

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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

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Vol. XIX, No. 2

JUNE, 1967

Whole No. 73

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Long-billed Curlew

From a Color Slide Made Near Relvidere by Willis Hall

South Dakota Bird Notes, the Organ of South Dakota Ornithologists Union, is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Sustaining Members \$5.00; Adults \$3.00; Juniors (10-16) \$1.00 per year. Single and back copies \$1.00 to non-members; \$0.50 to members. All dues should be remitted to the Treasurer, Nelda Holden, Route 1, Box 80, Brookings, S. Dak. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to the Editor, J. W. Johnson, 1421 Utah Ave. SE, Huron, S. Dak. Orders for back numbers should be sent to the Librarian, Herman P. Chilson, Webster, S. Dak. Published Quarterly.

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## President's Page

THE main topic of conversation, while driving home from the Belvidere convention, was the friendliness of the people which contributed to a successful convention.

Perhaps it was the recollection of the welcome sign on the highway plus the friendly smile of Esther Serr when we approached the registration desk. Little did we know that her mother had just passed away but Esther carried on like a true trooper should.

Perhaps it was the memory of my first Long-billed Curlew with her nest of four eggs on the Bill Norton ranch.

Maybe it was the fine talk that Mrs. Redden of Pierre, South Dakota gave on the mourning dove and her plea that the ranchers ban the dove hunters.

Perhaps it was the kindness of the waitress from the Lady of Sacred Heart Church which served our noon meal. Upon discovering that I preferred milk she made a special trip home to bring me some from her own refrigerator.

Perhaps it was the story about the Crutchetts who were birding on the Wallace and Velma De Vries ranch. When dinner time arrived Wallace took hamburgers out to them in the field.

Maybe it was the fine sermon and the wonderful visit my wife had with the pastor at the Presbyterian Church.

Maybe it was the genuine smile of the ever present "Mr. Belvidere" (their

banker, L. A. Pier) who was in constant attendance at all of the meetings and field trips.

Perhaps it was the contagious enthusiasm of the entire community which permeated the entire convention.

Could it be the free coffee and cookies which were served by the Community Club at the Friday evening session?

Perhaps it was the memory of splendid field trips planned by Keith and Betty Evans; the museum in the former Tom Berry home; the branding at the Burrell Phipps ranch; the noon picnic lunch at the Skee Rasmussen ranch.

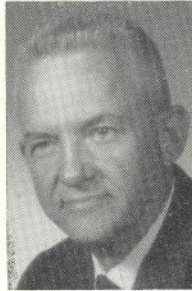
Perhaps it was the genuine concern exhibited by every rancher that we met for our remaining wildlife.

Perhaps it was the fine display in the auditorium; rocks, artifacts, watercolors, and oil paintings by local artists. We were particularly pleased that Dr. Moriarity, our own past president, displayed his fine collection.

Perhaps it was the usual fine pictures that Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hall projected on the screen. This feature alone was worth driving hundreds of miles to see.

Perhaps it was the letter from our treasurer, Nelda Holden, announcing the birth of a future birder, which explained her first absence from a convention.

Again we wish to thank Esther Serr, Keith and Betty Evans, Wallace and Velma De Vries, Les Baylor, Dr. Nat Whitney, Mr. Pier, and all who assisted in the preparation for this convention.  
—Herman P. Chilson.



# Waterfowl and Shorebird Use on Selected Stock Ponds in Jackson County: 1966

By Keith E. Evans and Roger R. Kerbs\*

## INTRODUCTION

**A**PPROXIMATELY 90,000 small stock ponds are scattered throughout South Dakota. The majority of these ponds are less than 10 acres in size, and depend entirely on surface runoff for their water supply. Although their primary purpose is to provide drinking water for livestock, many species of waterfowl and shorebirds use the pond areas for resting and feeding during spring and fall migrations, and for nesting habitat throughout the summer.

Neither the amount of use nor the potential for use by birds on stock ponds in South Dakota is known. Preliminary data presented here are results of waterfowl observations on 13 stock ponds located southeast of Wall, South Dakota in Jackson County. The observations span the ice-free period of 1966.

## DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

The area is characterized by rolling topography and clay soils. Drainage is northeast into the Bad River. The short grass vegetation is predominantly blue grama, buffalograss, western wheatgrass, and green needlegrass. Trees and shrubs occur along the drainages. The climate is typically continental and arid. Annual precipitation averages 17 inches; most of it falls during the spring and early summer. Precipitation is irregular, and long periods of drought are expected. Wind, common on the Great Plains, usually exceeds five m.p.h. on the study area.

The entire area lies north of the badlands, and is representative of much of the northern Great Plains. Livestock grazing is the primary use of the area, but dryland farming is practiced on scattered tracts.

## FINDINGS

Fifty-eight species of birds were observed using the study ponds and the surrounding prairie. Fifteen observations were made on each of the 13 study ponds during the period from April 1 to October 25, 1966.

The peak of the spring migration occurred on or near April 28, when 16 species of waterfowl and shorebirds totaling 157 individuals were observed (table 1). The number of species observed on each visit decreased throughout the spring, and then remained about the same for summer and fall visits.

The highest number of waterfowl and shorebirds was observed on July 7—a total of 239 individuals, including 145 young ducks (table 2). The peak of the waterfowl hatch occurred during the first half of July. Natural mortality of young birds, and the development of dense emergent vegetation, resulted in a decrease in the number of young ducks observed throughout the rest of the brood season. By August 17 the young were developed sufficiently to prohibit age determination during field observations.

The western grebe, redhead, lesser scaup, bufflehead, common merganser, willet, least sandpiper, ring-billed gull,

Table 1.—Waterfowl and shorebird observations on 13 study ponds in Jackson County, South Dakota during 1966.

Species	4/1	4/28	5/10	5/25	6/9	6/23	7/7	7/21	8/4	8/17	8/30	9/15	9/27	10/11	10/25	Total species
Western Grebe .....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pied-billed Grebe .....	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	2	0	14
Ring-billed Gull .....	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Black Tern .....	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Common Merganser .....	16	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Mallard .....	64	21	35	35	54	48	50	20	58	65	22	5	13	32	44	566
Gadwall .....	0	24	6	7	12	15	30	21	20	8	10	1	20	18	4	196
American Widgeon .....	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	1	23
Green-winged Teal .....	2	20	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Blue-winged Teal .....	0	9	23	39	31	36	101	63	35	45	76	1	43	37	0	539
Shoveler .....	0	24	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	34
Pintail .....	8	11	14	6	4	0	9	11	3	2	0	0	0	4	0	72
Redhead .....	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Lesser Scaup .....	0	16	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Bufflehead .....	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ruddy Duck .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Great Blue Heron .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
American Coot .....	0	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	12
Wilson's Phalarope .....	0	0	4	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
American Avocet .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Long-billed Dowitcher .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	6
Least Sandpiper .....	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Greater Yellowlegs .....	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	8
Lesser Yellowlegs .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	7	0	0	0	2	13
Willet .....	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Upland Plover .....	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Spotted Sandpiper .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Long-billed Curlew .....	0	6	2	5	5	0	8	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Unidentified Ducks .....	0	0	0	2	4	5	37	40	0	68	2	0	0	47	0	205
Total individuals observed each visit .....	94	157	102	112	114	108	239	189	121	190	126	15	84	160	51	1862
Number of Species .....	5	16	15	13	8	5	8	5	6	6	8	7	7	8	4	

and black tern were only observed during the spring migration period. The mallard and the blue-winged teal were the most abundant ducks nesting in the area.

Other bird species observed in the immediate area were: turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, Swainson's hawk, rough-legged hawk, ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, marsh hawk, prairie falcon, sparrow hawk, sharp-tailed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, killdeer, mourning dove, burrowing owl, night hawk, eastern kingbird, western kingbird, horned lark, black-billed magpie, common crow, brown thrasher, loggerhead shrike, starling, western meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, brown-headed cowbird, rufous-sided towhee, lark bunting, and vesper sparrow.

Species other than dabbling ducks

nesting in the area were killdeer, long-billed curlew, upland plover, Wilson's phalarope, red-winged blackbird, and brown-headed cowbird. Because observations were made only once every two weeks, nesting success was not determined.

### SUMMARY

Twenty-eight species of waterfowl and shorebirds totaling 1862 individuals, were observed on 13 ponds between April 1 and October 25, 1966. These ponds supported an average of 10 birds per pond for approximately 214 days during 1966. In addition, 30 species of other birds were seen in the area.

Table 2.—Young dabbling ducks observed during 1966 on 13 stock ponds in Jackson County, South Dakota.

Species	Number by observation date				
	6/9	6/23	7/7	7/21	8/4
Mallard	7	17	18	10	15
Blue-winged					
Teal	0	16	88	54	35
Gadwall	0	0	21	13	12
Pintail	0	0	7	6	2
Unknown	0	5	11	13	0
Total	7	38	145	96	64
Average No. young per pond	0.5	2.9	11.2	7.4	4.9

\*Associate Wildlife Biologist and Range Aid, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, U. S. Forest Service, Rapid City, South Dakota. Field Station maintained in cooperation with South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; headquarters at Fort Collins, Colorado in cooperation with Colorado State University.

# 1966 Bird Records for Brown County, South Dakota

E. J. Rose

**T**HE following bird species were recorded in Brown County, South Dakota, between January 22 and December 31, 1966. It is not intended to be a complete list of birds occurring in Brown County, but as a record of arrival dates and species observed in 1966.

**P** denotes permanent residents; **W** first winter record after Jan. 22; **M** first spring migrant; **U** unusual record or date; **only** following a date indicates the only date or dates the species was observed in 1966; a number after **only** is the number observed.

1. Common Loon	..... M 5/8 only (1)	30. Canvasback	..... M 3/19
2. Horned Grebe	..... M 4/24	31. Lesser Scaup	..... M 3/19
3. Eared Grebe	..... M 4/24	32. Common Goldeneye	..... M 3/19
4. Western Grebe	..... M 4/25	33. Bufflehead	..... M 3/20
5. Pied-billed Grebe	..... M 3/27	34. Ruddy Duck	..... M 4/28
6. White Pelican	..... M 4/20	35. Hooded Merganser	..... U 6/5
7. Double-crested Cormorant	M 4/8	36. Common Merganser	..... M 3/13
8. Common Egret	..... U 8/22 (12)	37. Sharp-shinned Hawk	..... M 4/9
9. Great Blue Heron	..... M 4/2	38. Cooper's Hawk	..... M 3/27
10. Green Heron	..... M 5/28	39. Red-Tailed Hawk	..... M 3/27
11. Cattle Egret	U 5/6 & 5/8 only (1)	40. Harlan's Hawk	..... M 4/2
12. Black-crowned Night Heron	..... M 4/17	41. Broad-winged Hawk	..... M 4/22
	..... M 4/28	42. Swainson's Hawk	..... M 4/14
13. American Bittern	..... M 4/28	43. Rough-legged Hawk	..... W 1/27
14. Whistling Swan	..... M 3/26	44. Ferruginous Hawk	..... P 1/26
15. Canada Goose	..... M 3/13	45. Marsh Hawk	..... W 2/1; M 3/12
16. White-fronted Goose	..... M 3/15	46. Golden Eagle	..... M 1/26
17. Snow Goose	..... M 3/13	47. Bald Eagle	..... M 3/19
18. Blue Goose	..... M 3/13	48. Osprey	..... M 4/28 & 8/28 only (1)
19. Mallard	..... P 2/10; M 3/13	49. Prairie Falcon	..... W 1/22
20. Black Duck	..... U 6/12	50. Peregrine Falcon	..... M 5/8
21. Gadwall	..... M 3/19	51. Sparrow Hawk	..... M 3/17
22. American Widgeon	..... M 3/13	52. Gray Partridge	..... P 2/7
23. Pintail	..... M 3/13	53. Ring-necked Pheasant	..... P 1/22
24. Shoveler	..... M 3/27	54. Sandhill Crane	..... U 10/28
25. Wood Duck	..... M 4/24	55. Virginia Rail	..... M 5/19
26. Green-winged Teal	..... M 3/19	56. Sora	..... M 5/6
27. Blue-winged Teal	..... M 4/9	57. King Rail	..... U 5/19 only (3)
28. Redhead	..... M 3/19	58. American Coot	..... M 3/19
29. Ring-necked Duck	..... M 3/20	59. Piping Plover	..... M 4/25

60. Semipalmated Plover \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/27  
61. Killdeer \_\_\_\_\_ M 3/16  
62. Golden Plover \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/2  
63. Black-bellied Plover \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/15  
64. Upland Plover \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/6  
65. Ruddy Turnstone \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/21  
66. Common Snipe \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/10  
67. Willet \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/25  
68. Greater Yellowlegs \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/10  
69. Lesser Yellowlegs \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/16  
70. Spotted Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/7  
71. Solitary Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/28  
72. Pectoral Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/30  
73. White-rumped Sandpiper M 4/17  
74. Baird's Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/9  
75. Least Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/8  
76. Dunlin \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/30  
77. Stilt Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/10  
78. Semipalmated Sandpiper M 5/19  
79. Buff-breasted Sandpiper M 5/19  
80. Long-billed Dowitcher M 4/23  
81. Marbled Godwit \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/16  
82. Hudsonian Godwit \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/23  
83. Sanderling \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/7  
84. American Avocet \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/17  
85. Wilson's Phalarope \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/24  
86. Northern Phalarope \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/10  
87. Herring Gull \_\_\_\_\_ M 3/27  
88. California Gull — U 4/16 only (2)  
89. Ring-billed Gull \_\_\_\_\_ M 3/15  
90. Franklin's Gull \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/2  
91. Bonaparte's Gull \_\_\_\_\_ U 10/4  
92. Sabine's Gull U 10/4 only (1 imm)  
93. Forster's Tern \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/1  
94. Common Tern \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/6  
95. Black Tern \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/11  
96. Mourning Dove \_\_\_\_\_ M 3/19  
97. Yellow-billed Cuckoo \_\_\_\_\_ M 6/23  
98. Black-billed Cuckoo \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/26  
99. Screech Owl \_\_\_\_\_ ?P 3/17 & 11/23  
100. Great-horned Owl \_\_\_\_\_ P 1/28  
101. Snowy Owl \_\_\_\_\_ W 1/22 & 11/23  
102. Burrowing Owl \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/16  
103. Long-eared Owl ?M 4/30 & 11/23  
104. Short-eared Owl \_\_\_\_\_ W 2/1 & 8/16  
105. Saw-whet Owl \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ U 12/26 & 28 only (1)  
106. Common Nighthawk \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/22  
107. Chimney Swift \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/16  
108. Belted Kingfisher \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/17  
109. Yellow-shafted Flicker \_\_\_ P 2/27  
110. Red-shafted Flicker \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ U 4/17 only (1)  
111. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker M 4/10  
112. Red-headed Woodpecker \_ M 5/8  
113. Hairy Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ P 2/20  
114. Downy Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ P 2/13  
115. Eastern Kingbird \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/7  
116. Western Kingbird \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/7  
117. Eastern Phoebe \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/1  
118. Traill's Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/26  
119. Least Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/7  
120. Olive-sided Flycatcher \_\_\_ M 5/8  
121. Eastern Wood Pewee \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/7  
122. Horned Lark \_\_\_\_\_ P 1/22  
123. Tree Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/24  
124. Bank Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/27  
125. Rough-winged Swallow \_\_\_ M 5/8  
126. Barn Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/27  
127. Cliff Swallow \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/19  
128. Purple Martin \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/15  
129. Blue Jay \_\_\_\_\_ ?P 4/27  
130. Common Crow \_\_\_\_\_ P 2/15  
131. Black-capped Chickadee \_\_\_ P 2/20  
132. Red-breasted Nuthatch .. ?M 5/8  
133. White-breasted Nuthatch .. P 2/22  
134. Brown Creeper \_\_\_\_\_ ?P 2/13  
135. House Wren \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/8  
136. Long-billed Marsh Wren M 5/19  
137. Mockingbird \_\_\_\_\_ U 4/28 only (1)  
138. Catbird \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/12  
139. Brown Thrasher \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/30  
140. Robin \_\_\_\_\_ P 2/10 & M 3/16  
141. Hermit Thrush \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/16  
142. Swainson's Thrush \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/6  
143. Gray-cheeked Thrush \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/5  
144. Veery \_\_\_\_\_ M 5/8  
145. Eastern Bluebird \_\_\_\_\_ M 3/19  
146. Golden-crowned Kinglet \_ M 4/16  
147. Ruby-crowned Kinglet \_\_\_ M 4/16  
148. Water Pipit \_\_\_\_\_ M 4/27  
149. Bohemian Waxwing \_\_\_\_\_ W 2/13  
150. Cedar Waxwing \_\_\_\_\_ ?M 3/19  
151. Northern Shrike \_\_\_\_\_ W 2/3  
152. Loggerhead Shrike \_\_\_\_\_ M 3/26  
153. Starling \_\_\_\_\_ P 1/27



- |                              |                 |                                 |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 154. Solitary Vireo          | M 5/6           | 185. Common Grackle             | M 3/20          |
| 155. Red-eyed Vireo          | M 5/26          | 186. Brown-headed Cowbird       | M 4/24          |
| 156. Warbling Vireo          | M 5/28          | 187. Cardinal                   | P 3/19          |
| 157. Philadelphia Vireo      | ?U 9/1          | 188. Rose-breasted Grosbeak     | M 5/21          |
| 158. Black and White Warbler | M 5/8           | 189. Black-headed Grosbeak      | U 5/16 only (2) |
| 159. Tennessee Warbler       | M 5/8           | 190. Indigo Bunting             | M 5/28          |
| 160. Orange-crowned Warbler  | M 4/29          | 191. Dickcissel                 | M 5/26          |
| 161. Nashville Warbler       | M 5/8           | 192. Purple Finch               | M 4/28          |
| 162. Yellow Warbler          | M 5/8           | 193. Common Redpoll             | W 1/22; U 5/10  |
| 163. Cape May Warbler        | U 5/8 only (2)  | 194. Pine Siskin                | M 5/1           |
| 164. Myrtle Warbler          | M 4/16          | 195. American Goldfinch         | M 5/18          |
| 165. Blackburnian Warbler    | M 5/8           | 196. Red Crossbill              | U 9/1           |
| 166. Bay-breasted Warbler    | M 5/28          | 197. Rufous-sided Towhee        | M 4/30          |
| 167. Blackpoll Warbler       | M 5/7           | 198. Lark Bunting               | M 5/11          |
| 168. Palm Warbler            | M 5/8           | 199. Savannah Sparrow           | M 4/24          |
| 169. Ovenbird                | M 5/8           | 200. Grasshopper Sparrow        | M 5/21          |
| 170. Northern Waterthrush    | M 5/8           | 201. Vesper Sparrow             | M 4/11          |
| 171. Mourning Warbler        | M 5/28 only (1) | 202. Lark Sparrow               | M 5/7           |
| 172. MacGillivray's Warbler  | U 5/21 only (1) | 203. Slate-colored Junco        | M 2/22          |
| 173. Yellowthroat            | M 5/8           | 204. Oregon Junco               | M 4/24          |
| 174. Wilson's Warbler        | M 5/8           | 205. Tree Sparrow               | M 3/13          |
| 175. American Redstart       | M 5/8           | 206. Chipping Sparrow           | M 4/26          |
| 176. House Sparrow           | P 1/27          | 207. Clay-colored Sparrow       | M 4/30          |
| 177. Bobolink                | M 5/7           | 208. Harris' Sparrow            | M 4/24          |
| 178. Western Meadowlark      | ?P 2/22         | 209. White-crowned Sparrow      | M 4/28          |
| 179. Yellow-headed Blackbird | M 4/16          | 210. White-throated Sparrow     | M 4/24          |
| 180. Red-winged Blackbird    | P 2/3 & M 3/13  | 211. Lincoln's Sparrow          | M 4/28          |
| 181. Rusty Blackbird         | M 3/19          | 212. Swamp Sparrow              | U 5/8 only (3)  |
| 182. Brewer's Blackbird      | M 3/20          | 213. Song Sparrow               | M 4/16          |
| 183. Orchard Oriole          | M 5/17          | 214. Lapland Longspur           | WM 1/22         |
| 184. Baltimore Oriole        | M 5/8           | 215. Chestnut-collared Longspur | M 4/24          |
|                              |                 | 216. Snow Bunting               | W 1/22          |

The following additional species were not seen in Brown County, but were observed in counties near Brown:

- |                               |                 |                                    |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 220. Great-crested Flycatcher | M 5/29          | Day County                         |
| 221. Short-billed Marsh Wren  | U 9/10 only (1) | Day County                         |
| 222. Sharp-tailed Sparrow     | M 6/3 only (1)  | Day County                         |
| 223. Fox Sparrow              | M 5/29          | Day County                         |
| 217. Red-necked Grebe         | M 7/31 & 8/2    | Marshall County; 8/15 Faulk County |
| 218. White-faced Ibis         | M 5/23          | Marshall County                    |
| 219. Least Bittern            | M 4/21          | Faulk County                       |

—Rapid City.

# Christmas Count, 1966

	Brookings	Huron	Lake Andes	Mitchell	Rapid City	Sand Lake	Sioux Falls	Webster	Willmott	Yankton
D-c. Cormorant			2							
Canada Goose			5026		2					
Mallard			150500		781	6400	10			20000
Black Duck			2							
Pintail			1							
Gadwall				121						
Green-winged Teal			1							
American Wigeon			5							
Ring-necked Duck			1							
Lesser Scaup			4		6					
Common Golden Eye			132		137	3				7
Bufflehead			1							
Hooded Merganser					1					
Common Merganser			985		8					60
Red-breasted Merganser			1		1					
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1					
Cooper's Hawk			1							
Red-tailed Hawk			3		2		4			1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1			9	2				
Golden Eagle			7		4					
Bald Eagle			29			1				4
Marsh Hawk			2							1
Prairie Falcon			1		1					
Sparrow Hawk			1		3		3			
Greater Prairie Chicken			11							
Sharp-tailed Grouse					3					
Bobwhite										12
Ring-necked Pheasant	114	21	73	37	15	19	21	3	27	3
American Coot			1							
Common Snipe					1					
Herring Gull			365							2
Ring-billed Gull			6							
Mourning Dove	1	6					40			
Screech Owl	1						3			
Great Horned Owl	22	11	3		1	2	16	1	2	1
Snowy Owl		2	10			3			1	2
Short-eared Owl	4	1		1		1				
Belted Kingfisher					4		1			
Flicker, Y-s.	6	4	5				24		1	1
Flicker, R-s.	1				2					
Red-bellied Woodpecker					1		7		1	
Red-headed Woodpecker							1			
Hairy Woodpecker	13	1	3		4		40	1	3	
Downy Woodpecker	50	5	4	11	23	1	78	2	8	3
Horned Lark	15	14	17	27	39	20			20	

CHRISTMAS COUNT, 1966 (Continued)

	Brookings	Huron	Lake Andes	Mitchell	Rapid City	Sand Lake	Sioux Falls	Webster	Wilmot	Yankton
Blue Jay .....	37	4			35	2	72	4	5	2
Black-billed Magpie .....			5		57					
Common Crow .....	123	14	35	12	17		69		3	11
Pinon Jay .....					193					
Black-capped Chickadee .....	185	7	16	11	345	4	416	8	26	
Mountain Chickadee .....					2					
Tufted Titmouse .....							8			
White-breasted Nuthatch .....	52	1	1		31		113	2	4	4
Red-breasted Nuthatch .....		1			34		3			
Brown Creeper .....		2		1	3		9		1	1
Dipper .....					1					
Canyon Wren .....					4					
Mockingbird .....					1					
Brown Thrasher .....								1		
Robin .....	4	104	101	14	21	3	1		1	3
Townsend's Solitaire .....					16					
Golden-crowned Kinglet .....	2			1						
Bohemian Waxwing .....			8		91					
Cedar Waxwing .....	34	5	50				13			
Northern Shrike .....	3	1	2	2	4	1				1
Loggerhead Shrike .....									1	
Starling .....	290	450	13	48	338	40	805		32	101
House Sparrow .....	1478	450	342	25	950	225	2316	8	307	162
Eastern Meadowlark .....			14							
Western Meadowlark .....		6								
Red-winged Blackbird .....	2	1	44			142	3		4	
Rusty Blackbird .....	35	58				21			12	
Brewer's Blackbird .....						20				
Common Grackle .....	6	4	2			1				2
Brown-headed Cowbird .....			6							
Cardinal .....	6	5		1			32			2
Evening Grosbeak .....					55		3			
Purple Finch .....							3			
House Finch .....				1						
Cassin's Finch .....					39					
Common Redpoll .....						25				
Pine Siskin .....				11			7			
American Goldfinch .....	131	14	23	7	43		92		13	1
Red Crossbill .....	19	1			1					
Rufous-sided Towhee .....					1					
White-winged Junco .....					461					
Slate-colored Junco .....	44	15	13	17	101		114		1	33
Oregon Junco .....	2	2		1	65		4			
Tree Sparrow .....	369	280	327	230	71	20	396		11	97
Harris' Sparrow .....	2	2	29	1			12			2
White-crowned Sparrow .....					1					
Song Sparrow .....	3	1								
Lapland Longspur .....	354	140							318	
Snow Bunting .....									15	

# Brown Thrasher in Webster, in Winter

Herman P. Chilson

EVERETT Sewell, a long time SDOU member, maintains the largest bird feeding station for wild birds in Webster. He has been selective in his choice of trees and shrubs and as a result his yard is a regular bird sanctuary.

The main feeder is located close to his sun-room window and he spends many happy hours watching a large variety of birds. The feeders contain sunflower seeds, peanuts, ground corn, bread, small grain, and suet.

This is the first time he has ever had a Brown Thrasher remain all winter. The thrasher ate ground corn, suet, sunflower seeds, and bread. The squirrels would drive him away when they came to feed but the thrasher could hold his own with the Blue Jays. He would fluff up his feathers, make a quick jump, and scare the Blue Jays away.

Sewell kept an accurate record of the temperature on the days that he had a sight record of the thrasher. The temperature ranged from 20 degrees above zero to eight degrees below zero

for the period of November 23, 1966 to January 16, 1967.

January 16, 1967 we had a big blizzard. The Brown Thrasher was seen feeding several times as usual but this was the last day that Sewell saw it. Sewell thought that the thrasher had probably frozen to death in the storm. During a morning coffee session Ludwig Langager reported that his grandson, Scott Langager had noticed a thrasher next door in the yard of the E. J. Haanstads.

The Haanstad family told me that they had found a crippled Brown Thrasher in their shrubbery the day of the storm and had put it in their basement over night and then released it. This was the last time that anyone in Webster saw the bird. (We all assumed that this was the same bird.)

To my knowledge this is the first time that a Brown Thrasher has been seen in Webster in the winter time. The Christmas Check Lists record several instances where these birds have been recorded in the southern and central part of the state.—Webster.

# Shore Birds Nesting in South Dakota

Bruce K. Harris

**T**HERE are apparently few published records for South Dakota shore-birds during the summer months which would determine breeding ranges in the state. Several of the large waders are evidently well-distributed during the breeding season, as indicated by records I accumulated during 1966. With the 1967 breeding season well under way, it would be interesting to see how many breeding records can be turned up around the state for the eight species that are expected to nest in South Dakota.

**Killdeer** and **Upland Plover** are the two "shore birds" most frequently observed during the summer in South Dakota, and there should be a number of nesting records for these species. During the 1966 season I observed adult Upland Plovers with downy young in Jerauld County on June 30th and in Sanborn County on July 25th. After a fifteen year absence from South Dakota I was very pleased to find the Upland Plover a common, and in some localities, an abundant summer resident.

**Piping Plover** and **Spotted Sandpiper** are not well known as summer residents, it seems. There is at least one breeding record for the Piping Plover from the Waubay area (SDBN's, VII:46) and from Yankton (SDBN's XI:34). The Spotted Sandpiper is seen regularly during the summer months but few breeding records are noted.

The **Marbled Godwit** is a rather conspicuous summer resident in several West-River counties, but I am not aware of breeding records for the

species. I have the following sight records for the 1966 season:

June 11—single bird near Wilmot, Roberts County.

June 14—three birds 15 miles SW Doland, Spink County.

June 23—single bird 12 miles NW Woonsocket, Sanborn County.

June 28—five birds eight miles SW Plankinton, Aurora County.

July 31—single near Fort Sisseton, Marshall County.

The **Avocet** is another conspicuous wader which is probably found in many counties throughout the state during the summer months. Four downy young were observed at Twin Lakes, Miner County, on June 29, along with 12-15 adults. Fourteen adults were noted in Aurora County, eight miles SW of Plankinton, on June 28, 1966. There are breeding records reported in SDBN's for the Waubay area, but many gaps are apparent in summer distribution of this species.

Although I have no breeding records for the **Willet**, adult birds were observed at the following locations during the past summer of 1966:

June 14—two birds ten miles south of Webster, Day County.

June 22—single bird at Rifle-Calahan Lake, Sanborn County.

June 23—single near Alpena, Jerauld County.

June 29—single near Twin Lakes, Miner County.

July 5—single nine miles west of Wilmot, Roberts County.

The **Wilson Phalarope** is well-distributed in the east-river counties during

the summer season. Two pairs were observed near Wilmot on June 4, and three pair were observed at the Peever Slough on June 25th. A single was noted at Twin Lakes, Miner County, on June 29, and two were recorded at Long Lake, Sanborn County, on July 1.

The Long-billed Curlew is the largest, the least known, and the most interesting of the shore birds that occur in South Dakota. There are few records available for this bird during recent years; see SDBN's XIV:41-47 and XV:53. I have observed this bird only once in South Dakota, and that was years ago, near Buffalo, Harding County. There is good reason to believe that this fine bird is also fairly common in the west-river country, despite the paucity of sight records for it.—Woonsocket.

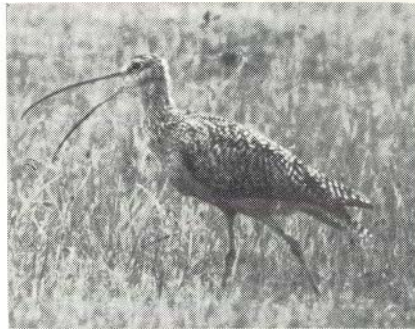
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### CORNELL NEST CARD COOPERATORS!!

It would be extremely helpful in compiling the South Dakota checklist of birds if each person who records nestling data would keep a summary of the season's nesting records to be made available to the checklist committee. This should be done with all nest records, whether they are recorded on the Cornell cards or are merely kept as a personal record of local nesting birds. It would not be necessary to record complete data from the nest cards in compiling a summary. Nor would it be necessary to record more than one nest record per species for each county, unless the record represents some particularly uncommon or interesting species. The important thing is that the checklist committee should have available each year the source of any nest record in South Dakota. If more detailed information

is desired those concerned can write the recorder for more information.

My personal summary of the season's nesting is merely a table made up in the following manner: Species, Date, County, Locality, Nest, Eggs and Young. I do not necessarily record all nests in this summary—there is no particular value in summarizing 15 robin nests in one county or town; this is done on the Cornell cards or in one's notebook under the species concerned. I find that my seasonal summary is a quick and efficient means of evaluating the season's activities. It would be an invaluable aid to the checklist committee to have such summaries from all those who keep nest records.—Bruce K. Harris, Woonsocket, S. Dak.



“His loud, clear whistle—warns?”

## Long-billed Curlew

—Willis Hall

## Book Review

J. W. Johnson

**T**HE *Life of the Marsh* by William A. Niering. McGraw-Hill, produced jointly with *The World Book Encyclopedia*. \$4.95. The fifth of the series, *Our Living World of Nature* and uniform with the earlier volumes. 232 pages, including Index, Glossary, Bibliography, and 20 pages of Appendices: Wetland Areas in the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuges, Wetland Frogs and Toads, and Endangered Wetland Wildlife.

The profusion of exquisite color photographs is the striking feature of this book as with the earlier volumes of the series. The Snowy Egret, a Mallard drake in furious activity, a couple of young Wood Ducks having their first look at the world, cattail leaves in the sun, spruce trunks amid the ferns of a bog, a fly caught in a sundew plant are a few of the eye catchers.

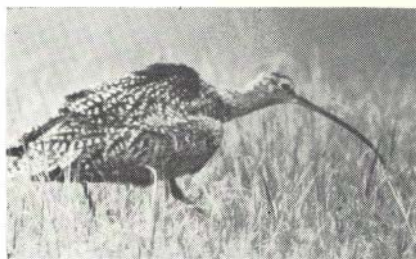
But all the pictures tell a story and their arrangement makes clear the main cycles of energy transfer in the endlessly complex ecologies found

about marshes. Full page color plates dramatize the highlights which accompanying smaller photos supplement, with drawings and text filling in detail.

As with earlier volumes arrangements of pictures and text are constantly varying as "the scene changes;" a target-like air photo of a bog shows in rings of color the circling vegetation and a marginal strip photo on the opposite page shows zones are skipped in some bogs—and all bogs are not the same.

Its conversational text form, with questions, and clues, followed by explanations that suggest, partly by implication, almost endless complexities in life forms and environments.

With this book as a background a marsh will never again be a "stinking swamp" that should be drained and "cleaned up." Rather it will be a welcome opportunity for adventure without limit. And, one might, now and then, get some pictures like these, if his interest runs that way.



"His mate leaves her nest with caution."

Long-billed Curlew

—Willis Hall

## General Notes of Special Interest

WHISTLING SWANS IN LAKE ANDES-FORT RANDALL AREA—A flock of eight Whistling Swans were identified near Svatos Bay on March 17 by Corps of Engineers Biologist Dick Taylor. Two days later, after several persons had seen them, a report came in that one of the birds had been shot.

State Game Warden Leslie Nelson picked up the dead bird and found that it had been shot with a small caliber rifle.

On March 19, the seven remaining swans moved to the south unit of Lake Andes and were still there March 27, 1967.

Whistling Swans are rare in this area. Records maintained at the Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge indicate that they have been reported only twice before: one bird in 1954 and another in 1962.—David J. Olsen, Refuge Manager, Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge.

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NORTHERN PHALAROPE AT LAKE ANDES—On the afternoon of Wednesday, February 1, 1967, a female Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) was observed near the flowing well in Owen's Bay of the Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge. Observers included Ralph H. Town, Wildlife Biologist; Fred R. Rusch, Biological Technician, and two Fishery Biologists from the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. Observations were made through 7x35 binoculars and, because of the tameness of the bird, without visual aids. Color slides were taken with a 400mm telephoto lens. The bird was apparent-

ly healthy and has not been observed again.—Ralph H. Town, Wildlife Biologist, Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Andes, South Dakota 57356.

\* \* \* \*

FEMALE CARDINAL NEAR DE SMET—A female Cardinal has spent the winter with us, came a week before Thanksgiving (1966) and has been around ever since. (2-26-67.) She never goes up to the feeder, but eats off the ground or snow at the base, where the sparrows and Chickadees scatter seed.

I have only seen two other cardinals here, one the school-children found frozen after a storm about twenty years ago and one that visited our feeder about three years ago and stayed for a week or ten days. Both of these were males.—Miss Martha Corlett, Route 1, De Smet.

\* \* \* \*

COMMON GRACKLE NESTING—The common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) nests locally in South Dakota. Although they will nest singly, they often nest in loosely associated colonies. A colony was investigated in a conifer planting at Oakwood Lake, Brookings County, during the breeding season of 1966. The rows of conifers cover an area of about two acres and range in height from three to eight feet.

On May 24, there were 23 active nests that contained nine eggs and 72 young, thus giving an average of 3.13 young per nest. The young ranged in age from a few days old to a week old or older; some were well feathered out. Also in the conifers were five



mourning dove nests and one robin nest.

The grackle nests were constructed of grasses and weeds; a loose, bulky structure, some lined with mud. They ranged in height from three to five feet and usually were placed in the center of a bough. Some trees contained more than one nest.

One cause of nest failure, besides unhatched eggs, was due to young falling out of the nest at an age too young to survive. In nests that have five and six young the sides of the nests often weaken by rain and bend down easily because of the weight of so many young and some of the young are crowded out. In a grackle colony in Beadle County (SDBN) the main cause of nest failure was heavy rain during incubation, however, nest crowding was also noted in the successful nests that hatched eggs.—**D. G. Adolphson, Rapid City.**

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**LAPLAND LONGSPUR OBSERVATION**—In the wintertime I have often heard Longspurs at night during a snow storm. One time in particular when I listened carefully they seemed to have a definite south drift in their flight. After that I assumed when I heard them that they were moving south during the storm.

On February 14, 1967 I observed a large movement of Longspurs and it led me to wonder if my assumption on their south movement was really very good. I was coming back from Sioux Falls in the late afternoon and counted the Longspur flocks. There were 33 flocks observed from Hartford to Forestburg along the Interstate and then north on Highway 37. Most of these flocks were quite large. One of them was about a mile long. Every flock observed was heading west! There was a strong north wind blowing, probably about 20-25 MPH and the weather fore-

cast was for blizzard conditions during the night. The blizzard conditions did occur with generally 6-10 inches of snow, 43 MPH winds, with temperature dropping to about 10° to 15° below zero in the area just to the north of where the Longspurs were observed. The snowfall was lighter and conditions were not quite so severe in the southern part of the state.—**George Jonkel, Huron.**

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**SNOWY OWL NEAR WEBSTER**—On Monday, March 27, 1967, while James Gravelle, Court Reporter for the Fifth Judicial District, and I were on our way from Webster to Aberdeen and about 9:00 a.m. we noticed a large bird in the upper branches of a tree in the Ackerson Roadside Park, three miles west of Webster.

The bird was so large and so unusual that it attracted our attention. Upon closer inspection we identified it as a Snowy Owl. It was a beautiful bird, almost pure white except for some brown splotches. This bird is so uncommon that to see one "face to face," so to speak, was most interesting.

I reported the sighting to Herman Chilson, President of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, who asked me to write this report for Bird Notes.—**Sigurd Anderson, Webster.**

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**FIRST SPECIMEN RECORD FOR THE MOCKINGBIRD IN SOUTH DAKOTA**—An immature Mockingbird, evidently not long out of the nest, but flying well, was taken on September 7, 1966, on Fireball Creek, six miles east of Woonsocket. Plumage development strongly suggests that it was hatched nearby; it is extremely unlikely that the bird was reared south of the state line, 75 miles from the collection locality. Therefore, the specimen probably represents the first positive evidence of breeding by the Mockingbird in

South Dakota, as well as a first specimen record. The skin will be deposited in the bird collection, Wildlife Management Department, South Dakota State University, Brookings.—Bruce K. Harris, Woonsocket.

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**COMMON EGRET**—On September 7, 1966, five Common Egrets were observed at Swan Lake, four miles northeast of Bradley in Clark County. Three days later I observed three Egrets there again. Possibly these were some of the same birds. Most of them were flushed singly from the cattails and bulrushes when I was duck hunting.

On September 20 I saw 32 Common Egrets on the flats along the James River on Highway 20 four miles west of Brentford in north Spink County. This area had been flooded during the summer and still had some mud flats. The birds were scattered out over a large area and were accompanied by fifty or more Great Blue Herons.—George Jonkel, Huron.

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**CINNAMON TEAL AT BELVIDERE**—Sunday morning, May 21, 1967, as we were coming into Belvidere for the last session of the Spring Meeting, we stopped at the end of the causeway near the railroad tracks. Then I noticed that the car behind us, with Mrs. Harter of Highmore and Blanche Battin of Huron had stopped farther back.

When we got out I caught their wave that indicated something important and walked a way towards them. "Cinnamon Teal," came the words and we hurried to see.

They indicated the west shore of the lake, west of the road and there we soon found it with the glasses. There, plain against the green shore, near a pair of Mallards, swam the brownest thing in ducks I had ever seen. Hardly any need of checking that one with

the book. The early morning sun, softened by thin haze, was almost directly behind us. The perfect light brought out details clearly. This was an occasion to remember. No chance of being mistaken.

But we did check with Peterson, just for the record. No other duck had that color. Since the female is much like the Blue-wing female, this would be a male and should also have a chalky-blue patch on the front edge of the wing.

But the bird was too far away and the patch would be narrow with the wings folded. So our glasses couldn't bring it out. Still that could make no difference.

We soon moved on to the meeting and told as many others as we met so all could have a chance to see what must but an uncommon species in the state. During the morning I took Bruce Harris down to check and we found the duck still in the same area.—J. W. Johnson, Huron.

\* \* \* \*

**MOURNING DOVE POISONING VIOLATION RESULTS IN CONVICTION**—In September, 1966 strychnine poisoned cracked corn and wheat was set out to kill off sparrows around an elevator in Aberdeen, South Dakota. According to the reports, four or five mourning doves had been seen feeding around the area but the man placing the poison was not too concerned that there was any danger to doves because the grain was placed within four feet of the building.

On September 4 and 5, twenty-six mourning doves, an estimated 100 English sparrows and several grackles were found dead in the immediate vicinity of the elevator.

An investigation was made by a U. S. Game Management Agent and State Warden. Several of the doves were collected and sent to the Denver Wildlife

Research Center for autopsy, which confirmed strychnine poisoning. The person responsible, a professional exterminator, was apprehended and taken to state court and convicted of killing protected species. The fine was small, only \$15.00 plus \$9.70 costs, but it should serve as a warning to persons using poisoned bait.

Of the twenty-six doves that died, 11 had been banded in a dove trapping and banding operation conducted about a mile away from the elevator.—**George Jonkel, Huron.**

\* \* \* \*

**KILL RECORDS FOR THE WHITE-WINGED SCOTER REPORTED DURING THE 1966 HUNTING SEASON—**During the first week of November (exact date not available) Larry Dusing of Browns Valley, Minnesota, was duck hunting on Lake Traverse with a friend when three large ducks came into their decoys and were killed. Mr. Dusing realized that the birds were unusual in the area, so they were taken to Browns Valley, where an old duck hunter was consulted and they were identified as White-winged Scoters. During my conversation with Mr. Dusing he emphasized the large size, dark color and white wing stripe as characteristics which most attracted his attention to the birds. There are several specimen records for the White-winged Scoter in South Dakota, most coming during the fall hunting seasons. See SDBN's, XVI: 100 and XVII: 85.—**Bruce K. Harris, Woonsocket.**

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**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER AT HURON—**May 14, 1967 a sunny but cool day brought thirty species of birds into our two square block park and residence area near downtown Huron. Twelve of them were warblers but the one that caught my attention was the

Golden-Winged Warbler. It was a beautiful male with a dark grey back and a white grey-tinged breast, two wide yellow wing stripes, a dandelion cap set jauntily on the front of his head, a black triangle covering the eyes and a black triangular bib under his throat. He stayed two days and allowed me to study him carefully from about ten feet away.

The only other golden-winged warbler I had previously seen was trapped in Huron on September 13, 1962 by J. W. Johnson and was a female. Other references in Bird Notes to sightings were (trappings) by Dr. J. F. Benckle in 1931, 1933, 1936, 1941 and 1944, a singing male seen by William Youngsworth May 18, 1956 in Union County near Jefferson on the Missouri River, and a male by Mary Aberdeen Kettle in Huron May 16, 1960.—**Blanche Batten, Huron.**

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**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK AT HURON—**About 8:45 a.m., May 18, 1967, a male Black-headed Grosbeak stopped briefly and had a drink at our bird bath before flying on to the north. It was clearly seen at a distance of less than 20 feet in good light. The wing-bars were clear and the white spots in the tail could be seen as the bird flew away.

Although we are familiar with this bird from our experiences with netting and banding them on Farm Island the past three years, I checked immediately with the picture on page 247 of Vol. II of my favorite bird book, the **National Geographic Society Book of Birds**. It was identical with the picture of the male of the pair shown at the bottom of this plate.

We have a couple of earlier records

of the species here but they were of females in the fall. This was our first spring male.—**Lucille M. Johnson, Huron.**

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**MIGRATION (1967) MISCELLANY IN SIOUX FALLS AREA**—On Easter Sunday Kordillia and Ellen Johnson of Sioux Falls toured the Missouri Valley below Sioux City and saw 17 Whistling Swans . . . Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Stephenson of Sioux Falls watched four Sandhill Cranes attempt to land in a cornfield three-four miles southwest of the city . . . R. E. Powers reports a G. B. Heron on the ice in the lagoon in Hills of Rest Cemetery. This is the locale where the Johnson sisters saw Y-C. Night Heron in summer of 1966 and in 1965.

Mourning Doves are cooing in the big cottonwoods, apparently unaware of their new "legal target birds" status.

Neighbor boy wonders how many taps "Little Carpenter" Woodpecker makes every time it rat-a-tats on the utility pole. Eight?—**H. F. Chapman, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.**

\* \* \* \*

**FIRST SOUTH DAKOTA SPECIMEN RECORD FOR THE EGRET**—On May 17, 1965, a Common Egret was brought into the Woonsocket office of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. It had been picked up three miles north and two miles east of Woonsocket, Sanborn County. The bird was examined and photographed (color slide in my possession) by Game Manager Wilbur Foss. As the specimen was in a state of decay Mr. Foss did not attempt to preserve the bird as a specimen, but he did keep one wing and a leg, both of which are still at Woonsocket. The Egret had evidently died as a result of a broken neck, probably hitting electrical wires along the roadway. An earlier

specimen of the Common Egret, also substantiated by colored slides, was found on October 15, 1962, eleven miles south of Woonsocket. See SDBN's XV: 16.—**Bruce K. Harris, Woonsocket.**

\* \* \* \*

**ALBINO CANADA GOOSE SHOT NEAR CHAMBERLAIN**—On November 21, 1960, Dave Bruse of Woonsocket shot an albino Canada Goose near Chamberlain, Brule County. Field weight was eight pounds, fourteen ounces. The bird had grey eyes, whitish bill, pale yellow legs, and was completely white except for four grey feathers on one wing. Examination was made by Wilbur Foss of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, who had the bird mounted for his Watertown office. Identification was confirmed by M. E. Anderson, and Lyle Schoonover of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. I am indebted to Wilbur Foss for the information submitted here.—**Bruce K. Harris, Woonsocket.**

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**FIRST SOUTH DAKOTA SPECIMEN RECORD FOR THE GLOSSY IBIS**—Seven Glossy Ibis were located on a slough fifteen miles west and seven miles north of Wessington Springs, Jerauld County, on September 5, 1966. An immature bird was taken with help from Homer Dusing, who accompanied me. According to the literature, both the White-face Ibis and the Glossy Ibis might be expected to occur in South Dakota, so it will be especially interesting to see what species determination is made on the above-mentioned bird. The specimen will be deposited in the collection of the Wildlife Management Department, South Dakota State University, Brookings. See SDBN's XIV: 83 and XVII: 70 for other records of this species in South Dakota.—**Bruce K. Harris, Woonsocket.**

## Belvidere, 1967

**S**DOU Meetings are always enjoyable affairs that come too seldom and end all too quickly. But the recent one at Belvidere was in a class by itself. None of us remember anything like it. From beginning to end and without exception, everyone was made to feel at home in a relaxed and yet enthusiastic manner that can only be fully appreciated as it grows on you in retrospect.

Obviously, a lot of grand people live in the Belvidere area and they made the good planning of the program work out in perfection.

Looking back over our few and scattered notes, it seems like even the birds were organized to make our meeting a memorable experience. We have in mind in particular the Cinnamon Teal that displayed himself in the lake west of the causeway in Belvidere for hours, just far enough from the road to be both easily seen and yet require good attention for spotting him. It was a first for many of us and duly appreciated.

Then the Say's Phoebe just south of

town, on the return from the long trip. So pat it could have all been arranged for on the program—just to give a lift, in case any weak soul's spirits might be flagging. It wasn't needed but we were happy with it and the way it gave us plenty of time to recognize the "little robin that catches flies."

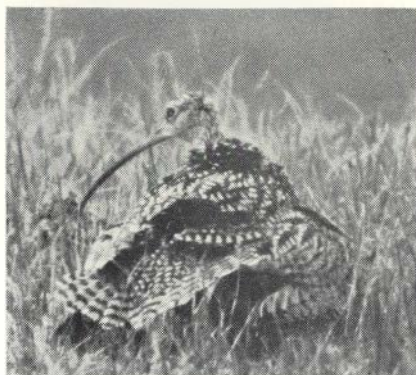
While one hesitates to mention individuals, knowing that so many people gave freely of their time and effort, Miss Esther Serr, the De Vries, Thelma and Wally and Les Baylor, must have been in their working when plans were being made and decisions arrived at. The whole program was a magnificent job that justified the cooperation it received.

And to Miss Serr goes the sincerest sympathy of every one of us. Few of us learned until the end of the meeting of the then recent death of her mother. Our admiration for her ability to carry on as usual at such a time was universal. It is a privilege to know her.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

**"To become a flustered shape of fanning feathers."**

### Long-billed Curlew

by Willis Hall



# Combined Bird List, 1967, Belvidere

May 19, 20 and 21

Horned Grebe	Common Snipe	Tree Swallow
Eared Grebe	Long-billed Curlew	Bank Swallow
Western Grebe	Upland Plover	Rough-winged Swallow
Pied-billed Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
White Pelican	Willet	Cliff Swallow
D-c Cormorant	Greater Yellowlegs	Blue Jay
Great Blue Heron	Lesser Yellowlegs	Black-billed Magpie
Black-crowned Night Heron	Petcoral Sandpiper	Common Crow
American Bittern	White-rumped Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee
Trumpeter Swan (Lacreek)	Baird's Sandpiper	House Wren
Canada Goose	Least Sandpiper	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Mallard	Dowitcher (Longbilled)	Rock Wren
Gadwall	Stilt Sandpiper	Mockingbird
Pintail	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Catbird
American Widgeon	Sanderling	Brown Thrasher
Green-winged Teal	Avocet	Robin
Blue-winged Teal	Wilson's Phalarope	Swainson's Thrush
Cinnamon Teal	Northern Phalarope	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Shoveller	Ring-billed Gull	Eastern Bluebird
Redhead	Franklin's Gull	Loggerhead Shrike
Lesser Scaup	Common Tern	Starling
Bufflehead	Black Tern	Bell's Vireo
Ruddy Duck	Forster's Tern	Warbling Vireo
Turkey Vulture	Mourning Dove	Orange-crowned Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Great Horned Owl	Nashville Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Burrowing Owl	Yellow Warbler
Swainson's Hawk	Short-eared Owl	Myrtle Warbler
Ferruginous Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Audubon's Warbler
Marsh Hawk	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Blackpoll Warbler
Sparrow Hawk	Red-shafted Flicker	Northern Waterthrush
Prairie Chicken (Greater)	Red-headed Woodpecker	Yellowthroat
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Hairy Woodpecker	Wilson's Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Downy Woodpecker	American Redstart
Sora Rail	Eastern Kingbird	House Sparrow
American Coot	Western Kingbird	Bobolink
Semipalmated Plover	Eastern Phoebe	Eastern Meadowlark
Killdeer	Say's Phoebe	Western Meadowlark
Black-bellied Plover	Least Flycatcher	Yellow-headed Blackbird
	Western Wood Pewee	Red-winged Blackbird
	Horned Lark	Orchard Oriole

Baltimore Oriole  
Bullock's Oriole  
Brewer's Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Black-headed Grosbeak  
Blue Grosbeak

Lazuli Bunting  
American Goldfinch  
Rufous-sided Towhee  
Lark Bunting  
Savannah Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Veesper Sparrow

Lark Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
White-crowned sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Song Sparrow



"Her eggs in a slight hollow, grass-lined."

### Nest of Long-billed Curlew

—Willis Hall

All photos in this issue and the halftones were the gift of Willis Hall. They were from his color slides made near Belvidere May 20, 1967.

## Flight of the Blue Geese

Deep in the southern marshes,  
What is the change they know?  
No freshening breeze has rippled yet  
The water's slumbrous flow.  
And yet across the bayous  
The homing sign has stirred.  
The Arctic wilderness calls back  
Each blue, snow-breasted bird.

Here comes no bloom of crocus,  
No willow's burgeoning;  
But one unfailing sign returns—  
The waxing moon of spring.  
Each night a broader silver  
Whitens the still lagoon;  
The wild hearts flutter restlessly,  
And bigger grows the moon.

Until, with wide wings whistling  
Across the startled night,  
The crying flocks arise as one,  
And stretch their necks in flight.  
Straight to their lonely northland,  
Certain as faith they come.  
Under the full white moon of March  
The great blue geese go home.

—*Silence Buck Bellows in the Christian  
Science Monitor.*