

# South Dakota Bird Notes

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Vol. 27, No. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1975

Whole No. 106

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Cattle Egret

—Photo by J.W. Johnson

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## President's Page

Birders who are regular readers of "American Birds" (formerly "Audubon Field Notes") must be amazed at the movements that birds can and do make. The possibility that an unexpected species will turn up at least once in a given place, and at unseasonal times of the year, is apparently endless. And the number of rare species being observed far out of range is almost unbelievable, were it not for careful documentation by specimens, photos, or a number of ex-



perienced observers. I have been birding for many years, and have discovered my share of "rare" species in various states, but I am continuously surprised at the records that turn up. We can only speculate on whether we are experiencing changes

in bird distribution, or whether the growing numbers of the birding fraternity accounts for the unprecedented records of out-of-place birds that have been reported in "American Birds" during the past three years.

"American Birds" is highly recommended reading for any serious birder—it presents the nationwide picture, and makes our local or regional records more interesting and reasonable. We feel much better, and personal records become more reliable, when we know that a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen on

the north shore of Lake Superior during the same week that the species was noted in South Dakota. But there can also be disconcerting moments. It was when I read that the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was observed in Minnesota and Michigan last winter that I regretted having questioned a winter record of the species at Webster.

A point that I would like to emphasize is the importance of looking closely at reports and records of rare birds at unseasonal times of the year. We should question the reports of unusual species, and request that details be submitted. At the same time we should encourage all observers to report rare or casual species, and assure them that inexperience will not necessarily cause rejection of the record.

Questions, scrutiny, and discussions with veteran observers help us to gain experience, but it is also necessary to keep an open mind not take offense if a report is rejected. Notifying other birders, getting at least one other observer, or taking photos will always make it easier to establish the identity of a bird.

The winter season will be starting by the time you read these lines. Prospects for good winter birding are better than they were during the past two years; Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Purple Finches appeared in the northeast corner of the state about mid-October. The early fall migration suggests that we may have a cold winter coming. Good birding and the best of luck to all.—Bruce K. Harris, Clear Lake

# 1975 Summer Report

Compilers, G.L. Steffen, B.J. Rose, J. Harter

**WEATHER DURING** the 1975 nesting season generated ample moisture and drought. Rainfall at Rapid City was 8 inches above the 1974 nesting period; there was adequate moisture over most of the state in June, especially the western third, but drought, high temperatures, and drying winds prevailed in the central and eastern counties in July and August. Marshes in the northeastern region were noticeably affected. Conditions, however, seemed to favor the more common species which apparently had good nesting success.

Observations were made in some areas of the state that are seldom covered in season reports. Kim Eckert and Richard Hill travelled to Harding County; other counties were sites for Breeding Bird Surveys done in June by Nelda Holden, N.R. Whitney, and B.J. Rose. The records obtained on those trips perforce have limited information on nests and young but they do establish the presence of many species during the breeding season.

## SUMMER REPORT

### LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

**Common Loon**—During June and through 7-2 (2) apparently second year non-breeders at Emeny Swim Lake, Day Co., reported by K. Husmann (fide BKH); 6-15 (1) adult in breeding plumage, Oahe Dam tailwaters, RLH; present throughout summer (2) second year non-breeders at Oahe Dam, reported by JLM, BJR.

**Red-necked Grebe**—Present all period, no nests or young observed, Waubay N.W.R., KFH.

**Eared Grebe**—7-9 (1 pair) Fox L., Deuel Co., BKH; 7-9 and 7-22 (5) young in 4 broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFH; 7-10 several pairs with young, 17 miles south of Webster, BJR.

**Western Grebe**—6-20 at Bear Butte L., Meade Co., KE; 7-3 count of (56) nests, Piyas L., many grebes on lake, BKH; 7-25 (26) pair with total of (43) young, 1 pair in courtship display, Rush L., Day Co., KFH.

**Pied-billed Grebe**—6-27 (4) Milwaukee L., Lake Co., NJH; 7-21 to 7-24 (3) young observed, Waubay N.W.R., KFH.

**White Pelican**—6-30 good count of (180) young in colony on N. Drywood L., est. 72 nests; 7-3 minimum of (250) young, est. 100 nests in colony on Piyas L., BKH.

**Double-crested Cormorant**—6-30 colony of approximately (740) nests N. Drywood L., Robert Co., 7-3 estimate 100 nests with (350) young, Piyas L., Marshall Co., BKH. Also reported at Oahe Dam and Gavin's Point.

### HERONS AND IBIS

**Great Blue Heron**—6-15 (3) nests on Coteau Island, 7-3 (13) nests in tree on island in Piyas L., Marshall Co., 7-19 one nest, N. Drywood L., Roberts Co., BKH. Also reported at Pierre, Spearfish Lagoon, and Pennington County.

**Great Egret**—6-30 (1) N. Drywood L., BKH.

**Green Heron**—More common this year, (6) observations in Deuel Co., BKH; (3) observed in Pierre area, JLM.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**—6-27 (3) Milwaukee L., NJH; 7-26 (150) adults and young, Lake Co., RB; numbers down, Deuel Co., BKH.

**American Bittern**—6-15 (1) LaCreek N.W.R., KE; numbers down, Deuel Co., BKH.

**White-faced Ibis**—7-4 (2) seven miles east of Clear Lake, Deuel Co., BKH.

#### WATERFOWL

**Trumpeter Swan**—Present at LaCreek N.W.R., KE.

**Canada Goose**—June and July, 32 nests with 168 eggs of which 114 hatched, Waubay N.W.R., EJF; 6-1 to 7-31 three pair in Deuel Co., no broods observed, BKH; 7-20 (3) pair with young, 7-27 (9) young, Jackson Co., EMS. Also reported in Perkins Co. and Kadoka L., Jackson Co., AH and JLM.

**Mallard**—June and July, 201 young in 24 broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFJ; good hatch W. Perkins Co., AH; 6-23 (2 ad., 10 young) Buffalo Co., JH; 6-24 (1 ad., 5 young) Belle Fourche, IW.

**Gadwall**—6-27 to 7-24 (241) young in 28 broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFJ.

**Pintail**—6-23 to 7-24 (97) young in 13 broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFJ.

**Green-winged Teal**—6-27 (2) Milwaukee L., NJH.

**Cinnamon Teal**—6-10 (1) Skelly Pond, JLM.

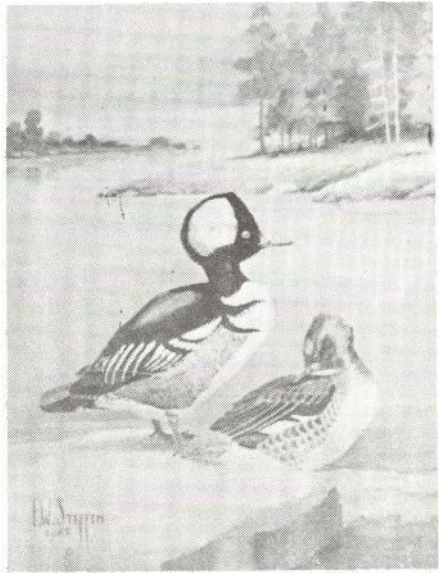
**American Wigeon**—7-21 (9) young in 1 brood, Waubay N.W.R., KFJ.

**Northern Shoveler**—7-24 (8) young in 1 brood, Waubay N.W.R., KFJ.

**Blue-winged Teal**—6-27 to 7-24 (271) young in 36 broods, Waubay N.W.R., FKH; 6-30 (4 ad., 8 downy young) w. Jackson Co., NRW; 7-13 (2 ad., 6 imm.) Yankton Co., WH.

**Wood Duck**—6-2 adult and (10) young walking through downtown Hurley, CB; 6-2 (1 pair) near Ft. Pierre, 7-14 a female with (10-12) young near Ft. Pierre, 1 female with young, Capitol L., Pierre, JLM; 6-27 (2) Brookings Co., NJH; 7-24 (4) young in 1 brood, Waubay N.W.R., KFJ.

**Redhead**—7-21 to 7-24 (20) young in 3 broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFJ; holding



—by E.W. Steffen

### Hooded Merganser

population levels in Deuel Co., BKH. Also reported from Lake and Jackson Counties.

**Canvasback**—7-21 to 7-24 (19) young in 3 broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFJ; holding population levels in Deuel Co., BKH.

**Lesser Scaup**—6-2 (1) Capitol L., Pierre, JLM; 6-15 present LaCreek N.W.R., KE.

**Ruddy Duck**—6-27 (8) Milwaukee L., Lake Co., NJH.

**Hooded Merganser**—6-7 good view of female in small stock pond, Deuel Co., BKH.

**Common Merganser**—6-21 (1) male near Ladner, Harding Co., KE.

#### VULTURE, HAWKS, FALCONS

**Turkey Vulture**—Reported near Oahe Dam, in the Badlands, in Todd Co., and Yankton County.

**Cooper's Hawk**—6-17 (2) Wind Cave Nat. Park, 6-25 (1) Penn. Co., KE; Nest observed at Sødak Park, Roberts Co., during May was unsuccessful, egg found on ground below nest on 6-20. One

was observed on 6-20 as it hunted 4 miles north of Sodak Park, BKH.

**Red-tailed Hawk**—6-15 to 7-1 (5) nests with 8 young, Waubay N.W.R., KFH. Also reported from Clay, Yankton, Harding, Fall River, Custer, and Jackson Counties.

**Broad-winged Hawk**—7-19 (1 ad.) Sica Hollow, Marshall Co., BKH, KE.

**Swainson's Hawk**—Reported from Shannon, Butte, Pennington, Jackson, Haakon, Gregory, and Stanley Counties, and Waubay N.W.R.

**Ferruginous Hawk**—6-18 (1) Wind Cave Nat. Park, 6-21 (1) Harding Co., 6-27 (1) Butte Co., KE; 6-27 (1) Ottumwa, BJR.

**Golden Eagle**—Reported from Harding, Stanley, Lawrence, Fall River, Custer, and Lyman Counties, Wind Cave Nat. Park and Rapid City.

**Marsh Hawk**—No reports of nests or young. Present in Aurora, Shannon, Pennington, and Jackson Counties, Waubay N.W.R. and LaCreek N.W.R. Fewer numbers in Deuel, Gregory, and Hyde Counties.

**Prairie Falcon**—6-17 (1) Wind Cave Nat. Park, 6-22 (1) Butte Co., KE; 7-27 (1) Badlands, EMS; 6-29 (1) Fort Pierre, BJR.

**American Kestrel**—Reported from Brookings, Clay, Charles Mix, Yankton, Harding, Jackson, and Pennington Counties, and Black Hills area.

#### GROUSE THROUGH COOTS

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**—7-18 adult with (4) young, Perkins Co., AH; 7-15 adult with (11) young, Meade Co., BJR.

**Sage Grouse**—6-27 (1) Butte Co., KE.

**Bobwhite**—6-29 (1) heard calling, Clay Co., KJH; number seen and heard down sharply compared to 1974, apparently a heavy loss in March snowstorms, Gregory Co., GLS.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**—Everyone reports a few, no large numbers seen anywhere.

**Gray Partridge**—Total (4) during period, Brookings Co., ERE; 7-15 pair with

(14) young, Butte Co., BJR; 7-20 brood of (12) able to fly, Perkins Co., AH.

**Virginia Rail**—Present all period, Waubay N.W.R., no nests or young observed, KFH.

**Sora**—7-2 (1) Dewey Co., BJR; 7-18 (1) Nisland Marsh, Butte Co., JLM; present all period, Waubay N.W.R., no nests or young observed, KFH.

**American Coot**—7-13 (1 ad., 4 imm.) Yankton Co., WH; 7-24 (10) young in 3 groups, numbers down sharply, Waubay N.W.R., KFH; 6-10 (1) Rapid City, 7-18 (5) Butte Co., JLM.

#### SHOREBIRDS

**Piping Plover**—(2) Pierre, nesting mid-May, BJR.

**Killdeer**—Common on all reports, and seemed to have a good hatch.

**American Woodcock**—Reported in Gary Gulch, Deuel Co., during July by S. Hinsvark (fide BKH).

**Long-billed Curlew**—7-15 pair with (3) young, Seavey Lake area, Meade Co., BJR; also reported from Harding, Perkins, Pennington, and Jackson Counties.

**Upland Sandpiper**—6-6 nest with (4) eggs, success unknown, Waubay N.W.R., KFH; observed (4) nests that hatched, many young seen on ranch, Perkins Co., AH; 7-10 (6) adults and young, Gregory Co., GLS. Also reported from Hyde, Lyman, Aurora, Yankton, Fall River, Pennington, Custer, and Jackson Counties.

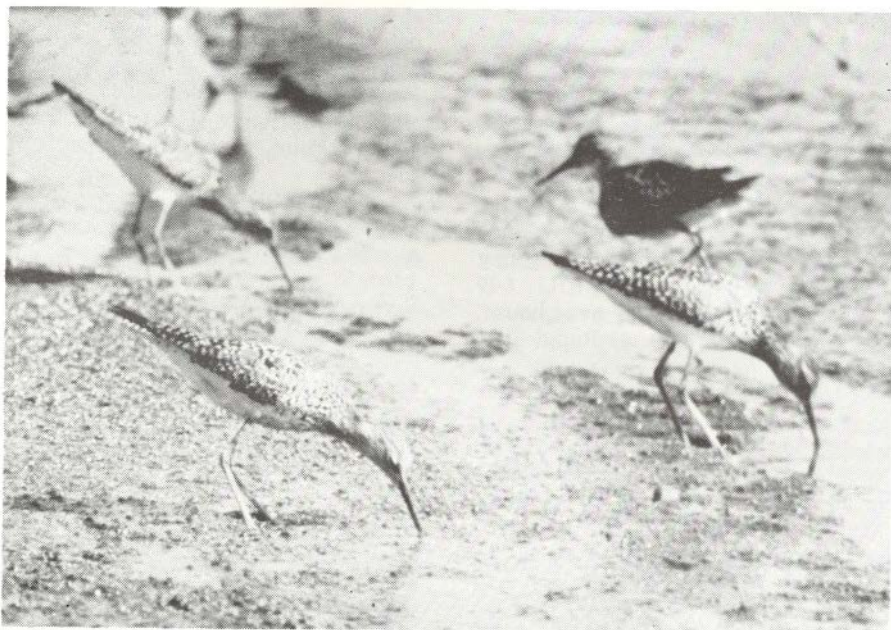
**Spotted Sandpiper**—7-22 nest with (4) eggs, Waubay N.W.R., KFH; 6-19 to 7-28 (5) Rapid City area, 6-1 (2) near Oahe Dam, JLM.

**Solitary Sandpiper**—7-20 (1) Big Sioux River, Brookings Co., NJH; 7-30 (1) Rapid City, JLM.

**Willet**—7-22 (3) young observed, Waubay N.W.R., KFH.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**—6-1 (2) Sioux Falls Treatment Plant, NRW.

**Marbled Godwit**—Present all period, no nests or young observed, Waubay N.W.R., KFH; 6-23 (2) Aurora Co.,



—Photo by J. W. Johnson

## Yellowlegs

WH; 7-30 (1) Curlew L., Meade Co., JLM.

**American Avocet**—6-22 (1) Butte Co., KE; 6-19 (6) Rapid City, 7-30 (20) Meade Co., JLM; none in Deuel Co., BKH.

**Wilson's Phalarope**—Reported from Rapid City and Butte County.

### GULLS AND TERNS

**Herring Gull**—7-27 (1) at Gavin's Point, near Yankton, WH.

**California Gull**—6-30 (2 ad. and 1 first-year bird) N. Drywood L., Roberts Co., appeared to have nest but search was unsuccessful, BKH; present June and July below Oahe Dam, up to (5) at one time, present each year, BJR.

**Ring-billed Gull**—Colony on Bitter L., Day Co., very active, BKH; 6-10 (1 imm.) Gavin's Point, WH; 7-18 (3) Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte Co., 7-

30 (12) Meade Co., 6-2 (9) Oahe Dam, JLM.

**Franklin's Gull**—6-11 (6) Gavin's Point, WH; 7-30 (25) Meade Co., JLM.

**Bonaparte's Gull**—6-30 (1) Imm. plumage, N. Drywood Lake, Roberts Co., BKH.

**Forster's Tern**—6-15 present LaCreek N.W.R., KE; apparent increase in Deuel Co., observed in 6 areas during period, BKH.

**Common Tern**—Present all period, no nests or young observed, Waubay N.W.R., KFH; 6-30 estimate 20 nests from 40 adults at N. Drywood L., Roberts Co., but only 4 nests and 10 juveniles actually seen, 7-3 (2 pr.) Piyas L., Marshall Co., 1 nest found, BKH.

**Least Tern**—6-1 (2 ad.) flying along shoreline, Hipple L., Pierre, RLH.

**Black Tern**—Young birds present, Waubay N.W.R., RRJ.

## DOVES TO KINGFISHERS

**Mourning Dove**--Common on all reports and hatch seemed to be good over most of state.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**--6-22 (1) Sturgis, Meade Co., KE; 7-4 (1) heard calling, only observation for season, Hyde Co., JH.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**--6-3 (2) Brookings Co., ERE; present, no nests or young observed, Waubay N.W.R., RRJ; 6-19 (1), 7-19 (3 pr.) in trees near house, Perkins Co., AH; 6-29 (1) Rapid City, LW.

**Barn Owl**--6-21 (1) n. Cave Hills, Harding Co., KE.

**Screech Owl**--7-1 adult with (4) young, Highmore, Hyde Co., JH; (2) during period, Brookings Co., ERE; 6-22 (1) heard, Lawrence Co., NRW.

**Great Horned Owl**--3-9 birds on nests, Deuel Co., BKH; 6-19 (1) young bird just starting to fly, Waubay N.W.R., KFH; also reported from Brookings and Clay Counties.

**Burrowing Owl**--7-27 (3 ad. 2 imm.) Badlands, EMS, JML; 7-24 (1) Custer Co., JLM.

**Long-eared Owl**--5-30 nest with (2) young, Sica Hollow, Marshall Co., BKH.

**Saw Whet**--6-17 (1) Wind Cave Nat. Park, KE.

**Whip-poor-will**--At least (2) heard calling regularly during June, Yankton Co., WH.

**Poor-will**--6-17 (3) Wind Cave Nat. Park, 6-21 (1) Harding Co., KE.

**Common Nighthawk**--7-3 nest with (3) eggs in pasture, several overhead in evenings, Perkins Co., AH; also reported from Brookings, Hutchinson, Yankton, Pennington, and Lawrence Counties.

**Chimney Swift**--6-7 (2) Rapid City, NRW; present during season in Clay and Yankton Counties.

**White-throated Swift**--Reported from Harding Co., Black Hills areas, and Badlands.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**--7-19 (1) believed to be female, Sica Hollow, Marshall Co., KE; 6-6 (1) female Sodak Park, Roberts Co., BKH.

**Belted Kingfisher**--Reported from Gavin's Point, Black Hills area, and Pierre.

## WOODPECKERS

**Common Flicker**--6-16 young looking out of nest cavity, 7-20 several young in yard, Clay Co., KJH; 7-17 brood of (5) Red-shafted left nest, Perkins Co., AH; also reported from Butte, Hyde, Jackson, Brookings, Yankton, Hughes, and Pennington Counties.

**Red-billed Woodpecker**--6-6 (1) at suet feeder, Clay Co., KJH; 6-3 (1 fem.) two observers, Hyde Co., JH; 7-10 (1 ad. and 1 imm.) Lewis and Clark L., WH.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** -- Young birds observed 7-17, more common this year, Clay Co., KJH; increased numbers, Gregory Co., GLS; also reported from Brookings, Hutchinson, Yankton, Hyde, Hughes, and Pennington Counties.

**Lewis' Woodpecker**--Pairs and singles reported from Lawrence and Pennington Counties.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**--6-20 pair feeding in nest at Sodak Park, Roberts Co., BKH; 7-22 family of adults and young in yard, Brookings Co., NJH; also reported from Custer and Deuel Counties, and Wind Cave Nat. Park.

**Hairy Woodpecker**--7-19 (1) nestling in nest cavity, Penn. Co., RLH; 7-19 (5) adult and young feeding on suet in yard, Perkins Co., AH; also present in Brookings Co. and Rapid City area.

**Downy Woodpecker**--Most reporters noted several during period.

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker**--6-25 (1) Penn. Co., 6-27 (1) Deadwood Burn, Lawrence Co., KE.

## FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS

**Eastern Kingbird**--One nest observed in Clay Co., young left on 7-21, KJH; birds seemed less numerous this year, had count of (24) in 62 miles on 7-13, Yankton Co., WH. Also reported from



Brookings, Hyde, Jackson, and Pennington Counties.

**Western Kingbird**—7-13 (7) in 62 miles, much less common this year, Yankton Co., WH; very few Rapid City, BHAS; also reported from Clay and Jackson Counties.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**—7-10 (1) Lewis and Clark L., WH; 6-2 (2) Pierre area, JLM; 6-2 Big Bend Dam area, NRW.

**Eastern Phoebe**—Pair with nest of 5 eggs hatched (2) that fledged on 7-18, Brookings Co., ERE.

**Say's Phoebe**—Nest of (5) young in barn, 4 survived, left nest 7-6, Perkins Co., AH; 7-13 (2) nw Yankton Co., WH; also reported from Custer and Jackson Counties.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**—6-19 (1) Nemo Road, Lawrence Co., seen and heard calling. The bird was in ponderosa pines, its back was very greenish, underparts bright yellow, its "chu-wee" call was heard several time. First Black Hills record? KE.

**Dusky Flycatcher**—6-25 present Harney Peak area, Penn. Co., 6-27 present Deadwood Burn area, Lawrence, Co., KE.

**Western Flycatcher**—Many seen and heard in Black Hills, KE, BHAS.

**Eastern Wood Pewee**—7-10 (1) Lewis and Clark L., WH.

**Western Wood Pewee**—6-17 nest, Wind Cave Nat. Park, KE; 6-4 to 7-27 total (52) Rapid City and high Black Hills, BHAS.

**Violet-green Swallow**—Reported from Harding Co., and Black Hills.

**Tree Swallow**—Reported from Yankton, Lawrence, and Pennington Counties. Fewer numbers in Black Hills area this year.

**Bank Swallow**—6-27 nests, Lewis and Clark L., WH.

**Rough-winged Swallow**—Reported from Clay, Yankton, Hughes, and Custer Counties.

**Barn Swallow**—7-29 (3) young in nest, banded, Brookings Co., NJH; ten nests

in barn av. (3) young each first nesting, Perkins Co., AH; (9) nests in barn, Clay Co., KJH; also reported from Yankton, Jackson, and Pennington Counties.

**Cliff Swallow**—Nesting colonies reported from several areas across the state.

**Purple Martin**—Estimate total (175) young fledged in Burke, Gregory Co., GLS.

#### JAYS THROUGH WRENS

**Gray Jay**—Present in Custer Co., KE.

**Blue Jay**—Common on all reports, apparently a good hatch.

**Black-billed Magpie**—Reported from Buffalo and Jackson Counties and Black Hills.

**Common Crow**—Reported from most areas.

**Pinyon Jay**—7-10 young arrived in Rapid City from nesting areas in Black Hills, GRB.

**Black-capped Chickadee**—Reported from eastern counties and Black Hills.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—Present in Clay and Yankton Counties and Black Hills.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Reported from Harding Co. and Black Hills.

**Brown Creeper**—6-25 (1) near Harney Peak, Penn. Co., KE.

**Dipper**—7-18 (1) young, Lawrence Co., JLM; 7-19 (2) Penn. Co., RLH.

**House Wren**—7-1 (5) fledged from 1 nest, Hyde Co., JH; nests noted in Clay Co., KJH; common in Brookings, Hughes, Pennington, and Yankton Counties. Numbers appear to be down, Gregory Co., GLS.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**—6-1 (1) Oahe Dam area, JLM.

**Canyon Wren**—6-19 (1) Nemo Road, Lawrence Co., KE; 7-2 (2), 7-21 (1) Cleghorn Canyon, DAM, BBF.

**Rock Wren**—6-21 pair building nest in rock wall, 2 eggs hatched but nest later deserted, Rapid City, BLG; 7-27 (8) two families, 1 young being fed, Badlands, EMS, JLM; 6-21 (1) Harding Co., KE.



—Photo by E. R. Kalmbach, Courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Gray Catbird Feeding Young

## THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS

- Gray Catbird**—Present all period in Brookings, Clay, Pennington, Perkins, and Yankton Counties.
- Brown Thrasher**—6-10 adult with (4) nestlings, Yankton Co., WH; 6-15 (1) fledgling, Hyde Co., JH; 6-21 (1 pr.) nesting, Rapid City, BLG; also reported from Brookings, Clay, Jackson, and Yankton Counties.
- Sage Thrasher**—6-27 (2) Butte Co., KE.
- American Robin**—Common on all reports, hatching was apparently good. Exception was Belle Fourche where reduced numbers were noted, IW.
- Swainson's Thrush**—Reported from the Pierre area and several Black Hills areas.
- Eastern Bluebird**—None observed this year in Brookings and Clay Counties; 7-13 (2) Yankton Co., WH; 7-4 to 7-12 (1) daily in yard, Rapid City, NRW.
- Mountain Bluebird**—Observed in Todd, Jackson, and Harding Counties, and the Black Hills.
- Townsend's Solitaire**—6-19 pair with nest, Lawrence Co., 6-25 nest, Penn. Co., KE.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet**—Two observations in the Black Hills.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—Two reports from Custer Co.
- Sprague's Pipit**—6-21 (3) heard calling, Harding Co., KE; 7-2 (2) La Plant, Dewey Co., 7-15 (2) near Seavey L., Meade Co., 7-15 (1) six mi. so. of White Butte, Perkins Co., BJR.
- Cedar Waxwing**—6-6 (20) Lake Co., RB; 7-16 (2) Rapid City, BBF.
- Loggerhead Shrike**—7-20 (3) Penn. Co., (11) adults and young, Jackson Co., EMS; none in northeast So. Dak., BKH; observed in Yankton, Hutchinson, Charles Mix, Haakon and Pennington Counties.
- Bell's Vireo**—6-15 (1) seen and heard singing, LaCreek N.W.R., KE; 6-2 (2) Farm Island, near Pierre, JLM; 6-29 (1) Fort Pierre, BJR; 6-30 (1) south of

Cottonwood, Jackson Co., NRW.

**Solitary Vireo**—6-17 pair with nest, Wind Cave Nat. Park, KE; 6-22 to 7-19 total (9) higher Hills, BHAS.

**Red-eyed Vireo**—6-18 to 7-20 total (25) Rapid City and Black Hills, BHAS; 6-2 (4) Pierre area, JLM.

**Warbling Vireo**—None this year, always present in previous years, Clay Co., KJH; decreased numbers in northeast S. Dak., BKH; 6-22 (1), 6-27 (1) Yankton Co., WH; 6-18 to 7-19 total (24) Rapid City and Black Hills, BHAS; 6-2 (2) Pierre, JLM.

## WARBLERS

**Black-and-white Warbler**—6-30 (1) banded, Spearfish, Tom Hayes; 7-2 (1) Rapid City, 7-18 (1) Sturgis, JLM.

**Yellow Warbler**—6-18 to 7-24 total (7) plus 1 nest, Rapid City and Roubaix L., JLM, NRW. Also reported from Butte, Hughes, Jackson, and Yankton Counties.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**—6-21 Harding Co., KE; 6-4 to 7-23 total (60) Rapid City and southern Black Hills, BHAS.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—7-16 (1) at Savoy, Spearfish Canyon, BJR.

**Blackpoll Warbler**—6-1 (1) male, Gregory Co., GLS. Late migrant.

**Ovenbird**—6-10 to 7-22 total (27) Rapid City and Black Hills, BHAS.

**MaeGillivray's Warbler**—6-25 present near Harney Peak, Penn. Co., KE; 7-16 several from Black Fox Campground to Rochford, Black Hills, BJR; 7-18 (1) Spearfish Canyon, JLM.

**Common Yellowthroat**—Reported from all areas.

**Yellow-breasted Chat**—Reported from Hughes, Perkins, and Pennington Counties.

**American Redstart**—6-14 to 7-27 total (7) Rapid City, BHAS.

## BOBOLINKS TO TANAGERS

**Bobolink**—Young noted on 7-4, Lawrence Co., EAS; also reported from Brookings, Custer, Perkins, and Yankton Counties.

**Eastern Meadowlark**—6-15 present, heard singing, LaCreek N.W.R., KE.

Western Meadowlark—Common on most reports.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Present all summer, first time in many years, Perkins Co., AH; also reported from Butte and Yankton Counties.

Red-winged Blackbird—Very common all reports, apparently another good hatch.

Orchard Oriole--8-17 female feeding (2) recently fledged, Hyde Co., JH; also reported from Brookings, Buffalo, Clay, Jackson, Pennington, and Yankton Counties.

Northern Oriole--One pair nested successfully in Penn. Co., BHAS, and one nest was found in Brookings Co., ERE. Birds also present in Butte, Clay, Perkins, and Yankton Counties.

Western Tanager—6-17 present Wind Cave Nat. Park, KE; average (2) daily at all feeding stations in Rapid City and other Hills areas, a good increase, BHAS.

#### GROSBEAKS TO LONGSPURS

Cardinal—Several all period, no nest found, Clay Co., KJH; also present in Yankton Co., WH.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Common, (2) young fledged by 6-23, several immatures and adults noted on 7-20 Clay Co., KJH; adults also observed in Brookings, Gregory, Hughes, and Yankton Counties.

Black-headed Grosbeak—6-3 (4 pr.) nesting, Belle Fourche, IW; five nesting pairs involving (24) young and adults, BHAS; also noted in Hughes and Perkins Counties.

Blue Grosbeak—6-10 (1 m.) Clay Co., KJH; 6-28 (1 pr.) Buffalo Co., JH; 6-29 (2) Fort Pierre, 7-2 (1) Dewey Co., BJR; 7-5 (1 m.) Minnehaha Co., KE; 7-13 (1 m.) Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands, Stanley Co., RLH.

Indigo Bunting—7-4 nest with 3 cowbirds eggs which were removed, on 7-14 nest deserted, contained 1 bunting egg, Clay Co., KJH; 7-21 (1 young) Penn. Co., LW; 7-22 (1) Indigo-Lazuli hybrid,

Rapid City, JLM; pairs and singles noted in Brookings, Custer, and Yankton Counties.

Lazuli Bunting—6-18 to 7-1 total (8) including 2 nesting pairs, Rapid City and Custer Co., BHAS; 6-1 (1) Perkins Co., AH; 6-22 (1) Sturgis, (1) Rapid City, KE.

Dickcissel—Reported from Gregory, Hutchinson, Jackson, and Yankton Counties. Less common in Gregory Co.

Evening Grosbeak—Total (10 adults and young) during period. One pair left 3 young in feeding tray of sunflower seeds where they soon learned to feed. LW.

Pine Siskin—7-13 (2 young) Palmer Gulch, 7-20 (5) Custer Co., 7-25 (20) Rapid City, NRW; 6-25 present near Harney Peak, Penn. Co., KE.

American Goldfinch—Reported from Brookings, Butte, Clay, Hughes, Pennington, and Yankton Counties.

Red Crossbill—6-6 to 7-22 total (300+) counted plus many heard overhead, good increase for Rapid City and Black Hills, BHAS; 7-5 (1) Harding Co., RLH; also present in July in Brookings and Deuel Counties.

Rufous-sided Towhee—Five nests, Rapid City, BHAS; also present in Harding, Jackson, and Yankton Counties.

Lark Bunting—6-25 nest with 3 eggs, Perkins Co., AH; also reported from Charles Mix, Douglas, Hutchinson, Hyde, and Jackson Counties.

Baird's Sparrow—6-21 (15) Harding Co., 6-27 (1) Meade Co., KE; 7-15 (1) White Butte, Perkins Co., BJR.

Vesper Sparrow—5-20 nest with (5) eggs, including 1 cowbird egg, 6-27 nest with (4) young, Deuel Co., BKH; also reported from Clay, Custer, Harding, Pennington, and Yankton Counties.

Lark Sparrow—6-27 (2) males, Roberts Co., first record during breeding season in northeast So. Dak. for many years, BKH; also reported from Harding, Hughes, Jackson, Pennington, and Yankton Counties.

**White-winged Junco**—7-10 birds returning to Rapid City from nesting areas in Black Hills, BHAS.

**Chipping Sparrow**—5-24 nest with (2) eggs, Roberts Co., BKH; 6-10 (3), 6-28 (2 ad. 1 imm.), 7-23 (1 ad., 2 imm.) Gavin's Point, WH; 6-18 to 7-10 total (120+) and 2 nests, BHAS; present Clay Co., KJH.

**Brewer's Sparrow**—6-21 present Harding Co., 6-27 present Butte Co., KE.

**Field Sparrow**—Reported from Buffalo, Clay, Harding, Pennington, and Yankton Counties.

**Song Sparrow**—5-20 nest with 3 eggs, Deuel Co., BKH; also reported from Brookings, Custer, Hyde, Pennington, and Yankton Counties.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**—6-22 (4) young, good hatch in area, Perkins Co., AH; also reported from Butte, Jackson, and Meade Counties.

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Esther Edie (ERE).

Willis and Rosamond Hall (WH).

Bruce K. Harris (BKH).

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## Book Review

**MINNESOTA'S BIRDS: WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW MANY**, by Janet Green and Robert B. Janssen. xviii, 217 pp., including 20 black-and-white photographs, 103 distributional maps, 3 large maps, 2 color plates, and bibliography. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. 1975. \$9.75.

The comprehensive text of this new field guide to Minnesota's 374 authenticated species is a compilation of records that have accumulated since the publication of Thomas Sadler Robert's classic "Birds of Minnesota" (1932). During their research the authors found many areas of insufficient information, and they are hoping the book will hasten its own obsolescence by inspiring an increase in field studies and publications to fill in the gaps in knowledge.

A chapter on nomenclature, terminology, and maps explains the format, and contains a map of geographic regions; the chapter on geography and ecology has maps of landscape regions and presettlement vegetation, plus photographs of major habitat types. Species accounts present the status, seasonal occurrence, and state distribution of each bird; breeding areas of key species may be quickly determined on the distribution maps.

The four appendices have lists for the status of all Minnesota birds; the breeding species in geographic and habitat groupings; the seasonal status of species; and birds that have been added since 1973.

As Harrison B. Tordoff states in the "Foreword," "It is a book of high scientific standards, intended not to be read from cover to cover but to serve as an essential reference on Minnesota birds . . ."—Ed.

## *General Notes of Special Interest*

RECOVERY OF A SIX-YEAR OLD GREAT HORNED OWL—A Great Horned Owl, which was banded as a nestling eight miles east of Kadoka, Jackson County, on May 10, 1968, was found dead eight miles northeast of Faith, Perkins County, during the winter of 1974. The owl was six years old and was recovered about 100 miles north of its banding site. This is the sixth recovery of the 129 Great Horned Owls banded in South Dakota from 1965 to 1973 (SDBN, 102:50-52).—D.G. Adolphson, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

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WHITE-FACED IBIS IN KINGSBURY COUNTY—On 29 September 1975, Gerald Peterson, Conservation Officer from DeSmet, and I were at Whitewood Lake, Kingsbury County, where we saw 8 to 10 White-faced Ibis. We observed them both in the morning and in the afternoon. They were in the southeast portion of the lake along the shore.—Wilbert Morlock, Conservation Officer, Beadle County, Huron

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SPECIMEN RECORD FOR SAGE THRASHER IN DEUEL COUNTY—On May 9, 1974 a Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) was found dead along a county road near the Crystal Springs Ranch, Deuel County. This location is three miles east and three miles north of Clear Lake. The bird had been observed and identified earlier on the same date, eliminating the possibility of its getting to the location on a car radiator, or other means. The specimen is at USD, Vermillion.

There are apparently only two other South Dakota specimens for the Sage

Thrasher, which is a rare bird, nesting in our southwestern counties occasionally (SDBN, 13:17). N.R. Whitney has a specimen taken in Fall River County on August 12, 1966; a very old record is a bird taken "in the Black Hills," probably about 1857, and misidentified as a Mockingbird by Visher in a 1909 publication. More recently, on July 2, 1970, the Sage Thrasher was observed near Edgemont, Fall River County.

There are few records for the Sage Thrasher east of its normal range, which extends to eastern Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. According to the "Fifth AOU Checklist of North American Birds" (1957) specimens have been taken in New York and southwestern Louisiana. And there is a sight record for Des Moines, Iowa, for December 1952 through January 10, 1953, observed by Bruce Stiles (*Iowa Bird Life*, 23:22-23).—Bruce K. Harris, Clear Lake 57226

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WHITE-FACED OR GLOSSY IBIS IN CLAY COUNTY—Was it a White-faced Ibis or a Glossy Ibis that I saw on April 16, 1975, 10:10 a.m., about three miles east and two miles north of Vermillion? The location has marshes on both sides of the road. The water level was low this spring and the ibis stood on a mudflat at the south end of the marsh, boldly outlined in the morning sunlight.

I approached slowly from the north until the ibis was an estimated three rods or less from my car. The bird's height, long legs and neck, decurved bill, and reddish brown body with intermingled green and purple feathers was clearly visible. If there was white at the base of its bill it was not discernible.

J.W. Johnson (SDBN, 15:15) comments on the problem of separation of the Glossy Ibis and White-faced Ibis, and indicates a single species solution may be the answer to identification of a species difficult to be accurate about, even in breeding season, when positive identification should be easiest to determine.

Since this typically gregarious ibis was alone it may have been a wanderer of adventurous bent whose scientific name shall remain a mystery.—Adelene M. Siljenberg, 22 S. Pine, Vermillion 57069

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SPRING RETURN DATES FOR CHIMNEY SWIFTS AT RAPID CITY—Pettingill and Whitney, in *Birds of the Black Hills* (1965), list the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) as an uncommon summer resident in Rapid City, and their earliest spring return dates are 17 May 1955, 14 May 1959, and 10 May 1963. As Pettingill and Whitney note, a favorite environment for the Chimney Swifts was the very high smokestack at the School of Mines campus. For safety's sake that old chimney had to be destroyed in the mid 1960's. Nevertheless, the Chimney Swifts have returned each year, and they very likely appear first over the School of Mines campus. At least, I have records on spring returns of this swift to the campus for the 10 years subsequent to the 1963 date cited by Pettingill and Whitney. The dates are as follows: 12 May 1964 (the swifts first noted by Lenord Yarger), 28 May 1965, 13 May 1966, 22 May 1967, 16 May 1968, 13 May 1969, 28 May 1970 (the swifts first noted by Paul Culley, SDSM&T Librarian), 28 May 1971, 17 May 1972, and 19 May 1973.

Thus, in the second week of May, as one walks across the campus, he must keep his ear alert for the repeated "plik" notes of the Chimney Swift, but occasionally one must be patient for another week or two. Usually, the first appearance of the swifts involves only one or two individuals and seldom more

than five or six. Relative to the likelihood that these swifts remain to breed, on 6 August 1964, I noted 10 Chimney Swifts flying near the tall chimney on the campus and commented in my notes: "This is twice the number of swifts that were over the campus in May."—L.M. Baylor, SDSM&T, Rapid City

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SNOWY EGRET AT MINNEWASTE LAKE—While fishing on Minnewaste Lake, Day County, on May 9, 1975, Dean Knauer, assistant refuge manager visiting from Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, and I observed a white egret type bird in the water on the shore. We were trolling slowly along the shoreline and approached close enough to see the black bill, legs and size which ruled out the Great Egret.

As the bird took flight, away from us, we noted some bright yellow on the feet. The bird flew west and we were trolling west. We approached the bird several more times within a hundred feet before it took flight and flew down the shore. Each time we were able to clearly see the black bill, legs and the yellow feet as it took flight, once from the side. The day was clear, the sun at our backs, and the wind very light.

I had not seen either a Snowy or Cattle Egret before, but Knauer and I are avid, young birders and make an attempt at memorizing details of a new sighting. We did not have binoculars, but were close enough not to need them. When we checked our "Birds of North America" (Robbins et al.) later in the day we were convinced we had seen a Snowy Egret.

No, we did not catch any fish, but the beautiful morning and bird watching compensated for the empty creel.—Kent F. Hall, assistant refuge manager, Waubay, N.W.R., Waubay 57273

# 1975 Whooping Crane Pageant

Man's intervention in the Whooping Crane's world this spring has been significant. But the preliminary results are tinged with nature's characteristic sternness. The life-and-death, cyclic drama of nature has been played out amidst international, national and state efforts to engineer an overall gain for these rare birds.

The final results are not yet in, but the high points of this spring's biodrama include:

- frantic and finally successful attempts to scatter nine migrating whoopers off a Nebraska marsh boiling with infectious avian cholera;
- the hot house hatching and the death 15 days later of a fragile whooper chick named "Dawn";
- the tryout of a bold new foster parent concept involving snatching whooper eggs from nests in Canada and slipping them under Sandhill Cranes in Idaho where 9 of 14 of the eggs hatched;
- the natural hatching of 11 of 15 whooper eggs in the wilds of northwest Canada.

Obvious lessons have been learned from these episodes but none more profound than the realization that man, who is chiefly responsible for the precarious nature of the Whooping Crane's existence in the first place, must continue to intercede on behalf of the whoopers if they are ever to be restored to a healthy population.

The footlights went up early on this season's pageant. Unseasonal snow and freezing rain in April over the Dakotas, Nebraska and down into Kansas blocked or slowed the migration of dozens of waterfowl species north to Canada and beyond. Rafts of ducks, gaggles of geese and flocks of Sandhill Cranes crowded into every available water surface along the storm's front in southern Nebraska

and huddled down for the duration. Within days the stress on the overcrowded ponds and sloughs touched off an outbreak of avian cholera, a deadly disease that in a week spread and killed more than 15,000 of the birds.

Into this biological maelstrom flew nine whoopers enroute to Canada. Only the alertness of Nebraska conservation officials enabled federal and state bureaucrats, farmers and biologists to join forces, obtain the necessary emergency waivers of the Endangered Species Act, and use firecrackers and low flying aircraft to haze the whoopers up and away from the infected marsh where they had settled. Nature intervened forcefully with freezing rain and sleet. Thirty-six hours passed before the birds were finally flushed.

Scientists don't know if the whoopers contracted the disease or not. They are not even certain that Whooping Cranes are susceptible to it. They assume, though, that a whooper contracting the cholera will either die after a few days or become a carrier of the disease. Since the whole flock ultimately showed up intact at their Canadian breeding grounds, obviously none died from the cholera. Whether or not any are carriers remains to be seen.

Dawn's hatching on May 29 and his death 15 days later represents another, albeit disappointing, milestone in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to breed whoopers in captivity. The Service began captive breeding in 1967 at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in the hope of producing enough Whooping Cranes eventually to restock wild flocks. One severe winter hurricane along the Texas Gulf Coast could wipe out the sole existing wild flock in a matter of hours, so the effort must go on. But the road has





—Lorne Scott

## Whooping Crane

been a troublesome one. As Dawn's death indicates, nature cannot be readily reproduced in the laboratory. Despite what they have learned from elaborate research in Sandhill Crane breeding, scientists are still encountering environmental, congenital and pathological puzzles in the Whooping Crane breeding program.

Their search for the right way has been as cautious as an infantryman's probe for landmines with a bayonet tip. On five different occasions since 1967, with the help of the Canadian Wildlife Service biologists have removed a total of 50 eggs from nests in Canada and flown them to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. There, 41 have been hatched and 19 of the chicks raised to maturity.

This year one pair of the 19 captive-reared birds mated, and the female laid three eggs. After the first egg was laid, artificial insemination assisted nature. Two of the three eggs were fertile and

from one Dawn was hatched. The first of the second generation of captive whoopers, Dawn gave new hope to scientists managing the Whooping Crane captive breeding program.

A possible congenital deformity that twisted Dawn's lower right leg bone prevented the chick from moving normally. Scientists tried to help the bird walk by taping its legs, but the bird gradually weakened and finally stopped eating and became dehydrated. On June 14 Dawn died.

Although the loss of the chick is regrettable, scientists at the Center are not pessimistic. They believe the breeding of the Whooping Crane was a major stride forward and expect more eggs and chicks next year. They compare the whooper breeding program to one for the Sandhill Crane, another crane species studied and bred at Patuxent. Prior to 1969 no sandhills had bred and

hatched in captivity. Last year, more than four dozen chicks were produced. Production methods for these birds are now routine. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes similar success will ultimately characterize the Whooping Crane breeding program.

May 29 also witnessed the opening act of yet another Whooping Crane cliff-hanger. The foster parent program in Idaho, designed to start up a second wild flock with an entirely different set of winter and summer home areas, adds insurance against natural disasters.

The egg-napping of 14 eggs from Canadian nests went off without a hitch. The eggs arrived and were placed in their Sandhill Crane foster parents' nest on May 29. Then the vigil began. Scientists from the University of Idaho involved in the project feared interlopers; and, sure enough, two of the 14 whooper eggs disappeared for reasons still not known. Fish and Wildlife Service enforcement officers had been dispatched to patrol the Refuge area during the critical hatching period because of reports of springtime vandalism at and near the Refuge. In addition to the two eggs that disappeared, three others proved infertile.

Nine hatched successfully, though, and initial observations indicate the whooper chicks are adapting well to their new environment. Within the first 24 hours after hatching some of the chick wandered as far as 100 yards from the nests. Other observations suggesting their adaptation to foster parenthood is working well. One proud father Sandhill Crane was seen to stop at the first hint of danger and emit a shrill note which prompted the chicks to freeze in place immediately. They remained glued to the spot until they heard the all-clear signal. The parent birds have displayed vigorous defensive gestures at any glimmer of trouble. In several instances, parents have run away from the chicks and picked up sticks in their beaks, tossing

them into the air away from the chicks in an obvious attempt to divert attention.

As of late June all nine of the Idaho chicks are reported doing exceptionally well. They have been seen foraging for insects, running in the tall grass, and even swimming like bobbing corks behind their foster parents. They have grown rapidly and now stand about a foot tall, with their heads and beaks visible above the prairie grass. Predators are their greatest danger during the next 2 months or so, until they learn to fly. Coyotes or raccoons could attack them from ground level. Eagles, hawks, or owls could pounce on them from the sky. Quirks of weather and a wide variety of other natural influences could kill them one by one or in a group. High mortality among young whoopers is normal in the wild.

In Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada 15 eggs were left after the egg-napping. Eleven of these have hatched, and the chicks are now reported displaying the same vigorous zest for life as their transplanted brothers and sisters in Idaho.

In summary, then, it has been a good year for the Whooping Crane, so far. The final score will not be tallied until late next fall when the adults and young migrate south. How many of the juveniles will make it is difficult to predict. Those in the naturally wild flock are expected to begin their fall flight south in late September or early October and reach the Texas Gulf Coast in staggered sequence through December. In Idaho, a Fish and Wildlife Service scientist will drive south following the whoopers and their Sandhill Crane parents to keep track of their migration of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. What perils await these birds are unknown, as theirs will be the first migration of this sort closely monitored by man.—**BLUE JAY, September, 1975—quoted from NORTH DAKOTA OUT-DOORS, August, 1975.**

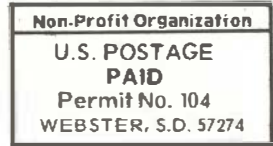
# New Members Since December, 1973

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Anderson, Maurice E., 609 N. Willow Ave., Pierre 57501.  
Babbe, Gregory, 1004 S. 7th St., Milbank 57252.  
Breen, Robert, Mobile Acres A-5, Madison 57042.  
Burns, Jeffrey, 2433 S. Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, Minn. 55343.  
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Webster Public Library, 800 Main, Webster 57274.  
Wilmot Public Library, Wilmot 57279.

## 1976 Spring Meeting

The winter months ahead will be a good time to start your plans for attending the SDOU Spring Meeting at the Bob Marshall Camp in Custer State Park on May 28-30. The December issue of BIRD NOTES will contain more information.—Ed.

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