

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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

Vol. XXIV, No. 1

MARCH, 1972

Whole No. 92



Black-Throated Sparrow (Center)
House Sparrow (Upper Left)

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, 2604 Arrowhead Drive, 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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South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

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Co-editor	Winona Sparks, Nemo 57759
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President's Page

YESTERDAY Jim Johnson passed on to me a letter he had received from Paul Springer who had written the letter as a member of the Executive Board of the North Dakota Natural Science Society. This group, as ours, has problems of limited financial base because of limited membership and the expense of their quarterly periodical. Paul suggested exploring possibilities of cooperation to the mutual benefit of both organizations.

Paul also invited all SDOU members to attend the spring meeting to be held



May 20-21 at Medora, N. Dak. Details will appear elsewhere in this issue. I hope many of our members can attend. In this page in our last issue I suggested that we do a little self-examination. As part of that I believe that the idea of exploring possible

areas of cooperation with our northern neighbors is a very good one. If some of our board members can meet with their board in Medora, we can have a basis for discussion when we get together at our field meeting in the following month.

I would like to continue with a few comments on SDOU, specifically our meetings. Some years ago there was just a single meeting a year. It is not surprising that in the limited time available on a week end that the formal part of the meeting was less exciting than the field trip part, and it became increasingly difficult to get all the

necessary business done. The SDOU followed the lead of some other groups in other states and shifted its business meeting to a late fall or early winter session, providing better opportunities for presentation of papers and more time for business and more time in the spring meeting for field trips.

Members have been concerned about the dwindling attendance at the fall meetings and have tried to consider what changes might induce non-attenders to attend. Suggestions of discontinuing the fall meeting have surfaced. The SDOU invests very little of its budget in this meeting, and I think that those who attended last November's meeting found it exceedingly stimulating; thus my conclusion would be that we should continue to have these meetings as long as those attending find it worthwhile and so long as it is not an undue strain on the treasury. The problem is how do we share the values of our fall meetings with more of our members? Is the usual date before Thanksgiving the best time? Do we need earlier or better announcement of the meeting? Are there other things we should try to do in the fall meeting?

The spring meeting has generally been well attended and much appreciated. Gaps in our knowledge of South Dakota birds have shown up as the check-list progresses. This has led to an early summer meeting in the northwestern part of the state last year. Since breeding status is more poorly known than migratory status, other

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Notes on Four Nesting Species in the Black Hills

L. M. Baylor, Willard Rosine and Fred Wild

DURING the 1971 breeding season we gathered information on four nesting species in the Black Hills. Since this information adds varying degrees of knowledge about the nesting of the Brown Creeper, Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, and the Solitary Vireo in the Black Hills, we wish to share the information through this report.

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*)—On July 13, 1971, we found a pair of adult brown creepers feeding young at a remarkable nest built in Dr. Byron Weeth's garage at his summer residence south of Rochford. According to Bent, the creepers' typical nest site is behind the loose bark of a tree, or sometimes in a knothole. By contrast, this Black Hills nest was in a cavity formed by peculiar carpentry. The rough siding did not join neatly in one place at the southeast exterior corner of the garage. Pine slabs had then been placed over the south face of the garage. The brown creepers built a nest in the crowded open space where the siding did not meet. Viewed from its opening, this cavity measured 15.9 centimeters high, 2.7 centimeters wide, and 14 centimeters deep. The base of the nest opening was 1.6 meters above the ground.

Nest materials included ponderosa needles (some of which protruded far out from the cavity's opening), bark, and unidentified fuzzy seeds.

The adults seemed relatively undisturbed by our presence and continued to feed their young, even when we returned on July 18 to photograph the nest. At this second visit we reflected



Brown Creeper and Nest

light from a mirror into the nest and counted four well-feathered little birds.

At our next return, July 22, with Herbert Krause and Sven Froiland, we learned the outcome of this nesting. Dr. Weeth reported that two young creepers fledged on July 21, 1971, and that the adults continued to feed the fledglings in the nearby ponderosas. Curious as to why only two birds fledged, Dr. Weeth inspected the nest and extracted five dead young creepers, the last three of which were so firmly packed in the bottom of the nest that he had to dig them out with a screwdriver. Apparently, the nest space was so small that as the birds grew they crowded each other and caused casualties by suffocation or starvation.

Bent says, "The brown creeper lays four to eight eggs to a set, most com-

monly five or six," but he has no remarks about nesting mortality similar to that experienced in the Black Hills nest. His descriptions of typical nests behind loose bark suggest that the nests very likely are as crowded as the one we found. We thus wonder whether the high number of eggs laid by such a small bird is a peculiar evolutionary adaptation that somewhat compensates for relatively high nesting mortality.

Limited though the nesting success was, this is apparently the first fully substantiated nesting of the brown creeper in the Black Hills. In 1965, for example, Pettingill and Whitney were unable to list any breeding records, though adults had been heard or collected during the breeding season and an apparent family group was observed near Jewel Cave in 1947.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Hylocichla ustulata*). On July 22, 1971, Krause, Froiland, Rosine, and Baylor called at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Leighton Palmerton, Rimrock Highway along Rapid Creek about eight miles west of Rapid City. The Palmertons brought to our attention the carcass of a Swainson's thrush that had killed itself by flying into a window. Then we saw a Swainson's thrush fly into a dogwood bush. The bird made frequent trips to this bush, gathered fruit (as many as six berries at a time), and flew in the same general direction toward trees by Rapid Creek. Rosine cautiously followed the thrush and located a nest containing three fairly large young birds. Because of the precarious nest location near water, with only one surviving adult to feed the nestlings, we did not gather further information at this time. The Palmertons, however, graciously cooperated in observing the progress of this nest.

Mrs. Palmerton noted, on July 25, 1971, that some form of nest predation or misfortune occurred. The nest was tipped out of its secure position, but

was not otherwise damaged. Two nestlings were lost, but one escaped and survived, for in subsequent days the Palmertons saw the adult feeding the single young fledgling in nearby bushes. They were particularly fascinated in watching the adult lure the confused young bird from the nest area to safer bushes in another part of the yard.

Later, we returned to take notes on the nest. It was in a small river birch (*Betula occidentalis*). The nest was 1.09 meters above the ground, and the ground point directly below the nest was 1.7 meters from the water's edge of Rapid Creek.

The bulky nest was composed exclusively of dry grasses. This fact represents something of a variation from the nests of *ustulata* forms described by Bent—nests that featured twigs, leaves, moss, and a variety of other materials. The external dimensions of this Black Hills nest were 11.4 centimeters in diameter and 10.2 centimeters in depth. The internal nest-cup dimensions were 6.9 centimeters in diameter and 3.9 centimeters in depth. These measurements are within the ranges of typical nests mentioned by Bent.

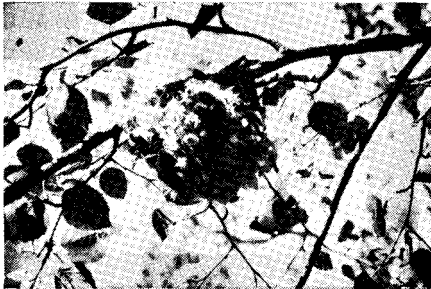
In 1965, Pettingill and Whitney had good evidence that Swainson's thrush nests in the Black Hills, but this 1971 observation seems to be a somewhat more completely documented record, limited though the nesting success was with one surviving adult feeding one surviving fledgling.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes townsendi*). Pettingill and Whitney's records clearly indicate the Townsend's solitaire is a common permanent resident and breeding species in the Black Hills. Two nests that we found in the northern Black Hills, Terry Peak vicinity, on July 13 and 18, 1971, seem to be of interest because of their somewhat late date and their proximity to each other. Pettingill and Whitney list the nesting period as "May through June

and probably July." The July estimate appears to be based upon a juvenile collected by Dilger on July 14, 1948.

The two nests we found in mid-July each contained four eggs (brown splotches on a dull white background), and in each instance the eggs were being incubated by an adult. Incubation activity at this late date in the breeding season seemed rather remarkable to us. Unfortunately, we were unable to return to these late nests to determine their success.

The nests were similar in being located on the south slope of a road cutbank in circumstances like those in which one expects to find white-winged junco nests. The nests were composed of ponderosa needles and grasses, with the needles sloping below the nest and containing some bits of *Usnea*. These nest facts are generally comparable to one of the characteristic types of solitaire nests described by Bent. Unique, however, may be the fact that these two nests were .45 of a mile from each other. Bent has no comments about nest proximity, and we find it curious that two nests of this aptly named "solitary" species were so near to each other.



Solitary Vireo Nest

SOLITARY VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*)—In the 1965 records on the solitary vireo (Pettingill and Whitney), the nesting information was limited to four

instances with nests ranging 10 to 22 feet above the ground. The solitary vireo's nest that we found, July 13, 1971, at the Moonshine Gulch Picnic Ground, about a half mile east of Rochford, displayed some rather unusual characteristics.

The adult vireos, distressed by our presence, first attracted our attention to the nest, which held four well-developed nestlings. When we returned to photograph the nest on July 18, it was empty but undisturbed. Presumably, the nestlings fledged successfully.

The nest in a small birch tree was in the fork of a thin branch 1.8 meters from the trunk, and 1.65 meters above the ground. Internal nest-cup dimensions were 2.84 centimeters in diameter and 3.2 centimeters in depth.

Of particular interest, however, were the nest materials: dry grasses, *Usnea*, and white flower petals. These white petals were scattered about the external surface of the nest and apparently had no structural function. We speculated on a possible camouflage function, but favored a purely ornamental function.

Bent, in his accounts of the various *solitarius* forms, indicates this species is quite wide-ranging in its selection of unusual nest materials: bits of newspaper, cellophane, gum wrappers, colored tissue paper, spider web, sheep's wool, red moss rootlets, and wasp-nest paper, for example. While Bent and his reporters seem to imply but do not specifically say that these materials contribute to the structural strength of the nest, they concur remarkably in speaking of the pretty or beautiful quality of *solitarius* nests. Thus, even though we may be toying with an anthropomorphic fallacy in wondering whether the white flower petals in the Black Hills nest served a purely ornamental purpose, it does give us a dimension of delight to think that even a

(Continued on Page 23)

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

South Dakota Fall Migration

August 16-November 30, 1971

Esther Serr, Compiler

REPORTERS

Black Hills Audubon Society, Rapid City, BHAS; L. M. Baylor LMB; Don Adolphson DA; N. R. Whitney NRW; Bonnie Green BG; Gertrude Bachman GB; Robert Stephens RS; Horace Jackson HJ; Esther M. Serr EMS; Elizabeth A. Southmayd EAS; Clara Yarger CY.

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

Bruce K. Harris, State Game and Fish Department, Deuel and Roberts Counties, Clear Lake, S. Dak. BKH.

B. J. Rose, State Game and Fish Department, Potter, Campbell, Stanley and Hughes Counties, 1108 North Huron, Pierre, S. Dak. BJR.

J. W. Johnson, 1421 Utah Southeast, Huron, S. Dak. JWJ.

June Harter, Highmore, S. Dak. JH.

Conrad A. Fjetland, Assistant Refuge Manager, LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge, Martin, S. Dak. CAF.

Dr. Harold W. Wager, Cresbard, S. Dak. HWH.

Nelda Holden, Rt. 1, Box 80, Brookings, S. Dak. NH.

Walter C. Thietje, Reliance, Lyman County, S. Dak. WCT.

Irma Weyler, "The Daily Post," Belle Fourche, S. Dak. IW.

Esther Edie, 1028 Eighth Avenue, Brookings, S. Dak. EE.

Willis Hall, 1111 Douglas Avenue, Yankton, S. Dak. WH.

Prof. Herbert Krause, Augustana College, English Department, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. HK.

Dr. Gilbert Blankespoor, Augustana College, Biology Department, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. GB.

Dr. Ronald Nelson, Sioux Falls—

presently teaching in North Carolina RN.

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Canyon Lake within Rapid City.

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

Seymour Dam, 25 acres in Southwest Perkins County; fair nesting for shorebirds but grazed closely during summer. Lat. 45°20", Long. 102°46".

Sorum Dam, 80 acres, Southwest Perkins County; some grazing at times. Lat. 45°25", Long. 102°48".

Lake Alice, Deuel County.

Missouri River Dams and Lakes—Lake Sharpe below Pierre; Oahe Dam above Pierre; Big Bend Dam at Fort Thompson; Gavins Point Dam west of Yankton.

Farm Island State Park below Pierre, Missouri River.

Antelope Island—some south of Farm Island State Park, Missouri River.

Stephens Dam—13 miles Southeast of Rapid City with very high selenium content.

Sand Lake, seven miles south of Mound City, Campbell County.

LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge, Southeast of Martin, S. Dak., Bennett County.

Wall Lake, Minnehaha County about eight miles west of Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

Grass Lake, Minnehaha County about 14 miles northwest of Sioux Falls.

Beaver Lake, Minnehaha County.

Vermillion Lake, McCook County.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS

Alfred Hinds describes a slough just east of Prairie City that is divided by the main highway. It has high alkaline

content with no outlet. This slough dries up unusually fast, but surface water level must be high as water will rise in this slough from somewhere with a little moisture. With the fields around it, this is good shorebird habitat. For a distance of about 30 miles from Prairie City to Meadow, there are many such sloughs, and in a wet year like 1971 many shore birds and ducks were hatched there.

Dr. Harold Wager banded 250 birds in his back yard in 1971.

June Harter counted 30 species on 9-3; 24, 9-18; 23, 9-21, and 24, 9-26.

Many mice around Rapid City (BHAS).

Generally, the large water birds left LaCreek NWR during August (CAF).

N. R. Whitney took bird census six miles southeast of Cottonwood, Jackson County 9-19 and 10-10.

LOON, GREBE, PELICAN, CORMORANT AND HERON

Common Loon—10-28 (12), 10-29 (5) Lake Sharpe BJR; 11-5 (30), 11-14 (6) swimming together rippling the otherwise perfect calm of Lewis and Clark Lake WH.

Horned Grebe—10-30, 10-31 (1) winter plumage, Canyon Lake NRW.

Eared Grebe—8-16 (2 adults, 1 young); 8-25 (9) Rehfeldt Slough, Minnehaha County HK; peak of (20) 10-6, LaCreek CAF; 10-17 Deuel County BKH; 10-24 Sand Lake, Campbell County BJR.

Western Grebe—8-16 (29) 10 appeared to be young HK; 9-16-10-16 (24) LaCreek; 9-20 (12), 10-22 (2) Minnehaha; 10-24 Sand Lake (8); 10-26 Deuel; one often seen until 11-15, Gavins Point.

Pied-billed Grebe—9-5 concentration of 225 Day County BKH; 9-12 (10) Beaver Lake, 9-28 peak (25) HK; last Canyon Lake 10-31 LMB; last Deuel 11-27 BKH.

White Pelican—9-15 (1) Mud Butte, Meade AH; (86) peak through 9-30 La-

Creek; 9-19 (100) Spirit Lake, Kingsbury County JWJ; 10-11 (1) Grass Lake HK; 10-16 Deuel.

Double-crested Cormorant—8-25 (2) Wall Lake HK; 9-20 (3) Rehfeldt Slough HK; 9-30 (20), last 10-20 LaCreek CAF; 11-5 (50) peak to (2) 11-30 Gavins Point.

Great Blue Heron—8-18 (13), 8-25 (8), 9-20 (4) all Grass Lake HK; 9-8 (1) Highmore JH; (47) peak 9-16, last 11-18 LaCreek; several, Seymour Dam AH; 10-16 Sioux Falls; 10-27 Deuel; 11-14 (1) Rapid City LMB.

Green Heron—10-26 Deuel BKH; one or two observed several times, August and September WH.

Common Egret—peak (4) 9-2, last 9-16 LaCreek CAF; 9-4 (2) Day County BKH.

Black-crowned Night Heron—8-31 (2), 9-11 (4), 9-24 (7) Grass Lake HK; 9-16 (32) LaCreek; 10-26 Deuel BKH.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron—(1) juvenile in good light, 15 minute observation, 175 feet distance near Humboldt HK, RN; 9-12 (1) juvenile Grass Lake, HK, LMB and Dr. Willard Rosine.

Least Bittern—8-21 (2) Grass Lake; 9-7 (1) Deuel BKH.

American Bittern—9-11 (1) Curlew Lake, Meade, EMS; 9-12 (2), 9-25 (1) Grass Lake; 10-1 (Wall Lake) 10-22 Grass Lake; 11-4 LaCreek.

White-faced Ibis—8-27 (3) in moist pothole near Lost Lake, excellent light for corroboration. Manfred Dill, Game Warden, and Dorwin DeJong identified the birds with HK, GB1, RN. Probably a first for Minnehaha County.

SWAN, GEESE AND DUCKS

Whistling Swan—11-5 (14) Lone Tree Lake BKH.

Trumpeter Swan—Up to 93 including 26 cygnets by 11-10 LaCreek CAF.

Greater Canada Goose—Up to (100) 10-9 Belvidere Dam, 11-25 (40) flying

no higher than 30 feet above field, (70) Belvidere Dam, Jackson County EMS.

Lesser Canada Goose—1,650 peak 10-29 LaCreek; total (60) on small dams near Rapid City, 11-7 (23) Canyon Lake BHAS; good flights over Perkins AH, and Scatterwood Lakes HWW; flock 11-6 near Flandreau, Moody County NH; 10-11 (1,300) Grass and Wall Lakes HK; 11-27 (600) Gavins Point WH.

White-fronted Goose—(44) peak 10-6, last 10-20 LaCreek; 10-27 (2000) Antelope Island BJR.

Snow Goose—Two most of period, LaCreek; 10-4 (4), 10-29 (150), 10-31 (127) Minnehaha County HK; (1) several times with geese and mallard through 11-27 WH.

Blue Goose—(1) 10-20-11-16 LaCreek; 10-29 (100) Humboldt, 10-31 (75) Sioux Falls HK.

Mallard—10-28 thousands Missouri River BJR, 10-29 about 48,000 LaCreek, 11-18 (8500) CAF; not plentiful this season in Minnehaha County HK; 11-29 (18,000) on a cloudy day with a slight south wind WH.

Gadwall—(80) peak 11-7 Canyon Lake; (4300) peak LaCreek; many Pierre 10-29; 9-11 and 9-12 few, Grass Lake.

Green-winged Teal—10-1 (2), 10-16 (2) Grass Lake HK; 10-11 (6) Canyon Lake; (2800) peak LaCreek 10-6.

Blue-winged Teal—9-15 (10) Canyon Lake; 9-19 (4) Cottonwood NRW; (2800) peak 9-16 LaCreek; (15) peak 10-11, (4) 10-16 Grass Lake HK.

Pintail—Very small supply in Minnehaha, 8-6 (3) Grass Lake HK.

American Widgeon—(6500) peak 9-16 LaCreek; 10-27 (2) Canyon Lake; (15) peak 10-11, (4) 10-16 Grass Lake.

Shoveler—775 peak LaCreek; 10-29 many with Gadwalls, Pierre BJR; 10-31 (30) Canyon Lake; (28) peak 10-1 to (4) 11-5 Grass Lake HK.

Wood Duck—Adult and young several times, August and September WH; 9-12 (30) Sioux Falls Sewage Plant—

more than last season HK; 10-25 (6) Fort Pierre BJR; 9-16-10-13 (4) LaCreek.

Redhead—10-29 (100) Lake Sharpe; (2600) peak 10-29 LaCreek; 8-31 (21), 10-11 (1100) Humboldt, 11-5 (2) Grass Lake; 11-30 one pair Canyon Lake.

Ring-necked Duck—11-12 (1) Oahe Dam BJR; 10-11 (3) Grass Lake HK.

Canvasback—(6925) peak 10-29—highest count at LaCreek since late 30's CAF; 8-31 (8) Grass Lake; 11-6 (2), 11-10 (3) Gavin's Point WH.

Lesser Scaup—(120) peak 10-3 Canyon Lake; (5255) peak 10-29 LaCreek; thousands Lake Sharpe 10-29 BJR; first seen 11-6 Gavins Point; 10-22 (21), 10-30 (20) Grass Lake.

Common Goldeneye—First 10-30, (80) peak 11-28 Canyon Lake; first 11-4, (74) peak 11-18 LaCreek; 10-30 (9) Humboldt HK; first 11-9 almost daily up to 18 Gavins Point WH.

Barrow's Goldeneye—Second winter for one on Canyon Lake, first 11-7 and four times to 11-30 LMB, NRW.

Bufflehead—10-17-11-7 (8) Canyon Lake; (855) peak 10-29 LaCreek; 10-30 (17)-11-5 (41) Humboldt HK; first 11-9 Gavins Point.

White-winged Scoter—11-29 and 11-30 (1) Gavins Point WH.

Surf Scoter—10-17 (four immatures) at distance, Lake Alice, Deuel; 10-25 crippled specimen collected; 10-27 (three immatures) BKH.

Ruddy Duck—8-27 (one adult, eight young), 10-16 (35), 10-30 (12), 11-5 (22) Beaver Lake, Minnehaha HK; 10-31 (6) Canyon Lake; (470) peak LaCreek 10-28 CAF.

Common Merganser—First 11-7, peak (10) 11-21 Canyon Lake LMB; first 10-29 LaCreek; 11-15 (450) Big Bend Dam NRW; first 11-6, (600) peak 11-25 Gavins Point WH.

Hooded Merganser—None for second year, Canyon Lake LMB; 11-10 (1) LaCreek; 10-24 (1) Sand Lake, Campbell; 10-30 one pair Farm Island BJR.

HAWKS AND EAGLES

Turkey Vulture—10-2 Goodwin, Deuel BKH; last 11-21 BHAS; 10-28 Reliance, Lyman, WCT.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—10-6 LaCreek; 10-16 took House Sparrow BG; 10-7 specimen, Rapid City NRW; 11-9 (1) good light perched 10 minutes at 75 feet, Sioux Falls HK.

Cooper's Hawk—9-11 Highmore JH.

Red-tailed Hawk—8-25 (3), 9-3 (two young), 9-24 (4), 10-30 (1) Wall Lake HK; last 11-3 Sheridan Lake, Black Hills NRW; 11-15 Highmore; few LaCreek.

Harlan's Hawk—10-13 and 11-3 LaCreek CAF; 11-12 Pierre BJR; 10-20 U.S. 12 Butte County NRW.

Broadwinged Hawk—9-17 Farm Island BJR; 9-18 (1) Sioux Falls HK; 9-22 Bemis, Deuel BKH.

Swainson's Hawk—9-2 (6) Meade DA; 9-19 (5) Cottonwood NRW; 9-11, 10-1 Grass Lake HK; 9-16 (17) Potter BJR; 9-23 Deuel; 9-22 (2) Highmore JH.

Rough-legged Hawk—First, Pennington County 10-10; 10-20 (4) Butte NRW; 10-21 Stanley BJR; 11-1 (4) Butte DA; 11-5 dark phase, Gavins Point WH; 11-25 (5) Pennington; 11-25 (7) Jackson EMS; 11-4 (14) LaCreek.

Ferruginous Hawk—9-17 (3) Potter BJR; 9-25 (one adult), 9-29 (one immature) Deuel BKH; 9-18 Harding DA; 10-9 Sage Creek Basin, Badlands NRW; 10-20 (6) U.S. 212 Butte NRW; 11-1 Butte DA.

Golden Eagle—9-30, 11-10 (5) LaCreek; 9-23-11-18 BHAS; 11-1 (2) Butte DA; 10-31 (2), 11-23 (1) Reliance WCT; 10-23 (one immature) Deuel BKH.

Bald Eagle—10-10 Fall River BHAS; 9-22-11-30 (8) sightings Deuel BKH; 11-19 (one adult, one immature), 11-26 (one adult) Gavins Point WH; 11-23 (1) Reliance WCT; 11-3 (6) LaCreek; 11-14 (2) Ft. Thompson, Buffalo Coun-

ty NRW; 10-13 (1) Haakon County BJR.

Osprey—10-5 Farm Island BJR; 10-5-10-12 Bonnie Green's yard on Rapid Creek.

Gyrfalcon—11-21, 11-28 singles 25 miles north of Pierre, Sully County BJR.

Marsh Hawk—10-6 Highmore; 10-7 (7) Pennington BHAS; 10-7 (4) Ardmore, Fall River County DA; 8-27-11-5 (2) Sioux Falls HK; 10-6 (21) LaCreek; 11-27 (2) Rapid City RS.

Prairie Falcon—9-2 (2), 10-28 (1), 11-19 (1) LaCreek; 10-7 Ardmore DA; 9-18 Harding DA; 11-14 Lyman LMB, NRW; 10-28 (2) Reliance WCT.

Peregrine Falcon—10-6 LaCreek C 8-31 (one immature) good light 400 feet HK, GBL, RN.

Pigeon Hawk—9-2, 11-18 LaCreek; 9-29 Rapid City RS; 11-9 Belle Fourche IW; 10-12 east of Yankton, unsuccessfully attacked a killdeer; 10-20 Marindahl Lake (14 miles northeast of Yankton) WH.

Sparrow Hawk—9-3 (50) Meade DA; 9-6 (3)-10-20 Sioux Falls; 9-19 west of Nemo, Black Hills (EAS).

GROUSE

Sharp-tailed Grouse—9-20-10-24 a total of 69 in six sightings around Rapid City BHAS.

Ring-necked Pheasant—(2) within Rapid City BHAS; abundant at Crescent HWW.

Gray Partridge—9-9 (3) at grain pile, Perkins AH; 9-24 (11), 11-5 (26) two flocks of 13, Wall Lake HK.

Turkey—9-16 (6) Nemo, Black Hills EAS; 9-20 (11) Spring Creek, Pennington CY.

CRANES AND RAILS

Sandhill Crane—9-30-10-29 about 5000 over Rapid City and Black Hills with 10-7 biggest flight day BHAS; 10-21 Highmore JH; 10-29 LaCreek; 10-28-10-30 mass migration with ducks and geese down Missouri River BJR; 11-2

(105) Gavins Point WH; 10-28 many over Reliance; 10-27 flocks all day over Perkins AH.

King Rail—8-25 good light, walked slowly within 30 feet of where we sat in a car. Very rare indeed. HK, RN.

Virginia Rail—9-10 Deuel BKH.

Sora—8-20, 9-20, 9-25 (1) Sioux Falls HK.

American Coot—(7000) peak LaCreek (45) peak Canyon Lake 10-17 to (4) 11-30 LMB; (150) 10-22 to (1) 11-5 Grass Lake HK.

SHOREBIRDS

Semipalmated Plover—8-30 (1) city sewage pool, Sioux Falls HK.

Killdeer—Peak 8-29, 10-31 (2) Rapid City BHAS; (103) peak 9-2-11-8 (8) LaCreek; 8-23 (7) Perkins AH; 9-9 Highmore; 11-12 (5) Cresbard HWW; 8-20 (51), 10-11 (57) common Sioux Falls HK.

American Golden Plover—9-24 (10) near Sioux Falls HK.

Black-bellied Plover—9-10 LaCreek CAF.

Common Snipe—8-20 winnowing male near Crystal Springs, Deuel (late for display) BKH; 8-20 (10), 10-30 (3) more than usual, Sioux Falls HK; 9-30 (6) LaCreek; 10-31 Sioux Park, Rapid City BHAS; 11-14, 11-15 (1) Yankton WH.

Upland Plover—8-18 (3), 8-20 (1) near Sioux Falls, becoming scarce, habitat destroyed HK.

Spotted Sandpiper—10-24 (1) Fall River downtown Hot Springs EMS.

Solitary Sandpiper—8-30 (1) Big Sioux River HK.

Willet—8-18 (5) near Beaver Lake, Minnehaha HK.

Greater Yellowlegs—8-16 (2) Lake Vermillion, McCook HK; 9-19-10-25 (two to five) Stephens Dam BHAS; 10-13 (4) Big Sioux River HK; 10-23 (3) Deuel BKH; 10-4, 10-28 below Pierre BJR.

Lesser Yellow-legs—(288) peak 9-16

LaCreek CAF; 8-16 (8) Wall Lake NK.

Pectoral Sandpiper—8-16 (6) Lake Vermillion; 8-30 (150) Sioux Falls sewage HK; 9-26 (6) LaCreek.

White-rumped Sandpiper—8-27 (3), 9-6 (2) Grass Lake; 9-12 (1) Big Sioux River HK.

Baird's Sandpiper—8-16 (6) Grass Lake HK; 9-19 (1) close view with Killdeer and Greater Yellowlegs, Stephens Dam BHAS.

Least Sandpiper—8-25 (2), 9-3 (7) Grass Lake HK.

Dunlin—11-5 (2) good light, decurved bill, Grass Lake HK.

Long-billed Dowitcher—8-21 (2), 10-1 (50), 10-11 (55), 10-30 (1) Grass Lake; (507) peak 9-10-10-20 (135) LaCreek CAF.

Semipalmated Sandpiper—9-6 (2) Grass Lake; 9-16 (12) Lake Vermillion HK.

Western Sandpiper—8-25 (1) good light, 50 feet, 9-3 (5) Grass Lake HK, RN; 9-12 (1) Big Sioux River.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—8-30 (21) Sioux Falls sewage pool HK.

Marbled Godwit—9-6 (11) Grass Lake HK; 10-3 Deuel BKH.

American Avocet—9-6 (11) Grass Lake HK; 9-2 (28), 10-6 (20)-10-20 LaCreek CAF.

Wilson's Phalarope—8-21 (50) near Humboldt and 8-27 (2) HK.

Northern Phalarope—8-25 (8), (21) peak 9-3 9-20 (1) near Humboldt—very unusual. HK.

GULLS, DOVES AND CUCKOOS

Herring Gull—Few seen frequently, Gavins Point WH; 11-14 (10 to 20) Big Bend Dam NRW.

Ring-billed Gull—Many flocks proceeding west in the evening during November, Gavins Point; 11-14 (400) Big Bend Dam NRW; (43) peak 10-29 LaCreek CAF.

Franklin's Gull—10-12 (200) 12 miles east, Yankton WH; 10-24 Pierre BJR; 10-29 Deuel; 9-30 (4) LaCreek.

Bonaparte's Gull—10-29 (1) Lake Sharpe, 11-7 (3) Oahe, 11-22 (1) Antelope Island BJR; 11-16 (one immature), 11-22 (seven adults) WH.

Forster's Tern—Several immature and adult seen frequently in August WH; 8-21 (2) near Humboldt HK.

Black Tern—8-18 (50) Wall and Grass Lakes HK; 8-20 (two immatures, one adult) WH; 9-2 (135), 9-10 (70) LaCreek; 9-11 (4) Curlew Lake, Meade EMS.

Mourning Dove—10-24 (2) Campbell BJR; 10-2 (15) Perkins AH; many at end of September BHAS.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—8-18-9-21 Rapid City EAS, BG.

Black-billed Cuckoo—9-6 (1) Grass Lake HK.

OWLS

Barn Owl—10-10 decomposed young under Hat Creek bridge, Fall River County BHAS.

Screech Owl—8-29 (1) in my back yard HK.

Great Horned Owl—8-28 midnight Red Dale Canyon LMB; 10-3, 10-31 Pennington RS; 11-4 (3) LaCreek; 11-2 (1) Belle Fourche . . . "He was perched in the tree near the front window on a stormy day like a Halloween spook. The face was a face, in reality—monkey or human. Wind proved that the ears, which stuck up squarely like a cat's, were really tufts of feathers. Like a human being, the owl stretched, yawned and napped, closing his eyes like a cat. However, when the birds were teasing him, he watched them from under half-closed pale eyelids." "The Daily Post" IW; 8-25 (one young) Wall Lake HK.

Snowy Owl—10-24 female crippled and later died Deuel BKH; singles 11-28, 11-30 Pierre BJR.

Burrowing Owl—9-2 LaCreek.

Long-eared Owl—11-4, 11-7 specimens brought Deuel BKH; 11-17 Perkins AH.

Short-eared Owl—10-1, 10-14 singles LeCreek CAF.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS,

HUMMINGBIRDS AND KINGFISHER

Poor-will—8-15-8-27 calling Rapid City DA; 10-10 one with broken wing in Bonnie Green's back yard—later died.

Common Nighthawk—(20) peak 8-19 BHAS; 8-22 (17) Perkins AH; 9-4 spectacular flight, counted 600 and gave up, Sioux Falls HK; 9-25 (2) Roberts BKH.

Chimney Swift—8-27 (25) Humboldt HK.

Hummingbirds—8-16-9-15 almost daily BHAS, E. Southmayd and D. Adolphson believe they had different species, but hesitate to call them in the fall; June Harter writes—"One friend rescued a hummingbird from a spider web—it had so much of the web on its body that it couldn't fly."

Ruby-throated—9-10, 9-11 Brookings NH.

Belted Kingfisher—Many more reports than usual BHAS.

WOODPECKERS

Yellow-shafted Flicker—10-9 last, Highmore JH.

Hybrid Flicker—Daily BHAS; common Perkins and Belle Fourche.

Red-bellied Woodpecker—11-3 (1) in company with robins feeding on hackberries at the river bluff west of Yankton WH.

Red-headed Woodpecker—9-5 (12 immature and adults in farm yard) Pennington EMS; 9-19 (1) Cottonwood NRW; more than usual at Rapid City BHAS; 11-21 (one immature) Brookings—have been found on Christmas counts NH.

Lewis' Woodpecker—10-17 Elk Creek Valley, Meade EMS; 11-1 Belle Fourche DA.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—9-19 Roberts BKH; 9-24 Sioux Falls HK.

Hairy Woodpecker—First, 9-12 High-

more; common Perkins AH; daily Rapid City BHAS; common Belle Fourche IW.

Downy Woodpecker—Daily Rapid City BHAS.

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS AND SWALLOWS

Eastern Kingbird—Peak 8-29, few 9-6 BHAS; 9-3 Highmore; 9-12 Sioux Falls.

Western Kingbird—8-22 (12), few 9-2 BHAS; 8-25 Highmore; 9-3 Sioux Falls.

Great Crested Flycatcher—9-22 (1) Huron JWJ.

Say's Phoebe—9-5-9-22 BHAS.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—8-11 (1) on fence, 20 feet away, good light HK, RN.

Traill's Flycatcher—8-13 Highmore.

Least Flycatcher—9-23 Brookings EE.

Eastern Wood Pewee—8-27 (1), 9-23, 9-26 Sioux Falls HK.

Northern Horned Lark—11-5 (1) excellent light, yellowish eyestripe, clearly seen HK.

Horned Lark—Many migrating flocks of about 15 10-18-10-24 I 90, Pennington and Jackson EAS, EMS; 11-25 none on I 90; 11-15 three large flocks, total 500 in 10 miles, Highmore JH.

Violet-green, Rough-winged, and Barn Swallows—All seem to leave Rapid City 9-5—few stragglers after that included (1).

Bank Swallow—9-19 Cottonwood NRW; 8-18 (1800) Bank near Humboldt HK.

Tree Swallow—9-11, 9-12 few Wall and Grass Lakes—scarce this year HK.

Cliff Swallow—8-16 (1) good light, Humboldt HK.

Purple Martin—8-31 (60) Wall Lake—common at Wall Lake but seemingly scarce elsewhere HK.

JAY, CROW AND MAGPIE

Gray Jay—9-26 (2), 10-10 (6), 10-23 (1) Black Hills BHAS.

Blue Jay—Many in September, few

October and November BHAS; some present Belle Fourche IW; few in September Perkins AH; 9-27 (8), last 11-2 Highmore JH; 9-10 (16) in flock—not often in a flock so large, Sioux Falls HK.

Black-billed Magpie—Many through period BHAS; 10-24 (2) by Kenneth Husman, Day County BKH.

Common Crow—10-10 (5) Fall River BHAS; last 10-9 Highmore, “. . . not present in usual migration number. For past five years few hundred to 2000 roosted in our trees during most of October, but large flocks didn't show this year.” JH; 10-10-10-20 migrated by thousands through Reliance WCT.

Pinon Jay—8-18 (75) steady flocks of 40 to feeders at edge of Black Hills.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPER, DIPPER AND WRENS

Black-capped Chickadees—Not frequently seen, Sioux Falls HK; first 9-19, not too numerous BHAS; 11-13 Highmore; 11-16 numerous, Belle Fourche IW.

White-breasted Nuthatch—9-24 (3) Sioux Falls; 10-27 Highmore.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—9-26 (3) conifers Sioux Falls, 10-4 (2) HK; 11-10 (1) Deuel, none in 1970 BKH.

Brown Creeper—More reports than usual BHAS; 10-8 (1)-11-10 (3) Sioux Falls HK.

House Wren—9-28 Rapid City EAS; 9-8 Highmore JH.

Winter Wren—9-1-9-12 (2) EAS.

Canon Wren—10-7 (1) Wind Cave, Custer DA.

Long-billed Marsh Wren—8-16 (3), 9-3 (8), 9-6 (17), 10-16 (1) Minnehaha potholes HK; 10-23 Deuel BKH; 10-25 (1) reeds, Seavey's Lake. NRW heard it and found it. Last sighting for Whitney 4-5-1967. This is sixth sighting—all previous at Canyon Lake since 1953.

Short-billed Marsh Wren—(1) frequently until 8-28 Yankton WH; 8-21 (one adult, one young) Wall Lake HK.

Rock Wren—8-25-9-29 EAS.

Catbird—Many to 9-30 BHAS; 9-28 Deuel; (6) peak 9-10-9-13 Highmore; 10-10 (1) Sioux Falls.

Brown Thrasher—Average number to 9-23 BHAS; 8-31 (12) Belle Fourche IW; 9-24 Sioux Falls; 9-27 Highmore; 11-8 Cresbard HWW.

Robin—Many, 9-9 (50) Perkins AH; 9-20 (100) migrating flock BG; 8-22 (23 adults, 48 young) Sioux Falls HK; many feeding on hackberries until 11-27 WH.

Hermit Thrush—10-5, 10-27 Brookings EE; 10-13 Altamont, Deuel BKH.

Swainson's Thrush—8-31-9-28 (2) EAS; 9-12-9-23 EE; (6) peak 9-23-9-27 Highmore; almost daily 9-6-9-28 Huron JWJ; 9-22-10-4 Sioux Falls HK.

Gray-cheeked Thrush—9-3 (1) Highmore; 9-14 (1) rare, Huron JWJ.

Eastern Bluebird—10-17 last Deuel; 10-24 Campbell (9) BJR; 10-25 (17 males) Farm Island BJR; 8-18 at Rapid City bird bath; 9-19 (3) west of Nemo, Black Hills EAS.

Mountain Bluebird—10-4 (5) U.S. 212, Butte AH; more than usual in Black Hills, 10-21 (20) Deerfield, Pennington, Leonard Yarger.

Townsend's Solitaire—10-10 (1) Cascade Park, Fall River; many more than usual around Rapid City BHAS.

Golden-crowned Kinglet—10-15-10-22 Humboldt and Sioux Falls HK; 10-23 (2) Yankton WH; 10-23-11-1 Highmore; 10-10 several Black Hills EAS; 11-7 specimen in Vi Brodsky's yard, Rapid City; few this period, Huron JWJ; 10-29 (1) Lake Sharpe BJR.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—9-23-10-13 (9) Sioux Falls HK; 9-29 BG; 9-8-10-23 Highmore JH; 9-23-11-4 Brookings EE.

Water Pipit—9-11 (2) Curlew Lake, Meade EMS; 9-14-10-24 many near dug-outs and dams, Potter and Campbell BJR.

Sprague's Pipit—9-15 (1) Potter BJR.

Bohemian Waxwing—9-12 dazed from

hitting window, Vi Brodsky; none Huron JWJ.

Cedar Waxwing—9-3, 9-20 (15), 9-26 (33), 10-9 Highmore JH; almost daily 8-18-9-18 BG; 9-24 (13), 10-13 (three juveniles) Sioux Falls HK; 11-21 (20) Yankton WH; 9-14 (30) Belle Fourche . . . "Must be on the increase. About 10 years ago a cedar waxwing was a rarity. It is our deduction that these on the hill are adults and young raised in the vicinity and now flocked for their winter nomadic life. The flock increases every year so that now it numbers around 30." IW.

SHRIKE, STARLINGS AND VIREOS

Northern Shrike—10-10 (one immature) Hat Creek, Fall River BHAS; 10-15 after bird Rapid City BG; 11-16 (1) Yankton WH; 11-9 Belle Fourche . . . "Livestock feeders in Belle Fourche valley say that the shrike is fairly common around feedlots where they prey upon mice." IW; 10-21 Stanley BJR; 10-24 Campbell BJR; 11-23 Deuel, (2) Roberts BKH.

Loggerhead Shrike—9-19 Cottonwood NRW; 8-21 (1) Grass Lake HK; 11-14 (2) Big Bend Dam LMB; 10-30 (2) Perkins AH.

Starling—Viewfield corner, Meade; roost Gamble Store sign downtown Rapid City EMS.

Red-eyed Vireo—8-17-8-28 Rapid City EAS; 9-24 (1) never numerous, Huron JWJ; 8-29-9-8 Highmore; 9-19 Roberts, 9-20 (2) Deuel BKH; 9-11 specimen, Brookings NH.

Warbling Vireo—8-17-9-12 Rapid City EAS; frequent Huron; 9-12 singing male, Altamont, Deuel BKH; 8-29-9-26 Sioux Falls HK.

WARBLERS

Black-and-White Warbler—8-18 (1) Rapid City EAS; 8-22-9-3 Highmore.

Tennessee—9-21 (2) Rapid City BG; 8-21-9-12 Highmore.

Orange-crowned—9-16-10-3 few Sioux

Falls; 9-20-9-28 less than usual Rapid City BG; 9-18-10-6 Highmore; abundant, Huron.

Nashville—9-6-9-26 few Minnehaha HK; 9-22 Deuel; 9-23 Roberts; 9-22 (2) Brookings EE; 8-29-9-18 Highmore; 9-24 (1) unusual Huron.

Yellow—8-18 (one singing) 9-20 EAS, BG; last 9-26 Highmore; usual number, Huron.

Myrtle—9-21-10-16 few Sioux Falls; 8-25—very few after big spring migration, Rapid City; 10-21 Deuel; 10-7-10-20 Brookings NH, EE; 9-20-10-18 Highmore; 9-17-10-8 Farm Island and Pierre.

Audubon's—8-18-10-16 BHAS.

Chestnut-sided—9-21 (2) previous sightings, 8-31-63, 9-26-66 Highmore JH. **Bay-breasted**—8-27 (1) good light, "pinkish" sides, 9-26 (1) Sioux Falls HK.

Pine—9-17 (1), 9-26 (3), 10-4 (one still singing) Sioux Falls HK.

Ovenbird—9-5 Brookings EE; 9-14-9-20 Huron; 9-23 (2) Sioux Falls.

Northern Waterthrush—8-25 (1) Grass Lake; 9-17 (1) Sioux Falls HK; 9-10 Brookings EE; 9-14-9-20 Huron.

Yellowthroat—9-21-9-23 BG; 9-12 Highmore; very numerous Sioux Falls.

Yellow-breasted Chat—9-3-9-8 Highmore.

Wilson's—9-3 (2) Sioux Falls; 9-20 Deuel; 8-24-8-31 Brookings EE; almost daily through 9-28 BG; 8-26-9-26 Highmore; 9-3 (3) rare for several years, Huron.

Canada—9-3 (1) Wall Lake HK; 10-21 (1) observed ½ hour, 30 feet—one previous sighting 9-5-67 Highmore.

American Redstart—8-21-9-2 BHAS; 8-13-9-3 (10) Highmore; 10-21 Huron.

HOUSE SPARROW, BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS

House Sparrow—Roost tree, Sixth Street, Rapid City; 2000 Highmore.

Bobolink—8-16 (18), 8-27 (61), 9-11 (13) Sioux Falls HK; 9-11 Deuel BKH.

Western Meadowlark—Few after 10-

15 Rapid City. Gertrude Bachman crossed state 11-1 and saw none. NRW did Cottonwood count 9-19 and 10-19 when in 30 stops there were exactly 100 on both dates. AH went to Belle Fourche 10-4 and found one to a mile average. 11-1 (12) Highmore; 11-24 Deuel; 11-25 (4) Reliance.

Red-winged Blackbird—Strong flocking mid-September, Rapid City; migration flocks 8-31-9-20 JH.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Increasing Sioux Falls HK.

Orchard Oriole—8-28-8-31 (2) Sioux Falls HK; 9-4 Highmore.

Baltimore Oriole—8-20-9-29 Rapid City EAS; 9-4 Highmore JH.

Bullock's Oriole—8-23-9-5 Rapid City EAS, GB; 9-2 (one female), good close view, whitish underneath and unstreaked back Highmore JH.

Rusty Blackbird—10-16 (5), 10-20 (80), 11-4 (125) Grass Lake HK; 10-8-10-25 many Farm Island BJR; 11-10 (75) Roberts.

Brewer's Blackbird—9-20 few BHAS; 10-24 many Campbell BJR.

Common Grackle—8-18 (6) molting—10-30 BHAS; 9-11-9-19 hundreds Highmore JH.

Brown-headed Cowbird—9-11 (23), 9-30 (200), 10-22 (35), 11-5 (2) Minnehaha HK; 10-1 (50) feeding among cattle, Deuel BKH.

Western Tanager—9-21 (1) Highmore; 8-19-10-9 almost daily Rapid City EAS, BG.

SPARROWS AND FINCHES

Cardinal—Scarcer than last year, Sioux Falls HK; 9-20 Long Tree Lake BKH.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—8-24 (1) Sioux Falls HK.

Black-headed Grosbeak—8-24-10-5 Rapid City EAS, BG; 9-2-9-10 Highmore JH.

Blue Grosbeak—8-21 (one male and two females), 8-25 (one female and one juvenile) at 30 feet; 9-11 (one

adult and one young) Wall Lake HK.

Indigo Bunting—9-23 (1) with sparrows Rapid City BG.

Dickcissel—8-31 (9), 9-11 (five adults and five young), 10-11 (3) fairly common Minnehaha HK.

Evening Grosbeak—9-17-11-2 few BHAS; 11-11 (4) not usually seen, Huron JWJ.

Purple Finch—10-27 (1) Hisega, Pennington BHAS; 11-21-11-23 Deuel; 10-12-11-10 more than usual, Huron JWJ; 10-20 (1) Sioux Falls HK.

Pine Grosbeak—11-16 (1) very rare and early, Huron JWJ.

Cassin's Finch—11-9 (2) Mary Hyde, Rapid City.

Common Redpoll—11-10 (10) with about as many Pine Siskins, Deuel BKH; 11-6 Huron JWJ.

Pine Siskin—9-19-11-11 few BHAS; 9-11-10-11 Highmore; 10-8 flock, Huron BJR; 10-31 (1) Sioux Falls HK.

American Goldfinch—8-16-11-30 few BHAS; 9-26 Highmore; 8-24 nest with two eggs, Yankton WH.

Red Crossbill—9-1-10-4 fair number, Black Hills BHAS.

White-winged Crossbill—10-11 (1) only previous sighting 8-17-69 Highmore JH.

Rufous-sided Towhee—9-10-9-27 Highmore; almost daily through 10-9 BHAS; 10-4 Brookings EE.

Lark Bunting—8-21 (three males and one female), 8-25 (three adults and four young) near Humboldt—seems to be an incursion HK; heavy migration last week in August—most in brown, autumn plumage, few through 9-19 BHAS.

Savannah Sparrow—9-5-9-19 Rapid City BHAS; 9-20 (29), 9-25 (53), 10-11 (66), 10-30 (1) Wall Lake HK.

Grasshopper Sparrow—Almost none at Rapid City this year; 10-21 (1) clinging at night to back screen door, attracted by light, banded and photographed BJR (Pierre); 8-31-9-11 (4)

frequently seen in small numbers, Sioux Falls HK.

LeConte's Sparrow—10-6 (2) Lake Alice, close with binoculars, strong striping on back, streaks on flanks, buffy breast and white line through eye, but nape color not clearly seen, Deuel BKH.

Henslow's Sparrow—9-16 (1) on fence, 30 feet in good light HK, RN; 10-22 (2) 20 feet near Humboldt HK, GB.

Vesper Sparrow—8-29-10-3 good number BHAS; 9-20 (10), 9-25 (43); 10-11 (27), 10-30 (3) Minnehaha HK.

Lark Sparrow—8-26-9-19 Rapid City BHAS; 9-30 (4) Wall Lake HK.

White-winged Junco—9-11-11-10 (35) Rapid City BHAS.

Slate-colored Junco—10-9-11-30 BHAS; two to five daily, Huron; 10-10 Reliance WCT; 10-28 many Belle Fourche IW; 9-27-10-20 several Sioux Falls.

Oregon Junco—10-9-10-16 (4) BHAS; 9-16-11-3 up to (4) Highmore.

Tree Sparrow—10-9-10-31 many BHAS; 10-8-11-3 less than usual Highmore; 10-25 many Farm Island; 10-9-11-1 few Huron; 10-16 (12)-10-22 (101) counted, Sioux Falls, HK.

Chipping Sparrow—9-20-10-16 BHAS; 9-26 Highmore; 9-2-10-28 Perkins.

Clay-colored Sparrow—8-25 (one adult and one juvenile) HK, RN, 9-6 (two adults and one young), 9-20 (1) Minnehaha; 8-23-10-10 BHAS; 9-21 Highmore; few, Huron.

Field Sparrow—9-21-9-26 Highmore; common, Huron.

Harris' Sparrow—9-26-11-30 few BHAS; 9-22-11-12 up to (40) Highmore; 10-25 many Farm Island; 9-28-11-1 Huron; 10-4-11-3 Brookings EE; 11-25 (one immature) banded NH; 10-24-10-28 good number, Perkins; 10-20 Reliance; 10-28 (20) Belle Fourche—"We believe that all Harris' Sparrows have streaked breasts in the winter since in all the years we have had Harris' on our hill,

we have never seen the full black marking except in early spring." IW; Rapid City—never in almost 10 years of record keeping has an adult been reported in fall." EMS; 10-10-11-1 (50) feed regularly at Henry Kaiser home, Yankton, and roost in spruce and juniper. About 20 until 11-14. The evening singing of these birds was much appreciated WH.

White-crowned Sparrow—9-19-9-29 few BHAS; 9-20-10-11 up to (6) Highmore; 10-21 (7) Perkins AH; 10-15 Reliance; 9-20 (2) roadside brush, Wall Lake HK.

White-throated Sparrow—9-9-9-29 few BHAS; 9-20-10-11 Highmore; 9-23-10-29 Brookings EE; 9-24-10-17 few, 10-20 (one singing) Sioux Falls HK; 11-24 (one immature) banded NH; 10-10 Reliance WCT.

Fox Sparrow—10-11 (2) Wall Lake; 10-16 (2) Sioux Falls HK.

Lincoln's Sparrow—9-20-9-29 few BHAS; 9-8-9-27 Highmore; 9-6-10-22 few, marshy potholes, Minnehaha HK.

Swamp Sparrow—8-21 (1) singing, 8-27 (1), 9-6 (1) Grass Lake HK.

Song Sparrow—10-13 (7) Sioux Falls HK; 9-18-11-20 few BHAS; 9-27 Highmore; 9-10 Reliance; 10-12 Belle



McCown's Longspur

—E. W. Steffen

Fourche . . . "Song sparrows have arrived for the winter . . . it is seen in Spearfish Canyon in the summer, but it winters in the lower elevations where there are cattails near streams and ponds." "The Daily Post" IW.

Lapland Longspur—11-5 specimen Badlands, Nicki Higgins; 10-24 thousands from North Dakota border to Pierre BJR; 10-28 thousands, Reliance WCT.

Smith's Longspur—9-15 (60), 9-16 (35) Potter BJR.

Snow Bunting—11-6-11-30 up to (25) Deuel BKH; 10-24 (1) Campbell. BJR.



Chestnut-collared Longspur

—E. W. Steffen

President's Page

(Continued from Page Three)

summer meetings are anticipated. Some feel that certain schedule conflicts can be avoided at this season. Is this new trend a good one? Are there features of the spring or summer meeting that should be improved? I hope our members are thinking about these problems.

—B. E. Harrell

General Notes of Special Interest

INVITATION FROM NORTH DAKOTA

—The North Dakota Natural Science Society was formed in 1966 for the purpose of promoting interest in and understanding of natural sciences, to encourage conservation of natural resources, and to provide communication among persons and groups with like interests. In practice the emphasis has been on birds. While there was and still is widespread interest for an organization of our type in North Dakota, our membership is not yet large enough to continue to sustain the costs associated with operating the Society. At present, the main expense is publication of the quarterly periodical, "The Prairie Naturalist." However, there are other activities that we feel we could and should engage in if we had the financial support. For several reasons our membership has stabilized at about 200. Also, we have difficulty obtaining sufficient articles of the type and caliber that are desired in "The Prairie Naturalist." As a result, we have dropped behind in publication on a quarterly basis and this, in turn, has caused loss of membership.

Undoubtedly, some of our ills could be corrected by a more vigorous membership drive, and we are engaging in this now. The enclosed photocopy of our last newsletter describes our need and program. However, with the number of natural science, conservation, and environmental organizations to which a person can belong these days, the competition is quite keen. I understand that the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union is experiencing similar financial difficulties, and the thought

has been advanced by some in the NDNSS that there may be possibilities of the two organizations joining forces in some respects. This could take various forms, and hopefully would result in strengthening the memberships and programs of both groups. In regard to objectives I realize that the purpose of SDOU is restricted primarily to encouraging the study of birds and ornithology in South Dakota. However, I know from the meeting I spoke at on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of SDOU that there is some sentiment for expanding the objectives to include other areas of natural sciences.

The spring meeting of the NDNSS will be held on May 20-21 at Medora, North Dakota. As the tentative schedule stands now, we plan to have a business meeting starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 20. In the afternoon there would be papers on the flora of the badlands area, the petrified forest in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and a discussion by a National Park representative on environmental problems in the area. Following the dinner banquet would be a talk on birds by the historian and museum curator, Ralph Hubbard. On Sunday there will be a joint field trip with the Theodore Roosevelt National History Society and other field trips on plants and to the petrified forest (the latter for persons with a four-wheel drive vehicle). In addition, we will hold a quarterly meeting of the Executive Board, probably preceding the business meeting. While Medora is some distance from eastern South Dakota, SDOU members in Rapid City and oth-

er parts of western South Dakota will find that it is closer than the major cities in eastern South Dakota. We cordially invite you and all SDOU members to the Society meetings. Also, if the SDOU Board of Directors feels that a discussion of our mutual programs and of possible means for strengthening these might be pursued profitably, we hope that as many as possible will be able to attend at least the Society's Executive Board meeting preceding the business meeting. Finally, if you think it appropriate and if there is still time, you may want to call attention to the NDNSS meeting in "South Dakota Bird Notes" and to welcome all SDOU members to it.—Paul F. Springer, Jamestown, N. Dak. 58401

* * * *

COULD IT BE A BOBOLINK?—I first heard his song in the late spring of 1969 and on searching found him perched high on a power line. He was all black on the front with large patches of white on the back of his head, neck and body. The only bird that fit his description in Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" was the Bobolink. However Peterson doesn't mention Bobolinks as being found in South Dakota.

All during the summer I watched him and enjoyed his estatic bubbling song. He seemed to be a loner. Though he was seen by many others none could identify him.

In the spring of 1970 I recognized his happy song one early morning and again he stayed the full summer. I thought he might have a mate but I never saw a second bird. He did not return in 1971.

Winter birds find our evergreen trees most attractive judging from the number we feed each winter. Their favorite food seems to be a large, opened

pine cone filled with peanut butter and then rolled in bird seed. Try it. They like it.—Mary Rantapaa, Brownsville Store, Deadwood, S. Dak.

* * * *

THE RESCUE OF A HUMMINGBIRD

—Last August as I was walking down the garden path just before sunrise I noticed a movement in the tomato patch. Upon looking, I found a tiny hummingbird entangled in a huge spiderweb. It was almost exhausted though still fluttering and so entangled it could hardly move.

I gently grasped the tiny bird with my thumb and two fingers and lifted it out of the web. Placing it in the palm of my hand I tried to remove the web and gently stroked its back, wings and entire body. When I placed it on the ground it fell over on its side so I again picked it up and stroked it. This I did several times as it fell over each time I put it down. It would peep and flutter but couldn't seem to take off. Finally, after I had put it in among the petunias I felt, rather than saw it fly away and on looking I found it was gone.

It was about one and one-half inches in length with a back of iridescent green and wings of a dark grey. The breast was speckled light and dark grey and directly under the bill were three or four ruby red feathers. The bill was about three-fourths inch in length, very sharp and pointed and black in color.

Such a tiny bit of bird life and I actually held it in the palm of my hand.
—Gwen Reher, Box 100, Highmore, S. Dak. 57345

A BLACK-THROATED SPARROW IN VERMILLION—A Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) was an almost-daily visitor to our backyard during the last two weeks of December, 1971. This beautiful bird was easily identified by the white stripes on the face, the jet-black throat, and the white on the edge of the outermost tail feathers. It was attracted to cracked corn spread on the ground and to corn in a feeder which was located less than 20 feet from our house. The bird usually came between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., although several times we did see it later in the day. It became comparatively tame and was usually unconcerned with noise and movement inside the windows, and we were able to take several pictures of it. It was smaller than the House Sparrows and they often chased it away from the corn, but on one occasion it was observed driving a Nut-hatch from the feeder. According to Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" the Black-throated Sparrow's normal winter range is the desert southwest. In spite of this it seemed to be bearing the bitter cold temperatures as well as the birds native to Vermillion winters.—Mark Wetmore, 627 Thomas Street, Vermillion, S. Dak. 57069

* * * *

HARRIS SPARROW MOVEMENT, FALL, 1971—Fall of 1971 found more Harris sparrows passing thru our yard than for several years. During the period a sparrow trap was operated to catch house sparrows. Twenty Harris' sparrows were also caught in it, banded, and released.

Observing the bands on the following days and recording the occasional returns of banded birds to the trap

promised some data on the speed of the movement through the area. A record of the leg banded for each bird gave a further difference for identification.

Return of Banded Birds to Trap

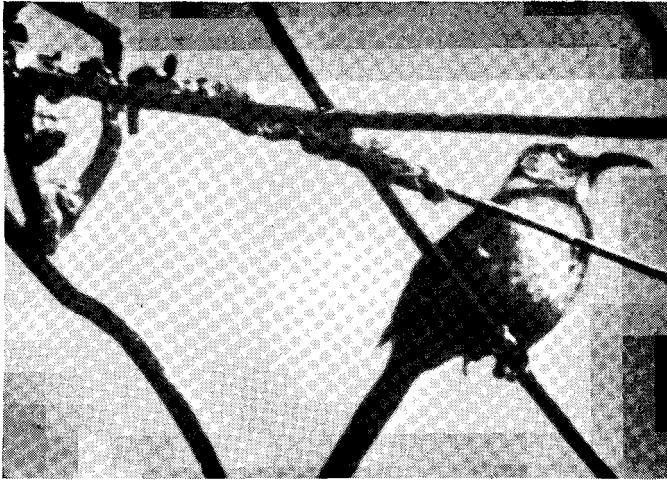
Date Banded	Date Last Return	Minimum Stay (Days)
10- 9	10-19	10
10-11	10-19	8
10-14	10-19	5
10-15	10-19	4
10-22	11- 1	10
10-27	11- 1	5

In addition to the above, two Harris' were banded on left legs and were seen daily until 11-12. The last bands placed on their left legs were applied

10-31	12
and	
11- 2	10

The first Harris' sparrow had appeared 9-28, the second 10-2, and the third 10-4. None of these were seen other days. Two appeared 10-7 and from then until 10-28, the number present daily varied from four through a maximum of 12 on 10-30, to one on 11-14, the last seen.

Thus, while there was a more or less continual movement through the yard, some individuals being seen only one day, others, amounting to eight of 20 banded, stayed longer. Of these, four lingered for a minimum of four to eight days, three for 10 days, and at least one for 12 days or more.—J. W. Johnson, Huron



Curve-Billed Thrasher

—J. W. Johnson

GREAT BLUE HERON SURVEY—At the top of the aquatic foodchain, the Great Blue Heron may well be an important indicator species. The Laboratory of Ornithology is planning a nation-wide survey of this species.

The first step will be to compile an inventory of heronries. To this end, we appeal to all persons with knowledge on this point to write to us. Information may be recent or old; detailed or sketchy. Even "I remember seeing a heronry as a boy" is helpful if the site is remembered well enough to locate on a topographic map.

We hope that this inventory will contain the exact locality of the heronry, a general description of the site, and as much history as possible. We hope that this stage of the program can be completed by the winter so that arrangements can be made for census work in the 1972 breeding season.—David B. Peakall, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, North American Nest-Record Card Program, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850

CURVE BILLED THRASHER STILL LINGERS NEAR GANN VALLEY (23:80)—The Curve-billed Thrasher that appeared at the Irving Knight ranch northwest of Gann Valley in February, 1971, was still in the same area and still at the ranch Dec. 1, 1971.

In September Mrs. Knight had thought it might have left with the Brown Thrashers with which it had associated, since it disappeared about the same time they did. It had been seen last on Sept. 14. But, on Dec. 1, she advises, the bird was back, as though it had never really left.—J. W. Johnson, Huron

SDOU Members . . .

**Mobridge Welcomes You
to the Spring Meeting
Friday, Saturday, Sunday,
June 2-3-4, 1972**

Notes from Sparks' Mini-Ranch

THIS may be the year of the rat in China but in the Hills it is the year of unpredictable weather. It has rained on and off every month, usually with snow following. We have had shirt sleeve weather at 8 a.m. and parka weather at noon. Most of the snow is gone now but by tomorrow we may have six inches.

We have hiked the snowmobile road into the hills every week all winter, always finding something new. Last week we noted two tall pines surrounded by the tips of branches suggesting that two porcupines had perched in their tops and thrown the pine tips at each other. Under other trees were deep piles of pine cones torn apart, perhaps by the squirrels. With four dogs in tow we skirt the drifts in the higher areas, climb over rocks and sometimes stop to watch the poodle bury himself in the snow before he stretches out to make angel wings as we did as children. In all our hiking we have heard or seen very few birds, an occasional crow, a few juncos, sparrows and one day a hawk sailed majestically above us. Last week we saw our first bluebirds.

The winds have been so erratic that the metal bird feeder with its six-foot pipe has been worthless. The wind has swirled the seed into the air and we will surely raise a bumper crop of sunflowers, millet and what have you if the birds don't find it on the ground. Last year we tried swinging feeders and they were even more unsatisfactory.

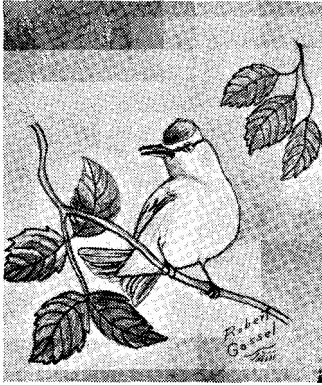
You remember the drawing of the Snowy Owl on the September, 1971 issue of "Bird Notes?" There is a beautiful picture of one in the March, 1972

"National Geographic." It is a part of an article on the Alaskan Tundra, by Paul Z. Zahl. The entire article is well worth reading as it is on birds, animals and the plans and need of saving the Alaskan Tundra for wildlife of the future.

In the Mirror of Opinion section of the "Christian Science Monitor" an article originating in the "Louisville Courier-Journal" has been printed. It is entitled, "To Save an Eagle—Save His Forest." Included in the endangered species are now one-tenth of all kinds of plants in the world. Two thousand species of plants are now on the endangered list and 817 animal species. It is time to be concerned.

After all the publicity on the eagles killed in Wyoming they are still being shot there. A special to the Monitor from Cheyenne, Wyo. tells of a mature golden eagle being found near Casper with a note tied to its leg with heavy barbed wire which read, "To the continued safety of the flocks of Wyoming, for he died that the lamps may grow," and signed, "Deadeye." Dr. Oliver K. Scott, a Casper physician who is also a cattle rancher told a Senate subcommittee in Washington last December that the figures in relation to loss of lambs by eagles have been so exaggerated as to be totally worthless. Dr. Scott, president of the Wyoming Audubon Society, said he knew of "only one reliable report of an eagle taking a lamb."

The subcommittee chairman, Sen. Gale W. McGee of Wyoming, "noted that his group had received four university level studies completed in recent years—all concluding that lamb losses



Red-eyed Vireo

to eagles were not even a minor problem."

The "Massachusetts Audubon News Letter" of January, 1972, gives us the welcome information that the Whooping Crane, North America's largest bird, on the verge of extinction in the early 1940's, has now increased its population in the wild to about 60. In addition there are 21 cranes now in captivity, most of them resulting from Whooping Crane egg pickups in the Canadian wilds, a joint venture of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service. It is hoped that eventually the descendants of these captive birds may be released into the wild to add to the cranes already there. Which proves that once the public's apathy is overcome the survival chances of our endangered species are greatly improved.

That's "30" for now.

MARCH, 1972

Notes on Four Nesting

(Continued from Page Six)

solitary vireo likes a little beauty in the otherwise pragmatic affairs of its sex life.

SUMMARY

During the breeding season of 1971, we found nests of the Brown Creeper, Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, and Solitary Vireo in the Black Hills. The brown creeper nest, in an unusual nest cavity, had successful fledging for two of seven hatched young creepers. The nest apparently is the first full record for this species in the Hills. The Swainson's thrush nest, though plagued by loss of an adult and two of three nestlings, seems to be the first record for the Black Hills involving a nest with young from which at least one bird fledged. The two Townsend's solitaire nests were of interest in their rather late incubation activity and their proximity, being separated by less than a half mile. The solitary vireo nest was located low enough to yield somewhat more elaborate nest description, including the apparent nest decoration of flower petals.

REFERENCES

- Bent, A. C. *Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers, and Their Allies*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1964.
-, *Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets, and their Allies*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1964.
-, *Life Histories of North American Wagtails, Shrikes, Vireos, and Their Allies*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1965.
- Pettingill, O. S., and Nathaniel R. Whitney, *Birds of the Black Hills*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 1965.

Spring Meeting at Mobridge

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3-4, 1972

—PROGRAM—

Friday, June 2

Registration and Social Time, Citizen Bank Social Room, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 3

Registration—Citizen's Bank, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

On Your Own Field Trips in Area

Banquet—Country Club, 6:00 p.m. Buffet, \$2.25; Program 8:00 p.m.

Registration for banquet must be made by May 27 with Swede Larson, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Mobridge, S. Dak. 57601.

Sunday, June 4

Morning Field Trips

—CAMPING ACCOMMODATIONS—

Indian Creep Camp Ground. Running Water and Showers. Located on Bank of Missouri River

—MOTELS AND HOTELS—

Brown Palace Hotel—A. G. Kohlhaas, owner. Clean, comfortable rooms, air conditioning and television. Family rates. Children under 12 free. Reasonable rates. Phone 845-3611.

Wrangler Motel—Marona Buschbom, owner. Phone 845-3641. 25 units. Overlooking Oahe Reservoir. Air conditioned. Hot water heat. Singles, doubles and family accommodations. Reasonable prices. Located on U.S. 12 west of Mobridge.

Mo-Rest Motel—Elmer and Elsie Wohl, owners. 505 West Sixth Avenue on Highway 12. Clean and comfortable units. Reasonable rates. Also weekly rates. Colored television, air conditioning and room phones. Phone 845-3668.

Oahe Motel—Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Clapsadale, owners. 506 West Sixth Avenue on Highway 12. Near the Bait Shop and across from Embers Cafe. Back of Sinclair Station. Clean, quiet and comfortable. Air conditioning, room phones and television. Hot water heat and tubs and showers combination. Reasonable rates. Also weekly rates. Phone 845-3628.

Mark Motel—Located on Highway 12, east side of Mobridge. 25 comfortable, clean, single, double and family units. Some with kitchenettes, television, phones, air conditioned. Near restaurants and downtown facilities and one-half block to Drive-Inn. Cement parking area. Coffee in rooms. Some units with showers, some units with bathtubs and showers. Travel mat host. American Express credit cards. Reasonable rates. Also weekly rates. Delores and Albert Reiger welcome you. Phone 845-3681. AMHA.

East Side Cabins and Motel—Mr. and Mrs. Herb Mertz, owners. On Highway 12, Seventh Avenue East. Kitchen facilities in all cabins. Eight modern cabins in all. Six motel units and one apartment unit with cooking in motel. Television. Reasonable rates. Also weekly rates. Phone 845-2213.

—CAFES—

Sereno Cafe—Open Seven Days

Embers Cafe—Seven Days

Arcade Bar and Grill—Closed Sundays

Country Club and Moose Club—Five Week Days