

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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Whole No. 77-78



Brood of Young Burrowing Owls

—From Color Slide by Kent Olson

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President's Page

TIME FOR DECISION is the theme of a film currently being presented as a public information service by the Extension Service at Brookings, through the facilities of the county extension offices. Since Dutch elm disease has finally appeared in the southeast part of our state, principally at Sioux Falls, the extension service is concerned to inform the public about this threat so that steps can be taken to counteract the disease before it attains epidemic proportions.

The film skillfully presents the apparently objective facts about elm disease and its control in a manner replete with emotional appeals climaxed by a feeling that our great elms are a special heritage from our forefathers. Their noble efforts and foresight in planting these trees on our barren plains impose upon us a debt of gratitude and obligation. The implication is that to let these trees fall prey to the disease is somehow analogous to defiling the graves of our ancestors.

Instead, the film urges us to face the time for decision now and lead our communities to a readiness to combat the problem. To this end the film outlines a three-step program: (1) sanitation or removal of dead elms and diseased branches where the bark beetles, carriers of the elm disease fungus, exist; (2) application of chemical root barriers to prevent spread of the disease from infected to healthy root systems; and (3) application of chemical sprays—DDT in the fall and methoxy-



chlor in the spring—to kill the beetles. And this program is apparently the only one sanctioned by our state's extension service.

Of course, to some people DDT is a symbolic red flag. The evidence and doubts about the wide use of DDT give pause to bird students and others interested in wildlife and the natural environment. But to the proponents of elm disease control by DDT, the birders and wildlifers are a "queer" sort with a narrow vested interest. "Really," the general attitude seems to be, "Who cares about the loss of some birds by DDT spraying, or even about the extinction of a few species? Are we going to let this weird minority influence us to 'spit on our grandfathers' graves' by losing our elms without an effort to save them?"

Well, the issue is not simply birds or grandfather's precious trees. Ultimately, the issue must be who cares about man, about the total environment in which man must live and have his being? Even as our forefathers gave us a heritage, including the trees that we appreciate for their intrinsic beauty, shade, and bird habitat, so must we be concerned about the heritage that we will bequeath to our descendants. What will that heritage be if we persist in wide use of DDT and other long-life chlorinated hydrocarbons? The literature in the DDT controversy suggests that such a heritage may indeed be bleak.

DDT is sufficiently toxic that it will immediately kill birds and other land and water animals in areas of spraying, even at "recommended safe dosages." DDT'S long life in nature, combined with repeated use and natural move-

ment through soil and water, accounts for the contaminated food-chain effect with consequent infertility and extermination of animals at the end of a food chain. It is no wonder that Dr. Charles F. Wurster, Jr., prominent authority on DDT, contends our knowledge is sufficient to decide that DDT "should not be used under any circumstances in the natural environment." But this is only a part of the DDT picture.

Preliminary investigations by Dr. G. G. Fahmy, a British geneticist, point to grave concern about the long-range genetic effects of chlorinated hydrocarbons and organophosphates in humans. Such subtle effects, possibly harmful mutations, may not occur for many generations hence, but if they do occur, will our present reliance on chemical sprays really be such a boon?

Despite previously successful hard-sell efforts by profit-motivated chemical companies, the public is becoming increasingly aware of DDT's doubtful value, and the consequences are interesting. Enlightened residents of Madison, Wisconsin, successfully objected to the use of DDT for Dutch elm disease, and that city switched to the less toxic methoxychlor. Also, a court case in Berrien County, Michigan, has effectively challenged the Michigan Department of Agriculture's practices with DDT spraying.

But perhaps the outstanding DDT court case was initiated by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Yannacone, Jr., in the New York Supreme Court. They contended: "The potential ecological magnification of the effects and concentrations of such chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides will adversely affect the people of Suffolk County in this generation, the coming generation, and generations yet unborn, either personally or through the destruction of natural resources of the County of Suffolk, particularly the fish and wildlife thereof." Justice Stanislaw, after hearing testimony, granted an injunction with the observation: "The scientific evidence presented is an overwhelming indictment of DDT as a serious environmental poison."

Time for decision: Certainly the decision to combat Dutch elm disease must take into account the potential dangers of DDT. At the very least, we can decide to follow the Madison example and completely substitute the less toxic methoxychlor for DDT in the three-step program. Even more appealing is the experience of certain New York cities practicing the acknowledged fact that sanitation is the key to Dutch elm disease control. These cities, through careful sanitation programs and without spraying, attained excellent results unequalled elsewhere by attempted DDT control.—L. M. Baylor

\$100 GRANT IN ORNITHOLOGY

In order to stimulate research in the field of ornithology through the use of bird-banding techniques or available banding data, the EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION makes a grant of \$100 to a student, undergraduate or graduate, who uses bird banding in an ornithological study.

DEADLINE

The applicant's research description, properly signed by his department head, must be received prior to February 25, 1969.

ADDRESS APPLICATIONS AND QUESTIONS TO:

F. R. Scott
Chairman, Memorial Grant Committee
Eastern Bird Banding Association
115 Kennondale Lane
Richmond, Virginia 23226

Some Birds of Southwestern Perkins County

Alfred Hinds

AS a life-long resident of Perkins County with an interest in birds dating from boyhood days, I have kept notes on the birds in my area. Apparently the published records of Perkins County birds are limited. Thus, the following list of 95 species from my 1933-1967 notes is presented for whatever value may be added to knowledge of South Dakota birds in this rather remote part of the state. (Unfortunately, my notes prior to 1933 have been misplaced.)

My observations have been in southwestern Perkins County, principally at my ranch in Wells Township, about 12 miles south of Sorum, South Dakota. Antelope Creek, lined by cottonwood trees, passes through the ranch, and I have developed a number of stock ponds along this drainage. The ranch land is largely native pasture, hay fields, and some grain fields. Near the ranch buildings are extensive, well-grown shelter belts. In all, the ranch provides varied and rather ideal bird habitats.

Great Blue Heron: recorded 6-2-62, 9-30-64, and 9-16-67; possibly occurs more commonly than the few dates suggest.

American Bittern: recorded 6-28-54, with nest; 5-22-58; 6-14-65, with nest; 6-12-67, with nest and five eggs in hay field of alfalfa and brome grass, three hatched July 20, adult and young birds photographed July 23.

Canada Goose: regular spring migrant stopping in the area for a short time, noted almost annually since 1933, in late March or early April; earliest arrival date, 3-16-33; latest arrival date, 4-19-53.

Snow Goose: eight individuals observed June 2, 1964.

Mallard: regular migrant; nests on the ranch in wet years, preferring the alfalfa fields. 1967 was a particularly good nesting year. Spring migrants generally arrive in the middle of March (3-16) but sometimes are as late as mid-April (4-17).

Blue-winged Teal: regular migrant; also nests on the ranch in wet years (female with brood recorded 7-24-67). Spring migrants tend to arrive at about the same time as the mallards.

Turkey Vulture: recorded 6-21-55, 6-25-55, and 6-6-65; apparently only a casual migrant species in this area, or only casually noted.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: common early spring and late fall migrant—so common that no dates have been kept—may sometimes be a summer and winter resident.

Golden Eagle: permanent resident in the general area.

Bald Eagle: one individual noted 11-26-65.

Marsh Hawk: summer resident in wet years.

Sparrow Hawk: common early spring and late fall migrant—so common that no dates have been kept—may sometimes be a summer and winter resident.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: common permanent resident, regularly nests on the ranch.

Ring-necked Pheasant: permanent resident in small numbers.

Gray Partridge: permanent resident in limited numbers.

Whooping Crane: three whooping cranes were at the Sorum corner by a little dam on the Jerde ranch April 21,

1962, and were observed in the area for several days.

Sandhill Crane: regular spring migrant, sometimes in large numbers, frequently resting and feeding in the area for a few days; generally arrives in late March or early April.

Killdeer: common summer resident. Arrives in mid-March to early April. Recorded annually, 1933-67. A single bird observed 11-13-55 with the temperature 16° below zero.

Black-bellied Plover: A number of this species followed my plow on the morning of May 21, 1961.

Long-billed Curlew: summer resident, tends to arrive from mid-April to early May. Group of 26 present 6-30-59 to 8-5-59.

Upland Plover: common summer resident, arrives from mid-April to early May.

Wilson's Phalarope: summer resident, especially in wet years. Generally arrives in the first two weeks of May.

Franklin's Gull: commonly observed April and May of each year.

Sabine's Gull: one record for May 15, 1967. Notes read: "Looks much like a Franklin's Gull except that it has black legs. Also has more black on wings."

Black Tern: a few observed June 10, 1967.

Mourning Dove: a very common summer resident; tends to arrive in mid-April, with earliest date 4-5 and latest date 4-28.

Black-billed Cuckoo: summer resident in small numbers; normally arrives in April, but in 1954 it was here 3-30. Successful nests recorded 7-20-54 and 7-9-65.

Great Horned Owl: permanent resident, frequently nests in cottonwood trees on the ranch.

Snowy Owl: an individual present December 1966 to February 20, 1967.

Common Nighthawk: common summer resident, arrives between 5-25 and 6-3.

Belted Kingfisher: frequent summer resident, observed here as late as 8-2-65.

Flicker—Yellow-shafted, Red-shafted, and hybrid: sometimes a winter resident (1960-61, 1966-67). Migrants become prominent in late March and early April. The majority of the flickers here probably are hybrids.

Red-headed Woodpecker: a few summer residents; migrants arrive in the last two weeks of May.

Hairy Woodpecker: permanent resident, though there may be some movement or replacement of individuals.

Eastern Kingbird: very common summer resident; arrives mid-May from 5-9 to 5-25.

Western Kingbird: common summer resident in somewhat fewer numbers than the Eastern Kingbird; arrives a bit later, 5-12 to 5-31.

Great Crested Flycatcher: one recorded 6-10-60 and for several following days.

Eastern Phoebe: present in small numbers during the breeding season for 17 years between 1933 and 1967; arrives from mid-April to early May. Preferred nesting site under eaves of the ranch house. Young left nest 8-2-54. A second nest in a season started 7-10-55.

Horned Lark: abundant permanent resident, may be observed any month of the year.

Barn Swallow: summer resident; commonly nests in buildings of the ranch; tends to arrive from mid-April to mid-May.

Blue Jay: summer resident; probably nests in the area, but no definite records; particularly aware of the bird's presence in May.

Black-billed Magpie: permanent resident.

Common Crow: apparently a permanent resident, sometimes in large numbers. While there may be movement

and replacement, crows can usually be observed in any month of the year.

Black-capped Chickadee: permanent resident.

House Wren: common summer resident; arrives mid-May (5-11 in five different years), but has come as early as 5-5 and as late as 5-22.

Mockingbird: one individual present 6-30-58 and for several days thereafter.

Catbird: summer resident; generally arrives between 5-19 and 5-24. Fall records: 10 individuals on 9-10-55, and "dozens here for several days," 9-15-61.

Brown Thrasher: common summer resident; generally arrives between 5-3 and 5-17; in 1939, arrived 4-23.

Robin: very common summer resident, with the exception of the dry years 1935-37. Numbers tend to build up from mid-March through April. Sometimes present in winter months and during severe weather. Over 200 after rain and snow, 11-3-57; several present 1-19-63 at 34° below zero; nine present 1-16-67 and 2-23-67 in below zero temperature.

Swainson's Thrush: March 1, 1959, neighbor, Mr. Coes, found 24 dead ones and brought some for identification.

Veery: recorded 5-18-53, 5-22-54, and 5-23-55.

Mountain Bluebird: recorded 5-23-54, 7-14-55, 9-30-55, 4-8-65, 5-22-67, and 10-23-67.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one found dead here in an early snow storm of September 16, 1965.

Bohemian Waxwing: frequent winter visitor, sometimes in large flocks, enjoying food in the Russian olives, honeysuckle bushes, and cedars of the shelter belts. Dates particularly noted: 1-20-34, 2-28-52, 3-4-55, 2-5 and 15-59, 12-17-59, 2-29-60, 3-6 and 9-61, 11-6 and 29-61, 1-3-62, 3-7-64, 3-28-65, 11-14-66, 12-31-66, 1-16-67, 2-17-67.

Cedar Waxwing: a few present all summer of 1952.

Loggerhead Shrike: common summer resident; usually arrives mid- to late April.

Starling: permanent resident in modest numbers.

Red-eyed Vireo: common summer resident; arrives between 5-13 and 6-8.

Warbling Vireo: common summer resident—apparently so common that detailed notes have not been kept on the species, except for one that was killed by flying into the picture window, 7-5-67.

Nashville Warbler: one found dead, 5-15-66.

Virginia's Warbler: one found dead after a storm, 5-15-67.

Yellow Warbler: common summer resident; arrives 5-7 to 5-22.

Ovenbird: recorded 5-23-53 and 5-7-54.

Yellowthroat: recorded 4-30-55, 5-5-56, and 5-16-62; probably occurs more commonly than the dates suggest.

Yellow-breasted Chat: recorded 5-22-59 and 5-17-65.

Wilson's Warbler: one record for 5-22-53.

American Redstart: recorded 5-20-59, 5-21-63, 5-24-66, 5-22-67; may occur more commonly than the dates suggest.

House Sparrow: permanent resident.

Bobolink: irregular summer resident; present 10 summers between 1946 and 1957. When here, arrives between 5-11 and 5-29.

Western Meadowlark: abundant summer resident, with numbers building up in March and April. Large flocks frequently present in times of severe weather: blizzard of 11-9-55, 16° below zero; blizzard of 11-64, with flock remaining through 2-5-65 (temperatures in this period ranged to 30° below zero).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: spring migrant in considerable numbers. Large flocks particularly noted 6-15-54, 5-7-55,

5-8-56, 5-25-59, 5-3-60, 4-23-66, and 5-10-67.

Red-winged Blackbird: common summer resident.

Orchard Oriole: summer resident in modest numbers (the more common of the three orioles here); typically arrives in the last two weeks of May, but in 1956 it was recorded 5-9.

Baltimore Oriole: summer resident in small numbers; also arrives in the last two weeks of May.

Bullock's Oriole: recorded 5-30-54, 5-9-55, 7-2-64, and 5-17-65.

Common Grackle: common summer resident.

Brown-headed Cowbird: fairly common summer resident.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: irregular summer resident in small numbers; recorded 10 years between 1952 and 1966; arrives 5-12 to 5-30; in 1956, one noted on 4-29.

Black-headed Grosbeak: recorded for first time 5-30-67; also present 7-24-67.

Lazuli Bunting: recorded 5-23-66 and 6-8-67.

Dickcissel: irregular summer resident; recorded 6-4-52, 6-10-53, 6-8-54, 6-20-64, 6-15-65, 6-24-67, and 7-24-67.

Common Redpoll: dozens found dead after a storm, 3-3-66.

American Goldfinch: fairly common summer resident, with spring migrants arriving in the last two weeks of May.

Rufous-sided Towhee: common spring migrant, with a few remaining as summer residents; typically arrives between 5-2 and 5-4, but has been as early as 4-20 and as late as 5-8.

Lark Bunting: very abundant summer resident; earliest spring migrants recorded 4-30-61; numbers build up through May.

Vesper Sparrow: common summer resident; large numbers of migrants from late April through mid-May; earliest arrival date, 3-30-61.

Slate-colored Junco: winter visitor in small numbers.

Chipping Sparrow: very common summer resident; arrives early and stays late.

Harris' Sparrow: spring migrant, sometimes remaining for about two weeks; arrives late April (4-24) to mid-May (5-15); in 1953, recorded 4-9 and 5-22.

White-crowned Sparrow: spring migrant, also remaining for about two weeks; arrives late April (4-24) to early May (5-2); in 1962, present on 3-26.

White-throated Sparrow: one found dead 5-12-67.

Fox Sparrow: recorded 5-10-57 and 4-18-59; present other years but dates not noted.

Lincoln's Sparrow: one found dead after a storm, 5-19-67.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: common to abundant summer resident; spring migrants arrive from late April (4-21) to early May (5-17).

Snow Bunting: irregular winter visitor; starting 1-31-65, present for several weeks in "unbelievable numbers."—**Prairie City, South Dakota**

* * * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: In answer to questions about his sighting of the Sabine's Bull Hinds wrote: "Not Franklin's or Bonaparte's Gull for I saw it had black feet and legs as it flew over. It also had more black on it than they do. It must be a rare bird in this area. I didn't know to look for the forked tail but it didn't have the pink-red legs of the Franklin's."

The Sabine's Gull has "the five outer primaries and their coverts black, with small white tips."—**Birds of America**, edited by T. Gilbert Pearson. (One of the books used by Hinds). "While this is an Arctic species, it wanders both coasts and is casual in the interior. It has been taken in the Great Lakes and in Great Salt Lake."

The A.O.U. Check-List gives it as accidental in Montana, Wyoming, Kan-

sas, Nebraska, and Missouri, among others.

Regarding the Virginia's Warbler, he writes: "The Virginia's Warbler I am very certain of. We checked it with Peterson's **Field Guide to Western Birds**, pages 153 and 154, picture on page 150. (He is using the first edition). We also checked with the **Encyclopedia of American Birds** by L. A. Hausmann.

"I gave the Lincoln Sparrow and the Warbler to a neighbor who does very good taxidermy work. They were in bad condition and I am not sure if he could use them and can't get hold of him now to ask.

The A.O.U. Check-List gives Virginia's Warbler as a breeding species in Southeastern Idaho, Northeastern Utah, and Northern Colorado, and casual in migration in western Kansas.

Good Bugs and Bad Bugs

Everybody ought to know—as children do know and as some pesticide people apparently do not know—that there are good bugs and bad bugs. The mosquito unquestionably is a bad one. And it's almost as easy to know the good ones—especially dragonflies, ladybugs and fireflies—not only because they are pretty, but because they never hurt man, woman or child.

Dragonflies, more beautiful than the most vividly imagined UFO, are relentless destroyers of the vicious mosquitoes. They search for them with heads that are all mouth and eyes, each eye with more than 30,000 lenses. They can gulp a mosquito while catching another with their legs. A dragonfly does away with about 3000 mosquitoes in a 15-hour working day. And when it quits for the night, the fireflies take over, presenting, while they work, an aerial ballet

even more beautiful than that of the dragonflies.

It's not true that the ladybug, in its rusty armour, flits about frivolously while its house is on fire and the children are crying. A creature once known as "The bird of Our Lady" could not be so devoid of compassion. But it must be acknowledged that its love does not extend to aphids and all sorts of other pests and plagues. When not on a strict diet, a ladybug gobbles up about 50 aphids a day.

It is too bad that the people who make bug sprays are not as discriminating as bugs. They do not seem to care that they may be destroying bugs, good as well as bad, and also birds and other living creatures, too.

Editorial from:—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Winter Meeting, 1968

DATES:

November 22, 23 and 24, 1968

PLACE:

Augustana College, Gilbert Science Center
33rd and Summit, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

TENTATIVE PROGRAM:

Friday, November 22

7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.—Tour of Gilbert Science Center including art work of Wayne Trimm. Social hour, Room 101, Gilbert Science Center.

Saturday, November 23

8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.—Registration (\$1.00 fee to cover local expenses), Pendulum Lobby, Gilbert Science Center.

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.—Guest speaker, papers, business meeting. Details to be announced later.

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.—Banquet, special program.

Sunday, November 24

A morning schedule of papers and/or business will be arranged if necessary.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Those who plan to present papers during the November meetings should send **title, name, address, length of time desired, and type of projection equipment needed** to Dr. Willard N. Rosine, Department of Biology, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, by **November 10.**

Birds' Nests of South Dakota

L. J. Moriarty

A.O.U. #456 PHOEBE

(Sayornis phoebe)

AS Over says: "This bird often builds its nest under a bridge." All previous nests I have seen have been under either wooden or steel bridges over small streams. These have now been replaced by concrete box culverts or poured concrete bridges; so I have seen few nests in these locations in late years.

I have never seen a nest of the Phoebe on a limb as Bent says they are sometimes found. All nests I have seen have been on man made structures, such as bridges, unoccupied buildings, or those that are occupied but not used to a great extent.

They all pretty well follow the story of a pair that nested over my basement door under a redwood deck of our home.

On May 15, I saw one fly under this deck and look at possible sites for nesting. I did not see it again until May 28, when two birds began building a nest. On that day only a small pinch of moss was placed over the door jamb, against a light fixture. On May 31, just three days later, the nest was finished, taking just over three days to complete, a much shorter period than generally reported for this species in the literature.

The nest was very well constructed of green moss and fine fibers collected from the lake-shore just in front of the house, some mud being used, and was lined with fine fibers, rootlets, and hairs placed in a circular manner. It was about five inches in diameter and

four inches deep outside. Inside diameter was $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches and depth $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

The night of June 1, the first egg was laid and one each the next three successive nights. None was laid on the fifth night, but the sixth night, another was laid, making a total of five. The eggs were pinkish white with a very few chocolate brown spots around the larger end. An exception is the fifth, which had as many spots around the larger end as the other four combined, which is contrary to the general rule that the later eggs usually have less pigment.

On June 21, just 16 days after the bird appeared to be incubating, four eggs hatched and the next morning there were five.

The eggs measured .75"x.55".

I felt that 16 days was too long for the incubation period of a bird so small, most of them of that size being around 11 to 12 days. Bent gives 16 days and 12-13-14 days for the Arkansas Kingbird, about the period for most flycatchers except the various phoebes, which are longer.

Both birds worked at nest building and feeding the nestlings but I am inclined to believe only the female incubated, as over many hours of watching, I saw nothing that indicated a change at the nest.

On July 1, 10 days after hatching, I photographed one of the young with its eyes still closed and primary wing feathers just breaking out of the sheaths. This is to be compared with the Chestnut-collared Longspur at 11

(Continued on Page 68)

Christmas Count, 1967

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Highmore	Huron	Lake Andes	Madison	Mitchell	Rapid City	Waubay	Webster	Wilmot
Canada Goose					7674						
Snow Goose					1			1			
Mallard				160500			43	498			
Black Duck				3							
Gadwall								138			
Pintail					1						
Green-winged Teal					3						
European Widgeon								1			
Am. Widgeon				3				1			
Shoveler								1			
Wood Duck					1						
Redhead					3			1			
Canvasback								1			
Lesser Scaup					203						
Common Golden Eye					1010			156			
Bufflehead					103			1			
Hooded Merganser					5			2			
Common Merganser					211						
Red-breasted Merganser					3						
Red-tailed Hawk		1			4			5			
Rough-legged Hawk			1	6	4		1	18	2		1
Golden Eagle				1	13			2			
Bald Eagle					131			2			
Marsh Hawk					2			3			
Prairie Falcon					1						
Pigeon Hawk								1			
Greater Prairie Chicken					2						
Bobwhite					1						
Sharp-tailed Grouse			12					34			
Pheasant	16	55	112	197	234	63	3	13	2	6	3
Gray Partridge			12						5		
Turkey								18			
American Coot					7			4			
Killdeer								1			
Common Snipe								5			
Mourning Dove		4		1	44	4					
Great Horned Owl		5	1	4	3		3		1	1	2
Snowy Owl				1	7						
Short-eared Owl				1	1			1			
Belted Kingfisher								6			

CHRISTMAS COUNT, 1967 (Continued)

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Highmore	Huron	Lake Andes	Madison	Mitchell	Rapid City	Waubay	Weoster	Wilmot
Flicker Y-s.		3	1	4	5	1	1				
Flicker R-s.	1			1				2			
Red-bellied Woodpecker					1						
Hairy Woodpecker		8		2				6		1	3
Downy Woodpecker	4	26	1	6	3	3	2	15	2	3	6
Horned Lark	20	160	241	152	13	110	109	127		6	67
Blue Jay	1	15		1	7	7	1	42		3	3
Black-billed Magpie					12			28			
Common Crow		29	3	4	13	7	90	11			1
Pinion Jay								122			
Black-capped Chickadee	5	125		12	25	3	6	97	5	6	14
Tufted Titmouse		1									
White-breasted Nuthatch		6	2	2	5		1	5	5	1	5
Red-breasted Nuthatch					3			2			
Brown Creeper		1						4			
Winter Wren								2			
Brown Thrasher								1			
Robin		13		2	297			21			
Townsend's Solitaire								9			
Golden Crowned Kinglet				1				10			1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					1						
Bohemian Waxwing								25			
Cedar Waxwing								13			
Northern Shrike								7			
Starling	4	132		187	42	56	131	570		2	5
House Sparrow	133	1251	110	1123	150	840	1000	812	1	8	124
Western Meadowlark		1		4	3						
Yellow-headed Blackbird											1
Red-wing Blackbird					122			5			200
Rusty Blackbird				10							3
Common Grackle	1	3		2			13			3	1
Brown-headed Cowbird		3									
Cardinal	3	1		8	5		4				
Evening Grosbeak								127			
Common Redpoll		1							3		
Pine Siskin		5	2	25				5			
American Goldfinch		51			26	1	6	20			
Red Crossbill								37			
White-winged Junco								72			
Slate-colored Junco		52		5	12		43	178			2
Oregon Junco			2	1	1		4	144			
Tree Sparrow		177	6	161	293	6	223	163			15
Harris' Sparrow		11		1	20		14	2			
Song Sparrow								2			
Lapland Longspur				95			1250	16			127
Snow Bunting									40		42

Charles Powers Crutchett

Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
Sunday, July 14, 1968

Dear Jim:—

Shortly after noon yesterday I had a telephone call from Gilbert Olawsky, son-in-law of Charles Crutchett, who lives in Mitchell. He had word that Crutchett had died in Canada and that they were en route there, flying as far as they could, planning to rent a car and go on to Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Several days ago I had a letter from Charley, written at Rocky Mountain House on July 5th, 1968. You probably know that he had some land up there. It is my understanding that it was a homestead. He has been taking Louisa up there in summers for many years and recently had their daughter and her family up.

He habitually wrote to me about the wildlife he saw on his land and water. Some of his sketches deal with subjects in that locale. He talked about it at various times and it seemed to me that it was the one big thing in his life, emotionally and romantically speaking, other than his family. Gilbert said he had suggested to him that he would like to wind up life there, and it seems his wish has been gratified.

In view of this background it seems to me that this letter tells much about this fine friend. It appeals to me as a reflection of the things about him that made his such a fine, valued friend and associate in the out of doors.

With that thought I have made a copy of the letter for you to use as you

see fit and another for your use in writing to Mrs. Crutchett.

I can think of a lot of things I would rather do than pass this word on to you.

H. F. Chapman

Rocky Mountain House
Alberta, Canada
July 5, 1968

Dear Chap:—

Louisa and I are here on our annual vacation. We made it in a little over 2½ days from Armour—not bad, since on Sunday we drove in the face of a hard rain all day.

We were not welcomed by Hoelbell's Grebes this time, but by Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. We were awakened on Tuesday, July 2 by a burst of song from one close beside the cabin. Tuesday and Wednesday he sang close around the cabin from early morning till almost dark. I saw him several times Thursday and Friday (today).

There is a Bufflehead with five ducklings on the pond. And another duck I have not yet identified, also with five ducklings; a Loon which I have heard but not seen; and in the trees around the cabin are flycatchers of some sort whose voices I cannot recognize and whose bodies I cannot see.

A partridge with seven young was in the bushes on the lake shore this morning. Some of the young could fly; others were not able. I watched the

mother a few yards away as she clucked and clucked, then "quit, quit, quit." She was very accommodating and frequently spread her beautiful tail—grey-tailed partridge—just a variety now (variation) but used to be considered a separate sub-species.

We saw a deer today, in the road, close to the cabin.

A robin or two are around, but they are very timid.

We have heard a little Hawk-owl many times—a tremolo like our Screech Owl, but softer.

A big beaver lodge on the pond and I found the stump of a two-inch poplar recently "beavered" off.

Started this cabin four years ago. Lack of capital has slowed its accommodation, but it is livable. Wish you folks were here.

Chas.

CHARLES Powers Crutchett, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Crutchett, was born June 22, 1892, at Armour, S. Dak. He graduated, valedictorian of the class from Armour High School in 1911. He attended Huron College and then taught the Grandview Rural School for one year. In 1913 he went to Alberta, Canada where he homesteaded land near Rocky Mountain House. He returned to the United States in 1917 and studied pharmacy at the University of Iowa. He purchased his father's drug store at Armour in 1921, which he operated until his retirement in 1964.

He married Louisa Hill of Rapid City, September 21, 1924, and they had one daughter, Irene Louisa.

He served as a Trustee and a Deacon of his church, Community Congre-

gational (United Church of Christ), as City Councilman, member of the Commercial Club, and City Treasurer for 25 years. He was a charter member of the Douglas County Historical Society, charter member of the Douglas County Museum, president of the Cemetery Board. He was a member of the committee which compiled the Douglas County history in 1961, co-chairman of the Armour Diamond Jubilee, a Past Worshipful Master of Arcadian Lodge No. 97, and a member of Armour Star Chapter No. 64. He served as president of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, a member of the National and South Dakota Pharmaceutical organizations.

All the years from his childhood he had been a bird lover and spent many hours observing and taking notes of their habits. He also sketched and painted birds from life observations. He was indeed a nature lover.—*Louisa Crutchett, Armour*

THE COVER

Owlets photographed about a mile west of Cavour Lake in Beadle County. Four young were observed plus two adults. The burrow occupied by the owls was located in a then active Richardson ground squirrel colony. Photographed July 1968, by Kent Olson.

General Notes of Special Interest

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR IN MINER COUNTY—While participating in the Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey, June 27, 1967, we saw four Chestnut-collared Longspurs in a pasture and on the fence one mile east of Roswell, on Highway 34 and one half mile north on the west side of a gravel road.

Since we had never seen this species so far east, we were alert for it as we covered the same route on the morning of June 27, 1968. We were rewarded as we saw a male searching for food and feeding what appeared to be a nearly grown bird which followed it about. This was the same pasture where the birds were seen last year.—Charles and Gladyce Rogge, Sioux Falls.

* * * *

WOLSEY—It was late in the afternoon of June 10, 1968. We were on a gravel road about four miles west of Wolsey, trying to get pictures of some birds about a small marsh. A small sparrow lit on the fence on our left, the east side of the road.

Since Lucille was holding the camera ready for such opportunities, I slowed the car to a stop opposite and slid the long telephoto out the car window. It took a few seconds to locate the bird in the finder and I dared not trust it to wait while the focus was sharpened. A second slightly improved exposure was made before it disappeared.

Knowing the pictures would not be very good, I thought little more about them. Actually, we deplored the fact that we had been too busy with the camera to really notice what the bird looked like other than that it was a small sparrow.

When they came back a couple of

weeks later, the slides were no better than expected for focus but they still gave a good rendering of color with some detail of feathers. We easily identified the bird as a Le Conte's Sparrow, though we had never seen one, by the dark crown with central stripe, the pale yellow wash across the breast that had faint stripes on the side. In a later detailed comparison with Robert's description of *Birds of Minnesota*, we found 19 points of agreement. The only important mark not visible was the "pinkish brown" collar on the back of the neck; partly because our views did not show that area. The nearby marsh habitat also pointed to Le Conte's Sparrow.

The literature on this bird in the state seems meager enough to make this observation worth the space. In *Bird Notes* only the following give information: VIII:19 shows it as a summer resident in the Northeast and Prairies, a transient visitant in the Southeast; Carl M. Johnson, X:55 describes it as a Summer Resident in Bon Homme County; and Mrs. Harter, XIV:22 reports seeing it in Highmore on August 19, 1961.—J. W. and Lucille M. Johnson.

* * * *

GIANT CANADA GOOSE WITH 10 GOSLINGS AT NORTH WAUBAY LAKE—While in the area on the Breeding Bird Survey, I drove up to Webster where Dr. Warren Sewell had sent me word of a *Canadensis maximus* at North Waubay Lake with 10 goslings that he had been watching. On July 19, we went out to the lake where he had watched them twice, grazing on a peninsula.

We found them out in the water a couple of hundred yards. They were

about one-third grown and accompanied by both parents, in the usual line formation, one parent leading, the other following.

As the usual clutch is 4-6 and 5 average, we wish we could know if the goose took over another's nest of five and laid another clutch of her own. From what I have observed, I doubt that she would adopt an extra brood. Usually they will not allow another gosling to come near their own.—**L. J. Moriarty.**

* * * *

LATE HARRIS SPARROW IN SPINK COUNTY—While making our Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey June 18, 1968, Herman Chilson and I were stopped at a point five miles southwest of Conde, in Spink County. A bird lit on the gravel dirt road in front of our car. The location was where a drainage ditch crossed the road and had a good growth of willows, boxelders, cottonwoods that appeared to be 20 to 25 years old, with many bushes.

This bird was close enough to identify without binoculars; it was a perfectly normal appearing and acting Harris Sparrow. We watched it for 30 minutes while it ate and carried a small grasshopper around in its bill as though it were feeding young. It walked into the roadside grass with the hopper and come out without it. Of course, we could not see whether it ate the food or fed it to young. It also made one trip into the brush and I attempted to locate a nest, unsuccessfully.

So we will never be sure if it was a breeding bird. Since we failed to find a second bird, it could be one that failed to continue north, possibly from injury or disease, and later recovered.

The latest record in spring I find for this bird in the literature is May 20, in Minnesota.—**L. J. Moriarty.**

LATE HARRIS SPARROW AT HURON—In the afternoon of June 12, 1968 a Harris' Sparrow was caught in our sparrow trap. This is unusual. Native sparrows seldom are tempted by this trap even when they are feeding all around it.

We had heard a Harris' whistling for several days before but did not make a record of it because it seemed too improbable and we felt we must be mistaking the note of a Starling or other mimic for the Harris' Sparrow.

It happened I had checked the house sparrow in the trap less than twenty minutes before finding the Harris' in it; so I could be sure it had not been in many minutes when it was taken out and banded.

Lucille and Jean Jonkel, who happened by, both saw the bird banded and released. It was not seen again about the yard.

A fairly careful study of our records here shows the next latest sign of a Harris' Sparrow was May 16, 1960. Any other late records comparable with this or Dr. Moriarty's in this issue would be of interest in compiling the proposed **Birds of South Dakota.**—**J. W. Johnson.**

* * * *

ROBERTS COUNTY NOTES—SPECIMEN RECORDS FOR THE BARRED OWL AND WINTER WREN—On December 27, 1966, my son Mark and I were enjoying one of the first winter days we'd had in Roberts County for a number of years. I was particularly interested in catching up on South Dakota's winter bird life, and we drove out past Bullhead Lake, four miles east of Wilmot. We saw an owl sitting high in a cottonwood tree, quite a distance off, which I took to be a Horned Owl. About an hour later we drove along the lakeshore, getting out when the trail

came to a dead end, birding a bit without finding anything of particular interest. Driving back to the main road I came to a sudden stop upon sighting a large owl sitting on the lower limb of a tree; it was watching us intently, but with no particular alarm. No more than 30 yards away, I could see that it was earless, and not a Horned Owl. My first thought was of a Great Grey Owl; a closer look at the bird (and reference to the Peterson guide) changed my mind on this, but I decided that the bird was worth collecting. Identification was made positive with the bird in hand. The specimen was deposited at the University of South Dakota Museum, Vermillion.

There is evidently only one other South Dakota specimen for the Barred Owl—a bird picked up DOR by Twedt and Hart east of Yankton on March 16, 1964, (see SDBN's, XVI:98). There are several sight records, including one by Johnson at the Waubay National Waterfowl Refuge on Nov. 29, 1964. The Barred Owl is a regular resident in the woods of Minnesota, some 150 miles east of Wilnot. It has been reported in North Dakota and as far north as Saskatchewan, so it is not unlikely that it will turn up in other localities in South Dakota where suitable woodlands are available.

THE WINTER WREN is a bird that is easily overlooked during migration. Small and inconspicuous in appearance, it skulks about brush piles or in the heaviest of cover, as a general rule. It is only when it gives its characteristic chirping call (not at all wren-like) that you would be aware of its presence in the neighborhood. I have seen this species only twice in South Dakota—both during the fall migration, in Roberts County. A single bird was observed at Sodak Park on Big Stone Lake on October 22, 1966, and two birds were found near the cottage at Sodak Park on October 7, 1967, when a specimen

was taken. Unfortunately, the specimen was lost before a study skin could be made up.

There are few records in the literature for the Winter Wren east of the Missouri River in South Dakota. Herb Krause reported a bird at Sioux Falls on September 24, 1955, and there are very old sight records by Adrain Larson for the same area, dating back to 1907 and 1908. Visher reported the species in Sanborn and Clay Counties, in 1913 and 1912, respectively. Because it is a fairly common bird in the coniferous forests of Canada, the Winter Wren should be expected as an uncommon migrant in South Dakota, both spring and fall.—Bruce Harris, Woonsocket.

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RING BILLED GULL OBSERVERS

Dr. William E. Southern asks that anyone observing ring-billed gulls wing-marked with 1.5 inch-diameter tags notify him at the Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, 60115, with the following information: date, exact location, marker color and the observer's name. The gulls will be wing-marked May through July from three Great Lakes colonies, each colony represented by a different color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population.—Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide

* * * * *

KOUF COLLECTION — YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON AND OLD SQUAW DUCK—Several interesting specimen records, dating back to 1955, have evidently gone unreported in South Dakota. Although specific dates are unfortunately not available for these records, the species involved are of sufficient interest to warrant reporting at this time.

During the 1955 hunting season a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (adult

in full plumage) was found dead near Lake Byron, Beadle County, and in November 1958 an Old Squaw Duck in winter plumage was taken at Lake Byron. Both of these birds were preserved by Mr. Charles Kouf, an old waterfowl hunter living in Huron. I obtained permission to take the birds as specimen records, and they have been deposited in the Wildlife Department collection at the State University in Brookings. Both species have been taken in South Dakota during recent years, but they are considered rarities. See SDBN's, XV:41 for additional records.

Mr. Kouf's mother was a competent taxidermist, mounting specimens taken by her husband and three sons near the old homestead some six miles northeast of Huron. A well-prepared collection of about three hundred specimens was built up during the period 1915 to 1935, most of which are in the possession of the Kouf family at this time. Some specimens show disrepair and improper handling as a result of loaning the collection to various groups for display purposes, but most are in surprisingly good condition. As is often the case with such collections, dates and localities are not available for the Kouf specimens, but personal conversation with Mr. Kouf convinced me that the two species above mentioned are authentic South Dakota birds.

Other interesting specimens in the Kouf collection include the following: Saw-whet owl, Least Bittern, Goshawk, Duck Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Virginia rail, White-winged Scoter, Raven, (shot in the Black Hills about 1922) Black throated blue warbler and Purple finch. While it is quite probable that all are South Dakota specimens, nothing definite can be stated about them.—**Bruce K. Harris, Woorsocket, S. Dak.**

LARK BUNTINGS IN LAKE AND MINER COUNTIES—In 1967 we saw 20 Lark Buntings on a Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey Route which ran east and west from a point north of Junius to the Roswell vicinity, a distance of 25 miles. This year, we saw 54 Lark Buntings.

Last year we saw eight of the birds in a 15 mile section of the Lennox route, beginning five miles north of Lennox and running north. This year we saw 22 Lark Buntings in the same area.

From these and other observations it seems to us that the species may be getting more numerous in the eastern part of the state.—**Charles and Gladys Rogge, Sioux Falls.**

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Richard J. Clark, Delta Waterfowl Research Station, Delta, Manitoba, Canada is doing research on the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). At present he is looking for some breeding birds and finding none in the Delta area.

These owls were present during migration but, probably due to dry weather, moved elsewhere. Where? He would appreciate hearing from anyone with any information on the birds. While it will be long past time for the requested information to be of use in the 1968 season, Clark will appreciate hearing from anyone with data on their behavior or presence during the current year, and being kept advised of developments early next year.

* * * *

1968 BREEDING RECORDS—During the 1968 breeding season nest cards were compiled on 74 individuals and 46 species of birds. Among the more interesting were the following: Eared grebe, Long-eared Owl, Yellowthroat and Cardinal from Sanborn County; Piping plover from Elk Point; Least

tern from three localities (Elk Point, Vermillion and Big Bend); Least flycatcher, Redstart and Yellow-breasted chat from Farm Island; Cedar waxwing from Roberts County. More detailed information is available to anyone who might need it. Breeding season observations were made on the Whip-poor-will (Union County), Bell's vireo ((Sanborn County) and Wood Thrush (Farm Island), but nests were not located.—**Bruce Harris, Woonsocket.**

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NEW TREATMENT PREVENTS POLLUTION BY PHOSPHATES

The Dow Chemical Company is offering a chemical process for removing phosphates from municipal and industrial waste water and says it is commercially feasible for use in sewage disposal plants. Excessive phosphate stimulates excessive growth of aquatic plants, such as algae, using up the oxygen in the water. This can eventually kill off all life in the polluted water.—**Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide**

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Birds' Nests

(Continued From Page 59)

days having adult weight and leaving the nest.

On July 3, the eyes were about half open. In timing the feeding, one or the other parent fed them at the rate of about 175 times an hour. That is a lot of times to prepare a bottle each day. I could not identify the insects as they were very small and all taken upon the wing.

On July 10 young still used the nest and on July 12, at noon, I felt they were about ready to leave and so took another picture. At 2:30 p.m. that afternoon they had all flown to a maple tree about 100 feet away and were still begging and being fed by the parents, 21 days after hatching.—**Watertown**

BARN OWL AT PICKSTOWN—On May 13, 1968 I found a dead Barn Owl on the upstream face of Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown. The owl was along the water's edge and near the intake structure. It could not be determined what had killed the bird as it was badly decomposed when located. The owl was a hundred yards or more from the highway and probably was not tossed from a car. Possibly it struck the concrete structure. George Jonkel confirmed identification.—**Rolf Wallenstrom, Aberdeen**

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WOODCOCKS NEAR PLANKINTON—On May 22, 1968 five woodcocks were seen in a ditch along a county road in Aurora County 10 miles north and one mile east of Plankinton. They were completely unafraid and were observed from about 10 feet distance. Two were sitting still and three were probing for food. They seemed to be catching earthworms in the ground under shallow water but they gobbled them so fast it was hard to tell what they were catching.—**George M. Jonkel**

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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF FARM ISLAND—There have been some interesting banding records reported from Farm Island during the past several years, and occasionally there are notes on migrants from the area, but apparently no one has explored the birds of Farm Island during the breeding season. With this in mind, I spent the night of June 26, 1968 on the adjacent mainland, hiking about on the island that evening and most of the following day. I had been told that this heavily wooded island would be "teeming with birds," and this was certainly true; a breeding bird census on the Island would be very rewarding, I am sure.

During the 24 hour period that I observed birds on Farm Island 48 species

were recorded. Of these, only eight would not be expected to nest on the Island. And I would expect to run the total list to at least 62 species, had time permitted. Nests, or strong evidence of nesting, was recorded for nine species during my short visit.

An account of the more interesting records is included here for the information of SDOU members, with hopes that others will visit this unique island during the next few breeding seasons.

Wood Thrush—At least one (possibly two) singing male was heard, but I was unable to get a view of the bird. However, my identification was confirmed by Burt Anderson, graduate student at the University of South Dakota, who told me that he also heard a Wood Thrush singing on Farm Island shortly before my visit.

Black and White Warbler—A singing male was observed and followed for some time, but no evidence of nesting was obtained. Its occurrence at this time of year strongly suggests breeding.

Ovenbird—Two singing males were observed. One bird undoubtedly had a nest in the vicinity, judging by its actions.

Least Flycatcher—This species and the Wood Pewee were the two real surprises of my trip. I had reason to believe that the other birds mentioned here might be found on the Island, although I did not expect the luck I had in finding them. I heard a Least Flycatcher calling, and while under observation it flew to a nest located 35 feet up in a cottonwood tree. A second bird was later seen, but I did not observe them feeding young in the nest. A

check on the nest was impossible at the time of my visit.

Eastern Wood Pewee—At least two singing males were noted. I had no time to check on possible nesting.

Great Crested Flycatcher—Three or four calling males were noted.

Bell's Verio—Three singing males were recorded; one on the causeway leading from the mainland, and two near the Park Headquarters on the mainland.

~~**Yellow-breasted Chat**—Quite common as the Chat; a nest was located nine feet up in a grapevine hanging from a cottonwood tree. It was empty, but a very worried male and female Redstart were close at hand.~~

see correction XX: 96

Scarlet Tanager—This bird was not observed by me, but Burt Anderson reported two males on the Island earlier in the month.—Bruce Harris, Woonsocket

* * * *

FULVOUS TREE DUCK, CINNAMON TEAL AND BLACK DUCK IN MINER COUNTY—On June 14, 1967, I stopped by Twin Lakes in Miner County to see what duck broods might be showing up. Among the many species of ducks that were flushed from the lake shore was a single Fulvous Tree Duck, easily identified by the conspicuous tail pattern, unique among North American ducks. The bird flew into the middle of the lake, where I observed it through a 20 power telescope for more than 10 minutes. It then flew over to the south side of the lake, landing among a mixed group of ducks. I stalked it to within 50 yards, getting some better observations on the bird before it flushed,

again showing the V-shaped tail pattern and the long, trailing legs and feet. At no time did I hear it whistle, a call note that is also an identification character for Tree Ducks, but this may not be unusual, inasmuch as it was a lone bird. I have observed both species of Tree Ducks in the southwestern states on several occasions, so I am quite positive of this sight record. A very heavy rainstorm (four inches) hit the Twin Lakes area during the night of the 14th, and I was unable to locate the Tree Duck when Kent Olson and I returned to the lake on the following day. There is one existing record for this species in South Dakota, a specimen taken by Berchtold, near Salem, McCook County, during the October, 1958 hunting season. The specimen was mounted and was deposited at the Pettigrew Museum in Sioux Falls. (SDBN's: Vol. 1:35.) For several years up to 1964 Fulvous Tree Ducks were observed at scattered locations through the northeastern United States, as far north as Maine, creating a good deal of comment and speculation regarding the possible extension of the range of this interesting bird (see AFN's, February 1963, page 4).

Two Black Ducks were observed at Twin Lakes on March 15, 1968. They were resting apart from the many other species present on the lake, and when flushed they rose high into the air and moved out of the area. Black Ducks are undoubtedly of regular occurrence in South Dakota, though definitely not a common bird. There are more than 20 South Dakota records for this species, coming from widely scattered counties throughout the state. Black Ducks can be confused with Mallard hens if a person is not alert, and this probably accounts for the comparative scarcity of records for the species.

A male Cinnamon Teal was closely observed at Twin Lakes on April 24,

1968 as it successfully discouraged a persistent male Blue-wing from paying court to a female teal. Whether the female was a Cinnamon or Blue-winged Teal is something that is impossible to determine in the field, but it is an indication of possible hybridization that males of the two species were courting the same female. As in the case of the Black Duck, Cinnamon Teal are not as rare in the state as is generally believed. There are more than 15 records available, including eight from east-river counties. The species is most often found at LaCreek Refuge, where six pair were observed during July, 1965, although no evidence of nesting was recorded (SDBN's: XVIII:18).—
Bruce Harris, Woonsocket

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NESTING RECORDS FOR THE LEAST TERN AND PIPING PLOVER—

The following records will corroborate the careful observations presented by William Youngworth in Bird Notes several years ago (XII:70). We are all very much indebted to Mr. Youngworth, who passed away recently. For years he contributed some of the more significant records on South Dakota birds, although he was a long-time resident of Iowa, rather than of South Dakota.

My first South Dakota sighting of Least Terns was on June 5, 1968, when I observed three birds at Big Bend Dam. A single bird was also seen at Big Bend on the 14th of June, but I did not think of them as a nesting bird in the area at the time. Intending to check into the status of several bird species in the southeastern corner of the state, I contacted Richard Timken and Burt Anderson, graduate students in ornithology at the University of South Dakota. They were both very co-

operative and helpful, and they confirmed the older records of Youngworth for the present time. As no nest records or specimens were available for several of the birds I was most interested in, Timken guided me to a sand dune area along the Missouri River two miles southwest of Vermillion where we found a breeding colony of about 35 Least Terns (count of 20), and located five nests with both eggs and young. This was on July 1st, and one adult was taken by Timken. He was disappointed that we saw no Piping Plovers at this location where he had seen them regularly in the past. But later in the day I returned to the same dune area and found five Plovers and two Plover nests (one and two eggs, respectively). The Plover eggs were very much like the tern eggs in general appearance and size; were it not for the actions of the Plovers about the nest I would not have been able to distinguish the eggs of the two species.

On the 2nd of July I found Least Terns near Elk Point and also south of Jefferson; four nests were located west of Elk Point, containing both eggs and young. On July 10th, accompanied by my sons Gordon and Mark, I re-

turned to Big Bend Dam. We found three nests of the Least Tern, seeing at least 14 adult birds in the vicinity. A single Piping Plover was also observed, but we were unsuccessful in finding its nest.

Timken and Anderson have assured me that the Least Tern and Piping Plover are of regular occurrence along the Missouri River where extensive dune areas occur. In addition to the localities mentioned, Timken has also observed Least Terns at Lake Mirandahl (Yankton County) and at Lake Andes (Charles Mix County). Both of these areas are some distance from the Missouri River, again verifying statements made by Youngworth years ago.—**Bruce Harris, Woonsocket**

* * * *

UPLAND PLOVERS IN LINCOLN COUNTY—On August 6, 1968, I saw two Upland Plovers on the edge of a weedy stubble field in Lincoln County, four miles south of Sioux Falls. This was the first time I had seen Upland Plovers in Lincoln County during numerous field trips made during the past six years.—**Kent Olson, Huron**

In Memoriam

J. Scott Findley

J. Scott Findley died Saturday afternoon, June 15, 1968. Scott was an interested and active member of SDOU from its beginning. He edited *South Dakota Bird Notes* for its second five years and served SDOU as its third president.

His interests included bird photography and bird-banding which occupied much of his time until the last.

His genial presence at meetings will be missed by all.

Charles Powers Crutchett

Charles Powers Crutchett died Saturday morning, July 13, 1968, while at his summer cabin on the place he loved so well near Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada.

He had an active interest in birds and wildlife from his early years. He served as president of SDOU in 1957 and was always an active member.

He will be sadly missed by all of us.