

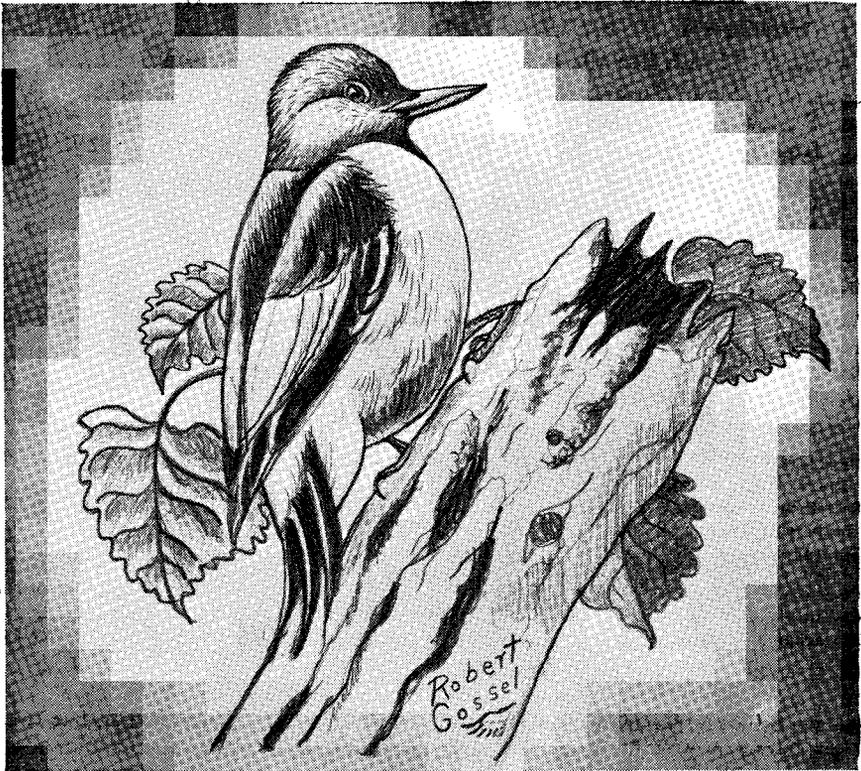
SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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

Vol. XXVIII, No. 4

DECEMBER, 1971

Whole No. 91



Red-headed Woodpecker

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President's Page

IT is a pleasure to greet S.D.O.U. members with my first President's Page. I found our November meeting especially valuable to me because there was a good deal of frank discussion of the organization and its problems and potentialities.

I think the S.D.O.U. has always been an organization concerned with its impact on ornithology both as science and hobby in South Dakota, but now seems an especially opportune time for



self examination. This page is not intended to be such but rather to pose a group of questions whose consideration might lead to such an examination.

We are an organization of several hundred members, the numbers neither dipping to dangerously low levels nor growing rapidly. This issue is the 91st published in 23 years; there have been four five-year indexes. A dedicated group of members is at present working on a state Check-list, something which will be an enormously valuable contribution to our state's ornithology. Our organization has taken an active interest in conservation issues in our state. These activities, though the list is not exhaustive, reminds us of the large number of hours freely contributed by the members over the years. It would be interesting to know what this investment of labor would have cost if we would have had to hire the work

done; I suspect such a total would amaze us all. These and other activities are valuable accomplishments, but let us consider one of our activities and leave others to later issues.

Our major activity in both time and money invested is the "South Dakota Bird Notes," the principal source of permanent record in this area for nearly a quarter of a century. Our Check-list compilers could probably tell us how much information would be unavailable to them if it had not been prepared and published here. Let us consider a few questions. Are we getting as many of the observations on record as we might? Are dubious or inaccurate data being detected and culled out adequately before publication? Are we overemphasizing the rarity and failing to encourage more significant studies? Is the present format and organization the most effective and attractive? Would offset printing effect economies? Would an annual index be valuable and feasible? Can we generate more reports on poorly understood areas of South Dakota ornithology? Should the magazine become broader in its scope to more areas of field natural history as our North Dakota counterpart has done? These and other questions might form the basis of a self evaluation questionnaire to be sent to our readers.

I hope these thoughts will stimulate our members to consider the potentialities of our organization and how we can best make them realities.—**B. E. Harrell**

What We Can Do About Adding to Our Knowledge of Our Birds

J. W. Johnson

THE purpose of this paper is to suggest a few simple projects that can be handled by any of us.

CHECK-LISTS

Check-Lists are simple but important tools of many uses in our study of birds. They deserve high priority. They may be of a county, a valley, a mountain, or a quite localized area. Making a good list is the way to systematize your knowledge, that you have accumulated by long observation. The work will teach you more about what you know than you have any idea of.

EXAMPLES

William Youngworth's "Birds of Union County," private printing; and Robert A. Gossell's "Birds of Hot Brook at Hot Springs," in the 1971 June issue of "Bird Notes." A record covering a significant period is a must for a check-list.

A committee could be named to list the useful and practical projects, with enough description to make them clear. The same committee could give advice on the work and writing up for publication. Suggested members: Drs. Byron Harrell, Paul Springer, and N. R. Whitney.

RECORDS

Keep records of birds seen, with date, numbers, and activity. Compile a quarterly summary for Esther Serr, Sub-regional Editor for "Audubon Field Notes"—now "American Birds." I am greatly pleased that Esther's report to her editor has been published in "Bird Notes" for the benefit and convenience of SDOU people. It deserves to become

a regular feature. At the same time "Audubon Field Notes," particularly under its new name and with its broader interest and modest subscription price is a bargain you won't believe until you have spent some time with it.

Baltimore Orioles' nests: An interesting oddity we have noticed and heard mentioned in these nests could give an opening for study—or at least a set of intriguing questions: their nests in this area are considerably shorter than those farther east—as in Wisconsin, where we have seen them a foot deep or more. The ones we have seen and handled in South Dakota are about six inches deep.

I don't have the data to say if there is a change with time or material, or even if these nests noted are actually representative of the two areas. A study of the literature may give some views on these points. It may be a matter of individual or family differences. Field work will probably be needed to establish if shallow nests are the rule here and if the difference is real, abrupt in its change, or covers a wide band.

Assuming the difference can be established, we are ready for the real question: why? And a whole matrix of surrounding questions: what conditions or predation could have made the deeper nest useful to the race in the east and not in the west? Does it exist now? Did our Baltimore population exist from prehistory, or did it move west with tree plantings? Do the birds here cross the Gulf of Mexico as does the eastern populations? Or, do they

(Continued on Page 104)

South Dakota Nesting Season

June 1, 1971 through August 15, 1971

Esther Serr, Compiler

REPORTERS

Blanche Battin, Palmer Gulch Lodge, Custer County (BB).

Harold A. Kantrud, Fish and Wildlife Service, Jamestown, N. Dak. with Harold F. Diebert, and George M. Thomford, near Roscoe, Edmunds County (HAK).

Black Hills Audubon Society, Rapid City (BHAS); Don Adolphson (DA), L. M. Baylor (LMB), Doris Knecht (DK), Tom Hays (TH), Harry Behrens (HB), Elizabeth A. Southmayd (EAS), Esther M. Serr (EMS, compiler), Bonnie Green (BG), Gertrude Bachmann (GB), Horace Jackson (HJ), N. R. Whitney (NRW).

Barney Nordstrom, Fairburn, Custer County (BN).

Nelda and David Holden, Brookings, Brookings County (NH).

June Harter, Highmore, Hyde County (JH).

Alfred Hines, Prairie City, Perkins County (AH).

Herbert Krause, Minnehaha County and Sioux Falls (HK).

Harold W. Wagar, Cresbard, Faulk County (HWW).

GEOGRAPHICAL LISTINGS

Olds Dam, Quinn Road, Badlands, Jackson County.

Breeding Bird Surveys by N. R. Whitney—Jackson County, Roubaix Lake and Custer.

Breeding Bird Surveys by Nelda and David Holden—Oakwood Lakes State Park, northwest of Brookings; Howard and Miner County, June 20; Volga, Brookings, Lake and Moody Counties,

6-15; Tripp in Hutchinson County 6-27, and Roswell, Miner County, 6-15.

Canyon Lake, Rapid City—no observations because of paddle boat concession.

Seavey's Lake, Meade County—probably water there, but appears about 90% covered by vegetation.

Lake Mitchell, Hyde County, north of Highmore—almost dry because of no snow run-off.

Scatterwood Lake, corners of Faulk and Edmunds Counties.

Beaver Lake, Minnehaha County, also Grass Lake and Wall Lake.

SUMMER VISITORS TO THE BLACK HILLS

Mr. and Mrs. J. Carleton Shanks, Stockton, Calif., June 11.

Mrs. George Ross, 2805 Travis Street, Amarillo, Tex.

Mrs. Joe Deason, 2204 Parker, Amarillo, Tex.

Dr. and Mrs. H. Glenn Stevens, 11930 Reche Canyon Road, Colton, Calif.

Ted Parker III, Lancaster, Pa. (16 years old with over 500 species).

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Paddelford, 541 East Fifth Street, Papillion, Nebr.

Clifford Jones, 2100 Milltown Road, Camp Hill, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Williams, Marysville, Tenn. (over 600 species).

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Alsop III, Knoxville, Tenn. (over 600 species).

Most of the above visitors are reporters for "American Birds," and welcomed South Dakota folks to visit their areas.

WEATHER

Very cool during June and July with near freezing temperatures July 29 all over the state. August brought in 90 degree temperatures and above with only a few places in the state going over 100 degrees. Moisture was plentiful in the West River area during June and July, and almost without electrical or wind storms. East River was rather dry during July and by the end of the period trees were beginning to show the effect of drought. Sioux Falls was 3½ inches below normal on July 31. Many mosquitoes in Perkins County but usually dry Antelope Creek still had water in it by mid-summer. Wind storm on June 4 at Highmore twisted trees and destroyed nests.

OBSERVATIONS

Canker worm invasion began June 1 around Rapid City, and much spraying was done. Dead birds and nests with eggs and young were found on the ground after spraying operations. Many Chinese Elms looked as if they could not survive being stripped of leaves, but by July 1 all looked reasonably well.

The hay crop in West River was excellent and almost more than anyone could harvest. As a result there have been many spot prairie fires, but late enough so that there was probably very little harm done to ground nests.

City Springs within Rapid City, that has been a favorite, close-in birding area, is being made into a Wilderness Park by the city parks department. Walks and steps are being constructed in the brushy areas and so far without too much disturbance. Complete planning for the area is not known at this time.

SPECIES

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS

Common Loon—(1) apparent juvenile plumage on Missouri River, Picks-

town, Charles Mix County. In open water of river near sandbar (HK).

Eared Grebe—Roscoe (HAK), 6-26 (12 in marshy area of Beaver Lake, no nests discovered (HK)).

Western Grebe—Good colony near Oakwood State Park (NH); 6-22 and 6-26 (4) nests with eggs on Beaver Lake. An unusual southern extension—may be first nesting for Minnehaha County, 7-27 (6) adult and (4) young (HK); at Roscoe (HAK).

Pied-billed Grebe—Roscoe (HAK); Olds Dam 7-25 (EMS).

White Pelican—Absent all summer (NH); (14) nested on Tom's Point, west side of South Scatterwood Lake (HWW).

Double-crested Cormorant—None in Minnehaha—unusual (HK).

Great Blue Heron—8-15 (2) southeast Pennington County (BHAS).

Common Egret—8-3 (2) South Scatterwood Lake (not Cattle Egrets) (HWW).

Green Heron—7-14 (1) Grass Lake, 7-28 (1) near Sioux Falls (HK).

Black-crowned Night Heron—Roscoe (HAK); 7-17 (1) Grass Lake—scarce species these last two years (HK).

Least Bittern—6-26 (2) Grass Lake, 7-17 (1) Wall Lake (HK).

American Bittern—Roscoe (HAK); Highmore (JH); mowed around nest with three eggs—later probably destroyed by predator, Perkins County (AH).

White-faced Ibis—7-14 Roscoe (HAK).

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS

Mallard—(5) nests destroyed while haying, family of seven on dam in Perkins County 6-9 (AH); scarcity of ducks because of low water (JH); 19 nests, nine hatched between 5-11 through 6-15 (HAK); more on breeding bird surveys than before (NH).

Gadwall—26 nests, 20 hatched between 6-8 through 7-1 (HAK); 6-22 (9) Grass Lake (HK).

Pintail—8-6 adult with six young, week old (JH); 32 nests, 12 hatched between 4-29-6-15 (HAK); 7-25 Olds Dam (EMS); 8-5 Seavey's—probably nested (NRW).

Green-winged Teal—Four nests, three hatched 5-28-6-8 (HAK).

Blue-winged Teal—55 nests, 41 hatched 5-7-6-24 (HAK); 6-16 (2) Seavey's, 8-5 Seavey's—probably nested (NRW).

American Widgeon—One nest, zero hatch 6-14 (HAK).

Shoveler—Five nests, five hatched 6-9-6-25 (HAK); 8-15 (6) southeast Pennington County (NRW).

Redhead—Roscoe (HAK); 6-25 (3) on sewage pool, Humboldt, Minnehaha County, 7-14 (3) adults, brood of eight young, Beaver Lake (HK).

Canvasback—Broods seen 7-14 and 8-4 (HAK).

Ruddy Duck—One nest, zero hatch 7-12, nest with seven eggs still active 8-6 (HAK); six nests with eggs, Beaver Lake. May be first nesting for Minnehaha County. Unusual southern extension (HK).

HAWKS AND EAGLES

Turkey Vulture—7-11 (4) Battle Creek, Custer County, 7-12 Norris Peak, Black Hills, Pennington County, 8-7 Rockerville, Pennington (EMS).

Sharp-shinned Hawk—Nest near home (DA).

Red-tailed Hawk—Nest in Black Hills with one young (EAS); normal (NH); 7-24 (2) Cheyenne River, Pennington County (HJ); 6-26 (1) near Sioux Falls, 7-14 (1) immature, Grass Lake; 7-27 (1) Wall Lake (HK).

Swainson's Hawk—Present Roscoe (HAK); 8-15 southeast Pennington County (NRW); (2) on Big Sioux River, near Sioux Falls (HK).

Ferruginous Hawk—Six nests, two nests known to have fledged a total of eight young 4-30-6-12 (HAK).

Marsh Hawk—None (NH); absent, very scarce (HK); 6-15 Seavey's, 7-11 Rockerville, 7-24 (4) Badlands, 8-4 Sea-

vey's (BHAS); none following in the hay fields for mice (AH).

Prairie Falcon—6-22 near Rapid City (TH); 7-24 Badlands (HJ).

Sparrow Hawk—Normal (NH); few Rapid City, 7-24 Badlands (EMS); 7-14 (2) Sioux Falls, 7-17 (1) Wall Lake, 7-27 (1) Humboldt (HK).

GROUSE

Greater Prairie Chicken—6-15 (1) near Volga, Moody County. "This is the first one I have seen in eastern South Dakota" (NH).

Sharp-tailed Grouse—6-18 (8) young; 8-1 (10) hayfield, 8-5 (2), 8-12 (12) small birds in hay field, Perkins County (AH).

Sage Grouse—7-12 (2) about one-fourth grown, covey of 10 at neighbors (AH).

Ring-necked Pheasant—Two nests, zero hatch 5-5 (HAK); 5-7 (9) just off nest, 7-5 (5) small, 7-10 (12) quite large in hay field (AH); 7-5 (1) near Rapid City (EMS); nesting success not yet determined in Minnehaha (HK).

Gray Partridge—More plentiful in Brookings County, 8-9 (12) in northern part of Moody County, 6-20 (2) Howard survey, 6-26 (2) Roswell survey (NH); 7-27 (1) near Sioux Falls—scarce (HK).

CRANES AND RAILS

Virginia Rail—One nest destroyed 6-17 (HAK); 7-18 (2) tiny ones ran into the water, swam across, and disappeared. They were about the size of a large plum, and black as my toast" (AH).

Sora—6-4 nest with nine eggs, Deuel County (Mark Harris).

American Coot—8-5 young ones on Seavey's (NRW); present at Sioux Falls (HK).

SHORE BIRDS

Killdeer—Many especially in Miner County (NH); many Pennington County (BHAS); nest with four eggs at side of driveway about 25 feet from residence—observed the bird 21 days, then empty nest in the morning of 6-25—probably a success at Belvidere, Jack-

son, County (EMS); 6-14 (1) young just off nest, 7-2 (2) small ones (AH); 6-29 (2) small ones (BN).

Long-billed Curlew—6-23 (3) dive-bombed my car, southeast Pennington County (EMS); 7-12 (7) Spring Creek Ranch (HB); 7-23 (200) migrating flock ? on Bob Stephens ranch, southeast Pennington (EMS); many, Battle Creek eastern Custer County (NRW).

Upland Plover—Seven nests, five hatched 6-3-6-19 (HAK); noticed several young while haying, 8-10 (2) young three-fourths grown (AH); good number in Rapid Valley (EMS); 6-27 many on Jackson County survey (NRW); 8-15 (1) Caputa, Pennington County (EMS).

Solitary Sandpiper—6-27 (2) Tripp survey—early fall migrants (NH); 7-17 (1) Sioux Falls (HK).

Willet—Few (JH); two nests, one hatched 6-22, one found 6-3, later hatched (HAK).

Lesser Yellowlegs—7-28 (10) in pot-hole near Sioux Falls (HK).

Pectoral Sandpiper—7-17 (1) Grass Lake, 7-28 (5) near Sioux Falls (HK).

Semi-palmated Sandpiper—7-28 (2) near Sioux Falls (HK).

Marbled Godwit—One nest 6-3, hatched later, dependent young seen 6-4 (HAK); few at Highmore (JH).

American Avocet—Pair with one-third grown young (HAK); 8-6 to 8-9 (3) on dam southeast Pennington County (EMS); four pairs nested on North Scatterwood Lake. "It was quite a sight. They acted as if they were injured to lead us away from the nests" (HWW).

Black-necked Stilt—7-13 at Long Lake, Edmunds County by Harold F. Diebert (fide HAK). Probably accidental for the state so this would stand as an unusual sighting (EMS).

Wilson's Phalarope—6-26 (1) Roswell survey, western Lake County (NH); two nests, unknown fate 6-3 (HAK); 7-27 (30) Humboldt sewage

pool—pale birds—fall returnees? non-breeders? (HK).

GULLS, DOVES AND CUCKOOS

Franklin's Gull—Plentiful (NH); present, Sioux Falls (HK).

Black Tern—7-24 (4) in dark plumage, Olds Dam (EMS).

Band-tailed Pigeon—6-12 Mrs. George (Rena) Ross, Amarillo, Texas, observed one near Sylvan Lake. She knows the species from the Texas area, has a high life list, and also a world lister (EMS).

Mourning Dove—High wind 6-4 twisted trees—found seven eggs on ground from five nests (JH); 7-3 nest in Ash tree destroyed by wind (AH); about 15 nests observed during period while farming (BN); many more birds south of Rapid City than to the north (EMS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—6-18 (1) found dead, Rapid City (EMS).

Black-billed Cuckoo—6-1 Rapid City (EAS), 6-10 Rapid City (DK); believe they nested in Perkins County as there were quite a few around (AH).

OWLS

Screech Owl—6-6 (1) calling near morning, Sioux Falls (HK).

Great-horned Owl—Normal (NH); two of three Swainson's Hawk nests taken over (NRW); 8-14 (1) Fairburn (BN).

Burrowing Owl—6-1, 6-11 Seavey's (BHAS); none, seemed to be extirpated in Minnehaha County (HK).

GOAT SUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND KINGFISHER

Poor Will—8-6 and 8-7 heard call (DA).

Common Night Hawk—Many Pennington County, several observations of their sleeping or resting on branches, telephone lines, and fence posts (BHAS); 7-19 (14) feeding low on edge of Black Hills (HB).

Chimney Swift—6-9 (2) post office corner, Rapid City, 6-10 (2) traffic light intersection (HB, EMS).

White-throated Swift—7-18 (12) very

low at camera stop above Dark Canyon, Rapid City, absent on 7-25 (EMS).

Hummingbird—8-9 through 8-15 Rapid City, Fairburn, and Buffalo Gap, Custer County—one and two at a time, some showing a good bit of rufous color. Caliope specimen from Rapid City has been definitely identified by John Hubbard, University of Michigan, (1964) (HB). None at Sioux Falls which is very unusual (HK).

Belted Kingfisher—Many around Rapid City and Black Hills (BHAS), 8-14 (3) one adult and two immature, Cement Plant Pond, Rapid City (EMS); present at Sioux Falls (HK).

WOODPECKERS

Flicker—Above average (NH); average (BHAS); present (JH).

Pileated Woodpecker—One reportedly seen on western edge of Brookings in early June. "I have not seen this bird to verify it but three people have seen it there." (NH). Probably hypothetical for South Dakota (EMS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker—5-10 (6), one reported excavating tree hole, Sioux Falls and Newton Hills, Lincoln County. No further information about spring incursion as reported earlier (HK).

Red-headed Woodpecker—Back in good numbers (NH); 7-30 one adult and one young, Rapid City (EAS), 8-5 one adult and one young (GB), 8-15 (1) (GB).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—7-22 Palmer Gulch Lodge (BB).

Hairy Woodpecker—7-24 female feeding two young males (red spots) Rapid City (GB).

Downy Woodpecker—Normal (NH); 7-4 nest, 7-25 (1) Rapid City (EAS).

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker—7-22 Palmer Gulch Lodge (BB).

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS AND SWALLOWS

Eastern Kingbird—Many in Rapid City, adults and immatures (BHAS);

present at Highmore and Sioux Falls; normal (NH).

Western Kingbird—Back to normal after being rather scarce in 1970 (NH); 6-22 (4) Rapid City (TH); 7-24 Badlands (HJ); 8-15 (1) Caputa, Pennington County (EMS); lesser numbers, Sioux Falls (HK).

Great-crested Flycatcher—6-15 (1) on Spring Creek, Pennington County (Horace Jackson and Amarillo Birders) Whitney believes the specie can be expected near the Hills with a damp spring.

Traill's Flycatcher—6-24 (1), 7-14 (2), 7-27 (2) calling "way-be-o" song, all in brushy hillside overlooking Beaver Lake. Few if any records for Minnehaha County (HK).

Western Flycatcher—6-18 Rapid City (TH). many in Hills 6-20 and 6-30 on surveys (NRW).

Western Wood Pewee—6-18 Rapid City (TH); many in Hills 6-20 and 6-30 on surveys (NRW); 8-15 Rapid City (EAS).

Horned Lark—Many, Perkins County (AH); 6-13 few Orman Dam, Butte County, 7-5 many, Curlew Lake, Meade County, 7-24 few, Badlands; 8-15 very few southeast Pennington County (EMS).

Violet-green Swallow—More than usual, Rapid City (BHAS); 8-5 family on wires, one young fed in air, and another fed on the wire (EAS); 8-15 two big migrating flocks in Black Hills (EAS).

Tree Swallow—Nest in Rapid City (BG); 7-24 Cheyenne River, Pennington County (HJ); apparently absent as a nesting species (HK).

Rough-winged Swallow—Few Curlew Lake, Bad Lands, and Black Hills (EMS).

Barn Swallow—Five nests in barn, Fairburn (BN); six nests in barn—but not as many as 1970 (AH); nest on

house, young hatched 8-12 (NH); fewer than 1970, present 8-15 (EMS).

Cliff Swallow—Nests destroyed under bridge near Highmore after keg party 7-4 (JH); 6-27 many at Cactus Flats highway bridge, Jackson County (NRW); 7-25 Cedar Pass and Bad Lands (HJ).

Purple Martin—Present Roscoe (HAK); present at Sioux Falls but in smaller numbers (HK).

CORVIDAE

Blue Jay—Increasing at Rapid City (BHAS); 8-10 second nesting, young squawking loudly, Rapid City (EAS); present at Highmore (JH); normal (NH).

Black-billed Magpie—Every day and noisy at edge of Pine Hills (NRW); none, Sioux Falls (HK); none in Badlands 7-24 (HJ).

Common Crow—Normal (NH); present at Highmore, Roscoe, and Sioux Falls; none at Rapid City.

Pinon Jay—6-7 young began coming to feeder at Rapid City (TH); 7-18 (50) Rimrock near Hisega, 7-17 many Canyon Lake Heights, 7-25 flock every day at G. L. LeFord's, Nameless Cave Road, every day at edge of Hills (NRW).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPER, DIPPER AND WRENS

Black-capped Chickadee—Nest at edge of Pine Hills (NRW); 7-24 (1) Cedar Pass, Badlands, 7-25 Thunderhead Falls road, Pennington County (HJ); 6-24 (1) Humboldt, 6-27 family of eight, Sioux Falls woodlot—seems down in numbers (HK).

White-breasted Nuthatch—7-22 (2) Palmer Gulch Lodge (BB); 7-25 Thunderhead Falls, Pennington County (HJ).

Red-breasted Nuthatch—7-22 (2) Palmer Gulch Lodge (BB).

Dipper—Nest in good condition under bridge on Thunderhead Falls road 7-18 and 7-25. White streaking on large rock close to the nest where resident

told he usually saw the bird in the early evening (DK, EMS).

House Wren—More than usual heard on surveys (NH); nested (AH); 6-21 first nesting (3), 8-6 (5) second nesting at Rapid City (EAS); 7-24 Cedar Pass; 8-15 (5) just out of nest, Rapid City (DK); no nests, but numbers and singers seem higher than usual (HK).

Long-billed Marsh Wren—Present at Roscoe and Sioux Falls; more than usual (NH).

Short-billed Marsh Wren—6-15 (1) Volga survey (NH); 8-8 one singing in its usual prairie near Aurora, Brookings County (NH); 6-22 (1) singing, Wall Lake. Very scarce this season (HK).

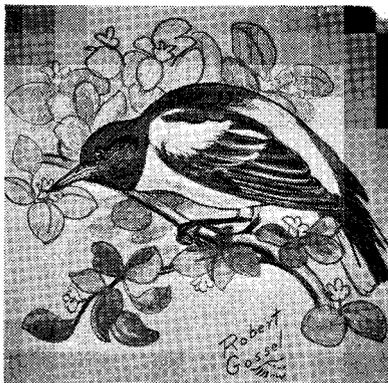
Rock Wren—7-24 (3) Bad Lands (HJ); 7-3 (1) singing, Pickstown, Charles Mix County (HK).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS, PIPITS AND WAXWINGS

Catbird—7-4 many at Oak Lakes, five banded (NH); 6-12 (1) (EAS); very few seen in Minnehaha County (HK).

Brown Thrasher—More than usual (NH); nest in gooseberry—several young around (AH); few in Rapid City (BHAS).

Sage Thrasher—6-27 going down road near Seavey's, observed at 50 feet for 15 to 20 minutes (HJ). B. J. Rose photographed one near this area 4-21-68. Wm. Youngworth wrote in a letter to Esther Serr, Jan. 8, 1966—"Records of the Sage Thrasher and the Mountain Plover are almost nil in South Dakota in the last 30 years. I last saw the Sage Thrasher in the area from Farmingdale to Smithwick and I suppose that would still be the place to look. The last time I saw the Mountain Plover was in the area from Buffalo to Belle. I suppose all of the Butte and Harding Counties would be the best bet. The back road from Camp Crook to Mud Buttes and then back to US 85 is a dilly, but wonderful for prairie birds in early summer . . . McGown's Longspur



Baltimore Oriole

used to be common in your area and north, today I would bet you don't see them very often. Thirty years ago I drove over most of southwest North Dakota trying to find a few and then only found a small colony."

Robin—Fewer in Rapid City (BHAS); two nests, many young around (AH); normal (NH); excellent hatch in Minnehaha County (HK).

Swainson's Thrush—7-18 (2) with food and seemed very disturbed so didn't look for nest—near Nemo (EAS).

Eastern Bluebird—Nested (AH); normal (NH); 6-24 two adults and two young, Rapid City (TH); absent, infrequently seen in Minnehaha County (HK).

Mountain Bluebird—Many at Cedar Pass, Bad Lands, and Black Hills (BHAS).

Townsend's Solitaire—7-25 worked hard to find one in Thunderhead Falls area for Cliff Jones (HJ).

Cedar Waxwing—A b s e n t—unusual (HK).

SHRIKE, STARLING AND VIREO

Loggerhead Shrike—More than usual, first time to get them on surveys (NH); many in Pennington County, 8-15 (1) Pennington County (EMS); 7-27 (1)

becoming exceedingly scarce in Minnehaha County (HK).

Starling—Plentiful, Sioux Falls (HK).

Solitary Vireo—6-22 and 6-24 Rapid City (TH).

Red-eyed Vireo—Usual number at Rapid City; 8-9 adult feeding young (EAS), 8-14 (1) singing (EAS).

Warbling Vireo—All during June and July, Rapid City (GB), 7-25 one adult feeding young (EAS), 8-9 heard family (GB); heard more singing on surveys than in the past (NH); 6-4 (1) Springfield, Bon Homme County near Missouri River, 6-26 (1) singing near Sioux Falls (HK).

WARBLERS

Black-and-White Warbler—6-5 (1) Rapid City (EAS); 7-25 one pair, Nameless Cave Road, not believed to be in migration by Cliff Jones (EMS), 8-4 Rapid City (BG).

Yellow Warbler—Normal (NH); present at Highmore and Sioux Falls; few all through period at Rapid City, 7-30 one adult with one young (GB).

Audubon's Warbler—7-25 one pair in Black Hills (HJ).

Blackpoll Warbler—6-20 (1) singing near Lake Madison, Lake County, probably late migrant or non-breeding male (NH).

Ovenbird—6-1 and 7-25 Black Hills (BHAS).

Yellowthroat—Present at Highmore, Roscoe and Sioux Falls; normal, Brookings (NH); 7-25 Rapid City (EMS).

American Redstart—7-25 family Thunderhead Falls, 8-7, through 8-15, Rapid City (GB).

HOUSE SPARROW, BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS

House Sparrow—6-4 after wind nest on ground with three eggs (JH).

Bobolink—6-15 Seavey's (HJ); above normal (NH); more than usual Perkins County, 8-7 (3) males in bright plumage (AH); 6-22, 6-26, 7-14, 7-27 some in plumage change, but suitable habitat

is disappearing in Minnehaha County, 7-27 (26) near Wall Lake (HK).

Western Meadowlark—Not numerous, many roadkills, 7-30 flocking, 8-7 albino at Vale, Butte Co., number increased greatly after hatching (BHAS); normal (NH); fewer, but good hatch (AH).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Few at Seavey's during June; immature 7-24 Olds Dam (EMS); seem to be increasing (HK).

Red-winged Blackbird—Plentiful (NH); two nests and bunching two weeks early, Perkins County (AH).

Orchard Oriole—6-1 (1), 6-21 (2), 7-14 singing, Rapid City (EAS); normal to above (NH); 6-22 (5 male, 1 female) Sioux Falls to Wall Lake; 6-24 (3) Humboldt (HK).

Baltimore Oriole—6-5 Rapid City (EAS); present at Highmore and Sioux Falls.

Bullock's Oriole—6-2 (1) Fairburn (BN); 6-6 started building, family out of nest 7-30 (EAS); 7-14 through 8-5 noted family and at least one every day through period (GB).

Brewer's Blackbird—Few in corral (AH); 7-25 Spring Creek south of Rapid City (HJ).

Common Grackle—Normal (NH); many in shelterbelt (AH).

Brown-headed Cowbird—Present at Highmore, Roscoe, Brookings, and Sioux Falls.

Western Tanager—Noted at Rapid City all period (BHAS).

Scarlet Tanager—One male 6-2 and 6-3 at Highmore. "Hadn't seen one in 15 years" (JH); 6-2 (BG) and 6-5 (DK) in Rapid City not far from the area where L. M. Baylor verified one 5-23.

SPARROWS AND FINCHES

Cardinal—Sioux Falls but in small numbers (HK).

Black-headed Grosbeak—Good num-

ber around Rapid City all period and families noted (BHAS).

Blue Grosbeak—6-10, 6-22 Rapid City, 7-24 (4) Badlands, 7-25 (3) Spring Creek, Pennington County (BHAS); 6-27 (2) Jackson County survey (NRW); 6-22 (one male with female), 6-24 (one male) singing, same on 6-26, all near Wall Lake, 7-14 (one male) singing, 7-27 (three males, two females) indifferent (HK).

Indigo Bunting—7-25 (3) Spring Creek, Pennington County (HJ); 7-28 (1) male singing near Sioux Falls (HK).

Lazuli Bunting—7-22 Palmer Gulch Lodge (BB); 7-25 and 7-30 several on Spring Creek (EMS).

Dickcissel—6-24 (35) in 20 miles—abundant; seen on every trip out of Sioux Falls (HK); present at Highmore and Roscoe.

Evening Grosbeak—Few at Rapid City 6-1 and 6-11 (BHAS).

Pine Siskin—Few in Black Hills 7-25; absent—have nested in Minnehaha County including one nesting in 1970 (HK).

American Goldfinch—7-25 Black Hills, 8-7 Rapid City (GB); plentiful (NH), (JH), (HAK).

Red Crossbill—Many small groups of six to 10 within Rapid City since 6-2. Fred Alsop III, noted many in the Black Hills around Nemo.

Rufous-sided Towhee—Normal (BHAS).

Lark Bunting—Below average around Rapid City (EMS, NRW); many, males not turned 8-9 (AH); 8-15 several hundred in migration southeast of Rapid City—many males still black, some in mottled condition (EMS); few in Lake, Brookings and Moody Counties this year, 6-20 few in Miner County, none 6-26 on Roswell survey, plentiful 6-27 Tripp survey (NH); 6-22 through 7-27 (4 to 6) males singing, two to four females seen near Humboldt, no nests

found—infrequent nester in Minnehaha County (HK).

Savannah Sparrow—Present at Sioux Falls, Highmore, and Roscoe.

Grasshopper Sparrow—Down from 1970 (BHAS); down on Volga survey (NH).



Lark Bunting

—E. W. Steffen

LeConte's Sparrow—(1) on fence near Spring Creek school house. Excellent view at 20 feet with bird facing us sitting quietly for about five minutes. Cliff Jones had seen the bird before, and there was plenty of time to check the markings by Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" (EMS, HJ). Probably first foothills record. J. W. Johnson observed one at SDOU convention, Bison, Perkins County, 1970.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow—Two locations on 7-15 and 8-4 (HAK).

Vesper Sparrow—Very few (EMS); normal (NH).

Lark Sparrow—Few around Rapid City, and Badlands (BHAS).

White-winged Junco—Fred Alsop III party came to see the White-winged Junco and Mt. Rushmore! The other visitors worked very hard to find it in the Black Hills. Stocktons found it on Terry Peak. As a last resort BHAS took

visitors to G. L. DeFord's feeding station to get the lifer. Birds were very dingy looking, white bars not very plain because they were immature or molting the last part of July. Nest with three small young on 7-28 near Nemo (EAS).

Slate-colored Junco—Present at DeFord's feeder on Nameless Cave Road.

Chipping Sparrow—Usual number (BHAS); present at Highmore and Sioux Falls.

Clay-colored Sparrow—Present Highmore, Roscoe, and Sioux Falls.

White-crowned Sparrow—6-6 (1) with quite a different song (EAS).

Swamp Sparrow—6-14, 6-24, 7-27 (1) singing near Grass Lake—infrequent (HK).

Song Sparrow—Present Sioux Falls, Highmore; slightly above normal (NH).

Chestnut-collared Longspur—6-13 many, Orman Dam, Butte County, 7-5 few, Curlew Lake, Meade County, (EMS); many, Perkins County (AH); 6-18 few on native prairie area while scouting Howard survey, none on 6-20 when survey was taken seven miles southeast of Howard, Miner County (NH).



Bullock's Oriole

—E. W. Steffen

Swainson's Thrush Records at Huron

J. W. and Lucille Johnson

YEAR	—SPRING—		—FALL—	
	Early	Late	Early	Late
1959	5- 7	5-21		
1960	5- 5	5-10	9-18(?)	9-20
1961	5-15(?)	5-19	9- 6	9-15
1962	5-21(?)	5-21	9- 4	9-12
1963	5-12	5-17	9-15(?)	9-20
1964	5- 8	5-12	9- 6	9-27
1965	5-10	5-17	9- 4	9-30
1966	5- 8	5-18	8-31	9-25
1967	5-10	5-19	9- 5	9-29
1968	4-15*	5-21	9- 5	9-15
1969	4-15#	5-15	9- 3	10- 1
1970	Away	Away	9- 3	9-12
1971	4-28	5-20	9- 6	9-28

(?) The considerable difference from average dates may well be a failure to observe rather than absence of birds.

*Next observed 4-24—the same day the first Hermit Thrush appeared.

Area not observed April 16-May 6, 1969. Swainson's Thrush seen May 7.

The location is our back yard with its large, ground level bath much favored by birds of all the species common here, with the cover of the surrounding trees and shrubbery. Observation was not continuous, though frequent. But we were absent several hours at a time or even whole days at times during the periods covered. With the improvement of habitat and developing traditions over the years, we believe the number of birds has increased and, we believe, the significance of the data.—**Huron**

General Notes of Special Interest

BANDED CANADA GOOSE AT RAPID CITY—On Nov. 11, 1970, a banded Canada goose joined a small flock of flightless, crippled geese at Canyon Lake in Rapid City. Personnel of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, in February, 1969, had brought the latter birds—two Canada geese, six snow geese, and five blue geese—from Sand Lake Refuge and released them at Canyon Lake. By November, 1970, this flock had dwindled (largely through human predation) to two Canada geese, four snow geese, and two blue geese.

The wild Canada goose readily adapted to the less fearless, domesticated ways of the resident geese. Thus, on Dec. 6, 1970, the late Kenneth Thompson was able to lure the goose to him with bread. Thompson thereby caught and briefly held the goose, while I read and recorded the band number: 578-80261.

The report from the banding office indicated that personnel from the Canadian Department of Natural Resources banded this goose on July 13, 1970, near Tugaske in south-central Saskatchewan. Tugaske is approximately 500 air miles northwest of Rapid City. The goose, a male, was less than a year old when banded. Perhaps the young age of this bird had some bearing on its appearance and prolonged stay in Rapid City.

Sometime during the early winter of 1971, one of the crippled Canada geese disappeared, and the banded goose established a close association with the remaining crippled goose. Because of the wild goose's now somewhat tame nature, I frequently approached it and read enough of the band number

through a spotting scope to be confident that it was the same bird. Since the banded goose remained with his crippled companion long after the wintering wild ducks migrated from Canyon Lake in late February and early March, many of us following the affairs of this bird speculated as to whether it would remain at the lake and perhaps would subsequently mate with the crippled goose. The spirit of the wild, however, apparently had its influence on the banded goose, for I last saw it at the lake on May 11, 1971.—
L. M. Baylor, SDSM&T, Rapid City

* * * * *

A REVIEW OF SEVERAL WAYWARD MIGRANTS IN CLAY COUNTY—In the fall of 1963 I saw several red crossbills and a single male yellow-bellied sapsucker in Prentis Park, Vermillion. One male crossbill was high above me in a tall pine tree, probing small cones, at one point head downward so his back was plainly seen through my binocular.

A female flew in uttering a "chip-chip" call. She appeared near the length of a house sparrow but looked larger as she was so full bodied. This sighting was on Oct. 22, a sunny day with 80 degree temperature.

Two days later, on Oct. 24, still sunny with 70 degrees temperature, I visited Prentis Park again. Red crossbills were chattering in the tall pines, and two or three made enough noise to sound like a flock. They were either sitting still (one male, 5-10 minutes) or flying from tree to tree as if pursuing one another.

At length they left the park and settled across the street in a nearly bare hackberry tree. Easier to distinguish

in this setting, I saw four females and three males, rather evenly spaced apart on the branches, eating. They uttered their call notes and at times sounded almost musical.

The single male yellow-bellied sapsucker that I saw Nov. 4, was clinging to a tree trunk in the north end of Prentis Park. My first thought was, "It's a large downy," before I saw the red on the throat as well as the red on the head.

My sightings of these irregular migrants became "firsts" on a list assembled during a 20-year period of bird-watching in southeastern South Dakota.—Adelene M. Siljeborg, 228 Pine Street, Vermillion, S. Dak. 57069

* * * *

BANDING NOTES FROM THE BLACK HILLS AND FARM ISLAND—While banding on Box Elder Creek, three miles northwest of Nemo on Sept. 2, 1971, we banded a Wilson's Warbler and a Myrtle Warbler. Other species banded at this location were Red Crossbills and a Swainson's Thrush.

On Sept. 8, 1971 we banded an Ovenbird on Farm Island; also a Swainson's Thrush, a hatching year White-throated Sparrow and Lincoln Sparrows—Charles and Gladyce Rogge, Sioux Falls

* * * *

ODD ROBIN RETURNS—The female robin with the most distinctive odd call and odd habits, first reported in South Dakota Bird Notes, December, 1969, made its return in both 1970 and 1971, each time nesting within 50 feet of the initial observed nesting site.

As first observed in 1969, the odd call was not started until what appeared to be a second nesting, after successfully raising an earlier brood. In both 1969 and 1970 I observed young birds still following the female when she began building a new nest a few elms away from the first nest.

Calls from the nest about hatching time, and then later from the nest or

the immediate area, were noted during the following periods:

	First Call	Last Call
1969	June 28	Aug. 4
1970	July 14	Aug. 7
1971	July 15	July 25

A successful tape recording was made at various intervals in 1970.—R. V. Summerside, Pierre

* * * *

BIRD-SONG IN FALL AND WINTER

—One forenoon late in September, 1971, Wayne Pritchard, KSOO radio broadcaster, brought in songs of Western Meadowlarks with a microphone in a slough near Sioux Falls. Many years ago in mid-winter I saw and heard Western Meadowlarks singing as they stirred about in the early morning sunshine on a snowy hayfield in northern Tripp County, South Dakota. Is this common?—H. F. Chapman, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

* * * *

STANLEY COUNTY LOONS—The Common Loon is known as a bird of the more remote, forested wilderness lakes. Peterson states "Breeds on lakes from north edge of United States north to Labrador and Newfoundland."

Three birds were first noted by the writer on July 26, 1971, 0.6 mile below the Oahe Dam along the west, or Stanley County shoreline. They were in a marshy cove that has developed just upstream from an erosion control dike extending some distance out into the channel and forming an area of comparatively quiet water. My observation was that they were a female and two young of the year as the more distinctly marked and apparent adult bird uttered low alarm calls when I was near and the other two birds were always quite close together, as its characteristic of a brood. The head, neck and bill of the latter two were of the appearance of quite young birds.

It was subsequently learned that a fisherman who spends considerable

time in the area had observed a pair of adult loons at various times in the area since early spring. B. J. Rose and others confirmed the sighting of the three birds at later dates but unfortunately none appears to have given the area any particular attention prior to my first sighting.

When my last observation was made Aug. 14, the two apparent immature birds were beginning to show the more distinctive dark head and neck pattern. On the last two sightings the birds were beginning to range far out into the swift moving channel water and very likely moved on downstream.—**R. V. Summerside, Pierre**

* * * *

COMMON GALLINULE IN CLARK COUNTY—While visiting friends at Clark, S. Dak., I stopped about 5 p.m. on July 31, 1971, a hot, clear day, at the slough immediately south of town. Although a number of coot were present, a white wing stripe attracted my notice. A good look through binoculars at the red bill assured me that the bird was a Common Gallinule. Unfortunately, I did not remain in the area long enough to determine if the bird had nested.—**Ronald R. Nelson, RFD 2, Box 122, Sioux Falls**

* * * *

SCARLET TANAGER AT RAPID CITY—On May 23, 1971, Miss Elizabeth Southmayd, a very capable member of the Black Hills Audubon Society, asked me to investigate an unusual bird that she could not conveniently check. A local resident had called her about seeing a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) in the 1000 block of Quincy Street, a residential area a few blocks west of the Rapid City business district.

I went to the area at 11:00 a.m. A light, misty rain of the previous 24 hours continued as I got out of my car to look for the strange bird. Almost immediately, I saw a western tanager

and a Bullock's oriole, and I wondered whether either of these colorful birds might have confused the inexperienced observer. But then a male scarlet tanager, in its textbook plumage of red body and black wings and tail, appeared on the roof of the house at 1019 Quincy. The tanager was attracted to the food provided by many fallen elm seeds, and I observed the bird for about 15 minutes at distances of 30 to 40 feet.

The unusual appearance of this scarlet tanager may have been associated with the prolonged rainy weather of the time. As many of us have noted, exceptional weather conditions may concentrate birds in an area beyond their normal numbers and sometimes with rare species present. In addition to the scarlet tanager, on May 23, 1971, I noted an influx of typical species: red-headed woodpecker, eastern kingbird, Traill's flycatcher, brown thrasher, Swainson's thrush, red-eyed vireo, warbling vireo, American redstart, Bullock's oriole, western tanager, black-headed grosbeak, chipping sparrow, and clay-colored sparrow.

While I did not see the scarlet tanager again in the Quincy Street area, this species, presumably the same bird, was reported in the subsequent week at various locations in the city. Apparently, this is the first reported occurrence of the scarlet tanager in Rapid City or the Black Hills.—**L. M. Baylor, SDSM&T, Rapid City**

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NOTES FROM FAULK COUNTY—We had 14 Pelicans this summer at Tom's Point, on the west side of south Scatterwood Lake. It appeared that they had nested there. Also on Aug. 3 we saw two Common Egrets at the same place. Four pair of Avocets nested one-half mile west of the south end of North Scatterwood Lake.—**Harold W. Wager, Cresbard, S. Dak.**

PYGMY NUTHATCHES ALONG THE MONTANA-SOUTH DAKOTA BORDER—Very little is certain of the status of the Pygmy Nuthatch east of the core of its range in the Rockies. It is quite probably a rare to uncommon resident in the Black Hills (Pettingill and Whitney, 1965, "Birds of the Black Hills," Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University) which, as an island of western coniferous habitats in a sea of prairie, provides an extensive area of suitable environment for this species.

On Aug. 31, 1968, while exploring a section of the Custer National Forest west of Camp Crook, Harding County, South Dakota, I had two opportunities to observe Pygmy Nuthatches foraging in an open stand of mature ponderosa pine. Once I saw a group of four Pygmy Nuthatches foraging in the very tops of the pines. A number of Red-breasted Nuthatches, which accompanied them, foraged below on the trunks and larger branches. In another area of the forest I saw one Pygmy Nuthatch with about four Red-breasted Nuthatches.

The Long Pine Hills, as this section of the National Forest is known, consists of patches of ponderosa pine which are intruded into or separated by fingers of prairie and in some spots sage. The core of the area consists of an unbroken pine forest located on a range of hills and dales between 3,500 and 4,000 feet in elevation. The Long Pine Hills is but one area in a series of such islands which occur irregularly north of the Black Hills. These small or impoverished pockets of coniferous habitat may be islands of a ponderosa forest which in post-glacial times stretched to the Rockies. Or, alternatively, the presence of spruce suggests past connection with the Canadian forests in times of greater moisture.

In any case, a number of conifer-loving species now breed in these "is-

lands." White-winged Juncos have been recorded from the center of their range in the Black Hills through the forest reserves of northern South Dakota, into suitable areas in North Dakota (Checklist of the birds of Theodore Roosevelt National Monument). The presence of this species and others such as the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Audubon's Warbler (Kroodsma and Cassel, "Auk," 85-510, 1968), Western Flycatcher and Pinon Jay reflects not only these birds' ability to survive in isolated pockets of habitat but indicates the flexibility in the requirements for a species' existence as well.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Bruce Harris and Dr. N. R. Whitney who criticized an earlier draft of this paper.—**John A. Hart, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. 55057**

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WHITE-EYED VIREO IN EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA—On June 4, 1971, about 7:45 a.m., an overcast day with intermittent rain, I heard the distinctive call of a White-eyed Vireo in a dense clump of lilac bushes near our home in the Cactus Hills area of Sioux Falls. The bird sang repeatedly until about 11 a.m. At 8 a.m. he appeared on a bare limb where I got an excellent look at the wingbars, yellow spectacles and even the white eye from about 20 feet with 7x50 binoculars. I had heard and seen these vireos the preceding month at my residence in North Carolina; hence, the bird and its call were quite familiar to me. This particular straggler, well out of his range, did not appear again during the summer.—**Ronald R. Nelson, RFD 2, Box 122, Sioux Falls**

EDITOR'S NOTE—Mr. Nelson's observation of the white-eyed vireo near Sioux Falls seems to be the first reported observation of the species in the state. The bird's accidental occurrence in South Dakota seems within the realm

of probability, for the AOU Checklist (1957) indicates the white-eyed vireo has bred in southeastern Nebraska and central Iowa. Further, Herbert Krause, who knows this vireo from his work at the Audubon Camp in Massachusetts, says the bird's markings are conspicuous and readily identifiable when one sees it, as Mr. Nelson did. Krause also believes the white-eyed vireo's song is distinctly memorable for one who knows it, as does Nelson from his experiences in the southeast.

* * * *

WORM-EATING WARBLER IN TRIPP COUNTY—On May 5, 1970 I was in Tripp County conducting a booming ground survey of prairie grouse. As the morning was unsuitable for grouse survey work I investigated a rather heavily wooded area about one-half mile from the White River, three miles west and 10 miles north of Ideal.

The day was quite chilly, with a strong wind blowing, but the grove of mixed ash and boxelder was quite protected from the wind, and a number of birds had taken shelter in the area. Orange-crowned and Myrtle warblers were found in numbers, along with Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows. I was glassing the many warblers for some other species when I came upon a slightly larger bird that I at first took to be a Red-eyed Vireo. Careful study of the bird for nearly 15 minutes, with various views up to a range of 20 yards convinced me that I was seeing my first Worm-eating Warbler. My field notes, written on the spot, read as follows: "Warbler slightly larger than Orange-crowned; bill larger and more pointed, a light color (yellowish); feet flesh or pale orange; general color yellow-brown; dingy underparts with golden-yellow wash on the throat and about cheeks; narrow black lines through eye with two darker streaks through the top of head; actions warbler-like, but the bird spends much time on the

ground foraging around and under small logs; observed to pick up Boxelder seeds." I was quite impressed with the similarity between this warbler and the Red-eyed Vireo, as mentioned above; it did not crawl along the tree trunks or limbs, as might be expected, and this was also misleading to me in identifying the bird. Instead it foraged rapidly among the newly-leaved branches with the other two species of warblers, except for a considerable amount of time spent on the ground, as described above.

All birds were particularly active, due to the chilly temperatures. There are four other records for this species in South Dakota, including a bird banded and photographed by the Rogge's at Farm Island (SDBN's, V. 17:69) on the Missouri River, but this constitutes the first West-River record.—Bruce Harris, Altamont

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CORRECTIONS

"South Dakota Bird Notes," 27(3):80 (September, 1971). A sentence in the note on the Barrow's Goldeneye should have read: Its appearance in Rapid City certainly was not typical.

"South Dakota Bird Notes," (June, 1971). In the article on "Birds of Hot Brook at Hot Springs," the summer date for the Myrtle Warbler is in error. The Myrtle Warbler is an uncommon spring transient and rare fall transient in the Black Hills.



Pine Grosbeak

—E. W. Steffen

Notes from Sparks' Mini-Ranch

"LITTLE Magazines," such as "Bird Notes" and other official organs of special organizations are having financial problems. In fact, all magazines are finding it difficult to meet today's inflationary costs. "Look" is one of the most recent slicks to succumb. "Saturday Evening Post," a one-time weekly first published in 1821 folded in January of 1969. Last fall it revived with an experimental quarterly. Other magazines have found new publishers and still others merged.

"Man and Nature" appeared in my mail box in December. Fifty pages of high quality paper, colored cover, full page black and white pictures and a variety of articles on birds, fish, whales, etc. Page one stated, "Man and Nature is not new" and it isn't. It is the merging and continuation of "Connecticut Conservation," "Maine Field Naturalist," "Massachusetts Audubon" and "Narraganzett Naturalist." And so they solved their financial bind. As of now "Bird Notes" will try to keep within a 20-page limit.

South Dakota environmentalists have a new problem. With Mount Rushmore as a focal point in 1976 how can they protect the wild spots so necessary for birds and beasts?

The Mini-Ranch became the focal point on a round-the-clock basis for the Sparks in August of 1971 when they both retired. The first four months included visits with families on both coasts, Seattle, Washington, by pickup and camping trailer and Cleveland and Washington, D.C. by car.

Bird-wise nothing was accomplished. They were startled by a convention of birds in Coulee City, Wash. and enjoyed watching the gulls that followed the ferry from Seattle to Victoria, B.C.

They found that feeding the pigeons

in the Washington, D.C. parks is a national pastime but ornithologists should insist on bird-sized popcorn for the park vendors since some pigeons practically turn themselves inside out trying to swallow full-sized kernels of the popped delicacy.

That's "30" for now.

* * * *

'Add to Your Knowledge'

(Continued from Page 88)

go around, via Mexico? These are just a few of the questions that might occur as we think about this possible difference in the behavior of one species.

How fast do they move? It is a question that often occurs to us as we watch the passing throng of migrants in the spring and fall. Are the individuals we see today the same ones we saw yesterday? The day before? Last week? Are they the same even between morning and evening of the same day? Answers could give us an idea of the actual numbers passing. A little observation shows the movement may vary widely with time, species, weather, food, water, shelter, and many other factors.

A trapping feeder with a banding program may give some answers for the species that can be trapped. I have happened to do a small amount of work on this in connection with the various sparrows caught in a trap designed for house sparrows. I find, for example, that some Harris' sparrows may linger for 10 days or more but there is still a continuous movement of sorts by the larger percent. Serious work could add much detail to that general statement.

These are just a few of the simple things I have thought of that we can do to learn more about our birds.—

Huron