

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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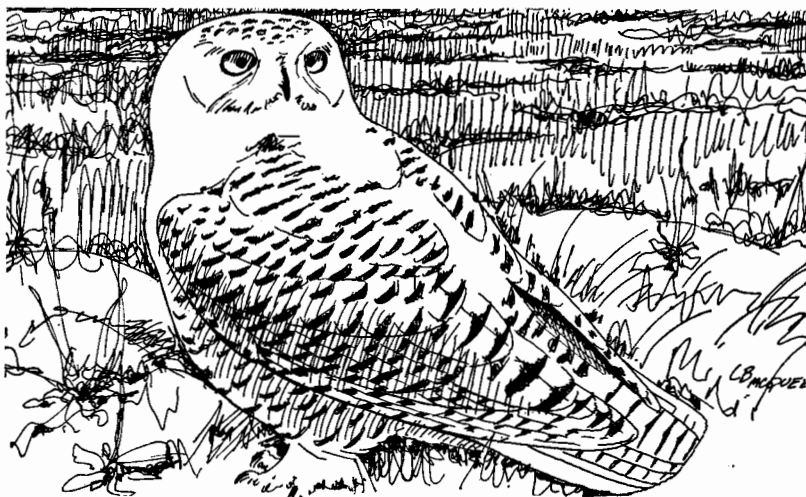
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SEPTEMBER, 1971

Whole No. 90

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Snowy Owl

The sketch of the Snowy Owl by Larry McQueen, Eugene, Oregon, reminds us that some of these irregular migrants will soon be in the state. The last great influx was during the winter of 1966-67 when 101 were observed. During the winter of 1967-68 there were 29 snowy owls reported. Since then only 10 to 12 have been reported each winter. We are just about due for another good year.

South Dakota Bird Notes, the Organ of South Dakota Ornithologists Union, is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Sustaining Members \$10.00, Adults \$4.00; Juniors (10-16) \$2.00. Family Membership (husband and wife) with one subscription to Bird Notes \$6.00. Libraries (subscription) \$4.00. Single and back copies: Members \$1.00, Non-members \$1.50. All dues should be remitted to the Treasurer, Nelda Holden, Route 1, Box 80, Brookings, S. Dak. 57006. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to Co-Editor Don Adolphson, Keystone Route, Box 669, Rapid City, S. Dak. 57701. Orders for back numbers should be sent to the Librarian, Herman P. Chilson, Webster, S. Dak. 57274. Published Quarterly.

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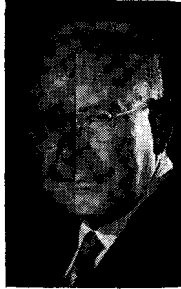
## President's Page

A GREAT store of information makes up what we call ornithology, most of it not written down, or even discovered.

Our main interest, our central purpose, is to add something to the known. Not some great fundamental truth, though we could use some of them too. But the little day to day observations that add up to better understanding. The ultimate aim may be grandiose; but we don't expect to do it all at once.

That any big job is just a lot of little ones anybody can do, tied together and thereby impressive, is to be taken for granted. The addition of information bit by bit is the education process at work, the reading of a book—or learning to spell. A letter at a time, word after word, in time we realize we have come a long way, for a little better view of what might be ahead.

Perhaps some of us are better near-sighted and like to concentrate on the minutiae of the work at hand. Others of us may be looking so far ahead, we frequently fall into intellectual man-holes, to crawl out unfitted for polite society of the more alert. But there is still satisfying effort and accomplishment for all of us, no matter what our outlook or ability may lack. At present we know of no field of learning small enough that it may not benefit from some more work or some new approach. With the added insight of intensive



collection and organization of small facts, there is no telling what great field may open where only blankness was before. The facts of molecular biology have existed from the beginning. Only discovery is new. Who would like to say there is not an infinity of other opportunities all around?

With ornithology, we are particularly fortunate in the breadth of it: work for field, office, or laboratory. With so much ignorance, we have work room for everybody to put in all the time that can be spared, doing something about it. Useful purposes may also be served by busy people who can spare money better than time. A most useful tool for the development of better knowledge of our birds is the upcoming annotated Check-List: "Birds of South Dakota." We are likely to have it ready for publication before we have money for printing. Any contribution would advance the date when we can be using this book to organize further study of our birds.

In the meantime, there is still work all around us in observing and recording the behavior of the birds, from their mere presence to details of their life history and social structure. Mistakes often come from assuming what we see is already well known, when the literature has no mention of it. The safe rule is: get it down. It can be sorted out and evaluated later, when there is time.

A second rule, no less important is: get it to the editors of Bird Notes. In the best shape you can, but get it there. They appreciate good copy, of course. But they like new material a lot better.—J. W. Johnson

# Water Development as Related to Birds in the Badlands, Western South Dakota

Esther Serr

JACKSON County will always be an important area to me because I was born at Belvidere within that county. Prior to 1914 the area was in Stanley County, but it was necessary to divide the large county into smaller ones because the distance was too far for the homesteader to go to the county seat at Ft. Pierre with a team to transact his business.

The Badlands are located to the west and south of Belvidere, and become a part of living in this southwestern area of South Dakota. When we had company come from away, we always took them to the Badlands for a sightseeing trip. Never as a little girl did I think of birds in those Badlands, but only of the repeated warnings to look out for rattlesnakes!

Today when I visit the Badlands, it is to see the birds there. I will always insist there were very few birds in the Badlands area in the homestead days and through the Thirties. I remember only the western meadowlark, killdeer, lark bunting, mourning dove, red-wing blackbird, sharp-tailed grouse, prairie chicken and waterfowl because many of my family were hunters. My birder friends tell me that I just didn't notice other species. In my defense I will say it takes water and trees to bring in the birds, and that was something that Jackson County didn't have when I was a child.

I am including some of eastern Pennington County since field trips with the Black Hills Audubon Society of Rapid City include this area. In all, Jackson County and the eastern Pen-

nington County area from east to west lie between 101°00' to 102°36' longitude, and from south to north, 43°40' to 44°00' latitude. The area is bounded on the north by the Bad River, and 20 miles to the south by the White River. The Bad River probably has about 60 percent of the drainage of the county.

The altitude at the east end of Jackson County is about 2300 feet; at the west end, 2800 feet; on the south the White River lies at 2000 feet, and the north boundary at 2600 feet before dipping down to 2000 feet to the bed of the Bad River. The Bad River enters the Missouri River at about 1800 feet altitude and the White River is at 1700 feet at the confluence of the Missouri.

Two railroads cross western South Dakota. The Chicago Northwestern Railway followed the Bad River, and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway laid its bed on flat land above the White River on its way to Rapid City. That meant two railroads within 20 miles of each other, and the rest of the West River area was without rail transportation except for two short lines.

In connection with the Homestead Act, the federal government required the railroads to establish stations every 13 miles, and then the little towns emerged from the railroad stations. The steam engine had to have water and coal all along the way so it was necessary for the railroad to put in dams and coal stations. The Chicago Milwaukee was the most important in Jackson County and eastern Pennington Coun-

ty. The following railroad stations and the water for living from the railroad points of interest within the area were dams and rivers. If they did dig a shallow well along the way to Rapidlow well with a pick and shovel, the water was so alkaline that the animals

Town	Altitude in Feet Above Sea Level	Location
Stamford _____	2400	Station in grassland
Belvidere _____	2300	Railroad dam in grassland
Kadoka _____	2400	Small dam and coal station on edge of Badlands
Weta _____	2500	Railroad dam in Badlands
Cedar Pass _____	3000	Tourist resort in Badlands—no railroad station
Interior _____	2800	Station in Badlands
Conata _____	2600	Station in Badlands
Imlay _____	2600	Station in Badlands
Scenic _____	2600	Coal station on edge of Badlands
Sheep Mountain ..	2600	Fossil area in Badlands—no railroad station

The Chicago Northwestern entered this very northwest corner of Jackson County and then into Pennington County to establish the following railroad stations in the area:

would lose their hair and hoofs. The natives could drink the water, but a visitor was always a bit distressed for a while. Today in 1971, deep wells are

Town	Altitude	Location
Cottonwood _____	2400 feet	Station in grassland
Quinn _____	2600 feet	Station in grassland and on edge of Badlands
Wall _____	2800 feet	Station on edge of Badlands

The history of the area from 1900 to 1970 are divided into three periods of water. The homesteader had no equipment to dig deep wells or build dams in his pastures. There were a number of

**1900 to 1925**

The cowboys came to the area before the creeks, but water didn't stay in them very long after a good rain, and the holes became very stagnant. The White River probably flowed most of the time, but the water was white from the cowboys' open range. Then, the washing through the Badlands. A shallow well was usually dug into the sand to clear river water. Each community seemed to be blessed with a spring or two. I'm sure the boggy portion around the spring attracted birds that I didn't notice at that time.

From 1900 to 1925, this was the way Jackson County besides being a hantavirus supply for Jackson County as I refer to wildlife. Homesteaders hauled all member from my own experiences, and

from listening to stories told by my parents. They were both present at the Belvidere lot sale in 1907 after the railroad station had been established.

#### 1925 to 1950

By this time many of the homesteaders gave up because 160 acres of land was not enough on which to make a living so those that remained had to acquire more land. Still more of them had to give up with the dust storms, grasshoppers, and droughts of the Thirties. The WPA project during this period provided work for those who stayed and needed help. Building dams was of high priority. The dams were usually quite large and concrete spillways were used. The Freeman Dam between Stamford and Belvidere; the Kadoka Dam; the 71 Dam east of Scenic and the Wall Dam were built at this time. They are in good condition today and support wildlife at the present.

During this period the railroad began to soften the water to be used in the engines. The water was pumped into storage tanks so that it was softer than rain water. At the beginning of this period, the Chicago Milwaukee dug a channel along the south side of the Belvidere Dam about 15 feet deep and wide. During the drought years of the Thirties when the dam was dry, the channel still had water in it. In 1971, there is still a noticeable channel in the dam.

#### 1950 to 1970

After World War II, with the aid of the Soil Conservation Program, farmers and ranchers started putting small stock dams on their land—any big draw was reason for a dam. The Game, Fish and Parks Department of South Dakota stocked many of these dams with fish, and made game reserves of some.

The Chicago Milwaukee Railroad still runs though Jackson County in 1971, but the water and coal stations are

abandoned since the diesel engines replaced the steam. Passenger service has been discontinued and now the depots are gone. The railroad negotiated with the town of Belvidere so that now the railroad dam belongs to the town. The State Game, Fish and Parks have established the Belvidere Dam as a reserve for the Greater Canada Goose project and the geese have done well there. The overflow from the deep artesian well at the edge of the dam keeps an open hole in the ice for the geese, and L. A. Pier, Belvidere pioneer, provides corn for them. Generally, the geese aren't nesting around or in the Belvidere Dam but go out to the nearby stock dams to nest. By October, 1970, there were 80 of the Greater Canadas on the Belvidere Dam that had come in from the surrounding area.

The town of Weta is completely gone, but the small railroad dam still exists. Trumpeter Swan from LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge, Martin, S. Dak., nest on the Weta Dam. I visited the Weta Dam in April, 1971, and saw one Trumpeter swimming along the shore of the small island. No doubt, there was a nesting mate nearby.

During this last period there have been extreme changes in the Missouri River by the Oahe, Big Bend, Fort Randall, and Lewis and Clark Reservoirs. These lakes have brought more birds into the Missouri River area. The lakes cause water to back up into the tributaries, and it would seem that would induce the birds to follow the water and trees through the Badlands to the Black Hills. Each year we add new species to our lists.

The National Park Service has set aside an area in the Cedar Pass-Interior-Scenic area and called it the Badlands National Monument. There were rangers at Cedar Pass before 1940 when the Cedar Pass Lodge was maintained

by Ben Millard. At present there is a visitors' center with museum at Cedar Pass. There are also nature trails and camera stops at frequent intervals on well improved roads.

## FIELD TRIP AREAS

In recording species for the field trips in the badlands by the Black Hills Audubon Society, I never felt right about combining the species into one list because the habitat varies so much mainly of water available. Without explanation, the list never seemed true for such arid area. As a result, I have divided it into six parts.

1. From the Cheyenne River to Scenic, the habitat supports more hawks, eagles, woodpeckers besides the regular prairie birds.

2. The town of Scenic is located at the edge of a Badlands basin, but to the northeast about seven miles on grassland at the edge of this basin is the Gore or 71 Dam built by WPA. There are two small dams at the south end to prevent overflow of the main dam. This main dam is good-sized, and not really a very deep dam. There is a fence line partially submerged where I have seen Double-crested Cormorants perched. Badlands soil is noted for holding water so that by late fall there is still a good bit of water in it so that this is an interesting place to watch fall migration.

The drive on from 71 Dam to Wall passes through pretty good farm land, lots of buffalo berry, plum, and chokecherry thickets. I was surprised to find a Black-headed Grosbeak fly out of one

of these thickets when picking berries there.

4. Sheep Mountain is in the Badlands proper, and you can ascend the mountain by car. The table land is almost lush with prairie grass while below the Badlands floor is barren of vegetation. There are both deciduous and coniferous trees on the mountain, and it is easy to find robins there. People who lived on top used water from a well in the canyon below the mountain.

5. Cedar Pass used to be very barren with just a few cedar and juniper growing out of some of the gulleys. Since the area has been developed as a national monument, there is a lot of green area with faucets, fountains and sprinklers around the grounds. In 1940 Charlie Smalley hauled water by truck from Interior to furnish the needs of the Cedar Pass Lodge.

6. Olds Dam is on the prairie north of the Badlands rim on a road that leads to Quinn. It is small, but there were ducks, and a Myrtle Warbler there. All that was needed to attract a warbler were a few small willows supported by seepage from the dam grade. In "South Dakota Bird Notes," Vol. XIX, No. 2, June, 1967, page 28, Keith Evans and Roger Kerbs discuss their study of Jackson County stock ponds. Olds Dam is just such a stock pond.

To make a more complete Badlands check list with dates, I have used dates from the above study by Evans and Kerbs, Black Hills Audubon Society field trips, and Gerald Tangren's observations from his stay at Cedar Pass Lodge during the summer of 1970, "South Dakota Bird Notes," Vol. XXIII, No. 1, March, 1971.

# Jackson County and Badlands Check List

SPECIES	Cheyenne River to Scenic	71 Dam	Wall to Scenic	Olds Dam and Other Ponds	Interior, Cedar Pass Weta Dam	Sheep Mountain	Belvidere, White River Valley
Horned Grebe .....							5-20-67
Eared Grebe .....		9-15-68		4-28-66	9-2-70		5-20-67
Western Grebe .....				4-28-66			5-20-67
Pied-billed Grebe .....		9-14-69		4-28-66			5-20-67
White Pelican .....							5-20-67
D. C. Cormorant .....		9-2-68					5-20-67
Great Blue Heron .....		9-29-69		8-30-66			5-20-67
Black-crowned Nt. Heron .....							5-20-67
Trumpeter Swan .....					4-11-71		
American Bittern .....							5-20-67
Mallard .....		9-15-68		4-1-66	6-24-70		5-20-67
Gadwall .....		9-15-68		4-28-66			5-20-67
Pintail .....		9-15-68		5-1-66			5-20-67
Green-winged Teal .....		9-14-69		4-1-66			5-20-67
Blue-winged Teal .....		9-15-68		4-28-66	6-24-70		5-20-67
Cinnamon Teal .....							5-20-67
American Widgeon .....		9-14-69		4-28-66	6-26-68		5-20-67
Shoveler .....		9-14-69		5-1-66			5-20-67
Redhead .....				5-1-66			5-20-67
Ring-necked Duck .....		9-14-69					
Canvasback .....				5-1-66			
Lesser Scaup .....				5-1-66			5-20-67
Bufflehead .....				5-1-66			5-20-67
Ruddy Duck .....				7-7-66			5-20-67
Common Merganser .....				4-1-66			
Turkey Vulture .....	9-14-69			1966	6-10-70	8-20-69(45)	5-20-67
Red-tailed Hawk .....		9-15-68		1966	5-1-66		5-20-67
Swainson's Hawk .....		9-15-68		1966	4-23-66		5-20-67
Rough-legged Hawk .....		9-15-68		1966			
Ferruginous Hawk .....				1966	5-1-66		
Golden Eagle .....	9-25-66	9-15-68		1966			5-20-67
Bald Eagle .....							1962
Marsh Hawk .....	9-14-69			1966	5-1-66	8-28-66	5-20-67
Prairie Falcon .....	9-14-69			1966	1970		
Sparrow Hawk .....	9-14-69	9-14-69		1966	1970	9-28-66	5-20-67
Prairie Chicken .....							5-20-67
Sharp-tailed Grouse .....			5-1-66	1966			5-20-67
Bob-White .....							1962
(Introduced by L. A. Pier, Belvidere, in about 1962, but may be extirpated at this time.)							
Pheasant .....			5-1-66	1966			5-20-67
Whooping Crane .....					9-20-68 (4)		
Sandhill Crane .....	10-8-65				4-21-71		
Sora Rail .....							5-20-67
American Coot .....		9-14-69		5-1-66			5-20-67
Semipalmated Plover .....		9-15-68					5-20-67
Killdeer .....			5-1-66	1966	5-1-66		5-20-67
Long-billed Curlew .....	4-27-63		5-11-69	5-1-66			5-20-67
Black-bellied Plover .....							5-20-67
Common Snipe .....							5-20-67
Upland Plover .....				5-25-67			5-20-67
Spotted Sandpiper .....				8-4-66	8-1-70		5-20-67
Solitary Sandpiper .....				9-1-70	8-17-70		
Willet .....				4-28-66			5-20-67
Greater Yellow-legs .....				4-28-66	1970		5-20-67
Lesser Yellowlegs .....		9-15-68		8-4-66	8-1-70		5-20-67
Pectoral Sandpiper .....				9-1-70			5-20-67
White-rumped Sandpiper .....							5-20-67
Baird's Sandpiper .....				9-1-70			5-20-67
Least Sandpiper .....				5-10-67	9-2-70		5-20-67
Long-billed Dowitcher .....		9-15-68		9-15-66			5-20-67



**JACKSON COUNTY AND BADLANDS CHECK LIST (Continued)**

SPECIES	Cheyenne River to Scenic	71 Dam	Wall to Scenic	Olds Dam and Other Ponds	Interior, Cedar Pass Weta Dam	Sheep Mountain	Belvidere, White River Valley
Stilt Sandpiper .....					8-30-70		5-20-67
Semipalmated Sandpiper ..							5-20-67
Marbled Godwit .....			5-1-66				
Sanderling .....							5-20-67
American Avocet .....				8-30-66	8-20-70		5-20-67
Wilson's Phalarope .....				5-10-66	7-27-70		5-20-67
Northern Phalarope .....							5-20-67
Ring-billed Gull .....				4-1-66			5-20-67
Franklin's Gull .....		4-18-71					5-20-67
Forster's Tern .....							5-20-67
Common Tern .....		4-18-71					5-20-67
Black Tern .....				5-10-66			5-20-67
Mourning Dove .....	9-14-69	4-18-71	4-18-71	7-24-71	1970		5-20-67
Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....				1966			specimen 1965
Barn Owl .....							specimen 1965
Great Horned Owl .....					7-6-70		1971
Burrowing Owl .....			6-4-67	1966			5-20-67
Short-eared Owl .....							5-20-67
Common Nighthawk .....	8-30-66	9-14-69		1966	1970		
Lesser Nighthawk—South of Wall on 7-6-66 SDBN Vol. XXI No. 1, p. 19, March, 1969. Roy O. Edwards, Jr., MD, 1661 Roverside Avenue, Suite B, Jacksonville, Fla.							
White-throated Swift .....					5-1-66		5-1-66
Ruby-thrt. Hummingbird .....					8-30-70		
Belted Kingfisher .....							5-20-67
Hybrid Flicker .....			5-1-66		1970	9-27-66 (15)	
Red-headed Woodpecker .....							5-20-67
Lewis' Woodpecker .....					1970		
Hairy Woodpecker .....							5-20-67
Downy Woodpecker .....	9-14-69				7-24-71		5-20-67
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....							1962
Eastern Kingbird .....	7-24-71		7-24-71	1966	1970		5-20-67
Western Kingbird .....	7-24-71			1966	6-16-65		5-20-67
Eastern Phoebe .....							5-20-67
Say's Phoebe .....	9-14-69		5-1-66	7-24-71	1970		5-20-67
Least Flycatcher .....							5-20-67
Western Wood Pewee .....					1970		5-20-67
Horned Lark .....	9-15-68			1966	1970		5-20-67
Violet-gren Swallow .....					8-28-70		
Tree Swallow .....	7-24-71						5-20-67
Rough-wing Swallow .....	7-24-71				8-28-70		5-20-67
Bank Swallow .....							5-20-67
Barn Swallow .....	7-24-71		5-1-66		1970		5-20-67
Cliff Swallow .....			9-1-68		5-28-66		5-20-67
Blue Jay .....							5-20-67
Black-billed Magpie .....				1966	1970		5-20-67
Common Crow .....	9-15-68		5-1-66	1966			5-20-67
Black-capped Chickadee .....					7-24-71	9-27-66	5-20-67
Red-breasted Nuthatch .....							1962
Brown Creeper .....							1962
House Wren .....							5-20-67
Long-billed Marsh Wren .....							5-20-67
Rock Wren .....			5-1-66		1970	8-20-69	
Mockingbird .....							5-20-67
Catbird .....							5-20-67
Brown Thrasher .....				1966	1970		5-20-67
Robin .....			5-1-66		1970	9-27-66	5-20-67
Swainson's Thrush .....							5-20-67
Gray-cheeked Thrush .....							5-20-67
Eastern Bluebird .....							5-20-67

JACKSON COUNTY AND BADLANDS CHECK LIST (Continued)

SPECIES	Cheyenne River to Scenic	71 Dam	Wall to Scenic	Olds Dam and Other Ponds	Interior, Cedar Pass Weta Dam	Sheep Mountain	Belvidere, White River Valley
Mountain Bluebird .....				7-24-71	6-1-66		
Townsend's Solitaire .....						9-27-66	
Water Pipit .....		9-15-68					
Bohemian Waxwing .....							1962
Cedar Waxwing .....					6-30-70		
Northern Shrike .....							1962
Loggerhead Shrike .....	7-24-71		5-1-66	1966	1970		5-20-67
Starling .....			5-1-66	1966	1970		5-20-67
Bell's Vireo .....							5-20-67
Red-eyed Vireo .....					7-24-71		
Warbling Vireo .....							5-20-67
Orange-crowned Warbler .....					5-1-66		5-20-67
Parula Warbler .....						specimen	4-65
Nashville Warbler .....							5-20-67
Yellow Warbler .....					8-1-70		5-20-67
Myrtle Warbler .....				5-1-66			5-20-67
Audubon's Warbler .....							5-20-67
Blackpoll Warbler .....							5-20-67
Northern Waterthrush .....							5-20-67
Yellowthroat .....							5-20-67
Yellow-breasted Chat .....					1970		
Wilson's Warbler .....					8-22-70		5-20-67
American Redstart .....					8-28-70		5-20-67
House Sparrow .....	9-14-69		5-1-66		1970		5-20-67
Bobolink .....							5-20-67
Eastern Meadowlark .....							5-20-67
Western Meadowlark .....	9-15-68		5-1-66	1966	1970		5-20-67
Yellow-headed Blackbird .....	9-14-69	9-14-69	5-1-66				5-20-67
Red-winged Blackbird .....	7-24-71		5-1-66	1966	1970		5-20-67
Orchard Oriole .....					1970		5-20-67
Baltimore Oriole .....					8-27-70		5-20-67
Bullock's Oriole .....					6-18-70		5-20-67
Common Grackle .....			1966		1970		5-20-67
Brown-headed Cowbird .....	9-14-69		9-28-68		6-25-70		5-20-67
Western Tanager .....					7-24-71		
Black-headed Grosbeak .....			9-28-68		6-25-70		5-20-67
Blue Grosbeak .....			7-24-71		1970		5-20-67
Lazuli Bunting .....					8-30-70		5-20-67
Dickcissel .....					6-26-68		1963
Evening Grosbeak .....							1962
Common Redpoll .....							1966
Pine Siskin .....							1963
American Goldfinch .....					8-28-70		5-20-67
Red Crossbill .....							8-13-67
Rufous-sided Towhee .....				5-1-66	1970	9-27-66	5-20-67
Lark Bunting .....	7-24-71			1966	6-24-70		5-20-67
Savannah Sparrow .....	9-14-69				8-18-70	-9-27-66	5-20-67
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	9-14-69						5-20-67
Vesper Sparrow .....	9-14-69	9-15-68	5-1-66	1966			5-20-67
Lark Sparrow .....		9-15-68	7-24-71	7-24-71			5-20-67
Slate-colored Junco .....							1966
Tree Sparrow .....							1966
Chipping Sparrow .....			5-1-66		8-18-70		5-20-67
Clay-colored Sparrow .....					8-25-70		5-20-67
White-crowned Sparrow .....							5-20-67
Lincoln's Sparrow .....							5-20-67
Song Sparrow .....					8-21-70		5-20-67
Smith's Longspur .....		9-15-68					
Chestnut-col. Longspur .....		9-15-68			9-1-70		

# The Silent Peril Continues

Willetta Lueshen, Wisner, Nebr.

Quoted from "Inland Bird Banding News," XLII:141, July-August, 1970

**T**HE use of chemicals is a growing concern. This summer (1970) a farmer whose land joins ours, hired a pilot to aerially apply Thimet—O, O—diethyl S—(ethylthio) methyl phosphorodithioate in pellet form to his fields, hopefully to control corn borer. I do not know what effect it had on the corn borer, but I know what it did to the wildlife and to the humans of the neighborhood. Numerous birds and animals were found dead in and near the fields. It was too dangerous to enter the fields to make a survey. However, one man did go into the field, unaware of the danger involved and became very ill. Several of us living nearby had varying ill effects for about three weeks. On foggy mornings and following the first rain, we were disturbed more than usual, and the odor was unpleasant to say the least. The farmer who was responsible for the application of the Thimet farms several thousand acres.

He is a businessman, not a chemist, and depends upon the chemical dealer to advise him. So, you see, Nebraska is not without its problems.

"Research on 108 pesticides has been done at the Denver Wildlife Research Center, under the program of Pesticide-Wildlife Studies. The studies on mallards, pheasants, chukars, and bullfrogs indicate that Thimet, a low-grade nerve gas, is an extremely fast-acting compound. Symptoms occurred in pheasants as soon as three minutes after treatment. The acute symptoms were ataxia, or loss of muscular coordination, diarrhea, beak-sharpening reflex, excessive drinking, loss of righting reflex, immobility, tremors, convulsions, etc. Anyone wishing more information on this frightening subject may write to Denver Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colo., and ask for Handbook of Toxicity of Pesticides to Wildlife."



Red-eyed Vireo

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## Corrections

South Dakota Bird Notes, vol. 28, No. 2, June 1971. The discussion for the "Use of an Eastern South Dakota Shelterbelt by Nesting Birds" on page 36 should follow the article on page 45.

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Typographical error on page 40. Boreal Chickadee should be omitted and all observations are Black-capped Chickadees.

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# 1971 Spring Migration for South Dakota

April 1, 1971-May 31, 1971

Esther Serr, Compiler

## SOUTH DAKOTA REPORTERS

Black Hills Audubon Society, Rapid City (BHAS); Les Baylor (LB), Don Adolphson (DA), N. R. Whitney (NRW), Bonnie Green (BG), Doris Knecht (DK), Esther M. Serr (EMS), Elizabeth A. Southmayd (EAS).

Barney Nordstrom, Fairburn, S. Dak., Custer County (BN).

Alfred Hinds, Southwest Perkins County, Prairie City, S. Dak. (AH).

Mrs. Lee (Susan) Eberly, Route 2, Box 94, Vermillion, S. Dak. (SE).

Harold Kantrud, Wildlife Biologist, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, N. Dak. (Edmunds County) (HK).

L. R. Lynch, 502 South First Street, Aberdeen, S. Dak. (LL).

Bruce K. Harris, State Game and Fish Department, Clear Lake, S. Dak. (Deuel, Day and Roberts Counties) (BH).

Dr. Harold W. Wagar, Box 27, Cresbard, S. Dak. (HWW).

South Dakota Ornithological Union Meeting, Sand Lake National Refuge, Aberdeen, S. Dak. (Brown County) (SDOU).

## GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Canyon Lake within Rapid City.

Seavey's Lake, Meade County, 12 miles north of Rapid City.

Bear Butte, Meade County, five miles east of Sturgis.

Scatterwood Lake, eastern corners of Faulk and Edmunds Counties.

## WEATHER

The western part of South Dakota had above average rainfall. All ponds and lakes pretty well filled and good grass coming. Water level low at Sand

Lake National Refuge, Aberdeen, May 21 and 22.

## OBSERVATIONS

Spring migration was slow starting all over South Dakota. Sparrow waves at Rapid City were fairly heavy May 5 and 6 with smaller flocks on May 9 and 10, but not nearly so heavy as in 1970. (EAS, EMS). Les Baylor found prairie birding excellent on 4-17 and 4-29 when he visited the Sharp-tail Grouse booming grounds east of Folsom in Custer County. Elizabeth Southmayd observed much activity of birds on May 22 and 23.

## SPECIES

(Date generally refers to first migration date, and/or, last date hoping to show time it takes the birds to move through South Dakota.)

### LOON, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS

**Common Loon**—4-25 Aberdeen; 4-28 through 4-30 (2) first spring record for Canyon Lake, and Black Hills. There have been three fall records but no spring. (LB, NRW); 4-29 Bear Butte (LB).

**Red-necked Grebe**—4-20 (3) Waubay NWR, Day County. (BH); 4-25 Aberdeen (LL); 4-24 Seavey's.

**Eared Grebe**—4-20 Aberdeen; 4-21 Seavey's; 4-28 through 5-4 (4) Canyon Lake; 5-2 five pairs on Pennington County stock dam (EMS); 5-4 (1) Canyon Lake.

**Western Grebe**—4-22 Aberdeen.

**Pied-billed Grebe**—4-8 Aberdeen; 4-23 through 5-4 Seavey's.

**White Pelican**—4-17 Aberdeen; 4-19 (76) Perkins County, Seymour Dam (AH); 4-29 (75) over Roscoe, Edmunds

County (HK); several hundred on Cottonwood Lake and Red Iron Lake, Marshall County 5-23 (EMS).

**Double-crested Cormorant**—4-17 Aberdeen; 4-27 (75) Scatterwood Lake (HK); 4-15 (6) tailwaters of Big Bend Dam, Fort Thompson, Buffalo County (NRW).

**Great Blue Heron**—4-5 returned to nesting tree, Battle Creek, Custer County (EMS); 4-15 Aberdeen; 4-29 (1) Bear Butte (LB); 5-21 (1) west Jackson County (EMS).

**Green Heron**—4-29 Deuel County, Walt Rose (BH); 5-25 one adult in marsh, Edmunds County, flushed three times (HK); 5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU).

**Common Egret**—4-21 Day County; 4-23 Deuel County (BH).

**Black-crowned Night Heron**—5-21 (SDOU).

**American Bittern**—4-22 Seavey's; 5-1 Caputa, Pennington County (BHAS); 5-8 Aberdeen.

**White-faced Ibis**—4-29 Aberdeen.

**Whistling Swan**—4-2 (1) Aberdeen.

**Trumpeter Swan**—4-11 nesting, Weta Dam, Jackson County.

#### SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS

**Canada Goose**—4-29 (8) late migration over Roscoe (HK); the banded bird mentioned in the winter report left Canyon Lake, mid-May. It was banded in Saskatchewan, Canada, 7-19-70 (LB); 4-18 (1) Seavey's eating grass (EAS). Mrs. Lee Eberly writes, "from April 1 to 15th, we had about 6000 geese on a large pond near our home, and on neighboring ponds. They fed in the corn fields and around the pond during the day and were on the water most of the night. The species which we positively identified were Canada, Snow, Blue and possibly some White-fronts. Our landlord who lived here for nearly 60 years says he has never seen this many geese on these ponds before as they usually stay nearer the Missouri River."

**White-fronted Goose**—5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU);

**Snow Goose**—4-8 Aberdeen.

**Blue Goose**—4-8 Aberdeen (LL).

**Ross' Goose**—5-16 Aberdeen.

**Mallard**—Residents began migration 4-1 (NRW); 4-7 (20) Perkins County (AH).

**Gadwall**—Down to 2 and 8 in April, then none on 4-28 Canyon Lake (LB).

**Pintail**—4-5 (100) Seavey's (EAS); 4-7 (40) Perkins County.

**Green-winged Teal**—4-7 Seavey's (NRW); 5-11 Elk Creek Dam, Meade County (EMS).

**Blue-winged Teal**—4-2 Aberdeen; 4-7 (10) Perkins County; 5-6 nest near Roscoe (HK); 5-26 late date for 11 on Canyon Lake; many on all ponds from Rapid City to eastern South Dakota border 5-21 (EMS).

**Cinnamon Teal**—4-25 Aberdeen (LL).

**American Widgeon**—Last Canyon Lake date 5-9; 5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU).

**Shoveler**—4-7 Seavey's (NRW); 5-11 many at Seavey's; few on Canyon Lake 4-28 to 5-9; 5-4 (100) Prairie City (AH); 5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU).

**Wood Duck**—4-21 (1 male) Aberdeen (LL).

**Redhead**—4-29 to 5-11 Seavey's (LB).

**Ring-necked Duck**—4-29 through 5-6 Seavey's, none at Canyon Lake (unusual) (LB); during May three pair, Deuel County (BH).

**Canvasback**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Lesser Scaup**—4-11 (7) Canyon Lake; 4-17 through 5-11 Seavey's (NRW, LB); 5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU).

**Common Goldeneye**—Last date Canyon Lake 4-14 (NRW).

**Bufflehead**—4-12 through 5-2 Canyon Lake; 5-11 (2) Seavey's; 4-18 eastern Pennington County (NRW); 5-13 last date at Long Lake, Marshall County (1) (HK).

**White-winged Scoter**—5-1 Deuel County adult male (BH).

**Upland Plover**—4-28 east of Folsom (LB); 4-29 Perkins County; 4-28 Roscoe, Edmunds County (HK).

**Spotted Sandpiper**—5-4 Rapid City (BG); 5-8 Aberdeen; 5-9 through 5-24 Canyon Lake (LB).

**Solitary Sandpiper**—4-20 Aberdeen; 4-27 (1) Ipswich, Edmunds County (HK).

**Willet**—4-22 Aberdeen; 4-27 Mina, Edmunds County (HK); 4-29 through 5-11 Seavey's.

**Greater Yellow-legs**—4-14 through 5-11 Seavey's (BHAS); 4-18 Chamberlain, Brule County (DK).

**Lesser Yellow-legs**—4-24 through 5-11 Canyon Lake and Seavey's; 4-20 Aberdeen.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**—5-5 Aberdeen.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—4-22 Aberdeen.

**Baird's Sandpiper**—4-19 Aberdeen.

**Least Sandpiper**—4-19 Aberdeen; 4-27 (30) Scatterwood Lake (HK).

**Dunlin**—4-21 Aberdeen.

**Short-billed Dowitcher**—4-22 Aberdeen (LL).

**Long-billed Dowitcher**—4-18 through 5-11 Seavey's. Best numbers ever in western South Dakota—up to 20; 5-4 Aberdeen.

**Stilt Sandpiper**—5-5 Aberdeen.

**Semi-palmated Sandpiper**—5-5 Aberdeen.

**Western Sandpiper**—5-19 Aberdeen.

**Marbled Godwit**—4-19 Aberdeen; 4-27 (10) Mina, Edmunds County (HK).

**Hudsonian Godwit**—4-25 Aberdeen; 4-27 (2) Scatterwood Lake.

**Sanderling**—5-4 Aberdeen.

**American Avocet**—4-19 Aberdeen; 4-23 through 5-11 Seavey's.

**Wilson's Phalarope**—4-19 Aberdeen; 4-23 through 5-31 Seavey's. From 4-29 through 5-4 there were hundreds on Seavey's, then by 5-11 the number was down so that Les Baylor finally estimated 400.

**Northern Phalarope**—4-19 Aberdeen.

## **GULLS, DOVES AND CUCKOOS**

**Herring Gull**—4-25 Aberdeen.

**Ring-billed Gull**—4-4 (20) and 4-18 (5) Rapid City; 5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU).

**Franklin's Gull**—4-8 Aberdeen; 4-26 Rapid City; 5-21 (5) Agar, Sully County. (EMS).

**Bonaparte's Gull**—4-20 Aberdeen; 4-18 and 5-15 Deuel County (BH).

**Forster's Tern**—4-24 Aberdeen.

**Common Tern**—4-18, 71 Dam, Scenic, Pennington County (BG); 5-3 (3) Pennington County (EMS).

**Least Tern**—5-24 Missouri River north of Wakpala, Corson County (LL).

**Caspian Tern**—5-19 Aberdeen (LL).

**Black Tern**—5-8 Aberdeen; 5-19 through 5-31 Seavey's; 5-21 many Roscoe, Edmunds County (EMS).

**Mourning Dove**—4-5 Pennington County; 4-11 Perkins County; 5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU).

**Black-billed Cuckoo**—5-25 Rapid City (BG).

## **OWLS**

**Screech Owl**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Great-horned Owl**—4-5 nest, Rapid City, one young fledged by 5-31 (NRW); 4-11 nest east of Wall, Pennington County (EMS); 4-11 one perched adult, Weta, Jackson County (EMS).

**Burrowing Owl**—4-22 Aberdeen; 4-24 through 5-19 one pair east of Seavey's (NRW); 4-24 one pair east of Folsom (LB).

**Long-eared Owl**—4-22 one southwest Roscoe, Edmunds County (HK).

**Short-eared Owl**—5-21 (SDOU).

## **GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS, SWIFTS AND KINGFISHER**

**Whip-poor-will**—5-8 calling for 10 minutes Roberts County; 5-12 flushed three times during mid-day, Deuel County (BH).

**Poor-will**—5-21 calling on Sheridan Lake Road, Pennington County (DA); South Canyon Road, Pennington County (NRW).

**Upland Plover**—4-28 east of Folsom (LB); 4-29 Perkins County; 4-28 Roscoe, Edmunds County (HK).

**Spotted Sandpiper**—5-4 Rapid City (BG); 5-8 Aberdeen; 5-9 through 5-24 Canyon Lake (LB).

**Solitary Sandpiper**—4-20 Aberdeen; 4-27 (1) Ipswich, Edmunds County (HK).

**Willet**—4-22 Aberdeen; 4-27 Mina, Edmunds County (HK); 4-29 through 5-11 Seavey's.

**Greater Yellow-legs**—4-14 through 5-11 Seavey's (BHAS); 4-18 Chamberlain, Brule County (DK).

**Lesser Yellow-legs**—4-24 through 5-11 Canyon Lake and Seavey's; 4-20 Aberdeen.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**—5-5 Aberdeen.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—4-22 Aberdeen.

**Baird's Sandpiper**—4-19 Aberdeen.

**Least Sandpiper**—4-19 Aberdeen; 4-27 (30) Scatterwood Lake (HK).

**Dunlin**—4-21 Aberdeen.

**Short-billed Dowitcher**—4-22 Aberdeen (LL).

**Long-billed Dowitcher**—4-18 through 5-11 Seavey's. Best numbers ever in western South Dakota—up to 20; 5-4 Aberdeen.

**Stilt Sandpiper**—5-5 Aberdeen.

**Semi-palmated Sandpiper**—5-5 Aberdeen.

**Western Sandpiper**—5-19 Aberdeen.

**Marbled Godwit**—4-19 Aberdeen; 4-27 (10) Mina, Edmunds County (HK).

**Hudsonian Godwit**—4-25 Aberdeen; 4-27 (2) Scatterwood Lake.

**Sanderling**—5-4 Aberdeen.

**American Avocet**—4-19 Aberdeen; 4-23 through 5-11 Seavey's.

**Wilson's Phalarope**—4-19 Aberdeen; 4-23 through 5-31 Seavey's. From 4-29 through 5-4 there were hundreds on Seavey's, then by 5-11 the number was down so that Les Baylor finally estimated 400.

**Northern Phalarope**—4-19 Aberdeen.

## **GULLS, DOVES AND CUCKOOS**

**Herring Gull**—4-25 Aberdeen.

**Ring-billed Gull**—4-4 (20) and 4-18 (5) Rapid City; 5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU).

**Franklin's Gull**—4-8 Aberdeen; 4-26 Rapid City; 5-21 (5) Agar, Sully County. (EMS).

**Bonaparte's Gull**—4-20 Aberdeen; 4-18 and 5-15 Deuel County (BH).

**Forster's Tern**—4-24 Aberdeen.

**Common Tern**—4-18, 71 Dam, Scenic, Pennington County (BG); 5-3 (3) Pennington County (EMS).

**Least Tern**—5-24 Missouri River north of Wapakala, Corson County (LL).

**Caspian Tern**—5-19 Aberdeen (LL).

**Black Tern**—5-8 Aberdeen; 5-19 through 5-31 Seavey's; 5-21 many Roscoe, Edmunds County (EMS).

**Mourning Dove**—4-5 Pennington County; 4-11 Perkins County; 5-21 Aberdeen (SDOU).

**Black-billed Cuckoo**—5-25 Rapid City (BG).

## **OWLS**

**Screech Owl**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Great-horned Owl**—4-5 nest, Rapid City, one young fledged by 5-31 (NRW); 4-11 nest east of Wall, Pennington County (EMS); 4-11 one perched adult, Weta, Jackson County (EMS).

**Burrowing Owl**—4-22 Aberdeen; 4-24 through 5-19 one pair east of Seavey's (NRW); 4-24 one pair east of Folsom (LB).

**Long-eared Owl**—4-22 one southwest Roscoe, Edmunds County (HK).

**Short-eared Owl**—5-21 (SDOU).

## **GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS, SWIFTS AND KINGFISHER**

**Whip-poor-will**—5-8 calling for 10 minutes Roberts County; 5-12 flushed three times during mid-day, Deuel County (BH).

**Poor-will**—5-21 calling on Sheridan Lake Road, Pennington County (DA); South Canyon Road, Pennington County (NRW).

**Common Nighthawk**—5-21 (SDOU); 5-30 Rapid City.

**Chimney Swift**—5-12 Aberdeen; 5-26 Rapid City (NRW).

**White-throated Swift**—5-1 Dark Canyon, Pennington County (NRW).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** — 5-21 (SDOU).

**Belted Kingfisher**—4-13 on prairie, Pennington County (EMS); 4-25 Aberdeen (LL).

#### WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-shafted Flicker**—4-21 (5) Perkins County (AH).

**Red-shafted Flicker**—4-27 Scatterwood Lake (HK); 4-30 Aberdeen.

**Hybrid Flicker**—Mating display on light poles 5-7 Rapid City; 5-12 display among three individuals, Rapid City (BG); 5-31 five young in nest nearly grown (BHAS).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—4-10 (1 male) Aberdeen (LL).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—5-10 Aberdeen; 5-15 Rapid City; 5-21 Long Lake, Marshall County (HK).

**Lewis' Woodpecker**—5-12 one pair in nest tree used previously, Skyline Drive, Rapid City (EMS).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—4-16 Aberdeen; 5-30 (1) Roberts County—should be a nesting bird as it was a mile north of 1969 and 1970 nest sights (BH).

**Downy and Hairy Woodpecker**—Few always around Rapid City; 5-21 (SDOU).

#### FLYCATCHERS, LARKS AND SWALLOWS

**Eastern Kingbird**—5-9 Rapid City; 5-15 Aberdeen; 5-31 many on wires above Rapid City intersections.

**Western Kingbird**—4-29 Perkins County; 5-7 Rapid City; 5-4 Aberdeen; 5-8 Deuel County (earlier than usual);

**Great-crested Flycatcher**—5-16 Spring Creek, Pennington County (Horace Jackson) extremely unusual (NRW).

**Say's Phoebe**—4-17 Aberdeen—party of four (LL); 4-24 east of Folsom (LB).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**—5-15 Aberdeen.

**Traill's Flycatcher**—5-22 Rapid City (LB).

**Least Flycatcher**—5-4 through 5-31 Rapid City (BHAS); 5-21 (SDOU).

**Eastern Wood Pewee**—5-19 banded, Cresbard (HWW); 5-2 early for Roberts County (BH).

**Western Wood Pewee**—5-22 Rapid City (BG).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**—5-21 (SDOU); 5-26 Spring Creek, Pennington County (NRW).

**Horned Lark**—4-5 pairs on territory, Rapid City; 5-21 few in Potter County (EMS); 5-21 (SDOU).

**Violet-green Swallow**—5-10 many on Canyon Lake; 5-31 sitting above intersections with Eastern Kingbird (BG).

**Tree Swallow**—4-14 Rapid City, and several nests found in the period (BG); 4-17 Aberdeen. Each year more seem to appear in Rapid City (EMS).

**Bank Swallow**—5-4 Aberdeen.

**Rough-winged Swallow**—4-10 Rapid City (BG); 4-30 Aberdeen.

**Barn Swallow**—4-24 one pair Folsom (LB); 4-23 Perkins County; 4-30 Aberdeen.

**Cliff Swallow**—5-4 Aberdeen; 5-16 under bridges Interstate 90, Pennington and Jackson Counties (EMS).

**Purple Martin**—4-14 Aberdeen. Irma Weyler's editorial, "Martin Talk Again" 4-30 tells that folks ask if they should put up a Martin house. She doesn't discourage them, for she feels the Belle Fourche area would make an ideal nesting area because the food supply seems ample since there are many mosquitoes around the Belle Fourche River. However, she has only seen one Martin on her hill a few years ago. Mrs. Weyler states, "So . . . Martins . . . why not? Put up the houses. The rest is up to the Martins. That's what makes birding interesting." The same for Rapid City—everyone keeps hoping for Martins (EMS).



## **JAYS, CROWS AND MAGPIES**

**Blue Jay**—4-30 and 5-28 (4) banded (HWW); definite increase in Rapid City; 5-8 building nest, Roberts County (BH); 5-21 (SDOU).

**Common Crow**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Pinon Jay**—Average number at feeders along the pine hills (BHAS).

## **CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPER, DIPPER AND WRENS**

**Black-capped Chickadee**—Few in Rapid City during period; 5-18 few Perkins Co.; 5-21 (SDOU).

**White-breasted Nuthatch** — 5-21 (SDOU).

**House Wren**—5-4 Rapid City (BG); 5-7 Aberdeen; 5-20 banded (HWW).

**Winter Wren**—5-5 one in banding trap, Rapid City (NRW).

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**—5-18 Aberdeen (LL).

## **THRUSHES, KINGLETS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS AND MIMIDS**

**Mockingbird**—5-19 Bowdle, Edmunds County (HK); 5-31 Fairburn, Custer County (BN); 5-21 (SDOU).

**Catbird**—5-18 Aberdeen; 5-21 Rapid City; 5-29 banded (HWW).

**Brown Thrasher**—4-20 Aberdeen; 5-1 Rapid City; 5-3 Perkins County; 5-14, 5-27 banded (HWW).

**Robin**—Fewer in number, Rapid City.

**Hermit Thrush**—4-20 Aberdeen.

**Swainson's Thrush**—4-29 Aberdeen; 5-3 through 5-29 (81) banded (HWW); 5-5 through 5-31 many at Rapid City (BHAS).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**—5-5 Rapid City; 5-6 Aberdeen.

**Veery**—4-20 Aberdeen; 5-12 (good view) Deuel County through 5-25 (BH); 5-12 through 5-14 Perkins County (AH).

**Eastern Bluebird**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Mountain Bluebird**—Good number around Rapid City; 4-4 (1 female) Waubay NWR, 4-25 (1 male) Waubay NWR (LL).

**Townsend's Solitaire**—Few during period at Rapid City.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—4-13 Rapid City; 4-19 Aberdeen; 4-22 banded (HWW).

**Sprague's Pipit**—4-23 Aberdeen (LL).

**Cedar Waxwing**—4-10 (12) Rapid City and nesting (BG); 4-18 Chamberlain (DK); 5-21 (SDOU).

## **SHRIKES, STARLINGS AND VIREOS**

**Loggerhead Shrike**—4-5 specimen Deuel Co. (BH); 4-8 (2) Perkins Co.; 4-17 Philip, Haakon Co. (NRW); 5-29 nest with three fledged—rather rare in northeast South Dakota (BH); 5-21 (2) Belvidere, Jackson County (EMS); 5-21 (SDOU).

**Red-eyed Vireo**—5-14 Aberdeen; 5-15 Rapid City; 5-18 banded (HWW).

**Solitary Vireo**—5-12 Deuel County.

**Warbling Vireo**—(SDOU) 5-21.

## **WARBLERS**

**Black-and-White Warbler**—5-4 through 5-25 Rapid City; 5-5 Aberdeen.

**Golden-winged Warbler**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Tennessee Warbler**—5-18 Aberdeen.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—4-12 through 4-24 Aberdeen; 4-27 through 5-31 Rapid City; 5-14 banded (HWW).

**Nashville Warbler**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Yellow Warbler**—5-5 through 5-31 Rapid City; 5-8 Perkins County; 5-10 Aberdeen; 5-18 and 5-20 banded (HWW).

**Magnolia Warbler**—5-21 (SDOU); 5-25 and 5-26 Rapid City.

**Myrtle Warbler**—4-16 through 5-9 Rapid City. Heavy from 4-24 through 4-29 in flocks up to 25 (LB, EMS); 4-16 Aberdeen; 5-1 and 5-2 Perkins County; 5-10 banded (HWW).

**Audubon's Warbler**—5-5 through 5-11 Rapid City.

**Black-throated Green Warbler**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Blackburnian Warbler**—5-24 Aberdeen (LL); 5-26 one Rapid City (rare) (EAS).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Bay-breasted Warbler**—5-21 (SDOU); 5-22 Rapid City. Studied for half hour with binoculars and high in an American Elm and sometimes as close as 10 feet (BG). Believed to be first for Rapid City and Black Hills. (EMS).

**Blackpoll Warbler**—4-27 Aberdeen; 5-7 through 5-11 Rapid City; 5-13 and 5-20 (4) banded (HWW).

**Palm Warbler**—5-7 Aberdeen.

**Ovenbird**—5-7 Aberdeen; 5-12 Deuel County; 5-23 through 5-31 Rapid City.

**Connecticut Warbler**—5-29 banded (HWW).

**Yellowthroat**—5-5 through 5-31 Rapid City; 5-10 Aberdeen; 5-18 and 5-20 banded (HWW); 5-11 Belle Fourche (IW).

**Yellow-breasted Chat**—5-25 Aberdeen.

**Wilson's Warbler**—4-18 Rapid City (BG); 5-25 Aberdeen.

**American Redstart**—5-11 through 5-31 Rapid City; 5-21 (SDOU); 5-29 (2) banded (HWW).

#### HOUSE SPARROW, BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS

**House Sparrows**—Few in Rapid City; many in Aberdeen 5-21 (EMS).

**Bobolink**—5-6 early for Deuel County (BH); 5-13 Roscoe (HK); 5-15 Aberdeen; 5-18 (4) Bear Butte (DA); 5-19 Seavey's (NRW).

**Western Meadowlark**—Possibly fewer in Rapid City; 5-21 (SDOU).

**Eastern Meadowlark**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**—4-17 through 5-31 Aberdeen; 4-18 through 5-31 Rapid City.

**Red-winged Blackbird**—Estimate the blackbird family population in western South Dakota about one-third that of eastern South Dakota (EMS).

**Orchard Oriole**—5-15 Aberdeen; 5-14 and 5-25 two banded (HWW); 5-16 through 5-31 Rapid City.

**Baltimore Oriole**—5-15 through 5-31 Aberdeen; 5-15 through 5-26 Rapid City.

**Bullock's Oriole**—5-11 through 5-31 much nesting activity, Rapid City (BHAS).

**Rusty Blackbird**—4-11 Aberdeen.

**Brewer's Blackbird**—4-5 Aberdeen; 4-17 Folsom (LB); female with white spotting returned to Don Adolphsons to nest fourth year.

**Common Grackle**—Numbers down at Fairburn (BN); 4-9 many Perkins County; 5-26 through 5-30 (9) banded (HWW).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—4-11 Aberdeen; 4-19 through 5-14 Rapid City, and many observations; 5-2 (20) Perkins County (AH).

**Western Tanager**—5-14 through 5-31 many, Rapid City.

**Scarlet Tanager**—5-21 (SDOU); 5-22 and 5-23 in Rapid City (LB). First record for the Black Hills and Rapid City; 5-27 singing male Sodak Park, Roberts County (BH).

#### SPARROWS AND FINCHES

**Cardinal**—5-21 (SDOU).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—5-15 Aberdeen; 5-20 banded (HWW); 5-28 nest in Roberts County (BH).

**Black-headed Grosbeak**—5-15 Rapid City; 5-13 1 male window casualty Perkins County (AH).

**Lazuli Bunting**—5-9 through 5-31 Rapid City.

**Evening Grosbeak**—Smaller numbers up to 20 throughout period, Rapid City.

**Pine Siskin**—Simply "gobs" at Rapid City until mid-May (BHAS).

**American Goldfinch**—Few all during period at Rapid City; 5-14 two pair and 5-17 (16) Perkins County; 5-20 banded (HWW); 5-21 (SDOU).

**Red Crossbill**—4-5 through 5-31 Rapid City. They came with the Elm and Cottonwood seeds (EAS).

**Green-tailed Towhee**—5-8 and 5-9 at DeFord's, Rapid City, and checked by Les Baylor, (not common)—two previous sightings.

(Continued on Page 81)

## *General Notes of Special Interest*

**ABNORMAL LOON BEHAVIOR**—For two and one-half days, beginning May 11, 1971, there was a common loon (*Gavia immer*) on a pond near our home, 10 miles north of Vermillion, S. Dak. The bird was in immature plumage, having a dull grey back; with white chin, neck front, and belly. The interrupted, white neck band of the adult was just developing. Any doubts about the identification of the bird were dissipated when several series of tremolo or laughing calls were given.

The presence of the bird was first noticed on the afternoon of May 11. To our knowledge, it left the pond only once during the next two and one half days, and then unwillingly.

During feeding periods the bird could be found almost anywhere on the pond. In typical loon fashion it would either peer under the water before diving, or dive immediately, and then surface some distance away. Dives lasted up to 45 seconds; distances covered under water ranged up to an estimated 40 yards.

Aside from feeding periods, the remainder of the bird's time was entirely spent within four or five feet of a plastic, female mallard decoy. This decoy had been left anchored near the center of the pond by duck hunters the preceding fall.

Behavior while near the decoy consisted of swimming away from it for four to five feet, then turning around and swimming straight back to within zero to two feet. This process would be repeated as many as five or six times in succession. Periodic preening and rolling, preening were exhibited. Time was also spent resting(?) beside the decoy. Vocalization, if any, could not

be heard. Nocturnal activities were not noted.

On two separate occasions during the afternoon of May 13, the loon was disturbed by boaters. The first time the bird merely swam in front of the boat repeatedly giving its tremolo call. It did not dive, but rather maintained a 100-200 foot distance between itself and the boat. After the boaters left the vicinity, the bird returned to the decoy.

The reaction of the bird to the second disturbance was the same as before, except that diving was also noted. The loon, after being harassed for 15 minutes, left the pond for a short period of time. Within two hours, however, the loon was again seen alongside the decoy.

One can only guess at the motivation behind such behavior. Why was the loon with the decoy, rather than with one of the coots, teal, mallards, or shovellers on the pond? Perhaps the loon's presence elicited aggressive behavior from them, or vice versa. While the decoy did nothing to entice the loon, it did nothing to antagonize it. Perhaps this seemingly neutral behavior on the decoy's part was actually not neutral but positive encouragement to the loon. At any rate, this was apparently enough to convince the loon that it was with a "friend," at least for two days.—**Lee and Susan Eberly**

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**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE WINTERS AT RAPID CITY**—In the early afternoon of Nov. 29, 1970, I noted an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) at Canyon Lake in west Rapid City. A telephone call brought Lois and B. J. Rose to the lake for confirm-

ing observation. For about an hour and a half, with 7x35 binoculars and a 20x scope, we studied the bird at distances from 50 to 100 yards, and noted the distinctive markings: iridescent purple head, crescent face patch, distinctly contrasting white spots on black wings, and a black line extending down into the white side from the fold of the wing. B. J. Rose also photographed the bird for a permanent record, and throughout the winter season other members of the Black Hills Audubon Society also saw the bird. Between Nov. 29, 1970 and March 21, 1971, I saw the Barrow's Goldeneye at Canyon Lake on 11 different occasions.

This goldeneye characteristically winters along the Pacific coast from southern Alaska to central California (Peterson, *A Field Guide to the Western Birds*, 1961). Its appearance in Rapid City certainly was typical. To my knowledge, the Barrow's Goldeneye has not been reported previously in or near the Black Hills. In fact, previous reports of Barrow's Goldeneye in South Dakota are rather scant. Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Findley reported a male, March 21, 1953, at Grass Lake, Minnehaha County (*Bird Notes*, 5:46, September, 1953). Charles Crutchet noted a male at Lake Anahpe, Armour, on April 15, 1957 (*Bird Notes*, 9:27, June, 1957). And B. J. Rose saw a male Barrow's Goldeneye at Sand Lake, Brown County, on March 24, 1959 (pers. comm.). —L. M. Baylor, SDSM&T, Rapid City

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**COMMON LOON IN WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA**—In the late afternoon of April 28, 1971, unknown to each other, Dr. N. R. Whitney and I were checking birds from different shores of Canyon Lake, west Rapid City, and we both noted a pair of adult common loons (*Gavia immer*). It was a day of slight influx for water birds at the lake: four eared grebes, two Ameri-

can widgeons, nine shovelers, and five buffleheads, as well as the loons. A resident at the lake claimed to have seen four common loons in the morning of that day.

One common loon remained at Canyon Lake on the morning of April 29, 1971, and in the afternoon of the same day, I saw a common loon at Bear Butte Lake, Meade County. Then, on June 17, 1971, at Newell Lake in Butte County, Herb Krause, Will Rosine, Steve Johnson, and I observed another common loon, but unlike the above-noted individuals, this loon had the drab plumage of a winter or non-breeding bird. Subsequently, at Newell Lake on July 25, 1971, Will Rosine and I saw a similar low-plumage common loon that probably was the same individual observed there on June 17.

These three spring occurrences of the common loon in western South Dakota, with one non-breeding loon apparently remaining throughout the summer, seem to be of some significance, for Pettingill and Whitney (*Birds of the Black Hills*, 1965) were able to report only three fall transient records of the common loon: Nov. 3, 1932, Oct. 29, 1954, and Nov. 13, 1960.—L. M. Baylor, SDSM&T, Rapid City

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**CURVE-BILLED THRASHER NEAR GANN VALLEY**—On April 7, 1971 I had a letter from Bernice (Mrs. Irving) Knight, Gann Valley, describing a mystery bird that had been about their ranch home a mile west and north of the junction of Highways 34 and 45.

An exchange of letters developed the information on April 13 that the bird was probably a Curve-billed Thrasher and it had been about the ranch since sometime in February, 1971. It ate shelled corn and later was heard singing from a tree top at early daylight. It had built a "nest" of twigs and grass on a trellis under the overhang of the

porch roof. Later it used an electric pole near the house for a singing perch.

On May 28, 1971, Lucille and I drove to the Irving Knight ranch and Bernice showed us the nest the bird had built, really just a platform of twigs and grass nearly a foot square and several inches thick. The pole used for singing was well located for pictures and I was no sooner in place, concealed in the shade of the house, than I heard the bird singing in some nearby trees. The song seemed higher pitched and lighter than that of the Brown Thrasher.

In a few minutes the bird was on the wire by the pole and stayed perhaps 10 minutes while I made a number of exposures. Unfortunately, there were other wires close in front of the singer and the pictures are of interest only for identification. However, they leave no doubt on that score. The dark, curved beak, the "softly spotted" breast, and the deep orange iris all show clearly in one or more of the slides.

To my knowledge, this is the second record of this species in the state, the 1966-67 appearance at Fairburn reported by Mrs. Harold Smith (BN XIX:16) being the first.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron**

\* \* \* \*

**VARIED THRUSH IN BEADLE COUNTY**—I wish to report the positive identification of a Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius naevius*, A.O.U. Number 763. The female was captured in a dove trap while I was banding doves on June 24, 1971. The location was three miles west and one-half mile north of Huron, S. Dak. I didn't have any bird book with me so I took the bird home with me and identified it with *Petersons Field Guide of Western Birds* and *Pearson's Birds of America*. I also had my assistant identify it and it was concluded that without a doubt it was a female Varied Thrush. I would assume the bird may have attempted to nest in the local area, due to the time of the

year I caught it. I released the bird near my home hoping it would stay in the general vicinity, but haven't seen it since.—**Barry Betts, Conservation Officer, Huron**

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**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS NEAR GANN VALLEY**—In a letter dated April 13, 1971, Mrs. Irving Knight wrote me of seeing five bluebirds on a fence at their ranch near Gann Valley. The ranch is located a mile west and north of the junction of Highways 34 and 45 or about five miles northwest of Gann Valley. The date was "about April 1, or late March." She described them as "all blue, lighter blue underside—no white or other color, about robin size, possibly more slender."

Of course, these were Mountain Bluebirds and the fact that they were in a flock, on spring migration well east of the Missouri, where they can only be rated as casual makes them of interest.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron**

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## Spring Migration

(Continued from Page 78)

**Rufous-sided Towhee**—4-20 Aberdeen; 5-5 Perkins County; 4-29 through 5-31 Rapid City.

**Lark Bunting**—5-9 Rapid City; 5-7 males, Zeona, Harding County, 15 males Perkins County, 5-12 (40) all male but six, Sorum, Perkins County, 5-14 (40) equal in sex Perkins County (AH); 5-11 Aberdeen; 5-12 Roscoe.

**Savannah Sparrow**—4-22 Aberdeen; 4-28 Roscoe.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—5-12 Seavey's. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**—4-18 Aberdeen.

**Vesper Sparrow**—4-11 Aberdeen; 4-17 through 5-9 Rapid City, many by 4-29; 4-18 Kadoka, Jackson County (EMS); 5-16 Perkins County (AH).

**Lark Sparrow**—4-18 Aberdeen; 5-4 through 5-18 Rapid City; 5-14 Perkins County.

(Continued on Page 83)

## Notes from Sparks' Mini-Ranch

**W**HEN falconry flourished in Europe, golden eagles could be flown only by kings. Today, shooting them from helicopters is considered sport in some areas.

The golden eagle is not strictly an American bird, as is the bald eagle, our symbol, but is one of some 55 species of eagle known throughout the world.

Eagles apparently mate for life though they seek a new mate if one is killed. Their courtship consists of spectacular flight maneuvers and they work as a team in building their nests. The nests are usually seven feet high and six feet wide, made of sticks and dried leaves and are used indefinitely. One in Ohio was used for 36 years and weighed almost a ton.

The female lays two eggs and both parents incubate the eggs up to 49 days. The young stay in the nest as long as 130 days, being fed by both parents. The process of raising a family, at most two eaglets, takes up to 12 months so eagles breed only once every two years.

Which brings us to the recent tragedy in Wyoming. In the Rapid City Journal of Aug. 4, 1971, an APO story out of Cheyenne, Wyo. tells of nearly 800 bald and golden eagles being shot from aircraft. A pilot out of Buffalo testified to having piloted helicopters and planes for a group of ranchers who hired the birds shot. Wyoming laws do not protect the golden eagle which is listed as a predator, but state statutes do prohibit hunting animals from a helicopter. In October of 1962, Congress revived the Bald Eagle Act of 1940 by passing Public Law 87-844 which provided the same protection for the golden eagle as that already enjoyed by the bald eagle except that on "the request of the governor of any state the Secretary

of the Interior could authorize the taking of golden eagles for the purpose of seasonally protecting domesticated flocks and herds in such part or parts and such dates and for such periods as the secretary determines to be necessary to protect such interests . . . " However no request has been granted since January of 1969.

On Aug. 5 an AP story out of Washington credited Rep. John Dingell, D. of Michigan as urging the Senate to take quick action on a bill which would make it a federal offense to gun down birds and animals from an aircraft. The House passed such a bill in mid-May, with the maximum penalty to be one year in jail or \$5000 fine, plus the suspension of the flying license of the pilot.

Conservationists who have studied the life cycle of the eagle state that they are necessary to control the population of mice, rats, ground squirrels, prairie dogs and snakes. They do feed on dead animals which accounts for their being seen feeding on lambs and deer, but they are not a threat to either domestic or wild animals.

Tests proved that an 11-pound bird could not raise itself from the ground with a 5½-pound weight attached which discounts the stories of eagles killing lambs to carry to their young.

They have been known to kill sick and wounded animals and during bad winters when rabbits starved for lack of food they were seen killing the weaker ones thus helping the cause of ecology.

Arthur Bent, in his study of the eagle, testified that in Kansas jack rabbits formed the bulk of the eagle's diet, while in Florida or coastal regions fish, coots, ducks, crabs, turtles, etc. made up the large part of their

diet. They are rarely known to kill deer but they will eat the carrion.

**Audubon**, March, 1969, v. 71, states that eagles, once plentiful, are seldom seen more than once a year in the Great Lakes area of New York state and that with the decrease in the number of eagles we may look for an increase in the number of rodents.

**Natural History**, v. 79, May 1969, contains an article by Frances Hamerstrom on her experience with her eagle, Chrys. Chrys was raised in captivity and accepted Mrs. Hamerstrom as her mate, utilizing her help in building a nest and in brooding her eggs. Chrys expected from 20 minutes to an hour and a half off from her brooding duties a couple of times a day and Mrs. Hamerstrom fulfilled her responsibility by standing guard over the nest and keeping the eggs warm with a hot water bottle.

When Chrys was five years old her partner decided to prevent her disappointment with another unfulfilled brooding of her non-fertile eggs so she substituted a tiny red-tailed hawk, placed in a cleaned-out goose egg, for one of Chrys' eggs while taking her turn at the nest. The eagle responded to the peeps of the tiny bird by returning at once to the nest and for the next two weeks the eagle and her dedicated human partner took turns feeding the little bird. When it succumbed an older hawklet was substituted and this one was raised to maturity, much to the delight of Chrys.

Out of loss often comes gain as we progress in our learning to live with our environment and hopefully the tragedy of the eagles poisoned and shot in Wyoming, (Texas also lost an even greater number the same way some years back) will awaken our people to a greater effort to protect our birds and vanishing wildlife.

That's "30" for now.

## Spring Migration

(Continued from Page 81)

**White-winged Junco**—Few around during period, Rapid City.

**Slate-colored Junco**—44 Kennebec, Lyman County (DK); 4-12 through 5-7 Rapid City; 4-19 banded (HWW).

**Gray-headed Junco**—4-6 through 4-9 Mary Hyde's yard in Rapid City, and checked by Les Baylor. Probably a first Black Hills record with verification.

**Chipping Sparrow**—4-23 through 5-31 good waves from 5-9 through 5-13, Rapid City (BHAS); Kennebec, Lyman County (DK).

**Clay-colored Sparrow**—5-5 through 5-14—heavy up to 200 in flocks, Rapid City; 5-10 Aberdeen; 5-18 Bear Butte.

**Field Sparrow**—4-15 (5) while plowing Perkins County (AH).

**Harris' Sparrow**—4-30 Aberdeen; 5-3 through 5-13 Perkins County; 5-5 through 5-8 Rapid City; 5-10 and 5-11 (3) banded (HWW).

**White-crowned Sparrow**—4-10 through 5-9 Rapid City; 4-30 through 5-13 Perkins County. Alfred Hinds found Harris' and White-crowns migrating together with a couple of White-throated with them; 5-11 Belle Fourche (20) (IW).

**White-throated Sparrow**—4-20 Aberdeen; 4-29 Bear Butte; 5-5 Perkins County; 5-5 Rapid City; 5-7 through 5-13 (14) banded (HWW).

**Fox Sparrow**—5-7 Aberdeen (LL).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—4-23 through 5-5 Rapid City; 5-1 Aberdeen; 5-13 and 5-14 (4) banded (HWW).

**Song Sparrow**—4-12 through 5-11 Rapid City; 4-6 through 4-11 Aberdeen.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**—4-18 Gann Valley, Buffalo County (NRW); 4-19 north Pennington County; 5-21 few Potter County (EMS); 5-24 nest with two young Deuel County (BH).

Visitor contacting Black Hills Audubon Society for information on birding: Mrs. Thomas (Betty) Murphy, Minneapolis, Minn.

# SDOU Fall Meeting

## Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 12-14, 1971

University of South Dakota in Vermillion

### Friday, Nov. 12:

7:30-9:00 p.m.—Registration at W. H. Over Museum, University of South Dakota, Vermillion  
Exhibit of bird prints by Guy Cochleah

### Saturday, Nov. 13:

8:00 a.m.—Registration, Continuing Education Center

9:00 a.m.—Business meeting  
Directors' meeting  
Coffee Break

11:00 a.m.—First scientific session  
Observations at Sieche Hollow—Bruce Harris  
Lunch

1:30 p.m.—Second scientific session  
Snipe observations in June in Deuel County—Bruce Harris  
Farm Island Banding, 1971—Nelda Holden  
Some Thoughts on Future SDOU Field Studies—J. W. Johnson  
Natural Areas of South Dakota Worthy of Identification and  
Preservation—David Holden  
The Future of the Banding Office—George Jonkel

4:30 p.m.—Current Congressional Work on Bird Protection—Rep. James Abourezk

7:00 p.m. Banquet. Union Building. PLEASE NOTE . . . The banquet will be \$3.00 per plate. Food handling considerations require advance reservations. Notify Lee Eberly, W. H. Over Museum, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, by mail or phone before 11:00 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 11.

### Sunday, Nov. 14:

Checklist committee meeting—Museum. Finish paper session if necessary.

### —Call for Papers—

More papers are needed. Rush titles to Dr. N. R. Whitney, 633 South Berry Pine Road, Rapid City, S. Dak. 57701. Make note of time and any special equipment you will require for adequate presentation.

### —Hotels and Rates—

Tomahawk Motel, West Highway 50, Phone 624-2601—Single room, one person, \$10.00; single room, two persons, \$14.00; double room, \$18.00.

Coyote Motel, 702 North Dakota, Phone 624-2616—Single room, one person, \$8.50; single room, two persons, \$11.00; double room, \$13.00.

Lampighter Motel, 112 Cherry, Phone 624-4451—Single room, one person, \$10.00; single room, two persons, \$14.00; double room, \$16.00.

### —Restaurants—

Cavalier, West Highway 50  
Charcoal Lounge, 8 East Main  
Chris Country Grill, 432 Cherry  
Lil' Duffer, East Highway 50  
Prairie, Highways 50 and 19

Taco Towne, East Highway 50  
Tip Top Cafe, 17 East Main  
Leo's Lounge, Center  
Charlie's Pizza House, 112 East Main