

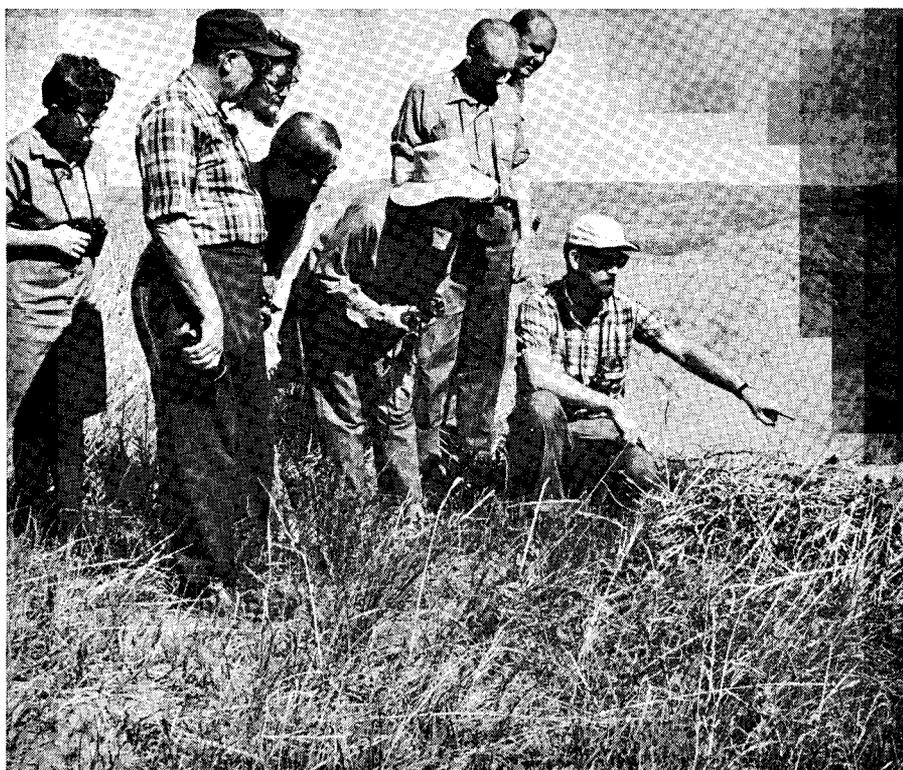
SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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

Vol. XXII, No. 2

JUNE, 1970

Whole No. 85



Bison Meeting Participants at Ferruginous Hawk Nest,
Harding County

—Picture by B. J. Rose

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President's Page

THE long-held dream of our founders for a Spring Meeting in Perkins County has at last become a reality. Our only regret is that they could not be there to witness its outstanding success, due to a lot of work by the people of the area, coordinated by Al Hinds and Les Baylor. An important element in the overall result was the idea of a meeting here and the way the original idea led to others.

Our first happy reaction came with the parade of North Dakota members and friends attending. About 20 of them at an estimate. Their contribution to the work of the meeting was not small and the pleasure of their company will be long remembered. As they pointed out, they too have the problem of long distances to state meetings and some found themselves nearer Bison than to their own meeting places.

Perhaps future joint meetings can be arranged with mutual pleasure and benefit.

An idea that contributed much to the Bison meeting was the avoidance of the long caravan on the field trips. We have all deplored the fact that only people in the front cars have much chance to see the birds. It remained for Les Baylor to actually do something constructive. With the smaller groups working independently, more ground is covered effectively and the hours of wasted time by most of the people in the long line of cars is

avoided. There seems to be no reason for ever going back to the old caravan system.

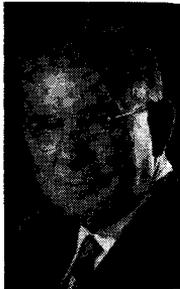
Another idea appearing at the Bison meeting seems worthwhile: applying the observing time of the people to a specific problem. Here it was the search for a South Dakota resident McCown's Longspur. The quest had natural drama and its barely successful outcome at nearly the last minute was in accord with good theatre. But equally interesting problems are everywhere, needing but to be defined to be answered by intensive work of careful observers. Perhaps our spring meetings could have more purpose than a long list of birds observed.

But surely the most worthwhile result of the Bison meeting was the discovery of people with unrecorded information on the birdlife of the area. Earl Engebretson, living southeast of Bison, an active and dedicated taxidermist, had a great deal of interesting material gleaned from his years of experience and observation.

George Levin, now living northwest of Hereford, had records of his observations of arrival dates, apparently quite complete, for some years in the middle 1930's. Publication of this material should have a high priority; its loss would be deeply regretted. George also showed a Band-tailed Pigeon, found in poor condition, probably the second observed in South Dakota and certainly the first specimen. It is hoped that at least sufficient of the bird can be preserved for permanent identification.

But for the meeting at Bison the work of these two people might have

(Continued on Page 70)



Spring Migration at Churchill

by Whitney and Karen Eastman

HAVING studied birds in several subarctic areas including Alaska—Point Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, the Aleutians and Pribilofs—as well as Iceland and Greenland, we looked forward with keen anticipation to being in Churchill on Hudson Bay during the spring migration.

We planned our trip to be in Churchill June 7-17, 1969. We wanted to be there to see the ice break up in the Churchill River. This phenomenon has taken place during this period over many years. But it so happened we were there during one of the coldest springs on record, and the ice did not go out of the Churchill River until June 21.

We enjoy having congenial field companions on our birding trips, so we invited John Galley of Kerrville, Texas, and Gus and Fran Nubel of Minneapolis to join us. We had all been in Mexico together some years before.

We left Minneapolis on June 2 and drove to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and took the slow train from Winnipeg to Churchill. The train to Churchill is an institution in itself. A traveler to Churchill should not miss it. It stops frequently along the way—some stops for as long as two hours. You have an opportunity not only to enjoy the scenery along the way, but to wander around in the little towns of this far north country.

We stopped over in Winnipeg for two days to do some birding in that area. Mrs. Hugh Lloyd, a director of the Canadian Audubon Society, who

lives in Winnipeg, took us to all her favorite birding areas around Winnipeg and also accompanied us on our side trip to visit the famous Delta Waterfowl Research Station on the south end of Lake Manitoba. Al Hochbaum, the director of the station for many years and an old friend of ours, showed us the works and arranged lunch for us so we could meet all the wildlife biologists who were working on various waterfowl life history projects for their advanced degrees. These biologists come from various colleges from all parts of the country. This is a gigantic duck factory, hatching out thousands of ducks for study and release. Anyone traveling in this area should see what is going on at Delta. Once you see it, you will want to support it as we have done for many years.

Birds observed in the Winnipeg and Delta area:

White Pelican
Black-crowned Night Heron
American Bittern
Whistling Swan
Canada Goose
Snow Goose
Mallard
Black Duck
Gadwall
Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
American Widgeon
Shoveler
Wood Duck
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup

(EDITOR'S NOTE—Whitney and Karen Eastman of Minneapolis are members of SDOU and have spent summers birding at Palmer Gulch in the Black Hills. Since retiring they have traveled world-wide on bird trips and soon leave for the Bahamas and on a tour to the Galapagos Islands.)

White-winged Scoter
 Ruddy Duck
 Turkey Vulture
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Marsh Hawk
 Sora
 American Coot
 Semipalmated Plover
 Killdeer
 Common Snipe
 Upland Plover
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Marbled Godwit
 Sanderling
 Northern Phalarope
 Ring-billed Gull
 Franklin's Gull
 Forster's Tern
 Common Tern
 Black Tern
 Mourning Dove
 Screech Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Belted Kingfisher
 Yellow-shafted Flicker
 Eastern Kingbird
 Western Kingbird
 Traill's Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Tree Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Purple Martin
 Blue Jay
 Common Raven
 Common Crow
 House Wren
 Long-billed Marsh Wren
 Short-billed Marsh Wren
 Northern Mockingbird
 Catbird
 Robin
 Swainson's Thrush
 Starling
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Yellow Warbler

Ovenbird
 Common Yellowthroat
 House Sparrow
 Bobolink
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Baltimore Oriole
 Rusty Blackbird
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 American Goldfinch
 Savannah Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow

We boarded the Canadian National train in Winnipeg after parking our car in the station lot, under police protection. The train left for Churchill at 5:30 p.m. on June 5. Meals on the train are included in your railroad fare. The bedrooms were very comfortable; the food and service in the diner were excellent. We were aboard two nights and one full day. It was like a big happy family. We thoroughly enjoyed it. We arrived at Churchill at 8 a.m. on June 7. The temperature was 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Birds observed en-route from Winnipeg to Churchill, either from the train or in the towns along the way:

Common Loon
 Mallard
 Pintail
 Blue-winged Teal
 Shoveler
 Bufflehead
 Pigeon Hawk
 Sparrow Hawk
 Killdeer
 Herring Gull
 Ring-billed Gull

Franklin's Gull
 Mourning Dove
 Chimney Swift
 Tree Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Gray Jay
 Common Raven
 Common Crow
 Robin
 Yellow Warbler
 House Sparrow
 Western Meadowlark
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Rusty Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Common Redpoll
 Song Sparrow

The main objective of the trip was to see the Smith's Longspur. This species had eluded Karen for the past 18 years. She needed it for her life list and for her North American list for the 600 Club. We knew this species nested at Churchill, but when we found freezing temperatures—in the low 20's at night—and with two old-fashioned blizzards during the first few days, we wondered if the migrants would arrive on schedule. They did.

There is no other place like Churchill. During spring migration the migrating water birds pour into Churchill by the thousands. Most of them are headed for the Arctic to nest, but many of the water birds and passerines stop in Churchill to nest. They crowd into Churchill in a relatively small area where there are open small streams flowing through the tundra bog, small ponds and lakes, providing food and a safe haven to rest on their long journey to the Arctic.

Churchill is located on Hudson Bay at the mouth of the Churchill River, 1,000 miles north of Winnipeg. Two great biomes meet near Churchill—the tundra and the taiga (northern coniferous forest). In the extensive dwarf spruce and fir forests that lace the

tundra, such species as the Gray Jay, Northern Shrike, Rusty Blackbird, Myrtle and Blackpoll Warblers, Harris' Sparrow, Pigeon Hawk and Peregrine Falcon find suitable nesting habitat. The tundra provides suitable nesting habitat for such birds as Canada Goose, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Golden Plover, Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers, Lapland and Smith's Longspurs.

During spring migration there are terrific numbers of Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs all over the place.

The Thayer's Gull which had previously been lumped as a race of the Herring Gull was there in large numbers. It is quite easy to separate the Thayer's and Herring Gulls which congregate in large mixed flocks right in town or at the town dump.

We put up at the Churchill Hotel, having made our reservations several months ahead. Advance reservations in Churchill are a "must" as every bed in town is in use when the grain shipping season begins. In addition to the restaurants in the Churchill and Hudson Hotels, there is The Steak House, which we found very enjoyable. The Canadian Government operates one of the largest grain elevators in the world at Churchill, and wheat from the prairie provinces moves into Churchill over the Canadian National Railway. Ocean-going ships dock at the elevator for loading day and night all summer long. So there is a lively commercial activity in Churchill all summer.

There are fairly good roads leading out of Churchill for short distances to good birding areas. It is too far to walk so we rented a car—at least the rental agent in town called it a car. It served the purpose. We called it the Phalarope as it had a tendency to spin to the left when the brakes were applied. You can walk to the grain elevator, not far from the center of town, where there

are several ponds. We found these ponds very productive. Our first day, before we rented a car, we logged 43 species in and around these ponds.

During the 10-day period we spent in Churchill in spite of the severe cold and stormy weather, we logged 96 species. There were about a dozen other birders there at the same time, and all of them saw about the same number of species as we did. You don't miss seeing many species which are there if you work hard at it, for the area is relatively small, and many species are present in unusually large numbers.

Species observed in the Churchill area:

Common Loon
Arctic Loon—quite a few
Red-throated Loon
Horned Grebe
Whistling Swan
Canada Goose—nesting
White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
Mallard
Black Duck
Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Blue-winged Teal
American Widgeon
Shoveler
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Oldsquaw
Common Eider
White-winged Scoter
Surf Scoter
Common Scoter
Red-breasted Merganser
Rough-legged Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Osprey
Peregrine Falcon—several
Pigeon Hawk
Spruce Grouse—several
Willow Ptarmigan—about 25
Sandhill Crane
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer

Golden Plover
Black-bellied Plover
Ruddy Turnstone—large flocks
Common Snipe
Whimbrel
Spotted Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Knot—several large flocks
Pectoral Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin—large numbers
Short-billed Dowitcher
Stilt Sandpiper—in good numbers
Semipalmated Sandpiper—large numbers
Hudsonian Godwit
Sanderling
Northern Phalarope
Red Phalarope—Substantial numbers
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Pomarine Jaeger
Glaucous Gull—Two Birds
Iceland Gull (Kumlien's)—One Bird
Herring Gull
Thayer's Gull—Large Numbers
Ring-billed Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Sabine's Gull
Arctic Tern
Yellow-shafted Flicker
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Gray Jay
Common Raven
Common Crow
Boreal Chickadee
Robin
Hermit Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Water Pipit
Northern Shrike
Starling
Yellow Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
House Sparrow

(Continued on Page 83)

Harris and Springer Locate McGown's Longspur

PERKINS County residents were gracious hosts to the SDOU spring meeting at Bison, June 5-7, 1970. Excellent weather complimented outstanding field studies in northwestern South Dakota. Program speakers, Earl Engbretson, George Levin, and B. J. Rose, rewarded members and guests with interesting presentations.

An announcement in the program contained this statement: "Special accolades in BIRD NOTES for anyone who locates McCown's Longspur in Perkins or Harding County." This honor goes to Bruce Harris and Paul Springer. On June 7, in northwestern Harding County, one quarter of a mile from the state line, they flushed a male McCown's Longspur and thus marked the first official record of this species in Harding County since S. S. Visher's work in 1910-12. (Contrary to all jesting and envious speculations, Bruce and Paul did not "herd" the bird into South Dakota from North Dakota, nor did they tamper with the state-line markers.) SDOU congratulates Bruce and Paul for adding this species to the contemporary record of Harding County birds. Now, other members should pursue the challenge to establish nesting records of McCown's Longspur in South Dakota.

Participants in the field trips at the Bison meeting dedicate their composite species list to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Chapman, who could not be present to see the fulfillment of their 20-year wish to have a SDOU meeting in Perkins County.

The species list that follows has the symbols "P," "H," or "PH" after each species. "P" indicates the species was

observed only in Perkins County. "H" indicates the species was observed only in Harding County. "PH" indicates the species was observed in both counties.

SPECIES LIST

L. M. Baylor, Compiler

Horned Grebe—P
 Eared Grebe—PH
 Pied-billed Grebe—P
 Mallard—PH
 Gadwall—PH
 Pintail—PH
 Green-winged Teal—PH
 Blue-winged Teal—PH
 Cinnamon Teal—P (Paul Springer)
 American Widgeon—PH
 Shoveler—PH
 Ring-necked Duck—P
 Lesser Scaup—PH
 Ruddy Duck—P
 Turkey Vulture—PH
 Sharp-shinned Hawk—H
 Red-tailed Hawk—PH
 Swainson's Hawk—PH
 Ferruginous Hawk—H
 Golden Eagle—PH
 Marsh Hawk—PH
 Prairie Falcon—H
 Sparrow Hawk—PH
 Sharp-tailed Grouse—PH
 Gray Partridge—PH
 Ring-necked Pheasant—PH
 Turkey—P
 American Coot—PH
 Killdeer—PH
 Black-bellied Plover—P (B. J. Rose)
 Long-billed Curlew—H
 Upland Plover—PH
 Spotted Sandpiper—PH
 Willet—P
 Lesser Yellowlegs—P
 Pectoral Sandpiper—P
 White-rumped Sandpiper—P
 Baird's Sandpiper—P
 Least Sandpiper—P
 Long-billed Dowitcher—P
 Semipalmated Sandpiper—P
 Sanderling—P (B. J. Rose)
 Avocet—P
 Wilson's Phalarope—PH



Check-List Call-Off at Bison, June 7, 1970

—Picture by E. J. Rose

Northern Phalarope—P
 Ring-billed Gull—P
 Black Tern—PH
 Mourning Dove—PH
 Rock Dove—H
 Black-billed Cuckoo—PH
 Downy Woodpecker—P
 Eastern Kingbird—PH
 Western Kingbird—PH
 Say's Phoebe—PH
 Traill's Flycatcher—P
 Western Wood Pewee—P
 Horned Lark—PH
 Violet-green Swallow—H
 Bank Swallow—P
 Rough-winged Swallow—PH
 Barn Swallow—PH
 Cliff Swallow—PH
 Blue Jay—PH
 Black-billed Magpie—PH
 Common Crow—PH
 Pinyon Jay—H
 Black-capped Chickadee—H
 Red-breasted Nuthatch—H
 House Wren—PH
 Rock Wren—H
 Catbird—P
 Brown Thrasher—PH
 Robin—PH
 Eastern Bluebird—H
 Mountain Bluebird—H

Sprague's Pipit—P
 Cedar Waxwing—PH
 Loggerhead Shrike—PH
 Starling—PH
 Red-eyed Vireo—PH
 Warbling Vireo—PH
 Yellow Warbler—PH
 Audubon's Warbler—H
 Ovenbird—H
 Yellowthroat—PH
 Yellow-breasted Chat—PH
 American Redstart—H
 House Sparrow—PH
 Bobolink—PH
 Western Meadowlark—PH
 Yellow-headed Blackbird—PH
 Red-winged Blackbird—PH
 Great Horned Owl—PH
 Burrowing Owl—PH
 Poorwill—H
 Common Nighthawk—PH
 White-throated Swift—H
 Belted Kingfisher—P
 Yellow-shafted Flicker—PH
 Red-shafted Flicker—PH
 Red-headed Woodpecker—PH
 Hairy Woodpecker—H
 Orchard Oriole—PH
 Bullock's Oriole—PH
 Brewer's Blackbird—PH
 Common Grackle—PH

Brown-headed Cowbird—PH
 Western Tanager—H
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak—H
 Black-headed Grosbeak—PH
 Lazuli Bunting—H
 Dickcissel—P
 Pine Siskin—H
 American Goldfinch—PH
 Red Crossbill—PH
 Rufous-sided Towhee—H
 Lark Bunting—PH
 Savannah Sparrow—H
 Grasshopper Sparrow—PH
 Baird's Sparrow—PH
 LeConte's Sparrow—P (J. W. Johnson)
 Vesper Sparrow—PH
 Lark Sparrow—PH
 Chipping Sparrow—PH
 Clay-colored Sparrow—H (Paul Springer)
 Brewer's Sparrow—H
 Field Sparrow—H
 Song Sparrow—PH
 McCown's Longspur—H
 Chestnut-collared Longspur—PH

Total Species: 130

The compiler enlisted the aid of several expert field ornithologists to review this species list. From their knowledge of the area and typical species for the time of year, the advisers thought that five reported species should not be made a part of the public record until further evidence can be established by specimens or photographs. The compiler and his assistants hope the observers of these deleted species will understand and accept this cautious judgment.—Rapid City

* * * *

Members and Guests at Bison June 5-7, 1970

Bismarck, N. Dak.—Mr. and Mrs. William Buresh, Dr. and Mrs. K. J. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Erling Podoll, Becky Quanrud and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Randall.

Bison—Rev. Vernon Badgett, Earl Engebretson, Mrs. Adria Sudlow and Charles Tufty.

Brookings—Lida Burrill, Dr. and Mrs. David Holden and Mr. and Mrs.

Kenneth Husmann.
 Camp Crook—Mr. and Mrs. Stu Burns.

Fargo, N. Dak.—Dr. Frank Cassel.
 Herford—Mr. and Mrs. George Levin.

Highmore—June Harter.

Huron—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. George Jonkel.

Jamestown, N. Dak.—Dr. Paul Springer.

Madison—Ruth Habeger.

Mandan, N. Dak.—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Swanick.

Nemo—Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Sparks.

Pierre—Jean Russell and Mrs. Edith Vanderwaal.

Prairie City—Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hinds and Mr. and Mrs. Frank McKenna.

Rapid City—Mr. and Mrs. Don Adolphson, L. M. Baylor, Gertrude Bachmann, Paul Culley, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Evans, Judy Gustin, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Markey, B. J. Rose, Esther Serr, Dr. N. R. Whitney and Mr. and Mrs. Lenord Yarger.

Sioux Falls—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogge.

Sturgis—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Piehl.
 Vermillion—Dr. and Mrs. Byron Harrell and Bill Lemons.

Watertown—Dr. L. J. Moriarty.

Webster—Herman Chilson, James Lovering, Dr. Joseph Lovering, Scott Pierson, Mark Rathbun and Scott Ritter.

Woonsocket—Bruce Harris.

Yankton—Willis Hall.

* * * *

President's Page

(Continued from Page 63)

remained unknown to all but their neighbors. How many more, all over the state, still work alone, the results of their lifelong efforts to be eventually discarded by uninformed relatives?—**J. W. Johnson**

Red Crossbills in Northeast South Dakota

Herman P. Chilson

RED CROSSBILLS were not recorded in the first 85 years of the 100 years of ornithological history of Northeast South Dakota. They have been observed in this area however, in eight years out of the last 15 years and recorded in every month of the year except two, January and April.

Dr. Bolivar Knickerbocker, surgeon at Fort Wadsworth, the first competent observer in the northeast corner of what is now known as South Dakota, did not record Red Crossbills in his journals during 1868 and 1869. Nor did his successor, Dr. Charles McChesney list them in his article which appeared in "Forest and Stream" in 1877. William Youngworth, accompanied by Arthur Lundquist, who followed up Dr. McChesney's work did not find them in the 1930's either, according to "Birds of Fort Sisseton, Wilson Bulletin, September, 1935." Furthermore the SDOU "Check List of 1956" did not include Red Crossbills for this corner of the state, and even the Waubay Federal Wildlife Refuge after two decades of bird watching omitted Red Crossbills in their 1958 Check List.



Using "Bird Notes" for my source material, I find that Lowry Elliott has the signal honor of recognizing the first Red Crossbills in our area. He saw five of them near Milbank, July 23, 1955 ("Bird Notes," December, 1955). The second observer was Alfred Peterson, who three years later on May 21, 1958, observed a female Red Crossbill at Oakwood Lake ("Bird Notes," March, 1959). The third reporter was John Carlson,

manager of the Waubay Federal Wildlife Refuge, who saw Red Crossbills October 7, 1960, and saw them again November second. These observations were reported in "Bird Notes," December, 1961. The fourth sighting was made by Herman P. Chilson at Webster, November 4, 1960, and written up in "Bird Notes," December, 1960. The fifth report was written in "Bird Notes," December, 1960, by Dr. L. J. Moriarty, who saw them in Watertown, November 11, 1960.

In succeeding years they were seen by numerous birders. Bruce Harris reported four at Sodak Park May 22, 1961 ("Bird Notes," December, 1963). Later that same year Mary Karlins saw three in Webster, December 10, 1961, and also reported five more on December 13, 1961 ("Bird Notes," March, 1962).

There were none reported in 1962, and Louise Flett, Milbank, was the only observer in 1963, when she watched them daily from September 14 to November 24 ("Bird Notes," September, 1964).

In 1964 the Norman Martinsons watched them almost daily at their feeder from February 9 to February 28 in Webster ("Bird Notes," June, 1964).

None were reported in 1965, but B. J. Rose saw them in Brown County on September 1, 1966 ("Bird Notes," June, 1967). A few weeks later Louise Flett observed them in Milbank from October 4 to November 4 ("Bird Notes," December, 1966). None were reported for the next two years during 1967 and 1968, but when they returned in 1969, bird lovers were happy.

When Agnes and I returned March 15, 1969, from a winter vacation, Joe Miotke, a neighbor at Pickerel Lake,

who filled the bird feeders during our absence, called, "The sunflower seeds are all gone, and the suet is getting low." The next day I trudged three-fourths of a mile to Miotke's farm pulling a sled loaded with a sack of sunflower seeds and 25 pounds of suet. This trip through heavy snow required several stops. The last one was the most productive not only for the badly needed rest but also for observing a small flock of 15 to 20 Red Crossbills that welcomed me with no fear.

Red Crossbills were seen almost daily from June 26 to August 23, 1969, in Webster. Jeff Nelson, County Register of Deeds, was the first person in Webster to report them. He said when he told me about it, "They are feeding on ash seeds on the court house lawn, and I can see them sitting in the trees just outside my windows." I knew that the main diet of crossbills consisted of conifer seeds so I asked Jeff if they did not also feed on the spruce cones, but he said, "No, I never see them feeding on cones, just ash tree seeds." These birds, about 25 to 30 Red Crossbills in the flock, were very tame and paid scant attention to the pedestrians on their way to and from the court house.

Rich Fiksdal saw them at his apartment house just across the street from the court house and at his home several blocks west of the court house on the west edge of Webster. He also reported a few White-winged Crossbills with the Red Crossbills at his home.

Arthur Cleveland Bent, "Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies." Bulletin 237, part 1, 1968, says that Red Crossbills wander southward to eastern North and

South Dakota after the breeding season is over and that they have a reputation for irregular movements and ". . . when nesting is over birds begin to wander out of their winter and nesting grounds to new and apparently better feeding regions." Bent says that the earliest dates of arrival in Milbank and Brookings is October 6. Neither Bent nor Roberts, "Birds of Minnesota," Minnesota 1932 specifically mention ash seeds as part of their diet.

Has our ecology changed? There is no question in my mind on that score. Day County and neighborhood counties were not included in the original Plains Shelterbelt Program, but they created such a fuss that the government added this corner of the state to the program. In Day County alone 149 acres of trees were planted on 49 farms in the year of 1935. Years later the Soil Conservation Service took over this program, and in the past 30 odd years many thousands of acres of deciduous and non-deciduous trees were planted. These shelterbelts have attracted new birds to our area. The Red Crossbill is undoubtedly one of these. Its appearance raises many questions.

Can we expect a nesting record for this area in the near future? Can we dismiss the "irregular movements" of the Red Crossbills by saying there is a shortage of food? Has anyone made a study the food supply to see if there has been a shortage of cones in eight out of the last 15 years? Have some of the Red Crossbills developed a taste for ash seeds from necessity or by chance? Are some of these birds in our area during the breeding or nesting season? —Webster

Plant Trees and Shrubs for Birds in the Black Hills

Lucille Wedge

BIRDLIFE in the Black Hills is varied and abundant, but you will seldom see their bright plumage or hear their songs unless you provide for their food and shelter. I am not speaking of feeders with commercial feed but the trees, shrubs and plants that provide natural habitat.

Some of the trees that grow well in the area are golden willow, spruce, quaking aspen, bolleana poplar, juniper, mountain ash, plum (both wild and tame), white and black birches, balm-of-gilead, silver poplar, red maple, boxelder, cottonwood, cherry and apple trees. The ash, juniper and a less-common tree, the Siberian pea tree provide good feed summer and winter.

Shrubs that are hearty growers include the lilac, serviceberry, elderberry, chokecherry, pin cherry, Canadian buffaloberry, wild cherry and pineberry.

The common blue rocket plant, growing on hillsides or along roads, contains tasty morsels when the seeds ripen. The branches are sturdy enough to hold birds and at times a plant may have several kinds of birds busily snipping off the string-like pods. The honeysuckle berries turns red in July and August and birds swarm over them in droves to get the seeds.

The gold finch eats pigeon grass and pepper grass and, at times, can be seen eating dried batchelor button seeds. Wild hemp, wild rye and wild wheat

grow in open places throughout the Hills and provide choice feed. In the late summer and fall it is common to see birds stripping off grass stems for the seeds.

Meadowlarks and sparrows eat the sand-like seeds from the ground-cover plant *Sedum Spurium*, commonly known as "poor man's salad" or "pig weed." Redwing blackbirds eat marsh grass seeds as do ducks and other water birds. The wild turkey eats buckbrush, Oregon grape and kinnikinick. Blue jays will eat apples ripening on a tree. They aren't satisfied to eat on one apple but will make bite holes on every apple in the upper part of a tree. The vireo's diet includes grapes. The especially-constructed bill of the red crossbill is designed to extract seeds from the spruce pine cone, which is his favorite food.

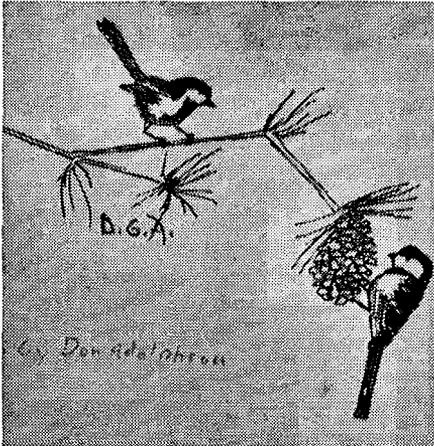
The Black Hills is full of humming birds in late July and August and to coax them around your garden, plant gladiolas, datura and nicotiana, or any flower with a long, tubular blossom. Sometimes their little bodies almost disappear inside the flower as they strive to reach the nectar. They will also feed on sweetpeas.

Despite the spraying and close-crop farming that is going on to landscape the state there are still birds to be found, especially in the Black Hills, but you must duplicate their natural habitat in your back yard to bring them out in the open.

The Chickadee, a Cheerful Winter Friend

Don Adolphson

(Adapted from *Bird Lore*, 1912, November-December v. XIV, No. 6, p. 372-375)



CHICKADEES are found throughout the forests of North America and during the winter, in most areas, they are the prevailing woodland bird. They belong to the Titmouse family and are highly valued by mankind. Most of their food is insects which are destructive to trees.

An old woodpecker hole, a hole in a stump, a fence post, a knot-hole in a tree or some man-made nesting box is used for nesting. The nest hole ranges from a few feet off the ground to the top of a tree 40 to 50 feet in height. Chickadees will enlarge a hole that was made by a woodpecker in search of a grub and will also dig out a nest-hole in a decaying stump.

The nest is in the bottom of the hole and is made of cotton, hairs, wood, mosses, insect cocoons and feathers.

Eggs number from four to eight and hatch in about 11 days. The young leave the nest in about two weeks after hatching and usually two broods are raised a year. In autumn, they gather in bands of a family or two and spend their time searching the woods for food and singing to other birds to join the hunt and feast. John Burroughs says that "the Chickadee has a voice full of unspeakable tenderness and fidelity."

During the height of a snowstorm, when most birds are seeking shelter, the Chickadee, flitters from twig to twig, blithe and unconcerned as if 'twere always summer. George Gladden says: "In winter especially, the Chickadee is the feathered small boy of the woods."

Dawson and Bowers, *Birds of Oregon*, says of the Chickadee's activity:

"Chickadee refuses to look down for long upon the world; or indeed to look at any one thing from any direction for more than two consecutive twelfths of a second. 'Any old side up without care,' is the label he bears; and so with anything he meets, be it a pine-cone, and alder catkin, or a bug-bearing branchlet; topside, bottomside, inside, outside, all is right side to the nimble Chickadee . . . Blind-man's buff, hide-and seek and tag are merry games enough when played out on one plane; but when staged in three dimensions, with a labyrinth of interlacing branches for hazard, only the blithe bird whose praises we sing could promptly master their intricacies."

Waldo Emerson calls the Chickadee; "a scrap of valor," and says of them: "There is no sorrow in their song, No winter in their year."

Book Review

J. W. Johnson

PEREGRINE Falcon Populations. Their Biology and Decline. A conference, Madison, Wisconsin, 1965. Edited by Joseph J. Hickey. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison. 1969. xviii + 446 pp. Illustrated. \$10.

This book should be required reading. Period. How dull one need to be to miss the point, that is not explicitly stated: The coming doom of the Peregrine Falcon is only a preview of our own—almost as soon thereafter as we deserve. Like the falcon we are at the top of long food chains; like it we carry in our bodies increasing concentrations of poisons whose total effects on our chemistry can as yet barely be guessed. George Lowery, Jr., Museum of Zoology, University of Louisiana, opens his review of this book in *Science* (Oct. 31, 1969): "It might as well be a classic—the handwriting on the wall for all mankind. Although it is specifically concerned with the biology of the peregrine falcon and its raptor relatives, it could foretell our own fate if the contamination of our environment continues at the present rate."

In the period 1950-1965 the population of peregrine falcons east of the Mississippi vanished as completely as though it had never been. In parts of Europe the decline was nearly as marked. This book is the account of the conference convened at the University of Wisconsin August 29 to September 1, 1965 in an effort to establish the cause.

The list of chairmen, participants, and discussants reads like a Who's Who in Ornithology and Ecology in North America and Western Europe. While the main line of the study was the peregrine falcon population, notice was taken that its decline was paralleled by other feathered predators from eagles to sparrow hawks. All recognized possi-

ble factors affecting raptorial birds were presented and discussed at length by the participants, comparing data from all areas where the birds had been studied.

The conference discussions have been condensed, changed into written English, and regrouped for clarity and convenient access to data. This work was handled by Hickey, of the University of Wisconsin. For the benefit of readers not familiar with the ecology of the peregrine falcon an introductory chapter of 40 pages was prepared, giving its life history and population literature.

The body of the book is divided into five parts, followed by a chapter summing up the conference and giving its conclusions:

Part I. Population: Status and Trends.

II. Current Population Trends in other Raptorial Birds

III. Behavior and General Ecology

IV. Population Factors

V. Population Dynamics and Significant Trends.

An unusual feature of this book is the inclusion of data found lacking at the conference and later investigated; data for some papers presented was also extended to include the years 1966 and 1967. Thus the material is considerably more current than might be inferred from the date of the conference.

The work is illustrated with 60 superb black and white photos of falcons, falcons at their nests, nests, and their nesting sites on four continents. Numerous maps, tables, and graphs illustrate the material presented. Lists of literature cited, where pertinent, and each chapter.

An Appendix gives scientific names of birds mentioned in the text. The

Index of 21 pages is quite detailed.

As a book to be read, this one is well written and no page is without interest. The work of the editor has given coherence and uniformity where such qualities are too often lacking in a symposium. I found much of it quite enthralling. Certainly it is a landmark on this road where freedom was not coupled with adequate knowledge or appreciation of its need and consequences of its lack.

Manifestly the disaster is already upon us. Even now our environment may have more of the chlorinated hydrocarbons and their derivatives than we ourselves can ultimately tolerate, even if we are willing to get along without the birds.

A last chapter sums up the findings of the conference: Neither disease nor human harassment have had more than minor or local effects on the peregrine populations. DDT and its metabolates and Dieldren are the only significant causes of the population crash. Page after page of chemical details lay the foundation for the conclusion: "The ecological case against the chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides as pervasive factor in these phenomena is essentially complete." The end effect in the case of the birds is to cause failure to lay eggs that will persist under the normal conditions and hatch living young.

—Huron

* * * *

OUR OWN BIRD OF THE BLACK HILLS—A white-winged junco has been seen frequently on our hill in Belle Fourche in the past several weeks, usually with a flock of slate-colored juncos, among whom it stands out because of its slightly larger size and paler coloration, its two white wing bars and larger amount of white showing at the sides birds have seen it and have called to ask what it is.

It is a bird all Hillsmen should know with pride because it is "the only bird

species endemic to the Black Hills," as Olin Pettingill Jr. of Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. and Dr. N. R. Whitney Jr., Rapid City, say in their 1965 book, *Birds of the Black Hills*. It is a permanent resident at all levels and is commonly known in the Harding County forest reserves and in brushy draws throughout the county. Every summer birders from other parts of the country come to the Black Hills hoping to see the area's particular bird—the white-winged junco.

Characteristic of juncos, the white-winged nests in brushy ravines, usually on the ground, under tree roots and over-hanging hummocks. It adapts itself to the ways of men, and nests have been found in abandoned tin cans in the forest. It feeds at town feeders throughout the winter and makes friends with its human neighbors. A few years ago at Pactola lodge, Bernice Musekamp provided bird houses for them and they nested there and fed all winter at the stations within sight of the lodge dining room. They seemed to enjoy watching people as much as people enjoy watching them.

This friendliness is characteristic of all juncos. One summer in the Montana Rockies, a pair of Montana slate-colored juncos nested under a grass hummock no more than 20 feet from the entrance of a guest lodge. Passers-by included two big collies which walked by the nest and ignored it. And always one of the junco family is known by its white outer tail feathers and its black or dark gray hood bordering a white breast. The Oregon junco, frequently seen here, has a brownish back and pinkish sides, but the junco look is unmistakable.

So—if you see a slightly larger junco with two white wing bars, you are seeing our own particular bird, our white-winged junco. You'll see them the year around, if you look. They are not uncommon.—Irma Weyler, Belle Fourche

General Notes of Special Interest

EGRETS AND HERONS IN THE HURON AREA—August 15, 1969. On an early evening drive with two friends, we came on a marsh five miles west and one mile north of Huron. The area was alive with birds but the one that caught my eye was a common egret.

We recalled that a year ago we had seen one at Lake Byron which is about 12 miles north and three miles east of Huron. My records show the sighting was Aug. 21, 22 and 23, 1968.

On Aug. 20, 1969 we again drove to Lake Byron at sunset. Hundreds of Franklin gulls were coming in to spend the night on the lake. Martins, bank and barn swallows coated the power lines. Mourning doves were also congregating.

We observed and enjoyed but our hopes were on the northeastern area where the common egret had been seen last year. As we drove over the hill and looked down, there were not one but two egrets feeding among the rushes.

Great blue and Black-Crowned Night herons were also feeding along the shore. We drove nearer and stopped to watch them. Evidently one immature Black-Crowned Night heron was as curious about us as we were about them. It flew over and landed directly behind our car and peered in at us. He was so close we could see only his neck and head over the trunk of the car. Then it flew up, circled the car and returned to the shore where the rest of the herons were feeding. I have been "people watched" before, but never by so large a bird.

The Great Blue Heron rookery north of Huron on the Jim River (about 30 miles up the river) was full this sum-

mer. Miss Habicht and I counted 30 birds June 22, 35 July 6, but by July 18 the birds were large enough to be easily counted and there were 40 around the nests. Undoubtedly more were out feeding.

Last year on July 21, we counted only 12 in the same area. Possibly they moved out of the nests by then.—
Blanche Battin, Huron

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RECENT SIGHTINGS OF CATTLE EGRETS IN EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA—Two recent sightings of cattle egrets have been made in eastern South Dakota by Ken Johnson of Carthage, Bruce Harris of Woonsocket, and Warren Jackson of Sioux Falls (employees of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Game Management Division).

A single cattle egret was observed by Johnson June 12, 1969, one mile east of Carthage in Miner County.

On Sept. 9, 1969, Johnson accompanied me to the Thompson-Henry Lake area to observe reported botulism losses. On the southwest edge of Lake Thompson we noticed several large white birds in a hay meadow (eight miles south and three miles east of DeSmet, South Dakota), at approximately 6:00 p.m., CDT. We drove to within about 150 yards of the nearest birds and observed them with binoculars and a spotting scope. Eight birds were feeding among grazing cattle and a ninth was perched on the back of a critter further away. Those seen on the ground seemed to feed very close to the feet of grazing animals. We thought the birds were cattle egrets and didn't attempt a closer approach.

In the early forenoon of Sept. 10, Johnson and Harris returned to the

area and observed a total of 27 birds. At least 13 of the egrets appeared to be mature birds as indicated by yellow bill color. Observations were made from a distance of only a few yards.

Johnson contacted area farmers a few days later. Their reports indicated at least some of the egrets were there several days before we saw them, and that some remained after Sept. 10—Warren Jackson, Sioux Falls

* * * *

CATTLE EGRET SIGHTING IN BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

—The sighting of cattle egrets was made one mile west of Houghton, South Dakota near Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Brown County. The birds were first noticed by Dave Linde and myself in the afternoon of Oct. 3, 1969. They were feeding among Hereford cattle which were grazing within 100 yards of State Highway No. 10. We drove to the edge of the highway right-of-way (pasture fence) and remained in the car while we observed the birds. With the aid of binoculars and a spotting scope, at least 45 cattle egrets were counted. We estimated there were a total of nearly 60. (Several birds flew and landed behind a small ridge before they could be counted). No birds were seen perching on top of cows, but several birds were walking on the ground within three yards of cows.

I took two pictures; one showing about 18 birds and the other showing nine birds. Some of the birds, presumably young, had black bills. Others had yellow bills and rusty colored streaks on the breast and head. No attempt was made to determine the ratio of black to yellow-billed birds.

One week later, on Oct. 10, Bruce Harris and I observed 23 cattle egrets at the same location west of Houghton. They were with the same cattle and were about 200 yards away from the

road where we were watching. No different habits were noted. This was the last date any of us saw the birds.

Dave Linde had observed cattle egrets in Kingsbury County a few weeks prior to this sighting.—Ron Fowler, Aberdeen

* * * *

EGRETS, HERONS AND IBIS AT SAND LAKE REFUGE—We have been seeing a rather sizeable flock of cattle egrets, 15 on several counts, at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge ever since early August. They are still there as of Aug. 15, 1969. Three little blue herons sometimes feed with them.

A half-dozen or more white-faced ibis were also seen during August on the Refuge.—L. R. Lynch, 502 South First Street, Aberdeen

“I saw two cattle egrets Sept. 15 just west of the North Scatterwood Lake in northeast corner of Faulk County. They were in a field with cattle, one was on the back of a cow.”—H. W. Wagar, Cresbard, S. Dak.

* * * *

GREATER SCAUP OBSERVATION AT LAKE ANDES, SOUTH DAKOTA—Specimen records of Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) reported in North Dakota recently (Prairie Naturalist 1 (1):16) have prompted me to report an observation at Lake Andes, South Dakota on Nov. 6, 1967.

David Olsen, Refuge Manager, Lake Andes NWR, and I picked up 64 ducks of various species that had been shot and left by hunters. Included were 37 Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*) and three Greater Scaup. This observation is significant because it probably represents a random sample of the percent (7.5) of Greater Scaup included in the Scaup population of 3,900 estimated to be present at that time.—Ralph H. Town, Wildlife Biologist

1969 A BIG YEAR FOR LARGE WADING BIRDS—The summer and fall of 1969 produced an amazing number of records for “rare” egrets, herons and ibises. All of the species mentioned here are well-known for their northward post-breeding migrations in the United States, both young and adults taking part in these interesting “reverse migrations.” The number of observations and individuals reported for the cattle egret was especially remarkable (see Table 1). From May 18 through Oct. 10 at least 76 cattle egrets were reported in South Dakota, with five counties represented. A minimum of 45 birds were counted in one locality (60 were estimated to be present in that flock), and it's very likely that the total number of birds in the state during the year exceeded 80, all reports considered, even with possible duplicate observations culled out. It will be very interesting to see if there was a large-scale movement of cattle egrets in other northern states during 1969.

Prior to 1969 we had only six records for the cattle egrets, the first being reported at Sand Lake Refuge, Brown County, by Lyle Schoonover, refuge manager, July 17, 1961 (V14:57). The earliest date is May 6, 1966 (Rose, V19:31), with the late date of Oct. 10, we have had observations on this species in South Dakota over a seven-month span.

The number of observations for the common egret in 1969 was also very unusual—there have seldom been more than two observations per year for this species until 1969. Common egrets have been reported in the state as far back as August, 1936, when they were observed at Sand Lake Refuge. We have no nesting records for South Dakota, but common egrets have been reported

nesting in Minnesota, 55 miles east of Browns Valley (Lake Johanna, Pope County) and in Lac Qui Parle County on the Little Minnesota River, less than 20 miles southeast of Ortonville. In Iowa they nest within 75 miles of Sioux City, at Modale. So there is a very good possibility that we will have common egrets nesting in the state—most likely place would be on the south end of Big Stone Lake.

Prior to the 1969 sightings, there have been 12 observations on ibises in South Dakota, rather evenly divided between spring, summer and fall, with five counties represented. The earliest date is May 14, and the latest Sept. 5. Until specimens are taken for sub-specific determination we will have to assume that our birds are white-faced ibis and not the glossy ibis, which is least likely to occur in South Dakota, according to its known range.

The Yellow-Crowned Night Heron is considered a rare species in South Dakota, but there are a surprising number of sight records, verified by photos in two cases and kill data in three other instances. We have a total of 10 records dating back to 1954, when a specimen was taken by Felton in Union County (SDBN's V6:32). The earliest date was recorded at Huron by the Johnsons April 6, 1963 (V15:41) and the latest (the only fall date) was a bird shot by a hunter in Beadle County during October 1955 (V20:66).

The sighting of the Little Blue Herons at Sand Lake by Lynch and Hoksch is a particularly good record, as it represents only the fifth occurrence in the state; the first was 1921 in Clay County. Other records are 1938 in Roberts County, 1951 in Union County, and 1959 in Day County.—**Bruce Harris, Woonsocket**

Table 1. 1969 Records for Egrets, Ibises and Herons

SPECIES	DATE	COUNTY	LOCALITY	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
CATTLE EGRET	May 18	Day	Webster	1	George Jonkel
	June 12	Miner	Carthage	1	Ken Johnson
	July 15	Roberts	Peever	2	Bruce Harris
	Aug. 15	Brown	Houghton	15-20	L. Lynch-T. Hoksch
	Sept. 9	Kingsbury	Lake Thompson	9	W. Jackson-K. Johnson
	Sept. 10	Kingsbury	Lake Thompson	27	K. Johnson
	Sept. 15	Faulk	Scatterwood Lake	2	H. W. Wagar
	Oct. 3	Brown	Houghton	45 (count) (est. 60)	R. Fowler-D. Linde
	Oct. 10	Brown	Houghton	23	Fowler & Harris
	COMMON EGRET	May 12	Day	Spring Lake	1
Aug. 6		Lake	Madison	1	B. Harris
Aug. 15		Beadle	Huron	1	Blanche Battin
Aug. 16-23		Bennett	LaCreek NWR	1	Al Radtke
Aug. 20		Lake	Madison	2	Ralph Fries
Aug. 20		Beadle	Byron Lake	2	Blanche Battin
Aug. 23		Brown	Sand Lake NWR	2	T. Hoksch
Sept. 6		Spink	Brentford	18	George Jonkel
Sept. 9		Sanborn	Forestburg	1	B. Harris
Sept. 16		Charles Mix	Lake Andes NWR	1	Ralph Fries
LITTLE BLUE HERON	Aug. 15	Brown	Sand Lake	3 (2 adt.)	Lynch & Hoksch
WHITE-FACED IBIS	June 17	Aurora	White Lake	2	B. Harris & D. Moore
	Aug. 23	Brown	Sand Lake	3-6	Lynch & Hoksch
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	June 13	Lake	Badus Lake	1	B. Harris
GREEN HERON	June, July, August	Charles Mix	Lake Andes NWR	15	R. F. Fries, Refuge Manager
	May 26	Day	Revilla	1	Robert Johnson

VARIED THRUSH AT SPEARFISH—There had been a heavy snow storm accompanied by a strong wind the day before, but the morning of Feb. 18, 1970, was bright and clear, and we put seed on the feeding space below the window.

I saw a good-sized bird fly from the feeding place to the apple tree, and seeing its orange breast thought it was a robin. But as it flew off, I noticed orange colored wing bars and knew it was no ordinary robin.

It visited the feeding space twice more that morning, and I saw the orange eye stripe and dusky band across the breast which mark the varied thrush. My husband verified my observations.

We asked Miss Mira Satterlee of Spearfish to help with the identification, but were puzzled by the range of the bird as given in Roger Tory Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds." We asked Cecil Haight, professor of biology, Black Hills State College, for his opinion. Mr. Haight remarked that the summer range of this bird is usually west of the divide in Montana, and that its winter range is southern California. "Really," he said, "this bird has no business being here in a blizzard," but went on to say that he had observed it in Spearfish late in March, 1964, and that his report is included in "Birds in the Black Hills," by Pettingill and Whitney, published in 1965.—Mrs. Russell E. Jonas, Spearfish

* * * *

NOTES FROM MADISON—Bird feeders in Madison have been full of Red Crossbills almost every day in January, 1970. The birds became very tame and presided over the feeders from about 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. warding off even starlings and house sparrows. I have seen them in Madison at the cemetery in former years but never before at the bird feeders as I have this winter.—Ruth Habeger, Madison

RED CROSSBILLS INVADE WEBSTER—July 21 the writer saw a large number of red crossbills. The beautiful friendly birds took possession of the courthouse lawn and worked as diligently as bees for several weeks. Many interested persons "visited" with these invaders. Several observers ventured the thought that the presence of the crossbills had no connection with the successful moon landing by the Messrs. Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins July 20. Ornithology in Webster was given a lift by the red crossbill visit.—Judge Sigurd Anderson, Webster

* * * *

The following general note scheduled for the March issue of Bird Notes referred to the Kittiwake:

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: It is interesting to note that the first specimen of this species (see the following article) was recovered away from the Missouri River where the first observation has been recorded.)

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FIRST BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE SPECIMEN FOR SOUTH DAKOTA—On December 20, 1969, as I was leaving Sturgis, on Interstate 90, I noted a bird lying in the travel lane. At first, I believed it to be a pigeon, however, upon retrieving it I noted it was a gull. The bird was still alive, but died a short time later. I keyed out the bird to be a Kittiwake, and later showed it to B. J. Rose of Rapid City who verified it as an immature Black-legged Kittiwake. He now has the specimen awaiting deposition.

The Kittiwake had apparently been struck by a car. An extremely low fog had covered the Sturgis area and foothills just prior to my finding the bird. The location was about one-fourth mile west of Sturgis, Meade County.—James R. Schroeder, State Game Warden, Sturgis

Notes from Sparks' Mini-Ranch

EARTH Day, April 22, was a national effort, the first, to bring to the attention of every child, man or woman in the United States the problems of environmental conservation.

Among the colleges observing the day were Black Hills State College and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Both had day-long programs of films, speeches, exhibits and special meetings. Some 30 magazines, dealing with Earth Day and Ecology were on display at B.H. the preceding week and aroused considerable interest.

The kick-off for Earth Day was a teach-in held at the University of Michigan in March. At this time a national survival corps or clean-earth corps was suggested as an answer to the need of all-out organization against pollution and the misuse of natural resources.

In the Black Hills May 24 was declared "Pride Day" and nature lovers polled their individual efforts in policing their favorite areas and stacked the resulting bags of trash along the road for trucks to pick up.

Webster defines Ecology as "the interrelationship of man to his environment."

Dr. Jerry Elliot defines conservation as "an attitude of stewardship toward resources both natural and human."

We, as individuals, can combine the two definitions to mean that we must work with nature to assure our grandchildren as wonderful an environment as we have had.

When the Audubon Society was founded in 1905 their objective, conservation of the wilderness, aroused no interest in the public. Like prophets crying in the wilderness the organization continued to fight for wildlife and

its natural habitat but it wasn't until after World War II that the public started to listen. Now the Society can lead the fight to make economic growth and environment compatible.

Paul Brandwien, in the April "American Forests," suggests an "Environmental Bill of Rights" to consist of 13 propositions which boil down to the need to give due consideration to bird, beast, tree, plant and human beings and to prevent the misuse of their inheritance.

He suggests three main causes for the ecological crisis:

1. The belief that man was created apart and superior to his world and can use it as he pleases.

2. The population explosion.

3. The ignorance of the principles of ecology.

He says it is impossible for man to divorce himself from his environment since there is no place else to go. With lightning speed the untouched areas of this country, bonanzas to vacationers and loners, are becoming over-populated and polluted.

Neither war nor nuclear attack threatens future children as much, he states, as the possibility of being buried beneath their own debris.

Population expert, Dr. Paul E. Ehrlich, predicts an eco-catastrophe. His article, in the April-May, 1970 "National Wildlife," suggests that for world preservation a maximum of two children per married family should be the rule and that one, or even zero would be better. He says, "Man is the endangered species and his needs are tied up with the needs of wildlife."

"Look" magazine of April 21, 1970 suggests that we "Join the fight—if you're not part of the solution you're part of the pollution."

"Life" says, "In a decade, urban dwellers will have to wear gas masks to survive air pollution."

In addition to the articles spilling over in today's magazines on Ecology, a book club, to be called the "Ecological Book Club," is being launched by Devin-Adair. Club members will not only receive the pick of the new ecology-oriented books but also a periodical newsletter dealing with books, legislation, scientific and political conservation and medical events of interest to subscribers.

"Look Around You" says John D. Dingell, in "National Wildlife, April-May, 1970, "Are the little wild places in YOUR neighborhood threatened?"

We didn't need to ask ourselves this question, we still aren't seeing the deer or other wildlife we saw last year on our daily drive from Roubaix to Spearfish. Yet we saw a hundred or more deer and dozens of herds of antelope on a day's trip to Casper, Wyoming last month. The theme of the 1970 observance of National Wildlife Week, March 15-21, "Seen Any Wildlife Lately," indicates we are not the only ones concerned.

It was a long winter in the high country. Our last big snow storm May 14 nearly kept us home from work as we had replaced snow tires with summer tires. Snow can still be seen in shaded areas the last week in May, but oh how very green are the hills and meadows and our little creeklet chuckles as it tumbles its way through our yard. Without the winter could summer ever seem so sweet?

That's "30" for now.

JUNE, 1970

Spring Migration

(Continued from Page 67)

Rusty Blackbird
Pine Grosbeak
Hoary Redpoll
Common Redpoll
Savannah Sparrow
Slate-colored Junco
Tree Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lapland Longspur—Large Numbers
Smith's Longspur
Snow Bunting—Large Flocks

Species observed by others while we were at Churchill, but not seen by us:

American Bittern
Snowy Owl
Short-eared Owl
Bohemian Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Palm Warbler
Western Meadowlark
Fox Sparrow

While we have observed birds in many countries on six continents, we shall always consider Churchill one of our most enjoyable experiences.—7000 Valley View Road, Minneapolis, Minn. 55435

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The Index

Nelda Holden has been working on the index for Volumes 16-20 and will soon have it ready to publish. Next comes the repulsive but vital question of money. It seems printers want to eat too.

A movement in that direction started some time ago: the Willis Halls generously contributed their all too small honorium (\$20) for their program at Webster in the spring of 1969 to the cause.

"Some prominent members and good friends of SDOU have passed away in the last couple of years," Willis wrote, "Mr. Findley, Mr. Crutchett, Mr. Elliott, in particular. Those who have worked on indexes certainly recognize this as a meaningful memorial."

Les Baylor has endorsed the suggestion. He adds Mrs. Scott Findley and S. S. Visher and asks for other suggestions, mentioning memorials to family and friends as well.

To these I can add Bill Youngworth, whose helpful words to an inexperienced editor, always at just the right time, will always be appreciated. And my late father whose love of growing things was ever an inspiration to generations of his family and friends.

Making the material so laboriously collected in "South Dakota Bird Notes" conveniently accessible for study would have pleased all these and many others we knew and loved.

Nelda Holden, secretary-treasurer, who is making the index and will handle with the printer, will receive your donation and consult about wording.—J. W. Johnson, Huron