

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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MARCH, 1963

Whole No. 56



Franklin's Gull

—E. W. Steffen

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President's Page

THE world around us is a place of wonders. Nature study is one of the greatest of pleasures; even slight understanding of its smaller elements gives personal satisfaction.

But the gift of appreciation of the beauty of nature has its price: To be appalled at the wanton waste and abuse of natural resources on every side.

We birders are used to being regarded with amused contempt by the thoughtless and ignorant. Sadly we must acknowledge, with Theodore Roosevelt that, "Every worthwhile cause has its lunatic fringe," and we, no doubt, have our share. It is one of our problems, that we should not neglect as we seek to mitigate the destruction.

Certainly much of our "lunatic fringe" consists merely of well meaning people with more enthusiasm than technical knowledge. Are we altogether free from blame if we keep still while they try to maintain, to us, an indefensible position?

Maybe it is just lack of information (on their side, of course) on the matter at hand. Might not just a little more discussion, in simpler terms, be a good thing—for all of us?

But our main efforts are for the preservation of birds, water, plants, and all the things of nature we live with. As we depend on much of it for life, much of it must now depend on us.

Tools and methods have now developed to the point where destruction, local or worldwide, is merely a matter of choice or time. And none of these words refer to nuclear energy in any way.

Drastic change goes on all around us, with general support, with inadequate advance study of results, and often in the name of conservation, for that word has come, because of the efforts of conservationists, to have its propaganda value as cover for some of the more massive efforts of people utterly without interest in or knowledge of its meaning.

Or, on an individual basis, when we can't keep hunters from shooting each other or automobile drivers from killing themselves and neighbors, how are we to succeed in stopping them from shooting hawks, eagles, whooping cranes, and other rare species?

Perhaps a general effort at law enforcement, for reporting such acts to authorities—with real cooperation in the way of signing of complaints and giving testimony in court when needed might go a long way.

For nearly all song and migratory birds and all predatory birds are now fully protected by laws, with penalties for violations. Not only the punishment of the violation, a minor matter in itself, but the public nature of the action can arouse interest and gain appreciation of the dangers, not only to our wildlife, but to our ecology as a whole.

The poisons sprayed for insects kill millions of birds every year (as well as destroying useful insects) and, as

(Continued on Page 10)



Shore Birds in 1956

Alfred Peterson

BIRD NOTES, Whole No. 31, contains Shore Birds in Review, a two-year summary for 1955-1956, which is here and now extended in detail as to dates, etc., for a permanent record for 1956.

- (1) **Ringed Plover.** May 3, 1 Poinsett outlet; 5|6, 2 near Kampeska; 5|14, 1 Salt Lake; 5|23, 1 near Thomas.
- (2) **Piping Plover.** None.
- (3) **Killdeer.** Apr. 5, 1; 4|11, flock by Fox Lake; 9|14, 6 Clear Lake. So common and familiar that, as with the Robin it would serve no purpose by attempting to record every sight record.
- (4) **Golden Plover.** May 12, 4 near Lake Norden; 5|14, 2 Salt Lake; 5|23, 2 near Thomas; 10|4, flock of about 20 southeast of Clear Lake; 10|17, 1 Fox Lake.
- (5) **Black-bellied Plover.** May 26, 1 Horseshoe Lake; 5|29, 1 Salt Lake; 10|15, 3 Fox Lake; 10|20, 5 Fox Lake; 10|21, 1; 10|22, 2; 10|31, 1.
- (6) **Ruddy Turnstone.** May 19, 1 near Thomas and 2 Rush Lake; 5|23, 6 near Thomas and 2 more; 5|27, 3 from Watertown, and 60 west of Bitter Lake feeding in a field of growing grain; later in day about 20 on south shore of Lake Minnewasta.
- (7) **American Snipe.** Sept. 11, 6 north of Clear Lake; 9|12, 5; 9|14, 7; 10|14, 4 near Thomas, and 1; 10|29, 7 northeast of Tunerville.
- (8) **Upland Plover.** May 6, 3 Enemy Swim; 5|9, 8 near Tunerville; 5|11, 2; 5|12, 2; 5|16, 2; 5|19, 1; 5|26, 6 Horseshoe Lake; 5|27, 3; 7|15, 2 west of Clear Lake; 7|17, 1 Chain Lakes; 7|26, 1; 8|5, 1 Thomas and 1 east of Wau-bay.
- (9) **Spotted Sandpiper.** May 6, 1 Troy; 5|10, 1; 5|12, 2 Sioux river at Estelline; 5|15, 2; 5|23, 1; 5|26, 2 Horseshoe Lake; 7|12, 5 or 6 at Lake Mary; 7|26, 1 Thomas; 8|5, 1 Bitter Lake; 8|28, 2 Lake Cochrane.
- (10) **Solitary Sandpiper.** May 6, 1 at Brooks corner; 5|14, 1; 7|11, 1; 7|28, 1 Dempster; 7|30, 1; 8|18, 8|20, 8 21, 8|27, 8|28, 9|10, 9|14, all 1 but not the same.
- (11) **Willet.** May 6, 2 Florence, 2 at school and 2 near Bitter Lake; 5|12, 1 at Dempster; 5|14, 6 Salt Lake; 5|19, 4 near Thomas; 5|23, 1; 5|26, 8 at Horseshoe Lake; 5|27, 1 Bitter Lake and 2 north of Hazel; 7|15, 3 near Thomas; 8|5, 1 Rush Lake.
- (12) **Greater Yellowlegs.** Apr. 12, 1 Fox Lake; 4|14, 1 near Kampeska; 4|19, 2 Thomas; 4|22, 1 near Thomas and 1 Lake Mary; 4|24, 2; 9|21, 1 Fox Lake; 10|14, 2 near Thomas; 10|15, 4 Fox Lake; 10|18, 4; 10|19, 4; 10|22, 1; 10|29, 10, 6 miles north of Kruse station.
- (13) **Lesser Yellowlegs.** Apr. 11, 5 Fox Lake; 4|14, 20 near Lake Kampeska and 8 others; 5|6, few; 5|10, 4 Lake Mary; 5|12, few; now almost daily few seen; 5|29, half dozen Salt Lake; 7|11, 2 north of Clear Lake; 7|12, dozen Lake Mary and about 25 Hayti; 7|15, many near Thomas; 7|17, very many Florence; 7|19, 60 south of Tunerville; 7|26, some near Thomas; 7|28, many Oakwood Lakes, Lake Mary, Poinsett outlet and Dempster (perhaps 300 total); 8|5, about 20 near

Thomas and about 50 east of Watertown to Brooks corner; 8|3, 20 southeast of Poinsett; 8|6, 30 3 miles northeast of Brandt; 8|18, about 40 south of Tunerville; 8|19, 4; also 10 at Hi-way 77; 8|20, 3 and about 25 Hayti; 8|21 and 8|28, few; 9|4, 5 near Clear Lake; 9|12, 12 Fox Lake; 9|14, 3; 9|21, several; 9|23, only 2 seen on trip; 9|24, several; 9|30, about 100 at Colman; 10|7, 2; 10|13, 4 Fox Lake; 10|14, few; 10|15, about 20 Fox Lake; 10|18, few; 10|19, few; 11|3, 2 Fox Lake.

(14) **Knot.** None.

(15) **Pectoral Sandpiper.** Apr. 19, several Lake Mary; 5|14, 20 or so Salt Lake; 5|23, several Sioux river; 5|26, few; 5|27, small flock Waubay Lake; 7|11, 2; 7|12, about 20 Hayti; 7|15, some near Thomas; 7|17, few Poinsett; 7|19, 14 south of Tunerville; 7|26, few; 7|28, many Oakwood Lakes, Lake Mary, Poinsett outlet and Dempster; 8|5, few; 8|6, 15 3 miles northeast of Brandt; 8|1 and 8|12, few; 8|18, 10 Tunerville; 8|19, 12 at Brandt and about 30 south of Tunerville; 8|21, 4 or 5 Brandt; 8|27, 8; 8|28, many near Lake Cochrane; 8|31, few; 9|3, 9|7, 9|10, 9|11, 9|12, 9|14, 9|15, 9|17, 1 or 2 only each day; 9|23, about 20 Lake Marsh; 10|15 and 10|18, few Fox Lake.

(16) **White-rumped Sandpiper.** May 10, 10 on Sioux river at Estelline; 5|12, 5 near Estelline; 5|14, few Salt Lake; 5|19, about 50 near Thomas; 5|23, many near Thomas; 5|27, several; 5|29, some at Salt Lake; 8|5, few Bitter Lake; 9|7, several Oakwood Lakes; 10|18, 1 Fox Lake.

(17) **Baird's Sandpiper.** Apr. 12, 5 Fox Lake; 4|19, about 20 Lake Mary and 2 Hayti; 4|22, 1 Thomas and 15 to 20 Lake Mary; 4|24, few; 5|1, 1; 10|17, 1 Fox Lake.

(18) **Least Sandpiper.** May 6, 1 near Thomas; 5|10, some near Estelline;

5|12, several; 5|14, few Salt Lake; 5|15, few on trip; 8|1 and 8|2, 1; 9|7, several Oakwood Lakes; 10|18 and 10|19, 1 Fox Lake; 10|23, 2.

(19) **Dunlin.** May 14, 10 or 12 at Salt Lake; 5|29, 1.

(20) **Dowitcher.** Apr. 15, 1 at Fox Lake; 4|19, 1 Lake Mary and 1 at Poinsett; 4|22, 2; 5|3, 10 at Sioux river Estelline; 5|14, 5; 5|19, 3 near Thomas; 7|15, 25 near Thomas; 7|17, 20 at Florence; 7|19, 2; 7|26, several; 7|28, few; 8|5, about 40 near Thomas; 10|15, 12 Fox Lake; 10|16, 12; 10|17, many Fox Lake; 10|18, 100; 10|19, the same; 10|20, about 50; 10|21, 38; 10|22, 38; 10|23, 12.

(21) **Stilt Sandpiper.** May 12, 16 on Poinsett outlet and some on Lake Mary; 5|14, 20 Salt Lake; 5|19, about 30 near Thomas, 9 at Florence and few others; 5|23, many near Thomas; 5|27, 22 northeast of Thomas; 5|29, dozen Salt Lake; 7|19, 40 south of Tunerville; 7|24, 1; 7|26, few; 7|28, 50 Lake Mary and Poinsett outlet, combined total, and very many near Dempster; 7|30, 2; 8|5, about 50 Bitter Lake; 8|19, 1; 8|20, about 30 Hayti; 8|27, 6; 8|28, few near Lake Cochrane; 8|31, 1 Bitter Lake and 5 north of Clear Lake; 9|3, 2; 10|17, 10 Fox Lake; 10|20, 10.

(22) **Semipalmated Sandpiper.** May 10, some at Sioux river Estelline; 5|12, few several places; 5|14, some at Salt Lake; 5|19, about 150 near Thomas; 5|23, many Thomas; 5|27, several; 5|29, some at Salt Lake; 7|12, 20 Hayti; 7|17, few at Florence; 7|26, some near Thomas; 7|28, many Lake Mary and Poinsett outlet; 7|30, 1; 8|5, about 200 at Bitter Lake; 8|20, about 20 Hayti; 8|21, some at Bitter Lake; 8|28, few near Lake Cochrane; 9|3, 2; 9|7, some at Oakwood Lakes; 9|11, 1.

(23) **Buff-breasted Sandpiper.** None.

(24) **Marbled Godwit.** Apr. 19, 2 Lake Mary and 9 at Hayti; 4|20, 2; 4|22, 3 Bitter Lake; 4|24, 2 north of Clear Lake; 5|6, 9 near Bitter Lake and 2 east of Enemy Swim; 5|14, 4 Salt Lake; 5|19, 6 near Thomas; 5|23, 1; 5|26, 2; 5|27, 3 Rush Lake. Herbert Krause found nest with 4 eggs at Waubay Lakes and J. S. Findley took a photo of the nest for a color slide (5|27); later in day 5 found at Bitter Lake; 7|12, 1 Lake Mary; 7|17, about 25 Bitter Lake; 7|28, 8 near Dempster.

(25) **Hudsonian Godwit.** Apr. 19, about 30 at Hayti; 4|22, 1 Lake Mary, 5 Hayti and 6 near Thomas; 4|24, 1; 5|10, 1 near Estelline; 5|12, 1; 5|14, 6 or 8 Salt Lake; 5|19, 2 near Thomas and 8 northeast of Thomas; 5|23, 14 near Thomas; 5|27, 1 Bitter Lake; 5|29, 4 at Salt Lake.

(26) **Sanderling.** None seen.

(27) **Avocet.** Apr. 19, 11 at Lake Mary, 1 at Hayti and 4 near Thomas; 4|22, 9 near Thomas and 8 Lake Mary; 4|24, 1; 5|3, 4 Lake Mary; 5|6, 1 seen and 12 at Rush Lake; 5|10, 2 Lake

Mary; 5|12, 1; 5|16, 1; 5|19, 1 and 6 Bitter Lake; 5|23, 1; 5|26, 8 at Horseshoe Lake and dozen or more Bitter Lake, also 5 near Thomas; 5|29, 1 Salt Lake; 7|12, 1 Lake Mary and 2 Hayti; 7|17, 4 Chain Lakes and about dozen Bitter Lake; 7|28, 3 Lake Mary and 26 near Dempster; 8|5, 12 at Bitter Lake; 9|23, 3 east of Dry Lake at Poinsett.

(28) **Wilson's Phalarope.** May 2, 5 north of Clear Lake; 5|3, well over 100 near Dempster; 5|4, 60 north of Clear Lake; 5|6, about 30 near Thomas; 5|9, about 30 east of Tunerville; 5|10, 4 near Dempster; 5|12, 10 near Dempster and few others; 5|14, few; 5|16, 3; 5|19, about 80 near Thomas; 5|23, few; 5|26, few; 5|27, few; 5|29, few Salt Lake; 6|15, 1; 7|15, few; 7|28, few at Oakwood Lakes, Lake Mary and near Dempster; 8|1, about 5 near Dempster; 8|5, some on Bitter Lake; 8|19, 2; 8|20, 10 at Hayti.

(29) **Northern Phalarope.** May 14, about 200 on Salt Lake; 5|16, 14 north of Altamont; 5|19, 1; 5|29, 26 Salt Lake; 8|31, about 20 Bitter Lake.—Brandt.



Nest of
Goshawk

—Courtesy of
Wilson Bulletin

Huron Robin Banding

SUMMARY BY YEARS

George Jankel & J. W. Johnson

Banding Record

Year	Imm.	Adult	Total	%Adult
1959	429	322	751	44
1960	983	514	1497	33
1961	916	431	1347	32
1962	1495	360	1855	19
Total	3823	1627	5450	30

Repeats and Retraps

Year Banded	1959				1960			
	Imm.	Adult	Total	%Ad.	Imm.	Adult	Total	%Ad.
1959	28	6	34	18				
1960	9	4	13	31	95	16	111	14
1961	8	5	13	38	46	30	76	40
1962		1	1		23	23	46	50
					1962			
1961	85	16	101	16				
1962	20	19	39	50	148	18	166	11

Notes: In 1959 the percent of adults would be low compared to actual population and to record of other years because the work was not started until July 18, 1959, thus missing the spring arrivals and migrants.

For all years the percent of adults is higher than actual by a measurable amount because the increasing percentages of immatures completing their molt in September and October—proved by repeats called adults, while earlier banding records showed they were, in fact, immatures.

Except for a negligible percent the above birds were caught in mist nets at sunset while en route to their community roost. The repeats and retraps were made at the same point. For the purpose of our studies here a bird caught in the same season as banded is considered a repeat even though the elapsed time might be longer than three months. For this table the separation is shown by position.

While only four years' work and records have been completed and only the most general basis can be deduced for comparison, the dynamic pattern of the figures promises statistics of ever increasing interest if the work can be continued.—Huron.

Bird Haven Notes... Fall of 1962

Lowry Elliott

MIGRATION was a leisurely affair. Beautiful fall weather with no snow. Many small birds were here much later than usual.

More robins were seen this fall than last. Myrtle warblers were plentiful. Barn swallows stayed unusually late. Ducks, geese, and shore birds were slow about moving south.

A good crop of seed after a rainy summer made excellent feed for all kinds of native sparrows. They have also been numerous and slow-moving.

Hawks found mice and rodents plentiful and stayed here many days. Red-tailed hawks were unusually numerous, but rough-legged hawks and short-eared owls were fewer. No broadwinged hawks were seen. Very few sharp-shinned hawks passing this year.

Sept. 2. Many Doves on wires, Eastern kingbirds, mostly family groups also. Most purple martins gone but a few visitors still here. At a slough on Redman farm a Black-bellied plover, a Solitary Sandpiper, a Wilson's Phalarope, and one Pectoral Sandpiper. In our yard we saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and an Eastern Phoebe; in the area seven Swainson's Hawks.

Sept. 6. Robins are plentiful; feeding on American Mountain Ash berries, along with 7 Cedar Waxwings. Three beautiful Red-tailed Hawks flying in updrafts from trees, unafraid and giving us good views.

Sept. 8. Two Wood Ducks north of the town of Clear Lake in a small lake near some government grain bins along Highway 77.

Sept. 9. A Black-billed Cuckoo (late) on ground near our house. Thought

it was hurt from flying into our window and almost caught it.

Sept. 13. First White-throated Sparrow. One to three Great Blue Herons are seen daily along the river.

Sept. 17. I heard a Bluebird. About 60 Mourning Doves sitting on the wires; a flock of about 200 Pelicans flying south over Milbank. I banded two Orange-crowned Warblers, 4 Lincoln, a Song, and a White-throated Sparrow, and a House Wren.

Sept. 20. Hard freeze last night. A Great-horned Owl hooting in our trees, and later being pestered by a flock of crows.

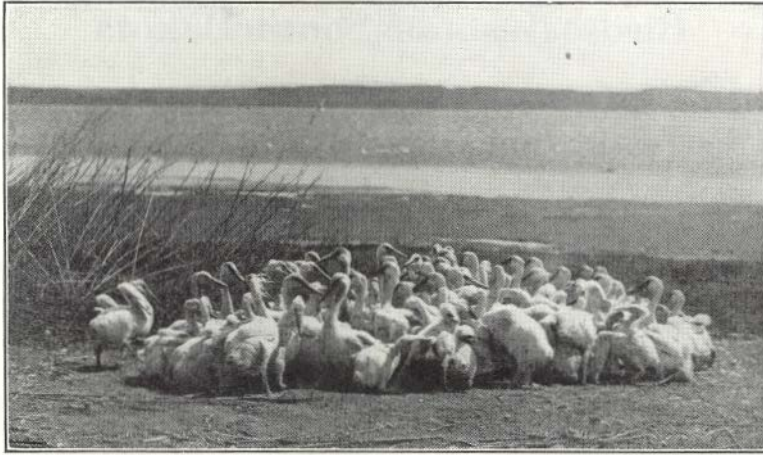
Sept. 23. Barn Swallows migrating in small flocks. A larger flock of about 100 resting on the road and catching crickets near Chain Lakes. At Salt Lake several hundred Coots, 300 Blue-winged Teal, 30 Mallards, 150 Pintails, 35 Greater Yellowlegs, 3 Pectoral Sandpipers, 15 Killdeer, 3 Semi-palmated Sandpipers.

Sept. 24. Three Ruby-crowned Kinglets, first Slate-colored Juncos and first Myrtle Warblers (12). Three Marsh Hawks at one time, and a dark Red tail.

Sept. 25. A pair of Great Horned Owls in our trees. A Grey-cheeked Thrush, Harris', Gambel's, Lincoln's, Song, White-throated, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows. A beautiful Kridler's Red-tailed Hawk near the County Farm.

Sept. 26. I saw an Ovenbird, a Fox Sparrow, and banded 27 birds of 13 species.

Sept. 29. At Will's Slough: 10 Pectoral Sandpipers, 1 Greater Yellow-



Group of Young White Pelicans

—Courtesy Wilson Bulletin

legs, 1 Sanderling (very white), 2 Common Snipe, 70 Blue-winged Teal, 200 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, 12 Savannah Sparrows.

Oct. 2. Four Red-tailed Hawks, 3 Marsh Hawks, 5 Sparrow Hawks, a Solitary Sandpiper, 20 Killdeer, Cedar Waxwings, 8 Barn Swallows.

October 3. A Catbird, a Rough-legged Hawk (light Phase).

October 4. A Night Hawk (very late Migrant).

October 5. The White-throated Sparrow with white on the back of the head, banded Sept. 16, repeated.

Oct. 6. Six Red-tailed Hawks, both species of kinglets. At Will's Slough: 20 Golden Plovers, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs, 20 Killdeer, 8 Pintails (Blue-winged Teal are missing.)

Oct. 8. A flock of Double-crested Cormorants (80) flew over, headed south.

Oct. 15. Three Cliff Swallows, a

Bluebird; 22 Dowitchers at Will's Slough.

Oct. 16. Water Pipit, a Swainson's Hawk, a Barn Swallow, and a Hermit Thrush.

Oct. 20. Banded a beautiful male Yellow Warbler (very late). At Will's Slough: 10 Dowitchers, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 6 Killdeer, 1 Common Snipe.

Oct. 21. First Tree sparrows.

Oct. 23. Harris' Sparrows plentiful.

Oct. 25. A Barn Swallow trying to drink on the wing.

Oct. 27. Six Pine Siskins in our trees. Banded a Swainson's Thrush.

Oct. 29. More Tree Sparrows and Horned Larks arrived last night.

Oct. 30. Saw a Brown Creeper.

Nov. 2. First flock of Lapland Longspurs (35).

Nov. 4. First Flock of Snow Buntings (10).

Nov. 6. A Brown Creeper, a Marsh Hawk, a Belted Kingfisher.—Milbank

Birds' Nests of South Dakota

L. J. Moriarty

A.O.U. #705. BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*)

THIS familiar summer resident of South Dakota nests in nearly every part of the state where suitable sites are available. It seems to prefer thorny and brushy areas and usually places the nest less than ten feet above ground. Although I have found them on the ground, they are usually 2 to 7 feet above it.

The nest is well hidden, often in plum thickets and wild grape vines. The birds more often nest away from habitations but will sometimes build in hedges and thickets in town. They have a definite territory and defend it vigorously against any of their own kind as well as against other birds of similar size, especially the catbird and common grackle, when these come near.

The nest is usually of rather loose construction, in the form of a flattish basket of coarse twigs up to a quarter of an inch in diameter and a foot long. Usually, however, the materials are smaller and progress to smaller size from bottom to top of the nest. The basket proper, in my experience, has most often been lined with rootlets and grape vine bark; seldom is grass used except in nests on the ground. The inside diameter is from $3\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 inches with a depth of about 1 inch. The nest over all is often large, up to 10 inches across but of less height.

The most common clutch is probably 4 eggs, 5 being rather common and 6 rare. The eggs are usually ovate and

measure about 27x20 millimeters.

They have grayish blue-green ground color and are usually rather evenly colored with small spots of a dirty brownish color, so completely covering the egg as to make it blend well with the twigs and rootlets used in the nest. Infrequently the spots are thicker around the large end; more often they cover the entire egg closely so as to give a general overall brownish effect.

The parents defend the nest with determination and, when eggs are nearly incubated, the sitting bird often remains firmly on the nest until touched, sometimes pecking the approaching hand.

The most common period for nesting in this area is June. I have never found a thrasher nest containing Cowbird eggs although they are of similar color.—**Watertown.**

* * * *

President's Page

(Continued from Page 3)

they are added to each year by authorities who should know better by now, the toll cannot help but mount.

Our most effective work will be the result of our day after day efforts in adding to the knowledge of conservation matters of both ourselves and others.

But, perhaps even more important, we need to be constantly on the alert for signs of interest in our friends and acquaintances. You never know when or where you will find a kindred spirit—glad to learn of SDOU and that it needs his help.—**L. J. Moriarty.**

Winter Meeting, 1963

IN SPITE of gale force winds, snow, and 20 degrees below zero, a flock of hardy souls numbering something over thirty members were able to attend the Winter Meeting at Brookings, January 19 and 20. And all were glad they came.

An excellent and varied program, organized by Herb Krause, Brookings hospitality and arrangements by the Holdens, left nothing but better weather to be desired.

Saturday evening the Lueshens' talk with colored slides on the Delta Refuge on Lake Manitoba, Canada, and Albert Hochbaum's work there made his book: **Travels and Traditions of Waterfowl** take on another dimension.

The main program, Sunday, was of special interest and well rounded as the list of papers below makes manifest. It is hoped the authors will arrange for publication in **Bird Notes** their material pertaining to South Dakota, in spite of the fact that the editor failed to contact them in all cases.

As usual the time was all too short and moments for talk with old friends seldom seen were all too few.

But we were happy to meet a valued member now back in our orbit, we hope for a long stay, and some interesting contributions: L. M. Baylor, recently at Pocatello, Idaho, prior to that at Dakota Wesleyan, Mitchell, and now in the Department of Languages, South Dakota School of Mines, Rapid City.

PROGRAM

Birds on a Summer Trip

Mrs. Charles Crutchett, Armour, S. Dak.

MARCH, 1963

Organisms Airborne by Wildfowl

Dr. Willard Rosine, Biol. Dept., Augustana.

Banding of Pinon Jays

Dr. N. R. Whitney, Jr., Rapid City, S. Dak.

Plumage Variation in Scarlet Tanager

Mrs. David J. Holden, Brookings, S. Dak.

Birds in the Camera's Eye

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hall, Yankton, S. Dak.



Albino Hawk

—Courtesy Wilson Bulletin

Red-bellied Woodpecker	2			1				13		
Hairy Woodpecker	7	2		8	3	7	1	39	1	
Downy Woodpecker	49	2	1	11	8	9	6	130	4	3
Horned Lark	3		143	41	16		48	89	35	
Blue Jay	5	6	1	6	3	20	4	32		1
Black-billed Magpie						24				
Common Crow	29		16	54	1	59	2	1021		21
Pinon Jay						144				
Black-capped Chickadee	66	1	3	45	18	108	4	599	8	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	37	2	2	1	5	4	6	147	4	
Red-breasted Nuthatch						1		10		
Brown Creeper	1	1	3			1	1	34		
Robin			1			8		3		
Swainson's Thrush								1		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3							56		1
Townsend's Solitaire						10				
Bohemian Waxwing						11		5		
Northern Shrike	1				1	1				
Starling	28	60	42	63	13	247	28	938		97
House Sparrow	270	130	80	366		559	440	1512	6	28
Western Meadowlark		10	1							1
Rusty Blackbird	63						4			
Yellow-headed Blackbird				1			13			
Red-winged Blackbird				1			269			
Brewer's Blackbird						3	20	16		
Common Grackle	1	1		13			56	4		
Brown-headed Cowbird	12									
Cardinal	1			2				34		2
Evening Grosbeak						1				
Purple Finch		5								
Pine Grosbeak								7		
Common Redpoll	2									
Pine Siskin			18			293		3		
American Goldfinch	7	6	2	15		59	6	17		1
Red Crossbill								3		
White-winged Junco			6	64	21	112				
Slate-colored Junco	19					224		647	11	4
Oregon Junco			1		1	53		22		
Tree Sparrow	110		235	145	21	194	55	267		216
Harris' Sparrow			16					62		2
White-crowned Sp.			6							
Song Sparrow						25		5		6
Lapland Longspur			539		37			30		
Snow Bunting							21	13		

Christmas Count, 1962

13

	Brookings	Highmore	Huron	Madison	Millbank	Rapid City	Sand Lake	Stout Falls	Webster	Yankton
Black-crowned Night Heron			1							
Snow Goose							10			
Blue Goose							7			
Mallard			5			174	125			4700
Gadwall						4				
Shoveler						1				
Redhead										1
Common Golden Eye						6				580
Hooded Merganser						6				
Common Merganser						6				6
Sharp-shinned Hawk								1		
Cooper's Hawk								1		
Red-tailed Hawk								4		1
Rough-legged Hawk		1	1	1		4	1	2		
Bald Eagle										8
Marsh Hawk			15		1	13	1	5	3	2
Prairie Falcon			1			1				
Pigeon Hawk						1				
Sparrow Hawk	1					1		1		2
Bobwhite								7		
Pheasant	103	40	315	130	38	5	180	92	14	39
Killdeer						7				2
Common Snipe						4				
Ring-billed Gull			1							
Mourning Dove				4		10		67		1
Screech Owl	1							2		
Great Horned Owl	6		2	5	1		6	21		1
Snowy Owl				2			7		1	
Long-eared Owl			2	1				1		
Short-eared Owl	1		10						1	1
Belted Kingfisher			1			2				1
Flicker, Y-s.	4	1	3	2			2	63		5

MARCH, 1963

General Notes of Special Interest

PRAIRIE FALCON—As recorded by A. C. Bent in his "Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey" and by Thos. S. Roberts in his "The Birds of Minnesota" there are few records of occurrence of Prairie Falcon in Minnesota. I offer here a list of my personal finds that pertain to this question:

1930, Nov. 1, 1 shot at Pipestone; Nov. 29, 1 seen at Pipestone. 1931, Aug. 23, 1 few miles west of Holland; Nov. 4, 1 north of Woodstock. 1932, Sept. 20, 1 at Rock River east of Pipestone; Sept. 22, 1 near Cazenovia; Sept. 25, 1 hung on wire fence north of Pipestone, having been shot by two farmers in a frenzy of destruction that included the killing of near 20 Swainson's Hawks; Sept. 27, 1 found dead near Verdi; Oct. 7, 1 near Verdi; Oct. 14, 1 at same place; Oct. 17, 1 three miles southwest of Verdi.

The balance of my notes apply to South Dakota and follow herewith:

1932, Oct. 1, 1 in Moody County west of Pipestone; Oct. 15, 1 on haystack four miles south of Arlington; Oct. 16, 1 at Dry Lake-Lake Poinsett; Oct. 23, 1 east of Sinai and 1 near Wentworth; Oct. 30, 1 at Lake Thisted near Badger; Nov. 6, 1 three miles north of Arlington; Nov. 7, 1 in Moody County; 1953, Aug. 13, 1 near Murdo; Oct. 19, 1 near Brandt; 1954, April 25, 1 at Lake Preston; Sept. 19, 1 near Clear Lake; 1957, May 16, 1 west of Cedar Pass in the Badlands; May 19, 1 at Chamberlain. 1958, Dec. 1, 1 at Presho. 1959, Sept. 16, 1 at the Hidewood near Clear Lake. 1960, Nov. 15, 1 five miles west of Brandt. "Audubon Field Notes" February, 1961, page 52, slides this 1960

entry over under heading Pigeon Hawk, an error that took place after the report left my hands.

During two winter seasons, along about 1949 and 1950 (probably) a Prairie Falcon was seen several times as it flew to Brandt grain elevator, a refuge for resident Pigeons and Sparrows.—**Alfred Peterson, Brandt.**

* * *

PINE GROSBEAKS AT HURON—Late in the afternoon of December 29, 1962, Lucille and I saw a little flock of eight Pine Grosbeaks in Riverside Cemetery at Huron. Our first sight of them came as they moved, one at a time, across our front and into small ash tree full of seed beside and overhanging the car.

They started eating the seed, dropping wings and hulls separately, as they snipped off and cleaned the seed, until they covered the top and hood of the car thickly with the litter. Thus we were able to study them at distances too short for the binoculars to focus.

Three of the birds were adult males in bright red plumage, the rest in gray and yellow. They continued to eat with earnest attention and eventually I started the car and moved slowly away without disturbing them.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

* * *

LATE MYRTLE WARBLERS—Max Pierce, Sioux Falls, reports that he and the others of his family saw two Myrtle Warblers in their yard back of the house on Sunday, December 2, 1962. The birds were active but gave them several good looks, especially of the

yellow rumps, so they are certain of the identification.

This late appearance may not be surprising in view of the exceptional mild weather which we had had until after that date, but it also must set some kind of a record. The latest South Dakota date mentioned in Bent's Life Histories is November 15 at Faulkton.—Scott Findley

* * *

SPECIES OF IBIS—They are not likely to be numerous enough to be serious in South Dakota, at least in our time, but some data on the Glossy Ibis and the White-faced Glossy Ibis, received since the publication of the sightings last spring and summer (*Bird Notes* XIV:41, 57, 88) should be noted, in case the birds appear again.

The 1957 A. O. U. **Check-List** uses the names Glossy Ibis and White-faced Ibis. The Glossy Ibis is shown as breeding at Eagle Lake, Texas (casually) Florida and on the southeast coast, wandering north in spring and summer into Canada and states east of the Mississippi.

The White-faced Ibis breeds in California, Oregon, Utah, and south into Mexico and east into Louisiana (Also into Florida occasionally). It wanders north in spring and summer into British Columbia, Wyoming and North Dakota.

From geography and probability this would be the bird we would most likely see, of the two, and was so identified by Hughlett in the LaCreek area. Even at the extreme east edge of the state the White-faced Ibis would be the most likely—but not necessarily the one that would appear.

Identifying the two, one from the other, seems something of a problem. Allan Cruickshank was through here last fall with the Audubon Screen Tour

lecture and I mentioned the observations of the two birds.

His reaction was to express the opinion that the birds might well be called a single species in time, no doubt also being silently mindful of the identification problem.

In a letter to George H. Lowery, Jr. on another matter I gave him the story of our observations. His reply is quoted in full below. After reading it most of us would probably hope the single species solution is soon put into effect if the birds are to visit here often.—**J. W. Johnson.**

“I was surprised when you mentioned having seen a Glossy Ibis. As you doubtless know, the White-faced Ibis has the white face only in the breeding season. Immatures and adults in the nonbreeding season lose the white face and the purplish color of the head and neck, as well as the remainder of the body. Most of the field guides have been confused in connection with this matter. Indeed, I believe that it was I who first pointed out to Roger Peterson that one of the earlier editions of his field guide contained statements about the winter plumage of the White-faced Ibis that needed revision. We find that it is extremely difficult to distinguish Glossy and White-faced Ibises outside of the breeding season, and even in the breeding season there are difficulties to be encountered. Glossy Ibises sometimes have white skin at the base of the bill that creates a ‘white face.’ The photograph on page 136 of *Louisiana Birds* is a case in point. In the first edition I labeled it a White-faced Ibis. Finally, Allan Cruickshank, who made the photograph, called the error to my attention. So, in the second edition of *Louisiana Birds*, I changed the legend beneath the photograph to read ‘The Glossy Ibis sometimes has a White Face.’ Conversely

I have sometimes seen White-faced Ibises in the height of the breeding season with practically no white on their faces. In winter plumage the Glossy Ibis is noticeably darker than the White-faced Ibis."—George H. Lowery, Jr.

* * *

TUFTED-TITMOUSE IN NORTHEASTERN S. D.—For several years I had heard reports of a tufted titmouse visiting feeders in winter at Ortonville, Minn. On November 20 and 21, I saw one at Mrs. E. Redfield's feeders in Big Stone City, S. D. It had started coming there just a few days before I saw it. On Nov. 27, I trapped and banded it. After banding, I put the bird in a gathering cage to take into the house to show it to the folks there.

Then I discovered it had become an altogether different looking bird. Its crest was lowered, feathers pressed tightly on its body so that it looked much smaller; the large eyes seemed even larger.

When I turned it loose, it flew to a bush nearby. The crest was now raised, feathers fluffed, and it was again the beautiful bird I had banded. It is still coming to feeders regularly (January 18).—Lowry Elliott, Milbank, S. Dak.

* * *

COMMON EGRETS PHOTOGRAPHED SOUTH OF WOONSOCKET—R. M. Whyte, Engineer for the State Highway Department, on October 15, 1962, was able to get a reasonably good color slide of two Common Egrets in a slough 11 miles south of Woonsocket. Two black and white photos taken also were less successful but were still good enough to positively identify the birds. The entire flock consisted of seven birds. The slide is now in our files in Pierre.—Lester M. Berner, Federal Relations Specialist, S. Dak. Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER—Glad you found the Golden-winged Warbler. (*Bird Notes* XIV:90). I can add one more South Dakota record: May 18, 1956, a singing male was watched several times in Union County, on Bill Felton's farm which is near Jefferson on the Missouri River. I think Nickolson and Felton might have also seen this same bird that same week.—Wm. Youngworth, Sioux City.

* * *

SOME NOTES ON THE GATHERING OF GREEN LEAVES BY PURPLE MARTINS—It has long been common observation that, during the nest building and incubation periods, purple martins, the male generally and, though rarely, the female of the pair gather green leaves and spread them over the nest and eggs.

The purpose has been variously suggested (cf. Allen and Nice, *The American Midland Naturalist*, 1952:622-623 for references): "To keep the eggs cool," Widmann-1922; "To supply the needed moisture for incubation," Taverner-1933.

The abnormally wet weather in this area during the spring of 1962 made possible a further observation: Assuming a useful purpose in the field of either of the above suggestions, the activity seems in no way connected with the weather conditions of the time and place, but is rather a fixed pattern of behavior.

The males of our martin colony were first noted collecting leaves on May 11 and five of them were seen engaged in that activity on May 12, about the time nest building became general. The gathering of leaves continued, in some cases, to within a few days of hatching in the nest of the male doing the work. My last observation of the activity was

on June 23, by the male of a pair whose eggs started hatching July 1.

The favored leaves were from an adjacent Boleana poplar windbreak but, rarely, crab apple, cherry, or hackberry leaves were tried. These latter, tearing along the veins, gave only narrow fragments, while the poplar leaves came off in pieces about an inch square.

While rainfall for the month of May, prior to the 12th was slight, totalling 0.11 inches, it was 0.07 inches on that day, followed by heavier rains as the month advanced, ending with the record total 7.69 inches for the month—5.33 inches above normal.

The pattern continued through June, ending with a total of 5.67 inches for that month, highest since 1951.

The average monthly temperature (F) for May was 59.6, only 1.6 degrees above normal. The maximum was 81 degrees. For June the average monthly temperature was 66.4 which is 1.7 degrees below normal. The June maximum was 90 degrees.

Much of the entire period the relative humidity was 100% and it was never low at any time.

Some typical observations from my notes made at the time are quoted below.

"May 12, 6:30 a. m. General carrying of green leaves to at least 4 apartments (apartments in which nests turned out to be successful) in a dense, wet fog and temperature of 54 degrees.

"May 25. (Official) 100% humidity—green leaves being carried to various apartments.

"June 14. Green leaves being carried—in light rain."

Due to the constant rain, often with some wind, the nests were built of wet material, got wet again and again, from rain blowing in, hardly dried in the humid air and low temperature of the whole period. They were found to be

damp, even wet, at each of the frequent examinations the Lowery design house encourages.

Yet, as noted above, green leaves were spread over the nests and eggs regularly the whole time. Surely the condition of the nests, air temperature, and humidity called for neither additional moisture nor cooling.—J. W. Johnson, Huron.

After the above was written, the September issue of the *Wilson Bulletin* was received. In it, 74:251-2, Johnston and Hardy suggest the possibility that the leaves give off HCN which could act as a fumigant against nest parasites.

A copy of my manuscript had been sent to Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr., because of his interest in purple martins and with the thought he might find time for comment. His words, quoted below, emphasize a point I had failed to make clear.—J.W.J.

"Although it may be true that no additional humidity in the nest chambers was required during the past breeding season, I cannot help but wonder if this may not be an innate behavior pattern that has provided selective advantage in the last million years. It is well known that birds have no ability to deviate from set behavior patterns." —G.H.L.

* * *

BACK TO WINTER NORMAL IN BELLE FOURCHIE—Throughout balmy December and until Saturday, Jan. 12, 1962, not a bluejay fed at our terrace bird tray early in the morning. Nor were there tree sparrows, the dainty member of this family which wears a black stickpin in a pearl gray vest. The jay and innumerable small birds were seen every morning flying to the spring for fresh water, as they do the year around, but not one, except the chickadees, stopped at the terrace feeder. And their visits were friendly, but

brief—a peck at the suet, a peck at the sunflower seeds, a flirt or two of the tail—then off again.

The bird world was topsy-turvy on our hill. It wasn't winter, it wasn't spring and a long fall had become boring, apparently, for the birds.

But Saturday morning, a let-up after two days of record cold, here came the bluejays and tree sparrows and the world was set right again.

As if it had been going on every morning without a break, one jay appeared. He took a peanut in the shell, flew away to eat it in the ponderosas, and when he returned he let out his call, "jay, jay." In seconds, here came the other six jays. (Why for several years, seven jays have been regular visitors at one time at our tray, we don't know.)

Later in the morning the tree sparrows came, so happy in the snow that it's no wonder many people call them snowbirds.

Many local birders have said that they stopped stocking their bird feeders because they drew only English sparrows—flocks of them which gobbled until the food was gone.

It was much the same on our hill, but we partially met the problem by placing out foods the English sparrows are either too lazy to eat or do not like. They don't eat suet. They cannot peck corn from the ear. They will not spend the effort necessary to break the shell of a peanut or a sunflower seed. The ground corn, our winter feeding tray staple, we cut from the menu. As a result, English sparrows thinned down to a few which came daily to see if feeding conditions had improved. Thus, we had food the jays and chickadees liked, if they came, but the sparrows did not like.

However, as soon as the cold struck,

the ground corn went back on the menu. Nor do we resent the English sparrows. They serve, in cold weather, as pilots to draw other birds. Who knows but that they will bring in a flock of prairie horned larks, some goldfinches in winter dress, or a flock of redpolls? They have done it in other years. They may do it again.

The weather may be on the rough side, but birding is back to normal on our hill.

The storms have again made allies of man, beast and bird—allies in the battle for survival. To our terrace tray have come the usual bluejays, chickadees, juncos, tree and English sparrows, and a lone white-throated sparrow. The little fellow's black and white striped crown makes him stand out among the other small birds and his white throat helps to identify him. The white throat is considered a migrant, but for several years they have nested on our hill and have appeared at odd times in the winter.

A person glancing at the feeding flock of birds might easily dismiss them as "just sparrows." But a look proves that there are several varieties, among them prairie horned larks. Nor are all the juncos the common slate-colored. There is a scattering of the Oregon junco, which has a brown back and sides and a pinkish wash on the breast.

All of the birds feed together when the weather is rough. Nor do the English sparrows dominate. Rather, they are like outcasts, taking flight at a pass from the smallest tree sparrow, chickadee or junco. So long as an English sparrow feeds quietly, the other birds pay little attention to him. But let him start pushing, and out he goes.

All the birds seem to sense they are fighting a common enemy—the storm. They huddle in the spruce tree near the feeder or in the juniper a bit down the

slope. From these havens they fly to the feeder—big and little birds at once. Saturday, a yellow-shafted flicker ate ground corn with the small birds.

Livestock feeders down Belle Fourche valley report that wildlife is coming to the feedlots to eat with the livestock. There are the common small birds, a few shrikes and meadowlarks, and one feeder reports as many as 50 pheasants, most of them cocks. The pheasants act more like chickens than game birds, he says. And of course, there are magpies.

The big January storm—it's still going, though in a mild stretch Monday morning. And all living things—man, bird and beast—are allies in the battle for survival. The bluejays and tree sparrows are back.—Irma Weyler, *Daily Belle Fourche Post*.

* * *

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, CARDINAL NEAR BIG STONE CITY—On Nov. 1, 1962 there came to our feeder a bird of such amazing beauty I could scarcely believe my eyes. Consulting my Peterson's Field Guide, I learned it was a Red-bellied Woodpecker. It looked exactly like the picture. The bird seemed very hungry. It stayed for quite a while and ate lustily of the ground corn and bread crumbs in the feeder.

On November 5, it came again and ate and ate. Also, on that same date, I saw a male Cardinal.—Mrs. Eleanor G. Riss, Route 1, Big Stone City.

* * *

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER AT BRITTON—On November 5, 1962, a Red-bellied Woodpecker was on my feeder, my first sight of it, although it has been seen in Britton before this date.

From November 5 to December 7,

1962 I saw the bird almost every day but not since. There seems to be just one about.

The first time I ever saw a bird of this species was on November 9, 1956 when one came to my feeder. It came back off and on until November 30, 1956.

I have no record of one appearing here between 1956 and 1962.—Mrs. Edward M. Driessen, Britton.

* * *

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER AT WAUBAY—I would like to report the sighting of a Red-bellied Woodpecker at the Waubay Refuge last fall (1962). This unusual visitor, was first noticed on the refuge bird feeder on October 30 and occasionally seen in the refuge vicinity until mid-December. This is the first refuge record for this species.

WILD TURKEYS RELEASED AT WAUBAY—I also want to mention that the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department released 25 Rio Grande turkeys, 7 Toms and 18 Hens, on the refuge on January 31, 1963. The birds were obtained from the King ranch in southern Texas.—Robert R. Johnson, Refuge Manager, Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Waubay.

* * *

WINTER ROBINS—I write in reference to Chilson's article in the June, 1962, *Bird Notes* on the feeding habits of robins during the winter. On February 2, 1962, in front of my rooming house at Vermillion, I observed one Robin feeding with a flock of Bohemian Waxwings numbering about 100 that had just flown into the area. The Robin as well as the Waxwings were eating the fruits of three *Celtis occidentalis*, the Common Hackberry.

Both species fed there for about three days, until they had quite strip-

ped the trees of their fruit. The Waxwings returned again in a week but I did not see the Robin again. The next Robin that I saw appeared on the 19th of March.—**Ronald R. Nelson, Rt. 2, Box 122, Sioux Falls.**

Lou Yarger writes in response to my article in June 1962 *Bird Notes*, "I saw Robins about 2½ miles west of Moon, S. Dak., on November 3, 1962. I also saw Robins along the Belle Fourche river about 5 miles northeast of Elm Springs on November 11, and one along Stockade Beaver Creek, which is southwest of Deerfield, S. Dak., on November 12, 1962."

Dr. Van Heuvelin also writes, "The winter of 1960-61 was quite mild and I saw Robins in every month of that winter. I did not see any of the large flocks that some reported, but saw singles, two's and three's. These were in the northern hills, one in January in my yard in Deadwood, S. Dak., and also in a State Game Farm Area not far from Spearfish. The winter of 1961-62 was really a mean winter, with cold spells of 20 below for weeks at a time. I saw no Robins at all but this may of course have been because I did not get out as much as usual. So far this winter, I have seen three in the Spearfish Canyon area in the hills in late November 1962. Also on December 1, 1962 two were in the State Game Farm Area close to Spearfish. There was also a Meadowlark as well as the usual winter residents. I cannot recall that any of them were feeding when I saw them, so what they eat would be mere conjecture on my part."

Thanks for this information and, if any others have material, please send it to me.—**Hernan P. Chilson, Webster.**

* * *

WINTER ROBIN AT HURON—A Robin was first noted at the heated bird bath at 12:30 p. m. January 17, 1963 and was seen at irregular intervals that became shorter until, at the present writing, (Feb. 16, 1963) it appears daily for a drink. One day it took a bath (temp. 8). The bird has shown no interest in any of the winter feed or berries about. The color of this robin has caused some discussion. The head is the uniform dark shade we usually associate with the female. Yet the breast is unusually dark for a female. The white around the eye is very narrow, easy to overlook, and the only white on the tail is a bit on the tip of one feather that is not often visible.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

* * *

DUES NOTICE—If you have not paid your 1963 dues yet this will be your last issue of *Bird Notes* you will receive. Please renew your membership now and assure the continuation of *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Please send your 1963 dues of \$3.00, payable to SDOU, to: **Mrs. David J. Holden, Route 1, Box 80, Brookings, South Dakota.**

* * *

HAWK OWLS, SNOWY OWLS

Edwin C. Weiland, Box 97, Marquette, Mich., wants data on Hawk and Snowy Owls seen this winter. So far the wave includes 28 Hawk Owls in Upper Mich., 61 in Minn., and 1 in Wis.

BIRD-SNATCHING HAWK—We have two hawk stories—the first for September 22 and the other for September 30, 1962. The first story concerns a hawk snatching a bird. We saw the Hawk but not well enough to be certain of the species. The second hawk was a Sharp-shinned and we saw it swoop down for something near a rose bush, though we can't be sure the victim was a bird.

Many people have done as we were doing that morning of September 22; but not so many have had the experience of seeing a gray blur swoop down, grab a bird and disappear in the distance in a second or less.

We were standing at the big window, watching the birds at the feeders and the ground-level pan of water about 8 feet from the window, where a White-crowned Sparrow and an English Sparrow were drinking.

In less time than it takes to gasp, there wasn't a bird in sight anywhere. In that time the gray blur had descended on the two birds at the water pan, taken one of them, and gone in a flash. We saw enough detail to know it was a hawk. The size and wing-spread were those of a large bird. The fanned-out tail had bands of alternate dark and light that were clearly evident for pattern but not for color. It seemed to be about 5 or 6 inches long, with stripes about an inch wide. We could see it carrying the bird it had grabbed but we don't know which was taken.

An aluminum stepladder served as a perch for the hawk we saw on September 30. The ladder stood near some shrubs about 50 feet from the house, in a position that gave us a clear view of the hawk that sat on the top step. The time was mid-morning on a day that was sunny and warm with little if any wind. The hawk sat there for 20 or 30 minutes, turning its head and watching

for a bird to come back out of hiding.

This hawk was about 14 inches long, had a blue-gray back, and striped breast like picture of the Cooper's or Sharp-shinned Hawks. However the folded tail was square tipped, with a little notch, like that of the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Suddenly the Hawk wheeled, swooped down by a shrub, and was gone. Branches prevented us from seeing whether it had a bird, but we knew there were some there.

Included in the birds in our yard at that time were White-crowned, White-throated, and Gambel's Sparrows, as well as Clay-colored, Song, Harris', and Chipping Sparrows, Towhees, and Cat-birds. There were others but these will give some idea of the species that might have been scratching around in the moist earth near these bushes.—**Mrs. M. Harter, Highmore.**



Black and White Warbler

—Courtesy Wilson Bulletin

HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS, edited by Ralph S. Palmer, sponsored by American Ornithologists' Union and New York State Museum and Science Service; Volume I. Yale University Press. 1962. 567 pages, 7x10 inches. \$15.00.

This is a good looking, well bound book printed on good paper; well illustrated with Roger Mengel's line drawings in addition to the six color plates and two-page chromatic hexagon with added arbitrary list of named colors.

The paper deserves a special word. It is off-white, smooth and uncoated stock from which there is no glare. The type is easy to read.

This volume is the first of a series which is to comprise at least six when complete. Volume I treats the species, loons through flamingos, in sequence; but first comes the introduction which is unusually instructive, giving a new nomenclature for the molts that should be studied carefully before reading the species discussion. Then there is the chromatic hexagon in which the reader can see the colors mentioned in the text; and, among the diagrams, illus-

tration of the newer method of numbering the primaries and secondaries.

The discussion of the species is in non-technical language, and, as far as present information permits, covers the description of the species, plumage stages, subspecies, giving diagnostic characteristics, hybrids, field identification, voice, calls, songs, habitat, distribution behavior, feeding habits, banding records. For example, 10 pages are devoted to western grebe and include a map showing breeding range, winter range, breeding and winter range, casual breeding and migration, records of stragglers; illustrations of courting and display; and 8 pages of discussion which summarizes present information about the species.

This volume is a fine book, informative and interesting to professional and amateur; a reference work that should be in school, college and public libraries, and that will be welcomed by the many who have not been able to acquire full sets of Bent's Life Histories. It doubtless will be the standard reference work for many years. It is well worth having and the other volumes will be anxiously awaited.—**J. Scott Findley.**

S. D. O. U. HONORARY MEMBERS

Listed below are those who have received Honorary Memberships in S.D.O.U. over the past years:

W. H. Over, Vermillion, S. Dak.	1949
Stephen S. Visher, Bloomington, Ind.	1951
W. B. Mallory, Canton, S. Dak.	1953
J. O. Johnson, Watertown, S. Dak.	1961
O. S. Pettingill, Ithaca, New York	1962

All of these members have given much to the knowledge of South Dakota ornithology and to S.D.O.U.—**Nelda Holden**

Convention . . . 1963

Herman P. Chilson, Convention Chairman

Welcome to the friendly city of Webster! We will have as our banquet speaker, Dr. Dwain Warner, Curator of the Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota.



SKELETON PROGRAM

Friday Evening, May 24th:

Get together, and registration at the **Webster Armory**, our convention headquarters. For those who desire we can arrange an escorted tour through our Saline Water Plant, run by the U. S. Dept. of the Interior (the largest one of its kind in the world). Dutch lunch.

Saturday, May 25th:

6:00 a. m. Field Trips

Group I: Leader, Bob Johnson, manager of Waubay Wildlife Refuge.

Group II: Leader, Alfred Peterson

(Other trips and meetings to be arranged)

6:30 p. m. Banquet, Dr. Dwain Warner, speaker.

Sunday, May 26th:

6:00 a. m. Field Trips

Group I: Leader, Bob Johnson, in and around the Refuge.

Group II: Leader, Alfred Peterson, Rush and Bitter Lakes, etc.

12:00 Field Lunch at the Refuge

1:00 p. m. Compilation of lists.

1:30 p. m. Adios until next year.



Hotel and Motel Accommodations

	Single	Double
Klein Hotel	2.50 to 3.50	3.50 to 5.50
Kidder's Motel	3.50	5.00
Arbach Motel	3.50 to 4.00	7.00 to 8.00
Holiday Motel	6.50 to 8.00	11.00 to 14.00

Giant Canada Goose

The sudden and dramatic news that the Giant Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis maxima*, long considered extinct, is very much alive is particularly heartening amid our normal discouraging fare of species doomed to disappear. The story of the discovery, made by Dr. Harold C. Hansen of the Illinois Natural History Survey, will stand unlimited retelling in detail, when we have more than the bare bones of it. For the moment these great birds have been found breeding in their original territory, right here in northeastern South Dakota, about Sand Lake and Waubay Refuges, and in Minnesota, with a big colony in the refuge at Rochester. With the proper protection, which we sincerely hope will not be withheld from them, these splendid birds should once again become a common sight.



Nest of Black-Crowned Night Heron

—Photo by Bill Youngworth