

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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SEPTEMBER, 1966

Whole No. 70



Great Horned Owl

—Fred W. Kent

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South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

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President's Page

ONE OF our members, after reading the President's Page in the March issue of Bird Notes, suggested that I was trying to turn S. D. ● U. into a conservation organization. The dictionary defines conservation as "The act of keeping or protecting from loss or injury; the preservation of natural resources for economical use; specifically the preservation of forests, fisheries, harbors and the like." Ornithology is listed as, "The branch of zoology that treats of birds." The S. D. ● U. constitution outlines our goal, "To encourage the study of birds in South Dakota and to promote the study of ornithology by more closely uniting the students of this branch of natural sciences."

Our hobby, ornithology, is just one of the many facets of nature. In order to preserve our particular segment we must help to protect the whole. We should be deeply concerned, alert and ready to attack specific dangers such as water and air pollution, sale of lethal insecticides such as DDT, which kill or reduce the reproductive capacities of our birds, destruction of wild flowers, trees, shrubs and mammals.

I share the views of Brooks Atkinson, New York Times writer, "The history of American civilization could be written in terms of our changing attitudes towards nature. In 300 years we have passed through three significant stages:

1. Indifference or hostility to nature.
2. Romantic delight in nature.

3. A fear that man, the great predator, may destroy nature and civilization at the same time.

4. If there is a fourth stage, it will portray a world short of food, cramped for space, and bereft of beauty."

Years ago, Audubon magazine devoted most of its pages to the pleasures of bird watching. Today it must be more realistic and employs a Washington writer to report each month on legislation pertinent to conservation and natural resources.

I certainly do not suggest that we change S. D. O. U. into a conservation club; there are too many overlapping organizations as it is. By all means, we should cherish our constitution and strive to attain the goals of our founders, but we should also discard our provincial attitude and with clearer vision accept new challenges and concepts as they arise.

To make our organization more effective we must increase the membership. Have you secured a new member lately? Have you ever experienced the thrill of enrolling a Junior member, helping him get started, and watching him develop into a real birder? Let us all assist our membership chairman, Lowry Elliott, who has in his own quiet way, kept our roster on an even keel these past four years. Lowry started with a membership of 169 in 1960, increased it to 237 in 1962, maintained it at 234 in 1965. We expect great things from our west river membership committee, and are grateful to Lois and Herman Chapman for their generous financial support which made this possible.—Herman P. Chilson,



Some Black Hills Observations

L. M. Baylor

"MAKE your ornithological observations known" is the repeated plea at S. D. O. U. meetings and in *Bird Notes*. The *Birds of South Dakota* Check-List Committee needs and welcomes all additional information about South Dakota birds to make the new check-list as thorough and comprehensive as possible. The following observations should be of use to the Check-List Committee and hopefully may encourage other observers to send their reports to *Bird Notes*. While the present contribution concentrates on migrant birds, it should be pointed out that the committee especially desires more information on the nesting status of all birds in South Dakota.

EARED GREBE *Podiceps caspicus*: Eleven individuals were at Canyon Lake, west Rapid City, 21 April 1964, one on 22 April 1964, and two on 25 April 1964. Pettingill and Whitney, *Birds of the Black Hills*, 1965 (subsequent references will be by the abbreviated title B. B. H.) record Whitney's observations of single Eared Grebes at Canyon Lake, April and May 1954, April and June 1955, and 29 December 1957. This 1964 observation seems significant in the larger number of the group.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*: A male and female were on Canyon Lake, 10 April 1966. The observation lasted 30 minutes at 60 yards with a 20x scope. The pair of Ring-necked Ducks swam near but not with a group of five Lesser Scaup and 18 Green-winged Teal. The male Ring-necked Duck had the distinctive white patches in front of the wings, dark back, and white ring on the bill. The female had

the white bill-ring and white eye-ring, and she seemed slightly smaller than the female Lesser Scaup. B. B. H. shows two occurrences of the female Ring-necked Duck. This 1966 observation apparently is the first record for the male Ring-necked Duck at Canyon Lake.

BUFFLEHEAD *Bucephala albeola*: 19 April 1964, one male and one female appeared at Canyon Lake. This species is not included in B. B. H.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*: A male and female were on Canyon Lake, 26 April 1966. B. B. H. records this species as an uncommon fall transient. The April observation appears to be the first spring migration of the Ruddy Duck noted at Canyon Lake.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*: One male and three females were at Canyon Lake, 6 and 8 April 1965. Identification was made with a 20x scope at 75 yards. 20 March 1966, one male appeared at Canyon Lake. It was first observed by Baylor with the 20x scope at 60 yards. Dr. N. R. Whitney later came to the lake and observed this single Red-breasted Merganser. This species, presumably the same bird, was still at the lake on 21 March 1966. B. B. H. does not include this species, and according to information in the 1957 *A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds*, the Red-breasted Mergansers at Canyon Lake seemed to be somewhat west and substantially east of their typical migration routes.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*: 11 September 1965, a single Osprey was ob-

served flying over Sheridan Lake (east-central Black Hills) twice at intervals about an hour apart. B. S. H. notes four other records of the Osprey in the Black Hills, only one of which is for a September date.

SORA *Porzana carolina*: 24 and 25 August 1965, an individual was at the Bear Spring beaver dams north of Custer, S. Dak., east of Bear Mountain, and one mile north of U. S. Forest Service Road 291. B. B. H. contains only three previous occurrences of the Sora, but systematic checking of marsh and pond areas in the Hills might produce more records for this species.

CALIFORNIA GULL *Larus californicus*: A single gull was at Canyon Lake, 9 May 1965. For about 30 minutes, it was observed, both in flight and on the water, at distances from 60 to 80 yards (20x scope). Markings noted were gray mantle, black wing tips with white spots, dark eye, red spot on the lower mandible, tail all white. The leg color was not seen, but the bird's size seemed closer to that of a Ring-billed Gull rather than to that of a Herring Gull. On analysis of the chart on gulls in Peterson, *A Field Guide to the Western Birds* (1961), p. 123, I believe this observation was of a California Gull accidentally appearing in Rapid City. However, Over and Thoms, *Birds of South Dakota*, rev. ed., 1946, reported the California Gull as a straggler north of the Black Hills at the Cheyenne and Belle Fourche Rivers and at Orman Dam. No doubt, we need a current report on the California Gull's status in the Belle Fourche area.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus*: 9 June 1965, two individuals appeared in the elm trees at 2003 Red Dale Dr., Rapid City. This species is not included in B. B. H., but I believe Dr. and Mrs. N. R. Whitney also observed the Great Crested Fly-

catcher at the west edge of Rapid City in June of 1965.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD *Sialia sialis*: A male and female were at Rapid City's Skyline Drive near the KRSD tower, 26 April 1964. They engaged in extensive chasing that might have been preliminary mating activity. The female seemed to be the aggressor.

28 May 1966, Ronald Gray, a former member of the Black Hills Audubon Society, reported a singing male Eastern Bluebird near the National Guard land at the west end of Red Dale Dr. In early June, our joint efforts to find this species in the same area were unsuccessful.

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius*: At Roosevelt Park in east Rapid City, a singing male Orchard Oriole was observed, 25 May 1966. The following two days, 26 and 27 May 1966, a male and female were at the same location and were engaged in apparent courtship display.

GRAY-HEADED JUNCO *Junco caniceps*: 8 April 1966, an individual fed on the ground at the mouth of the box canyon immediately southwest of 1941 Red Dale Dr. It fed with a mixed flock of White-winged Juncos, *Oreganus* subspecies Juncos, a few Slate-colored Juncos, One Song Sparrow, one Tree Sparrow, and one Lincoln's Sparrow. Observations were at 20 yards with a 20x scope and at 10 yards with 7x35 binoculars, for 20 minutes. The bird's markings were distinctly those of a Gray-headed Junco: bright brown-red back patch; pale gray head, breast, and sides; pale white bill; dark eye; and black mask from the eye to the base of the bill. The bird stood out in sharp contrast to the other juncos in the flock.

(Concluded on Page 62)

Open-Country Buteo Nesting

D. G. Adolphson

DURING May, June, and July of 1966, 23 open-country or prairie-savannah buteo nests were located with the aid of George Jonkel and J. W. Johnson in 14 counties of South Dakota. Since we all live in Beadle County and travel its roads more than those of the other counties, the bias in the following data is inescapable, and should not be forgotten.

RED-TAILED HAWK NESTING

Red-tailed hawks were seen in seven areas during the nesting season and three nests were found. A nest in Gregory County, along the Missouri River, fledged three young about June 15. A nest in Mellette County along the South Fork of the White River contained one young about two weeks old and one egg on June 16. The nests were in cottonwood trees and at heights from 40 to 50 feet. The other nest was located in Day County and the status is unknown.

SWAINSON'S HAWK NESTING

Swainson's hawks were the commonest buteos in the State during the breeding season. Thirty-six were seen in different areas from Brookings County in the eastern part of the State to Meade and Pennington Counties in the western part. One hawk was in the melanistic phase.

Eighteen nests were found of which six were known successful, nine were believed unsuccessful and the status of three is unknown. Four of the nests fledged two young and two nests fledged three young. Failure of six nests was due to wind and rain storms and of three nests to abandonment, cause unknown. Habitat preference seem to be in the open country in the central

part of the State where 15 of the nests were found.

The hawks were first seen in their territories the last week of April and by the middle of May had selected nest sites. Most hawks were incubating by the last week of May. During the incubation period three nests were checked on June 15, 16 and 23 and found to contain three eggs each. One of the nests fledged two young, one nest was destroyed and the other was abandoned. After the nests were unsuccessful the adults were not seen in the areas.

The nests ranged in height from about 20 to 50 feet and were made of large sticks, twigs, weeds and grasses. Many of them contained bark and fresh green leaves, some attached to the twigs. The nests were built in solitary trees out on the prairie, groves of trees along drainageways and shelterbelts away from farmsteads. The closest nest to a farmstead was one-fourth mile distant, but usually they were over a mile from any buildings. Only three new nests were built; the others used were old ones that were repaired or rebuilt. Two of the new nests were abandoned and most of the other unsuccessful nests had the new material blown off during storms.

In July the young were in all stages of development with the first young to leave the nest about the first week of July. However, most young were not ready until the last half of the month.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK NESTING

Two nests were found during the breeding season; however, three Ferruginous hawks were seen in areas west

of the Missouri River. The first nest was found on May 6 in Hughes County. It was about 50 feet high in a solitary cottonwood tree. On July 6 one young was found on the ground and one young was in the nest. Both young were well feathered out and appeared like the

young in SDBN Vol. XVIII: 14-15.

Another nest was reported in Hand County and on June 15 contained three young. The nest was built on the ground by a large rock on the highest hill in the area. One young was believed to have been fledged.

**TABLE OF SWAINSON'S HAWKS' NESTS OBSERVED IN SOUTH DAKOTA
IN 1966**

County	Nest No.	Habitat	Hgt. (ft.)	Dis-covery Date	Remarks
Beadle	1	Shelterbelt	30	5-4-66	Hawk on nest on 5-26-66. Adults seen in area on 7-16-66, nest empty. Status of young unknown.
	2	Grove along drainageway	30	5-26-66	Hawk on nest on 6-15-66. Two well-feathered young in nest on 7-16-66. Young believed fledged.
	3	Solitary tree	30	6-15-66	Two downy covered young in nest on 7-16-66. Nest empty on 7-24-66, adults defending territory.
	4	Shelterbelt	25	5-6-66	Three young ready to leave nest on 7-24-66. Young believed fledged.
	5	Solitary tree	30	5-13-66	No hawks in area on 7-24-66, nest had been partly destroyed.
	6	Grove along drainageway	25	5-24-66	Three eggs in nest on 6-23-66. Nest empty on 7-19-66, no hawks in area.
	7	Solitary tree	25	6-20-66	Hawk on nest on 6-20-66. Nest empty on 6-25-66, no hawks in area.
	8	Solitary tree	30	5-6-66	No hawks in area on 6-15-66, nest had been destroyed.
Erookings	9	Shelterbelt	30	5-15-66	Hawks seen building nest on 5-15-66. Status of young unknown.
Brown	10	Solitary tree	25	5-19-66	No hawks in area on 7-19-66, nest had been partly destroyed.
Hand	11	Grove along drainageway	30	5-6-66	Three eggs in nest on 6-15-66. No hawks in area on 7-18-66, nest had been partly destroyed.

Hughes	12	Grove along drainageway	25	5- 6-66	Three young about one week old in nest on 7-6-66. No hawks in area on 7-18-66, nest had been partly destroyed. Young found dead in water at base of tree.
Hyde	13	Solitary tree	20	5- 5-66	No hawks in area on 7-6-66, nest empty.
Jerauld	14	Shelterbelt	30	5- 6-66	Hawk on nest on 6-15-66. Two young about two weeks old on 7-18-66. Young seen near nest on 8-8-66. Young believed fledged.
Lyman	15	Solitary tree	25	5- 5-66	Three eggs in nest on 6-16- 66. Two young well-feathered out on 7-18-66. Young believed fledged.
Meade	16	Shelterbelt	25	5-18-66	Hawk on nest on 5-18-66. Status of young unknown.
Sanhorn	17	Solitary tree	50	7- 9-66	Two young in nest well- feathered out on 7-14-66. Young believed fledged.
Spink	18	Grove along drainageway	25	5-24-66	Two young ready to leave nest on 7-19-66. Young believed fledged.

—Huron

Bald Eagle — Symbol of Our Nation

(Folio, 11¾" x 15½". Full color painting of Bald Eagle in landscape by Bob Hines with facing page of text. Heavy white paper. Suitable for display or framing.)—J. W. Johnson.

Dear Friends:

This document was produced as a part of our continuing effort to alert Americans to the dwindling numbers of our national bird. We hope it will make more of us concerned about the future of the symbol of our country.

We are relying on sales of this folder to get it widely distributed. The Superintendent of Documents of the U. S. Government Printing Office ordered 50 thousand copies in the first printing. These will be sold at 50 cents per copy. When purchased in quantities of 100 or more, a 25 per cent discount is available. Those purchasing copies for resale are also eligible for this discount.

The simple design of the folder makes it suitable as a display piece for bulletin boards in schools and libraries or for framing and hanging on walls of offices and elsewhere.

It will perhaps interest you to know that the folder is a by-product—a dividend of our new book, *Birds in Our Lives*, which is due to be published in October of this year. This comprehensive volume on birdlife and people has a chapter on our national symbol, the bald eagle. The frontispiece in it features the bald eagle—the same illustration which appears in this folder.

It is a pleasure to invite you to help us bring the message of *Symbol of Our Nation* to our people. We will welcome your concern, your ideas, and your support in this venture.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN S. GOTTSCHALK, Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

White Pelican Die-Off at Cavour Lake

J. W. Johnson

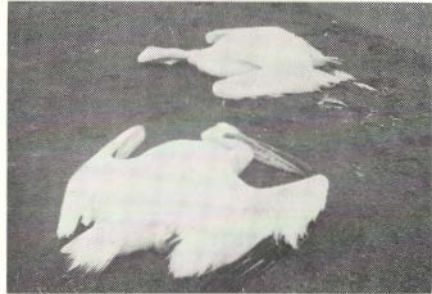
DURING September 8-20, 1965 there was a die-off of white pelicans and other marsh birds in Cavour Lake, Beadle County, South Dakota. On September 19, Don Adolphson and George Jonkel walked the shoreline and recorded the dead birds and checked for bands. The dead birds included 101 pelicans, 27 Great blue herons, 38 Black-crowned night herons, three Cormorants, one Ring-billed gull, one Blue-winged teal and one Green-winged teal. This was after the special teal season and the teal may have died from wounds. They were not autopsied.

There were approximately 400-500 ducks and coots on the lake at the time. The lake has fish, and many bullheads and some catfish and bluegills were dying.

It is possible since all of these birds are fish-eaters that they obtained the pesticides from the affected fish. The fish, in turn, could accumulate pesticides from their food.

There were 87 dead pelicans on or near the shore and they were checked for bands. Three of them were banded. The reports on the bands showed that they were banded on Chase Lake, North Dakota by Dr. Gammell of Kenmore.

Three of the pelicans were taken to South Dakota State University, at Brookings for botulism and pesticide tests. A water sample was also taken for bluegreen algae testing. The tests for botulism and bluegreen algae were negative, but the staff could not complete the pesticide tests. Dr. Paul Springer arranged to have tissue from the pelicans tested for pesticides at the Denver Wildlife Research Center. The



Lake Cavour - Dead Pelicans Along the Shore

—Photos by Don Adolphson

conclusion was that the birds were Toxaphene casualties. The three different birds had, respectively, 6.5, 16.0 and 11.0 parts per million of Toxaphene in the fat tissue. They also had significant amounts of DDE and dieldrin in fat tissues and small amounts in liver tissue.

No Toxaphene had been used for fish eradication in this vicinity, but from the large number of bird species involved, it appears that the Toxaphene poisoning came from Cavour Lake. It seems likely that the Toxaphene came from leaching of farm land in the drainage basin.—Huron.

Weights of Some Robins

J. W. Johnson

A SAMPLE weighing of robins was made at Huron as a part of the banding program carried on by George and Jean Jonkel, Blanche Battin, Lucille Johnson, and myself.

The birds were caught in nets as they came in to roost about sunset and after.

The working scale used was a Hanson 1000 gram scale, spring type, with four-gram divisions on a five-inch dial, adjustable for tare by rotating the dial. Readings to single grams were made without difficulty. The working scale was compared with an Ohaus balance scale at Huron College over the working range by Dr. R. K. Strong, Professor of Chemistry at Huron College. The comparison gave such slight differences that no correction was made in the reading of the Hanson scale.

COMPARISON

Hanson Scale	Balance Scale
71 grams	71 grams
216 grams	217.5 grams

While the working scale may have left something to be desired in theory, it was used with care and, under the conditions of the site, we had no reason to want a better instrument for the purpose. It is believed that errors other than a possible misreading in spite of our care are not of practical significance.

The method used was to put the birds, after banding, in a paper sack, held by a spring clothespin, with which the scale had previously been adjusted

to zero. The dial then read the birds' weight directly. Zero was again checked with sack and clothespin after the bird was removed. Generally the birds lay still in the sack and little trouble was caused by a quivering needle. The slightly changing weight of the sack due to evening dew and excretia was always corrected by bringing the scale to zero before the bird was put in the sack. A clean, dry sack was substituted often.

Individual weights for all birds weighed are given to allow any further analysis the data might suggest.

While the birds are divided by sex, our experience with retraps over the years on this project indicates a considerable percentage of error can be expected when sexing immature robins by color. The usual error is to call female birds that a year or two later on retrap seem most likely to be male. This should be kept in mind when drawing any conclusions from the data.

Attention is directed to the weights of Sept. 9, which average 10 to 17 grams lighter than those of other nights. This was noted and discussed at the time in comparison with prior experiences with late summer and fall robins. The reason weighing was undertaken was because we had recognized that some evenings the birds were much heavier or lighter than others.

A part of the same consideration was a further observation of the later sum-

mer and fall robins: They tended to have high runs of similar color patterns, sometimes for only one evening.

These and other observations have

suggested the possibility of occasional isolated populations north of us migrating together and stopping in a body here for the night.—Hurou.

WEIGHTS — GRAMS

Date	Immature			Adult	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
9-07-63	88	88	80	78	
	86	82	84	87	
	84	92	84		
	82	83	93		
	83	83	86		
	92		80		
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	943	507	165		
Average	85.72	84.5	82.5		
9-09-63	70	72	80	80	66
	64	74	92	88	74
	65	66	76	68	80
	72	68	76	76	64
	68	62	66	74	66
	74	68	70	78	64
	62	68	69	78	70
	68	72	68	78	66
	72	72		60	76
				54	76
				66	72
				—	—
				—	—
Total	1237	597	1574	148	
Average	68.7	74.6	71.5	74	
9-15-63	65	85	88		92
	87	88			
	87	80			
	90	84			
	88	86			
	90	82			
	82	91			
—	—	—	—	—	
Total	1185	88			92
Average	84.6				
9-20-63	68	83	88	76	80
	76	83	85	72	72
	81	90	77	82	64
	68	86	92	77	74
	79	80	62	90	88
	84	81		86	
	90	86		80	
—	—	—	—	—	
Total	1135	404	563	378	
Average	81.0	80.8	80.4	75.6	

(Continued on Page 60)

(Continued from Page 59)

WEIGHTS — GRAMS

Date	Immature				Adult	
	Male		Female		Male	Female
9-21-63	81	78	78		84	78
	84	84	78		80	
	93	84	76		83	
	84	87	78		82	
	81	85	78	87	81	
	86	92	82	80	82	
	77	82	84			
	81					
		—	—	—	—	—
Total	1259		721		492	78
Average	83.8		80.1		82	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION SETS PESTICIDE POLICY IN MICHIGAN

—On March 11, 1966 the Michigan Conservation Commission set an example which we hope will be used as a model by other government agencies and private individuals. The introduction to this policy states:

“The Conservation Department considers that chemical pesticides are essential tools of modern existence. The Department also recognizes that some chemicals can harm beneficial life and the entire human environment even when used as recommended and that extremely minute quantities of certain pesticides can be detrimental to life. For these reasons they must be employed with the knowledge, skill and restraint demanded by such other tools as nuclear energy, narcotic drugs, antibiotics and chain saws.”

Dr. C. T. Black and Paul R. Flink are the two department pesticide advisors who are to implement the policy. They will prepare and maintain up-to-date instructions for use of approved pesticides. These guidelines will be made available to all department personnel concerned.

The department realizes that its basic responsibility in using pesticides is to avoid contributing to environmental contamination. Biological controls will take precedence over chemical controls. Only the most selective of chemicals in the smallest possible dosages will be applied with the safest carriers so that any possible harmful effects will be minimal.

Before a pesticide is approved for use an appraisal of anticipated results and possible harmful effects must be made by the advisors. Pesticide use will be limited to the particular area where the pest occurs to void unnecessary and dangerous environmental contamination.

Those chemicals, such as DDT and dieldrin, known to concentrate in living organisms will be avoided. Even the comparatively safe malathion and methoxychlor which pose hazards to fish, wildlife, insect foods and beneficial insects will be used with caution to avoid injury to the natural community.

Unfortunately, this policy applies only to department lands.—Michigan Audubon Newsletter, April-May, 1966.

SDOU Business Meeting

MAY 14, 1966, BROOKINGS

PRESIDENT Chilson opened the meeting by reading a telegram from Herb Krause who is on a year's leave to the Philippines. A letter was also read which told of the birds he was seeing there.

The secretary's minutes were read and corrected as designated by the group.

Nat Whitney, chairman of the Check-List Committee, said that the list had been divided among the committee members as follows: Paul Springer—Loons through Hawks, Whitney—Grouse through Woodpeckers, J. W. Johnson—Flycatchers through Vireos, Nelda Holden—Warblers through sparrows. Alfred Peterson is helping with the shorebirds. Mrs. Morris Harter was placed on the Check-List Committee because of her help with the work and her knowledge of the birds of her area. Keith Evans will be working on the prairie grouse and will keep notes on all birds in his working area this summer. The breeding ranges of birds in the state will be plotted on maps as a means of studying their extent. Everyone should keep records of any nests seen. It was recommended that they be kept on Cornell Nest Record Program cards and a duplicate be kept for SDOU.

Byron Harrell extended an invitation to SDOU to hold the Winter Meeting in Vermillion. He has students studying hawks and owls and they could present papers. He suggested a half day field trip to Yankton to see Bald Eagles and wintering ducks. Les Baylor moved that we accept the invitation with the stipulation that it be held during the month of November, exact date

to be chosen by the directors. Motion carried. (The date chosen was November 25-27.—Ed.)

Nat Whitney invited the group to West River for the Spring Meeting, saying that Belvidere would like to host the meeting. His motion that the invitation of Belvidere be accepted for the Spring Meeting carried.

Jean Jonkel presented the illustrations of the Lark Buntings by Wayne Trimm for an emblem for SDOU. She said good use should be made of this fine emblem. Her suggestions were: a small copy to be used on the cover of Bird Notes and that decals, book plates, and stationery be made.

Les Baylor moved that the president appoint a committee to be empowered to order and sell decals, shoulder patches, and stationery. Rogge seconded the motion. It was amended to use money from the treasury to start the project. Motion carried. President Chilson appointed to the committee: Jean Jonkel, chairman; Nelda Holden, and Jim Johnson.

Jean Jonkel moved that Wayne Trimm be made an Honorary Member of SDOU. Nat Whitney seconded with the stipulation that Wayne receive a letter expressing our appreciation for all he has done for SDOU.

President Chilson said the following directors' terms were expiring this year: Alfred Peterson, Ruth Habeger, J. W. Johnson, Clara Yarger, and Lowry Elliott. Nat Whitney advised that Mrs. Yarger does not wish another

term and moved that the other directors be renominated. Dr. Moriarty seconded the motion. Les Baylor nominated Paul Springer to fill the vacancy on the board. Mrs. Holden seconded. Dr. Moriarty moved that the Secretary cast an unanimous ballot for the nominated directors.

Mr. Chapman said that SDOU had its job partly done in the field of birds in South Dakota. We still have the white area in the northwest part of the state. We are particularly short on records from Harding County. We need to develop our membership in the western part of the state and Mr. Chapman moved that a membership committee be set up from members of the board in the West River area to study memberships. They are to be provided a budget to operate. Moriarty seconded the motion and it was carried. Mr. Chapman then said he and Mrs. Chapman would match the first \$100 for this purpose.

Mr. Moriarty nominated Scott Findley for Honorary Membership in SDOU. Seconded by Mr. Chapman, the nomination carried.

Nat Whitney moved the annual business meeting be changed to the winter meeting and the present officers continue to serve until the next official meeting in November of 1966. Paul Springer seconded and the motion carried.

New members present were introduced to the group. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Holden, Secretary

Black Hills Observations

(Continued from Page 53)

According to B. B. H. there are only two other records for the Gray-headed Junco in the Black Hills (Whitney, December 1953 and Behrens, April 1959).

FOX SPARROW *Passerella iliaca*: 25 June 1965, a single Fox Sparrow fed on weeds in a brushy area between the Bear Spring beaver dams (see Sora above). This Fox Sparrow appeared to be the slaty or gray form described by Peterson. Its upper parts were gray; the wings were quite brown; the tail was somewhat brown but not as brown as the wings. The only record in B. B. H. is the Fox Sparrow banded by Van Heuvelen near Sheridan Lake, 29 September 1963.—**South Dakota Schools of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, 9 July 1966.**

* * * *

\$100 AWARD IN ORNITHOLOGY

The Eastern Bird Banding Association is offering an award of \$100 to a student, undergraduate or graduate, who uses bird banding in an ornithological study.

The application, signed by department head, must be received prior to February 28, 1967.

Address applications and questions to: Albert Schnitzer, Chairman, Memorial Award Committee, Eastern Bird Banding Association, 155 Will Hedge Lane, Mountainside, N. J. 07092.

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

S. D. O. U. WINTER MEETING

Vermillion, November 25-26-27, 1966

—PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT—

Headquarters: New Student Union, University of South Dakota

Friday, 7:00 p. m.: Evening get together; registration; motion pictures; plans for field trip

Saturday, 8:00 a. m.: Departure for Gavin's Point Dam at Yankton for Bald Eagles and duck concentration

1:00 p. m.: Registration

1:30 p. m.: Paper Session A.

4:00 p. m.: Business Meeting

Evening: Banquet and banquet address

Sunday, 9:00 a. m.: Paper Session B.

NOTES

There is room for more papers at the paper sessions. Please send titles, time needed, and projection equipment desired to B. E. Harrell, Zoology Dept., U.S.D., Vermillion, S. Dak.

Special feature: Papers by graduate students on research on raptors and other ornithological research at U.S.D.

Special feature: National Falconry meet, all week, at Centerville; come early and watch trained hawks, eagles, and falcons being flown.

MOTELS IN VERMILLION

Coyote Motel, Ray and Fran Moore, Managers, 702 N. Dakota Street (at Cherry Street or W. Highway 50)

Vermillion Lamplighter Motel, Earl and Nora Crawford, Managers, 112 Cherry Street (W. Highway 50)

Tomahawk Motel, Chuck Allison, Manager, W. Highway 65

North American Nest-Record Card Program

CORNELL LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY

33 Sapsucker Woods Road

Ithaca, New York 14850

Now that the breeding season is over we are anxious to get contributors to complete and return their nest record cards to the Laboratory of Ornithology.

Last year over 25,000 completed cards were returned and from the response so far it seems that the 1966

total will better that figure. Papers using data from the nest record card program were presented at the Wilson Society Meeting at Pennsylvania State University. We hope the use of this program by research workers will increase.—(Mrs.) Sally H. Spofford.

Book Review

J. W. Johnson

THE LIFE of the Forest, by Jack McCormick, subtitled: **Our Living World of Nature**. Profusely illustrated with over 100 color photographs, 50 black and white photographs, and 70 line drawings, some also in color. 232 pages, including a good index and appendices, among them A Guide to the forested National Parks and Monuments and short articles on animal tracks, endangered species, and making a plant collection. A glossary defines the relatively few terms possibly not familiar to the layman. McGraw-Hill. 1966. \$4.95. This book is the first of a series: **Our Living World of Nature**, being produced jointly with the publishers of **The World Book Encyclopedia** and developed with the cooperation of the United States Department of the Interior. Each volume is devoted to a specific living community: **Seashore, Desert, Cave, Marsh, etc.**

This beautifully made book that gives the elements of our understanding of the complex matter of ecology in its multilevel arrangement of text, pictures, color, and drawings is not to be described in a word. It is, of course, intended to be a popular treatment. Yet only the lightest paging through it reveals that it is painlessly, even pleasantly, teaching material known only to a few specialists half a generation ago.

A glance at the staff reveals an impressive list of names and Universities for the Board of Consultants. I note O. S. Pettingill, Jr. among them. And Roland Clement of the National Audubon Society.

The Contents shows 62 pages under the heading: "The Forest Community."

"Seasons of the Forest" averages about 15 pages each for the four or 61 in all. Under "Land of Many Forests" are considered the Western, Boreal, the Eastern, and the Subtropical Forest Regions in another 62 pages.

But these are just statistics. The worth of the book is not in them but rather in the purposely rather simple language, the fitting arrangement of its often gorgeous illustrations to the end of pleasurable learning of the natural world of the forest, what actually makes it work, where the power comes from, and how it is controlled. If a fault is to be found, it may lie in the way the apparent simplicity of the scheme could impart a false feeling that everything important is known and no further worlds to conquer lie in that direction.

While the arrangement varies through the book, a typical layout is a full page color picture facing a page of text, along the left side of which a column of one to three small pictures or drawings, often in color, illustrate the idea of the adjacent paragraphs.

Pictures are often of live action, of birds and animals, always revealing. Even a carpet of dead and decaying leaves has both beauty and meaning. The manifold food chains are graphically indicated in drawings, with text on the facing page bringing out the known complexities of the systems. Appealing subjects of the pictures often win their case with the reader before he considers the adjacent evidence.

This book sets a standard the following volumes of the series will need top staff and authors to equal.—Huron.

General Notes of Special Interest

NOTES FROM YANKTON AND BON HOMME COUNTIES—On June 6, 1966, We made a leisurely trip to the above counties and were glad to still find the Upland Plover in fair supply. Several Blue Grosbeaks were seen, but the supply of Indigo Buntings did not seem to be up to that of several years ago. Western Kingbirds seemed to be in short supply, but on the other hand we saw more Loggerhead Shrikes than we have seen for several years. One Swainson's Hawk and four Turkey Vultures were seen near Running Water. Bobolinks were seen at several points to contrast with the almost total lack of resident Lark Buntings. We had almost given up seeing any until we encountered five or six singing birds a few miles east of Tabor, but in Yankton County.—**Wm. Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa.**

* * * *

SUDDEN ABSENCE OF MARSH HAWKS IN HURON AREA IN 1966—For several years Marsh Hawks have not been common in this area but one could occasionally be seen, often two or three in an afternoon's driving.

Since the very few in early spring this year, we have seen exactly none up to the end of July. I am concerned to know if this observation is general and, if so, how widespread.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

* * * *

CARDINALS IN ABERDEEN—The first week in March, 1966, I was calling in the north part of Aberdeen when I thought I heard a Cardinal. In a few minutes I spotted him. On inquiring of a family of the church nearby, I was informed that three pairs of them have

been feeding at their bird feeder all winter.

On Monday, March 28, I heard a Cardinal near our home in the south part of the city, about two miles from the north part.—**Harold W. Wager, Pastor, Aberdeen.**

* * * *

ROBIN LEARNS TO DIG FOR GRUBS, IS OBSERVED AND COPIED BY OTHER BIRDS—Our yard was infested with the destructive white and purple grubs that eat away the roots of the grass. Patches of dead grass up to 10 feet across covered the ground by the first of July.

Of course we didn't like it. And there no doubt are or could be developed chemicals that would control the grubs without harm to birds or children. But we know of none. Chlorinated hydrocarbons, with their various trade names and disguises are automatically prescribed and used for all lawn troubles, most often with little interest in anything but the price. And we know just enough to prefer grubs with birds rather than neither.

Grackles will often dig out these grubs but they steadfastly refused to do so for us. That we showed our displeasure over their attitude toward other birds' nests in the area, as well as catching and banding a number of them may have had something to do with it. The ears of corn fastened near the bird bath probably reduced their interest as well.

A robin, a dark red male with an old band on his left leg, had been a regular visitor at our bird bath. The bath was not in his territory which was across the street. But the bath itself is usually

neutral ground for robins because the demand makes its defense impractical. However, a robin is quickly chased away for poaching angle worms in the area and it had often happened to this bird.

Shortly after the first of July I saw the odd sight of this robin digging deeply into a spot of dead grass, throwing out dirt all around, jumping up and down with the vigor of his assault. Down something like an inch and a half he found a fat white grub and greedily swallowed it. It was something new to me and I started paying attention.

No other robin interfered with the operations of this pioneer. For more than a week he lived on the fat of the grubs. The patches of dead grass became pocked with his efforts, a polka dotted pattern of black dots on yellow of dead grass. During most of the latter part of the period he had a junior robin with him, feeding it about two thirds of the harvest.

The weather was dry and our restricted watering favored growing crops over already dead grass. So the angle worms were scarce and other robins concentrated on fruit, not even waiting for it to show color, so great was their need. But our robin worked on unnoticed by any of the other birds, eating in luxury.

We often wondered how he could know exactly where to dig. He practically never failed to come up with a grub after a spell of furious digging. It could not be by sight, for the grubs do not come up to the surface like the angle worms do.

In time the evidence for listening seemed conclusive. The bird would stand motionless, head sunk in his shoulders, eyes vacant, the very image of a bird without interest in or pros-

pect of living. Suddenly he would be running, in a direction that might be anywhere within the full 360 degrees. Within 18 inches or less he would stop in a flat-footed jump and start digging with all energy. He never, to our knowledge, failed to find a grub at the usual depth.

After a little over a week during which we wondered why other birds didn't catch on to the new system, we saw a thrasher trying it. Thrashers have better equipment than robins and this one did find grubs. And it also fed a youngster with them. Soon after that other robins got into the act.

Now, near the end of the first week in August, grubs are getting harder to find and the late comers, having skimmed the top off the harvest, have scattered for other food. The pioneer still believes in his discovery and puts in much of his time digging or searching out the grubs missed in earlier digging. He has shown how new ideas happen.—J. W. Johnson, Huron.

* * * *

HOT WEATHER LOSS OF PURPLE MARTINS—During the 10th and 11th of July, 1966, daily temperatures in Huron reached 112° and 110° F. respectively. Martin houses must have become intolerably hot because during the 11th, feathered out young martins left their compartments in Don Fitzgerald's martin house. They fell to the ground and died shortly. Don found 13 of them dead on the ground; of four broods, there were only three young left in two nests.

When we returned to Huron July 17th after a trip, we located eight dead young martins in our yard. Seven of them were on the ground. They appeared to have been dead about a week and we believe they died during the hot

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

weather on the 10th and 11th. Previously we had about four or five active nests and there were still some young martins left.—George Jonkel, Huron.

* * * *

LARK BUNTING IN NORTHEASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA—Possibly the first reports of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in Day County were made by Dr. Charles E. McChesny in his notes to Dr. Elliott Coues on December 25, 1878, from Ft. Sisseton, Dakota Territory. The nomenclature of that period gives the name as *Calamospiza bicolor*. McChesny says: "The white-winged blackbird appears on the prairie about July 14th, in quite large flocks, and remains until July 24, in vicinity. It appears quite a strange bird, and selects its feeding grounds with considerable care, for it is not found on the high ground, but on the fertile grassy lower ground; but not on the low moist ground, however."

William Youngworth, in his splendid monograph, *Birds of Fort Sisseton*, has this to say: "The lark bunting is here one year and gone the next. In 1929 the larks were not uncommon, but in 1931, only one bird was seen."

William H. Over, in *Birds of South Dakota*, remarks: "The lark bunting is often confused with the bobolink." This is possible but I fail to see how a trained observer could make this mistake; even if the bird is too far away to see the faint yellow of the head patch clearly, the white back should distinguish it at once from the lark bunting. The wing pattern in flight is also quite different on the two species.

The year 1966 seems to be an unusually good one for lark buntings in our section of the state. They have been reported in Day County only once since 1931, by the late R. Alice Fiksdal.

On June 7, 1966, I saw two males on Highway No. 12, a few miles west of

the Day County line in Brown County.

On June 22, 1966, while driving south on Highway No. 281, beginning at a point 15 miles south of Aberdeen, we saw seven males in 30 miles.

On July 19, 1966, while driving on the road from Roslyn straight west to Highway No. 37 north of Groton, the following lark buntings were seen: three males close to the Herman Paulson farm east of Pierpont, in Day County; one male a mile west of Pierpont, in Day County; two males 1½ miles west of the Day County line in Brown County. It was a thrill for me to see my first one in Day County.

On July 20, 1966, one male in Clark County, two miles north of the intersection of Highways 212 and 25. From Clark to Frankfort, a distance of 30 miles, five males. From Frankfort to Redfield, a distance of 16 miles, five males. Redfield to Zell, nine males in a distance of 10 miles. The next 13 miles, from Zell to Highway 45, 13 males.

These numbers should be taken as minimums, for the trip was made at a speed of 65 to 70 miles per hour and the time for bird watching was limited by the traffic.

Robert Johnson, Manager of the Waubay Refuge said: "I drive the road past Bitter Lake often and I think the Lark Bunting is quite common south of Bitter Lake, in the southeastern corner of Day County.—Herman P. Chilson, Webster.

* * * *

MALLARD SECOND NESTING HISTORY—Last summer at our lake home at White Bear Lake in Minnesota, a mallard nested back of the hedge right beside our front door. We saw the young ducklings after hatching in May. Then, in June, she laid another clutch and brought off 12. I, of course, fe'

sure she had lost her first brood or she would not be reneesting.

Early in May this year (1966) we found her back on the full clutch of 11 eggs which hatched May 23. Seven ducklings and four cracked eggs that did not hatch. On June 9, while trimming the hedge, I saw an egg in the down of the old nest, parted the down covering and found there were six eggs.

I checked each morning and each day there was one more until there were 10. On June 14, I found her on the nest apparently starting incubation, with her first brood sitting around her. They were now 20 days old.

I had previously felt sure ducks would never renest if the first brood was successful. Nowhere in the literature have I found a report of wild ducks nesting two times a year successfully.

(Undated—postmarked July 20): The mallard actually laid 11 eggs the second time and ended up with losing all but two of her first brood, I think, due to neglect while incubating. I did see the drake leading them around in the lake twice; so he did not abandon his family as they usually do.

She came up with what appeared to be an adoption with her two about one-third their size toward the end of the incubation period. She hatched two of the 11 eggs on July 5, stayed at the nest another day and gave up. I examined the other nine eggs. Two were added and seven had dead embryos. She is now down at the lake with two little ones, so the birth rate explosion was something of a dud since two attempts have produced four young—if they live to hunting season.—L. J. Moriarty.

* * * * *

CATTLE EGRETS IN HAMLIN COUNTY—Wilbur C. Foss, Assistant Chief of Game Management, Watertown G. F. & P. State-owned area in Section 2,

T114N, R54W, on July 21, 1966. This is from a note from Assistant Chief of Game Research, **Bob Dahlgren, Huron.**

Where cattle egrets are common there have been reports of their destruction of nesting small ground birds. Accordingly we will want to follow their expected increase in numbers in the state with some attention to this phase of their behavior. Any observations of these birds will be of particular interest to future students.—Editor.

* * * * *

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON SECOND YEAR AT SIOUX FALLS—Ulysses has returned! Yes, on June 22, 1966, Evelyn Ivanoff and I saw the Yellow Crowned Night Heron for the first time this summer. Last summer a number of us from the Sioux Falls Audubon Society, Augustana College, and numerous friends from in and out of the city watched this elegant bird as it found shelter, ate and slept near the lake at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park just east of the city on Highway 16. **Birds of America** says that this bird is distributed "in warm, temperate and tropical America; breeds from southern lower California, Kansas, Southern Illinois, Southern Indiana, and South Carolina south to Brazil and Peru; casual north to Colorado, Ontario, Massachusetts, Maine, and Nova Scotia; winters from southern lower California and southern Florida southward." Roger Tory Peterson in his **Field Guide to the Birds** gives the range as "chiefly swamps of Southern States breeding north sparingly to Missouri, Tennessee, Maryland, New Jersey, and, rarely, Long Island and Massachusetts. Winters from Florida south." So its dispersion to South Dakota is indeed accidental.

I have been watching the lake this summer in this beautiful spot where the heron first was identified June 7, 1935. On that day my sister, Ellen,

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

friends Martha Nesting and her sister, Jean, from California, and I had taken a ride past the lake when a large, grey bird flew to the opposite shore. We watched it as it sat near the water's edge while a group of red-winged blackbirds flew around its head. We were later to see it in various positions, now perched on a tree limb, standing in a slouched position looking like a sick bird, now standing alert near the fringe of the lake seemingly to be listening and looking for food and then later to poke its regal bill into the water. It would often put on quite a strutty show for those whom we brought to watch.

Many times when we came to watch we would see it each time. Then, again, not seeing it, we wondered if it had left. For, as T. Gilbert Pearson says "Although the name of yellow-crowned night heron suggests that this bird is a 'night' bird in reality it is quite as diurnal in its habits as any of the more common herons,"¹ for we saw it at many different times of day—in the morning, on a Sunday, at noon, during the week, and sometimes it did not appear until nearly dusk. Again this year we saw it for the first time as it flew across the lake from the west. It was past 8 p. m. We identified it when it was later perched on a branch of a dead tree which overhangs the water. It seemed not to see us but flew to the water's edge looking for something to eat along the shore.

Last summer we tried to determine if there were a pair. At one time we thought we saw a slightly smaller bird but never did we have a chance to see two together. This bears out Mr. Pearson's statement: "Rarely are more than two or three found at a time and generally they are seen singly."²

Its appearance this year was nearly three weeks later than last summer.

Even though our first sighting of it was Monday, June 7, workmen reported seeing it on the previous Friday. From that time on a path was worn to the lake—on one day I went four times, seeing the bird only in the latter part of the day on two visits. Among those who positively identified "Ulysses" as a Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, were: Herbert Krause and Will Rosine of the Augustana College faculty; the Chapmans, the Findleys, Ann Mundelein and Marge Hibbert of the local Audubon group; and many friends whom we took to view this straggler so far away from its natural habitat. The last time he was seen then was on Friday, July 30. How long this princely bird will delight us this summer will, no doubt, depend on a number of factors. Lack of normal rainfall has made the lake lower than usual. Last summer there was an abundance of moisture. So far this summer has been unusually cool, a factor which may account for the bird's later arrival. It will be most interesting to watch its behavior and whether it will come again to Sioux Falls in succeeding summers.

The local Audubon membership is exceedingly grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powers, Secretary, Hills of Rest, who, through their concern for the great out-of-doors and all its creatures, have made this park a place of beauty where birds find a real sanctuary.—**Kordellia Johnson, Librarian, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.**

¹Pearson, T. Gilbert, ed., et al **Birds of America**. Garden City (1917) p. 195.

²Peterson, Roger Tory **A Field Guide to the Birds**. Houghton Mifflin Co.

³Pearson, p. 195.

⁴*Ibid.*

Later! On the day I mailed the above, I returned to the Hills of Rest and saw

not one, but two of these birds. The second one had a striped breast and not so pronounced white crown on its head. I saw them a couple of times after that. Will Rosine's ornithology class last saw them about July 6.—K. J.

* * * *

BALD EAGLES IN DAY COUNTY—

On December 29th, 1965, Jeffers Nelson, President of the Day County Izaak Walton League, reported a large bird with six foot wingspread, white head, as large, or larger than a Golden Eagle, much clumsier in flight than a hawk. He had seen it close to Jone's Beach on Blue Dog Lake, near Waubay, South Dakota.

"Do we have Bald Eagles in Day County?", he asked. I replied, "Yes, but they are pretty rare." I asked him to step over to my car to look at my notebook.

The entry for November 28, 1965, read, "Large bird, either vulture or eagle, six foot wingspread, black wings, white or bare head." This entry was the result of a quick glance into the sun; with cars "on my tail" behind me and heavy traffic approaching me, I could not stop for a better look. This was approximately one-quarter mile east from the spot where Jeffers Nelson had seen his Bald Eagle.

On December 30, 1965. John Charles saw two Bald Eagles in the trees on Lloyd Horter's farm north of Bristol, South Dakota. He had a good look at them and reported white feathered head, white tail, and enormous wingspread of six or seven feet.—Herman P. Chilson, Webster.

* * * *

BIRDING IN WEBSTER-WAUBAY AREA—CINNAMON TEAL AT RUSH LAKE—On Wednesday, April 26, 1961, we, L. J. Moriarty, Lowrie Elliott and

Alfred Peterson visited Rush Lake and the Waubay Lakes for information on the spring movement of transient and summer birds, and to enjoy ourselves.

We found some six or eight Eared Grebes at Highway 12 causeway through Rush Lake. Pied-billed Grebes were common but Western Grebes were absent. Of the Red-necked Grebes four pairs made themselves known at Spring Lake by their harsh calls, and one Horned Grebe was seen there; also two Blue Herons.

Whistling Swans on North Waubay Lake, resting quietly at six sites, counted up to 150, one majestic pair allowing a particularly satisfactory view as they slowly drifted away.

The stony island in South Waubay Lake was occupied by many cormorants, but probably not yet the full summer population at this place.

Refuge Canada Geese were seen on nests at conveniently placed stands provided by the Game Department.

Regulation ducks, such as Mallards, Gadwalls, Shovellers, Baldpates, Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Redheads, Ring-necked (three), Canvasbacks and Lesser Scaup were generally in low numbers. Some Buffleheads and Ruddy Ducks paraded before us in nice style to round out the Wild Fowl. Blue-winged Teal have been, and still are, abundant and should bring off a good hatch, with fresh water awaiting them in every little pond on the more southerly reaches.

And at Rush Lake, in the company of a small group of Blue-winged Teal, a little duck deserves a paragraph all to itself. This duck, a Cinnamon Teal, showed to good advantage as it moved about in a small pocket of marsh, or as it flew over highway to open water in the lake itself, and again when it soon returned to the feeding area. This was a "first" for L. E. and A. P. but

L. J. M. had seen it once in nearly thirty years.

The Hawks were well represented in the oak woods of Waubay Lakes. We saw several Red-tailed Hawks, one a strikingly beautiful bird with bright red tail and the whole plumage bright and clean. The nest, quite a bulky affair, was placed in a tall slender tree, at the foot of which L. J. M. found a broken egg, not fresh but nearly so.

A Broad-winged Hawk near Highway 12 at Blue Dog Lake provided a little diversion as we crowded it from place to place to get better look at its marks. Another fine Broad-wing was seen near entrance gate to the Waubay Refuge Headquarters.

A pair of Rough-legged Hawks gave evidence of nesting intentions, for with what other reason would one of them be carrying a stick in its talons? As they performed the diving and evasion act it held onto the stick.

Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks were not more numerous than as commonly seen, and L. J. M. saw a Sharpshin. He stated that he has seen more Hawks in the Waubay Lakes oak woods than at any other place in South Dakota.

I must mention the Gray Fox, rare in this area, that we started from near the entrance to its den in the center of a small plot of Smooth Sumac on the shore of North Waubay.—Alfred Peterson, Brandt.

* * * *

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF NATURE CONSERVANCY YET?—The South Dakota Chapter was organized last year with Dr. Byron Harrell as chairman. During

the first year, Altamont Prairie was acquired.

At the May meeting in Pierre this year, George Jonkel was elected chairman, Dr. Jack Saunders, vice-chairman; Dr. David Holden, secretary, and Dr. Paul Springer, treasurer.

The most urgent order of business now is inviting new members and requesting their support in location of natural areas in South Dakota. The Chapter will locate, inspect and establish priorities on as many areas as possible this year. The highest priority areas will be determined by a committee headed by Dr. Holden.

To obtain financial support from the national organization, a tract must be reported to the national board of governors and advance approval received before start of acquisition.

Several sites have been located and referred for consideration. These include a timbered area on National Guard land west of Rapid City. Snake Butte, a sand calcite crystal area in Washabaugh County, is another. So far as we know, this is the only sand calcite crystal area in the United States and one of two in the world. Dr. and Mrs. Holden made an inspection of the area on August 23rd. Several native prairie areas east of the Missouri River have been located and these are most critical of the vegetation types. We would like to have some help to locate more of them. We also need ideas and suggestions on other natural history sites, including geological formations and threatened animal and bird habitat.

Following is a convenient form provided for your use.—Mrs. Richard Edie, Chairman, Membership Committee.

Return to

Nature Conservancy, S. D. Chapter
Dr. Paul F. Springer, Treasurer
S. D. Coop. Wildlife Res. Unit
S. D. State University
Brookings, S. D. 57006

Date

Name	Membership
Street address	Annual \$5
City State Zip	Sustaining \$10
	Contributing \$25
	Life \$100 or more
	Patron \$1000

- I am already a member of the Nature Conservancy
- Please enroll me as a member of the Nature Conservancy.
My check for \$..... is enclosed. Contributions are tax deductible.
Membership fees (except Life and Patron) are divided 50% S. D. Chapter
and 50% National.

New members, old members, friends may wish to fill out the following:

- I know of a natural area that should be preserved.
- I know of a site which should be designated a natural landmark or a site of special scientific interest.
- Please send me forms for reporting these areas.
- I would be willing to serve on a committee to assemble data on natural areas or special sites.
- I would be willing to visit and gather information on sites in my part of the state.
- I would like to suggest the following persons be invited to join the S. D. Chapter.
- I would like to make suggestions on the time and place of S. D. Chapter meetings.
- I would like to make other suggestions.