

# SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

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Golden Eagle at Badlands National Monument August, 1971

—National Park Service Photo by Don Higgins

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## President's Page

WITH THE season bringing daily changes in the birdlife we are welcoming spring. We're also looking forward to our field meeting at Martin, S. Dak. Those of you who have previously visited LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge will probably want to return; for those who have not this will be a good opportunity to become acquainted with a very interesting birding area. I am sure we will all want to see some of the Trumpeter Swans; it is a pleasure to note that this bird which had



been exterminated in the state can again be listed as a resident of South Dakota because of the program at LaCreek Refuge to reintroduce it. The meeting is set for Memorial Day weekend; we hope that this date provides opportunities for many

to attend and hope that conflicts do not keep anyone away. It is almost always a dilemma to choose the best dates for a meeting. I hope that you will all be making plans to be there.

Those of you who have free time in mid-May may wish to take advantage of an invitation from the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union to attend their spring meeting at Halsey, Neb. May 11-13. I don't know how many of our readers are

aware that there is a National Forest there in the central part of that state, the result of a forestation experiment of many decades ago. I was pleased that their invitation came from Bill Huntley, the N.D.O.U. President, who completed his master's degree thesis on kingbirds with me a few years ago. Their spring meeting also includes a paper session as well as an evening talk by Dr. Paul Johnsgard on Snow Geese.

With the publication of each issue of the South Dakota Bird Notes and the fall meeting and spring meeting our members are made aware of the more visible aspects of the life of S.D.O.U. In the last issue I stressed the important contribution of editorial work. Also of great importance to the continuity of our organization but also somewhat behind the scenes is the work of our Treasurer, for without the processing of memberships and dues and careful bookkeeping we obviously could not function. Nelda Holden has been doing an excellent job, her contribution in time and effort has been invaluable.

It is with great sadness that I learned of the death of one of the Board of Directors, Will Rosine, who had been a valued member of S.D.O.U. for a long time. I know we will all miss him, but I wished here to express my personal feeling of loss.—Byron E. Harrell

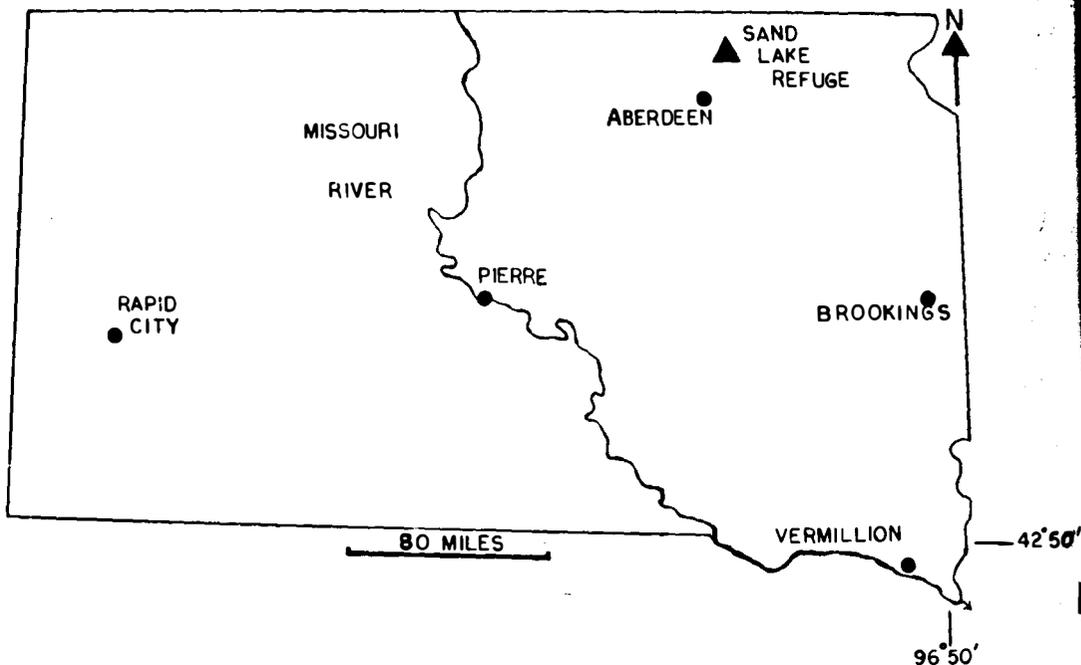
# Organo-Chlorine Insecticides and Polychlorinated Biphenyls in a Ross' Goose

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**THE PURPOSE** of this paper is to report on the analysis of a wild caught Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) for the presence of organo-chlorine insecticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). In late April, 1970 a crippled male (left testis 4 mm x 10 mm) was found on a farm pond four miles west and two miles north of Vermillion, South Dakota (Fig. 1). The goose was captured by hand and examined for broken bones and gunshot wounds. The joint of the humerus and radius and ulna was badly damaged and

the bird expired several days later. A thorough examination of the carcass showed no gunshot wounds.

Few Ross' Geese have been reported in South Dakota as the general wintering area for this species is in the Central Valley of California (Dzubin, 1965) with a few being reported from Louisiana (Smart, 1960). Dzubin (1965) suggested that an eastward shift is occurring because of habitat changes so therefore this specimen may have been migrating towards the Perry River Region of the



Northwest Territories, which is the major breeding grounds for the species (Ryder, 1967), or toward the Hudson Bay area where a few also breed.

On occasion wintering or migrating Ross' Geese are seen in South Dakota. MacInnes and Cooch (1963) reported the presence of three Ross' Geese in the Sand Lake Refuge area and two more near Brookings, South Dakota (Fig. 1). Several others have been shot, and in 1970 one was photographed among a flock of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) near Pierre, South Dakota.

#### METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Subcutaneous fatty tissue and breast muscle were sampled and analyzed by

the procedure described by Greichus et al. (1968), and Dalgren et al. (1971).

#### RESULTS

The results of the analysis are given in Table 1:

#### DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Small quantities of dieldrin, and DDE were found in the fatty tissue but only DDE was detected in the breast muscle. The amounts found were negligible indicating that this individual was relatively free of insecticide. PCB was very low.

Table 1. Results of insecticide and PCB analysis of subcutaneous fatty tissue and breast muscle.

	Wet wt. (g)	Dry wt. (g)	Lipid wt. (g)	In parts per million wet wt.					
				Dieldrin	DDE	DDD	DDT	Total insecticide	PCB
Fatty Tissue	3.226	3.050	2.736	0.09	0.28	—a	—a	0.37	<5.0
Breast Muscle	3.120	0.869	0.064	—a	0.09	—a	—a	0.09	<1.0

a experimental level <0.1

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# Nesting of Woodcock in Brookings County, South Dakota

John M. Gates

ON APRIL 27, 1972, during the course of a field trip with the South Dakota State University ornithology class at Oakwood Lakes State Park, one of the students by chance flushed a nesting woodcock (*Philohela minor*). The hen flew up at the student's feet and fluttered 30-40 yards in plain view of 18 students taking part in the trip. The time was approximately 4:30 p.m. The nest contained four eggs, but since the weather was cold and rainy, we immediately vacated the site so the eggs would not become chilled.

On the following afternoon, April 28, I returned to the site with another group of ornithology students. As we cautiously approached the nest site, the hen flew up and alighted a short distance off to one side of the group. At the edge of the nest, about a foot from the nest bowl, huddled four newly hatched young. All four were completely dry and probably were several hours out of the egg. Apparently the hen had been brooding the young at the nest when we arrived on the scene. The time was approximately 4:00 p.m. Again, because of inclement weather, we remained at the nest no longer than five minutes.

The next morning, April 29, I again visited the site with Mrs. Nelda Holden and Mr. Bruce Harris. The weather had moderated somewhat, and the area within 25 yards or so of the nest was thoroughly searched. No sign of the hen or young was found, however.

The nest was located at the base of a peninsula, locally known as McIntosh Island, which juts into West Oakwood Lake from the eastern shoreline. It was

situated in a brushy clearing and concealed under a small gooseberry clump.

One of the interesting aspects of this nesting record was the earliness of its starting date. Sheldon (1967) states that one egg is laid per day until the normal clutch of four eggs is complete, and Bent (1927) gives the incubation period of the woodcock as 20-21 days. Allowing 25 days for egg-laying and incubation, this nest must have been started about April 2. In Massachusetts, where most of Sheldon's work was concentrated, less than 25 percent of woodcock were reported as hatching before the end of April. In Maine, Sheldon reported no known hatching dates before the first of May.

According to Sheldon (1967), the principal breeding range of the American woodcock consists of the Great Lakes States, New England, the maritime provinces of Canada, and the southern districts of Ontario and Quebec. The western limits of the breeding range run roughly diagonally from the southeast to northwest corners of Minnesota, corresponding in general to the ecotone between the originally forested and prairie regions of the state. In Minnesota, Roberts (1932) records the woodcock as being "infrequent" or "very unusual" on the western prairies. The 1960 A.O.U. checklist lists the woodcock as formerly breeding in South Dakota, but on what basis this statement is made I have no knowledge. Over and Thomas (1946) regarded the woodcock as a rare visitant in South Dakota and reported one specimen from as far west as Beadle County. Chilson (1968) reported the woodcock as present at Fort Sisseton in the late 1800's, but that it had disap-

peared from the region by 1935. In recent years, breeding woodcock have also been recorded near Vermillion (Bruce Harris, personal communication); however, the details of these records are unknown to me.

It is not inconceivable that the woodcock may be nesting in considerably larger numbers in eastern South Dakota than is generally realized. In the past two springs (1971 and 1972), I have had reported to me three observations of woodcock in Brookings County. All were made by students sufficiently well acquainted with the bird in other parts of the country that I consider the identifications reliable. Based on personal field experience with woodcock in Minnesota and Wisconsin, Oakwood Lakes State Park contains a large amount of habitat ideal for breeding woodcock. A series of singing-ground observations in the park is planned for the spring of 1973 to check on the possibility that woodcock may be nesting

at this station in fairly substantial numbers. Although woodcock males are known to engage in courtship activities on spring migration (Sheldon 1967), these observations should give some indication of the probability that additional birds may be found nesting in the park.

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## COVER PICTURE

The Golden Eagle on the cover was found in the Badlands National Monument in the spring of 1971. The fledgling had probably glided from its nest and had been abandoned by its parents. The eagle was raised and released at the Monument.

—By the National Park Service Personnel

# Songs and Sounds of Baltimore Oriole

Adeline M. Siljeborg

WHEN THE first week of May rolls around on the northern midwest prairies, you will hear the arrival song of the Baltimore oriole before you see him. One year, I drew near to find him among the leaves of a tall cottonwood and he flew, flaunting his orange banner in the morning sunlight.

Another year, a pair, male and female, blithely announced their return from the old boxelder tree at the northwest corner of our house. Each caroled two notes, he, a lower, "Come here," and she, a higher, "Catch me." At one point in this exchange, these calls fused into a duet creating sound impressions of enduring nature in my memory.

This musical conversation continued for two or three minutes attended by coquettish movements of the pair, who shifted about on the tree's limb, close together, first one and then the other, touching bills in entrancing rhythm.

It is a marvel the variety of sounds these birds' throats can produce. Richard H. Pough says, "As a rule, each individual (Baltimore oriole) has a recognizably different song." No wonder identification by song alone is difficult!

Like a feathered Pied Piper of Hamelin, a young Baltimore oriole ensnares my ears' attention every spring with incessant practicing of a routine phrase. This refrain consists of seven notes in the middle register of the piano, the first an introductory whistle like an orchestral tune-up or warm-up with a barely perceptible pause before the ever-repeated motif: O-O, O-O, O-O, double-tongued whistling, the first note a quarter higher than the second.

Another variation of this exercise is to repeat once or twice the last three notes descending on the scale. Another arrangement the young singer pursues is to hurry over two introductory notes

causing a breathless effect, rather incredible in sound, followed with three-note phrases ascending to the pitch of the beginning two notes. These phrases vary in length up to 12 or more notes. Sometimes the bird drops the tone after uttering the first note of the second phrase of three notes. These constitute a lively almost agitated warble regularly accented, and with a triple-tongued effect.

The adult Baltimore oriole at times phrases notes resembling those of the robin or rose-breasted grosbeak. Or, one could reverse this observation to remark on the similarity of the robin's warbling to that of the oriole.

The singing of the Baltimore oriole may well-nigh dominate the neighborhood during the month of May, the courting season. The whistled melodies sound as if they are conceived by human thought. Calls include a two-note whistle of rising inflection, four notes, 10 notes of minor nature, and an intriguing melody which if played on the piano approximates the following six notes: middle C, middle G, middle F, A (below middle C), middle C in two-step rhythm. Or double quick time. This observation was made and played at 7:30 in the evening.

I've watched a female Baltimore leave the nest the third week in May singing a three-note phrase of a descending minor tone. And too, this species sings frequently during the heat of August days. In early September and into the second week, they may pipe a few notes. These summer songs may well be heard at daybreak.

There may be sweeter, more melodious bird songsters than the Baltimore oriole, but none can excel him in ringing tones of exuberance and clarion quality.—22 South Pine, Vermillion, S. Dak. 57069

# A Preliminary List of Breeding Birds for Lyman and Brule Counties

Doug Backlund

THIS LIST of nesting records was recorded from May 6 through June 20th, 1972. I am a high school student, so I was able to get out only on weekends until the end of May, and then it was possible to be out three or four times a week. I was working mainly along the Missouri River breaks and the White River area, but I was able to make some trips to Reliance and some marshes in that area. Several species such as the Double-crested Cormorant and the Great Blue Heron were nesting on the Missouri River, which is the county line for both Lyman and Brule counties, so I listed these birds for both counties as there are quite a few colonies of each.

Only those birds nesting during the month of May or June have been included in the list; no migrants are listed, to the best of my knowledge. This preliminary list of 76 species includes 51 species observed during the breeding season (O), but assumed to be nesting birds, and 25 species (N) for which nests or broods were located.

There appears to be very little published data for these counties, and I hope to work up a more complete list in a year or two.

Species	Lyman County	Brule County		
Western Grebe	O	O	Blue-winged Teal	O N
Pied-billed Grebe	O	—	Shoveler	O O
Double-crested Cormorant	N	N	Wood Duck	O O
Great Blue Heron	N	N	Turkey Vulture	O O
Green Heron	—	O	Marsh Hawk	O O
Mallard	N	O	Sparrow Hawk	O O
Pintail	O	O	Red-tailed Hawk	O O
Green-wing Teal	O	O	Greater Prairie Chicken	O O
			Sharptailed Grouse	O O
			Bobwhite Quail	— O
			Ring-necked Pheasant	N N
			Sora Rail	— O
			Killdeer	N O
			Marbled Godwit	— O
			Franklin's Gull	O O
			Morning Dove	N N
			Yellow-billed Cuckoo	O O
			Screech Owl	O —
			Great Horned Owl	O O
			Burrowing Owl	— O
			Short-eared Owl	O —
			Common Nighthawk	O O
			Belted Kingfisher	O —
			Yellow-shafted Flicker	O O
			Red-headed Woodpecker	O O
			Downy Woodpecker	O —
			Eastern Kingbird	O N
			Western Kingbird	N O
			Tree Swallow	O —
			Bank Swallow	O N
			Rough-winged Swallow	O N
			Barn Swallow	N O
			Cliff Swallow	O N
			Purple Martin	O N
			Blue Jay	N N
			Magpie	N O
			Common Crow	O O
			Black-capped Chickadee	O O
			House Wren	O O
			Catbird	O O
			Brown Thrasher	N O
			Robin	N N
			Eastern Bluebird	O —
			Loggerhead Shrike	O O

Starling	O	O	Indigo Bunting	O	O
Warbling Vireo	N	—	Dickcissel	O	O
Bell's Vireo	O	—	American Goldfinch	O	O
Yellow-throat	O	O	Rufous-sided Towhee	O	O
Yellow-breasted Chat	O	—	Lark Bunting	O	O
House Sparrow	N	N	Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O
Bobolink	O	N	Lark Sparrow	O	—
Western Meadowlark	O	N	Savannah Sparrow	—	O
Yellow-headed Blackbird	O	O	Field Sparrow	O	O
Red-winged Blackbird	N	N	Totals	69 (17N)	64 (17N)
Orchard Oriole	N	O			
Baltimore Oriole	O	O			
Common Grackle	N	N			
Brown-headed Cowbird	O	O			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	O	O			

A single Bald Eagle (adult) was recorded in Lyman County on two dates during June and July, but there was no evidence of nesting, Chamberlain.

## Songs and Sounds of Robin

Adeline M. Siljenberg

All the front yard's a stage, and male robin actors fan out over the greening lawn to run, lower their heads to listen, and probe hopefully in the earth for worms.

Later in this month the first nest will be completed, and the male sitting in an almost bare Chinese elm tree has ample reason to nearly burst with melody. Should his hearer attempt a feeble mimicry of his caroling, the robin may make a weak comeback that causes the listener to laugh and induces the robin to retire in disgust with human efforts at robin singing.

The chirping and warbling of the robin continues all day from early morning until late in the evening. Richard H. Pough says, "Daybreak is the robin's favorite song period," but dusk in summertime is equally favored, this observer has noted. The length of time for making robin music is short in our northern midwest climate and robins pursue its brief span tirelessly with labor and song.

Their chirruping song has a definite theme which can be picked out on the piano. The sequence of its pattern resembles these notes: (1) middle G

(natural); (2) A (flat) above middle G (natural); (3) C (sharp) above middle C; and (4) C (natural) above middle C.

Robins have other themes in their repertoire, and at times their songs resemble the ringing whistle of the Baltimore oriole and the rolling warble of the rose-breasted grosbeak. Then, too, robins are excellent ejaculators. A whiff, a couple of squeaks, and chortles are common sounds, even a squeezed screech. Their after-sunset lullaby can suddenly change to a scold, cluck, and back to warbles, ending abruptly at half past the eight o'clock hour, or at dusk.

A six-week-old robin utters sounds foreign to the usual pattern, one like a kingbird's and another unlike any other bird's, strictly his own. A handsome male robin can speak a single ringing note like a young bird's distress call that may deceive the listener as to its source if the bird is out of sight.

With moods ranging from robustly cheerful to pensive, this solid bird-citizen entertains us, and enhances the summer scene until late fall, although his incessant vocalizing may at times weary even the dedicated bird-watcher.—22 South Pine, Vermillion, S. Dak.

## *General Notes of Special Interest*

**EVENING GROSBEAKS AND PURPLE FINCHES AT PICKEREL LAKE**—In the late fall of 1972, Donnan Miotke informed me that he had Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches at his feeding station on the shore of Pickerel Lake. I asked him to keep a daily record and told him that I would write it up for "Bird Notes." The following notes are from his records: Nov. 10, 1972—15 Evening Grosbeaks arrived, and three Purple Finches were at the feeder for the first time; Nov. 19-20, 1972—Five Evening Grosbeaks were at the feeders; Nov. 21-22, 1972—Only one grosbeak was seen each day; Nov. 23-24, 1972—No birds at all; Nov. 25, 1972—Only one grosbeak; Nov. 26, 1972—Five grosbeaks were present, and a female was banded; Nov. 27, 1972—Five grosbeaks at the feeders; the purple finches have been feeding regularly for three weeks; December, 1972—No grosbeaks were seen all month; Jan. 6, 1973—One grosbeak was back at the feeder.—Herman Chilson, Webster

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**RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS AT FORT RANDALL**—On Nov. 22-23, 1972, Kelly Krause and I went to the spill waters below the Fort Randall Dam. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon of Nov. 22, and the cloudy weather made the light grayish. But we saw six birds on the water near shore. I knew by outline that they were mergansers and said so to Kelly: "I guess they are Common Mergansers." But when we got nearer and I put my glasses on them, I saw the reddish head, the crest, the gray body, the white area on the wing, and I knew we had Red-breasted Mergansers, birds I have seen only twice in my life. Then we examined the spillway waters, and there were hundreds of Red-breasted

Mergansers. We went to the other shore where the light was better, and there were easily over 2000 birds in the concentration. Along with them, for the sake of comparison perhaps, were about 350 Common Mergansers, usually staying in small groups apart from the Red-breasted. Their white bodies and blacker wings stood out in the group. When the flock of Red-breasted Mergansers finally spooked, there seemed to be an acre of white foamy water under their paddling feet as they ran along the surface in take-off. It was a memorable sight indeed.—Herbert Krause, Sioux Falls

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**BLACK DUCK IN HUGHES COUNTY**—On Oct. 15, 1972, while hunting in northwestern Hughes County, in a cornfield near Oahe Lake, I shot a Black Duck—only the third time that I have bagged this species in South Dakota over the course of 39 years of record keeping.—R. V. Summerside, Pierre

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**EMPEROR GEESE IN MARSHALL COUNTY**—Five Emperor geese were sighted on Oct. 4, 1972, on Cottonwood Lake and a few days later on Roy Lake, by Harvey Binger of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents Dave Fisher and Howard Lovrien confirmed the identification. Emperor geese closely resemble the blue goose; however, the Emperor's normal range is in Alaska. There are no observations of Emperor geese reported in "South Dakota Bird Notes" nor in the check lists of recorded species at the four National Wildlife Refuges in South Dakota. Thus, this is probably the first reported observation of the Emperor Goose for the state.—Herman Chilson, Webster

#### WINTER OBSERVATIONS AT BURKE LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA—

This area is located two miles east of the town of Burke, S. Dak. in Gregory County. The total size of the area is 160 acres including the lake which is approximately 40 acres in size.

Twenty-five years ago approximately half of the land area surrounding the lake was planted to conifer trees, including several kinds of pine trees, cedar trees and spruce trees. These conifers provide the wintering birds with both food, in the form of the cedar berries, and shelter from the cold winter winds. Many rows of apple trees were planted at this same time, and their small fruit provides food for many kinds of wintering birds. There are also many large cottonwoods and other deciduous trees surrounding the lake and along the creek below the spillway. A small part of the area is still in native grasses. Birds can obtain water the year around at this area, as the creek below the spillway is always open for a short distance before it begins to freeze over.

When I think of this area, I think of an oasis in a desert, as the surrounding countryside is mostly farmland and pastureland, and offers little in the way of food or shelter for wintering birds. So, the birds, naturally congregate on this area when they are looking for a place to spend the winter. This winter, 1972-73, has been an especially good one to observe birds at this area. There are several kinds of the less common birds wintering there that do not normally get this far south every year.

The birds I have observed at this area this winter are as follows: Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Horned Owl, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper,

Robin, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Slate-colored Junco, Oregon Junco, Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow and Harris' Sparrow.—Galen L. Steffen, Burke, S. Dak.

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**WOODCOCK NEAR WEBSTER**—The first Woodcock to be seen in Day County for over 40 years was identified on the Marvin Ludtke farm in Morton Township, five miles east of Webster, in mid-November, 1972.

Marvin Ludtke, his daughter Gretchen, and his son Rolfe were walking in the yard when Gretchen spotted a bird under a red cedar tree. The bird was scratching and turning over the leaves under this cedar tree, which was only 10 feet from the corner of the house. She said, "Dad this looks like a small pheasant."

Marvin immediately spotted the long bill and the stripes on the head and was pretty certain that it was a Woodcock. After checking some bird books in the house, he was positive that it could be nothing else.

Marvin said, "That bird could really turn the leaves over in nothing flat," and added, "This was the first Woodcock that I have ever seen."

The Woodcock stayed around for approximately one and a half to two hours before it left. When Marvin came back from feeding his cattle, it had disappeared.

Marvin has proven to me in the past 10 years that he can spot the unusual and rare birds which come into his area. He is careful of his identification, and I fully believe that he saw a Woodcock.

The last Woodcock was shot in Day County in the 1920's (see Chilson, "Knickerbocker's 1869 List of Birds" in "Bird Notes," Vol. XX:33). Youngworth and Lundquist (Wilson Bull., 1935) did not see a Woodcock in the 1930's ac-

ording to "Birds of Fort Sisseton, a Sixty-Year Comparison."—Herman P. Chilson

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**WEST RIVER OWL NOTES**—Short-eared owls were abundant during 1972, not only in the western part of South Dakota but throughout the state. There were 57 sightings and four nests found during the breeding season as reported in "South Dakota Bird Notes." In a few square mile area, 10 miles southeast of Rapid City, as many as 10 to 14 owls could be seen on the prairie in the early evenings during May and June. Two nests containing nine young were found in this area during May, and another young owl, from a different nest, was found later in the summer.

The barn owls nested successfully for the fourth consecutive year near Hot Springs, Fall River County. The young were not banded. Fewer great-horned owl nests were found during the 1972 breeding season than in former years. Only five active nests were observed, whereas about 20 nests are usually found in the western one-third of the state. Two young were banded in each nest.

On Feb. 6, 1973, a long-eared owl was seen roosting in a wooded area along Horse Creek, Butte County. Long-eared owls usually have been seen roosting there during the last four winters and as many as three have been observed at one time.—Donald G. Adolphson, Rapid City

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**BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS OBSERVED AT LAKE BURKE**—I first saw these birds at Lake Burke on Nov. 28, 1972, when I observed a large flock of at least 100 birds feeding in the apple trees.

The were easily identified by the rusty undertail coverts, and the yellow and white markings on the wings. Also, the absence of yellow on the belly was noted.

The peak in numbers for these birds was on Dec. 11, when I counted 95 sitting in a clump of trees, and would estimate there were at least 50 more flying back

MARCH, 1973

and forth between the creek and the apple trees. The birds dwindled in numbers after that and the last sighting was of a flock of 20 to 25 birds on Jan. 15, 1973.—Galen L. Steffen, Burke, S. Dak.

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**EVENING GROSBEAKS SIGHTED AT LAKE BURKE**—On Dec. 21, 1972, while birding at Lake Burke, two miles east of Burke, S. Dak., I was pleasantly surprised to find a small flock of 15 Evening Grosbeaks. When first sighted the birds were feeding on fallen apples underneath the apple trees, at which time I made the count of 15.

It would be hard to mistake these birds for any other bird, especially the males with their beautiful yellow gold and black and white markings. The huge beak on both sexes is also diagnostic.

On Jan. 31, 1973, Mr. Don Wilson accompanied me to the area, and we saw a larger flock of 30 to 40 of these birds feeding on cedar berries. We were able to get as close as 20 feet to them as they fed and moved around in the cedar trees.—Galen L. Steffen, Burke, S. Dak.

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**POSSIBLE MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD SIGHTED NEAR LAKE BURKE**—On Dec. 14, 1972, I sighted what I believe was a Mountain Bluebird near Lake Burke, two miles east of Burke, S. Dak. The bird was observed in a group of small trees in a pasture a short distance from the lake.

The bird was in sight for only a few minutes, but during this time I was able to get a good look at it with an 8-power binocular at a distance of about 75 feet. I noted the sky blue color of the plumage on the back, head and sides, and the whitish area on the belly from the legs back to the tail. Also, the dark, slender bill was seen quite plainly. Upon checking my field guides, I can find no other bird that looks like the bird I saw except a male Mountain Bluebird.—L. Steffen, Burke, S. Dak.

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## NOU Spring Meeting

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union will hold its spring meeting, May 12-13, 1973, at Halsey, Nebraska, which is about 60 miles south of Valentine and 15 miles east of Thedford. Interested SDOU members are invited to attend this meeting. For additional information write to NOU President Bill Huntley, 1037 Redwood, Crete, Nebraska 68333.



Great Horned Owls

—Ink Drawing by Harold Messner, Rapid City

# *In Memoriam*

DR. WILLARD N. ROSINE

Dr. Willard N. Rosine died February 26, 1973, at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Will, as SDOU members affectionately knew Dr. Rosine, was a longtime member of SDOU, and at the time of his death he was serving his second term as an SDOU director. During this affiliation with SDOU, he contributed papers to BIRD NOTES and presented papers at annual meetings.

Dr. Rosine earned his B.A. degree at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Colorado. Since 1952, he served as a professor of biology at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and his colleagues credit him with significant contributions to the outstanding calibre of instruction in biology at Augustana. In addition, he provided exceptional leadership in curriculum development at the college. A special satisfaction for Will in his service at Augustana was his teaching an ornithology course for many years. Through this course he led many students to a sophisticated understanding and appreciation of birds. He also taught ornithology at the Black Hills Natural Sciences Field Station in the summers of 1971 and 1972.

SDOU members lament Will's passing, but feel deep gratitude for the opportunity to know him and to benefit by his generous sharing of his knowledge and friendship. They are pleased that a memorial scholarship fund has been established in honor of their distinguished friend, Dr. Willard N. Rosine, at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

# 1973 SDOU Spring Meeting

## Friday-Monday, May 25, 26, 27 and 28, 1973

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Martin, South Dakota

### FRIDAY, MAY 25

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.—American Legion dining room at Martin. Check in for birdlists, maps, plans, latest information and a challenge to help find some "rare birds."

### SATURDAY, MAY 26

Field trips on refuge and in area. Tours will be available on refuge by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel.

7:00 p.m.—Banquet American Legion dining room. Someone from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be available as the banquet speaker.

### SUNDAY, MAY 27

Field trips in the morning. We are working on arrangements for someone to supply lunches Sunday noon. The group will gather at Refuge Headquarters for the lunch and "call off." The refuge will supply hot coffee and tables under the trees, or in our shelter depending on the weather. Extra personal tours May 28 for those who stay over.

#### The Following Lodgings are Available at Martin:

Harold's Motel—1-single \$8.00+; 2-Room \$10.00+; 2-Double bed \$10.00 + tax.

Candlelight Inn Motel—1-single \$8.32; 2-Room \$12.50; 2-Double bed \$10.92.

Crossroads Motel—1-single \$5.00; 2-Room \$7.80; 2-Double bed \$7.80++.

(++Facilities appropriate to rates)

#### The Following Restaurants are Available:

Hi-Way Cafe and Vesta's Steak House at Martin, S. Dak. and Sand Cafe at Merriman, Nebraska.

Camping facilities are available at Martin's City Park and a few mobile units can be accommodated by special authorization at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters.

Those attending should see the majority of these interesting species during Memorial Day weekend: Western and Eared Grebes, White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Trumpeter Swans, Cinnamon Teal, Wood Ducks, Black-crowned Night Herons, American Avocets, Long-billed Curlews, Upland Plovers, Burrowing Owls, Bell's Vireo and Yellow-breasted Chats. Many other species can also be found.