

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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DECEMBER, 1965

Whole No. 67



Sprague's Pipit

—Courtesy E. W. Steffen

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President's Page

THE winter session started with a bang Friday night in Huron at the school auditorium with expectations fulfilled as we enjoyed Roger Tory Peterson's color film, "Wild Europe" and lecture. In short, we travelled to Europe with him, climbed a few steeples to see stork nests, became acquainted with Old World birds unfamiliar to us, and eyes opened wide as the Hoopoes, Ruffs, Bee-eaters, Gigantic Griffons, Red Kites and Oyster Catchers came to life on the screen. The varied program provided closeups of several unusual European birds and their habitat.



Peterson reminded us, "America has destroyed more species in 100 years than Europe has in the past 1,000 years." This brought to mind Toynbee's statement, "Nineteen out of twenty-one civilizations have perished from within, slowly, quietly, in the dark, not from armed forces without but from decay of spiritual forces within."

The Huron Bird Club entertained us at a Peterson Appreciation Night Coffee Party with each member having an opportunity to visit with Roger and his charming wife. Saturday morning session convened with the report of the Annotated Check List committee read by chairman, Nat Whitney who suggested additional members be added. The report was accepted with the following members constituting the Check List committee: Nat Whitney, Herbert Krause, Alfred Peterson, J. W.

Johnson, Nelda Holden, Paul Springer and H. H. Chapman. This is a tremendous undertaking and will be successful in direct proportion to the assistance you and I are willing to give this committee.

Jean Jonkel, Kordellia Johnson, Nelda Holden and Blanche Battin were named to the library committee with instructions to study acquisitions and repositories. The paper session concluded the morning program with Paul Springer's, "Survey of Birds on the Altamount Prairie," Les Baylor's "Some Black Hills Habitat Considerations," Nat Whitney's, "Plumage Variations of the Rough-legged Hawk." The chair called for invitations to host the May convention of S.D.O.U. and Brookings' bid was accepted. Mark these dates on your calendar: May 14th and 15th, 1966, Brookings, South Dakota.

After the noon luncheon a panel discussion was opened with David Holden of State University, Brookings, as moderator. Mr. Konsler of Huron College, Ruth Habeger of Beadle College, Mr. Myers of State University, Paul Springer of State University and Byron Harrell of University of South Dakota, Vermillion were panelists. Reports were given on activities of Biology departments at different schools, discussion of natural study areas and biological problem areas.

Saturday evening we attended a Smorgasbord dinner in appreciation of Herman F. Chapman and his work so essential in S.D.O.U.'s founding. Mr. and Mrs. Whitmus provided the program by showing us their best slides

(Concluded on Page 88)

A Study of the Breeding Biology of the Chestnut-Collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) in Northeastern South Dakota

L. J. Moriarty

Introduction

DURING the early part of the summer of 1965 observations were made in Codington County, South Dakota on the breeding biology of a nesting pair of Chestnut-Collared Longspurs. Observation covered the period from nest building until the young were fledged.

Purpose and Method of Investigation

The purpose of the observations and recording of data was to determine the incubation period and the daily weight and gain of the young from hatching until flight. The rate of growth was recorded daily after the sixth day by measuring the third primary wing quill. Observations were made at selected intervals during nest building and incubation. Daily observations were made after the birds were hatched until they fledged. At each visit all significant data on the growth of the young were recorded along with any unusual behavior of the parents.

Nest Building and Egg Laying

April 28. The female was observed lining the nest which consisted of a hole dug into the sod about 2" deep and 2½" wide. The female did all the building while the male watched and sang. Copulation took place twice during the one hour the birds were observed.

April 30. The nest was completed and contained no eggs.

May 3 (1 p.m.). The nest was in the

same condition as at the April 30th observation.

May 4 (7 a. m.). There was one egg which I numbered on the large end.

May 5 (7 a. m.). A second egg was present in the nest and numbered.

May 6 (6 p. m.). A third egg was present. The female went onto the nest 20 minutes after I left the area. The male left his singing post after she went to the nest.

May 7 (7 a. m.). When I flushed the female from the nest she fluttered away about 10 feet. After putting the crippled bird act she went to feeding. I marked the fourth egg and weighed them. They weighed an average of 1.38 grams each.

Laying took place between dark and 7 a. m. each day for four days. The eggs were numbered one to four. The female was not on the nest any of the mornings during observations until the day the fourth and last egg was laid. She was near the nest each morning but simply walked away, feeding as though unconcerned, until the third egg was laid, at which time she showed some concern. Each day the male showed concern, flew around singing. The male sang at intervals of about 30 seconds. Twice while I watched, the male flew at and drove a ground squirrel away from the nest area.

Incubation and Hatching

I stayed away from the nest until May 16-17, at which times no evidence

of hatching was observed except the increased concern of both parents.

May 18 (2:30 p. m.). Egg No. 1 was hatched, 14 days plus 6 hours after laying. This was 11 days and 6 hours after I was sure incubation started. Eggs No. 2 and No. 3 were pipped at this time and hatched, young still moist at 5:30 p. m. By this time No. 4 was pipped, to hatch and dry by 7 p. m. It took about 1 to 1½ hours to complete hatching after the egg was pipped. The shells, I surmise, were eaten as none were in the nest and I never saw either bird carry any shell away. During the hatching period the male stayed within 2 to 4 feet of the nest singing often.

The young were color marked on the underside with vegetable dye of different colors. All were weighed at hatching. Each weighed almost exactly .37 grams, a total of 5.48 grams.

Growth of Young to Fledging

May 19 (6 p. m.). The young weighed 2.33 grams each, a gain of 0.96 grams. This represents a gain in weight of about 71 per cent in the first 24 hours or about three per cent per hour. During one hour there were 10 feedings by the male and six by the female. Each time the male came with food the female left to gather more food. The male covered the young each time the female left for food. Both flew directly from the nest to gather food and upon returning landed several feet from the nest and walked to it with the food which I could not identify. The male sang only upon returning with food. He did not take time to go to his singing post.

May 20 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 3.54 grams, a gain of 1.21

grams. The young were blind and the mouth lining yellowish-orange.

May 21 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 4.80 grams, a gain of 1.26 grams. Neither bird was brooding the young at this time. The temperature was 70° F. The male went to the nest to feed the young within less than a minute after I moved from the nest.

May 22 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 6.50 grams, a gain of 1.70 grams. Female brooding young. After she was flushed she put on the cripple act and gave alarm call bringing the male. Raining.

May 23 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 7.78 grams, a gain of 1.28 grams. Female stayed on nest until I was within 3 feet, fluttered a few feet away and came right back.

May 24 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 9.14 grams, a gain of 1.36 grams. Third primary wing quill ¼ inch long, almost black. Female on nest. Eyes of young open, six days old.

May 25 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 10.50 grams, a gain of 1.36 grams. Third primary quill ½ inch long. Neither bird was on nest but both feeding young.

May 26 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 10.82 grams, a gain of 0.32 grams. Third primary quill 9/16 inch long. Young acted very hungry. Called for food and held mouths open when I came to the nest. Temperature was 52° F. 34° F. during night.

May 27 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 11.20 grams, a gain of 0.48 grams. Third primary quill 5/8 inch long. I believe the parents had trouble finding food for the young the last 2 days because of the weather. There

Date (May-June) 1965	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Days after hatching	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daily weight of one young (grams)	1.37	2.33	3.54	4.80	6.50	7.78	9.14	10.50	10.82	11.20	11.34	11.72	11.80	12.21	
Daily gain of one young (grams)	0.96	1.21	1.26	1.70	1.32	1.36	1.36	1.36	0.32	0.48	0.14	0.39	0.07	0.41	
Daily gain of young (per cent)	8.8	11.0	11.5	15.5	11.6	12.4	12.4	12.4	2.9	4.5	1.3	3.5	0.6	3.7	
Length of third primary wt. % quill (inches)							1 4	1 2	9 16	5 8	3 4	4 5	1 1 8		
Precipitation (inches)	0	trace	1.25	0.33	trace	1.75	0.39	—	trace	trace	—	0.40	—	trace	0.32
Temperature (degrees F)	63	66	72	67	51	64	74	67	54	42	57	65	73	82	74
	43	34	51	46	43	48	57	49	38	33	31	44	41	54	56

Fig. 1—Tabulation of field data for Chestnut-Collared Longspurs with precipitation and temperature records.
(U. S. Weather Bureau, Watertown, S. Dak.)

was rain, sleet, a little snow and temperature just above freezing, 42° F.

May 28 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 11.34 grams, a gain of 0.14 grams. Third primary quill $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long.

May 29 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 11.73 grams, a gain of 0.39 grams. Third primary quill $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Temperature 72° F.

May 30 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 11.80 grams, a gain of 0.07 grams. Third primary quill $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Young nearly completely feathered out.

May 31 (6 p. m.). The young each weighed 12.21 grams, a gain of 0.41 grams. Young were ready to leave nest.

June 1 (6 p. m.). Three young had left the nest, one dead in the nest, parents flying around but I did not find the fledged young. A heavy rain and hail the previous night.

Conclusions

Studies in South Dakota (Moriarty, L. J., South Dakota Bird Notes; 1962, V. XIV, No. 3, p. 56, 66) on the nests of Chestnut-Collared Longspurs show that nesting starts in May, two or three broods are probably raised and four eggs are common. Data from this study indicates that the eggs weigh an average of about 1.38 grams each. The young weight at hatching was 1.37 grams each. The female builds the nest and incubates during the daytime. If the male incubates at all it must be at night. Incubation period was eleven days and six hours. All young hatched during a four hour period in the order laid. The eggs hatched about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 hour apart. Both parents feed the young, the male more than the female.

The young gain about their own weight (Fig. 1) for each twenty-four hours for their first seven days. The eyes open on the fifth day and wing quills are prominently out of the skin by the fifth day. The weight gain is greatly reduced from the eighth day to fledging. About 85 per cent of their weight gain occurs during the first eight days, and about 15 per cent during the approximately five days longer they remain in the nest doing most of their feathering out. The lower temperatures, wet conditions and high winds after the eighth day may be an important factor in the drop in weight gains of the young. The young leave the nest at about 13 days of age.

General Considerations

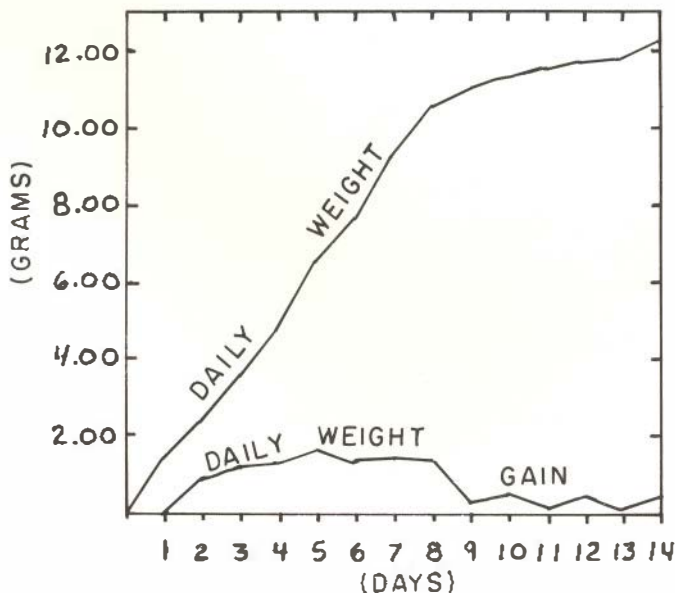
I was lucky that the bird I discovered

building did not desert the nest. However, from past experience I had learned to be careful not to kneel or step closer than about 3 feet from the nest and did not really uncover it.

I also had scales with about the correct weights on when I went to the nest and others for final balancing in my hand.

For coloring I took several brushes with colors ready so I could just tip the little birds over and dab the abdomen. No color was put on the back or head, which might cause the parents to pick at them.—Watertown.

(NOTE: Data from Dr. Moriarty's study above will be quoted with credit in the upcoming final number of the Bent: **Life History** series.—Editor.



Graph of daily weight and daily weight gain for Chestnut-collared Longspurs

Check-List of South Dakota Birds

by N. R. Whitney

List of Species Represented by Specimens

AS THE first step in the compilation of a book on the birds of South Dakota, the committee has been attempting to locate specimens collected in South Dakota. The following list is based primarily on four sources: (1) specimens mentioned by Pettingill and Whitney in **Birds of the Black Hills**, (2) review of the South Dakota State University collection by Paul Springer in August 1965, (3) summary of Youngworth, Felton, and Kubichek collections by William Youngworth in 1955, and (4) review of specimen catalogue of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History by Whitney in September 1965. Anyone knowing of specimens of other species that have been collected within South Dakota should certainly give an account in writing to the Editor, Dr. Springer, or myself. The account should give the species, the locality and the date of collection, and the present location of the specimen.

Common Loon
Red-necked Grebe
Horned Grebe
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
White Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
Least Bittern
American Bittern
Whistling Swan
Canada Goose
White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
Blue Goose

Ross Goose (from Sand Lake, in Univ. Minn. coll.)
Mallard
Black Duck
Gadwall
Pintail
American Widgeon (Baldpate)
Green-winged Teal
Blue-winged Teal
Shoveler
Wood Duck
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Canvasback
Lesser Scaup
Common Goldeneye
Bufflehead
Ruddy Duck
Common Merganser
Goshawk
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Golden Eagle
Bald Eagle
Marsh Hawk
Osprey
Prairie Falcon
Pigeon Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Blue Grouse (see Pettingill and Whitney, p. 37)
Ruffed Grouse
Greater Prairie Chicken
Sharp-tailed Grouse
Bob-white
Pheasant
Turkey
Sandhill Crane
Virginia Rail
Sora

Common Gallinule
 American Coot
 Semipalmated Plover
 Piping Plover
 Killdeer
 American Golden Plover
 Black-bellied Plover
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Common Snipe
 Long-billed Curlew
 Upland Plover
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Willet
 Greater Yellow-legs
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Knot
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Baird's Sandpiper
 Least Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Dowitcher (6 spec. from Sand Lake in
 Univ. Minn. Museum, not specifically
 identified)
 Stilt Sandpiper
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Marbled Godwit
 Hudsonian Godwit
 Sanderling
 American Avocet
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Northern Phalarope
 Herring Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Franklin's Gull
 Forster's Tern
 Common Tern
 Least Tern
 Black Tern
 Mourning Dove
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Barn Owl
 Screech Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Snowy Owl
 Burrowing Owl
 Long-eared Owl
 Short-eared Owl
 Saw-whet Owl
 Nighthawk
 Poor-will
 Chimney Swift
 White-throated Swift
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Calliope Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Yellow-shafted Flicker
 Red-shafted Flicker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Lewis Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker
 Northern Three-toed Woodpecker
 Eastern Kingbird
 Western Kingbird
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Say's Phoebe
 Least Flycatcher
 Traill's Flycatcher
 Dusky Flycatcher
 Western Flycatcher
 Western Wood Pewee
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Horned Lark
 Violet-green Swallow
 Tree Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Rough-winged Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Gray Jay
 Blue Jay
 Black-billed Magpie
 Common Crow
 Pinon Jay
 Clark's Nutcracker
 Black-capped Chickadee
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Pigmy Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Dipper

House Wren
Winter Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Canon Wren
Rock Wren
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Sage Thrasher
Robin
Wood Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Veery
Eastern Bluebird
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Water Pipit
Bohemian Waxwing
Cedar Waxwing
Northern Shrike
Loggerhead Shrike
Starling
Bell's Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Solitary Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Black and White Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Parula Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Audubon's Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Palm Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Mourning Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Yellowthroat

Yellow-breasted Chat
Wilson's Warbler
American Redstart
House Sparrow
Bobolink
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Bullock's Oriole
Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Western Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-headed Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Lazuli Bunting
Dickeissel
Evening Grosbeak
Cassin's Finch
Pine Grosbeak
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Red Crossbill
Rufous-sided Towhee
Lark Bunting
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
LeConte's Sparrow
Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
White-winged Junco
Slate-colored Junco
Oregon Junco
Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Harris Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lapland Longspur
 Chestnut-collared Longspur
 Snow Bunting (NRW Spec. prob. S. D.)
 —Rapid City.

**Additional Specimens from
 South Dakota**

Since I prepared the above list of species for which South Dakota specimens are known, I have made a careful search of the back files of **South Dakota Bird Notes**, and I find that specimens have been reported for the following additional species.

Green Heron. Specimen in Hinderman collection at Watertown.
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Specimens from Union County (S.D.B.N., 1954, p. 32) and from Kingsbury County (1958, p. 64).
 Fulvous Tree Duck. Specimen collected at Salem, McCook County (S.D. B.N., 1949, p. 35).
 Oldsquaw. Hinderman collection.
 Northern Eider. Specimen from Lake County (S.D.B.N., 1951, p. 13).
 White-winged Scoter. Specimen from Webster (see Johnson, S.D.B.N., 1964, pp. 100-101; 1965, p. 20).
 Hooded Merganser. Hinderman collection.
 Black Vulture. Hinderman collection. (This should be checked—NRW).
 Gyrfalcon. Specimen from Minnehaha County (see Chapman, S.D.B.N., 1950, p. 14), and another specimen in Hinderman collection.
 Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk). Hinderman collection.
 Gray Partridge. Hinderman collection.
 Whooping Crane. Mounted specimen from Douglas County is now in San Diego (see S.D.B.N., 1956, p. 41).
 American Woodcock. Specimen from

Union County (see S.D.B.N., 1958, p. 63).
 Pomarine Jaeger. Specimen from Madison (S.D.B.N., 1951, p. 45).
 Laughing Gull. Hinderman collection (should be checked).
 Hawk-Owl. Hinderman collection.
 Barred Owl. Specimen from Yankton (S.D.B.N., 1964, p. 98).
 Purple Martin. Hinderman collection. County (S.D.B.N., 1955, p. 13).
 Common Raven. Specimen from Roberts County (S.D.B.N., 1955, p. 13).
 Golden-winged Warbler. Specimen collected at Dell Rapids by Anderson in 1933 (S.D.B.N. quote from Wilson Bulletin, 1933).
 Nashville Warbler. Hinderman collection.
 Cape May Warbler. Hinderman collection.
 Chestnut-sided Warbler. Hinderman collection.
 Prairie Warbler. Hinderman collection.
 Canada Warbler. Hinderman collection.
 Eastern Meadowlark. 2 specimens from Bennett County (see Krumm, S. D. B.N., 1953, p. 7)—NRW.

* * * *

WATCH THAT SAW!—Dave Miner, director of Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, suspects that tree-pruning crews are as guilty as beetles in spreading Dutch elm disease fungus.

"The crews prune infected trees and then move on to prune healthy trees without disinfecting the pruning saw," Dave says. "Thus, the fungus is spread just as effectively—perhaps, more effectively—than it is spread by beetles."

Dave, who is a professional forester, believes that saw sanitation should have been mentioned in the Society's recent brochure, "Protecting Your Community's Elms." The brochure concerns the general practices in Dutch elm disease control.—**Massachusetts Audubon Newsletter.**

Birds' Nests of South Dakota

by L. J. Moriarty

A. O. U. #201 GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens virescens*)

THIS little heron nests singly or in small, loose colonies. As many as four pairs nested in a short belt of trees on the Lowry Elliott farm southeast of Milbank for several years. In 1962 and 1963 only a single pair nested there. In 1963 the nest was ten feet above ground in a spruce tree. Previously all nests were high in deciduous trees. Apparently they nest from mid-May to mid-June.

The nests are rather flat, loosely built of slim, dead twigs, no weeds or grass being used. The twigs are laid criss-cross but all were of the forked variety, which held them together. The nest is so thin the eggs may be seen from below. Usually the nest is not far from water and is sometimes placed in bushes or trees over water. It is about one foot across and with an inch-deep saucer.

The usual number of eggs is 4-5; however, the only nest I was able to photograph contained three. They were oval, smooth and a rather pretty bluish-green shade about halfway between that of the robin and the cuckoo. They measure about 1.70" x 1.10".

The incubation period is about 17 days. The young clamber around in the trees long before fledging. They are fed by regurgitation. Charles Wendell Townsend said (1926) "They breed north to Vermillion and probably Sioux Falls." However, I have seen nests at Milbank and Watertown."

The birds could very well have nested farther north in 1926 without being

observed. I do recall them in summer around Redfield, along the James River. Or they may have extended their range northward, cyclically or not, as some other birds have done in the last fifty years.

A. O. U. #683 YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*)

The Yellow-breasted Chat nests plentifully along the Missouri River and its western tributaries in South Dakota. It is less numerous elsewhere in the state, seldom being seen in the eastern third. The nests may be found with eggs from about May 10 to June 10, in wild rosebushes, buck brush, and other bushes, usually about 30" to three feet above the ground. Nearly always an old nest can be found within a foot of the new nest. Possibly it would have been made by the same birds the previous year.

The nest measures about 5" x 5" outside, the cup being 2" deep by 2½" wide. It is neatly constructed of twigs, vines, and strips of bark, well lined with very fine rootlets and strips of the inner bark of weeds, all being of a dark brown color and circularly placed.

The eggs number from three to six, usually four and measure about 22 x 17.5 mm. They are ovate with a bluish-white ground color, profusely spotted with varying shades of brown over the entire eggs, somewhat heavier about the large end, giving the effect of a fairly dark brown egg that well matches the brown lining of the nest.

The incubating bird stays on the nest

(Concluded on Page 83)

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

General Notes of Special Interest

GREEN HERON AT PICKEREL LAKE—On Sunday, May 2, 1965, I picked up my binocular and took a stroll through the woods and around the lake shore but found nothing unusual. While walking through our pasture and on into our neighbor's, which adjoins ours on the south, I suddenly noticed a bird standing alongside the fence in heavy marsh grass about 100 yards distant. I expected to see a Black-Crowned Night Heron, which is a rather common bird, but when I put the glasses on it I could see a greenish black heron smaller than the Black-Crowned and without the usual head markings.

Slowly inching forward, in the true Alfred Peterson style, it took me 30 minutes to cover the next 50 yards and now I really had a ringside seat to study this Green Heron. This was the second one I had ever seen. My old sight records list the first one near Sioux City on the 15th of May, 1955 during an S.D.O.U. convention.

Peterson says, "quite black at a distance, and shows crest when alarmed." Being close, this bird appeared very green to me and the throat seemed to be a brilliant maroon. I did not see the crest at any time nor could I secure a glimpse of the legs and feet.

I slowly withdrew with the heron occupying its original position close to the fence. Wishful thoughts raced through my mind: "I hope this heron stays around until May 8th, so that Herb Krause can see it." Unfortunately the bird did not respect my wishes be-

cause Herb and I made two unsuccessful trips to the same area looking for it. The Waubay Federal Refuge lists this bird as a temporary visitor, rare.

—**Herman P. Chilson.**

* * * *

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER SHOT IN KINGSBURY COUNTY—October 20, 1965, while hunting in Kingsbury County, I shot a male White-winged Scoter. In fifty years of duck hunting in South Dakota, the only other time I have seen and shot this species was at Lake Travis during the great Armistice Day storm of Nov. 11, 1940. On that date I shot two of these birds.

Bent gives the migration at Heron Lake, Minn. as October 11. Over and Thoms mentions a specimen in the museum taken at Lake Madison, Lake County. To me this is a rare duck, although years ago it was found nesting at Stump Lake, North Dakota.—**L. J. Moriarty, Watertown.**

* * * *

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BANK SWALLOWS KILLED BY CARS ON ROAD NORTH OF LAKE PRESTON—While driving north on the road between Lake Preston and Erwin on August 11, 1965, my car came upon a flock of small birds on the roadway. As I approached them, I was surprised that they were slow in moving out of the way, and the car hit one. I then noticed that a number of them were dead, evidently killed by passing cars, and counted about thirty. The birds seemed unable to fly safely out of the way.

Most appeared to be of the same species, a swallow. I brought one home and identified it as a bank swallow. No doubt the others were the same, and the one I examined appeared to be a young one. At close range the back was only slightly brown.

A few barn swallows were in the area but I saw none dead.

Song and Garden Birds of America, National Geographic Society, 1964, quotes one observer who estimated a thousand dead bank swallows seen on a Minnesota highway.—**Rev. Joseph Runner, Lake Preston.**

* * * *

Extra Copy Isn't a Mistake

It is the result of a decision at our Winter Meeting October 8-10, 1965. The hope is that each of you will become a local Membership Committee and give it, with your best pitch, to a likely candidate. Everybody knows someone who both needs S.D.O.U. and could contribute to the completion of the important tasks before us.

The coupon on the back of this note can be used without serious damage to the magazine. Of course the best time is now.

WHOOPIING CRANES NEAR POLLOCK—Information has been received from David F. Fisher, U. S. Game Management Agent in charge of South Dakota and stationed at Pierre, S. Dak. on the two whooping cranes seen near Pollock last fall (1964). The birds were observed by Walter A. Larsen, District Game Manager of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks at Mobridge on a sand bar northwest of Pollock on September 10. State Game Warden Lewis Smith, also of Mobridge, and Curtis Twedt, Department Biologist at Aberdeen, confirmed the identification, as did Jerome H. Stoudt of our Aberdeen office.

The birds mingled with a flock of sandhill cranes, flying to fields from this and other islands in the Missouri River. September 15 was the last date they were sighted.—**Paul F. Springer, Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, S. Dak. State University, Brookings.**

* * * *

CHIMNEY SWIFT ROOST AT MILBANK—From August 22, 1965 to September 10, I had the interesting experience of observing a chimney swifts' roost in operation. About 7:30 p. m. on August 22, when I stopped at the post-office I noticed that the air was filled with 'chittering' swifts and 'peenting' night hawks. I parked where I could watch a large smoke stack and by 7:50 p. m. some 50-75 chimney swifts had settled into the chimney and two night-hawks were still 'peenting' around. Sometimes a 'swift' straggler would hurry in out of nowhere after the air had emptied of birds. An interesting part was that at 7 p. m. not a swift could be seen and yet by 7:30 p. m. the air would be filled with twittering, fast-flying birds.

August 29. Rainy, cold. Birds settling in by 7 p. m. quieter and apparently

all in by 7:20. Two night hawks still flying around and also much quieter.

September 5. Cold and stormy. By 7:15 p. m. about 20-25 birds had dropped into the roost. No night hawks appeared.

September 7. Counted 15 swifts going into the roost. One nighthawk circling around.

September 8. Counted eight quiet swifts dropping into the roost.

September 9. Counted two chimney swifts going to roost by 7 p. m.

From September 10th on, I saw no more swifts or night hawks.

Bird Stories by W. T. Cox and D. Lange gives the best description I could find of the chimney swifts' 'going-to-bed' process and the statement that "the observer has to look sharp to see what is actually going on," I found this to be very true. Bruce Harris in *South Dakota Bird Notes* for September 1964 lists the chimney swift as a bird assumed to nest in Roberts County. Since we see them all summer in Milbank, I assume that they do nest in Grant County. Cox and Lange state: "They are usually with us from about April 20th to the middle of September in this latitude." This being a chilly September I wondered if they didn't leave earlier than customary for their long trip to Peru.—Louise Flett, Milbank.

* * * *

AMERICAN EGRETS NEAR WEBSTER—On Sunday morning, Sept. 5, while on patrol and law enforcement work, I observed eleven American Egrets standing in a farmer's pasture near a dry creek bed. Also present were six Black-crowned night herons and two Great Blue herons. The Egrets did not mingle with the other birds but stood in a group about 30 feet away.

While American Egrets have been

observed in the past, it is rather unusual to see such a large concentration of these birds in this area.

The location of this observation would be six miles east and 1½ miles north of Webster.—E. J. Fromelt, Wildlife Technician, Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

* * * *

AMERICAN EGRETS IN DAY COUNTY—J. R. Fiksdal, one of our S.D.O.U. members from Webster, reported seeing six American Egrets on the morning of September 4th, 1965 while duck hunting in the Rush Lake area. There were four in one group and a little further north were two more. This was in the area north of the Glenn Fisher farm on the west shore of Rush Lake.

Russell Jacobs also reported seeing two of them while hunting Teal. Ludvig Langager, while driving to Waubay, saw one on September 9th on the shore of Rush Lake. Many others reported seeing them including Don Miller, Bob Johnson and Mrs. Ted Ysbrand. The writer also saw them and was fortunate enough to see one in company with a little blue immature and a great blue heron on September 13, 1965.—Herman P. Chilson.

* * * *

TESTS SHOW PLANTS ABSORB INSECTICIDES FROM SOIL—Three Pennsylvania State University scientists have exploded the long-held belief that plants cannot absorb insecticides from the soil. Reporting their findings to the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society at Atlantic City, N. J., on September 16, Donald E. H. Frear, professor of chemical pesticides, Ralph O. Mumma, assistant professor of biochemistry, and William B. Wheeler, instructor, said forage crops can and do take up the insecticide DDT

from the soil through their root systems and pass it into grazing cattle.

Their findings explain a rash of reports of protesting dairymen who have had to dump milk because of the presence of DDT or dieldrin in their dairy products. Present law forbids interstate shipments of milk containing these insecticides or their residues in any degree over tolerance levels prescribed by the Food and Drug Administration.

The Penn. State report showed that even though a crop has not been sprayed in the year of harvest, pesticide residues remaining in the soil from previous years can be absorbed in the unsprayed new crop through its roots. They grew several forage crops in sand and soil that contained radioactively tagged dieldrin and other insecticides. Radioautographs of the mature plants showed that they had taken up the pesticide and distributed it throughout the bulk of the plant.—*Conservation News*.

* * * *

SOME BAND RECOVERIES

LOWRY ELLIOTT

A nestling Mourning Dove, banded here August 30, 1964, was killed in December 1964 in Michoacan State, Mexico, far south on west coast. (Latitude 18-20.—Ed.)

A nestling Mourning Dove, banded here June 5, 1960, was shot on May 12, 1964 in Sinaloa State, Mexico. (Latitude 22-26.—Ed.)

A young robin banded here August 21, 1964 was found dead, February 1965, at LaGrange, North Carolina (about 60 miles from the Atlantic Coast).

A nestling Bronzed Grackle, banded here June 7, 1964, was shot at Wynne, Arkansas, March 5, 1965.—*Bird Haven, Milbank*.

President's Page

(Concluded from Page 75)

of 1965 entitled *Prairie Birds*. Sunday was devoted to the bird banders with Nelda Holden in charge and slides of Farm Island banding were shown.

Again our sincere thanks to Jean Jonkel, our convention chairman, and her loyal helpers, for an inspiring, well organized convention.—*Webster*.

* * * *

Birds Nests of South Dakota

(Concluded from Page 84)

until one is about two to three feet from it, when it will quietly slip away downward and disappear. This is rather surprising as these birds are usually noisy and would be expected to be more aggressive.

I find cowbird eggs in the majority of their nests. They appear not to abandon the nest or dispose of cowbird eggs.—*Watertown*.

* * * *

SPOTTING SCOPE FOR SALE

H. F. Chapman, 712 South Dakota Ave., Sioux Falls, has a B. & L. Balascope 60 mm. with two eye pieces and some tripods for sale.

* * * *

ISLANDS AS BREEDING BIRD HABITAT—The longer I study birds the more I become convinced that preservation of what islands we have and perhaps construction of small man-made islands can have a great impact upon conservation and propagation of many species of birds.

An example is the nesting of the large Canada goose in Waubay area. Several have nested there for years

and this was probably the salvation of *Canadensis Maxima* which once bred in numbers in Eastern South Dakota. Small platform islands constructed on the Waubay National Wildlife area had about 20 pairs nesting on them in 1962, in addition, several pairs nested on the few natural islands in and around this refuge. Many of these platforms as well as the natural islands produced broods of ducks as well.

The island at North Waubay Lake the same year had an estimated 200 broods of white pelicans, 1500, of double crested cormorants, 200 of ring-billed Gulls and one of Canada geese. This is a bare island of not more than an acre.

So-called Helwig's Island at the same lake is an island some years, a peninsula others. Containing over 100 acres of largely deciduous woodland. I believe more Swainson's, western red tailed and Kreiders hawks, downy and hairy woodpeckers nest there than any like sized area in the state.

In Stink Lake, northwest of Watertown is a small island of about one-half acre which I waded to in May, 1963. I covered it pretty well finding 14 Avocet nests, two Wilson's Phalarope, one Mallard, one Bluewinged Teal, one Red-winged blackbird with three cowbird eggs for good measure.

A small island at Horseshoe Lake nearby has many ducks, one Canada goose, eight Avocets, two spotted Sandpipers, one upland Plover and one Willett nesting in addition to Mourning doves, Kingbirds, Grackles, Redwinged blackbirds, Yellow Warblers as well as others I missed, all on about two acres. Think what would happen if the many peninsulas around could be cut off by a dredge making many more islands. If

you really want to see nesting birds find a good little island. Many birds like isolation from predators and humans.

Farm Island near Pierre has probably a larger breeding population of black headed Grosbeaks, Chits, Viveos and Red-starts than any other similar sized area in the State.—L. J. Moriarty, Watertown.

* * * *

SUMMER Tanager AT OAKWOOD LAKES—On May 30, we took advantage of the unusually delightful weather and drove to Oakwood Lakes State Park to do some banding. We put our nets up in an area where there were rows of honeysuckle, caragana and spirea all in bloom. The many birds around were net shy and we had only indifferent success as far as numbers went.

But what we lacked in numbers and variety was more than made up when we caught a male Summer Tanager in one of our nets. We can remember only one previous sighting in South Dakota of this beautiful bird and certainly never expected to band one as far north as Oakwood Lakes. Unfortunately there were no ornithologists, amateur or otherwise to verify the identification for us, but it could hardly be mistaken for any other bird. We photographed it, of course, and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the slides.

One previous sighting was April 30, 1961 in Woodlawn Cemetery in Sioux Falls. The trees had not leaved out yet, and our view was an excellent one. We drove immediately to Dorothy Wheeler's home and she came to verify the sighting for us but, alas! We couldn't find the Tanager.

In Vol. X, No. 1 of *Bird Notes* William Youngworth records a sighting

in the McCook Lake area on May 8, 1958. This is the only mention we find of the Summer Tanager in South Dakota. Over does not list it.—Charles and Gladyce Rogge.

* * * *

MIGRATION AND WEATHER—Despite advances in weather analysis and techniques for studying bird migrations there is no clear cut understanding of how weather influences this movement. It is generally agreed that changes in barometric pressure have no effect and that birds seldom migrate when the sky is overcast, or when it is raining, or when the wind velocity is greater than a moderate speed.

Migratory passerines have been observed during their southern flight to be taking advantage of a tail wind to help speed their journey, and there is evidence to indicate birds await such a condition before setting forth. It has also been noted that during late summer and early fall birds will frequently begin their southward flight when a sudden drop in temperature occurs. Some observers consider this factor to be the stimulus that initiates flight.

Despite the lack of agreement on the specific factor or factors involved, most all agree that mass migrations of passerines occurring during the fall often follow a slow moving cold front.—Aron C. Epple, in *The Passenger Pigeon*.

* * * *

IOWA MAN WORKS ON PROJECT—Robert C. Paulson, Jr. of Cedar Falls, Iowa is working on a project concerned with the summer and year-round distribution of the Green Heron and the Black-crowned Night Heron. He wishes persons who sight marked birds of these two species to report the sightings. The birds are marked in one or more of the following ways: Aluminum government band; colored leg band; and in some cases a “back saddle” and/or dyed feather patches. Information desired on each sighting includes: Exact location; habitat; behavior; exact time of observation; number of bands on legs; unusual color patterns visible, if the bird is not alone, the number of other herons with it; species; observer's name and address. Information is to be sent to: **Robert C. Paulson, Jr., 2504 College Street, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 50613.**

Snowy Owls ???

Anyone seeing Snowy Owls this winter? Please send location, dates, and numbers to Don Adolphson, 669 Ohio SW, Huron, 57350, so his study of their migration can be continued another year.

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Ward, Adelaide	Provo	57774
Washburn, Hattie	Rural Route, Goodwin	57238
Watters, Earl W.	P. O. Box 55, Mellette	57461
Weyler, Irma G.	Belle Fourche	57717
Whitmus, Mrs. Harold V.	5800 Saylor St., Lincoln, Nebraska	68506
Whitney, Dr. Nathaniel R. Jr. ...	633 South Berry Pines Road, Rapid City	57704
Wickre, Harold ●.	420 E. 9th, Webster	57274
Williamson, Ellen	312 South 5th Street, Milbank	57252
Winter, Bertha	2102 Sumner Street, Lincoln, Nebraska	68502
Wipf, Mrs. John	Freeman	57029
Woodward, Mary C.	110 S. Conner, Hot Springs	57747
Woolstencroft, Mrs. Mark	P. ●. Box 634, Watertown	57201
Yale University Library ...	170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut	06500
Yankton College Library	Yankton	57078
Yarger, Mrs. L. B.	2742 W. St. Anne, Rapid City	57704
Youngworth, Wm.	3119 E. 2nd, Sioux City, Iowa	51105



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