

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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

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Vol. XXIV, No. 2

JUNE, 1972

Whole No. 93

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Sharp-shinned Hawk

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## President's Page

I THINK those who attended our early summer field meeting at Moberge, S. Dak. would agree that the area was an excellent one for field trips. Since the area was also less well known ornithologically than some others, we are happy that so much more has been recorded there.

One of my own pleasures there was to have the first opportunity to announce to the S.D.O.U. something I would like to pass on to all of our readers. We now have



completed our search for a publisher for the Check-List. The W. H. Over Dakota Museum of the University of South Dakota has agreed to underwrite this project. This assurance means that final work can now be planned and

a date set as a goal for publication.

This arrangement has started some thoughts on check-lists which I will pass on to you. This Check-list will be a major accomplishment of S.D.O.U. It is truly a cooperative effort. There were contributions over the years by many to "South Dakota Bird Notes" as well as specifically to the Check-list committee; this provided a very wide base. The Check-list would not be written, however, without the countless hours of devoted effort of the commit-

tee members and their chairman, Dr. Nat Whitney. Unless one has had an opportunity to see some of the process of data accumulation, of winnowing and evaluating, and of correspondence and discussion, one will not realize how much goes into those concise species accounts. I believe the completion of the task will be something in which both S.D.O.U. and its committee can take great pride.

One danger for an organization such as ours is that of regarding the job well done as the completion of the goal of delineating the status of the birds of South Dakota. A definitive Check-list may prompt some to think that the important information has been collected. A Check-list, however, provides two types of data—a summary of the known status of each species, and also, by implication, an account of the status of the information itself. By this I mean that a check-list can be read to know which areas have been neglected, what seasonal information needs further attention, what breeding ranges are not well delineated, how adequate are the ecological data on each species, etc. If we approach the Check-list from this point of view, the Check-list will not be a summit to our accomplishment but a solid base for the continued ascent—

**B. E. Harrell**

# Spring Field-Trip Meeting

## Mobridge, S. Dak., June 2-4, 1972

L. M. Baylor, Rapid City

**C**AMPBELL, Corson, Dewey, and Walworth Counties provided the setting for SDOU's spring field-trip meeting, June 2-4, 1972, with headquarters at Mobridge. Clear, comfortable, rain-free weather enhanced the single-party field trips in the cultivated areas of Campbell and Walworth Counties and the grasslands of Corson and Dewey counties. The geophysical conditions of the Missouri River area added to the delight of SDOU members who had little previous experience in these circumstances.

SDOU'ers are indebted to hosts Swede Larson and Warren Jackson for arranging the meeting room and the banquet facilities and to President Byron Harrell for his interesting presentation on his studies of the flora and avifauna of the cloud forest in Mexico.

The numerous species observed by the field parties reinforces knowledge of late-spring and early-summer birds for this modestly studied area. But this knowledge raises questions for further investigation; for example, why were the golden eagle and chipping sparrow conspicuously absent, and why were so few Brewer's blackbirds and sparrow hawks noted?

### SPECIES LIST

#### Symbols:

Cl—species observed in Campbell County.

Cn—species observed in Corson County.

D—species observed in Dewey County.

W—species observed in Walworth County.

Eared Grebe—Cl D W

Western Grebe—Cl Cn D W

Pied-billed Grebe—Cl Cn W

White Pelican—Cn

Double-crested Cormorant—Cl Cn D

W

Great Blue Heron—Cn D W

Black-crowned Night Heron—Cl W

American Bittern—Cl W

Mallard—Cl Cn D W

Gadwall—Cl Cn D W

Pintail—Cl Cn D W

Green-winged Teal—Cl W

Blue-winged Teal—Cl Cn D W

American Widgeon—Cl Cn D W

Shoveler—Cl Cn D W

Redhead—Cl D W

Canvasback—Cl W

Lesser Scaup—Cl W

Ruddy Duck—Cl D W

Turkey Vulture—D

Red-tailed Hawk—Cl Cn W

Swainson's Hawk—Cl Cn W

Ferruginous Hawk—Cl W

Marsh Hawk—Cl Cn D W

Sparrow Hawk—Cl D

Sharp-tailed Grouse—D

Ring-necked Pheasant—Cl Cn D W

Gray Partridge—Cl W

Virginia Rail—Cl

Sora—W

American Coot—Cl Cn D W

Killdeer—Cl Cn D W

Black-bellied Plover—D (B. Harris)

Upland Plover—Cl Cn D W

Spotted Sandpiper—W

Willet—Cl D W

Lesser Yellowlegs—Cl W

White-rumped Sandpiper—Cl D W

Long-billed Dowitcher—W

- Marbled Godwit—Cl D W  
 American Avocet—Cl Cn D W  
 Wilson's Phalarope—Cl Cn D W  
 Herring Gull—Cn (W. Hall)  
 Ring-billed Gull—Cl Cn W  
 Franklin's Gull—Cl D  
 Forster's Tern—Cl W  
 Black Tern—Cl Cn D W  
 Mourning Dove—Cl Cn D W  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo—D W  
 Black-billed Cuckoo—Cl Cn D W  
 Great Horned Owl—Cl Cn  
 Burrowing Owl—Cl Cn D W  
 Long-eared Owl—W (J. Johnson)  
 Short-eared Owl—Cl Cn D W  
 Common Nighthawk—Cl Cn D W  
 Chimney Swift—W  
 Belted Kingfisher—Cl Cn D  
 Flicker (Y-s/R-s hybrids)—Cl Cn D  
**W**  
 Red-headed Woodpecker—Cl D  
 Downy Woodpecker—W  
 Eastern Kingbird—Cl Cn D W  
 Western Kingbird—Cl Cn D W  
 Great Crested Flycatcher—D  
 Eastern Phoebe—Cn  
 Say's Phoebe—Cl W  
 Traill's Flycatcher—Cl W  
 Least Flycatcher—Cl Cn W  
 Eastern Wood Pewee—D (N. Holden)  
 Horned Lark—Cl Cn D W  
 Tree Swallow—Cl W  
 Bank Swallow—Cl D  
 Rough-winged Swallow—Cl Cn W  
 Barn Swallow—Cl Cn D W  
 Cliff Swallow—Cl Cn D W  
 Purple Martin—Cl W  
 Blue Jay—Cl Cn D W  
 Black-billed Magpie—Cn D  
 Common Crow—Cl Cn W  
 Black-capped Chickadee—D W  
 House Wren—Cl Cn D W  
 Long-billed Marsh Wren—Cl W  
 Short-billed Marsh Wren—Cl (B. Summerside)  
 Rock Wren—Cn (W. Hall)  
 Catbird—Cl D W  
 Brown Thrasher—Cl Cn D W  
 Robin—Cl Cn D W  
 Eastern Bluebird—Cl Cn W  
 Cedar Waxwing—Cl W  
 Loggerhead Shrike—Cl Cn D W  
 Starling—Cl Cn D W  
 Red-eyed Vireo—Cl D W  
 Warbling Vireo—Cl W  
 Bell's Vireo—Cn (B. Harris)  
 Yellow Warbler—Cl Cn D W  
 Yellowthroat—Cl Cn D W  
 American Redstart—D W  
 House Sparrow—Cl Cn D W  
 Bobolink—Cl Cn D W  
 Western Meadowlark—Cl Cn D W  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird—Cl Cn D W  
 Red-winged Blackbird—Cl Cn D W  
 Orchard Oriole—Cl Cn D W  
 Baltimore Oriole—Cl Cn D W  
 Bullock's Oriole—Cn (B. Harris) D  
 (apparent hybrid, B. Harris)  
 Common Grackle—Cl Cn D W  
 Brewer's Blackbird—W  
 Brown-headed Cowbird—Cl Cn D W  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Cl (H. Krause, R. Nelson)  
 Black-headed Grosbeak—Cn D W  
 Blue Grosbeak—Cn  
 Lazuli Bunting—Cl W  
 Dickcissel—Cl Cn D W  
 American Goldfinch—Cl Cn D W  
 Rufous-sided Towhee—Cn D  
 Lark Bunting—Cl Cn D W  
 Savannah Sparrow—Cl Cn D  
 Grasshopper Sparrow—Cl Cn D W  
 Vesper Sparrow—Cl Cn D W  
 Lark Sparrow—Cl Cn D W  
 Clay-colored Sparrow—W  
 Field Sparrow—Cn D  
 Song Sparrow—Cl D W  
 Chestnut-collared Longspur—Cl Cn  
**D W**  
 Total species: 123

A committee of field ornithologists reviewed this species list. From knowledge of the area and typical species for the time of year, this committee thought that five reported species should not be made a part of the public

record until further evidence can be established by specimens or photographs. The compiler hopes the observers of these deleted species will understand and accept this cautious judgment.

Observers reported nesting evidence for the following species:

Western Grebe—Cl  
Mallard—Cl  
Pintail—Cl W  
Blue-winged Teal—Cl Cn W  
Marsh Hawk—Cl  
American Coot—Cl  
Mourning Dove—Cl W  
Great Horned Owl—Cl  
Flicker—Cl W  
Eastern Kingbird—Cn  
Western Kingbird—Cl W  
Horned Lark—Cl  
Barn Swallow—Cl W  
Cliff Swallow—Cl Cn W  
Black-capped Chickadee—D  
Brown Thrasher—W  
Robin—W  
Loggerhead Shrike—Cn  
Starling—W  
Bell's Vireo—Cn  
American Redstart—W  
Yellow-headed Blackbird—Cl  
Common Grackle—W

#### POSTSCRIPT TO THE SPECIES LIST

Nelda and David Holden extended their participation in the spring meeting Sunday afternoon, June 4, 1972, after the close of the species list call-off. They visited the Little Moreau River State Park in Dewey County, south of Timber Lake, and recorded the following additional species: Hairy Wood-

pecker, Wood Thrush, Black and White Warbler, Ovenbird, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

#### REGISTRATION LIST—MOBRIDGE

JUNE 2-4, 1972

Aberdeen—Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Downs, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lynch, Everett Montgomery and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Phillips.

Brookings—Dr. and Mrs. David Holden.

Clear Lake—Bruce Harris, Gordon Harris and Mark Harris.

Highmore—June Harter.

Hurley—Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Breen.

Huron—Blanche Battin, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Johnson and Mary Aberdeen Kettle.

Mobridge—Warren Jackson, Swede Larson and Stan Mack.

Pierre—Bob Summerside, Patricia Summerside and Mrs. Edith Vanderwall.

Prairie City—Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hinds.

Rapid City—Les Baylor, Don Higgins, Bruce Lehmann, Esther Serr, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Yarger and Dr. and Mrs. N. R. Whitney.

Sioux Falls—Herb Krause, Ron Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogge.

Vermillion—Dr. and Mrs. Byron Harrell.

Webster—Herman Chilson.

Yankton—Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hall.

Gillette, Wyo.—Tom Hays.

—L. M. Baylor, Rapid City

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

# Notes on Some Significant Specimens of South Dakota Birds

N. R. Whitney

**D**URING the past few years, several unusual South Dakota specimens have come to me for salvage under the terms of my collecting and salvaging permit. Since Editor Adolphson and I think that these should be recorded, I am summarizing them here.

## **GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*) NRW No. 510**

The details of the death of this bird were reported by Drewein in S.D.B.N., vol. XXI, pp. 19-20, March 1969. Subsequently B. J. Rose measured it and suspected from measurements that it might be the subspecies *Uralensis* from Siberia rather than the North American race. Therefore, I sent it, through the kindness of Tom and Carlyn Jervis, to the American Museum of Natural History for determination and for their permanent collection.

## **DUNLIN (*Erolia alpina*) NRW No. 464**

Found injured near Fort Sisseton, Marshall County, by Bruce Harris on May 17, 1969.

## **NORTHERN PHALAROPE (*Lobipes lobatus*) NRW No. 465**

Found dead in downtown Rapid City May 19, 1969, by students from the University of Minnesota at Duluth, and given to me by Dr. John Green of the Geology faculty.

## **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tricaetyly*) NRW No. 526**

Found dead near Sturgis, Meade

County, on Dec. 20, 1969 (see S.D.B.N., vol. XXII, p. 81, June 1970). Skin prepared January, 1972.

## **BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Columba fasciata*) NRW No. 509**

Found dead by George Lavina at his Meade County ranch, and reported by him at our Bison meeting in June, 1970. I prepared this specimen in 1971.

## **SAGE THRASHER**

### **(*Oreoscoptes montanus*) NRW No. 363**

Found dead by L. M. Baylor near Edgemont, Fall River County. Identity confirmed in 1968 by George M. Sutton.

## **PURPLE FINCH**

### **(*Carpodacus purpureus*) NRW 337**

Found dead near Sturgis, Meade County. Specifically identified by George M. Sutton in May 1968, thus confirming the presence of the species in the Black Hills.

## **BREWER'S SPARROW (*Spizella breweri*) NRW 407**

Found dead in Rapid City Sept. 12, 1967. Identity confirmed in May 1968 by George M. Sutton.

Except for the Gyrfalcon, all of the above specimens are still in my possession, pending a decision on permanent disposition.

## In Memoriam

Mrs. A. L. (Mary B.) Hyde died June 10, 1972, as a result of a fatal heart attack induced by the devastating flood at Rapid City during the night of June 9-10. As an SDOU member, she contributed occasional items to "Bird Notes," including her most treasured report: "Varied Thrush at Rapid City" (X:64). In recent years her observations were channeled through the seasonal reports sponsored by the Black Hills Audubon Society. In her time of greater strength and energy, she was a frequent participant in the annual SDOU meetings. Over the years she developed a private bird haven at her home in the Braeburn Addition, and birding friends and photographers were always welcome to share the delightful circumstances for observing birds.

Mary Hyde once remarked about a deceased friend: "She was a good person to know and to talk to, and perhaps a person can have no greater epitaph." SDOU members and friends echo those words as they grieve the passing and rejoice in the memory of Mary Hyde.



# South Dakota Spring Migration

April 1, 1972 - May 31, 1972

## WEATHER AND OBSERVATIONS

April rather dry, cool, and not much wind. Nearly nine inches of rain, Day County and six inches, Hyde County in May. Water levels in wetlands best in many years in eastern South Dakota. RRJ.

## SPECIES

### LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS

**Common Loon**—(15) birds from 4-4 through 5-2 in eastern South Dakota.

**Red-necked Grebe**—4-24 (1) Waubay NRW (RRJ); 4-29 (1) Aberdeen LRL; 5-2 Hutchinson County WH.

**Horned Grebe**—4-12 to 4-24 (10) Waubay through 5-16, total (15) birds.

**Eared Grebe**—4-15 to 5-3 (50) Salt Lake, Campbell County WH.

**Western Grebe**—4-13 (11) to 5-9 (40) all at Waubay NWR, RRJ; few at points over state to 5-19.

**Pied-billed Grebe**—Few from 4-4 through 5-10 at most points in the state.

**White Pelican**—4-6 (230) Lewis and Clark Lake; 4-7 (100) Meade County in flight DA; 4-10 (40) Waubay Lake BLG; 4-13 (300) near Bradley, Clark County RRJ; 4-14 Roberts County BKH; 4-15 (9) Aberdeen LRL; 4-12 (10) Pickstown, Charles Mix County BJR; 4-17 Deuel County BKH; 4-22 (50) Scatterwood Lakes, Faulk-Edmund County LRL; 5-2 (two flocks of 90 each) Hutchinson County; 5-2 (97) Douglas County WH; 4-24 (8) Vermillion, Clay County SE.

**Double-crested Cormorant**—4-5 (3), 4-9 (24), 4-12 (40), 4-21 (34), 5-1 (13), 5-19 (2) Lewis and Clark Lake, Missouri River WH; 4-10 Deuel County (40) forming colony, two on nest by

5-31 BKH; 4-13 (4), 5-19 (30) Hyde County JH; 4-6 (2) to 5-9 (150) peak Waubay NWR, EJJ; 4-7 (40) Aberdeen; 4-9 (3) Pierre; 5-7 (20) LaCreek NWR (EMS); 5-1 (1) Madison; 5-4 (7) Morgan Dam, Custer County BN.

**Great Blue Heron**—4-1 (35) nest heronry below Antelope Island, Missouri River, BJR; 4-2 (18) nest heronry, 37 individuals by 4-9, Battle Creek, Custer County BHAS; (22) birds in other sightings over state.

**Little Blue Heron**—5-12 (2) Buffalo County at side of road without binoculars by three observers (fide JH).

**Cattle Egret**—(9) birds 4-24 through period; on 4-29 at Hurley (4) bedraggled birds in rain pulling worms in cattle yard CB.

**Common Egret**—4-20 (1) Scatterwood Lakes; 4-29 (1) Waubay; 4-21 (2) Hyde County; 5-14 (6) probably nesting at Pierre BJR.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**—4-22 (8), 5-8 (3) Hyde County JH; 4-24 no apparent drop in numbers in Deuel or Roberts Counties BKH; 4-30 many in nesting colony, Scatterwood Lakes BJR; 4-29 (2) slough condition at Sand Lake, Brown County, not so good LRL; 5-4 (25) to peak of (50) by 5-9 EJJ; 5-20 (6) LaCreek NWR.

**Least Bittern**—5-22 (1) Pierre BJR.

**American Bittern**—4-30 through 5-4 (7) sightings, east river.

**White-faced Ibis**—4-23 (1) with Long-billed Curlews in irrigated field, Battle Creek, Custer County, photographed by Doris and Bob Knecht, and sighting verified 4-24 by three members of Black Hills Audubon Society. Previous sightings 5-17-70 (4) at Seavey's Lake, Rapid City.

## SWAN, GEESE AND DUCKS

**Whistling Swan**—4-6 (75) near Wau-bay NWR (RRJ).

**Giant Canada Goose**—5-10 first brood, Wau-bay RRJ; 5-19 (two adults, six young) Cactus Flats Dam, Jackson County EMS.

**Lesser Canada Goose**—4-10 Canadas, Snow and Blue began to come in so that by 4-15 nearly 6000 of which two-thirds were Snow and Blue and one-third Canada on a pond near Vermilion, Clay County SE.

**Mallard**—Common over state.

**Gadwall**—Few at Canyon Lake, Rapid City, all period.

**Pintail**—5-14 Seavey's Lake, Meade County adult with eight young LMB.

**Green-winged Teal**—4-1 (2) to 4-23 (7) at Rapid City BHAS; 4-12 (5) Wau-bay—only sighting east river.

## GROUSE AND PHEASANT

**Greater Prairie Chicken**—10 miles south of Ft. Pierre, three grounds in area, and all three audible from one place, 5-10 (four males) on one ground BJR.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**—4-23 (3) Pennington; 5-3 (1) Walworth County.

**Bobwhite**—5-21 (1) south of Burke, Gregory County near Nebraska line EMS; 5-18 heard, Vermillion KJM.

**Pheasant**—(19) birds sighted during period over state.

**Turkey**—4-1 (4) Piedmont Burn, Black Hills; 5-3 (3) Lake Louise, Hand County WH.

## CRANES AND RAILS

**Whooping Crane**—(Red List) 4-6 (24) between 5 and 6 p.m. flying 100 feet above the ground and following the White River, and not carrying their heads like Pelicans. They were seen by Wallace DeVries and his two teenage sons while driving cattle with a pickup. Checking "American Birds" from spring 1965 through 1971, most of the cranes leave Arkansas about 3-28 through the first week in April up to 35 in a group. There was one sighting 4-12-71, Hays,

Kans., of two. Do the Whoopers stay in large flocks or do they divide into smaller groups? It would seem that there should be more sightings along the way to Wood Buffalo National Park in northern Alberta. Velma DeVries said, "You'll never convince my family that they didn't see Whooping Cranes!"

**Sandhill Crane**—4-16 several small flocks heard in migration RRJ; 4-17 (4) Clark County, (15) Deuel County BJR; 4-3 (185), 4-8 (250), 4-10 (350 in four flocks), 4-14 (400), 4-15 (270), 4-23 (5) Hyde County JH; 4-7 (200) Vivian, Jones County LMB; 4-23 (8) Hurley CB.

**Virginia Rail**—5-11 (3) Pierre BJR; 5-20 (1) LaCreek NWR (EMS).

**Sora**—5-10 (2) Pierre; 4-12 (1) Wau-bay RRJ; 5-8 (1) Aberdeen.

**American Coot**—4-5 (1049) to (8183) 4-24 down to (270) 5-1 and (2) on 5-29—some grazed greedily in the grass WH; 4-13 appeared in one habitat near Highmore, Hyde County where they hadn't been for six or seven years because of low water JH; 5-4 (75) Custer County BN; 5-28 few nests near highway, Freeman, Hutchinson County, EMS; 5-29 too many on nests to count while driving in the rain along a large slough near Reliance, Lyman County EMS.

## SHOREBIRDS

**Piping Plover**—4-9 through 5-21 (14) birds, Yankton and Pierre.

**Killdeer**—Common over state.

**American Golden Plover**—5-2 (1) Aberdeen; 4-12 (50) Claire City, Roberts County RRJ; 5-11 (three flocks) Roberts County, 5-11 (1) Hamlin County BKM.

**Ruddy Turnstone**—4-27 (2) Rush Lake, Day County RRJ.

**American Woodcock**—4-1 (one specimen DOR) to conservation officer at Sisseton; 4-2 (1) Roberts County BKH; second South Dakota nest record during April by John Gates, Brookings County; 5-8 (1) Yankton County BJR.

**Common Snipe**—4-19 (8) Creek, Rapid City BG; 4-6 winnowing male Deuel County; 5-6 (5), 5-7 (3) Walworth County WH; 5-14 (2) winnowing males, Roberts County BKH.

**Long-billed Curlew**—4-8 through period—western South Dakota; 5-7 none in 100-mile drive through Meade County; 5-30 (12) close together and nesting, Rapid City RES.

**Upland Plover**—4-12 through period over the state and seem to be increasing.

**Spotted Sandpiper**—4-30 through 5-20 few from all state observers.

**Solitary Sandpiper**—4-7 through 5-10 (3) sightings in eastern South Dakota.

**Willet**—4-20 through period, (23) birds over the state.

**Greater Yellowlegs**—4-9 (12) to 4-11 (13) Hyde County JHH through 4-29—total (35) over state.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**—4-10 to 4-23 (8) Hyde County through 5-20—total (19) birds over state.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**—4-18 (10) Waubay; 5-2 (1) Aberdeen; 5-10 (1) Pierre.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—4-15 (1) Aberdeen; 5-10 (1) Pierre.

**Blue-winged Teal**—Common all over state.

**Cinnamon Teal**—4-2 (1) Pierre; 4-11, 5-23, 5-25 first time in Hyde County JH.

**American Widgeon**—5-14 (2) last at Canyon Lake, Rapid City.

**Shoveler**—5-4 (75) Custer County BN; 5-19 (20) Cactus Flats Dam, Jackson County. Common over state.

**Wood Duck**—4-16 (one pair) Hurley CB; 4-9 nest at Farm Island, Missouri River BJR; 5-2 (one pair), 5-15 (two males) Vermillion KJH; 5-6 (1) Aberdeen; 5-15, 5-16 (1), 5-19 (3) L&C Lake WH.

**Redhead**—4-1 (9) Canyon Lake to 4-5 (10) L&C Lake to 5-6 (35) Sand Lake, Campbell County WH to 5-20 (four pair) Hyde County JH.

**Ring-necked Duck**—4-1 through 5-8

over state, total (26) birds over state.

**Canvasback**—4-13 (10) Waubay NWR; 5-8 (1) Lake Andes, Charles Mix County WH.

**Greater Scaup**—4-22 (one pair) carefully identified at 20 yards with binoculars and Lesser Scaup for comparison at Lake Alice, Deuel County BKH.

**Lesser Scaup**—4-1 (7) to 5-10 (10) down to 5-14 Canyon Lake; 4-4 (43) L&C Lake WH.

**Common Goldeneye**—Last date 4-10 Hurley CB.

**Bufflehead**—Few 4-1 through 5-12 for entire state.

**Ruddy**—4-5 to 4-24 (10) L&C to 5-6 (110) Salt Lake, Campbell County WH to 5-23 (five pairs) Hyde County.

**Hooded Merganser**—4-10 (one pair) Hurley CB; 4-5 (1) Aberdeen; 4-25 (1f.) Deuel County BKH.

**Red-breasted Merganser**—4-5 (2), 4-20 (1) L&C WH; 5-29 (1f.) Pierre BJR.

#### HAWKS AND EAGLES

**Turkey Vulture**—4-12 (1) Rapid City GRB; averaged one sighting per week along edge of Black Hills from Rapid City to Sturgis BHAS; 4-7 (3) Bad Lands roost CY; 4-26 (1) Waubay—first in 10 years BLG; 4-13 (3) first in Hyde County JH; 4-12 (30) north of Pickstown BJR; 4-30 (15) Pierre BJR.

**Goshawk**—4-3 on nest near Nemo, Black Hills (Forest Service).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**—4-4 (1), 5-6 (1) Aberdeen LRL, BJR.

**Cooper's Hawk**—4-21 (1) clung to the screen door on the porch of G. L. DeFord, Rapid City. Rabbits under the porch were probably the reason the bird stayed almost continuously from 3 p.m. until dark (photographed); 4-10, 5-15 (1) Roberts County BKH.

**Red-tailed Hawk**—(8) sightings in state; 5-4 (2) nests, Custer County BN; 5-4, 5-16 (2) nests Deuel County BKH.

**Harlan's Hawk**—4-2 (1) Roberts County BKH; 4-4 (1) Aberdeen; 4-30 (1) Pierre.

**Broad-winged Hawk**—4-19 (4) singles

to 5-11 (15) Pierre.

**Swainson's Hawk**—4-9 through period (13) singles; 5-23 (1) perched on prairie dog mound, Rapid City BHAS.

**Ferruginous**—4-23 (1), 5-23 (1) Hyde County JH; 5-19 (1) Cheyenne River, EMS; 5-20 (2) Harding County DA; 5-26 (1) Highmore, Hyde County LRL.

**Golden Eagle**—4-11 (1) on nest, Bad Lands DA; 5-4 (2) young in nest Fairburn BN; 4-26 (1) Mud Butte, Meade County NRW.

**Bald Eagle**—4-1 to 4-7 (13) feeding on winter killed fish, Rush Lake, Day County RRJ; 5-4 (1) Canyon Lake; 5-15 (1) Aberdeen; 5-21 (1) Cedar Pass, Bad Lands, CY.

**Marsh Hawk**—4-2 (1) Hot Springs, Fall River County, 4-9 (6) Battle Creek, Custer County; 4-23 (4) Pennington County, 4-23 (2) Elk Creek, Meade County, 5-7 (7) Meade County, 5-18 (1) Pennington County, 5-20 (2) LaCreek NWR; 5-20 (2) Pennington BHAS; 4-9 (2) in 43 miles, Hyde County JH; 4-21 (1) Pierre.

**Osprey**—4-11 (1) Rapid City; 5-11 (1) Deuel County; 5-3 (1) Rapid City LMB; 4-10 (1) Pierre; 4-24 (1) L&C; 5-6 (1) Roberts County BKM.

**Prairie Falcon**—4-16 (1) Seavey's, Meade County TH.

**Pigeon Hawk**—4-30 Aberdeen (1); 5-21 (1) Pierre.

**Sparrow Hawk**—4-2 (2), 4-9 (11), 4-23 (6) Pennington County; 4-18 (20) migration wave near Pine Ridge, Bennett County DA, 4-23 (7) Meade County 4-24 (4) Battle Creek, Custer County BHAS; 4-9 (3) in 43-mile drive, Hyde County JH; 5-13 (28) in 20 miles, Day and Codington Counties RRJ. Very scarce at Rapid City by the end of the period.

**Baird's Sandpiper**—4-9 (6), 4-11 (two flocks of 20 each), 4-23 (11) Hyde County JH; 5-29 (40), 5-30 (70) Volin, Yankton County WH.

**Least Sandpiper**—4-9 (1) Aberdeen; 5-10 (1) Pierre.

**Dunlin**—5-4 (1) Grant County, 5-20 (3) Roberts County BKH; 5-8 (1) Aberdeen.

**Long-billed Dowitcher**—4-29 (14) Vermillion KJH; 4-30 Hand County NRW; 5-5 (1) Aberdeen; 5-12 (8), 5-23 (2) Hyde County JH.

**Marbled Godwit**—4-24 (2), 5-23 (1) Hyde County; 4-24 (2) Waubay; 4-30 (4) Wessington, Beadle County NRW; 5-4 (1) Morgan Dam, Custer County BN.

**Hudsonian Godwit**—4-23 (15) Big Stone Lake, Roberts County RRJ; 4-13 (1) Aberdeen; 4-30 (4) regular migrant through Beadle County NRW.

**Sanderling**—4-9 (9) birds to peak on 5-29 (40 each) Volin, Yankton County WH and Pierre BJR.

**American Avocet**—4-23 to 5-5 (47) Dewey County WH through 5-11 over the state.

**Wilson's Phalarope**—4-24 to 4-30 (18 female, one male) Pierre BJR to 5-7 (42) Campbell County WH over the state, total (85) birds.

**Northern Phalarope**—5-8 (1) Aberdeen LRL.

#### GULLS, DOVES AND CUCKOOS

**Glaucous Gull**—4-2 (1), 5-10 (1) Pierre, BJR.

**Herring Gull**—4-30 (5) Pierre NRW; 4-4 through 4-29 (one immature), 5-13 (two immatures) Deuel County (late migrants) BKH; 5-29 (14) Pierre BJR.

**Ring-billed Gull**—4-5 (100) Bear Butte DA; 4-8 L&C Lake WH; 5-29 (11) Pierre BJR.

**Franklin's Gull**—4-8 to 4-30 (228) and 5-30 (275) L&C Lake; total about 1000 east river.

**Bonaparte's Gull**—4-8 (1), 4-21 (2) L&C; 4-22 (1) Deuel County; 4-30 (1) Pierre, BJR, NRW.

**Forster's Tern**—4-21 (1), 5-16 (14) L&C; 5-20 (5) LaCreek; 4-30 (2) below Oahe Dam, Pierre, NRW; 4-24 (1) Aberdeen; 5-23 (1) Hyde County.

**Common Tern**—4-10 (1) Waubay; 4-

29 (1) Aberdeen; 5-19 (1) Yankton County.

**Least Tern**—5-19 (1) L&C; 5-21 (1) Pierre.

**Black Tern**—4-10 through 5-20 over state—total (34).

**Mourning Dove**—5-8 ground nest near Yankton where trees are abundant BJR. Common over state.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**—5-29 (1) specimen given to NRW, Rapid City.

## OWLS

**Screech Owl**—5-13 Aberdeen LRL.

**Great Horned Owl**—4-10 (1) Belle Fourche IW. 5-3 nest, two downy young, Philip, Haakon County, 5-4 nest, two young, Fairburn, 5-20 nest, one young LaCreek BHAS; 5-2 (2) Lake Louise, Hand County, 5-8 (1) Lake Platte, Charles Mix County, 5-3 (1) Walworth County WH; 5-25 fledging, Vermillion KJH.

**Snowy Owl**—4-13 (1) Hyde County . . . "the largest and whitest the observer had ever seen." JH; 4-13 (1) Waubay RRJ.

**Burrowing Owl**—4-15 (1) Aberdeen; 5-4 (1), 5-6 (2) Campbell County WH; 5-9 (1), 5-20 (2) same place, 5-23 (1) another part of Hyde County JH; 5-10 (1) Pierre.

**Long-eared Owl**—4-10 specimen (DOR), Deuel County BKH.

**Short-eared Owl**—1972 is the year for the Short-eared Owls . . . 4-14 Waubay (1); 4-20 (1) Aberdeen; 4-19 (1) Wall with prey DA; 4-26 (2) Cottonwood, Jackson County NRW; 5-8 (1) Vermillion KJH; 5-14 nest, four young banded, Pennington; 5-4 (1) I-90, New Underwood LMB; 5-23 nest, four young, Butte County LMB; 5-27 nest, five young banded, Pennington RES; 5-27 (10) in about a four-mile square area, Rapid City BHAS; 5-28 (4) Cottonwood NRW; 5-3 (6) Walworth County; 5-5 (4) Dewey County 5-30 (1) Walworth County WH; 5-21 (3) Harding County, 5-28 (1) Lyman County DA.

**GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND KINGFISHER**  
**Common Nighthawk**—5-19 through 5-22 arrival over state.

**Chimney Swift**—5-4 to 5-17 arrival over state.

**White-throated Swift**—4-22 (6), 4-23 (30) Canyon Lake BHAS.

**Belted Kingfisher**—4-6 to 4-18 arrival date over state.

## WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-shafted Flicker**—4-1 to 4-10 Pierre and Waubay.

**Hybrid Flicker**—Daily in Rapid City; peak 5-4 when they seemed everywhere in Red Rock Canyon, Rapid City TM.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—4-20 through 5-22 arrival date over state.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—4-3 through 4-11 arrival for east river; nesting for fourth year along Big Stone Lake, Roberts County BKH.

**Hairy and Downy Woodpecker**—Daily at Rapid City and several sightings at Yankton.

## FLYCATCHERS, LARKS AND SWALLOWS

**Eastern Kingbird**—4-11 through 5-17 arrival at all points—too numerous to count.

**Western Kingbird**—4-30 through 5-5 arrival at points east river; 5-18 few sightings in Black Hills.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**—5-19 (1) Aberdeen; 5-22 (1) Pierre.

**Eastern Phoebe**—4-14 (1) Waubay; 5-6 (1) Aberdeen; 5-14 (1) BJR.

**Say's Phoebe**—4-30 (1) Seavey's BG; 4-27 (1) Pierre.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**—5-8 (1) Aberdeen; 5-14 (1) Yankton; 5-19 specimen, Deuel County, 5-26 (3) Roberts County in different areas BKH.

**Traill's Flycatcher**—5-1 (1) Aberdeen; 5-10 Hyde County.

**Least Flycatcher**—5-1 through 5-16 arrival date over state.

**Western Flycatcher**—5-31 (1) Rapid City NRW.

**Eastern Wood Pewee**—5-6 Hyde County 5-21 (1) Aberdeen.

**Western Wood Pewee**—5-5, 5-18, 5-31 singles Rapid City.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**—Specimen Deuel County 5-23 BKH.

**Horned Lark**—5-7 about four per mile near Rapid City which is low in number; six per mile, Meade County; 5-18 (2) Yankton WH.

**Violet-green Swallow**—4-23 too numerous to count, Canyon Lake; none at other points.

**Tree Swallow**—4-14 through 5-4 all points over state.

**Bank Swallow**—4-29 through 5-20 at Aberdeen, Madison and Yankton.

**Rough-winged Swallow**—4-26 through 5-10 arrival for most points over state.

**Barn Swallow**—4-12 (200) Waubay, general migration RRJ; after 4-30 too numerous to count over state.

**Cliff Swallow**—5-6 Aberdeen through 5-19 hundreds under bridges on I-90 Pennington and Jackson Counties as well as all points in the state.

**Purple Martin**—4-11 through 5-5 all points east river.

#### CORVIDAE

**Blue Jay**—5-14 (10) Hyde County, 5-29 (1) juvenile, Yankton WH; at all points in state.

**Black-billed Magpie**—Daily around Rapid City, Cheyenne River, Wasta; 4-12 (1) Yankton, Lyman and Gregory Counties WH.

**Common Crow**—Common in state.

**Pinon Jay**—Daily flocks from 18 to 60 at edge of Black Hills, 5-4 dive-bombed observers, 5-25 young flying well (30 adults, 15 immature) TH.

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

**Black-capped Chickadee**—Daily at Rapid City feeding stations, adults feeding each other, paired for nesting BHAS; 4-2 (1), 5-19 (2) Yankton.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—5-14 (1), 4-10 Yankton.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—5-4 (2) Ra-

pid City TH; 5-10 (1) Aberdeen.

**Brown Creeper**—4-10 (7), 4-12, 4-14, 5-1 (one each) Hyde County; 4-16 singing in Black Hills TH.

**Dipper**—5-11 (2) feeding young, 5-19 (4) downy young show in nest, Thunderhead Falls, Black Hills TH, DK.

**House Wren**—4-20 through 5-7 arrival over state.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**—5-12 Pierre BJR; 5-20 (4) and one nest LaCreek NWR (EMS).

**Short-billed Marsh Wren**—5-4 (1) Deuel County—good view and early BKH.

**Rock Wren**—4-18 (1) Rapid City NRW.

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

**Catbird**—5-10 through 5-19 arrival over state.

**Brown Thrasher**—4-24 last date for bird that wintered in Rapid City EAS; 4-20 through 4-30 arrival over state; 5-2 (six pair) in 25 miles, Hyde County JH.

**Robin**—Common over state in good number.

**Hermit Thrush**—4-10 through 5-13 singles, Aberdeen, Yankton, Rapid City, and Waubay.

**Swainson's Thrush**—4-27 through 5-6 arrival at all points over state.

**Wood Thrush**—4-18 through 4-20 Yankton (few).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**—4-23 through 5-11 few at all points over state.

**Veery**—4-21 (1) Aberdeen LRL, 5-14 (1) Aberdeen BJR.

**Eastern Bluebird**—5-21 Pierre; 5-1 Hyde County; 4-1 Hurley; 5-27 Cresbard (singles).

**Mountain Bluebird**—4-11 through 5-19 (26) in eight sightings in Black Hills BHAS.

**Townsend's Solitaire**—4-16 (one pair) higher Black Hills, 5-17 (1) Rapid City BHAS.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—4-10 through 4-13 (4) in two sightings, Hyde County JH.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—4-11 through 5-13 (13) birds total for most points in state.

**Water Pipit**—4-27 Aberdeen.

**Cedar Waxwing**—4-1 small flocks, Pierre; 4-1 through 5-19 flocks 10 to 20 Hyde County JH; 4-23 (3) Hurley; 4-6 Cresbard; using spruce tree for roost 4-6 through 4-25 (about 60), 4-28 courtship, flocks of 20 to 40 all during period, Rapid City BHAS; 4-5 through 5-11 flocks five to 27 Yankton County, 5-5, 5-6 (6) Mobridge WH.

#### **SHRIKES, STARLINGS AND VIREOS**

**Loggerhead Shrike**—4-9 through period at Rapid City, (two to six) every field trip, 5-7 averaged one per five miles for 100 miles through Meade County BHAS; 5-2, 5-7 (11), 5-8 singly or in pairs, Yankton WH; 4-22 through 5-9 (3) singles, Hyde County JH.

**Starling**—5-1 first time to be seen in Nameless Cave Road, Black Hills, G. L. DeFord.

**Bell's Vireo**—5-21 (1) Pierre; 5-10 Aberdeen; 5-29 (one pair) Yankton WH.

**Yellow-throated Vireo**—5-13 (1) Yankton; 5-16 Deuel County, 5-17, 5-26 (1) Roberts County BKH.

**Solitary Vireo**—5-13 (1) Yankton; 5-14 (4) Rapid City TH.

**Red-eyed Vireo**—5-16 through 5-27 arrival at all points in state.

**Warbling Vireo**—5-16 through 5-22 arrival at all points in state.

#### **WARBLERS**

**Black and White**—5-1 through 5-14 (15) individuals east river.

**Tennessee**—5-12 (1) Yankton; 5-13 (2) Hyde County.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—4-17 through 5-15 at all points over state; 5-9 heavy stream at Rapid City NRW; poor migration, Deuel County BKH.

**Nashville**—5-18 (4) Rapid City BG.

**Yellow**—5-6 through 5-21 at all points in state.

**Magnolia**—5-11 through 5-19 few at all east river points.

**Cape May**—5-11 (1) Aberdeen LRL; 5-14 (1) Aberdeen BJR; 5-16 (one young male) Deuel County BKH.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**—5-16 (one female) Deuel County, unusual for spring BKH.

**Myrtle**—4-18 through 5-6; heavy migration at Rapid City—5-4 (20) catching flies, 5-6 (300) Canyon Lake, 5-7 (100) too many by 5-16, few through period BHAS.

**Audubon's**—4-20 through 5-20, small numbers, Rapid City.

**Chestnut-sided**—5-11 (1) Yankton; 5-21 (3) Deuel County.

**Bay-breasted**—5-24 Aberdeen LRL.

**Blackpoll**—5-1 through 5-15 (total seven) from Pierre, Hyde County, Aberdeen, Yankton, Cresbard, Rapid City.

**Palm**—5-5 Aberdeen LRL, 5-14 (17) Aberdeen BJR; 5-8 (1) Waubay; 5-12 (one male) Yankton.

**Ovenbird**—5-11 through 5-19 most points east river.

**Northern Waterthrush**—5-6 through 5-15 most points east river.

**Mourning**—5-13 (1) Hyde County; 5-15 (1) Yankton.

**MacGillivray's**—5-29 (1) banded, Pierre BJR.

**Yellowthroat**—4-28 through 5-19 arrival over state; nesting in Hyde County.

**Yellow-breasted Chat**—5-19 through 5-29 (3) birds, Rapid City, Hyde County, Pierre.

**Wilson's**—5-5 Aberdeen LRL, 5-14 (1) Aberdeen BJR; 5-13 through 5-19 (1) Hyde County JH.

**Canada**—5-6 Aberdeen; 5-17 Deuel County, 5-18 Brookings County BKH.

**American Redstart**—5-10 through 5-18 arrival over state; 5-18 (12) Rapid City.

#### **HOUSE SPARROW, BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS**

**House Sparrow**—Decreasing, Yankton WH.

**Bobolink**—5-14 (19) Aberdeen BJR

through 5-29 (8) Seavey's, Meade County NRW and most points.

**Eastern Meadowlark**—5-20 LaCreek NWR, several in with Western EMS.

**Western Meadowlark**—Common in state with increase in Hyde County and around Rapid City.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**—4-12 through 4-24 arrival over state; 5-6 (230) near three lakes in Walworth and Campbell Counties WH.

**Red-winged Blackbird**—Common over state.

**Orchard Oriole**—5-17 through 5-21 (18) birds sighted over state; 5-23 (three pair) Hyde County JH.

**Baltimore Oriole**—4-30 through 5-12 arrival over the state.

**Bullock's Oriole**—5-16 (1) through 5-20, 5-31 nest on Box Elder Creek, Rapid Creek, Rapid City BHAS.

**Brewer's Blackbird**—4-24 Custer County, 4-30 (1), 5-14 (1) Rapid City, BHAS.

**Common Grackle**—Very common through state.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—4-16 arrival, total (60) birds—greatest concentration west of Missouri River, Brule County WH and Hyde County JH.

**Western Tanager**—5-11 (1) banded, Pierre, BJR; 5-17 (2), 5-31 Rapid City BHAS.

**Scarlet Tanager**—5-15 (1) Vermillion KJH; 5-21 (1) Hyde Co. JH.

#### SPARROWS AND FINCHES

**Cardinal**—4-1 (1) Vermillion KJH; 4-1 (1) Pierre BJR; (one pair) almost every day during April and May, Yankton WH; calling male, Deuel County BKH.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—5-4 (4) Madison RB; 5-5 (1) Vermillion KJH; 5-10 (2) Pierre; 5-10 (1) through 5-17 Hyde County JH; 5-10 (1) Aberdeen; 5-8 (3), 5-12 (5), 5-13 (4), 5-15 (2), 5-17 (1) Yankton, WH, BJR; 5-12 (8) eating corn and seed, total (16) in two days, Huron, "never seen so many in 30 years." JWJ; 5-13 (4), 5-18 (1), 5-20

(1) Rapid City; 5-13, 5-14 (1) Belle Fourche IW. (Unusual invasion over state.)

**Black-headed Grosbeak**—5-8 (1) Pierre; 5-12 singles almost daily through 5-31 Rapid City BHAS.

**Indigo Bunting**—5-18 (1), 5-29 (1) Rapid City, 5-20 (1) Tuthill, Bennett County BHAS; 5-31 (1) Pierre BJR; 5-19 (1) Aberdeen LRL.

**Lazuli Bunting**—5-5 through 5-16 (12) Rapid City; 5-11 (1) Hyde County JH.

**Dickcissel**—5-16 (8) Volin, Yankton County WH; 5-20 (6) to a mile, Madison RB; 5-22 (40) Aberdeen LRL.

**Evening Grosbeak**—4-1 (3), 4-12 pairs showing, females fighting, 4-26 flocks of 20, 5-1 fewer in number but daily through 5-16, Rapid City BHAS.

**Purple Finch**—Almost daily through 4-19—two or three, Rapid City, BHAS.

**Pine Siskin**—4-1 Aberdeen; 4-4 few to 4-18 flock of 25 to 30 through 4-30, then down to few by 5-13, Rapid City, BHAS.

**American Goldfinch**—4-11 (12) two bright yellow plumage, 5-8 through 5-13 (100's) Rapid City, G. L. DeFord; 5-17 (100) Hyde County, and a few at most points over state.

**Red Crossbill**—4-22 too numerous to count, higher Black Hills, 5-16 (15), Rapid City.

**Rufous-sided Towhee**—4-14 through 4-26 arrival dates over state.

**Lark Bunting**—5-4 through 5-9 arrival over middle and western South Dakota; 5-7 (35) males bunched on fences, Ziebach County EMS; 5-18 (200) Rapid City, TM.

**Savannah Sparrow**—4-30 specimen, Hand County NRW; 4-25 (1) Custer County; 5-18 (1) Rapid City TM; 5-5 (1) Dewey County WH; 4-30 Pierre; 4-22 (2) Hyde County; 4-29 Aberdeen.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—5-12 (1) Rapid City, 5-28 Cottonwood NRW; 5-19 Hyde County, 5-16 Aberdeen.

**Baird's Sparrow**—5-16 (1) Philip, Haakon County singing BJR; 5-28 Aber-



deen; 4-12 Cresbard HWW.

**Vesper Sparrow**—4-16 singles 5-18 (7) to singles at end of period, Rapid City; 4-16 Aberdeen; 4-30 Pierre.

**Lark Sparrow**—4-30 Pierre; 5-4 (six to 10) to 5-20 (60) Cheyenne River, Wasta, BHAS; 5-19 (1) Hyde County; 5-31 (1) Strandburg, Grant County RRJ.

**White-winged Junco**—4-16 few through 5-12, Rapid City.

**Oregon Junco**—4-6 through 4-22 few, Rapid City.

**Slate-colored Junco**—4-1 through 4-14 concentration, Rapid City NRW; 4-8 (12), 4-12 (15), 4-13 (70) in two flocks, 4-14 (30), 4-19 (10), 4-23 (6) Hyde County JH; few at Cresbard, Pierre, and Yankton.

**Tree Sparrow**—Few to 5-13 Rapid City; 4-7 (7) Yankton, 4-7 (20) to 4-12 (100) down to 4-20 Hyde County JH.

**Chipping Sparrow**—4-12 Aberdeen, 4-25 (100) to 5-8 too numerous to count down to 5-11 (50) Rapid City; 4-25 small flocks, Pierre; none at Cresbard (unusual); 5-10 (75) Hyde County; small flocks, Waubay, Madison and Yankton.

**Clay-colored Sparrow**—4-27 (few) through 5-9 too numerous to count until 5-19, Rapid City; 4-30 many, Pierre; smaller flocks Cresbard, Aberdeen Hyde County, Waubay, Yankton and Dewey County.

**Field Sparrow**—4-21 Pierre; 4-26 Aberdeen.

**Harris' Sparrow**—4-23 last date for (1) that stayed all winter in Rapid City EAS; 4-7 through 5-16 arrival over state; 5-5 (10), 5-6 (15), 5-8 (20), 5-10 (30) to 5-14 (15) Hyde County; few at most other points.

**White-crowned Sparrow**—4-11 through 5-16 arrival over state; 5-4 (40) to 5-13 too numerous to count, Rapid City; 5-5 (17) Mobridge WH; 5-10 Belle Fourche IW.

**White-throated Sparrow**—4-17 through 5-16 arrival all points in state.

**Fox Sparrow**—5-4 (1) Campbell County WH.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—4-15 through 5-15 arrival at all points over state.

**Song Sparrow**—4-8 through 5-19 from all points over state; 4-19 (29), 4-24 (12) Rapid City BG.

**Lapland Longspur**—4-28 (1) Vermillion KJH.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**—4-24 through 5-14 Rapid City; 4-27 Pierre, 4-6 (many) Hyde County; 4-19 (3) Waubay RRJ.

#### REPORTERS

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Susan Eberly, Vermillion, Clay County, S. Dak. SE.

Karolyn J. Hoover, Vermillion, Clay

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## *General Notes of Special Interest*

**HOARY REDPOLLS AT WAUBAY REFUGE**—During the past two winters Hoary Redpolls were occasionally seen at the refuge feeding station. Our first observation occurred on March 20, 1971; the second on March 6, 1972. Both sightings were of single birds in small flocks of Common Redpolls. In both instances the birds were observed with 7x35 binoculars from a distance of 20 feet and identification confirmed by other members of the refuge staff.—Robert R. Johnson, Refuge Manager

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**SOUTHERN BLACK HILLS OBSERVATIONS**—Feb. 7, 1972, Stone Quarry Canyon, 12 Pinon Jays and two Hairy Woodpeckers; Feb. 8, 1972, Cascade Creek, three Robins; Feb. 15, 1972, Middle Nugget, five Turkeys; Skull Gulch, four Golden Eagles feeding on a dead fawn and one mature Bald Eagle feeding on a dead fawn; Feb. 26, 1972, Horse Creek, 42 Crows; Feb. 9, 1972, Pleasant Valley (south of Custer), three Mountain Bluebirds. Red Crossbills, Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches were present during the winter on Deer Mountain, Elk Mountain and Cicero Peak.—Fred Wild, Custer

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**GOSHAWK NEST IN BLACK HILLS**—On March 21, 1972, Jim Furnish was administering a timber sale on the Nemo District south of Middle Boxelder Creek when a Goshawk passed near his head. The bird came within five feet of Jim who took cover behind a tree. His description of the large pronounced eye stripe identified the bird as a Goshawk. The bird perched approximately 50 feet from him and gave several distress calls.

I went with Jim to the area on March 27, 1972, when we found a newly started nest 30 feet above the ground in the crotch of a forked pine. The sticks were pine branches with usnea on them. The sticks were stacked about one foot deep. The pine was on a north exposure and was marked for cutting. We did not see the hawk during the morning. We removed the marking paint from the tree and discussed the situation with the timber contractor. He said he would keep his operation out of the small pocket and try not to disturb the nesting area.—Fred Wild, Custer

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**RUFFED GROUSE AT GRIZZLY CREEK, BLACK HILLS**—When I heard the distant drumming, I walked rapidly toward the sound, thinking it was some distance away. I stepped into a small opening at the edge of aspen to see an indignant ruffed grouse walking away from me. I quickly turned and walked away from the area. After 20 minutes, he resumed drumming. This time I dropped to my stomach and crawled through the pine needles. I moved only when he drummed.

When I spotted him, I kept a stump between myself and him until I was within 20 feet of the drum log. He had chosen a 16-inch pitch pine log 30 feet in length for the performance. The log was the largest and most solid of several available. The opening created by the fallen log was approximately one-eighth acre with aspen and spruce in the vicinity.

When perched on the log, he drummed at three to six-minute intervals. Wings beat slowly up to a dozen times before developing the crescendo. At the climax of the drumming, it seemed

reasonable that he would be in flight, yet he remained on the log with feet relaxed.

No female was present and the male did not display a fan. Neck feathers were extended, appearing as miniature horns on each side of the neck. Once he appeared tired of drumming and jumped from the log to peck and scratch at kinnikinick. He returned, always facing the sun and body at right angle to the log.

I watched for 45 minutes and then returned the way I had entered, leaving the grouse and his stage undisturbed.—Fred Wild, Custer

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**UNUSUAL NUMBERS OF SCOTERS IN DEUEL COUNTY—SPECIMEN FOR SURF SCOTER**—During October, 1971 I observed scoters in Deuel County on three separate dates: Oct. 17, Oct. 25 and Oct. 27. There were at least five, and possibly nine individuals involved in these sightings. All birds were immatures or females.

On Oct. 17 I found four scoters swimming in rough water on the east side of Lake Alice, located two miles east of Tunerville. The birds were bobbing about more than 200 yards from shore, but with the 15 power spotting scope I could easily identify them as scoters, and was also able to make out the two white patches on the side of the head, thus eliminating the possibility that they were American Scoters. Although the birds were observed for some time with the spotting scope, I could not see a white wing patch on any of the birds, and they continued moving away from me all the time they were observed. Knowing that the white wing patch is not always discernible even under good conditions, I assumed that the birds were most likely White-winged Scoters, the species most often seen in South Dakota. I had observed a fine male White-winged Scoter at Lake Alice on May 1, 1971, and there

are 19 other South Dakota records for the species, most of them being kill records.

On Oct. 25, I was driving along the trail that borders Lake Alice on the south and east, when an immature scoter was spotted swimming quite close to shore with a mixed group of waterfowl. I stalked the bird carefully, but it was out of range for me when I got down to the shore. But it did fly off a short distance, and I saw the wing pattern distinctly—there was no white wing bar, and this, with the two white face patches, identified it as a Surf Scoter, a species for which we have only four other South Dakota records. The bird appeared to be crippled in one wing.

Moving along the east side of the lake to a point about three-fourths mile north of the location where I had observed the crippled scoter, I was quite surprised to find another scoter. Conditions were ideal for stalking, with plenty of cover and only a slight breeze. I was able to take the bird quite easily, noting with a good deal of satisfaction that it was also a Surf Scoter—again an immature or female. So there were at least two Surf Scoters on Lake Alice on this date. I wondered if they were part of the group of four birds observed on Oct. 17.

On Oct. 27 I drove down to the north shore of Lake Alice on a chilly, very foggy morning, with little wind stirring the water. There I was amazed to find a group of three scoters rather close in to shore. These birds were also in immature plumage. They flew off into the fog before I could get out to observe them with binoculars, and I have no idea whether they had the white wing bar or not. But it appeared by now that there were at least five individual scoters on Lake Alice, with a good possibility that nine birds had been present. It was interesting to read in "American Birds" (formerly

"Audubon Field Notes") vol. 26:78 that Surf Scoters were observed in Alberta during October of 1971, and the first two specimens for North Dakota were also taken during October, 1971. Nelda Holden drove up to Lake Alice with me in the afternoon, as I hoped to have another observer see the scoters. But, as often happens, the weather had turned very mean, with cold, strong winds and threatening snow. We could not drive around the muddy roads, and found no scoters. It was the beginning of a widespread storm that moved many birds south.

Lake Alice is a large, shallow lake, about two miles long and nearly one-half mile wide. It attracts a large variety of waterfowl during spring and fall migrations, and is especially good for readhead, canvasback and other divers, as well as for geese.—Bruce Harris, Altamont

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**BREEDING SEASON DISTRIBUTION FOR THE COMMON SNIPE IN DEUEL COUNTY**—Snipe are rather common during the breeding season in Deuel County, and undoubtedly nest in the area, although I have been unable to pin down a definite breeding record. In 1971 I located at least eight "winnowing" male snipe in eight widely separated localities in Deuel County. The first courting male was heard on May 9, with display still occurring on August 20. It's possible that 1971 was particularly favorable in Deuel County, but I suspect that the birds are here each year, and in the same numbers, as the habitat is ideal, according to accounts in the literature. This can be checked during the summer of 1972.

On June 6 my two boys assisted me in searching for a nest around a small wetland near the Crystal Springs Ranch, where I had heard a winnowing snipe regularly. Although we flushed a snipe from the area on three occasions during the search period, and its

actions indicated a mate or nest was nearby, we could find no nest. But son Mark came up with a Sora Rail nest containing nine eggs, so the time was well spent.

On June 18 a bird flushed out ahead of me on the Crystal Springs Public Shooting Area, an area just one mile west of the location described above. This bird went into a definite "crippled wing" act, with all the vocalizations one might expect, but again I could locate neither nest nor young. More puzzling was the fact that I had never heard nor seen snipe at this particular locality, although I had gone to the area on two occasions to listen for snipe, and had visited the area repeatedly during the months of May and June, as there is a small fish rearing pond on this public shooting area and the snipe first flushed from the edge of the rearing pond, which had been flooded only 10 days previous! I can only guess that a female had moved into the area immediately after the pond was drained, and had established a nest—possibly a second nesting attempt.

The 1971 records tend to confirm my observations in other counties (see vol. 1 28:52) regarding the distribution of snipe during the breeding season in South Dakota. I am sure that further investigations will show that snipe occur throughout the northeastern counties, and probably in all counties bordering North Dakota. Although the courtship display, or winnowing, is a distinct bird call that cannot be missed once one is familiar with it, the bird could be quite easily overlooked on its breeding grounds because the "song" is of such unusual quality. The best description I have found is in Bent's "Life Histories of North American Shore Birds" (vol. 2, p. 82-83). He writes "All through the spring migration and all through the nesting season we may hear the weird winnowing

sound of the snipe's courtship flight, a tremulous humming sound, loud and penetrating, audible at a long distance. One is both thrilled and puzzled when he hears it the first time, for it seems like a disembodied sound, the sighing of some wandering spirit, until the author is discovered a mere speck, sweeping across the sky."

One interesting thing that was noted in Deuel County was that grazing, and possibly overgrazing, does not discourage snipe from using their preferred habitat niche during the breeding season. All locations where snipe were found, with one exception, were subjected to cattle grazing. Two localities had been rather obviously overgrazed, but snipe were flushed from the "hummocky" wetlands which the birds evidently require, or at least prefer, for their nest sites. If grazing does not limit the nesting of these birds it would be one of the very few cases on record, for, generally speaking, livestock grazing is detrimental to the nesting activities of most birds.—Bruce Harris, Altamont

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**DEUEL COUNTY NOTES—LECONTE SPARROW AT LAKE ALICE**—On Oct. 6, 1971 two, and possibly three, LeConte Sparrows were observed at Lake Alice, Deuel County. The birds were found in a small marsh that is located on the Game Production Area on the east side of the lake. They were quite active, moving about and calling often. I was surprised to find them so tame and easily observed, for I watched them for more than 10 minutes at distances up to 15 yards, with binoculars.

As this was the first time I had been able to identify this species, special attention was taken to observe all field marks. I noted the whitish line through the center of the head, the buffy breast, heavily streaked back, and the very light streaks along the sides. The

side streaks distinguish this species from the Grasshopper sparrow. Markings on the side of the head were quite bright, but I did not note a really bright line over the eye, and no pinkish coloring could be seen on the nape, this latter mark being one of the strong points of identification for the species. However, it seems likely that if the birds were young of the year the nape markings might be pale enough to be overlooked. My attempts to collect the birds were not successful, not having the proper gun and shot size with me at the time.

This species is one I have been wanting to see for many years, and it was particularly satisfying to find it so easily observed. LeConte's sparrow probably nests in the northeastern counties, and very likely along many of the counties bordering North Dakota. It probably has been overlooked, as in the case of Baird's sparrow, which has recently been found in a number of locations in South Dakota. Two summer records by James Johnson and reported nesting in Day County by Carl Johnson are the only records we have available in recent years. There is one definite nest record that dates back to 1890. SDOU members should make a special effort to find LeConte and Sharp-tailed sparrows during field trips.—Bruce Harris, Altamont

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**NOTES ON THE WHITE-EYED VIREO**—I received my December, 1971, issue of South Dakota Bird Notes a couple of days ago, and one item was of particular interest to me. I am referring to the article on page 102 by Ronald R. Nelson, entitled, "White-eyed Vireo in Eastern South Dakota."

The Editor's Note states that this is the first reported observation in the state. The White-eyed Vireo sounded familiar, so I checked my bird file and found an entry showing I had seen the

bird on May 1, 1965. Let me explain the circumstances of this observation:

Dale Gunderson, a classmate, and I were gathering information for a paper we were writing for an ecology class under Dr. Rogers, at Augustana College, Sioux Falls.

At 6 a.m. on May 1, 1965, Dale and I went out to our study area northeast of Sioux Falls. (This is east of the Cactus Hills area Ronald Nelson mentioned in his Vireo observation.)

Dale went to the northern end and I stayed in the southern end of the area to observe and record birds seen. While there, I identified three White-eyed Vireos. I remember the first bird I saw very vividly. Most of the trees had just been cut in the area and were lying on the ground. I stopped and sat quietly on a fallen tree and a small bird worked its way toward me in the uppermost branches of the fallen trees. It came to within 15 to 20 feet of me. It showed very little fear of me and remained near me for about 10 minutes before it worked its way to the north of my position. Using my "Field Guide to the Birds" by Roger Tory Peterson, and my 7x50 binoculars, I identified this bird as a White-eyed Vireo. Although the wingbars and the yellow "spectacles" were very apparent, the white eye was the marking that most convinced me that it was a White-eyed Vireo. (I saw the other two birds shortly after that.) I went to get Dale to substantiate my find, but when we returned, the birds were nowhere to be found. (We recorded the Vireo in our ecology paper. If you wish to see this report, Dr. Rodgers, at Augustana College, may still have this report on file. If he does not, I have a copy of the paper.)—Delbert A. Nelson, Lander, Wyo.

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**EASTERN MEADOWLARK ALONG JAMES RIVER**—On April 23, 1966, my wife, Doris, and I were birding in a

small patch of trees on the James River along Highway 46 north of Yankton, S. Dak. We saw what we thought was a Western Meadowlark sitting high in a tree. Then it sang. Never having heard an Eastern Meadowlark, I wrote in my note pad: "Voice—similar to oriole or cardinal and ending with a note similar to Western Meadowlark. More musical than Western—slower and lower pitched." I also found this in my notes: "V on breast looked wider."

On May 26, 1968, we watched and listened to an Eastern Meadowlark at Tongonoxie State Lake in Kansas and at that time realized that the Meadowlark we had seen in South Dakota had been an Eastern Meadowlark.—Delbert A. Nelson, Lander, Wyo.

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**BANDING WOOD THRUSHES**—Checking our records we find that we banded wood thrushes in South Dakota as follows: at Farm Island, May 16, 1964, May 22, 1965, Sept. 4, 1965 (2), July 19, 1966 and May 25, 1969; in Newton Hills, Aug. 28, 1970.

We also banded one wood thrush at Niobrara, Nebr. which is just across the Missouri River from South Dakota on Aug. 14, 1964.

We have seen and heard wood thrushes in the Newton Hills on several occasions but unfortunately do not have the date records.—Gladyce and Charles Rogge, Sioux Falls

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**AN AMERICAN EGRET**—The fifth grade class of the Deubrook Elementary School, Toronto, S. Dak., was involved in an "Outdoor Education Classroom" project at Oakwood Lakes State Park this spring. The project involved camping overnight and participating in a number of out-of-door projects, one of which was bird-watching.

The first group of six students and two adult chaperones had the opportunity of sighting an American Egret on Sunday evening, May 14, 1972, on

the east side of Boy Scout Island within the boundaries of the state park. The majestic white bird was found in a marshy area and flew off after it was sighted. Everyone was equipped with cameras, but each person stood with mouth open and watched the Egret fly off!

Being amateur bird-watchers at best,

we felt that corroboration was necessary in this sighting due to the rarity of the bird. The bird was described to Bruce Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogge and they confirmed our opinion. There certainly was no doubt as to the beauty of the bird.—Arlo J. Levisen, Elementary Principal, Deubrook School System, Toronto, S. Dak.

## Snowy Owl Sighting - Region II

### Winter 1971-1972

DATE	LOCATION
Nov. 11, 1971	Two miles south of Lowry, S. Dak.
Nov. 26, 1971	Six miles east and three miles north of Lowry, S. Dak.
Jan. 8, 1972	At Glenham, S. Dak.
Jan. 16, 1972	Two miles north of Selby, S. Dak.
Jan. 20, 1972	Five miles south of Hoven, S. Dak.
Jan. 20, 1972	Four miles north and five miles east of Miranda, S. Dak.
Jan. 20, 1972	Four miles north and four miles east of Cresbard, S. Dak.
Mar. 28, 1972	One mile east of Norbeck, S. Dak.

—Warren Jackson, Box 387, Mobridge

#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

### Shorebirds Recapture Operation

Several species of shorebirds will be marked with yellow feather dye on the underparts, and yellow streamers attached to the leg, in the 1972 fall migration. Sanderlings will be marked only with leg streamers. Birds will be caught on the Magdalen Islands (Gulf of St. Lawrence).

Reports of sight records should include the locality, date, species, name and address of observer(s). Please weigh the bird and read the band number if taken alive.

Information should be sent to:

Raymond McNeil  
Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montreal  
4101 est, rue Sherbrooke  
Montreal 406, Que, Canada

## Notes from Sparks' Mini-Ranch

**F**LOODS, ice in the rain gauge in late June, iris, rhubarb and strawberries all frozen, a furnace fire July nights, this has indeed been a most unusual year.

Rather than the slow, gentle rains of past summers, this year moisture has come in short, vicious deluges, a most peculiar summer.

In spite of all this the forlorn stems of the frozen petunias have sent out new leaves and finally blossoms and the shorn tomato plants have found new life within their blackened stems and formed new leaves.

This will be the first issue of "Bird Notes" printed by the offset process. Strange, I didn't know this until today, yet while on vacation in Minnesota I visited the newspaper plant where I held my first job and was given a tour of their new offset plant. The entire procedure is revolutionary. In this plant four men now do the work formerly requiring 12 and the run off for a circulation of 5000 takes only 20 minutes for each section.

I watched two girls type on over-sized typewriters which produced punched tapes. They could ignore word divisions and lines but needed to indicate paragraphs. Then the tape was inserted into a computer which turned out properly spaced copy (I didn't ask about the spelling). Proofed, the galleys were pasted up on glass tables, lit from below and then the entire page photographed. The final result was each page

of the paper on a sheet of thin aluminum ready for the press.

Some day I'll visit Webster where Larry Ingalls prints "Bird Notes."

One Sunday in June a flash of bright red and yellow caught our eyes in the chokecherry bushes and we found, by consulting our "Field Guide," that we had a Western Tanager. It flitted about long enough for two of us to identify it. We have also had a number of bluebirds in our trees.

If you see a picture of a Giant Panda you may be looking at the symbol for the World Wildlife Fund, WWF. Founded in 1961 this conservation organization has supported more than 300 national and international projects to save endangered species. Often this support takes the form of helping save their habitat, the reserves, wetlands and forests around the world which offer refuge and breeding grounds. For more information, write World Wildlife Fund, 910 17th Street Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20006.

That's "30" for now.

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### Spring Migration

(Continued from Page 41)

County, S. Dak. KJH.

Larry R. Lynch, 502 South First Street, Aberdeen, Brown County, S. Dak. LRL.

Waubay NWR, Day County, S. Dak.: Robert R. Johnson, Manager RRJ; Ben L. Gastineau, BLG; Edmund J. Fromelt EJF.

—Esther Serr