

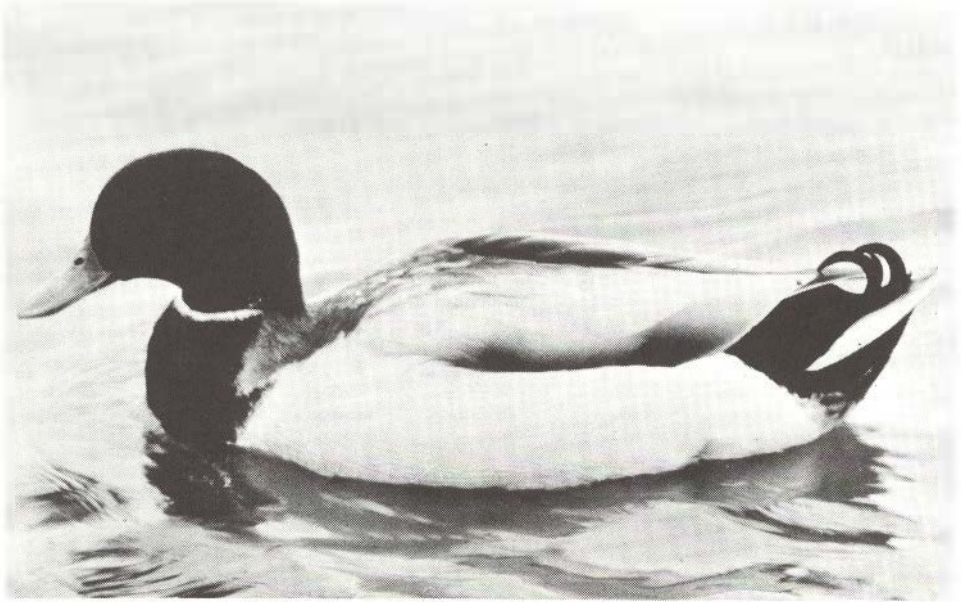
South Dakota Bird Notes

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

Vol. 27, No. 1

MARCH, 1975

Whole No. 104



Mallard

South Dakota Bird Notes, the Organ of South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Sustaining Members \$10.00, Adults \$4.00; Juniors (10-16) \$2.00. Family Membership (husband and wife) with one subscription to Bird Notes \$6.00. Libraries (subscription) \$4.00. Single and back copies: Members \$1.00, Non-members \$1.50. All dues should be remitted to the Treasurer, Nelda Holden, Route 4, Box 68, Brookings, S. Dak. 57006. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to Editor June Harter, Highmore, S. Dak. 57345. Orders for back numbers should be sent to the Librarian, Herman P. Chilson, Webster, S. Dak. 57274. Published Quarterly.

Vol. 27, No. 1

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South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

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| | |
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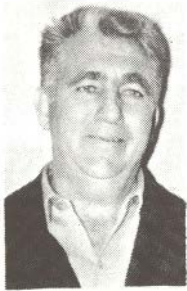
For Term Expiring 1975: Byron Harrell, Vermillion; J.W. Johnson, Huron; Herbert Krause, Sioux Falls; B.J. Rose, Pierre; June Harter, Highmore.

For Term Expiring 1976: Bill Lemons, Meckling; Charles Rogge, Sioux Falls; Nelda Holden, Brookings; Esther Edie, Brookings; Conrad Fjeltland, Pierre.

For Term Expiring 1977: Herman Chilson, Webster; Bruce Harris, Clear Lake; N.R. Whitney Jr., Rapid City; L.M. Baylor, Rapid City; S.G. Froiland, Sioux Falls.

President's Page

OUR ORGANIZATION has been quite successful, over the years, in maintaining a rather stable membership. This is partially a result of the regular publishing of BIRD NOTES, which definitely is a focal point for members; our program of annual meetings has also been helpful in this regard. But it has been noted, and discussed at directors' meetings for several years, that we are not getting many young members who will carry on the work of our organization



10 or 15 years from now. I am thinking particularly of those people 15 to 25 years of age.

There now appears to be a number of interested people in the state who do not know that there is an active association of birders in South

Dakota, although we have made various efforts to promote SDOU. Recently, while I was organizing Christmas Bird Counts in two localities, several persons told me that they would have become members of SDOU some time ago if they had known that our active group existed.

So it seems that we can increase our membership by a determined effort to inform the public in a number of ways. Les Baylor did a fine job as Publicity Chairman until recently; he is out of the state on educational leave, and will not be available again until late fall. His position is as yet unfilled, and is much needed.

Libraries can be a means of helping us to reach the public. A recent check of our mailing list showed that, while all but two of the state's college libraries subscribe to BIRD NOTES, only four city libraries

have the magazines on their shelves. There are at least 20 city libraries in South Dakota that are potential subscribers to our publication. Meetings with two library boards in medium-sized communities in the northeast resulted in subscriptions; in both cases the people involved were not aware of our magazine, and were pleased to bring it to their readers.

Plans are underway for writing to all libraries in the state who do not subscribe to BIRD NOTES. Members in various communities can also help by talking to their librarians or library boards. Our combined efforts should result in better distribution of the journal throughout the state.

The blizzard of January 1975 was apparently a devastating one for small birds. Some persons have reported a substantial decrease in the number of birds coming to feeders—in some cases no birds came to feeders after the blizzard. And the reports included larger birds such as Blue Jays, usually considered a strong, tough species. More surprising was the apparent loss of hole-roosting species such as chickadees, woodpeckers, and nuthatches—birds that might be expected to weather the storm. The only explanation seems to be that the smaller birds with high metabolic rates had to get out into the storm to feed, and were blown downwind away from cover, where they probably perished in the blinding snow and extreme cold. There is no more convincing experience to encourage the planting of evergreens and other heavy shelters. Where adequate shelter from the roaring winds was available, small birds continued to feed all day during the peak of the storm.—
Bruce K. Harris, Clear Lake

Pine Siskins: Widespread Distribution During 1973 Breeding Season

Bruce K. Harris

THE PINE Siskin has been known as a sporadic breeding species in eastern South Dakota for a number of years. Herbert Krause summarized the earliest known nest records for Yankton, when Larrabee and Youngworth found nesting birds in that city in 1926 and 1936, respectively (SDBN, 5:41). Krause reported nesting siskins at Sioux Falls in 1951 and 1952; six nests were located during the 1952 breeding season (op. cit.). I found two nests at Mitchell on April 6, 1970, and I have other records indicating that nesting occurred in Sanborn County during 1968. There also are nest records for Brookings by Nelda Holden, and for Huron by Jean Jonkel.

Siskins were very abundant throughout the northeast during the winter of 1972-73, and I suspected that nesting might occur when the birds continued coming to my bird feeder at Altamont early in March. On March 11, 1973 my son Gordon observed a siskin collecting nest material from the ground near large conifers at the farm home where we lived at the time. He followed the bird to a nest, almost completely formed, which was located about six feet up in a small spruce tree. One egg was in the nest on the 17th. The nest was within five feet of a trail used by my children when going to and from school, and they were careful not to disturb the bird on the nest. But on the 19th the egg was found broken, and the nest apparently deserted.

On April 1 another nest with three eggs was located eight feet up on a branch of one of the large conifers. We moved from the farm to Clear Lake early in April, and I did not make further observations of the nest. On April 10 Gordon Harris found a

partially completed nest at our new home. It was in a small ponderosa pine at an elevation of six feet. The nest was completed by the 12th, despite two days of very cold, strong winds that must have been quite a handicap to the persistent siskins. But the birds deserted the nest shortly after it was completed; they were not observed in the area after April 13.

At our cottage in Sodak Park, by Big Stone Lake, Roberts County, I found a siskin nest 11 feet up in a blue spruce on April 24, 1973. The female was on the nest, and its mate was in close attendance, apparently bringing food to the female during a snow flurry. On the morning of April 26 the female was again on the nest, and there was a fledgling about ten yards from the nest. In the afternoon I noted the fledgling (or another) attended by an adult. But on May 4 I found the nest deserted, with a dead chick in the nest.

Also on May 4 I located a second nest at Sodak Park, about 75 yards north of the nest described above, at a height of 15 feet in a large spruce tree. The female was on the nest, and the male was nearby bearing food in its mouth. I did not make subsequent visits to the nest.

While working in Gary Gulch, Deuel County, on May 29, 1973, I found a nest which I am quite sure was built by siskins. It was in a small cedar tree, only four feet off the ground. Fecal droppings in and on the edge of the nest gave every indication that young birds had occupied the nest earlier in the season. So there were at least six Pine Siskin nestings in the spring of 1973 in Roberts and Deuel Counties. It is also likely that the birds

(Continued on Page 18)

Winter Season, 1974-75

B.J. Rose

MILD WEATHER through January 8 resulted in many birds remaining further north than usual in all parts of the state. A severe blizzard January 9 through 11 brought heavy losses to species up to the size of the Blue Jays, including some hole-roosting species.

An outstanding event of the season was the unprecedented flight of Gyrfalcons. We expect to publish more details at a future date.

Other noteworthy observations during the period included Glaucous Gull, White-winged Scoter, and Greater Scaup at Pierre, and Carolina Wren in Brookings County.

This was one of the slowest winters in many years for northern finches with most species either absent or present in limited numbers.

In his summary of the Sioux Falls Christmas Bird Count, Gilbert Blankespoor said, "One striking difference between this year's count and last year's is that a number of winter visitors were absent this year. There were no observations of waxwings, siskins, redpolls or crossbills.

Another striking absence this year was that of the Horned Larks which last year were observed in large numbers. It is likely that these birds were there, but kept to cultivated fields away from the roads. After a new snowfall, these birds become both more visible and more likely to frequent roadsides.

There were marked increases in the numbers of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches. There were fewer Dark-eyed Juncos and Tree Sparrows.

Especially pleasing were the observations of the Killdeer, a first for the

Sioux Falls Christmas Bird Count."

To avoid duplication, this report excludes most of the information contained in the 1974 Christmas Count in another part of this issue.

The numbers of birds observed are in parentheses, preceded by dates and locations, and followed by initials of observers. Names of the observers are listed at the end of the report.

Whistling Swan

Dec. 21 Big Stone City (1) BKH. Possible cripple. All winter, LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge (2) HHB.

Canada Goose

Big Stone City (74) BKH; Jan. blizzard brought birds to Beadle Co. form resident flock at Jamestown Waterfowl Research Station (30) KC; usual numbers at LaCreek and along Missouri.

Snow Goose

All winter at LaCreek (1) HHB.

Mallard

Through 12-24 Lake Traverse (100), and 12-21 at Big Stone City (50) BKH; usual numbers at Pierre, Lake Andes, LaCreek, and along the Missouri.

Black Duck

Nov. 18 throughout winter, Pierre (1) BJR.

Pintail

Wintered on Rapid Creek, Rapid City (1) EMS.

Gadwall

Wintered at Rapid City (1) NRW.

American Wigeon

Christmas Count week, Yankton (1) WH.

Greater Scaup

Mid-Dec. throughout winter, Pierre (1 pr.) BJR.

Lesser Scaup

Nov. 29 Yankton (30) KJH.

Common Goldeneye

Wintered to Mar. 1, Rapid City (av. 8) EMS.

White-winged Scoter

Dec. 8 Oahe Dam (1 male and 1 female), Dec. 26 last date for male - BJR

Oldsquaw

Nov. 28 at Farm Island, near Pierre (1) BJR.

Common Merganser

Wintered at LaCreek (2) HHB; Nov. 29 Yankton (30) KJH; usual numbers along Missouri.

Red-breasted Merganser

On Christmas Count at La Creek (2) HHB.

Hooded Merganser

Wintered at LaCreek (2) HHB.

Goshawk

Brookings (3) NH; Deuel Co., BKH; Beadle Co., KC; Dec. 17 (1) and Feb. 7 (1) Gregory Co., GS; Dec. 15 (1) and Dec. 29 Christmas Count, Pierre (1) BJR; Jan. 5 Lawrence Co. (1) and Jan. 12 Rockerville (1) HCB.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

At Rapid City. Numbers unknown. The birds visited feeding station areas frequently, keeping other species away from feed, and reducing House Sparrow populations, EMS.

Rough-legged Hawk

Five observations in Rapid City area. First and last dates: Dec. 15 Christmas Count (1), and Mar. 22 (2) CY. Seven observations in West River area. First and last dates: Jan. 3 Cedar Pass (1), and Mar. 8 LaCreek (1) RCW. Roberts Co., BKH; Dec. 29 Hyde Co. (4) JH; Mar. 16 Wessington, Beadle Co., to Pierre (7) NRW.

Ferruginous Hawk

Christmas Count period, Hughes Co. (1) BJR; Dec. 29 Hyde Co. (1) JH; Jan. 3 Conata, Pennington Co. (1), and Jan. 4 Scenic, Penn. Co. (1) RCW.

Golden Eagle

The West River and Rapid City areas had a total of 24 observations. Unusual numbers in Beadle Co. first week of Jan. (8) KC; wintered in Hyde Co. (2) JH; wintered at LaCreek (5) HHB.

Bald Eagle

Dec. 27 Grant Co. (1) WK; wintered at LaCreek (2) HHB; Dec. 1 through winter season, West River and Rapid City areas (16 reports); usual numbers along Missouri. Five reported in Brown Co., TL.

Prairie Falcon

Feb. 9 Badlands Nat. Monument (1) RCW; Feb. 20 Beadle Co. (1) KC; Mar. 11 Badlands (2) NRW.

Gyr Falcon

Heavy flight into state; at least 9 reports from Roberts, Beadle, Stanley, McCook, Hughes, Lyman Counties - DS, KC, BH, BJR, WCT. Details will be in a later issue of BIRD NOTES.

Merlin

Feb. 15 near Interior (1) RCW; Dec. 8 Sully Co. (1) BJR.

Bobwhite

Numbers in Gregory Co. have in-

creased. Wintered at Burke Lake (40), wintered south of Burke (30) GS.

Killdeer

Christmas Count period (1) WH; Dec. 2 to 26 Rapid City (2) EMS; Feb., at Pierre (1) CAF; Mar. 3 Sturgis (2) EEM.

Common Snipe

Observed several times during winter (1) GS; Jan. 5 through period, Rapid City (3) JLM; Mar. 3 Sturgis (2) EEM.

Glaucous Gull

Dec. 8 (1), Christmas Count (3), Jan. 1 (1), all at Pierre, BJR.

Mourning Doves

Deuel, Roberts, Grant, Beadle, Clay and Yankton Counties; flocks of up to 15 birds, all prior to Jan. blizzard.

Screech Owl

Dec. 29 near Rapid City (1) HCB; Mar. 14 near Oahe Dam (1) NRW.

Short-eared Owl

Roberts Co. (1) BKH.

Snowy Owl

Numerous sightings over state. Nov. 19 to Jan. 20 Aberdeen (8) LL; Nov. 24 to Jan. 3 Hyde Co. (11) JH; mid-Dec. through mid-Feb. LaCreek (1 to 5) HHB; Dec. 1 Reliance (1) WCT; Dec. 8 Sully Co (1) BJR; Dec. 15 Butte Co. (1) IW; Dec. 19 Lake Byron (2) CAF; Dec. 26 Interior (1), and Jan. 13 Cedar Pass (1) RCW; Jan. 7 Butte Co. (1) IW.

Belted Kingfisher

Nov. 29 Yankton (1) KJH; Jan. 15 LaCreek (1) RCW.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Oct. 23 to Dec. 20 at feeders in Burke (1 m) GS. The bird was found dead Dec. 24. All winter at feeder in Clay Co. (2) KJH.

Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers

Present all winter at many feeders

throughout the state.

Clark's Nutcracker

Dec. 27 Diamond Crystal Cave Road (1) GLD.

Winter Wren

Dec. 18 along Hartford Creek, Roberts Co. (1) BKH; Pierre Christmas Count (2) BJR.

Carolina Wren

Last week of Oct. to Dec. 18 Brookings Co. (1) EE.

Canyon Wren

Dec. 9 Rapid City area (1) LRP; heard calling all period, Rapid City area, DM; Jan. 11 Rapid Canyon (1) NRW.

Brown Thrasher

Dec. 26 Codington Co. (1) BKH; Jan. 8 Hyde Co. (1) MJ.

Mountain Bluebird

Dec. 1 to Jan. 21 Badlands (8 daily) RCW.

Bohemian Waxwing

Few records Jan. 11 Belle Fourche (55) IW; Jan. 19 Rapid City (35) GRB; Feb. 9 (55) and Feb. 10 (20) Belle Fourche, IW; Mar. 11 Rapid City (75) NRW.

Cedar Waxwing

Dec. 3 Belle Fourche (50) IW; Jan. 30 Rapid City (20) NRW; Feb. 11 Belle Fourche (1 flock) IW. Also observed in Codington, Deuel, and Yankton Counties, BKH, WH.

Northern Shrike

Dec. 19 banded at Brookings (1) NH; observed in Deuel Co., BKH.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)

Dec. 29 to Mar. 2 Rapid City (4) GRB, NRW, CY.

Cardinal

Reported in Beadle (1 pr.). Clay (1 to

3 pr.), Deuel and Grant, and Lincoln (6) Counties, NRW, JKH, BKH, CB.

Evening Grosbeak

Few records. Observed in Day and Roberts Counties in the eastern part of the state, EW and HC, BKH. The species was noticeably absent from Belle Fourche, IW; Rapid City had only 5 records -- Dec. 15 Christmas Count (7), Feb. 12 (18) JLM, Feb. 6 (10) and Feb. 18 (10) NRW, Mar. 1 (20) RCK.

Purple Finch

Few records. Dec. 18 Belle Fourche (1) IW; Feb. 15 (6 f.) and Mar. 15 (6 f. 2 m.) Johnson home, Huron, NRW; Mar. 13 Pierre (3) BJR.

Cassin's Finch

Jan. 23 Rapid City (1 m. 2 f.) NRW.

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

Dec. 15 to Mar. 20 Rapid City (1) Dr. R. Kovarik.

Redpoll

Conspicuous by its absence.

Pine Siskins

Usual numbers in Black Hills; only one other record (Aberdeen Christmas Count).

Red Crossbills

No reports outside of Black Hills.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Dec. 8 to Mar. 26 Rapid City (1) VB.

Harris' Sparrow

Almost daily through period, Rapid City (1) LW; Jan. 8 Rapid City (1) BJR; daily through winter, Spearfish (av. 6) TH; Dec. 24 to Jan. 21 Belle Fourche (1) IW; daily most of Dec. and Jan., then occasionally rest of season (1), Mar. 14 (3), Clay Co., KJH.

White-throated Sparrow

Dec. 9 (1), Mar. 9 (1) Rapid City, LRP.

Fox Sparrow

Christmas Count week to Jan. blizzard, Pierre (1) BJR.

Song Sparrow

Jan. 29 Rapid City (2) NRW.

Snow Bunting

Christmas Count period, Pierre (5) BJR; Jan. 11, eating weed seeds during blizzard, Brookings Co. (5) EE; last of Jan. and first of Feb., with large flocks of Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs, Hyde, Co. (30 or more) JH; Feb. 17, Stanley Co., with Horned Larks (2) NRW.

CONTRIBUTORS

Don Allen, DA; Gertrude Bachman, GRB; Harry Behrens, HCB; Carol Breen, CB; Violet Brodsky, VB; Harold H. Burgess, HHB; Herman Chilson, HC; Kay Cool, KC; G.L. DeFord, GLD; Esther Edie, EE; Conrad A. Fjetland, CAF; Willis Hall, WH; Byron Harrell, BH; Bruce Harris, BKH; June Harter, JH; Tom Hays, TH; Nelda Holden, NH; Karolyn Hoover, KJH; Mrs. John Jensen, MJ; Rachel Katterjohn, RCK; Walter Krause, WK; Tom LeFaive, TL; Larry Lynch, LL; Dorothy McCulloh, DM; Ernest Miller, EEM; Joci Mortimer, JLM; Ruth and Leighton Palmerton, LRP; R.C. Rosche, RCR; B.J. Rose, BJR; Esther Serr, EMS; Galen Steffen, GS; Dennis Strom, DS; Walter C. Thietje, WCT; Don Walters, DW; Irma Weyler, IW; N.R. Whitney, NRW; Ellen Williamson, EW; Leota Williams, LW; R.C. Wilt, RCW; Clara Yarger, CY.



Ovenbird

—Drawing

Courtesy E.W. Steffen

Spring Convention . . . 1975

Herman P. Chilson, Convention Chairman

Welcome to the friendly City of Webster. We will do our very best to make this a successful convention. We are happy that B.J. Rose of Pierre and Willis Hall of Yankton have accepted our invitation to show us some of their fabulous bird slides.

Send Reservations for banquet to Herman Chilson before May 10.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 16th

Registration and social time at the Security Bank Community Room (Main Street). Free coffee and cookies courtesy of the Webster Chamber of Commerce. Slide presentation by B.J. Rose, Pierre (newly elected regional director of Ducks Unlimited).

SATURDAY, MAY 17th

6 a.m.—Breakfast at Mandy's Cafe north edge of Webster or Bain's Restaurant downtown on Main Street across from convention headquarters in Security Bank community room downstairs.

6:30 a.m.—Field trips to start from parking lot behind Security Bank; Group I: Leader Bob Johnson (manager of Waubay Game Refuge); Group II: Leader President Bruce Harris, Rush and Bitter Lakes area; Group III: Leader Herman P. Chilson, Fort Sisseton area.

6:30 p.m.—Banquet at Methodist Church (one block east of Main Street across from school). Slide presentation by Willis Hall, Yankton.

SUNDAY, MAY 18th

6 a.m.—Breakfast at Mandy's or Bain's.

6:30 a.m.—Field trips to start from parking lot behind Security Bank; Group I: Leader Bob Johnson, in and around Waubay Refuge; Group II: Leader Bruce Harris, Rush and Bitter Lake areas; Group III: Leader Herman P. Chilson, Fort Sisseton area.

12 Noon—Field lunch at Waubay Game Refuge.

1 p.m.—Compilation of lists.

2 p.m.—Adios until next year.

WEBSTER MOTELS AND HOTELS

HOLIDAY INN—Phone 345-3323, Highway 12, \$10-\$16.

ELMER'S MOTEL—Phone 345-9900, Highways 12 and 25, \$7-\$9.

SHEPHERD MOTEL—Phone 345-4226, North Main Street, \$5-\$7.

KLEIN HOTEL—Phone 345-3311, Main Street, \$4.50-\$5.

WEBSTER AREA CAMPING FACILITIES

E&K's MOBILE AND CAMPERS—Phone 345-3269, \$2 night, east side, electricity, water and sewer hookup.

WEBSTER CITY PARK—North end, 12th Avenue, outdoor water and toilet, no charge.

ROADSIDE PARKS—Overnight, no charge, 3½ miles west of Webster, Highway 12, toilets only; five miles south of Webster, Highway 25, toilets only.

STATE PARKS—Pickerel Lake, west side, electricity, outdoor toilet and water; Pickerel Lake, east side, electricity, outdoor toilet and water.

Christmas Count, 1974

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

| | Aberdeen | Brookings | Hot Springs | Hurley | Madison | Mitchell | Pierre | Rapid City | Sioux Falls | Watertown | Waubay | Webster | Wilmot | Yankton |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|--------|---------|----------|--------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Canada Goose | | | | | | | 3926 | | | | | | | |
| Mallard | 35 | | 4000 | | 350 | | 2176 | 582 | 9 | | | | 1 | 15300 |
| Black Duck | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Gadwall | | | | | | | 7 | 15 | | | | | | |
| Pintail | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Green-winged Teal | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Blue-winged Teal | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| American Wigeon | | | 48 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Wood Duck | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Redhead | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Canvasback | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Greater Scaup | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Common Goldeneye | | | 7 | | | | 131 | 5 | | | | | | 6 |
| Bufflehead | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Common Merganser | | | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 9 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Goshawk | | 3 | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | | 1 | | | | | 8 | | | | | | | 5 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Golden Eagle | | | 4 | | | | 4 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Bald Eagle | | | 4 | | | | 15 | | | | | | | 7 |
| Marsh Hawk | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Prairie Falcon | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Merlin | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| American Kestrel | | | | 1 | 1 | | 7 | | | | | | | 3 |
| Sharp-tailed Grouse | | | | | | | 28 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Bobwhite | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| Pheasant | 130 | 60 | 3 | 5 | 150 | 7 | 27 | 1 | 44 | 7 | | | | |
| Gray Partridge | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkey | | | 11 | 4 | | | 11 | 44 | | | | | | |
| American Coot | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Killdeer | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| Common Snipe | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Glaucous Gull | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Herring Gull | | | | | | | 25 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Lesser Grebe | 63 | 103 | 34 | 40 | 24 | | 237 | 26 | 215 | 100 | | | 16 | |

MARCH, 1975

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|---|
| Screech Owl | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Great Horned Owl | 5 | 22 | | | 5 | | 20 | 8 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Short-eared Owl | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Snowy Owl | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 11 | 4 | | | | | 1 | |
| Common Flicker | | 5 | 11 | 3 | 3 | | 6 | 7 | 16 | | | | 3 | 4 | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1 | 25 | | 2 | 4 | | 20 | 11 | 40 | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 2 | |
| Downy Woodpecker | 8 | 89 | 3 | 8 | 20 | | 30 | 31 | 76 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | |
| Northern Three-toed Woodpecker | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Horned Lark | 273 | 61 | | 2 | 19 | 100 | 230 | | | 19 | 3 | 75 | 134 | | |
| Blue Jay | 1 | 36 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 45 | 28 | 3 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| Pinyon Jay | | | 75 | | | | | 132 | | | | | | | |
| Gray Jay | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Black billed Magpie | | | 65 | | | | 51 | 95 | | | | | | | |
| Common Crow | | 38 | 10 | 15 | 55 | 5 | 51 | 41 | 60 | 12 | | | 1 | 16 | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 4 | 156 | 39 | 42 | 47 | 1 | 144 | 300 | 402 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 26 | 2 | |
| Dipper | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 6 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 13 | | 10 | 3 | 42 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 1 | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | 15 | 2 | | | | 2 | 36 | 6 | | | 1 | | | |
| Brown Creeper | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 6 | 2 | 9 | | | | | | |
| Winter Wren | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Canyon Wren | | | 4 | | | | | 8 | | | | | | | |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| American Robin | 66 | 3 | 71 | | | 1 | 60 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | 5 | |
| Townsend's Solitaire | | | 62 | | | | | 43 | | | | | | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | 5 | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Bohemian Waxwing | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | |
| Cedar Waxwing | 53 | 42 | 15 | | | | 73 | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Shrike | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Starling | 190 | 40 | 177 | 25 | 283 | 100 | 667 | 658 | 2095 | 109 | 6 | 1 | 340 | 288 | |
| House Sparrow | 1437 | 1990 | 120 | 171 | 1134 | 280 | 1929 | 613 | 4740 | 341 | 74 | 15 | 320 | 43 | |
| Western Meadowlark | | | 3 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 4 | 127 | | 7 | | | 433 | 4 | 15 | | | | 64 | | |
| Rusty Blackbird | | | | | 4 | | 18 | | | | | | 75 | | |
| Brewer's Blackbird | 53 | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Common Grackle | 18 | 2 | | 10 | 5 | | 9 | | | | | 2 | 3 | | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Cardinal | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | 17 | | | | | | 2 |
| Evening Grosbeak | | | | | | | | 7 | | | | 3 | | | |
| Purple Finch | 40 | 18 | | | 3 | | 25 | 3 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Gray-crowned Rosy Finch | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Redpoll | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Pine Siskin | 5 | | 27 | | | | | 382 | | | | | | | |
| American Goldfinch | | 29 | 40 | | 50 | | | 76 | 115 | | | | | | |
| Red Crossbill | | | 1 | | | | | 55 | | | | | | | |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 3 | 43 | 156 | | 4 | | 15 | 741 | 96 | | | | 7 | 11 | |
| Tree Sparrow | | 89 | 44 | | 42 | | 81 | 94 | 458 | 1 | 2 | | 7 | 14 | |
| Harris Sparrow | | 2 | | | | | | 5 | 8 | | | | | | |
| Song Sparrow | | | 4 | | | | 5 | 7 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Lapland Longspur | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | 5 | | | | 28 | |
| Snow Bunting | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | 1 | | |

Black Hills Banding Report

N.R. Whitney and Tom Hays

THE FOLLOWING lists contain the species and numbers that we banded in Rapid City and Spearfish in 1974.

In Rapid City:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Blue Jay | 8 |
| Pinyon Jay | 17 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1 |
| House Wren | 1 |
| American Robin | 2 |
| Common Grackle | 2 |
| Evening Grosbeak | 4 |
| Common Redpoll | 6 |
| Pine Siskin | 271 |
| American Goldfinch | 1 |
| Red Crossbill | 1 |
| Rufous-sided Towhee (Spotted) | 1 |
| White-winged Junco | 23 |
| Slate-colored Junco | 13 |
| Oregon Junco | 3 |
| Tree Sparrow | 8 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 10 |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 5 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 2 |

Total individuals 379

Total Species 19

Band used:

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Siskins | 271 |
| Other Size O | 48 |
| Size 1 | 23 |
| Size 1 B | 3 |
| Size 1 A | 5 |
| Size 2 | 6 |
| Size 3 | 23 |

Total 379

—N.R. Whitney

In Spearfish:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Common Flicker | 1 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 2 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Eastern Kingbird | 2 |
| Trail's Flycatcher | 4 |
| Dusky Flycatcher | 3 |
| Unident. Empidonax | 2 |
| Western Wood Pewee | 2 |
| Blue Jay | 13 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 7 |
| Dipper | 4 |
| House Wren | 1 |
| Gray Catbird | 8 |
| American Robin | 23 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 10 |
| Mountain Bluebird | 8 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 7 |
| Yellow Warbler | 7 |
| Audubon Warbler | 1 |
| Ovenbird | 12 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 1 |
| Common Yellow-throat | 4 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 1 |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | 1 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 1 |
| American Redstart | 1 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 3 |
| Northern Oriole (Bullock's) | 4 |
| Common Grackle | 45 |
| Western Tanager | 8 |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | 7 |
| Lazuli Bunting | 2 |
| Evening Grosbeak | 64 |
| Purple Finch | 9 |
| House Finch | 1 |
| Common Redpoll | 1 |
| Pine Siskin | 4 |
| American Goldfinch | 7 |
| Red Crossbill | 1 |
| Rufous-sided Towhee (Spotted) | 6 |
| Tree Sparrow | 87 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 23 |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 1 |
| Harris Sparrow | 14 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 1 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 4 |
| Song Sparrow | 6 |



—From Color Transparency by B.J. Rose

Albino Goose

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| In Rapid City: | |
| White-winged Junco | 35 |
| Slate-colored Junco | 26 |
| Oregon Junco | 3 |
| Hybrid Junco | 2 |
| Total individuals | 490 |
| Total species: 48 | |

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Bands used: | |
| Size 0 | 102 |
| Size 1 | 162 |
| Size 1 B | 32 |
| Size 1 A | 110 |
| Size 2 | 25 |
| Size 3 | 59 |
| Total | 490 |

—Tom Hays

MOU Invitation

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union extends an invitation to SDOU members to attend a field trip at Luverne, Minn., May 30-June 1. Registration will be at Blue Mound Inn (3 miles north of Luverne on Hwy 75) Friday, May 30, 6-8 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a dinner and program at the Inn on Saturday evening. Maps will be provided for the self-guided field trips on Saturday and Sunday.

Was your BIRD NOTES delivered in a dog-eared, ragged, or soiled condition? The Board of Directors wants to hear from anyone who received a rumpled magazine. Responses may be sent to any board member or the editor.

General Notes of Special Interest

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS ON BIG STONE CHRISTMAS COUNT—The area covered by the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Count (near Ortonville, Minn.) includes the base of Big Stone Lake, in South Dakota. Some of the birds on the 1974 count were observed in our state. Bruce Harris participated in the count; Dennis Strom, Ortonville, was the compiler. Complete details will be in the "Christmas Bird Count" edition of "American Birds" when it is published later this year.

The numbers given for the following species are the totals of the birds observed in both states.

Species in South Dakota were: Whistling Swan 1; Canada Goose 80; Mallard 353; Common Merganser 1; Pheasant 81; Rock Dove 79; Mourning Dove 1; Great Horned Owl 2; Hairy Woodpecker 21; Downy Woodpecker 23; Horned Lark 27; Blue Jay 10; Black-capped Chickadee 94; White-breasted Nuthatch 20; Starling 170; House Sparrow 874; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Rusty Blackbird 200; Brown-headed Cowbird 5; American Goldfinch 20; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Tree Sparrow 368.—Bruce K. Harris, Clear Lake

+ + +

PRAIRIE FALCON - RED-TAILED HAWK CONFLICT NORTHEAST OF WOLSEY—A bright day about 3:00 p.m., Feb. 20, 1975, a few miles northeast of Wolsey, I saw a Prairie Falcon sitting on a pole. The bird flushed before I could stop the car but lit on another pole a quarter mile ahead.

Stopping the car 150 yards short of the bird, I observed it with a 25-power spotting scope for about two minutes. The wings in flight had made it clearly a falcon. Now, perched, its feet and lower

legs showed bright yellow, back and tail dark brown, breast light tan. The head was brown with a white line over the eye; a white line ran diagonally down and back from below the eye. In front of the diagonal white line was a dark mustache line of similar width, which terminated against the white of the throat.

Later my identification was carefully compared and checked against the description of the Prairie Falcon in Vol. II of *Eagles, Hawks, and Falcons of the World* by Brown and Amadon, McGraw-Hill, 1968, page 834 and plate 159.

After sitting on the pole for some two minutes, the bird flew west, approaching a rock pile in a flat dive. As it neared the rock pile, a Red-tailed Hawk appeared before it. The birds struck in mid-air. The falcon recovered and circled to the south; the Red-tail fell to the ground. As the falcon circled back, the hawk flew away to the south, the falcon in close pursuit, making quick turns and passes at it. After the hawk had gone a half mile the falcon gave off the harassing pursuit and returned to land on the point of the rock pile. A few pheasants in the area had broken cover in alarm during the performance. After a few minutes the falcon flew off.—K.L. Cool, Conservation Officer, Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks, Huron

+ + +

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER AT RAPID CITY—In the late afternoon of 4 August 1973, an unusual gray-backed warbler with black and white markings perched in the cyclone fence at the rear of my yard in western Rapid City. Shortly, it flew to and fed in a small chokecherry tree in the yard. Next, the bird flew to the strawberry patch and fed there on the ground for a short while. The

warbler's last activity, before departing, was to fly to a Chinese elm, where the bird fed among the leaves in typical warbler fashion for several minutes. In all, I observed this warbler for about five minutes with 7x35 binoculars at distances of 30 to 40 feet.

The bird had a solid black cap, but did not have the facial markings of a Black-poll Warbler. Instead, it had a black cheek patch with white above and below the patch, markings somewhat similar to those of a Black-and-White Warbler, but this bird lacked a white crown stripe, and the black throat was far more distinctive. In addition, the black under-streakings were on only the sides and were not in the central breast as in the Black-and-White Warbler. Further, the bird did not feed in the trees with the characteristic "nuthatch" quality of a Black-and-White Warbler.

While I did not see the diagnostic tiny yellow lores (both Peterson and Robbins claim these yellow spots are not conspicuous), I am confident that I observed an accidental occurrence of a Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigerescens*) far east of its typical western range.

South Dakota Bird Notes (1:35) lists only one other report of the Black-throated Gray Warbler in South Dakota—Donahoe and Hills' observation at Sherman Park in Sioux Falls, on 22 May 1948. Apparently on the basis of this single occurrence, the "Check-list of South Dakota Birds" (Bird Notes, 9:19) lists the species as accidental. Also, 10 miles from South Dakota, at Madison, Minnesota, Mrs. C.E. Peterson banded a Black-throated Gray Warbler in 1956 (Bird Notes, 9:5).—L.M. Baylor, SD-SM&T, Rapid City

+ + +

RED CROSSBILLS NESTING IN EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA—Breeding Red Crossbills are probably overlooked by observers because, like siskins, they nest early, with egg laying commencing

during the first half of April, when many people might assume they are merely migrants late in leaving the state.

The species was found nesting at Yankton during March, 1920 (Larrabee, SDBN, 2:55). Although this is the only crossbill nest record for eastern South Dakota, I am sure that the species nests irregularly in the northeastern counties, though probably not as often as siskins. A male and female Red Crossbill came to my feeding station at Altamont on several occasions during March 1973, and the male was heard in full song, but I was unable to locate a nest. Crossbill nests are usually high in the tops of large conifers, and reportedly difficult to locate. Nesting of this species would be tough to pin down; crossbills are apparently quiet around their nests, unlike the siskins. Other observers have reported Red Crossbills in eastern South Dakota during the breeding season, most often in Day County (Chilson, SDBN, 25:52).—Bruce Harris, Clear Lake

+ + +

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER AT PIERRE—On May 2, 1973, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was photographed near Campground No. 1 below Oahe Dam. The bird was moving through the top half of medium-sized cottonwood trees. It appeared to be migrating with a flock of Myrtle Warblers and a few Orange-crowned Warblers. Several slides, even though taken at a considerable distance, confirm the characteristic markings.—B.J. Rose, Pierre

+ + +

WHIMBREL IN CLAY COUNTY—About noon, on a sunny May 24, 1974, I sighted my first Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)—on a pond approximately six miles northeast of Vermillion. Shorebird migration had been heavy so I went to the pond almost daily to see what was new, and to study the difficult peeps. On this day a mixed flock of about 250 sandpipers

were feeding in the shallow water and on the mud flat.

A bird on the far east shore that at first appeared to be a female duck caught my attention. When I looked through the glasses, however, I could see that it was a large, long-legged, greyish-brown shore bird, with pale underparts. The down-curved bill was about half the length of the body. The bird was too far away for me to see any markings clearly. After returning home and consulting some field guides, I concluded that the bird was a Whimbrel.

I observed more details on a return trip to the pond in mid-afternoon. The bird was now at the north shore, closer to the road. It moved toward me, close enough for me to see the stripes on the crown. It poked in the mud for food, then came clearly into view as it picked up a snail, ran to the water's edge, and swished its bill to clean the mud off of the snail before feasting.

Later, while registering for the SDOU meeting, I asked Adeline Siljenberg to go to the pond with me. The bird was still there. After more study I was fairly certain of the identification, but we needed more confirmation.

That evening, I met Bruce Harris and asked him to verify my identification. Walter Rose and Kim Eckert went with us. The bird was feeding when we arrived, and the light was still good enough to allow us a clear view through Bruce's big scope. The men observed the behavior, noted the crown stripes, and agreed that it was indeed a Whimbrel.

The Whimbrel is normally found along the coasts of the United States, and is considered to be accidental in South Dakota. Previously, a bird was observed by N.R. Whitney at LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge, Bennett County, May 15, 1958. Two birds were reported at LaCreek prior to 1958 by Refuge Manager Kenneth Krumm, but dates are not available for this earlier record.

Older reference books list the bird as

Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*). Henry Hill Collins Jr., in "Field Guide to American Wildlife," said that this is the curlew spoken of in Tennyson's "Locksley Hall."

The Whimbrel is a remarkable bird whose discovery brought excitement to this birder. I recalled the dedication of Henry Collin's book: "May the call of the curlew and the cry of the coyote never perish from the marshes and the purple rimrock of our fair and pleasant land."—**Karolyn J. Hoover, Vermillion**

+ + +

LATE HOUSE WREN RECORD—Three House wrens were present in my yard through 30 September 1974. They fed daily in the garden where I watched them frequently. B.J. Rose confirmed the identification when he saw at least one of the birds on 28 September. He noted, as I had many times, the somewhat longer tail of one wren as it perched on a stake in the garden.

Observations on 29 September were prevented by inclement weather, but the birds were seen and heard the next day.

A pair of House Wrens raised two broods here during the summer, and the lingerers appeared to be some of those summer residents.—**J. Harter, Highmore**

+ + +

ABERRANT FEATHER CONDITION IN A WHITE-WINGED JUNCO—On 7 January 1973, we examined a White-winged Junco (*Junco hyemalis aikeni*) that manifested an aberrant feather condition. Growing from amidst the body contour feathers on the junco's right side was a single flight (primary or secondary) feather. By probing, we could feel a firm lump from which the shaft projected. The distal portion of this flight feather was broken off. The remaining portion was 2.8 cm in length and 1.3 cm in width. The feather emerged from the side of the body at a point 2 cm below the shoulder joint.

After recording the above data, we



—From Color Transparency by J.W. Johnson

Avocet in Winter Plumage in Florida

released this White-winged Junco with band number 75-20589. On 10 March 1973, Baylor recaptured this bird, and the aberrant feather was present in the same condition as it was at the initial observation.

In the course of our banding nearly 2,000 White-winged Juncos during the previous 17 years, as well as our banding many individuals of other species, we had never before encountered a bird with such a feather formation. In discussion with us, Dr. Leland Johnson, Professor of Biology at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, speculated that a subcutaneous tumor could have been the source of this abnormal feather growth. Whatever the cause and because the special literature on abnormal feather occurrences is not available to us, we share this account for its general interest and for possible use by investigators of peculiar feather growth.—L.M. Baylor, South Dakota School of Mines and

Technology, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701; and N.R. Whitney, Jr., 633 Berry Pine Road, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701. Received 18 March 1974, accepted 1 April 1974. (BIRD-BANDING, Vol. 45, No. 3, pp 269, Summer 1974.)

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CAROLINA WREN IN BROOKINGS COUNTY—In late October, 1974, a large rusty wren, very buffy underneath and with a white eye-stripe, flew into our unfinished greenhouse (attached to the house) and on into an adjacent room. The wren followed the same procedure three or four times during the last week of October, always appearing just before dusk. Since the wiring in that part of the house was incomplete and the light was poor, I assumed that the bird was a Long-billed Marsh Wren which I had seen on Oct. 4 and again on Oct. 23 in some brush near the house.

On Nov. 1, however, the wren arrived earlier. Its buffy underparts, much

redder back and tail, and the absence of any back stripes left no doubt about its identity as a Carolina Wren. On Nov. 2 and 3 it again insisted on coming inside for the night. On Nov. 3 my husband was working on the greenhouse doorway, the only remaining opening, when a Carolina Wren lit in a nearby apple tree and scolded him for several minutes. When he moved to get a better look at the wren in the tree, another large wren flew out of the greenhouse.

After Nov. 3 we saw a Carolina Wren on Nov. 5, 7, 9, 23, 30, and Dec. 7, 10, and 12 (the day before this report was prepared). In each case the wren appeared between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. along the south side of the house and worked its way within two or three feet of the foundation to the east side of the house, where there is a cutaway bank about 10 feet from an east window. There the wren alternated between scratching vigorously—reminding one of a Harris' Sparrow—and throwing leaves about like a robin. The only exception in appearance time was on Dec. 12, when it appeared in the same area at 8:00 a.m. On Dec. 10 I also saw it at noon in a brushy tangle about 100 yards from the house.

The habitat here consists of several hundred yards of thickly suckered old lilacs and other brush along with some acres of dense trees, shrubs, and weedy growth. During mid-November we had about two inches of snow, which covered the ground for a few days. There were no sightings during that period. I did not see more than one bird at a time except on Nov. 3.

I have heard the bird sing only once, on a day when there was no sighting. The song came from a brushy area a few yards from the greenhouse. I immediately got out the recording of Peterson's "Field Guide to Bird Songs" and identified the song as that of the Carolina Wren.—Esther Edie, Bruce

(A later note stated that the last ob-

servaion was on Dec. 18. Pictures taken that day by Mrs. Edie confirm the identity of the wren. — Ed.)

+ + +

HOODED WARBLERS AT PIERRE—
On April 26, 1974, a male Hooded Warbler was observed near Campground No. 1 below Oahe Dam. When first observed, it was in low underbrush but eventually moved to the outer limbs of newly leafed cottonwoods. One photograph was taken showing the characteristic facial markings. On April 29, 1974, a female was observed within 50 yards of where the male was seen three days earlier. This bird was in the lower half of a willow thicket.—B.J. Rose, Pierre

Pine Siskins: Widespread

(Continued from Page 4)

were nesting in Hamlin, Codington, and Grant Counties during 1973; I have a number of observations on the species in Estelline, Watertown, and Milbank for March and April of that year.

My experience with nesting siskins in South Dakota indicates that their success has been limited, and mishaps of one kind or another often occur to their nesting attempts in the state. Possibly this is to be expected with a species breeding on the extreme edge of its range, but it is difficult to believe that weather conditions here are more severe than in their normal breeding areas.

Breeding siskins are probably overlooked by many observers because they are early nesters, with egg laying commencing during the first half of April. Many people might assume they are observing late migrants in South Dakota. Siskins are quite noisy and conspicuous in their courtship activities, and their nests are often easily located. But we are so accustomed to thinking of the species as breeders in the northern coniferous forests that we sometimes do not consider them as nesters in South Dakota.—Clear Lake

Book Review

J. W. Johnson

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO MINNESOTA, by K. R. Eckert. Sponsored and distributed by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. 55455. iv + 114 pages, including 6-page Index and 2-page list of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians found in Minnesota. A "Birder's Guide to Birders" gives names, addresses, and phone numbers of six regional birders who will give current information and receive new observations, particularly on a rare bird that others would want to see. Heavy paper covers, 5½ x 8½ inches. Illustrated with good photographs of a small number of bird specialties of the state. Regional maps give locations of numbered birding areas. A pocket inside the back cover holds the current Minnesota State Highway map and a check-list card of Minnesota birds. \$3.50 plus 25c postage.

For birding in Minnesota, beyond your back fence, if you live in the state, or for any out of stater, this book is obviously standard equipment. Lack of it will cost gasoline, time, and frustration.

The first part of the book is introductory: description of the state, background on its birdlife, explanation of the format, check-list, with status, lists of numbered birding areas, and the maps of the four regions.

Parts 2, 3, and 4 are: "Birder's Guide to Winter," "... Migration," and "... Summer," for each of the four regions.

There are detailed how-to-get-there directions, and for meeting the winter in the northwest, warnings about back country roads, cold weather behavior for the stranger, birds that are certain, birds that are possible, birds to watch for, and birds in between. A list of probables entices; the thought of modern winter gear persuades. Roseau County, by Lake of the Woods, with its four described birding areas should see more winter birders from now on.

Part 3, "Migration," ranges over the state by regions as do the others. While the author feels that it is less definitive than the rest, "the reason is that, during migration, birds tend to show up just about anywhere." While most of the areas described in the book are chosen for habitat and on basis of experience of competent birders, they are not to be considered exclusive. As the author reminds, "You might easily find a good spot for migrants by exploring some backwoods gravel roads that no one ever tried before. So, after checking the areas listed, try to set aside some time for exploring on your own and you will usually find something of interest."

Part 4, "Birder's Guide to Summer," is shorter due to breeding species being fewer than migrants, but the lists in various areas are impressive enough. The two to three pages devoted to each region pinpoint the breeding sites for the spectaculars, the numerous, and individual species.—Huron

Published by
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
Editor: June Harter
Highmore, S.D. 57345

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 104
WEBSTER, S.D. 57274

The Index

Nelda Holden, compiler and editor of **An Index to South Dakota Bird Notes, Volumes 21-26**, has announced that the publication will soon be ready for the printer, and funds are needed to cover expenses. Traditionally, the funds have been provided through contributions from our members. The custom lives on, and we are again depending on that generosity for the new "Index." Donations may be sent to Mrs. David J. Holden, Route 4, Box 68, Brookings, S.D. 57006, or presented to her at the Spring Meeting at Webster.