *

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE IN BROOKINGS COUNTY—While sitting in my living room the morning of February 7th, a bird looking at first very much like a Catbird, sat on my cedar tree next to my picture window. When I got up to see it more clearly, it flew to the lawn near the house. As it flew I saw the two narrow white tail edges and knew instantly that it was a Townsend's Solitaire.. While it was on the lawn I could see the white eye ring. It then flew to one of the spruce trees South of my home where it sat for a minute before it took off flying straight North. I saw it no more that day, but during the cold spell on the morning of Feb. 28th it again flew up close to the front of my home as though trying to get in. This time it didn't stay long either.

This is a bird that is found in the Black Hills chiefly but as Pough says in his Audubon Bird Guide, "In winter there is a partial movement to lower altitudes where cedar, mistletoe, and other berry-bearing plants are plentiful." This is probably why my bird was in this area and was interested in my cedar tree.

This is the second time that the Townsend's Solitaire was seen in Brookings County for on April 8, 1958 it was seen by Miss Cooper, Mrs. Melvin and myself near Sinai. (**Bird Notes X:45**). —**Mrs. David J. Holden, Brookings**

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NUMBERS OF BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS AT HURON—Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings of up to about fifty birds appeared more or less regularly in our yard and elsewhere about town regularly from December 29, 1961

through early February, 1962. Occasional flocks of 125 were counted.

In the afternoon of January 7, 1962 two flocks were seen in tree strips about four miles north of Huron. Both were larger than any seen at Huron, probably on the order of 150 birds each. The two locations were not more than a quarter of a mile apart and the movement seemed to be an exchange of individuals between the two flocks, which were therefore not separate.

With the waxwings were nine robins and a Y. S. Flicker. The food was a bumper crop of Russian olives on the outer rows of trees. There seemed to be a winter's supply for even this large flock on these two strips.

The party making this last observation consisted of Jean Jonkel, Lucille Johnson, and myself.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

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TREE SPARROWS AT PICKEREL LAKE—One of the unusual birds at our feeding station on the lawn this winter was a Tree Sparrow. The first one appeared on January 29, 1962, and we would see one or two every day until February 12, 1962, when our winter vacation came to an end. I looked up my old sight records and the earliest dates were March 21, 1954; March 30, 1958; and March 22, 1959.

We had cleared a space on our lawn right in front of our picture window and kept this well supplied with sunflower seeds. In company with the Juncos, Chickadees and Purple Finches they fed several times a day for the next two weeks. It was interesting to note on several occasions that the Tree Sparrows would chase away the Purple Finches but never the Juncos or the Chickadees. The Purple Finches always returned very quickly however.

This is the first time I ever sat for

hours with the glasses and really studied the birds as they fed. This time I was close enough to see the two-colored bill with the upper mandible dark and the lower mandible yellow. The bright rusty cap and the black spot on the chest plus the distinctive wing bars make this one of our easiest birds to identify.

In checking back on all of the Christmas Counts for our area since 1953 I find that only once were Three Sparrows reported. That was the Christmas census of 1955.—**Herman P. Chilson, Pickerel Lake, Day County.**

* * * *

WESTERN GREBES IN MINNEHAHA COUNTY—There are few records of Western Grebes in this part of the State and so we were much interested when we saw several on Beaver Lake near Humbolt, on July 15, 1961, particularly as the date seemed either too late or too early for them to be in migration.

There were at least four of them. Two loafed on the water in and out of the reeds at points separated by about 30 yards. Two more were quite active displaying with their dance on the water. The loafers paid little attention to the active couple nor to each other.

It seemed to us as pretty late in the season for display, and the loafers acted as though their nests might be near the points where they went in and out of the reeds. The location seemed to fit grebe requirements which have been described as "larger lakes with shallow bays with reeds", such as are used by Western Grebes in northeastern South Dakota. The nests, if any, were not located but we were happy to see the grebes and to witness the dance again.—**Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Findley, Sioux Falls, S. D.**

WHITE-FACED IBIS SEEN ON LA-CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—On the morning of May 24, 1962, I was making counts of nesting pairs of ducks on the refuge. At about 6:00 A. M. I approached a pothole and noticed two large dark birds feeding along its edge. The birds had long decurved beaks and were larger than long-billed curlews. I was able to approach quite closely using my horse as a blind. I observed that the birds were a dark reddish color with some blue near the folded wings. A white border could be seen about the base of the bill.

I was unable to determine the species of these large dark birds, so I continued my nesting pair counts. A short time later I contacted Mr. Harvey Miller, Biologist at the Lake Andes Refuge, Lake Andes, South Dakota who was assisting in nesting pair counts. I told Mr. Miller about the birds and asked him to observe them from his position on the opposite shore of a wide ditch to try to determine their species.

Mr. Miller observed the birds at close range through his binoculars and recognized the species at once. He had seen a white faced ibis on a pond south of Gordon, Nebraska in 1953 and was familiar with the identifying characteristics. He could see the white border at the base of the bill which is distinctive in the white faced ibis. He also remarked on the long decurved bill and this reddish body color with blue at the edge of the folded wings.

The two ibis were seen on the following morning by Mr. Edward Collins, assistant manager, and Forrest Brooks, Wildlife Technician. They had moved about five miles northwest to a pool on our Little White River Recreational Area. Mr. William Durmire, Naturalist at the Badlands National Monu-

ment, saw the two ibis near refuge headquarters on June 6th.

The birds have now spent two weeks on the LaCreek Refuge. They may depart at any time but may stay through the summer. It is not unusual for wading birds to wander far out of their usual range during the spring months. The violent storms experienced the latter half of May could have driven the ibis far out of their normal summer range. As far as I have been able to determine, this is the first record of the white faced ibis in South Dakota.—C. A. Hughlett, LaCreek Refuge, Martin.

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LONG-BILLED CURLEWS EAST OF SMITHWICK—In a note accompanying the pictures of the Long-billed Curlew and her nest (see page 47), Claude Barr told of seeing a pair of the birds passing over his ranch. A week or more afterward he saw two of them four miles southwest and, a little later, one a mile and half north. This was in the spring of 1961.

He adds that, in the late thirties, when the pictures were made, curlews were considered regular inhabitants. He recalled seeing 18 in one flight, 6 high in the air and 12 at a lower level.

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With the Banders

LOWRY ELLIOTT—Banded 1961.

Sparrow Hawk	2
Mourning Dove	61
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2
Black-billed Cuckoo	3
Hairy Woodpecker	4
Downy Woodpecker	28
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2
Eastern Phoebe	1
Cliff Swallow	2
Barn Swallow	11
Purple Martin	24
Blue Jay	7
Black-capped Chickadee	76
White-breasted Nuthatch	6
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
House Wren	33
Catbird	16
Brown Thrasher	47
Robin	59
Swainson's Thrush	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Northern Shrike	3
Loggerhead Shrike	1
Tennessee Warbler	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Nashville Warbler	1
Yellow Warbler	1
Palm Warbler	1
Connecticut Warbler	1
Mourning Warbler	1
Yellow-throat	2
Redwinged Blackbird	1
Orchard Oriole	2
Baltimore Oriole	3
Bronzed Grackle	79
Cowbird	3
American Goldfinch	1
Rufus-sided Towhee	1
Savannah Sparrow	3
Vesper Sparrow	11
Slate-colored Junco	167
Tree Sparrow	193
Chipping Sparrow	3
Harris' Sparrow	116

White-crowned Sparrow	1
Gambel's Sparrow	15
White-throated Sparrow	37
Fox Sparrow	5
Lincoln's Sparrow	23
Swamp Sparrow	3
Song Sparrow	25

Total	1100

individuals of 51 Species
Returns

Species	Banded	Returned
Dove	6-2-60	6-4-61
Tree Sparrow	11-8-58	1-18-61
Tree Sparrow	11-22-60	3-4-61
Barn Swallow	6-28-59	7-8-61
Catbird	5-31-60	6-1-61
Brown Thrasher	5-22-59	7-26-61
Brown Thrasher	5-10-60	5-27-61

—Milbank

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NELDA HOLDEN—In 1961 I was able, thanks to the Japanese Mist Nets, to band 748 individuals and 60 species. This was double my usual banding. Of course our moving to the country also helped to increase the number banded. I banded 19 species of fringillids, among these were 71 Slate-colored Juncos, 77 Tree Sparrows, and 87 Harris' Sparrows. Nine species of warblers were also banded including 15 Myrtles.

New birds banded this year were: Sparrow Hawk, Whip-poor-will, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Least Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, 7 Bluebirds, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Palm Warbler, Mourning Warbler, W. Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole (2 1st year males, 1 adult male), Baltimore

Oriole, Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinch (54), Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Gambel's Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow.

Highlights of my banding year were: Finding five bluebirds in the net at once, 17 tree sparrows in net at once, and capturing of a female Whip-poor-will in my net on morning of October 8.

Interesting returns: Robin banded Aug. 30, 1958 returned April 5, 1961.

Chickadee banded March 12, 1953, returned April 12, 1961.

Bluc Jay banded June 20, 1958, returned May 13, 1961.

Female Purple Martin banded July 19, 1960 returned July 4, 1961. Of interest here is that she found her old nesting home after it had been moved 7 miles South.—Brookings.

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J. W. JOHNSON:

Mourning Dove	2
Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Least Flycatcher	1
Eastern Wood Pewee	1
Purple Martin	26
Robin	1233
Gray-checked Thrush	1
Warbling Vireo	1
Yellow Warbler	1
Myrtle Warbler	3
Yellow-Throat	1
Red-winged Blackbird	20
Baltimore Oriole	1
Cowbird	8
Goldfinch	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	2
Field Sparrow	3
Harris' Sparrow	19
White-crowned Sparrow	3
White-throated Sparrow	16
Lincoln Sparrow	25
Swamp Sparrow	3
Song Sparrow	22

Snow Bunting	1
Total	1395

individuals of 24 species
—Huron

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HAROLD W. WAGER—I have had a very interesting year in banding, using the Mist Net for the first time, and banding 346 birds of 42 species. The net helped me catch for the first time: Red Crossbills, Belted Kingfisher, Violet Green Sparrows, Least Flycatcher, and two Water Ouzcls. The other first time birds were: Cassin's Purple Finch, American Magpie and Solitary Vireo. This makes a total of 92 species I have banded since 1933. This is a good area to band birds as one is on the borderline of the eastern and western birds.

I have also had a great experience with banding Starlings in our church tower. From a total of 112, I have had the following results:

572-00260—banded 9-12-60	
Return: 1-26-61	
572-00264—banded 9-12-60	
Returns: 1-26-61, 4-27-61	
572-00267—banded 9-12-60	
Returns: 1-26-61, 8-1-61	
572-00268—banded 9-12-60	
Return: 1-26-61	
572-00269—banded 9-12-60	
Returns: 1-26-61, 4-27-61, 12-29-61	
572-00272—banded 9-12-60	
Return: 4-27-61	
572-00273—banded 9-12-60	
Return: 4-27-61	
592-24412—banded 1-26-61	
Returns: 4-27-61, 8-1-61	
592-24416—banded 1-26-61	
Returns: 4-27-61, 8-1-61	
59224430—banded 1-26-61	
Returns: 6-17-61 in mist net in city park, 8-1-61	
592-24439—banded 4-27-61	
Returns: 8-1-61, 12-29-61	

592-24443—banded 4-27-61

Return: 8-1-61

592-24444—banded 4-27-61

Return: 12-29-61

592-24455—banded 4-27-61

Return: 8-1-61

592-24442—banded 4-27-61

Return: found dead in Sturgis
7-28-61

602-16504—banded 8-1-61

Return: 12-29-61 —Sturgis

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N. R. WHITNEY—New Bandings, species and numbers:

Pinon Jay 10 (bringing grand total of this species to 87)

Robin 2

Yellow Warbler 1 (found waterlogged and unable to fly, released when dry)

Western Meadowlark 1 (found injured by Gertrude Oramlee)

Evening Grosbeak 1 (March, found injured at Rushmore Floral)

Red Crossbill 1 female (on nest with eggs, Feb. 18) Crossbill year during winter of 1960-61.

Oregon Junco 1 (Canyon Lake section of Rapid City, Dec. 16)

Chipping Sparrow 1 (September)

White-crowned Sparrow 4 (all trapped together at home on May 9)

Lincoln's Sparrow 1 (April 28. This species is more often trapped than observed otherwise.

Song Sparrow 1 immature (August 2, one of two caught while netting with Scott Findley).

I have banded a total of 44 species since receiving my permit in 1955.

Returns

Oregon Junco, banded in the Canyon Lake section of Rapid City on Nov. 15, 1959, was retrapped at exactly the same place on Dec. 16, 1961. Three other Oregon Juncos were banded the same place and the same day, and one of them was retrapped there on December 26, 1960.

Recoveries

Pinon Jay. One bird, originally banded April 20, 1956, was retrapped December 22, 1960, and found dead, apparently shot on April 29, 1961.

Another, originally banded December 4, 1960, was found dead, apparently shot, on April 29, 1961.

A Pinon Jay, originally banded December 21, 1957, was killed by a cat about 1 mile north of the point of banding, on June 29, 1961.

A Pinon Jay, originally banded on March 3, 1956, was shot on a ranch in the Bear's Paw Mountains, 50 miles south of Chinook, Montana, in August, 1961. This is about 400 miles northwest of the point of banding, and is the only report I have had of a banded Pinon Jay more than a few miles from the point of banding.—

Rapid City

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Wanted! Wanted!

Information about the Chestnut-colored Longspur!

In order to complete the research on this species for an article for the last volume of Bent's LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS Series, I earnestly ask SDOU members as well as anyone else, whether South Dakotan or not, to send me any information about this bird. Observations made in states other than South Dakota are just as welcome as data recorded in the State. Noteworthy absent from the literature are observations on nesting activities, length of incubation, nestling period and post-nesting behavior. However, any data, large in scope or small, will be gratefully received. Assistance will be thankfully acknowledged in the article.—Herbert Krause, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Convention ---- 1962

THE 1962 Annual Meeting of S. D. O. U. at Pierre was one that will be long remembered by those fortunate enough to attend.

Field trips planned by Les Berner occupied the forenoons of both Saturday and Sunday. Weather, mud, lateness of the season, and the small numbers of birds almost disposed of the proposed early morning trips to hear and see the Prairic Chickens boom and the Sharp-tails dance. But some hardy souls did try it Sunday morning, in spite of everything.

After breakfast at the Izaak Walton League Club House the Saturday field trips about the lower end of Farm Island, with L. J. Moriarty, Herb Krause and others were a series of lovely waking dreams. We walked amid hardly believable multitudes of Yellowbreasted Chats and Black-beaded Grosbeaks as well as teeming numbers of other species; yet it was too much like a last good-bye to the one remaining little spot of its kind in South Dakota on the entire length of the Missouri.

No one could escape the poignancy of the occasion for long; for this little area, with its old trees, its song filled air, its busy wildlife in endless variety, will soon be flooded by the backwaters of the Big Bend Dam now building, the beauty of an old deciduous forest open to the sun at many spots, will quickly become a scene of stark destruction, death, and desolation.

The questions in everyone's mind: Why must greed, the lust for domination, the disregard for all other values be so overwhelming? Why cannot this one little fragment of such a vast area be spared? Can it be that no such wit-

ness of the destructive materialism of current technology dare be left to show the kind of people who did this thing? Some sadly tried to defend the action on the classic principle that: "They know not what to do." The reflection on the narrowness and inadequacy of modern technical education was too obvious to require, even allow, further comment.

And some seemed almost to envy the birds, busily engaged in their domestic activities: They couldn't know how within their own so short lifetimes, this habitat their countless generations of evolution had suited them for, would become an area of alternating water and land, a tidal marsh with a period so long and so irregular little of the life we know might sustain itself.

On a more cheerful plane came the trip Sunday morning, up the Bad River Valley a short way, where the Blue Grosbeaks made us happy by their very numbers. They prepared us for the comedy relief of the sort that can only happen among people who take their birds seriously. That came just after noon in the Oahe Picnic Area.

Picture, if you will, some 25 to 50 characters with binoculars, engaged in intent scrutiny of a gray bird, whose dress was an intricate pattern of cross-hatching in light and dark, sitting on a tree about 30 feet from and above their center of gravity.

The bird was trying to get some sleep after a long night of work and tried to ignore politely the impact of the probing binoculars. People in passing cars all but leaned out, trying to understand what could possibly be the

center of such undivided attention—and were, in return, completely ignored for their pains. At least one car came by the second time in vain hope of seeing something worth all that study.

And the bird: Obviously a goatsucker. But, beyond that, questions seemed thicker than answers. It sat so as to hide the white (if any) of throat and wings, and thus aroused the suspicion of being other than the Nighthawk the unthinking would have named it.

When all else had failed to bring agreement, the poor bird was forced to take the air—and display the white markings proper on a Nighthawk.

That helped to pass the time while the picnic lunch was found—in its rainy day position back in the shelter of the Izaak Walton League Clubhouse on Farm Island instead of in the no-rain position in the Oahe Picnic Area, where we had not too much justification for being and expecting it anyway.

That ended happily, a good lunch, in comfortable surroundings—and just late enough to be doubly appreciated.

The business meeting Saturday afternoon was interesting—and even educational, with discussions and reports of the past activities and future hopes. Membership Chairman Lowry Elliott came in for particular commendation for his work in getting new members.

All directors whose terms expire in 1962 were elected for succeeding three-year terms.

At the following directors' meeting Dr. L. J. Moriarty was elected president, C. A. Hughlett Vice-president, and Nelda Holden Secretary and Treasurer. All other officers carried over.

In the evening the St. Joseph School

provided a Smorgasbord Banquet that left nothing to be desired.

The program that followed was a presentation by Alex Walker, Curator of the Tillamook Pioneer Museum of Tillamook, Oregon, of a selection of his color slides of Northwest Coast areas and birds.

A common saying, heard after many of Walker's pictures: "If I hadn't seen it myself, I wouldn't have believed it." In a sense they were just color photographs; but they have the undescrivable quality of a master's painting of a much loved subject or scene.

These are only some of the highlights of a busy Meeting as seen by one viewer. So many things were going on all the time many of them escape mention because of space, time, or viewpoint limitations. But the mist netting and banding activities of the Holden's must not be missed (sic). Your first sight, bird in hand, of a Yellow-breasted Chat, a Red-eyed Vireo, a Black-headed Grosbeak—or a Scarlet Tanager, is an unforgettable experience; and Nelda was frequently providing something like that during most of the period.

To Les Berner, and to the rest of his people, we owe thanks for an outstanding experience in this Meeting at Pierre. They worked hard to make it succeed and how Les himself kept going for the hours he must have is something of a mystery.—J. W. Johnson.

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PINE GROSBEEK FOUND DEAD—A Pine Grosbeak, assumed to be the one described by Mrs. Elmer Linngren, Strandburg, in the March 1962 issue, page 18, was found dead in her back yard after the snow melted this spring.

No evidence as to cause of death; whether disease, injury, or hunger and cold was reported.—Strandburg.

PURPLE MARTIN ENQUIRY--J. C. Finlay, 6710-102 A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, is making an extensive study of Purple Martins (*Progne subis*). He is interested in any details or contacts with people willing to furnish any data. He has a questionnaire that will be a convenience in organizing data.

We who are interested in martins generally deplore the lack of literature on them. Here is a chance to help do something about it.

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Birds' Nests

(Continued From Page 36)

of the Buteos. Coues says in the one nest he found the male was quite shy and remained perfectly mute. This has not been my experience, as they both flew close uttering the same one syllable cry that I would describe rather a high pitched "ee-pp."

Often hatching takes place about June first. Later nesting has suggested unsuccessful first nests. Incubation starts with the first egg laid and one egg hatches each day resulting in considerable difference in size of the young.

I find the nests in our area in May. The downy young are almost white with dark eyes and beaks that give them a grotesque look of tiny "teddy bears."

In one nest I watched during incubation, the first egg of five pipped on May 30th. On June 4th, the two oldest youngsters were able to crawl out of the nest and hide in the grass, the third could not make it, the fourth was out of the shell, still wet and unable to stand, and the fifth egg was pipped.

The parents had apparently become

used to my presence, so they made less fuss on my last visit than on the first before hatching began.—Watertown, S. Dak.

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A Long-billed Curlew on her nest is one of a cactus clump.



Close up. The eggs and nest.

Photographs by Claude A. Barr, Prairie Gem Ranch, Smithwick, S. Dak., taken in the spring of 1937. Though common then, these birds are now almost rare.

In Memoriam

Mrs. L. J. Moriarty died May 4, 1962. To all who knew her the word came as a shock. S. D. O. U. people will always remember her as an enthusiastic helper who was always present and contributed much to our organization. She helped Dr. Moriarty in the role of working and gracious hostess for two S. D. O. U. conventions held at Watertown.

She has helped young and old to know the pleasure of birding. She and Dr. Moriarty have taught many the joy of identification of a new bird, the rewards of having a bird sanctuary in one's yard, and the satisfaction of recognizing a bird by its song.

Active in other organizations she was a past regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, past president of the American Association of University Women, past president of St. Margaret's Guild, and past president of the district American Legion Auxiliary.

"She never met a stranger nor made an enemy."

Members of S. D. O. U. will miss her. Our tribute to her can be shown in the Memorial Fund we have established in memory of her. It will be used for the publication of an Annotated Check-list of the Birds of South Dakota.

* * * *

Arthur R. Lundquist died May 12, 1962. His biography, the leading article of this issue, was read by him, both in first draft and in its final form, as it went to the printer. All concerned with its preparation deeply regret that Art did not get to see it in print.

While attempting to sum up a busy and useful life in a few pages of print is pathetic enough at best, it can still give us an idea of the kind of people who made S. D. O. U. possible.

We can only hope the example is not lost.